

Indian Express, 1 January 2009

### **No hot pursuit on terrorists operating from Pak: India**

India on Wednesday virtually ruled out any hot pursuit on terrorists operating from Pakistan's soil by taking a leaf out of the Israeli air strikes on Gaza strip. "So that incident or that event, (Israeli air strikes) we cannot draw any lessons for the way we deal with Pakistan," Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said when asked whether New Delhi can draw lessons from the Israeli air strikes to pursue terrorists in Pakistan. He recalled that India had strongly criticised the Israeli strikes and urged the country to stop those attacks on Palestine

Dawn, 1 January 2009

### **Troops mount pressure on militants in Jamrud**

LANDI KOTAL, Dec 31: On the second day of a military operation being carried out in the Jamrud area of Khyber Agency, security forces demolished dozens of houses and arrested a large number of people for having supported or shielded militants. Two army helicopters hovered over Jamrud almost the whole day on Wednesday, attacking militant hideouts and houses of Kukikhel elders in Ghundi. Tanks and artillery were also used to pound areas where militant commanders were reported to be hiding. The Peshawar-Torkham highway and the Torkham border remained closed and a strict curfew was in force in Jamrud. Because of the border closure, all supplies for Nato forces in Afghanistan remained suspended for the second day

Dawn, 1 January 2009

### **FBI team visits Faridkot?**

WASHINGTON, Dec 31: A five-member team of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation has visited Faridkot, the alleged ancestral town of the lone surviving gunman blamed for the Mumbai terror attacks, media reports said. William Robert, FBI's director for South Asia, headed the team, the reports added. In Islamabad, however, the Interior Ministry did not confirm the reported visit by an FBI team to Faridkot

Dawn, 1 January 2009

### **Editorial: Khyber operation**

AS with operations elsewhere, Operation Here I Come in Khyber Agency raises more questions than it answers. The one answer we do have is that the state has finally decided to act against militants threatening the convoys travelling on the Peshawar-Torkham highway laden with supplies for American and allied forces in Afghanistan. Tariq Hayat, administrator of the Khyber Agency, has identified two areas of focus: Jamrud, a stamping ground for the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, and Landi Kotal, a den of kidnappers, criminals and militants. In doing so the government hopes to clear a highway that will remain a vital supply route even if alternatives are found in Central Asia. Now to the questions. Has the government learned any lessons from other areas in northern Pakistan where it has unsuccessfully tried to use paramilitary forces to clear and hold areas against militants? The statement by Mr Hayat that 'we will arrest militants and criminals, demolish their houses and hideouts' is admirable but doesn't explain the government's strategy for defeating clever, battle-hardened militants. However, working in the government's favour in Khyber are reports which suggest that the militants' presence in Jamrud and Landi Kotal is not as strong as in, say, Swat. Let us hope that the combination of lessons learned and lighter resistance will yield more success this time. But why has action only been promised in these two parts of Khyber Agency? What about Bara, where Mangal Bagh and his cohorts terrorise the local population and practise their own brand of vigilantism in the name of Islam?

Hindu, 2 January 2009

### **FBI team visited Faridkot?**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani media have reported that a team of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation visited Faridkot in Pakistan's Punjab province but could find no evidence that the surviving gunman in the Mumbai attacks came from there. The News said Rehman Malik, who heads the Interior Ministry, however, denied the report. U.S. embassy spokesman Lou Fintor told The Hindu that he had 'no information' about the visit of an FBI team to Faridkot or even to Pakistan

Hindu, 3 January 2009

### **'Pakistan doesn't require treaty'**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's contention that it does not have an extradition treaty with India to hand over possible suspects in the Mumbai terror attacks does not hold water, say diplomatic observers, as it is a signatory to international conventions that demand that states either prosecute terror suspects or extradite them to the country that wants to try them. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said in an interview that Pakistan would not extradite any of its nationals suspected of involvement in the Mumbai attacks as there was no extradition treaty with India. If any such person was found in Pakistan, the Minister said, he would be tried under Pakistani laws

