

The Nation, 1 October 2005

### **Petroleum prices shoot up**

KARACHI (Online) - The oil marketing companies have increased the prices of motor gasoline, HOBC, kerosene oil, light diesel and kerosene oil up to 7-12 per cent for the fortnight, effective from today (Saturday). According to an announcement by sub-committee of Oil Companies Advisory Committee (OCAC) here on Friday, the price of MS 78 RON (petrol) was increased by Rs 3.68 to Rs 56.29 per litre, HOBC by Rs 4.31 to Rs 62.77 per litre, kerosene oil by Rs 1.89 to Rs 32.89 and light diesel by Rs 1.75 to Rs 30.97 per litre. The major reason behind the increase in prices of petroleum products is said to be the high prices of petroleum products in international market. This is the record price of petroleum products in the history of Pakistan. Public circles have strongly reacted over price rise, as they could not meet their home budgets in the backdrop of price rise in petroleum products.

Dawn, 1 October 2005

### **WB proposes changes in water management** (Khaleeq Kiani)

ISLAMABAD, Sept 30: The World Bank has proposed development of a modern and accountable 'new water state' in Pakistan by overhauling the irrigation system, ground water extraction and other water-related operations. The bank is of the opinion that needs for water are changing substantially owing to agricultural diversification, urbanization, industrialization, recognition of environmental needs, climate change and evolution of the natural resource base. "Since there will be, if anything, less rather than more water, it means that the new water economy is going to be one which is much more flexible, in which the key will be the voluntary reallocation of water from those who need it less to those who need it more," said the bank in a report. The proposed arrangement is likely to require a 'very different type' of state machinery at both federal and provincial levels to meet these challenges.

Daily Times, 1 October 2005

### **PM meets South Korean president** (Shahzad Raza)

SEOUL: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Friday that India and Pakistan were trying to find a solution to the Kashmir issue which would be acceptable to all stakeholders, particularly the Kashmiri people. He said this during his meeting with Korean President Roh Moo-hyun. The two discussed a range of bilateral and international issues, including North Korea, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and the Pakistan-India peace process. Aziz told the Korean president that Pakistan and India were engaged in a composite dialogue to resolve outstanding disputes, including the core issue of Kashmir. The two leaders also agreed to continue opposing any increase in the permanent membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC), and to persist with efforts for UN reform.

The Nation, 1 October 2005

### **Gasline plan not to be abandoned**

LAHORE - While dispelling the impression that Iran has given any negative response about trilateral gas pipeline project, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri Friday said that the project was not going to be abandoned, and would be finalised amicably. Talking to newsmen at the opening ceremony of the Consulate of Philippines at Lahore and Exequator handing over to the Honorary Consul Rizwan Fareed at a local hotel, the Foreign Minister said, "We have not received any negative signal from Iran regarding the said project". Talking about reports published in this regard, Kasuri said that he was doubtful about the truthfulness of the reports. These may not be relating to the pipeline project, but to some plans about which Pakistan had nothing to do.

The Nation, 1 October 2005

### **No pressure on Pak to recognise Israel: Karamat**

LAHORE- Pakistan Ambassador to USA Gen. (retired) Jehangir Karamat said that if Pakistan thought that its policies in a war against terrorism were in its own national interests, it should not anticipate any compensation or reward from USA for being her ally in this war. But if it is not the case only then it has to revise its policy towards America. He said this in reply to a question at the opening ceremony of the Consulate of Philippines in Lahore and handing over exequator to the Honorary Consul Rizwan Fareed at a local hotel. When asked Pakistan was not compensated by the USA in return for playing a role of front line state in a war against terror after 9-11, he said that Pakistani government would have to see and decide that whether its policies were being dictated and implemented under any pressure or they were in its own national interests.

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### **Pakistan, India may sign two accords: Bush phones Manmohan** (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, Sept 30: The United States on Friday indicated it would closely watch Indian Foreign Minister Kunwar Natwar Singh's visit to Pakistan starting Sunday following a telephonic conversation between US President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Mr Natwar Singh's visit is expected to boost bilateral ties. But, official sources said, with improved visa facilities and easier consular access for their prisoners on the cards, the real issue to watch would be the public position both countries take on the Iran gas pipeline and Tehran's nuclear quest. During the 10-minute conversation initiated by the US side, President Bush and Prime Minister Singh "reviewed the implementation of the July 18 Indo-US joint statement and other bilateral issues and touched on developments in the region," the prime minister's media adviser Sanjay Barua said in a statement.

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### **Major, 7 soldiers killed in North Waziristan**

MIRAMSHAH / ISLAMABAD, Sept 30: Six army soldiers and a major and a paramilitary Frontier Constabulary sepoy were killed on the second day of a military operation against militants in the North Waziristan Agency. Besides, two civilians were killed during an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in the agency's Mirali tehsil. A military official in Peshawar declined to comment on the casualty report, but Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao told BBC in an interview that 11 security forces personnel had been killed in two days of the operation, six on Thursday and five on Friday. He said the army had suffered nine casualties, including the major, while the two other personnel killed belonged to the Frontier Constabulary.

Daily Times, 1 October 2005

### **Suspected links to 7/7 bombings** (Akhtar Amin)

PESHAWAR: Zeeshan Siddiqui, a British national detained in Pakistan for suspected involvement in the July 7 London bombings, has said that he had been falsely implicated in the London bombings and that the media was ruining his case with baseless reporting. Siddiqui said this while talking to Daily Times after he was produced before the court on Friday. The court adjourned the hearing of Siddiqui's case till October 13 because the court had not received his case file from the Sessions Court. The Sessions Court had rejected his bail application on September 28. "The media has ruined my case," said Siddiqui, adding that all the media reports about his involvement in the London bombings and other terrorist activities were baseless.

Daily Times, 1 October 2005

### **India and Pakistan to liberalise visa services**

NEW DELHI: India unveiled a slew of measures on Friday to spur people-to-people contacts with Pakistan as part of moves to boost a slow-moving peace process ahead of a trip to Islamabad by India's foreign minister. The security cabinet gave the go-ahead to liberalise consular and visa services – often difficult procedures for people on both sides of the border due to prickly relations between the South Asian nuclear rivals. The liberalisation of consular facilities will need an amendment to a 1982 India-Pakistan accord, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said. The amendment would be signed during Foreign Minister Natwar Singh's four-day visit to Islamabad, he said according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

Daily Times, 1 October 2005

### **Pakistan will seek Malaysian help for full dialogue partnership of ASEAN** (Shahzad Raza)

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan will seek Malaysian help for a full dialogue partnership in the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The announcement came as Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz reached Malaysia to discuss important economic and political agendas with his Malaysian counterpart, Abdullah Badawi. Pakistan will also seek Malaysia's help to obtain the membership of three other organisations - the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation. Naeem Khan, the foreign office spokesman, said that full dialogue partnership in the ASEAN will give Pakistan access to all economic and political meetings of ASEAN countries. The two countries will also sign the Early Harvest Programme Agreement (EHPA) to ensure a five percent reduction in duty on 108 Pakistani and 125 Malaysian trade items.

Dawn, 2 October 2005

### **Malaysia to support Pakistan's Asean bid** (Shamim-ur-Rahman)

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1: Malaysia will support Pakistan's bid for a Full Dialogue Partner of the Association of South East Asian Nations. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmed Badawi held out this assurance to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz during an hour-long meeting prior to the luncheon he hosted at Prime Minister House. Pakistan is already a sectoral partner of Asean which had made its credentials for Full Dialogue Partnership very strong. Prime Minister Aziz explained to the Malaysian leader that Pakistan was seeking increased relations with the countries and organizations of this region under its "Look East Asia" vision. Pakistan is also seeking Malaysian support for getting membership of ASEM (Asian Europe Meeting), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and Indian Ocean Rim for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). The two prime ministers expressed satisfaction over the status of their bilateral relations which made significant progress in recent months. As a result of these exchanges many Pakistani workers were now getting job in Malaysia.

Dawn, 2 October 2005

### **Natwar, Kasuri to review dialogue** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, Oct 1: Indian External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh, who arrives here on Sunday, will hold formal talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, on Monday to assess progress made at the recently concluded second round of the composite dialogue. Also on the agenda is a meeting of the joint commission. This will be Mr Singh's second visit to Pakistan, who will be accompanied by a 15-member delegation including the foreign secretary and senior officials of five other ministries. A 15-member Indian media team is also coming to cover the event. On Monday the

two ministers will meet at the Foreign Office for a review session of the composite dialogue process which enters the third round in January 2006. At the delegation-level talks senior officials from both sides will assist the ministers. Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Shiv Shankar Menon and Pakistan High Commissioner to India Aziz Ahmed will also be present at the meeting.

Dawn, 2 October 2005

### **Saarc plans energy centre in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 1: Energy ministers from Saarc member states on Saturday decided to set up a Saarc Energy Centre in Pakistan and to examine the viability of electricity interconnection master plan, envisaging a uniform policy and institutional, technical, fiscal and regulatory framework for energy trade among the member states. This was the outcome of a one-day meeting of energy ministers of the member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation held here on Monday. The meeting was preceded by two-day technical deliberations among the energy secretaries of the South Asian countries, besides other senior officials and heads of energy-related institutions. The member countries of Saarc decided with consensus to establish a Saarc energy centre in Pakistan to achieve the objective of creating an energy ring in South Asia.

Dawn, 2 October 2005

### **Expert begins Baglihar dam inspection today**

JAMMU, Oct 1: A World Bank-appointed expert said he would begin inspecting on Sunday a controversial dam being built by India in occupied Kashmir. Pakistan fears the one-billion-dollar Baglihar project could deprive Punjab of vital irrigation water. It says the plant violates a 45-year-old water-sharing treaty brokered by the World Bank. The World Bank appointed the Swiss professor as a neutral expert to address differences between India and Pakistan over the dam being built in held Kashmir after the countries could not resolve the issue. "We're going to visit the site just to try to understand," Raymond Lafitte, a civil engineer, told reporters on Saturday in Jammu. He declined further comment, saying he had a "duty to report to the governments of India and Pakistan first".—AFP

Dawn, 2 October 2005

### **Aziz unveils roadmap for Muslim renaissance: Address at Islamic Economic Forum**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Saturday unfolded a 10-point strategy for leveraging the collective social, economic and political potential of Muslim countries for their emancipation by restructuring their economies and improving delivery of social services, and creating necessary intellectual environment for the renaissance of the Muslim world. He gave the roadmap for the renaissance of the Ummah while delivering key note address on "Leveraging Economic Potential of Muslims: The Forward" at the inaugural session of the three-day World Islamic Economic Forum meeting which was also attended by President of Maldives Mamoon Abdul Gayoom, former deputy prime minister of Malaysia Tan Sri Musa Bin Hitam, Foreign Minister of Malaysia Hamid Bin Syed Jaafar Albar and several businessmen, traders and investors from 44 countries.

Daily Times, 2 October 2005

### **AQ Khan being kept in total isolation, claims US magazine (Khalid Hasan)**

WASHINGTON: Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, claims a 15,000-word article in a forthcoming issue of the US magazine Atlantic Monthly, is living in isolation with his European wife, surrounded by guards and security agents, cut off from contact with the outside world, not allowed to read the newspapers or watch television, let alone to use the telephone or the Internet, and held beyond the reach of even the

intelligence services of the United States.

The Nation, 2 October 2005

### **'Osama in Pak-Afghan border area'**

PARUN (AFP) - Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is alive and hiding out along the rugged border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, a top Afghan official said Saturday. "I don't know exactly where he is but what is clear is that bin Laden is alive, he is in the region," said Zalmay Rasoul, national security advisor to President Hamid Karzai. "If we knew about his whereabouts, we would've caught him - but he'll be caught one day," Rasoul said in Parun, the capital of the poverty-stricken northeast province of Nuristan which borders Pakistan. Rasoul said there was "no Al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan". "They're coming from outside and when there's pressure against them by Afghan or coalition forces, they cross back over the border into the other side," he said. Asked whether he was referring to Pakistan, he said: "Inside Pakistan there are some extremist groups cooperating with Al-Qaeda. It's not only a threat for Afghanistan but it's a threat for Pakistan too."

The News, 3 October 2005

### **Three soldiers among five killed in N Waziristan**

PESHAWAR: Following a lull in fighting in the troubled North Waziristan tribal region, three more Pakistan Army soldiers were killed in two separate incidents and six injured in rocket attacks on military installations in Mir Ali sub-division and elsewhere in the agency on Saturday and Sunday night. Official sources confided to The News that 30 rockets were fired at FC Fort in Mir Ali subdivision in the wee hours of Sunday (2:30 am). One of the rockets that fell inside the fort killed two Army soldiers, Naik Clerk Rizwan Mohammad and Naik Ahmad Khan. In the same attack, six other soldiers received serious injuries.

The News, 3 October 2005

### **Pro-govt tribesmen targeted in S Waziristan**

WANA: A pro-government tribal elder's son was killed on Sunday and his brother was badly injured in yet another case of targeted killing near Wana, while another influential tribesman whose family supported military operations in South Waziristan was kidnapped. Tribal sources in Wana, headquarters of South Waziristan, said tribal elder Malik Khadeen's 13-year-old son was killed in the attack. The tribal elder's younger brother Aslam Noor was badly wounded. The latter was shifted to the hospital where he was stated to be in critical condition. The sources said the attack took place at 10 am in the area of Zha Ghunday, the village of Malik Khadeen. The unidentified assailants riding a vehicle made good their escape. Malik Khadeen was also the target of an assassination attempt in Zha Ghunday some months ago. He survived the attack but his young son Mohammad Hussain and a bodyguard Qalamuddin, who was like a family member and had been brought up by Malik Khadeen, were killed.

Dawn, 3 October 2005

### **Pakistani troops reach Burundi**

BUJUMBURA, Oct 2: A contingent of about 225 Pakistan Army troops arrived here on Sunday to perform duties as UN peacekeepers in Burundi. Ethnic strife and rebellion claimed more than 200,000 lives over the past 12 years in Burundi, a tiny African state with a population of six million people. Pakistan, the largest contributor to the peacekeeping missions, has a presence of some 1,200 troops in this land-locked country. Pakistani troops have also been performing in the engineering, medical and aviation fields in addition to peacekeeping operations.

Dawn, 3 October 2005

### **Ministry denies report**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 2: A spokesman for the interior ministry has denied a report appearing in a section of the press on Oct 1 that 11 soldiers were killed in two days of fighting in North Waziristan. A press release said the report quoted Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao as having confirmed the number of casualties in an interview with journalists. "That information is wrong," the spokesman added.

Dawn, 3 October 2005

### **Former AJK chief justice refused Indian visa**

LAHORE, Oct 2: Three leaders from Pakistan, invited to attend a round table conference on Kashmir in New Delhi, could not attend the moot because India refused a visa to one of them, prompting the other to cancel his visit in protest, and the third could not leave the city for family reasons. The conference started on Sept 29 and concluded on Sunday (Oct 2). It is said that former AJK chief justice Abdul Majeed Malik was refused an Indian visa on the ground that he was native of Jammu and Kashmir.

Daily Times, 4 October 2005

### **6 militants killed in attack on military**

PESHAWAR: Six militants were killed in an attack on a military checkpoint on Monday. The insurgents were among a group of up to 30 who on Sunday surrounded the Zara Mela checkpost in North Waziristan. "Six of them were killed when soldiers returned fire, but they managed to escape with five bodies," said a military official. Meanwhile, security forces killed around 60 to 70 militants, including 35 foreigners and a senior Al Qaeda leader from Chechnya, during an operation in the Khatti Kalli village in North Waziristan last week, military sources told Daily Times.

Daily Times, 4 October 2005

### **Seminary registration bill to be tabled on Oct 7: Ijaz**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Religious Affairs Minister Ijazul Haq on Monday said the government would table the amended Societies Registration Act 1860 (Amendment) Ordinance 2005 in the National Assembly on October 7. Proposals about the registration of seminaries put up by the Ittehad-e-Tanzimat-e-Madaris-e-Deenia Pakistan (ITMDP) and the Law and Justice Ministry were included in the amendments, he said. Talking to reporters after Haj-2006 draws at the Religious Affairs Ministry, Ijaz said the amendments had been made after consultations with the leaders of ITMDP, adding that the amended copies of the ordinance would also be sent to the ITMDP leaders.

Daily Times, 4 October 2005

### **Pakistan and UK vow to fight terror**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Monday reiterated their commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms, said British Defence Secretary John Ried, who met President General Pervez Musharraf and Defence Minister Rao Sikander Iqbal, while talking to a group of senior journalists. Praising the president as a "man of considerable courage", the British Defence secretary said all coalition partners were firm on denying refuge or a base to terrorists for launching terrorist attacks. He brushed aside the impression that the war on terror was against any religion. "The terrorists might claim legitimacy for being socialists, nationalists, Christians or Muslims. We are fighting terrorism," he said, adding that military means alone could not fight terrorism.

Daily Times, 4 October 2005

### **'AJK power projects yet to see daylight'**

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (KANA) has heard that proven feasibility reports for several hydroelectric power generation projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir have been pending in the ministry for years. The projects have the capacity to generate up to 5,000 Mega Watts of power. Akhtar Munir Murwat, the additional secretary of the ministry of KANA, told the committee during a meeting on Friday, "Several files concerning the feasibility of 5000MW hydroelectric electric generation are gathering dust in the ministry and the federal government has turned a blind eye to these projects for years."

Daily Times, 5 October 2005

### **Kashmir key to ties: PM: Musharraf says Kashmir should be resolved with sincerity**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday that India and Pakistan should resolve Kashmir and other disputes with sincerity, flexibility and boldness. "Both countries should build on the improvement in relations and confidence that has evolved," he told Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Referring to his recent meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York, Musharraf said it was important to carry on the composite dialogue in a purposeful and forward-looking manner.

Daily Times, 5 October 2005

### **IRSA rejects Sindh's demand for more water**

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday rejected Sindh's demand to distribute water under paragraph 2 of the Water Apportionment Accord 1991. The IRSA Advisory Committee determined that there was a 17 percent water shortage in the country, according to the assessment of the IRSA Technical Committee that met on September 28. The Advisory Committee finalised the water distribution plan for the Rabi season that started on October 1 and ends on March 31, 2006, taking into consideration the country's water crisis.

Daily Times, 5 October 2005

### **4 get death for Musharraf plot**

ISLAMABAD: A military court on Tuesday sentenced four people to death and handed two others life terms for their role in a 2003 attempt to assassinate President Pervez Musharraf, officials said. They were involved in a plot by junior Pakistani air force officials to kill Musharraf by blowing up a bridge in Rawalpindi on December 14, 2003. Musharraf narrowly survived. "Four junior officials have been sentenced to death and two others were given life term today," an official said on condition of anonymity. An intelligence official also confirmed the judgment. The assassination bid was the first of two in the same month. Musharraf escaped unharmed because a hi-tech jamming device on his Mercedes had delayed the detonation of five bombs

Daily Times, 5 October 2005

### **Blast injures 9 soldiers in Waziristan**

PESHAWAR: A bomb went off near a military convoy in North Waziristan Agency late on Monday, injuring at least nine soldiers including a major and a captain. The soldiers were on their way to Mir Ali town when the remote-controlled device went off near the Khwaja Khar checkpoint, damaging two military vehicles. A military official told Daily Times that the injuries of the major and captain were not serious and they just received bruises. Separately, a top Al Qaeda facilitator in North Waziristan Agency was reported wounded during the military operation in Khati Kalla last week, a security official said on Tuesday.

