

Daily Times, 1 September 2004

Downgrading American relations with Pakistan: It was a mistake, says Wolfowitz

WASHINGTON: Paul Wolfowitz, US deputy defence secretary, said Monday that the Clinton administration's attempt to downgrade relations with Pakistan which was a "huge mistake. He was speaking informally to reporters at a farewell reception at the Pakistan embassy for Ashraf Jehangir Qazi who is in the US for a week's stay after having reported for duty at Baghdad as the UN secretary general's special representative for Iraq. Wolfowitz said the United States should have stayed engaged with Pakistan, while expressing satisfaction with the nature of the present relationship between the two countries. He said in answer to a question that a long-term relationship with Pakistan, as recommended by the 9/11 Commission, would be advantageous for both countries. Asked if the two states had already embarked on such a relationship, he replied, "I think so." To emphasise the upgraded ties between Washington and Islamabad, he pointed out that in 2000, US aid to Pakistan was below \$4 million a year, compared with over \$700 million yearly today. "I am not saying money is a measure of everything, but it is the message," he added, that is important. He said there was a substantial amount of assistance available to Pakistan for education and democracy programmes.

Daily Times, 1 September 2004

Bomb blast kills 4, wounds 15 in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: A bomb explosion killed four people and wounded fifteen others at a sweet shop in Qalat, a small town 140km south of Quetta on Tuesday. The three dead included two intelligence officers. According to police, the homemade bomb had been planted inside the shop. The explosion occurred at about 1130am, said Provincial Home Secretary Abdul Rauf. No one has claimed responsibility for the blast and it was not immediately clear who was behind it. Police said investigations were underway. The three men who died were intelligence officers Syed Tauqir Shah and Mushtaq Shah, and the shopkeeper, Sheikh Manzoor. The fifteen wounded were taken to Qalat Civil Hospital.

Daily Times, 2 September 2004

Mysterious explosions rock Islamabad, Pindi

ISLAMABAD: Two loud explosions rocked the capital and adjoining Rawalpindi on Wednesday. Police and residents of the two cities told Daily Times that they heard two explosions at around 2:17pm. The explosions shattered window glass in buildings in the Sadar area. Panic spread through the crowd and people fled to their homes and offices. A few people suffered minor injuries from broken glass, however no loss of life was reported. Pakistan Television reported that a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) supersonic jet caused the explosion. Rawalpindi District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Marwat Ali Shah said he did not know what caused the explosions. But he said police had been directed to determine what caused the blast and where it took place. "We are investigating. It is still not clear if it was a sonic boom from a supersonic jet," said Inter Services Public Relations Director General Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan.

Daily Times, 2 September 2004

September 11: MMA to show solidarity with jihadi movements

LAHORE: Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) Deputy General Secretary Liaqat Baloch has asked all MMA districts officials to show solidarity with jihadi movements on September 11. A press release issued from the Jamaat-e-Islami media office on Wednesday said that imperialist forces wanted to crush jihadi movements. The statement said that the rulers of Muslim countries were acting as guardians of those imperialist forces. "It is the duty of the public to resist the aggression of imperialist forces," he said

Daily Times, 2 September 2004

32 federal ministers sworn into new cabinet

ISLAMABAD: A 32-member federal cabinet was sworn-in on Wednesday with all coalition partners getting their share in accordance with their strength in parliament and their "political worth" in the government of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who retains the portfolio of finance minister. However, Mr Aziz and his "bosses" could not decide the portfolios of the federal ministers, who did not know what their responsibilities would be when they were sworn in. Sources told Daily Times that the portfolios of the federal ministers would be

announced on Thursday, or after a batch of 25 ministers of state is sworn in on Friday to complete the cabinet.

Daily Times, 3 September 2004

Kashmiris will join talks at appropriate time: Musharraf

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue as the Kashmiri people wanted and the Kashmiri leadership would be included in the Indo-Pak dialogue at an appropriate time. He said this while talking to AJK Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday. The AJK Public Relations Department said President Musharraf promised Kashmir would be the central issue in the upcoming dialogue between Pakistan and India. Pakistan will not show any weakness on the issue, he assured. "We will talk to India on this matter", he remarked. Pakistan wants the Kashmir dispute to be settled within a proper time frame, President Musharraf said. He said regional peace would remain elusive until the Kashmir conundrum was sorted out, he stressed.

Daily Times, 3 September 2004

Portfolios assigned to new cabinet: Sherpao new interior minister

Shaukat Aziz keeps Finance Ministry; Kasuri, Rao retain ministries

Aftab Sherpao, formerly in charge of the Water and Power Ministry, was named Interior minister. Javed Ashraf Qazi, former chief of Inter Service Intelligence, was named Education minister in place of Zobaida Jalal. Rao Sikandar Iqbal remains Defence minister, while Khurshid Kasuri remains Foreign Affairs minister. He is due to visit New Delhi on Saturday to hold peace talks with his Indian counterpart Natwar Singh. The portfolios of ten federal ministers who served in the previous cabinet have been changed. Hectic lobbying for portfolios continued until late Thursday evening, with Faisal Saleh Hayat particularly reluctant to surrender the Interior Ministry. However, sources said, President Pervez Musharraf intervened to decide the portfolios and his decision was accepted. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will retain the Finance Ministry and the rest of Pakistan's economic team remains the same, with Dr Hafeez Sheikh continuing as Privatisation and

Investment minister and Humayun Akhtar Khan as Commerce and Trade minister.

Rao Sikandar Iqbal (Defence), Sheikh Rashid Ahmed (Information), Awais Leghari (Information technology), Habibullah Warraich (Defence Production), Khurshid Kasuri (Foreign Affairs), Ijazul Haq (Religious Affairs), Nasir Khan (Health), Syed Sufwanullah (Housing and Works) and Tahir Iqbal (Environment) also retained the ministries they controlled under Zafarullah Jamali and Shujaat Hussain. Ten ministers got different portfolios. Aftab Sherpao is now Interior minister, Babar Khan Ghauri minister for Ports and Shipping, Faisal Saleh Hayat for Kashmir and Northern Areas, Ghous Bux Mehr for Narcotics Control, Dr Ghazi Gulab Jamal for Tourism, Liaqat Jatoi for Water and Power, Mohammad Ajmal Khan for Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, Nourez Shakoor for Science and Technology, Yar Mohammad Rind for States and Frontier Regions, and Zobaida Jalal for Social Welfare and Special Education. The portfolios of the 11 new federal ministers are: Justice (r) Abdul Razzaq Thahim (Local Government and Rural Development), Amanullah Khan Jadoon (Petroleum and Natural Resources), Ghulam Sarwar Khan (Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis), Javed Ashraf Qazi (Education), Jehangir Khan Tareen (Industry and Production), Waseeh Zafar (Law, Justice and Human Rights), Shamim Siddiqui (Communication), Mushtaq Ali Cheema (Textile Industry), Shamim Haider (Railways), Shahbaz Hussain (Population Welfare), Dr Sher Afgan (Parliamentary Affairs).

Daily Times, 3 September 2004

2 LJ activists arrested

LAHORE: Intelligence agencies have arrested two members of the banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LJ) for allegedly planning to carry out terrorist activities in mosques, intelligence sources told Daily Times on Thursday. A huge quantity of weapons was seized from them. Over a dozen pistols, two AK-47 rifles and 18 rockets with launchers were seized from their Jhang hideout. Liaqat alias Abid of Jhang Sadder and Rauf alias Mitha of Jhang city were arrested from Jhang last week and were shifted to Lahore for interrogation on Thursday. "Both are the LJ activists. They told interrogators

that they were assigned terrorist acts at Shia mosques," sources said. mubasher bukhari

The News, 4 September 2004

President, PM want progress on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz have emphasised that progress on all issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, was essential. The two leaders observed this while attending a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Friday to review the progress of the composite dialogue between India and Pakistan and delineate a strategy to carry the peace process forward. "They reiterated that Pakistan was seriously committed to the promotion of peace and stability in South Asia, which was essential for the development and prosperity of the people of the region," Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said.

The News, 4 September 2004

Pakistan won't hand militants to US: Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Friday reiterated Pakistan's firm resolve to continue its fight against terrorism and asked all foreign terrorists to surrender unconditionally. "We will continue our policy on terrorism in the interest of peace and prosperity of our country and in line with the commitment made to the international community," Rashid said while addressing a press conference here. This was the first press conference by him after taking oath in the new government of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. Rashid also offered all foreign terrorists to surrender and assured that they would not be handed over to any other country.

The News, 4 September 2004

Kashmir will be high on agenda: Khokhar

LAHORE: The Kashmir issue will be high on the agenda of Pakistan-India composite dialogue scheduled to be held on September 5-6 in New Delhi. Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar stated this while talking to newsmen on Friday before his departure to New Delhi. He said the foreign ministers of both the countries would ponder on the eight-point agenda of the composite dialogue on the scheduled dates. Responding to a query vis-à-vis the statement of veteran Kashmiri leader Sardar Qayyum that Kashmir issue had not been on the agenda of the composite dialogue,

Riaz Khokhar made it clear that the issue had been given a priority by Pakistan. He said he didn't want to contradict the senior Kashmiri leader, however, the issue had been the most important part of the composite dialogue. "I have discussed the matter in the last meeting in India as well."

The News, 4 September 2004

Balochistan provides lone female minister

PESHAWAR: There is a lone female minister in Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's bulky 32-member cabinet and she hails from one of Pakistan's most conservative provinces, Balochistan. Zubaida Jalal, dressed as usual in her embroidered, ethnic Baloch dress, was given the place of honour beside the prime minister in the group photo of the cabinet after its first meeting. As the only woman in that picture of her 32 male colleagues, she stood out and understandably attracted greater attention.

The News, 4 September 2004

Karamat in Lahore before leaving for US

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ambassador-designate to the United States General (ret'd) Jehangir Karamat has reached Lahore from London to proceed to Washington to take up his assignment. It is expected that he will leave for the US at the end of this month. Sources told The News here on Friday that Islamabad has already sought the agreema for Karamat posting in the most important capital of the world. Known as gentleman soldier and thorough professional Karamat has accepted the coveted office after great reluctance. These days he was busy in research work in London.

The News, 4 September 2004

Pak-US Joint Working Group meeting ends

ISLAMABAD: The third meeting of the Pakistan-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism and Law Enforcement ended here on Friday with both sides expressing satisfaction over the level of cooperation. During the two-day meeting, in-depth discussions were held on issues relating to law -enforcement, counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, mutual legal assistance, trafficking in persons and capacity building and training. "Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the level of cooperation and reaffirmed their determination to improve such efforts and to work closely in the mutual

interest of both countries," a Foreign Office statement said after the meeting.

The News, 4 September 2004

Muttahida unhappy over allocation of portfolios

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement is unhappy over the allocation of portfolios to its three federal ministers, as it feels that the government has failed to implement on power-sharing formula by bifurcating the Ministry of Communication into Ports and Shipping and Communication. Sources told The News that a power-sharing formula had been reached between the Muttahida and the government in a meeting between the former's leadership with Secretary National Security Council (NSC) Tariq Aziz in London a couple of days ago

Dawn, 5 September 2004

26 ministers of state take oath

ISLAMABAD, Sept 4: One federal minister and 26 ministers of state were inducted into the cabinet on Saturday, bringing the total number of ministers to 59. The ministers were administered the oath by President General Pervez Musharraf at a ceremony at the Aiwan-i-Sadr that was attended among others by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and PML president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. With the induction of Sikandar Hayat Bosan, the number of federal ministers has swelled to 33 in addition to 26 ministers of state. Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Hamid Nasir Chattha and National Reconstruction Bureau chairman Daniyal Aziz have been given the status of federal ministers.

Dawn, 6 September 2004

Defence of Pakistan Day today

ISLAMABAD, Sept 5: The nation will observe Defence of Pakistan Day on Monday with a renewed pledge to sacrifice everything to defend the geographical and ideological frontiers of the country. The armed forces have prepared special programmes to celebrate the day in a befitting manner. Seminars and get-togethers have been planned to pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the country. Political, social and religious organizations will organize seminars to highlight the sacrifices of the armed forces while defending the motherland during the 1965 war. The Defence of Pakistan

Day will start with special prayers for the prosperity and progress of the country. In Lahore, Maj-Gen Bilal Omer Khan, the General Officer Commanding, will lay a floral wreath at the mazar of Allama Iqbal on Monday morning to pay homage to the great poet-philosopher of the East.

Dawn, 6 September 2004

Kashmir settlement key to peace: Aziz

ISLAMABAD, Sept 5: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Sunday expressed confidence that sacrifices rendered by Kashmiris in their struggle for self-determination would bear fruit soon and a just and lasting solution of the issue would be found. Talking to Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, who called on him at the PM's House, Mr Aziz said the government was committed to continuing political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris' struggle. "Our position is that the Kashmir dispute is the core issue in the ongoing dialogue between Pakistan and India. Until a respectable solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with aspirations and wishes of Kashmiri people and the UN resolutions is achieved, both countries cannot achieve objectives of real prosperity and progress," Mr Aziz said.

Dawn, 6 September 2004

Rashid for inclusion of Kashmiris in talks

HYDERABAD, Sept 5: Federal Information Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmad has said that the Kashmiri leadership will have to be included in the ongoing dialogue between India and Pakistan at some stage. He told a news conference at the circuit house here on Sunday that the issue needed to be resolved in accordance with aspirations of people of Kashmir because they were the main stakeholders. He said positive results were being achieved in dialogue with India. About the Shaukat Aziz government, Sheikh Rashid said it had a new spirit and thinking and it would extend a hand of friendship to the opposition and work for the cause of international peace. He did not agree with a questioner that the federal cabinet was too large. He said the main philosophy was to groom youngsters and to prepare them for future responsibilities.