Daily Times, 3 January 2009

### **Pakistan reopens NATO supply route**

JAMRUD: The Pakistan government on Friday resumed the transport of supplies to NATO forces in Afghanistan three days after authorities suspended operations to clear the area of Taliban carrying out attacks on the supply trucks. Security forces also seized a large quantity of sophisticated arms including anti-aircraft guns, machineguns, mortars, light machine guns and rocket launchers from Taliban hideouts and arrested several wanted men in Ali Masjid area on the fourth day of a military operation in Jamrud tehsil of Khyber Agency

Daily Times, 3 January 2009

### **US should halt strikes in Pakistan: Kayani**

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Kayani on Friday demanded the international and United States forces in Afghanistan immediately halt strikes inside Pakistani territory, a private TV channel reported. Gen Kayani also stressed the need for increased intelligence sharing among forces operating in the region during the 25th meeting of the Tripartite Commission, consisting of military representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and international forces in Afghanistan, which was held in Kabul on Friday

Daily Times, 3 January 2009

### **2008 most violent year in a decade for Balochistan**

QUETTA: The outgoing year was the most violent in a decade for the Balochistan province in which 433 people lost their lives, including 73 victims of 'target killing' and 43 were killed in the name of honour. Statistics indicate a constant rise in murder cases in the country's largest province since 1997, when 241 people were killed. Official data confirms 303 people were killed in 2005, the number rose to 341 in 2006 and was recorded at 390 in 2007. It was the first year that the killings crossed the 400 mark

News, 3 January 2009

### **Major breakthrough in Khyber Agency operation claimed**

PESHAWAR: Claiming a major breakthrough on the third day of the ongoing operation against the militants and outlaws in the Khyber Agency, the political authorities on Thursday hinted at reopening the Pak-Afghan Highway by Saturday. Authorities said 80 per cent of the targets were achieved as several notorious criminals were either arrested or surrendered to the administration after finding no way out. Some 13 houses, used for anti-social activities, were also demolished. The encroachments along the Jamrud Bazaar and the adjoining areas were removed

News, 3 January 2009

#### **US drones kill four foreigners in SWA**

PESHAWAR: Two CIA-operated drones on Thursday attacked the Karikot village of South Waziristan Agency (SWA), killing four suspected foreigners and injuring scores of others. Residents of Laman village near Karikot town, eight kilometres south of Wana, the headquarters of the SWA, told The News by telephone that six drones were flying over the town during the attack

Daily Times, 4 January 2009

#### **No one will be allowed to take political mileage out of power crisis: Zardari**

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: The government is taking immediate steps to overcome the shortage of petroleum, gas and electricity in the country, and nobody would be allowed to exploit the crisis for political gains, a private TV channel quoted President Asif Ali Zardari as saying on Saturday. According to the channel, the president made the comments while presiding over a high-level meeting at the Presidency which discussed the country's political and security situation and the energy crisis

Daily Times, 4 January 2009

#### **Editorial: The politics of energy shortage**

President Asif Ali Zardari has ordered an immediate end to gas load-shedding for domestic consumers and the elimination of 'circular debt' in the power sector amounting to Rs400 billion. The announcement in favour of domestic consumers came after riots in all parts of the country. It was, alas, a political decision to prevent the increasingly vociferous opposition led by the PMLN from exploiting the situation on the eve of possible political change in the Punjab

Hindu, 6 January 2009

#### **Evidence handed over to Pakistan**

NEW DELHI: India on Monday summoned Pakistan High Commissioner Shahid Malik to the Foreign Office here to hand over 'material' about Pakistani involvement in the Mumbai terror attacks. The move is part of the diplomatic offensive by New Delhi to convince the international community and Islamabad to take tangible action against the masterminds of the Mumbai attacks

Hindu, 6 January 2009

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Daily Times, 6 January 2009

#### **Editorial: Baloch protest against 'Talibanisation'**

The Balochistan National Party (BNP) Information Secretary and former senator Mr

Sanaullah Baloch told Daily Times on Sunday that 'supporters' of the Taliban had 'captured land worth Rs2 billion in the eastern and western parts of Quetta' to 'undermine the Baloch nationalist movement'. He accused the government of failure to establish its writ in the city where 'Taliban and their supporters were consolidating their grip'. He complained of the emergence of 'no-go' areas where these elements had dug themselves in. He came close to explaining the state of divided politics in the province when he said that 'the Taliban supporters' enjoyed the support of the government and its intelligence agencies who wish 'to pit the religious elements against the Baloch nationalists'. He wondered why the state had not carried out military operations against these elements while it was still attacking Dera Bugti and Sui areas. Dealing with the problem of Afghan refugees, he called them 'a burden on the economy of Balochistan and the biggest cause of lawlessness and terrorism in the country's largest province'.