The News, 6 October 2005

## **Mulla Omar in Afghanistan, Hakimi tells interrogators**

QUETTA: A detained Taliban spokesman has told Pakistani interrogators that militia's fugitive chief Mulla Mohammed Omar is hiding in Afghanistan and remains in contact with top commanders, an intelligence official said on Wednesday. Mulla Abdul Latif Hakimi was arrested in Balochistan the other day. His exact ties to the Taliban leadership are unclear. "So far, he has told interrogators that Mulla Omar is alive, he is in Afghanistan and he remains in contact with senior aides by satellite phone," said the intelligence official, who was involved in the raid to arrest Hakimi in Quetta. The official declined to be named because of the secretive nature of his job. Some Pakistani officials said Hakimi was arrested on Tuesday, but the intelligence official said he was detained on Sunday at a home in Quetta's Newi Killi neighbourhood. Hakimi's arrest was not announced because he was being interrogated about other Taliban leaders, the official said.

The News, 6 October 2005

## **Three options being considered to settle Kashmir issue: Faisal**

By Hanif Khalid

ISLAMABAD: Three options are under consideration for the amicable resolution of the Kashmir dispute, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat has said. In an interview with The News, the minister disclosed that one option is "joint control formula", the second is "limited sovereignty formula" and the third one is "devolution system formula". He claimed that the leaders, foreign ministers, foreign secretaries and even the actors of the backdoor diplomacy have discussed these options, while Kashmiris on both sides of Line of Control are being taken into confidence in this regard.

The News, 6 October 2005

## **Final phase of LB elections today**

By Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: Polling to elect 108 district Nazims, 389 Tehsil and town Nazims and 2,647 councillors for special seats will be held today (Thursday) across the country as part of the third and final phase of the local bodies elections. Polling starting at 8 am will continue till 4 pm without break. There are a total of 110 districts in Pakistan. Election for district Nazim of Kharan in Balochistan has been stayed while no polls had been held for union council Nazims and councillors of Ghotki district, Sindh. As many as 426 candidates are in the run for 108 district Nazim slots. Of them, a total of 134 contestants are vying for 35 Punjab Nazims, 87 for 22 Sindh Nazims, 93 contestants for 24 NWFP Nazims and 112 candidates for 27 Balochistan Nazims.

The News, 6 October 2005

## **Madrassa students secure two top positions**

KARACHI: Two students of Madaris, who appeared as private candidates in HSC Part-II Humanities Group Annual Examinations-2005, secured top positions. The Board of Intermediate Education Karachi (BIEK), which announced the result of private candidates of Intermediate Humanities group on Wednesday showed four per cent increase in pass percentage over the last year's result. None of the successful candidates secured A-1 grade as all position holders clinched distinctions with A-grade marks. Last year too, no candidate was able to clinch A-1 grade, while seven candidates obtained A-grade as compared to eight candidates who secured 70 per cent and above marks this year.

The News, 6 October 2005

## **Pakistan's first gay marriage prompts death threats**

PESHAWAR: Tribesmen have threatened to kill a gay couple who got married in a traditional ceremony, the first in the country, witnesses and a report said on Wednesday. A 42-year-old Afghan refugee "tied the knot" with a local tribesman of 16 in snow-covered Tirah Valley, part of the Khyber tribal region, they said. "I witnessed the marriage in Tirah Valley three days ago," tribal elder Millat Khan told AFP by telephone. "When I came to know that it was a gay marriage I left the party without taking food." A local media report said the elder man, named as Liaquat Ali, had fallen in love with a local boy called Markeen, "who is now his male bride". It said the boy's parents were poor and agreed giving their son's hand in marriage for Rs 40,000. "The marriage was held amid usual pomp and show associated with a tribal wedding," it said.

Dawn, 6 October 2005

### **Joint plan to counter drug trafficking**

RAWALPINDI, Oct 5: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Britain and the United States have agreed to enhance coordination among them in order to counter the menace of drug-trafficking. The synergy between the four states on greater cooperation was demonstrated at the second principals' meeting of the Counter-Narcotics Working Group (CN-WG). Senior officials of the four countries met at the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) headquarters here Wednesday. Among the proposals discussed were ways to share information on the flow of narcotics and precursor chemicals. The meeting also finalized and approved terms of reference of the working group.

Daily Times, 7 October 2005

### **PML and allies sweep third phase of polls**

By Mubashar Bukhari, Khawaja Naseer, Shahzad Raza, Razzak Abro, Zakir Hassnain and Azizullah Khan

Ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML)-backed candidates swept the third phase of the local council elections throughout the country on Thursday. According to unofficial results, PML-backed candidates won most of the slots of district and tehsil nazims in Punjab, Sindh and the North West Frontier Province. PML-backed candidates won the battle in Punjab and bagged 80 percent seats in various districts. In Lahore, the PML swept all seats of district and town nazims except for Wagah Town where the Pakistan People's Party's candidate won with a narrow margin. Mian Amer Mehmood lifted the Lahore nazim crown by securing 1,413 votes while MPA Rana Mashood of the joint opposition got 440 votes .

Daily Times, 7 October 2005

### **No Pakistanis turned over to UK, says FO**

ISLAMABAD: No Pakistani citizens have been handed over to British authorities for their involvement in the murder of a Scot, said a Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Thursday. In a statement, the spokesperson clarified that three British nationals of Pakistan origin Imran Shahid, Zeeshan Shahid and Faisal Mushtaq were deported. They were convicted by a British court for the murder of Scottish schoolboy Kriss Donald in March 2004 and fled to Pakistan. British authorities, he said, had asked Pakistan to hand over the three fugitives.

Although there is no formal extradition treaty between the two countries, the fugitives were deported from Pakistan and turned over to UK authorities.

Daily Times, 7 October 2005

### **Sherpao resisting PPP-PML merger**

By Shahzad Raza

ISLAMABAD: Most pro-government leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have shown little resistance to President Pervez Musharraf's orders, asking PPP leaders to join the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML). Sources in the ruling coalition told Daily Times that none of the party leaders, except for Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, are thinking twice about joining the PML. Requesting anonymity, a top PML leader said that the party leadership had advised President Musharraf to ask PPP leaders to join the PML and contest the next general elections on a PML ticket.

Daily Times, 7 October 2005

### **Rocket attack kills 3 in North Waziristan**

ISLAMABAD: Three family members were killed in a late night rocket attack in North Waziristan Agency, reported Geo television on Thursday. Insurgents fired rockets and missiles on a paramilitary port but a rocket hit the home of tribesman Mohammad Jehan, killing him, his son and daughter, said Geo. The port was targeted in Data Khel and one rocket landed in its premises. But there was no report of any casualty of paramilitary soldiers. Pakistani security forces backed by helicopter gun ships have launched a fresh offensive in South Waziristan, said officials. Last week military and transport helicopters pounded hideouts of foreign militants and their local supporters in North Waziristan, killing several suspects.

Daily Times, 7 October 2005

### **Tribesmen slam gay marriage reports**

PESHAWAR: The people of tribal area Teerah have angrily reacted to news reports about a gay marriage in the Nangroosa locality of Teerah tribal region.

The boy, belonging to the Markin tribe, who has figured in reports stating that he was married to a 42-year Afghan refugee, condemned the reports as shameful and said he will take legal action. Dr Kalat, a local resident, who works as a physician in the tribal area, told reporters that he attended a jirga, led by Amir Namdar where this report was discussed. The boy told the jirga that if this shameful act was proven against him, he would agree to be executed. The boy said that he developed differences with his employer who exported timber to Afghanistan. He said that he used to supply jungle wood on donkeys and bring merchandise from Afghanistan.

Daily Times, 7 October 2005

### **Afghanistan the only 'irritant' in Pak-US relations: Sethi**

By Khalid Hasan

WASHINGTON: Najam Sethi, editor of Daily Times, currently on a visit to the United States, told a meeting of Pakistani professionals at the World Bank on Tuesday that the only "irritant" in US-Pakistan relations at present is Afghanistan. US and Pakistani interests in Afghanistan do not quite converge. Pakistan would like its neighbour to the north to be Pushtun-dominated, but not just any Pushtuns, only those who are pro-Pakistan. The support for Taliban elements provides Islamabad with a certain leverage, in the same way as support for those fighting in Indian-held Kashmir provides it with leverage against India. He said the US has not pushed Gen. Musharraf on democratisation and it is therefore only natural for him to feel "relaxed" on that count. Sethi said from the very beginning, it has been Pakistan's ardent wish for the Durand Line to be accepted as the international boundary between Afghanistan and itself.

Daily Times, 09 October 2005

### **The 'foreign hand' again!**

Eight worshippers were killed and 16 injured in Mandi Bahauddin when three unidentified assailants opened fire while they were offering morning prayers. This has almost become a regular opening of news items coming out of Pakistan since this country took its first steps on the road to "Islamisation" and "piety". Sunnis and Shias have been regularly killing each other; Deobandis and Barelvis - both Sunni - have also killed each other; minorities have been attacked by "pious" Muslims of all hues and denominations and, of course, the great bugbear of the faithful in this country since its inception has been the Ahmadiyya community. In the case of the Mandi Bahauddin attack, the slain and the injured belonged to the Ahmadiyya community.

Daily Times, 09 October 2005

### **Kudos for El Baradei**

The Swedish Academy has awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize to the International Atomic Energy Agency and its third-time elected Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei for their efforts to curb non-proliferation. We felicitate Mr ElBaradei on getting the Nobel, though getting elected the third time in the teeth of earlier opposition from the United States probably remains a bigger feat. The IAEA is the United Nations nuclear watchdog. It also has a major role to play in implementing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty which automatically puts on signatories the onus of a Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. In other words, if a state signs the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state, it also finds itself bound by the IAEA. The IAEA provides technical help to states even as it monitors their activities. Thus it has an important role to play in the non-proliferation regime.

Daily Times, 9 October 2005

### **Pakistan's London HC implicated in nuclear trade**

LAHORE: Pakistan High Commission in London is on a British intelligence list of 360 companies, universities and government organisations seeking to procure nuclear and other weapons related technology. According to a British newspaper, the British intelligence agency MI5 has prepared a report outlining the activities of 360 organisations, which seek nuclear weapons. The length of the list suggests that the arms trade supermarket is bigger than earlier anticipated. MI5 warns against exports to organisations in Iran, Pakistan, India, Israel, Syria and Egypt and warns against companies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), suspected to be fronts for these organisations.

Daily Times, 10 October 2005

### **Earthquake death toll crosses 40,000 (Shahzad Raza)**

ISLAMABAD: The government on Sunday confirmed the death of over 19,000 people after a massive earthquake hit Pakistan a day earlier, but unofficial estimates put the death toll to over 40,000. The worst-affected city was Muzaffarabad, the capital of Kashmir, where 70 percent of the entire housing was destroyed by the earthquake. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told a press conference that the worst-hit areas were Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Mansehra and Balakot. Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao told journalists after an emergency cabinet meeting that 11,000 people had died in Muzaffarabad alone. "We are facing the worst-ever earthquake," he said. "This is a test for the whole nation." Sherpao put the death toll to 19,136 - 17,388 of them in Kashmir - and said that 42,397 were injured. In NWFP, 1,760 people had been killed and 1,797 injured, he said, while 11 had died and 83 were injured in Punjab. In the Northern Areas bordering China and Kashmir a further two people were killed and two injured, the interior minister said.

Daily Times, 10 October 2005

### **Oil and gas exploration: Govt to award 30 new licences by year end**

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to award 30 new oil and gas exploration licences to increase oil and gas production in Pakistan by the end of 2005, a government official said on Sunday. He said the onshore concession areas included eastern Balochistan, central Punjab and lower Indus in Sindh. He said oil and gas consumption in the country had grown at 6.6 percent in the past five years and that the government wanted to increase the level of oil production from 64,000 to 100,000 barrels and gas from 3 to 5 billion cubic feet per day in the future. Of the total gas consumption in the country, he said the power sector accounted for almost 38 percent and still wanted more.

Daily Times, 10 October 2005

### **Relief and rehabilitation of quake victims: Musharraf seeks international help**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf on Sunday asked the international community to help Pakistan with medicine, tents, cargo helicopters and financial assistance in overcoming the country's worst earthquake disaster. "We do seek international assistance. We have enough manpower, but we need financial support so that we can spend it in a way to cope with the tragedy," he told journalists before visiting quake-affected areas. Musharraf said a large supply of medicine, tents, cargo and helicopters was needed to reach far-flung areas, which had been cut off from the rest of the country. He said several foreign leaders had called him to offer their condolences and assistance. "I will visit the entire area to assess the damage and state of rescue activities myself," the president said, appealing to overseas Pakistanis for support.

Dawn, 10 October 2005

### **WB, ADB offer \$30m for earthquake relief**

TOKYO, Oct 9: The World Bank has offered \$20 million to Pakistan to cope with the devastating earthquake, bank president Paul Wolfowitz said on Sunday. Wolfowitz, who is on a visit to Tokyo, also urged international donors to coordinate efforts to help South Asian nations battered by the earthquake, rather than trying to compete over aid. "I know from our team in Pakistan that we have already offered \$20 million of IDA assistance to the government of Pakistan to help them deal with this tragedy," Wolfowitz told reporters. The International Development Association (IDA) is the World Bank's main lending arm for poor countries. He added that past earthquakes in Turkey and Iran and the tsunami disaster in Asia have given the international community many experiences and lessons to learn from at a time of terrible natural disasters. "I think one of the most important lessons that our team has emphasised is the need for everyone to work as a team," he said. "This kind of situation calls for a great deal of generosity from great many donors and the part of the challenge is to coordinate the generosity in the way that makes it most effective."

Dawn, 10 October 2005

### **Three soldiers die in landmine blast**

MIRAMSHAH, Oct 9: Three soldiers were injured when a military vehicle ran over a landmine, five kilometre west of here on Sunday. Unconfirmed reports said that the soldiers succumbed to their injuries in a military hospital in Bannu. Sources said that a military convoy comprising several trucks was going from Dattakhel tehsil to the Agency Headquarters Miramshah when their truck struck against a landmine planted on the road, seriously injuring the soldiers. The injured soldiers were rushed to a military hospital in Bannu where they died. The sources said that helicopter gunships were carrying out surveillance of the areas near the blast site. The authorities have also mounted search for the suspects involved in the attack on the military convoy.

Dawn, 10 October 2005

### **Musharraf vows comprehensive relief efforts: International help sought**

RAWALPINDI, Oct 9: Assuring the nation of all-out rescue and relief effort, President General Pervez Musharraf on Sunday asked the international community to assist Pakistan with supplies of medicine, tents, cargo helicopters and cash to overcome the country's worst earthquake. "We do seek international assistance. We have enough manpower but we need financial support so that we may utilize it in a required way to cope with the tragedy. Then there is a need for large supplies of medicines, tents and cargo helicopters to reach out people in far-flung and cut-off areas, the bigger these copters the better," he said in Rawalpindi prior to his departure on an visit to the quake-hit areas. He thanked leaders of foreign countries who called him in the aftermath of the tragedy and offered their condolences and assistance.

Daily Times, 11 October 2005

### **No joint Indo-Pak relief operation: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday ruled out Indian offer of joint relief operations in Kashmir. "There is no possibility of joint relief operations on both sides of the LoC," Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam told reporters during her weekly press briefing. "There is no population on the LoC. Our forces are working already away from the LoC and their forces are working in Uri, that is also 10 kilometres away," she added. But many troops on either side of the LoC were among the victims of Saturday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake. She also confirmed that Pakistan had accepted an offer of aid India, saying, "Yes, we have accepted. As far as help from India is concerned, we are in touch with them and have indicated our requirements to them. Our high commissioner was called by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and we indicated our requirements."

The News, 11 October 2005

### **Pakistan accepts Indian relief offer** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Delhi Aziz Ahmed Khan met Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and indicated that Pakistan would welcome relief goods to help survivors in different parts of the country which have been affected by one of the worst disasters in its history. "Our high commissioner in his meeting with the Indian prime minister updated him about the scale of disaster that Pakistan is facing and the Indian government put forward an open ended offer. We have indicated that we would welcome relief goods," spokesperson at the Foreign Office told The News.

Daily Times, 11 October 2005

### **Meeting on dams today** (Khalid Mustafa)

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf has convened a high level meeting today (Tuesday) to evolve a strategy to initiate the Kalabagh and Basha Dams simultaneously. The meeting will be attended by the governors and chief ministers of the four provinces, and officials of the Ministry of Water and Power, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). A senior government official said that experts have already analysed the report on the dams and water availability submitted by the nine-member Technical Committee on Water Resources - headed by ANG Abbasi.

The News, 11 October 2005

### **Disaster management strategy awaits PM's nod** (Ansar Abbasi)

ISLAMABAD: A proposal for the setting up of a much needed Disaster Management Agency (DMA) to meet disasters and natural calamities like the one that has just hit Pakistan, is waiting the government's approval. Sources told The News that after prolonged consultations with the provinces, army and other key government agencies, the Cabinet Division had prepared a comprehensive

strategy over a year back to effectively deal with major disasters and calamities but the proposal has not yet been approved for implementation.

Daily Times, 12 October 2005

### **Muzaffarabad facing epidemic outbreak**

ISLAMABAD: Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) warned on Tuesday there was a risk of an epidemic of water-borne disease in Muzaffarabad, the quake-devastated capital of Azad Kashmir. The Paris-based aid group's chief in Islamabad, Isabelle Simpson, said water supplies could become contaminated because of quake damage, "which is why we worry that that could lead then to outbreaks of other water-borne diseases". "Especially as very few people have shelter up there, they're crowding into homes and camp-type situations, so there's a lot of potential for health risks," she said. Aid has begun to trickle into Muzaffarabad after the only roads linking it with the outside world were opened late Monday but the city where at least 11,000 are confirmed dead is still in chaos. MSF workers who reached the city were still assessing the situation but "Muzaffarabad itself they consider to be much more destroyed than anticipated," Simpson said. "It's early days yet but we have to be very aware that they need at least clean water for drinking purposes," she added.

Daily Times, 12 October 2005

### **Mirwaiz urges joint Indo-Pak relief effort**

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chairperson of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, on Tuesday made a tearful appeal to India and Pakistan not to let politics interfere with helping earthquake victims in the disputed region, and urged them to launch joint relief efforts. Standing barefoot on the grassy lawns of Kashmir's largest mosque, Mirwaiz wept together with worshippers – their hands raised skyward in prayer – as he described the devastation to his congregation at a special service for the quake victims. "We have seen that both India and Pakistan have been hesitant in accepting each other's relief. Let's not play politics over this," Mirwaiz later told reporters in Srinagar. Mirwaiz Farooq also called for the reopening of bus routes and telephone links between thousands of families divided by the cease-fire line between the two countries. Both India and Pakistan offered each other aid in the aftermath of the disaster, but lingering tensions between the South Asian rivals has inhibited the flow of help.

Daily Times, 12 October 2005

### **Foreign rescuers charged visa fees**

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has launched an investigation against officials of the Immigration and Passport Department for allegedly charging visa fees from foreign rescue workers. The foreign workers arrived in Pakistan to help the local agencies in rescue operations after a devastating earthquake hit the country on October 8. On the instructions of the Interior Ministry, the director general for immigration has summoned four officials of the department. Syed Kaleem Imam, the FIA's immigration cell deputy director, said the cell was authorised to give landing permit to foreign aid workers on the directives of the Interior Ministry, while the Immigration and Passport Department had issued visas according to standard government policies by charging \$45. Four officials of the department have allegedly received visa fee from German aid workers.

