

Dawn, 1 June 2005

**US given custody of Al Qaeda suspect: Information extracted: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD, May 31: President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday that Pakistan had handed over a top Al Qaeda suspect to the United States, having completed his interrogation. Pakistan announced in May it had captured Abu Faraj Farj Al Libbi, a Libyan that US counter-terrorism agents say became Al Qaeda's third-most important figure two years ago. Gen Musharraf said he did not know where Al Libbi currently was, in Pakistan, or in US custody. "We have extracted all the information and intelligence from him and I presume that he may have been deported already to the US," President Musharraf said in response to a question at a forum organised by CNN that was televised live.

Dawn, 1 June 2005

**Kargil bus route, peace process discussed: Musharraf-Advani meeting** (Arshad Sharif and Ahmed Hassan)  
ISLAMABAD, May 31: President Pervez Musharraf and Indian opposition leader Lal Krishna Advani on Tuesday discussed the opening of people-to-people links between Pakistan's Northern Areas and Kargil in occupied Kashmir. A statement issued to the media by Indian officials after a press conference by Mr Advani quoted President Musharraf as telling the Bharatiya Janata Party leader that "the people in Northern Areas were demanding the opening of a bus route between Northern Areas and Kargil".

The News, 1 June 2005

**Musharraf seeks timeframe for Kashmir solution**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday emphasised the need for a timeframe on Kashmir as the radicals could take advantage from any further delay in its peaceful solution. Talking to LK Advani, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Leader of the opposition in Indian Lok Sabha who called on him at the camp office, the president said he believed Indo-Pak composite dialogue and mutual exchange of confidence-building measures had restored the confidence in each other's states. He said talks on Kashmir were underway but a timeframe for its sustained solution was required to keep extremist forces from benefiting from situation.

Dawn, 1 June 2005

**Water commission report's draft exchanged: Meeting on Kishanganga today**

NEW DELHI, May 31: India and Pakistan on Tuesday exchanged the draft of annual report of the Indus Water Commission for 2004-05 and decided to hold an exclusive meeting on Kishanganga Storage and Power Project on Wednesday. At the 95th meeting of the commission, both sides held threadbare discussions on the annual report of the commission for the year ending on March 31, which after signing would be submitted to the respective governments. Talking to APP after the meeting, Pakistan's representative on the Commission Syed Jamait Ali Shah said Kishan Ganga Storage Project in held Kashmir on river Neelum was also flagged in the meeting and it was agreed that an exclusive meeting of the commission (96th) on the issue would be held on June 1.

Dawn, 1 June 2005

**Travel papers of APHC leaders cleared**

MUZAFFARABAD, May 31: The AJK authorities on Tuesday received and instantly verified application forms of 11 Kashmiri leaders from across the Line of Control for their high-profile journey to Azad Kashmir and Pakistan by the fifth trans-Kashmir bus on Thursday, officials said. The application forms were handed over by a Srinagar-based regional passport officer to Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Liaqat Hussain at a meeting held on the AJK side of the LoC in Chakothei sector, 61km south of here. The forms were returned after clearance at another meeting held at the same place after two hours.

The News, 1 June 2005

**Six die in Karachi KFC blaze** (A H Khanzada)

KARACHI: Four charred and two frozen bodies of KFC employees were retrieved in the wee hours of Tuesday from the debris of the fast-food outlet burnt by protesters during Monday's rioting. Protesters had set the restaurant on fire after an abortive suicide bombing at the Imambargah Madinatul IIm, near NIPA roundabout, on Monday evening. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO), Karachi, Naeem Yousuf, told The News that fire fighters were rushed to the burning restaurant after relatives of Asif, one of the KFC employees, informed the administration that he (Asif) was missing.

The News, 1 June 2005

**Qazi threatens to quit MMA post over NSC issue**

LAHORE: The MMA Supreme Council on Tuesday postponed its decision regarding attending National Security

Council (NSC) meeting after its chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad threatened to step down in case the meeting decided in favour of attending the meeting. Differences between the two major MMA component parties of the religious parties' alliance – JI and JUI-F – widened further after Qazi Hussain Ahmad wrote a letter to the Supreme Council members saying he would step down as president in case the meeting decided in favour of attending NSC meeting.

The News, 1 June 2005

#### **Bodies of slain men found in N Waziristan**

MIR ALI: The body of the man charged with kidnapping Punjab Sports Minister Sardar Naeemullah Shahani along with that of another tribesman was found in a mountainous area in North Waziristan on Tuesday. Jalat Khan from the Janikhel Wazir sub-tribe of Bakkakhels had been blamed as the principal character in the kidnapping drama of Sardar Shahani on January 10 last year. Tribal sources said his bullet-riddled body was found in the Sheenpond mountain range around 20 kms north of Mir Ali town.

The News, 1 June 2005

#### **Indian media frenzy over man who 'sold war plan' (Rauf Klasra)**

ISLAMABAD: The Indian electronic and print media lifted the exclusive story published in the Monday issue of The News in which former Pakistani foreign minister Gauhar Ayub Khan had disclosed that an Indian brigadier sold the plan of 1965 war to his father President Ayub Khan. In splashing the story of an army officer, who allegedly betrayed his country for a paltry amount to fulfil the whims of his wife, even the coverage of L K Advani's historic visit to Pakistan had to take a back seat.

The Nation, 1 June 2005

#### **No future of govt-PPP talks, says Shujaat**

ISLAMABAD - PML President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain Tuesday said the government-PPP negotiations have reached an inconclusive end and any further contact will bear no significance. He also claimed to sweep in NWFP, the stronghold of MMA, in the coming local bodies elections. Talking to a senior group of journalists here at a local hotel, the PML chief denied the impression of widening differences between the PML leadership and President Musharraf over the issue of enlightened moderation and affirmed that there is complete understanding between them in this regard.

The Nation, 2 June 2005

#### **Pakistan, Turkey mulling joint defence production**

ANKARA (Agencies) - Turkey and Pakistan have agreed to step up efforts to boost trade and cooperation in the defence industry field, the leaders of the two traditionally close countries said here Wednesday after bilateral talks. The two leaders expressed commonality of views on regional and global issues as Turkey called for the resolution of decades-old Kashmir dispute 'as soon as possible'. The two Prime Ministers told reporters after formal talks that they discussed the entire gambit of bilateral relations and regional and international issues including Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iran, Middle East and proposed UN reforms and Cyprus.

Dawn, 2 June 2005

#### **US unaware of Al Libbi's extradition**

WASHINGTON, June 1: The US State Department has said it cannot yet confirm Al Qaeda suspect Abu Faraj Farj Al Libbi has been extradited to the United States. President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday Pakistan had handed over the suspect, who is a Libyan citizen, to the Americans. US counter-terrorism agents have identified Al Libbi as Al Qaeda's third-most important figure. Asked if he could confirm whether the US had heard from Pakistan Al Libbi was going to be deported, extradited or transferred to the US, the spokesman, Richard Boucher, said: "We saw (President Musharraf's) comments but the answer is no." A State Department official, when contacted by Dawn on Wednesday to confirm Al Libbi's extradition, said: "We still do not know."

The Nation, 2 June 2005

#### **Total budget outlay to be over Rs 1.1 trillion (Mehtab Haider)**

ISLAMABAD - The government will announce the national budget with total outlay of over Rs 1.1 trillion and the deficit target will be around 3.3 per cent of the GDP in next fiscal, sources told The Nation Wednesday. The budget makers have also pulled their socks to broaden the tax base by expanding the net on more services, real estate, increase in CVT on shares of stock markets and the next year's tax collection target will be around Rs 680 to Rs 690 billion, the official further said. Government high-ups, the official said, are also considering to slap nominal withholding tax on transaction amounting to more than Rs 10,000 through banks as it is currently in practice in India.

Dawn, 2 June 2005

**Confusion, suspense over Muzaffarabad visit** (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, June 1: As senior Kashmiri resistance leaders prepared on Wednesday to travel to Muzaffarabad amid Indian squeamishness a lot of confusion was seen in their ranks. Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party chief Shabbir Shah virtually ruled himself out from the landmark journey by insisting in Indian travel forms that his nationality was "Kashmiri" and that he was travelling to a place called "Azad Kashmir". It seems miffed Indian officials refused to issue him a passport as also to a handful of his party men. Moreover, an Indian foreign ministry spokesman was evidently surprised to know that the remaining leaders would be making the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad journey not on the prescribed bus but by individual cars.

The Nation, 2 June 2005

**Majlis divided over NSC** (Dilshad Azeem)

ISLAMABAD - JUI-F Amir Maulana Fazlur Rehman Wednesday came hard on Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed over his protest letter, and said, "I absolutely oppose the way Qazi Sahib adopted while refraining to attend the Lahore meeting of Majlis-e-Amal." "I have clear differences with Qazi Sahib over the way he chose," Maulana Fazl said while talking to newsmen here in his Parliament chamber after Indian Opposition Leader, LK Advani, called on him. As MMA's internal differences are aggravating with each passing day over the issue of participation in National Security Council (NSC), he said.

The News, 2 June 2005

**Kashmiris 'misled' Ayub in 1965 war: Gohar** (Rauf Klasra)

ISLAMABAD: A large number of Pakistani commandos out of the 4,000 sent by President Ayub Khan to occupied Kashmir in 1965, were butchered and hundreds arrested by Indian forces in 1965, said former foreign minister Gohar Ayub in an interview to The News. He said Ayub Khan who took the crucial decision of sending commandos was, in fact, misled by the 'doctored' reports of Kashmiri leaders from across the border that painted a rosy picture that the entire population of valley was ready to fight Indian forces and they would help the commandos occupy the target territory in the valley with armed struggle of local masses. He said these secretly conveyed 'doctored reports' from the then top leadership of Jammu & Kashmir about the potential of uprising against Indian rule led to a big disaster and resulted in killings and capturing of Pakistani commandoes after Indians closed their entry and exit points at Kargil and others areas.

The News, 2 June 2005

**Wapda men to face corruption charges** (Ali Raza)

LAHORE: The Sindh government is going to launch a detailed probe into alleged corruption of some senior Wapda officials for making huge money in Chotiari Reservoir Project recently renamed as Makhi Reservoir. The Sindh government had already taken up the issue with the authority as well as with the Ministry of Water and Power, sources said, adding the Sindh chief minister, in the recent past, alleged that a Wapda project director and other officials posted at the Chotiari Reservoir were involved in corruption. Sources in Wapda said the government wanted to investigate bungling of huge money in re-settlement of the local land owners, for which a special team of army had already been formed to look into the issue.

The News, 2 June 2005

**Strike in Karachi on MMA's call**

KARACHI: On the call of the the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, a complete and peaceful strike was observed in the metropolis on Wednesday against the killing of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Aslam Mujahid and Tahir Jamal and attack on Madinat-ul-Ilm, Karachi, and the shrine of Bari Imam (RA) in Islamabad. Almost all the major political parties endorsed the strike call and demanded of the government to immediately wind up its business for failure in controlling the law and order situation. The PPP, the PML-N, the Tehreek-e-Insaaf and other parties have strongly condemned the incidents of killings and arson, which claimed several lives in the city.

The News, 2 June 2005

**Senate demands international probe into desecration** (Asim Yasin)

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution condemning desecration of the Holy Qur'aan by the US army personnel at the Guantanamo Bay and demanded that an independent body, comprising persons of unimpeachable integrity, should conduct the inquiry to bring the perpetrators of this shameful act to book. The resolution, moved by leader of the House, Wasim Sajjad, was backed by all the members of the Upper House of parliament. The resolution stated the Senate of Pakistan is deeply shocked at the reported desecration of the Holy Qur'aan at the Guantanamo Bay, as this act of sacrilege has hurt the sentiments of the Muslims the world over.

The Nation, 3 June 2005

**China backs Pak proposal for UNSC expansion** (Iftikhar Ali)

UNITED NATIONS: -- China threw its full weight behind a proposal circulated by the Italy/Pakistan-led "Uniting for Consensus" (UFC) group that calls for expansion of the Security Council from 15 to 25 seats, including 10 additional members in the non-permanent slot. "It (the proposal) has many good points," Chinese ambassador Wang Guangya told reporters in New York after attending a meeting of UFC group at the Italian Mission to the UN on Wednesday evening. Ambassador Wang Guangya reaffirmed that China would "veto" a draft resolution submitted by the Group of Four -- India, Brazil, Germany and Japan -- that envisages the enlargement of the Council also to 25, but with six new permanent members.

Dawn, 3 June 2005

**Trilateral cooperation for regional security**

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia), June 2: China, India and Russia will join forces to regional stability and energy supplies, foreign ministers of the three countries declared on Thursday at the outset of a summit here. "We look forward to having a fruitful discussion of trilateral cooperation of our countries especially as it relates to promoting regional and international stability," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. The three countries have long held talks but the Vladivostok summit is the first to be held outside an international forum. On Wednesday, Lavrov held one-to-one talks with his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing to discuss ways to avoid "destabilisation" of Central Asia where Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have experienced considerable unrest in recent months.

Daily Times, 3 June 2005

**Two local Qaeda suspects arrested in North Waziristan** (Iqbal Khattak)

PESHAWAR: A joint search operation by the Army, paramilitary forces and the political administration in North Waziristan led to the arrest of two local Al Qaeda suspects on Thursday, said a senior government official. North Waziristan Chief Administrator Capt (r) Muhammad Tariq Hayat told Daily Times by phone from Miranshah that no foreign suspects were found during the search operation conducted with tribal elders' cooperation. Capt Hayat said two local suspects were detained after security agencies reported the presence of "suspected people" in the Hasukhel area near Mir Ali town. The lady police were also used during the operation.

Dawn, 3 June 2005

**Tribal elder shot dead in Waziristan** (Pazir Gul)

MIRAMSHAH (North Waziristan), June 2: A tribal elder was shot dead in the Lawara Mandi area of North Waziristan Agency on Thursday, sources said. They said that Sakhi Marjan was sitting at a shop in Datakhel near the Afghan border when some people in a car opened fire on him and fled. Area people said that a few days back the deceased had received anonymous letters, asking him to stop spying for the US or face consequences. Meanwhile, security forces and tribal elders carried out a joint search operation in the Toorikhel area of Mirali tehsil on Wednesday night, officials said.

Dawn, 3 June 2005

**Kashmiris want to be part of talks: Leaders arrive in AJK to warm welcome** (Raja Asghar)

MUZAFFARABAD, June 2: Moderate leaders from occupied Kashmir said on Thursday that they must be part of the Pakistan-India dialogue as they began a landmark visit to Azad Kashmir by a peace bus that their radical colleagues preferred to miss. Nine leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and some other groups crossed into Azad Kashmir from the Chakothi checkpoint on the Line of Control to receive an official reception and a popular welcome on a 58km route to the state capital Muzaffarabad. Chairman of the APHC's moderate faction Mirwaiz Omar Farooq and two other visiting leaders told a news conference later at night in Muzaffarabad that they had come to consult the Kashmiri leadership in Azad Kashmir and the Pakistan government about participation in the dialogue between Islamabad and New Delhi to settle the 57-year-old Kashmir dispute.

Dawn, 3 June 2005

**Kishanganga dam: no headway in talks**

NEW DELHI, June 2: Talks between India and Pakistan to resolve differences over a dam New Delhi is building in disputed Kashmir ended inconclusively on Thursday with Islamabad saying its concerns were not addressed. The talks ended a day before schedule, on the same day separatist politicians from held Kashmir began a historic trip to the Pakistani side in another sign that delicate ties between the nuclear-armed rivals were looking up. Talks over the dam between the two sides held last month in Pakistan had also ended inconclusively but they had agreed then to try and find a solution before July 15. There was no immediate word about another meeting between the two sides.

Dawn, 3 June 2005

**MMA will survive NSC row: Fazl**

ISLAMABAD June 2: Leader of opposition in the National Assembly Maulana Fazlur Rahman has said that differences among the MMA leadership over participation in meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) will be resolved and rejected rumours about a break-up of the religious alliance on the issue. Talking to journalists at his parliament house chamber on Thursday, Maulana Fazl claimed that all the component parties of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, except the Jamaat-i-Islami, were in favour of NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani's attending the NSC meeting. He expressed the hope that the matter would be amicably resolved before the NSC meeting of June 8 and said that they were looking to MMA President Qazi Hussain Ahmed to convene the supreme council of the alliance.

Dawn, 3 June 2005

**Musharraf seeks greater access to US market**

ISLAMABAD, June 2: President Pervez Musharraf has sought greater access for Pakistani products to US markets so that trade and economic relations between the two countries could be improved. Talking to a three-member US Congressional delegation on Thursday, the president also sought increased US investment in Pakistan and said political, economic and defence cooperation between the two sides had deepened and expanded during the last several years. The US delegation, led by representative Michel Sodrel and comprised representatives Jim Costa and Lincoln Davis, agreed that the creation of economic opportunities would be vital to addressing the threat of extremism. The team was accompanied by US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker.

Daily Times, 3 June 2005

**President likely to finalise NFC formula today (Khalid Mustafa)**

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf's team of experts is likely to come up with a new National Finance Commission (NFC) formula for distribution of resources from net proceeds of the federal divisible pool (FDL) among the four federating units today (Friday). The president is likely to take the four chief ministers into confidence tomorrow (Saturday) on the formula before its formal announcement. One of the experts working on the new formula told Daily Times that they had been asked to frame a formula, acceptable to all the provinces, before an official visit by General Pervez Musharraf to Middle East countries from June 4.

The Nation, 3 June 2005

**Amends to LG Ord on cards (Raja Riaz)**

LAHORE - The federal government has decided to alter the Local Government Ordinance 2001 (LGO 2001) by presidential ordinance instead of letting the provinces to amend the law suiting to their needs as planned before. This change of mind is a sequel to apprehension that the MMA may frustrate the federation's plan by effecting specific changes in the said ordinance in two provinces-NWFP and Balochistan-by either rejecting the proposed amendments totally or making the changes of their own choice. In that eventuality, the federal government and General Pervez Musharraf would lose credibility on legal, moral and political grounds.

The Nation, 4 June 2005

**Musharraf to contest in 2007 as civilian**

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri Friday said it was his personal opinion that President General Pervez Musharraf would shed his uniform if he decided to contest the next presidential elections. Commenting on the President's military uniform, the foreign minister said he had no idea about any decision taken by the President Musharraf on contesting the next polls. However, he added that he personally felt if the President were to contest the next polls he would do so as a civilian. An Indian TV channel, NDTV, in an interview, also quoted the foreign minister as saying that in case President General Pervez Musharraf decided to contest the 2007 presidential polls, he would do so as a civilian.

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**MQM plotting to kill me: Qazi (Mohammad Imran)**

ISLAMABAD: MMA President Qazi Hussain Ahmed on Friday accused the government of conspiring to kill him. "The Muttahida Qaumi Movement's government in Sindh with the support of President General Pervez Musharraf has decided to eliminate those who support jihad," Qazi told reporters. He said that President Musharraf had several times said that the only threat faced by the country was from extremists and he would get him eliminated describing him an extremist. He said the car he used during his visits to Karachi was set on fire when the Sindh ameer and Karachi ameer of Jamaat Islami (JI) came at the Karachi Airport to bid him farewell.

The Dawn, 4 June 2005

**APHC leaders urged to visit Northern Areas**

GILGIT, June 3: The Gilgit-Baltistan National Alliance (GBNA), an umbrella grouping of 13 political and religious parties, has invited the visiting leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference to Gilgit-Baltistan (Northern Areas) to exchange views about the ongoing peace process and the Kashmir issue. GBNA leaders Maj (retired) Hussain Shah and Mushtaque Ahmed Advocate said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan were the fourth party in the Kashmir issue and as such they should be allowed to hold a dialogue with APHC leaders. They said they would resist any move or decision about the fate of their region in case a solution was imposed on them and they were not taken into confidence. They expressed regret at the government decision not to invite them for an exchange of views with the APHC leaders in Muzaffarabad.

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**Pakistan, Turkey, working on tariff arrangements: PM**

ISTANBUL: Pakistan and Turkey are working on preferential tariff arrangements, which will give more incentives to investors and boost bilateral trade, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Friday. "You cannot survive with a wall of high tariff barriers around you, this is a thinking of yesterday," Aziz said, at a breakfast meeting with the Turkish Foreign Relations Economic Board. He said this was the age of increasing productivity, competitiveness and low cost production. The prime minister talked about relations between Pakistan and Turkey, economic and structural reforms in Pakistan, and ways to increase bilateral trade and investment.

The Nation, 4 June 2005

**APHC under pressure to accept autonomy!**

Rumours are rife that President Musharraf has suggested the APHC leadership to accept wholeheartedly the autonomy, which India had announced for them, despite their apprehensions so that the peace process should continue. According to BBC, media has not given such a wide coverage to the visiting Kashmiri leaders, which was given to the inauguration of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service. However, the link with Kashmiri leaders is on initial stage, which would further strengthen the peace process, it added.

Earlier, Mirwaiz Omer Farooq has warned that the current peace process between Pakistan and India could easily break down.

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**Aiyar arriving today to discuss Iran pipeline**

ISLAMABAD: An eight-member Indian delegation headed by Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar will arrive in Lahore today. Mr Aiyar is visiting Pakistan on the special invitation of the government to discuss the proposed \$4 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. India and Pakistan will formally begin talks tomorrow (Saturday) in Islamabad. The Indian minister will leave Pakistan for India on June 8. Both countries will develop a strategy to negotiate the gas price with Iran and discuss commercial, legal and security aspects of the pipeline, an Oil Ministry official told Daily Times on Friday.

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**1965 plan-seller a DGMO, says Gohar Ayub**

NEW DELHI: Former foreign minister Gohar Ayub Khan, who made the sensational allegation that an India Brigadier had sold India's 1965 war plan to his country for Rs 20,000, has claimed that the official was then a director of military operations, PTI reported. Khan, son of former commander-in-chief and president Ayub Khan, said the plan which was "sold" between 1951 and 1958 formed the basis of the military campaign in the 1965 war. Khan in an interview on CNBC made it clear that he had been told about the plan by his father and the man who allegedly sold it was director of India's military operations between 1951 and 1958.

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**PPPP and MMA join ranks in NA against MQM**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) joined forces against the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in the National Assembly and stopped its members from speaking by pointing to the quorum issue which embarrassed the government for the second consecutive day on Friday. On the second day of the budget session, the government failed to show its required strength of 86 members out of 192 to continue with the proceedings. The government suffered defeat in passing a bill on the opening day of the session on Thursday. Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain asked MQM parliamentary leader Dr Farooq Sattar to resume debate on the adjournment motions on the Bari Imam and Karachi incidents, but the Opposition blocked the move by pointing out the quorum that barred the MQM members from responding the MMA's charges that their party was promoting "terrorism" in Karachi.

The Daily Times, 4 June 2005

**8 suspects in Bari Imam blast arrested** (Shahnawaz Khan)

LAHORE: The Anti Terrorist Force (ATF) in conjunction with Islamabad police has arrested eight people from various places of the provincial metropolis during a special operation that started on Thursday night following the investigation of the Bari Imam blast, sources told Daily Times. Sources said that an Islamabad police team arrived in the city Monday night, and raided the Mozang area early Tuesday, but did not find anything. Later, the team joined the ATF and raided other areas of the city. Sources said that investigators were searching for a person identified as Muhammad Zaheer, resident of Sutar Mandi inside Lohari Gate, who disappeared from the Bari Imam shrine after the blast.

