

The News, 1 July 2006

### **New visa policy unveiled**

ISLAMABAD: A new visa policy announced here on Friday allows Pakistan's missions in 175 countries to grant visas. It also envisages promotion of travel and tourism between Pakistan and India

The News, 1 July 2006

### **Media enjoys unprecedented freedom: Durrani**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Muhammad Ali Durrani has said that the media in Pakistan is enjoying unprecedented freedom which was never witnessed in the past. "Pakistan can become a role model of freedom of expression within the Muslim World," he said while addressing the executive committee of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) here on Friday

The News, 1 July 2006

### **Taliban stage public execution in Mir Ali**

PESHAWAR: A Taliban council of Ulema in the Mir Ali sub-division of North Waziristan tribal agency on Friday executed an alleged murderer in public to send message to others that Islamic Sharia was the supreme law of the restive region

The News, 1 July 2006

### **Pakistan, India swap prisoners**

LAHORE: Pakistan and India exchanged more than 50 civilian prisoners on Friday amid warming ties between the nuclear-armed South Asian rivals, officials said. Thirty-eight Pakistanis walked through an iron gate at Wagha, one of the few land crossings between Pakistan and India near Lahore, said Interior Ministry official Ghulam Muhammad. Another 19 Indians were freed from Pakistani prisons and returned home, he said.

The News, 1 July 2006

### **Baloch Marri involved in terrorist acts: Govt**

ISLAMABAD: Retering to an interview Baloch Marri gave to a news agency on June 12 wherein Marri blamed the govt for operation in Balochitsn and tried to gain sympathies of Baloch people by exploiting the Baloch nationlis sentiments, an official spokesman of Balochistan govt said that the actual situation is totally different from what Marri has tried to paint.

Daily Times, 2 July 2006

### **OPINION: Political drift and uncertain future (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

The inability of the people to function as a coherent nationwide political entity trying to change their economic and political conditions may secure the power elite against street agitation, but the rulers cannot expect voluntary loyalty from a population complaining of the government's lack of responsiveness to their needs and aspirations

Dawn, 2 July 2006

### **Acquisition of land for Bhasha dam begins**

GILGIT, July 1: Land acquisition for the \$6.5 billion Diamer-Bhasha dam project has begun. The mega power project will have an installed capacity of 4,500 megawatts. Briefing journalists here on Saturday, project director Syed Ghaffar highlighted the dam's locarion and said that the project was located on River Indus about 165 kilometres downstream of Gilgit and 40 kilometres downstream of Chilas

The News, 3 July 2006

### **ARD asks president, PM to quit by 31st**

LONDON: The constituent parties of the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) signed the Charter of Democracy (CoD) during a meeting at a London hotel on Sunday, signalling their acceptance of the broad political guidelines mentioned in the Charter

The News, 3 July 2006

### **Musharraf to be re-elected in uniform, says Punjab CM**

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday reiterated the stance of the government that present assemblies would re-elect President Gen Pervez Musharraf in uniform

Dawn, 3 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: Rough justice in Waziristan**

THE public execution near Miramshah of a man accused of murdering two other villagers is further proof of the rapid Talibanisation of the NWFP's tribal areas, where the writ of the state is now conspicuous only by its absence. What is particularly chilling about Friday's incident, which took place in a village not far from the political headquarters of North Waziristan agency, is the calm and collected manner in which local militants dispensed their brand of 'Shariah justice'.

Dawn, 3 July 2006

**OPINION: Future of relations with Iran (Javid Husain)**

PAKISTAN's relations with Iran enjoy a unique strategic significance which is too obvious to need elaboration. It is, therefore, with a degree of surprise and dismay that occasionally one comes across statements by some of our leaders which reflect a short-sighted view of both the history and the future potential of Pakistan-Iran relations. The situation calls for a few remarks to highlight the importance of the relations between the two countries.

Daily Times, 4 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: ARD challenge: is the iron hot enough?**

The leaders of the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) have got together in London and, surprisingly without much bickering, agreed to demand the resignation of President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz by July 31, 2006, "failing which it will move a no-confidence motion against the government in parliament."

The News, 4 July 2006

**US unveils package for \$5bn arms sale to Pakistan**

WASHINGTON: The Bush Administration said on Monday it planned to sell Pakistan up to 36 advanced F-16 fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin Corp in a weapons package that could be worth more than \$5 billion. The State Department said the proposed sale was part of an effort to broaden the United States' strategic partnership with Pakistan and advance US national security and foreign policy interests in South Asia

The News, 5 July 2006

**Farari camps eliminated: Ghani**

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani has claimed that Farari camps have been eliminated and terrorism has come to an end in the province. Expressing the government's resolve to complete the ongoing development projects within the scheduled timeframe, the governor said the development process in Balochistan could not be stopped due to the "rare" incidents of bomb blasts and terrorism

The News, 5 July 2006

**Qazi, Benazir, Nawaz may meet in London**

ISLAMABAD: London, a hub of Pakistani politics these days, may witness another important development with far-reaching political implications — a meeting between Benazir Bhutto and Qazi Hussain Ahmed by the end of the current week. The meeting if held may provide the opposition a rare chance to get united on a one-point agenda of launching a joint struggle against the government. Though the time and agenda of the proposed meeting is not yet finalised but efforts are being made through backdoor channels to arrange the meeting within this month, most probably next week

The News, 5 July 2006

**100 tribesmen released**

WANA: As many as 100 tribal elders of South Waziristan, who were arrested during the recent operation, were released on the directives of Governor NWFP Lt-Gen (retd) Ali Muhammad Jan Orakzai on Tuesday

Dawn, 5 July 2006

**Karakoram Highway's Gwadar link likely**

GILGIT, July 4: President Gen Pervez Musharraf has said that the Karakoram Highway will be linked to the southern Gwadar port in Balochistan. He was addressing a ceremony marking the inauguration of a dry port in the border town of Sust, 200km north of Gilgit, on Tuesday

Dawn, 5 July 2006

### **Education system in a mess: SC**

LAHORE, July 4: A Supreme Court bench on Tuesday observed that the country's education system was in a complete mess, particularly since it was handed over to the private sector, which kept its commercial interests above any other consideration. As a result, imparting of learning has been reduced to the lowest priority

The News, 6 July 2006

### **25 terrorists killed in Dera Bugti**

QUETTA: Security forces have killed 25 miscreants involved in targeting vital national installations and security personnel in hilly areas of Sangsila of Dera Bugti. However, the JWP leadership expressed ignorance about the killings

The News, 6 July 2006

### **Bugti survives air attack**

QUETTA: Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) Chief Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti has survived in an attempt on his life when planes and helicopters dropped bombs in Dera Bugti on July 3

The News, 6 July 2006

### **'I can't contest election as a soldier'**

GILGIT: President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Wednesday he was a soldier, therefore, he could not contest elections, adding he would quit his office the day people withdrew their support for him

The News, 6 July 2006

### **MMA warns against interference in AJK polls**

BAGH: Central leader of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) MNA Liaquat Baloch warned that any interference in the Azad Kashmir elections by ruling Pakistan Muslim League would not be tolerated

Dawn, 6 July 2006

### **Northern Areas to get dam royalty: Musharraf seeks support for PML**

GILGIT, July 5: The Northern Areas will get the royalty of Diamer-Bhasha dam, says President General Pervez Musharraf. He was addressing a public gathering here on Wednesday at the end of his three-day visit to the area. President Musharraf said that he could not take part in elections because he was a military man but if people wished him to remain in power, they should lend support to the ruling PML

Dawn, 6 July 2006

### **Altaf rejects charter of democracy**

ISLAMABAD, July 5: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Altaf Hussain on Wednesday rejected the charter of democracy and accused the two major political parties, which took the initiative, of weakening the country and looting the exchequer while they were in power.

Dawn, 6 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Gwadar-KKH link**

MAJOR energy and communication plans now under way could have a vital impact on the regional energy situation and help bring Pakistan and China even closer. As pointed out by President Pervez Musharraf, while inaugurating the dry port at Sust on Pakistan's border with China on Tuesday, strategic location is one of this country's major assets. Situated in South Asia, Pakistan borders on Central Asia, South-West Asia and the Gulf. This is of special significance when viewed against the region's growing energy needs and the potential that Pakistan has to serve as an energy corridor between China and the Gulf. Projects of this nature include an oil pipeline from the Gulf to China's western regions across Pakistan and a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan.