Dawn, 7 August 2004

Aziz vows efforts to carry opposition along: Pledge to be tough on ministers' performance

ISLAMABAD, Sept 6: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has promised to offer an olive branch to opposition parties which boycotted his recent election to the office and vowed to make a 'very serious effort' to seek consensus on national issues. In a panel interview with Dawn on Sunday evening, he promised to be a tough task-master for his newly formed big cabinet and improve policies in what he plans to be a result-driven and 'slightly different style of governance' during more than three years he has as prime minister. In the wide-ranging discussion, he also spoke about the government's economic performance to which he contributed as finance minister for five years as well as plans to improve ties with neighbours and big powers.

Dawn, 7 September 2004

Arrest warrants of Mari, sons reissued

QUETTA, Sept 6: An anti-terrorism court of the city has reissued warrants for the arrest of five persons, including prominent Baloch nationalist leader Nawab Khair Bakhsh Mari and his three sons in a subversive act case. Judge Muhammad Shaukat Rakshani here on Monday strictly directed police to arrest the five persons allegedly nominated in a road mine incident which had claimed two lives. The court has reissued the warrants as none of them appeared before the court to face the trial.

Dawn, 7 September 2004

2 soldiers, tribesman killed in mine blast

WANA, Sept 6: Two soldiers and a tribesman were killed and two others wounded in a landmine explosion in the South Waziristan tribal region on Sunday night. Officials said here on Monday that a device exploded when the personnel of the 25 Engineering Corps were trying to defuse it in the Jag Zawar area, some 25 kilometres north of Wana. Two soldiers and one tribesman, identified as Amir Aman, died on the spot, while one soldier and political Muharrar Aslam Khan sustained injuries. They were taken to the local hospital.

Dawn, 7 September 2004

Balochistan minister withdraws resignation

QUETTA, Sept 6: Provincial Home Minister Mir Mohammad Shoaib Nausherwani unconditionally withdrew his resignation after

meeting Chief Minister Jam Yousaf on Monday. Speaking at a press conference at his residence, the minister said: "I have withdrawn my resignation." The home minister said he had resigned on Friday after differences with the chief minister over some party matters, but at night, senior provincial PML leaders came to his residence and held negotiations on the disputed points.

Dawn, 7 September 2004

Aziz arrives in S. Arabia

JEDDAH, Sept 6: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz arrived in Jeddah on Monday evening, on his first foreign visit after taking over as the head of government. The prime minister and his entourage were received at the airport by Makkah Governor Prince Abdul Majeed. Saudi Information and Culture Minister Dr Foad Al-Farsi is the minister-in-waiting for Mr Aziz during his three-day visit to the kingdom. The prime minister's delegation includes federal Minister for Housing and Works Syed Safwanullah, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao and Minister for Population and Welfare Chaudhry Shehbaz Hussain, Ministers of State Naseer Mengal, Tariq Naseem and Hamid Yar Hiraj. Sindh Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim is also accompanying the prime minister

Dawn, 7 September 2004

ARD to raise uniform issue in NA

ISLAMABAD, Sept 6: The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) has taken strong notice of the statements of senior government functionaries on the issue of Gen Musharraf's uniform and decided to raise the matter in the forthcoming National Assembly session on Friday, sources told Dawn here on Monday. The sources said that seven members of the ARD had submitted an adjournment motion to the National Assembly Secretariat on Monday seeking a discussion on the statement of Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in which he had asked Gen Musharraf not to shed his uniform for another five years. The motion has been filed under Rule 92 of the Rules and Procedures for Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 1992, and has been signed by Raja Pervez Ashraf, Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan, Fauzia Habib, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Syed Naveed Qamar of the People's Party

Parliamentarians (PPP) and Tehmina Daultana and Khwaja Asif of the Pakistan Muslim League-N.

Dawn, 7 September 2004

Shujaat wants Musharraf to stay in uniform

LAHORE, Sept 6: PML President Chaudhry Shujaat Husain on Monday supported his party's Punjab General Council request to President Musharraf that he should not shed his military uniform for another five years, saying it was based on strong arguments. "Terrorism, unemployment and price hike are major problems facing the country at present and only a man of very strong nerves could effectively deal with them," he said, implying that Gen Musharraf alone was the person who could steer the country out of the difficult situation. Chaudhry Shujaat, who has come to Lahore for the first time after the end of his two-month rule as prime minister, said this while talking briefly to Dawn at his residence.

Dawn, 7 September 2004

96pc people want me as COAS: President

ISLAMABAD, Sept 6: President Pervez Musharraf on Monday said the vast majority of Pakistanis do not want him to quit the post of the army chief and become a civilian ruler. "You should go and ask the people, 96 per cent will say 'should not shed' the uniform," General Musharraf, who has held the dual posts of army chief and president since June 2001, told a private television channel. Gen Musharraf has agreed to give up his military uniform by Dec 31 under a deal with a powerful religious political alliance. In return, the alliance supported a parliamentary vote to approve controversial changes to the Constitution which empowered the president to sack the government and dissolve elected parliament.

Dawn, 8 September 2004

MMA seeks debate on uniform issue

ISLAMABAD Sept 7: The Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal has submitted an adjournment motion seeking a debate on a recent resolution passed by the Punjab chapter of the Pakistan Muslim League and the statement of the Punjab chief minister urging the president to keep the office of chief of army staff for five more years. The adjournment motion, submitted in the National Assembly secretariat, has been signed by

Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal's president Qazi Hussain Ahmed, secretary-general Maulana Fazlur Rahman, MNAs Liaqat Baloch, Hafiz Hussain Ahmed, Mian Mohammad Aslam, Mohammad Hussain Mehnati, Fareed Paracha, Asadullah Bhutto, Dr Ataur Rahman and Sahibzada Haroonur Rashid.

Dawn, 8 September 2004

Pakistan will undertake 20 projects in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Sept 7: Pakistan has agreed to undertake 20 projects in Afghanistan at a cost of \$476.82 million especially to help improve airports, civil aviation, roads and highways, housing and urban renewal schemes, officials say. They said here on Tuesday that the Afghan ministry of water and power had finalized a list of 58 projects to be undertaken in Afghanistan. The government wanted the National Engineering Services Pakistan to prepare feasibility studies for various development projects in Afghanistan but Nespak had picked up 20 out of 58 projects saying it possessed expertise for limited projects.

Dawn, 8 September 2004

Pakistan, S. Arabia to boost trade ties

JEDDAH, Sept 8: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday discussed the possibility of opening a Pakistani bank in Saudi Arabia, Pakistani sources told Dawn after meetings between Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and the Saudi leadership. Foreign banks are not allowed in the kingdom; hence no Pakistani bank is currently operating here. A Pakistani bank in the kingdom, sources said, would facilitate remittances through official channels. The two countries agreed that in order to promote bilateral commercial relations, the Saudi Commerce Minister would visit Pakistan within a year. Investment opportunities in Pakistan were also discussed at the meetings.

Dawn, 8 September 2004

Musharraf and Putin pledge to fight terror

MOSCOW, Sept 7: Russian and Pakistani leaders Vladimir Putin and Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday agreed to intensify their governments' efforts in the fight against terrorism following the Beslan siege. In telephone consultations initiated by Islamabad, the presidents "confirmed a mutual desire to

step up joint efforts to eradicate international terrorism and suppress sources of its financing", a Kremlin spokesman said Gen Musharraf sent condolences to Putin and the Russian people over the deaths of at least 335 hostages and security personnel in the recent events in North Ossetia

Dawn, 8 September 2004

No interference in affairs of madressahs: Musharraf assures ulema

ISLAMABAD, Sept 7: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday assured religious leaders that the government would not interfere in the affairs of madaris and would resolve the issue of degrees issued by the country's leading religious institutions. He was talking to a delegation of ulema of the Ittehad Tanzimat Madaris Deenia (ITMD), representing five prominent religious institutions, who met him for over three and a half hours at his Rawalpindi camp office. President Musharraf made it clear to the ulema that there was no foreign pressure of any kind on his government to harass or control religious schools in the country.

Dawn, 8 September 2004

Musharraf's uniform a secondary issue: Altaf

PESHAWAR, Sept 7: Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain has said that whether President Gen Pervez Musharraf remains in uniform or decides to doff it is a secondary issue because every government in Pakistan has sought protection of the military uniform. Speaking at the Peshawar Press Club's 'Meet the Press' programme here on Tuesday, he said the issue of uniform would be there as long as a people's government was not established in the country. Every ruler in the past had sought the help of the 'uniform' and compromised on principles, he added.

Daily Times, 9 September 2004

8 killed by Army in Wana shootout

WANA: Eight people were killed and nine were injured on Wednesday in an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in Wana near the Afghan border, officials said. The clash occurred after a military vehicle hit a landmine during a patrol. The exchange of fire erupted soon after the explosion in which three soldiers were injured. The army said those killed were militants but witnesses said

they were "innocent tribesmen." A doctor at Scouts Hospital in Wana said that six bodies were received but tribal sources said two more civilians among the 11 wounded died later.

Daily Times, 9 September 2004

Govt team drafts bill on Musharraf's uniform

LAHORE: The government's constitutional wizard Sharifuddin Pirzada has drafted a bill to amend the law to keep President General Pervez Musharraf in both his presidential and Army offices till April 2007, government sources told Daily Times on Wednesday. "The bill will be implemented through an ordinance or a simple majority approval by parliament in the next few days," sources said. Sources said other legal experts tried to persuade Mr Pirzada that Article 41(7) of the 17th amendment was enough to ensure that President Musharraf kept both offices, but he insisted on drafting the bill.

Daily Times, 9 September 2004

'Avoid Dubai hotels used by RAW'

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government has directed its officials not to stay in four Dubai hotels which it says are being used by the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) for undercover operations. Highly-placed official sources told Daily Times that it had been confirmed that the Astoria Hotel, Ambassador Hotel, Taj Hotel and Sea View Hotel in Dubai were being used by RAW. Sources said close bilateral relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) necessitate Pakistani officials to visit Dubai often and official delegations stay at various hotels.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Air raid on camp kills 50 foreign, local militants: 'Training centre' near Wana eliminated

WANA, Sept 9: Air Force planes on Thursday bombed what the military called a terrorist training facility in the South Waziristan Agency, killing at least 50 foreign and local militants. Private TV channels and foreign news agencies put the toll at over 60. Official sources in Peshawar told Dawn that F-7s jets began the operation at around 6am and dropped bombs on the terrorist training camp in Bad Awaz Garang in the Kaikhel area, about 70km to the northwest of Wana, the

regional headquarters of South Waziristan. The raid lasted about an hour, the sources said. "It was a confirmed training camp. There was no doubt about it," an official said. The air strikes left about 50 dead and 20 wounded, the official said and added: "These are estimates. We do not have any confirmed casualty figure yet."

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Tribesmen vow not to give shelter to foreigners

MIRANSHAH, Sept 9: Tribal representatives in the North Waziristan tribal agency on Thursday signed an agreement with the administration, pledging that they would not provide shelter to foreign militants. Under the agreement, any tribesman found guilty of breaching the accord would pay Rs5 million fine, would be expelled from the agency and his house would be demolished. The agreement was signed at a jirga which was addressed by Assistant Political Agent Mohammad Riaz Mahsud who said that no tribesman would be allowed to provide shelter to foreigners.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Aziz calls for steps to boost power output

ISLAMABAD Sept 9: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Thursday called for adopting a proactive policy to boost power generation to meet growing demand of electricity in the country. He was presiding over a meeting to review the demand and supply situation of electricity and gas in the country. Punjab Governor made a presentation on the supply and demand of gas and electricity in different parts of Punjab. The prime minister directed the private power investment board to double its efforts to solicit investment in the power generation sector.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Shahbaz's family delays return

LAHORE, Sept 9: Former Punjab chief minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif's wife and two daughters, who were expected to come to Pakistan on Thursday, have put off their plan and are waiting for government's permission to travel to the country. The family has approached President Pervez Musharraf and Information Minister Sheikh Rashid hopes that the permission will be granted

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Delivery of 20 Mashak to S. Arabia by year-end

KARACHI, Sept 9: Delivery of 20 Super Mashak aircraft to Saudi Arabia will commence towards the end of this year. This was stated by Maj-Gen Syed Ali Hamid, director-general of the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO), at a news conference held to announce the programme and objectives of the four-day extravaganza of military hardware, Ideas 2004. Gen Hamid did not give the total amount of the deal with Saudi Arabia which also includes maintenance clause, but said it would go a long way in boosting export of the aircraft manufactured by the PAC Kamra.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Musharraf aide likely to meet Dixit

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9: President Gen Pervez Musharraf's close confidant and Secretary of National Security Council Tariq Aziz will meet his Indian counterpart J.N. Dixit in New Delhi this week to prepare for the President's first meeting with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in New York later this month, it is learnt. President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are scheduled to hold talks on Sept 22 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. Lack of progress on the key issue of Jammu and Kashmir during the recently concluded foreign ministers' talks in Delhi is also said to have prompted the Aziz-Dixit meeting, sources told Dawn.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Prominent local figure killed in camp attack

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9: Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan, said on Thursday that most of those killed in the air attack on a training camp in South Waziristan were foreign militants, including Chechens, Uzbeks and Arabs. Speaking to Dawn, the ISPR DG said a prominent local figure who was helping foreign militants in the tribal area was also killed in the attack. However, he did not disclose the identity of the local facilitator.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Islamization of laws, seats for special people sought : NWFP assembly adopts resolutions

PESHAWAR, Sept 9: The NWFP Assembly on Thursday adopted resolutions, demanding seats for special people in national and provincial assemblies, reduction in telephone line rent, construction of a sanatorium in Swat and Islamization of laws as recommended by the Council of Islamic Ideology. The session, summoned on the request of the combined opposition, was presided over by Deputy Speaker Ikramullah Shahid. The four resolutions, passed unanimously, had been tabled by Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani and Nisar Safdar of the Pakistan Muslim League and Pir Mohammad Khan and Khalid Waqar Chamkani of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

Kashmir body wants LoC fence removed

ISLAMABAD Sept 9: The special parliamentary committee on Kashmir has demanded that India should demolish the fence forthwith it had erected along the Line of Control (LoC). The demand was made in a unanimous resolution adopted at a committee meeting, with Hamid Nasir Chattha in the chair, here on Thursday. It advised the Indian government to dismantle the fence before Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC pull it down.