The Nation, 5 June 2005

**SCO welcomes Pak as Observer**

BEIJING (APP) Foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) have welcomed Pakistan to participate in SCO's future activities as Observer. Foreign Ministers from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan at their meeting held at ASTANA, Kazakhstan on Saturday agreed to admit Pakistan as Observer, diplomatic sources told APP here. They hoped Pakistan's participation will further strengthen the regional organisation. During the meeting, they reiterated the openness of the six-member SCO. Meanwhile, they reaffirmed their readiness to further cooperate on combating "three evil forces", namely, terrorism, extremism and separatism.

The Nation, 5 June 2005

**Pak, UAE pledge to take ties to a new high**

ABU DHABI (APP) President General Pervez Musharraf and his UAE counterpart Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan Saturday agreed to take their deep-rooted relationship to a new level through enhanced economic ties, with the Pakistani leader expressing the hope that the oil-rich Gulf country's business community would avail tremendous investment opportunities existing in Pakistan. The two leaders also had wide-ranging discussions on a host of regional and international issues of common concern during an exclusive meeting at the UAE Presidential Palace. They also exchanged views on the proposed OIC reforms aimed at making the 57-member body an effective voice of the Muslim world and a vibrant organization capable of steering the Muslim world to fast-paced socio-economic development.

Dawn, 5 June 2005

**Islamabad asks Delhi to allow site inspection: Kishanganga hydro-power project**

ISLAMABAD, June 4: Pakistan has asked India to allow immediate site-inspection of Kishanganga hydro-power and storage project allegedly being built on Neelum river in the held Kashmir in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960. "We have asked India to allow site inspection (of Kishanganga project) and hopefully it will do so, "Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, here on Saturday, said, adding that a team of experts would be visiting India shortly. He was talking to reporters at the Prime Minister's House after presiding over a meeting on Kishanganga and Baglihar projects.

Dawn, 5 June 2005

**Experts to leave for Paris talks next week** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, June 4: Attorney General of Pakistan Makhdoom Ali Khan will lead a four-member delegation to Paris next week for talks on controversial Baglihar hydropower project with the World Bank appointed neutral expert, sources told Dawn on Saturday. The Bank appointed a Swiss national, Raymond Lafitte, a civil engineer and professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, as the neutral expert last month at Pakistan's request. Pakistan maintains that the design of the 450 MW Baglihar dam, being constructed by India on river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir violates the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. India insists it does not. At the two-day talks slated for June 9-10 procedure for the Baglihar case and a work schedule will be chalked out, it is learnt.

The Nation, 5 June 2005

**Non-violent protest if Kashmiris left out** (SHAIQ HUSSAIN)

ISLAMABAD - The visiting APHC delegation led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has warned that Kashmiris would start 'non-violent agitation' on both sides of the Line of Control, if they were not included in the ongoing Indo-Pak peace process. The Kashmiri leaders from Held Kashmir were talking to the newsmen here Saturday after a meeting with Kashmir Affairs Minister, Faisal Saleh Hayat, during which he briefed them on various aspects of the ongoing Indo-Pak peace process. Mirwaiz said that main purpose of their visit to Pakistan was to discuss Kashmir with President Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders.

The Nation, 5 June 2005

**Pak, India energy trade has potential** (FARRUKH KHAN PITAFI)

LAHORE-India and Pakistan have joint interest in the procurement of energy and the economics of its transmission has really great potential in the region. This was said by the Indian Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar while addressing a reception function organised by the South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) at a local hotel here on Saturday. Mani Shankar further said that his visit to Pakistan was aimed at a host of issues of which the trans-Pakistan pipeline to India was only one. Detailing out the statistics of hydro-carbon consumption he said that India had a great energy consumption rate and half of its needs went unmet. In such a situation the transportation of gas through Pakistan could prove to be an additional source of energy. He emphasised on the word 'additional' because India is not only producing energy domestically but in his view the entire Indian energy need could hardly be met from one source.

Dawn, 5 June 2005

**Hurriyat leaders call for tripartite talks** (Ahmed Hassan)

ISLAMABAD, June 4: Leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Saturday stressed for a triangular dialogue between Pakistan, India and Kashmiri leadership while seeking to resolve the valley dispute. The nine-member delegation of a moderate faction of the APHC said the purpose of their visit was to discuss with Pakistani leaders a set of proposals that could lead to an honourable solution of the dispute. They arrived here by helicopter from Muzaffarabad to a warm welcome. Talking to newsmen at the helipad and later at a news conference, APHC chief Mirwaiz Umar Farooq emphasised that Pakistan and India should include the Kashmiri leadership in the dialogue process, otherwise there might be an agitation at the both sides of Kashmir.

The Nation, 5 June 2005

**GDP growth 8.4 pc, inflation 9.3 pc** (MEHTAB HAIDER)

ISLAMABAD Pakistan's economy is facing challenges in shape of high inflation, widening trade deficit, and growth on sustained basis even as the country achieves 8.4 per cent GDP growth, per capita income ups to \$736, and public debt to GDP ratio declines to 59.4 per cent during the outgoing fiscal, says Economic Survey 2004-05. National savings registered a significant decline, as current account deficit stands at 1.2 per cent of GDP. Domestic savings also fell to 13.7 per cent of GDP (2004-05) as against 17.6 per cent last year. Inflation touched an eight-year peak at 9.3 per cent, while the trade deficit mounted to a hefty \$4.2 billion in July-March this fiscal against \$1.6 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal.

The Nation, 5 June 2005

**ARD decides to field consensus candidates**

LAHORE - The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) would field consensus candidates at the district level in the forthcoming local polls, while at the UC-level, every component party of the alliance would bring its own candidates. This was told by Punjab Secretary Information, Naveed Ch while briefing newsmen about the decisions taken by party's Punjab executive committee that met here Saturday with Qasim Zia in the chair. District President DG Khan, Khawaja Mudassar and PPP-P's Media Coordinator Iqbal Sialvi were also present on the occasion. Naveed Ch said a greater collaboration may take place among component parties of the ARD after the UC-level local polls when elections to the seats of district and tehsil nazims would be held.

The Statesman, 6 June 2005

**Pakistan, India agree to start gasline project**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have expressed their willingness to start the work on proposed \$4 billion pipeline project from Iran to India via Pakistan to meet the rising demand of natural gas of both the countries. After having one-on-one meeting the Petroleum ministers of Pakistan and India, talking to newsmen here on Sunday, said that the two sides had agreed to start gas pipeline project to cater the rising demand of gas in both the countries. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Amanullah Khan Jadoon and Indian Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar held a one-on-one meeting here on Sunday before the first ministerial level talks between the two countries on the proposed pipeline project.

Dawn, 6 June 2005

**Islamabad asks Delhi to allow site inspection: Kishanganga hydro-power project**

ISLAMABAD, June 4: Pakistan has asked India to allow immediate site-inspection of Kishanganga hydro-power and storage project allegedly being built on Neelum river in the held Kashmir in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960. "We have asked India to allow site inspection (of Kishanganga project) and hopefully it will do so," Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, here on Saturday, said, adding that a team of experts would be visiting India shortly. He was talking to reporters at the Prime Minister's House after presiding over a meeting on Kishanganga and

Baglihar projects. The meeting was attended by top officials of foreign office, law and water and power ministries and Pakistan Indus Commissioner and others.

Dawn, 6 June 2005

**Pakistan, UAE to enhance trade ties**

ABU DHABI, June 4: President Gen Pervez Musharraf and his UAE counterpart Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Saturday agreed to take their relationship to a new level through enhanced economic ties. President Musharraf expressed the hope that the oil-rich Gulf country's business community would avail tremendous investment opportunities in Pakistan. The two leaders discussed many regional and international issues of common concern during an exclusive meeting at the UAE Presidential Palace. They also exchanged views on the proposed OIC reforms aimed at making the 57-member body an effective voice of the Muslim world.

The Nation, 6 June 2005

**Pak, Qatar to expedite work on gasline**

DOHA (APP) - President General Pervez Musharraf and Emir of Qatar Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and regional issues on Sunday as they agreed to expedite initial work on a pipeline project for export of gas from the energy-rich Gulf country to Pakistan. The two leaders met here at Diwan-e-Emiri soon after President Musharraf's arrival for a two-day state visit. A delegation of Qatari experts will visit Islamabad shortly to hold talks with their Pakistani counterparts for looking into various aspects of the gas pipeline project, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri later told APP. Musharraf informed the host leader about Pakistan's recent economic strides, saying the country needs to import gas for meeting its growing energy requirements in both agrarian and industrial sectors. "Pakistan needs more gas to further fuel and sustain higher economic growth in the years ahead," he said, adding that the 8.3 percent growth rate achieved by Pakistan this year ranks second only to China.

The Nation, 6 June 2005

**Pakistan reiterates support to Kashmiris (SHAIQ HUSSAIN)**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Sunday while reiterating its commitment to the cause of Kashmiri people striving for their right to self-determination said the UN resolutions on Kashmir must be fully respected. Addressing a news conference here after a two-hour-long meeting with the visiting APHC delegation, led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said he had assured the APHC leaders that Pakistan would make all possible efforts to ensure the inclusion of Kashmiris in the ongoing peace talks between Islamabad and New Delhi. In reply to a question on UN resolutions, the prime minister said Pakistan abided by them and it wanted the solution to Kashmir problem in the accordance with these instruments of United Nations. However, he said all the three stakeholders ' Pakistan, India and Kashmiris ' could reach a mutually acceptable solution to the core issue that reflected the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

Dawn, 7 June 2005

**Strategy for Baglihar meeting finalized (Qudssia Akhlaque)**

ISLAMABAD, June 6: Pakistan on Monday finalized strategy to present its case on the Baglihar dam dispute with India before the World Bank appointed neutral expert later this week in Paris. The strategy was finalized at a meeting convened here on Monday afternoon by Attorney General of Pakistan Makhdoom Ali Khan who will be leading the Pakistan side at the two-day Paris moot. Indus Water Commissioner Syed Jamaat Ali Shah, Water and Power Secretary Ashfaq Mehmood and Director-General for South Asia at the foreign ministry Jalil Abbas Jilani, who are included in the Pakistani delegation, also attended the meeting. The four-member Pakistani team is scheduled to leave for Paris on Tuesday for the meeting that will begin on Thursday.

Dawn, 7 June 2005

**'Work on Chashma N-power plant to begin by year-end'**

BEIJING, June 6: China on Monday announced that work on construction of 300 megawatt Chashma Nuclear Power Plant — Phase 2 will start by the end of this year, or early next year. Announcing the proposed plan at a news conference held here at the Foreign Ministry, Kang Rixin, General Manager of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), said the two countries have been successfully carrying out their cooperation in the power generating sector. Pakistan is the only country in the world, with whom China was cooperating for power generation through the use of nuclear technology. He categorically stated that this cooperation is purely for peaceful purpose that aimed at taking part in Pakistan's economic development.

Dawn, 7 June 2005

**LoC not acceptable as permanent border: APHC leaders get warm welcome in Lahore (Ashraf Mumtaz)**

LAHORE, June 6: APHC leaders, during their brief visit to the city on Monday, said they would never accept the Line of Control as permanent border and that they wanted representation in talks between Pakistan and India to find a solution to the 57-year dispute. Governor Khalid Maqbool and Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi said at separate meetings with them that the Pakistan government would not support any solution which was not acceptable to the Kashmiri people, who had rendered sacrifices over the past 15 years to get their right to self-determination.

The News, 7 June 2005

**Defence spending up by 3.3pc** (Shakil Shaikh)

ISLAMABAD: The defence sector has been allocated an outlay of Rs 223.501 billion for fiscal year 2005-06, a 3.3 per cent increase on the current year's revised figure. The figure compared with a revised budget of Rs 216.26 billion for the year ending June 30. "People of Pakistan are always ready to sacrifice their lives and resources for the defence of geographical and ideological frontiers of this sacred homeland," said State Minister for Finance Omer Ayub Khan in his annual budget speech in the National Assembly on Monday. He said keeping in view the national needs of defence, necessary allocation for the defence has been made, despite which the defence expenditures will remain at 3.1 per cent of GDP.

The Nation, 7 June 2005

**MMA establishes contact with ARD** (Raja Riaz)

LAHORE - The MMA has once again established contact with the ARD in order to reach an understanding aimed at giving tough time to the treasury in the legislatures in budget session. The two opposition alliances' leaders in the national and provincial assemblies will meet in a day or two in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore to evolve joint strategy for the sessions of national and housing assemblies. The MMA leadership is very annoyed with the ruling King's party. It has alleged that the MQM is responsible for killing of its leaders in Karachi. 'The MQM enjoys full support of the presidency, and the Governor's House in Karachi is directly controlling the activities of the ethnic party, which are aimed at eliminating its political rivals in the province' the MMA leaders said.

The Nation, 7 June 2005

**Gulf visit to cement ties: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD (APP) – President General Pervez Musharraf Monday described his three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar as extremely successful, saying it would further consolidate trade and economic ties with the two rich Gulf countries. "My discussions with the leadership of both the countries were wholesome, we reached far-reaching agreements, which will underpin our excellent relations with fruitful interaction in the economic, trade and investment areas," he told newsmen upon return from the visit. He said the investors in both countries showed keen interest in joint ventures, investment and trade in Pakistan.

The Statesman, 7 June 2005

**Libbi extradited to US, says Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has handed over alleged top Al Qaeda operative Abu Faraj Al Libbi to Washington after he gave information on terror cells in other countries, officials and security sources said on Monday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Jilil Abbas Jilani confirmed a reported statement by President General Pervez Musharraf in a United Arab Emirates newspaper on Monday that the terror network's alleged number three had been deported. "The president made a statement to this effect. The president's statement was self-explanatory," Jilani told a weekly news conference in Islamabad. He gave no further details.

The Statesman, 7 June 2005

**Qaeda videos show fierce Waziristan fighting** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: A major US television network has obtained videos not seen so far, showing fierce fighting between Pakistani troops and Al Qaeda forces in South Waziristan last year. According to ABC, the videos made by Al Qaeda for propaganda purposes showcase the intensely violent fighting and unique difficulties that surround the hunt for Osama Bin Laden in the remote tribal areas of northwest Pakistan. "It is a view from Al Qaeda's side of the battle. The videotapes were said to be made last year, when the Pakistani army undertook a major offensive into South Waziristan ... where the fiercely independent Waziri tribe resides and where Bin Laden is believed to be in hiding," said the network.

The Statesman, 7 June 2005

**India rejected proposal to include Hurriyat in talks: Kasuri**

DUBAI: India has turned down Pakistan's suggestion to include the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in the ongoing dialogue between the two countries on resolving the Kashmir issue, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said in an interview with Gulf News. "Pakistan asked India to include the separatist APHC in the peace process. But India was hesitant, and turned it down", the minister said. "President Musharraf suggested that Kashmiris sit

at the peace table, as they make up the third party," Kasuri said, adding that the suggestion was made when Musharraf met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi in April.

Dawn, 8 June 2005

### **Pakistan asked to defend Iran's right to N-energy**

ISLAMABAD, June 7: Three former foreign ministers have urged the governments of Pakistan and Iran to reconsider their recent policies of estrangement in view of common interests of both the countries. "It was unfortunate that despite factors which dictate close friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, the past 10 or 12 years have witnessed estrangement between them", they said in a press release issued by the Islamabad Council of World Affairs (ICWA) here on Tuesday. With former foreign minister Agha Shahi its President, the ICWA has members, including secretary-general of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, Senator Mushahid Hussain, former foreign secretary Tanvir Ahmed Khan, former foreign minister Abdul Sattar, and former interior minister Roedad Khan.

Dawn, 8 June 2005

### **Mosque blast: two suspects arrested** (Arman Sabir)

KARACHI, June 7: Police on Tuesday announced the arrest of two suspected militants of a banned organization, claiming they were involved in the suicide bomb attack on a city mosque on May 30. The police also claimed having recovered five kilograms of explosive material, four dynamite sticks, a grenade and two TT pistols from the suspects' possession. DSP Fayyaz of the CID said: "We achieved a major breakthrough in (inquiry into) the suicide attack on the Madinatul Ilm mosque. We raided a place near Kamran Chowrangi in Gulistan-i-Jauhar and picked up two militants of the banned Lashkar-i-Jhangvi group."

Dawn, 8 June 2005

### **Poor bidding threatens Neelum project**

ISLAMABAD, June 7: A poor response from bidders has put in jeopardy the \$1.6 billion Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHPP) in Azad Kashmir. A senior government official when contacted said the president and the prime minister would be taken into confidence over the latest situation and their guidance would be sought on whether to re-bid the project or adopt some other strategy. The project is of strategic and national importance because it could protect Pakistan's priority rights over the Neelum waters and provide cheap hydel electricity to the system. In view of the poor bidding results and doubts about its future, the federal government has also withdrawn an allocation of Rs5.5 billion to the project under the public sector development programme (PSDP 2005-06) within a few days of its approval by the annual plan coordination committee (APCC) on May 17.

Dawn, 8 June 2005

### **External debt down by \$1bn: adviser**

ISLAMABAD, June 7: The government has reduced import duties 1,800 items and suggested additional taxation measures in the new budget aimed at collecting over Rs10 billion net revenue. Fiscal deficit for the next year has been projected at Rs285 billion which is 3.8 per cent of GDP. The house rent in the salaries of government employees has been increased by 134 per cent and medical and conveyance allowances have been doubled. Thus, salaries of all government employees, including civil and defence, have gone up by 23 per cent to 29.4 per cent. It has been decided to provide wheat flour to people through utility stores at lower than market rates (Rs12 per kg) in order to reduce inflation to 7-8 per cent next year and subsequently to 5 per cent in 2006-07.

Dawn, 8 June 2005

### **Specific proposals on Kashmir discussed: Leaders from Valley meet Musharraf** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, June 7: President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday had a marathon session with the Hurriyat and leading Kashmiri leaders from occupied Kashmir that ended late on Tuesday night on an upbeat note. There are strong indications that the president may meet the Kashmiri leaders again in the next few days for further discussions on certain proposals aimed at finding a solution to the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, it is learnt. "The meeting went very well and we are extremely satisfied," Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the APHC Chairman who is leading the nine-member Kashmiri delegation, told this correspondent after the meeting.

The News, 8 June 2005

### **Gas pipeline in interest of all partners: president**

RAWALPINDI: President General Pervez Musharraf Tuesday said the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline is an important project and its implementation was in the interest of all the three countries. Talking to Indian Minister for Petroleum Mani Shankar Aiyar, the president said that with growing economies, the energy needs of South Asian countries would rise. 'The sooner the arrangements are made, the better,' Musharraf said. Referring to bilateral

Pakistan-India relations, he expressed his satisfaction at the progress on Confidence Building Measures. The president, however, emphasised that the CBMs should move in tandem with resolution of problems between India and Pakistan, including the core issue of Kashmir.

The News, 8 June 2005

**PPPP demands debate on defence budget**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) on Tuesday demanded a debate on the defence budget in parliament. "We demand of the government to open the defence budget to debate by people's representatives," said PPPP deputy parliamentary leader in the National Assembly Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Syed Naveed Qamar, Senator Dr Akbar Khwaja and Nazir Dhoki while addressing a joint press conference here. They termed the budget a jugglery of words, presented to protect the interests of the rich by making them richer and failing to provide any relief to inflation-stricken poor people of the country, that form 90 per cent of the total population.

The Nation, 8 June 2005

**An 'on and off' dialogue with PPP (Nadeem Haider Butt)**

LAHORE?The abrupt abandoning in mid-May of an extensive exercise started in March by some sensitive government agencies was the first evidence of a breakdown in the Government-PPP dialogue, but the dialogue still continues. The exercise was to ascertain the electoral strength of each party and their probable candidates keeping in view the possibility of snap election by the end of this year. It was abruptly abandoned on instructions from the relevant quarters. The exercise was mainly aimed at finding out the names of those winning candidates of various parties who could be manipulated in favour of the establishment in any eventuality, and like the old Zia Himayat Tehreek, to form a more effective pro-establishment pressure group consisting of prominent retired civil-military bureaucrats, notable social workers and mainstream party dissidents.

Daily Times, 8 June 2005

**Musharraf wants a step ahead to resolve Kashmir (Mohammad Imran)**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday said that all stakeholders in the Kashmir dispute must move forward in order to find a solution according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The president hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). Sources said that the president assured the APHC leaders that Pakistan would continue consulting the "true representatives of Kashmiri people" on the dialogue process. Sources said that President Musharraf held a one-on-one meeting with Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Yasin Malik after the dinner that continued late into the night. Yasin refused to divulge details of the meeting, saying he would do so on his arrival in Srinagar.

Dawn, 8 June 2005

**MMA stand on NSC meeting unchanged (Ahmed Hassan)**

ISLAMABAD, June 7: The Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) leadership on Tuesday unanimously confirmed its decision of continuing its boycott of the National Security Council (NSC), thereby averting what was termed a potential threat to the existence of the alliance. The NSC is scheduled to meet on Wednesday with President Pervez Musharraf in the chair. The heads of parties in the MMA, who met with Qazi Hussain Ahmed in the chair, had one-point agenda ? whether NWFP Chief Minister Akram Durrani and Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Maulana Fazlur Rahman, who is also the secretary general of the alliance, should attend the NSC meeting.

Dawn, 9 June 2005

**Four Pakistanis held in US for running Al Qaeda cell (Abdus Sattar Ghazali)**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 8: The FBI has arrested two Pakistani Americans and two Pakistani nationals in the city of Lodi, about 80 miles south of here, for allegedly operating an Al Qaeda cell in the city. The two briefly appeared on Tuesday before US Magistrate Peter A. Nowinski in Sacramento. Both are being held in the Sacramento County Jail pending further court proceedings. One of the men arrested, 22-year-old Hamid Hayat, is accused in an FBI criminal complaint of training in an Al Qaeda camp in Pakistan to learn "how to kill Americans" and then lying to FBI agents about it. His father, 47-year-old Umer Hayat, is charged in the complaint with lying about his son's involvement and his own financing of the Al Qaeda camp.

Dawn, 9 June 2005

**Five-year plan for 7m jobs: NSC reviews steps to check prices**

ISLAMABAD, June 8: The National Security Council was informed on Wednesday that the Medium-Term Development Framework (MTDF) 2005-10 would be implemented in next five years with an objective of

generating seven million jobs for reducing unemployment from the present 7.5 per cent to 4 per cent and poverty by 30 per cent. The meeting, held with President Gen Pervez Musharraf in the chair, reviewed measures for stabilization of the prices of items of common use, according to an official press release. The president emphasized the need for a strict check on prices of essential commodities and for ensuring their availability to common citizens at affordable rates.

Daily Times, 9 June 2005

**No Kashmir division on religious grounds** (Shahzad Raza and Mohammad Imran)

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has agreed not to demand Kashmir's division on religious grounds. "We want Kashmir to be divided on geographical grounds. We don't want Kashmir to lose its identity and integration. We don't want to further separate Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims," APHC Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq told Daily Times on Wednesday. The APHC did not want a resolution that would separate Kashmir's regions, he said. APHC leaders had expressed their trust in President Pervez Musharraf's approach towards Kashmir, but had demanded more time to think over his proposal of demilitarising Kashmir after dividing it into seven separate regions, he added.