Dawn, 6 July 2006

### **OPINION: Ten per cent growth target (Sultan Ahmed)**

ENCOURGAGED by a higher economic growth in South Asia, especially in the light of similar developments in Southeast Asia over the years, the World Bank would like to see a sustained 10 per cent economic growth in this region for the next nine years until 2015. It is the same period set by the United Nations to halve world poverty

Dawn, 6 July 2006

### **OPINION: How much more can Pakistan do? (Eric S. Margolis)**

One really wonders how much more Pakistan is expected to give. Since coming to power, President Musharraf has been forced by Washington to first abandon, then declare war on its creation, the Taliban, and give up Pakistan's historic strategic interests in Afghanistan. Then, Musharraf was forced to purge Pakistan's ablest generals, who had put him into power. They were replaced by officers approved by Washington

The News, 7 July 2006

### **Council of Common Interests revived**

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf on Thursday formally reconstituted the Council of Common Interests (CCI). According to a notification, issued by the Cabinet Division, President General Pervez Musharraf, in exercise of powers conferred upon him under Article 153 of the Constitution, has reconstituted the CCI

The News, 7 July 2006

### **Musharraf in form on uniform**

ISLAMABAD: Brushing aside the opposition's public campaign, President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday that he would take the decision on 'uniform' in supreme national interest. Musharraf made these remarks while addressing top leadership of Pakistan Muslim League, including PML President Ch Shujaat Hussain, Chief Minister Punjab Pervaiz Elahi, PML Secretary General Mushahid Hussain, MNAs, MPAs and several district Nazims

The News, 7 July 2006

### **How Nawaz saved the day for ARD**

ISLAMABAD: Mian Nawaz Sharif played sheet anchor to save the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) meeting from breakdown on the question of joining hands with the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) to launch a joint struggle. In order to realize the dream of forming a united opposition, he vetoed, for the time being, the proposal of his party to form a grand opposition alliance, sources privy to their London meeting told 'The News' Thursday

The News, 7 July 2006

### **Political activities banned in Mohmand Agency**

GHALANAI: The political administration of Mohmand tribal agency has banned all kinds of political activities in the agency. The political agent has issued a notice to the elders of Halimzai tribe asking tribal elders to refrain from holding political meetings in the limits of Mohmand Agency. The notice further warned the violators of heavy fine and action. Many political parties have started political gatherings in the area reaching to the tribal people to expand their sphere of influence. The warning has come in the wake of increasing political activities particularly by Islamic parties in the area. It is worth mentioning here that protests, political gathering and speeches are already banned in the agency under the political act

Daily Times, 7 July 2006

### **It's too late to talk to Bugti**

QUETTA: It is too late for the government to offer Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti another invitation for negotiation because he has defiantly spurned all offers for peaceful talks, said Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani

Daily Times, 7 July 2006

### **Disappearances bother Balochistan**

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to covertly engage in negotiations with the federal government over the illegal disappearances of people in the province. Sources told Daily Times that the Balochistan government had decided to lodge a 'soft protest' over the increasing reports of citizens allegedly being abducted by intelligence agencies

Daily Times, 7 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: ARD's desperate plunge**

The president of the Pakistan Muslim League, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, has picked up the gauntlet thrown by the opposition and said that he is looking forward to the en masse resignation of opposition members of parliament.

The Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) has asked General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to resign by July 31, or face mass resignations by ARD members in the National Assembly and the Senate. Now Mr Hussain has responded by saying that the ARD is welcome to act on its ultimatum

The News, 8 July 2006

### **Sindh refuses full water share to Balochistan**

ISLAMABAD: In an expected development Sindh has refused to provide any solace to Balochistan, which has since long been receiving short water supplies badly affecting its agriculture. In a meeting of the irrigation secretaries of the federating units in Sukkur on Friday, Sindh plainly refused to provide Balochistan with its full water share under the 1990 Water Accord

The News, 8 July 2006

### **Taliban leaflets ask militants not to fight Pak Army**

PESHAWAR: Leaflets purportedly issued by the Taliban asked Islamic militants in North Waziristan tribal region Friday not to fight the Pakistan Army. The one-page leaflets, in Pashto language, were found in Miramshah, headquarters of North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan, and other towns. They were distributed in the shape of “shabnamas,” or night letters, and pasted in public places and outside mosques.

Daily Times, 8 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Start talking to the Baloch nationalists**

Much is happening in Balochistan that is opaque and opacity is inimical to a political resolution of the crisis. But some perspective is necessary. The Baloch nationalists say that the province was forcibly annexed by Pakistan at the time of Partition. However, they argue that since that is history, they now want to live within the federation as honourable citizens. This existence, they define, in terms of a loose arrangement with Islamabad: the centre should have three subjects of defence, communications and currency. Period. The rest should be with the province. While a federal system is about devolution, it is more cohesive compared to a confederation. What the Baloch nationalists are demanding is more in line with a confederation than a federation.

Daily Times, 8 July 2006

### **Foreigners continue studying in seminaries despite claims otherwise**

KARACHI: Seminaries in Pakistan still host hundreds of foreign students, after the London bombings sparked a major crackdown, but the pupils insist that they are not being schooled in jihad. President Pervez Musharraf pledged to expel approximately 1,400 foreigners from the seminaries, following the revelation of the fact that one or more of the suicide attackers attended a seminary before the 7/7 blasts.

Daily Times, 8 July 2006

### **OPINION: The education mess (Abbas Rashid)**

Actual expenditure on education has continued to be dismal. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2005-2006 public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP stands at 2.1 percent for Pakistan. This is abysmally low even compared to other countries of South Asia. By way of comparison India spends 4.1 percent, Bangladesh 2.4 percent and Nepal 3.4 percent

Dawn, 8 July 2006

### **Govt writ in Fata erodes: High-level view**

ISLAMABAD, July 7: A high-level review of the law and order situation in NWFP here concluded that administrative control has broken down in the tribal areas as there is no clear demarcation of responsibility among various tiers of the government, official sources told Dawn on Friday. Structural changes in the administrative system were blamed for the erosion of the writ of the government. There was no unity of command in the existing system, the review meeting observed.

Daily Times, 9 July 2006

### **Rs 4b project for FATA development**

PESHAWAR: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to launch a Rs 4 billion Rural Development Project (RDP) in Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur agencies to develop the areas, said Khyber Agency Political Agent Dr Tashfeen on Saturday.

Daily Times, 9 July 2006

### **Peshawar-Jalalabad bus: Companies may suspend service on August 1**

PESHAWAR: Private companies operating the Peshawar-Jalalabad bus service have given the Pakistani and Afghan governments until August 1 to check unauthorised transport across the border, failing which they will suspend the recently launched service. Zakria Khan, chairman of United Transport Company, which operates buses from Peshawar to Jalalabad, said that unauthorised transporters plying buses across the Pak-Afghan border were causing his company a loss of Rs 100,000 per day

Daily Times, 9 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: CCI will not amount to much**

An eight-member Council of Common Interests (CCI) has been announced under Article 153 of the Constitution. It will be headed by the prime minister and include the chief ministers of the four provinces, the federal minister for inter-provincial coordination, Salim Saifullah, the narcotics control minister, Ghous Baksh Maher, and the minister for states and frontier regions, Sardar Yar Rind. This will apparently take care of the June 23 observation of the Supreme Court that the CCI had not been consulted before privatising the Steel Mills. Only the MMA chief minister of the NWFP is expected to demur when the Council discusses the Steel Mills. That means that from the outset and at the very minimum the Council will lack the required unanimity and the matter will have to go to a joint session of the parliament.

Daily Times, 9 July 2006

### **OPINION: Is confrontation unavoidable? (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

The government and the opposition should step back from the brink. The greater responsibility lies with General Pervez Musharraf, who needs to open up the political system and make it more pluralist and inclusive. The continued exclusion of the major opposition parties is no guarantee of his staying in power for an indefinite period

Dawn, 9 July 2006

### **Rs4 billion budget for N. Areas**

GILGIT, July 8: Northern Areas Legislative Council (NALC) deputy chief executive Mir Ghazanfar Ali Khan presented Rs4.025 billion budget including foreign aid component of Rs400 million for 2006-07 financial year. Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas Major (retired) Tahir Iqbal, who is also the chief executive of the Northern Areas, attended the special budget session.

The News, 10 July 2006

### **23 killed in Dera Bugti offensive**

QUETTA: At least 23 alleged terrorists were killed and 15 others injured when security forces attacked and destroyed seven Farari camps in Dera Bugti district, Balochistan government officials said on Sunday. In a search operation backed by helicopters, the security forces attacked the militants, who were involved in terrorist and subversive activities, Raziq Bugti, spokesman of the Balochistan government, told The News

The News, 10 July 2006

### **US Congress to question F-16s deal with Pakistan**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has pushed ahead with its efforts to conclude a landmark \$5 billion sale of F-16 jets to Pakistan before completing traditional consultations with the US Congress and fully answering security concerns, a congressman and other congressional sources say. Some lawmakers, who are seeing the move as the latest example of the administration's distaste for consulting Congress on security issues, have said the relevant committees will probe the deal further in the coming weeks

The News, 10 July 2006

### **95pc work on Torkham-Jalalabad road completed**

ISLAMABAD: Ninty-five per cent work on 75 km long Torkham-Jalalabad highway has been completed with a cost of Rs 2 billion by Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) in only 13 months instead of agreed 15 months. The amount has been provided by Pakistan to Afghanistan as a goodwill gesture, PTV reported

Daily Times, 10 July 2006

### **OPINION: Charter of Democracy and status quo (Syed Ali Zafar)**

Whoever wants a role in the government must enter the arena and fight under the principles of the Magna Carta. It

is up to the society to reject those who do not uphold the law. As in the case of the Magna Carta, the principles laid down in the Charter of Democracy may become the beginning of a trend