Hindu, 7 January 2009

#### **Telephone trail key part of evidence shared with Pakistan**

New Delhi: The evidentiary dossier given to Pakistan on Monday marks the first systematic Indian presentation of what ongoing investigations into the Mumbai terrorist attacks have revealed so far. Though many of the facts about how the attacks were staged have been known for some time now, the 69-page document - a copy of which is with The Hindu - provides crucial details about the telephone links between the attackers and Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives and identifies for the first time the names of six 'Pakistan-based handlers' who were constantly in touch with the gunmen even as they wreaked havoc in the city during the November 26-29, 2008 incidents

Hindu, 7 January 2009

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Hindu, 7 January 2009

#### **No proof given, says Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Tuesday the information given to it by India on the Mumbai attacks did not constitute 'proof' and, responding to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's speech in New Delhi, warned that allegations against the Pakistani state could end 'all prospects of serious and objective investigations' into the incident. In the National Assembly, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Adam Khan and Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir told the Committee on Foreign Relations that the material handed over by India was 'not sufficient' and could not be regarded as 'evidence.'

News, 7 January 2009

#### **Afghanistan, Pakistan vow to fight terrorism together**

KABUL: President Asif Ali Zardari called on Tuesday for foreign allies to provide more support - not more troops - to help win the battle against terrorists along the volatile

Pak-Afghan border. President Zardari said his country's forces, together with the Afghan military, could do the fighting themselves if given the right international support. Zardari told a joint news conference after his talks with the Afghan counterpart that Pakistan was ready to fight side by side with Afghanistan against the resurgent Taliban. He said, 'We and my brother Karzai, we are going to fight them. And to the world we say, Help us. We can fight. We can look out for ourselves. We want to win. We have the strength. All we need is the support. Given the proper support, we can do the job better and cheaper and easier than you can do.'

News, 7 January 2009

### **Pakistan rejects India's allegation**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday emphatically rejected the allegation by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh that the Mumbai attacks had the support of some Pakistani official agencies. Foreign Office spokesman Muhammad Sadiq, in a statement here, said instead of responding positively to Pakistan's offer of cooperation, India had chosen to embark on a propaganda offensive. 'It will not only ratchet up tensions but occlude facts and destroy all prospects of serious and objective investigations into the Mumbai attacks,' he said. The spokesman said the Indian approach was fraught with grave risks and would further vitiate the situation in South Asia. 'Only yesterday the government of India was advised not to embark on political point scoring. Regrettably this advice has not been heeded,' he said

News, 7 January 2009

### **Five security officials beheaded in Swat**

MINGORA: Five personnel of security forces were beheaded in the restive Swat valley on Tuesday. Militants allegedly took six captured personnel of security forces to a square in Matta Bazaar to kill them to retaliate the slaying of their two fellows the other day. The hostages - Nasrullah, Fazl Rahman, Pervez, Saeed Khan and Samiullah - were slaughtered at the square and their beheaded bodies were left at the scene. However, one security man, identified as Waif Khan Khattak, escaped from the captivity of the militants during their transportation for being beheaded. He reached the Matta Police Station unhurt. However, the militants, while chasing him, attacked the police station, which led to a clash between the forces and them. There was no word on casualties

Dawn, 7 January 2009

### **11 Bajaur tribesmen kidnapped in Mohmand**

GHALANAI, Jan 5: Militants kidnapped 11 members of the Mandel tribe of Bajaur in Mohmand Agency on Monday and took them to an unspecified place. The tribesmen had gone to Mohmand Agency's Anbar Tehsil three days ago to persuade militants to stop rocket attacks on villages near Khar, headquarters of the Bajaur Agency. 'The jirga members visited Anbar on a peace mission. We have reports that they have been kidnapped by unidentified militants,' said the political tehsildar, Ahsanullah Khan