The Nation, 9 June 2005

**CMS asked to monitor prices** (DILSHAD AZEEM)

ISLAMABAD - President General Pervez Musharraf taking serious notice of the MMA members' absence from the NSC session Wednesday asked the government to provide maximum job opportunities and control price-hike through prompt economic and administrative measures. Chairing the NSC meeting, the President directed the government to check strictly the prices of essential commodities and ensure their availability to the common man at affordable rates. Regretting Opposition Leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman and NWFP Chief Minister Akram Durrani's non-participation in the meeting, the President said "The NSC is a constitutional body that was constituted under an Act of Parliament and provides an opportunity to all the participants to express their point of view and benefit from the discussions."

The Nation, 9 June 2005

**Mirwaiz for new Kashmir options** (SHAIQ HUSSAIN)

ISLAMABAD - Day after a meeting with President General Pervez Musharraf, the visiting APHC delegation Wednesday said the United Nations has failed to implement its resolutions on Kashmir and now it is time to explore new options for the settlement of core issue. Addressing a news conference here, APHC leader Mir Waiz Umar Farooq urged Pakistan and India to formulate a strategy, discuss the Kashmir issue in a certain timeframe and ensure the representation of Kashmiris in the peace process. He said, "UN has failed to implement its own resolutions on Kashmir so it is time to explore new options on the core issue."

The News, 9 June 2005

**Pak economic growth second best among top ten populous nations**

WASHINGTON: India is no longer the frontrunner to challenge China for the fastest economic growth among the world's most populous nations but Pakistan is, said Andy Mukherjee, a Bloomberg news columnist. Now that Pakistan is within striking distance of China's growth, it aims to catch up, he said. The growth target for the next fiscal year, as set out in the nation's annual budget is the same as Beijing's goal for the year, he added. According to figures released over the weekend by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, the \$110 billion economy is estimated to have grown 8.4 percent in the year ending on June 30. Among the world's 10 most-populous nations, that rate is exceeded only by China, where gross domestic product expanded 9.5 percent last year.

The News, 9 June 2005

**Anti-dumping duty may be imposed on Chinese goods** (Ikram Hoti)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan shoots to the top of list of the countries that take action against China for dumping its goods and severely damaging the local industry. The action has taken place in the shape of special powers vested in Central Board of Revenue in the federal budget 2005-06, using which the CBR can directly impose anti-dumping duty on goods coming from China in violation of the internationally operative law against export of cheaper goods. Most of such cheaper goods are dumped in Pakistan by the Chinese industry, and CBR chairman, Abdullah Yosuf confirmed here Wednesday at a post-budget conference that the government allowed his office to impose the duty.

The Statesman, 9 June 2005

**Call for ban on small weapons** (Akhtar Amin)

PESHAWAR: Experts at the Global Week of Action against Small Arms Programme revealed that about 500,000

people had died in gun violence in the past 20 years across the country. According to the Sustainable Peace and Development Organisation (SPADO) research report 2003 on crimes related to small arms in Peshawar, out of the total 752 murder and attempt murder cases small arms were used in 98 per cent while in 2 per cent the sources were other than small arms, Raza Shah Khan, executive director, SPADO, said while briefing the media men at the Peshawar Press Club in connection with the Global Week of Action against Small Arms Programme. "Pakistan being a member of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPOA) adopted in 2001, neither appointed a focal point on small arms nor established a national commission to address the problem, the minimum requirements for the implementation of the POA," he opined.

The Nation, 9 June 2005

#### **Over 20m illegal arms in Pakistan: BBC**

An unofficial international organisation has claimed that more than 20 million illegal weapons have been found in Pakistan. According to a survey conducted by this organisation, kalashnikovs, rifles and pistols are also included in these weapons. On the other hand, as per Pakistan Interior Ministry, 30 lakh kalashnikovs, rifles, besides G3, M16 and handguns are available in NWFP. BBC Peshawar correspondent has said that the arms stock stashed in tribal areas can easily be judged keeping in view the weapons openly piled up in NWFP.

The News, 10 June 2005

#### **IAEA test of Pak N-parts strengthens Iran's claim**

VIENNA: Iranian claims that the country did not produce weapons-grade uranium — despite US assertions to the contrary — appeared to be strengthened by preliminary examination of Pakistani equipment identical to that used by Tehran, a well-placed diplomat said on Thursday. The diplomat, who is accredited to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said testing of traces of weapons-grade uranium on the centrifuge parts provided by Pakistan appear to match those found on centrifuges bought by Iran on the nuclear black market headed by Pakistani scientist AQ Khan. That would strengthen arguments that the suspect traces might have arrived in Iran together with the equipment itself, as the Iranians claim.

Dawn, 10 June 2005

#### **Reports on Al Qaeda camp rejected**

ISLAMABAD, June 9: Pakistan on Thursday denied claims that one of two terror suspects arrested in California had received training at an Al Qaeda camp in the country. "There are no training camps in Pakistan," senior foreign ministry official Naeem Khan told AFP here when asked to comment on the reports in US and Pakistani newspapers. "We are the frontline state in the fight against terrorism. How can we allow such camps in our country?" Khan said, adding that Islamabad had asked its embassy in Washington to get details of the charges from US authorities. The Los Angeles Times reported on Wednesday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had arrested a Pakistani American and his son in Lodi, California, on the suspicion of having links to Al Qaeda.

Dawn, 10 June 2005

#### **Another Pakistani arrested in US (Abdus Sattar Ghazali)**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 9: An investigation into an alleged Al Qaeda cell in the city of Lodi, in which a man and his son and two Muslim religious leaders were held earlier, widened on Wednesday with the arrest of another Pakistani. A US immigration and customs enforcement official said Mohammad Hassan Adil, 19, was detained on Wednesday for violation of immigration rules. He is son of Mohammed Adil Khan, who was recently taken into custody along with Lodi mosque Imam Shabbir Ahmed under same charges. "He's being held on administrative immigration violations," immigration department spokeswoman Virginia Kice said about Hassan Adil.

The Nation,, 10 June 2005

#### **Six mujahideen, soldier killed in LoC gunbattle**

SRINAGAR (AFP) - Six Mujahideen and an Indian army soldier were killed in a gunbattle near the Line of Control (LoC) in Occupied Kashmir, police said Thursday. The fight broke out in the Keran sector of northern Kupwara district of the held valley, a police spokesman said. 'The clash erupted when Indian troops ringed a house where they (Mujahideen) were hiding,' he said, adding soldiers asked them to surrender, but they responded by opening fire. 'It is believed that they (Mujahideen) infiltrated into Keran from the Pakistani portion of Kashmir,' the spokesman said, adding the area was being searched for more Mujahideen.

The Nation,, 10 June 2005

#### **Kashmir line be removed, says Mirwaiz**

KARACH-The APHC leader Mirwaiz Umer Farooq said on Thursday that artificial line drawn between Kashmir should be removed ,adding, that when he talked about Kashmir, it meant the entire territory of Kashmir. Talking to the newsmen after his arrival at Karachi Airport and at Mazar-i-Quaid, the Kashmiri leader said that solution of Kashmir issue could only be solved through dialogue and ,added, that everyone should be taken along in that process. Sindh Chief Minister Dr Arbab Ghulam Rahim received the delegation of Kashmiri leaders headed by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq when it reached the Karachi Airport by special plane. Responding to a question on Kashmir, Mirwaiz Farooq said that artificial line must be dismantled.

Dawn, 10 June 2005

**JKLF factions to reunite** (Raja Asghar)

ISLAMABAD, June 9: Two rival factions of the pro-independence Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) headed by Amanullah Khan and Mohammad Yasin Malik have decided to reunite, a coordination committee working out modalities for the union said on Thursday. Both Mr Khan, who lives in Pakistan, and Mr Malik, now here as a member of a visiting nine-man delegation of resistance leaders from Indian-held Kashmir, signed a unity document on Wednesday, said a statement of the coordination committee headed by Dr Farooq Haider, a prominent JKLF figure who has worked with both the factions. Mr Khan confirmed to Dawn that the reunification decision had been taken and said further talks to achieve the objective and the future shape of the organisation would be held in the next couple of days.

The Nation, 10 June 2005

**NSC, Army role echoes in NA** (DILSHAD AZEEM)

ISLAMABAD - On the very first day of budget debate in National assembly on Thursday the legislators from both treasury and opposition mainly discussed other issues such as the NSC and army generals' role in politics. However, in their brief arguments the treasury defended budget 2005-06 while the opposition described it a pro-rich document. Without any objection from the chair, the treasury and opposition members talked on foreign policy, privatization process, NSC and enlightened moderation concept during the daylong speeches allowed for discussion on the budget 2005-06. The opposition legislators rejected the budget as elite class-friendly and criticized the government for increasing allocations to presidency and waiving taxes on the items used by the elite class. They also came down hard on the government for the delay in finalization of the 6th NFC Award.

The Daily Times,10 June 2005

**Pakistan will permit pipelines to take energy to India: Kasuri** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: Pakistan will not stand in the way of India meeting its energy needs and will permit all pipelines that may need to be laid over Pakistani territory to carry oil or gas to India to go through, Pakistan's foreign minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri said here on Thursday. In a lively address on Pak-US relations at the Brookings Institution, the minister who arrived here on Wednesday, addressed a wide range of issues, answering a large number of questions from a standing room-only audience. Asked about Pakistan's position on Security Council reform, he said Pakistan's policy on this issue is not India-specific but based on certain principles.

The Statesman,10 June 2005

**Provinces offered 49.3pc share in NFC** (Naveed Miraj)

ISLAMABAD: President Musharraf, who has been accepted as the final arbiter to decide the National Finance Commission Award after Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz failed to convince provinces over a formula, has offered provinces 49.3 per cent share from the federal divisible pool. Sources close to the president said that Musharraf has asked all the four provinces to sit down and create some kind of consensus on different factors like overall population, poverty-ridden areas, natural resources and share in the revenue collection to reach a formula for distribution of federal tax pool between the provinces. Provinces have different points of view when it comes to a formula for sharing federal resources.

The Daily Times,10 June 2005

**Sialkot blast's mastermind held**

MULTAN: Police arrested a Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LJ) member from a house near Chowk Ghanta Ghar, officials said on Thursday. The man was arrested after a gunbattle near the house, adding that the suspect had confessed to being involved in the attack on Sialkot's Imam Bargah. Police later arrested two of his accomplices. Police Superintendent did not confirm the arrests. staff report

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**Two Bari Imam bombing suspects held** (Shakeel Anjum)

ISLAMABAD: Two suspects involved in Bari Imam suicide bombing have been arrested by the investigation

agencies, which may lead to a breakthrough in a couple of days, Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Talat Mehmood Tariq, said while addressing a press conference here on Friday. "We have come to know that a group of terrorists is involved in Imam Bari massacre", he added. He said the investigating agencies got a clue from Karachi suicide bombing, which has provided us a lead, he said. "We sent some investigation officers to Karachi and questioned the surviving terrorist, escorting the suicide bomber, and got concrete evidence of the involved terrorist gang," the IGP said.

Statesman, 11 June 2005

**20 Ashokhel tribesmen arrested in Sheikera 'under 40-FCR'** (Tayyeb Afridi)

PESHAWAR: On the orders of District Coordination Officer, Political Naib Tehisaldar FR Peshawar Friday arrested about 20 people of Ashokhel tribe in Sherikera, a settled area of City. Three among the 20 arrested people were the residents of settled areas and said to be a student and two teachers, well informed sources told The Statesman on Friday. Other Ashokhels arrested near Passani Chowk during the operation were also mostly students, government servants and shopkeepers.

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**India agrees to Baglihar site inspection** (Muhammad Saleh Zaafer)

ISLAMABAD: India has agreed to the physical inspection of Baglihar dam project site in held Kashmir by the World Bank-appointed neutral expert. The inspection will be carried out in the presence of technical experts of Pakistan and India in the last week of September. The agreement was reached at a two-day trilateral preliminary meeting of neutral expert, Swiss engineer Dr Raymond Lafitte and the missions of both the countries in Paris. It was the first occasion since the signing of the treaty 45-years ago that Pakistan and India had to sit across the table under the auspices of the World Bank on a contentious project under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 brokered by the bank.

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**'Arrest of would-be suicide bombers removed major threat'**

ISLAMABAD: The arrest of two sisters, who allegedly trained to become suicide bombers, has removed a major threat to the country, amid a renewed wave of sectarian bloodshed, officials said on Friday. Police had spent a year hunting for the female militants, who were named as Arifa and Habiba and said by officials to be the well-educated daughters of a wealthy bank executive. Security officials said that, while on the run, the pair had each married a top member of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group. "It removes a major threat because such an unusual attack using female suicide bombers would have caused a lot of damage," said a senior official, involved in the fight against sectarian terrorism. "It would have set an example for others to follow."

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**Hurriyat's plea for 'free hand': We want 'United States of Kashmir': Mirwaiz** (Shamim ur Rahman)

KARACHI, June 10: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference says the time has come for the Kashmiri leadership to take the centre-stage and have a free hand in seeking a solution of the Kashmir issue as the people of the territory are the principal stakeholders and cannot wait for India and Pakistan to take their own decisions. The Hurriyat's viewpoint was forcefully presented in Karachi on Friday by its chairman Mirwaiz Omar Farooq at a symposium, attended by all the Kashmiri leaders currently on a historic visit to Pakistan.

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**Rs8.9bn deficit in Sindh budget** (Sabihuddin Ghausi)

KARACHI, June 10: Sindh Finance Minister Syed Sardar Ahmad on Friday presented in the provincial assembly a Rs143 billion budget for 2005-06, showing a shortfall of Rs5.98 billion in the revenue expenditure and over Rs3 billion in the capital account budget, and leaving a big question mark on resource availability for financing an ambitious Rs24 billion development programme. Delivering his budget speech amid desk thumping and shouting by opposition lawmakers, the minister announced a few relief measures and what he termed a rationalization of levies that sought to increase taxes on hotels and private security agencies. Overall it is a record Rs33 billion deficit budget. But the finance minister informed the assembly that deficit on both accounts ? revenue and capital ? was of Rs8.99 billion. He did not say how would the Rs24 billion development outlay be funded.

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**Musharraf wants port ready by mid-2006**

RAWALPINDI, June 10: President General Pervez Musharraf on Friday ordered simultaneous completion of the Gwadar Deep Seaport and related infrastructure facilities by June 2006 so that the country's largest development project starts contributing to the economy from the outset of its operation. The president issued the directive at a

meeting held here to review the progress of work on the project. It is imperative that an integrated approach is adopted to put in place all facilities for launching large-scale business activities at the port by June 2006. This will spur economic growth and help the country realize its geo-economic potential as a hub of regional trade," he emphasized.

Dawn, 11 June 2005

**Triangular approach on Kashmir urged: Experts sceptical of CBMs** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, June 10: There were more searching questions than answers, more concerns than confidence about the ongoing Pakistan-India dialogue process yielding positive results on the Kashmir dispute. These questions and concerns were articulated on Friday by participants of a two-day conference on 'The Kashmir Dispute in the context of Pakistan', organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. The conference, that coincides with the landmark visit of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leadership, has brought together eminent scholars and intellectuals from Pakistan, India and held Kashmir to discuss the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

Daily Times, 11 June 2005

**US sensitive to Pakistan's security needs, says Bush** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: President George W Bush, who received Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri in the Oval office on Thursday, said that he was sensitive to Pakistan's security needs and that the two countries enjoyed a unique relationship. The meeting was not on the cards and should be seen as an overt expression of the importance the Bush administration attaches to its ties with Islamabad in the war against terrorism. According to a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy late on Thursday night, President Bush praised the bold leadership of President General Pervez Musharraf and hoped that the Kashmir issue would be resolved to the satisfaction of all relevant parties.

Daily Times, 11 June 2005

**Aziz will remain PM: Shujaat**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Friday rejected rumours about the replacement of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He said in a statement that there was no question of replacing Mr Aziz before general elections in 2007. Chaudhry Shujaat, who is also the former prime minister, said that the PML and its allied parties had elected Mr Aziz prime minister and reposed confidence in him. staff report

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**WB expert to inspect Baglihar Dam site** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: World Bank expert Prof Raymond Lafitte, who conducted a two-day meeting of officials from India and Pakistan to resolve the controversy over the Baglihar hydropower project, will travel to the site for an on-spot inspection, said a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs. The statement said the site inspection would take place on "mutually convenient dates". After listening to officials from both countries at a two-day meeting in Paris, Prof Lafitte of the Swiss Federation Institute of Technology decided to undertake a site inspection to determine differences over the 450-megawatt power project being constructed on the River Chenab in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. He will determine whether the project fulfils the clauses of the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**Pakistan will help keep peace during Afghan polls: Sherpao**

KABUL: Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Sherpao said on Saturday his government would clamp down on the border to help maintain peace during Afghanistan's legislative elections later this year, amid fears that rebels hiding in Pakistani tribal areas may disrupt the polls. President Hamid Karzai's government last week urged Afghanistan's neighbours to cooperate in safeguarding the Sept 18 elections and warned that Al Qaeda and Taliban rebels had launched a violent campaign to subvert the ballot - the next key step toward democracy three and a half years after US-led forces ousted the Taliban. The plea for cooperation appeared to be mainly aimed at Pakistan. Afghan officials say militants based on Pakistan's side of the mountainous frontier cross into Afghanistan to launch attacks.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**Govt announces PTCL bidding on 18th, Army, Rangers take over installations**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) workers on Saturday resumed the countrywide strike and threatened to jam the inter-city telecom service on June 15, as the government set June 18 as a new date for PTCL privatisation. "We are announcing a new date for PTCL privatisation that is June 18, since it is necessary in the best interest of the country, consumers and the employees," Privatisation Minister

Hafeez Sheikh told a press conference. Talking to Daily Times, Malik Maqbool, a PTCL union leader, said: "We have announced a countrywide strike. We don't want further dialogue with corrupt and liar government functionaries." He said PTCL workers would jam the telecommunication services throughout the country on June 15 if the government did not withdraw its decision to privatise the company.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**Kashmir solution should reflect popular wishes: Rice and Kasuri** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Dr Condoleezza Rice in meeting on Friday with Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri said that Washington was appreciative of the ongoing peace process between Pakistan and India as it considered it vital for the region's overall security. The minister briefed the secretary on the latest developments in Indo-Pak relations, including the visit of the Hurriyat delegation to Pakistan. The two of them hoped, according to the Pakistan embassy, that an amicable solution would be found to the Kashmir dispute, in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Dr Rice also expressed her happiness over the strong relations that now existed between Pakistan and the United States. Their discussions centred on cooperation in political, economic and defence areas, with Kasuri underscoring the need for greater US support in all three.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**Govt seeking excuse for army operation**

QUETTA: Baloch veteran nationalist and head of the Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti has said that there were indications from the movement of forces in Dera Bugti that the government was trying to find an excuse for a military operation in the area. Talking to reporters on Saturday by telephone from his ancestral village of Dera Bugti, the head of Bugti tribe said paramilitary forces had increased their movements between Dera Bugti and Bakar, a town where Nawab Bugti's tribal and political opponents live. He said that if 100 men went to Bakar, only fifty or sixty came back and similarly if 200 came from Sui, only half of them went back. Bugti said that in his opinion, the paramilitary forces wanted to create a situation that could be exploited and used as an excuse for launching a major military operation in the area against him and his tribesmen.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**Durrani-Khalil compromise likely on AG issue** (Iqbal Khattak)

PESHAWAR: A compromise is likely between NWFP Chief Minister Akram Durrani and Governor Khalilur Rehman to resolve their differences over the appointment of Hamid Farooq as advocate general (AG) of the province, an official source said on Saturday. The deal follows "interference" by the federal government in sorting out the controversy arising from Durrani's strong opposition to Khalil's decision to appoint Farooq as advocate general for NWFP, ignoring a panel of names the chief minister had proposed, the source told Daily Times. "What is expected to happen is that the chief minister will present around two or three new names to the governor. The two names Durrani had already proposed will not be included in the new list," the source said.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**SAARC summit on Nov 12, says Aziz** (Rana Qaisar)

ISLAMABAD: The 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit will be held in Dhaka on November 12 and 13, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who is chairman of the SAARC, said while addressing a press conference on Saturday. The prime minister said that the member countries agreed on the SAARC Summit dates through consultations. "The Summit will be preceded by meetings of the Programming and Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers from November 9 to 11," the prime minister said, adding the summit would focus on various initiatives launched during the 12th SAARC Summit in Islamabad in January 2004. He said the summit would review progress on SAFTA, SAARC social charter and SAARC goals with regard to poverty alleviation, education, health and environment.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

**Pakistan, Iran to open 5 checkposts for trade**

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Owais Ahmed Ghani announced on Saturday the opening of five common check posts on Pak-Iran border to increase trade between the two countries. The governor was addressing a gathering at the border towns of Roddek and Chudgai during a brief visit. He said that completely equipped check posts at Roddek, Mand, Chdgai, Panjgur, Gabd and Gwadar would start working soon. The measure aimed at ending illegal smuggling of Iranian goods and fuel products. The government wanted encourage legal trade between the two countries and the proposal was first given by Seistan's (Iran) Governor during his visit to Balochistan in 2004, the governor said, adding that during a recent visit to Iran, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz discussed issue again.

Daily Times, 12 June 2005

## **42 buses for Afghanistan**

PESHAWAR: The government on Saturday handed over 42 buses to the Afghan government at a ceremony held in Peshawar. Planning Commission Director General Javed Akhtar presented the keys of the buses to Afghan diplomat Haji Meraj. Akhtar said that Pakistan had promised to provide Rs 290 million worth 100 buses to Afghanistan and 35 of which have been delivered earlier. The remaining 23 buses would be delivered this year. staff report

The Nation, 12 June 2005

### **Pakistan may face economic sanctions (IFTIKHAR ALI)**

NEW YORK - Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri wrapped up his two-day visit to Washington Friday with a fervent call for involving Kashmiris in the Pakistan-India peace process to facilitate a settlement of the 57-year-old Kashmir dispute. "In order that it (the Kashmir dispute) is resolved we need to include the Kashmiris in the peace process," he told reporters at the State Department after a 75-minute meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "There can be no resolution to the dispute if the Kashmiris are not involved," he added. "It's like trying to solve the Palestinian problem without the Palestinians." On Thursday, Kasuri briefed President George W. Bush on the peace process in a 30-minute meeting at the White House. Bush praised the 'bold leadership' of President Pervez Musharraf and expressed the hope that the Kashmir problem would be resolved to the satisfaction of 'all parties concerned'.

The Nation, 12 June 2005

### **Singh says talks on for Kargil-Skardu Road**

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said that talks were going on with Pakistan for opening of roadline between Kargil and Skardu, reports PTI. Laying foundation stone for a 44 MW power project here, the Manmohan Singh said converting the Srinagar-Leh Road into National Highway was under consideration and plans were contemplated to make this road an all weathered route. He also announced a grant of Rs 100 million for Kargil Autonomous Hill Development council. Recalling the 1999 Pakistani aggression of Kargil, Singh said it had caused a lot of problems for the people of this region. "Our effort is to ensure that such dangers do not recur. That is why we have started talks with Pakistan government to ensure permanent end to mutual conflicts and so that people of two countries could live peacefully," he said.

Dawn, 13 June 2005

### **Indian PM hints at Siachen peace**

NEW DELHI, June 12: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said during a visit to the Siachen glacier on Sunday it was time to convert the world's highest battlefield into a "peace mountain". Mr Singh is the first prime minister to visit Siachen, between 18,000 and 22,000 feet (5,400-6,600 metres) above sea level. There has been no fighting on Siachen since 2003, when a ceasefire came into effect between Indian and Pakistani troops. But thousands have died in the past two decades with more soldiers killed by sub-zero temperatures, the high altitude and accidents than enemy action. "The time has come that we make efforts that this battlefield is converted into a peace mountain," Mr Singh, 72, told troops stationed there.

