

The Dawn, 1 September 2006

It's target killing: Marri

Karachi, Aug 31: Veteran Baloch leader Sardar Khair Baksh Marri has described the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti as a target killing. In an interview, he said he feared for the life of his own son, Balach Marri, because the government had the mistaken notion that Marri was the epicentre of all anti-state and terrorist activities, and Balach Marri was an icon of resistance. He also said that it was an untimely mode of resistance and the late Bugti should have adopted it in the early days.

The Dawn, 1 September 2006

Editorial: Retrieving the body

As if the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti was not enough of a cause for shock and grief, the retrieval of the body itself has turned into a major issue. By taking a media team to the cave in the Kohlu area where the Bugti chief was killed, the government has attempted to make things transparent. Part of the body is said to be visible, but it is apparently deep inside the collapsed cave, whose roof may give in because the explosion that reportedly killed the nawab and others weakened the L-shaped caves structure. There are explosives, too, which could go off, killing more people..

The Pak Tribune, 1 September 2006

Akbar Bugtis dead body found: ISPR

Islamabad: The body of Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) chief Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti killed in Kohlu operation has been retrieved, an ISPR statement said Thursday. Bugti along with a number of other tribesmen was killed in a military operation in the Chulgari mountain cave on Saturday. The officials said the burial would take place in Dera Bugti on Friday, while authorities were contacting relatives of the slain Baloch leader through the Balochistan government to hand the body over to them..

The Pak Tribune, 1 September 2006

MMA accuses govt of committing blasphemy through presentation of Hudood amendment bill

Islamabad: MMA has said government has committed blasphemous act by tabling Hudood amendment bill, which is aimed at disgracing the women rather than protecting them. MMA leaders said this while addressing Ulema convention here Thursday. Ulema from the mosques and seminaries in Islamabad attended the convention.. Violating the limits set by Almighty Allah is part of western NGO's agenda. The Hudood laws are being amended under external pressure. These all laws were enacted with the consensus opinion of Ulema from all schools of thought..

The Dawn, 1 September 2006

Opinion: Shocked into sensibility? (Tahir Mirza)

The year was perhaps 1973. There was a meeting of the federal executive council of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists in Quetta. Nawab Akbar Bugti was prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhuttos choice then as governor of Balochistan. We were all taken to the Governors House for lunch. Nawab Bugti, roguishly handsome, wasnt in the best of moods. The Balochistan insurgency of the time was in full swing. He was alienated from

his Baloch comrades and was seen as a stooge of the federal government..

Daily Times, 2 September 2006

Editorial: Government is besieged with popular disbelief

The government has made a mess of politics and probity in the case of the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti. It took Mr Bugti's body to Dera Bugti and buried it rather than hand it over to the family or show it to anyone except two dubious persons, an official and a local cleric, for purposes of identification. The government claims that it had asked Nawab Bugti's sons to accompany the body to Dera Bugti and bury it but they refused, leaving it with no option but to take the body to Dera Bugti and bury it..

Dawn, 2 September 2006

Editorial: Provocative & senseless

IT was an extraordinary statement, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sher Afgan Niazi telling the National Assembly that he (Nawab Akbar Bugti) has been rightly killed. While the opposition chose to walk out of the house on what indeed were provocative words not in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion, the minister did a disservice to his government, because its version of the event went by default as a result of what followed next..

Daily Times, 2 September 2006

13 militants released

Miranshah: The political authorities in North Waziristan on Friday released 13 suspected tribal militants after negotiations with a grand tribal jirga (council). A tribal elder said that the political authorities had held a meeting with the jirga before releasing the suspected militants. The authorities have released more than 100 prisoners since June 25 when local Taliban announced a unilateral ceasefire in North Waziristan..

Dawn, 2 September 2006

Pakistan-US naval exercise

Islamabad, Sept 1: Pakistani and US Navy would conduct joint exercise Inspired Union 06 from Sept 6. The bilateral exercise would be conducted in the Northern Arabian Sea. The purpose of exercise is advance maritime interdiction operations, counter terrorism and other wide range of professional exercises. The exercise would be conducted in three phases..

Daily Times, 2 September 2006

Opinion: Balochistan and the guns of August (Abbas Rashid)

When the high and mighty of the establishment wax eloquent about the flaws of the sardari system and the need for it to go, they have a point. But, it would be useful to keep in mind that the substitute for the archaic sardar is not the modern corps commander. Not so long ago, few would have thought that an elderly, frail and somewhat isolated Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti would emerge as a martyr and a unifying force for the nascent Baloch nationalism..

The News, 2 September 2006

Complete strike cripples interior Sindh (Adeel Pathan)

Hyderabad: A complete shutter-down and wheel-jam strike paralyzed the routine life across interior Sindh to protest against the killing of Baloch chieftain Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti. The strike call was given by the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) and the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy and backed by all nationalist parties of Sindh and Balochistan..

Dawn, 3 September 2006

Accord on peace in North Waziristan

Miramshah, Sept 2: Militants reached an understanding with the government on Saturday on restoring peace in North Waziristan but said the agreement would be signed in a couple of days. The understanding was reached in a meeting between a shura of local militant leaders and a jirga formed by the government to mediate on its behalf at Madressah Ashrafia near Miramshah..The sources said the militants had accepted the governments demand of immediately ceasing attacks on civil and military installations. In a major concession, the government had said that foreign militants could either leave the region or abide by the law of the land after furnishing tribal guarantees of good conduct, the sources said..

Dawn, 3 September 2006

Opinion: Bizarre course of politics (Kunwar Idris)

OF late, politics in Pakistan have taken a bizarre turn, losing both principles and principled men on the way. Now, in a turn more tragic than bizarre, politics and the country have lost their most maverick, and in many ways fascinating, character Nawab Akbar Bugti. The first illustration of how new attitudes have come to rule Pakistans politics is to be found in the death of the defiant nawab. Must a man who had, at different times, been minister, governor, and chief minister, have to die in a mountain cave..

Daily Times, 3 September 2006

Editorial: Punjabis and Balochistan

Even as the three smaller provinces were demonstrating public grief at the killing of Sardar Akbar Bugti and the Baloch were mourning the demise of the new icon of their nationalism, the PMLQ member Ali Akbar Vance was shedding tears in the National Assembly for the targeting of Punjabis in Balochistan. The comment he made about what happened to some Punjabis in the aftermath of Mr Bugtis death was rendered comic by his pretence of nearly swooning with grief. The hysteria was clearly histrionic as fellow MNAs from the ruling party fawned on him and consoled him in his profound put-on grief. Earlier the national press had noted the minister of parliamentary affairs, Dr Sher Afgan, as saying that Mr Bugtis death was right..

Dawn, 3 September 2006

Balochistan govt: MMA moot on 5th

Islamabad, Sept 2: The Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal will decide whether or not to quit the Balochistan government when its supreme council meets in Islamabad on Thursday

(September 5). According to sources in the alliance, the group is under tremendous pressure from other opposition parties, especially the ARD and PONAM, to quit Balochistan government in protest against the governments policy of chasing and killing its opponents..

The Nation, 4 September 2006

BNP announces to quit assemblies

Quetta - Balochistan National Party has announced the resignation of its party members from assemblies, the Senate and the district governments as a protest over what it said was the martyrdom of elderly Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti. Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the head of BNP and former chief minister of Balochistan, declared this in a large public mourning meeting held under the All Party Conference and four-party Baloch Alliance here on Sunday. The representatives of Pakistan People Party, PML-N, BNP, National Party, Pashtoonkhawa Milli Awami Party, Jamhoori Watan Party, Tahreek-e-Insaf and Haq Tawar participated in the mourning meeting..

The Nation, 4 September 2006

Editorial: Containing the fallout

Even though the President reiterated his stance that the government would take whatever steps were needed to establish the writ of the state, the two meetings discussed a wide range of options that could be exercised to effectively deal with the situation arising out of Nawab Akbar Bugtis killing in a military operation last week.. The government seems concerned not only about containing the fallout of the Kohlu tragedy which has triggered widespread protests in Balochistan and Sindh, but also holding the ruling coalition together, especially after the MQM strongly condemned what its leadership termed an extra-judicial murder..

Dawn, 4 September 2006

No deployment in Pakistan, says Cana

Ottawa, Sept 3: Canada has no plans to deploy troops to Pakistans border with Afghanistan, Defence Minister Gordon O Connor said, denying reports that he had suggested such a deployment. However, he added in a statement late Saturday, cooperation between Canadian and Pakistan troops fighting Al Qaeda and Taliban forces along the border could involve placing a few Canadian liaison officers with the Pakistan military..

Dawn, 4 September 2006

Opinion: Redressing Balochistans grievances (Shamshad Ahmad Khan)

WILL there be ever an end to tragedies in our country? Shall we ever have a civilized way of dealing with our problems? Why dont we learn lessons from our traumatic past? Did Pakistan come into being to perennially remain afflicted with a culture of blood and bullet? Are we doomed for ever to our Spartan fate? Don't the people of Pakistan have any urge to change their destiny? There could not have been a gloomier scenario for any state in todays world. Pakistan has been dismembered yet again, if not physically, at least emotionally. The murder of Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti by Pakistans security forces has torn the nation apart..

Daily Times, 4 September 2006

Opinion: Anatomy of a blunder (Nasim Zehra)

The Bugti killing does not mean dams of discontent will burst tomorrow. Its about political space for consensus that is shrinking in Pakistan, its about Pakistans soul not being at peace within, its about principles carved on shifting sands and of processes that go with the winds of opportunism. It does, however, raise the fundamental question of how to successfully manage the federation of Pakistan. The distressing events following the death of Nawab Akbar Bugti have created an environment of acute distrust between the government and the rest of Pakistan. One has to acknowledge ones political leanings and views about the controversial Akbar Bugti notwithstanding that these dreadful, surrealistic developments are the talk of the county..