Dawn, 7 January 2009

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Khan

Hindu, 10 January 2009

### **ISI has responded to Indian dossier, says Gilani**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on Friday described the Indian decision to 'freeze' the composite dialogue process in the wake of the Mumbai attacks as 'regrettable,' and urged the world not to let tensions between the two countries escalate. His remarks came as U.S. Vice-President-elect Joe Biden arrived here on a day's visit during which he met President Asif Ali Zardari. Mr. Gilani and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were also present. The outgoing chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a separate meeting with Army chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani

Dawn, 10 January 2009

### **Drone attack killed four Al Qaeda men**

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: An American counter-terrorism official confirmed on Friday that an unmanned CIA drone aircraft killed four top Al Qaeda operatives in Fata on Jan 1. One of the suspects, Usama Al-Kini, allegedly masterminded the September 2008 Marriott Hotel bombing in Islamabad and the October 2007 attack on a convoy carrying former prime minister Benazir Bhutto. Another man killed was Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan. Both were believed to have been involved in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in East Africa

Dawn, 10 January 2009

### **Gilani says ISI's response forwarded to India**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 9: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday said that premier intelligence agencies of the United States and Pakistan had been working closely to untangle the knots of the Mumbai carnage mystery and recently the Inter-Services Intelligence had provided a detailed response to questions and issues raised by US investigators on behalf of their Indian counterparts. 'Our ISI has given its feedback, which has been forwarded to India,' he told reporters after addressing a seminar on 'Democracy in Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Dawn, 10 January 2009

### **Five blasts rip through Lahore theatres**

LAHORE, Jan 9: Five low-intensity explosions ripped through two theatres in Lahore on Friday, sending a chill down the spines of Lahorites. No casualties were reported as the theatres were closed because of Muharram. Law enforcement agencies linked the fresh incidents with the Garhi Shahu and Al Hamra Cultural Complex blasts a few months ago, saying their motive, too, appeared to be to scare people off theatres that stage 'obscene' plays

Dawn, 10 January 2009

### **Biden assures Pakistan of long-term commitment**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 9: US Vice-President-elect Joe Biden has described Pakistan as an 'incredibly valued ally and partner' and assured it of the Obama administration's 'real, long-term and broad commitment'. Senator Biden said that the new US administration would support Pakistan's efforts to strengthen democracy and to combat terrorism and would also help meet its socio-economic requirements and needs for capacity building, according to a statement issued by Foreign Office at the conclusion of the senator's day-long visit on Friday. The US leader met President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Inter-Services Intelligence chief Lt-Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha

Hindu, 11 January 2009

**Dossier is credible, but give Pakistan some time: Mulford**

New Delhi: The U.S. has contended that the dossier given by India to Pakistan on the Mumbai attacks was 'credible' but suggested that New Delhi should allow time to Islamabad to act on it. U.S. ambassador to India David C. Mulford said the dossier contains extensive inputs from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). 'From what I have seen it is a very credible material. The FBI is cooperating in Mumbai...It is information which tells and gives a very accurate account of what has happened,' he told Karan Thapar's programme 'Devil's Advocate.'

Dawn, 11 January 2009

**Fierce battles in Hangu leave 26 dead**

KOHAT, Jan 10: A fierce gunbattle between rival sects in Hangu continued on Saturday amid efforts to broker an early truce to stop bloodshed. Official sources said that 26 people, including the deputy chairman of the local chapter of the Ahli Sunnat Wal Jamaat, Mufti Rustam, had been killed and several others injured in the two-day fighting. Eyewitnesses said that dozens of houses had been damaged in the clashes that started on Friday night. The most affected parts of the town were Pass Kalay, Ganjiano Kalay and Sangerh Mohallah

