

The News, 1 August 2004

Fateh Jang suicide attack toll reaches nine

ISLAMABAD: The death toll in Friday's assassination attempt on Finance Minister and prime minister-designate Shaukat Aziz hit nine on Saturday, amid intensified investigation with thirteen suspects being interrogated. Separate teams of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), police and two sensitive agencies have been formed to track down culprits. They have launched investigation from various angles, an official told The News. "There were two terrorists not one," he said, adding the main suicide bomber was wearing black dress. The official said the suicide bomber had an explosive device wrapped to his body while another of his comrade held the remote control, who wore white dress. As the first bomber signalled by raising his hands that he was close to the target, the second applied remote control to detonate the bomb. Police have found the insignia of Arif Tailor of Attock on the shirt of one of the bombers. This led the investigators to believe the accused belonged to some area near Attock. The Arif Tailor owner has been included in the investigation. Police are interrogating some members of an outlawed organisation in Attock.

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The News, 1 August 2004

Khalfan's arrest can lead to Osama: Faisal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani investigators have obtained some good leads from an arrested Tanzanian militant suspected of involvement in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in east Africa, Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said Saturday. Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian on the FBI's most-wanted list, was captured after a fierce eight-hour shootout with security forces in Gujrat on July 25. "He (Ghailani) has given us some good information during investigation," Faisal said. Ghailani was caught hiding with four men, three women including his Uzbek wife, and six children in a house in Gujrat. He is accused by the US of involvement in the August 1998 car

bombings of the US embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

The News, 1 August 2004

Militants' commander warns of Wana fallout

PESHAWAR: Without claiming responsibility for the attack on prime minister-in-waiting Shaukat Aziz and the recent bomb explosion in Kohat that killed two Intelligence Bureau (IB) officers, the commander of the pro-Taliban tribal militants in Wana reiterated his warning that the military operation in South Waziristan would have a fallout in the rest of the country. "The rulers would not be safe if the Pakistan government with US assistance targets our leaders. We are convinced that commander Nek Muhammad was killed by the US military with the connivance of our own government," Haji Muhammad Omar alleged while talking to The News from an undisclosed location in the troubled South Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan. The 45-year old Haji Omar, a veteran of the Afghan Jihad who fought along side both the Mujahideen and the Taliban, succeeded Nek Muhammad as commander of the Pakistani tribal militants in South Waziristan some month ago. Nek Muhammad was killed in a laser-guided missile attack on his hide-out in Dhog village near Wana.

The News, 1 August 2004

Security plan for VVIPs fails

ISLAMABAD: A security plan of the Interior Ministry for VVIPs, launched recently to counter terrorist attacks after two attempts on the life of President General Pervez Musharraf, collapsed on Friday when a suicide bomber almost killed Shaukat Aziz. On June 24, the ministry presented the plan before the National Assembly's standing committee on interior. It was meant to protect VVIPs. The ministry revealed before the committee that religious elements were carrying out attacks on VVIPs on the perception that "West was hurting Islam and Pakistani rulers were toeing the line of West". The plan was prepared after two

attacks on Musharraf in December last year. After comprehensive discussions it was finalised after a long series of exhaustive meetings. It was agreed by bosses of the agencies that plan could help the government improve protection of VVIPs.

The News, 1 August 2004

Four die as tribesmen, police clash in Chaman

QUETTA: The paramilitary troops have been placed on a high alert in Chaman following a bloody clash between police and tribesmen at Bogra Road which claimed four lives, including a policeman, official sources said on Saturday. Tension gripped the city after the arrest of Haji Jailani Khan Achakzai, a tribal chieftain and ANP's Central Joint Secretary on Friday evening, in a sedition case. Armed tribesmen took positions in Old Chaman area and suspended the traffic for several hours at the Quetta-Chaman highway as a protest. On Saturday, the city was closed with a shutter-down strike and the personnel of the law-enforcement agencies kept patrolling the area to maintain law and order.

The News, 1 August 2004

Abizaid, Musharraf discuss security matters

ISLAMABAD: US Central Command chief General John Abizaid on Saturday held talks with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on security matters and cooperation in the war against terrorism, state media reported. The pair discussed the regional and international geo-strategic situation with particular reference to Afghanistan, national television reported. Musharraf expressed hoped that Abizaid's visit and meeting with Pakistan's military leadership would help to further enhance the existing cooperation in the war against terrorism, it said.

Dawn, 1 August 2004

Al Qaeda group claims attack on Shaukat Aziz: Pakistani mission in Egypt contacted- 10 arrested- All options being probed

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI/ATTOCK, July 31: Security agencies have started conducting raids to arrest the possible perpetrators of a terrorist attack on finance minister Shaukat Aziz while the foreign office has contacted its mission in Egypt to determine the veracity of an Al Qaeda claim, officials told Dawn. Islambouli Brigades of Al Qaeda claiming to be linked to Al Qaeda network said on Saturday it had tried to assassinate Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz and warned of more bloody attacks against pro-US officials. The message was released on a web site. Officials said ten people have been taken into custody for investigation including two belonging to a banned militant organization from Shahdara village near Attock.

Daily Times, 2 August 2004

5 soldiers, civilian killed in Khuzdar

QUETTA: Five army soldiers and a civilian were killed when three unidentified gunmen attacked a vehicle in Khuzdar on Sunday. Khuzdar, 300 kilometres southwest of Quetta, is the second major city of Balochistan. Balochistan Inspector General of Police Chaudhry Yaqub said the off-duty soldiers in civilian dress were driving to a market in a pickup when the attackers sprayed it with bullets on Zinda Pir road. Five died immediately while one died in hospital. He said the attackers escaped after firing with Kalashnikovs and hurling a grenade at the vehicle. He said that the attackers fled towards Katcha area controlled by the levies where law enforcement agencies were using motorcycles to chase the attackers.

Daily Times, 2 August 2004

Al Qaeda threat can't deter Pakistan: ISPR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan vowed on Sunday it would not be deterred by Al Qaeda threats of further attacks after the terror group claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt on prime minister-designate Shaukat Aziz. "It strengthens our resolve to continue our fight against terrorism," military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan

told journalists on Sunday. He said Al Qaeda's claim of responsibility for the suicide bomb attack on Mr Aziz, which killed seven people on Friday, confirmed Pakistan's assessment that the group was involved in terrorist acts in Pakistan. "It only confirms our assessment of their involvement, he said referring to the third attempt on Pakistani leaders in recent months blamed on Al Qaeda-linked militants.

Dawn, 3 August 2004

No troops for Iraq in 'present' situation: It's a 'non-issue' - Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 2: Pakistan said on Monday it had not sent any troops to Iraq and reaffirmed that under 'present circumstances' it would not send forces to that country where the situation was volatile and unstable. Answering a volley of questions at his weekly press briefing, foreign office spokesman Masood Khan said President General Pervez Musharraf had already categorically stated that Pakistan was not sending troops to Iraq and that no commitment whatsoever had been made to contribute troops to a proposed multinational force for the war-torn country. He urged the media to contemplate that for the last one year or so Pakistan had been pressed by the Americans and its coalition partners to contribute its forces. But, he pointed out, Islamabad had refrained from sending troops to Iraq. Pakistan had even opposed the war and invasion of Iraq without a UN resolution, he recalled.

Dawn, 3 August 2004

Minister confirms arrest of IT expert

ISLAMABAD, Aug 2: Minister for Information Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has confirmed that a computer expert linked to a terrorist network has been arrested. APP quoted Sheikh Rashid as saying that terrorists were being arrested all over the country, adding that they were trying to carry out attacks at various places out of sheer frustration. They would not succeed in their nefarious designs, he added. AFP ADDS: Sheikh Rashid said: "We've arrested

a computer mastermind. He is linked to Al Qaeda. We got information from computer and email." He was ambiguous about the place where the man was arrested and said he was captured either in Lahore or Gujrat and declined to reveal his nationality.

Dawn, 3 August 2004

No accord with US to share information: N-fissile material

ISLAMABAD, Aug 2: No agreement exists between Islamabad and Washington on sharing information about production of any new fissile material by Pakistan, Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said at a press briefing here on Monday. When asked about a US decision to monitor Pakistan's nuclear programme through an Act of Congress which authorises the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to oversee implementation of a number of conditions, the spokesman said he would need time to study the "Intelligence Authorization Act For the Fiscal Year 2005" before replying to the question. The spokesman avoided making any comment when asked if the CIA would be conducting clandestine intelligence operations on nuclear-related facilities of Islamabad if the information-sharing agreement on fissile material production did not exist between Pakistan and the US.

Dawn, 3 August 2004

Balochistan CM's convoy attacked: Govt denies Jam Yousuf was target

QUETTA, Aug 2: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Mohammed Yousuf escaped unhurt but an official escorting him was killed and two others were wounded when armed assailants attacked his motorcade near the Anjeri Cross, some 230km from here, on Monday. The chief minister was returning to the provincial capital from Khuzdar after attending a meeting held in connection with the Sunday incident in which six people were killed. When his convoy reached the Anjeri Cross in Sohrab area, the unidentified assailants opened fire at the pilot escort jeep, killing Musa Jan of the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF). Two ATF

employees were injured. However, a provincial government spokesman and Federal Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed denied that the chief minister was the target of the attack. In a handout issued late on Monday night, the spokesman for the provincial government said that the ATF vehicle had come under fire of Levies (a paramilitary force) men 'due to a misunderstanding'.

Dawn, 3 August 2004

Anthrax scare hits foreign bank

KARACHI, Aug 2: Two envelopes containing some powder were sent to the offices of a multinational bank on Saturday, setting off an anthrax scare, it was learnt on Monday. Police were informed of the case on Monday, well-placed sources said. The powder was sent to the Aga Khan University (AKU) for analysis, they added. However, the spokesperson for the AKU denies having received the powder. Confirming that two envelopes containing powder had indeed been sent to the bank, Manzoor Mughal, the SSP Investigations, told Dawn that his office had already started looking into the matter.

Dawn, 3 August 2004

Missiles fired at paramilitary camp in Razmak

MIRAMSHAH/WANA, Aug 2: Militants targeted army installations and a convoy in the North and South Waziristan tribal regions on Monday which resulted in injuries to two security personnel and a college student. Eyewitnesses said that unidentified attackers fired four missiles on a paramilitary camp in Razmak sub-division, North Waziristan, on Monday morning. One missile hit the paramilitary camp and critically wounded a sepoy Syed Mohsin Ali Shah. Officials said that the sepoy was shifted to Peshawar. A student of Army Public School, Zaheer Khan, also received minor injuries during the same incident. He was discharged from the Miramshah Headquarters Hospital after initial medical treatment.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

Changes possible in defamation bill: PM
LAHORE, Aug 3: The only amendment to defamation laws is the increase in jail term for making false accusations, says Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Husain. He was talking to journalists here after inaugurating a private television channel at a local hotel. Chaudhry Shujaat expressed willingness to repeal that amendment, too, if the media people so suggested and said that there would be no change in the press-related clauses of the defamation laws. "Many people are criticizing it without even going through it." The prime minister said that the proposed amendment to defamation laws was meant only to prevent false accusations and mud-slinging. According to him, a code of conduct was needed to ensure that nothing against the national interest was aired or printed.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

Video shows serious security lapse: Attempt on Aziz's life

ISLAMABAD, Aug 3: A video provided to the Ministry of Interior indicates a serious lapse on the part of agencies responsible for the security of Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz at the Fatehjang meeting where an apparent suicide bombing killed at least eight people on Friday. The video shows a man, believed to be the bomber, standing unchecked for quite some time near the car of Mr Aziz. The video aired by a private TV station on Tuesday evening was reported to have been given to the DG of the National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC) of the interior ministry, Brigadier Javed Iqbal Cheema.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

N-programme won't be rolled back: Aziz
ISLAMABAD, Aug 3: Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz on Monday categorically stated that Pakistan's nuclear programme would not be rolled back, as it guaranteed the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country. He stated this while addressing a larger number of the ex- servicemen from Hassanabdal and Fatehjang of District Attock who called on the minister here at the

Punjab House. Brig (Retd) Talat Saeed, Maj (R) Mohammad Yasin, Irfan Nawazish, Capt (R) Muneer, Capt (R) Hameed and Omar Ayub Khan MNA also spoke on the occasion. "We will never roll back the country's nuclear programme instead it will further be augmented to strengthen the defence of the motherland", Mr Aziz said. He said: "We are ready to offer even more sacrifices so that our enemy could not cast an evil eye towards our country and its solidarity".

Dawn, 4 August 2004

Finance minister advised to avoid election rallies

ISLAMABAD Aug 3: Security agencies have advised Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz to confine himself to his residence following Friday's suicide attack and it is more likely that he will not participate in election rallies for by-polls in Attock and Tharparkar constituencies. However PML office-bearers dispelled the impression that he would not attend public rallies in constituencies from where he is contesting by-polls. There have been instances when some high-profile politicians have won elections on one or more constituencies while being in jail but in the case of Mr Aziz, if he wins, it would be the first time for any candidate to have won election from his drawing room.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

2 top Al Qaeda men arrested, says Faisal
ISLAMABAD: Aug 3: Security agencies have arrested two more key leaders of Al Qaeda, Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat announced at a press conference here on Tuesday. He said that both the detainees were nationals of African countries and one of them had a reward of millions of dollars on his head. However, Mr Hayat did not disclose their names or nationalities. "I cannot give you more details about the terror suspects captured in a recent operation in Punjab," he said. A source in the interior ministry told Dawn that one of the arrested persons was from Egypt and an active member of the Islam bouli group, an Egypt-

based terrorist group reportedly involved in the recent assassination attempt on Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz last Friday.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

Balochistan tribes warned

ISLAMABAD, Aug 3: The government on Tuesday announced a 'crash programme' against subversive elements in Balochistan. Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said at a press conference that the government would give a last chance to tribes which were behind violence in Balochistan. "We will call them for dialogue for the last time and then the crash programme would be launched," he added. He said that the Frontier Corps, Rangers and other law-enforcement agencies would be deployed in the province to maintain peace. The minister, however, denied reports that a military operation was under way in Balochistan. "That is absolutely wrong. An unfounded propaganda is being aired by some vested interests," he said.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

Khalfan handed over to US

WASHINGTON, Aug 3: Pakistan is believed to have handed over a key Al Qaeda operative, Ahmad Khalfan Ghailani, to US authorities who have taken him to an undisclosed location, US and diplomatic sources told Dawn on Tuesday. Ghailani, the alleged mastermind of the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa that killed 224 people, was arrested in Gujrat last week. Some sources, however, claim that he was caught earlier but his arrest was disclosed only after he and a dozen of his accomplices arrested from an Al Qaeda hideout in Gurjat had been thoroughly 'debriefed' by US and Pakistani intelligence officials.