Dawn, 13 June 2005

### **Iran pipeline cannot be abandoned, US told (Anwar Iqbal)**

WASHINGTON, June 12: Pakistan is believed to have informed the United States that it cannot abandon the Iranian gas pipeline project despite a strong US opposition to the scheme, diplomatic sources told Dawn. The project was discussed in detail at a meeting between Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington on Friday. Ms Rice, who has publicly opposed the project, reiterated Washington's position that the proposed pipeline, which will be bringing Iranian gas to India through Pakistan, is against US laws. The US Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996, known as ILSA, forbids more than \$20 million of investment in Iranian oil and gas projects. The violator can be deprived of US economic assistance and may also face sanctions.

The News, 13 June 2005

### **Counter-terrorism pact to be signed during Musharraf's visit: Howard**

SYDNEY: Australia and Pakistan would sign an agreement to cooperate on counter-terrorism during President Gen Pervez Musharraf's visit to Canberra this week, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday. Howard hailed Pakistan as a key ally in the war on terror and praised Musharraf's "courageous and resolute" role in fighting terror networks such as al-Qaeda, as well as his strong personal commitment to improving relations between Pakistan and India. Howard said that a memorandum of understanding on the counter-terrorism would be signed during the three-day trip, which officially begins from Monday, which includes visits to both Canberra

and Sydney.

The News, 13 June 2005

**India, Pakistan navies can cooperate: Indian CNS**

NEW DELHI: With improvement in Indo-Pak bilateral relations, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash said that the two navies could cooperate with each other in different areas including safety of sea lines of communication, protection of vital maritime assets and search and rescue. The post-Cold War period has witnessed an increasing degree of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between navies, he observed adding, this encompasses a wide spectrum of activities that range from ensuring safety of sea lines of communication (SLOCs), protection of vital maritime assets, search and rescue, or policing/ constabulary duties. "We intend to work in close coordination with other navies that have similar interests. It is not inconceivable that in the years ahead, as bilateral relations improve, we could also cooperate with the Pakistan Navy in some or all of these areas", he maintained, according to an interview carried by The Indian Express.

The Nation, 13 June 2005

**CBMs should be extended to Held Kashmir (FARRUKH KHAN PITAFI)**

LAHORE-The confidence building measures (CBMs) should also take place in the Occupied Kashmir and without the participation of the Kashmiris in the peace talks the entire process was nothing more than an exercise in futility. Federal Information Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmed stated this while talking to the newsmen at a local hotel here on Sunday. Describing his planned visit to the Occupied Kashmir he said that it was private in nature as about a half of his family was living there. Yet he would also take the opportunity to meet the entire Kashmiri leadership there, he rushed on to add. He said that it was a fruit of the peace process and the bus diplomacy that he was able to visit the other side of the Line of Control like several divided families.

The News, 13 June 2005

**NFC award within three months: PM (Muhammad Saleh Zaafir)**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz says the National Finance Commission (NFC) award will be announced within three months. In an exclusive interview with The News at the Prime Minister House here on Sunday evening, he said experts were working in consultation with the provinces to evolve a consensus on the award. Responding to a question about demands of the federating units, the prime minister said the award would be fair and provide a win-win situation for all the stakeholders. The federal government's interaction with the provinces is satisfactory and experts are fully aware of their mindset, he added.

The News, 13 June 2005

**Govt-PPP talks hinge on Benazir cases: Rashid (Syed Faisal Shakeel)**

LAHORE: Information Minister Sheikh Rashid on Sunday said the future of talks between the government and the PPP rests with the outcome of cases against former premier Benazir Bhutto and her spouse Asif Zardari. Talking to The News here, Rashid said that the government had no intentions to withdraw cases from the Swiss court against Benazir and Asif. He said President Gen Pervez Musharraf would continue after 2007 general elections. "But I can't say whether he would continue with or without the uniform as it is up to him," he said. He said he was scheduled to travel to Kashmir on June 30 in personal capacity. "I am not going to Kashmir as a federal minister but in my personal capacity. I would meet the Kashmiri leaders as a Kashmiri, not as a government representative."

The Nation, 13 June 2005

**Singh says Baltistan area controversial**

PRIME MINISTER Manmohan Singh said on Sunday that India would have to consider options to end the military stand-off with Pakistan in Siachen, the world's highest battlefield. Asked earlier in the day how long the Indian troops could remain deployed on Siachen, Singh said, "We have to think on this." Manmohan Singh was speaking to reporters at the airport here on his return from Siachen, where he interacted with troops and addressed them. Singh is the first Indian prime minister to visit Siachen. "I was privileged to go to Siachen where our brave soldiers are defending our frontiers so gallantly," Singh said before leaving for New Delhi at the end of a three-day visit to the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Statesman, 13 June 2005

**Army takes over FATA exchanges**

KOHAT: The security of all the telephone exchanges of the tribal areas was handed over to regular army already stationed there, replacing khasadars, on the request of the administration whereas skeleton staff of the PTCL was still performing duties inside, a survey revealed. An official informed on telephone from Miran Shah, headquarters of North Waziristan Agency and Wana, the headquarters of South Waziristan Agency that military personnel had

been put on high alert and deployed in and outside the telephone exchanges replacing the khasadars. However PTCL operators, who were tribesmen and had no links with PTCL union leaders, were still performing their assigned duties as usual.

The Nation, 14 June 2005

**Get out of Siachen** (SHAIQ HUSSAIN)

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday asked India to accept the disputed nature of Held Kashmir while expressing surprise over the Indian Prime Minister's remarks that "Baltistan" was a controversial area. Addressing his weekly Press briefing here, Foreign Office Spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani also demanded the unconditional Indian troops' withdrawal from Siachen glacier, which he said was vital for the resolution of row over the world highest battlefield and regional peace. To a question on remarks by the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Baltistan, Jilani expressed shock and surprise, saying "We have got the impression that India is following the policy of heads I win, tails you loose."

The Nation, 14 June 2005

**LoC as border unacceptable, says Mirwaiz**

KOTLI (Azad Kashmir) (APP) -Chairman All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq told a public rally here Monday the people of Kashmir would never accept Line of Control (LoC) as an international border. He urged India to open all natural routes between the two parts of Kashmir and withdraw its troops from the occupied portion. Mirwaiz Farooq paid tributes to valiant youth of Kotli and assured them that the artificial Line of Control (LoC) would be removed. He said the people and leadership of Kashmir are united and have consensus on the freedom struggle, he said. The APHC leader said, "our struggle started from streets and hills and it has now reached dialogue table." He said the sacrifices rendered by the people of Kashmir would bear fruit and now "it is our responsibility to fulfil our obligation."

The Nation, 14 June 2005

**Pakistan gets 188pc more foreign loans in 10 months** (Javed Mahmood)

LAHORE-Despite having over \$ one billion worth foreign loans rescheduled, Pakistan has received \$2.08 billion foreign loans in 10 months of this fiscal year. This is 188 per cent more than the corresponding period during the last financial year, The Nation learnt on Monday. In the last fiscal, Pakistan had received only \$0.721 billion foreign loans during the July to April period. In this fiscal, the country has received \$1.817 billion long-term and \$263 million short-term foreign loans between July to April 2004-05. Meanwhile, during the said period the country has obtained rescheduling worth \$1.10 billion. The current trend clearly reflects that Pakistan government was obtaining much more loans in this fiscal compared to the last previous one.

The News, 14 June 2005

**'Kashmir issue can be resolved in two weeks'**

KUALA LUMPUR: President Pervez Musharraf said here on Monday the Kashmir issue could be resolved in two weeks if leaders of both India and Pakistan displayed the political will. Asked if he shared the optimism of some that the Kashmir issue could be settled in a couple of years, President Musharraf said "why two years. I think it can be resolved within two weeks if we have the will. "Commenting that "two weeks" was just a way of saying, he said the most important thing was for the leadership of both the nations to have the will to reach a conclusion. "At this moment, the leadership has the will and I am very hopeful," he told reporters here during a stopover on his way to Australia for a bilateral visit.

The Daily Times, 14 June 2005

**Bari Imam blast: Masterminds belong to LJ linked group** (Shahzad Malik)

ISLAMABAD: Investigators have traced the masterminds of a suicide attack on the shrine of Hazrat Bari Imam killing 20 people and injuring several others, sources told Daily Times on Monday. Sources said that an investigation team by the Punjab Crime Investigation Department Police, Federal Investigation Agency and the Intelligence Bureau found that Asif Chhota and Bara Usman from the Qari Group, a dissident of the banned religious outfit Lashker-e-Jhangvi, masterminded the attack. They said the two were included in the most-wanted list and the Punjab Police had put Rs 1 million head money on each.

The Daily Times, 14 June 2005

**NZ will urge Pakistan to act with restraint**

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clark said on Monday she would urge President General

Pervez Musharraf to exercise restraint with Pakistan's nuclear arsenal when he visits New Zealand later this week. Growing high level contact between Pakistan and India means the outlook for lowering tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals was "much more optimistic than it has been for a long time," Clark said. "It's a matter of both powers now being urged to act with great restraint," she told reporters, adding she would deliver that message to Musharraf on Friday.

The Daily Times, 14 June 2005

**Manmohan seeks joint ventures in power projects** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's office has asked experts to explore possibilities of a joint venture with Pakistan in the power sector. Sources said that during his three-day tour of the Ladakh region in Kashmir, the state government proposed that offering joint power ventures with Pakistan would help settle water disputes between the two countries. In its proposal, the state government has identified the 330-megawatt (MW) Kishanganga hydroelectric power project, which – like Bhaglihar – is a source of dispute between the two countries. The officials believe that since Pakistan is also constructing the 960-MW Neelam-Jhelum power project worth Rs 84.5 billion just across the Line of Control on the same river, both these projects could be combined. They maintain that combining the projects could harness as much as 20,000 MW of power in the region, which could be distributed between the two countries in equal proportion.

Dawn, 14 June 2005

**'Trans-Pakistan pipeline decision in two weeks'**

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13: A decision on the multi-billion-dollar pipeline between Iran and India that will run across Pakistan will be made in two weeks, an Iranian official said on Monday. "We will make an announcement in two weeks," Reza Amrollahi, Iran's senior deputy energy minister told reporters on the sidelines of the two-day Asia Oil and Gas conference. Pakistani minister for petroleum Amanullah Khan Jadoon had invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Islamabad from June 20 to 21, a Pakistani spokesman said. The 2,600-kilometre overland gas pipeline project, with an estimated cost of about 4.5 billion dollars, has been opposed by the United States because of its concerns about Tehran's nuclear programme.

Dawn, 14 June 2005

**Indian threat still real: minister: Opposition move for budget cuts fails** (Arshad Sharif)

ISLAMABAD, June 13: Federal Education Minister and former director general of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen (r) Javed Ashraf Qazi told the Senate on Monday that the Rs233 billion defence allocation was made in view of a potent Indian threat, despite a host of confidence-building measures between the two countries. Lt Gen (r) Javed Ashraf Qazi rejected the opposition's demand for a Rs20 billion cut in the defence budget because the Indian threat to Pakistan was "alive." He said that India had not given up on a single point, whether the issue was Kashmir, Sir Creek or Siachen.

The Nation, 14 June 2005

**Sweden's envoy elected next GA president; Pakistan gets vice-president slot** (IFTIKHAR ALI)

UNITED NATIONS: -- Noted Swedish diplomat Jan Eliasson was elected Monday to preside over its sixtieth session, of the United Nations General Assembly, which is scheduled to open on 13 September. Pakistan was elected one of the 21 vice-president of the 191-member Assembly session, it's 60th. Monday's session also elected chairpersons for each of the Assembly's six Committees. As a vice-president, Pakistan will be a member of the General Committee which steers the work for the session. Pakistan's election the vice-presidency coincides with it's Presidency of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2005. Currently Pakistan is member of 13 important UN bodies.

The Daily Times, 14 June 2005

**Sheikh Rashid trained Kashmiri fighters: Yasin** (Shahzad Raza)

ISLAMABAD: When the armed struggle in held Kashmir was at its zenith, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed set up a camp where around 3,500 Jihadis were trained in guerrilla warfare, revealed Yasin Malik, the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman, at an exhibition of 1.5 million signatures by Kashmiris demanding their involvement in the dialogue process. "Sheikh Rashid has played a great role for Kashmir's liberation. He used to support the frontline Jihadis, but very few people know about his contributions," the JKLF chief informed the audience. The JKLF leader praised Rashid for his contribution to the armed struggle, but the minister refused to comment when journalists approached him.

Dawn, 15 June 2005

**Attack will not derail peace process**

CANBERRA, June 14: Pakistan and India's quest to resolve a long-running row over Kashmir will not be pushed off course by militant violence in the Himalayan region, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday. Musharraf, speaking a day after a deadly car bombing in Kashmir, said nobody could stop the violence, which he vowed would not distract India and Pakistan from the peace process they have both described as irreversible. "I think we should not be overly bothered about (the car bombing) and we should not allow it to affect the peace process," Musharraf told Reuters in an interview during the first visit by a Pakistani president to Australia.

Dawn, 15 June 2005

**Musharraf's plea for trade boost to fight terrorism**

CANBERRA, June 14: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday urged Australia to help in the war on terror by improving its trade with Pakistan, and stressed that the Al Qaeda terror network no longer functioned cohesively in Pakistan. Speaking at a lunch at the Australian Press Club here, Gen Musharraf said that while skirmishes with militants and raids on their hideouts had broken their networks, poverty alleviation was the key to long-term success in the fight against Al Qaeda and other terror groups. Australian investment in Pakistan would provide jobs and build industries, helping ease the poverty which drove people into militant groups, he said. "When you assist us in our industry you are indirectly assisting us in fighting terrorism," he added.

Dawn, 15 June 2005

**FBI keeping tabs on Pakistanis**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 14: The Pakistani community in the farming city of Lodi remained under siege on Monday — one week after the arrest of two Pakistani Americans and three Pakistani nationals in a terrorist probe. Eyewitnesses reported the presence of FBI agents keeping surveillance on the frightened community and the mosque in Lodi. Basim Elkarra, spokesperson of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a leading civil rights group, said that the CAIR has received many reports that people were being harassed by the FBI. "Some people have been threatened of being deported. This is a concern to us, and we will lodge a complaint with the FBI," he added.

The Nation, 15 June 2005

**Strategic assets safe**

CANBERRA (APP) - President General Pervez Musharraf Tuesday expressed optimism that a solution to Kashmir dispute acceptable to Pakistan, India and the people of Kashmir could be achievable through flexibility and sincerity. In his speech to journalists, intellectuals and civil society members of the National Press Club of Australia, President Musharraf called for the settlement of the decade-old dispute within the tenures of the present leadership of the two South Asian nations. 'I don't have a strict timeframe in my mind, but both countries should seize the peace opportunity - and in view of harmony and understanding between the present leadership of the two countries (Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf), the Kashmir dispute should be resolved within our tenures.'

Daily Times, 15 June 2005

**Water disputes hampering Kashmir solution: Musharraf**

CANBERRA: A failure by Islamabad and New Delhi to agree on disputes over water in Kashmir is a strain on the quest for a wider agreement, President General Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday. "They are bad irritants, I would say. For it shows that if we cannot resolve these smaller issues it puts into doubt our capability of resolving the very complex major dispute which has been there since 1947," Musharraf, on the first full day of a visit to Australia, said of disputes over a dam being built by India in Kashmir. Musharraf reiterated that he believed the best chance for peace lay in the relationship he had developed with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and underlined the need for a deal to be reached before either leader left office.

Daily Times, 15 June 2005

**Kishanganga design issue: India to be informed about neutral expert after July 15** (Khalid Mustafa)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will formally inform India about its plan to ask for a neutral expert after July 15 if New Delhi does not allay Pakistani concerns over the design of the 330-megawatt Kishanganga Hydropower Project, diplomatic sources told Daily Times on Tuesday. "Considering the delaying tactics by India on the Baglihar Hydropower Project, Pakistan has decided to pursue the Kishanganga issue actively," the sources said. Sources said if Pakistan and India would not agree on a neutral expert in a month, the aggrieved party would ask for the appointment of a neutral expert on its own.

Daily Times, 15 June 2005

**Zardari criticises PPP Sindh MPA's arrest**

LAHORE: Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan People's Party leader, has criticised the government for arresting Zahid Bhurgiri, a PPP MPA, and implicating him in an anti-terrorism case. Zardari, who was shifted home from a hospital in Dubai on Monday afternoon, said certain elements in the government had launched a campaign against the PPP workers, who were being tortured by the police and private armies in Sindh. He warned the administration against blindly following orders of the politicians inducted into power by the dictatorial regime. He said the administration would have to account for the crimes against the PPP workers.

Daily Times, 15 June 2005

**Benazir and Nawaz's return necessary for democracy** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: Leading South Asia expert Stephen Cohen told a congressional committee hearing here on Tuesday that free and fair 2007 elections in Pakistan would require the return of the exiled leaders of both of the country's leading parties, an end to the army's "comprehensive interference in domestic politics" and President Musharraf giving up his Army job. Cohen, head of South Asian studies at the Brookings Institution, was testifying before the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, one of the subcommittees of the House Committee on International Relations.

The Statesman, 15 June 2005

**Pak opposed to permanent seat at UNSC: FM**

DUBAI: Pakistan Tuesday said its opposition to any country being given permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council was not linked to India's bid for it. "It has nothing to do with the candidature of India for permanent membership. Even some countries who are close friends of Pakistan and who have financed the country's developmental projects in the past are vying for the permanent seat but Pakistan is against such concept," Kasuri said. Kasuri, who is heading the Pakistani delegation to the second G-77 in the Qatari capital Doha, said it was a pity that when an opportunity was given to the member countries to propose reforms at the UN, all efforts were concerted on seeking permanent seat in the world body.

The Statesman, 15 June 2005

**Rs2.35m for Tank Zam dam: CM sounds upbeat** (Akhtar Amin)

PESHAWAR: The federal government has allocated Rs 2.35 billion for the construction of Tank Zam Dam in Dera Ismail Khan in the budget for 2005-06, which will make 0.185 million acres of uncultivated land cultivable in the backward southern districts of the province. NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani, revealed this at a press talk after the announcement of the Agricultural Policy, NWFP 2005, at the Chief Minister's House on Tuesday. He added that the provincial government had in addition to the allocation of a huge grant by the federal government for the dam had earmarked Rs350 million in the province's upcoming budget for the year 2005-06.

The Nation, 16 June 2005

**Pakistan, Australia ink counter-terrorism pact**

CANBERRA (APP) - Pakistan and Australia Wednesday signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to promote counter-terrorism, agriculture and commercial cooperation after formal talks between President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister John Howard. In a joint statement issued after the talks, the two leaders noted the continued effective development cooperation between Australia and Pakistan. The MoU on counter-terrorism was signed in the presence of the President and the Prime Minister at the Parliament House that provided a framework for cooperation against terrorism between the two countries.

Dawn, 16 June 2005

**Islamabad, Beijing to work for UN reform**

DOHA, June 15: Pakistan and China on Wednesday agreed to coordinate efforts to bring about a more democratic, inclusive and effective reform in the UN. During a meeting between Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Zeng Peiyan, who is leading the Chinese delegation to the Second South Summit in Doha, it was decided that all issues related to UN reform should come up before the heads of states' meeting in September at the UN headquarters in New York. Mr Kasuri and Mr Zeng agreed to coordinate the efforts to promote consensus-driven and holistic reform of the UN. They felt that the UN reform was far too important a matter to put artificial deadlines for concluding it.

Dawn, 16 June 2005

### **PN ships take part in French drill**

BREST (France), June 15: Two Pakistani navy vessels will take part in a two-day French military exercise at sea starting on Thursday, French and Pakistani officers said. The Pakistani navy frigate Tippu Sultan and the tanker Moavin, both carrying a total 700 sailors, arrived on Sunday in the Atlantic French port of Brest for the manoeuvres. It was the first time in 24 years that Pakistani navy ships had docked in France. The commander of the Pakistani naval group, Asif Sandila, hailed four decades of cooperation between the two countries' seagoing forces and stressed the role of the Pakistani navy "in the fight against terrorism." He also called attention to the Pakistani navy's deployment during December's tsunami disaster in Asia, "notably the rescue of a hundred French people in the Maldives."AFP

Dawn, 16 June 2005

### **Rocca says F-16s a 'clear signal' of US commitment** (Anwar Iqbal)

WASHINGTON, June 15: US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca has said that Washington's decision to sell F-16 fighter jets to Islamabad sends a clear signal of its determination to stand by Pakistan's legitimate defence needs. Testifying before the US House International Relations Sub-committee on Asia, Ms Rocca ruled out a possibility that the sale would upset the current regional military balance or lead to an arms race and added that "it only shows our commitment to help Pakistan in its long haul".

Dawn, 16 June 2005

### **Pakistan, Australia sign MoU: Share business**

ISLAMABAD, June 15: The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for establishing a framework for mutual assistance and exchange of information. According to an official announcement issued here on Wednesday, the MoU was signed on Wednesday morning in Canberra, Australia during President Pervez Musharraf's visit. ASIC Chairman Jeffrey Lucy and Pakistan's High Commissioner to Australia Babar Wahid Malik signed the MoU. Mr Malik signed the agreement because Dr Tariq Hassan was unable to travel.

Dawn, 16 June 2005

### **Five-man team to hold water talks in Delhi** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, June 15: A five-member team will leave for New Delhi next week for talks on the Wullar Barrage dispute between the two countries, it is learnt. The two-day talks are scheduled for June 24-25. Secretary Water and Power Ashfaq Mehmood will head the delegation comprising Indus Waters Commissioner Jamaat Ali Shah, director-general (South Asia Division) at Foreign Ministry Jalil Abbas Jilani and officials of the Pakistan Indus Waters Commission. The last round of talks on Wullar Barrage, held in Islamabad in July 2004, remained inconclusive as both sides stuck to their respective positions.

Daily Times, 16 June 2005

### **Al Qaeda has major training facility inside Pakistan, says Newsweek**

LAHORE: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe into a suspected Islamic jihad group in California produced evidence that Al Qaeda may have reconstituted a major terrorist training camp inside Pakistan after the 9/11 attacks, said Newsweek. Newsweek said that an FBI affidavit released in connection with the arrests of US citizen Hamid Hayat (24) and his father Umer Hayat (47), asserts that Al Qaeda was still capable of operating a significant training facility inside Pakistan. The two men are accused of lying to the FBI about a two-year trip that Hamid made to Pakistan between April 2003 and 2005. Released on Tuesday night, the affidavit says that Hamid told FBI agents he spent six months at an Al Qaeda-backed training camp in Pakistan, where he saw "hundreds of people from all over the world."

The Nation, 16 June 2005

### **Sh Rashid refused permit for IHK**

LAHORE (Newsdesk): India has blocked the permission to Federal Information Minister Sh. Rashid to visit Held Kashmir, Indian TV channels reported. Sh. Rashid, on the other hand held the view that if he was refused permission to board the Srinagar-bound bus service, it will expose the real intentions of the Indians, projecting the entire current process of CBM's as a doubtful exercise. However, he has so far not been officially conveyed any rejection of his permit application, which was being aired by an Indian TV channel. He further said it was beyond him that what possible objection there could be to block his visit in which nearly 100 local journalists also wanted to join him. The whole thing would need a proper explanation, as even Indian envoy in Pakistan was, on record having said he had no objection to his proposed visit.