Dawn, 12 October 2005

### **UN seeks \$272m for relief work (Masood Haider)**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 11: The United Nations on Tuesday launched a \$272 million flash appeal for

Pakistan's earthquake victims. The appeal sought life-saving and early recovery activities for a six-month emergency phase in a remote region which provides enormous logistical difficulties with landslides cutting off many roads, allowing access only by foot or helicopter to areas where more than 80 per cent of buildings have been destroyed. At a press conference in New York, the Chief of Staff to the Undersecretary General of Humanitarian Affairs, Mr Hamsjoerg Strohmeyer, said heavy machinery and equipment were being acquired. However, he pointed out that due to the extensive damage to access roads, heavy equipment needed for search and recovery mission will be airlifted by helicopters. But most of the equipment, he conceded, has to be carried by trucks once they are cleared.

The Nation, 12 October 2005

### **AJK University wiped out** (Muhammad Irtaza)

Multan - "The screams of my class fellows are still echoing in my mind. Their blood-littered faces don't let me sleep in the night. They are seeking help, striving hard to return to life, but to no avail, as no body can recover them from heavy blocks of campus debris. They all die, leaving me alone with killing memories that might continue to haunt me for rest of my entire life." This is what, Azam Ali Alvi, a survivor of one of the disastrous-ever earthquakes in the history of this area, told this scribe on Tuesday. Azam is a student of third semester in 4-year B.S. Applied Geology programme in Geology Department of University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad. Mr. Alvi, his class fellow Babar Siddique and a hostel warden survived 7.6-magnitude earthquake in Muzaffarabad on Saturday and reached Multan in wee hours of Monday.

Daily Times, 13 October 2005

### **Frustration spills over in AJK**

MUZAFFARABAD: Desperation and anger in the area worst hit by the Kashmir earthquake spilled over on Wednesday as survivors swamped a relief truck bringing supplies to more remote mountain villages and beat the delivery workers. Even as aid was starting to flow, anger over what many residents saw as a slow and ineffective response to the disaster was mounting in Muzaffarabad. The 7.6 magnitude earthquake killed more than 20,000 people, most of them in Pakistani Kashmir, and four days after it struck, many survivors say they have still received no help. On Wednesday, a frenzied crowd of men battled each other to clamber up into the truck to grab boxes of bottled water, blankets and packets of biscuits. "We only see things coming and going, we need food, we need water," said one man taking part in the melee on the main road from Muzaffarabad. Muhammad Rauf, in charge of the private convoy of 11 trucks, said that he and his colleagues had been beaten by the crowd.

Daily Times, 13 October 2005

### **Musharraf urges nation to unite in face of crisis** (Rana Qaisar)

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday urged the nation to unite and face the post-earthquake situation with courage, as it was time to join hands for the rehabilitation of those who had lost their loved ones and homes. "We are a bold and courageous nation. I appreciate the spirit of the people who volunteered to help their countrymen in this hour of need," the president said in his address to the nation, appreciating the role of political parties and those in opposition. The president said it was not a time to criticise. "We need to demonstrate unity and the courage to move forward," the president said, urging the nation not to let a defeatist approach overcome them. "Our action must be seen. I appreciate the people for their courage, confidence, unity and support for the victims of this disaster."

Daily Times, 13 October 2005

### **No objection to aid from anyone: Aziz** (Shahzad Raza)

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Wednesday that Pakistan did not object in receiving aid from any country. Addressing a press conference after meeting US Secretary of State Condoleezza, Aziz said the President's Relief Fund was open for everyone to contribute. "Anyone is free to contribute from anywhere in the world. And this is purely on humanitarian grounds," he added. He was replying to a question about whether Pakistan had received any aid from Israel. Earlier, the US pledged to support Pakistan rebuild the devastated cities and villages of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the NWFP. "We will be with you not just today, but in the future too," Rice told reporters after meeting President Pervez Musharraf and Aziz. She said she visited Pakistan to express the sympathies of the US government and people to the earthquake victims. She said her government and people wanted to respond to Pakistan's call for help. The US government has already pledged \$50 million for the quake-hit people. A few US helicopters are also taking part in the relief operation. Rice pledged more helicopters and financial and logistical assistance.

Daily Times, 13 October 2005

### **Sonia Naz case: FIR registered against SP, SHO (Aayan Ali)**

LAHORE: Following Supreme Court orders, Sattukatla police station on Wednesday lodged a formal case against SP Khalid Abdullah, SHO Jamshed Chishti and some unidentified people under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code, Police Act and Hudood laws. The case has been registered on the complaint of Sonia Naz, who accuses the police officials of kidnapping and raping her. Naz earlier lodged the complaint at the Sattukatla police station on September 2, 2005 but the case was not registered. The accused have been charged with Sections 10, 11, 16, 18, 7/ 79 of the Hudood Ordinance, Sections 344, 354, 355 and 506 of the PPC and Section 155 of the Police Act in the FIR No 650/05. Naz and her counsel came to SHO Shareef Sindhu on Wednesday afternoon and submitted him the SC directive to register the case.

Dawn, 13 October 2005

### **Indian troops cross LoC to back up relief efforts**

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: Indian soldiers on Wednesday crossed LoC to rebuild a quake-destroyed bunker, an Indian army spokesman said. "It is unprecedented in the manner that our soldiers have gone across the border to extend help," Lieutenant Colonel K. Seghal said in Srinagar. The soldiers crossed a bridge that spans the Line of Control, Col Seghal said. "A few soldiers from the Pakistani side shouted for help to our boys to clear the debris and in adverse weather conditions our soldiers went across to re-do their flattened bunkers so that they could sleep at night," he said. "If they (the Pakistani soldiers) want our help and if we want their help it is no problem," said an Indian army commander as helicopters from the two sides crisscrossed the usually heavily militarised LoC — something that would usually involve being shot down. An Indian cargo plane delivered relief supplies for earthquake victims in Pakistan on Wednesday, the first such airlift between the neighbours in decades.

Dawn, 13 October 2005

### **Jordan sends mobile hospital**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 12: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said he will soon be embarking on a tour of Arab countries to generate aid and donations for the West Bank. Mr Kasuri said this while talking to visiting Prince Rashed Bin-Al-Hassan, chief of the Jordanian Relief Agencies here on Wednesday. Prince Rashed arrived here on Tuesday, bringing with him a 50-bed mobile hospital to be deployed in Rawalakot. Mr Kasuri said he will also use this occasion to launch an appeal for greater assistance to Pakistan for the relief and rehabilitation of earthquake victims. He expressed the profound gratitude of the Government of Pakistan for the prompt assistance extended by the Government of Jordan to Pakistan in its hour of need.

Mr Kasuri briefed Prince Rashed on the scale of the disaster. The Prince stated that Jordan understood the magnitude of the calamity and would continue to extend assistance to Pakistan in connection with the victims.

Dawn, 13 October 2005

### **Nato not to send troops from Afghanistan** (Shadaba Islam)

BRUSSELS, Oct 12: Nato on Wednesday ruled out moving its troops or helicopters from Afghanistan to help in the rescue operations in Pakistan but said its aircraft would continue to ferry relief supplies from Europe to Islamabad. Officials said the first Nato aircraft would reach Pakistan on Thursday as part of a strategic airlift operation to move urgently required humanitarian aid to the country. The operation could be followed by further actions, the organization said, adding that heavy-duty helicopters could be sent by sea from Europe if required. A five-member team of experts is board the Nato airplane to assess the emergency requirements. The Nato-led stabilization force in Afghanistan was stretched to its limit and assets and soldiers were still needed on the ground in the country in a difficult post-election period, said an official of the organization.

Daily Times, 14 October 2005

### **Victims still cut off, dismiss aid promise**

GHARIDUPATTA: In parts of Pakistan still cut off five days after Saturday's earthquake, people angrily dismiss government reassurances that help is on the way as the army struggles to clear landslides blocking roads. The confirmed death toll from Saturday's quake was 25,000 on Thursday, but some local officials and politicians say it could exceed 40,000. Muzaffarabad was devastated and outlying areas suffered huge damage and numerous casualties, but most parts have yet to be reached as landslides triggered by the quake have blocked or swept away roads. A Reuters news team on Thursday trekked up Jhelum Valley, crossing six big landslides and passing numerous rock falls on a 10-kilometre stretch of road to reach the small market town of Gharidupatta, 25 km east of Muzaffarabad.

Daily Times, 14 October 2005

### **Lahore-Amritsar bus trial delayed**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation and Punjab Roadways Authority of India have agreed to put off a trial run of the Lahore-Amritsar bus service, slated for October 15, in the backdrop of Saturday's devastating earthquake. "Considering the nature and scale of the tragedy, it makes sense to postpone the bus service but India has yet to confirm it officially," Additional Communications Secretary Mohammed Abbas, who led the Pakistani delegation to Delhi last month to sign the bus deal, told Daily Times from Islamabad. Twice-weekly services from Lahore to Amritsar were scheduled to start from November 9. Abbas said the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service would resume once the road network in Kashmir is repaired, which could take up to two months.

Daily Times, 14 October 2005

### **JUI's good decision to allow Mr Durrani to attend the NSC meeting ...**

The decision by leaders of the Mutahidda Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) to allow NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani to attend Wednesday's National Security Council (NSC) meeting was eminently sensible and should be commended. The NSC meeting was called to review the post-quake situation and formulate a plan to rehabilitate large populations in Azad Kashmir and the NWFP that have been hit by the calamity and rendered homeless. Being the political and administrative head of NWFP, it was only

correct that Mr Durrani should have been part of the national effort that is being mounted to mitigate the suffering of the people.

Dawn, 14 October 2005

### **Three troops, two militants die in clash**

MIRAMSHAH, Oct 13: Three paramilitary troops and two militants were killed, while another man was arrested after an exchange of fire in Shawal area in North Waziristan Agency on Wednesday evening, officials said. They said militants attacked a paramilitary post in Zoi Saidgei in Shawal valley, killing three troops, including a hawaldar. The security forces returned fire, in which two militants were killed. —Correspondent

The Nation , 14 October 2005

### **No LoC crossing by Indians: Pak (Shaiq Hussain)**

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan on Thursday denied that Indian troops crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and helped Pakistan Army in the earthquake relief efforts. DG ISPR, Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan also rejected the impression that the massive earthquake that hit Pakistan on Saturday might have caused damage to the country's nuclear installations. The Indian army earlier said its troops twice crossed the LoC at the invitation of Pakistani soldiers. ISPR in his comments said the reports of Indian troops helping Pakistan army rebuild its bunkers were unimaginable and concocted. According to the officials of Indian army, Pakistani soldiers invited the Indians to help them rebuild some of their bunkers. Answering a query, ISPR Director General said the rumors that the earthquake might have caused some damage to Pakistan's nuclear installations were baseless. He said, "The nuclear installations are built in a such a way so that they can even survive air attack. So to say that the earthquake might have caused some damage to the installations is completely false."

The Nation, 14 October 2005

### **Militant groups in AK hard hit by quake- WSJ**

NEW YORK: -- Several militant groups in Azad Kashmir appear to have lost hundreds of fighters in Saturday's earthquake disaster, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday, citing a representative of Lashkar-e-Taiba, or Let. LeT itself had more than 100 deaths, including 40 pupils in an Islamic seminary who perished when a building collapsed in Muzaffarabad, Yahaya Mujahid, a LeT spokesman said, according to WSJ. "It has been a serious blow to our struggle." The group was outlawed in 2002 by the government of Pakistan', but has continued to fight Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, a joint dispatch from the newspaper's correspondent in India and Pakistan said.

Daily Times, 15 October 2005

### **Aid delivery must be orderly: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf said on Friday that relief goods and food should be delivered in an organised manner so that it could reach earthquake victims immediately. Separately, thunderstorms and rain was expected in the next 48 hours in the quake-hit areas, followed by a cold wave that threatened to disrupt the emergency effort to assist the victims. Addressing a meeting held to review the rehabilitation of earthquake victims and other relief and rescue operations, Musharraf said, "The relief aid and assistance is very large and blankets, sweaters and other clothes should be provided to parts of Azad Kashmir and the NWFP before the onset of winter." Expressing his satisfaction over the fast pace of relief and rescue activities, Musharraf said this reflected the unity among Pakistanis. Praising the step of setting up "tent villages", he said they (the villages) would be

provided with basic amenities of life and that foreign companies interested in taking part in the project should be given a chance.

Daily Times, 15 October 2005

### **Pakistan wants to use Indian route to reach remote villages** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has formally asked India for access through Jammu and Kashmir to get to remote villages close to the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir. The request is in response to two offers of help made by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. However, India is quiet over Pakistan's request, as the Indian government is not too happy with Islamabad refusing Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters to rescue Indians stranded in Muzaffarabad. Many remote areas of Azad Kashmir have become inaccessible because last Saturday's earthquake wiped out all road and bridge links and no rescuer was able to reach them even after a week having passed. Sources confirmed on Friday that Pakistan had formally approached India "through the diplomatic channel" for access to the remote areas of Azad Kashmir from the Indian side of the LoC, but there was no word about it at the official briefing of the External Affairs Ministry.

Dawn, 15 October 2005

### **UN upgrades flash appeal to \$312m**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 14: The United Nations on Friday revised its "flash appeal" for earthquake which hit Pakistan to \$312 million from \$272 million, and so far over \$50 million has been pledged, a top UN official said. As more international aid pours into Pakistan some 50 or more helicopters are operating to speed up the relief efforts in the more inaccessible areas Hamsjoerg Strohmeyer, a spokesman for UN's Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, told a news briefing. On Thursday Mr Strohmeyer said that the monies pledged to the UN "flash appeal" is separate from the bilateral donations made directly to Pakistan government which according to one report is about \$400 million so far. The countries which have pledged to the UN fund include United Kingdom \$17m, Sweden \$10m, Netherlands \$7m, Canada \$8m, Australia \$4m and another \$1.5m by others. When asked about the relief efforts for the children who were most impacted by the earthquake, he said that United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) had established 10 centres with over 20 staffers to assess the needs of the children.

Dawn, 15 October 2005

### **Indian relief train arrives**

LAHORE, Oct 14: A train carrying blankets, tents and medicines arrived here on Friday night from India. This is the second consignment of relief goods from the country in three days. The Indian side had informed the Pakistan Railways on Friday morning that one wagon carrying tents and blankets would cross Wagah late night. Later, they increased the number to five, said a railways official. But finally four wagons crossed the border carrying 12 tons of medicines, 370 tents and 500 blankets. Railways authorities, which sent an engine to the border, said the wagons would be taken to Rawalpindi at the earliest.

Dawn, 15 October 2005

### **Nato to send equipment for WFP base camp** (Shadaba Islam)

BRUSSELS, Oct 14: Nato on Friday said it was sending a cargo aircraft containing equipment donated by Sweden to set up a base camp for the World Food Programme's post-quake relief operation in Muzaffarabad. The European Commission also said it was rushing an additional 10 million euros in

relief to Pakistan following a decision earlier this week to send emergency aid worth 3.6 million euros to the country. A spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization said an Antonov cargo aircraft would leave for Islamabad on Oct 15 with material for building a camp -- including sleeping quarters, kitchens, communication material as well as fork lifts and transport material -- in Muzaffarabad. Other large donations by European governments would also be ferried to Pakistan in coming days, Nato officials said. They said a senior Nato official was on the plane to liaise with Pakistan on the alliance's airlift support operation. Nato dispatched a Boeing 707 with relief supplies to Pakistan earlier this week.

The News, 15 October 2005

### **Bush visits Pak embassy** (Muhammad Saleh Zaafir)

ISLAMABAD: The United States has assured Pakistan of more help for the quake victims in days to come. The US government is dispatching 24 wide-bodied Shinook helicopters immediately while heavy machinery for clearing roads and debris is also coming from the United States, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States General (Retired) Jehangir Karamat told The News from Washington after the visit of US President George Bush to Pak embassy in the US on Friday. He said President Bush stayed in the embassy for more than half an hour and expressed heartfelt sentiments of the US government and people on the earthquake tragedy. It was overwhelming gesture on the part of the US president, he added. The way President Bush inquired from me about the relief efforts and gathered details about the calamity moved me. he said. It was really encouraging and matter of gratitude that the president is taking personal interest in the relief efforts and he looked grieved about the tragedy.

Daily Times, 16 October 2005

### **Thousands of cut-off villagers face death**

DHANNI: Thousands more quake victims could die of their wounds in Azad Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days if help does not reach their isolated villages, a British doctor said on Saturday as heavy rains compounded the survivors' misery, disrupted aid flights and threatened more landslides on roads the army has been struggling to clear. "Several thousand people will die in the next few days. Their wounds have turned septic, they have fractures," Sean Keogh, of the Britain-based Medical Relief International (Merlin), told AFP. "Desperation," the operations manager of the UN relief effort, Robert Holden, said of the effect of the rain on victims.

Daily Times, 16 October 2005

### **India allows Pakistani choppers to fly near LoC**

NEW DELHI: India granted permission to Pakistan on Saturday to fly its helicopters inside one kilometre of the airspace above the LoC to access remote areas affected by the earthquake in Kashmir. India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtaj Sarna, however, clarified that permission will be granted on a case-to-case basis. Sarna said that on October 13, Pakistan had requested permission to fly helicopters inside the "peace-time no-fly zone". He said that Pakistan had also requested permission to cross the LoC to obtain access to remote areas. iftikhar gilani

The News, 16 October 2005

### **Muzaffarabad struggles for life** (Naveed Ahmad)

MUZAFFARABAD: With no memorials organized, no Quran Khwani planned and no condolence message received, the capital city of Azad Kashmir continues to be a picture of gloom on the first Sunday after the one, which brought unprecedented death and destruction. Exactly eight days down the road, Muzaffarabad has improved from utter chaos and absolute darkness to lesser chaos and

some organization amid unbearable stench of decaying dead bodies in certain areas. Though electricity and telephonic contacts give some sense of life at night, the loaded relief trucks clogging the roads and hardfought snatching for a morsel of food has replaced the city's trademarks early morning traffic snarls and breakfast shops.

Daily Times, 16 October 2005

### **Rs 5b needed for rehabilitation: PM**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that at least \$5 billion is required for reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and NWFP areas. "In my view it will take some five years to reconstruct and rehabilitate the areas hit and damaged by the earthquake," said Aziz. He said that two divisions of the army had moved into the quake-hit areas in addition to troops already deployed there and a total of 58 helicopters including 18 from friendly countries were being used in relief and rescue work. Prime Minister Aziz said that another 24 helicopters were required.

Dawn, 16 October 2005

### **Eight religious leaders held**

GILGIT, Oct 15: Security agencies in pre-dawn raids on Saturday arrested eight religious leaders and shifted them to Rawalpindi. The detained clerics and leaders included Shia leader Agha Rahat Al-Husaini, Shaikh Mirza Ali, Shaikh Nayyar Abbas, former NALC member Deedar Ali, Sunni leader Maulana Qazi Nisar arrested in Rawalpindi, Maulana Hussain Ahmad, Maulana Khalil Ahmed and NALC member Himayatullah Khan. The sources said that the detained clerics and leaders were being shifted to Adiyala Jail after reaching Rawalpindi, but they have been reported stuck in Jaglote, 50 km south of Gilgit.

Daily Times, 16 October 2005

### **Accused SP and SHO still at liberty: Police accused of protecting cops in Naz case (Aayan Ali)**

LAHORE: The police has been accused of protecting the cops involved in Sonia Naz rape case. The case had been registered against Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdullah Khalid, Inspector Jamshaid Chishti and 10 unidentified people under various Sections of the Hudood Ordinance of 1979, Pakistan Penal Code and the Police Act on October 12. The duty officer at Sattukatla Police Station said that Sub-Inspector Tariq Bashir Cheema was appointed to investigate the case, but the investigations were conducted by Lahore Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Tariq Saleem Dogar.