Dawn, 5 September 2006

Arms supply to rebels cut off: Musharraf (Ihtasham ul Haque)

Islamabad, Sept 4: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Monday told Baloch politicians and other leaders that the possibility of a foreign hand creating law and order problems in certain parts of Balochistan could not be ruled out. Sources said that the president informed the leaders that the government had sealed six points through which arms and money were being sent into the restive province. According to the sources, the president said that sophisticated weapons were being funnelled to Bugti areas from abroad through Rahimyar Khan, Sanghar, Jacobabad, Waziristan, Zhob and Chagai and the sealing of the points had stopped arms supplies..

The Nation, 5 September 2006

Pak, US navies hold anti-terror exercises

Karachi (AFP) - Pakistan and the United States embarked on a two-week joint naval exercise Monday to enhance their skills in counter terrorism, and human and drug smuggling, an official said. The exercises will help the navies to check terrorism, and human and drug smuggling through sea routes, Lieutenant commander Salman Ahmed of the Pakistani Navy told AFP. Its a regular feature and it gives a chance to both navies to learn from each others skills, he said, adding that Pakistan and the US held a similar exercise last year..

Dawn, 5 September 2006

Pakistan may sign N-power deal with China in November

Washington, Sept 4: Pakistan may sign a deal with China in November for acquiring six nuclear power plants with an installed capacity of 300 MW each, diplomatic sources told Dawn. Top Chinese officials are expected to visit Pakistan in November to sign the deal, they added. Pakistan has a target of producing 8,000 MW of nuclear power by 2025. Pakistan had earlier invited the United States to set up nuclear power plants in the country but Washington showed little interest..

Dawn, 5 September 2006

Editorial: Before it is too late

PAKISTAN seems to have reached the edge of the precipice. The political rumpus that has erupted in the country in the aftermath of Nawab Akbar Bugtis killing signals a national crisis of grave proportions. The situation is more serious than it appears. It is not just a clash between political centres of power that we witness today. Akbar Bugtis killing has spawned a sense of deep alienation among all sections of the Baloch people. They feel that the events of the last few weeks have vindicated the sentiment they had nursed for decades about being discriminated against by the non-Baloch powers who control the province..

Dawn, 5 September 2006

Opinion: Nation-building under stress (Shahid Javed Burki)

I am suspending for a week the series of articles on the rise of extremism and radicalism to write about a matter of equal import: the evolving situation in Balochistan after the death of Sardar Akbar Khan Bugti in an encounter with the military. The facts surrounding this tragic incident are still not clear. Did the authorities launch the operation with the aim to kill the Baloch leader? Or was the sardars death the result of the collapse of the cave in which he was hiding and which had come under heavy military assault? If the intent was indeed to kill, what did Islamabad hope to achieve by carrying out such an act? Was the action motivated by the fact that Balochistan now straddles an exceedingly sensitive geographic space?..

Daily Times, 6 September 2006

Waziristan Taliban sign peace deal with government (Haji Mujtaba and Iqbal Khattak)

Miranshah/Peshawar: Taliban militants signed a peace agreement with the government on Tuesday, pledging not to launch cross-border attacks in Afghanistan and not to shelter foreign fighters, officials said. The peace deal aims to end two years of violence in North Waziristan, where hundreds of people have died in clashes between security forces and Taliban militants. The Taliban had been observing a unilateral ceasefire since June. Taliban representative Azad Khan and North Waziristan chief administrator Dr Fakhar-e-Alam signed the agreement at the football stadium of Government Degree College in Miranshah, in the presence of army commander Major General Azhar Ali Shah..

Daily Times, 6 September 2006

EDITORIAL: Mr Bugtis killing shows fault-lines in political opposition

The general comment since Akbar Bugtis death has focused on how the event has impacted the political scene in the country and how it might have served to bring the opposition political parties together. But it can be argued that the opposition political parties may have acted more to further their party-political agendas rather than to raise a national cause. Lets take a look. The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy primarily comprises the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party. Neither has signed the Legal Framework Order and both refuse to accept General Pervez Musharraf as president of Pakistan..

Dawn, 6 September 2006

Opinion: Meeting Balochists needs (Shahid Javed Burki)

THE accession of Balochistan was treated in yet another way. What goes today by the name of that province did not exist in 1947. The British administered the area lightly. A few urban municipalities were governed by political agents, officials who belonged to a central service. The administration of the land owned by various tribes was left to the tribal leaders. Accountability to the central authority (for mostly law and order) was assigned to a shahi jirga..

Daily Times, 6 September 2006

MMA protests against Womens Protection Bill Mohammad Imran

Islamabad: Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) members of the National Assembly demonstrated in front of Parliament House on Tuesday to protest against the un-Islamic Womens Protection Bill. The MMAs chanted slogans against President General Pervez Musharraf and the Pakistan Muslim League government and vowed to resist the passage of the bill in the National Assembly. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Farid Ahmed Paracha said that the government was going against Islamic injunctions by amending the Hudood laws. He said that the MMA would continue protests against the government on the issue..

Paktribune, 6 September 2006

PM Shaukat calls for end to blockade of Lebanon.

Islamabad: The blockade of Lebanon must be ended so that relief and reconstruction activity can move ahead expeditiously said Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz while talking to Ch. Shujaat Hussain President PML and Ch. Pervez Elahi Chief Minister of Punjab at the Prime Ministers House on Tuesday. The two leaders appreciated the Prime Ministers visit to Beirut to express solidarity with the Lebanese people in this difficult and challenging time

Frontier Post, 7 September 2006

Musharraf for building mutual trust - confers on terror with Karzai

Kabul: Pakistan underlined the need for overcoming a mutual trust deficit between Islamabad and Kabul for an effective war on the twin menace of terrorism and extremism on both sides of the Durand Line. Visiting Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, at a joint media appearance with his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai, argued that closer bilateral coordination and trust would enable the neighbours to better fight the insurgents. The US-backed Afghan leader, lauding a peace deal the Pakistan government sealed a day earlier with Taliban sympathizers in the restive North Waziristan Agency, hoped the pact would have a positive impact on Afghanistans security..

Dawn, 7 September 2006

Editorial: A welcome accord

The peace agreement signed on Tuesday between the government and the tribal militants could turn out to be seminal for North Waziristan if the two sides abided by it. Signed by seven tribesmen on behalf of the Shura (advisory council) and by the Political Agent of

North Waziristan on behalf of the government, the 16-clause agreement is comprehensive and seeks to remove the causes that led to the conflict in the area. The key clauses include the militants pledge not to attack Pakistan security forces and state property and to stop cross-border movements for attacks in Afghanistan..

Paktribune, 7 September 2006

Pakistan hands over list of 66 most wanted human traffickers to Turkey, Iran, Greece

Islamabad: Pakistan has handed over the list of 66 most wanted smugglers involved in human trafficking to Turkey, Iran and Greece. This was said by director general FIA Tariq Pervaiz while talking to the journalists on conclusion of 2-day meeting of joint working group comprising the representatives from Pakistan, Turkey, Iran and Greece. The group is aimed at taking joint measures for prevention of human trafficking..

Frontier Post, 7 September 2006

Editorial: Promising development

The North Waziristan peace accord is a blissfully promising development. Although much now depends on how it evolves in implementation, yet it marks a welcome start holding out the hope of restoring calm, peace and normality to the agency. Predictably, there will be many a hiccup in the way. But those can be surmounted if the spirit that has led up to the conclusion of this accord is let to guide and dictate the future actions and no provocation is allowed to derail the ensuing peace enterprise. And it is in sheer bad taste to pronounce who has capitulated and who has triumphed from this accord..

Frontier Post, 8 September 2006

Musharraf says ISI not backing Taliban

Kabul: Insurgents were sneaking from Pakistan into Afghanistan to stage attacks on targets inside the war-battered Central Asian country, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf admitted on Thursday. But he hastened to add that neither the Pakistan government nor the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was aiding the destabilizing operations of al-Qaeda and Taliban militants in the neighbouring country. The visiting president regretted that Kabul, without any concrete evidence, frequently blasted Pakistan for deadly insurgent attacks and supporting Taliban. The blame game must end if the neighbours had to crush the menace of terrorism decidedly, he stressed..

Dawn, 8 September 2006

Sons want Bugti body exhumed

Quetta, Sept 7: Sons of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti have called for exhuming the body of their father under the supervision of the international commission and setting up an international medical board in order to ascertain the cause of death. Speaking to newsmen at the Bugti House here on Thursday, Nawabzada Jamil Akbar Bugti and Nawabzada Talal Akbar Bugti said they had called the press conference for lodging, through media, an FIR against President General Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Balochistan Governor Owais Ahmed Ghani, Chief Minister Jam Muhammad Yousuf, the corps commander Quetta and the IGFC for killing their father..

The Nation, 8 September 2006

Editorial: Trust building exercise

IT is a sad commentary on Islamabad's foreign policy that relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan should continue to be marked with mistrust despite all that Islamabad has done for its neighbour for over two decades. Pakistan helped the resistance against Russian occupation, sheltered over three million Afghan refugees and, more recently, sacrificed hundreds of its army personnel and many more civilians to stall incursions by militants into Afghanistan. The visit by General Musharraf is the latest attempt to improve the relations marred by accusations and counter accusations. President Hamid Karzai and his officials have continued to complain that Islamabad is not doing enough to stop the inflow of Al-Qaeda and Taliban elements who have destabilised its southern and eastern provinces..