Dawn, 11 January 2009

**Hafiz Saeed's detention extended**

LAHORE, Jan 10: The Punjab government has extended the detention of Jamaatud Dawa chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and five others for 60 days. The others are Col (retd) Nazir, Amir Hamza, Yasin Baloch, Mufti Abdur Rahman and Qazi Niaz. The home department extended their detention after the expiry of the earlier order for a 30-day detention

Dawn, 11 January 2009

**Balochistan cancels allotment of land to PAF: MoU annulled**

QUETTA, Jan 10: The Balochistan cabinet revoked on Saturday allotment of 63,000 acres of land to the Pakistan Air Force in coastal areas of Lasbela district. The cabinet, which met with Chief Minister Aslam Raisani in the chair, decided to use the land for agriculture purposes. The previous provincial government had signed a memorandum of understanding for allotment of the land in Hingol national park area for setting up a firing range by the PAF

Dawn, 12 January 2009

**US imposes sanctions on A.Q. Khan, 12 others**

WASHINGTON, Jan 12: The US State Department imposed sanctions on Monday on 13 individuals and firms and Dr A.Q. Khan figures prominently on the list, indicating that the United States still considers him a dangerous proliferator of nuclear weapons. An official notification also urged the international community to 'remain vigilant' to ensure that the network did not resume its activities. The sanctions order noted that Dr Khan had admitted his guilt but later retracted his statements. The move indicates that his efforts to exonerate himself through the Pakistani judicial system had not impressed Washington

Dawn, 12 January 2009

**Durrani claims all were on board**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 12: Former National Security Adviser Major-General (retd) Mehmood Durrani has defended his decision to disclose Ajmal Kasab's identity as a

Pakistani national, claiming he had been authorised by the prime minister in writing to speak on matters of national security and Pakistan-India relations, and it was his understanding that the Ajmal Kasab issue was within this domain. Talking to DawnNews, he said that all stakeholders had been taken into confidence before the statement on Ajmal Kasab was made public. He asserted that he did not breach the confidence or the trust of the leadership. He denied he had any differences with the prime minister before his sacking from the top cabinet position

Dawn, 15 January 2009

### **Desperate moves on to secure Swat**

SWAT, known for its green meadows, gushing river and snow-capped mountains, has unfortunately come to relive its historic name, Suvastu - the white serpent - whose tenacity and viciousness has stung the political and military leadership so badly that both are now looking for new ways to put a lid on the monster of growing bloodshed and reclaim its fast-shrinking territory. The idyllic valley has gone really bad, its image distorted beyond recognition. Pakistan's most popular tourist destination is now haunted by death and fear; few officials now dare to go and serve there. Nearly 800 policemen - half of the total sanctioned strength of police in Swat, have either deserted or proceeded on long leave on one pretext or the other

Dawn, 15 January 2009

### **UK supports prosecution of suspects in Pakistan**

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: Rejecting India's demand for extradition of 'suspects' of the Mumbai attacks, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband has said the UK supports their prosecution in Pakistan as they have 'broken the law' of that country. 'We will support their prosecution under Pakistani law, because they have broken the law in Pakistan. It's Pakistani law they have broken as well as international decency and common sense,' Mr Miliband said in Karan Thapar's 'Devil's Advocate' programme. There was no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan for handing over suspects, he said

Dawn, 15 January 2009

### **Indians provided information, not evidence: Gilani**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 13: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday the government was carefully examining the 'information' about the Mumbai terror attacks received last week and was prepared to cooperate with India to uncover facts. In a policy statement made in the National Assembly, he said that Pakistan would share with India results of its own investigation in due course of time. He said India had not provided any evidence, just information. 'All that has been received from India is some information. I say information because these are not evidence.'