Dawn, 16 October 2005

### **HRCP voices concern over violence in Gilgit**

KARACHI, Oct 15: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) secretary-general Iqbal Haider on Saturday voiced concern over the continuing violence and clashes between civilians and law-enforcement agencies in Gilgit for the last three days, which had resulted in the death of 12 people, including women, and two Rangers personnel. He said that clamping curfew for more than three days with no break had only added to the miseries of the people as their survival had become more difficult without the supply of food, fuel and other necessities of life.

Daily Times, 16 October 2005

### **Power generation from Mangla Dam goes down**

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government's closure of half the canals in the province for de-silting has substantially reduced power generation from the Mangla Dam, a government official said. The Indus

River System Authority (IRSA) has reduced water releases from the Mangla reservoir in the last five days since the closure, causing reduced power generation. The official said that water from the Mangla Dam is primarily used by Punjab. When Punjab closes its canals for de-silting or repairs, he said, IRSA reduces water releases according to the province's demand. The official said that the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is facing a power shortage because of fewer water releases from the Mangla Dam

The News, 17 October 2005

### **Quake toll leaps past 53,000 40,000 killed in Azad Kashmir alone; 13,000 in NWFP;**

**MUZAFFARABAD:** The death toll from the earthquake soared past 53,000 on Sunday and could rise still far higher as relief workers struggle to reach survivors. "With all responsibility, I can say that not less than 40,000 are killed," AJK Prime Minister Sikandar Hayat Khan told AFP. "There are still cities which are not cleared of debris and the death toll could go to 70,000 or 80,000. It is the worst tragedy in our history," he said. The federal government had earlier said that more than 13,000 people were killed in the NWFP. "Some areas along the Line of Control and the areas where the snow is falling there is still debris. Helicopters have not reached there," he said and added but the military is doing its best in conditions that some relief workers have said are the most difficult they have ever encountered in a natural disaster.

The News, 17 October 2005

### **Islamic, rival NGOs compete in relief work** (Rahimullah Yusufzai)

**PESHAWAR:** Islamic and other non-governmental organisations are engaged in a fierce but largely healthy competition while trying to provide relief to the earthquake victims in the NWFP and Azad Kashmir. In the process, all the organisations are supplementing the efforts by the federal and provincial governments and the international community to cope with the tragedy. During a visit to Balakot, one saw and was told about existence of camps by around 20 organizations to perform different functions for the relief of the quake victims. The majority, a dozen to be precise, were Islamic. The remaining included the Edhi Foundation, once more conspicuous on account of its distinctive ambulance service, and the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), which was assigned by the government to perform the lead role in distributing relief goods through its partner community organisations in the villages and the newly elected Nazims and councillors.

The News, 17 October 2005

### **Six troops killed in aid chopper crash ISPR says cause of Mi-17 accident unclear; dead include four officers**

**ISLAMABAD:** Six Pakistani troops were killed when their helicopter crashed in Kashmir during a relief operation following the massive earthquake in the region, a military spokesman said on Sunday. "There were six people on board. They are all dead," Major-General Shaukat Sultan told AFP. He said it was unclear if the crash was due to a mechanical accident or poor weather. It was the first aid helicopter to crash since the beginning of the relief operation to save the millions of destitute from the October 8 earthquake that killed more than 38,000 people in Pakistan. The Mi-17 went missing at around noon on Saturday north-east of Bagh in Azad Kashmir. "When it was going to Haji Peer Pak, which is a very difficult mountainous area, we lost contact with it," Sultan said. The military found the wreckage, including the bodies of four military officers and two technicians, Sultan said.

Daily Times, 17 October 2005

### **US military renames quake-hit towns to make flying easier**

**RAWALPINDI:** US military pilots flying relief missions in Pakistan's quake-hit zone are using the names

of American cities and states to help them identify destinations with unfamiliar names in the rugged Himalayan region. Planners have drawn up a simple map of the entire region that resembles the US, said Col Mark McKearn, the officer in charge of US flight operations at the Chaklala Air Base in Rawalpindi. "In the middle is Muzaffarabad, that's Michigan," McKearn said on Sunday. "To the east, there's New York, which is Bagh." A 7.6-magnitude quake struck Pakistan's Himalayan region on October 8, killing nearly 40,000 and injuring at least 62,000 others. More than 1,350 people died in Jammu and Kashmir. At least 18 foreign helicopters, including those from the US, are aiding the Pakistani Army in relief operations. Most US flights travel to Mansehra, which US pilots call Oregon, and Bagh, known as New York. McKearn said the US pilots have renamed places in other countries, including Afghanistan, to make it easier to get around. "It helps us. It's just like a map of the United States," said McKearn. "It'll be hard if there's someone screeching something they can't pronounce over the radio." ap

Daily Times, 17 October 2005

### **Gilgit curfew enters fourth day** (Ibrahim Shahid)

GILGIT: The curfew in Gilgit entered its fourth day with no violence reported in the city on Sunday, police sources said. The local administration imposed the curfew on Thursday after clashes between the Rangers and students belonging to the Shia community left 10 people, including two Rangers personnel, dead and 25 injured. The clashes occurred during a protest by Shia students over the arrest of Mansoor Changezi, a student detained on suspicion of involvement in an earlier shooting which had wounded a Rangers personnel. Meanwhile, Shia protestors continued their blockade of the Karakorum Highway (KKH) for the third day. Protestors are demanding the immediate removal of the Rangers from Gilgit in view of their allegedly hostile treatment of the Shia community. Sources said that a strike will be observed in the Nagir sub division of Gilgit to mark alleged atrocities of the Rangers towards Shia citizens. The KKH will remain blocked on Monday for all traffic between Gilgit and Hunza, they said. Also, sources rejected the administration's claims that it had arrested Maulana Nisar Ahmed, chief of the Tanzeem-e-Ahle Sunnat.

The News, 18 October 2005

### **PM unveils 12-point reconstruction plan** (Asim Yasin)

ISLAMABAD: Expressing the commitment of the government to turn the great devastation of earthquake into an opportunity for development, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Monday announced a 12-point development strategy plan to involve all agencies in the relief, recovery and reconstruction process in the affected areas. "The entire recovery and rehabilitation operation could take five to ten years requiring \$5 billion," he said while addressing the special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Council at Prime Minister's Secretariat here on Monday.

Daily Times, 18 October 2005

### **Relief choppers back in the air as quake toll exceeds 50,000**

ISLAMABAD: Helicopters raced on Monday to reach thousands of earthquake survivors desperate for food, tents and blankets in near freezing weather, as an official said the death toll had soared past 50,000. After two days of heavy rain that severely hampered the relief effort, helicopters roared over Muzaffarabad, the ruined capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, amid warnings that thousands more people in the mountains were on the verge of death, agencies reported. "We have many areas not reached yet," army spokesman Col Rana Sajjad said, adding that army teams were being sent on foot up into the Himalayas carrying sorely needed supplies to the most far-flung areas.

The Nation 18 October 2005

### **US ship arrives with relief goods**

KARACHI (Agencies)—A US ship "Northern Light" on Monday berthed at Karachi Port and unloaded relief goods including earth moving equipment to support relief work in quake-hit areas in NWFP and AJK. This is the first ship from USA to bring in relief goods including heavy bulldozers, dump trucks, power generators, road graders, cargo trucks and fork lifts for earthquake affectees. US Consul General Ms Mary H Witt was also present on the occasion and welcomed the captain and US marines. She praised their efforts for speedily bringing in these goods on a short notice. Talking to APP, she said that it was the first ship among the many which would bring in relief goods and would join the efforts of Pakistani government in providing relief goods, supplies and equipment for the disaster-stricken areas.

Daily Times, 18 October 2005

### **'No epidemics in quake-hit areas'**

ISLAMABAD: The government has started vaccinating people against diseases in the quake-ravaged north, but there are no signs of epidemics breaking out, Health Minister Mohammad Naseer Khan said on Monday. He told Reuters the government had sent teams to fumigate the rubble covering bodies to prevent any outbreak. "We have several people ... working to pull out the bodies and give them a proper burial," he said. reuters

Daily Times, 18 October 2005

### **UN calls moot on quake aid**

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations has scheduled an international conference next week on aid to earthquake-hit Pakistan. Tasnim Aslam, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced this on Monday. The conference is scheduled for October 24. "We are grateful to the international community for their response. It reinforces our faith in human family," she said. Elizabeth Byrs, a spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said the October 24 meeting was expected to bring together ministers from Pakistan and donor countries, plus international aid agencies and other relief groups. So far more than \$500 million has been pledged from around the world, but development officials said that they had started planning for a much larger long-term appeal.

Daily Times, 18 October 2005

### **NWFP Assembly wants control of quake aid (Zakir Hassnain)**

PESHAWAR: The NWFP Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on Monday demanding the federal government hand over all foreign and domestic donations for Frontier quake victims to the provincial government for relief work. Both government and opposition lawmakers expressed dissatisfaction with the aid distribution mechanism, saying it was not reaching many people desperate for relief in inaccessible areas. Abdul Akbar Khan, parliamentary leader of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), moved the resolution which thanked foreign governments and foreign and domestic organisations for their aid contributions and demanded the central government give all foreign and domestic aid to the Frontier government, as well as compensation for the hospitals, schools, basic health units, roads and other infrastructure destroyed in the affected areas.

Daily Times, 18 October 2005

### **Indian choppers acceptable, but not pilots: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will accept Indian helicopters for relief and reconstruction operations, but without Indian pilots, said Foreign Office spokesperson Taslim Aslam during a weekly press briefing on Monday. "Given the obvious sensitivities, Islamabad cannot accept the Indian military's involvement in relief operations on our side," said Ms Aslam. She said that India had sent relief goods to Pakistan, but "had not offered any helicopter assistance". Opening the Line of Control (LoC) will not help relief activities for earthquake victims because the closest populated area near the LoC is also accessible from Pakistan's side, said the spokesperson. She said there was no access to the affected areas from Indian Jammu and Kashmir, therefore the LoC would not be opened.

The News, 18 October 2005

### **Pakistan's economic future bright despite quake: IMF**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Monday that the death toll of the massive earthquake had touched 41,000 with over 67,000 injured. Addressing a joint press conference with visiting Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Rodrigo de Rato here at the Prime Minister House on Monday evening, the prime minister said that Pakistan in the first phase had concentrated on the rescue and relief of the victims while in the second phase government had planned to rehabilitate, build infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and reconstruction of the quake hit areas. He thanked the IMF for helping Pakistan in its difficult time in the past and added that Pakistan would continue to seek technical advice from the fund.

Daily Times, 19 October 2005

### **Govt bans tent exports** (Zulfiqar Ghuman)

ISLAMABAD: The government has banned the export of tents, as they are needed for earthquake victims, Maj Gen Farooq Ahmed Khan, federal relief commissioner, said on Tuesday. Talking at his daily briefing at Prime Minister's Secretariat, he said, "The government has taken some administrative measures to ensure that tents are provided to all the displaced people in earthquake-hit areas before the advent of winter. There are about 37 tent manufacturing factories in the Punjab with a capacity to produce 75,000 tents a day and their production will be diverted to the affected areas." He said the export ban was on winterised and non-winterised tents. "We need these tents, irrespective of their quality, as 200,000 houses have been destroyed by the quake and millions have been left homeless," he said.

Dawn, 19 October 2005

### **Nato allies asked to increase quake aid**

BRUSSELS, Oct 18: Nato urged member states on Tuesday to come forward with helicopters and specialised forces such as construction engineers and medics to boost alliance efforts to help victims of the Kashmir earthquake. Nato aircraft began lifting aid supplies to airports in Pakistan last week. But the alliance wants to deploy dozens of helicopters to bring aid closer to victims and send in hundreds of personnel skilled in disaster relief work. "Political approval of this is expected later this week," Nato spokesman James Appathurai told a news briefing, referring to a possible meeting of Nato ambassadors on Friday to approve plans being formulated by the alliance's military arm. At least 41,000 people in Pakistan died in the quake, making it one of the most devastating tremors to hit South Asia in recorded history.

The News, 19 October 2005

### **Army patrolling needed in Balakot** (Zarghon Shah)

**BALAKOT:** In the wake of several incidents of loot and plunder, the surviving quake victims of Balakot town have demanded of the government to forthwith order massive military patrolling around the crumbled houses, now an easy target of the professional burglars. After the devastating earthquake, several houses in localities like Graan, Garlat and Narah and jewellery shops at Kaghan Road were broken and looted by robbers. Houses with tumbled roofs and walls are an easy and preferred target for the looters who are often seen sifting through the rubbles and household items of the unfortunate families. A vast landscape of concrete debris from across the tumbled Habib Bank building to the Madnai Muhalla mosque offer a range of precious and unguarded household items including valuable crockery, apparels and electronic appliances offer an easy access to the heartless stealers.

Daily Times, 19 October 2005

### **Musharraf ready to open LoC to Kashmiris**

**MUZAFFARABAD:** President General Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday that Pakistan was ready to open the Line of Control dividing Kashmir, allowing Indian Kashmiris to come and join aid efforts in the quake-hit region. India welcomed the proposal. "We will allow any amount of people coming across the Line of Control to meet their relatives and assist with the reconstruction effort," Musharraf told reporters on a visit to Muzaffarabad. "We would like to open many other points. We will allow every Kashmiri to come across the Line of Control and assist in the reconstruction effort," he said. He also proposed that the political leaders of both sides should interact to "assist each other with the reconstruction efforts". "No formal proposal has been made to New Delhi. It is being put across through you," Musharraf said, referring to the media. "The modalities of this need to be worked out... and we expect a response to be forthcoming from the Indian side."

Dawn, 19 October 2005

### **Turkish PM to visit quake-hit areas**

**ISLAMABAD, Oct 18:** Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit quake-hit Pakistan this week after his country took a leading role in rescue efforts, officials said on Tuesday. "He is coming here to sympathise and visit earthquake-affected areas," foreign ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam told AFP. Ms Tasnim did not give the exact date for Erdogan's visit, but diplomatic sources said the Turkish leader would arrive in Islamabad on Thursday. He will hold talks with President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Friday and also visit some quake-affected areas, they said. Turkey was among the first countries to respond following the Oct 8 disaster.—AFP

Daily Times, 19 October 2005

### **Aziz forms cabinet body on quake**

**SLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Tuesday formed a committee on earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation to oversee and monitor the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the earthquake-hit areas. To be chaired by the prime minister, the 14-member committee would help with the early completion of the reconstruction and rehabilitation process. Committee members include the ministers of communications, education, foreign affairs, housing and works, health, industries and production, information and broadcasting, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, labour and manpower, religious affairs, social welfare and water and power. The Cabinet Division was made the secretariat of the cabinet committee.

Daily Times, 19 October 2005

### **8,000 NWFP schools destroyed**

PESHAWAR: Over 8,000 private and public schools in the NWFP were destroyed by the October 8 earthquake. Around 90 percent of the schools in Mansehra, Shangla, Batagram, Kohistan and Abbotabad have been completely destroyed, while the rest have been partially damaged, reported the provincial government's website. It added that more than 5,000 children were killed and thousands were injured. The NWFP Elementary Education Foundation has been instructed to give cheap loans for the repair of damaged school buildings. The provincial government will also set up tent-schools to save time and help children resume studies. app

Dawn, 20 October 2005

### **US satellites help assess quake damage**

WASHINGTON, Oct 19: US satellites and spy planes, which have long been used to hunt Osama bin Laden on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, are now helping to give Pakistan a detailed picture of its massive earthquake damage. US officials said the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or the NGA, had provided Pakistan government with hundreds of overhead images, maps, charts and text documents showing the effects of the quake. They said it was part of a Pentagon effort to enhance US ties with strategic partners. High-altitude US optical sensors have been trained mainly on areas surrounding the epicentre, north of Islamabad, to give Pakistani officials a picture of damaged roads, bridges and buildings across a remote and mountainous terrain.

Daily Times, 20 October 2005

### **Rescuers abandon work in Balakot** (Ghafar Ali)

BALAKOT: Foreign and local rescuers abandoned the rescue operation on Wednesday, leaving thousands of bodies under the debris in Balakot. Foreign rescuers working in Balakot left for Kanoor, Kawai, Jareed, Bonja and Paras areas, which were also wiped away by the October 8 earthquake. Not a single body has been retrieved in Garan Dheri and Garlaat villages where thousands of people were buried alive under the debris. Local clerics told people to build boundary walls around the two villages to declare them graveyards. "The removal of debris in the two villages is a big task which needs a large scale operation and heavy machinery," Munsif Hussain, a Garlaat councillor, told Daily Times.

Dawn, 20 October 2005

### **WB offers \$100m for 'designed houses'** (Ihtasham ul Haque)

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19: The World Bank has decided to offer an additional \$100 million to build 'designed houses' in quake-hit areas of Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas. Official sources told Dawn on Wednesday that the new \$100 million funding would be in addition to the \$40 million assistance that had been announced by the World Bank for strengthening the relief operation. The bank has also decided to create a \$5 million 'disaster relief fund' out of the \$230 million assistance earlier extended to the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). The bank wants the PPAF to take up the job of building designed houses with a view to ensuring "prudent spending and swiftly carrying out the task".

The News, 20 October 2005

### **Pakistan inks contract for land surveillance system**

STOCKHOLM: Pakistan has signed a contract with two Swedish companies for a land surveillance system that could have been useful in emergency operations arising from the earthquake in Kashmir, the aircraft maker Saab announced on Wednesday. The system operates aboard a Saab 2000 turbo-propelled aircraft, relying on the Erieye on-board radar system developed by Ericsson Microwave Systems, a subsidiary of the telecom giant Ericsson, a news release stated. Saab will receive two

thirds of the 8.3 million Swedish kronor (878 million-euro, one-billion-dollar) contract and Ericsson will get the other third. Saab said the surveillance system would be used together with ground-based radars "to provide a more detailed picture" to assist rescue operations and help Pakistan face "different threats to the country".

The Nation, 20 October 2005

### **Govt to seek grants for rehabilitation (JAVED MAHMOOD)**

LAHORE - Federal Government would seek foreign grants and highly concessional loans from the multilateral donor agencies to accomplish the daunting task of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the quake-hit areas of NWFP and AJK. Economic Adviser to Finance Ministry and Director General Pakistan Debt Management Office Dr Ashfaq H. Khan told this to The Nation. "Our foremost priority would be the collection of foreign grants' assistance, soft loans from the donors agencies and major donor countries," he said. Dr Khan said that the United Nations is organising a donors conference in Geneva on October 24 in collaboration with Pakistan government. During conference the UN and Pakistani officials would put before donors the financial requirement for carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction in the AJK and NWFP areas, devastated by the recent earthquakes.

Daily Times, 20 October 2005

### **10,000 more children could die: UNICEF**

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned Wednesday that 10,000 more children could die from hunger, cold and disease in coming weeks because aid has still not reached parts of quake-hit Pakistan. UNICEF called for immediate steps to push through more supplies, saying that children would be the first victims in a possible "second wave of deaths" as winter approaches. Up to 120,000 children remain beyond reach in the mountain areas devastated by the October 8 quake. "The relief effort is becoming more complex with each passing day," Ann Veneman, the UNICEF executive director, was quoted as saying at the agency's global warehouse in Copenhagen. She said outbreaks of diarrhea had already been reported in stricken areas and there was a significant threat of disease. UNICEF called for more helicopters to help reach survivors in isolated mountain areas, where access was difficult even before the quake which destroyed most roads and paths.

Daily Times, 20 October 2005

### **India and Pakistan discussing ways to open LoC: PM**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Tuesday that the Indian and Pakistani governments had started discussing ways to soften the Line of Control (LoC) to allow Kashmiris take part in relief efforts for the victims of the October 8 earthquake that struck both Kashmir. Talking to reporters after meeting Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) leader Yasin Malik at Prime Minister's House, Aziz said, "If Kashmiris wanted to help each other, this was the perfect opportunity." He said Pakistan stood with Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC and wanted an amicable solution to the Kashmir dispute in accordance to the wishes of Kashmiris. "Pakistan's stance is that the resolution of the Kashmir issue should be acceptable to Kashmiris, India and Pakistan," Shaukat said, adding that Yasin Malik was visiting Pakistan as a social worker to help the quake victims and express solidarity with them.