Dawn, 10 September 2004

AJK premier loses support of 11 legislators

MUZAFFARABAD, Sept 9: AJK Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat suffered a blow on Thursday as an 11-member 'like-minded group' of Muslim Conference lawmakers announced withdrawal of its support to him and called for fresh election of the ruling party's parliamentary leader. "We don't have confidence in the prime minister and today we withdraw our support to him. Obviously, it means he has lost the trust of majority in the house and should therefore step down to pave way for the election of party's new parliamentary leader," said Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, a spokesman for the group, at a news conference attended by eight lawmakers.

Dawn, 11 September 2004

Talks under way on Balochistan issue: Musharraf - Demand for provincial autonomy backed

QUETTA, Sept 10: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Friday that negotiations with elders were in progress and promised

more efforts to find a political solution of the Balochistan problem. Addressing a press conference on his arrival here on a two-day visit, the president said that Balochistan Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani had already met representatives of different groups. "I am hopeful about the resolution of all problems. However, there will be no negotiations with those elements who are against the integrity of Pakistan and such elements will be crushed. We will also not make any dealing with anti-development elements," he declared.

Dawn, 11 September 2004

ARD asks MMA to renounce 17th Amendment

ISLAMABAD, Sept 10: The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) has ruled out any possibility of cooperation with the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) on the uniform issue till the religious alliance accepts the responsibility for the present situation and announces launching of a struggle against the 17th Amendment. Briefing newsmen after an emergency meeting of the ARD here on Friday, Secretary-General Iqbal Zafar Jhagra said the ARD believed that the real issue was not Gen Musharraf's uniform but the whole 17th Amendment.

Dawn, 11 September 2004

Govt offers dialogue on Waziristan situation

ISLAMABAD, Sept 10: The government on Friday offered a renewed dialogue with opposition on ways to tackle violence in the tribal region bordering Afghanistan but told the National Assembly that it would not allow terrorism on the country's soil. Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao also assured a noisy sitting of the lower house that the military action in the South Waziristan agency was directed against foreign militants hiding there and not the local population. Opposition protests against the latest operation in the region and President Pervez Musharraf's military uniform marked the opening of the first regular lower house session after Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz took office about two weeks ago.

Dawn, 11 September 2004

Six militants, three army men killed

WANA, Sept 10: Six militants and three army men, including a captain, were killed in a pre-

dawn encounter on Friday in South Waziristan. Official sources in Peshawar confirmed the army casualty in the clash with militants in Karwan Manza, about 72km from here. Two army jawans were wounded. The dead and the wounded were first taken to the Government High School in Kanigoram and later flown to the army brigade headquarters in Wana. Local tribesmen, however, put the army casualties at seven, including Captain Suhail, but Director-General of ISPR, Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan, said the figure was less than seven. "There have been casualties but the figure is less than seven," he told Dawn.

Dawn, 11 September 2004

Islamabad, Riyadh promise to jointly fight terror

ISLAMABAD, Sept 10: Saudi Ambassador Ali Awadh Asseri said here on Friday that the leadership of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are absolutely determined to eliminate terrorism and in this regard their security agencies and interior ministries are working in close cooperation. Ambassador Asseri said this at a special news briefing on the recent visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to Saudi Arabia. Referring to prime minister's meetings with the Saudi leadership, he said: "The two leadership showed absolute determination to continue cooperating to eliminate the curse of terrorism from the two countries.

Dawn, 11 September 2004

India urged to grasp opportunity for peace: Rashid believes Osama is dead

KARACHI, Sept 10: Pakistan will go extra mile for the success of composite dialogue with India, on all issues including Kashmir, and will do nothing to vitiate the environment for normalization of relations. This was stated by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed at the "meet the press" programme of the Karachi Press Club here on Friday. He said Pakistan wanted to resolve the protracted Kashmir dispute through talks and would continue negotiations with India until there was some hope. "We do not want to take the responsibility for the failure of these talks despite the statements issued by Foreign Minister Natwar Singh and other Indian leaders," he said.

Dawn, 12 September 2004

Musharraf rules out rollback of N-plan

QUETTA, Sept 11: President Pervez Musharraf has said that Pakistan would not rollback its nuclear programme and would instead further improve it. Speaking to the officers and jawans at the Garrison Darbar here on Saturday, the president said during the last three to four years the government spent more amount on improving its nuclear capability than the spending made during last 30 years. He said all defence requirements were being met for making the country secure and stable. The president said a strategy for the next 15 years had been chalked out to augment the country's defence.

Dawn, 12 September 2004

Fazl warns of Jihad over tribal action: Issue can be resolved within days

ISLAMABAD Sept 11: The Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) Secretary-General and leader of opposition in the National Assembly, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rahman warned on Saturday that the moment the MMA gave a call to tribesmen to wage a jihad against state atrocities, the country would turn into another Iraq. Speaking at a protest rally against US policies towards the Muslim world, especially after the Sept 11 attacks on its landmarks, the Maulana strongly condemned the firing of guided missiles by the Pakistani forces and airstrikes against tribesmen which killed a large number of people. He said the MMA had stopped the tribesmen from starting a guerilla war against the Pakistan Army in tribal areas. He claimed that MMA representatives from tribal areas could resolve the matter within days by holding talks with tribesmen.

Dawn, 12 Septmeber 2004

Wana dead included 25 local militants

WANA, Sept 11: About 25 victims, who were killed in an airstrike on Budawaz Garang in the Luddah sub-division in the troubled South Waziristan region, were identified as local tribal militants and common tribesmen on Saturday. About 50 people had been killed when PAF aircraft and gunships bombed a suspected militant training facility in the area on Thursday morning. Residents confirmed that so far six bodies of children, including four students, had been recovered from the site of the bombing. They took their bodies after identification in the Luddah Fort on Saturday.

Dawn, 12 September 2004

Terrorist information to be shared with Russia

MOSCOW, Sept 11: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Saturday that his country would more actively share its intelligence with Russia to assist in fighting terrorism, news reports said. "Our intelligence service will be more actively providing Russia with its information for catching terrorists. Sharing information is crucial in fighting terrorism," Mr Kasuri said in Moscow, where he was on a brief stopover en route to Tajikistan, according to the Interfax news agency.

The NEws, 13 September 2004

368 Pakistanis freed from Afghan jail

KABUL: Hundreds of Pakistanis jailed for fighting alongside the Taliban were released from an Afghan prison on Sunday, a major gesture meant to help soothe the neighbour countries' touchy relations. Pakistani officials met the 368 prisoners as they filed out of Pule-Charki jail in the Afghan capital, smiling and clutching plastic bags with a few belongings. "They could have done this much sooner," Pakistani Ambassador Rustam Shah Mohmand said of the Afghans' release of the prisoners. "Still, I appreciate it, and the Afghan and Pakistani governments want to have good relations."

The News, 13 September 2004

N-control bill to be introduced in NA today

ISLAMABAD: The government will introduce a nuclear control bill in the National Assembly on Monday (today) and push for its enactment the same day. The bill seeks 14 years jail and Rs 5 million fine in addition to confiscation of properties of the guilty nuclear scientists and others. The purpose of the bill is to safeguard national security and foreign policy objectives and to fulfil the country's international obligations as a responsible nuclear weapon state and check the proliferation of nuclear and biological weapons and missiles capable of delivering such weapons. According to available official papers to be laid in the House on Monday, the government will ask MPs to approve the nuclear control bill without any change and without referring it to the House committee.

The News, 13 September 2004

10 dead in attack on militant hideouts near Wana

WANA: Up to ten people were killed in fierce fighting between security forces and al-Qaeda-linked fighters on Sunday, the Military said. Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan said six to eight people were killed in clashes with the security forces in South Waziristan. He added the forces also suffered a "few" casualties but declined to provide details. An unnamed government official said two soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in the latest fighting. Witnesses said the security forces backed by helicopter gunships and artillery attacked suspected hideouts of the militants in the mountains surrounding Laddha, 50 km north of Wana, and nearby areas in South Waziristan.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

Waziristan clashes leave eight dead

WANA/MIRAMSHAH, Sept 13: Clashes between security forces and armed Mahsud tribesmen in the South Waziristan tribal region have claimed eight more lives, independent sources said on Monday. Tension is high in the North Waziristan region where terrified tribesmen were leaving their homes in the Razmak sub-division for safe places elsewhere. Eyewitnesses said that a large number of families, mostly women and children, were seen heading towards Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts. Meanwhile, fresh enforcements have been sent from Miramshah to Razmak close to the Makin bazaar. Reports said that three houses came under artillery shelling in the Makin area and the eight people, including a woman and three children, were killed. There are no figures about the wounded.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

Larson, Aziz discuss \$3 billion package

ISLAMABAD, Sept 13: United States Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agriculture Affairs Alan Larson on Monday discussed a \$3 billion economic package and funds for defence co-operation, education, health and social sector with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. Talking to Mr Larson, who had called on him at Prime Minister's House, Mr Aziz expressed appreciation for the economic support from the US and said the funds would

be utilized in the health, education and services sectors.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

'Arms for peace' expo opens: President vows to guard national honour

KARACHI, Sept 13: President General Pervez Musharraf said here on Monday that Pakistan had no offensive designs against any country and only wanted to safeguard its honour and integrity. Inaugurating Ideas-2004 defence exhibition at the Expo Centre, the president said maintaining conventional and non-conventional weapons was a guarantee for peace in the region. "Our arms are for peace," he added. He said the Ideas reflected the government's efforts to energize commercial and economic activities in the country through export of defence products. A robust defence manufacturing industry helps in reducing dependence on others. "We are now looking for the defence export joint venture and collaboration with foreign countries."

Dawn, 14 September 2004

Relations with Dushanbe to be boosted: PM - Road link idea welcomed

DUSHANBE, Sept 13: Pakistan and Tajikistan on Monday reaffirmed a mutual desire to enhance trade and economic ties as Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz held cordial and constructive meetings with the Tajik leaders on a broad range of subjects. Prime Minister Aziz told newsmen after meetings with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmonov and his Tajik counterpart Aqilov Aqil Ghayduloyezich that both countries had a firm desire to establish communications link. "We will carry out a survey for a road link with Tajikistan and the Tajik leaders are excited and have expressed their support for this idea," he said. Mr Aziz, who met President Rahmonov for over an hour on the eve of Economic Cooperation Organization (Eco) summit, said it had been decided that Pakistan would open a branch of Habib Bank in Tajikistan.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

Missile craft launched

KARACHI, Sept 13: "Pakistan Navy has achieved yet another milestone in the indigenous construction of naval platform and has made a quantum leap towards self-reliance in building missile crafts by utilizing

indigenous resources." This was stated by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Shahid Karimullah while speaking at the launching ceremony of Fast Attack Missile Craft 'Quwwat' at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works on Monday. He said protection of national maritime interests for a sustained economic growth required a strong and balanced navy. The successful launching of the missile craft is an important step in this direction and will help strengthen the country's seaward defence due to availability of additional combat platforms.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

Musharraf gets support from Punjab PA: Resolution on uniform issue

LAHORE, Sept 13: Amid opposition walkout, the Punjab Assembly on Monday adopted with a majority vote a resolution urging Gen Pervez Musharraf to continue keeping the office of president and army chief simultaneously. Opposing the resolution, opposition leader Qasim Zia regretted that the leader of the house was engaged in protecting uniform of the army ruler instead of protecting people's rights. He said the opposition was ready to extend a helping hand to the treasury if the latter dissociated itself from serving army generals. Mr Zia alleged that the chief minister was telling those who had made him (the chief minister) how to remain in power.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

150 foreigners killed so far during operation: ISPR

KARACHI, Sept 13: More than 150 foreign militants were killed in tribal areas since the operation was launched by the Pakistan army and 60 since Thursday in South Waziristan. This was stated by Major General Shaukat Sultan, director general of the Inter-Services Public Relations during the 'meet the press' programme of the Karachi Press Club on Monday. He said that three security personnel had been killed in the area since Thursday. He said that no civilian had been killed in assaults on militants' hideouts. Nevertheless, he said that despite utmost efforts to avoid collateral damage some civilians were killed earlier in one of the operations but the government had compensated and the president had expressed regrets.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

2 Afghans indicted for rocket attacks

PESHAWAR, Sept 13: An anti-terrorism court here on Monday indicted two alleged Afghan terrorists for rocket attacks on Peshawar. The accused, Bedar Gul, son of Taza Gul, and Nadir, son of Ibraheem, pleaded not guilty to the offence and decided to defend themselves. The court, presided over by Akhter Zareef Khan, fixed Sept 28 for next hearing and summoned prosecution witnesses for that date. The accused are charged with firing four rockets at different targets on March 23. The police also claimed that on their pointation they had recovered two live Russian-made rockets of 107mm from a deserted location in the jurisdiction of Pishtakhara police station.