Dawn, 4 August 2004

Forces gain control of Shakai, says ISPR

ISLAMABAD, Aug 3: The Pakistan Army on Tuesday claimed that security forces had gained control of Shakai and adjoining areas in the South Waziristan Agency. A press release issued by the Inter Services Public

Relations (ISPR) on Tuesday said that during recent operations in Shakai, Santoi, Mantoi and Khamrang valleys, the security forces not only flushed out terrorists and gained control of the area but also seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition. It said the arms captured by the security forces included cannons, mortars, rocket-launchers, grenades, recoilless rifles, fuses, anti-tank and anti-personnel mines as well as a huge quantity of ammunition, explosives with electrical circuits, communication gadgets, medicines and foodstuff.

The News, 5 August 2004

Al-Qaeda computer whizz was top terror planner

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani al-Qaeda computer expert captured last month was one of the terror network's top planners and had plotted to attack London's Heathrow airport, a senior security official said on Wednesday. Naeem Noor Khan, 25, alias Abu Talha, arrested in Lahore on July 12, "is in the top hierarchy of al-Qaeda's external operations wing," a security official closely associated with the latest al-Qaeda swoop told AFP. Khan had not only been creating websites and secret email codes for al-Qaeda operatives to communicate with each other, he had also actively plotted terror attacks, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The News, 5 August 2004

Terror expert's parents go into hiding

KARACHI: Muhammad Noor Khan, father of recently arrested al-Qaeda-linked computer expert Naeem Khan left his house for an unknown place along with his wife and son on Wednesday. When this scribe reached the residence of Noor Khan, a Flight Purser of the PIA, the gate was locked. Khan, was residing in a rented residence, No E-116 Block II, PECHS for several years, neighbours told The News. Talking by his mobile phone Noor Khan told The News that, after knowing about the arrest of his son, he left his home to avoid contacts with mediemen and other people. "I am not in a position to say anything firmly about alleged

al-Qaeda links of my son... neither denying nor confirming," he said in response to a question

The News, 5 August 2004

Chinese firm wins first contract for Chashma-2

BEIJING: A Chinese firm on Wednesday signed the first contract to provide components for a second nuclear power station Beijing is building in Pakistan, state media reported. China First Heavy Industries Co Ltd won public bids to supply the pressure vessel for the new reactor, which will be built at Chashma, Xinhua news agency said. The pressure vessel, where the core of the reactor will be placed, is the key component guaranteeing the security and durability of the nuclear power plant, it said. The vessel will be built in the north-eastern city of Dalian and it is due to be completed in 38 months.

The News, 5 August 2004

Troops -militants clashes intensify in Waziristan

WANA: Clashes between militants and the Army intensified in different parts of South Waziristan tribal agency on Wednesday. Troops and militants pounded each other's positions with light and heavy weapons in the troubled border area. The Army and the paramilitary forces exchanged fire with terrorists in Zalai, Dham Cheena, Angoor Ada and Shakai. The terrorists also fired four rockets at a Scouts Fort in Zalai. In Shakai, the firing intensified after 5 pm and continued till filing of this report. The troops retaliated and targeted militants' positions with long-range artillery. Army helicopters also hovered over the area. Loss to life and property in the attacks could not be ascertained as officials were tight-lipped and journalists not given access to the troubled areas.

Daily Times, 6 August 2004

13 killed as Army copter crashes

PESHAWAR: A transport helicopter of the Pakistan Army crashed in Karak District of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) on

Thursday, killing all 13 on board including three officers, military officials and rescue workers told Daily Times by phone. The MI-17 helicopter, which was going from Rawalpindi to Bannu, developed a technical fault near North Waziristan, close to South Waziristan Agency where troops launched operations against militants last year. The dead included 10 soldiers, an Army statement said in Rawalpindi, hours after the helicopter crashed. The helicopter was around 15 minutes from its destination. Military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan told Daily Times by phone from Rawalpindi that the pilot cited a problem in the tail rotor in his last message, saying he was making an emergency landing.

Daily Times, 6 August 2004

Nawaz Sharif is lying about Kargil, says Shujaat

NEW DELHI: In a wide ranging interview with India Today, the prime minister of Pakistan, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, said that Nawaz Sharif was "lying when he claims that he knew about the Kargil intrusions only when he got a call from prime minister Vajpayee". Chaudhry Shujaat said that "I was interior minister during that period and there were six separate occasions where he was briefed on Kargil. It began when Nawaz visited Skardu on January 29, 1999. He was briefed by the army again on February 5 (just two weeks before Vajpayee's famous bus ride to Lahore). Then he and some cabinet colleagues, including me, were updated by senior military officers on March 12. I went late for it. At the end of it, Nawaz asked all of us to pray for the success of the mission". Asked about the nature of the plan, Chaudhry Shujaat said that Nawaz used to be very sketchy in telling his cabinet colleagues about important issues. But in a meeting at the office of the director-general of military operations (DGMO) on May 17, 1999 (days before the full-fledged battle began), I remember Nawaz asking whether the Dras-Kargil road led to Srinagar. He also said that the Kashmir issue could not be

resolved by bus journeys and the military should keep up its operations.

Daily Times, 6 August 2004

US denies reports of terrorist training camps in Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The US State Department spokesman said Pakistan was cooperating with the US on the war against terrorism and refuted reports that terrorists were trained in Pakistan. Richard Boucher said Pakistan was trying to eradicate any support for Taliban and Al Qaeda elements. The New York Times reportedly alleged on Wednesday that for months Afghan and American officials had complained that even while Pakistan cooperated in the fight against Al Qaeda militants, there were training camps, sending terrorists to Afghanistan to attack American and Afghan forces. Mr Boucher said in his daily press briefing, I think it's quite clear the Pakistani government has turned against the Taliban and Al Qaeda. The Pakistani military has launched extensive operations to smoke out militants from the tribal areas.

Daily Times, 6 August 2004

**20 Qaeda men held in recent swoop
Faisal says arrested Qaeda members will not be handed over to any other country**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said on Thursday that law enforcement agencies had arrested around 20 Al Qaeda suspects over the last three weeks and they were being investigated. Talking to reporters after handing over relief goods for people of Afghanistan to Afghan ambassador Dr Nanguyalai Tarzi, Mr Hayat said the arrested Al Qaeda suspects were both Pakistanis and foreigners. These terrorists have spread their network all over the world, he added. The interior minister ruled out handing over the arrested Al Qaeda suspects to any other country, until the Pakistani agencies completed their investigation. They have been arrested by Pakistan. They have been involved in acts of subversion and violence in Pakistan. So until Pakistani agencies complete their investigation, there is absolutely no chance

of them being handed over to any other country, the minister stressed.

Dawn, 7 August 2004

Reports on terror camps rejected

ISLAMABAD, Aug 6: Pakistan on Friday rejected US media reports that Al Qaeda training camps had been revived along its border with Afghanistan. "There are no terrorist training camps in any part of Pakistan," foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan told AFP. "Pakistan is opposed to terrorism in all its forms and has taken all the necessary steps to eliminate this threat." US news channel CNN quoted sources as saying that overhead surveillance of the frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan showed vehicles and people moving to known Al Qaeda training sites. The spokesman dismissed the report saying that Pakistan would not allow use of its territory for subversive purpose. He said recent arrests of Al Qaeda operatives, including a Pakistani computer expert and a Tanzanian bombing suspect, vindicated Pakistan's resolve to root out the menace.

Dawn, 7 August 2004

'Operation in Waziristan aided by US agencies'

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The CIA is providing millions of dollars and the NSA is gathering and processing electronic intercepts for carrying out a large-scale operation against Al Qaeda in Waziristan tribal region and other areas of Pakistan, The Washington Post reported on Friday. In a front page article, based on reports by the newspaper's correspondents in Pakistan, Britain and the United States, the Post said that sophisticated American eavesdropping technology and computerized identification systems allowed Pakistani authorities to catch more than 100 terror suspects during the past few weeks. "The operation is being paid for with millions of dollars from the CIA, supported with (electronic surveillance) equipment from the National Security Agency and carried out by Pakistani soldiers and intelligence units," the report said.

Dawn, 7 August 2004

US security contracted out to Pakistan: Clinton

TORONTO, Aug 6: Former US president Bill Clinton on Thursday accused President George Bush's administration of contracting out US security and the hunt for Osama bin Laden to Pakistan, in its zeal to invade Iraq. Though he didn't mention Mr Bush by name, Bill Clinton, on a book tour in Canada, said the Iraq invasion had drained resources that could have been better spent chasing the suspected mastermind of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks. "We will never know if we could have gotten him (Osama bin Laden), because we didn't make it a priority," Mr Clinton said in an interview with CBC television. Bill Clinton, who is supporting Democratic Senator John Kerry in the Nov 2 election, said that at the time of the Iraq invasion, Saddam Hussein was only Washington's number five security threat.

Dawn, 7 August 2004

'Arms haul exposed Haqiqis'

KARACHI, Aug 6: Sindh MPAs belonging to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement have said that the recovery of arms and ammunition in a huge quantity on the pointation of 'Haqiqi terrorists' has exposed those who were enjoying support of official agencies when an operation clean-up was launched against the Muttahida on June 19, 1992. The recent major arms haul, they said, indicated that people of the localities closed to the MQM as 'no-go areas' at that time had been held hostage with the might of weapons.

Dawn, 7 August 2004

ANP opposes action in Balochistan

PESHAWAR, Aug 6: Awami National Party (ANP) chief Asfandyar Wali Khan has said that a military operation has been launched in Balochistan in the areas of nationalist leaders to 'punish' them for raising voice against injustices to their province. Speaking at a press conference at the Peshawar Press Club on Friday, the ANP chief said that Balochistan was a political

crisis and dialogue rather than force was needed to resolve it. The ANP chief warned that use of force would only add to disharmony among the federating units. "Military action is no solution to a political issue, rather it makes things difficult to keep the federation intact." Criticizing the government for filing cases against Baloch nationalist leaders, Asfandyar Wali said it would aggravate the already tense relations between provinces.

Dawn, 8 August 2004

Efforts for political solution pledged: President, PM discuss Balochistan situation

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7: President Gen Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Saturday discussed the ongoing volatile situation in Balochistan and resolved to make efforts for seeking political solution to the problem. At the same, they also expressed the determination to deal sternly with subversive and disruptive elements. The discussion took place when Prime Minister Shujaat met Gen Musharraf at the president's camp office in Rawalpindi. The premier discussed with the president in detail the overall law and order situation in the country.

Dawn, 8 August 2004

National interest to be upheld: Shujaat - Troops for Iraq

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said on Saturday that any decision on the issue of sending troops to Iraq would be taken in consultation with the Muslim states and added that no step would be taken against the national interest. Talking to newsmen at the Kallar Kahar rest house, he said President Pervez Musharraf had reiterated time and again that he would not take any decision which was harmful to the country and against the aspirations of people. In reply to a question about the ongoing peace process with India, the premier expressed the satisfaction over the pace of talks on Siachen and hoped that positive results would come out soon. He

said one could expect that bilateral talks would progress in the coming days "in the best interest of the people of the two countries".

Dawn, 8 August 2004

Two killed in Karachi bomb explosion

KARACHI, Aug 7: Two employees of a car rental service were killed and two others wounded when an explosive device went off in Defence Housing Authority, Phase-II Extension, on Saturday morning. Police said Mohammad Nazeer was cleaning a Toyota Corolla (AGH-090) and Rehmat was standing by it when the device lying near the vehicle outside the rental service, Rehmat Tours, exploded. Nazeer died on the spot and Rehmat succumbed to wounds in the shop after awhile, police said. Munawar and Mohammad Aman, son of Haji Akram, who is owner of Rehmat Tours, were injured. Hospital sources described Munawar's condition as serious.

Dawn, 8 August 2004

UAE hands over Al Qaeda operative

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7: A senior Al Qaeda operative who knew Osama bin Laden and was linked to two assassination attempts on President Pervez Musharraf has been arrested in Dubai and handed over to Islamabad, Pakistani intelligence sources said on Saturday. Qari Saifullah Akhtar, a leader of the radical Islamic group Harkatul-Jihad-i-Islami, was arrested by authorities in Dubai on Friday after Pakistan had requested his detention, and handed over on Saturday. Pakistan's intelligence services used information gleaned from a spate of high-profile arrests of Al Qaeda operatives in recent weeks to track down Akhtar, described by one source as "an operational head of Al Qaeda in Pakistan".

Dawn, 8 August 2004

Paramilitary camp attacked in Wana: Residents dispute ISPR claim

WANA (South Waziristan), Aug 7: A paramilitary camp in Wana came under rocket attack in the small hours of Saturday, resulting in damage to its boundary wall.

The rocket was fired from the northern side of Wana scouts camp which hit its boundary wall, partially damaging it. No loss of life was reported. The scouts personnel deputed in the Wana bazar retaliated by starting indiscriminate firing, which hit a nearby private hospital, Ajmal Medical Complex, and damaged some of its portions.

Dawn, 9 August 2004

Militant group's chief arrested

ISLAMABAD, Aug 8: Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed announced on Sunday the arrest of Maulana Fazlur Rehman Khalil, the present chief of Harkatul Mujahideen and successor to Qari Saifullah Akhtar who had been detained in Dubai and handed over to Pakistan for his alleged link with Al Qaeda's top brass. The minister said that although the arrest of Maulana Khalil was a local matter it was a significant achievement in the international war against terrorism. Harkatul Mujahideen was formed when Harkatul Ansar was declared a terrorist organization by the US in 1994. Shaikh Rashid declined to give details about the detention of Maulana Khalil who is said to have been arrested by Punjab police. He said that suspects recently arrested by Pakistan's law-enforcement agencies were only planners, and not masterminds like Osama Bin Laden, the chief of Al Qaeda, Mullah Umar or Ayman Al-Zawahiri.