Dawn, 8 September 2006

Editorial: Power to the provinces

A chastened government, struggling to defend its actions in Balochistan, did not oppose a private members bill moved from the opposition benches in the National Assembly on Tuesday seeking the abolition of the Concurrent List from the Constitution as part of efforts to empower the provinces. Indeed, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Sher Afghan Niazi, who was only the other day vociferously justifying the killing of Nawab Bugti, welcomed the bill and said provincial autonomy was the need of the hour. Is this perception now shared by this government as a whole and more particularly by the military? Or is support to the bill merely a bit of tokenism to soothe ruffled opposition feathers? It would be tragic if the government is merely play-acting.

Dawn, 9 September 2006

No troop withdrawal from N. Waziristan: governor

Peshawar, Sept 8: NWFP Governor Ali Mohammad Jan Aurakzai has ruled out withdrawal of army from North Waziristan, and said troops will remain along the Afghan border to check infiltration. The peace agreement is by no means meant to pull back army from the area; the troops will remain there, Mr Aurakzai said told newsmen at the Governors House on Friday. He rejected an impression that the government had signed a deal with militants or the local Taliban. We have not signed any agreement with the Taliban; this is a deal between the government and the Utmanzai tribe, he said in reply to a question..

Paktribune, 9 September 2006

ADB a strategic partner in pak development: Aziz

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that Asian Development Bank is a strategic partner in Pakistan's development and we particularly look for assistance in sectors like energy, North South corridor, social sectors, capital markets, pension systems reform, financial management systems reform, building infrastructure and developing human resource. The Prime Minister said this while talking to Mr. Juan Miranda, Director General of Asian Development Bank (ADB) who called on him at the PM's House Friday..He assured the Prime Minister that the Bank would provide assistance on an annual basis. He said ADB intends to increase its annual loan commitment to about \$

2 billion which is considerably higher than the funding of around \$ 800 million which was the average during the last decade..

Dawn, 9 September 2006

Opinion: Balochistan after Bugti (Sherry Rehman)

HISTORY and nature have one thing in common. They rarely teach lessons without bloodshed and trauma. Although we have never officially embraced it as a potentially preventable wound, one of the lessons etched like a deep scar on our body politic is the partition of Pakistan. Perhaps because of, not despite, all the cosmetic surgery we have done on that amputation, that wound is throbbing again today. The dark shadow of 1971, when provincial disharmony turned into a virulent movement for secession, should have informed all decisions Islamabad took to assuage tensions in provinces that felt they had an unequal share in our multi-ethnic federation.. Akbar Khan Bugti's killing at the hands of the military has escalated an old struggle into a fight for many things in Pakistan..

Daily Times, 9 September 2006

US watching Pakistans deal with militants: Bush

Washington: A peace deal between Pakistan and pro-Taliban militants does not give safe haven to terrorists who may be hiding on tribal lands near the Pakistani-Afghan border, US President George W Bush said in an interview on Thursday. I dont read it that way, Bush said of the agreement Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's government signed on Tuesday in which the militants agreed to stop attacks in the region..

Daily Times, 9 September 2006

Editorial: Waziristan remains a simmering embarrassment

While the government has international support for its military operations in Waziristan, opinion abroad differs over whether these forays against Al Qaeda have been terribly effective. It was South Waziristan to start with, and now, in the third year, it is North Waziristan too. From Wana the focus has shifted to Miranshah, despite official declarations of containment of the trouble in the south. Three people were killed and four injured on Monday when a gunman opened fire on officials who tried to confiscate his Kalashnikov in that town..

Daily Times, 10 September 2006

Islamabad cant handle Balochistan

Lahore: Islamabad is a country within Pakistan, with a lifestyle that is not affected by people living in Balochistan, Punjab, the NWFP or Sindh, former agriculture minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Saturday. Addressing a seminar on the Crisis and Need for National Solidarity organised by the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP) and Joint Action Committee for Peoples Rights (JACPR) at Lahore Press Club, he said only Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar could resolve the Balochistan issue. Qureshi, a national assembly member from Pakistan Peoples Party, said Islamabads culture was entirely different from the rest of Pakistan and it could not keep Quetta united with the rest of the country..

The Nation, 10 September 2006

Opinion: A matter of shame (AMINA JILANI)

The Bugti thing is lingering. It is not going away in a hurry - nor should it, taking into account its nature. The government may well have found Akbar Bugti to be a pain in the neck when alive but chances are that it will find him to be a far more aggravating and nastier pain when dead. General Musharraf has not uttered on the implications of the Bugti elimination other than to talk about the writ of the government (actually non-existent) extending to the farthest corner of the country..A few questions for the most honourable self-proclaimed executioners: We have been told that Akbar Bugti is dead, but not one person can confirm having seen his body. Those who actually did the deed, if indeed there was a deed, are either dead themselves or hidden away where no one can get at them. How and when was he killed?

Daily Times, 10 September 2006

Opinion: A good end to a bad law (Feisal Naqvi)

The Hudood Ordinance has now been limited to cover only those crimes for which punishment is specified in the Quran itself. All other crimes, such as rape, have been taken out of the Hudood Ordinance and moved into the Pakistan Penal Code, where normal criminal and evidentiary procedure will apply. This means that in rape cases, the evidence of a woman will now be worth the same as that of a man. For most of the past three decades, Repeal the Hudood Ordinance has been the rallying cry for Pakistans feminists..

Daily Times, 11 September 2006

18 injured in Quetta blast

Quetta: Around 18 people were injured in a powerful bomb blast in the provincial capital on Sunday morning. The homemade bomb went off in Shawakasha Roads food street at Junction Chowk at about 9:05am, said police sources. The bomb, which had been fixed to a parked bicycle, damaged four shops, three restaurants and two cars. The injured people, including a woman, were shifted to hospital for treatment. Two of the injured people are in critical condition. The police sources said it was a terrorist attack, and police had started searching for the assailants..

Daily Times, 11 September 2006

Editorial: Sending sappers to Lebanon

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has announced that Pakistan has agreed to send army sappers to Lebanon for the purpose of clearing that country of landmines, cluster bombs, booby traps and other explosive devices. After consultations we have decided to send a contingent of Pakistan Army personnel. The number... is not yet decided, but I think they will be in the hundreds, Mr Aziz said at a press conference on Saturday at Prime Ministers House. Apparently the formal request that Pakistan send a contingent of sappers was made by the Lebanese government during Mr Aziz recent trip to Lebanon, although an understanding to this effect between the two sides was probably reached earlier behind the scenes. What are the implications of this decision?

Paktribune, 11 September 2006

President visit to US vital in the perspective of evolving global situation: Sheikh Rashid

Rawalpindi: Minister for railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said president General Pervez Musharraf upcoming visit to US will be very vital in the perspective of evolving situation adding this visit will help boost bilateral relations between Pakistan and US. President Musharraf is proceeding to US on important visit. His visit will be very vital in the perspective of evolving situation. The launching ceremony of President Musharraf book is being eagerly awaited there, he said this while addressing a gathering of traders and talking to the journalists on Murree road here Sunday..

Daily Times, 12 September 2006

Editorial: Short term deals in Islamabad and Kabul

Islamabads peace deal with pro-Taliban tribes along the Afghan border in North Waziristan was announced last Tuesday in sync with General Pervez Musharraf's visit to Kabul the day after. The government has claimed that the deal will end two years of violence in the region and help stem cross-border raids by the Taliban into Afghanistan, the latter reportedly being a crucial aspect of the agreement. Kabul has consistently demanded that Pakistan should stop disruptive elements from crossing into Afghan territory and the issue has created much bad blood between the two capitals. However, the deal has evoked scepticism in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US despite a statement by General Musharraf that it was a great achievement..

Paktribune, 12 September 2006

US delegation discusses NWA peace accord with Aurakzai

Peshawar: An eleven-member US delegation headed by Lt. Gen. Jaffery Kohler, Director of Defense Security Cooperation Agency called on the NWFP Governor Lt. Gen. (R) Ali Muhammad Jan Aurakzai here at the Governors House on Monday. They discussed matters relating to security environment with particular reference to the recent peace agreement in North Waziristan Agency. Governor Aurakzai highlighted the peace agreement saying that it has paved way for restoration of peace in restive North Waziristan Agency..

The Nation, 12 September 2006

Autonomy best solution of Balochistan crisis

Islamabad : While lamenting over continuing militarys operation in Balochistan, the speakers Monday warned the rulers that the situation is even worse than 1971, which can lead towards disintegration of the country. They said the sense of deprivation prevailed among nationalists of Balochistan, Sindh and Siraki and if remedial measures in shape of giving them autonomy and equitable resources distribution were not taken then history of 1971 could repeat itself. Expressing their displeasure over the situation, emerged from the brutal killing of Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Bugti, the speakers demanded an immediate end to military operation, release of all political prisoners and production of all mysteriously disappeared Baloch nationalists..

The Nation, 12 September 2006

Editorial: ARD public meeting

The ARD meeting held at Minar-i-Pakistan to express solidarity with the people of Balochistan and condemn the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti was attended by a few thousand people drawn from several districts of Punjab. It can thus be called a respectable gathering and might reduce the damage done by the failure of the alliance to observe a successful strike in the province a few days back. The size of the meeting, though respectable, was however below the expectations of many keeping in view the number of parties involved in ensuring attendance. This would indicate that the ARD and its allies have to do a lot of hard work to be able to mobilise the people in Punjab..

The Nation, 12 September 2006

Opinion: Peace deal rationale? (Mazhar Qayyum Khan)

The general public as well as analysts familiar with the social mores and strong, conservative religious beliefs in the tribal regions of Pakistan have been counselling against the use of military tactics in North and South Waziristan Agencies to compel the local people to give up support for the Taliban across the Durand Line. Dialogue with tribal elders and religious leaders to bring home to them the harmful international implications, which the incursions by armed men into Afghanistan entailed, was, they argued, the best option to try to put an end to these activities..