Dawn, 14 September 2004

Prisoners freed by Kabul sent to jail

PESHAWAR, Sept 13: A batch of 364 prisoners, set free from Afghanistan's Pul-i-Charkhi jail on Sunday, were sent to the central jail here on Sunday night. Talking to Dawn on Monday, NWFP Home Secretary Abdul Karim Kasuria said that soon after their arrival at the Torkham checkpoint, the prisoners were taken to the Peshawar Central Jail for a 'debriefing session'. Later they would be sent to their provinces for further investigation, the home secretary said. According to a breakdown provided by the jail authorities, 181 prisoners belonged to Punjab, 78 to Sindh, 90 to the NWFP, four to Northern Areas, seven to Azad Kashmir, three to Balochistan and one came from Islamabad.

Dawn, 15 September 2004

Musharraf not bound to quit army, NA told

ISLAMABAD, Sept 14: The government told the National Assembly on Tuesday that President Pervez Musharraf was not bound to give up his army post by Dec 31. The position was explained by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sher Afgan Niazi and Law Minister Mohammad Wasi Zafar before Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain ruled out of order four identical privilege motions moved by opposition members against statements by some ruling coalition leaders urging the president to continue to hold his army post. The members complained that these statements as well as one by the president himself that 96 per cent people wanted him to stay in uniform were in violation of the

constitution and breached the privilege of the National Assembly.

Dawn, 15 September 2004

NA passes bill to tighten N-controls: Bid to meet UN requirement

ISLAMABAD, Sept 14: The government on Tuesday rushed through the National Assembly a bill designed to curb nuclear proliferation amid objections by the opposition. The bill bans export of materials or technology related to nuclear and chemical weapons and its violation will be punishable with up to 14 years in prison, a fine of up to Rs5 million and forfeiture of assets. The opposition objected to the government's rush to have the bill passed without waiting for the report of a National Assembly standing committee, though they said that by and large they supported the aims of the law.

Dawn, 15 September 2004

PM seeks action on Eco pacts

DUSHANBE, Sept 14: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Tuesday spelt out a five-point strategy to realize Economic Cooperation Organization's (Eco) goals of economic integration. Addressing the Eco summit here, he said the organization's policies must be result-oriented and called for devising a mechanism to ensure their implementation. Elaborating on the strategy to achieve Eco goals, the prime minister stressed the need for operationalizing the Eco trade agreement, transit transport agreement and the Eco Trade and Development Bank at the earliest. He said the member countries should fully utilize the dynamism and initiative of the private sector and linkages with other regional blocs on a priority basis. Referring to challenges of globalization, he said: "We should overcome our shortcomings and harness our resources to become globally competitive."

Dawn, 15 September 2004

Fighting intensifies in S. Waziristan

WANA/MIRAMSHAH, Sept 14: Fighting between army troops and militants in several parts of the South Waziristan region intensified on Tuesday and there are reports of massive casualties on both sides. Jet planes and helicopter gunships carried out strikes in the Makin, Tauda China, Sher Koat and Shobikhel areas where, sources said, militants were offering resistance to security forces.

Large-scale evacuation of families has been reported from the areas, with people heading towards Razmak in the North Waziristan region. According to unofficial reports, about 500 families have left the area.

Dawn, 15 September 2004

'Omar called Washington to seek evidence against Osama'

PESHAWAR, Sept 14: Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taliban's supreme leader, had initiated a phone call to Washington - his only known direct contact with US officials - two days after President Clinton sent cruise missiles to destroy Osama bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan in 1998, according to documents just posted on its website by the Washington-based National Security Archive. According to the declassified documents, obtained by the archives through the Freedom of Information Act, Mullah Omar denied knowing of any "evidence that Bin Laden had engaged in or planned any terrorist acts while on Afghan soil".

Dawn, 15 September 2004

Amnesty offer to militants renewed

PESHAWAR, Sept 14: The government has renewed its amnesty offer to all foreign terror suspects hiding in some areas of the South Waziristan region. According to a handout, the offer was reiterated at a jirga comprising 200 elders of different sub-tribes of the main Ahmadzai Wazirs of South Waziristan who had called on Governor Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah here on Monday. "We have been repeatedly telling these people to come out of hiding, prove their identity and furnish guarantee of their local sponsors and live peacefully," the governor said. The government would not tolerate "irresponsible, negative and terrorist posture" of these elements and would take harsh measures if they did not change their attitude.

Dawn, 15 September 2004

Pakistan may get some F-16s, says PAF chief

KARACHI, Sept 14: Pakistan may expect some F-16s from the US while delivery of two of the six C-130s is expected in December. This was stated by the air force chief Air Marshall Kaleem Sadat in a briefing at the Ideas 2004 exhibition of military hardware here on Tuesday. He said that Pakistan had

asked for 70 F-16s but the Americans had indicated that they might settle for 18 but that might happen after the US Presidential elections. Referring to the difficulties Pakistan had to face due to stringent political decisions by the US administration, he said that the Pakistan Air Force was looking for various options to meet its high-tech requirements. He said that Swedish Griffin and China's F-10 remained leading contenders. "Whichever of these aircraft is selected, it will meet our high-tech requirements," he said.

The Nation, 16 September 2004

NWFP PA asks Musharraf to leave one slot
PESHAWAR – The NWFP Assembly Wednesday adopted a resolution asking President General Pervez Musharraf to choose one of the offices of army chief and President of Pakistan by December 31, 2004, as the opposition members continued shouting and uproar. The resolution, moved by Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarians Abdul Akbar Khan, also termed the Punjab Assembly's resolution regarding the President's uniform as unconstitutional. The ruling Mutahidda Majlis-e-Amal, Awami National Party, Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarians, Pakistan Muslim League-N, Independent MPAs and one of the PPP-S MPAs Israrullah Khan Gandapur supported the resolution while the Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan People's Party along with opposition leader in the NWFP Assembly Shehzada Gustasap Khan opposed it.

The Nation, 16 September 2004

500 Qaeda men nabbed after 9/11

LAHORE - More than 500 Al-Qaeda suspects have been nabbed from various parts of the country following the 9/11 incidents while many of them were handed over to the USA for interrogation, official sources Wednesday told The Nation. The intelligence agencies, sources said, backed by FBI agents and police started conducting raids against the extremists in early 2002. Though the official spokesman of the Pakistan government claimed that no FBI agent took part any operation. "At least 100 suspects were held for their alleged links with the Al-Qaeda network in the first week of April 2002 from Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore. Out of them, 21 belonging to an outlawed Islamic militant group, were picked up from Islamabad and Rawalpindi and sent to

Mansehra for interrogation. Another two Tunisian militants were held from Lahore with automatic weapons and documents. The authorities also rounded up a British-trained Orthopaedic surgeon Dr Amir Aziz and held him for a month on the charges of having links with Al-Qaeda.

The News, 16 September 2004

Mehsud tribe may face economic curbs

PESHAWAR: The government is likely to impose economic sanctions against Mehsud tribe of the South Waziristan tribal agency under the collective tribal responsibility clause of the Frontier Crimes Regulation. Governor NWFP Iftikhar Hussain Shah in a meeting with 300 Mehsud elders and religious scholars at the Governor's House here on Tuesday night, hinted that the tribe might face economic blockade like the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe, said a handout. "The recently trouble erupted in Mehsud area if not resolved immediately may lead to Wana like situation including economic sanctions, causing difficulties to the people," the governor remarked. He urged upon the elders to realise their responsibilities and play their role in avoiding more damages to the area.

The News, 16 September 2004

US agrees to Karamat's appointment

ISLAMABAD: The US government has formally agreed to the appointment of former army chief Gen (retd) Jehangir Karamat as Pakistan's ambassador to Washington. An "agreema" (diplomatic acceptance of an ambassador) has also been sent to Islamabad in this regard. The retired general will be taking up the post shortly that was fallen vacant due to the appointment of Pakistan's ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi as the special envoy of the UN secretary general for Iraq last month. The News has learnt through credible sources that General Jehangir is leaving for the United States Monday next to take up his new assignment informally. Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has confirmed receiving "agreema" early this week. The general will be leaving for the States from Lahore. He will join President Musharraf in Manhattan, New York.

The News, 16 September 2004

Pak-China deal on frigates after finalising loan modalities: CNS

KARACHI: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Shahid Karimullah on Wednesday said the Pakistan Navy was endeavouring for a \$750 million non-commercial loan from China and talks were under way to finalise the loan agreement for building four frigates with Chinese collaboration. "After the agreement is finalised the first frigate will be with us after four years and all the four will be with the PN in 13 years," he said, while addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing defence exhibition, IDEAS-2004, at the Expo Centre here. Admiral Karimullah also said that the Pakistan Navy was a part of a maritime plan to curb terrorism, human trafficking and narcotics smuggling with a destroyer and helicopters within the country's territorial limits and in the international waters, he said.

Dawn, 16 September 2004

Bodies formed to find political solution: Balochistan, Wana problems

ISLAMABAD, Sept 15: The government on Wednesday constituted special committees to find a political solution to the situation in Wana and Balochistan. This was stated here on Wednesday by Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. He told newsmen that the amnesty offered by the government to foreign terrorists in Wana would continue and they would not be handed over to any country if they surrendered. "But a bullet will be responded with a bullet," he warned and said the political option would move side by side with the military option. The operation in Wana would continue along with talks. He said the decision had been taken at a high-level meeting held at the President's Camp Office. It was presided over by President Pervez Musharraf and attended by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and four chief ministers, federal ministers and senior officials.

Dawn, 16 September 2004

Militants maintain pressure on troops

WANA, Sept 15: Tribal militants maintained pressure on security forces in different parts of South Waziristan for the seventh day on Wednesday. Reports reaching here from the region quoted informed sources as saying that bodies of six soldiers and 11 wounded troops had been airlifted from Luddah Fort near the Makin bazaar, which has been under a security siege for several days. Official sources here

said the soldiers belonged to the 44 Baloch Regiment and were taken to Peshawar in two helicopters. It was not clear when and where the casualties occurred, but there are suggestions that these were linked to the Tuesday evening's ambush of a military convoy near Jandola.

Dawn, 16 September 2004

'China may give \$750m loan for frigates'

KARACHI, Sept 15: Pakistan was in the process of negotiating a \$750 million preferential loan from China for procurement and construction of four P-22 frigates for the Pakistan Navy. This was stated by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Shahid Karimullah in a news conference on the sidelines of the Ideas 2004 here on Wednesday. He said other aspects of the negotiations with China for the project were complete and only the availability of loan was delaying the commissioning of the project. If the funding aspect was resolved then it would take at least four years to induct the first of the four frigates. The span of the project was estimated to be spread over 13 years when the fourth frigate would be delivered, he said.

Dawn, 17 September 2004

Army post for president key to stability: Aziz

ISLAMABAD, Sept 16: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that President Pervez Musharraf's 'expected' decision to retain his army post beyond Dec 31 will be in the interest of the country's stability and solidarity. Talking to newsmen after inaugurating the Burhan section of the Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway on Thursday, he said: "There is no provision in the constitution that bars the president from retaining the office of COAS. Yet, we will go ahead and take whatever legal process required in this connection." When asked if such a decision would not amount to going back on a commitment made by General Musharraf last year that he would definitely take off his uniform by Dec 31, 2004, Mr Aziz said: "No. The interests of the country are more important than anything else. We must support what is best and is in the interest of Pakistan and we must all welcome it."

Dawn, 17 September 2004

'Weapons not being sold to underground organizations'

KARACHI, Sept 16: Pakistan was not selling arms to underground organizations, declared Secretary Defence Production Air Marshal (rtd) Zahid Anis who also disclosed that an automated air defence system would become operational soon. "We don't sell arms to underground organizations to just make a few million dollars more. It has never been our policy. We sell after certification of end user," he said at a news conference here on Thursday. "Our defence exports are on government-to-government certification and documentation, and are done through Defence Production Division and Defence Export Promotion Organization," he added.

Dawn, 17 September 2004

Militants to free soldier

WANA, Sept 16: A soldier who had been captured during an attack on a military convoy in the Sarwekai area of South Waziristan on Tuesday was to be released, a tribal militants' commander said on Thursday. Talking to Dawn on phone from an unknown location, Abdullah Mahsud said that the soldier, Mohammad Shaban, would be freed 'on humanitarian grounds' in response to an appeal from his parents. "We will free him in the presence of journalists," he said and invited local media men to the troubled Luddah area to witness the release. However, he did not say when the soldier would be freed.

Dawn, 17 September 2004

Journalists allowed to visit Wana

ISLAMABAD, Sept 16: The government has allowed journalists to visit Wana, the regional headquarters of South Waziristan, to ascertain and project facts about presence of foreign militants and the ongoing operation by security forces there. Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told reporters at a press conference here on Thursday that the government had decided to facilitate journalists who wanted to go to Wana to cover the ground realities there. "Although the government would facilitate the media-persons in having access to Wana, both local and foreign journalists can visit the town by their own arrangement," he said.