Dawn, 9 August 2004

Govt wants to hold talks, Bugti told

QUETTA, Aug 8: The Jamhuri Watan Party said on Sunday that National Security Council Secretary-General Tariq Aziz had conveyed to its chief Nawab Akbar Bugti the federal government's intention to hold meetings with political leaders of Balochistan and ascertain their views on development projects in the province. In a statement issued here, JWP Secretary-General Agha Shahid Hasan Bugti said Mr Aziz on Saturday discussed with Nawab Bugti at Dera Bugti the development projects, including the Gwadar port. He quoted Mr Aziz as saying that the

government wanted to identify the development schemes that fulfilled the needs and wishes of the people so that those could be implemented

Dawn, 9 August 2004

Man re-arrested for probe into suicide attack

ATTOCK, Aug 8: Security agencies on Saturday night re-arrested the owner of a tailoring shop in connection with the Fatehjang suicide attack on Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz and took him to an unknown place for investigation. Mohammad Arif, owner of Arif Tailors, Attock, had earlier been picked up with his employees Zafer Iqbal and Gulzar Ahmed by law-enforcement agencies on July 30 after police found a sticker of the shop on the shirt of the suicide bomber. They were released after four days of interrogation on Aug 2. After his release, Mr Arif told newsmen that the face and other body parts of the bomber were shown to him at the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalpindi but he could not recognize him.

Dawn, 9 August 2004

Pakistan keen on pipeline project, says Kasuri

TEHRAN, Aug 8: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Sunday Pakistan was keen to make progress on Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. In his arrival statement, he said the two countries share strong ties of common history and heritage, religion and culture. "Pakistan and Iran are close neighbours, with a growing mutuality of interests," he said. "Our relations have potential to acquire further depth and substance. We have made considerable progress in recent years. My present visit is an affirmation of the continuing improvement." The two countries, he added, signed a number of agreements to add greater substance to the bilateral relations. These include agreements for the establishment of a joint investment company, customs cooperation and avoidance of double taxation.

Dawn, 9 August 2004

Twin blasts leave 8 dead in Karachi

KARACHI, Aug 8: At least eight people were killed and over 40 others injured when two bombs exploded in quick succession near the Jamia Binori Madressah in the city's SITE area on Sunday evening. Police said that the first bomb went off outside a restaurant near the seminary and it was followed by another explosion caused by a powerful bomb attached to a motorbike parked close to the restaurant. The blasts took place at around 6.45 pm. A third explosive device lying on the main road was defused by officials of the bomb disposal squad police said. City police chief Tariq Jameel told Dawn that apparently students of the seminary were the target, though the roadside restaurant catered to the public.

Dawn, 9 August 2004

Balochistan, Wana operations opposed

TAXILA, Aug 8: Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal central leader and Jamaat-i-Islami Naib Ameer Liaquat Baloch has asked the government to stop the military operations in Wana and Balochistan and withdraw the cases filed against nationalist leaders. Speaking at a press conference after holding a meeting with party workers at Wah Cantonment, the MNA called for sending troops back to barracks. He warned that the Wana operation would trigger anger and hatred among tribesmen against army. MMA MPA from Wah Cantonment Prof Mohammad Waqas Khan, MMA deputy secretary-general Punjab Nazeer Janjua, JI district Ameer Abass Butt and district general-secretary Abdul Waheed were also present on the occasion.

Daily Times, 10 August 2004

Pakistan complains to US about FBI sting

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has lodged a formal complaint with the United States embassy about an FBI sting operation involving a fake assassination attempt on its UN envoy, describing it as dangerous and mind-boggling. We have made a demarche to the US embassy here, Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said on Monday.

We hope that the US will realise its mistake and give instructions for rectifying this faulty methodology. The FBI set up the string to try to snare Mohammed Hossain, founder of a mosque in New York, and its prayer leader Yassin Aref after surveillance beginning about a year ago, Reuters reported. The operation involved money laundering, a shoulder-fired missile and the fake plot to kill Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram. An FBI informant in the case told Hossain and Aref he was working with Jaish-e-Mohammed and said the missile would be used to assassinate the envoy, said an affidavit filed by an FBI agent.

Daily Times, 10 August 2004

Driver killed, 15 hurt in Waziristan blasts
PESHAWAR: A civilian was killed and about 15 Frontier Constabulary personnel were injured when two bombs exploded near Jandola while the FC men were being transported to Wana on Monday, a security official told Daily Times. An official bus carrying paramilitary forces from Jandola, the entrance to South Waziristan Agency, blew up, killing the bus driver instantly and injuring about 15 paramilitary personnel, the official said. The cause of the blast was unclear. The official said the bombs might be remote-controlled devices planted by the roadside. The driver's side of the bus was badly damaged, the official said.

Daily Times, 10 August 2004

Govt mishandling Balochistan situation, says Imran Khan

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf Chairman Imran Khan said on Monday that the government was mishandling the Balochistan situation by initiating military action there. 'The people of Balochistan have a claim to provincial resources and the government can't be allowed to deprive them of their rights by force,' he said at a party meeting. Mr Khan said the government's direct action in the province was a dangerous development which could push the country towards a civil war. He said the government should take the leadership of Balochistan and the NWFP

into confidence to improve law and order. The government should not violate human rights. He said Balochis and Pakhtoons were patriotic Pakistanis.

The News, 10 August 2004

Soldier dies in bomb attack on Wana-bound bus

WANA: A driver was killed and 17 personnel of the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps were injured, some of them critically, when a Wana-bound bus of the scouts was hit by a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) on Monday. Driver Sher Muhammad Qureshi died on the spot when the remote-controlled bomb placed on the roadside went off as the vehicle crossed Jandola check-post. The injured, including two women, were hurried away to Bannu and Peshawar hospitals in a special helicopter. Meanwhile, the Ahmadzai Wazir of Shakai have decided to demolish the five houses being used for attacks on armed forces and hand over four suspected tribesmen for interrogation to political authorities. AP adds: Director-General ISPR Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan confirmed the attack. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack

Dawn, 11 August 2004

US lauds Pakistan's anti-terror support

WASHINGTON, Aug 10: The White House has said that Pakistan is combating terrorists on two fronts - at home and along the Afghan border - and the United States appreciates Islamabad's efforts in the war against terrorism. White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan made these remarks at a briefing on Monday when a journalist asked for his comment on recent media reports that some terrorist camps in Pakistan were still operating. Mr McClellan did not directly address the issue of terrorist camps but gave an overall review of Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism. With the US presidential election less than 90 days away, Mr McClellan presented Pakistan as a major success of the Bush administration's policies against terrorism.

Dawn, 11 August 2004

Al Qaeda plotting attacks to influence US polls: Network crippled by recent arrests - Official

ISLAMABAD, Aug 10: Al Qaeda operatives captured in Pakistan were plotting terrorist attacks aimed at influencing the US presidential elections in November, a senior Pakistani intelligence official told AFP on Tuesday. One of the top operatives had been contacted by Al Qaeda's chief Osama bin Laden as recently as last year, but the elusive figurehead was not involved in the fresh terror plots, the official said. The terrorist network was looking to pull off major attacks in the United States, Britain or Pakistan in the run-up to the polls but its capacity has been crippled by recent arrests in Pakistan, said the official.

Dawn, 11 August 2004

Al Qaeda rebuilding its ranks: Report

WASHINGTON, Aug 10: Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda has named new leaders to replace those who have been killed or captured, promoting from within and recruiting new operatives to run the organization, The New York Times reported on Tuesday, citing intelligence officials. "Al Qaeda's upper ranks are being filled by lower-ranking members and more recent recruits," the daily said, referring to computer records, documents and e-mail addresses seized after the July 12 arrest in Lahore, of 25-year-old Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan. Khan's computer contained photos and surveillance reports on financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, New Jersey, as well as London's Heathrow airport. -AFP

Dawn, 12 August 2004

Japan wants Pakistan to stop producing missiles: FM pledges to examine loan resumption

ISLAMABAD, Aug 11: Japan on Wednesday announced plans to examine resumption of multi-million yen loans to Pakistan and asked Islamabad to stop production of ballistic missiles and sign the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Appreciating Pakistan's sharing of information about the alleged nuclear proliferation activities of the Khan network, Tokyo requested Islamabad to provide it any new information it got about the network and its connections to different countries, especially North Korea. Pakistan's reservations on the NPT and the CTBT were conveyed by Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri during his meeting with visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi.

Dawn, 12 August 2004

Severing ties with Pakistan Army was a mistake: US

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: The United States made a major mistake when it severed its ties with the Pakistani military in early 1990s, says US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. "I think one of our problems in Pakistan today is that for too long we deprived ourselves of one of the most important instruments of influence," Mr Wolfowitz told the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday. "In a country where the military is one of the most important institutions, the United States severed the contact between our military and their military," he added. The committee, one of the key policy-making bodies in the US Congress, had summoned Mr Wolfowitz and two senior generals to discuss policy and operational implications for the US military of the war on terror.

Dawn, 12 August 2004

Baloch leaders want end to operation

QUETTA, Aug 11: Leaders of the Balochistan National Party (BNP-Mengal) and Baloch Students Organization (Aman) have said that if the government is sincere in inviting Baloch leadership to resolve contentious issues through talks, it should end the military operation and stop arresting political activists. Speaking at separate press conferences here on Wednesday in the press club, MPA Akhtar Hussain Langoo of the BNP-M and students' body secretary-general

Moinuddin Baloch warned the rulers against what they called its dubious policy. They demanded release of all detainees nabbed during the action, saying that otherwise the proposed talks would serve no purpose. Mr Langoo alleged that a law-enforcement agency on Tuesday night conducted a raid on the house of party secretary-general Habib Jalib Baloch in Pirkaniabad to arrest him after implicating him in the Khuzdar incident case. But he was not at home.

Dawn, 12 August 2004

Equal uplift chances to N. Areas assured
ISLAMABAD, Aug 11: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Wednesday assured a delegation from the Northern Areas of equal uplift opportunities to bring the region at par with the developed part of the country. The team, led by Federal Minister for Northern Areas and Kashmir Affairs Dr Ghazi Gulab Jamal and comprising the elected representatives from the region, called on him at the Prime Minister's House. The prime minister assured the delegation that the government was taking special measures to expedite uplift activities in the Northern Areas. Developmental schemes, he said, would be initiated in the region under the Khushhal Pakistan Programme and in consultation with the representatives of the areas. In the schemes, the areas which had so far been ignored would be given priority, he added.
Daily Times, 13 August 2004

Indian linked to Jundullah arrested in Lahore

LAHORE: Law enforcement agencies on Thursday arrested two members of terrorist group Jundullah in Lahore and Karachi one of them believed to be an Indian national. In Lahore, the Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF), an amalgam of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, arrested Maqsood Ansari reportedly an Indian and two members of the banned militant outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, who were allegedly involved in Iranian Consul General Sadiq Ganji's murder, sources told Daily Times. Ansari is the first Indian caught for links with Al Qaeda, sources said.

Dawn, 13 August 2004

Tribes agree to protect troops

WANA, Aug 12: Political authorities and Ahmadzai Wazir tribesmen are inching towards an agreement to deny sanctuary to militants in the volatile South Waziristan tribal region. In a major development, all nine sub-tribes of the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe have agreed to provide protection to security forces stationed in the region, and not to allow foreign and local militants to operate in their respective areas or carry out illegal activities. Elders of the Ahmadzai Wazir held a meeting with political agent Asmatullah Khan Gandapur here on Thursday in which it was decided that each sub-clan would furnish a guarantee of Rs10 million to protect law-enforcement agencies against any hostile action in the area.

Dawn, 13 August 2004

Rockets fired at Kohlu township

QUETTA, Aug 12: A heavy exchange of rocket fire took place between unknown attackers and personnel of the Frontier Corps in the outskirts of Kohlu township, some 450km east of here, on Thursday. "At least 20 rockets exploded in Kohlu area," police sources told Dawn by phone, adding that the rockets exploded in the early hours of the morning. However, no loss of life or property was reported. "All rockets landed and exploded in an open place and the FC posts remained safe," the sources said. They said that the miscreants fired rockets at brief intervals from Jandran mountains, targeting FC posts established to check subversive activities.

Dawn, 13 August 2004

We're getting close to Osama: Faisal

DUBAI, Aug 12: Pakistani Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat on Thursday said that his country's capture of top Al Qaeda suspects has brought Islamabad closer to the arrest of the terror network's chief, Osama bin Laden. Pakistan has already penetrated the network, he said. "Undoubtedly, we have received some information and all the arrests at the Al Qaeda leadership level bring us

closer toward reaching the desired objective," Mr Faisal told Al-Arabiya satellite television. He said Pakistan's objective "is not only the arrest of Osama and (his number two Ayman) al-Zawahiri, but also the final uprooting of this network and its collaborators.

Dawn, 13 August 2004

Two more Al Qaeda militants arrested

KARACHI, Aug 12: The government announced on Thursday that it had arrested two more Al Qaeda militants from various parts of the country, bringing the total number of activists held in the last two days to five. According to a report by S. Raza Hasan police on Thursday arrested an important member of a recently-surfaced jihadi outfit, Jundullah, in a pre-dawn raid near Malir. City Police Chief Tariq Jameel told Dawn that the accused, Rao Khalid alias Haris, had taken part in the attacks on the Karachi Corps Commander, Gulistan-i-Jauhar police station and Rangers. Haris, 23, was also involved in the Bible Society and Golf Club blasts, and in a bank robbery in Gulistan-i-Jauhar, added the police chief.

Dawn, 13 August 2004

Relatives identify suicide bomber

KOHAT, Aug 12: Investigators have ascertained the identity of the man who blew himself up while planting bombs on July 28 near the residence of the general officer commanding of the 9th division of the Pakistan Army in the Kohat cantonment last month. Two officers of an intelligence agency, one of them an assistant director, were also killed in the incident. The bomber has been identified as Akhtar Zaman, son of Haji Noor Jan, an Afghan refugee, a resident of Parachinar, Kurram Agency, who had been reported missing by his parents three days before the blast. The brother and the father of the bomber were present at the Kohat graveyard where his body was exhumed in the presence of SP investigation Faiz Mohammad Khan Khattak on Thursday.

Dawn, 14 August 2004

PM invites lawmakers for talks on Balochistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 13: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Friday offered the opposition a dialogue on the situation in Balochistan after the interior minister had adopted a hard line on the issue in the National Assembly. "The government believes in dialogue process and is ready to resolve problems of Balochistan people through dialogue. We will talk with an open mind," the prime minister said in brief remarks amid a heated discussion in the lower house over what opposition members called a military operation against nationalist parties in Balochistan in which they claimed gunship helicopters and tanks were being used.

Dawn, 14 August 2004

Sabotage plan unearthed

ISLAMABAD, Aug 13: Pakistani security agencies have succeeded in unearthing a plan to sabotage the Independence Day celebrations and attack important installation on that day. A number of suspected terrorists, who were planning the attack, have been picked up by the security agencies from different parts of the country. The terrorists were planning a host of attacks in different cities. Sources within the security agencies confirmed the arrests but refused to give details. -APP

Dawn, 14 August 2004

Wana agreement hits snags

WANA, Aug 13: A proposed agreement between the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe and the political administration of the South Waziristan Agency could not be signed on Friday after various sub-tribes refused to furnish cash guarantees to the administration. The agreement was to be signed at a jirga of the Ahmadzai tribe here on Friday. However, elders of small tribes refused to deposit Rs10 million with the authorities as guarantee against attacks on security forces operating in the regions and shelter to militants. Elders of all nine sub-tribes of the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe had expressed willingness on Thursday that each

sub-tribe would furnish Rs10 million to the government. In Friday's jirga, the elders maintained that their financial position did not allow them to deposit such a huge amount, sources said.

