

Frontier Post, 1 October 2006

**Musharraf, Karzai to lead Loya jirga**

Kabul: Afghan president Hamid Karzai said on Saturday that he and the Pakistani president will jointly lead Loya jirga to end row over border attacks. Karzai said he wants an end to the Taliban incursions from Pakistan. The number of attacks in the Afghan border regions has tripled following a peace agreement between the Pakistani government and pro Taliban tribesmen in its territory, according to US officials..Karzai appears to have been unable to secure Pakistans immediate cooperation in arresting Taliban leaders living in Pakistan..

Dawn, 1 October 2006

**Pakistan Wests main ally, says Musharraf**

London, Sept 30: The United States and its allies will fail in the so called war on terror without the support of Pakistan and its intelligence service, President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday. In an interview with BBC radio, the president was asked for his response to the view that Pakistan was not a good ally in the fight against extremism because of the alleged links between terrorism and his country..He said they i.e. army and ISI played a key role in foiling an alleged terror plot to blow up US bound passenger jets on Aug 10 this year..

Dawn, 1 October 2006

**Opinion: The threat of resignation (Anwar Syed)**

A few weeks ago the Muttahida Majlis i Amal MMA threatened to withdraw from the National Assembly if it passed the governments version of the Protection of Women Bill, framed to amend the controversial Hudood Ordinance. I had the occasion to bring out some features of this ordinance last Sunday, but there is more to it, which needs to be spelled out, if we are to have a fuller understanding of the MMA's stand..First, the Hudood Ordinance is for the most part unenforceable, for the evidence, four pious male witnesses, it requires to establish guilt is virtually impossible to produce..

Daily Times, 1 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Will the jirgas do the trick between Kabul and Islamabad?**

As a solvent of the situation created in Washington by the feuding presidents of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a proposal has apparently come from President Pervez Musharraf that separate jirgas may be convened in the two countries and the doubting duo should attend them to bury misgivings about each other. We gather that President Musharraf will get together the big jirga in Waziristan and invite President Hamid Karzai to attend it, followed by a similar action on the other side, only in that case it will be the Loya Jirga of all of Afghanistan..Imagined simply, the idea of the two presidents presenting themselves in the opposite camp for verification of the truth seems quite appealing. But there are some aspects one must consider in a more complex reality..

Daily Times, 2 October 2006

**LJ forming new militant cells**

Islamabad: Lashkar e Jhangvi LJ, a banned sectarian militant group, has started a recruitment drive and is forming new cells at the district and provincial levels, Daily

Times has learnt. Intelligence agencies have reported to the Interior Ministry that notorious terrorist Matiur Rehman had been tasked with reorganising Lashkar cells, sources told Daily Times..

Dawn, 2 October 2006

**Musharraf says ex ISI men may be aiding Taliban**

New York, Oct 1: President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview on Sunday that some retired Inter Services Intelligence officials could be assisting Taliban insurgents, adding: We are keeping a very tight watch and we will get hold of them if that at all happened..But he rejected allegations that the ISI was at present acting in collusion with the Taliban. I totally disagree with this. Nobody in the ISI helps the militia, he asserted..

Daily Times, 2 October 2006

**Opinion: Bullies and cowards (Feisal Naqvi)**

Either General Musharraf can see off the mullahs, in which case his existence is justified, or he is just another politician. If he is a politician, then he is useless. And if he is useless, then we might as well have a democratically elected useless leader In his autobiography, General Pervez Musharraf describes how he learnt at an early age that bullies crumble when confronted. The next week will show whether he has since learnt that the same applies to the Mutahidda Majlis e Amal..

Dawn, 2 October 2006

**Opinion: Worsening Afghan imbroglio (Maqbool Ahmed Bhatti)**

UNTIL as recently as six months ago, President Bush and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld used to say that Afghanistan was a success story, that the forces of terrorism had been defeated and that democracy was flourishing through the successful holding of elections and the countrywide approval of Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun, as president. It was claimed that Kabul had become a bustling city, with a construction boom and that the central part of the city gave the impression of a prosperous capital..

The Nation, 3 October 2006

**Jirga rejects mega projects**

Quetta A two day Baloch tribal jirga on Monday said that the military dominated government wanted to capture Baloch resources by bulldozing the tribal traditions and culture, warning government and intelligence agencies to stop interference into tribal affairs. This was stated by Sardar Sanaullah Zahri, Chief of Jhalawan while briefing the newsmen.. Khan of Kalat Mir Suleman Daud and Sardar Akhtar Mengal were also present on the occasion..Khan of Kalat Mir Suleman Daud said that he had sent relevant papers to a panel of lawyers in Holland for their legal opinion over continual violation of Pakistan of tripartite agreement regarding accession of Kalat state and would soon file a suit in International Court of Justice..

The Nation, 3 October 2006

**Pakistan, US finalise deal for 18 F 16s**

Islamabad Pakistan and the United States have finalised a multi billion dollars agreement to supply F 16 fighter planes to Pakistan Air Force. The ongoing negotiations regarding F

16s have culminated in the signing of letter of acceptance between the government of Pakistan and US on Sept 30, 2006 at Rawalpindi, said a PAF statement issued on Monday..