Daily Times, 10 July 2006

### **'Illegal' FM radio stations in NWFP**

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PERMA) said on Sunday that more than 100 seminars were still operating "illegal" FM radio stations across the North West Frontier Province, stressing concern over the impact of these broadcasts on such a volatile part of the country

Daily Times, 10 July 2006

### **Country divided over Taliban's influence**

LAHORE: The public and the intelligentsia in the country seem divided over the emergence of the Taliban movement in the north-west over the last few months. The movement comprises religious leaders, militants from across the border and seminary students in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). It seeks inspiration from the Taliban government that ruled neighbouring Afghanistan from 1996-2001

The Nation, 10 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: President's reassurance**

GENERAL Musharraf's assertion that he has no desire for power is his second such assurance to the nation in the last one week. Earlier he stated that he could not take part in elections because he was a soldier and the day people withdrew their support he would quit...The President claimed that by pursuing the policies he announced after coming into power he had not only succeeded in bringing about stability in the country but also addressed most of the problems facing the common man. This observation merits a comment in the wake of crippling price hike, growing unemployment, pervasive lawlessness with incidents of theft, robbery and murder having become a daily routine

The News, 11 July 2006

### **Nuclear briefing a smokescreen to hide real culprits: PPPP**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians has termed the briefing on the A Q Khan N-proliferation network as a white wash by the Musharraf regime to protect the real individuals behind the proliferation. According to some press reports the Director-General of Strategic Planning Division Lt-Gen Khalid Kidwai claimed in a parliamentary briefing on Friday that Dr A Q Khan had named two ex aides of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 10 "de-briefing" sessions on his proliferation efforts

The News, 11 July 2006

### **PN to launch submarine Hamza in August**

KARACHI: Commodore Shahid Saeed, Managing Director Submarine Construction Project, said on Monday that PNS Hamza, the third submarine of the AGOSTA-90-B Class, built by Pakistani engineers and experts in collaboration with France, would be launched in August-2006 for a trial phase and then it would be commissioned in Pakistan Navy in 2007

The News, 11 July 2006

### **OPINION: President's visit to Northern Areas (M Ismail Khan)**

However, what really boggled one's mind was his speech in Gilgit -- knowing well that the people of Northern Areas have nothing to do with election in the rest of the Pakistan. To call upon a people to vote, before they are provided with the right to vote, to ask them to elect good legislators when they have no representation in parliament is like rubbing salt over a bald head -- it will hurt

The News, 11 July 2006

### **OPINION: Towards a bright and better future (Qazi Hussain Ahmad)**

Ultimately, we have to turn to the masses for bringing such a leadership to the forefront. The people must be prepared for a mass movement. How can they be prompted to bring about a change in their lot? Does the nation have the desire for change? For no nation can change its condition unless it has the desire and the will to do so. Our national poet and great thinker Allama Mohammad Iqbal has termed disappointment a sign of decline in knowledge and enlightenment

Daily Times, 11 July 2006

### **Afghan border security: Kasuri's 'concrete' proposals to Rice**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri met Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday, and said he had offered "concrete proposals" amid a public row with Afghanistan over border security. Kasuri's statement came days after Afghanistan's foreign minister used an appearance in the US capital to urge Pakistan to do more to curb what he said were terrorists moving across the nations' mutual frontier

Daily Times, 11 July 2006

### **40 Bugti tribesmen surrender**

ISLAMABAD: At least 40 men belonging to the Bugti tribe, including a camp commander, have surrendered to the government, Dera Bugti District Coordination Officer Abdul Samad Lasi said on Monday. Talking to Pakistan Television, Lasi said that the men belonged to the Baqlai and Ferozani branches of the Bugti tribe

Daily Times, 11 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Extremism and its political solution**

President Pervez Musharraf asked a gathering at the Shandur Festival in Chitral on Sunday to eradicate terrorism to promote long-term development in the area as well as in the entire country. He urged the audience to welcome tourists and stop those who bring in extremism and to stand up to them and not be scared of them. The same day, we learnt that the new policy of co-opting the MMA faction of JUI in efforts to bring peace to North Waziristan had brought about a truce. The leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, has apparently persuaded militants operating in the North Waziristan region to unilaterally announce a ceasefire

The News, 12 July 2006

### **Polls for 41 seats held; Attique, Ishaq, Sultan, Khalid win in AJK elections**

MUZAFFARABAD: Polling for 41 seats of Azad Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held Tuesday. Around 24,00,000 voters exercised their right of vote to elect AJK government for the next five years, reports APP. According to initial reports, Syed Shaukat Ali Shah of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference on Tuesday won by getting 775 votes from LA-38, Kashmir Valley-3. Raja Naseer Ahmad Khan of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference secured the slot as Member Legislative Assembly, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) by getting 26,539 votes from LA-10, Kotli-3

The News, 12 July 2006

### **F-16s deal to get through US Congress, hopes Kasuri**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said on Monday evening that in his meetings with senior US officials he expressed gratitude of Pakistan for the F-16s deal, which had been notified to Congress

The News, 12 July 2006

### **Five suspected terrorists arrested in Balochistan**

QUETTA: Police claimed to have arrested five suspected terrorists in various raids in Nushki and other areas of Balochistan, who were involved in rocket-firing, bomb blasts and attacks on railway tracks. Police arrested four suspects, one of them a graduate of the Balochistan University, and after interrogation apprehended another suspect, said Inspector-General of Police Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob at a news conference here on Tuesday.

The News, 12 July 2006

### **Many influentials among 513 booked for holding Jirga**

SUKKUR: Following the suo moto notice taken by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Dera Sarki Police have lodged an FIR against 513 people, including PPPP MNA Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Pir of Bharchoondi Sharif Mian Abdul Khaliq, Taluka Nazim Thul Ghulam Akbar Banglani and others on Tuesday, against the holding of a Jirga in village Haji Kamal Magsi near Thul on May 27, in which five small girls were given in marriage to resolve a Karo-Kari dispute

The News, 12 July 2006

### **OPINION: Recognising US duplicity (Shireen M Mazari)**

It is difficult to understand how the US expects the Pakistani state to continue giving it unflinching support on the war against terrorism when it uses every opportunity to challenge its policies --both external and internal -- and undermine its legitimate right to sustain a credible defence capability. Just when the Pakistani state thought it would

now have access to US weapon systems, especially the F-16s, out comes the news that the US Congress is questioning this deal worth \$5 billion. The pretext this time is that it needs to know how Pakistan will prevent China from having access to advanced US technology and whether there has been such a diversion already of US technology in Pakistani hands

The News, 12 July 2006

**OPINION: Diامر-Basha Dam royalty issue (Afzal A Shigri)**

While addressing a public meeting in Gilgit on July 4, President Pervez Musharraf said that the Northern Areas (NA) would get royalty from the Diامر-Basha Dam. This historic statement puts to rest an issue of life and death for the NA. NWFP has been claiming royalty on the basis of doubtful interpretation of Article 161 (2) of the Constitution of Pakistan. This claim was based on location of the hydroelectric station in the province. The interpretation completely overlooked the spirit of this constitutional provision that is primarily meant to compensate the area that is adversely affected by flooding of fields and villages that takes place when such a facility for storage of water is created. Despite agitation by the people of the NA no one was prepared to address this matter. During the earlier visits of the President and the Prime Minister to the site of the dam, this subject had been ignored, causing despair amongst the people of the NA

Dawn, 13 July 2006

**Kasuri did not link blasts to Kashmir dispute: FO**

ISLAMABAD, July 12: The Foreign Office on Wednesday hastened to clarify reported remarks of Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri on the Mumbai bomb blasts that evoked a caustic reaction from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) earlier in the day.

Dawn, 13 July 2006

**Ruling MC secures 20 seats, AJKPP 7: Manipulation of results alleged**

MUZAFFARABAD, July 12: The ruling Muslim Conference (MC) is all set to form a new government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir but this time around with a different chief executive, most likely the party's 51-year old president Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan. Of the 40 seats of the AJK Legislative Assembly, the MC had clinched 20, just two seats short of simple majority, but the party is optimistic about getting the support of independents to retain its stay in the corridors of power

Daily Times, 14 July 2006

**Mushahid-led committee on Balochistan: 30 suggestions being implemented: PM**

ISLAMABAD: The government has started implementing 30 of the 35 recommendations made by the parliamentary sub-committee on Balochistan relating to political issues, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Thursday

Daily Times, 14 July 2006

**Afghan troops gun down five Pakistanis**

QUETTA: Afghan security forces gunned down five Pakistani nationals whom they claimed had clashed with an Afghan tribe in Zabul, near the Pak-Afghan border, sources said on Thursday. They said that Afghan forces intervened when men from Pakistan's Nasir tribe clashed with members of Afghanistan's Shamalzi tribe. Three of the killed men came from Loralai and two from Zhob district. Nasir tribal chief, Sardar Ahmed Khan Nasir, and his two nephews, Abdul Ghafoor and Ghafoor Ahmed, were among the dead. Four other Nasir tribesmen sustained serious injuries while two members of the Shamalzai were also killed in the skirmish. staff report

Dawn, 14 July 2006

**President can't run party's election campaign :CEC**

ISLAMABAD, July 13: Chief Election Commissioner Qazi Mohammad Farooq has said that President Pervez Musharraf cannot run the election campaign of any political party, though he can meet members of parliament any time. "The president is part of parliament under Article 50 of the Constitution and, therefore, he can issue guidelines or meet any senator or member of the National Assembly, but under the law he cannot support the election campaign of any legislator," the CEC said on Thursday.