Dawn, 14 August 2004

Opposition declines to attend APC: Balochistan issues

QUETTA, Aug 13: Balochistan opposition parties have declined to accept a proposal for holding an all parties conference to develop a consensus on contentious issues, including that of establishing cantonments , and said that the problems concerned the federal government and the meeting would be fruitless. The idea had been floated by the speaker of the Balochistan Assembly. Members of the opposition, who refused to call off their protest until the acceptance of their demands, agreed to discuss issues related to the allocation of PSDP funds with Speaker Jamal Shah Kakar, who chaired the assembly session on Friday. Opposition leader Kachkol Ali Baloch and Sardar Azam Khan Musakhel of the Pukhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party informed the speaker that army operation in different areas of the province and establishment of cantonments were issues that concerned the federal government.

Dawn, 14 August 2004

Report on Osama denied

ISLAMABAD, Aug 13: An interior ministry spokesman has denied the statement attributed to Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat regarding Osama Bin Laden, appeared in a section of the press on Friday. The following is the text of a press release issued by the ministry: "A spokesman to Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Faisal Saleh Hayat while referring to a news item released by AFP quoting a Dubai-based Arabic television network has said that the reference regarding Osama bin Laden is absolutely baseless. "He clarified that the news report has no relevance to the actual contents of the interview given by the interior minister and was totally out of context." -APP

Dawn, 14 August 2004

Bombs explode in Quetta

QUETTA, Aug 13: Two bombs exploded here on Friday night. No casualty was reported, police said. The first explosion took place at 9:50pm near the official residence of the Director General Public Relations Balochistan, Masood Ahmed Hashmi, smashing windowpanes there and in nearby houses, after unknown people planted an explosive device near a wall of the bungalow

Dawn, 14 August 2004

KARACHI: Jundullah activist remanded

KARACHI, Aug 13: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) headed by Judge Feroz Mehmood Bhatti on Friday remanded Rao Khalid alias Haris, an activist of the Jundullah group arrested for his alleged involvement in the Karachi corps commander motorcade attack case , for 10 days in police custody. He was produced before the court amid tight security. The police showing his arrest on Thursday in Cattle Colony, Malir, claimed that they had seized a pistol, a triple-two rifle and two hand-grenades from him. The court had last Saturday issued non-bailable warrants for the arrest of Rao Khalid and other absconding co-accused Adnan Shah alias Tipu, Mohammad Qasim, Shahab, Bilal, Tayab, Hammad and Fasih, who are still at large.

The Washington Post, 14 August 2004

Al Qaeda Showing New Life

U.S. Surprised by Signs of Regrouping

In the more than two years since U.S. forces destroyed al Qaeda's haven and much of its leadership in Afghanistan, many U.S. intelligence officials and terrorism experts had come to believe that other Islamist extremist groups now posed the gravest threat. From Istanbul to Madrid, local jihadists mounted daring and deadly attacks with little apparent support from Osama bin Laden's crippled network. President Bush and other U.S. officials boasted that two-thirds of al Qaeda's senior leadership had

been captured or killed and that those who remained, including bin Laden, were desperate and on the run. But the wave of arrests and intelligence discoveries in Pakistan in recent weeks that led to a new terrorism alert in the United States caught many U.S. officials and outside experts by surprise. It revealed a network of operatives connected to past al Qaeda operations and aligned with Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the imprisoned mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The new evidence suggests that al Qaeda is battered but not beaten, and that a motley collection of old hands and recent recruits has formed a nucleus in Pakistan that is pushing forward with plans for attacks in the United States, according to U.S. and Pakistani officials.

The News, 14 August 2004

Indian aide of Jundallah militant held in Lahore

LAHORE: Security forces arrested an Indian national believed to be a close aide of a militant leader suspected in an assassination attempt on Corps Commander Lt-Gen Ahsan Saleem Hayat, an official said on Friday. The man, identified as Maqsood Ansari, was picked up late on Thursday here, said an intelligence official who asked not to be named. Ansari was arrested on information from Rao Khalid, a senior figure in Jundallah, who was arrested on Thursday in Karachi. The intelligence official said Ansari was arrested in a raid on his home in Ghaziabad, an eastern residential suburb of Lahore. Ansari came to Pakistan nine years ago and later married a Pakistani woman and had been living in Lahore and Karachi, working closely with Khalid.

Dawn, 14 August 2004

All Qaeda men taken from religious parties' offices: Faisal

ISLAMABAD: The government in the National Assembly (NA) on Friday accused the religio-political parties of Pakistan of being involved in the terrorist activities of Al Qaeda, while the opposition warned that the military operation in Balochistan might

lead to another dismemberment of the country. I don't want to go into the controversy but let me tell you that all the Al Qaeda operatives arrested (recently) were picked up from their (religious parties) regional headquarters, Federal Minister for Interior Makhdoom Faisal Saleh Hayat stated while replying to a number of questions and allegations from the opposition on the problem in Balochistan.

Daily Times, 14 August 2004

Pakistan is a key ally in war on terrorism: Bush

WASHINGTON: President George Bush on Friday acknowledging Pakistan's role in curbing terrorism said that Pakistan was an important ally of the United States in the fight against terrorism. The world is safe and Libya is no longer a threat. Pakistan is as an ally in the war on terrorism and is doing all to smoke out terrorists from its territory, President Bush said this in CNN's Larry King Live programme. He talked about Iraq, Afghanistan, war on terror, economy, domestic election issues, gays, and the election campaign, besides the issue of faith.

Daily Times, 14 August 2004

Suicide attack on Aziz: Suspect arrested from Khushab

ISLAMABAD: Security forces on Friday arrested another militant linked to last month's assassination attempt on prime minister-designate Shaukat Aziz as part of its biggest crackdown on militants to date. Intelligence officials identified the man suspected of involvement in the suicide attack on Aziz as Muhammad Imran from Khushab district. Imran belongs to the outlawed Jaish-e-Muhammad which is known to have links with Al Qaeda. The officials hoped the arrest, the first in the case, could lead authorities to others involved in the suicide attack, which killed several people including the bomber. Aziz escaped unhurt.

No News Reports on 15 August 2004 due to news papers holiday in Pakistan

Dawn, 16 August 2004

Musharraf says terror will be crushed

ISLAMABAD, Aug 14: President Pervez Musharraf vowed on Saturday to crush Muslim militancy, saying there would be no let-up in the country's biggest crackdown on Al Qaeda operatives and other radicals. The President, speaking at a musical show held to mark the Independence Day, said foreign militants linked to Osama bin Laden's network and their local allies posed the biggest challenge to the country. "We will crush them and will not allow them to move forward," he said.

Dawn, 16 August 2004

2 held for attempt on Aziz's life

ISLAMABAD, Aug 14: Security agencies have arrested two terrorism suspects, including an Afghan national, who are believed to be involved in an assassination attempt on Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz last month that left nine people dead, well-placed sources told Dawn on Saturday. A source said that the accused were arrested in separate raids conducted in eastern Punjab on Friday night. The suspects were identified as Qari Noor Mohammed, an Afghan who allegedly coordinated the attack, and Mohammed Imran, a local man. The source said that one of the suspects, Imran, was a member of the outlawed extremist group Jaish-i-Mohammed. He was seen at the place where the assassination attempt on Mr Aziz was made.

Dawn, 16 August 2004

Eight bomb blasts rock Quetta

QUETTA, Aug 14: Eight bomb blasts rocked Quetta on Saturday despite heavy deployment of law-enforcement agencies to check any untoward incident on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations. However, there was no report of any causality or property damage from the blasts. A series of bomb blasts started around 12:50pm when two blasts took place at Killi Ibrahimzai with an interval of 10 minutes. The third explosion occurred at Abdul Aziz Street of Arbab Ghulam Ali Road area around 1:05pm, rocking the whole

residential area. The bomb was planted at a sewerage drain.

Dawn, 16 August 2004

PPP seeks NA debate on Kargil

ISLAMABAD, Aug 14: People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP) MNA Sherry Rehman has submitted a resolution to the National Assembly Secretariat seeking a debate on the report of the Indian Commission on Kargil, sources told Dawn here on Friday. The sources said Ms Rehman had submitted the resolution as part of opposition's efforts to bring the Kargil issue in parliament for discussion. Opposition parties in general and the Pakistan Muslim League-N in particular have been demanding formation of a judicial commission to fix responsibility for the Kargil debacle.

Dawn, 16 August 2004

Balochistan rights to be protected: Jam

QUETTA, Aug 14: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Yousuf on Saturday stated that the government would not permit lawlessness, subversive acts and terrorism as it was the prime responsibility of the government to ensure protection to life and property of the people. The chief minister was speaking here at a flag-hoisting ceremony marking the Independence Day celebrations at the provincial assembly lawn. He said the government wanted to resolve all issues through talks and in a spirit of reconciliation to ensure rapid progress and development activities in the province which in turn would ensure jobs to the jobless youths.

Daily Times, 16 August 2004

Two soldiers feared dead in Wana attack

WANA: Two soldiers were reportedly killed and seven others were injured when militants fired rockets at the Wana Scouts Camp on Friday night. The authorities however did not confirm if there were any casualties in the rocket attack. The camp came under attack from the north and south and continued sporadically till 9:00am on Saturday. Paramilitary forces retaliated with

mortar fire. Some of the shells landed in Doog village damaging the houses of residents Syed Afzal, Malik Gul Munir Khan, Wakil Khan, Romal Khan, Bismillah Khan, Sirajud Din, Abdul Khaliq and Mujeebur Rehman, a local journalist. Three women were injured and a car was damaged when a mortar shell hit a house. Two or three rockets fired by suspected Al Qaeda militants landed inside the camp but they caused no injuries.

Dawn, 17 August 2004

Terrorists relocating to cities: Musharraf
ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: President General Pervez Musharraf has said that successful operations have sent the foreign masterminds of terrorism in the country on the run, and urged the people to stand up against elements infusing extremism in society. "We are on the winning side...we have major successes (against terrorists)," he said while speaking in the PTV programme 'Aap key Robaro'. President Musharraf said the environment was changing as the government was confronting terrorism and extremism head-on. "We are attacking the masterminds to dry up the source of terrorism and they are on the run," he said. The president said authentic information had revealed that these terrorist masterminds were relocating from the mountainous and tribal regions in the north to cities and even to other countries. He said these elements had come to Afghanistan after 9/11 and the military operations forced them to hide in the mountainous region along the Pakistan-Afghan border and in cities. The capture of 500 to 600 Al Qaeda operatives, including top Al Qaeda leaders Khalid Omer Sheikh and Abu Zubaida, from different cities forced them to take refuge mostly in the South Waziristan region.

Dawn, 17 August 2004

Foreigner, Pakistani Al Qaeda suspects held

LAHORE, Aug 16: Intelligence agencies detained here on Monday a foreigner and a Pakistani suspected to have links with Al Qaeda. An intelligence source said that the

foreigner was from Burma and the Pakistani, identified as Mohammad Shafiq, a militant who belonged to the banned Jaish-i-Muhammad. He said the arrests were made after a cell phone call was intercepted in Karachi, adding that Al Qaeda operative in custody was contacted by the two suspects through the cell phone. An intelligence team conducted a raid in the Lahore cantonment area and picked up the two suspects from a rented house.

Dawn, 17 August 2004

Report on 'terror summit' denied

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: A spokesman for Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday played down a report in the latest edition of Time magazine describing a "summit of terrorists" held in March in South Waziristan. Time quoted some US officials as saying the gathering may have been a "pivotal planning session" in the same way a meeting of Al Qaeda operatives in 2000 was used to discuss plans for the Sept 11, 2001, strikes in the United States. Major-General Shaukat Sultan denied any meeting took place. "The story is fictionalized that a high-level summit meeting took place in South Waziristan," he said. "There was no summit meeting."

Dawn, 17 August 2004

Troops launch search operation in Raghzai

WANA, Aug 16: Hundreds of troops started a search operation in South Waziristan on Monday to track down militants, officials and eyewitnesses said. Backed by several helicopter gunships, army and paramilitary troops searched various fortress-like mud-houses of suspected militants in the Raghzai area. A source said that no arrest was made in the operation, conducted near the Afghan border, about 20 kilometres west of Wana, the regional headquarters. Army and paramilitary troops were moved from Zari Noor Brigade Headquarters towards areas near Afghanistan border, where foreign and tribal militants are believed to have their sanctuaries. The sources said that the government had decided to go for 'snap

raids' in the volatile region to catch suspected militants. Troops have sealed off Sarghashi, Shah Alam and Raghzai areas, set up check posts along the routes and imposed night curfew.

Dawn, 17 August 2004

Four FC men killed in ambush near Sui

QUETTA, Aug 16: Four Frontier Corps personnel were killed and five others wounded when their vehicle came under fire near the Old Sui China camp, some 460km east of here, on Monday morning. In attacks on Sunday night, another security guard was killed, 20 rockets were fired at the Old Sui China camp and a bomb exploded in Kalat. "Our four jawans were martyred and another five were injured in the armed attack," Lt-Col Mohammad Rizwan Malik, an FC spokesman said, adding that unidentified miscreants had used heavy automatic weapons, rockets and a remote-controlled bomb in the attack. Sources said that a convoy of five vans carrying employees of the Pakistan Petroleum Ltd was on its way to Kashmore from Sui at 7am. As the convoy, escorted by three FC vehicles, reached near the Old Sui China camp, some unidentified attackers opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed rockets at it.

Dawn, 17 August 2004

NA voices concern over renewed fighting

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: The treasury and opposition benches in the National Assembly joined voices on Monday to express their concern and 'horror' at renewed fighting in Najaf and called for peace in the Iraqi holy city. In a unanimously passed resolution, the lower house expressed its 'grave concern' over the situation in Najaf where hundreds of people have been reported killed in an offensive by US and Iraqi forces seeking to oust the Mehdi Army militia of Shia leader Moqtada Sadr. Voicing the assembly's 'horror' at the fighting around the mausoleum of Hazrat Ali in Najaf, the resolution called upon "all parties to respect the sanctity of the holy shrine and play their role in restoring peace and tranquillity in the holy city".