Daily Times, 3 October 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Testing times for Pakistan**

The Musharraf government will face a new challenge if it is true that the alleged Al Qaeda mastermind of the August 10 London plot, Matiur Rehman, has now also been tasked by Osama bin Laden with the reorganisation of LJ cells at the districts and provincial levels of the country. The man was first reported to have been caught by Pakistani agencies, which was then officially denied by Islamabad. The 32 year old present head of Lashkar e Jhangvi comes from Bahawalpur and has been accused of plotting to assassinate President Musharraf and of bombing the Sheraton Hotel Karachi in which a group of French technicians was killed..

Dawn, 3 October 2006

### **AJK unable to run LoC buses**

Muzaffarabad, Oct 2: The Foreign Office has asked the Azad Kashmir authorities to resume bus services to the Line of Control from Muzaffarabad and Rawlakot but officials here have reportedly expressed inability to follow the directive citing financial and administrative constraints. Pakistan and India launched the first bus service between Muzaffarabad and Srinagar on April 7, 2005..A bus service launched on June 20 between Rawlakot and Poonch also exists only in papers as the authorities have not been able to arrange a vehicle to shuttle between Rawlakot and Tetrinote, the last village on the AJK side of the LoC..

Daily Times, 3 October 2006

### **Balochistans future lies with Pakistan**

Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Muhammed Yousuf has said that the provinces future lies with Pakistan and those saying otherwise are deceiving the people. Talking to tribal elders from across the province at an iftar on Monday evening, he said the present government led by President Pervez Musharraf is trying to remove a sense of deprivation in the province by initiating development work..

The Nation, 4 October 2006

### **US wants whole story on AQ Khan**

Islamabad: The US Ambassador, Ryan C. Crocker, Tuesday said Washington did not have the whole information about the activities of AQ Khan network and wanted to know the exact details of the proliferation.. The Ambassador expressed his confidence in the safeguards taken by the government of Pakistan regarding the nuclear issue.Issue of ongoing unauthorized proliferation is closed,Crocker said. He said the issue with AQ Khan involves a number of parts and, the other set of information is what was the full context of the activity. He said it was up to the government of Pakistan to take action in this regard..

Dawn, 4 October 2006

**S. Waziristan peace task for Aurakzai**

Islamabad, Oct 3: After getting the green light from President Pervez Musharraf, NWFP governor Ali Mohammad Jan Aurakzai is now working on a peace accord with tribal elders in the volatile South Waziristan Agency on the same lines as the one inked in North Waziristan last month, knowledgeable sources told Dawn on Tuesday. The NWFP governor is already at it and it is now work in progress, sources said without going into the specifics..

Daily Times, 4 October 2006

**Baloch jirga to form supreme council to implement decisions**

Quetta: Khan of Kalat Mir Suleman Daud said on Tuesday that a two day tribal jirga had decided to form a supreme council of Baloch sardars, which would be led by him, to implement decisions made by the jirga. The chief of Sarawan, chief of Jhalawan, chief of Beraak Nawab Shahwani, Sardar Mengal and the Nawab of Magsi will be permanent members of the council, which will meet once in a month. The jirga has authorised the supreme council to move the ICJ against violations of a 1947 agreement between Quaid e Azam and then Khan of Kalat, Daud told a press conference..

Daily Times, 4 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Balochistans future lies with Pakistan but...**

Balochistans chief minister, Jam Muhammad Yousuf, says the provinces future lies with Pakistan and those who say otherwise are deceiving the people. He has praised his own government and based his thesis entirely on the development work it has in hand. Of course that is not the way one should approach the subject. It is true that the future of Balochistan lies in being a part of Pakistan but for entirely different reasons than the ones articulated by Islamabad..Balochistan has to stay within Pakistan to become autonomous. Once outside, it will succumb to further fragmentation and chaos..

The Nation, 4 October 2006

**Editorial: AQ Khans controversy**

As if already we had not suffered enough humiliation for casting aspersions on our nuclear hero Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, General Musharraf's memoir In the Line of Fire has raked the coals of the nuclear controversy afresh. Dr A Q Khans daughter, Dina Khans public denial of all accusations by the President against her father has landed us in a situation where we are washing our dirty linen in public. Ms Khan, while denying General Musharrafs assertion that her father had asked her to go public on Pakistans nuclear secrets, said the letter the President referred to was actually meant for her mother. This disclosure is equally damaging..

Paktribune, 4 October 2006

**AJK Council for abrogation of Gurus death sentence**

Islamabad: Azad Jammu and Kashmir AJ Council rejecting Indis decision of planned execution of Muhammad Afzal Gurus who was convicted of plotting a attack on Indias Parliament in 2001, has demanded to repeal the decision. The demand was made in a resolution presented by a member AJK Council, Syed Ghulam Raza Naqvi during a pre

budget meeting of AJK Council presiding over by President AJK, Raja Zulqarnain on Tuesday.

Dawn, 5 October 2006

### **Explosion in Pindi park causes panic**

RAWALPINDI, Oct 4: A major blast in the city's biggest public park, in close proximity to President Gen Pervez Musharraf's official residence, sent a wave of panic and fear across the country on Wednesday night. Within minutes of the explosion, a heavy contingent of the army, elite police commandos and intelligence officials reached Ayub Park, blocking its three entrances and disallowing anyone from entering or leaving the place. Some big army vehicles, including trucks having the facility to collect and carry unexploded bombs, were seen going inside the park, indicating the presence of unspecified amount of explosive material in it..