Dawn, 13 September 2006

Taliban bigger threat now than Al Qaeda: Militants brought in by West: Musharraf

Brussels, Sept 12: President Pervez Musharraf has warned that Taliban have overtaken Al Qaeda as the regions biggest threat to security. The Taliban were more dangerous because they had roots as a social movement and not simply an ideology, the president told the European Parliaments foreign affairs committee here on Tuesday. The centre of gravity of terrorism has shifted from Al Qaeda to Taliban, he said. It is a new element that has emerged, a more dangerous element because it has roots in the people. Al Qaeda did not have roots in the people, he said..

Paktribune, 13 September 2006

NWA accord reflective of tribal peoples desire to live in peace: Shaukat

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that the agreement that the agreement reached between the tribal elders of North Waziristan is reflective of tribal peoples desire to uphold the national interests and live in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility in tribal areas. The Prime Minister said this while talking to the NWFP Governor Lt. General (Retd.) Ali Muhammad Jan Orkzai who called on him at the PMs House Tuesday.. They discussed the rehabilitation effort for the damage caused by the recent flash floods in NWFP and the Prime Minister assured the Governor that the federal government will extend all possible assurances to restore normal life in the flood affected areas..

Dawn, 13 September 2006

Editorial: What sanity demands

Though symbolic inasmuch as it was well-attended and diverse in its outlook, the multi-party opposition rally in Lahore on Sunday was symptomatic of the bigger, chronic

problem plaguing the country: absence of a credible political process and lack of national cohesion. The PPP, the PML-N and the religious and smaller regional and nationalist parties which congregated under the shadow of the Minar-i-Pakistan seemed only to agree on a one-point agenda: that the army must stop meddling in politics and go back to the barracks to mind its professional duty..The sooner the present dispensation, comprising mainly the militarys handpicked legislators in whom the people have little confidence, is dismantled the better it would be for the country which is holding together without the binding ties of unity..

The Nation, 13 September 2006

Editorial: Redrafting the bill

After having been warned against any hasty legislation, the government has decided to redraft the Protection of Women (Criminal Law Amendment) Bill, incorporating in it the amendments proposed by the MMA, before returning with it to the National Assembly on Wednesday. The bill was earlier placed on the agenda of the House for debate on Monday, but was dropped after PML President Ch Shujaat Hussains meeting with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, which was also attended by Punjab CM Ch Pervaiz Elahi, NWFP CM Akram Durrani and some non-civilian officials. Later, MMA leaders Hafiz Hussain Ahmad and Liaquat Baloch held a meeting with the governments negotiating team, comprising Law Minister Wasi Zafar and some officially nominated ulema..

Dawn, 14 September 2006

Waziristan pact wont stop surgical strikes

Islamabad Sept 13: Pakistans army can still carry out surgical strikes if there is militant activity in the North Waziristan region, a senior official said on Wednesday, referring to a pact to end fighting with pro-Taliban tribesmen. Critics of the accord say the government had virtually caved in to the militants demands and the strategy risked creating a safe haven in North Waziristan for Taliban insurgents, who are fighting the government in Afghanistan, and their al Qaeda allies..

Dawn, 14 September 2006

Torkham-Jalalabad road opened (Khaleeq Kiani)

Jalalabad, Sept 13: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday vowed to promote mutual trust and harmony as they opened a rebuilt road between their countries. Prime Minister Aziz went to Jalalabad to open the road rebuilt by Pakistan with President Karzai. The two leaders talked about promoting education to make progress in all facets. Terrorism, they agreed, was a common enemy and must be fought jointly..

Paktribune, 14 September 2006

UN report regarding Pakistan in human trafficking baseless, Senate told

Islamabad: The Senate was told on Wednesday that Government of Pakistan has rejected the report of United Nation regarding Pakistan not doing enough to stop human smuggling. State Interior Minister Zafar Iqbal Warraich told Senate on Wednesday that Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Interior Ministry has taken meaningful steps to stop human trafficking in the country and the government has strongly rejected the UN

report in this regard. British High Commissioner in Pakistan himself lauded the role of FIA for stopping human smuggling and United State has deleted Pakistan's name from its watch list, he added..

Paktribune, 14 September 2006

Gwadar port to be operational on Dec 30

Islamabad : The Senate was informed on Wednesday that Gwadar Port would be operational by Dec 30, 2006. During the question hour, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Kamil Ali Agha said that 90 per cent work on the first phase of the port had been completed. He said although problems were being faced in construction of roads, the project would be handed over to operators by Dec 30. Mr Agha said the first phase would have cost Rs14.9 billion while the second phase would cost Rs525 million..

Daily Times, 14 September 2006

Editorial: Musharraf should help Singh

The Indian prime minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has signalled that the issue of terrorism will top his agenda of talks with General Pervez Musharraf on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement conference in Havana later this week. Terrorism today constitutes a threat for both countries. It is incumbent on us to work together in a manner that inspires confidence that both of us are very serious about tackling the menace of terrorism. Dr Singh has also made plain that repeated terrorist attacks in India impair the atmosphere and make it very difficult for him to improve ties with Pakistan. I cant carry the Indian public opinion with me if terrorist acts continue to plague our society..

Daily Times, 14 September 2006

Women's bill delayed again (Shahzad Raza)

Islamabad: The government again delayed the Protection of Women Bill on Wednesday, saying it needed more time to develop a consensus on the bill with the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal. The decision was made during informal federal cabinet and the parliamentary party meetings of the ruling coalition, which the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) boycotted in protest at the governments decision to change the bill at the behest of the MMA..

Dawn, 15 September 2006

New US diplomatic drive on Afghanistan: Musharraf, Karzai to meet Bush at Iftar

Washington, Sept 14: US President George W. Bush will launch a major diplomatic offensive to redress Afghanistans woes later this month when he will hold separate talks with the Afghan and Pakistani presidents and a possible tripartite meeting later to jointly review the proposals discussed separately, it is learnt. The White House on Thursday confirmed that President Bush would meet President Pervez Musharraf on Sept 22 and President Hamid Karzai on Sept 26..

Dawn, 15 September 2006

Editorial: Torkham-Jalalabad road

Following President Musharrafs successful visit to Afghanistan last week, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz followed in his steps on Wednesday to inaugurate the Torkham-Jalalabad

road in the presence of President Karzai. This reflects a renewed interest in forging ahead despite past tensions. Steps like the newly rebuilt road are crucial for strengthening the relationship between the two neighbours. The opening of the road will boost trade between the two countries and its extension will facilitate economic cooperation with Central Asian countries. This is bound to improve the economic well-being of people in both countries. It is in Pakistans interests to contribute in any way it can to Afghanistans stability..

Daily Times, 15 September 2006

Editorial: Doing deals with a threat worse than Al Qaeda

General Pervez Musharraf told the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday that the Taliban constitute a bigger threat to the security of the region than Al Qaeda because, unlike the latter, they are rooted in populations on both sides of the Durand Line. General Musharraf also referred to the Taliban as an Afghan phenomenon. This provoked an immediate riposte from Kabul, which called the statement unfriendly and reminded Pakistan that the militia was created and supported by Pakistans intelligence in 1996. Interestingly, General Musharraf spoke about the Taliban threat exactly a week from the day he cut a deal with the Taliban in Waziristan and which has since been hailed by the government as a breakthrough..

Daily Times, 15 September 2006

Seminar urges provincial autonomy

Quetta: Speakers at a seminar here on Thursday stressed the need for provincial autonomy to avert further political unrest in Pakistan. Addressing the seminar in connection with tribal chief Nawab Akbar Bugtis killing, the speakers condemned Bugtis killing and demanded a DNA test of his body in the presence of an international medical board. Jamhoori Watan Party Information Secretary Amanullah Kanrani blamed international powers, especially the US and UK, for the unrest in Balochistan. He said that they eyed the provinces coastline and natural resources..

Dawn, 16 September 2006

Nawaz, Fahim agree to step up struggle

Lahore, Sept 15: ARD chairman Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Mian Nawaz Sharif on Friday decided to step up the struggle for restoration of democracy and the constitution as it stood on Oct 12, 1999. The decision was taken at a 90-minute meeting held at the PML-N office in London at the invitation of the former prime minister. Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Syed Ghous Ali Shah were also present. A couple of days ago, Makhdoom Amin Fahim had met Ms Benazir Bhutto and exchanged views on the situation in Pakistan. The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy chairman said the issue of opposition legislators resignations also came under discussion..

Dawn, 16 September 2006

PML meeting sought on Balochistan

Islamabad, Sept 15: Some senior members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, who met at the residence of Lt-Gen (ret'd) Majeed Malik on Wednesday, have called upon the party president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to convene a meeting of the partys executive

committee immediately to discuss the Balochistan situation. In a statement here on Friday, senior vice-presidents Hamid Nasir Chattha and Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo rebutted reports that differences had cropped up in the party ranks on the leadership issue. They said the meeting had discussed party issues and Balochistan situation..

The Nation, 16 September 2006

Pak seeks SCOs help on defence

Dushanbe (APP) - Reiterating Pakistans commitment in combating terrorism and extremism, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Friday called for greater regional cooperation and collective efforts, particularly through the platform of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in stemming the menace. He was addressing a meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization of regional leaders. The prime minister said Pakistan believed that greater regional cooperation would further help in stemming the tide of terrorism and extremism..

Daily Times, 16 September 2006

Resolve Balochistan issue or time will run out

Islamabad: Former Balochistan chief minister Taj Jamali on Friday asked the government to carry out a negotiated settlement of the Balochistan issue, warning that the situation would otherwise get out of control and become detrimental to the federation of Pakistan. Time is running out fast. I have been pressing for a negotiated settlement of the (Balochistan) issue. If the federal government does not seek a negotiated settlement within two months, the situation will not be in anybody's control, he told a press conference here at his residence..