Dawn, 15 January 2009

### **Ceasefire takes effect after militants given safe exit**

KOHAT, Jan 12: A ceasefire was enforced in Hangu on Monday after militants were assured by a jirga that they would be given a safe exit. A ceasefire agreement between rival groups and the administration was signed on Sunday. Kohat commissioner Umer Afridi, DIG Qudratullah Marwat, Hangu district nazim Khan Afzal and senior military officials were present on the occasion. Initially, the warring groups refused to accept the agreement and continued attacks in several areas of the town, using heavy weapons

Dawn, 16 January 2009

### **124 held in massive crackdown: Five camps and 20 offices of Dawa, LeT**

## **closed**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 15: The government said on Thursday that it had shut down five training camps of the outlawed Jamaatud Dawa and Lashkar-e-Taiba, banned their seven publications and blocked all their websites. The authorities have detained 124 people, several leaders and officials of the organisations among them. Addressing a news conference, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Interior Affairs, Mr Rehman Malik, assured India that Pakistan would do its utmost to bring the people involved in the Mumbai attacks to justice

Dawn, 16 January 2009

### **Sufi backs BB income support plan**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 15: Sufi Mohammad's Nifaz-i-Shariat Committee of Swat has decided to support the Benazir Income Support Programme. Maulana Multan Mir, a representative of Sufi Mohammad, conveyed the decision via teleconferencing from Swat during a consultative meeting organised by the Council of Islamic Ideology here on Thursday. 'We do not oppose the programme because our people also have a right to share the state's benevolence,' he said. BISP Chairperson Farzana Raja presided over the meeting held in collaboration with the Iqbal International Institute for Research and International Islamic University

Dawn, 16 January 2009

### **Editorial: Denial of human rights**

IT was a year that can be neither condemned wholesale nor praised outright where human rights were concerned. While some improvement was seen in 2008, the balance tilted largely in favour of the unacceptable. True, some progress was made year-on-year, but it should be considered that a military dictator called the shots in 2007. It stood to reason that the outlook of elected politicians would be less draconian than that of a general who usurped power through a military coup. But what was actually achieved in 2008 fell far short of the enviable. One possible reason was that the new government fell victim to stasis early on in its tenure. It remained locked in political intrigue and failed to address the concerns of the people. Then there were the problems it inherited: rampant militancy, worsening law and order, economic instability, soaring inflation and growing underemployment. In short, the government couldn't cope and the need to uphold human rights fell by the wayside for the most part

Hindu, 16 January 2009

### **Five training camps shut down: Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Thursday that it had shut down five training camps and detained or kept under surveillance over a hundred people linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamat-ud-Dawah in connection with the Mumbai attacks. It was also setting up a team of its Federal Investigation Agency to probe the incident. The government, however, said it needed more information from India to proceed with investigations, including access to the site of the terror attacks, and reiterated the offer of a joint probe

Hindu, 17 January 2009

### **No dilution of position, says Pranab**

New Delhi: A day after saying the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack could be tried in Pakistan provided this was done in a transparent manner, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee changed tack to stress there was 'no question' of India giving up its demand that they be handed over to face justice here. With the Opposition parties accusing the government of contradicting itself after insisting that

the Mumbai plotters must all be extradited, Mr. Mukherjee met briefly with television reporters on Friday in an attempt to set the record straight

Hindu, 17 January 2009

### **Act faster on 26/11: Miliband**

Islamabad: Stepping up pressure on Pakistan, Britain on Friday asked it to go 'farther and faster' in taking action against those involved in the Mumbai attacks and root out terrorist infrastructure within the country. 'The whole international community wants Pakistan to go farther and go faster,' British Foreign Secretary David Miliband told a press conference here after meetings with Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani

New York Times, 17 January 2009

### **Older Son of bin Laden Believed to Be in Pakistan**

WASHINGTON - A son of Osama bin Laden who spent years under Iranian house arrest has left Iran and is now probably operating inside Pakistan, a senior American intelligence official said Friday. The son, Saad bin Laden, is one of a number of senior operatives of Al Qaeda detained inside Iran in recent years. American officials have long puzzled over the exact circumstances of their captivity, but they believe that Iran was holding the militants in part as a deterrent against a Qaeda attack on Iranian soil. Mike McConnell, the director of national intelligence, told reporters on Friday that Saad bin Laden was probably in Pakistan. He gave no details about whether Mr. bin Laden had escaped from custody, whether his departure reflected a deal between Iran and Al Qaeda or whether he was simply let go by Iranian officials