The News, 16 June 2005

### **Gwadar project vital for economy, says Mushahid**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General Pakistan Muslim League Senator, Mushahid Hussain Sayed has said that Gwadar project has an important role in the economy of Pakistan. Implementation of the recommendations of the Balochistan Committee about Gwadar would be ensured. Talking to Balochistan Provincial Minister for Gwadar Development, Culture and Tourism Sayed Sher Jan, Senator Mushahid said that Jam Yousaf in his tenure as chief minister has not only taken interest in the development and progress of Balochistan but also organised PML. PML workers and parliamentary party have to work with Jam Yousaf to make party stronger, and hoped future of PML in Balochistan is bright, says a press release.

The News, 16 June 2005

### **Musharraf's remarks on Kashmir under fire in NA**

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Ch Amir Hussain Wednesday dismissed a point of order amid queries raised by opposition regarding the statement of President Pervez Musharraf vis-a-vis self governance of Kashmir. On a point of order, MMA MNA Farid Paracha said Musharraf's statement is contrary to the constitution of Pakistan. He said accession of Kashmir to Pakistan is constitutional and moral obligation of the government of Pakistan as Article 257 of the Constitution clears the situation. The president, he said, has given statement against the Constitution, while the people of Kashmir are offering sacrifices.

Dawn, 16 June 2005

### **Provinces to get more from NFC award: Consensus almost reached on formula** (Ihtasham ul Haque)

ISLAMABAD, June 15: The federal government has decided to offer Rs290 billion more to provinces out of Rs600 billion federal divisible pool (FDP) in the first year (2005-06) of the sixth National Finance Commission (NFC) award to resolve the much delayed issue. This was said by Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance Dr Salman Shah while talking to Dawn here on Wednesday. "We have almost reached a consensus over the sixth NFC award, under which provinces will be offered 47 per cent of the FDP in 2005-06, with an increase of Rs3 billion every year so that ultimately provinces receive much demanded 50 per cent share in the last year of the award," he said. He added that now there was only Rs10 billion difference to meet the demand of provinces to have 50 per cent share.

Daily Times, 17 June 2005

### **Dr Qadeer hospitalised**

LAHORE: Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has been taken to hospital with a heart problem, the government said on Thursday. Doctors have suggested that Dr Khan undergo angioplasty within a few days, a private news channel reported. Federal Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Dr Khan had been provided all necessary medical facilities and was under the continuous observation of doctors. "He has had some heart pressure ... and he may have angioplasty surgery in the next two or three days," Reuters quoted Sheikh Rashid Ahmed as saying.

The News, 17 June 2005

### **Musharraf urges US to lead effort**

SYDNEY: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Thursday renewed his call for effective participation of the industrialised world in the socio-economic development of the developing nations as part of the strategy to steer the world out of its present turbulence marked by unrest, inequality and terrorism. Addressing a gathering of elite Australian entrepreneurs, intellectuals and members of the Asia Society, he also called upon the Western capitals particularly Washington to help resolve political disputes affecting the Muslim countries with justice. "In the globalised and interconnected world, security is indivisible and conflict situations cannot be insulated in today's international environment.

The News, 17 June 2005

### **How the sister bombers were arrested** (Iftikhar Khan)

MINGORA: The birth of a child led to the arrest of two alleged terrorist sisters in Landaki, Swat district on June 4, sources told The News. According to sources, the two sisters Habiba and Arifa, who had allegedly got training of suicide bombing, were wanted by government and a search was on to nab them. One of them was married to one Hasan Shah of Mohmand Agency while the husband of the other had links to a defunct religious outfit. Hasan masterminded many terrorist attacks, who left his native Mohmand and settled in Amandara in Malakand Agency, informed the sources.

The News, 17 June 2005

### **Hurriyat leaders upbeat after Pakistan visit**

ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR: The delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by its Chairman

Mirwaiz Umer Farooq left here for held Kashmir on Thursday after a two-week tour of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The APHC leaders were seen off at the helipad here in Islamabad by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar, Minister for Kashmir Affairs Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat and other high officials. The APHC leaders then left for held Kashmir aboard the trans-Kashmir bus the same day from Chakothe. Prior to their departure, the Hurriyat leaders visited Ambore Refugee camp where they were briefed by the Rehabilitation Commissioner Muzaffarabad, Sadiq Dar, about the facilities being provided to the Kashmiri refugees by the AJK government.

The News, 17 June 2005

#### **Shujaat rules out in-house change** (Asim Yasin)

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Muslim League Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Thursday once again dispelled the impression about change of the Leader of the House in the National Assembly. "I have already stated that all reports about change of the Leader of the House were groundless and concocted and this chapter should close now," he said while addressing a press conference here at the PML House, flanked by party Secretary General Mushahid Hussain. PML NWFP President and Minister of State for Water and Power Amir Muqam, Minister of State for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Tariq Azeem and former MNA Omar Farooq Miankhel also spoke on the occasion.

The News, 17 June 2005

#### **Rashid under fire in Senate over 'training camps'** (Rauf Klasra)

ISLAMABAD: Opposition in the Senate Thursday criticized Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed after confirmation of the report about his Jihad training camp by ex-army chief Mirza Aslam Beg. Spearheading the attack Senator Raza Khan Raza asked the government why action was not being taken against Sheikh Rashid Ahmed after the revelation by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader Yasin Malik that Kashmiri freedom fighters used to receive training at Rashid's farm house training camp at Fateh Jang Road. The information minister and Yasin Malik have denied the news reports.

The News, 17 June 2005

#### **Diplomatic ties with NZ, Cambodia being established** (Muhammad Saleh Zaafir)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to establish full diplomatic ties with New Zealand and Cambodia by setting up its embassies in both the countries. Lt Col Muhammad Latif, currently deputy chief of protocol in the Foreign Office, here would be Pakistan's first charge d'affaires in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh. The decision to have complete diplomatic relations with these countries was taken during the visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to Cambodia. Well placed diplomatic sources revealed to The News that Pakistan would also announce the establishment of a high commission in Wellington. The formal announcement would be made during the visit of President General Pervez Musharraf to New Zealand later this week.

The News, 17 June 2005

#### **Army to monitor work on Mangla**

LAHORE, June 16: The army has decided to directly monitor pace of work on the Mangla Dam Raising Project. According to sources in Wapda, the engineering crop of the army and the Crops Commander Mangla have been assigned the duty to ensure timely completion of the project. The contractor will brief the army authorities on Saturday about the status of the work and its plans to make up for the lost time, which is over six months. The project had been held hostage to a dispute between the contractor and the lessees of burrow areas around the dam site about the cost of construction material.

The News, 17 June 2005

#### **Musharraf calls for flexibility: 'I'm qualified to play peacemaker's role'**

SYDNEY, June 16: President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday that Pakistan's military had 'broken the back' of Al Qaeda and reduced the organization to small isolated bands hiding in the mountains on the Pakistan-Afghan border. Speaking at a function of the Asia Society here, the president called on the United States to help undermine root causes of extremism by resolving political disputes like Palestine and Kashmir facing the Muslim world. The US should lead efforts to resolve political disputes afflicting the Muslim countries with justice, because it is the long-running disputes that give rise to powerlessness, hopelessness, extremism and terrorism, which endanger world peace," he said in his address on 'Pakistan's challenges, response and opportunities'.

Daily Times, 17 June 2005

#### **Riots in Karachi after three ST workers killed**

KARACHI: Violence spread to various parts of the city on Thursday following the killing of three Sunni Tehrik (ST)

activists late Wednesday night. In the violence on Thursday three men, a woman and a girl were injured in firing and three public transport vehicles were set on fire in the city, the police said. Two ST activists, Faizul Hasan, 35, and Ashraf Sammon, 32, were shot dead on M A Jinnah Road. Danish Hameed, who was shot in Ramaswamy, died in a hospital late Wednesday night. Later, violence erupted in Ramaswamy, Ranchhore Lines, Kharadar, Garden, Bohrapir, Chuna Bhatti, New Karachi, Lines Area, Al-Falah, Shah Faisal Colony, Landhi and Lyari where miscreants fired in the air and forced shopkeepers to pull their shutters down. Clashes were reported between ST and MQM workers in New Karachi, where two minibuses were set on fire.

The Nation, 17 June 2005

#### **Pak to decide about number of F-16s**

WASHINGTON (APP)"We're still in negotiations," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Christina Rocca said, asked how many F-16s Pakistan has ordered. Rep. Falemoavaega asked the question at the hearing of the Congressional International Relations Committee. "We're still in negotiations as to how many they want and what the cost will be. And I think that depends on the numbers. It's my understanding it depends on the numbers that they order. The Congressman said: So we really have not come to a definite number that we're going to sell to Pakistan. Ms. Rocca: Not to my knowledge. Not as of when I looked this morning. We're still talking to the Pakistanis about that.

The News, 18 June 2005

#### **NA passes budget amid opposition boycott (Asim Yasin)**

ISLAMABAD: Amid opposition boycott on Friday, the National Assembly passed budget of a total outlay of Rs 1,098 billion (about Rs 1.1 trillion) for financial year 2005-06 while adopting the Finance Bill to give legal cover to financial proposals and amend some budget related laws The opposition staged a walkout from the House before the passage of the bill in protest against the suspension of membership of seven opposition members of the Punjab Assembly on Friday while branding it an act of silencing the voice of political opponents. As many as 17 out of 20 recommendations of the Senate have also been incorporated in the Finance Bill. The new budget was presented in the National Assembly on June 6 with a total outlay of Rs 1,098 billion. It envisages relief for different sectors of economy and various segments of the society.

The News, 18 June 2005

#### **Musharraf offers India nuclear disarmament**

AUCKLAND: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said on Friday he has proposed nuclear disarmament with India to ensure peace and stability between the nuclear-armed neighbours. Musharraf said his country has gone "much further" than proposing a no first-strike nuclear policy in order to build confidence between the South Asian rivals, which have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947. "We have suggested (nuclear) disarmament and reduction of forces," said Musharraf, who has repeatedly pledged in the past to defend and strengthen his country's nuclear and missile capability. Pakistan also opposes nuclear proliferation and was "against any other country acquiring nuclear weapons," he told reporters after talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark in the northern city of Auckland. Musharraf reiterated Islamabad's opposition to creation of more centres of privilege at the UN Security Council, saying it violates the basic principle of sovereign equality of nations.

The News, 18 June 2005

#### **Pakistan to accept any solution acceptable to Kashmiris: Mirwaiz**

SRINAGAR: All Parties Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Omar Farooq on Friday said Islamabad would agree to any solution acceptable to Kashmiris in its dispute with India over Kashmir, while fresh bloodletting left 14 people. "President (Pervez) Musharraf told me that any solution acceptable to the people of Kashmir will be acceptable to Pakistan," Mirwaiz told thousands of Muslims at the main mosque in held Srinagar after returning from his landmark visit to Pakistan. Speaking a day after he and eight other APHC leaders returned home from a two-week trip to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, the Mirwaz said: "President Musharraf has asked me to convey his country's support to the people of Kashmir," he said, to cheers from the crowd who chanted, "We want freedom" and "Kashmir is ours. We will decide its destiny."

The News, 18 June 2005

#### **Shaukat to chair meeting on controversial Kishan Ganga Dam today (Kaleem Omar)**

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will chair a meeting in Islamabad today to discuss Pakistan's stand on the controversial 330 megawatt Kishan Ganga Hydropower Project being built by India in Indian-occupied Kashmir in violation of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 The meeting will be attended by Federal Water and Power Minister Liaquat Jatoi, Water and Power Secretary Ashfaq Mehmood, Pakistan Commission on Indus Water chief Syed

Jamaat Ali Shah, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice. At Saturday's meeting in Islamabad, Prime Minister Aziz is expected to stress that Pakistan should adopt an aggressive stand on the issue during talks with India and seek a solution in accordance with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty, sources said. India has nearly completed work on a 22-kilometre tunnel to divert Kishan Ganga waters to the Wullar reservoir on the River Jhelum in occupied Kashmir.. This would affect the flow in the River Neelum in Azad Kashmir. The reduced flow in the Neelum would be insufficient to generate the full 969 MW of electricity by Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project proposed to be built by Pakistan at an estimate cost of \$ 1.6 billion.

The News, 18 June 2005

#### **ISI trained Kashmir militants, claims JKLF chief**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's main spy agency gave military training to Kashmiri militants battling security forces in held Kashmir, a militant leader has revealed for the first time. The first confirmation by a militant leader comes at a time of unprecedented peace steps by the two nuclear-armed powers. The revelation of help for the militants from the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agency comes in a new book by Amanullah Khan, chief of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). "We had a gentleman's agreement, an oral sort of agreement. I was given the idea that the ISI was all for the independence of Kashmir," Amanullah Khan told Reuters on Friday, referring to the beginning of ISI help for his group. Amanullah Khan said he was given the impression that Pakistan's then military ruler, Gen Ziaul Haq, also supported the notion of independence for Kashmir. Amanullah Khan said the JKLF began bringing young men into Azad Kashmir from held Kashmir in 1988, where they received training from the ISI.

Daily Times, 18 June 2005

#### **What makes a man a suicide bomber? (Khalid Hasan)**

WASHINGTON: The growing incidents of suicide bombings in Pakistan has begun to worry the government, no less than the people, according to a report in the Christian Science Monitor. Filed from Pakistan by the newspaper's correspondent, Owais Tohid, the report says how suicide bombers are recruited and brainwashed into offering the ultimate sacrifice are now questions of "increasing urgency in Pakistan, which has seen a spate of suicide bombings in recent weeks. These attacks were carried out by splinter groups formed in the wake of the post-9/11 crackdown on militant organisations. "Smaller and more isolated than their parent organisations, these splinter groups receive financial backing from Al Qaeda and draw their recruits from the ranks of the poor and enraged," according to investigators. Fateh Mohammad Burfat of the University of Karachi is of the view that this is a new breed, made up of the unemployed and the illiterate who belong to the poorer strata of society. These men perceive US military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan as hostile acts against the Muslim world. They have also been led to believe that a successful suicide attacks will gain them victory here and in the hereafter.

Daily Times, 18 June 2005

#### **Tribals asked to attend Nek's death anniversary**

PESHAWAR: Armed Taliban leaders riding vehicles mounted with loudspeakers invited the Wazir tribesmen in Wana on Friday to join mujahideen in Azam Warsak today (Saturday) to "pay tribute" to commander Nek Muhammad on his first death anniversary, witnesses said. Nek Muhammad, 27, was killed in a "precision guided missile" attack on June 18 last year in Wana, regional headquarters of South Waziristan, after his "historic handshake" with a top military commander in Shakai Valley on April 24. "The mujahideen invite you to attend Nek Muhammad's death anniversary in Azam Warsak," witnesses quoted the Taliban as announcing through Wana bazaar.

Daily Times, 18 June 2005

#### **Amnesty International report: Political role for military consolidated through NSC**

LAHORE: The political role of the military is being consolidated in Pakistan through the National Security Council (NSC), Amnesty International in Pakistan has said in its annual human rights report. The report, which was published in the Amnesty International Secretariat, England, said that the political role of the military was consolidated by establishing the NSC by an act of parliament. "The committee, under the chairmanship of the president, has given the military a consultative role in security matters," it said. "In November, a law was passed allowing General Musharraf to remain president and chief of the army, contrary to his earlier promise that the two roles would be separated," the report said.

Daily Times, 18 June 2005

#### **Kashmiri leaders came to Pakistan on Indian agenda: JI**

LAHORE: The Kashmir leadership's visit to Pakistan did not serve the Kashmir cause, it merely fortified the Indian

stance on Kashmir, said Syed Munawar Hassan, Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general on Friday. "The UN resolutions on Kashmir are the only option endorsed by India, Kashmir and Pakistan. Talks on other options, such as the independence of Kashmir, are nothing but negation of the historically important case," he said during a Friday sermon at Jamia Mansoorah. He said that the Kashmiri leaders' visit had compromised the Kashmir issue greatly. "Settling the issue outside the UN resolutions serves no one except New Delhi. It is betrayal to the blood spilled by Kashmiri martyrs." The JI leader said that Muslim rulers were treating their own people like aliens and their armies watched silently as fellow Muslims were subjected to atrocities in other parts of the world. "Musharraf has become the George Bush of Pakistan. He is using Pakistan's army to crush its own people in North and South Waziristan."

Daily Times, 18 June 2005

**'Abdullah Mehsud' chats with press** (Iqbal Khattak)

PESHAWAR: "Assalamall- aykum," a man said after introducing himself as Abdullah Mehsud, wanted by the government for kidnapping Chinese engineers in October last year, in his calls to media offices in Peshawar and said he would resume his activities. "I was not well and that is why I was silent," said Abdullah who was pronounced dead on March 13 by a caller claiming to be his spokesman. He did not elaborate his illness nor did he say where he got treatment but only said, "I was in heaven for treatment." The military put Rs 5 million on his head money and asked for information about his whereabouts. His close associate Baitullah Mehsud along with hundreds of fighters had reached a peace deal with the government in February this year when he surrendered to the South Waziristan Political Administration in the Sararogha area. Abdullah said he would continue fighting for an "Islamic system" in Pakistan. "Unless my head is chopped off I will not stop my struggle," Abdullah said on the phone from an undisclosed location.

The News, 19 June 2005

**Mulla Omar in Pakistan: Khalilzad**

KABUL: The outgoing US ambassador to Afghanistan has said there is a good chance Taliban leader Mulla Mohammad Omar is hiding in Pakistan and accused Islamabad of failing to act against fugitive Taliban leaders. Pakistan on Saturday described the comments by Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad as "irresponsible". Khalilzad had asked an interviewer why a Pakistani television channel could conduct an interview with a senior Taliban commander, Mulla Akhtar Usmani, broadcast on Wednesday, at a time when Pakistani officials claimed they did not know the whereabouts of Taliban leaders. Khalilzad said in his interview with Afghanistan's Aina television broadcast on Friday evening. "There is a lot of chance that Mulla Omar and other senior Taliban are in Pakistan," he added. "Mr Usmani, who is one of the Taliban leaders, spoke to Pakistani Geo TV, at a time when Pakistani officials claimed they did not know where they were."

The News, 19 June 2005

**JI expresses concern over recent wave of killings**

KARACHI: The meeting of Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) political committee was held here on Saturday with its Naib Amir Sindh, Mairajul Huda, in the chair, which took strong notice of the miserable condition of the province with special reference to the widespread killings of political leaders in the city. The meeting condemning the free-for-all situation and recent killings of Sunni-Tehreek (ST) activists alleged that the provincial government had utterly failed to control the law and order situation and it has lost confidence in the people. The meeting discussed the ongoing killings of the political opponents one after another and said that Karachi has become unsafe for the people, which showed that the Sindh government failed to provide protection to them and their properties.

Daily Times, 19 June 2005

**China to start import of Pakistani rice by September**

BEIJING: A four-member delegation of Chinese experts will arrive Pakistan Monday to finalize deal for import of Pakistani rice. During its weeklong stay in Pakistan, the delegation will visit rice-growing areas and processing units, collecting some relevant information. "This is a final requirement start importing the Pakistani rice," official sources said here on Saturday. The visit is also a follow-up of the trade protocol signed by the two countries during the recent visit to Islamabad by the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Talking to APP, the sources hoped the import of the Pakistani rice would start by September this year. The Pakistani long-grain rice can find a big market in China, since its quality is better than the rice that is currently being imported from Thailand and some other countries, said Shahid Mahmood, commercial counsellor in the Pakistan embassy.

Daily Times, 19 June 2005

**Gwadar Port to attract foreign investment**

ISLAMABAD: The establishment of Tax-Free zones in Gwadar Port would attract considerable foreign investment

and generate more employment opportunities, said Tariq Sadiq, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). In a press statement on Saturday he said that government's decision to allow China & South Korea to setup their tax-free Special Industrial Development Zones (SIDZs) in Gwadar, would make this port, more viable project for accelerating economic activity in the region. He said that early competition of this project by middle of 2006, as per directive of President Musharraf, would be a big milestone in the history of Pakistan.

Dawn, 19 June 2005

**Chinese firm likely to resume work on Gomal dam (Zulfiqar Ali)**

PESHAWAR: The Sino Hydro Corporation (SHC), a Chinese construction company in the public sector, and the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) are close to an agreement to restart work on the Gomal Zam dam project in South Waziristan Agency, it is learnt. "Negotiations are under way and Chinese are likely to restart work on the project soon," a senior official said. "Both parties are negotiating terms and conditions to revise the contract and the Chinese have almost agreed to take over the project again," he said. The SHC suspended work on the multi-billion rupees project after militants kidnapped two Chinese engineers along with their local guards from the tribal region in September 2004. One Chinese was killed during a commando action carried out by the Special Services Group to free the hostages.

The News, 19 June 2005

**Madinatul IIm blast case: LJ activists sent to jail**

KARACHI: Two alleged activists of banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, facing charges for their alleged involvement in Madinatul IIm mosque suicide bombing case, were sent to jail on Saturday. Justice Amir Hani Muslim of the Sindh High Court (SHC) who is also Administrative Judge (AJ) of the Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs) in Karachi directed Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Mohammad Aslam to submit charge sheet against Mohammad Tehseen and Mohammad Altaf alias Mufti before the court on June 25. The accused were produced before the court amid tight security. The IO requested judicial custody of the accused and sought time to submit charge sheet against them.

Daily Times, 19 June 2005

**Nek's first death anniversary: Wana clerics vow to continue jihad (Iqbal Khattak)**

PESHAWAR: Clerics on Saturday joined thousands of Taliban in Wana to reaffirm jihad against Americans and to warn Pakistani security forces against waging anti-mujahideen operations in both North and South Waziristan. The resolve to wage jihad "till the Americans were defeated" and a veiled threat to issue a "jihad edict" against the Pakistani security forces were hallmarks of speeches delivered in Azam Warsak, former stronghold of militants in South Waziristan, where people had gathered to observe the first death anniversary of Nek Muhammad. "Jihad against America will continue," declared new Taliban commander Haji Muhammad Omar. He also warned that a peace deal with the government would collapse if Nek Muhammad's jailed comrades were not freed.

Daily Times, 19 June 2005

**Rs 17.85b AJK budget presented**

MUZAFFARABAD: Raja Nisar Ahmad Khan, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir finance minister, presented a tax-free budget for fiscal year 2005-06 with a total outlay of Rs 17.85 billion in the AJK Legislative Assembly on Saturday. The budget is 13 percent higher than last year's and has a development outlay of Rs 5.1b, to be provided by the federal government. For 2005-06, the AJK total revenue has been budgeted at Rs 9.99 billion, with the state generating Rs 4.13b from its own resources and receiving Rs 900m as royalty for the Mangla Dam. Raja Nisar said the budget envisaged launching a micro credit scheme to provide soft loans to unemployed youth to help them establish their own businesses. In addition to this, over 1,700 new jobs would be available in the public sector in the next budget. The minister said that various federal ministries and corporations would launch different development projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir worth Rs 18b, while a four-year development project with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank would also be launched involving expenditure of over four billion rupees.