Daily Times, 5 October 2006

### **PML-MQM verbal war annoys Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: A recent war of words between the Pakistan Muslim League PML and the Muttahida Quami Movement MQM has irked President General Pervez Musharraf, who is said to be annoyed with both coalition partners. Sources in the ruling coalition told Daily Times that the president directed his close aides to contact MQM leader Altaf Hussain and inform him of the president's concerns..President Musharraf advised the PML president to resolve differences with the coalition partners because the opposition would take advantage of their differences..

Paktribune, 5 October 2006

### **Balochistan Govt violated MMA agreement, says Hafiz Hussain**

ISLAMABAD: Leader MMA Hafiz Hussain Ahmed has said that MMA government agreement over formation of government in Balochistan has been violated due to which the religious alliance would not only join every platform against the government but all the component parties of MMA are ready to part ways with the Balochistan government ..He said that government has sought assistance from the MMA to solve Balochistan issue. He said that sense of deprivation of Balochs should be removed and the government should appoint a local person as Governor Balochistan..

Dawn, 5 October 2006

### **Editorial: Time for political talks**

Those who thought Nawab Akbar Bugti's death had solved all problems in Balochistan must have been rudely awakened by what happened in Kohlu on Tuesday. Militants in the Bhombor area attacked a convoy, killing three security force personnel and wounding at least two. The use of rockets in the attack on the security convoy means that the sources of the militants supply of weapons are intact and the guerillas are strong enough to attack and escape. The same day, the government announced that 100 tribesmen belonging to various sub tribes and clans of the Marri group had surrendered..

Daily Times, 5 October 2006

**West convinced Waziristan deal is anti Taliban: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Wednesday he had convinced the West that the peace accord with militants in North Waziristan aimed to end Talibanisation in the area and bring peace and development to the tribal region. Talking to Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz at the Camp Office, Musharraf said his visit to the United States was fruitful and would strengthen Pakistan's strategic relations with the United States..

Dawn, 6 October 2006

**Two live rockets found near presidency**

Islamabad, Oct 5: Senior security officials, who met in the interior ministry on Thursday to take stock of the situation after discovery of two live rockets near the presidency and parliament and an overnight mysterious explosion near the presidents residence in Rawalpindi, felt that the two incidents were inter linked. A rumour was circulating here about a blast near the Parliamentary Lodges on Wednesday night before Rawalpindis Ayub Park blast. President Gen Pervez Musharraf goes to his office in the presidency through the Constitution Avenue, by the side of which the live rockets were found. He was attending a conference in the Convention Hall when a security alert went up following the discovery of the rockets..

Daily Times, 6 October 2006

**8 more feared dead in Orakzai sectarian clash**

Orakzai: Eight more people were feared dead as armed clashes between Shias and Sunnis over a shrine in Kalaya tehsil of Lower Orakzai Agency continued for the third consecutive day on Thursday, Online reported. Both sects are trying to take control of the disputed Mian Anwar shrine. Also, tribesmen of one sect fired several rockets at Mashti Mela village in Sangra, damaging the shrine of Syed Khalil Baba and injuring three. Meanwhile, a grand jirga under the local political administration continued at the Orakzai Agency headquarters to broker a ceasefire between the two sects..

The Nation, 6 October 2006

**Editorial: The year after**

Speaking at an international conference organised by ERRA, the President has presented a rosy picture of the ongoing rehabilitation activity in the quake affected areas. A number of donors have meanwhile expressed concerns which need to be taken into account. Mr Shaukat Aziz may be right that 90 percent of the survivors are out of tents but the picture of the way they are living is not very comforting. According to the British charity cum relief agency Oxfam, about 1.8 million survivors will have to spend another winter in transitional shelters because of patchy progress of recovery and slow construction of housing and infra structure..

Dawn, 6 October 2006

**Editorial: Defying the ban on jirgas**

It is shocking to see sections of people continuing to defy court judgments, especially when some liberal and fair minded judges give verdicts against retrogressive tribal

customs. Perhaps a striking example is the one relating to the jirgas. In April 2004, a judge of the Sukkur bench of the Sindh High Court had banned the holding of jirgas in the province. More than two years later we have the same judge ordering the SHO of Mirpur Mathelo to register an FIR against persons responsible for holding a jirga..

Daily Times, 6 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Its selling like hot cakes but...**

..Has President Musharraf rubbed some people the wrong way? He has definitely been negative about Mr Nawaz Sharif whom he ousted from power, but he has also put off the PPP by opining that the East Pakistan crisis was triggered by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the partys founder. Strangely, he has also offended some of his fellow armymen by making personal assessments of them. The pen picture he has given of his predecessor General Jahangir Karamat is needlessly deprecating although the gentleman served him well as ambassador to the United States where he was assessed positively..

Daily Times, 7 October 2006

**Investigators link rockets and explosions to BLA (Shahzad Malik)**

Islamabad: The joint investigation team, consisting of officials from security and intelligence agencies, has linked an apparent attempt on the life of President General Pervez Musharraf on Thursday and the Ayub Park bomb blast on Wednesday night with the Balochistan Liberation Army BLA, a banned nationalist organisation. The possibility of a backlash from the killing of Nawab Akber Bugti cannot be ruled out, an official of the investigation team told Daily Times on Friday. He said the BLA could orchestrate the outrage over Bugtis death in a possibly violent manner..