Hindu, 19 January 2009

### **Pakistan gives probe team 10 days**

ISLAMABAD: A three-man team of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency tasked with conducting an investigation on the basis of the Indian dossier on the Mumbai attacks has been given 10 days to report back with its findings. Rehman Malik, who heads the Interior Ministry, told journalists that the government would also try to 'convert' the information given by India into evidence so that cases could be registered against the perpetrators in Pakistan, in order to bring them to trial in the country. He asked India to come up with more information to help the Pakistani end of the investigations

Daily Times, 19 January 2009

### **NATO leader turns tables on Afghan govt**

WASHINGTON/KABUL: NATO chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Sunday denounced Afghanistan's 'ineffective' government and said the authorities there were as much to blame for the country's plight as the Taliban. The comments by the NATO secretary general, in an opinion piece for The Washington Post newspaper, was an unusually strong expression of the alliance's dissatisfaction with the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai

Daily Times, 19 January 2009

### **Editorial: How not to remove the 17th Amendment**

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani agreed on Saturday to support an 18th amendment to the Constitution if there was consensus on the draft, saying rather abstractly: 'The PPP will consider and support any consensus bill on constitutional amendments in the parliament'. The opposition and one PPP ally have put forward their drafts of the 18th Amendment. But will the politicians reach the level of alignment of views representing a consensus? The amendment will

require a two-thirds majority in parliament. The PPP has the largest chunk of votes, followed by the PMLN and the PMLQ; and there is the MQM bloc of votes too. A part of the Senate will be re-elected in March and the numbers are likely to change in favour of the PPP after that. But the amendments are going to be moved before that happens. Anyone who thinks the amendment is morally justified must of course realise that before the morality of the issue is focused upon, there is a lot of political thicket to cross

News, 20 January 2009

### **Govt mulling over political steps in Swat, says Gilani**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has finally realised that the military action is not the only way to bring peace to the militancy-hit Swat valley and told the National Assembly on Monday the government was working out an effective political strategy to deal with extremism. 'Use of force or military action is not a solution to everything and we will have to adopt a political strategy to deal with the situation,' he said while responding to a point of order by PPP legislator Syed Alauddin in the National Assembly. The prime minister spoke twice in the National Assembly - first, in response to Syed Alauddin, and second time, after the speech of Opposition Leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, who raised the issue of the presidency's remarks about his party's top leadership and non-serious attitude of the government towards implementation of parliament's resolutions on the Fata situation

News, 20 January 2009

### **Pakistan, UK for long-term Afghan strategy**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Britain have agreed that there is an urgent need for long-term strategy on Afghanistan with close cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbours and friends. This understanding came during a meeting between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and British Minister for Defence John Hutton at the Foreign Office here on Monday. Qureshi pointed out the continued violation of Pakistan's western borders and conveyed Islamabad's concern over the intrusions, which were counterproductive. 'The two ministers exchanged views on the regional security situation, especially the counter-terrorism efforts, developments in Afghanistan, and the aftermath of the Mumbai attacks. In the bilateral context, the state of defence cooperation also came under discussion,' said a spokesman for the Foreign Office

Daily Times, 21 January 2009

### **NATO leader turns tables on Afghan govt**

WASHINGTON/KABUL: NATO chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Sunday denounced Afghanistan's 'ineffective' government and said the authorities there were as much to blame for the country's plight as the Taliban. The comments by the NATO secretary general, in an opinion piece for The Washington Post newspaper, was an unusually strong expression of the alliance's dissatisfaction with the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai

News, 21 January 2009

### **Pakistan reopens Nato supply route**

PESHAWAR: Pakistan reopened a major land supply route to US and Nato forces in Afghanistan that was briefly closed on Monday after suspected insurgents killed a soldier, adding urgency to efforts to secure alternative supply lines as more US troops head to the region. The famed Khyber Pass was reopened in the early afternoon, said Fazal Mehmud, a senior government official in Khyber tribal region. In the latest attack, suspected militants fired eight rockets at a military camp in Landi Kotal early Monday, killing one soldier and wounding 14, Mehmud said. A

daylong curfew was imposed while security forces hunted down militants in neighbouring Khugi Khel area. Ten were eventually arrested, Mehmud said, following which the curfew was lifted, according to another local government official, Zaheerullah Khan

