

Hindu, 1 January 2009

### **Bush speaks to Manmohan, Zardari**

Crawford: US President George W Bush on Wednesday spoke to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan B President Asif Ali Zardari and all the three leaders agreed to avoid any action that would "raise tensions" in the region. Mr. Bush "called prime minister (Manmohan) Singh of India and separately president (Asif Ali) Zardari of Pakistan. President Bush urged both ... to cooperate with each other in the Mumbai attack investigation as well as on counter-terrorism in general," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. Mr. Bush spoke from his ranch in Crawford in Texas

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

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

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

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

Indian Express, 7 January 2009

### **India signs biggest ever defence deal with US**

New Delhi: In its largest defence purchase ever from the US, India has signed a deal to buy eight maritime aircraft from aerospace major Boeing to strengthen the Navy's intelligence gathering capabilities. The USD 2.1 billion contract for eight Boeing P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft was signed between a Defence Ministry official and Boeing's country head Vivek Lall here on January 1, Navy and industry sources said in New Delhi on Monday. The Government had approved the deal in its last Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting in 2008 after protracted talks

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

### **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, 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

Hindu, 13 January 2009

### **India, Afghanistan call for clampdown on terrorism**

NEW DELHI: India and Afghanistan, both victims of cross-border terrorism, without naming Pakistan called upon States to prevent terrorism in any manner originating from their territories. A joint statement after a meeting here on Monday between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai pointed out that it was necessary for countries to look after their backyards since 'terrorism emanates from the sanctuaries and training camps and the sustenance and support received by the terrorist groups.'

Dawn, 14 January 2009

### **Pakistan, Afghanistan will be Obama's priority: Hillary**

WASHINGTON, Jan 13: US Secretary of State-designate Hillary Rodham Clinton told her confirmation hearing on Tuesday that fighting terrorism in Pakistan and Afghanistan would be the highest priority of the Obama administration. 'It is imperative that we work with our friends in both Pakistan and Afghanistan' to defeat terrorists in that region, she told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. 'The democratically elected government in Pakistan seems to be much more aware (than the previous government) of how this is their fight, not just ours,' she added

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

New York Times, 17 January 2009

### **Editorial: 'They Want Us to Be Stupid Things'**

The war in Afghanistan has been so disastrously mismanaged that some NATO allies - eager to shed their commitment - are arguing that it is too late to salvage. We, too, are deeply worried. Anyone who has questions about why it is so important to try should go back and read the story of 17-year-old Shamsia Husseini that was published in The Times on Wednesday. Ms. Husseini is a student at the Mirwais School for Girls outside Kandahar. Two months ago, as she was walking to school with her sister, a man on a motorcycle sprayed her with acid, burning her face and eyelids. Fourteen other students and teachers were attacked that day in an attempt to shut down the school. It failed. As Ms. Husseini told our colleague Dexter Filkins, 'The people who did this to me don't want women to be educated. They want us to be stupid things.' Ms. Husseini's parents told her 'to keep coming to school even if I am killed.'

Indian Express, 20 January 2009

### **Our Obama moment By C. Raja Mohan**

Judging by its rather defensive reaction to British Foreign Secretary David Miliband's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi appears unprepared to cope with the new approach to India and Pakistan that has been promised by Barack Hussein Obama, who will be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States today. The context of Miliband's remarks is important. That he was denouncing America's 'war on terror' just days before its author, George W. Bush, was about to demit office merely underlines London's eagerness to quickly adapt to the regime change in Washington

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

### **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

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.'