Dawn, 14 July 2006

**Blasts aimed at harming peace process: Kasuri**

WASHINGTON, July 13: The perpetrators of the Mumbai blasts wanted to derail the peace process between India and Pakistan, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Friday. "Those who oppose the peace process and do not wish it well are behind these bombings," he told Pakistani journalists on the conclusion of his three-day visit to Washington.

The News, 15 July 2006

### **Allama Hassan Turabi assassinated**

KARACHI: Allama Hassan Turabi, a central leader of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) and the Shia Ulama Council, was assassinated when a suicide bomber exploded himself just in front of his house here on Friday, police and witnesses said. A head suspected to be that of the bomber was found at the scene

The News, 15 July 2006

### **Efforts to continue for Balochistan uplift: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: President Musharraf said on Friday that the government would continue to make all-out efforts for accelerating the pace of development activities in Balochistan. He also categorically stated that no leniency would be shown towards such few miscreants trying to disrupt these development activities by creating law and order situation. President Musharraf made these remarks during a meeting held to review law and order situation as well as ongoing development projects in Balochistan

The News, 15 July 2006

### **Elections to be held in time, says Shaukat**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Friday that general elections would take place on time, which will further strengthen the democratic process in the country. He said this while talking to Minister of State for Law and Justice, Shahid Akram Bhinder and Chief Whip of the ruling coalition in the National Assembly Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dareshak who called on him at the PM's House Friday. During the meeting political situation in the country and party matters including the upcoming party elections and reorganisation of the PML came under discussion. The meeting also discussed the organisational matters and enrolment drive of the party

The News, 15 July 2006

### **Jam foresees better living conditions after mega projects**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Muhammad Yousef on Friday said the completion of mega projects in the province would usher in a new era of progress and prosperity. Speaking at a PTV programme he said, the projects will improve the living conditions of the people, substantially. "President Gen Pervez Musharraf is taking keen interest in the development of Balochistan and the days are not far when the people will see vivid change in their life," he said, adding that the steps being taken by the government would bring an economic revolution not only in province but also in the entire country

The News, 15 July 2006

### **Benazir says she will return before polls**

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party Benazir Bhutto Friday expressed her firm resolve to return to Pakistan in due time for the election in order to lead the party to another victory. She expressed her resolve at a meeting in London Friday, attended by all office bearers of PPP from Rawalpindi Division. The meeting was held to discuss the political situation in Pakistan. Earlier, the meeting expressed its desire to see Benazir Bhutto back in Pakistan before the next election

Dawn, 16 July 2006

### **Violence in Karachi as Turabi laid to rest**

KARACHI, July 15: Enraged youths attending the funeral procession of Allama Hasan Turabi set on fire a number of vehicles, a fast food outlet and a petrol pump and damaged other property here on Saturday. Allama Turabi, who was killed with his nephew in a suicide bombing on Friday, was laid to rest on the premises of a mosque in Abbas Town. His funeral prayers were offered at Mehfil Shah-i-Khurasan and attended by hundreds of mourners who were shouting slogans against the government and the United States

Dawn, 16 July 2006

### **7pc growth target achievable, says Musharraf**

RAWALPINDI, July 15: President General Pervez Musharraf on Saturday said the growth target of 7 per cent set

for the current fiscal year is achievable through yield intensification in the agriculture and higher productivity in the industrial sector. Presiding over a meeting to review the overall economic scenario of the country the president emphasised the need for a comprehensive strategy during the current fiscal year to achieve higher targets in various sectors of the economy

Dawn, 16 July 2006

### **Release of 2 militants ordered**

PESHAWAR, July 15: The government on Saturday ordered release of two tribal militants known to have harboured foreign militants in South Waziristan in what is seen as a major concession to militants battling the armed forces in the restive tribal region. An official statement said the release of the tribal came in response to the requests of the Shakai Peace Committee and a Jirga of South Waziristan. "This is the first major and bold initiative by the new governor that will certainly pave the way for creation of good will among the Wazir tribe of Wana, ultimately leading to a sustainable peace in the restive South Waziristan," the statement issued by the governor's Fata Secretariat said

Dawn, 16 July 2006

### **12 Bugti commanders 'surrender'**

Quetta, July 15: Twelve commanders of Nawab Akbar Bugti, belonging to the Massori Bugti clan, on Saturday surrendered before authorities along with their 80 supporters. They handed over their weapons to Balochistan Home Minister Mir Mohammad Shoaib Nausherwani at a ceremony held in the Bekar area of the Dera Bugti district.

Dawn, 16 July 2006

### **Arrest not linked to Mumbai blasts: FO**

ISLAMABAD, July 15: The Foreign Office on Saturday said that the reported arrest of two Pakistani nationals in Nepal was in connection with an old case and had no link with the Mumbai blasts as alleged in media reports. Setting the record straight the Foreign Office spokesperson said: "Our Mission was contacted by the Nepalese police authorities who confirmed that the arrest of two Pakistanis was in connection with an old case dating back to 2001 and that no linkage had been established with the Mumbai blasts."

Dawn, 16 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Where are we headed?**

ALLAMA Hassan Turabi's assassination in Karachi on Friday raises a question or two about the direction in which we as a nation are headed. The Shia divine had survived an attempt on his life last April when a roadside bomb blew up beside his vehicle. This time the killers used a suicide bomber posing as a beggar to make sure they succeeded. Even though, after the attempt on his life on April 6, the authorities had strengthened his security, there is really no fool-proof defence against a suicide bomber, as events in Pakistan and abroad have shown. Ignoring the Nishtar Park tragedy ' we do not know who caused the carnage because a judicial inquiry is still in progress ' Allama Turab's assassination is the ninth sectarian incident in Pakistan this year

Daily Times, 16 July 2006

### **OPINION: Political problems and uncertain future (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

Pakistan is viewed as a troubled, rather than a hopeless or failed, state. It has the potential, especially the natural resources ' including agriculture and highly qualified and trained manpower' to cope with its problems. Its current failure pertains to the political and economic domains. The most serious challenge stems from the fast-growing alienation of the people from the government and state

Daily Times, 16 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Sectarian blowback continues to inflict pain on Pakistan**

Allama Hasan Turabi, a leader of Tehrik-e-Jafaria, was killed in Karachi on Friday by a suicide bomber with explosives that resembled those used by another suicide bomber at the Nishtar Park massacre of the Barelvis on April 11. Allama Turabi was targeted and nearly killed on April 6. He had then accused Sipah-e-Sahaba and its offshoot, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, of trying to kill him. A day earlier, the Sindh High Court had acquitted a number of Sipah-Lashkar men for lack of evidence, to which Allama Sahib made clear reference

The News, 17 July 2006

### **45-member Jirga formed to resolve Waziristan crisis**

PESHAWAR: The long-awaited tribal 'jirga' to resolve the thorny issue of unrest and violence in North Waziristan Agency through tribal customs and traditions has finally been constituted. The 'jirga,' comprising 45 members and representing all tribal agencies and Frontier Regions, will start work on July 20 at Miramshah after a detailed meeting with NWFP Governor Lieutenant-General (r) Ali Muhammad Jan Aurakzai.

The News, 17 July 2006

### **MMA kicks off drive against Musharraf**

PESHAWAR: The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal on Sunday kicked off the anti-Musharraf movement by only announcing to quit parliament at a 'proper time', after the six religious parties alliance failed to develop a consensus over handing over resignations of their lawmakers to the alliance chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmad. Five components of the alliance disagreed with the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) over resignations from the Senate as well as National and Provincial Assemblies at this stage, when their top leadership met at a marathon meeting of the MMA Supreme Council, at the official residence of NWFP Chief Minister with Qazi Hussain Ahmad in the chair. The meeting also condemned the murder of Allama Hassan Turabi and others in Karachi and offered Fateha for the departed souls

The News, 17 July 2006

### **Bugti's two sons-in-law put under house arrest**

QUETTA: Central Secretary General Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) Senator Agha Shahid Bugti and former chief minister and JWP provincial president Mir Humayun Marri were placed under house arrest by the Balochistan government here on Sunday morning. Bugti told The News that he and Marri were placed under house arrest without any written order and justification and they were not being allowed to go outside. Bugti's residence is situated in a lane adjacent to Fatima Jinnah Road while Marri's house is on Sariab Road, where now large contingents of police can be seen deployed

The News, 17 July 2006

### **Bomb blast leaves nine hurt in Balochistan**

QUETTA: A bomb explosion wounded nine people, two of them seriously, in a radio repair shop in a bazaar of Barkhan, a small town about 350km east of here, on Sunday. According to police sources, an unidentified man brought an out-of-order radio to the shop and left it there, saying that he would collect it after some time. However, the explosive device planted in the radio went off with a big bang, wounding the shopkeeper and eight other people present in the shop

The News, 17 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Postponement of talks**