Daily Times, 20 October 2005

### **NATO short of choppers for Pakistan**

MONS: NATO chiefs acknowledged on Wednesday that the military alliance is short of the helicopters urgently sought by Pakistan to bring relief to victims of the devastating October 8 Kashmir earthquake.

NATO last week set up an air-bridge to deliver tonnes of relief aid from Europe to Pakistan, and is now studying how to offer more help. One key need highlighted by Islamabad is helicopters, vital to reaching many victims in remote areas. "We understand Pakistan is in need of light helicopters – we have very few of those," US Vice Admiral John Stufflebeem, who commands the 17,000-strong NATO rapid reaction force, told a news briefing. The US soldier in charge of all NATO's military operations said the alliance had long faced difficulties in convincing its 26 members to come forward with expensive-to-run helicopters.

Daily Times, 21 October 2005

### **Banned groups not allowed to join relief efforts**

LAHORE: President Pervez Musharraf has said that banned religious groups will not be allowed to conduct relief efforts in the quake-stricken areas of Pakistan. In an interview with CNN on Thursday, he said that Pakistan had banned several extremist organisations and a few others were still under observation. He said that he had ensured that organisations working in the quake-hit areas were not ones banned by the government. Musharraf denied that any organisation working in the quake-affected areas was recruiting people for militancy. "With our own resources and with international help, we will beat extremism. I know that some extremist outfits placed on (the government's) watch list are participating in relief activities in the quake-affected areas. Their activities are being watched closely," the president said, adding that anyone found involved in extremist acts will be punished. "However everyone is motivated to help the quake victims.

Daily Times, 21 October 2005

### **NATO to engage response force in quake-hit areas (Rana Qaisar)**

ISLAMABAD: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has decided to participate in the relief operations in the earthquake-hit areas of northern Pakistan. Diplomats told Daily Times on Thursday that NATO would engage the NATO Response Force (NRF) in Pakistan from next week onwards. "Spain will lead the NRF in Pakistan with almost 350 Spanish engineers and other staff," they added. The NRF team would consist of 500 members capable of performing operations including evacuations and disaster management, diplomats said. "The North Atlantic Council will give formal political authorisation to NATO's decision today (Friday) to use the NRF in Pakistan's earthquake-hit areas," diplomats said, adding that this would be the NRF's first activity on such a large scale.

Daily Times, 21 October 2005

### **Warning network to respond to disease outbreaks**

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Health Ministry have set up an Early Warning and Response Network to quickly identify and respond to outbreaks of disease in the quake-hit areas. Surveillance officers will train health staff in disease tracking and response and a further 200 public health specialists will be deployed to gather data from existing health centres, WHO officials told a media briefing. The surveillance will begin in Muzaffarabad and spread out to other reachable affected areas. The WHO officials said although no major outbreaks of disease have been identified, however, risk factors still exist. The first report on the epidemiological status would be available by week's end. app

Dawn , 21 October 2005

### **Turkey offers \$150m relief**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 20: Turkey has announced a relief package of \$150 million for the quake-hit people

of Pakistan. The package was announced by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan while addressing a joint press conference with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz after their talks here Wednesday. The relief package will include financial assistance of \$100 million and relief goods worth \$50 million, including one million blankets, 50,000 tonnes of flour and 25,000 tonnes of sugar. Mr Erdogan said tents would be produced in Turkey and sent immediately to Pakistan in view of the fast approaching winter in the affected areas. He said his country would establish in the quake-hit areas day-care hospitals and elementary schools to help meet educational requirements of the displaced children. He said Turkey would also render assistance in the long term phase of reconstruction and rehabilitation and added he had brought with him construction and housing experts.

Dawn , 21 October 2005

### **'Quake may have shifted landmines'**

SRINAGAR, Oct 20: The devastating Oct 8 earthquake may have shifted thousands of landmines planted by Indian and Pakistani troops along their Kashmir border, a group warned on Thursday. "We are very much concerned," said Shafat Hussain of Global Green Peace, a non-government organization that has worked since 1998 to persuade India and Pakistan to demine the region. "There are thousands of mines out there threatening to take human lives. "Mr Hussain said areas along the Line of Control (LoC), are "heavily mined" on both the sides. "As the earthquake triggered massive landslides along the LoC, it must have surely relocated these mines," he said. "We are told that respective armies do keep a proper map of the planted mines, but those maps will not help, given the devastation."

Dawn , 21 October 2005

### **UK pledges £20m more relief (Qudssia Akhlaque)**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 20: Britain's International Development Secretary Hilary Benn, who is here to assess the damage caused by the Oct 8 earthquake, announced on Thursday an additional assistance of 20 million pounds, taking the total amount committed by the UK government to 33 million pounds. Initially, the UK government had committed 13 million pounds. Mr Benn, who also heads the British Agency for Earthquake Relief, called on President Gen Pervez Musharraf here on Thursday. The talks focused on ongoing relief efforts in the affected areas of the country as well as measures regarding rehabilitation and reconstruction. In this context the assessment of the damage, the time and resources required for rehabilitation and reconstruction were also discussed.

Dawn , 21 October 2005

### **Joint operation with India ruled out**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 20: Pakistan has ruled out a joint relief operation with India in Kashmir as proposed by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. "This would be tantamount to rubbing salt into the wounds of the people of Kashmir" Chief Relief Commissioner Maj-Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan said, pointing to the heavy presence of Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir and actions of the occupation troops. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he regretted that India had rejected the positive proposal of opening the Line of Control (LoC) to facilitate meetings of between the divided families. Maj-Gen Farooq Ahmed said over 49,000 people had so far been reported killed and 74,000 injured in the tragedy. Various roads were still blocked, including Kaghan valley, Neelum valley and Jhelum vally roads and work was continuing to reopen them soon, he said.He appreciated the support extended by the international community, but asked for more on urgent basis.

The News, 21 October 2005

**'Roads in Neelum, Jhelum, Kaghan valleys still blocked'** (Muhammad Anis)

ISLAMABAD: Federal Relief Commissioner Maj-Gen Farooq Ahmed on Thursday said that death toll in the October 8 earthquake reached 49,739. "The death toll in earthquake as of today stands at 49,739 while 74,000 other people are injured," he told a press conference here. He said infrastructure, town and villages were completely destroyed by the earthquake and tens of thousands of children and families are receiving medical and other aid. "Many others need assistance and as such Pakistan need world's help to provide tents and kerosene heaters for the affected people," he said. He regretted that India did not accept Pakistan's proposal to re-open the LoC to facilitate families to meet their loved ones. He said Pakistan did not propose to open the whole LoC rather it suggested to allow movement in some parts of LoC so that relatives on both sides of the Line of Control could help each other in relief work.

The News, 21 October 2005

**Microsoft offers technological assistance in quake-affected areas** (Schezee Zaidi)

ISLAMABAD: David Roberts, Director of the Microsoft Humanitarian Disaster Management, is visiting Pakistan to offer technological assistance in setting up crucial data management system. The information collected will be used for disaster planning and preparedness efforts at the community level, and will be stored as baseline information in a database. He said that the Microsoft would be working on long-term partnership with Pakistan in formulating the database system. In an exclusive interview with The News on Thursday, he said that apart from handing over a monetary assistance of \$100,000 to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz for the President's Relief Fund and an initial donation of \$25,000 to Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman Foundation for earthquake victims, the Microsoft is here to offer assistance firstly with the obvious sense of corporate citizenship and secondly to help find useful practices in disaster management through people, process and technology.

The Nation, 21 October 2005

**Punjab's stance on NFC a secret?** (MUBASHIR HASSAN)

LAHORE-The Punjab Assembly on Thursday saw Finance Minister Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak dragging his feet on the issue of Punjab Government's stance on National Finance Commission Award (NFC) after the Opposition compelled him into issuing a definite statement in this regard. 'A public statement on Punjab Govt's position with regard to NFC Award cannot be made on floor of the House owing to delicate nature of the issue', the provincial Finance Minister said in response to a full-fledged offensive by the Opposition that was bent upon dragging him down over the issue in question. It was a privilege motion moved by MMA's Ehsanullah Waqas and later a point of order raised by Deputy Opposition Leader, Rana Sanaullah that virtually landed the Finance Minister into hot waters.

Daily Times, 22 October 2005

**NATO to reinforce aid**

BRUSSELS: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies agreed on Friday to dispatch hundreds of military engineers, medics and other troops to reinforce earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan. UN aid chief Jan Egeland pleaded with the 26-nation NATO alliance to use its military muscle to bring aid and rescue villagers set to spend a bitter winter in mountain areas barely accessible by road at the best of times. "We are finalising arrangements on the basis of extending the airlift and doing more in Pakistan itself," said NATO chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer following talks with NATO ambassadors attended by Egeland. NATO said it would also step up its airlift of aid to Pakistan from Europe, but continued to

struggle to find helicopters - desperately needed to rush aid into the high mountains of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It said up to 1,000 troops would go, including about 300 Spanish engineers, 140 from Poland and additional units from Italy, Lithuania and other nations.

Dawn, 22 October 2005

### **All seven routes be opened: Mirwaiz (Jawed Naqvi)**

NEW DELHI, Oct 21: Having proposed opening of the Line of Control for divided Kashmiri families to meet and grieve with each other, Pakistan indicated on Friday that it does not foresee a time-limit in this regard and that the measure could remain in force indefinitely. "We will not place a time-limit of weeks or months on this," Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri told the Asian Age newspaper. High-level Pakistani sources told Dawn on Friday that the proposal made by President Gen Pervez Musharraf was to be turned into a formal idea that would be presented to India next week. All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, speaking on telephone from Srinagar, said he had urged the Indian government to open up all the seven road links the two sides of divided Kashmir. The links include Kargil-Skardu, Uri-Muzaffarabad, Tangdar-Teetwal, Poonch-Rawalakot, Jammu-Sialkot roads and Naushera sector road network.

Daily Times, 22 October 2005

### **Turkey criticises quake aid offers**

MUZAFFARABAD: Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday joined the increasing chorus of complaints about a slow international response to the earthquake that struck northern Pakistan on October 8. "By the end of 2004, the world had put \$1 trillion into weapons and we have to ask how much the world has put aside for this disaster in Pakistan," he said after a helicopter flight over the shattered region. "We have to open our hands more. Today its Pakistan, tomorrow it can somewhere else," he told reporters through an interpreter in Muzaffarabad. He said, "We have to feel what they are a feeling. And as people who are in a responsible position we have to take responsibility for this. "Erdogan, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, said Turkey, which was one of the first countries to send rescue teams after the disaster, was committed to long-term help.

The News , 22 October 2005

### **Pakistan repeats appeal for winterised camps**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Relief Commissioner Maj-Gen Farooq Ahmed Khan on Friday again appealed for more winterised tents to help the affected people living in remote areas of Azad Kashmir and the NWFP. "We urgently need winterised camps," he told reporters saying that with winter fast approaching, sufferers were running against time. Maj-Gen Khan underlined that unless received in time, it would be difficult to timely dispatch these tents in the remote areas. He said the October 8 quake had displaced 525,000 people and demand for camps was rising. He stressed that the people needed winterised and not the normal camps in the wake of cold weather. "It is crucial that all donors and NGOs note that only double-fly, waterproof, winterised tents are useable in the affected areas. The preferred specification is for shelter tents capable of housing four to six persons," he added. The relief commissioner also revised the death toll to over 51,300 fatalities with over 74,500 wounded.

The News , 22 October 2005

### **Britain sending three Chinook helicopters**

LONDON: Two Muslim British MPs have helped secure the supply of three British military Chinook helicopters to assist in the disaster relief effort in Pakistan. This week the two Muslim parliamentarians,

Shahid Malik of Dewsbury and Mohammad Sarwar of Glasgow Central, met British Secretary of State for Defence Dr John Reid and urged him to supply military helicopters to the quake-hit areas of Pakistan. They were clear in their statement that more needed to be done to speed up the relief effort. "Our continuous lobbying of the government coupled with close working with Pakistan's High Commissioner Dr Maleeha Lodhi has meant that the government has now committed another 20 million pounds for the aid programme," Shahid said in a statement here on Friday. Shahid, who was in Islamabad when the quake struck, said he had never seen devastation on such a vast scale.

Daily Times, 22 October 2005

### **It's a race against time: UNICEF**

ISLAMABAD: Relief efforts in earthquake-devastated Pakistan are becoming better coordinated as the various parties race against time to avert further tragedy and devastation. "Coordination is coming together well, but it's still a race against time," said UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) communications officer Katey Grusovin over the roar of helicopters in quake-devastated Mansehra in the NWFP on Friday. "Coordination, coordination, coordination," Grusovin stressed, noting that was precisely what she had seen from international agencies, non-government organisations (NGOs) and the Pakistan military over the past few days. "Without the military providing the muscle, this simply couldn't happen," she said, adding that such cooperation was crucial to the speedy delivery of aid. Grusovin said earlier criticism of the lack of coordinated relief was no longer valid. "That has all changed in the past few days," she said. irin

The News , 22 October 2005

### **NA adopts resolution on reconstruction (Asim Yasi)**

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution proposing that the members of the National Assembly should collectively shoulder responsibility for reconstruction of a specific area in the quake-affected region. The motion was moved by treasury benches member Mehnaz Rafi who said that for this purpose the funds donated to the earthquake-relief fund of the National Assembly might be used besides raising more funds through other means. However, after the adoption of the resolution, PPP legislator Nahid Khan opposed the motion saying since the government moved the motion and the PPP did not support it. She was of the view that the National Assembly is representing the elected representatives throughout the country and it could not focus on some areas. "We did not support this motion," she added.

Daily Times, 22 October 2005

### **Israeli minister invited to Pakistan**

GENEVA: Chaudhry Amir Hussain, the National Assembly speaker, has invited Israeli Vice-Education Minister Majali Wahabi to visit Pakistan. According to BBC, the speaker met the Israeli minister in Geneva on Friday. In the meeting that lasted quite a while, he thanked the Israeli Minister for Israel's cooperation and support at this critical juncture and invited him to visit Pakistan. The Israeli minister told the journalists that Israel was the first country that offered relief to Pakistan and the speaker sincerely appreciated this gesture. He said the relations between the two countries were blossoming with time. Meanwhile an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Israel is sending relief goods that include tents, medicines, woollen blankets and eatables for earthquake victims. online

Daily Times, 22 October 2005

### **Opening the LoC: Formal papers to be given to India soon: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is staying with President Pervez Musharraf's proposal to allow Kashmiris' to move across the Line of Control and a formal document will soon be presented to India, Foreign Office spokeswoman Taslim Aslam told a private news channel on Friday. Ms Aslam said that India had not yet responded to the president's proposal. She said that Pakistan had formally proposed to India for the extension mobile telephone facilities to civilians in Jammu and Kashmir. She said that Indian feedback showed that there was no need for such a facility in the presence of satellite phone service, adding that nothing formally had so far been conveyed by India on this topic. Meanwhile, Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said New Delhi had not received any proposal from Islamabad on Musharraf's offer of free movement across the LoC and "action can only be initiated after a formal proposal".

The News , 22 October 2005

### **Seismic survey to be conducted before reconstruction: PM**

BAGH: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Friday said the government with the assistance of Turkey and other countries would conduct seismic surveys in the quake-affected areas, before the reconstruction process began. Attending a press briefing here along with his Turkish counterpart, Tayyip Recep Erdogan, the prime minister said Pakistan had sought the assistance of Turkey, which had experience in dealing with earthquakes, to conduct the geological survey. Experts from Turkey will be here soon to advise Pakistan on ways to have safer construction in the country. "We have shoddy construction and we do not follow the building code, and risk human lives." he said. The government would soon implement a new building code which would cater to all requirements of modern construction. He said soil testing would be a prerequisite for all new constructions.

Daily Times, 22 October 2005

### **Post-quake scenario: WB, ADB joint team due next week to assess quake damages (Imran Ayub)**

KARACHI: A joint mission of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank is due early next week to assess damages caused by the October 8 earthquake and suggest cost of the reconstruction projects. Official sources said in its first phase the mission would launch a damage assessment campaign to estimate the cost of reconstruction following the quake, which was expected to be completed within the next one month. "The government itself requested such a joint effort of the two organisations," said a top federal official wishing not to be named. "The mission would arrive early next week and begin its task within the next two days after arrival with the required help of the local institutions.

Daily Times, 23 October 2005

### **World response to tragedy worse than to tsunami: UN (Irfan Ghauri)**

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations has once again appealed to the world for an urgent supply of aid to the quake-ravaged areas, delaying which could lead to the spread of diseases. The UN warned that the death toll might multiply if potable water was not made available for the victims and the sanitation was not improved in the affected areas. Addressing a news conference on Saturday, UN Resident Coordinator Jan Vandemoortele said 20 percent of the affected area was still unreachable because of the tough terrain. Representative of UN agencies Rachel Levy (WHO), Chris (IOM), German Valdivia (WFP), Bill Fellows (UNICEF), Michael Zevek (UNHCR) and Halvor Ianlitzsen (IFRC) also spoke on the occasion. They said the world had fulfilled 80 percent of the aid calls after the Indian Ocean tsunami, but just 30 percent of the aid appeal for the October 8 earthquake. "In response to the UN flash appeal, the world has contributed just over \$90 million so far, which is less than what is needed,"

they said.

The Nation, 23 October 2005

### **Suspected LJ terrorist held in Pindi (ASSAD HAMEED)**

RAWALPINDI - In a major breakthrough on Saturday, Ganjmandi police arrested an alleged Lashkar-e-Jhangvi terrorist who killed star investigator Inspector Raja Muhammad Saqlain in August last year, District Police Officer Saud Aziz said. DPO Saud Aziz told an emergency news conference at the Investigation Wing here that the wanted terrorist, Qari Younis, was apprehended by a police team, headed by SHO Ganjmandi, Inspector Mian Afzaal Shah during patrolling in Chak Madad area early in the morning. He said that the accused, Qari Younis, and another person accompanying him also fired pistol shots at police when they started chasing them after noticing their suspicious moves. Inspector Mian Afzaal retaliated the firing, and then succeeded to get hold of Qari Younis at some distance while his other accomplice later identified as Khalid Khan escaped.

The News, 23 October 2005

### **Maximum victims to be compensated before Eid**

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation on Saturday asked the governments of Azad Kashmir and the NWFP to collect data of quake dead and injured to pay compensation to maximum number of victims before Eid-ul-Fitr, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said. Briefing journalists on the meeting, he said it urged the general public to donate maximum number of tents and blankets for the quake-stricken areas where winter is expected to set in soon. "We have got plenty of medicines and ration. But what we need are tents and blankets," he said. Pakistan, he added, had also appealed the international community for these most essential items.

Daily Times, 23 October 2005

### **Ban on discharge of quake victims from hospitals**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Nasir Khan said on Saturday that the government has banned the discharge of earthquake victims from hospitals, especially children and young women, to prevent their exploitation. No one except close relatives can take the patients home, he said. He said all hospitalised quake victims were being photographed and are being circulated to police stations all over the country to enable displaced families to locate lost relatives. He said that the government would also ensure that no one exploits female victims. app

Daily Times, 23 October 2005

### **HRW accuses Pakistani officials of storing tents**

MUZAFFARABAD: An international human rights group claimed on Saturday that Pakistani officials were storing tents and other relief supplies instead of immediately distributing them to earthquake survivors - an accusation angrily denied by the Pakistan government and military officials. The Human Rights Watch issued a statement accusing civilian authorities, under military supervision, of storing tents and other relief goods at a supply depot in Muzaffarabad, the city at the heart of the quake-shattered region. Liaquat Hussain, Muzaffarabad deputy commissioner, suggested that Human Rights Watch might have misunderstood what it saw. "We have a registration location where we do check and register the supplies coming through the official channels, and then forward them to the most deserving locations in the affected areas," he said.