Daily Times, 16 September 2006

Opinion: Why blame the MMA? (Asma Jahangir)

To be fair to the MMA, it has at least been consistent. At no point did it support the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances. When some of its leaders showed some flexibility, it extended no further than slight amendments, under the watchful supervision of the ulema. As such there was no surprise in the MMA not accepting any near-decent amendment to the law. The fate of the so-called Womens Protection Bill has been no different from the bill to stop honour killings or the promises to amend the law of blasphemy. In fact, the entire reformist agenda of the government appears to have fallen flat on its face..

Dawn, 16 September 2006

US endorses Waziristan peace deal

Washington, Sept 15: The United States believes that the agreement the government recently signed with pro-Taliban tribal chiefs in Waziristan has the potential to work. In a policy speech at the School of Advanced International Studies here, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher endorsed the deal as an effort to get tribal support to defeat terrorism. He refused to get involved in a debate over the situation in Balochistan, saying that it was Pakistans local problem. He declared that no country had done more than Pakistan in the war against terror..

Dawn, 17 September 2006

Iran invites president for pipeline talks

Havana, Sept 16: President Pervez Musharraf has been invited by his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to visit Tehran to discuss progress on the gas pipeline project from Iran to Pakistan and possibly India as the two leaders met here on Friday on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movements summit. The two leaders discussed the pricing issue for the gas to be supplied from Iran. They expressed satisfaction over the appointment of a consultant on the issue..Referring to his recent visit to Brussels, President Musharraf said that during his meetings with the leaders of the European Union they expressed satisfaction that the dialogue with Iran seemed to be making progress..

Dawn, 17 September 2006

PML old guard concerned over Balochistan crisis

Islamabad, Sept 16: Expressing concerns over the development in Balochistan following the killing and unceremonious burial of Nawab Akbar Bugti, veteran leaders of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League have demanded a meeting of the party elders to discuss and devise an official policy on the issue. Lt-Gen (retired) Majeed Malik, an old confidant of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, said on Saturday that partys old guard had no personal differences with the ruling PML chief and secretary-general. He said that they had serious concerns about Balochistan and wanted a party meeting to discuss it..

Daily Times, 17 September 2006

Pakistan will maintain credible deterrence: PM

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Saturday that Pakistan would maintain credible deterrence for the security of the country. Our defence policy aims at maintaining minimum credible deterrence to protect our territorial integrity, stability and progress, he told former Malaysian prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad and his wife during a meeting at Prime Ministers House. Aziz said Pakistan faced several challenges because of its geographic-strategic location, which could also help create opportunities..

Daily Times, 17 September 2006

Opinion: Federalism and political alienation (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)

One of the agenda-points said that the military government would work towards strengthening the federation, removing inter-provincial disharmony and restoring national cohesion. The Musharraf government could not address this point in a satisfactory manner. If anything inter-provincial disharmony has increased and the smaller provinces are more critical of the federal government than they were in the 11 years of civilian rule. The on-going Balochistan crisis has drawn attention to the theory and practice of federalism in Pakistan..

Paktribune, 17 September 2006

IAEA clears Pakistan of N-material trafficking

Vienna : The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has cleared Pakistan of nuclear material trafficking. In its recent report on illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities involving nuclear and radioactively contaminated material, the IAEA has cleared Islamabad of nuclear material trafficking within the last decade as it is

reported to have taken stringent measures to secure its nuclear material and is continuously pushing to meet the international standards, kUNA reported said Saturday..

Dawn, 17 September 2006

Editorial: What ails our foreign policy (Javid Husain)

Pakistan's foreign policy currently suffers from problems of substance and image, a combination that has made the country vulnerable to the challenges of the 21st century. The nation faces the risk of grievous losses unless there is a radical transformation in foreign policy. That would not be possible without making fundamental changes to the way this country is governed..Unfortunately, Pakistan's tarnished image abroad is based mostly, though not exclusively, on domestic realities and the way foreign affairs are handled. Therefore, Pakistan's image abroad cannot be improved without radical and substantial changes in the way the country is governed..

Frontier Post, 17 September 2006

No pullout of troops from NWA: Governor

Peshawar: Provincial Governor of North West Frontier Province Ali Muhammad Jan Aurakzai said that Pakistan government will not withdraw its troops from the restless and tension gripped North Waziristan Tribal region despite a peace agreement with pro-Taliban leader. Ali Muhammad Jan Aurakzai talking to a private TV channel said that we have not deployed our eighty thousand troops for nothing. They are there for a purpose..

Daily Times, 18 September 2006

Kasuri defends Waziristan peace deal

Washington: Pakistan's foreign minister on Sunday strongly defended a truce with militants along the Pakistan-Afghan border, saying not just brawn but brains are needed in the fight against terrorists. Sometimes what happens is that when you have acts of violence you end up alienating the local population. Kasuri fired back against those who have accused Pakistan of not doing enough in the hunt for bin Laden and other terror leaders, saying Pakistan's commitment to the war against extremism and terrorism is very much in place..

Dawn, 18 September 2006

PPP urges govt to stop Balochistan operation

Quetta, Sept 17: The deputy parliamentary leader of the Peoples Party Parliamentarians in the National Assembly, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, on Sunday called for immediately stopping the military operation in Balochistan. Speaking at a press conference after offering condolences over the death of Nawab Akbar Bugti to his sons, he said a dialogue should be initiated with political forces of the province to resolve contentious issues, including that of provincial autonomy. He added that no problem could be solved through use of force..

Dawn, 18 September 2006

Opinion: Uncertain fate of the amendments (Anwer Mooraj)

The outcome of the debate recently staged in the National Assembly over the bill which was supposed to provide protection to women did not come as a surprise to anybody and

least of all to the groups agitating for justice for women and their struggle to find a place in the sun. All it did was to endorse the view commonly held that the government never really had any intention of getting rid of the laws that victimise and are discriminatory to women, the minorities or other disadvantaged groups..For over 25 years Pakistani women have lived under the heel of the repressive laws, one of which blatantly stated that a woman could be locked up on mere suspicion..

The Nation, 18 September 2006

NWA peace deal not with Taliban

New York - President General Pervez Musharraf has said that his talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Havana were successful with both sides agreeing to discuss and resolve the Kashmir dispute. To a question on peace agreement in North Waziristan, the president said the deal was not with the Taliban, but with the tribal elders of the agency. It was a process launched and carried forward by the grand Jirga. There has been no agreement with the Taliban nor will there be any in future, he said. He further said: While we fight terrorism, we should go beyond the military options and address the root causes of the menace..

Daily Times, 18 September 2006

Editorial: Lessons from the Havana meeting

..The second lesson relates to the issue of terrorism. We have constantly argued that terrorism is a threat sans frontiers. Like global capital, it moves and networks across borders and no state can deal with it alone. Addressing it requires a cooperative and institutional security framework. The problem is that it generally manifests itself in regions where states are least prepared to cooperate with each other for reasons of conflict. Precisely for that reason, however, states locked in a conflictual paradigm need to resolve the issues that provide a fertile ground to disruptive elements..

Daily Times, 19 September 2006

Opinion: Blaming the sardars (Javed Talat)

..The Baloch sardari, blamed for so much, is prevalent today only among the Sulaimani tribes. Its a firm tribal structure with the institution of a paternalistic sardar at the helm, who exercises considerable authority, looking after the needy, disciplining the errant and deciding civil as well as criminal matters..The sardars have been blamed for lack of development in Balochistan. They never got a chance, but see what the others did. The Bolan Medical College, a federal project, had been under construction for over 15 years and was still nowhere near complete. When, after talking to the federal government, I decided to cancel the contract, the chief minister came to my residence with his friend, the contractor..

The Nation, 19 September 2006

Opinion: The Baloch problem (Abdullah M. Adnan)

Even after three weeks of Akbar Bugtis death, it is disgusting to see and hear on government-owned media and by governments spokesmen all kind of reports and innuendoes against the slain Baloch leader. As if the ill-conceived policy of use of force to silence its political opponent (who among the Baloch sardars happened to be the most

ardent supporter of federation) has not already had wreaked enough havoc, the military-controlled governments charade is going on unabated..

Daily Times, 19 September 2006

NA prorogued, women's bill delayed again

Islamabad: Chaudhry Amir Hussain, the National Assembly (NA) speaker, prorogued the NA session on Monday, ending any prospect that the Protection of Women Bill will be passed soon. The NA speaker hurriedly read out the prorogation order while journalists were boycotting proceedings to protest against an attack on three television reporters by police in Lahore..

Daily Times, 19 September 2006

UK terror suspect goes silent to protect family in Pakistan

London: A terrorist suspect on trial in London stopped giving evidence on Monday, saying he was worried about the safety of his family in Pakistan if he continued to do so. Omar Khyam, who is accused with six others of plotting a bombing campaign in Britain with more than half a ton of fertiliser explosive, said he had been contacted by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)..Khyam (24) and six others accused of being a British Al Qaida linked cell were arrested in March 2004 after the fertiliser was discovered in a west London storage depot. Khyam has yet to explain why he allegedly bought it..

Daily Times, 20 September 2006

Musharraf, Karzai, Bush meet on 27th

New York: US President George W Bush will welcome Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf and Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai for three-way talks on September 27, the White House announced on Tuesday. The meeting will provide the three leaders an opportunity to discuss further cooperation in enhancing the trilateral relationship, said spokesman Tony Snow in a statement. The joint talks will not replace Bush's already scheduled meetings with Karzai on September 26 and Musharraf on September 22. Washington has sought to defuse tensions over a bloody resurgence of the Taliban militia ousted from power in Afghanistan. Last week, the Afghan government rejected Musharraf's assertion that the Taliban had their roots in the Afghan people..