The postponement of foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan by New Delhi following the Mumbai attacks is a most unfortunate and regrettable development. To the extent that it is caused by a domestic environment in India that is not conducive for such talks the decision by the Government of India is understandable. However, the reason that it has been postponed seems to have more to do with New Delhi's allegations that the attackers had support from inside Pakistan and that talks would remain frozen unless Islamabad "starts acting on its assurance to crack down on the terrorist elements on its soil"

The News, 17 July 2006

### **OPINION: The failed states index: a critical appraisal**

The Failed States Index published by the Fund for Peace would not have been newsworthy, but for Pakistan's position at no. 9 (a sheer drop from 34) in the ranking of failed states. "Failed" is a bad word, whether it is used for a student, a scientist, or a state. It stinks more when someone else applies it to you, and thus the furor among the Pakistani intelligentsia. The reaction from the government was rather mellow

Dawn, 17 July 2006

### **OPINION: The right response to Mumbai (Tanvir Ahmad Khan)**

Trying to cope with a heart-rending event that has taken more than 200 innocent lives in Mumbai, India showed restraint in attributing it to any specific organisation without further proof. But within minutes of the deadly explosions, major international media outlets were trying to link them to global Islamic militancy and, in particular, to Lashkar-i-Taiba which in turn was traced to Pakistan. When the Lashkar and Hizbul Mujahideen issued a firm denial, the allegation was implicitly sustained by pointing out that they never accept responsibility for terrorist acts. It was repeatedly argued that the bombing was carried out with an efficiency that could come only from a well

established network of terror or a foreign intelligence service

The Nation, 17 July 2006

**OPINION: Mumbai train bombings (Air Marshal (retd) Ayaz Ahmad Khan)**

The perpetrators perhaps wanted to send a message to powerful states that they are on the prowl without fear and immunity. Early 2005 allegedly Kashmiri militants had bombed three crowded markets in New Delhi, killing hundreds and injured thousands of shoppers including dozens of foreigners. Kashmiri masses have waged a long struggle for freedom. Immense damage has occurred and will occur to Kashmir's freedom struggle if it is proved beyond doubt that Kashmiri militants were involved in the Mumbai train blasts to kill innocent commuters. It will tarnish the sacrifices of thousands of Kashmiris for the cause of freedom. Mumbai Police Commissioner D K Shankaran announced that "the police probe is on track and two bearded persons Zabiuddin and Zulfiqar Fayyaz had been arrested as suspects." He did not say that Lashkar-e-Tayyaba is the prime suspect

Dawn, 18 July 2006

**No evidence of Pakistan's hand in blasts: US**

WASHINGTON, July 17: The US has so far not seen any evidence to suggest that Pakistan or Pakistan-based groups were involved in last week's Mumbai blasts, a State Department official said on Monday. "The evidence to who is responsible, we have not seen yet ... we will wait for the results of the investigation," said Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher while briefing South and Central Asian journalists on United States policy ambitions in the two regions

Dawn, 18 July 2006

**Export target \$18.6bn, trade deficit \$9.4bn: Trade Policy 2006-07**

ISLAMABAD, July 17: The government on Monday unveiled its trade policy for 2006-07, which seeks to further liberalise foreign trade and projects an export target of \$18.6 billion and import bill of \$28 billion, leaving a yawning deficit of \$9.4 billion. The trade policy, announced by Commerce Minister Humayun Akhtar Khan, offers incentives for diversification of exports and increased market access. It promises to continue last year's rapid export growth strategy.

Dawn, 18 July 2006

**UK declares BLA terrorist organisation**

RAWALPINDI / LONDON, July 17: The Baloch Liberation Army on Thursday faced a joint onslaught of the Pakistani and British governments when the former decided to freeze bank accounts of its members and the latter designated it as a terrorist organisation. Sources told Dawn that the finance ministry had been told to freeze the bank accounts of at least 45 BLA members, including some women members.

Dawn, 18 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: Formation of tribal jirga**

SUNDAY'S announcement that a grand inter-tribal jirga will become functional later this week is a significant step towards restoring peace to North Waziristan through dialogue rather than confrontation. The 45-member jirga will include major stakeholders from all seven tribal agencies but its precise composition and mandate remain unclear. Government officials in the NWFP, however, maintain that the tribal council will have the authority to "negotiate and settle matters" with militants. The jirga's formation is the latest in a series of moves by the NWFP governor, who appears to be more in tune with tribal sensibilities than his predecessor, to open a backchannel line of communication with pro-Taliban elements

Dawn, 18 July 2006

**OPINION: Is Pakistan in a mess? (Shahid Javed Burki)**

IS Pakistan a mess? Is the Pakistani state slowly decaying? Does Pakistan's "future look bearded"? In its recent survey of Pakistan under General Pervez Musharraf, The Economist asked these three and several other questions and provided a series of answers many Pakistanis would find troubling. The theme running through the closely argued 10-page survey is that Pakistan, while experiencing impressive economic growth, is headed towards political and social crises

The News, 18 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: SBP report**

The State Bank's third quarterly report for 2006 raises some valid concerns with regards to the economy's macroeconomic situation, particularly the widening trade and current account deficits and government borrowing that was far above the target set for the year. The report also confirms -- or at the very least strongly suggests -- that privatisation proceeds are being used to finance the budget deficit and not to retire government debt.

The News, 18 July 2006

**OPINION: The breakdown of composite dialogue (Imtiaz Alam)**

The terrorists have, unfortunately, succeeded in getting the composite dialogue process suspended for the time being, as a consequence of 7/11 bombing in Mumbai that has killed 181 innocent commuters. Even if the probe into the Mumbai train-blasts has yet to find conclusive evidence about the perpetrators of a most heinous crime, intelligence leaks and speculations in media accused a Pakistani-backed group of having committing it. Under tremendous public pressure, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, despite having shown utmost restraint initially, has now categorically demanded a firm commitment from Pakistan not to allow the use of its territory by the terrorists adding that it must be backed by action on the ground. Despite denial by Pakistan, stern condemnation of the Mumbai killings by its top leadership and the joint investigation offer, New Delhi has suspended the composite dialogue process and the foreign secretary level talks have been indefinitely postponed. What can be done to bring the process back on rail?

The News, 19 July 2006

**OPINION: The Indian-Israeli terror nexus (Shireen M Mazari)**

The present situation in the Middle East shows the desperate need for the UN to include state terrorism within any international convention on terrorism. Israel's unleashing of its military might against the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian people and against the hapless Lebanese state shows most starkly the terrorism a state with massive military resources can unleash

The News, 19 July 2006

**OPINION: Pakistan's relations with EU (Ansar Mahmood Bhatti)**

During his meeting with Baroness Emma Nicholson, chairperson of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, who visited Islamabad in June 2006, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said that the European Union should play a meaningful role in facilitating a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute adding that it was hampering the normalisation process between Pakistan and India. Mr. Aziz also recognised that EU was a flag bearer of the independence of nations and human rights in the world and it should play its role in ameliorating the suffering of people of occupied Kashmir

The News, 19 July 2006

**OPINION: Is the peace process still irreversible? (Bashir Manzar)**

The peace boat that was left to drift on the troubled waters of the subcontinent is sinking with violence boring holes in it. As if the escalation in violence in Kashmir and the frequent attacks on tourists was not enough, the bombing of India's trade capital, Mumbai seems to have come as the last blow to the peace process which both Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf loved to describe as 'irreversible'

The News, 19 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: Trade optimism**

CONSIDERING the trade performance of the preceding fiscal, the export, import and subsequent deficit projections in the new Trade Policy seem somewhat optimistic. It is interesting to note that in the backdrop of an unprecedented trade deficit and an inability to meet the export target of \$17 billion, though by a small margin, Commerce Minister Humayun Akhtar Khan has set the new fiscal's export target at \$18.6 billion while the projected deficit has been set at an unbelievable \$9.4 billion. Considering that last year's deficit had been projected at around \$4.5 billion, which eventually settled at around \$12 billion, a repeat performance of target-miscalculation could effectively derail the whole economy. On a point of growing concern, the discrepancy in statistics needs serious noting, especially since import figures for only 11 months of the last fiscal have been given

The Nation, 19 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: MMA's woes**

NOTWITHSTANDING Qazi Hussain Ahmad's assertion that there is no rift in the MMA and such rumours are being spread by the government to weaken it, the JUI and the Jamaat Islami leaders seem at odds over a number of

issues. This might be the reason why Qazi Hussain and Maulana Fazlur Rehman have avoided appearing before the media together for some time. News reports quoted insiders as saying that the two major MMA components not only differ on the issue of resignations en masse from Parliament but also on whether to support the ARD's no-confidence move against the Shaukat Aziz ministry. They also indicated that the Jamaat and JUI leaders failed to convince each other on this particular issue at the MMA's Supreme Council meeting in Peshawar on Monday

Daily Times, 19 July 2006

### **Stalling peace process is what terrorists want: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: The Indian decision to postpone secretary-level talks is unfortunate and stalling the peace process because of the Mumbai blasts would be playing into the hands of terrorists, President Musharraf said on Tuesday. "We must not allow such terrorist acts to undermine the historic opportunity for lasting peace between Pakistan and India," the president said while chairing a meeting of the National Security Council