Dawn, 17 August 2004

JI accused of providing shelter to Al Qaeda

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: Interior Minister Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat on Monday claimed that Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), a major component of Muttahidda Majlis-i-Amal (MMA), was supporting Al Qaeda and providing shelter to its leaders in Pakistan. He told a press conference at his chamber in Parliament House that the government had asked the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) and the JI to explain whether they owned those activists of JI whose links with Al Qaeda had been established. "These religious organizations have to explain why their high-profile activists have supported Al Qaeda terrorists," he added. However, Syed Munawar Hassan, the JI secretary-general, rejected outright the allegations made against his party's activists, saying the interior minister should prove these allegations in a court of law, otherwise he (minister) should avoid making false claims.

Dawn, 17 August 2004

No military operation in Balochistan: Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Monday dispelled the impression about an ongoing military operation in Balochistan and said the law-enforcement agencies were hunting down people who were involved in firing incidents and rocket attacks on various installations and government personnel. "There is no military operation going on in Balochistan," he said during a PTV talk show 'Aap key Robaroo'. Stressing the need for differentiating between a military operation and action taken against law breakers, he said: "The action against some individuals cannot be construed as a military operation." The president vowed that no one involved in these incidents would be spared and said: "We have the latest weapons, which can be pin-pointed to exact targets, from the air and from the land ... we will finish them off."

Dawn, 17 August 2004

Balochistan PA forms body to discuss PSDP

QUETTA, Aug 16: Opposition's prolonged protest in the Balochistan Assembly has ended after the formation of a committee to discuss the public sector development programme and other contentious issues. It would hold its first meeting on Aug 26. Opposition leaders Kachkol Ali Baloch and Sardar Azam Musakhel on a point of order raised the PSDP issue and accused the government of victimizing the people of Balochistan and stressed the need for resolving it and other matters on the basis of justice and merit. Speaker Jamal Shah Kakar, who chaired the assembly proceeding on Monday, adjourned the session for some time to enable the treasury and the opposition members to hold consultations for nominating the committee members.

Dawn, 18 August 2004

By-polls in Attock, Tharparkar today

KARACHI, Aug 17: All is set for crucial by-elections today in two National Assembly constituencies, one in Punjab and the other in Sindh, which Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz hopes to win to become the country's next prime minister. Violence and acrimonious exchanges have been the hallmark of the election campaign in which Mr Aziz escaped a terrorist attack on his life while three activists of the opposition Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians were gunned down and the government was accused of pre-poll rigging. In both the constituencies, NA-59 (Attock) and NA-229 (Tharparkar), Mr Aziz's challengers are being supported by all the opposition parties. A local holiday has been declared in both the constituency on Wednesday.

Dawn, 18 August 2004

Seminary, mosque raided in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17: Law-enforcement agencies personnel raided the Lal Mosque and its seminary here on Tuesday and searched it for the Imam and his brother for their alleged links with the Al Qaeda network and issuing a fatwa against the

army and the ongoing operation in Wana , said Deputy Commissioner Tariq Mehmood Pirzada. A heavy contingent of police barged into the mosque in the wee hours of Tuesday and searched it for the two brothers. The police also entered the girls section of the seminary on the premises of the mosque.

Dawn, 18 August 2004

Soldier killed in Shakai attack

WANA, Aug 17: An army soldier was killed and five others suffered injuries when suspected militants attacked a military outpost in the Shakai valley of South Waziristan, officials said on Tuesday. They said that the attack had been carried out from an unspecified location on Monday afternoon. One of the rockets fired by the militants hit the military outpost, killing one soldier of the Punjab Regiment and injuring five others who were taken to the Zari Noor Brigade Headquarters in Wana. Sources said that security forces swooped on suspected locations in the Raghzai area near the Afghan border and blocked the area. "Troops are operating in the area with helicopters gunship hovering overhead", they said.

Dawn, 19 August 2004

Aziz wins both seats by huge margin

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz has won both the Attock and Tharparkar seats of the National Assembly by a heavy margin, according to unofficial results. According to Attock District Nazim Maj (ret'd) Tahir Sadiq, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) candidate defeated Dr Sikandar Hayat of the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) by a margin of 46,059 votes. The district Nazim told the media that Mr Aziz had secured 75,271 votes against 29,212 polled by Dr Sikandar Hayat. When the district Nazim announced the complete result of all the 253 polling stations of Attock, the Election Commission had declared unofficial results of only 140 polling stations.

Dawn, 19 August 2004

Shujaat to quit by 25th, says Rashid

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain will relinquish his office some time between Aug 22 and 25 to make way for Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz to take over as new chief executive. Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said this while briefing reporters on decisions taken by the federal cabinet at a meeting here on Wednesday. This was the last meeting of the cabinet headed by Chaudhry Shujaat. The meeting discussed the by-elections on the National Assembly seats of Tharparkar and Attock and expressed satisfaction over reports that polling was smooth and voters had turned out in large numbers. The minister, however, told a questioner that he was unaware about the turnout figure.

Dawn, 19 August 2004

Al Qaeda suspect dies in lock-up

FAISALABAD, Aug 18: Alleged Al Qaeda activist Qari Noor Muhammad, who had been picked up on Friday night from a local mosque by a team of agency personnel and local police, died in a lock-up on Wednesday. According to police, Qari Noor had been in the custody of Kotwali Police since Tuesday night and he suffered a heart attack which proved to be fatal. The Jamia Masjid Mubarik on Dijkot Road was raided on Friday night and besides Qari Noor, two other people, city president of the MMA, Maulana Obaidullah and a student, were detained on charge of providing funds and shelter to Al Qaeda fugitives. The raiding team also seized files which allegedly contained the record of funds paid by some people to banned militant organizations and some clothes and other material from a house adjacent to the mosque.

Dawn, 19 August 2004

Raids on seminaries continue

RAWALPINDI, Aug 18: Law-enforcement personnel continued raids on Madressahs in the federal capital on Wednesday in search of the Imam of the Lal Mosque and his brother who are wanted by police for their alleged links with Al Qaeda. The Imam,

Maulana Abdul Aziz, and his brother Maulana Ghazi Abdul Rashid had issued fatwa against the army and the Wana operation. Heavy contingents of police commandos led by Azam Taimoori, the acting SSP Islamabad, raided a seminary (Fareedia) in E-7. They did not find either Maulana Abdul Aziz or his brother. However, they seized the record of the seminary and also picked up a plainclothes security guard from there who had been carrying an AK-47 rifle. Later, he was freed but his weapon was seized by police.

Dawn, 19 August 2004

KARACHI: 15kg heroin, 120kg hashish seized

KARACHI, Aug 18: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), in a raid at Ghani Chowrangi, SITE Area, confiscated 15 kg heroin and 120 kg hashish concealed in a Suzuki pickup, and arrested an accused. The price of the seized quantity of the contraband in the international market was said to be around Rs200 million. This was stated by Col Khizar of ANF, while addressing a press conference at ANF Office on Wednesday. Giving details of the raid, he said that the ANF police station Gulshan-e-Iqbal conducted the raid last night and arrested Abdul Hameed Baloch s/o Ali Muhammad Baloch, resident of Brohi Mohallah, Sher Shah, and recovered the drugs, concealed in secret cavities of the Suzuki pickup. The police have registered an FIR against the accused and further investigations were underway, he added. He further said the accused belonged to a big gang of drug smugglers and major disclosures were expected from him.

Daily Times, 20 August 2004

2 Qaeda suspects held in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Two Al Qaeda suspects believed to be Algerian and Iraqi were arrested on Thursday in an exchange of fire with the Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) and intelligence agencies in an upscale locality on the outskirts of Peshawar. "The arrested foreigner seems to be a Mongol or Chinese," a doctor at the Combined Military Hospital

in Peshawar told Daily Times. An intelligence source said he was an Algerian. The man identified himself as Muhammad Fauzi, 30, while the intelligence agencies were trying to establish his nationality. "We have not extracted much information from him so far but we are trying to know as much as possible about other terror suspects in Peshawar," the intelligence source said. He said a special team from Islamabad led the raid.

Daily Times, 20 August 2004

Indian claims of camps baseless: ISPR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has refuted Wednesday's Indian claims of terrorist camps in Azad Kashmir and a rise in cross-border infiltration. Talking to Online on Thursday, Pakistan Army spokesman Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan said, "It is regrettable that India, despite knowing the ground realities, is still resorting to such irresponsible statements". He called the allegations 'baseless and unfounded'. Indian Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed was reported on Wednesday saying that the Pakistani regime had not taken credible steps to dismantle the terrorists' infrastructure in the country and that cross-border infiltration from Pakistan had also increased during June and July. The spokesman said that there were no terrorist camps operating in Azad Kashmir and that cross-border infiltration had not risen in the past two months. He said India had no reason to complain of infiltration when it was fencing the Line of Control. He said Pakistan was pushing forward the peace process with India sincerely and seriously and India fully understood the situation. He added that India should refrain from such accusations, which could affect the composite dialogue adversely. He said that the government wanted peaceful resolution of all disputes including Kashmir

Daily Times, 20 August 2004

Troops and militants trade heavy fire in Shakai

WANA: Paramilitary troops and militants were engaged in heavy fighting in the

Shakai valley as the army advanced into militants' hideouts in Gargra on Thursday. Sources said fighting broke out late on Wednesday and both sides exchanged fire in Sanga, Hamran and Shakai. Paramilitary troops were trying to take control of the Bosh and Tap mountains at the time this report was made. Fighting was also reported near Wana Scouts Camp and Jiarza Fort. There were no claims about the loss of life or property. Meanwhile, tribal elders from the Uthmankel sub-tribes claimed that they had resolved differences over whether to support the government in its effort to flush out foreign terrorists from the tribal areas. The tribes held a jirga on Thursday to decide whether to sign a Shakai-like agreement with the government or not. "We called on top political administration officials and showed our willingness to support the government against local and foreign militants," tribesmen told Daily Times.

Daily Times, 20 August 2004

Pakistan opposes disarmament, non-proliferation through UNSC

DURBAN: Pakistan called on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Thursday to oppose attempts to assign the job of non-proliferation to the Security Council, saying both disarmament and non-proliferation should be promoted through universally negotiated treaty regimes. Speaking at NAM's Ministerial Conference, Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar stressed collective action to find a solution to common problems of humanity. "We must resist efforts by some states to assign the responsibility of non-proliferation to the Security Council where those states, which seek to perpetuate the monopoly of nuclear weapons, also wield the power of the veto," he added. Khokhar underlined that both disarmament and non-proliferation must be promoted through universally negotiated treaty regimes, taking into account the security interests of all states.

Daily Times, 20 August 2004

'Seminaries contributing to country's development'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Minister Zobaida Jalal has said that religious seminaries are contributing to the country's development and raids on a few seminaries are aimed at smoking terrorists out of the country. "These raids are part of security measures," she said, while talking to reporters at the launching ceremony of a website and communication cell for non-formal education programme at the Education For All (EFA) Wing on Thursday. Ms Jalal said the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Education Ministry were working together to streamline the seminaries and had no concern with these raids. She said her ministry would work out a policy to regularise teachers, adding that 300 teachers were regularised in the last year.

Daily Times, 21 August 2004

Aziz takes oath as MNA, retains Attock seat

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister-designate Shaukat Aziz took oath as Member of the National Assembly on Friday evening. Mr Aziz, who won National Assembly by-polls from NA-59, Attock-III and NA-229, Tharparkar-I, retained the Attock seat. Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain administered the oath to Mr Aziz. Mr Aziz took the oath amidst loud thumping by the treasury members. The speaker and cabinet members greeted Mr Aziz after he had signed members' register. After taking the oath, Mr Aziz went to the opposition benches and met Makhdoom Amin Fahim and other opposition leaders. Earlier, the parliamentary party of the ruling coalition held a meeting to discuss the transfer of power. Sources told Daily Times that Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain informed the meeting that Mr Aziz's oath as prime minister might be delayed until the 25th or 26th. President Pervez Musharraf has a heavy schedule until the 25th, sources said. MNA Dr Sher Afgan Khan told Daily Times Mr Aziz was likely to file his nomination papers on Tuesday and would get a vote from the house on Wednesday.

Daily Times, 21 August 2004

Militants and Army suffer losses in Wana

WANA: Militants were still targeting military positions in Wana as an Uzbek and a tribal militant were killed in an exchange of fire with the army in the Santoi and Mantoi mountains on Friday. A military source said an Uzbek was killed while a senior government official said a Zalikhel sub-tribe member was also killed in the fighting. Tribesman Abdul Manan's body was handed over to his family. Military spokesman Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan told Daily Times on the phone from Rawalpindi that the military operation, launched in June this year, would continue and the army would return fire whenever attacked. He denied that the army had suffered any casualties. Sources, however, said both sides suffered 'losses' in the fighting in the Santoi and Mantoi mountains. Sources said gunship helicopters hovered over as the army targeted militants' hideouts in the area. They said heavy fighting was in progress as the army was using artillery from Tiarzah Fort and the Zarinoor base near Wana to pound enemy targets. Sources said that the army was closing in on the militants. Gen Sultan said peace had been restored in the Shakai valley and the army was meeting with pockets of resistance in the Santoi and Mantoi mountains. "Dense forests help militants to hit and run," he added

Daily Times, 21 August 2004

Musharraf defends defence housing schemes

KARACHI: President General Musharraf said that the Defence societies in various parts of the country were the best housing and denounced criticism against them. "DHAs' are the top residential societies, so why should there be a gripe about that?" he said. Defence housing projects were contributing to the country's development, he said on Friday, addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of the power supply and desalination plant of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA). "What is the problem if they are contributing towards town development here and anywhere in

Pakistan? Their output is the best,” he said. The president said that he was making the point because ‘pseudo intellectuals’ kept questioning the military’s involvement in anything. “Well the military is not involved in this. There are retired military officers and civilians who are working here,” he said.

Daily Times, 21 August 2004

Nancy stresses broader ties with Pakistan Says better relationship in both US and Pakistan’s interest; If Musharraf is trying so hard, US should support him; Ambassador wants stronger Pakistani institutions

LAHORE: US Ambassador to Pakistan, Nancy J Powell has stressed tackling violence and extremism in Pakistan and a more encompassing partnership between the two countries in numerous areas. Ms Powell was making a speech on ‘US foreign policy towards Pakistan’ at Lahore Gymkhana on Friday evening. She highlighted the war on terrorism, regional stability, Indo-Pak relations, weapons of mass destruction, trade investment, military and security assistance and USAID programmes with reference to Pakistan. She said “A strong, long-lasting and comprehensive bilateral relationship between the US and Pakistan is in the foreign policy interests of both nations. It is strongly supported by President Bush and Secretary Powell, by Republicans and Democrats in the US Congress, and most recently by the bi-partisan 9/11 Commission,” she said, adding, “If Musharraf stands for enlightened moderation in a fight for his life and for the life of his country, the United States should be willing to make hard choices too and make the difficult long-term commitment to the future of Pakistan.”