Daily Times, 23 October 2005

## **India to set up three relief centres along LoC (Iftikhar Gilani and Rana Qaisar)**

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD: India has decided to open three points along the Line of Control (LoC) to provide relief facilities to people living on the Pakistani side of the line dividing Kashmir, while Pakistan has proposed the opening of five points. India will open relief and rehabilitation points at Kaman (near Aman Setu in Uri), Titwal (Tangdhar) and Chakan da Bagh (Poonch) on October 25 to provide medical aid, food, water and temporary accommodation to people from Azad Kashmir, Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Navtej Sarna announced in New Delhi on Saturday. He said these centres were specifically for the people of Azad Kashmir living near the LoC. Kashmiris will be permitted to go to these points after screening and return after receiving medical treatment and relief, Sarna said. Indian nationals can also go to these points to meet relatives from across the LoC. Pakistan's Foreign Office said it had made proposals in return.

The Nation, 23 October 2005

## **Field hospitals working in various areas**

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Federal Relief Commissioner Major General Farooq Ahmed Khan Saturday said nineteen field hospitals of foreign countries and Pakistan Armed forces are working in various affected areas to provide prompt medical care to injured while more than 100 mobile teams have been dispatched to help the traumatised people in earthquake affected areas. "There is no danger of spreading any epidemic in the quake hit areas as the medical teams are working and providing necessary medical treatment to the patients," he told reporters here at Prime Minister Secretariat in daily briefing. The Commissioner said the death toll has reached to 53,182 while the injured are 74,100 most of them serious.

Daily Times, 23 October 2005

## **Pakistan accepts NATO offer of assistance (Rana Qaisar)**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan accepted a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) offer of additional relief assistance and the deployment of around 1,000 troops for the reconstruction of earthquake-hit areas on Saturday. "NATO made a formal offer of additional humanitarian and relief assistance to Pakistan, and we have conveyed our acceptance of the deployment of the NATO Response Force (NRF) in a humanitarian role," Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said. Aslam said that the NRF will be used for reconstruction of infrastructure, such as shelter, hospitals, roads, bridges, schools and the provision of medical care besides aerial movement of supplies. The North Atlantic Council gave formal authorisation on Friday to use the NRF in Pakistan's earthquake-hit areas. The Foreign Office said that the NATO force would consist of a reinforced engineering battalion of around 1,000 personnel, self-sustaining and fully equipped for the required work.

Daily Times, 24 October 2005

## **Rehabilitation of quake-hit areas: IDB to give Pakistan \$256m grant, loan**

ISLAMABAD: Islamic Development Bank (IDB) President Ahmad Muhammad Ali has said the bank will give \$256 million for the rehabilitation of the earthquake-hit areas of Pakistan. The IDB president, along with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, met President Pervez Musharraf on Sunday. The Pakistani president called for setting up a permanent disaster relief fund at the OIC level to deal with natural disasters such as the October 8 earthquake. The IDB president said part of the money would be a loan and part of the money would be a grant. Musharraf said the international community must continue providing financial assistance to the quake-hit victims. He also thanked foreign countries and international organisations for their contributions. He

briefed the OIC secretary general and IDP president about the earthquake's devastation, saying billions of dollars were required for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the devastated areas.

The News, 24 October 2005

### **Assessment of losses in NWFP from tomorrow**

PESHAWAR: A World Bank team would start assessment of losses in five NWFP districts, caused by the Oct 8 earthquake from Tuesday (tomorrow). "A team of the World Bank is due to hold meeting with top NWFP officials and get briefing about the casualties and destruction in the five quake-hit districts, Mansehra, Battagram, Abbotabad, Kohistan and Shangla," a senior government official told The News. He added that the team would also visit the affected areas to assess the damages of the monstrous tremors. Most of the 3.868 million population of the five worst-affected districts have lost their houses, business centres and other assets. Abbotabad has a population of 1.065 million, Mansehra 1.40 million, Battagram 0.30 million, Shangla, 0.526 million and Kohistan has a population of 0.57 million. The tremors have also razed most of the government buildings in the five most-affected districts.

Daily Times, 24 October 2005

### **Trauma aftershocks will be felt for years**

NEW DELHI: With millions likely suffering mental trauma and thousands disfigured or disabled, the aftershocks of the earthquake in Pakistan and India will be felt for decades to come, doctors and psychologists warn. Those who survived the quake and, if lucky, will manage to find shelter, warmth and food before the onset of winter in the mountains of Kashmir are still a long way off leading anything resembling normal lives, they say. The short-term prognosis makes bleak enough reading: more than 50,000 people were killed, half a million are still trapped in mountainous villages and hamlets with little more than plastic sheets to keep out the icy cold, more than three million people are homeless and at least 80,000 are injured. Jan Egeland, the UN's emergency relief coordinator, has described the immediate fallout from the quake as "worse than the tsunami".

Dawn, 24 October 2005

### **Long-term US help pledged: More helicopters on way: Abizaid (Anwar Mansuri)**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Commander-in-Chief of the US Central Command General John Abizaid on Monday assured Pakistan his country's long-term help in recovering from the devastation caused by the Oct 8 earthquake. "We were here as quickly as we could be, and we will stay as long as we need to in order to help," he told a press conference at Chaklala air base after an aerial view of the vast scale of devastation spread over 25,000 square kilometres. Gen Abizaid was asked whether the US would stand by Pakistan if the reconstruction work took five or 10 years. "But the task ahead for all of us is an immense task and there is a lot of work to do," the Centcom chief said, stressing that the international community too "needs to continue to help Pakistan".

The Nation, 24 October 2005

### **Delhi response on LoC opening awaited: PM (ABRAR SAEED)**

RAWALPINDI - Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that relief activities in quake-affected areas have geared up and things are changing for better. He was talking to a group of journalists on Sunday after visiting the injured at Cantonment General Hospital here. The prime minister said the shortage of tents would be managed by mid November and a big consignment of tents would be reaching soon from Saudi Arabia while the local tent industry had been producing around 7,000 tents daily. Responding to a question, he said that they had been waiting for the Indian response over opening of

the Line of Control at certain places for relief purpose.

Dawn, 24 October 2005

### **PM to visit Russia on 26th: SCO summit** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will make a short trip to Russia this week to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Summit for heads of the governments. The one-day event is scheduled to be held in Moscow on Wednesday. The prime minister will leave for Moscow early Wednesday morning and return the following day, it is learnt. This will be his first visit to Russia as prime minister. However, given the crisis situation at home after the earthquake the prime minister has decided cut short his visit and also dropped plans of visiting other countries on this trip. The initial plan included visits to Beirut, Damascus and Jordan. Pakistan will be attending the Summit of the six-member key regional security grouping as an observer. Mr Aziz will also make a statement there. Pakistan, India and Iran were all granted the observer status by the SCO in June this year, bringing the total number of observers to four.

Dawn, 24 October 2005

### **Islamabad, Peshawar rocked again**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Strong aftershocks measuring 5.9 at Richter scale were felt in Islamabad and Peshawar at 8.05pm on Sunday. According to the Met office, the epicentre of tremors was about 100km north of here.—APPKarachi: Residents of coastal areas felt tremors before iftar, although the quake-measuring devices of the Met Office did not register them, our staff reporter adds. The director-general of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Dr Qamaruzzaman Chaudhry, said it appeared that these tremors were not related to earthquake activity. "In some cases, earthquakes are of too low intensity to be recorded. But today's tremors are not related to earthquake," he said. Residents of Karachi's coastal areas said that tremors were strong and should not have passed unnoticed by the Met office's devices. Employees of a newspaper located in Defence Housing Society left their building when tremors shook the area.

Dawn, 24 October 2005

### **Mukhtaran in US, plans quake fund campaign** (Masood Haider)

NEW YORK, Oct 23: One of Pakistan's famous citizens, Mukhtaran Mai, arrived in Chicago on Saturday night ahead of her New York visit to receive Glamour magazine's "Woman of the Year" award. Former US President Bill Clinton will introduce her at a star studded gala at Lincoln Center in New York, on Nov 2 where she will receive the award. Talking to Dawn on telephone from Madison (Wisconsin) where she is staying with Dr Amina Buttar, president of the Asian-American Network Against Abuse of Women (ANAA), Ms Mai said: "I will travel across United States to help raise funds for earthquake victims in Pakistan, besides speaking about women's issues." Ms Mai, who was chosen as "Person of the Week" by ABC news programme last Friday is scheduled to attend several seminars and meetings in Chicago where she will appeal to the American people to help Pakistan in its hour of need. "My heart goes out particularly to the women and children who have been devastated, rendered homeless and need help to survive the great tragedy", she said.

The News, 24 October 2005

### **Schools in quake areas to start next week**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Sunday announced that schools in earthquake affected areas would start functioning from next week and necessary arrangements were being taken in this

regard. Talking to newsmen after visiting Cantt General Hospital Rawalpindi, the prime minister said he had talked to Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Sikandar Hayat and Chief Minister NWFP Akram Khan Durrani to take appropriate measures to revive schools in the quake-hit areas. The prime minister said 250 big tents for 50 children each capacity were being dispatched by the federal government to open schools in the affected areas so that there could be no disturbance in the study of the children. He said tents would reach in the affected areas of Muzaffarabad, Balakot and other areas for opening of the schools.

The Nation, 24 October 2005

### **Delhi response on LoC opening awaited: PM (ABRAR SAEED)**

RAWALPINDI - Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that relief activities in quake-affected areas have geared up and things are changing for better. He was talking to a group of journalists on Sunday after visiting the injured at Cantonment General Hospital here. The prime minister said the shortage of tents would be managed by mid November and a big consignment of tents would be reaching soon from Saudi Arabia while the local tent industry had been producing around 7,000 tents daily. Responding to a question, he said that they had been waiting for the Indian response over opening of the Line of Control at certain places for relief purpose.

Dawn, 24 October 2005

### **Soldiers battle nature to reach survivors**

NEELUM VALLEY, Oct 23: A huge chunk of the mountain ridge plummets to the angry Neelum river valley below as six battalions of the army's engineering unit battle nature to reach the desperate earthquake survivors. Using picks, shovels, bulldozers and dynamite, Brigadier General Inamul Haq's 5,000 men have been working non-stop to open a key supply route amid warnings that many of the 3.3 million people left homeless by the massive October 8 earthquake could die of the cold and disease. The primary mission is to provide access for aid agencies to bring supplies by land and complement relief missions by the overburdened and limited number of helicopters. "We are racing against time. I wish the day (had) 48 hours," Haq tells journalists who accompanied an army convoy on Saturday that delivered water and other supplies near what was left of Khansar, a village in Neelum Valley about 10 kilometres north of Muzaffarabad and near the epicentre of the 7.6 magnitude quake. What was once a "paradise valley," as Haq calls it, is now a wasteland.

The Nation, 24 October 2005

### **Musharraf for OIC disaster fund (AFZAL BAJWA)**

ISLAMABAD - Renewing call for sustained world assistance for reconstruction, President General Pervez Musharraf Sunday proposed setting up of a permanent OIC disaster fund in the Muslim world. In a meeting with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and Islamic Development Bank President Ahmed Muhammad Ali, Musharraf thanked the Muslim world for extending immediate assistance for rescue and relief besides expressing gratitude to the international community. Underlining the need for sustained assistance and investment in order to reconstruct the areas destroyed in October 8 catastrophic earthquake, the president once again appealed the international community and the Muslim Ummah to come forward and support Pakistan in challenging reconstruction and rehabilitation stages ahead.

The News, 24 October 2005

### **More copters on the way: Gen Abizaid**

ISLAMABAD: Commander-in-Chief of US Central Command (Centcom) General John P Abizaid on Sunday said, "The scope of devastation (caused by Oct 8 earthquake) is gigantic. The level of work which has to be done is very immense." Addressing a press conference after his visit to the earthquake affected areas of AJK and the NWFP, the US Centcom chief said not only the United States but the international community would continue their support to Pakistan in this trying times. He expressed his deep sense of condolence with the families of the earthquake victims. He said Pakistan needed more help as the Pakistan Army had greater and greater knowledge after they had accessed to the devastated areas about the damages and there was lot of need for more assistance in these areas.

The News, 24 October 2005

### **Pakistan identifies five points to India** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has identified five points to India at the Line of Control (LoC) for Kashmiris to cross over to this side of the border and help their brethren, devastated by the October 8 earthquake, in rehabilitation and reconstruction. Details of the formal proposal handed over to India by Pakistan was made available to The News from New Delhi which identifies the crossing points of Tangdhar-Tithwal, Uri-Chakoti, Uri-Hajipur, Poonch-Rawlakot and Mendhar-Tattapani. India has already agreed to three of these crossing points including Poonch, Uri and Tangdhar. It has started de-mining these points to enable Kashmiris on this side of the LoC to cross over to the other side and get medical and relief facilities. Pakistani diplomats in New Delhi say due to non-availability of facilities or damage to infrastructure at these points, the crossing would have to be managed on foot.

The Frontier Post, 24 October 2005

### **Devastations more than estimates: Siraj**

PESHAWAR: The NWFP Senior Minister Sirajul Haq has said that role of philanthropist was of paramount importance in helping earthquake affectees. "Philanthropist like Haji Muhammad Shah Afridi will enable the government to overcome devastation of the recent holocaust, reduce sufferings of the affectees and accomplish Jihad of their permanent rehabilitation that is a prolong task. Such people have revived the memory of Ansar and Mohajirs of Madina who worked with a spirit of competition in the era of the Holy Prophet", he added. He was talking to former Senator and former MNA Haji Muhammad Shah Afridi at Peshawar the other evening who handed over a truck loaded with fresh tranche of 1202 water proof tents to the Senior Minister and Provincial Ameer of Jamat-i-Islami for distribution among the affectees through Alkhidmat Foundation. Earlier he had also provided two trucks of 1115 and 1000 such tents to Alkhidmat Foundation.

Dawn, 25 October 2005

### **UN warns time running out for quake survivors**

MUZAFFARABAD, Oct 24: More help arrived in quake-hit on Monday as the United Nations warned that time is running out for survivors of the worst catastrophe in the country's history. EU humanitarian aid commissioner Louis Michel said a "second humanitarian disaster looms" for millions of destitute survivors and more than 70,000 injured unless help arrives before winter. "We are facing an enormous humanitarian catastrophe," he said after the European Commission proposed an aid package worth 80 million euros (\$95 million), 13.6 million euros more than it has already released. "With winter just around the corner, a second humanitarian disaster looms for the four million people without a roof over their heads and the 70,000 injured people needing medical attention." Three heavy-lift helicopters from Britain and five tonnes of medicine from Afghanistan reached Islamabad but experts said much more

was needed before winter snows hit the mountainous disaster zone in three weeks.

Daily Times, 25 October 2005

### **LoC-opening talks on 29th**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India will discuss on October 29th the details of a proposal to open the Line of Control (LoC) and allow people from the two sides to help in relief efforts. "The Indian government has informed us that a delegation headed by an External Affairs Ministry joint secretary will arrive in Pakistan on October 28," the Foreign Office said. Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said at a press briefing earlier that Pakistan had also responded to the Indian proposal to establish camps along the LoC to provide relief to the earthquake-hit people. She said that Pakistan was ready for relief assistance to be delivered at the agreed points. The spokeswoman rejected reports in the Indian media that the Pakistan Army did not get involved in rescue operations for the first two days. "The Pakistan Army launched immediate rescue operations, and is currently working to restore road networks to inaccessible areas," she said, adding that the entire operation focused on saving lives and providing shelter, food and medicine to the affected people.

The News, 25 October 2005

### **EC proposes 80m euros for Pakistan** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: The European Commission has proposed giving at least 80 million euros (\$96 million) in fresh aid for reconstruction and relief activities for the survivors of the October 8 earthquake in Pakistan, the EU executive body said on Monday. This is in addition to the 13.6 million euros emergency humanitarian aid already released, bringing the total proposed for 2005-06 to 93.6 million euros (\$111.7 million). The EC has approached the budgetary authority (Council of Ministers and European Parliament) with the proposal, and has called for an early response to the proposal so that the EU could continue to act swiftly to help those still suffering the terrible effects of the earthquake. Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner said: "With millions now homeless, and practically all infrastructure destroyed, the challenge of reconstructing lives and livelihoods in the aftermath of this terrible natural disaster will be with us for many years.

Daily Times, 25 October 2005

### **Islamabad is on five major fault lines** (Shahzad Raza)

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is situated on five major fault lines, one of which is exactly underneath the Faisal Mosque. Allah Bakhsh Kosar, the director of the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), and MZ Babar, a GSP geo-physicist, told Daily Times on Monday that it could not be determined when these fault lines will cause another earthquake. The officials said that an earthquake with a magnitude of 3.7 was reported a few days ago, and had its epicentre near Shahzad Town. They said that the fault lines under Islamabad were around 30 million years old. "The earthquakes have to come sooner or later. The important thing is how well we are prepared to face them," they said, adding that the entire country, except the plains of Punjab, was tectonically fractured. They said that the ancient civilisation of Taxila might also have perished from a severe earthquake. A major two-kilometre fault line was situated under Havellian, they said.

Daily Times, 25 October 2005

### **250 arrested for looting relief goods**

ISLAMABAD: More than 250 people, allegedly involved in looting relief goods, have been apprehended in Mansehra and Balakot areas in the last three days. This was announced at a high

level meeting held in Islamabad late Sunday night chaired by Major General Nadeem Ahmad. The reports of looting of relief trucks were widely reported in the media. President Musharraf had ordered strict action against those involved. Those arrested belong to Kohistan, Shangla, Punjab and Sindh. A first information report (FIR) has been lodged against them.

The News, 25 October 2005

### **UAE adds 70 beds to 100-bed Balakot field hospital** (Hanif Khalid)

ISLAMABAD: UAE has decided to expand the UAE Field Hospital in Balakot. Seventy more beds will be added to the 100-bed hospital. For this purpose adequate number of doctors nurses and paramedical staff reached Islamabad in a chartered flight Monday evening. The UAE Envoy in Pakistan has described the meeting of Pakistan's Foreign Minister with the President of UAE in Abu Dhabi as constructive and fruitful with positive results. Talking to The News the UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Mohammad Al Shamsi stated that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan handed over a special message to H.R.H President of UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan from the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Abu-Dhabi Monday evening. We are still waiting for the orders from our government.

Daily Times, 25 October 2005

### **250 arrested for looting relief goods**

ISLAMABAD: More than 250 people, allegedly involved in looting relief goods, have been apprehended in Mansehra and Balakot areas in the last three days. This was announced at a high level meeting held in Islamabad late Sunday night chaired by Major General Nadeem Ahmad. The reports of looting of relief trucks were widely reported in the media. President Musharraf had ordered strict action against those involved. Those arrested belong to Kohistan, Shangla, Punjab and Sindh. A first information report (FIR) has been lodged against them.

Daily Times, 25 October 2005

### **Indians prepare to assist Pakistani quake survivors**

CHAKAN DABAGH: The Indian army is readying medical facilities, building bridges, clearing landmines and rushing supplies to its militarised frontier in expectation of a flood of stricken earthquake survivors from Pakistan, officials said on Monday. "We have set up a 100-bed tent hospital which includes a 10-bed emergency unit for those who are critically injured," Indian army brigadier AK Bakshi said that in Chakan Dabagh, 249 kilometres west of Jammu, winter capital of held Kashmir. Chakan Dabagh is one of three points along the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border dividing Kashmir between Pakistan and India, identified by New Delhi at the weekend as points where it plans to set up relief camps for earthquake victims.