Daily Times, 19 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Why would Britain ban BLA?**

As part of its effort to fight terrorism following the May 7 and 21 bombings last year, Britain has added four organisations to its list of terrorist groups. These organisations are the first to be outlawed under new legislation which makes it illegal to glorify acts of terrorism. Two of these organisations — Al Ghurabaa (AG) and The Saved Sect (SS), both believed to be splinter groups of Al-Muhajiroun, formerly led by the cleric Omar Bakri Mohammad — are based in the United Kingdom while one, the Kurdistan Liberation Hawks (TAK), is based in Iraq and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) operates in Balochistan

Daily Times, 19 July 2006

### **Cop involved in death of Qaeda operative killed**

KHAR: Suspected militants killed a tribal policeman who had been involved in a gun battle that killed a senior Al Qaeda operative earlier this year, officials said. "Unidentified terrorists" opened fire on the officer, Mohammed Tariq, as he boarded a minibus, killing him, according to Tariq Hassan, a government official in Khar, the main town in Bajaur Agency where the attack happened. The assailants fled

The Nation, 19 July 2006

### **OPINION: F-16 update (SM Hali)**

In his maiden briefing to the media after having assumed the mantle of command of Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Tanvir Mahmood Ahmad stated that Pakistan has opted for 18 New F-16 Block 50/52s and reserves the choice for purchasing 18 more. The US has also offered to acquire and upgrade 26 used F-16A/B aircraft from US inventories for PAF and to upgrade Pakistan's current fleet of 34 F-16s at a total cost of US - \$3 billion, spread over the next 7 to 8 years

The News, 20 July 2006

### **Militants demand prisoners release, checkpoints removal**

PESHAWAR: Islamic tribal militants in North Waziristan Wednesday cautiously welcomed the formation of the Jirga and its visit to Miramshah but at the same time called for acceptance of their conditions pertaining to release of their men and removal of military checkpoints to improve chances of its success

The News, 20 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Missed opportunities**

One would have to agree whole-heartedly with what President Pervez Musharraf said of the postponement of peace talks between India and Pakistan during Tuesday's meeting of the National Security Council. The fact is that the terrorists and enemies of peace would like to see no movement towards reconciliation and resolution of disputes between the two countries, and the postponement does play into their hands. It is worth recounting the sequence of events following July 11's tragic bombings. Pakistan was among the first countries to unequivocally condemn the attacks

The News, 20 July 2006

### **OPINION: A time to unite (Ikram Sehgal)**

The terrorists who strike South Asia (mainly India) from time to time have a propensity to do so whenever something noteworthy is about to happen, such whenever the US president (or someone important ) is about to visit

the region. That it also puts Pakistan on the defensive as a terrorist-ridden state (if not a sponsor) is more than a coincidence. Whoever thought up the Mumbai blasts did not have mayhem in mind for India's economic capital only; Pakistan's image in the world was a target. Is it also a coincidence that The Economist, The Atlantic Monthly and Time ran articles attacking Musharraf and Pakistan, in that order before the Mumbai blasts? Is it also a coincidence that they seem to have spared Shaukat Aziz, our prime candidate either to succeed Musharraf or become Asia's dark horse for the post of UN secretary-general?

The News, 20 July 2006

**OPINION: Pakistan, India and counterterrorism (Nasim Zehra)**

Even before the investigations could point to suspects, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh decided to postpone the Pakistan-India foreign secretary-level talks scheduled for end July. Significantly, the postponement came soon after the BJP's announcement that Narendra Modi (widely known for not activating the state apparatus to prevent the killing of Muslims in Gujarat) was to lead anti-UPA protests in Mumbai

Daily Times, 20 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: India and Pakistan need a cooperative security mechanism**

It is increasingly clear now that the July 11 bomb attacks in Mumbai have negatively impacted relations between Pakistan and India. While Pakistan denies any hand in sponsoring the attacks, India claims to have captured two Lashkar-e-Taiba fidayeen from Madhya Pradesh who are said to have provided significant details on the Mumbai attacks as well as the broad terror campaign allegedly orchestrated by Pakistan's intelligence services. Earlier, India had postponed the foreign secretary-level talks scheduled for July 20-21. Therefore it now seems that the dialogue is going to stall for the foreseeable future

Daily Times, 20 July 2006

**Govt shuts 156 FM radio stations**

ISLAMABAD: The government has taken 156 FM radio stations off the air to stop the spread of religious extremism and anti-state sentiments, notably among Pashtun tribes near the Afghan border, a spokesman for the regulator said on Wednesday. The raids have been conducted by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulating Authority (PEMRA), working in tandem with local officials in the semi-autonomous tribal areas during the last six months

Daily Times, 20 July 2006

**Men holding female councillors hostage in Upper Dir**

PESHAWAR: Having succeeded in overturning a jirga-decision last year that sought to prevent them from filing their nomination papers for the local bodies polls, Upper Dir's elected female councillors now face a new political battle: the right to attend their respective council meetings

The News, 21 July 2006

**Musharraf warns India against blame game; Says govt's writ to be established in Balochistan; Talibanisation of Pakistan will not be allowed; calls for**

ISLAMABAD: President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday Pakistan's defence and security would be strengthened, the writ of the government established in Balochistan and the security of national installations ensured. In his wide-ranging address to the nation on television and radio Musharraf urged India to avoid a "blame" game over last week's Mumbai blasts and termed New Delhi's decision of delaying peace talks a victory for terrorists. He announced measures to deal with the emerging threat of 'Talibanisation' in Pakistan, and said culture of empowering tribal Maliks and political agents will be re-introduced

The News, 21 July 2006

**32 tribesmen freed, two checkpoints dismantled**

MIRANSHAH: As a gesture of goodwill and in response to the demands by tribal militants, the government on Thursday released 32 tribesmen detained during search operations in North Waziristan and dismantled two security checkpoints

The News, 21 July 2006

**Arms recovered from Dera Bugti**

QUETTA: The Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan seized a big cache of arms and ammunition in an operation in Toba

Nohkani area of Dera Bugti, officials said on Thursday. They said the arms were dumped in Toba Nohkani area for terrorism. Special FC teams cordoned-off the area and recovered 90 land mines, 51 rockets of 40mm, 89,000 rounds of Dragarof rifle, 180 hand-grenades, 180,000 rounds of Klashnikovs, 1,000 meter wire of detonators, 201 mortar shells of 81mm, 10 batteries of surface-to-air missiles (SAM) and dozens of fuses

Daily Times, 21 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: Indian hawks are wrong**

After the Mumbai bomb attacks, India had two options: it could either try to co-opt Pakistan to help it get to the bottom of the terror attacks or hold Pakistan responsible for them and stall the normalisation process. The first course of action required maturity; the second was easier because its narrative is woven around known categories. Unfortunately, India seems to have opted for the second by cancelling the foreign secretary-level talks without indicating when they might be held

Dawn, 22 July 2006

**Militants free four paramilitary men: More concessions likely**

PESHAWAR, July 21: Authorities in the North Waziristan tribal region are considering to offer more concessions as militants on Friday freed four paramilitary troops, reciprocating the release of their men by the government on Thursday. "This is our gift to the government," Abdullah Farhad, militants' spokesman told Dawn on phone

Dawn, 22 July 2006

**US official defends F-16 deal**

WASHINGTON, July 21: Pakistan is likely to get congressional approval for the proposed \$5.1 billion arms package, including F-16 aircraft, despite the battering it received at a panel hearing on the deal. The 18-member House of Representatives International Relations Committee also mauled the Bush administration for failing to give Congress enough time to review the proposal. But the administration's strategy, coupled with a strong defence of its decision to sell the aircraft to Pakistan, worked

Dawn, 22 July 2006

**48 journalists attacked in six months: report**

ISLAMABAD, July 21: Media in Pakistan faced at least 48 recorded incidents of attacks and harassment during the first six months (January 1 to June 30) of the current year in which two journalists were murdered and 28 attacked or tortured, says a report issued by an international media NGO here on Friday

The News, 22 July 2006

**200 militants surrender in Dera Bugti**

200 militants surrender in Dera Bugti QUETTA: About 200 militant supporters of Akbar Bugti blamed for attacking the country's main gas pipelines and security forces surrendered to authorities in Dera Bugti on Friday, an official said. Six commanders also surrendered, said Abdul Samad Lasi, the district coordination officer (DCO) in Dera Bugti.

The News, 22 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: President's address**

President Pervez Musharraf may not have been wearing an army uniform when he made his nationally-televised address on Thursday, but he certainly came across as more of a military strategist and commander than anything else, particularly when he spoke at length on the situation in Balochistan. The gist of what he said was that the province was well on its way to normality, that several thousand people had returned to Dera Bugti including Nawab Akbar Bugti's (about whom the president said that he would not call him 'nawab') close relatives and that the paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies had done a wonderful job in fighting the insurgents. He also said that the time for coddling up to the three sardars of Balochistan was over especially since they were anti-development and had been pampered for long by various governments with no tangible results.