Dawn, 20 September 2006

Accord to launch joint movement: Opposition meeting in Quetta

Quetta: Sept 19: The Alliance for Restoration of Democracy, Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement, Awami National Party and Tehrik Insaf have called for empowering the provinces to control their resources and agreed to launch a decisive anti Musharraf movement in a few weeks. Raja Zafarul Haq chaired a joint meeting of the ARD, PONM, ANP and TI held at the Sarawan House on Tuesday. The meeting discussed the political and economic situation in the country, particularly the alarming situation in Balochistan in the aftermath of the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti..He asserted that if rights were given to the people of Balochistan, no one would raise slogans against the state, and said that the people of Balochistan were justified in demanding their just rights..

Paktribune, 20 September 2006

Taliban condemn Musharraf's remarks

Jalalabad: Taliban have condemned remarks of the Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf about the movement. Addressing the European Parliaments foreign affairs committee on September 12 President Pervez Musharraf said that Taliban had overtaken Al Qaeda as the regions biggest threat to security. Taliban were more dangerous because they had roots as a social movement and not simply an ideology. Linking Taliban movement with Pakhtun society, the president said Taliban had roots in Afghanistan..

The Nation, 20 September 2006

Editorial: Need for unity

The combined opposition has rightly pointed out that the widening mistrust among the federating units was not in the interest of the nation. A rally organised by the ARD in Quetta on Monday to express solidarity with the people of Balochistan over the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti in an army action, adopted a resolution demanding restoration of democracy, full autonomy for provinces, end to military operations in the two western provinces, release of political prisoners and permission for Mian Nawaz Sharif and Ms Benazir Bhutto to return home. The speakers highlighted the need for the formation of a grand opposition alliance so that a decisive movement could be launched to rid the nation of military rule..

Dawn, 20 September 2006

Opinion: WAFs long march for equality (Zubeida Mustafa)

25 years ago, Fehmida and Allahbakhsh were awarded 80 lashes and death by stoning respectively by a Karachi court under the Hudood ordinances. In reaction to this savage sentence, the Womens Action Forum was born to fight against the oppression of women. Launched by seventeen women in Karachi, WAF has grown into an amorphous, non-hierarchical umbrella body of national dimensions that brings together numerous organisations at times over 20 in number seeking justice for women..

Dawn, 20 September 2006

US helicopters intrude into N. Waziristan

Miramshah, Sept 19: Six US helicopters violated Pakistans air space by intruding into Lawara Mandi area of the North Waziristan Agency on Tuesday morning, officials and residents said. Eyewitnesses said that the US helicopter gunships had intruded into Lawara Mandi area, about 55 kilometres west of Miramshah after militants attacked allied forces in Pipali area of Afghanistan, close to Pakistani border. They said that the helicopters violated Pakistans air space more than six times in the area, but did not take action. Pakistani security forces did not react against helicopters..

Daily Times, 21 September 2006

Uniform needed for big issues: Musharraf

United Nations: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Wednesday that his position as army chief allowed him to tackle issues that past governments had not dared to, such as the Womens Protection Bill, which aims to amend two Hudood Ordinances..Reacting to a statement by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Gen Musharraf said: What he has said

is not correct. Mullah Omar is in Afghanistan in his own area, Kandahar, and with his own people. We are dealing with this challenge of Talibanisation. We have borne the brunt for 27 years and this is what Karzai needs to understand. He ruled out the possibility of allowing the United States to carry out any operation in Pakistan..

The Nation, 21 September 2006

Pakistan a declared nuclear state: Kasuri

New York: Pakistan has asked the Nuclear Suppliers Group NSG to adopt a criteria based approach on nuclear energy cooperation while cautioning against the discrimination against any state in this regard. Pakistan is a declared nuclear state and it will acquire the nuclear energy for peaceful purposes at any cost, said Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri while talking to newsmen here. He added that it might take long but we would pursue our efforts in this regard. He urged the 45 member Nuclear Suppliers Group to adopt a criteria based approach on the nuclear energy cooperation..

Daily Times, 21 September 2006

Editorial: And now we have another story on Nawab Bugti killing

The federal minister of state for interior, Zafar Iqbal Warraich, made a Freudian slip on Tuesday when he told the Senate that Nawab Akbar Bugti was killed in an encounter with security forces. Not only is his statement a major shift from the governments earlier claim that Bugti was killed when his cave hideout collapsed in a mysterious self generated explosion, it also serves to put many pieces of the puzzle together. This is what Mr Warraich was reported as saying: Sabotage activities and attacks on national installations had been going on in the Balochistan area. The security forces have been countering these attacks and Bugti was killed in an encounter with security personnel..

Dawn, 21 September 2006

Saindak project: excessive mining goes unchecked (Khaleeq Kiani)

Islamabad, Sept 20: The Rs18 billion Saindak Copper Gold Project in Chaghai district of Balochistan province is being run by a Chinese contractor on a 10 year lease without any independent monitoring for the last three years, raising questions if the production and sale of precious metals really yield prudent return to Pakistan. The project, sources said, produced about \$70 million worth of copper during the last financial year and contributed about \$10 million to the government in export and revenue earnings..

Dawn, 21 September 2006

Opinion: Some autonomy proposals (I A Rehman)

..The provincial autonomy debate is again on. And perhaps with the usual lack of circumspection. Unless the issues that have been kept pending for decades are openheartedly addressed and ways found to expeditiously resolve them, the latest round of discussion could increase the differences between the federation and three of its units instead of composing them..The first factor contributing to the present autonomy debate is Balochistans reaction to the killing of Mohammad Akbar Bugti. By appearing to be surprised, Islamabad only provided a measure of its lack of truck with reality..

Daily Times, 22 September 2006

US threatened to bomb Pakistan: Musharraf

New York: The United States threatened to bomb Pakistan back to the stone age in 2001 unless it cooperated in the US led war on terror, President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview released on Thursday. Musharraf said the threat came from former deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage. He said the comments were delivered to his intelligence director, according to selected transcripts of the interview with CBS televisions 60 Minutes investigative news programme due to be broadcast on Sunday. The intelligence director told me that (Armitage) said, Be prepared to be bombed. Be prepared to go back to the stone age, Musharraf said..Armitages alleged threat also demanded that Pakistan turn over border posts and bases for the US military to use in the war in Afghanistan..

Dawn, 22 September 2006

Grand jirga in Kalat decides to move ICJ (Saleem Shahid)

Kalat, Sept 21: A grand Baloch jirga, convened here on Thursday after about 126 years, announced in a declaration that a case would be filed in the International Court of Justice against what it termed violation of agreements signed by the State of Kalat, the Crown of Britain and the government of Pakistan pertaining to sovereignty and rights of the Baloch people. The Khan of Kalat, Mir Suleman Daud Ahmedzai, presided over the jirga held in the Shahi Hall. It was attended by 85 tribal chiefs and about 300 elders..

Dawn, 22 September 2006

Bush meets Musharraf today, Karzai on Tuesday

Washington, Sept 21: Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have hardened their positions against each other before a crucial meeting between Pakistani and American leaders which is expected to focus on the Afghan situation. President Pervez Musharraf is scheduled to meet President George W. Bush on Friday at the White House. The Bush Musharraf meeting is to be followed by a separate session between Mr Bush and Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday. Then the three leaders are slated to hold a joint meeting on Wednesday..

The Nation, 22 September 2006

Editorial: Blurring the lines

Just ahead of General Musharraf's visit to the White House, President Bush's assertion that he would not hesitate to track down and kill Mr Osama bin Laden and other terrorist operatives, even if it meant hunting them down on Pakistani soil, is significant. Osama is believed to be hiding in the region along the Pak Afghan border... were still spending a lot of time trying to find him, he said in an interview with on Wednesday. Even though he praised efforts by General Musharraf to root out Al Qaeda members operating in the region bordering Afghanistan, the fact that this issue will figure prominently in the meeting on Friday points to Washington's lack of trust in Pakistan despite its cooperation in the so-called War on Terror..

Dawn, 22 September 2006

Opinion: Will it work in Waziristan? (Amir Usman)

The accord signed at Miramshah on September 5, could have been achieved much earlier and without the enormous loss of life, property and the bad blood generated by the military operation against foreign militants. What has been agreed to now meets the demand of the parties to the conflict. The agreement did not take place before because of the lack of goodwill and understanding and meddling by ignorant and unconcerned agencies and persons..The terms accepted by the militants include a commitment not to attack law enforcement agencies, government installations or military men..

Daily Times, 23 September 2006

We'll hunt Taliban, Qaeda: Musharraf to Bush

Washington: Islamabad and Washington are on a joint hunt for Osama Bin Laden and the Taliban and there is no need for publicly discussing the strategy and the tactics of the hunt, said President Pervez Musharraf. Bin Laden will be brought to justice when he is caught, said Musharraf while addressing a joint press conference with US President George W Bush at the White House on Friday. Bush brushed aside the impression that Pakistan was not doing enough, saying that he admired President Musharraf's courage..

Daily Times, 23 September 2006

EDITORIAL: Lessons of the Baloch jirga

In a development that reflects the widespread alienation of the Baloch following the killing of Akbar Bugti, a grand jirga was convened on Thursday by the Khan of Kalat, Mir Suleman Daud Ahmedzai in which they announced that a case would be filed before the International Court of Justice ICJ against the violation of agreements signed in 1948 by the State of Kalat, the Crown of Britain and the Government of Pakistan regarding the sovereignty and rights of the Baloch people. The jirga, attended by 85 tribal chiefs and about 300 elders was convened after 126 years..

Paktribune, 23 September 2006

Musharrafs visit to Cuba, US to help Pakistan image abroad: PM Aziz

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that President Musharrafs visit to Cuba and the US will help project Pakistans true image abroad, highlight the critical role being played by it in the global and regional peace and security and further promote foreign investment in the country. The Prime Minister made these observations while talking to Secretary General Pakistan Muslim League, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed who called on him at the PMs House Friday afternoon..