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Musharraf says people want him in uniform: 'No idea where Osama is'

WASHINGTON, Sept 17: President Gen Pervez Musharraf has claimed that "a vast majority of the Pakistani people want me in uniform". In an interview with the Washington Post, appearing in the internet edition of the daily on Thursday, the president said "conditions in the country have changed" since Dec 24 last. "It's primarily the security of Pakistan, the internal conditions," he said in the interview given at the Army House in Rawalpindi. "There's too much happening around," he said, citing terrorist threats. The president said he had not made a final decision and noted that he had until the end of the year to make up his mind. He said that if "perceptions change that I have been weakened" as a consequence of giving up the post of army chief, "may be it won't be good for Pakistan".

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Minister withdraws resolution on uniform

QUETTA, Sept 18: The Balochistan Home Minister, Mir Mohammad Shoaib Nausherwani, has withdrawn a resolution he had submitted to the provincial assembly secretariat requesting President Pervez Musharraf to retain the office of the chief of army staff. According to officials of the secretariat, the minister had personally submitted the resolution on Wednesday, but on Thursday night he informed officials of the assembly that he wanted to withdraw the resolution. "He has not given any reason for withdrawing his resolution," sources in the assembly secretariat said on Friday. However, government sources said that the minister had submitted the resolution without consulting Chief Minister Jam Mir Mohammad Yousuf and other leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League.

Dawn, 18 September 2004

ISI recruitment bill criticized

ISLAMABAD, Sept 17: A government bill designed to let the country's top intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, recruit its own civilian officers came under fire on Friday as it was taken up in the National Assembly. Two opposition members, who initiated the general debate on the bill, said taking such recruitments out of the Federal Public Service Commission purview would compromise the rule of merit and give too much powers to an agency already perceived

to be overly intrusive in national affairs. But a statement of objects and reasons accompanying the Federal Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill said the move to take ISI posts out of the FPSC purview was "in the larger interest of the country" to find suitable hands for sensitive jobs.

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Only foreign militants were killed in camp attack: ISPR

RAWALPINDI, Sept 17: The operation in the Wana area is only targeted against terrorists and extremist elements, says Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan. He was talking to newsmen here on Friday. The Director-General of ISPR said that those who were killed in the Sept 9 attack on the terrorist training camp in the Wana area were foreigners. He said that the security forces had attacked the training camp after they were tipped off by various sources, including satellite photographs. Maj-Gen Sultan said that the security forces carried out a precise and calculated attack on the training camp to avoid any loss of civilian life in the area. He said that local residents had also confirmed that only foreigners had been killed in the attack.

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Arms seized as troops launch search drive

MAKIN, Sept 17: Army and paramilitary forces on Friday launched a search operation in the Makin bazaar after taking control of the troubled area, eyewitnesses said. Officials said the security forces had recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from suspected houses and hideouts. Officials said the forces had recovered 250 rocket propelled grenades, nine-foot long surface-to-surface missiles, 16 rocket launchers, 25 boxes of ammunition, 20 landmines and three remote-control explosive devices

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Balochistan policy censured in Senate

ISLAMABAD, Sept 17: Some fiery speeches were made on the issue of Balochistan in the upper house of parliament on Friday with opposition senators accusing the army and other security forces of 'dangerously mishandling' the problem. Some of the speakers alleged that the federal security agencies had created an atmosphere of

intimidation in a bid to grab the wealth of the province instead of sharing the fruit of development with local people. Earlier, the combined opposition staged a walkout from the house when the chair did not allow opposition senators to speak on the issue of president's uniform. When the debate on Balochistan started, almost all the ministers and ministers of state left the house, followed by many treasury bench members.

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Tribal leaders ask govt to restrain operation

KARACHI, Sept 17: The Muttahida Qabail Ittehad Pakistan has appealed to President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz for immediately halting the ongoing army operation in South Waziristan, and for changing the political agent, Asmatullah Gandapur, and governor NWFP, accusing them of providing dis-information to people regarding the prevailing situation in the tribal areas. Addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Friday, the MQI leaders Shahid Ali advocate, Mukhtiar Khan Mehsud, Afsar Khan Mehsud, Maulana Muhammadzada and Ismail Khan Mehsud presented a bleak picture of the situation in the tribal areas with particular reference to Karawan Manza, where according to their claim, bodies of human beings were scattered every where due to indiscriminate use of shells, mortars and laser guided missiles against the local population, forcing hundreds of families to migrate to other areas.

Dawn, 18 September 2004

Jirga supports agency council

KHAAR, Sept 17: A jirga has approved the nominated Agency Council and said that the proposed system conformed to customs and traditions of Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). The jirga held here on Friday was attended by around 2,000 Maliks and elders of the Uthmankhel and Tarkhani tribes here on Friday. The jirga said that unlike the election for the National Assembly, the tribal areas could not afford to hold election for the Agency Council on adult franchise basis. The speakers said that the proposed system to set up the Agency Council through the Maliks was according to the culture and traditions of tribal areas. The tribesmen would never back

any system that was against tribal traditions, they said.

Daily Times, 19 September 2004

President begins US visit today

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will discuss the Kashmir issue with President Pervez Musharraf in New York where they are going to attend the UN General Assembly session. President Musharraf starts his six-day US visit from today (Sunday). This will be the first meeting between the leaders of the nuclear-armed neighbours after India's change of government, Online reported. The meeting between President Musharraf and Prime Minister Singh has been rescheduled. They will now meet on September 24, after President Musharraf conceded the Indian request to extend his stay in New York by a day. Earlier, the meeting was planned on September 22, Iftikhar Gilani reported.

Daily Times, 19 September 2004

Army in hunt for top Uzbek rebel

WANA: A top Uzbek rebel leader wanted by authorities in his home country might be hiding in the tense tribal region that forms the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Associated Press quoted an army general as saying on Saturday. Maj Gen Niaz Khattak, responsible for military operations in the North and South Waziristan tribal regions, also clarified that the army had no information about the whereabouts of Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden or his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, who are also thought to be taking refuge in the region. "Yes, Tahir Yuldash might be hiding here, and we have some information about it," Gen Khattak told reporters in Wana.

Daily Times, 19 September 2004

Senate passes N-Exports Control bill

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Saturday passed a bill to control the export of technology and material related to nuclear and biological weapons. The bill will not apply to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and his aides, who were involved in the transfer of nuclear technology to foreign countries. The opposition rejected the bill and questioned why it was being passed in haste. It claimed the process was being unnecessarily expedited because of President General Pervez

Musharraf's upcoming visit to the United States. Foreign Affairs Minister Khurshid Kasuri stated that the new law would not apply to the nuclear scientists already censured for nuclear proliferation. The foreign minister rejected the opposition's accusation that the bill would help President General Pervez Musharraf win the confidence of the United States, thus making it easier to stretch his rule. "Pakistan is an independent country and always acts in its best national interests," he said, adding that the bill was not introduced because of external pressure. The opposition argued that the bill confers special powers to some people, who may abuse their positions.

Daily Times, 19 September 2004

Jl teachers accuse govt of 'poisoning' curriculum

LAHORE: The federal government is "poisoning" the schools curriculum by adding lesson of liberalism and eliminating lessons of jihad as it panders to American, British, Israeli and Indian interests. These views are expressed by an 11-page booklet distributed by the Punjab chapter of the Tanzeem-e-Usatiza, the teacher's wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, one of the main components of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal. According to the booklet, the updated curriculum for classes 1 to 10 serves the "Christian and Jewish lobby". It says the new curriculum excludes Islamic values and teaches the young submissiveness and passivity. The cover of the pamphlet, titled 'Education Curriculum 2004 White Paper', shows an arm, covered with an American flag, wielding a sword about to strike a book, symbolising the Holy Quran, which has the words Tauheed, Risalat, Jihad and Islamic heroes printed on it.

The News, 19 September 2004

PM links S Asian peace to Kashmir solution

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Saturday linked durable peace in South Asia to resolution of the lingering Kashmir dispute and said Pakistan would continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the just cause of Kashmiri people. "Durable peace in South Asia can only be achieved by a peaceful solution of the dispute, a solution that is in line with the legitimate aspirations of Kashmiri people," he said while addressing the 35th Session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council. AJK President Sardar Muhammad

Anwar Khan, Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan and Minister In-charge of AJK Council Secretariat, Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat also attended the session.

The News, 20 September 2004

Musharraf aims for a 'wholesome meeting' with Singh

Looks forward to positive indications for progress on all issues

ISLAMABAD: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Sunday said he was looking forward to some "positive indications" for progress on all outstanding issues between Pakistan and India during his scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "I look forward to it (meeting) and to its becoming a wholesome meeting dealing with all issues, very much including Kashmir," he said before leaving for the United States to attend the UN General Assembly in New York. "I look forward to some positive indications for progress," he told reporters.

The News, 20 September 2004

Wana tribes asked to hand over 216 wanted men

WANA: Military positions in parts of South Waziristan were again attacked with rockets as the authorities asked three local tribes to hand over 216 wanted men to the government if they wanted economic sanctions against them to be lifted. The wanted men, accused of sheltering foreign militants and their local supporters, belonged to the Ahmadzai Wazir, Dottani and Sulemankhel tribes. The list containing the names of the wanted tribesmen was 21-pages long. Among the wanted tribesmen was Malik Bakhani, an Ahmadzai Wazir tribal elder, who fled South Waziristan and sought political asylum in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Daily Times, 20 September 2004

4% Americans regard Musharraf 'very favourably'

Washington: As President Pervez Musharraf arrives in the United States, only four percent of Americans say they have a "very favourable" view of him, while 13 percent say they have never heard of him, according to a recent Pew Research Centre survey. The survey says that 23 percent have a "somewhat favourable" view of the Pakistani military leader, while 20 percent have a "somewhat

unfavourable" view of him as against 12 percent whose view of him is "very unfavourable". As many as 41 percent say they "do not know". Generally, people in the largely Muslim nations surveyed are divided over whether suicide bombings and other violence against civilian targets are justified in order to defend Islam against its enemies. Forty-one percent of those interviewed in Pakistan said suicide attacks in the defence of Islam are justifiable. Forty-seven percent of Pakistanis who were surveyed said that Palestinian bombings against the Israelis are justifiable with 36 saying they are not. Six in 10 older Pakistanis saw suicide attacks against Americans in Iraq as justifiable, compared with just 44 percent of those who are younger. In Pakistan, there was also a significant gender gap in attitudes toward suicide attacks, with men roughly twice as likely as women to say such violence against Americans and other Westerners in Iraq is justifiable. Osama Bin Laden is viewed with almost universal disdain throughout the European nations surveyed as well as in Turkey, but the Al Qaeda leader is regarded favourably by 65 percent of Pakistanis. khalid hasan

The Nation, 20 September 2004

Grave impact of 9/11 on Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – Three years after the 9/11 terror attacks, Pakistan remains embroiled in largely undefined actions against extremists while security agencies are continued to be criticised for human rights violations. Relatively meagre economic benefits gained in the aftermath of 9/11 incidents have been overshadowed with greater number of human rights violation cases and dampening image of Pakistan as a democratic country. Citizens were arbitrarily arrested by security agencies on charges of their alleged links with al-Qaeda and Taliban. Common citizens including security personnel both from civil and military security establishments were detained, investigated for months and years with no legal course available to them to seek justice as the judiciary also seemingly ignored violations of fundamental human rights since September 11, 2001.

The Nation, 20 September 2004

Mehsuds start talks with govt, militants today

LADDHA, South Waziristan – The 20-member team of Mehsud tribe will start negotiations with the three-member government team and alleged militants today to resolve the lingering crisis ensued after the economic sanctions on the tribesmen and the military action against the suspected al-Qaeda fugitives and their local protectors. Elders from different clans and sub-tribes of Mehsud tribe in their meeting on Saturday constituted the 20-member team that is jointly headed by known tribal Sardar Brig. (Retd) Qayoom Sher Mehsud and Member National Assembly Maulana Merajud Din.

Dawn, 21 September 2004

Resolution on uniform in Balochistan PA withdrawn

QUETTA, Sept 20: The PML, which is a major coalition partner in the Balochistan government, suffered a setback on Monday after the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal refused to endorse its resolution in the Balochistan Assembly, requesting President Pervez Musharraf to retain the office of the president as well as that of the chief of the army staff. Speaker Jamal Shah Kakar presided over the special session of the assembly. The only agenda of the day's proceedings was the resolution. Chief Minister Jam Yousuf and his colleagues failed to muster support of the MMA for the passage of the resolution, forcing the mover to withdraw it. Chief Minister Jam Yousuf was reluctant to annoy the MMA lawmakers and agreed with the suggestion that the PML and the BNP-A should be allowed to withdraw the resolution so that differences between them over the issue did not affect smooth functioning of the coalition government.

Dawn, 21 September 2004

Army operation in Waziristan hits education sector

PESHAWAR, Sept 20: The volatile situation in the South Waziristan Agency has a negative impact on education and development sectors of this remote part of the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). Official sources said that educational institutions in the region have been either occupied by security forces or the attendance of students and teachers had dropped drastically. Officials in the education department said that schools and other educational institutions had been closed

in different parts of the region because of the ongoing military operation. In areas like Shakai, Kaniguram, Angor Adda, Wacha Dana and Zam China, school buildings have been occupied by law-enforcement agencies.