Dawn, 23 January 2009

### **US drone attacks kill 14 in Waziristan: First Obama-era strikes in tribal areas**

MIRAMSHAH / WANA, Jan 23: Missiles fired by suspected US drones killed at least 14 people, including some Arabs, in the tribal areas of North and South Waziristan on Friday. (AP news agency quoted security officials as saying that 18 people had been killed and at least five foreign militants were among them). The attacks came three days after US President Barack Obama took office and a day after he had appointed a veteran diplomat as his special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Dawn, 23 January 2009

### **Zardari and Shahbaz fail to resolve differences**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 23: President Asif Ali Zardari and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif met here on Friday in what appeared to be an effort to bridge the trust deficit between the PPP and PML-N on various national issues. However, the meeting is reported to have failed to yield a positive result. Significant changes in the political landscape are likely during the next two months, especially in March when Senate election and the lawyers' long march are due. According to sources, the most contentious issue discussed in the meeting was the 17th Amendment which gives extensive powers to the president

Dawn, 23 January 2009

### **FO welcomes Holbrooke's appointment**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 23: Pakistan welcomed on Friday the appointment of Richard Holbrooke as a special US envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan while analysts said he would have to confront Pakistan-India tension if his aim was regional peace. 'Pakistan welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Holbrooke and looks forward to enhanced and fruitful engagement with the special envoy to further the cause of peace and stability in the region,' the ministry said in a statement. The chairman of Pakistan's Institute of Strategic Studies, former foreign secretary Tanvir Ahmed Khan, said Mr Holbrooke was the right man for the job

Hindu, 24 January 2009

### **Prosecution not possible: Gilani**

ISLAMABAD: After assurances that it would swiftly bring to book any Pakistani found involved in the Mumbai attacks, Islamabad on Friday said prosecution of the suspects would not be possible unless amendments were made to its own laws. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said Pakistan's anti-terror laws did not cover acts committed outside the country. 'There are some discrepancies in the law. Our anti-terror laws need some alteration. If the offence is committed outside the country, we cannot prosecute unless we make amendments,' he told journalists in Lahore

Asian Age, 24 January 2009

### **Pak, Afghan are central to terror: Obama**

Washington/New Delhi, Jan. 23: US President Barack Obama on Friday said Pakistan and Afghanistan were the "central front" in America's war on terrorism and described the "deteriorating" situation in the region as "truly an international challenge of the highest order". Moving quickly to reshape US security policy, Mr Obama also named

former UN ambassador Richard Holbrooke, who helped write the peace deal that ended Bosnia's 1992-95 war, as special envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan. Warning that the terrorists in Pakistan and Afghanistan posed a grave threat to global security, Mr Obama said the two countries would be tackled as a single problem under a wider strategy. "This is the central front in our enduring struggle against terrorism and extremism," he said. Addressing state department officials, Mr Obama said, "There, as in the Middle East, we must understand that we cannot deal with our problems in isolation."

Dawn, 25 January 2009

#### **Obama endorses missile attacks**

WASHINGTON, Jan 24: Hours after US missiles killed 22 people in Fata, President Barack Obama convened a meeting of his top national security advisers and endorsed the decision to continue drone strikes into Pakistan. The US media, quoting unidentified official sources, reported that the first meeting of Mr Obama's National Security Council focused on Pakistan and Afghanistan. The New York Times reported on Saturday that the decision to attack alleged terrorist targets in Fata on Friday 'dispelled for the moment any notion that Mr Obama would rein in the Predator attacks.'

Dawn, 25 January 2009

#### **Troops to guard Swat schools**

MINGORA, Jan 24: The government has decided to deploy army and paramilitary troops at a number of educational institutions in Mingora in the wake of mounting attacks, especially on girls' schools, in the Swat valley. Mingora is the region's administrative headquarters. According to an official, 25 soldiers have been posted at each of the 16 institutions covered by the new security measure. The official, however, hastened to add: 'It is impossible to protect all government buildings against militants' attacks by deploying troops.' He was alluding to requests by the valley's administration that the government step in to protect educational institutions in the face of repeated threats by militants to destroy schools and colleges 'corrupting the youth'.