Paktribune, 7 October 2006

**London High Court asks Zardari to pay UK Pound 35,000 to GOP lawyers**

London: The High Court of Justice, Queens Bench in London Friday has held that government of Pakistan has established its case that the money used for purchase of the Rockwood Estate and Surrey Palace was corruption money earned through kickbacks and commission received from Swiss Pre shipment Inspection Companies. Justice Lawrence Collins of the London High Court, who is considered an authority in such complex trans national cases has decided in its 49 pages landmark judgment that Mr Asif Ali Zardari had concealed his ownership of Rockwood Surrey palace and now it is time for him to show that the Surrey Palace was no purchased with corruption money..

Daily Times, 7 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Our security system as terrorists close in**

First the Army House in Rawalpindi and then the Presidents House in Islamabad have been made targets of possible acts of terrorism on Wednesday and Thursday without being thwarted by our security system. We know who the target was in these symbolic and cautionary strikes. It is President Musharraf the terrorists are after. They have got close to him in the past and failed. At this juncture he may be a difficult target, given his security arrangements, but it seems it is not impossible to get through the security net. And that is what the terrorists have proved this time..

Dawn, 7 October 2006

**Editorial: Prisoners in private jails**

That medieval practices exist in the country in this day and age was proved on Wednesday when a cleric and his six guards were apprehended for running a private jail in the NWFP. Seven of the 113 boys and men rescued are British citizens of Pakistani origin and all of them were seeking treatment for substance abuse. Their families believed the cleric was running a rehabilitation centre for drug addiction; some were paying as much as Rs45,000 a month for their child's treatment. When the prisoners were eventually recovered, they were found chained and in fetters. While all this is deplorable, it is reassuring that the raid was conducted, the jailers charged and the prisoners rescued from captivity. It is now important that the ends of justice are met..

Daily Times, 7 October 2006

**Peace deal to help curb Talibanisation (Rana Qaisar)**

Islamabad: President Pervez Musharraf on Friday said the peace deal with the tribal elders was not a withdrawal from the war on terror but was part of a holistic approach in fighting terrorism and curbing Talibanisation. The agreement with the tribal elders does not, in anyway, show slack on the part of the government to root out the menaces of terrorism and extremism, the president said while chairing a high level meeting. The president directed follow up actions to ensure the speedy development of the tribal region and the welfare of the people..The plan contains a development strategy over ten years for enhancing area under cultivation, and also includes increased public sector spending to increase local employment opportunities and to improve social sector expenditure..

Daily Times, 8 October 2006

**Terror fight must consider ground realities: Musharraf**

Islamabad: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday that the plans to fight terrorism should take ground realities and the new environment into account. Pakistan fully understands the environment and has planned a holistic strategy to fight terrorism and curb extremism, an official statement quoted the president as telling General John P Abizaid, commander in chief of US Central Command CENTCOM. Gen Musharraf reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism, and said a joint strategy and close cooperation in intelligence sharing was vital to the success of the campaign..

Dawn, 8 October 2006

**Two rockets found near ISI office in Islamabad**

Islamabad, Oct 7: The rocket mystery became more complicated on Saturday when two live rockets were found near the Inter Services Intelligence headquarters on the Kashmir Highway, a route Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was scheduled to use on Saturday. This is the third incident of recovery of rockets near strict security zones within four days. In all the incidents, 107mm rockets attached with mobile phones were found. After the third recovery, a major security alert was launched in Islamabad. However, the authorities are still in the dark and refuse to comment on the phenomenon..



Dawn, 8 October 2006

**NOT FORGOTTEN: Despair and hope, one year on (Raja Asghar)**

Muzaffarabad, Oct 7: More tears will be shed on Sunday but there were also signs of hope one year after the earthquake that killed so many people in Azad Kashmir and the North West Frontier Province. While survivors remain without proper homes, destined to spend a second and predictably harsher winter in temporary shelters, the government insists it has done well to tackle the disaster with international help. Sundays first anniversary of the October 8, 2005 earthly blow will be a day of mourning for more than 73,000 people who died and also serve as a day of reckoning for what was done for the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of 3.5 million people made homeless in four districts..

Frontier Post, 8 October 2006

**49 Taliban arrested in Quetta crackdown**

Quetta: As many as forty nine Taliban were arrested by Quetta police in raids in the main and suburban parts of the city on Saturday. SSP Qazi Abdul Wahid acting at a tip off raided a hotel in the Kachlak area near Kali Landi and nabbed 12 Taliban. In further operations in Pushtun Abad, Kakar Colony and Kali Ismail areas police copped 37 Taliban. One of the arrested is reported to have injuries..

Daily Times, 8 October 2006

**Opinion: Restricted choices for Musharraf (Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

Senior former army officers are now more critical of Musharrafs decision to combine the two offices than was the case two years ago. This is a significant change and reinforces the demand by the political circles that Musharraf separate the two offices The conventional perspective on Pakistani politics suggests that a civil or military ruler more often the latter is better placed to cope with domestic political pressures if he enjoys the blessings of the United States Administration or if Washington is not overtly hostile to Islamabad..

Daily Times, 9 October 2006

**British general confronts Pakistan**

Kabul: The commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan is to travel to Pakistan in the coming days for talks with President Pervez Musharraf over the Taliban insurgency, the NATO led force said on Sunday. Britains General David Richards, who last week became commander of foreign troops across Afghanistan, is to hold full and frank discussions with Musharraf, a spokesman for the force said. The International Security Assistance Force would not give a date for the visit to Islamabad for security reasons. Britains Sunday Times newspaper said the trip was due on Monday..