Daily Times, 19 June 2005

**Fishing in troubled waters (editorial)**

Press reports suggest that India has offered Pakistan electricity from its controversial Baglihar and Kishanganga projects and is also prepared to guarantee uninterrupted water flows in rivers Chenab and Jhelum if Islamabad does not press for neutral arbitration on these projects under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). But the Pakistani Foreign Office has denied that India has approached Pakistan with any such formal proposal. That may be so. However, the manner in which this report is recurring shows that India might be signalling to Pakistan through unofficial channels to elicit a reaction. If the reaction is negative, no harm is done because informal proposals are just that; indeed, these can even be dismissed as rumours. But if the reaction is favourable, then the government

putting out feelers can move towards formalising the proposal(s).

We think it is important to look at the feasibility of the Indian proposal for three reasons. Water is a vital issue; India and Pakistan are locked in not one but two controversial projects; and the ongoing normalisation process demands that some framework of cooperation be developed quickly to avoid the water issue souring relations all round.

Daily Times, 19 June 2005

**Is militarism irreversible in Pakistan?** (Ahmad Faruqi)

Musharraf believes that Pakistan needs the big stick of the military to survive as a nation state. Deep down, one senses an authoritarian conviction that the people cannot be trusted to choose their own leader. After watching cricket with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his native Delhi, General Pervez Musharraf proudly declared to world acclaim that the peace process with India was irreversible. But he has yet to declare in Islamabad that Pakistan's move towards democracy is irreversible. During his recent tour of Australia and New Zealand, he said Pakistan was already a democracy, but for his having to wear a uniform to safeguard it. Conveniently, the general's four stars are never visible when he travels abroad. They are meant to shine and intimidate fellow Pakistanis at home, especially the khakis. He knows the day he doffs his uniform, he would rule at the mercy of his army chief. Even the taxi driver in Karachi knows this iron law of Pakistani politics.

Why, one must ask, is Pakistan still governed by its military, in the sixth decade of its life? Like the one field marshal and two generals who preceded him, Musharraf believes that Pakistan needs the big stick of the military to survive as a nation state. Deep down, one senses an authoritarian conviction that the people cannot be trusted to choose their own leader. As Ayub famously said in the early-1960s, it is the duty of the khakis to "save the people from themselves". He forecast that Pakistan would be ready for true democracy two generations later.

Dawn, 19 June 2005

**Witness identifies Jundullah men**

KARACHI: Another eyewitness on Saturday identified activists of Jundullah Attaur Rehman and Shahzad Bajwa as attackers who fired on a ranger van in Ferozabad on March 19, 2004. Mohammad Shafiq, a food vendor, testified this before an Anti-Terrorism Court in Karachi during his deposition. He said he saw the accused who fired on Ranger mobile. He was later cross-examined by defence counsel M.R Syed. ATC Judge Feroz Mehmood Bhatti fixed June 21 for the next hearing.

Dawn, 19 June 2005

**Nuclear disarmament** (editorial)

Speaking to reporters in Auckland, New Zealand, on Friday, President Pervez Musharraf said that he had proposed nuclear disarmament and force reduction to India. This is not for the first time that Pakistan has suggested nuclear disarmament to India. Islamabad has repeatedly pleaded for a nuclear-free South Asia but received no response from New Delhi. It is not clear when the president made this proposal, but going by experience, it is highly improbable that New Delhi will respond positively to it. That Pakistan and India, both afflicted with massive poverty, should become nuclear powers is indeed unfair to their people. But, the truth is that Pakistan was left with no choice when India tested its nuclear weapons in 1998.

South Asia's first nuclear test was conducted by India in the summer of 1974 at Pokhran near Pakistan's border. That forced this country to launch a nuclear programme of its own. Pakistan pursued this programme despite sanctions by the US and the strict ban on the export of sensitive material to Pakistan imposed by many western countries. Then in May 1998, Pakistan crossed the Rubicon when, in response to the Indian tests, Islamabad decided to conduct its own nuclear tests. Twice since then - during the Kargil conflict in 1999 and the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation in 2002 - the spectre of a nuclear war has haunted the people of Pakistan and India. There is also this ever-present danger - a nuclear war by accident.

The News, 20 June 2005

**Rs 86.5bn deficit NWFP budget presented** (Muhammad Ali Khan)

PESHAWAR: The Rs 86.50 billion tax-free NWFP budget for 2005-06 with Rs 2.30 billion deficit and outlining an Annual Development Programme of Rs 20.98 billion was unveiled in the provincial assembly here on Sunday afternoon. Senior provincial minister Sirajul Haq, who also holds the portfolio of finance and planning and development, presented the budget in a speech punctuated by Urdu couplets. It was the first time that the government had made available the budget speech on the Internet. The minister regretted the federal government's inability to announce the National Finance Commission Award before the budget and said it had

contributed to the NWFP's economic woes. He wondered as to why the NFC Award was not finalised by the country's rulers who were claiming that the Kashmir dispute with India could be resolved in two weeks' time.

The relief measures announced by the finance minister were already made public by NWFP Chief Minister Akram Durrani in his government's agricultural and industrial policies. Under these measures, farmers owning agricultural land below five acres would be exempted from land tax. It would deprive the provincial government of Rs 34.97 million annually but at the same time benefit around 1.5 million small farmers. Tax on property gifted to heirs would also be waived off. Industrial units have also been exempted from property tax for five years and their arrears up to June 30, 2005 were struck off.

The News, 20 June 2005

#### **Pakistani girl undergoes successful heart surgery in India**

CHENNAI: Karran Bari, a 13-year old student from Karachi, has successfully undergone an open heart surgery at a Chennai hospital, India. Eminent cardiac surgeon K M Cherian, who headed the team of specialists that performed the complex seven-hour-long surgery, said Karran had a congenital heart defect. Unlike others, she was not able to breathe properly. Earlier, a surgery was done when she was eight-month old. This was followed by another 30 months later. Both the operations, performed at Bahrain where her father was working, gave her only temporary respite. When she was taken back to Bahrain for treatment, she was referred to Dr Cherian in India. Her parents, Pakistani father Tariq Bari and Filipino mother Zahra, took a flight to Chennai from Bahrain.

The News, 20 June 2005

#### **US visa denial to Gen Yusuf unjust: FO (Mariana Baabar)**

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan has termed the decision of the Embassy of the United States to deny a visa to former vice chief of army staff, General Mohammad Yusuf, an "unjust decision". Diplomatic sources told The News that Gen Yusuf reached the US embassy at the appointed time on Thursday but was turned back without issuing a visa to him. "Well if this report is true then it is certainly an unjust decision and the Foreign Office will take it up with the US embassy. Even though granting of a visa is the sovereign decision of any country, Gen Mohammad Yusuf is a former senior military officer who has visited the United States a number of times," Jalil Abbas Jilani, Foreign Office spokesman told The News when approached.

Diplomatic sources say that when senior officials at the US embassy tried to investigate what had really happened it appears that some junior staff was now covering its tracks. According to the sources the junior staff says that General Yusuf reached the embassy at 8.30 in the morning instead of 10.30am as was scheduled. They also complained that the general lost his temper and refused to be finger-printed. However, senior officials in the embassy, who know the general well, are reluctant to believe this as they say that Gen Yusuf is too dignified for such actions and there was no way that he would have reached the embassy so early in the morning.

Daily Times, 20 June 2005

#### **The Punjab episode (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

If the opposition is pushed to a situation where it finds its political space shrinking fast and has nothing positive to look forward to, it loses its stake in the political process. This makes the political system vulnerable to non-parliamentary and extra- or un-constitutional pressures. Developments in the Punjab Provincial Assembly last week shattered the impression that the province was more stable than others. It seems that the ruling party and the provincial government wanted to demonstrate their power and assertiveness as well as ward off incipient intra-party challenges. It is also a subtle message to the competing interests in the forthcoming local elections to get on the government bandwagon because others will not have much of a chance against a powerful and assertive government.

On June 16, retaliating to what the treasury members described as his un-parliamentary remarks, the ruling PML passed a resolution expelling the parliamentary leader of the PML-N, Rana Sanaullah, from the house for 15 days. They also accused him of causing frequent disruptions in the proceedings of the assembly. The Speaker expelled another PML-N member for 15 days for shouting at him. A day later, the Speaker expelled seven more members of the opposition (PPP-Parliamentarians: six, PML-N: one) who took up the issue of the suspension of their colleagues and used strong language against the decision and the Speaker. Still another PML-N member was suspended for 15 days on June 18. The Punjab chief minister defended the suspension of the PML-N parliamentary leader, claiming that the Speaker had prevented "chaos in the house". He said the opposition was "trying to vitiate the atmosphere of the house at the behest of their masters living abroad". He maintained that "despite the anti-democratic designs of the opposition, democracy would flourish and assemblies would complete their term".

Daily Times, 20 June 2005

**I will form my own party if I am expelled: Nasim Wali Khan**

Former Awami National Party provincial president Begum Nasim Wali Khan accused the United States and Pakistan's prime spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), of weakening the party ideologically. She said that late freedom movement leader Baacha Khan's party was deviating from "principles and traditions" and was pursuing a new agenda. In an exclusive interview with Daily Times' Peshawar Bureau Chief Iqbal Khattak, Begum Nasim warned she would form her own party if expelled from the ANP.

The News, 21 June 2005

**No shift in Pak stand on Kashmir: FO (Mariana Baabar)**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday appeared hopeful India would allow Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed to travel to Srinagar by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service. Briefing the media at the weekly press conference, Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said it was likely that when the lists are exchanged today, Rashid's name would be included in it. He clarified that Islamabad had not been conveyed anything to the contrary. "My understanding is that the lists would be exchanged on June 21 and the name of Sheikh Rashid Sahib would be included in it as he had sought permission to travel by the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service," said the spokesman. The minister, who was in the eye of the storm recently about alleged military training camps on his property, would be the first cabinet member to visit occupied Kashmir, if the visit materialises.

Replying to a question, Jilani emphasised there had been no change in what was Pakistan's principled position on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and it wanted the people of Kashmir to be involved in the process, which envisages a lasting solution. Referring to the country's constitution, he said it was clear that the future of Jammu and Kashmir had to be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir. "There is absolutely no change in Pakistan's principled position and articulation by president is exactly in line with Article 257 of the Constitution of Pakistan." At the possibility of another meeting between President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Jilani said that it was likely that the two leaders would meet at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York in September this year.

The News, 21 June 2005

**Indian journalists receive warm reception**

LAHORE: A 30-member delegation of the Indian Newspapers Society (INS) on Monday received a warm welcome aimed high hopes for accelerating peace process between Pakistan and India and a free and frequent exchange of information and mediapersons between the two countries. The delegation has arrived to hold the 500th INS meeting in Lahore from Tuesday (today). The head of the delegation and President INS, Pardeep Goha, told the distinguished mediapersons at a dinner hosted by Safma Pakistan that the delegation came to put another brick in the foundation of ever-growing peace and love between the two countries. He said President Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meetings may not be enough unless people-to-people contact not increased. Safma General-Secretary Imtiaz Alam said the INS could play a significant role to help both the countries close. He said the INS meeting was a great opportunity for media from both the countries to learn from each others and it would prove to be a harbinger of new era in the world of media.

K K Katiyal, Mamon Mathew, Murli, Vishva B Gupta, and other senior journalists from India thanked Safma and Pakistani media while Zia Uddin, Najam Sethi, Dr Jabbar Khattak, Shaheen Qureshi spoke on the behalf of Safma, CPNE & APNS and welcomed the distinguished guests.

The News, 21 June 2005

**Kashmir: other options (A R Jerral)**

The delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), during its visit to Azad Kashmir and Pakistan, hinted at exploring "other options" for a permanent settlement of the Kashmir issue. APHC chairman, Mirwaiz Omer Farooq, acknowledging the UN's failure in implementing its resolutions, stressed upon the need to seek an alternate solution. The Mirwaiz said he broadly agrees with President General Pervez Musharraf's suggestions, but did not specify what they were. The people of Kashmir and Pakistan also remain unaware of the details. Despite the UN's dismal role in the Kashmir dispute, the leadership and the people on both sides of the Line of Control have been talking of a plebiscite, for the past half century that the UN Security Council agreed to in principle. What is never mentioned is the heavy bias of these resolutions in favour of India. We have been shouting hoarse for a plebiscite without knowing the details -- at least the general public doesn't know them.

UNSC Resolution No. 47 of 21 April, 1948 is a clear indication of the pro-India bias. The resolution asks Pakistan to withdraw all its troops from the territories of J&K while allowing India to retain forces for the maintenance of law

and order. Since a plebiscite held with Indian troops in occupation would be fraught with obvious dangers, both the Pakistan and AJK leaderships were reluctant to go for this option. India, however, insisted on Pakistan's withdrawal as a precondition. The status quo, which has been sustained over the period of the long occupation, suits India.

Daily Times, 21 June 2005

#### **'Pakistan interfering in Afghanistan'**

ISLAMABAD: President Hamid Karzai accused Pakistan of interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs, Online reported on Monday. Radio Tehran quoted Karzai as telling a religious council that Islamabad was backing the anti-Kabul elements. Karzai alleged that Pakistan had threatened the Taliban with handing over their families to the US if they did not fight against Afghanistan. Meanwhile, an Afghan official told the Associated Press that the Afghan government was extremely angry at what he called a "lack of cooperation" from Islamabad in stopping militants from crossing the border. The Afghan official said Pakistan's lack of resolve was a factor in both the assassination plot of US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, and an upsurge in violence across Afghanistan that has left hundreds dead. "We have always believed that if we got cooperation from Pakistan, this violence wouldn't be happening," he said. "These militants are getting support from people in Pakistan, and we are not convinced when Islamabad says it can't control them."

Daily Times, 21 June 2005

#### **Pakistan and India agree on Siachen as peace mountain**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have agreed to introduce more confidence-building measures, with India taking its forces from Siachen to the pre-1984 position. Informed sources told Online that the Pakistani and Indian national security advisers, in a recent closed-door meeting, had agreed to make Siachen Glacier a 'mountain of peace' as desired by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the two countries would take back their forces to pre-1984 positions on the world's highest battlefield. "The move is aimed at giving relief to the Indian and Pakistani troops at the Siachen Glacier and reducing heavy military expenditure," sources said. In 1989, Pakistani and Indian defence secretaries signed an agreement regarding unconditional withdrawal of the Indian forces from Siachen but the Indians backtracked. Sources said the Pakistani and Indian security officials also considered various options on Kashmir, agreeing to continue their talks on the issue.

Daily Times, 21 June 2005

#### **How should we take external criticism? (Khaled Ahmed)**

Hafiz Hussain Ahmad denied authority to the ulema who did not belong to the Banuri mosque of Karachi, thus clearly pointing to a schism. (Banuri mosque fatwa of death against the Americans in the 1990s was ignored by the other clerics.) His only consolation was that he was addressing an audience that may believe that the trouble in Balochistan was being fomented by the Americans and the Indians. Standing up for your country also means fending off criticism against it. Democracy is bad because it relies on opposition and criticism. Rulers who identify themselves with the state are angered by criticism because they think it unpatriotic. How should one sustain patriotism if the conduct of the state is constantly exposed to objection? More painful is the criticism that comes from abroad. Should we be defensive or should we objectively examine it? The issue is further complicated by our reluctance to accept a uniform standard of behaviour for states in their internal affairs.

Daily Times, 21 June 2005

#### **Managing water resources in Pakistan (Syed Mohammad Ali)**

The alternative water sources of poor residents of slums and rural areas are often polluted rivers, lakes and shallow hand-dug wells. Still, middle class consumers, rather than the poor, enjoy subsidised water rates. Despite its essential need, fresh water availability is frighteningly limited. Over a billion people, mostly in developing countries, do not have adequate water supplies. Pakistan, too, is classed as a water-stressed nation in view of the average water availability of its population. Experts gathered some months ago in Islamabad, on the occasion of World Water Day, thought that unless the water resources are better managed Pakistan would slip below the water deficiency level -- 1,000 cubic metres per person, per annum -- in five years.

The problem of increasing water scarcity in Pakistan is multifaceted. Unlike most developing countries of the world, where 70 to 80 percent of fresh water resources are diverted for agricultural purposes, agriculture in Pakistan uses well over 95 percent of the fresh water resources. While some argue that the pressure to feed the growing population and increase exports is responsible for the large proportion of the country's water resources being allocated to agriculture, others point to the high losses in the sprawling irrigation system. Rapid and unsustainable development, too, has polluted and disturbed some major watersheds and river plains, in turn disrupting natural hydrological cycles.

The Nation, 21 June 2005

**The wails of Mukhtaran Mai** (Mazhar Qayyum Khan)

Raped by a gang of Mastoi tribesmen on orders of a tribal jirga to extract vengeance for the sins of her 12-year brother, who was falsely accused of developing illicit relations with a woman of their tribe, the innocent Mukhtaran Mai from Meerwala must have cried to heaven for help. In a sense, her wails did not go waste, and a journalist located in another town got the whiff, reported the matter and called out for justice. The bold 30-year woman would not stay still either. And now her cause has been zealously taken up by scores of feeling men and women in different parts of the world, human rights bodies and the media. Mukhtaran might have been egged on by certain social activists and human rights bodies to remain steadfast in demanding justice, as some circles have maintained, but that should not go against her, even if these individuals and organisations have their own interests to serve. It is a worthy cause and anyone helping to sustain it would be doing a good turn to the country. She stands as a symbol of resistance to oppression against women in Pakistan and, indeed, anywhere else in the world, and there is no justification for standing in her way.

The Nation, 21 June 2005

**Waiting for Benazir** (Zia Khokhar)

A large majority of Pakistan People's Party workers will celebrate the birthday of their popular leader, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto today (21-06-2005). They will be joined in the functions by office-bearers of all pro-democracy political parties who are the custodians of the constitution and supremacy of law, and by those who wish to see a progressive Pakistan adhering to liberal values, champion of human rights and promoting a society based on equality. But who will fill the front rows of these functions: the common folks crushed under poverty and high prices. They are the ones who will raise the "Jeeay Bhutto, Jeeay Benazir" slogans for they have been rendered vulnerable by the prevailing hardships and miseries of life, injustice and unemployment. They have a dream that one day their leader, Benazir Bhutto, will free the country from the claws of a puppet regime, which took over power by violating the Constitution. A dream that their leader will bring democracy, peace, justice, freedom, tolerance and progress within the reach of the common people.

The Nation, 21 June 2005

**Eagerly sought Kashmir solution** (Dr Kaniz F Yusuf)

In April 1994 I organised a seminar on Kashmir. Even at that time it was felt as if a solution was possible in near future. Eleven years have gone by. A plausible solution acceptable to the Kashmiris does not seem any time near. Kashmir issue is not a war between India and Pakistan. It is the struggle of Kashmiri people for their basic right of self-determination, which has been denied to them. At the time of the partition of India, this right was given to people of almost 584 Princely States. Kashmiris are the only people who have been deprived of this right through deceit, fraud, torture, humiliation and war followed by Indian occupation by so called security forces. The brave and valiant people have endured all sorts of torture hoping that one day their dream of freedom will be achieved. In the seminar, I had invited people from Europe as well India. Two speakers came from India. One of them was Khushwant Singh, a well known journalist and an outspoken person on political issues. In his speech he pointed out that solution of Kashmir issue, today, tomorrow or ten years hereafter is going to be one and the same, "autonomy to the valley within India and the rest will be as settled by the control line". It seems that India has maintained this posture and has not budged even a millimetre.

The News, 22 June 2005

**Musharraf assures Karzai of cooperation**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf assured his Afghan counterpart, Hamid Karzai, of his support in fighting terrorism in a telephone call on Tuesday, shortly after a spokesman for Karzai said Pakistan was not doing enough to fight terror. Musharraf promised "Pakistan's continued support and cooperation in the fight against terrorism," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The conversation between Musharraf and Karzai, two close US allies in the war against terrorism, came the same day that Karzai's spokesman, Jawed Ludin, said Islamabad was not doing enough to fight the militants, and said there would never be peace in Afghanistan until the two nations "join hands together to fight terrorism". The discussion came a day after Afghan officials said three Pakistanis were arrested in Afghanistan for allegedly plotting to kill US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. Pakistan has denied any official involvement in the alleged plot. Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told The Associated Press that Musharraf and Karzai "talked about the different statements that are coming these days". He did not give further details.

The News, 22 June 2005

**Singh accuses Pakistan of violating bus accord**

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh accused Pakistan on Tuesday of violating a bilateral travel agreement on the newly launched trans-Kashmir bus service. Singh said Pakistan breached the pact earlier this

month by allowing All Parties Hurriyat (APHC) Conference leaders to travel beyond Azad Kashmir to Islamabad where they held talks with President Pervez Musharraf. People who travel on the bus service which started April 7 can only visit Azad Kashmir and held Kashmir under the agreement between the two South Asian neighbours that was seen as a major achievement of their slow-moving peace process. Pakistan's decision to "invite them to visit Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan violated an understanding on the procedures reached between the two countries for running the bus service", Singh said. He made the comments in a letter to former premier Atal Behari Vajpayee who criticised the government's policy on the APHC leaders' visit.

The News, 22 June 2005

#### **Hizb rejects ceasefire with India**

MUZAFFARABAD: The main militant group of held Kashmir on Tuesday rejected calls for a ceasefire in the restive Himalayan region and instead told militants to prepare for Jihad. Syed Salahuddin, Supreme Commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, also dismissed the ongoing peace process between South Asian rivals India and Pakistan, which centres on the fate of Kashmir, as "a waste of time". "The need for an organised and massive armed struggle has increased today more than ever and the Kashmiri youth need to prepare themselves for fighting in maximum numbers," Salahuddin told AFP. The organisation's uncompromising stance comes days after a delegation of moderate APHC leaders from held Kashmir made a historic visit to Pakistan this month to spur on the peace efforts. Some delegation members met Salahuddin while the delegation's leader Mirwaiz Omar Farooq advised militant groups to support the political leadership in seeking a negotiated settlement of the 57-year-old dispute. It also comes less than two months after the group's chief operational commander was reported as saying the Hizb would "seriously consider" any ceasefire offer by New Delhi to end bloodshed in held Kashmir.

The News, 22 June 2005

#### **Petition filed for production of two alleged bomber sisters** (Kashmir Khan Afridi)

PESHAWAR: A writ petition seeking production of two alleged bomber sisters and as many as other detainees, was filed in the Peshawar High Court here Tuesday. The petitioner prayed to the court to direct the respondents to act in accordance with the law and the Constitution and produce the detainees before the court. The petitioner, Hameed Khan, is the husband of Gul Andama, father of Bilal and father-in-law of one of the two sisters, Arifa, while the fourth detainee is Saba, the second alleged bomber sister. The petitioner stated that though the authorities had shown the two sisters but the whereabouts of Bilal and his mother was still not known since their picking up by the law enforcement agencies.

The News, 22 June 2005

#### **Pakistan, China to establish space agency**

BEIJING: Pakistan, China and some other regional countries have agreed to formally launch Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (Apsco) for developing space technology. The Apsco is being set up to promote capabilities of the member countries in several areas of space technology applications, said Muhammad Nasim Shah, senior adviser of the Asia-Pacific Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications (AP-MCSTA). He told APP here in an interview that the four Asia-Pacific countries, China, Pakistan, Peru and Thailand have already conveyed the approval of their respective parliaments and governments to sign the Apsco convention. As per Article 29 of the convention, the Apsco convention will enter into force when at least five states of the Asia-Pacific Region, which are members of the United Nations, have signed it and have deposited with the host government their instruments of ratification or acceptance. Expressing the hope that the Apsco will be established shortly, he said the government of Argentine has approved the convention and requested for granting observer's status with Apsco, since it is located outside the geographic region of Apsco.