Dawn, 23 September 2006

Opinion: Outcome of Bugti episode (Tariq Fatemi)

..It is, nevertheless, a fact that Bugtis death is a major political development and most likely to cast a shadow on national politics for decades to come. Whether it was an accidental death or pre meditated elimination matters little. As far as the people of Pakistan, specially those of the three minority provinces, are concerned, the military leadership has eliminated a charismatic spokesman of an angry and alienated minority. Given the lingering bitterness in Sindh over the hanging of Mr Bhutto, the nawabs death

will add to the growing perception that the federal government does not tolerate popular leaders, particularly those that espouse the cause of smaller provinces..

Dawn, 24 September 2006

Pakistan says it has no information

Islamabad, Sept 23: Pakistan has received no information from any foreign government that would corroborate a French newspaper report on Saturday that Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden died of typhoid in Pakistan, a senior government official said. No government has shared any such information with us so far, which is the normal thing to do under such circumstances, the official, who has close knowledge of intelligence matters, told Reuters on condition of anonymity..

Dawn, 24 September 2006

Editorial: Military rule: then and now (Zafar Iqbal)

There is a great deal of clamour that General Musharraf should remove his uniform. He had made an ill considered promise to do so, but realising this mistake he has sensibly gone back on it. The implication, of course, is that he should lose control over the army. Field Marshal Ayub made this mistake and Yahya Khan took over. What are Generals Tanvir and Moinuddin Haider thinking: are they hoping for another Yahya Khan? General Zia didnt make this mistake, but his rule was nevertheless terminated when he was blown out of the sky..

Paktribune, 24 September 2006

Pakistans support to US in war on terror in national interest: Kasuri

Washington: Foreign Minister, Khurshid Kasuri has said all the reservations which emerged after Musharrafs statement that U.S. threat to bomb Pakistan back to the Stone Age after the Sept. 11 attacks now have been removed after President Musharraf meeting with US President George W. Bush. In an interview with an American TV, Foreign Minister said that Pakistan supported US in war on terror in its natural interests not under any pressure..

Daily Times, 24 September 2006

EDITORIAL: President Musharraf and the Taliban

President Pervez Musharraf said at the joint White House press conference with President George W Bush on Friday that his deal with a grand jirga in North Waziristan had been misrepresented in the press. It was not a deal with the Taliban, he explained, but against the Taliban. The American president gracefully nodded, implying he believed what his Pakistani counterpart was saying. But the fact is that there is a whole gallery of pen wielders in Pakistan and the United States who dont believe that any jirga conceivably can, or will, challenge the Taliban..

Dawn, 24 September 2006

Editorial: US arrogance & Pakistan

The Pakistan government took a decision after 9/11 to side with Washington and abandon its support for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan which was accused of harbouring Osama bin Laden. Whether the decision was right or wrong can be endlessly debated:

there will be many who will think that our backing for the Taliban regime was wrong in any case as was our involvement with the entire Afghan jihad episode. We also had no choice: you are with us or against us, we were told by Mr George Bush and his satraps. But to learn now of the arrogant way in which the US demands were put is to squirm with embarrassment and wonder at our own capacity to suffer humiliation..

Daily Times, 25 September 2006

Did Musharraf cave in to Taliban?

Lahore: The fugitive Taliban commander Mulla Omar has emerged as the key player behind the movements controversial peace deal with Pakistan, British newspaper The Telegraph reported on Sunday. The Talibans one eyed spiritual leader, who has a \$10 million price on his head for refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden after the September 11 attacks, signed a letter explicitly endorsing the truce announced this month. The deal between the Pakistani authorities and pro Taliban militants in the tribal provinces bordering Afghanistan was designed to end five years of bloodshed in the area. In return for an end to the US backed government campaign in Waziristan, the tribal leaders agreed to halt attacks on Pakistani troops, more than 500 of whom have been killed..

Daily Times, 25 September 2006

EDITORIAL: Whos in the line of fire?

General Musharraf's memoirs, which will be released to the public in the US today, are bound to make him richer by at least a couple of million dollars. Simon & Schuster have done a great marketing job, with both General Musharraf and President Bush endorsing the book from no less than the lofty portals of the White House. S&S also manipulated, to great effect, the CBS interview with General Musharraf, where the general was coaxed into a juicy tidbit about the US bombing Pakistan to the stone age attributed to Richard Armitage, the former deputy secretary of state..

Dawn, 25 September 2006

Editorial: US Pakistan partnership

Reaffirming their firm commitment to a US Pakistan strategic partnership, President George Bush and President Musharraf discussed on Friday issues relating to bilateral investment and trade arrangements so far unresolved because of the differing approaches of the two sides. In pursuit of common objectives, the interests and concerns of both sides are to be addressed. The task is not made any easier by the fact that negotiations are taking place between a big power and a developing country. Apparently, President Musharraf wants American support in resolving critical economic problems facing Pakistan..

Dawn, 25 September 2006

5 militants injured in Waziristan blast

Wana, Sept 24: Five suspected militants, including two foreigners, were wounded in a roadside explosion, and a paramilitary soldier suffered injuries in a rocket attack on the Scouts Fort in South Waziristan Agency on late Saturday night. Sources said that a vehicle hit an explosive device in Shakai valley on Sunday morning, wounding five persons. The explosive was planted on the road. They said that local militant commander

Khanan and two foreigners were wounded in the explosion..

The Nation, 25 September 2006

Editorial: In the Line of Fire

General Musharraf's assertion that whatever movement has taken place so far in the direction of finding a solution of the Kashmir dispute is owed considerably to the 1999 Kargil conflict between Pakistan and India deserves a thorough analysis. According to the leaked excerpts of his autobiography *In the Line of Fire*, due to be formally launched in New York today, which were carried by Indian newspaper *The Hindu*, the President claimed that Pakistan decided to side with the United States after he had war gamed the US as an adversary..

Dawn, 25 September 2006

Opinion: Need for a truth commission (Dr. Athar Osama)

The recent death of Nawab Akbar Bugti has once again thrown open the debate on Pakistan's territorial integrity. The smaller provinces, notably, Balochistan and Sindh, are depressed over their unhappy relationship with and domination by the larger province, Punjab. They see the encroachment of their provincial rights by the federal government as yet another example of a Punjab dominated institution trying to deprive the smaller provinces of their due..

Dawn, 26 September 2006

Waziristan accord: Omars role denied

Islamabad, Sept 25: Pakistan on Monday emphatically rejected media reports that a controversial peace deal signed with militants in North Waziristan tribal area was made possible by a nod from Afghanistan's Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. It is baseless, a foreign ministry spokesperson said about the reports appearing both at home and abroad amid accusations by critics that the government had given in to pro Taliban militants to end military operations against fugitives from Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network and their local harbourers..

Daily Times, 26 September 2006

Karzai restores monthly stipend to FATA elders

Miranshah: Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government has restored monthly stipends for leading tribal elders in Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal regions, a move Islamabad sees as a revival of the old Kabul policy. Tribal and official sources, asking not to be named, told *Daily Times* that the monthly stipend was restored to increase Kabul's influence in Pakistan's seven tribal agencies..

Daily Times, 26 September 2006

Baloch cannot move International Court of Justice

Lahore: Legal experts say that the Baloch people cannot go to the International Court of Justice ICJ as only sovereign states can move the court for settlement of their disputes and the Baloch don't have a sovereign state. A Baloch tribal jirga met on September 21 and resolved to go to the ICJ to challenge Pakistan's violation of agreements signed in 1948 by the State of Kalat, Britain and the government of Pakistan pertaining to

sovereignty and rights of the Baloch people..

Paktribune, 26 September 2006

Rumors of military coup in my absence absolute nonsense: Musharraf

New York: President Gen Pervez Musharraf has said that rumors circulating of a military coup in the country in his absence is absolute non sense and Pakistan is not a Banana Republic in which this sort of thing can happen. Talking to Pakistani reporters upon his return from Texas Musharraf said that major power breakdown in the country had given rise to rumors of a military coup which is absolute nonsense. However, he added, that this may have come as a disappointment to some vested interests..In response to a question he said we will change our policy on war on terrorism and we want the agreement on Waziristan to succeed and want a similar agreement with India..

The Nation, 26 September 2006

Editorial: Karzais besetting sin

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has apparently failed to find anything other than madaris located in Pakistan on which to pin his failure to curb the resistance against his regime. So much propaganda about Pakistani madaris being the breeding ground of terrorists has been spewed out since 9/11 that the world almost unthinkingly accepts the charge. The mess left behind by the US led campaign to oust the Soviet forces in 1980s is conveniently ignored. When Islamabad enters into an agreement with North Waziristan tribesmen that prohibits movement of militants across into Afghanistan a mischievous canard that Mullah Omar was at the back of it is floated to malign Pakistan..

Daily Times, 27 September 2006

Taliban HQ not in Quetta

New York: President General Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday rejected NATO security assessments that Talibans headquarters was in Quetta. Anyone who says this is wrong. This is the most ridiculous statement, he said, adding that Pakistan did not have financial resources to support the Taliban who, he said, were being financed by poppy growers. Speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations after the formal launch of his book In The Line of Fire, Musharraf said Afghan President Hamid Karzai didnt understand the environment in his country and said that the Taliban could not be defeated only by force. He criticised Karzai for claiming that militants hiding in Pakistans tribal areas were behind the rise in violence in Afghanistan..

Dawn, 27 September 2006

Decision on uniform by end of 2007

New York, Sept 26: President General Pervez Musharraf has said that parliament has authorised him to retain the post of army chief till the end of 2007 and he will consider leaving the post at that time. He said that he had only verbally pledged to quit uniform in December 2004 but later, the situation changed and parliament authorised me to stay in uniform till 2007. I will stay in uniform and I will think about taking it off by the end of 2007, he said in an interview with a US TV channel. Commenting on an assertion that his uniform was a hurdle in the way of democracy, he said that the uniform had never impeded the democratic process. I strengthened democracy by remaining in uniform, he

said..