Daily Times, 21 August 2004

Red Cross fears HR crisis in Wana

ISLAMABAD: Aid agencies foresee humanitarian crisis in Wana, where a military operation against militants is under way, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in Islamabad, on

Thursday. “We are reading the media reports regarding sufferings, but we would make our own assessment,” the communication coordinator of ICRC said. Pakistani security forces launched an offensive last year against the tribesmen allegedly supporting Al Qaeda militants hiding in the tribal belt of Wana. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), the area had been badly affected by the military operations. Search operations, raids on houses, roadblocks and economic sanctions over the past three months have resulted in heavy financial losses for residents of Wana, HRCP added. “Wana is famous for its apples and the season begins around mid- July. But due to the recent sanctions, farmers and orchard owners have lost millions of rupees, HRCP Member Asad Afridi said.

Daily Times, 21 August 2004

Balochistan senators oppose new cantts

ISLAMABAD: Both opposition and treasury senators from Balochistan on Friday opposed the proposal to establish cantonments in the province’s districts and demanded that political means be adopted to resolve the looming crises in the underprivileged province. The Senate’s session was summoned on the requisition of the opposition to discuss the law and order situation in the country with particular reference to Balochistan. The opposition’s agenda also included a debate on the killing of two Pakistanis in Iraq and the issue of sending troops to the country.

Dawn, 22 August 2004

Plot to hit GHQ, parliament uncovered: Five suspects arrested

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: The law-enforcement agencies have arrested five members of a ‘terrorist’ group, including foreigners, who had planned to attack main official buildings and embassies in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said this at a hurriedly-called press conference here on Saturday night. He said the law-enforcement agencies were hunting two

masterminds of the plan who belonged to Egypt. The agencies also seized a huge cache of arms and munition, including bombs, grenades, rockets, rocket launchers, detonators and around 50 other explosive devices, he said.

Dawn, 22 August 2004

'Pakistanis to be freed from Guantanamo'
WASHINGTON, Aug 21: The United States is expected to release soon the remaining Pakistani prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba, official sources told Dawn. A total of 58 Pakistanis were brought to the US military facility after the fall of the Taliban regime in November 2001. According to US and Pakistani officials, 36 Pakistani citizens are still imprisoned there. The first batch of five Pakistanis was released in early 2003 followed by another batch of 11 in July 2003. There were three Pakistanis among 26 prisoners released in March this year. Three others were released separately, leaving behind a total of 36.

Dawn, 22 August 2004

PM denies allegations of cross-border infiltration: PML's website launched
ISLAMABAD Aug 21: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Saturday spurned allegations of cross-border infiltration levelled by some Indian ministers. Talking to newsmen at the Pakistan Muslim League secretariat, the premier said there was no truth in such allegations. He said Pakistan was sincerely pursuing the composite dialogue as envisaged by President Gen Pervez Musharraf and strictly adhering to the understanding reached between the two countries about not issuing any statement which could cause bitterness and become an irritant in the process of normalization.

Dawn, 22 August 2004

Islamabad has no role in Afghan polls: FM
ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Saturday Pakistan was sincerely trying to help bring

and maintain peace in Afghanistan but had no role to play in the upcoming presidential elections there in October. Talking to reporters at the PML house, he took a serious note of recent statements by some Indian ministers alleging so-called 'cross-border' infiltration in Kashmir and said nothing should be uttered which could spoil a congenial atmosphere in which both countries were holding their composite dialogue. In response to a question, Mr Kasuri said the name of former army chief Gen (ret'd) Jehangir Karamat had been communicated to the United States as Pakistan's next ambassador there to replace Mr Ashraf Jehangir Kazi, who has been appointed as UN special envoy in Iraq.

Dawn, 22 August 2004

Militants' positions bombed
WANA, Aug 21: Fighter planes and helicopter gunships carried out strikes on militants' positions in South Waziristan on Saturday. Officials said that troops renewed their assault in the volatile region in response to continued night time attacks by militants on security forces and military installations in the area. Eyewitnesses said that two F-7 planes and several helicopter gunships bombed militants' positions in the forest-covered Kip Sar, Bosh Naraia and Zawara valleys near the Afghan border, believed to be safe hideouts for attackers. Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan, the director-general of Inter Services Public Relations, said that PAF planes and helicopters flew over the area, but not necessarily for carrying out strikes.

The News, 23 August 2004

**Exchange of fire continues in Shakai
Gangikhel tribe reaches agreement with govt**

WANA: Exchange of fire between Islamic militants and paramilitary forces continued in Shakai on Sunday. However, no casualty was reported in the hours long firing from both sides. Long-range artillery targeted various spots in Bashnarai area where activities of some suspects were reported. In Wana, some unidentified people planted

rockets near the scouts camp. However, locals spotted the explosives after which the scouts personnel defused them. On the other hand Utmankhel sub-tribe of Ahmadzai Wazir deposited 21 rifles with the authorities as surety. According to the authorities 10 wanted persons are hiding in the area. It is also said that a meeting of the Utmankhel and Gangikhel tribe is expected with Governor Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah.

The News, 23 August 2004

UAE gifts fuel-fired power plant to Pakistan

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has gifted Pakistan a 512-megawatt power plant. An agreement would be inked in a couple of weeks here after which the plant would be shifted to Pakistan. Pakistan's ambassador to the UAE Air Marshal (retd) Qaiser Hussain told The News in an interview at the embassy that the power plant would be installed in the Punjab. It would be bifurcated and a 312-megawatt plant would be established in Faisalabad while a 200-MW plant in Lahore. The power plant with sustainability of 35 years with renewable features, has lapsed 15 years life in Mina Zayed. It converts gas into power and produces very cheap electricity, he said. The gas-fired plant is manufactured in Germany. The Market value of the plant is more than \$500.

The News, 23 August 2004

Efforts afoot to arrest mastermind of busted gang: Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday said the terrorist gang busted during the last week, was all set to cause huge devastation and massive killings in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Giving further details to the press regarding the terrorist gang, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said so far nine suspects have been arrested in connection with this plan while efforts were being made to arrest four others. Those arrested included Usman, Mustafa and seven other suspects, he added. "They were all set to cause colossal damage to life and

property in the twin cities," he said. Rashid said the gang had dumped the huge cache of arms in a hide-out on Peshawar Road and that was to be used for causing colossal damages in the twin cities on the eve of country's Independence Day.

The News, 24 August 2004

Four Uzbek militants killed in N Waziristan

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed four Uzbek militants in a shoot-out and captured one foreigner and a Pakistani in a raid on Monday in the tribal area, officials said. The operation, near Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan Agency, coincided with a big assault on the other side of the border by US helicopter gunships and hundreds of Afghan and US-led troops. The Pakistani military said four foreign militants had been killed in the operation against their hide-out about 18 kilometres north of Miranshah, but did not give their nationality. "Security forces raided the hide-out early on Monday morning and destroyed it successfully," it said, adding that the troops had also captured machineguns, rocket launchers, assault rifles and a huge quantity of ammunition.

The News, 24 August 2004

Generals tried twice to 'capture' Balochistan: Nawaz

LAHORE: Exiled PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif has said that "the operation in Balochistan after Wana operation is alarming and against sovereignty of the country". Addressing a press conference here on Monday at a hotel, his spokesman Syed Zaeem Qadri said Nawaz said the military generals had tried to "capture" Balochistan twice in the past but faced stiff resistance. He alleged that an opportunity was being provided to anti-Pakistan powers to malign Pakistan "by repeating the past mistakes". Nawaz said the military operation in 1967 and 1973 in Balochistan resulted in the killing of 2,000 soldiers and thousands of Balochs. "Any such military operation would force the Balochs to again retaliate

and take up weapons against the Army," he added.

The News, 24 August 2004

Pak-Afghan fight against terror to continue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan vowed to further enhance bilateral relations and continue to cooperate in the fight against terrorism to promote peace and security in the region. The two countries have also pledged to find ways and means to enhance economic cooperation between them. Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who arrived in Pakistan on Monday, held over an hour-long one-to-one meeting with President Pervez Musharraf at the Aiwan-e-Sadr before the two were joined by their respective delegations in the first round of formal talks. The Afghan president is in Islamabad on a two-day official visit, which the government says is part of the ongoing high-level consultations between the two countries. Karzai is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including senior ministers.

The News, 24 August 2004

'Pakistan will not allow militants to disrupt Afghan polls'

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf on Monday assured visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai that Pakistan would not allow militants to use its territory to disrupt the landmark presidential elections in Afghanistan. "Anybody trying to carry out terrorist activities in Afghanistan or to disrupt election process or to create law and order problems, will not be allowed from Pakistan, we will act against them," Musharraf told official media after talks with Karzai. Remnants of the ousted Taliban and their allies have vowed to disrupt the October 9 polls. "Pakistan Army is operating very strongly against al-Qaeda, we know that they are on the run, they are dispersed and displaced from a number of valleys, which were their sanctuaries," he said referring to the operations along the tribal belt bordering Afghanistan.

The News, 24 August 2004

Seven 'al-Qaeda suspects' held in Vehari

MALAKWAL/MULTAN: Police have arrested seven "foreigners" on suspicion of links to the al-Qaeda in Malakwal as a police and intelligence team detained the father of another alleged al-Qaeda operative at a village near Vehari. After receipt of a directive from the Interior Ministry, the police arrested the seven Afghans living in Malakwal without valid immigration documents. The police are interrogating the arrested men to ascertain whether they were foreigners or Pathans from the NWFP. If proved that they are Afghans they would be sent to jail in Lahore, a policeman close to investigation said. On the other hand, relatives of the arrested men, said the suspects were not foreigners but belonged to the NWFP, who had been living at Malakwal for the last several years and were not linked with any militant group.

Dawn, 24 August 2004

Senate panel on Balochistan proposed: Shujaat stresses political solution

ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has said that efforts would be made to find a political solution to Balochistan's problems and a Senate committee would be constituted to recommend ways of resolving issues relating to the province. The committee would be constituted by the Senate chairman in consultation with Leader of the House Wasim Sajjad and would include members from the opposition side, the prime minister said while winding up a two-day debate on the Balochistan situation in Senate on Monday. Deputy chairman Khalilur Rahman, who presided over the session, asked the house to move a resolution seeking to constitute the proposed committee.

Dawn, 24 August 2004

Joint anti-terror fight pledged: Pakistan, Afghan Presidents meet

ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Pakistan and Afghanistan vowed on Monday to enhance their capability to fight terrorism as President Gen Pervez Musharraf and Afghan

President Hamid Karzai resolved to further expand relationship in various fields. The leaders told newsmen after formal talks that the neighbours had a common commitment to stamp out terrorism from the region and they would strengthen their capability and cooperation in intelligence sharing. President Musharraf held out a categorical assurance to the Afghan leader that Pakistan would not allow anybody to use its territory for actions against the interest of Afghanistan.

Dawn, 24 August 2004

JUI demands end to raids on Madressahs
ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI) on Monday staged a protest demonstration in front of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Press Club camp office here and demanded of the government to immediately stop raids on Madressahs and arrest the police officials involved in torturing Maulana Noor Mohammad to death. Hundreds of workers and Madressah students participated in the demonstration. They were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans such as "the government is American agent and responsible for terrorist activities in the country", etc. Speaking on the occasion, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said the government should stop raids on seminaries, operation in Wana and Balochistan and arrest the policemen who were involved in torturing Maulana Noor.

Daily Times, 25 August 2004

Resolution for Senate body on Balochistan passed

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution to form a special committee to examine the Balochistan situation and submit proposals to end the recent unrest in the province. A special committee of the Senate be constituted by the chairman in consultation with the leader of the house and other parliamentary leaders to examine the present Balochistan situation and make recommendations to promote inter-provincial harmony and protect the rights of

the provinces with a view to strengthening the federation, said the resolution moved by leader of the house Wasim Sajjad. The committee will submit its report within 90 days from the date of its formation, the resolution added. Sources said the resolution incorporated the clause protection of provinces' rights at the request of the nationalist parties.

Daily Times, 25 August 2004

Pakistan serving as Taliban sanctuary: NYT report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is serving as a sanctuary for Afghan militants, Western diplomats in Kabul were quoted by the New York Times on Tuesday as saying. The diplomats were said to have been dismissive of President Pervez Musharraf's assurance to visiting Afghan leader Hamid Karzai that his country would not allow Islamic militants to disrupt the Afghan election from Pakistani soil. 'They are training, financing and organising these operations on Pakistani soil,' said a Western diplomat in Kabul, the Afghan capital. 'There is evidence from people who have been picked up in Afghanistan that they were being trained in Pakistan.' Three senior diplomats, the newspaper said, who all asked not to be named, said they were speaking now because Western intelligence agencies had concluded that the Taliban were planning major attacks to disrupt Afghanistan's first presidential election scheduled for October 9, including spectacular attacks in Kabul, the capital. They called on Pakistani officials to rein in Taliban operations immediately. If these attacks do take place, the responsibility will be shared, one diplomat warned, referring to Pakistan. 'Our process is being attacked from the territory of Pakistan. That is the responsibility of Pakistan.' The blunt comments about Pakistan appear to be the first public step in an effort to press Pakistan regarding the Taliban ahead of the Afghan election, the newspaper observed.

Daily Times, 25 August 2004

Pakistan and Bosnia agree to increase economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf and his Bosnian counterpart Sulejman Tihic on Tuesday agreed to increase economic cooperation between the two countries. Both countries will seek joint trade ventures, the two leaders told a press conference after formal talks between them. The two leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues, the war on terrorism, restructuring the Organisation of Islamic Countries and the recent thaw in India-Pakistan relations, a joint statement said. Both leaders also discussed measures to increase trade between the two countries, it said. President Musharraf hoped that the Bosnian leader's trip to Pakistan would help improve cooperation between the two countries. The Bosnian president agreed that President Musharraf's concept of enlightened moderation could bring about long-lasting peace in the world, the statement said.