The News, 22 June 2005

#### **Zalmay Khalilzad tries to malign Pakistan yet again** (Kaleem Omar)

KARACHI: Outgoing US Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, who has made a habit of trying to malign Pakistan, in contravention of international diplomatic norms, tried to do so again on Friday, when he accused Pakistan of failing to act against 'fugitive' Taliban leaders. Khalilzad's latest diatribe against this country came during an interview with Afghanistan's Aina television channel broadcast on Friday, in which he asked why a Pakistani TV channel could conduct an interview with a senior Taliban commander, Mullah Akhtar Usmani, broadcast on Wednesday, at a time when Pakistani officials claimed they did not know the whereabouts of Taliban leaders.

The News, 22 June 2005

#### **'Soft' image suicide: Hit and run** (Shakir Husain)

For the millions of rupees the Government of Pakistan spends on projecting a "softer" image of the country, the

returns have been slim of late. And as for all the various "advisors" and supposedly parha likha ministers, and the like, as a Pakistani I am ashamed of how my Government has handled Mukhtaran Mai's case. The courageous woman had the guts to speak out against her ordeal and the perpetrators of the heinous crime against her in a society where such victims are usually swept under the carpet. A group of Pakistani (not "foreign") doctors invites Mukhtaran Mai to the United States. Before she can leave for the US, her passport is taken away and she is put under "protective" custody. If her rapists had not been acquitted and walked free she would not need any protection -- and the State hardly protected her when she needed protection the most.

Daily Times, 22 June 2005

### **No agreement breached: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Tuesday it had not breached any agreement between Pakistan and India by allowing APHC leaders to visit Pakistan. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told BBC that the APHC leaders' visit to Islamabad helped strengthen the ongoing peace initiative between Pakistan and India. He rejected Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's statement that Islamabad had violated an agreement between Pakistan and India by allowing APHC leaders to visit Islamabad, saying that it was Kashmiri leaders' old desire to hold extensive talks with Pakistani leaders to boost peace between Pakistan and India

Dawn, 22 June 2005

### **Bush moves to defuse tension: Pakistan-Afghan row over terror war (Anwar Iqbal)**

WASHINGTON: US President George W. Bush engaged in long-distance diplomacy on Tuesday to defuse tensions between two of its close allies in the war against terror, urging both Pakistan and Afghanistan to exercise restraint. Minutes after Mr Bush called President Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani leader called his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai and both leaders pledged to continue their cooperation in the war against terror. Mr Bush's telephone call came a day after Afghanistan claimed it had arrested three Pakistani nationals for allegedly plotting to assassinate former US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad who has now been sent to Iraq as the new US envoy in Baghdad. Pakistan reacted strongly to the allegation asking Afghanistan to produce any evidence it had or stop making false claims. Afghanistan reacted to Pakistan's rejection by claiming that Islamabad was supporting Afghan insurgents.

Dawn, 22 June 2005

### **Visit did not violate understanding: FO (Qudssia Akhlaque)**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad on Tuesday made it clear that it "does not stand guilty" of violating any understanding with New Delhi with regard to the Hurriyat delegation's recent visit to Pakistan. "There has been no violation of any understanding whatsoever," Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani categorically stated when Dawn sought a comment on Indian Prime Minister's reported claim that Pakistan had violated an understanding reached between the two countries on this front. The spokesman also asserted that Pakistan had not received any "official communication" from the Indian side in this context. He described the visit of the Hurriyat delegation to Pakistan as "a positive development" and underlined: "We view the visit of the Hurriyat leaders as part of the peace process."

Dawn, 22 June 2005

### **3 hurt in levies firing on mob (Saleem Shahid)**

QUETTA: Three persons were seriously injured when levies opened fire on an unruly mob in the remote township of Mashky in Awaran district of Balochistan. The mob attacked the levy station where the body of a six-year-old girl was found on Tuesday afternoon. According to reports reaching here, the girl had been kidnapped two days ago. The kidnappers killed the girl after sexually assaulting her and threw her body on the main road of the township. The mob set on fire many vehicles, ransacked several shops and attacked the levies men and tried to ransack their station. The levies men opened fire to disperse the protestors

Dawn, 22 June 2005

### **22 child jockeys return from UAE**

LAHORE: A group of 22 children, aged four to 14, who worked as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates returned home on Tuesday. Officials of the Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB), the Overseas Pakistani Foundation, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Federal Investigation Agency received them at the Allama Iqbal International Airport. Two UAE officials accompanied the children. The children were taken to the CPWB, where they are expected to stay till their parents are located. Speaking at a press conference at the bureau, Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi said the government was determined to unearth elements involved in trafficking children to the Middle East and award exemplary punishment to them. He appreciated the efforts made by states in the Middle East to locate such children and send them to their countries. He said arrangements had

been made to house the children and provide health and education facilities to them.

Dawn, 22 June 2005

### **Rs 5 notes to be invalid from July 1**

KARACHI: People have only nine days to get Rs 5 notes exchanged with Rs 5 coins or notes of higher denominations. From July 1, these notes will become just pieces of paper - unable to buy anything. The warning came from the State Bank on Monday through a press release that advised people to get these notes exchanged by June 30. At end-June 2004, some two billion pieces of these notes worth Rs 10 billion were in circulation before the SBP discontinued issuing new notes from July 1, 2004. Earlier, from December 27, 2003, Rs 5 coins were introduced but they entered the market in a big way only at the start of this year.

Dawn, 22 June 2005

### **Pakistan-bashing again**

President Hamid Karzai has once again accused Pakistan of interference in his country's affairs. Speaking to an assembly of ulema, he even came out with the purported tactics Pakistan was using to make the Taliban fight the Afghan government. According to him, Islamabad was blackmailing the Taliban and threatening to hand their families over to the US unless they did as told. The news coincides with the allegations by Kabul authorities that some Pakistanis had entered Afghanistan to murder Mr Zalmay Khalilzad on the eve of his departure from Kabul for his new posting in Baghdad. The information given by the Afghan authorities about the alleged plot is bizarre. Jackets full of explosive material were to come from Pakistan, and the suspects were to blow themselves up and kill Mr Khalilzad, an American of Afghan origin. But the jackets did not arrive, so they were told to go ahead and assassinate the man on their own. The men were allegedly trained in a "terrorist camp in Pakistan." Mercifully, the American government has given no credence to the story. Both the US embassy in Kabul and the State Department in Washington said they had heard of the Afghan version but were unable to confirm the contents of the story.

Daily Times, 23 June 2005

### **Jirga turns violent, 3 killed**

WANA: Three people were killed in Wana Bazaar on Wednesday when rival groups shot at each other during a jirga (tribal council) that had been called to discuss the increasing frequency of robberies and kidnappings in South Waziristan Agency. Witnesses told Daily Times that the Ahmedzai Wazir jirga turned into a battlefield when one group accused another of being involved in crime. "Tribesman Gado held Bad Khan responsible for the robberies, which angered Bad Khan who shot and killed Gado," witnesses added. In retaliation, Gado's supporters shot and killed Bad Khan while Ismail Khan was caught in the crossfire and died in hospital, they said. The jirga dispersed immediately and it was not clear whether they would assemble again to discuss measures against the growing lawlessness.

Daily Times, 23 June 2005

### **Nawaz Sharif met Osama three times: former ISI official**

LAHORE: Khalid Khawaja, a former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) official who was dismissed from the service by the late Gen Ziaul Haq because of his outspoken nature, has said former prime minister Nawaz Sharif met Al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden thrice in Saudi Arabia. In an interview to Asia Times Online on Wednesday, he said, "After Gen Zia's death in a plane crash (1988), elections were announced and there was a possibility that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Benazir Bhutto would win, which would be a great setback for the cause of the Afghan jihad against the USSR. The situation was discussed and all the mujahideen thought that they should play a role in blocking the PPP from winning the elections. I joined my former DG Hamid Gul and played a role in forming the then Islamic Democratic Alliance consisting of the Pakistan Muslim League and the Jamaat-e-Islami. The PPP won the elections by a thin margin and faced a strong opposition."

Daily Times, 23 June 2005

### **Sectoral contributions to GDP: Industry rises to 24.5%, agriculture falls to 23.1% (Sajid Chaudhry)**

ISLAMABAD: The services sector stands number one with the share of 52.4 percent, the industrial sector comes second with the share of 24.5 percent and the agriculture sector stands third with 23.1 percent share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at the end of the fiscal 2004-05. The calculation of the sectoral contribution to GDP on the basis of the 'new base year' of 1999-2000 has been done and issued for the first time by the statistics division. It has released sectoral shares in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with the new base year 1999-2000 at the constant factor cost for the last six years. According to the details, the share of the services sector in the GDP was 51.2 percent in the fiscal 1999-2000, it rose to 51.8 percent in the fiscal 2000-2001, it further rose to 52.7 percent in the fiscal 2001-02, it went to 52.9 percent in the fiscal 2002-03, it declined to 52.6 percent in the fiscal

2003-04, and it further declined to 52.4 percent in the fiscal 2004-05.

Dawn, 23 June 2005

**Pakistan says 'no' to Indian diesel, for now** (Khaleeq Kiani)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has refused to import diesel from India for the time being, either through land or sea route, owing mainly to its higher rates. The decision was conveyed to New Delhi during Indian oil minister Mani Shankar Aiyar's visit to Islamabad early this month, a senior government official told Dawn on Wednesday. "Although the import of diesel from India continues to be in the Commerce Ministry's negative list, the price offered to Pakistan by India is much higher than the Middle Eastern rates," said the official requesting not to be identified. He said Indian diesel was about \$3-4 per ton costlier than that of Kuwait and other Arab countries. The question relating to removal of import of Indian diesel from the negative list may be taken up when the foreign secretaries of the two countries meet later this year as part of composite dialogue, he said.

Dawn, 23 June 2005

**AJK govt in row with president** (Tariq Naqash)

MUZAFFARABAD: Serious differences have surfaced between the AJK government and President Sardar Mohammad Anwar Khan which have potential to take a worst turn in the coming days, Dawn learnt from highly credible sources. On Wednesday afternoon, the parliamentary party of the ruling Muslim Conference decided not to attend a dinner which the president had hosted in the honour of the Legislative Assembly (LA) members at his residence. The decision was taken soon after prorogation of the LA session in a close-door meeting which was also attended by Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat, Muslim Conference president Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and LA speaker Siab Khalid.

Dawn, 23 June 2005

**Economic ties to be discussed with Kabul** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Afghan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will meet in Kabul next month to discuss economic cooperation and look at ways of expanding trade between the two countries. "The next meeting of the JEC will be held in the first half of July and the dates will soon be firmed up through diplomatic channels," sources told Dawn on Wednesday. The commission, mandated to meet quarterly, is co-chaired by the top finance managers of the two countries. Its last meeting was held here on Feb 10. Pakistan's delegation to the next meeting will be led by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's Finance Adviser Salman Shah. The Afghan side will be led by Finance Minister Anwarul Haq Ahadi.

Dawn, 23 June 2005

**No getting away from the IMF** (Sultan Ahmed)

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz says Pakistan is making fast progress and has achieved the target of economic self-sufficiency. The country is no longer in need of foreign co-operation in terms of foreign aid, he has stressed. While making this assertion, he possibly excludes borrowing from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank at concessional rates, even at the nominal interest rate of 0.7 per cent from the category of financial aid, and regards them as commercial transactions. The World Bank's concessional aid arm, the IDA, may not agree to that approach in case of its assistance in a world of fast rising interest rates. The prime minister evidently regards only grants from donor states or institutions as financial aid, and not the billion dollars each it is to receive from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank in the next three years. In fact the assistance from both the banks may be larger if the large new projects under discussion are finalised and financial commitments entered into soon.

The News, 24 June 2005

**Pakistan not involved, Musharraf tells Karzai**

ISLAMABAD: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Thursday talked to Afghan President Hamid Karzai by telephone and told him that Pakistan desired peace and stability in Afghanistan, Information Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmad said. This was the second contact between the two leaders this week, he added. "The Afghan president was told that Pakistan was not involved in any activity against its brotherly neighbour," Rashid told PTV World. During the conversation, it was reiterated that Pakistan fully supported the government of President Karzai and prosperity of the Afghan people. However, some people were making irresponsible statements in the media against Pakistan which should be avoided, Rashid said. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that during conversation with President Karzai Gen Pervez Musharraf promised "Pakistan's continued support and cooperation in the fight against terrorism".

The News, 24 June 2005

**Panel urges govt not to deviate from Kashmir plebiscite**

ISLAMABAD: The Parliament's Committee on Kashmir on Thursday unanimously decided that Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz should be requested for a briefing on government's Kashmir policy. The committee in its meeting held here with Hamid Nasir Chattha in chair had a consensus that Pakistan should not deviate from its principled stand of holding the plebiscite in occupied Kashmir under UN resolutions to resolve this sensitive issue and flexibility shown by Pakistan on Kashmir should be reciprocated by India. Any deviation from the principled stand should be made at the behest of Kashmiri people. Moreover, the confidence-building measures between two countries should be Kashmir-specific and these CBMs will not be sustainable if India does not talk seriously and meaningfully on the cover issue of Kashmir, says a press release issued here. The members were of the view that the Kashmiris should be associated with the dialogue process to find a just and durable solution of the issue, as Kashmiris are the affected party and without their involvement there could be no lasting peace in the region.

The News, 24 June 2005

#### **Religious scholar shot dead in Karachi**

KARACHI: Mufti Atiq-ur-Rehman, 55, Raees (in charge) of Dar-ul-Ifta Jamia-e-Binnoria, SITE, and Shaikh-ul-Hadees, was shot dead, while his son and another man, were wounded late on Thursday, police said. Four armed men riding two motorcycles opened fire on Mufti Atiq, who was travelling in a pickup along with his 8-year-old son Hammad-ur-Rehman and Irshad Ahmed, 55, on Burns Road in the jurisdiction of Preedy police station. All the three sustained bullet wounds and were immediately taken to the Civil Hospital, where Mufti Atiq-ur-Rehman succumbed to his wounds, while his son and fellow traveller, Irshad, who was driving the vehicle, were admitted. The incident occurred when Mufti Atiq, a well-known religious scholar and an associate of late Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzai, was returning after delivering a weekly sermon at Madina Mosque in Burns Road vicinity, police added.

The News, 24 June 2005

#### **Parliamentary body okays Balochistan uplift package** (Asim Yasin)

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan on Thursday gave a formal approval to the Rs 10 billion development and incentive package for the development of the province. The committee, which met here on Thursday with Pakistan Muslim League President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in the chair, gave the approval to the proposals submitted to by the subcommittee. The proposals for the development package for Balochistan were given by the subcommittee of the Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. It had submitted the recommendations to the parliamentary committee on May 1 for approval. "Today is a historic day in the country's parliamentary history as approving the proposals has strengthened the parliamentary committee," said Shujaat, while announcing the new measures for the development of Balochistan. The subcommittee proposed for spending 15 per cent income of oil and gas on the projects related to education, health, construction of roads and other uplift programmes in the areas where oil is drilled. It also proposed 5.4 per cent job quota for Balochistan in the federal government.

The News, 24 June 2005

#### **Pakistan submits request for Rashid's travel to held Kashmir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan on Thursday submitted a request for Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed to travel on a cross-Kashmir bus later this month for a private visit to held Kashmir, officials said. Pakistani and Indian officials met at the border in Kashmir to exchange a list of passengers to travel on the June 30 run of the fortnightly service, said Liaquat Hussain, deputy commissioner of Muzaffarabad. Rashid said that he wanted to travel as a private citizen rather than in an official capacity and added Pakistan's Foreign Ministry told him that India would make a decision on June 27. "The ball is now in India's court, and let us see what they do and how they move," he told The Associated Press. Rashid also said that he had been included on a list of people wanting to ride a bus to held Kashmir.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

#### **Musharraf reconciles Shujaat and Humayun** (Rana Qaisar)

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf on Friday chipped in to resolve the intra-Pakistan Muslim League (PML) strife and finally removed the "misunderstanding" between Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Commerce Minister Humayun Akhtar Khan. The president, who held a meeting with Shujaat and Humayun on Friday, had already met both of them separately and listened to their points of view. A recent war of words between them created a stir in political circles, generating rumours of change in the PML and government. After the meeting with the president, Chaudhry Shujaat and Humayun Akhtar addressed a hurriedly-called press conference and reposed confidence in each other. "We have worked together politically and have a long association," Humayun said. Chaudhry Shujaat also brushed aside the impression of differences in the PML and said there was no truth in the reports about a change in the party leadership. "The reports of a change in the government are also baseless," he said, adding that the local government elections would be held on time.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**Faisal's US trip mandated by AJK Council**

ISLAMABAD: The proposed visit by Faisal Saleh Hayat, the minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, to the United States is being undertaken in the context of the decisions taken by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council (AJKC) in its session held in September 2004, said the ministry concerned in Islamabad yesterday in a clarification in response to a story in Daily Times on June 24 to the effect that the proposed 27-day visit would be the longest ever by any minister to the US. According to the Kashmir Affairs Ministry, the September 2004 meeting of the AJKC decided that two separate delegations under Mr Hayat consisting of elected members of the AJKC, would visit UK and USA during the first quarter of 2005, and interact with the Pakistani and Kashmiri community "in respect to various common issues relating to their welfare and future, sensitizing them on the basics and strategic parameters of the ongoing peace process with India with special focus on the issues impacting the Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control." The visitors were "mandated" to solicit the input of Kashmiri community leaders in the UK and US, facilitate the ongoing peace initiatives, and help them exploit "countless business and economic opportunities" which might arise. According to the Ministry, the visit to the UK took place in March, 2005 and was "a resounding success". The ministry denied that the visit would be for 27 days or that it would start on July 2 as claimed by Daily Times. But it did not say when it would begin or end. It also described as "fiction of wildest imagination" the story's contention that the trip would cost as much as half a million dollars.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**Mai case was hyped to malign Pakistan: Nelofar**

ISLAMABAD: The Mukhtar Mai case was made an issue to malign Pakistan and those fanned the issue wanted to get funds from abroad, said Prime Minister's Adviser for Women's Affairs Nelofar Bakhtiar. Addressing a meeting at the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) secretariat on honour killings, she said that development projects were launched in Mirwala, the hometown of the raped woman, and that a loan was given to her. Ms Bakhtiar said the government was providing complete security to Mai. "The government will provide justice to the ill-fated woman and on the directives of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, the attorney general of Pakistan will take her case," she said. She said that in Pakistan, the ratio of rape incidents was lesser than regional countries. PML President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, PML General Secretary Mushahid Hussain Syed, Allama Inayatullah Shakir, Senator Tahira Latif, State Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani, Amina Salim and Zil-e-Huma were also present on the occasion. Chaudhry Shujaat said the case of Mukhtar Mai was mishandled which made it an important issue in the public. He said that President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had taken interest to provide justice to the raped woman.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**Mukhtar Mai rules out reconciliation with attackers**

MEERWALA: A Pakistani woman gang raped in 2002 on the orders of a village council said she can never forgive her attackers and she hopes they are sentenced to death. The case of Mukhtaran Mai provoked a national outcry and has focused international attention on the treatment of women in rural Pakistan. The Pakistani Supreme Court will on Monday begin hearing Mai's appeal against the acquittal of five of six men convicted of attacking her and sentenced to death. "Right now I just have one (wish) that, God willing, there is a good decision in the case - like the first decision," Mai told Reuters in an interview on Thursday. "They should get the same punishment - the death penalty." Mai was gang-raped on the orders of a traditional village council after her brother - who was 12 at the time - was judged to have offended the honour of a powerful clan by befriending a woman from their tribe. Feudal and tribal laws still hold sway in many rural parts of predominantly Muslim Pakistan.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**Pak-Afghan militants entering CARs: Lavrov**

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday that militants from Afghanistan and Pakistan were training for attacks against Russia and former Soviet Central Asia and that they periodically cross into Central Asian territory. Terrorists, "with the participation of former Taliban and participants of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan," were training in Afghanistan and across the border in Pakistan with the aim of "conducting terrorist attacks, including on the territory of the Russian Federation," Lavrov claimed at a joint news conference with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. He said the militants had penetrated into the Fergana Valley, shared between the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and he proposed that Russia and NATO work with those countries' special services "to ensure that such activity is stopped." Lavrov made his allegations in response to a question on why Russia did not support Western calls for an independent, international investigation into last month's violence in the eastern Uzbek city of Andijan.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**Four would-be suicide bombers arrested** (Shahzad Malik)

ISLAMABAD: Law enforcement agencies unearthed a plan for suicide attacks on mosques of various religious sects and arrested four would-be suicide bombers. The arrests were made after the interrogation of Qari Arshad Satti, imam of a mosque on the outskirts of Mansehra a few days ago, sources told Daily Times. Intelligence agencies traced Satti using the video film of the Bari Imam procession, sources said. Law enforcement officials consequently took Satti into custody and began interrogation at an undisclosed location. "In light of the investigation, law enforcement agencies conducted another raid in Manshera district and arrested four persons. All of them are between 18 to 20 years of age and study in a religious seminary," the sources said. During the interrogation the suspect said that he and his accomplices had planned suicide attacks on mosques of various religious sects, one of the mosques being in Jehlum Cantt, sources added.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**2nd shot Karachi cleric dies, violence ensues**

KARACHI: Maulana Irshadul Haq, who was injured in an attack in which Shaikhul Hadis of Jamia Binoria Mosque and Madrassa, SITE Town, Mufti Atiqur Rehman was killed, died on Friday. The funerals of both clerics were held after Asr prayers. Mufti Atiqur Rehman, his son Ammar and Maulana Irshadul Haq were shot at behind Sindh Secretariat on Thursday night. Ammar is in stable condition. Sporadic violence erupted in several localities of the city on Friday. Protesters burnt tyres and pelted vehicles with stones. Law enforcement agencies dispersed the protesters and controlled the situation. The Sindh government has announced a Rs 2 million-reward for information leading to the arrest of the killers of Mufti Rehman and Maulana Irshad. About 15,000 mourners attended both funerals. Authorities had deployed about 1,000 policemen for the funerals, but there was no violence at the ceremony.

Daily Times, 25 June 2005

**AJK collects Rs 883.30m tax**

MIRPUR: The AJK central excise and sales tax department has achieved its Rs 883.30 million target of realization of taxes with an additional increase of Rs 224.30 million, fixed for the outgoing financial year 2004-05 in Azad Jammu Kashmir.

The News, 25 June 2005

**Four alleged bombers arrested** (Shakeel Anju)

ISLAMABAD: Breaking the terrorist network involved in Bari Imam and Karachi suicide attacks, the federal agencies have arrested four alleged suicide bombers, who were ready to detonate explosive devices at a mosque in Kharian Cantt, intelligence sources told The News. Following the arrest of Muhammad Tehsin in the Madinatul Ilm (Karachi) suicide bombing, the federal agencies arrested Qari Arshad Satti, reportedly one of the most effective members of the terrorist gang from a religious seminary in district Mansehra, sources said, adding that he was a tailor by profession. Satti was said to be a "gateway" to religious extremists and acted as a mediator between different groups of extremists, they maintained. The suicide bomber of Bari Imam shrine was a 21-year old and belonged to a seminary of Bannu, sources said. After getting preliminary training of suicide bombing, he was taken to Islamabad with the task.