The Nation, 27 September 2006

Editorial: The autobiography

General Musharraf's autobiography, *In the Line of Fire*, went on sale in different countries on Monday while the author still occupies the country's top office, following the unconventional lead of President Ayub Khan. Although General Musharraf is known for a candid expression of his views, the fact of incumbency must have weighed with him as a restraining factor lest his revelations and assessments have an adverse bearing on relations with powerful countries whose feathers had better not be ruffled in the interest of the state. There could also be reservations, for entirely different reasons, about the internal issues the book deals with. Thus, it would automatically be taken as being a less than frank and open account of his experiences and views..

Pak Tribune, 27 September 2006

Political dialogue in Balochistan in process: PM

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that political dialogue is in process in the Balochistan and masses there are anxious for development and progress of the Province. Talking to journalists in an informal interview at the Iftar Party thrown by secretary health Anwar Mahmood, the PM said that Balochistan has vast reserves of mineral resources, which can be aptly used for the development and progress of the Country..

Dawn, 27 September 2006

Opinion: Foreign policy in the line of fire (Zubeida Mustafa)

..The world also knows that Pakistan's policy in Afghanistan has been an ambiguous one of playing both sides of the fence, saying one thing but doing another, closing militant training camps in one area and reopening them in another to use Kathy Gannon's words (in I is for Infidel). She also reports how the hawkish, pan Islamic chief of the ISI, General Mahmood, who was sent to Kandahar after 9/11, urged Mullah Omar to resist the US and thus ensure its own annihilation. A report in Karachi's monthly *Newsline* Feb 2003 confirmed that the ISI chief had met with the Taliban leader without any aide for several hours and later informed the President that he was hopeful that Mullah Omar would cooperate..

Dawn, 28 September 2006

Bush move to defuse Pakistan-Afghan row: White House dinner for Musharraf, Karzai

Washington, Sept 27: President George W. Bush was to go with full strength to a dinner he was hosting on Wednesday night at the White House to bridge disagreements between Pakistan and Afghanistan, two key allies in the US led war against terror. The Bush team that will try to persuade the Afghan and Pakistani leaders to work together includes Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley. President Pervez Musharraf and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai, however, have been asked to come only with their ambassadors..

Daily Times, 28 September 2006

Taliban set up office in Miranshah

Peshawar: Three tribes along with the local Taliban have set up office in Miranshah to fight crime in the city, tribal sources said on Wednesday. The Darpakhel, Burakhel and Miranshah tribes along with the Taliban have set up an office in Miranshah to bring law and order under control, sources close to the Taliban told Daily Times. A senior leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur Rehman) denied reports that the Taliban alone opened the office in violation of the peace agreement which aimed at preventing the Taliban from running a parallel administrative system. The office was opened on Wednesday and local residents expressed fears that the growing Taliban influence would undermine the tribal code of life..

The Nation, 28 September 2006

Opinion: Musharraf on Kargil (Aziz-ud-Din Ahmad)

A lot of what Gen Musharraf says in his autobiography In the Line of Fire about Kargil underlines the need to hold an independent enquiry into the operation by an independent commission. He accepts, albeit implicitly, two of the accusations leveled by Mian Nawaz Sharif. First, the operation was kept secret to the extent that even the navy and air force chiefs were not briefed about it until the Indian response bordered on war hysteria or in other words things became serious, a situation the planners of the operation had evidently failed to visualise..

Paktribune, 28 September 2006

Interpol issues arrest warrants for Benazir, Zardari

Islamabad: Interpol has issued arrest warrants for the fourth time in respect of Benazir Bhutto and her spouse Asif Ali Zardari on the charges of not mentioning Surrey palace in the declaration of assets filed by them with election commission. The arrest warrants have been issued by additional district and session judge Islamabad, Mirza Rafi ul Zaman on application submitted by National Accountability Bureau (NAB)..The NAB had filed application in the court of additional district and sessions judge Islamabad 3 months back that former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her spouse Asif Ali Zardari had not made mention of Surrey palace in their declaration of assets submitted to the election commission..

Daily Times, 28 September 2006

EDITORIAL: A tale of many presidents

Many presidents performed in the United States recently, two of them talking to the Americans, two others talking to their own nations while speaking at the United Nations, and one president, Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, partly addressing people at home and partly the Americans..Two more presidents were in Washington around the time when President Musharraf was flogging his book, a poor substitute for oil, and carelessly admitting how the Americans had paid big dollars for every Al Qaeda terrorist Pakistan handed over to them. The Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, and his counterpart in Iraq, Jalal Talabani, were quite different in their approach..

Daily Times, 29 September 2006

Musharraf, Karzai shake hands with Bush, not with each other

Washington: The meeting between President Pervez Musharraf and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, chaperoned by US President George Bush, failed to generate the goodwill between the two sniping leaders that it was designed to. TV images of the two leaders standing to the right and left of Bush showed Musharraf looking glum and Karzai appearing slightly surprised, but there was no handshake or back slapping that their host might have hoped for. What went on inside the Old Family Dining Room where they ate and talked was not clear. There was no briefing..

The Nation, 29 September 2006

Bugti's killing echoes in PA (MUBASHIR HASSAN)

Lahore The killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti a month back, and the subsequent controversial statement by the Punjab chief minister, echoed in the Punjab assembly on Thursday. But the oppositions attempt to bring the government to its knees was successfully thwarted by the treasury, thanks to the Speaker Afzal Sahi who gave a shut up call to every member who wanted to take up the subject. The matter doesn't pertain to the Punjab Assembly, and a lot has already been said and debated over the issue in the National Assembly, Sahi told the agitating opposition members, who wanted to express solidarity with the Baloch people by condemning the military operation in their province and the killing of the Nawab Bugti..

Daily Times, 29 September 2006

Editorial: Presidential battles in Washington

Washington recently became the arena for a Pervez Musharraf Hamid Karzai clash in which the flung partial truths at each other while the Bush administration looked on unhappily and stuck to the option of letting them preside over two troubled states that matter to the US but which have not been able to live and let live. One can say that in terms of courtesy at least General Musharraf came out second best while Mr Karzai won over the Washington scribes who have been snapping at the heels of General Musharraf for some time now. The Bush administration knows that the situation is not satisfactory but admits that there is no alternative to these two leaders..

Frontier Post, 29 September 2006

Editorial: Feud goes on

US President George W. Bush has appealed to President Pervez Musharraf and President Hamid Karzai to put aside their differences and fight terrorism but to no avail. The two leaders still disagree on how to fight the Taliban in the border region. A brief White House statement after the dinner hosted by President Bush said the leaders agreed to Moderation and defeating extremism through greater intelligence sharing and coordinating action against terrorists. Whereas tension and trust deficit existed between Pakistan and Afghanistan, President Bush the other day had dismissed reported tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan stating that it was in the interests of both to see Osama Bin Laden is brought to justice..

Paktribune, 29 September 2006

Musharraf rejects UK MoD report, terms ISI the best intelligence agency

London: President Pervez Musharraf has angrily rejected allegations that Pakistan's intelligence service has indirectly helped the Taleban and al Qaeda. In a BBC TV interview, Gen Musharraf said his intelligence services were doing an excellent job in tracking down and apprehending militants. The claims are in a document written by a UK intelligence official, which says Pakistan is on the edge of chaos..

Dawn, 29 September 2006

Opinion: A muddled picture (Tahir Mirza)

.. For one, General Musharrafs autobiography is in the line of fire. Much has already been written on it, and much will be said during the week. The point has already been raised whether it is wise for a sitting president or prime minister or even minister to write his memoirs that may contain passages relating to delicate, ongoing domestic and foreign policy issues..It is to be hoped that some of the questions the book raises or the questions that may be asked by reviewers and critics will be as frankly answered by the author as he says he has been frank in penning them down. For instance, how did the millions of dollars given by the US as bounty money for the capture and handing over of Al Qaeda militants to Washington were accounted for? To whom did they go?

Dawn, 30 September 2006

Islamabad, Kabul agreed to avoid verbal attacks: US

Washington, Sept 29: Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to maintain regular contact over the issues that caused verbal spats between their leaders during their two week stay in the United States, the White House has said. Spokesman Tony Snow indicated that at a White House dinner on Wednesday President Pervez Musharraf and his counterpart Hamid Karzai agreed to avoid verbal attacks against each other. The two leaders had been sniping at each other from long distance for months, forcing US President George W. Bush to dispatch his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Kabul and Islamabad last June to try to ease tensions..

Paktribune, 30 September 2006

Musharraf in violation of Official Secrets Act: Benazir Bhutto

Islamabad September 29: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the recently published memoirs of General Pervez Musharraf are a cheap attempt to gain popularity at the behest of endangering Pakistans vital national interests. It is regrettable that General Musharraf is abusing his official position to boost his personal interests. Millions of rupees from state exchequer are being spent on financing the state visit to United States, which has virtually become a publicity tour of his book. It is unprecedented that a head of state spends three weeks along with an entourage of more than 60 people on a personal publicity trip. The military ruler must account for the precious public money being used to finance a book launch, she said in a statement issued on Friday..

Daily Times, 30 September 2006

Mystery surrounds loya jirga 'deal'

Washington: While no official confirmation of the convening of loya jirgas in Pakistan and Afghanistan is so far available from Pakistani or American sources, it is being claimed that such a decision has indeed been made. ..Both Musharraf and Karzai are trying to revive the traditional and political power base in Pashtun areas on both sides of the Afghanistan Pakistan border. Kabul and Islamabad see this as the only way to undercut the jihadists. This process entails empowering the tribal elders who, along with the appointed local political officials, have lost power since the resurgence of the Taliban.