Daily Times, 25 August 2004

Tribesmen foil attempt to blow up Wana scouts camp

WANA: A night patrol of tribesmen foiled an attempt to blow up the Scouts Camp in Wana late on Monday and the Uthmankhel tribe, a sub tribe of the Zalikhel tribe, agreed to sign a Shakai-like agreement with the government. 'A patrol spotted three missiles in the Dhog area on Monday night and defused them by itself,' a tribal sources told Daily Times. However, a missile landed near Aryana Public School but caused no loss of life or property. Meanwhile, a 90-member tribal delegation left Wana for Peshawar to meet Governor Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah. Tribal elder Malik Noor Ali is leading the Uthmankhel tribe which agreed to sign a deal with the government to fight militants in Waziristan.

Daily Times, 25 August 2004

Qaeda planning more attacks

ISLAMABAD: Al Qaeda and anti-government elements are planning a series of bombings and rocket attacks in the

country's major cities very soon, revealed reports to the Interior Ministry by the secret service, reliable sources told Daily Times. The secret services learnt of the attacks on a recent visit to the Iranian consulate when the consulate passed on information it had gathered, sources said. In light of these reports, the government has directed the chief secretaries, home secretaries and provincial police officers to tighten security around sensitive buildings, foreign missions and consulates and senior government officers. The government has also directed the authorities to install security cameras at sensitive government buildings. The Interior Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance to grant Rs 35 million for the Diplomatic Protection Department to buy weapons, vehicles and other security equipment that would help law enforcement agencies be more efficient.

Daily Times, 25 August 2004

Peaceful Afghanistan good for Pakistan: Karzai

PESHAWAR: Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Wednesday that friendly relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan were in the interest of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said that economic ties between the two countries had strengthened quickly and the annual trade had now reached \$1 billion. Mr Karzai expressed these views at a meeting with an Awami National Party (ANP) delegation in Islamabad. The Afghan president praised the ANP for maintaining friendly relations and expressing solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. Mr Karzai said the ANP had always worked for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Mr Karzai asked Begum Nasim Wali Khan, the ANP NWFP president, to convey his good wishes to Khan Abdul Wali Khan.

The News, 25 August 2004

Islamabad, Kabul agree to swap prisoners

ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday announced his country would free the last 400 Pakistanis who

fought alongside the Taliban and had been languishing in decrepit Afghan jails since late 2001. Karzai's gesture capped his two-day visit to Pakistan, which in turn ordered the release of 250 Afghans held prisoner for illegal entry. The mutual prisoner releases were announced during Karzai's talks with outgoing Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. Pakistan hailed Karzai's decision as "a breakthrough". "President Hamid Karzai has said that all 400 Pakistani prisoners would be returned to Pakistan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told reporters. "I think that's a very good development."

The News, 25 August 2004

Karzai wins Musharraf's support on Afghan polls

ISLAMABAD: President Hamid Karzai says President Pervez Musharraf has lent him full support in the coming presidential elections and assured him that no activity would be allowed from Pakistan to disrupt the election process and elections itself in Afghanistan. These remarks were made by the Afghan president in an interview with a private Pashto news channel. On the issue of whether the militants were Taliban or al-Qaeda, Karzai said these forces had wrecked Afghanistan and destroyed its institutions. "They have killed families and played with the future of our country while destroying everything. They are now doing the same inside Pakistan and the killings continue. They have to be finished otherwise both Afghanistan and Pakistan will have to face more difficulties. We want to ensure that these elements never come into the two countries again," he said.

The News, 25 August 2004

Pakistan to boost ties with Latin American countries

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to enhance political and economic ties with the countries of Latin America. A senior official of the Foreign Office will be visiting the Latin American countries shortly to hammer out new possibilities for cooperation in various fields. Highly placed

sources in the Foreign Office told The News that as a policy decision the government is exploring every avenue for expanding Pakistan's economic and political interest across the world so that the best should be achieved out of the opportunities. The ambassadors-designate of three Latin American countries Fausto Martha Godoy of Brazil, Rodolfo Jose Martin Saravia of Argentina and Pedro Barros of Chile will present their credentials to President General Pervez Musharraf today (Wednesday) and discuss with the president future cooperation between Pakistan and these countries. The former two would be resident ambassadors in Islamabad while Chile's envoy currently posted in Ankara (Turkey), has been concurrently accredited to Islamabad.

The News, 25 August 2004

Four Uzbeks held in S Waziristan raid

MIRAN SHAH: Security forces had arrested four Uzbek terror suspects during a raid in South Waziristan, Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayyat said on Tuesday. Faisal told reporters in Islamabad that the Uzbeks were captured during recent raids in South Waziristan. He gave no details about the men and said they were still being interrogated. The arrests of the four Uzbeks were announced by Faisal hours after officials said troops have increased patrols and road blocks in North Waziristan, where troops raided a terrorist hideout on Monday and killed four foreigners and arrested another two, besides recovering a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

Kasuri made ambassador at large

ISLAMABAD, Aug 25: President Gen Pervez Musharraf has appointed ex-foreign minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri ambassador-at-large with the status of a federal minister with immediate effect and till a new cabinet is sworn in. This was stated in a notification issued here on Wednesday.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

Faisal, Baloch discuss raids on seminaries

ISLAMABAD Aug 25: Interior Minister Makhdoom Faisal Saleh Hayat on Tuesday held an informal meeting with the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) Deputy Secretary-general Liaqat Baloch in the Parliament House in a bid to convince him about the ongoing crackdown on seminaries. Informed sources told Dawn that Mr Faisal told Mr Baloch that the action against two major seminaries of Islamabad had been taken after receiving concrete information of their involvement in anti-state activities. He said Qari Noor Muhammad, who died in police custody in Faisalabad, was found to be having contacts with terrorists in Afghanistan through a mobile satellite telephone.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

Pact signed with tribesmen

PESHAWAR, Aug 25: The Utmankhel tribe of the South Waziristan region has signed an agreement with the political administration under which they would purge their area of anti-social elements and protect it from foreign militants. According to the agreement, the Utmankhels, a sub-tribe of the Ahmadzai-Wazir tribe, would also hand over wanted elements to the authorities, said a handout issued here on Wednesday. The tribe also furnished a guarantee of Rs10 million - one-fourth of which has been deposited in cash. It may be added that Javed Khan, one of the seven most wanted tribal militants, belongs to the tribe. A jirga comprising elders of the Karmaz Khel, Karay Khel, Khanday Khel, Desi Khel and Ada Khel sub-tribes called on NWFP Governor Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah on Wednesday and assured him that they would abide by the agreement and purge their area of anti-state and unwanted elements.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

Nowshera SP terms rail line blast sensitive case

NOWSHERA, Aug 25: Police have started investigation into a railway track blast about 44km east of Peshawar. Some miscreants on Tuesday evening blew up the track in an attempt to derail a Peshawar-bound

passenger train, but the explosion occurred minutes before its arrival. Provincial Police Chief Riffat Pasha told newsmen on the spot that they were taking the incident as a high-profile case and would investigate it from all possible angles. "We are taking all possible measures to pre-empt terrorist attacks," he said. According to police, a bomb placed under a railway track near Suryakhel went off with a big bang at around 7.15pm, 10 minutes before the arrival of the Quetta Express which was full to capacity.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

ADB to give \$600,000 for Balochistan project

ISLAMABAD, Aug 25: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$600,000 technical assistance for a Balochistan project to reduce rural poverty and mitigate the impact of drought, says an ADB press release issued here. The Balochistan Rural Development and Drought Mitigation Project will focus on generating economic activities in the province and reducing environmental degradation. Brian Fawcett, Principal Project Economist and Mission Leader for technical assistance (TA), said the project will: i) Give a boost to agricultural crops by using livestock services to increase productivity and farmers' income and generate employment; ii) promote improved marketing and agricultural enterprises and service delivery through the private sector; iii) mitigate the impact of the drought, focusing on community watershed and rangeland management and water conservation measures, using water harvesting and small scale community irrigation structures; iv) improve farm-to-market access linkages through rural roads; v) build capacity of poor communities; and vi) address gender and social inclusion issues.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

Harkat men awarded life term in blast case

KARACHI, Aug 25: Nine workers of the banned Harkatul Mujahideen Al-Aalmi were

sentenced to life term on Wednesday in the Macedonian consulate bomb blast case by an anti-terrorism court. Judge Haq Nawaz Baloch of the ATC-5, who pronounced the judgment inside the Central Prison, also ordered confiscation of movable and immovable property of the accused. The accused were found guilty of having committed a bomb blast after stabbing two men and a woman to death on Dec 5, 2002, inside the honorary consulate at DHA's Phase-IV. The accused are Syed Sohail Akhtar alias Mustafa, Zafar Iqbal alias Sohail, Naeem Rafi alias Nimmi, Mohammed Atif, Sameerullah alias Somi, Mohammed Khalid alias Shahzad, Abdur Razzaq alias Bhiya, Syed Ahmed Kazmi alias Shahbaz and Mehmoodullah.

Dawn, 26 August 2004

APHC wants Pakistan not to change Kashmir policy

ISLAMABAD, Aug 25: Representatives of APHC have expressed fears that any change in Pakistan's stance will not only disappoint people and frustrate the freedom struggle but will also damage the Kashmir cause. These fears were expressed during a first meeting between the special parliamentary committee on Kashmir and the representatives of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Wednesday. The meeting was held with an aim of the government to understand the latest situation of the held Kashmir and formalize a report for consideration of the Foreign Office. The committee will hold its first formal working session on Thursday to further discuss and finalize its report based on its recommendations as policy guidelines for Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, who is due to meet his Indian counterpart in New Delhi on September 5-6.

The News, 26 August 2004

Nine get life term for attack on Macedonian consulate

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court on Wednesday sentenced nine Pakistani militants to life in prison for the deaths of three people in an attack and bombing at the

Macedonian consulate here in 2002, a lawyer said. Judge Haq Nawaz Baloch, who delivered the verdict, said the nine men were given double life sentences for murder and an additional 10 years for robbery, said prosecutor Mazhar Qayyum. The Dec 5, 2002, attack at the offices of the consulate in Karachi was one of several that followed President Musharraf's decision to support the US-led war on terrorism. Investigators found three bodies — two Pakistani men and a woman — in the rubble of the consulate, each with their hands and feet tied and their throats slit. Messages scrawled on a wall referred to al-Qaeda and warned against "infidels".

The News, 26 August 2004

Wana delegation, meets Fazl

DIR: In a surprising move a seven-member delegation of Wana, headed by Member National Assembly from South Waziristan Agency, Maulana Abdul Malik met the Maulana Fazlur Rehman, opposition leader in the National Assembly and general secretary of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal at Wari, Upper Dir and held talks on Wana problem. Fazl is on a three-day visit to Dir Upper and Dir Lower. Source told The News that talks were held behind closed doors and no one except Senator Maulana Gul Naseeb was allowed to participate in the talks. The meeting continued for one hour.

Daily Times, 27 August 2004

Pakistan blasts criticism of its anti-terror effort

WASHINGTON: Pakistan reacted sharply on Wednesday to criticism in the Security Council (SC) that it was not "doing enough" to bring stability to Afghanistan. In a hard-hitting speech, Pakistan's United Nations (UN) representative Munir Akram said, "Certain power centres, having failed to address the real security threats in Afghanistan, seek scapegoats to shift the blame from themselves." "Even some UN officials seem to be playing into the hands of these people. Pakistan takes serious note of this. We seek assurances of the objectivity

and impartiality of the United Nations,” he said.

Daily Times, 27 August 2004

Remote device kills two soldiers in Wana

WANA: Two Army jawans were killed and five wounded when a remote-controlled bomb hit an army convoy near regional headquarters of South Waziristan Agency on Thursday. Terrorists planted a remote-controlled device on by the roadside near Kund Sarai to attack a convoy of army vehicles heading for Shakai valley from the Wana base, military sources told Daily Times. One truck was completely destroyed while another slightly damaged, source added.

Sources said that a similar device was also used to attack another army convoy going from Wana to Jandola the other day. However, no one was hurt, sources added. A security analyst said that Thursday's incident took place in an area dominated by the Mehsud tribe. "It might be an attempt to spread the war going on in the Wazir's areas to other places in the tribal belt," he added.

Daily Times, 27 August 2004

'UN resolution is the way to a Kashmir solution'

Kuwait FM calls for Pak-Kuwait joint ventures in Iraq

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah has said that the United Nations Security Council's resolutions should form the basis in resolving the Kashmir dispute. Addressing a briefing jointly with Pakistan's Ambassador at Large Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, on Thursday after sessions of official talks, Sheikh Muhammad Sabah said he also had discussed this issue with the Indian leadership during his visit to India before coming to Pakistan. Sources privy to the talks told Daily Times that the Kuwaiti foreign minister had appreciated the government of Pakistan for making efforts to sustain the composite dialogue with India. "The Kashmir issue cannot be ignored. It has to be resolved," sources quoted him as saying during the talks.

Dawn, 27 August 2004

Two soldiers killed near Wana

WANA/MIRAMSHAH, Aug 26: Two soldiers were killed and six others wounded when a military truck was blown up by a remote-controlled device in the troubled South Waziristan tribal region on Thursday. According to witnesses, the explosive device went off when a military convoy was heading towards Tiarza, about 30 kilometres north of Wana. Official sources said that sepoy Tariq and Mazher had been killed and six others injured in the blast. Villagers heard a loud explosion when the device went off, creating panic in the area. The wounded soldiers have been identified as Hawaldar Rashid, Naik Iftikhar Gul, Lance Naik Amanullah, Sepoy Faiz, Sepoy Shahid and Sepoy Saher Ali. The vehicle was also damaged.

Dawn, 27 August 2004

US envoy meets Baloch leaders

KARACHI, Aug 26: US Ambassador Ms Nancy Powell met Chairman Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement (Ponam) Sardar Ataullah Khan Mengal and veteran politician Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari and exchanged views with them on the overall situation in Balochistan. During the meeting over dinner at the US Consulate in Karachi on Wednesday night, Sardar Ataullah Mengal, a former chief minister of Balochistan, presented Ponam's point of view on the issues in Balochistan. It is learnt that the situation in Gwadar and construction of big housing projects in the coastal town, besides plans for setting up army cantonments in Sui, Kohlu and Gwadar came up for discussion.

Dawn, 27 August 2004

Amin says Hashmi's naming dismayed ARD foes

ISLAMABAD, Aug 26: ARD president Makhdoom Amin Fahim said on Thursday the nomination of Javed Hashmi would bring disappointment to those who were keen to see differences in the ranks of the alliance. Talking to newsmen after

submitting nomination papers of Javed Hashmi, he said it was widely projected that ARD was on the verge of collapse. These elements "must realize that our alliance stands on solid basis." He said that the alliance was made up of different parties which had come together on a one-point agenda of restoration of true democracy. He said that component parties had made a solemn pledge to continue their struggle inside and outside parliament to bring real democracy in the country.