The News, 25 June 2005

**Floods sweep nine more NWFP villages** (Yousaf Ali)

PESHAWAR: Water level in almost all the rivers in the Frontier province kept on surging continuously as more villages on the banks of River Swat, Kabul and Shah Alam were Friday swamped by flood causing huge losses to crops and cattle heads. As many as nine more villages were inundated by floodwater in Peshawar and Charsdda districts, while several villages in district Nowshera were also swept by increasing waves of River Kabul, an official of Provincial Flood Control Centre (PSCC) told The News.

The News, 25 June 2005

**Khassadar wounded in Miranshah**

MIR ALI: A Khassadar was wounded while trying to disarm a tribesman in the Miranshah bazaar in North Waziristan tribal agency Friday. Nurbat Ali Khan, a Khassadar, or tribal policeman from the Daur tribe, was injured and was hospitalised. The tribesman, Aqil Khan son of Inayat Khan from the Tolkhel Wazir tribe, was also injured in the firing. Official sources said the incident took place when a group of Frontier Corps militiamen and Khassadars were jointly patrolling Miranshah bazaar. Political tehsildar Iftikhar Ahmad Khan was leading them and the purpose was to enforce the ban on carrying arms in the town. Efforts to disarm Aqil Khan resulted in the firing incident. Impressed by Khassadar Nurbat Ali Khan's courage and bravery, the political administration in North Waziristan announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for him and an equal amount for every member of in the

patrolling group.

The News, 26 June 2005

### **Pakistan, S Arabia agree to boost ties**

RIYADH: President Pervez Musharraf and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud held wide-ranging talks here on Saturday with a thrust on further cementing the multi-faceted relationship between the two brotherly countries, with the Saudi leader praising Pakistan's successful efforts against the menace of terrorism. The two leaders, meeting at the Crown Prince's palace on the first day of President Musharraf's visit, agreed on reinforcing relations in the political, economic, commercial, investment and counter-terrorism and security areas. President Musharraf, who is visiting Saudi Arabia for a two-day official visit, was earlier accorded a warm welcome, with Crown Prince Abdullah, Deputy Crown Prince and almost the entire Saudi cabinet receiving the Pakistani leader at the airport. During their two-hour exclusive meeting, President Musharraf and the crown prince also exchanged views on a host of regional and international issues of common interests, including the UN reforms and strengthening the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Middle East situation, Pakistan-India relations and counter-terror.

The News, 26 June 2005

### **AJK tax-free budget approved**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday unanimously approved Rs 17848.278 tax-free budget for next fiscal year 2005-06. The AJK Legislative Assembly resumed its proceedings with the recitation from the Holy Quran with Speaker Sardar Siab Khalid in the chair. The budget session remained continued for five days. The total budget increase was 14 per cent. AJK Finance Minister Raja Nisar Ahmed Khan presented different demand for grants in the budget before the House which were approved. The House unanimously approved 30 demand for grants of Rs 12748.278 million non-development budget for 2005-06. The House also gave the approval for Rs 5100 million regarding the developmental budget unanimously. Opposition member Sardar Muhammad Hussain tabled different cut motions before the House regarding Health, forest, industries and communications departments.

The News, 26 June 2005

### **Pakistan, China ratify protocol for rice export (Rizwan Razi)**

LAHORE: Pakistan and China here Saturday evening have ratified a protocol envisaging export of Pakistani rice to Chinese market. The ratification of protocol was signed by federal secretary ministry of food, agriculture and livestock (MinFAL), Ismaeel Qureshi on behalf of Pakistan government while head of visiting delegation Bai Zhang Hong, deputy director Entry, Exit, Inspection and Quarantine Bureau of People Republic of China inked the deal on behalf of his government. Punjab Agriculture Secretary Fayyaz Bashir; Agriculture Marketing Secretary Captain Yousuf, Punjab Agriculture Marketing Minister Malik Qasim Khan Noon, Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) Chairman Barrister Syed Najaf Hussain Shah, former REAP chairman Rahim Janoo, Rice Commissioner Inayatullah Khan; REAP executive committee member Muhammad Moeen and EPB director Lahore Ilyas Ghouri were also present on the occasion. The move has concluded protocol giving Pakistani rice exporters access to Chinese market. Pakistan's total rice export is around three million metric tonnes (Mmts) while Iran being the largest importer is buying 0.8 Mmts from us, said an over enthusiastic Barrister Syed Najaf Hussain Shah, while sharing his achievement immediately after signing the protocol when contacted by The News.

The News, 26 June 2005

### **Tell us where Osama is hiding, says Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday that no one has any real evidence of where Osama bin Laden is hiding, and anyone who believes the al-Qaeda chief is hiding in Pakistan should tell him where. "There are a lot of people who say that Osama bin Laden is here in Pakistan," Musharraf told reporters in Islamabad before leaving on an official visit to Saudi Arabia. "Please come and show us where he is or tell us where he is. We will act on such information." Musharraf's comments came little more than a week after US Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said bin Laden and Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar were probably not in Afghanistan. He didn't say where the two were hiding.

The News, 26 June 2005

### **Accusations from Afghanistan**

As violence increases in Afghanistan, so do accusations that Pakistan has a hand in it. The pattern has persisted since Hamid Karzai took charge in Afghanistan after the Taliban were ousted following 9/11. But what happened during the last week was still unprecedented, not only because it required a call by none other than US President

George W. Bush to clear the diplomatic air between the two neighbours. It also created alarm because it involved an alleged plot hatched by three Pakistanis to kill outgoing the US ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad. Since the arrest of these "plotters," Pakistani-Afghan relations have been undergoing one of their worst phases, and mostly because anyone who is anyone in Kabul is bent upon showing Pakistan the red card. Khalilzad was the first to go public on the issue. He accused Pakistan of failing to arrest the Taliban leadership and Osama bin Laden despite knowing where they were. Then President Karzai and his official spokesman, Jawed Ludin, repeated the allegation. Ludin also alleged that Taliban militants were receiving training in camps situated in Pakistan to launch attacks in Afghanistan. Afghan authorities believe, and say this in so many words, that these attacks are aimed at derailing their country's first parliamentary elections, scheduled in September.

The News, 26 June 2005

#### **Development issues**

The government has been focussing its attention on maintaining the momentum of economic growth, but it has also been laying considerable emphasis on acceleration of exports, promotion of small and medium enterprises and infrastructure and social-sector development. For the next financial year, it has set a growth target of 4.8% for agriculture, 11 per cent for industry and 6.8% for the services sector. The overall economic growth is projected at 7 per cent in the next financial year. It seems quite a realistic target of economic growth, which would help in enhancing the supply of goods and services and in stabilising the prices. The control over inflation would be a big task for which effective and timely policy initiatives would be essential.

The News, 26 June 2005

#### **Pipeline or pipe dream?** (Dr Farrukh Saleem)

Iran would love to sell some of its 79 billion cubic meters of gas to India. India, growing at a robust 7 per cent a year, would love to buy cheap Iranian gas. Pakistan, in the middle of Iran and India, would love to let the pipeline pass through Balochistan and make up to half a billion dollars a year in transit fees. So, where is the hitch? To begin with, there is the Iran Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) of 1996. The Act allows the President of the United States to "penalise any company that invests more than \$20 million per year in Iran's energy sector." The Act has an "extra-territorial" affect as it can penalise both Iran and any third nation or a corporate entity that violates the Act. For the record, the cost of the triangular deal is estimated at a colossal \$4 billion (or more). The proposed pipeline passes through a quake-prone zone and shall, therefore, require an extraordinarily high degree of civil, chemical and information technological skills. Iran, India and Pakistan do not have the requisite skills and thus cannot execute the project without Western, Australian, Japanese or Russian participation. Russian companies may have the technology but not the financial resources. ILSA, in the meanwhile, prevents all foreign companies from using American licenses or patents. Additionally, most European credit agencies do not cover Iranian risks. European companies interested in Iran would thus have to seek private sector political risk insurance coverage, which would in turn increase the cost of doing business in Iran.

The Nation, 26 June 2005

#### **Dr Khan and government agenda** (Wajid Shamsul Hasan)

Dr A.Q. Khan was rushed to a military hospital on June 16 with severe angina. He has been passing a life of ignominy in official incarceration ever since he was singled out by the government to save its own skin for export of nuclear technology to American-labelled rogue states. Enormous strain and stress, third-degree methods to question him and to keep him silent on the role Pakistani establishment had played as bigger partners in the nuclear supermarket - has rendered him into almost a vegetable. Circles close to him claim that the fate of the Pakistani atomic icon has become a big question mark. One of the sources related to him, talked of a sinister conspiracy to silence him. His passing away from the scene at this juncture following a heart condition would no doubt save him from suffering Gestapo-type questioning by the Americans. It will also protect those from being exposed who had the cake and eaten it too from the multi-billion dollar nuclear export spoils.

The News, 27 June 2005

#### **Rockets fired at Jam's house in Kalat**

QUETTA: At least four rockets hit the perimeter wall of the home of Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Mohammad Yousaf in Kalat on Sunday, wounding two security guards and shattering windows of the building. The chief minister and his family were in the provincial capital when the attack on his family home happened at 2 am, said Maj. Akbar Lashari. The rockets were fired at the CM house from Eastern Bypass. After retaliation from the CM's security staff, the attackers fled. The injured guards, Muhammad Zahri and Abdul Qayyum, were rushed to the Quetta hospital and discharged after treatment. No one claimed responsibility and Maj Lashari said, "We are investigating who were the attackers and what message they wanted to convey." Lashari said Jam "rarely" visited his home in Kalat because he lived mostly in his official residence in Quetta and the attack might have been aimed at intimidating the CM. Meanwhile, Balochistan ministers and members of the treasury as well as the

opposition benches and office-bearers of the PML here on Sunday strongly condemned the rocket firing on the residence of provincial Chief Minister Jam Muhammad Yousaf in Kalat during the assembly session and termed it a cowardly act.

The News, 27 June 2005

**Floods wreak havoc in four NWFP districts** (Yousaf Ali)

PESHAWAR: High flood in almost all the rivers of the NWFP caused huge damages to houses, roads, bridges, cattle and standing crops in Chitral, Swat, Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshera districts on Sunday. In-charge NWFP Flood Warning Centre Abdul Wali Yousafzai told The News that in district Chitral floodwater caused huge losses to roads, bridges and standing crops. He said Kharkari and Shah Ghul Nullahs were overflowing threatening several bridges. He said Tehsil Torkoh Road was inundated by floodwater. Two and a half kilometres piece of the road was washed away by floodwater creating serious problem for vehicular traffic. Mastooj Road also came under water, he added. The official said that at least four bridges in the district -- Khokai-Rodhi Bridge, Torkoh Bridge, Mulako Bridge and Garam Chishma Bridge -- were in shaky condition, which could break anytime. Abdul Wali further said floodwater also swamped three villages in district Swat. These included Durushkhela, Fatehpur and Nalai Killa. In Nalai Killa, the floodwater eroded at least 10 acres agricultural land while in Fatehpur and Durushkhela several orchards were destroyed by the gushing waves of the river Swat.

The News, 27 June 2005

**FC man held for killing 2 tribesmen** (Sailab Mahsud)

TANK: Two young tribesmen were shot dead near a check post in South Waziristan and their relations and an uncle of late commander Nek Mohammad immediately blamed a member of the paramilitary Frontier Corps for the murders. Tribal sources said Naik Gul Jannan of the Frontier Corps (FC) shot dead Noor Hasan and his relation Gul Hasan, a student of class eight, at a check post near Zalay Qala. They were returning home after playing a match of cricket between two teams of tribesmen and soldiers. Mohammad Sadiq, an uncle of late Nek Mohammad, blamed Naik Gul Jannan for the cold-blooded murders and demanded that he be handed over to their tribe. He gave a deadline until Monday evening for delivering him to the tribal jirga.

The News, 27 June 2005

**Wullar barrage issue: Pak team leaves for Delhi today**

ISLAMABAD: The secretary level talks between Pakistan and India over controversial Wullar barrage will begin in New Delhi on June 28, it has been learnt. To this effect, Pakistani delegates would leave for New Delhi today (Monday). At the two-day parleys, water and power secretary Ashfaq Mehmood will head Pakistani delegates and water resources secretary J Hari Narayan will head the Indian team, informed diplomatic sources told online news agency.

The News, 27 June 2005

**SC takes up Mukhtaran Mai case today** (Naveed Ahmad)

ISLAMABAD: A three-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan is today hearing the case of Mukhtaran Mai, who was gang-raped on the orders of a Panchayat in 2002 and earned international fame for her resolve to fight against the tribal high-handedness. The apex court would not only start proceedings on its suo moto notice but would also take up two appeals, pending for more than three months. This week, the government removed Mukhtaran's name from the Exit Control List (ECL) and promised to return her passport. The decision was apparently taken to prevent her from visiting the United States on the invitation of Asian-American Network against Abuse of Human Rights (ANAA). Earlier Mukhtaran had challenged the Lahore High Court (LHC)'s decision for acquitting the accused in the Meerwala gang-rape case. The provincial government had also made an appeal before the apex court against the high court's verdict. Later the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) suspended the LHC order, declaring the judgement coram-non-judice (without jurisdiction).

The News, 28 June 2005

**Militants warn 28 tribal elders against spying for US** (Behroz Khan)

PESHAWAR: Unidentified militants in North Waziristan Agency have warned 28 prominent tribal elders and religious figures against spying for the US, urging them to mend fences or face consequences. An anonymous letter distributed in Mirali Tehsil of North Waziristan in the night between Sunday and Monday warned those working for the US and spying against the "Mujahideen" to mend their ways or face death. Local tribesmen believe that it was the work of Taliban fighters who had issued similar warnings to the people in the past. A police officer, Tahir Daur, who is currently serving in Bannu, the hometown of NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani, and a religious figure from North Waziristan and information secretary of Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Maulana Muhammad Alam and Maulvi Azharuddin have been accused of working against

the 'Mujahideen' and spying for the US. Another religious leader from the area, Maulavi Janat Mir has also been charged and warned of the consequences. The religious leader had received a letter and Rs 700 in an envelope some time back with a message to make preparations for his funeral because the amount has been sent to him to buy shroud for him.

The News, 28 June 2005

**Siachen: A peace mountain?** (Humera Niazi)

Despite the initial optimistic expectations agreement and implementation this time around, Indo-Pakistani talks on the Siachen issue on May 26 ended inconclusively. The real issue appears to be that of troops redeployment. In 1989, both sides had come close to an agreement, under which each side was to pull back troops to where they were at the time they signed their historic agreement of 1972. However, the 1989 agreement could not be executed as India backtracked on what it had agreed upon at that time, although the discussions had genuinely approached the issue of the troops' redeployment. Now, over a decade and a half later, the talks this year seemed to involve a genuine effort and appeared set to move beyond fruitless discussions. There has been an Indian proposal to provide some relief to soldiers stationed at the Siachen heights, to freeze the troops' levels and avoid aggressive manoeuvres. It was stated that some joint measures were expected to give immediate comfort and reduce tension at the world's highest battlefield. "The positions along the AGPL (Actual Ground Position Line) have to be delineated and authenticated," India stated. This, in principal, is a proposal to freeze on existing troop levels.

Daily Times, 29 June 2005

**Pak-Iran talks on gas on July 6** (Khalid Mustafa)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran are to hold crucial talks on July 6 and 7 on the proposed \$4 billion Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. The two sides will discuss a gas price for Pakistan, wellhead price, the route of the pipeline, and transmission cost and transit fees to Pakistan, an official told Daily Times. The official said that US concerns about Iran's nuclear programme and the gas pipeline would also figure in case Iran raises the issue. "The pipeline is crucial for peace in the region and will be pursued by the three nations vigorously," he added. The talks between the two countries' energy ministers were earlier scheduled for June 20-21, but Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh postponed his visit because of the run-off in the presidential elections in Iran. Zanganeh will lead the Iranian side in the talks on July 6-7 while Amanullah Khan Jadoon, federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, will head the Pakistani side.

Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar recently had discussions on the pipeline with Jadoon and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in Islamabad. Jadoon is expected to visit New Delhi by the end of this month or in early July for further talks on security and transit issues. Aiyar will again visit Islamabad in October or November for more discussions. "A delegation of Iranian officials will visit New Delhi towards the end of this month to thrash out financial, legal and commercial issues regarding the pipeline," the official said. Pakistan and India have established a Joint Working Group (JWG), to be headed by the secretaries of their petroleum ministries, to intensify technical, financial and legal interaction between experts on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. In the next six months, Pakistan and India will hold six JWG meetings and two ministerial meetings on the subject.

Daily Times, 29 June 2005

**Kabul cautions Islamabad over Pashtun issue**

KABUL: An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday called the statement of Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid saying Pashtuns in Afghanistan were being ignored despite being in majority an interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, Pajhwok Afghan News reported. It said Sheikh Rashid had made the statement on Sunday. Pajhwok Afghan News quoted spokesman Naveed Maez as saying Sheikh Rashid's remarks were a direct interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. "Such statements will harm relations between both countries," Maez said, advising Pakistani officials to strengthen relations between both countries, it reported. It quoted Mohammad Hassan Wolasmal, chief editor of Afghan National Journal, as saying that although Pashtuns had been discriminated against, the issue was an internal problem of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, a jirga (tribal council) consisting of government officials, tribal elders and clerics in Lashkargah city on Monday condemned foreign involvement in Afghanistan's internal affairs, Pajhwok Afghan News reported.

Dawn, 29 June 2005

**Rs 46.7bn Balochistan budget approved** (Amanullah Kasi)

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly passed the Rs46.7 billion provincial budget for 2005-06 and the chief minister urged the president and the prime minister to announce a special package for Balochistan to take the province further on the path of development. The House also approved 46 demands of supplementary grants

presented by Finance Minister Syed Ehsan Shah on Tuesday night. The house rejected all cut motions tabled by the opposition. Speaker Jamal Shah Kakar presided over the session. The finance minister tabled 41 demands of non-development expenditure amounting to Rs 34.6 billion and five demands of development expenditure of Rs 11.7 billion. Opposition members Abdur Rahim Ziaratwal and Sardar Azam Musakhel presented cut motions. However, the cut motion of leader of the opposition Kachkol Baloch could not be tabled as he was not present. Chief Minister Jam Yousuf after the passage of the budget said that President Musharraf wanted to improve economic conditions of Balochistan and in this regard the federal government had launched mega projects worth billions of rupees in the province. He said in the past governments at the Centre made hollow promises for the development of the province but never allocated funds to get Balochistan out of backwardness.

Dawn, 29 June 2005

#### **AJK Council announces Rs 3.112bn budget**

ISLAMABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council (AJKC) on Monday announced its Rs 3.112 billion budget for the 2005-06 financial year with a revenue target of Rs 2.712 billion. The budget meeting was presided over by AJK President Sardar Mohammad Anwar Khan, while it was announced by the council's minister in charge, Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, at the ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (KANA). The AJK Council fixed a revenue target of Rs 2.712 billion out of which the income tax target was Rs 2.662 billion. In the budget Rs 837 million have been allocated for development expenditures and Rs 313.836 million were earmarked for non-development expenditures. An amount of Rs 1.945 billion have been released to the AJK government as its 80 per cent share out of the net income tax receipts against the income tax collection of Rs 2.5 billion during the financial year 2004-05. The development outlay for the AJK has been enhanced by 150 per cent against the previous financial year, the minister said. He said the AJK Council plans to launch some important projects in the fields of energy and tourism which would certainly impact the overall economic development of the AJK.

Dawn, 29 June 2005

#### **Aziz to visit Afghanistan (Qudssia Akhlaque)**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will visit Afghanistan in the third week of July, it is learnt through diplomatic sources. "The prime minister will make a one-day trip to Kabul most probably on July 20," an official source told Dawn on Tuesday. Significantly, it would be his first bilateral visit to Afghanistan as prime minister. The visit would take place soon after the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Economic Commission meeting which is scheduled to be held in Kabul in the second week of July, the sources said. The last top-level visit to Afghanistan from Pakistan was by President Gen Pervez Musharraf in November 2004. Officials here say the prime minister's visit would improve the diplomatic atmosphere marred by the recent verbal antagonism from Kabul.

Dawn, 29 June 2005

#### **SC orders re-arrest of 13 accused: Mukhtaran Mai case (Nasir Iqbal)**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the re-arrest of all 13 men accused of involvement in the gang-rape of Mukhtaran Mai and designated them as under-trial prisoners. The court passed the order after suspending the ruling of the Lahore High Court overturning the anti-terrorist court convictions of the five main accused in 2002. After culmination of a two-day preliminary hearing on a suo motu and nine appeals against LHC-Multan bench order, the apex court directed the Inspector General of Punjab to immediately arrest the accused and keep them in judicial custody till the appeals were decided. The accused should be treated as under-trial prisoners, Chief Justice-designate Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry said in a short order. On March 3, 2005, LHC-Multan bench acquitted five of them on an appeal and commuted the sentence of the sixth [Abdul Khaliq] to life imprisonment.

Dawn, 29 June 2005

#### **Hope for amicable settlement: Wullar Barrage**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan and India on Tuesday began a two-day round of talks here on Wullar Barrage within the framework of the composite dialogue process between the two countries. Pakistan's seven-member delegation was headed by water and power secretary Ashfaq Mehmood while the Indian team was headed by water resource secretary J Harinarayan. Deputy High Commissioner to India Munawar Saeed also joined Pakistan's delegation at the eleventh round of talks. For the first time the two sides agreed to sign the minutes of the two-day meeting on the issue. A joint statement is likely to be issued tomorrow at the conclusion of the talks. The Pakistani delegation reiterated its concerns on the project at the meeting, arguing that the dam's storage capacity was 32 times more than the 10,000 acre feet capacity permitted under the Indus Water Treaty.

The Nation, 29 June 2005

#### **India should quit Siachen (S.M. Hali)**

Indian Army Chief General J.J. Singh has declared that the Indian army has prepared a roadmap for the withdrawal of troops from the world's highest battlefield, the Siachen glacier, which overlooks Pakistan and China. "We have given our viewpoint to the government on converting the Saltoro ridge and the glacier into a demilitarised zone," he said, declining to give further details. Singh's statement came after India and Pakistan announced late last month they would continue talks about their standoff on the glacier, but reported no substantive progress following two days of discussions. During a visit to Siachen earlier this month, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called for the 6,300-metre (21,000-foot) glacier be turned into a "zone of peace" between India and Pakistan. It is high time that good sense prevailed in the Indian think tank. Commonly known as the battlefield on the roof of the world more troops have died from the icy temperatures, altitude and accidents than from enemy fire.

Daily Times, 29 June 2005

**IJT holds training camp at Punjab University New Campus** (Ali Waqar)

LAHORE: The Islami Jamiat Talaba, which has considerable influence in the Punjab University (PU), launched a religious training camp, 'Feham-e-Din', in the university's New (Quaid-e-Azam) Campus on Sunday afternoon. The IJT is the youth wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami. PU authorities categorically denied having knowledge of such activities on campus, which are illegal, but refrained to rule out the possibility that a camp had been set up underground. The 12-day training camp, which has been privately organised by select IJT members, is being attended by about 200 people from all over Pakistan. IJT activists from outside are staying in the Quaid-e-Azam Hall (hostel number one) and Alamgir Hall (hostel number seven) of the New Campus. The camp courses include topics related to religion. "Jihad may be one of the topics," said an IJT member. "The situation of Muslims all over the world and the Kashmir issue might be discussed in formal or informal discussions. It is all in-house. There will be no public gathering." The programme was inaugurated in the Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology of the Punjab University and was attended by top IJT leaders. PU students witnessed flocks of IJT supporters chanting pro-IJT and anti-government slogans.