Dawn, 21 September 2004

Indictment of LJ man in blast cases deferred

KARACHI, Sept 20: An anti-terrorism court deferred on Monday the indictment of the alleged mastermind of the bomb blasts at the Haideri Mosque and Imambargah Ali Raza on the request of the defence counsel. Judge Haq Nawaz Baloch of the ATC-5 fixed Oct 4 for the indictment of Gul Hasan, a worker of the banned Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, after defence counsel Mushtaq Tanoli sought adjournment due to his engagements in another ATC. The defence counsel submitted that he was also one of the defence counsel in the corps commander's convoy attack case against 10 workers of the Jundullah, who were being tried inside the Central Prison by the ATC-2

Dawn, 21 September 2004

Dollar surpasses Rs59 in inter-bank

KARACHI, Sept 20: The State Bank on Monday did not intervene to stop the US dollar from rising past Rs59, sending a strong signal that it would now defend the local currency at a new level. So far, during this fiscal year starting July 1 the central bank successfully kept the dollar below Rs59. It did allow the rupee to fall gradually but avoided volatility in exchange rates - sometimes at the cost of annoying the banks. Senior bankers said the dollar closed at Rs59.01 in the inter-bank market on Monday as some banks made dollar buying both for their clients as well as for themselves to cover their short positions.

Dawn, 21 September 2004

Pakistan for free trade with regional states

BEIJING, Sept 20: More than 300 business leaders and officials from 70 countries including Pakistan met here Monday to discuss ways and means for promoting fair and equitable business opportunities at regional and international levels. The two-day event was arranged by industrial and commercial organizations (ICOs) from across the world. It was also aimed at starting a regular dialogue process on common issues relating to trade and investment. Pakistan was represented at

the conference by 10-member business delegation led by Tariq Ikram, Minister of State and Chairman Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), besides ambassador Riaz Muhammad Khan.

The News, 21 September 2004

Timeframe on Kashmir not sought: Musharraf

NEW YORK: President Gen Pervez Musharraf has said he has not asked India to give a specific timeframe for solution to the Kashmir issue. Talking to newsmen here before leaving for the UN General Assembly session on Monday, he said that he would meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with "open heart". "I will try my best to make headway on basic issues of contention between the two countries," he added. He added that issues between the two states were very complicated. Both sides, he said, should try to swiftly move toward the solution of these matters by taking some pragmatic steps. The president made it clear that Pakistan had shown enough flexibility for the continuity of the composite dialogue process.

The News, 21 September 2004

Troops seize seven missiles in S Waziristan

WANA: The Frontier Corps (FC) Camp here was again attacked with a missile while seven other missiles were seized by the troops from Wana and Kaniguram areas in different parts of South Waziristan before being fired. Eyewitnesses said the missile aimed at the FC Camp in Wana fell near the makeshift bazaar that has sprung up after closure of the main town markets. It didn't explode and was defused by FC jawans. The missile was locally made. The six missiles were seized by Pakistan Army soldiers from Manzarkhel Zhay near Kaniguram in the Mahsud tribal territory. They were aimed at troops' positions in the Asman Manza area. The local tribesmen informed the soldiers about the missiles.

The News, 21 September 2004

Gas projects to be completed

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Amanullah Khan Jadoon said recently that gas projects of Rs950 million would be completed during the current financial year in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP). A source in the petroleum ministry told The News that the

minister who was speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by the PML Leader in the NWFP Assembly Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, said a target of 50,000 new gas connections would be achieved by the SNGPL in the NWFP. "It would bring a healthy change in the lifestyle of the people of the areas", the minister said.

The Nation, 21 September 2004

Qaeda men hiding near Pak border: US

KABUL (AFP) - The senior leadership of Al-Qaeda could be hiding in the tribal borderlands between Afghanistan and Pakistan - but is feeling the pressure from both sides, a US military spokesman said Monday. 'The borders remain very porous between both countries, is it possible that senior leadership of Al-Qaeda is hiding... in Pakistan or Afghanistan,' Major Scott Nelson told a regular news briefing in Kabul. However, Nelson added that the Pakistani military had made a dent in the operations of Al-Qaeda militants in those areas.

The News, 22 September 2004

Musharraf rejects LoC re-adjustment

NEW YORK: President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday that Pakistan was doing its best in the fight against terror. In response to a question about his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the president hoped "there would be progress," on issues, including those on Kashmir. Musharraf ruled out any talks for re-adjustment of Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir and said Pakistan wants a purposeful and meaningful dialogue to address the lingering dispute.

The News, 22 September 2004

Uniform vital to anti-terror fight: president Says continuity of actions against extremism, terrorism to be ensured

NEW YORK: President Pervez Musharraf, while accepting that he made a pledge to step down as the chief of the Army staff by the end of this year, has said that for continuing his onslaught against terrorism and extremist elements, he may continue to hold the office of the Army chief. In a frank interview with The New York Times, he said that he made that promise at that stage to ensure his country's return to democratic order but since then a great deal has happened. He said he would not like all his efforts and achievements to go down the drain that he made in breaking the

terrorist networks and largely controlling extremist elements in Pakistan.

The News, 22 September 2004

President's uniform essential for national integrity: Pervaiz

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Pervaiz Elahi said President's uniform was essential for the national integrity and survival of the country, as he had strengthened democracy and put the country on the road to progress. "The people who are opposing President's uniform are serving no purpose, as democracy and development both owe to his stay in power. President has endeavoured for the public welfare and his war is against terrorists, lawlessness, backwardness and unemployment," said the Chief Minister. Addressing a big public meeting at Quaid-i-Azam Sports Ground here Tuesday late afternoon, Ch Pervaiz Elahi said; the present government was strong and voices from some circles could not weaken it. The agenda of development and prosperity would continue at every cost, he said and asked the people to strengthen the hands of PML and Pervaiz Musharraf for the national cause. He urged the PML office-holders and workers to work for the Muslim League because it was as necessary as the existence of the country. He said the PML achieved Pakistan and would accomplish its agenda.

The News, 22 September 2004

Journalists barred from entering South Waziristan

PESHAWAR: A group of eight local journalists was stopped at the Jandola checkpoint manned by Frontier Corps militiamen on Tuesday and denied entry into South Waziristan tribal agency. The journalists were told they could not proceed to Wana or other parts of South Waziristan under the orders of the political administration. Ironically, about five journalists in the team belonged to the Mahsud tribe, which constitutes 75 per cent population of South Waziristan. Sailab Mahsud, president of the Tribal Union of Journalists (TUJ), led the group. He told The News from Jandola that he and other journalists protested the government decision and staged a sit-in right on the road. He said the sit-in blocked the traffic and created problems for commuters. "Therefore, we ended our sit-in. We were detained by the

authorities for some time at the Jandola checkpoint," he explained.

The Nation, 22 September 2004

Islam is being targeted

NEW YORK - President Pervez Musharraf said Monday that Pakistan was committed to ridding the country of terrorist groups and their supporters. "We will end terrorism and the Al-Qaeda presence in Pakistan," he said while responding to a question at a dinner hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce in New York. At the same time, the Pakistani leader urged the United States to overcome Muslim perceptions of a Western anti-Islamic bias by helping resolve global political disputes, especially in the Middle East. "Muslims today are feeling as if Islam as a religion is being targeted. This needs to be undone," Musharraf said. "I think the United States has to concentrate on the resolution of political disputes throughout the world," he said, identifying settlement of the Palestinian issue as key to ensuring global stability.

The News, 23 September 2004

Musharraf urges conflict resolution, global peace

UNITED NATIONS: President Pervez Musharraf informed the General Assembly on Wednesday that Pakistan was committed to global peace and its efforts in this regard were second to none. Addressing the 59th session of the UNGA, he emphasised the need for launching sincere efforts for resolving the international disputes and conflicts. "Nothing could be resolved through military means," he said, stressing peaceful dialogue for finding solution to all issues. Musharraf said it has always been his conviction that Pakistan and India could resolve all their differences, including that over Jammu and Kashmir through a sincere dialogue. "Dangerous confrontation of 2002 and three wars between the two sides prior to that have demonstrated that there is no military solution to our problem," he said, adding that aspirations for peace enjoyed popular support in Pakistan and he also believed in India.

The News, 23 September 2004

President has several Kashmir solutions: Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said there does exist a political will in Pakistan and India for a peaceful resolution of bilateral issues. "If we try to resolve issues sincerely, we can meet success," the minister told VOA. He said Pakistan was holding talks with India with an open heart, good wishes and sincerity. "Many steps have been taken in this regard and now we have to sit together and resolve all outstanding issues through talks," he said.

The News, 23 September 2004

Pakistan, China make arrangements to boost trade

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have agreed to make structural arrangements to boost bilateral trade as well as open new avenues of cooperation in the business sector. Matters relating to bilateral trade and Chinese investment in Pakistan were discussed in a meeting held in Beijing between Minister of State and Chairman Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Tariq Ikram and Chairman China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Wan Jifei. Ikram, who was in Beijing to attend a two-day World Industrial and Commercial Organisations (WICO) summit, also met representatives of some Chinese companies to identify new areas of bilateral cooperation.

The News, 23 September 2004

FC man, foreigner killed in South Waziristan

WANA: A Frontier Corps militiaman and a militant, apparently a foreigner, were killed in clashes in the Mahsud tribal territory in South Waziristan on Wednesday. Two other persons — a Frontier Corps Jawan and a girl — were wounded. The militants rocketed military positions while the soldiers responded with artillery and mortar fire. One Frontier Corps man was killed and another wounded when militants ambushed two patrol vehicles in Darwaza Pal area near Kaniguram. Official sources said the attackers fired with light arms and rocket launchers. The militants made good their escape. In the second incident, Nazarkhel Mahsud tribesmen doing voluntary guard duty at night fired at three men trying to plant missiles in the Manzarkhel Zhay area. They managed to hit and injure one of the men, who was apparently from Uzbekistan, and capture the other two, who were believed to be local

tribesmen. The injured Uzbek was handed over to the Frontier Corps troops. He reportedly died of his injuries at 7am on Wednesday. The Nazarkhel Mahsud tribesmen kept the two local men in their own custody. It was the first time that tribesmen clashed with the militants and delivered a captured foreigner to the government forces.

The News, 23 September 2004

Gen Aziz, Yusuf to retire next month

KARACHI: There is almost no chance that either General Aziz Khan or General Yousuf Khan will get an extension in their service at the expiry of their terms in office as the chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) and the vice chief of the Army staff, respectively, on October 6, according to informed officials. These officials said an announcement that President Musharraf will continue as the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) for another three years is now a formality. Gen Aziz is already making farewell calls to the military formation headquarters all over the country, while the VCOAS Gen Yusuf Khan will begin the traditional dine-outs at important military centres as early as this weekend, the officials said.

The News, 23 September 2004

Pakistan, US vow to boost anti-terror efforts

NEW YORK: President Pervez Musharraf and US President Bush met here on Wednesday and reviewed progress in bilateral relations in line with the vision that was agreed during their last meeting in June at Camp David. Briefing mediemen accompanying the president and the UN-based Pakistani correspondent, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said the two presidents reviewed progress in the war against terrorism and pledged to continue working together closely. He said the assurance was also given by President Bush that appropriate resources would be made available. "The two president lauded the progress of the Joint Working Group on Terrorism and Law-Enforcement and pledged to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in this regard," he said, adding that President Bush appreciated Pakistan's efforts for eliminating the menace of extremism and terrorism.

The News, 23 September 2004

Cabinet vows to eliminate terrorism

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday reiterated government's resolve to defend the sovereignty, integrity and security of Pakistan and take any measure to eliminate militancy and terrorism from the country. The cabinet was briefed about the ongoing action against foreign terrorists and militants in a part of the South Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas by NWFP Governor Lt-Gen (retd) Iftikhar Hussain Shah. The specially convened meeting of the cabinet to review the situation in Wana was chaired by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

Daily Times, 23 September 2004

Allawi asks Musharraf for troops

UNITED NATIONS: Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Tuesday he had pressed the president of Pakistan to contribute troops to the US-led multinational force in his country. Pakistan has not replied but Mikhail Saakashvili, Georgia's president, announced to the UN General Assembly, he would "offer to send fresh troops to Iraq" to serve in a separate contingent for UN staff but under the overall command of the multinational force. "In offering our services to the UN mission, we are hopeful that our presence will foster lasting stability, prosperity and freedom for the Iraqi people," he said.

Daily Times, 23 September 2004

2003-04: Deficit with Arab countries crosses \$3b

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's trade deficit with oil exporting Arab countries rose to over \$3 billion in 2003-04 on account of record high oil prices. In 2003-04, the country has sustained a deficit of \$3.114 billion in bilateral trade with Arab countries, up by \$1.082 billion, or 53.24 percent, compared with a deficit of \$2.032 billion in 2002-03, according to official data. The data said in the last fiscal Pakistan had a \$919 million deficit in trade with Kuwait, \$1.43 billion trade deficit with Saudi Arabia and \$765 million deficit was recorded in mutual trade with the United Arab Emirates. In 2003-04, the deficit with Saudi Arabia increased by \$605 million compared to 2002-03 when the country sustained a deficit of \$825 million.

The Nation, 23 September 2004

FDI a key force for achieving export-oriented growth

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Waseem Haqqi Wednesday said FDI in developing countries are key force for achieving export-oriented economic growth, which is the sole path for them to unshackle themselves from the underdevelopment. Speaking at launching of World Investment Report-2004, Chairman BoI said after three years of decline in the global investment flows there are signs of revival. With global economic growth improving in 2004, he said, prospects for global investment look bright and this is particularly the case in services, which make up the largest investment sector in many countries and dominate foreign direct investment (FDI).