The Nation, 9 October 2006

**Vote for my supporters, not militants: Musharraf**

Peshawar: President General Pervez Musharraf Sunday reaffirmed his resolve to restore peace by eradicating militancy and terrorism from the country, urging the people to vote for his supporters instead of, what he called, militants in the next general elections. Eradication of militancy and terrorism is essential for peace, Musharraf told a public meeting arranged for expressing solidarity with the earthquake victims in Mansehra on

the first anniversary of the tragedy..

Dawn, 9 October 2006

**Editorial: The Afghan quagmire**

There is a long way to go before Pakistan can say that last months deal with the tribal heads of North Waziristan is paying dividends. Since the agreement was signed on Sept 5, peace has been holding, and there has been no major incident that could be construed as a violation of the deal. On Thursday, President Musharraf presided over a meeting dealing with the issue, reportedly expressed satisfaction over the progress of the implementation of the agreement and emphasised the need for the government to carry out its part of the bargain diligently. From the point of view of the war on terror, two clauses of the agreement signed on behalf of the Taliban by seven militants who are members of the Taliban Shura are of vital importance..

Dawn, 9 October 2006

**Opinion: Rethinking Afghan policy (Javid Husain)**

If there is anything which epitomises all the shortcomings of our foreign policy, it is our Afghanistan policy which we have implemented with consistent short-sightedness since 1992 after the fall of the Soviet installed Najibullah regime in Kabul. This policy has passed through several phases, each phase marked by its own set of failures leading to negative consequences for Pakistan. It is true that Pakistan Afghanistan relations at the government level were bedevilled by the Durand Line issue from the very beginning and Afghanistan was the only country to object to Pakistans admission into the UN after its independence..

Daily Times, 9 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Pakistans holistic strategy and Afghanistan**

An official statement in Islamabad after a meeting between President Pervez Musharraf and General John P Abizaid, commander in chief of US Central Command CENTCOM, says that plans to fight terrorism should take ground realities and the new environment into account. It says Pakistan fully understands the environment and has planned a holistic strategy to fight terrorism and curb extremism. To get the new strategy moving forward President Musharraf has recommended a joint strategy and close cooperation in intelligence sharing between Pakistan and the United States..

Daily Times, 10 October 2006

**Pakistan not supporting Taliban, says NATO commander**

Islamabad: General David Richards, the commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan, said on Monday that Pakistan was not supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan. Speaking to Geo television, the NATO commander, who arrived in Pakistan for a two day visit on Monday, denied reports that he had come with evidence that Islamabad was supporting the Taliban. He said that these reports were baseless and rubbish. The Taliban were being supported by poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, which funded their weapons purchases, he said..

Daily Times, 10 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: ARD already weak in the legs?**

The PPPP and the PMLN that came together under the Charter of Democracy to demand that President Pervez Musharraf should quit before the next general election and threatened to mobilise the masses starting September 2006, are already in a crisis of confidence. The ARD had reached out to the MMA too where firebrands had already forced the component parties to agree to million marches. Come September, however, nothing happened, and now the Charter is threatened with lack of oxygen and shows signs of shrivelling. Mr Nawaz Sharif is seeking another meeting with Ms Benazir Bhutto to remove doubts that reappeared among the cadres of the two big parties..

Nation, 10 October 2006

**No AQ network link: Pak (Shaiq Hussain)**

Islamabad - Pakistan on Monday deplored the nuclear tests by North Korea while terming it a destabilizing development in the region. Addressing the weekly press briefing here, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said Pakistan urged all the countries in the region to exercise restraint. She said, we had urged DPRK to desist from introducing nuclear weapons in the Korean peninsula. It is regrettable that DPRK chose to ignore advice of the international community not to test a nuclear device..

Dawn, 10 October 2006

**Women rights bill likely to be passed after Eid**

Islamabad Oct 9: The amended womens rights protection bill will be presented in the National Assembly and will be passed soon after Eidul Fitr. This was decided in a meeting chaired by President General Pervez Musharraf at the Rawalpindi camp office decided on Monday, sources said. According to sources, the meeting decided that the amended draft bill proposed by the ulema panel would be passed. At the meeting, which lasted more than three and a half hours, the president stressed the need for bi partisan approach for passing the bill as it was meant purely for the protection of womens rights..

Daily Times, 10 October 2006

**Jirga brokers ceasefire in Orakzai Agency**

Peshawar: The political administrations official jirga on Monday brokered a ceasefire between Shias and Sunnis after eight days of violence as four more people were killed over the disputed shrine of Mir Anwar Shah in Kalaya tehsil, lower Orakzai Agency. The administration did not disclose the terms and conditions that had led to the ceasefire. The jirga members former senator Sajjad Khan from Kurram Agecny, former MNAs Munir Orakzai and Javed from Orakzai Agency, retired Peshawar High Court judge Syed Ibne Ali and Ahle Tashai leaders Zamin Ali and Umer Ali brokered the ceasefire on Monday evening, the Orakzai Agencycys political agent, Dr Sher Alam Mehsud, told Daily Times..