The News, 22 July 2006

**OPINION: Terrorism and the peace process (Rahimullah Yusufzai)**

As if on a damage control mission, our government functionaries have been issuing frequent statements in the wake of the Mumbai train bombings to deny involvement in the deadly blasts and plead for continuation of the on-again, off-again India-Pakistan peace talks. From President General Pervez Musharraf to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz,

and from Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri to Information Minister Mohammad Ali Durrani, our leaders were quick to condemn the train bombings that killed 182 innocent commuters in Mumbai and wounded more than 800 people. Pakistan even offered to assist Indian investigators probing the incident. Arguing that terrorism was a global problem, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasneem Aslam said such help would be unconditional and in no way dependent on a resolution of Islamabad's dispute with New Delhi over Kashmir

The News, 22 July 2006

**OPINION: Who owns Pakistan? (Ihsan Aslam)**

There are two historic sites I didn't even attempt to visit for fear of being locked up. Emperor Akbar's Attock Fort, up by the River Indus, on the way to Peshawar from Islamabad, is out of bounds as it is under the control of the army. The Sikh Bala Hissar Fort in Peshawar is also under the military control. One can, however, view both from a distance. There are excellent views of Attock Fort as one crosses River Indus on the way to Peshawar and turns left on to the road along the river leading to Nizampu

The News, 23 July 2006

**Waziristan militants extend ceasefire by 30 days**

PESHAWAR: Tribal militants in North Waziristan extended by another month their unilateral ceasefire on Saturday to allow more time to the Loya Jirga (grand council) to mediate between them and the government for peacefully ending the bloody conflict in the area

Daily Times, 23 July 2006

**OPINION: Musharraf and the opposition parties (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

Pakistan cannot afford a sustained street agitation. However, the political status quo is equally untenable. The narrow-based Musharraf-led military-dominated political order has outlived its relevance. It cannot address the current political problems. If President Musharraf wants to salvage the situation, he will have to open up the political system to his adversaries and empower political institutions and processes

Daily Times, 23 July 2006

**Retired generals, politicians urge Musharraf to quit army**

ISLAMABAD: Retired generals, politicians and intellectuals have asked President General Pervez Musharraf to doff his uniform and disengage the military from politics to strengthen democracy in Pakistan...The letter was written by Lt-Gen (r) Abdul Qadir, Lt-Gen (r) Asad Durrani, former federal minister Javed Jabbar, Dr Hasan Askari Rizvi, Lt-Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider, Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami, SM Zafar, Sartaj Aziz, Brig (r) Shaukat Qadir, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Lt-Gen (r) Talat Masood, Lt-Gen (r) S Tanwir H Naqvi, Shafqat Mahmood, Shahid Hamid, Lt-Gen (r) Hameed Gul and others

Daily Times, 23 July 2006

**OPINION: Reforming Pakistan's military (Ahmad Faruqui)**

Is military reform an oxymoron? Perhaps but it's not improbable. The media has emerged as an important institution in Pakistan's polity, second in importance to the military. By discussing the topic, it can empower the establishment of a parliamentary commission on military reform. The parliamentarians should review the example of Taiwan

Daily Times, 23 July 2006

**'Gwadar land sale at throwaway prices'**

QUETTA: The Balochistan government is reluctant to push a committee, which was formed about a year ago, to probe irregularities in the allotment of Gwadar's agricultural land to non-Baloch people at throwaway prices for commercial purposes, sources told Daily Times on Saturday.

The News, 24 July 2006

**Tribal elders fined for letting govt into Tirah Valley**

JAMRUD: A representative Afridi tribal Jirga fined two elders Malik Ahmad Khan and Malik Gul Jamal Rs 400,000 each for facilitating the government to enter the remote and inaccessible Tirah Valley without taking their tribe into confidence. The Jirga, held at Khaista Khwa in Tirah near the border with Afghanistan, made it clear that it was neither against the government nor the Pakistan Army deployed in the valley to undertake development work and check infiltration on the Pak-Afghan border

The News, 24 July 2006

**OPINION: Kargil refuses to die (Farhatullah Babar)**

The News of July 14 put on its front-page General Pervez Musharraf's interview to a private TV channel asserting that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was on board regarding the Kargil plan. He also displayed in the TV interview some pictures of Nawaz Sharif to prove his point. One picture shows the prime minister attending a briefing supposedly on Kargil by the corps commander in Kel near Kargil. Another shows him addressing troops sitting on a heap of snow

The News, 24 July 2006

**OPINION: Security, democracy and exit doors (Zaigham Khan)**

Pakistan has become a great country — a nuclear power, an economic miracle and everything else our president and his chorus tell us day in and day out. But just when we thought we were in the Teletubbies Land, ready to sing la la la, the scene has shifted to the Elm Street. I squarely blame it on the poor who have chosen such auspicious times to die in groups and that too from such insignificant diseases like diarrhoea and gastroenteritis. As many in Islamabad would ask, why are they not taking bottled mineral water, now also being marketed by our masters for our safety?

Daily Times, 24 July 2006

**Amendments to Hudood Ordinance finalised**

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to retain all Islamic punishments in the Hudood Ordinance, including stoning to death (rajam), lashing and amputation for various offences, but has proposed procedural amendments regarding their applicability. Daily Times has learned that the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights has almost finalised the draft of a bill for amendments to the Hudood Ordinance of 1979, with the objective of removing all "legal and procedural lacunae" in it. Sources in the ministry said that the bill was likely to be presented in the next session of the National Assembly

Daily Times, 24 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: Time to get back to business**

Intelligence sources in New Delhi have been quoted as saying that if there is another terrorist attack India "will act with the hard option". They clarified as to who would suffer this hard option by adding, "If terror continues we will be forced to change our strategy towards a more punitive response. The general consensus was that we have yet to cross the threshold". One option they pointed to was "striking at the roots of terror in Pakistan and Bangladesh, targeting religious bodies promoting jihad against India". It was however quickly asserted that "India would not launch an operation on the scale of the Israeli offensive against Lebanon"

Dawn, 24 July 2006

**OPINION: Power vision for Pakistan (Dr Javaid Laghari)**

WATER and power are no more synonymous. However, Wapda makes us believe that water and power are inseparable and that the present energy crisis in the country is because we have failed to build large dams. Wapda and the proponents of big dams use this argument in favour of building Kalabagh and other large dams. We need to look at the larger picture and think out of the box. Pakistan produces about 19,500 MW of electric power; Wapda provides about 11,363 MW, or 58 per cent of this. The remaining power is supplied by the KESC, nuclear and IPPs. There is currently loadshedding of up to 700 MW a day because of shortage and poor transmission capabilities. Electricity demand is expected to grow by eight per cent a year during the period 2005 — 2015, requiring an annual installation capacity of about 2000 MW for the next 10 years

Dawn, 25 July 2006

**US 'aware' of new N-plant: Powerful nuclear reactor coming up in Khushab: ISIS report**

WASHINGTON, July 24: The United States said on Monday it was aware that Pakistan is building a powerful new nuclear reactor and urged Islamabad not to use the facility for military purposes. "We have been aware of these plans and we discourage any use of that facility for military purposes such as weapons development," White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters. "Pakistan of course is outside the non-proliferation treaty and, therefore, they do develop their capabilities independently," Mr Snow said.

Dawn, 25 July 2006

## **N-reactor report no revelation, says FO**

ISLAMABAD, July 24: Pakistan on Monday neither denied nor confirmed reports that a major expansion of its nuclear programme was under way and it was building a new reactor close to its facility in Khushab. Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam remained non-committal on the question and left it at: "Pakistan is a nuclear weapons state." She was nonchalant about a report on expansion of Pakistan's nuclear programme and its facility in Khushab by the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security which was also published in The Washington Post on Monday

Daily Times, 26 July 2006

## **Government seeks to 'soften-up' 30 'negative' journalists**

ISLAMABAD: In a major PR exercise, the government of Shaukat Aziz has prepared a list of 33 columnists, writers and reporters in the English and Urdu print media of Pakistan and assigned its top spin doctors to neutralise the 'negativism' of these writers by making them 'soft and friendly'

Daily Times, 26 July 2006

## **Turabi suicide attacker identified as Bangladeshi**

KARACHI: Police have announced that a Bangladeshi was involved in the bomb blast in Abbas Town in which Allama Hasan Turabi and his nephew were killed while a woman and three policemen sustained injuries. The police have also arrested three accomplices of the attacker, including the group leader and recovered weapons, explosive material and a computer CD in which the suicide attacker's dying declarations had been recorded

Daily Times, 26 July 2006

## **EDITORIAL: Option of 'hot pursuit' doesn't exist**

Pakistan has rightly warned India against adopting a policy of "hot pursuit", following some reports from New Delhi to that effect. As signalling goes, this is appropriate. However, we might add that India also knows that no such option exists. Here the Indian media's proclivity for sensationalism is at play; facts belie such an option

The News, 26 July 2006

## **OPINION: India's misleading united voice (Ahmed Quraishi)**

The Indian intelligentsia, at home and abroad, rarely dissents on the official Indian line on Pakistan. Within hours of the Mumbai blasts, Pakistan was the target of remarks by scores of Indian commentators appearing on international television networks. The unanimity of these opinions was remarkable. The Indian pundits spoke in mixed accents -- British and Indian -- but the message was the same: blame for the attacks rested with Pakistan.