The News, 25 October 2005

### **Karzai assures full support to Pakistan** (Muhammad Saleh Zaafir)

ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Hamid Karzai has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in the October 8 catastrophic earthquake and sympathised with the government and people of Pakistan. Addressing a press conference along with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, the Afghan leader pledged full support and help in rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the quake-hit areas. Earlier, Karzai met President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. The two countries agreed to root out terrorism. Karzai talked to newsmen in English, Pashtu and Urdu. He said he came to Pakistan to express Afghan people's deep sense of sorrow and grief over the heavy losses suffered

by Pakistan. "I wanted to come on the second day of the quake but restrained myself thinking the people were busy with immediate relief efforts," he added. Afghanistan has already announced half a million dollars' financial help, four helicopters, 30 tonnes of dry fruit and 35-member rescue and relief team.

The News, 25 October 2005

### **NWFP PA urges centre to waive taxes** (Syed Bukhar Shah)

PESHAWAR: The NWFP Assembly in a unanimously passed resolution asked the federal government on Monday to write off loans outstanding against all the people in the earthquake-hit areas, as the survivors could not afford to repay their loans due to their shattered economic conditions. The opposition leader in the provincial assembly, Shahzada Gustasip Khan, moved the resolution for which rules were relaxed. The legislators supported the resolution with a big "Yes" when the acting speaker, Ikramullah Shahid, put it before the House on Monday. Earlier, the House witnessed heated debate on the existing miserable condition of the quake victims, distribution of relief goods and rehabilitation of the survivors. Every lawmaker lauded the services of local, national and international NGOs, donor countries and common people for their humanitarian work, but deplored what they called the lethargic attitude of the federal and provincial governments.

The News, 25 October 2005

### **NA debate on Nato presence demanded** (Asim Yasin)

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday heard a voice of dissent from within its own ranks in the National Assembly when one of its members, Riaz Hussain Peerzada, slammed the government policies and questioned the presence of Nato forces in Pakistan for relief operations while asking for a debate in parliament on the issue. In a hard-hitting speech in the National Assembly with regard to relief measures for earthquake affected areas of the country, MNA Peerzada opposed the presence of Nato forces in the country saying there was no justification for calling in Nato for relief operations as the Pakistan Army was capable of performing this task in a better way. "If the country needs technical assistance and necessary equipment for the relief operations it could easily get the same from Turkey which has already pledged all assistance.

The News, 25 October 2005

### **Construction industry faces acute manpower shortage** (Tariq Butt)

ISLAMABAD: The booming construction industry in Islamabad has received a major blow due to a massive shortage of skilled and non-skilled manpower caused by exodus to its native areas, wrecked by the October 8 earthquake. Leading construction companies and even small firms engaged in executing government and private projects in the federal capital and its surroundings are faced with a serious dilemma, as they are forced to drastically slow down their pace of work. They say that the work speed usually comes down during the holy month of Ramadan due to reduced working hours. This has been further affected by the shortage of the workforce.

Daily Times, 26 October 2005

### **UN warns of death traps in quake relief**

UNITED NATIONS: The UN said on Tuesday that "death traps" were forming in quake-stricken areas of Pakistan as blocked roads and a lack of funding hindered relief deliveries to survivors. "Blocked roads, snow and a serious lack of funding could create a death trap for tens of thousands of people who survived," the World Food Programme (WFP) said at a briefing on Tuesday. With only a three-

week window to deliver aid to mountainous regions before the first snowfall, UN officials and relief agencies are scrambling to provide shelter and food so that hundreds of thousands of people can survive the winter. Sixteen days after the mammoth quake wreaked havoc in Kashmir's Himalayan region, donors have only pledged or committed \$90 million – a mere 29 percent of the \$312 million flash appeal. By comparison, the UN flash appeal after last December's tsunami was more than 80 percent funded within 10 days of the disaster. UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Margareta Wahlstrom said on Monday that UN officials keep asking themselves why the world's response has been so poor. "What is it that isn't quite right?" UN officials are hoping that donor countries are making arrangements to increase their aid budgets to add to the Pakistan appeal on Wednesday, Wahlstrom said. "If things don't turn on Wednesday, I don't know where we're going," she said. "It is quite worrisome because the Red Cross is reporting the same problems."

Daily Times, 26 October 2005

### **Govt rapped for NATO entry into Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: The opposition in the National Assembly (NA) on Tuesday blasted the government for allowing NATO forces into Pakistan without taking parliament into confidence and for appointing generals as the federal relief commissioner and Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority chairman. It also criticised the army for being slow to respond to the October 8 earthquake in northern Pakistan. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, parliamentary leader of the PML-N, accused President Pervez Musharraf of bypassing parliament and the cabinet while making important decisions. "I was surprised to read in newspapers that NATO forces will be coming to Pakistan. The government talks of a parliamentary system in the country, but even the cabinet isn't let in on important decisions," he said. Questioning the army's capabilities, he said it should have asked parliament if there were any need of NATO forces in the country. He said the appointment of generals as the federal relief commissioner and ERRA chairman showed that the army did not trust civil administration. "Who will hold these generals accountable with a general sitting in as president and another as chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)? Reports about government officers hoarding relief goods are pouring in, but there is no accountability," he added.

Daily Times, 26 October 2005

### **India opens 3 centres on LoC to help Pakistanis (Iftikhar Gilani)**

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday opened three relief centres on the Line of Control (LoC) as scheduled without waiting for a bilateral meeting to be held in Islamabad on Saturday that aims to clarify issues concerning the softening of the LoC. Sources said the move was aimed at putting pressure on Pakistan to allow the people of Azad Kashmir, living in nearby villages, to cross the Line of Control because "they were in desperate need with hardly any help from Islamabad two weeks after the earthquake". Announcing that the three border points at Chakan da Bagh in Poonch, Aman Setu in Uri and Teetwal in Tangdhar have become operational, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, "Whosoever is in a position to come across will receive medical treatment and relief material." Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the 24th Coast Guard Commanders meeting, Mukherjee admitted that a number of people might not be able to cross the Line of Control to take advantage of the relief offer as yet.

Daily Times, 26 October 2005

### **Rs 400m damage to NWFP and AJK electricity networks (Khalid Mustafa)**

ISLAMABAD: The October 8 earthquake has caused Rs 400 million in damages to the electricity network infrastructure in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the NWFP, a Ministry of Water and

Power official told Daily Times. "Owing to the earthquake all 33 Kilo Volts (KV) and 132 KV transmission lines and the whole distribution system has collapsed, causing a Rs 400 million loss," the official said. "We have calculated this loss with the help of experts from the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) and the Islamabad Electric Supply Company," the official said. He said that the government will try to cover the costs of rebuilding the destroyed electricity infrastructure with aid from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). An ADB team and officials of the power ministry will hold a meeting today in this regard, he said. PESCO chief executives will brief the meeting about damage to the electricity infrastructure in AJK and the NWFP, he said.

Daily Times, 26 October 2005

### **Aftermath of the earthquake: Rs 5.48 billion needed for health facilities in NWFP**

PESHAWAR: Around Rs 5.48 billion is required for the reconstruction of health facilities in the NWFP, a health department official told Daily Times on Tuesday. The official said this was just an estimate and the actual cost might be more. He said urgent funds were required to rebuild health facilities so that much needed healthcare could be provided to the quake victims. In Mansehra District, 19 Basic Health Units (BHUs) were completely damaged and 30 were partially damaged and their reconstruction would cost Rs 1 billion. More than Rs 400 million was needed to reconstruct the Rural Health Centres (RHCs) in the district. Out of the 7 civil hospitals in the district, three had collapsed and four had severe cracks and their reconstruction would require Rs 665 million. The District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) and the Executive District Officer's (EDO) office were damaged and their reconstruction required Rs 380 million and Rs 5 million respectively.

Dawn, 26 October 2005

### **'F-16 deal may be delayed' (Anwar Iqbal)**

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: Pakistan may delay a deal to buy F-16 fighters jets from the US because of the devastating earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people, Ambassador Jehangir Karamat told Dawn on Tuesday. He, however, denied reports that Pakistan was reconsidering the deal. "Right now, the earthquake is our first priority, but there's no question of reconsidering the deal," said Ambassador Karamat, who is also a former chief of the Pakistan Army. He said President Bush and the US government were committed to the deal and the US administration had already sent an informal notification to Congress about the deal. "So how can we reconsider the deal? Just the timing may be delayed," said Gen Karamat. A US official also confirmed Gen Karamat's position on the F-16 deal, saying that Pakistan had requested a delay but was not reconsidering the deal. Meanwhile, the White House also delayed a public-private partnership of major US corporations that was to be launched on Tuesday.

Dawn, 26 October 2005

### **\$12bn plan for reconstruction (Ihtasham ul Haque)**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 25: The government is working on a \$10-12 billion reconstruction plan for the quake-stricken regions of Azad Kashmir and the NWFP. Official sources told Dawn on Tuesday that the government would arrange about 45 per cent funding (roughly \$5 billion) for the plan which is expected to be submitted to the president and the prime minister on November 15 for approval. The government expects that a donors' conference being held in Geneva on Wednesday will contribute substantial grants to help Pakistan rebuild roads, bridges, schools and colleges, hospitals, government offices and villages in the quake-hit areas. The sources said that pledges of about \$1.2 billion had been made and the government was expecting \$4 billion from international donors and bilateral creditors before the end of November to effectively execute the plan.

Dawn, 26 October 2005

### **Govt criticized for accepting Nato forces (Amir Wasim)**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 25: Opposition legislators in the National Assembly on Tuesday criticized the government for allowing North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) forces to take part in relief and rehabilitation activities in quake-hit areas of Pakistan and termed it a 'very serious security issue'. "We have opened the door for foreign forces without taking the parliament or even the cabinet into confidence," said acting parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan while taking part in the debate on the Oct 8 disaster. "What will we do if tomorrow we have to fight a war with India or any other country? Will we call Nato forces again to help us in wars?" he asked. Criticizing the Pakistan army for a 'delayed response' to the disaster, he said: "You (army) take only two hours to capture the whole country. It takes you minutes to launch a military operation. Then why the help reached 72 hours late to the people of affected areas?" he questioned.

Daily Times, 27 October 2005

### **Donors pledge \$580m for relief**

GENEVA: International donors on Wednesday promised an additional \$580 million in assistance following the earthquake in Pakistan, sowing confusion among UN officials who wanted something firmer. "We have received new pledges of \$580 million dollars," UN emergency relief coordinator Jan Egeland told journalists. Some of the major new donations were announced by the US, with an extra \$50 million, and India, which said it was setting up a special 25-million-dollar fund for Pakistan, UN spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said.

The News, 27 October 2005

### **Allai, Shimlai survivors consider evacuation (Rahimullah Yusufzai)**

PESHAWAR: Civil and military authorities have been able to convince a significant number of villagers in the earthquake-devastated Allai and Shimlai valleys in Battagram district to evacuate to tent cities at safer and warmer places in the plains to escape the fast approaching harsh winter. However, many villagers are still reluctant to leave their ancestral abodes. They want the government to assist them in rebuilding their houses and providing them tents and blankets nearer to their homes. They also want to stay back to harvest their maize and rice crops and guard valuables and belongings buried under the rubble of their homes.

Daily Times, 27 October 2005

### **We must outdo jihadis in relief efforts, says Musharraf**

LAHORE: President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday acknowledged that hardline religious groups had stepped into an administrative vacuum, providing relief and humanitarian assistance in the quake-hit areas of Pakistan, but said the government must outdo them. Musharraf told the Financial Times that Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Al-Rasheed Trust, organisations that are not officially banned but are on a watch list, were doing good and he would make sure they did not "draw people towards extremism or militancy". It quoted the Pakistani president as saying that the government needed to provide better stuff. "If we construct schools and colleges, people certainly will not go for madrassas there," it quoted him as saying.

The News, 27 October 2005

### **Pakistan will welcome Indian relief supplies: FO (Mariana Baabar)**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says that it would welcome medical relief supplies from India at the Line of Control (LoC) for the earthquake victims who desperately need them. The Foreign Office spokeswoman was responding to a statement by India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in which he said New Delhi was not to blame for delay in establishing relief camps along the LoC for the benefit of quake-affected people of Azad Kashmir. "The delay is not on our side," he told reporters after the swearing-in of Wajahat Habibullah as Chief Information Commissioner under the new Right to Information Act at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Daily Times, 27 October 2005

### **'People want joint Pakistan-India relief operations'**

LAHORE: Various government and non-government organisations on Wednesday continued relief supplies to October 8 earthquake survivors in Azad Kashmir, Northern Areas and NWFP, with stress on the need for joint Pakistan-India relief operations. Joint relief operations: "Almost two thirds of people want that Pakistan and India should cooperate in the rehabilitation of earthquake survivors," says an opinion poll conducted by the South Asian Media Net, a subsidiary of South Asian Free Media Association. Around 68.94 percent of the 1,687 people who voted in the news website poll favoured a joint Pakistan-India relief operation, while 31.06 percent of people opposed any such move.

The News, 27 October 2005

### **Pakistan, Russia to boost cooperation in trade, investment**

MOSCOW: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Russian Premier Mikhail Fradkov in wide-ranging talks here on Wednesday noted growing ties between Pakistan and Russia, and agreed on enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade and investment to promote economic relations. The two leaders headed their respective sides at the talks held at the Prime Minister House. The discussions covered all aspects of bilateral relations, ranging from political, economic, security to cultural cooperation. Shaukat thanked Russia for its support to Pakistan for getting observer status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that includes as its members China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan was given the observer seat along with Iran and India at the July SCO summit in Kazak capital Astana. Mongolia was already observer member.

Daily Times, 28 October 2005

### **Quake relief centres opened on LoC: Aziz**

MOSCOW: Pakistan has opened earthquake relief centres along the Line of Control (LoC) to improve the flow of aid and movement of people affected by the October 8 earthquake, said Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Thursday. "Pakistan has opened relief centres on various proposed points of movement across the LoC," the prime minister told agencies as he prepared to return to Islamabad after attending a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. Aziz said people on both sides of the LoC wanted to visit their relatives and take part in relief efforts. He said, "This will be aid going in both directions, not one-way traffic." Indian officials will meet Pakistani officials in Islamabad on Friday "to sort out the modalities" of the Kashmir border crossing points, he added. Meanwhile, a Foreign Office statement said that Pakistan had conveyed to India that officials from both sides could receive relief goods at five points on the LoC, including the three points suggested by India, according to a staff report from Islamabad.

Daily Times, 28 October 2005

### **Private schools will be registered on madrassa pattern: Javed Ashraf**

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to register all private schools in the country on the pattern of the registration of religious seminaries. Education Minister Lt Gen Javed Ashraf Qazi told a press conference on Thursday that major decisions had been taken during a meeting with President Pervez Musharraf to revamp the existing education system in the country and to update it to achieve the millennium development goals. He said the government had also decided to spend 4 percent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on education to improve Pakistan's literacy rate and standard of education. Educational allocations would be increased in the next budget, he added. The number of examination boards would also be reduced in the provinces to bring uniformity in the examination system and remove complications in it (examination system), the education minister said.

Daily Times, 28 October 2005

### **Pakistan to export 40 MW of electricity to Afghanistan** (Khalid Mustafa)

ISLAMABAD: WAPDA has confirmed to the government that 40 MW of electricity could be exported to Afghanistan in response to a request by Kabul for electricity in its Khost province, a senior official told Daily Times. Afghanistan has been seeking the import of electricity from Pakistan for some time. The Ministry of Water and Power, at the request of the Planning Commission, asked WAPDA several months ago how much electricity could be exported to Afghanistan. WAPDA has given a positive response to the request and said it can export 40 MW of electricity to the Khost province of Afghanistan. "Afghanistan, for the first time, asked for electricity to be imported from Pakistan when President General Pervez Musharraf and his cabinet members, including the WAPDA Chairman Lt Gen (retired) Zulfikar Ali Khan, visited Kabul on April 3, 2002." Since then the issue has not been discussed because of the law and order situation in Kabul and a degree of resentment for Pakistan in Afghanistan.

Daily Times, 28 October 2005

### **'NGOs will be trained to deal with natural calamities'**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Thursday that various organisations in Pakistan would be given special training to effectively deal with natural calamities. "Lends survey will be made to change building code and it would be the responsibility of contractors, building experts and other institutions concerned to materialise the new code," he said. In an interview with a private TV channel, Aziz said the government was receiving aid from various donor organisations and philanthropists for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the quake victims. He said that no country had been selected so far to train Pakistani organisations. He added that an organisation would be set up in which Army, Police and Civil Defence personnel would be trained to swiftly respond to disasters. The prime minister said that at least 60 countries had extended aid for the earthquake victims.

Daily Times, 28 October 2005

### **India offers \$25 million aid** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday offered \$25 million in aid to help quake victims in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. Oscar Fernandes, the state minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation, made this offer at the meeting of the UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, two days ahead of the official-level meeting to discuss the opening of the Line of Control for relief coordination. "The government of Pakistan would be welcome to use this contribution for rebuilding homes and rehabilitating people, reconstructing the infrastructure and restoring essential services," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

The Nation, 28 October 2005

### **Pak wants full SCO membership**

MOSCOW (APP)—Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Thursday said Pakistan was looking forward to becoming a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that provides regional countries a platform to share ideas on economic, security and diplomatic cooperation. "Geo-politically and strategically, it is very important grouping of countries that include Russia, China and host of other states," he told editors of leading Russian newspapers and magazines here. Prime Minister Aziz said Pakistan had the intention and desire to become a full member of the grouping that also include Kryghzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as its members.

The Nation, 28 October 2005

### **Int'l aid expedites rehab process: CM**

LAHORE (PR) - Punjab Chief Minister, Ch. Pervaiz Elahi has said Britain and other countries as well as national and international welfare organizations are playing a commendable role in the relief operation of earthquake affectees and the help and assistance being provided by different countries has expedited the process of rescue and rehabilitation of the calamity-stricken people. He was talking to British High Commissioner, Mark Lyall Grant in Punjab House, Islamabad Thursday. Talking to the distinguished guest, Ch. Pervaiz Elahi said that British rescue team played an important role in evacuating the injured persons from Margala Tower. He said provision of helicopters by Britain has greatly helped in the process of rescue and relief of the stricken people. He said Support-A-Family project has been initiated for the permanent rehabilitation of the stricken people and the cooperation of philanthropists would also be sought for this purpose.

The Nation, 28 October 2005

### **Five-point Chinese plan for relief work**

MOSCOW (APP) – Describing relations between Pakistan and China as all-weather friendship, Premier Wen Jiabao Thursday outlined a five-point programme for the rescue and relief efforts for the victims of October 8 earthquake, during a meeting with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz here. "We believe that under the Pakistani leadership the people will be able to overcome this catastrophe," Wen Jiabao said, adding, China would do whatever necessary to help Pakistan in this very difficult period. The two Prime Ministers were in the Russian capital to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, also attended by the leaders of member and observer states. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao announced an additional grant assistance of around US \$14 million for immediate rescue and relief measures for Pakistan, raising the total amount given by China to US \$20 million.

Dawn, 28 October 2005

### **Relief 'vastly underfunded': 210,000 more tents needed: UN**

GENEVA, Oct 27: Key emergency aid operations for Pakistani earthquake survivors are still vastly underfunded a day after donor nations promised about half a billion dollars more in overall assistance, UN data indicated on Thursday. A UN-coordinated appeal has received just two per cent (1.5 million dollars) of the 95 million dollars needed for shelter and non-food supplies, the latest financial tracking information from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) showed. Just four per cent (2.5 million dollars) of the 58 million dollars needed for food aid has been paid over, while donors have delivered 17 per cent of the 62 million dollar health budget. Aid agencies have warned that those three sectors are crucial to the fate of an estimated two million people, including the homeless and injured, in mountainous Azad Kashmir, with winter due to set in within weeks.