Dawn, 11 October 2006

**Cooperation accord with Nato to defeat Taliban**

Islamabad, Oct 10: Pakistan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have agreed to enhance cooperation to defeat the Taliban and terrorism. The agreement was reached

during a meeting of Nato Commander in Afghanistan Gen David Richards with President Pervez Musharraf here on Tuesday. An official told Dawn that Gen Richards praised Pakistans role in the fight against terrorism but suggested that there should be an extended cooperation in this regard..

Daily Times, 11 October 2006

**Opinion: Return of the Taliban? (Dr. Manzur Ejaz)**

It is highly unlikely that President Musharraf would sign an agreement with the Taliban contrary to US wishes immediately before visiting the US and meeting his sole admirer and sponsor, President Bush. The blame game in Afghanistan has just started. NATO commanders asking to get tough with Pakistan while conceding that they cannot prevail over the Taliban point towards things to come: the US and NATO will dump their self inflicted failure on Pakistan there has to be a fall guy in such fiascos. In response, the Pakistan army, patting its own back for having superior insight into Afghan affairs, will slip into the old quagmire and isolation..

The Nation, 11 October 2006

**Taliban role threat to tribal system**

Peshawer: Though there is a general realization among some tribesmen that peace has largely returned to North Waziristan areas following the Sept 5, 2006 peace accord, some quarters however think the deal has given more role to Taliban, putting at stake the age-old tribal system. They question the governments claims about closure of their Talibans offices, observing that the gun totting Taliban could be seen patrolling Miranshah, Razmak and Mirali areas. The Taliban are controlling the patrols from their previous offices in different parts of these towns, they say. As such, some believe the future of traditionally influential tribal elders and over a century old tribal system is at stake..

Dawn, 11 October 2006

**MMA vows to resist presentation of bill**

Islamabad, Oct 10: The Muttahida Majlis i Amal has vowed to resist the presentation of the draft of the Womens Protection bill finalised by the house select committee and reiterated the threat to quit from federal and provincial assemblies if the government tries to table the same draft. The alliances deputy parliamentary leader Hafiz Hussain Ahmed said, We know that President General Musharraf is committed to the policy given to him by the United States and he will resist interventions by sane elements in the PML led by Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain..

Dawn, 12 October 2006

**Musharraf seeks moderates help: Fight against extremists**

Islamabad, Oct 11: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday outlined what he called the future course of Pakistani politics, and asked the liberal and moderate sections of society to galvanise their efforts to stem the growing wave of extremism in the country. The future of Pakistan lies in the tussle between the moderates and extremists and well have to work together to make sure the moderates emerge victorious, he told a large gathering of journalists. And then he went on to warn that if the extremists managed to win in this struggle then, in his view, the Quaid i Azams Pakistan will be no more..

Daily Times, 12 October 2006

**Liaqat Baloch says fair polls impossible under Musharraf**

Okara: Transparent and neutral elections were not possible as long as Pervez Musharraf remained the president of Pakistan, Liaqat Baloch, central leader of the Muttahida Majlis e Amal MMA, said while talking to Journalists at the Okara Media Centre on Wednesday. He alleged that the present government could not control terrorism, murders and lawlessness in the country. He added that it had also failed to provide jobs to the educated youth of the country. He said the governments foreign policy also was a flop and the MMA would not tolerate the high handedness of the government..

Dawn, 12 October 2006

**Editorial: Seven years after the coup**

Seven years after the generals toppled an elected government, the nation finds itself hedged to a political system through which the military controls the nations destiny and the generals superiority over the elected, civilian leadership has been formalised. The army chief is also the head of state, and he, not the prime minister, heads the nations highest policymaking body the National Security Council. In theory, of course, there is a democratic system in place a lower house elected on the basis of universal adult franchise, an upper house representing the federations four constituent units, and elected governments at the federal and provincial levels.

The Nation, 12 October 2006

**Editorial: The correct approach**

General Musharraf was absolutely right when he told NATO Commander, General David Richards, during the latter's call at president camp in Rawalpindi on Tuesday that neither NATO nor Afghanistan could win the war on terror by accusing Pakistans ISI of helping the Taliban. The fact is that Pakistan has made a lot of sacrifices, first, during the decade long Soviet intervention and, later, in causing the rout of al Qaeda. For anyone to blame Islamabad for providing sanctuaries and arms to militants in Afghanistan is not only being uncharitable but also contrary to facts.

The Nation, 13 October 2006

**US asks Pak to rein in Kashmiri groups**

The US has asked the Pakistani government to use its influence with terrorist groups to completely stop attacks on India, Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said on Thursday, PTI reported. We obviously wish to see no more terrorism emanating from Kashmiri separatist groups, said Burns. We have told the Pakistani government that we would hope that the Pakistani government uses influence with the terrorist groups to curb and stop altogether any attacks on India, he added. On the evidence, India has shared with the US regarding Pakistans involvement in the July 11 train bombings in Mumbai, Burns said the State Department was yet to study it in detail..

Dawn, 13 October 2006

**Editorial: Pacification of the tribals**

On the face of it, Pakistans decision to involve tribal leaders in peacekeeping and anti terrorism operations in North Waziristan seems to be getting accepted by the international

community. Very few details of the deal are in the public domain. But there is no disputing the principle that relying solely on force is hardly the way to tackle a political problem, especially one with religious and tribal roots. From this point of view, British General David Richards statement following his meeting with President Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad is revealing. Much of what appeared in the British press prior to the Nato commanders visit to Pakistan now looks unfounded..