Dawn, 26 July 2006

## **EDITORIAL: Curbing sectarianism**

THE proof will be in the implementation. On face value, there is no arguing with the prime minister's recent directive that provincial authorities must adopt a proactive approach to the fight against sectarian hatred and violence. The decision to actively involve the provinces is laudable, for the problem has to be tackled at the grassroots level. The PM is also right in pointing out that a two-pronged strategy — preventive as well as curative — is required to control both the manifestation and root causes of sectarian conflict, which has claimed the lives of thousands of Pakistanis since the 1980s

The News, 27 July 2006

## **Musharraf rules out political change**

KARACHI: President Pervez Musharraf has ruled out any change at the Centre and provincial level and declared that the current political set-up would continue working till the holding of 2007 general elections. He said this while addressing MPAs, Senators, Nazims of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Sindh chapter, at the Chief Minister House here on Wednesday. Dispelling all rumours regarding any political change, the president said neither Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz nor Sindh Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim would be changed and the same team would hold the 2007 elections

The News, 27 July 2006

## **Tariq sees foreign hand in Balochistan unrest**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Tariq Azeem on Wednesday said that there were strong indications of involvement of foreign hand in creating law and order situation in Balochistan. "The

weapons recovered from miscreants in Balochistan are sophisticated, expensive and modern which is a strong indication of involvement of a foreign hand," he said while addressing a joint press conference with Director-General ISPR Major-General Shaukat Sultan

Daily Times, 28 July 2006

### **MQM quits centre and Sindh cabinets**

Karachi/islamabad: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has submitted the resignations of its ministers, advisers, special assistants and senators to the government, but has decided that its parliamentarians will continue to sit on treasury benches. MQM spokesman Salahuddin Haider said 20 resignations from MQM federal and Sindh cabinet members were handed over to the Sindh governor and president after a meeting of the party's coordination committee on Thursday

Daily Times, 28 July 2006

### **No-trust motion against PM: MMA, ARD agree to join ranks**

ISLAMABAD: The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) and the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) agreed in principle on Thursday to join hands for a no-trust motion against Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. Sources said that MMA General Secretary Maulana Fazlur Rehman consented to support the ARD's proposed no-trust motion in parliament against the prime minister after ARD Secretary General Iqbal Zafar Jhagra and Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Secretary General Raja Pervez Ashraf met him at his residence in the Parliamentary Lodges

Daily Times, 28 July 2006

### **F-16s only if Pakistan ensures tech security**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has been asked by the United States to provide several cast iron guarantees in order to ensure that there is no unauthorised transfer of technology or equipment that will come to Pakistan in the event of the delivery of F-16 fighter aircraft. Pakistan must provide written security assurances as part of a deal for \$5.1 billion in American-made F-16 fighter jets and no equipment will be transferred until anti-diversion protections are in place, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has promised Congress.

The News, 28 July 2006

### **OPINION: Foreign policy tangles (Shafqat Mahmood)**

We have become complicit bystanders in this defining conflict between Israel and those resisting its hegemonic design. If Israel prevails, the Palestinians will lose the prospect of a viable state forever. If Hizbollah deflates the legend of Israel's military invincibility, a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict may become a possibility. This fight is not just another skirmish; it contains within it the seeds of a future Middle East. While these momentous events are going on, which mean a great deal to the people of Pakistan, what is our government up to? As the second most populous Muslim state in the world, and a nuclear power to boot, one would expect it to play some role. No one advocates a military engagement but it can raise its voice against the suffering of the Lebanese and the Palestinian people. Even the usually docile Saudi Arabia has been shaken enough for its king to express deep resentment, but not us

The News, 29 July 2006

### **EDITORIAL: MQM resignations**

Sindh has always been a province that has been difficult to govern. It has seen unwieldy and sometimes unnatural coalitions cobbled together by the centre to prop up governments and keep out the province's single largest party -- the PPP. This has meant governments that have been by and large weak and prone to the machinations that are the hallmark of such political arrangements. In this context, the resignations of the MQM's ministers (federal as well as provincial), advisers and special assistants are bound to push the Sindh government to the brink of self-destruction. On Friday, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz is said to have spoken with the Sindh governor and is scheduled to meet MQM leaders in Karachi while President Musharraf's pointman Tariq Aziz is reportedly flying to London to meet MQM chief Altaf Hussain. The president has also told the Sindh governor not to accept the resignations so that a way out of the crisis can be found. At the same time, the MQM has said that its members of parliament will continue to sit on the treasury benches.

Daily Times, 30 July 2006

### **MQM resignation issue; Musharraf calls meeting on Aug 1**

Musharraf calls meeting on Aug 1 ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: President General Pervez Musharraf has summoned a meeting on Tuesday to resolve differences in the ruling coalition which resulted in the resignation of all federal and provincial ministers belonging to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). Talking to the media at Governor's House at a ceremony organised for a new industrial zone near Korangi Creek, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz hoped that the meeting summoned by the president would resolve the current problem. Leaders in the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) have advised the president to take a tough stance against the MQM, sources said. They said that the leadership suggested that, if the differences remain unresolved, the president should dissolve the Sindh Assembly and establish a caretaker provincial government headed by current Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim

Daily Times, 30 July 2006

**OPINION: Confrontation or cooperation (Ahmad Faruqui)**

Admittedly, there is less glamour in building decentralised options. They don't come with the pomp and prestige that emanates from large, centralised power plants. But it is the 21st century now and time to make sustainable choices that are people-friendly. Nuclear power, even for civilian purposes, remains a debatable proposition. This was evident at the G-8 summit

Daily Times, 30 July 2006

**F-16 deal clears final congressional hurdle**

WASHINGTON: The sale of 36 F-16s to Pakistan cleared a major, if not the remaining, hurdle with the lapse of the 30-day statutory notification period to Congress expired on Friday

Daily Times, 30 July 2006

**Pakistan says nuclear site 'safe in our hands'**

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign Minister Khurshid Ahmad Kasuri said on Friday that a powerful new nuclear reactor under construction was "safe in our hands" and would not spark an arms race with rival India. "It's nothing new, the world knows about it, the world knows that it's safe in our hands," Kasuri told AFP in an interview late Friday at a meeting of Asia's top security forum in Kuala Lumpur. "It's five years old, it's nearing completion now, I don't know the timing," he added.

Daily Times, 30 July 2006

**Rs 34.364 million irregularities detected at army centre**

ISLAMABAD: The auditor general of Pakistan (AGP) has pointed out irregularities committed by commanders with the Pakistan Army's Punjab Regiment Centre in Mardan between 1998 and 2000, causing the national exchequer a Rs 34.364 million loss, Daily Times has learnt

The News, 30 July 2006

**Elections for PML president on Aug 12**

ISLAMABAD: The ruling Pakistan Muslim League expected to announce the election schedule for the top posts in the party at federal level by Friday next. The intra-party elections of the PML for the post of president and secretary general are going to be held on August 12.

Dawn, 30 July 2006

**OPINION: Role of intelligence agencies (Anwar Syed)**

THE "agencies" may be doing some good work of which little is known beyond their own walls, but they have gained notoriety for messing up the country's political system, and for gross violations of human rights. The more notable of them are the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and Military Intelligence (MI). I propose to take a look at the first two. IB began as a segment of the intelligence bureau in British India that came to Pakistan's share upon partition. It focuses on domestic politics, monitors the current government's adversaries, and watches suspected terrorists and foreign agents. Its operatives may intercept the targeted person's telephone calls and even inspect his mail. They harass opposition parties when their political superiors ask them to do so.

Daily Times, 31 July 2006

**Proposed bill against gender crimes:**

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf has directed Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Pakistan Muslim League President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to convince feudal parliamentarians to support amendments to the Hudood Ordinance, legislation against karo kari and a bill for the protection of women's rights.

Daily Times, 31 July 2006

**MQM not demanding Arbab's removal**

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has made it clear that it has not demanded the removal of Sindh Chief Minister Dr Arbab Rahim as a condition for patching up its differences with the government. Senior party sources told Daily Times on Sunday that the party had never demanded Rahim's replacement with any other Pakistan Muslim League MPA.

The News, 31 July 2006

**Waziristan militants repose trust in Jirga**

PESHAWAR: Reposing trust in the Loya Jirga set up to peacefully resolve the conflict in North Waziristan, militants have reiterated their demand for release of 45 of their detained colleagues and removal of the remaining security checkpoints.

The News, 31 July 2006

**EDITORIAL: More than just changing laws**

The recent assurance by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to a delegation of women members of parliament that laws relating to women will be amended to bring them in line with the needs of justice and equality seems well-intentioned but makes one think that will this be enough. Besides, the government's stance on the Hudood ordinance, that it will be amended and not repealed, has proved to be quite a disappointment especially when laws regulating adultery, rape and marriage already exist on the statute books. Also, one hopes that this will not be yet another instance of a senior state functionary saying all the right things on a key issue close to the hearts of millions but then doing little by way of follow-up. It has to be said that this government's record on this matter is, to be charitable, chequered. It — particularly President Pervez Musharraf — has said many of the right things when it comes to the status and position of women in society but not much has been done to put these words into practice