Dawn, 23 September 2004

Political talks on Wana begin

ISLAMABAD, Sept 22: A two-member team, comprising NWFP Governor Lt-Gen (retired) Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah and Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, formally started on Wednesday a process of dialogue to find out a political solution to the Wana situation. The two-member committee was constituted by the federal cabinet in its meeting in the morning. The cabinet reiterated the offer of amnesty to foreign elements living in tribal areas in and around Wana and assured them that they would not be handed over to any country if they surrendered and agreed to live in peace. Presided over by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, the cabinet was briefed by the NWFP governor on the ongoing action against foreign terrorists and militants in a part of South Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata).

Frontier Post, 23 September 2004

Provincial autonomy will satisfy Baloch people: Bugti

DERA Bugti (PPI): Chief of Jamhoori Watan Party Nawab Muhammad Akbar Bugti has said that if provincial autonomy is resolved to the satisfaction and needs of the people, several problems could be resolved. He was addressing a crowded Press conference at Bugti House here Wednesday. He said several issues and problems pointed out by leaders could be resolved through solution of provincial autonomy as most of these are

related to the constitution. He said another important issue is Baloch nations right over natural and mineral resources as Baloch have been deprived of these resources since long.

Dawn, 24 September 2004

Al-Khalid tank given to army

ISLAMABAD, Sept 23: Vice Chief of Army Staff, Gen Mohammad Yousuf Khan, on Thursday presided over a ceremony to equip the Guides Cavalry with state-of-the-art indigenously produced tank Al-Khalid - MBT-2000. While handing over the tank, Gen Yousuf Khan praised the efforts made by the Heavy Industries Taxila chairman, Maj-Gen Israr Ahmed Ghumman, and others involved in the project of Al-Khalid Tank, including the defence production division of the ministry of defence. He said the production of this tank was a landmark achievement. Al-Khalid tank is comparable with any modern tank of the world with an excellent power to weight ratio, enhanced firepower, high mobility, all-weather day and night capability, excellent protection and 125mm smooth gun.

Dawn, 24 September 2004

Govt to brief opposition on Wana

ISLAMABAD, Sept 23: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Thursday the government would soon brief parliamentary leaders of opposition parties about the anti-militant operation in the tribal area as part of a policy to consult them on important issues. He told newsmen in his parliament chamber that the ruling coalition in parliament would also be briefed on the situation arising out of the operation near Wana. He described a briefing on the subject given by a two-member government committee to the cabinet on Wednesday as "very useful" and said: "Now we will invite opposition parliamentary leaders." He said the briefing would be held soon but did not give any dates.

Dawn, 24 September 2004

FDI rose to Rs9.5m in 2 years: minister

RAWALPINDI, Sept 23: Minister for Privatization and Investment Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh on Thursday said foreign investment increased from Rs2 million to Rs9.5 million in the last two years. He was speaking at the inauguration of a branch of Pakistan Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation (PICIC) here on Thursday. The minister said the

government was looking for suitable collaborators from the private sector to run projects in social sectors like health and education. He hoped that the social sector would show improvement. The Privatization Commission, he said, had been doing its best to show transparency in its affairs. Previously, the commission had a focus on some specific sectors but now it was expanding its activities. The minister praised PICIC and said its profit had increased by 150 per cent exceeding Rs1 billion.

Dawn, 24 September 2004

KARACHI: 10 Jundullah men indicted in convoy attack case

KARACHI, Sept 23: An anti-terrorism court formally indicted on Thursday 10 activists of the Al Qaeda-linked Jundullah group in the case of corps commander's convoy attack, which resulted in the death of 10 people, including six army personnel. Judge Feroze Mehmood Bhatti of the ATC-2, who is conducting trial inside the Central Prison, fixed Oct 4 for recording statements of prosecution witnesses after the defendants denied charges and pleaded "not guilty". Aatur Rehman alias Ibrahim, Shahzad Ahmed Bajwah, Yaqoob Saeed, Uzair Ahmed, Shoaib Siddiqui, Danish Inam, Najeebullah, Khurram Saifullah, Shahzad Mukhtar and Khalid Rao were charged with a series of offences, including attack on the motorcade of Lt-Gen Ahsan Saleem Hayat, on June 10 on old Clifton bridge, which resulted in the death of six army personnel, three policemen and a passerby.

The News, 24 September 2004

Senate adopts resolution on Balochistan panel

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution to constitute a joint committee representing members of both the Houses of parliament to examine current situation in Balochistan. Leader of the House in the Senate moving the resolution said during its sitting on August 24, the Senate had unanimously adopted the resolution authorising the Senate chairman to constitute a special committee in consultation with leader of the House and other leaders, to examine the current situation in Balochistan and make recommendations thereon to promote inter-provincial harmony and to protect the rights of

provinces with a view to strengthening the Federation.

The News, 24 September 2004

Pakistan doing everything in war against al-Qaeda: Powell

NEW YORK: US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday said Pakistan was "doing everything it can" to wage war against al-Qaeda, the terror groups in Afghanistan and the tribal areas. Powell was responding to a reporter's question as to what was discussed in the Bush-Musharraf meeting held earlier on Wednesday. Powell said: "President Musharraf, had good conversations. He and his military and other security forces have been doing quite a lot in the western part of the country and in the tribal areas along the border." Asked about Osama bin Laden being caught before November polls, Powell said: "We all would like to find bin Laden tomorrow. But he is pretty good at remaining hidden. And he is, I think to some extent, a problem, but is quite isolated in his ability to move around."

Daily Times, 24 September 2004

ISI gets recruitment powers

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Thursday passed the Federal Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill 2004 that now empowers Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) to recruit officers to jobs in Grade 16 and above without the commission's involvement. The bill was passed when Opposition parties staged a token walkout from the house to protest the recent hike in LPG prices. The bill will amend the Federal Public Service Commission Ordinance 1977, further. Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain put the bill to the house for voting and treasury members passed it with a majority of the votes in the absence of the opposition.

Daily Times, 24 September 2004

Indian auto parts flood local market

KARACHI: Indian auto spare parts, which have flooded the local market are expected to snatch the major market share away from Chinese products in the near future, dealers said. Dealers at the city's auto spare parts markets said Indian products are being imported through Dubai and sold in the local markets. They said import from India is in practice for three years but the trend has

increased during the last six months. Six months ago four Indian products were well known in the local market: lights, seat covers, rubber pedals, levers. Now, about 24 different products made in India have gained popularity as improving political relations have encouraged importers and made customs check more lenient.

The News, 27 September 2004

Terrorist Amjad Farooqi killed in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH: Amjad Farooqi, a top al-Qaeda suspect involved in an assassination attempt on President Pervez Musharraf, was killed and seven others, including two women and three children, were arrested by the personnel of the law-enforcement agencies here on Sunday. Farooqi was killed by the Rangers in a raid on a house belonging to Dr Hanif Rajpar in Ghulam Hyder Shah Colony, where he was residing, apparently after his failed talks with the officials. Heavy contingents of the Rangers cordoned off the house, on a tip-off. The security personnel asked the inmates to come out. However, after two hours, a man, covered with a Chadar, came out of the house and held talks with the officials.

The News, 27 September 2004

Shaukat urges early arbitration to determine NWFP share

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Sunday stressed the need for expediting the process of arbitration to determine the share of the NWFP in net hydel profits and exchanged views with the MMA government on improving the judicial system to give relief to the masses. "We have discussed a number of issues, including the net hydel profits of the province. The arbitration process needs to be expedited," the prime minister told journalists at the Frontier House here on the last leg of his two-day visit to the provincial metropolis. This was the prime minister's first visit to the NWFP after assuming the charge of prime minister. The NWFP government and Wapda are required to nominate two members each to the commission while a fifth member to be nominated by the Centre would act as its chairman. However, neither the prime minister touched the issue of the National Finance Commission nor the journalists were given the chance to ask questions.

The News, 27 September 2004

Wana fighters sophisticated, brutal: military

ISLAMABAD: Al-Qaeda-linked fighters battling Pakistani troops along the border with Afghanistan are sophisticated and brutal combatants who carry satellite phones and mutilate their enemies' corpses, according to a profile unveiled by an army commander. Major General Niaz Khattak, field commander in the mountainous frontier district of South Waziristan, said fighters hiding there had falsely convinced local tribes that they were waging a Jihad, or holy war, against "infidels". In the first-ever profile presented to journalists, the general who has led several offensives against al-Qaeda-linked militants this year painted a picture of hardened, well-trained, and brutal fighters with little adherence to Islamic values.

The News, 27 September 2004

Wanted tribal militants to surrender on Wednesday

WANA: The government and wanted tribal militants, accused of harbouring suspected foreign militants, have reached an accord under which the most wanted tribals including Sharif, Noor Islam, Abdul Aziz, Maulvi Abbas and Javed would surrender to the authorities on Wednesday. According to Geo an accord has been reached between the NWFP Governor's Fata Secretariat and the wanted persons directly. According to the TV channel, the special envoy of governor NWFP played a key role in this regard. The accord, being kept secret, is likely to be made public during the governor's visit to Wana in the next few days.

The News, 27 September 2004

MMA to force president to doff uniform: Qazi

QUETTA: Chief of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Qazi Hussain Ahmed has said that President Pervez Musharraf would be forced to leave one office, either of Army chief or of president after December 31, 2004. "Holding two offices simultaneously is against the Constitution of Pakistan, and the religious parties' alliance would not allow the president to retain the two offices," said Qazi Hussain Ahmed, who is also chief of Jama'at Islami, at a press conference here on Sunday. The MMA's Supreme Council decided that the alliance

would hold protest meetings across the country after Ramazanul Mubbarak to press the president to doff his uniform, he added. After December 31, the MMA would launch a countrywide movement against the uniformed president, he added.

The News, 27 September 2004

No compromise on uniform issue: Fazl MMA to stage demonstration after Ramazan

SUKKUR: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly and chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday ruled out any compromise on President Musharraf's uniform. Talking to newsmen at the Sukkur Airport, he said that the MMA had decided to hold processions and demonstrations after Ramazan. The JUI chief said the MMA had adopted a principled stand on uniform and advised the ARD leadership to join hands with the MMA on this issue. He said that the MMA had agreed to get the 17th Amendment passed, "keeping in view the supreme national interests". He clarified that if the MMA had not taken "a positive stance at that crucial period" the political crisis would have deepened. He said those criticising the MMA for passing the 17th Amendment were in fact strengthening the hands of rulers. He invited them to join the MMA for a joint stand on the uniform issue.

Dawn, 27 September 2004

Blast marks opening of Wana bazaar

WANA, Sept 26: A bomb explosion rocked Wana on Sunday shortly before the tribal people resumed business activities in the dusty bazaar after more than three-month-long economic sanctions were lifted. Eyewitnesses said that a paramilitary soldier and a passer by were wounded in the bomb explosion. The explosive device went off in Tawakal market, here at 11am when shopkeepers were about to open their shops, they said. The wounded were shifted to the local hospital. The explosion created panic among the people. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz announced lifting of economic blockades against the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe at a tribal jirga in Peshawar on Saturday.

Dawn, 27 September 2004

Leaving the army can lead to chaos, says Musharraf

NEW YORK, Sept 26: President Pervez Musharraf has indicated that he may continue both as president and the army chief till at least 2007 to save the country from "political destabilization. In an interview to Dawn here the president emphasized the need for 'continuity and sustainability,' two terms he has used in almost all the interviews he gave and the speeches he made during his stay in the United States. Gen Musharraf left for the Netherlands on Saturday evening after a week-long stay in the United States during which he addressed the UN General Assembly, had two crucial meetings with Indian, US and Afghan leaders and inaugurated the Pakistan caucus in Washington.

Dawn, 28 September 2004

'US may target N-bombs if Musharraf removed'

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 27: US Senate candidate Barack Obama says that if President Pervez Musharraf loses power in a coup, the United States may consider military strikes to destroy Pakistan's nuclear weapons. In an interview published in the Chicago Tribune, the Democratic Party's Senate candidate said he believed that Islamic extremist elements might take over if President Musharraf was overthrown, adding that in such a situation, America would have to consider going in and taking nuclear bombs out.

Dawn, 28 September 2004

Arms seized in Waziristan

PESHAWAR, Sept 27: Security forces during a successful search operation have recovered huge quantity of arms, ammunition and explosive from the hideouts of terrorists in the caves and makeshift camps of Asman Punga in South Waziristan Agency. According to ISPR, during operation underground tunnels and crawl trenches were also discovered. The arms captured by the security forces include automatic rifles, rocket launchers, rocket-propelled grenades, mortar bombs along with fuses, ammunition and various kinds of medicines. Investigations carried out by the intelligence agencies confirm that the same type of weapons and ammunition were used in various terrorist acts elsewhere in the country in the past. -APP

Dawn, 28 September 2004

**'Farooqi's killing a blow to Al Qaeda':
Osama is alive - Musharraf**

THE HAGUE, Sept 27: President Pervez Musharraf has said the killing of top Al Qaeda militant Amjad Farooqi is a serious blow to the terrorist network. "We've eliminated one of the very major sources of terrorist threat. Not only was he involved in the attacks on me but also in attacks elsewhere in the country," the president told reporters after meeting Dutch acting premier and Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm during a visit to the Netherlands. He said there had been some arrests and "we will get a lot of useful information leading to further arrests and eliminations". Mr Zalm also welcomed the militant's death, saying: "We were extremely happy to hear that a top terrorist has been eliminated. We congratulated the president for this success."