Daily Times, 13 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Mind the gap between Musharraf's words and deeds**

On the eve of the 7th anniversary of his coup after he promised he would go at the end of 2004 President General Pervez Musharraf says he wants every Pakistani to embrace moderation like him. He says the nation should choose the ruling party he favours if they want an end to extremism and if they want the Pakistan of Mohammad Ali Jinnah to survive. He says the ummah must also choose between confrontation and conciliation: If we choose the course of confrontation with a view to conquering the world, we are mistaken. The only way out is the conciliatory course. As if to provide an example of how moderation works, he refers to the crisis in Balochistan and says he wont let anyone challenge the governments writ there..

Paktribune, 13 October 2006

**2 kidnapped Pakistani engineers released in S. Afghanistan**

Kabul: The Taliban released two abducted Pakistani engineers in southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan Thursday, a local official told Xinhua. The two engineers, who were working for a road construction company, were freed after Taliban militants were paid a big ransom of 60,000 U.S. dollars, said Haji Aqha Lalei, head of the reconciliation commission in Kandahar. He didn't say who had paid the ransom, but said local elders and government had negotiated with the militants for the hostages release..

The Nation, 13 October 2006

**Opinion: ISI in the dock (Dr. Ijaz Ahsan)**

NATO commanders from each of the five countries represented in Afghanistan have asked their governments to get tough with Pakistan on the issue of the latters support for the Taliban. According to the Daily Telegraph Canadian, Danish, Dutch, British and US commanders have asked their respective governments to make it clear that Pakistan must end its support for the Taliban. They have said, The time has come to give President Musharraf the message that he has to decide whether he is with us or against us, because due to activities being carried out from Quetta, our troops are having to suffer losses. NATOs report about the first half of September has clearly stated that Pakistans intelligence agency ISI is providing arms to the Taliban..

Daily Times, 14 October 2006

**Aziz unveils new vision for Balochistan**

Quetta: Prime Minister Shauakt Aziz on Friday unveiled the New vision for Balochistan, which will provide policy guidelines to develop Balochistan, create new jobs, ensure quick development and promote an investment friendly atmosphere in the province. Addressing a press conference at the Governors House, Aziz announced a Rs 19.5 billion

development package and 32,124 jobs for Balochistan this fiscal year. He said that 7,300 people would be recruited to the Pakistan Army, 11,000 to the Food and Agriculture Ministry and 13,000 to vacant posts in the province..

Dawn, 14 October 2006

**Why the Waziristan deal is a hard sell (Ismail Khan)**

Peshawar, Oct 13: New facts have emerged about this years September 5 deal between the government and militants in North Waziristan that may explain the unease felt by international players involved in the conflict in Afghanistan. Although the agreement secured the public endorsement of US President George W. Bush, western and Afghan officials are privately critical of the deal. Sources say there are a number of factors fuelling suspicion. Firstly, the deal was signed with militants and not with tribal elders, as is being officially claimed..

Daily Times, 14 October 2006

**Eight Qaeda, LJ activists arrested for rocket attacks**

Islamabad: Security and intelligence agencies have arrested eight people allegedly involved in the Ayub Park blast and for planting anti tank rockets at different locations in Islamabad last week. Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told reporters in his office on Friday that the eight people had been arrested from different areas, including the federal capital. He said a mobile phone connected to one of the recovered rockets had lead to the arrests. The minister did not mention the names of those arrested and added that preliminary investigations had revealed that the arrested people had links with Al Qaeda and Lashkar e Jhangvi LJ..

Nation, 14 October 2006

**Editorial: Keeping under pressure**

Reacting to US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns statement, the Pakistan Foreign Office has once again reiterated that the violence in Held Kashmir is indigenous and the result of human rights violations by the Indian troops. That Mr Burns does not accept this is amply clear from his statement. What he has said amounts to this: Islamabad has influence on what he calls Kashmiri terrorists who are carrying out attacks inside India and has also the ability to curb them so that attacks are altogether stopped. What is more, the Bush administration has been assured by Islamabad that it will use its influence in the matter..

Daily times, 14 October 2006

**Opinion: Taliban resurgence (Shaukat Qadir)**

The good will towards the Americans was not to last too long. The Afghans had mistakenly thought that the Americans, having freed them from the Taliban, would immediately put in place a government of their own and leave. There should have been no military operation in Waziristan or for that matter in Balochistan. The kind of peace accord that has been signed, however uneasy it might be, should have been the starting point of all negotiations. This is my perspective. But to understand it some background may be necessary. When the Taliban initially went on a conquering drive in Afghanistan, they virtually faced no resistance until Jalalabad. The reason was simple: the Afghans

were fed up with the internecine civil war waged by warlords..

Daily Times, 15 October 2006

### **NATO seen following Waziristan lead**

Washington: Following the visit of NATO coalition forces commander for Afghanistan, Gen David Richards, to Islamabad, it is now believed that the United States and Britain have authorised President General Pervez Musharraf to attempt to negotiate a peace deal with the Taliban. According to a report published on Saturday in an Australian newspaper and circulated here, it had been suggested that prior to his visit to Islamabad, Gen Richards was preparing for a showdown with President Musharraf over alleged Pakistani double dealing with the Taliban and Al Qaeda through the Inter Services Intelligence ISI agency. It had even been reported that he would take with him the address in Quetta where Taliban leader Mullah Omar is believed to be living and demand his arrest..