Dawn, 28 October 2005

### **President to extend APC invitation** (Ashraf Mumtaz)

LAHORE, Oct 27: Invitations for the proposed All-Party Conference (APC) on the post-quake situation will be issued personally by President Pervez Musharraf, a main leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League said on Thursday. Senator Tariq Azeem, the information secretary, told Dawn that various PML leaders were approaching the opposition parties to inform them about the importance of the event and persuade them that they should take part in it, rising above their political considerations. Asked whether the ruling party would still go ahead and hold the APC if the ARD and the MMA refused to participate, Senator Azeem said: "An APC means the one attended by all major parties". He said PML chief Chaudhry Shujaat Husain had contacted MMA president Qazi Husain Ahmed, secretary-general Maulana Fazlur Rehman, ARD chairman Makhdoom Amin Fahim, PML-N chairman Raja Zafarul Haq and some other leaders.

Daily Times, 29 October 2005

### **Pakistan, China sign space pact**

BEIJING: Pakistan, China and six other regional countries signed a convention on Friday to launch the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation (APSCO). The other signatories to the convention are Iran, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Mongolia and Peru. Five countries - Argentina, Brazil, the Philippines, Russian Federation and Ukraine - joined APSCO as observers. Federal Minister For Science And Technology Nouraz Shakoor signed the convention on Pakistan's behalf at a ceremony held at the Great Hall of the People. Chinese Vice Premier Huang Ju was the chief guest. Shakoor termed the convention a breakthrough in strengthening regional cooperation for peaceful use of outer-space. He said Pakistan and China had played a pioneering role in establishing the organisation, the first of its kind to expand and intensify cooperation in space activities in Asia-Pacific.

Dawn, 29 October 2005

### **2.3m face threat of starvation, says WFP: 'Situation graver than perceived'**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: The World Food Programme (WFP) on Friday said the Oct 8 earthquake was much graver than reported earlier as, according to an assessment it carried out in collaboration with Unicef and Oxfam, some 2.3 million victims would require food to survive through the winter as compared to the earlier estimate of 1 million. The WFP had based on its previous assessment of having to feed 1 million people when it had appealed for \$56 million. This appeal has now been revised accordingly to feed the victims for up to six months. The victims, the assessment report said, were already very poor and the quake had made them poorer and more vulnerable as they lost all they had — their homes and livelihood.

Dawn, 29 October 2005

### **Aziz vows judicious use of relief aid** (Ahmed Hassan)

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has expressed satisfaction over the pace of foreign and domestic humanitarian assistance pouring in for earthquake victims and pledged its judicious utilization. Downplaying opposition's fears about deployment of Nato troops to the quake-hit areas, he said: "Only engineers and doctors have come to join the rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction operations which are being carried out already by teams of doctors and relief workers from various parts of the world." Speaking to reporters following 'informal' talks with Alliance for Restoration of Democracy chairman Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, he said Pakistan had so far received pledges of up to Rs5.2 billion from domestic and \$1.7 billion from external donors. He observed that the international donors' conference being held in Islamabad next month would be significant in achieving the targeted assistance.

Dawn, 29 October 2005

### **Relaxation of N-restrictions on Pakistan, India, Israel sought**

WASHINGTON, Oct 28: The United States should modify its non-proliferation laws in a way that allows all three non-NPT nuclear states – India, Pakistan and Israel – to receive nuclear cooperation from Washington, says a senior American expert. Robert J. Einhorn, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, also urged the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group to amend its guidelines accordingly. In a testimony before the House International Relations Committee earlier this week, Mr Einhorn advised the Bush administration not to make a country-specific exception for enabling nuclear cooperation with India. The committee is hearing the Bush administration's proposal to share civilian nuclear technology with India under an agreement signed on July 18 during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the White House.

Dawn, 29 October 2005

### **APC move suffers setback** (Ashraf Mumtaz)

LAHORE, Oct 28: The Pakistan Muslim League's initiative to call an all-party conference with President Pervez Musharraf playing the lead role received a setback on Friday when Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal chief Qazi Husain Ahmed said the alliance would not participate in what he called an exercise in futility. The holding of the APC has become difficult for the government as most of the parties in the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy are also in favour of staying away. "There is a consensus in the ARD that we should not take part in the conference," ARD chairman Makhdoom Amin Fahim told Dawn. However, PML information secretary Senator Tariq Azeem said the government would keep trying to persuade the opposition parties that they should cooperate. "The initiative is for the good of the nation and politics should be kept aside to help the quake victims." He said PML chief Chaudhry Shujaat Husain would stay in contact with other opposition parties with the hope that they would change their mind in the larger national interest. The ARD chief has not been approached by the government so far.

Dawn, 29 October 2005

### **Kashmiris want LOC to disappear: Mirwaiz**

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Thousands of Kashmiris massed at a special congregation in Srinagar on Friday and called for the removal of the Line of Control. "We want to remind Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh of what he himself promised us when we met him recently," Mirwaiz Umar Farooq told Dawn from Srinagar. He was quoting from his address at the Jama Masjid on Friday, which was observed as Al Quds Day and Kashmir Day across the region. According to the Mirwaiz, Dr Singh had told an All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) delegation he had led last month that India wanted to remove the psychological distance between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad by easing the curbs on movement of the divided people between the sides of the LOC. "We too want the ceasefire line to become irrelevant," the Mirwaiz said. The demand to ease the curbs along the LoC coincided with the arrival of Indian officials in Islamabad for talks on the issue.

The News, 29 October 2005

### **No plans to stay in Pakistan: Nato**

BRUSSELS: Nato insisted on Friday its support for relief efforts in Pakistan was only a short-term mission after country's opposition leaders raised concerns about the presence of foreign forces on Pakistan's soil. Critics have attacked President Pervez Musharraf for not seeking parliamentary approval for Nato's deployment this month of some 1,000 troops, chiefly engineering and medical units, to help survivors of the Oct 8 earthquake. "This is a short-term relief mission and we are acting quickly to meet the needs of a great many people affected by this disaster," US Navy Vice Admiral John Stufflebeem, the officer running the mission in Islamabad, said in a statement released by Nato's military arm in Mons, southern Belgium. Under an exchange of letters with the government of Pakistan, the Nato operation is limited to 90 days with the possibility of a review in mid-November, depending on needs.

Daily Times, 29 October 2005

### **Annan, Clinton to visit Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and former US president Bill Clinton may visit Pakistan in the aftermath of the huge South Asian earthquake, the Foreign Office said on Friday. The timing of their trips has not been finalised but officials said that the pair was most likely to visit in November, when winter will be posing a new threat to millions of people left homeless by the October 8 disaster. "There is a possibility that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan may visit Pakistan," FO spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said. "One possibility is that his visit may coincide with a donor's conference in Islamabad on November 18." The spokeswoman added that Bill Clinton is planning to visit Pakistan. "When he will come, I can't say immediately as the dates are being firmed up," Aslam said. A UN official also said that Annan was set to visit Pakistan. afp

Daily Times, 29 October 2005

### **Indian team arrives for talks on LoC**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India will discuss specific steps of cross-border cooperation in Islamabad today (Saturday) to help October 8 earthquake victims. An Indian delegation, led by Dilip Sinha, India's External Affairs Ministry joint secretary in-charge of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, arrived here on Friday. The Indian team also consists of officials from the Home Ministry, Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir government. The talks will focus on proposals made by both India and Pakistan to help the victims of the earthquake across the Line of Control (LoC). India said on Thursday that it had pledged \$25 million to Pakistan following the earthquake, but efforts to let aid flow across LoC have been beset by problems. Despite warnings that tens of thousands of survivors trapped in remote villages in Azad Jammu and Kashmir may die of exposure before relief workers can reach them, they have been unable to reach a compromise.

Daily Times, 29 October 2005

### **Rs 5b needed for NWFP to revive health infrastructure**

ABBOTTABAD: Rs 5 billion is needed for the revival of the health department infrastructure in the province, which could take approximately six months to two years, the NWFP health minister said on Friday. Addressing a press briefing after visiting Mansehra district, the minister said over 60,000 patients had been treated and 40,000 major and minor operations had been carried out since the earthquake. He said the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the World Health Organisation and other organisations were conducting a survey of damage caused by the earthquake in NWFP and AJK. He said there were no incidents of amputation of human organs in the quake-affected areas, adding that not a single case of this nature had been reported. He said police pickets had been set up in the

affected areas to prevent the trafficking of women and children.

Daily Times, 30 October 2005

### **Pakistan denounces bombings**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemned Saturday's bombings in Indian capital New Delhi as a "criminal act of terrorism", a Foreign Ministry statement said. "Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attacks in New Delhi, which have resulted in the loss of a number of innocent lives," the statement said. "The attack in a crowded market is a criminal act of terrorism. The people and the government of Pakistan are shocked at this barbaric act and express deep sympathy with the families of the victims." Islamabad also called for a thorough investigation to punish the culprits. "We hope that a thorough investigation will be carried out and the perpetrators of this act of terrorism will be brought to justice." staff report

The Nation, 30 October 2005

### **Pak delegation to visit Israel**

JERUSALEM (AFP) - A 200-member delegation of Pakistani officials and businessmen is to visit Israel in early November, in a bid to bring closer the two countries which have no diplomatic relations, Israeli military radio said. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom are to receive the Pakistani delegation of retired generals, religious leaders, politicians and business people, radio said, though there was no official confirmation. Relations between the second most populous Muslim country and the Jewish state were hostile for decades, but began to warm up after Israel offered aid to Pakistan following this month's devastating earthquake. Prior to the earthquake, in a highly publicised sign of cordiality, President Pervez Musharraf and Sharon shook hands on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in mid-September.

Daily Times, 30 October 2005

### **Rehabilitation process in quake-hit areas: Aziz insists taking opposition on board**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Saturday that he would present a comprehensive strategy in parliament to deal with the October 8 earthquake's devastation and would try to take the opposition on board the relief and rehabilitation operation in the quake-hit areas. Addressing a press conference after chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, Aziz said, "I will give a complete strategy on how to deal with the earthquake's devastation. I will remain in contact with the opposition and I hope it will respond positively." He said that so far the opposition's stance was positive. The cabinet committee meeting decided to hold the international donors conference on November 19 in Islamabad. About the opposition's refusal to attend the All Parties Conference expected to be convened by the government to discuss the earthquake's damage, he said the issue would be resolved, as the government was in contact with the opposition. He said the UN secretary general and presidents of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank were invited to attend next month's donors' conference.

Daily Times, 30 October 2005

### **Pakistan India agree to open LoC at 5 points on Nov 7**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have agreed to open the Line of Control (LoC) at five points to allow two-way movement to help the victims of the October 8 earthquake. "The two sides agreed to open crossings at five points across the LoC," said a joint statement published after lengthy discussions in Islamabad. In a third round of talks held between the two sides late on Saturday night, it was decided

that the LoC will be opened at Rawalakot-Poonch, Chakoti-Uri, Nauseri-Tithwal, Hajipir-Uri and Tattapani-Mendhar. The two sides agreed that the LoC will be opened on November 7. Relief items can be sent in either direction and handed over to local authorities at the five crossing points, a Foreign Ministry statement said. Crossings would also be permitted on foot, with priority given to families divided by the LoC.

Daily Times, 30 October 2005

### **Pakistan gets \$240m out of \$1.7b foreign donors' pledge** (Mohammed Rizwan)

LAHORE: Though pledges from donor countries in the aftermath of the October 8 earthquake has touched an impressive figure of more than \$1.7 billion including \$580 million pledged under the UN's flash appeal, the actual amount of money transferred to Pakistan's kitty so far has not been more than \$240 million, a senior official involved with the relief operation told Daily Times on Friday. The meagre amount and painfully slow transfer of money pledges to Pakistan's quake victims is threatening to halt the entire relief operation within a couple of days, as the UN and other relief agencies working on the ground are getting frustrated. The UN announced on Thursday of a clear danger of the relief operation grounding to a halt, as the world body was running out of helicopter fuel.

Daily Times, 30 October 2005

### **Pakistan calls for int'l action for return of illegal assets**

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan on Saturday called for concerted international action against corruption, especially measures to return illegally acquired assets through the crime to the countries of origin. "We strongly feel that efficient and prompt return of such assets acquired through corruption to the countries of origin acts as a major deterrence against corrupt practices," Pakistan's permanent representative in the United Nations, Aitzaz Ahmad Chaudhry, told the General Assembly's economic committee. Saying that it is a transnational crime, he said corruption including the problem of the transfer of funds of illicit origin is an evil, which threatens the peace and prosperity of societies across the globe. "It is a pervasive phenomenon, which afflicts both the developed and the developing countries," he said. App

Daily Times, 30 October 2005

### **Jl's 2,000 tents arrive from Saudi Arabia**

LAHORE: A second batch of 2,000 tents worth Rs 15 million, which were imported by the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) from Saudi Arabia to set up tent villages for quake victims, reached Islamabad from Jeddah on Saturday, said a JI press release. A chartered Saudi Airlines plane brought the consignment to Pakistan on Prince Sultan's instructions. The press release said that another consignment of 8,000 tents would be sent to Pakistan soon through six flights. About 7,500 tents had been sent so far by the Al-Khidmat Foundation, including 2,500 tents which were imported by the foundation from Riyadh and Dubai. The JI has planned to provide around 50,000 tents to set up tent villages in Muzaffarabad, Balakot and Rawalkot, said the press release. staff report

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **Mukhtar Mai says she has become a symbol of hope**

NEW YORK: Mukhtar Mai said on Sunday that she has become a symbol of hope and justice for Pakistani women. "Now when men act harshly to their wives, they just need to say 'I am going to tell Mukhtaran' and that puts them in their place," she told an audience at the University of Wisconsin, speaking through an interpreter. She is on a tour of the US to be honoured by Glamour magazine as

one of 12 women of the year and receive a \$20,000 award. Mai's activism was born in 2002 when a tribal council sentenced her to be gang-raped to punish her family - because her 12-year-old brother supposedly had walked with a girl from another tribe.

The News, 31 October 2005 Relief camps set up at five LoC points: PM

### **Camps to provide aid for quake victims of held Kashmir**

MUZAFARRABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Sunday said Pakistan had decided to set up five relief camps along the Line of Control (LoC) to provide help and assistance to the earthquake affected people of held Kashmir. Talking to newsmen here after visiting the earthquake-affected areas of Muzaffarabad, along with Saudi Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the prime minister said crossing at five points across the LoC would be allowed to provide a chance for two-way movement of the Kashmiris of divided families to console each other. These five crossing points across the LoC will be Nauseri-Tithwal, Chakoti-Uri, Hajipur-Uri, Rawalkot-Poonch and Tattapani-Poonch.

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **Contributors to terrorism must be stopped, says Musharraf**

LAHORE: President Pervez Musharraf said on Sunday that any country contributing to terrorism and militancy must be stopped. In an interview with the Saudi newspaper Arab News, Musharraf urged a reconciliatory approach in international relations, but was adamant on the issue of extremism. "Let's put an end to terrorism, extremism and militancy," Musharraf told Khaled Almaeena of Arab News. "If the actions of any country are contributing to suicide bombings, militancy and extremism, they must be stopped. "The president advised the US, Syria and Iran to refrain from confrontation and adopt a reconciliatory approach in international relations. He said that confrontation with Iran was not possible for the world community at present. "I tell (the US administration) that we have to close fronts," Musharraf told Arab News. "We cannot afford so many fronts. We have a front in Iraq, Afghanistan

The News, 31 October 2005

### **Thousands more could die if aid doesn't arrive: Unicef**

MUZAFFARABAD: Thousands of people could die unnecessarily from disease, diarrhoea and untreated injuries if a disaster-weary world doesn't help quake-ravaged Pakistan, Unicef's chief Ann Veneman warned during a helicopter tour of the region on Sunday. Meanwhile, the United Nations hailed Indo-Pak agreement on opening the Line of Control (LoC) at five points to help accelerate relief activities in the earthquake affected areas. Veneman said the window of opportunity to act is closing, with winter rolling rapidly toward the unforgiving Himalayan mountains. Forecasters are predicting a colder than usual winter, with up to five meters of snow in some places. Relief officials say some 800,000 quake survivors could face the frigid weather with absolutely no shelter.

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **MMA to present Hasba Bill today (Zakir Hassnain)**

PESHAWAR: Provincial Law Minister Malik Zafar Azam said on Sunday that he would present the Hasba Bill in the North West Frontier Assembly again today (Monday). The provincial assembly passed the bill by majority on July 14, and President Pervez Musharraf referred it to the Supreme Court on July 15. On August 4, the SC declared several sections of the bill ultra vires (unconstitutional). "Yes, I will reintroduce the Hasba Bill in the NWFP assembly on Monday," confirmed the law minister while talking with Daily Times. He said the provincial government had omitted the clauses declared ultra vires by the SC and the remaining clauses would be presented in the House.

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **Pak-Russian ties do not bother India: Natwar**

MOSCOW: India is not concerned at the possibility of Russia's defence cooperation with Pakistan because it believes Moscow will never take steps that could harm New Delhi, said Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh. "Russia and Pakistan have the right to develop bilateral cooperation, and we are not concerned over this. We believe that Russia will not take steps which could harm India," Singh told Russian government daily 'Rossiskaya Gazeta.' Earlier, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had expressed Islamabad's desire to develop defence cooperation with Russia while visiting Moscow to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting. However, he added that this depended on how far Moscow would move in this direction and what it could offer. online

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **LJ member arrested**

LAHORE: Model Town Police's Organised Crime Wing (OCW) arrested a terrorist and seized a large quantity of explosives. Police officials said that OCW Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Umar Virk arrested a Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LJ) terrorist, Awais alias Faisal, on Senior Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Chaudhry Shafqaat Ahmed's directive, seizing explosives weighing 2 kilograms and detonators. Investigation revealed that the man had plans to kill foreigners in the city. Sources said that the man's two accomplices were hiding in the city and several teams were raiding various areas in their search. staff report

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **'US not withdrawing air support to relief operation'**

ISLAMABAD: The US has dismissed media reports that relief helicopters will soon stop flying sorties to the earthquake-affected areas if donations to the UN effort did not increase. US Embassy in Pakistan has clarified that the US has no plans to diminish its support to Pakistan and hopes the international community steps up the relief efforts. The embassy in a statement said, "We agree with the UN that the international community needs to increase its level of support to Pakistan to provide humanitarian relief during what will be a protracted relief operation lasting months. We would urge all donors to do the same." Relief operations are being carried out on an accelerated basis, with increasing quantities of relief supplies being airlifted, the statement said.

Daily Times, 31 October 2005

### **All roads to LoC are bumpy: JKLF**

ISLAMABAD: The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has welcomed the latest Indo-Pak step regarding opening the Line of Control (LoC) to enable Kashmiris living on both the sides to receive relief goods or meet their relatives. In a press statement, Amanullah Khan, the JKLF chairman, said the Kashmiris would not benefit from the decision as much as claimed by the proponents. He said there were a number of practical and technical hitches. "To wait for at least 10 days for official approval to cross the LoC and to receive and send goods through officials would harm the purpose of quick and sufficient relief to people affected by the earthquake," Amanullah said. He said in addition to the practical hitches, there were more important and harmful aspects of the agreement. Elaborating his point of view, he said this exercise would prove yet another and effective step towards turning the LoC into permanent border, far greater and long-term loss to Kashmir struggle.