Dawn, 28 September 2004

**Need stressed for water treaty with
Afghanistan**

ISLAMABAD, Sept 27: The technical committee on water resources has asked the federal government to immediately sign a water treaty with Afghanistan on river Kabul to base future irrigation planning on firm data. The committee's meeting was held on Monday and was presided over by A.N.G. Abbasi. It was briefed by Pakistan commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Jamat Ali Shah and member water Wapda M. Amin. Sources said that Mr Shah told the committee about his assessment of Indian plans about water coming from eastern rivers, indicating that India would not stop more than 2-3 million acre-foot (MAF) of water from these rivers.

Dawn, 28 September 2004

**NWFP seeks Rs40 billion to build small
dams**

PESHAWAR, Sept 27: NWFP Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani on Sunday demanded Rs40 billion from the federal government for the construction of 20 small dams in the province to enable it to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat and generate economic and employment opportunities. A statement issued at the end of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's two-day visit to Peshawar said the chief minister made the demand during a special cabinet meeting with Mr Aziz. The funds, the chief minister said, were required to build the first Chashma right bank canal, the Gomal

zam dam and other small dams. He said the provincial budget had been bifurcated to spend money on the welfare of the masses and ensure better fiscal monitoring.

Dawn, 28 September 2004

5 troops killed in ambush

WANA, Sept 27: Militants attacked a military convoy in South Waziristan with three remote-controlled explosive devices on Monday, killing five soldiers and wounding 10 others, officials said. They said that militants carried out the attack in the Sarwekai area, about 50km east of Wana, the regional headquarters. The area is largely inhabited by the Mahsud tribe. The officials said that militants exploded the remote-controlled devices in the Serwakai area when the convoy, comprising 70 vehicles, was passing through the area. The troops were heading towards Bannu from Wana.

The News, 30 September 2004

Soldier dies in landmine blast near Wana

WANA: One soldier was killed and six others injured in a landmine blast while a tribesman died and seven members of his family were injured when their home was hit by a mortar shell in continuing violence in South Waziristan on Wednesday. The embattled administration received some good news as a few Mahsud sub-tribes announced support for the government's military operations against local and foreign militants. Villagers told The News that the unidentified soldier lost his life when the military vehicle hit a landmine on the road to Karwan Manza. Six other soldiers in the badly damaged vehicle were injured and were flown in a helicopter to Wana for medical treatment.

The News, 28 September 2004

Musharraf pledges nuclear non-proliferation

THE HAGUE: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Monday reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, saying a strong custodial control is in place and all strategic assets are under full control. "Pakistan will never proliferate, and there is absolutely no export of the material from the country," he told Dutch parliamentarians in the Upper House. In his address to members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the president informed that the National Command and Control Authority had

been put in place to ensure safety and security of strategic assets. He, however, said the war against terror would not be fully successful if the root causes of the menace are not addressed. The president underscored that the United States and the European Union should make leading efforts to address the political disputes affecting Muslims with justice.

The News, 28 September 2004

ADB raises Pak lending to \$2bn

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has jacked up lending level for Pakistan, by quarter of a billion dollar, to \$1.96 billion for infrastructure development during 2005-06. Priority will be on rehabilitating existing infrastructure in irrigation, roads, and urban centers, as well as addressing critical gaps in the power sector. The Bank announced this Monday after approval of the Country Strategy and Programme (CSP) update by the Board of Directors. The Asian Bank says the updated strategy would put new emphasis on assisting infrastructure projects with greatest impact for growth and poverty reduction over the next two years. ADB will also promote public-private partnerships for infrastructure development through a combination of loan and risk mitigation products. The CSP update, covering 2005 and 2006, earmarks \$1.96 billion for 23 loans over the two years, exceeding the \$1.72 billion for 17 loans allocated for the same period in previous CSP approved in 2003.

The News, 28 September 2004

Farooqi's killing leaves important questions unanswered

KARACHI: The killing of Amjad Farooqi, Pakistan's most wanted man, in a gunbattle on Sunday is a big triumph for the law-enforcement agencies, but some senior security officials are worried that Farooqi's death might frustrate their efforts to get answers of some crucial questions concerning the conspiracy to kill President Pervez Musharraf twice in December last year, senior security officials said on condition of anonymity. Senior lawyers say that the killing of Amjad Farooqi, the main accused in President Musharraf and Daniel Pearl case, may also influence the final outcome of the two most important cases. A nationwide military investigation launched after two assassination

attempts against President Pervez Musharraf last year had unveiled that some civilian and low level military individuals were the field operatives while Amjad Farooqi played an anchor in the abortive bids on Gen Musharraf's life.

Dawn, 29 August 2004

Over a dozen 'militants' arrested

KARACHI, Sept 28: Security forces have detained more than a dozen suspected militants, including some linked to Al Qaeda, after killing the country's most wanted man, Amjad Hussain Farooqi, on Sunday, sources said on Tuesday. Most of those arrested were caught in Sindh but arrests also took place in Quetta, Peshawar, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. "Raids are continuing and we expect more arrests," said intelligence sources. Arrests were made in Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Karachi and elsewhere in Sindh, said provincial government spokesman Salahuddin Haider. A witness described how Amjad Farooqi refused to be taken alive after being surrounded at a house in Nawabshah.

Dawn, 29 September 2004

Progress reported in talks on Siachen redeployment

ISLAMABAD, Sept 28: High-level contacts between Pakistan and India have resulted in "dredging up some old ice" over the 20-year old Siachen dispute, well placed sources told Dawn. An official said the proverbial melting of ice over Siachen took place in meetings between President Musharraf's principal secretary Tariq Aziz and Indian National Security Advisor JN Dixit. A formal agreement in principle on the matter had been reached in New Delhi during meetings of the foreign ministers of the two countries in early September. Official sources said Pakistan emphasised the need for redeployment of troops to pre-Shimla positions without prejudice to each side's position on the LoC. According to the Shimla Agreement, the LoC is up to Point NJ9842 and would continue 'thence north'. Geographically, NJ9842 is at the base of the 78 kilometre-long glacier situated at a height of about 20000 feet, just ahead of Kargil.

The News, 29 September 2004

One killed, nine hurt in Quetta blast

QUETTA: An unidentified teenager was killed when a powerful bomb planted on his bicycle went off near Ayub Stadium here on Tuesday evening, police said. Nine passers-by, including a woman, were also wounded in the blast, which occurred around 6.00pm on Jafar Khan Jamali Road. Windowpanes of nearby buildings and vehicles, plying on the road, were also smashed by the thud of the blast. Police claimed to have found a bag containing some photocopies of national identity cards at the blast site. Soon after the explosion, senior officials and administration rushed to the spot. Police and other law-enforcement agencies cordoned off the area, as the Bomb Disposal Squad started its investigations. The BDS officials said it was a locally-made time device weighing two to two-and-a-half kilogrammes.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Parliamentary panel on Balochistan formed

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: The Senate secretariat on Wednesday issued a notification announcing the formation of a 29-member parliamentary committee on Balochistan with Pakistan Muslim League (PML) president and former prime minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain as its chairman. According to the notification, the committee has been formed by the Senate chairman in consultation with the National Assembly Speaker and parliamentary leaders of other parties. The committee has been formed in pursuance of the resolutions, passed by the Senate and National Assembly in their sittings held on Sept 23 and 24, respectively. The terms of reference of the parliamentary committee, according to the notification, shall be to examine the current situation in Balochistan and make recommendations before both the houses within 90 days.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Pakistan-Italy accord on UN reform

ROME, Sept 29: President Pervez Musharraf and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi firmly opposed any addition in the number of permanent members on the United Nations Security Council in talks here on Wednesday. A joint statement released after the talks at Mr Berlusconi's Rome office said that although reform of the Security Council was necessary, it should not entail an addition in the number of permanent seats. The issue is important to both countries, each being faced with powerful

neighbours which are pushing hard for permanent status on the UN council. Italy has cast anxious glances at Germany's quest for a permanent seat on the council, while India's lobbying for a position at the top table has alarmed Pakistan. Japan and Brazil are the other countries seeking permanent seats.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

A.Q. Khan acted for 'personal reasons'

ROME, Sept 29: President Pervez Musharraf suggested on Wednesday one should do "a psychological study" of Dr A.Q. Khan to determine why he was involved in nuclear proliferation, though personally he thought that the man he called "a hero" did so for personal reasons. Addressing a select gathering from the Pakistani community in Italy here, the president referred to the non-proliferation issue while telling his audience that Dr A.Q. Khan's activities had created a misperception in the world that Pakistan itself was responsible for nuclear proliferation. Dr Khan, he said, had helped Pakistan become a nuclear power, but his proliferation activities had earned a bad name for his country at large. But his government's policies, he said, had removed this misperception about Pakistan.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Qayum's group moves to dislodge PM

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: The Muslim Conference on Wednesday refused to accept Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat's government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Through a resolution adopted at its meeting here, the party's central command asked its supreme leader Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan to help dislodge Mr Hayat's government and his son Sardar Attiq, the president of the Muslim Conference, to take over as the prime minister. The meeting, presided over by Qayum Khan and Sardar Attiq, was attended by 55 of the 77 members of the central high command of the party but only two members of the Legislative Assembly. The prime minister, according to sources, refused to accept the decisions on the grounds that only the party's central working committee, general council or parliamentary party could take such a step.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

JKLF defends third option on Kashmir

RAWALPINDI, Sept 29: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Amanullah

Khan has said Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had declared on many occasions that the state of Jammu and Kashmir had the constitutional right either to accede to India or Pakistan or remain independent and that the two-nation theory did not apply on the state. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said the claim that the Quaid had declared Kashmir as the jugular vein of Pakistan was baseless. The Kashmiri leader was addressing members of parliament on the Kashmir issue at a local hotel. He distributed a book published by him on Quaid-i-Azam's speeches and statements in 1947-48.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

18 journalists to visit held Kashmir, New Delhi

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: A group of 18 senior journalists from Muzaffarabad and other places will visit Jammu, Srinagar and New Delhi from October 3 to 9 on the invitation of the Indian chapter of the South Asian Free Media Association (Safma). The Members of the delegation will also take part in two-day conference on "Resolution of inter-state conflicts in South Asia" in New Delhi to be held under the auspices of SAFMA-India, says a press release. This will be followed by a return visit of media persons from Jammu and Kashmir and other places, who have been writing on Kashmir affairs, to Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, Islamabad and Lahore from November 19 to 26.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Pakistan, US to work on 18 S&T projects

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: Pakistan and the US have agreed to undertake 18 projects costing \$3 million in various fields of science and technology, says a press release. The projects will be launched in the fields of education, human resource development, environment, medicine, advanced computing, meteorology, standards, quality control and water resources with the aim to establish linkages between centres of scientific excellence in the two countries. The agreement to launch these projects was reached jointly following the first meeting of Pakistan-US joint committee on science and technology cooperation. The meeting, jointly chaired by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Space and Science, US State Department, Dr Lee Morin and Joint Technological Adviser, Ministry of Science

and Technology, Engr Shehryar Khan, also discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in the field of science and technology.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Islamabad: PAF to take part in exercises in Turkey

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: A contingent of six multi-role F-16s of Pakistan Air Force reached Turkey on Wednesday to participate in a multi-air force exercise code-named "Anatolian Eagle". The Turkish Air Force accorded a warm welcome to PAF fighting Falcons, says press release of the Pakistan Air Force here. The participation in the exercise will be an interesting as well as challenging task for Falcons of the PAF, it added. Besides Pakistan, air forces from the US, Germany, Holland, Italy and Turkey are orchestrating air battle scenarios in demanding operational environments. A fortnight in Turkey would not only shape up training of PAF officers and men but would also serve as a milestone in strengthening ties between the countries participating in the exercise.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Foreign investment starts flowing, says Ibad
KARACHI, Sept 29: Sindh Governor Dr Ishratul Ibad Khan said on Wednesday that direct foreign investment had started to flow as many US, European and Middle Eastern investors were now showing interest in the field of housing, information technology, and desalination and effluent treatment plants. Speaking at the annual function of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), the governor said a marked improvement in law and order had greatly change foreign investors' perception about Pakistan. He said there was an opening for investment, and the government would do its best to facilitate local as well as foreign investment. "This is the only way for generating employment and resolving poverty problem in the country."

Dawn, 30 September 2004

China to set up four power units

KARACHI, Sept 29: Chinese Commercial Counselor, Zhao Qingmao has said that expertise in hydro-power stations is being explored by Chinese companies for setting up four power units in Karachi and other major cities of Pakistan. For Karachi, a modern

project of mono-track railway was on the anvil for which a Chinese delegation would soon arrive to study the feasibility and financial implications, he said while exchanging views on bilateral issues with M. Nisar Shekhani, the chairman and other office bearers in SITE Association office on Tuesday. He said that the Chinese government was encouraging the private sector to make investments in countries of the region including Pakistan. New Chinese companies, which are arriving in Karachi, will introduce quality products in the market and hope that they would prove to be model organizations after the experience gained in Pakistan, he said.

Dawn, 30 September 2004

Pakistan better place for investment

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: The World Bank has termed Pakistan as better place for investment than the rest of South Asia in terms of selected investment climate indicators. In its World Development Report 2005, "Easing Policy Risks, Costs and Barriers to competition key to faster growth, less poverty", the bank said 63 per cent firms in Pakistan believed they were concerned about insecurity to property rights. The report which is based on a survey of 3,900 registered firms in the South Asia and over 30,000 firms in 53 developing countries, said 83 per cent of firms in Bangladesh lack confidence that courts will uphold their property rights. Registering a business takes 24 days in Pakistan, in Bangladesh 35 days, Sri Lanka 50 and India 89 days. Corruption is identified as the number one constraint by firms in South Asia.