Dawn, 27 August 2004

It's Aziz vs Hashmi for PM's post: Vote in NA today

ISLAMABAD, Aug 26: Former finance minister Shaukat Aziz on Thursday appeared set to be voted by the National Assembly on Friday as country's second prime minister in less than two months and third in less than two years, facing only a symbolic challenge from a jailed rival. In a surprise move, the opposition Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) named its jailed president Javed Hashmi as its candidate for what will be a rare mid-term prime ministerial election, which Mr Aziz seemed certain to win because of the comfortable majority of the ruling coalition in the 342-seat National Assembly. The People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP), being the main component of the ARD, had initially decided to field its president Amin Fahim for the contest but alliance sources said the decision was changed following intervention of Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Dawn, 28 August 2004

Aziz elected as opposition boycotts vote; Premier-elect outlines future policy; speaker refuses to call Hashmi to NA

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: Amid opposition protests and boycott, the ruling coalition in the National Assembly on Friday elected former finance minister Shaukat Aziz as prime minister, who vowed to give the country a competent government. In a speech to a special session of the lower house after the vote held in the absence of his jailed rival Javed Hashmi, the prime

minister-elect also promised to seek guidance from President Pervez Musharraf and party chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to provide "good governance." to the people. He called the advent of his mid-term prime ministership a new chapter in the country's history and said: "We pledge to provide the country a responsible and competent government." The opposition parties held noisy protests in the house and later boycotted the election of the country's 20th prime minister after speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain refused to call their candidate and Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) president Javed Hashmi from jail to take part in the process.

Dawn, 28 August 2004

Trade deficit with India rises

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: Pakistan's trade deficit with India rose by 201 per cent to more than \$288.6 million during the fiscal 2003-04 against \$95.845 million registered in the previous year. Officials said on Friday that the increase in the deficit was because of the large quantum of imports of animal feed, raw cotton and chemicals during the year under review by comparison with the previous year's volume. It was only in 2002-03 that the trade deficit had declined by 30 per cent because of the suspension of air, train and bus services in December 2001 that subsequently resulted in lower trade volume between the two countries. The level of total trade between the two countries stood at slightly over \$476 million in 2003-04 against more than \$237.1 million during 2002-03, showing an increase of 100.7 per cent.

Dawn, 28 August 2004

ARD, MMA pledge joint struggle

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: All opposition groups, alliances and parties in the National Assembly on Friday announced that they would work together for the restoration of true democracy in the country. Speaking at a press conference after walking out of the National Assembly following their boycott of the election for the leader of the house,

they said they would work in close coordination to put an end to the political role of the civil and military bureaucracy and salvage the image of Pakistan as a democratic nation. They demanded that military operation being conducted in tribal areas and Balochistan be stopped and political dialogue held to resolve problems. The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) chairman and PPP parliamentary leader Makhdoom Amin Fahim said the civil and military bureaucracy in Pakistan had been working in collusion since the independence to sabotage democracy and that history was being repeated with frequent changes of prime ministers. First, they brought in Jamali, then Shujaat and now Shaukat Aziz, he said. He regretted that the speaker had refused to issue production orders of Javed Hashmi, a consensus candidate of the entire opposition to fight against Mr Aziz, despite the fact that he had qualified for the contest.

Dawn, 28 August 2004

Kuwait, Pakistan pledge closer ties in all areas

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Dr Sheikh Muhammad Sabah bin Salem Al Sabah called on President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Friday and held discussions centring on bilateral relations , regional and international issues, situation in Iraq and the Middle East, composite dialogue with India, counter-terrorism and the Organization of Islamic Conference. President Musharraf warmly welcomed the visiting dignitary. The president said that Pakistan and Kuwait enjoyed close and cordial relations. He said that the two countries were linked together by common Islamic heritage and shared common views on many international issues. The president mentioned that Pakistan's relations with Kuwait were nourished by mutual trust and confidence and these relations had cultural, economic and political basis.

The News, 28 August 2004

Musharraf restricts himself to key national issues

KARACHI: In the new arrangement of power sharing, unfolding with the induction of the new prime minister in Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf would continue to carry the decisive vote on all matters of critical national importance, while Shaukat Aziz, the new prime minister, and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain as a more active head of the Pakistan Muslim League would serve him as key lieutenants in the spheres of government and politics, say former cabinet ministers and informed officials. On assuming the office of the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan on Saturday, Shaukat Aziz would have one main comfort: President Musharraf wants his full-time devotion only to the improvement of economy and functioning of the government. Critical decisions on war against terror, strategic assets, foreign policy and peace talks with India would rest with the president.

The News, 29 August 2004

Shaukat vows to end poverty, terrorism

ISLAMABAD: The government would adopt a strategy to face the challenges of terrorism and poverty, pledged Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz after obtaining the vote of confidence from the National Assembly on Saturday. "I promise to the nation to provide an honest and competent government to face the challenges of poverty, terrorism and to make the defence of the country more strong," he said. Shaukat obtained vote of confidence amid boycott by the opposition members. He secured confidence of 191 members. One PML member Makhdoom Ahmed Alam Anwer failed to cast his vote as he reached when the lobbies were closed. The resolution for seeking the vote of confidence was moved by Sardar Nasarullah Dareshak and the vote of confidence was cast through division of the House.

The News, 29 August 2004

Shaukat sworn in as prime minister

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was sworn in on Saturday as the 23rd chief executive of the country. President Pervez Musharraf administered the oath to

Shaukat in an impressive ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. He was elected by the National Assembly on Friday as Leader of the House by securing 191 votes. He won vote of confidence from the National Assembly on Saturday afternoon. The ceremony was attended by Chairman Senate Muhammadmian Soomro, Speaker National Assembly Chaudhry Amir Hussain, members of Parliament, Services Chiefs, diplomats and senior government officials.

The News, 29 August 2004

Bomb plot; Pakistani held in New York

NEW YORK: A Pakistani national and a US citizen were arrested over an alleged plot to blow up one of several sites in New York, police commissioner Raymond Kelly said on Saturday. "It is clear they had the intention to cause damage and kill people," Kelly said. One of the sites they had been surveying, according to Kelly, was the Herald Square subway station, next door to the convention centre where the Republicans are to hold their four-day national convention beginning from Monday. At least one of the men may have an affiliation with a terrorist organisation, according to two law enforcement sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The sources said the group in question was not believed to be al-Qaeda.'

The News, 29 August 2004

Two religious groups threaten peace in Tirah

PESHAWAR: Armed clashes between followers of two religious schools of thought in the remote Tirah valley of Khyber Agency has become a challenge for the concerned authorities to secure the common tribal folk. Well-armed followers of the two rival factions, whose strength is said to be in thousands, have taken positions against each other for the last several weeks and frequently attacking each other with sophisticated weapons. The one faction, Amr Bil Maroof Wa Nahi Anil Munkar (prevention of vice and promotion of virtue), which emerged about 10 months ago, is led by Haji Namdar. The other faction surfaced as a result of differences between Haji

Namdar and his followers and is led by Malik Zareef.

The News, 29 August 2004

Rockets fired on Shawal Rifles camp

MIRAM SHAH: The camp of Shawal Rifles in Razmak, North Waziristan Agency, came under rocket fire on the night between Friday and Saturday. Five rockets landed around the fort and one hit a shop in Razmak Bazaar. No loss of life was reported. Razmak borders the troubled South Waziristan Agency where a military operation against suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters has been launched since March this year. Online adds: Miscreants also fired rockets at the Wana Scouts Camp. Three houses were destroyed in retaliatory firing by the security forces in Village Doog. However, no loss of life was reported.

Dawn, 30 August 2004

Five Patriots meet Aziz without their seniors

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: Five MNA's belonging to the Pakistan People's Party (Patriots) on Sunday met Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz without their seniors indicating a difference of opinion within the party over the issue of representation in the cabinet. It is learnt that the group, led by Major (ret'd) Tanveer Hussain Syed, asked the prime minister to appoint young ministers from the party on the basis of merit and performance. Those who called on the prime minister with Major Tanveer were MNA from Mianwali Dr Sher Afgan Khan Niazi, Azhar Ahmed Khan Yousufzai from Vehari, Pir Mohammad Aslam Bodla from Khanewal and Syed Asad Murtaza Gillani from Multan. Sources said the MNAs had grievances against former interior minister Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat and former minister for petroleum and natural resources Chaudhry Nourez Shakoor.

Dawn, 30 August 2004

Acts of terrorism condemned

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: Pakistan has strongly condemned the acts of terrorism in Afghanistan and conveyed the deepest

sympathies to the government of Afghanistan. Commenting on Sunday's blast, the foreign office spokesman said the government and the people of Pakistan strongly condemned this act of terrorism and conveyed their deepest sympathies and condolences to the government of Afghanistan and relatives of those killed in the blast.

Dawn, 30 August 2004

ADB has doubts about execution of uplift plans

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has expressed serious concern over Pakistan's incapacity and poor quality to spend its development allocations. It has called for strengthening of institutions and improvement of implementation capacity of the government. In its latest assessment of the Pakistan's public sector development programme, the bank has noted a substantial increase in the size of its uplift plan. It, however, said: "There are serious concern about its capacity to implement this large programme." For the current fiscal year, Pakistan has earmarked Rs202 billion for the public sector development programme (PSDP), against the last year's allocation of Rs160 billion.

Dawn, 30 August 2004

Islamabad calls for strategic restraint

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: Pakistan said on Sunday that it was against an open-ended arms race in South Asia. Reacting to reports of a surface-to-surface missile test by India earlier in the day, Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said a strategic restraint was in the interest of both India and Pakistan. Mr Khan said India had given prior notification of the test to Pakistan's High Commissioner in New Delhi in accordance with an existing understanding. He said Pakistan had also conducted a series of tests to validate technical parameters of its missile systems in the recent past. The spokesman said Pakistan and India were committed to working towards strategic stability and the two countries would hold further talks on this subject in the near future.

Dawn, 30 August 2004

Two soldiers killed in rocket attack

WANA/MIRAMSHAH Aug 29: Militants attacked security forces in the South and North Waziristan tribal region on Sunday, killing two soldiers and wounding 12 others, sources said. Officials said that a soldier of the Northern Areas Regiment was killed and 10 were wounded when a paramilitary camp came under missile attack in South Waziristan on Saturday night. The condition of the two wounded soldiers was stated to be critical. They were shifted to the Brigade Headquarters in the Zari Noor colony in Wana. Residents said the militants fired two short-range missiles on the South Waziristan Scouts Camp in Wana at about 2.20am. Projectiles hit a barrack that housed the Northern Areas Regiment.

Dawn, 30 August 2004

3 held for bid to kill Musharraf

MINGORA, Aug 29: Law-enforcement agencies arrested three people suspected of being involved in an attempt on the life of President Pervez Musharraf. The arrests were made in a raid in Matta, about 250km north of Peshawar, in the early hours of Sunday. Sources said a team comprising police officials and personnel of secret agencies conducted the raid on a house in Shawar village of upper Matta and arrested the owner of the house, Mohammad Rahim, his son Umar Rehman and a guest Abdul Qayyum. The raiding party also seized weapons, explosives and communication equipment, the sources added.

Dawn, 31 August 2004

Pressure on PM over choice of ministers

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30: The new federal cabinet is likely to be sworn in on Friday, informed sources told Dawn on Monday. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz who held consultations with President General Pervez Musharraf and ruling PML president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on the composition of his cabinet before and after assuming his office is said to be giving final touches to the list of ministers. Sources here

said on Monday that Mr Aziz had decided in principle to give the cabinet a new look by reshuffling portfolios of ministers in the last cabinet and also to include some new faces, mostly young MPs, since he has little or no political space to drop even a single member of the former cabinet.

Dawn, 31 August 2004

Bodies of militants handed over

MIRAMSHAH, Aug 30: Military authorities on Monday handed over in Rawalpindi bodies of three 'militants' to tribesmen of North Waziristan. The bodies of Munirullah Borakhel Wazir, Ahmad Hassan Dawar and Azam Khan Borakhel Wazir, were taken to Mirali sub-division in North Waziristan for burial. Eyewitnesses said that a large number of people, including students of seminaries, attended the funeral prayers held in Nourak Madressah in Mirali, some 15km east of Miramshah. Four persons were killed and two were captured when security forces conducted a raid on a compound in Bangi Dar area of North Waziristan on Aug 23. The dead were then shifted to Rawalpindi.

Dawn, 31 August 2004

3 security men die in encounter

QUETTA, Aug 30: Three personnel of the Balochistan Reserve Police and the Levies were killed and another injured in an encounter with unknown men in the Chatar area of Nasirabad district on Monday. According to sources, Chatar Naib Tehsildar Khadim Hussain Khosa was patrolling with Levies and Balochistan Reserve Police on Monday morning when the assailants opened fire with automatic weapons on the party near the Mir Hasan Shahar village. Two BRP personnel were killed and two Levies men, including the driver of the vehicle, received serious injuries. They were taken to the Dera Murad Jamali Civil Hospital, where one of them succumbed to his injuries.

Dawn, 31 August 2004

'RAW camps in Balochistan'

KARACHI, Aug 30: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Mohammad Yusuf on Monday

said that involvement of external elements, including the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), in the current acts of terrorism in Balochistan could not be ruled out. Speaking at the Meet the Press programme of Karachi Press Club, he defended the construction of Gwadar port and military cantonments, and blamed 'anti-Pakistan forces' for fomenting trouble in the strategically located Balochistan. "Though dialogue for normalization is continuing, as long as Kashmir is not settled they will continue to create difficulties for Pakistan," said Jam Yusuf in an apparent reference to the Indian RAW.

Dawn, 31 August 2004

Aziz wants purposeful, substantive dialogue: Kashmir must not be left out - FO

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Monday said that Pakistan attached great importance to composite dialogue with India for the resolution of all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, and was committed to making it 'more substantive and purposeful'. In his reply to a message of felicitations sent by his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh, Mr Aziz said he was looking forward to working with Mr Singh closely to build friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. Mr Aziz said: "Excellency, I wish to thank you for your letter of felicitations on my assuming the office of the prime minister of Pakistan. "I reciprocate your kind sentiments and look forward to working with you closely to build friendly and co-operative relations between our two countries.

Dawn, 31 August 2004

'Musharraf to meet Singh on Sept 22'

WASHINGTON, Aug 30: President Gen Pervez Musharraf is expected to have his first meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York on Sept 22. It is expected to be a one-on-one meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. Diplomatic observers in the US capital said that some recent irritants in

relations between Pakistan and India would not have a major impact on the peace process begun by the two countries in January this year.