Dawn, 15 October 2006

### **Opinion: The truth about the Kargil episode (Shamshad Ahmad)**

We now have two clearly delineated and mutually dismissive versions of the Kargil episode a controversial as well as painful saga of our history. Any attempt to jump into the fray would only distract the focus of history on this issue and also aggravate the controversy and further compound the mystery. But after President Musharraf's book, *In the Line of Fire*, the Kargil episode is no longer a mystery. Earlier, in his biography: *Ghaddaar Kaun?*, the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, had given his version of the Kargil crisis reiterating his contention that the army leadership did not take him into confidence in planning the operation and he was kept in the dark until the situation got out of hand. According to him, the army then pleaded with him to seek American intervention to obtain a Kargil ceasefire..

Daily Times, 15 October 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Lashkar e Jhangvi: a convenient catch all name?**

The interior minister, Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, told reporters on Saturday that eight people allegedly involved in the Ayub Park blast and in planting anti tank rockets at different locations in Islamabad last week have been arrested and they have links with Lashkar e Jhangvi LEJ and Al Qaeda. The agencies apparently got to them through a cell phone which they found connected to one of the rockets. The men yielded a huge cache of ammunition from various locations. The rockets they were planning to use were Russian 107mm anti tank rockets and are the same as those used by the Taliban against the International Security Assistant Force ISAF. They confessed that they had travelled to Afghanistan to get training for their acts of terrorism by Al Qaeda. Is this the full story?

Dawn, 15 October 2006

### **Fahim invites MMA to join ARD**

Lahore, Oct 14: The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy on Saturday invited the six party MMA to join the ARD to launch an effective movement against the government. ARD chairman Makhdoom Amin Fahim while talking to Dawn from London, where Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif would meet on Oct 19, rejected the MMA's proposal for a grand alliance comprising all opposition parties, which was



also being backed by the PML-N. He said that it was a plan prepared by the religious alliance to bury the ARD for good..

Daily Times, 16 October 2006

### **Criticism of army will not be allowed**

Karachi: Federal Minister for Information Mohammad Ali Durrani said on Sunday that no one would be allowed to criticise the institution of the armed forces in the future. We wont allow anyone to criticise Pakistan, the integrity of Pakistan and the institution of the armed forces as it is enshrined in the constitution, Durrani said at an iftar dinner he hosted for the media at a local hotel. Pakistan and the armed forces, which are responsible for the protection of Pakistan, are beyond criticism, the minister said..

The Nation, 16 October 2006

### **Dialogue on provincial autonomy after Ramazan**

Karachi-The forthcoming general elections would be free and fair, Muhammad Ali Durrani, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, said on Sunday. Speaking at an Iftar party hosted in the honour of journalists at a local hotel, the information minister said that general elections would be free and fair and would be held in 2007 under an independent Election Commission. He hoped that people would vote for the present government in order to enable it to continue the economic policies of President Pervez Musharraf. He ruled out any change in the present setup and said that it would continue until the 2007 general elections..

Dawn, 16 October 2006

### **Editorial: Vision for Balochistan**

Balochistans troubles stem primarily from the neglect it has suffered over the years. The sense of alienation in the province is stronger than anywhere else in the country, and it is for this reason that it has a history of militant nationalism witnessed first in the post independence regency years, then during the insurgency of the seventies and, most recently, in the violent liberation campaign unleashed by renegade sardars. A resource rich province that comprises roughly 43 per cent of Pakistans total land area is also the poorest and least developed in the country. Much of the royalties paid on Balochistans natural resources has gone to tribal sardars who have kept large segments of the people impoverished and powerless..

Daily Times, 16 October 2006

### **EDITORIAL: Realignment of political forces augers well**

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has admitted that a realignment of political forces before the 2007 general election is in the offing. He said so to various editors and senior columnists in Karachi because he wants the message to go down loud and clear. What is he hinting at? He has pointed to a possible government deal with opposition parties, especially the PPPP and ANP. He confessed that the government has been talking to even those who are opposed to us. But he also dismissed reports of a falling out between the ruling PMLQ and the MQM as just democracy as usual with freedom for all to dissent with coalition partners and admitted that his government was in communication with Ms Bhutto and Mr Sharif, the two opposition politicians in exile. What does this mean?

Paktribune, 16 October 2006

**If Waziristan is not buckled down than we may get bombed: Benazir Bhutto**

New York: Former Prime Minister and Chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians Benazir Bhutto on Sunday expressed her fears that if the situation in Waziristan is not taken into control than like Afghanistan, our areas may also get bombed. In an interview to a private TV channel, the former PM criticized that the Generals have made Pakistan a real estate and the highest bidder is given it on lease. The recent visit of the President General Pervez Musharraf to the US was not for his popularity and for advertising his book. He was told to improve relations with Afghanistan and he was sent back with this clear cut instruction to better relations with the allied countries..

Dawn, 17 October 2006

**Pakistan to abide by UN sanctions on N. Korea: FO**

Islamabad, Oct 16: Pakistan on Monday held out an assurance that it would abide by sanctions imposed on North Korea by the UN Security Council but declared that its diplomatic ties with the country would remain in tact. As a responsible member of the international community we will abide by the UN Security Council resolution on North Korea. We, however, believe that sanctions are not an end in themselves and we would like to see the six party talks resume at the earliest to find a solution to this crisis, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said in response to a question at a weekly news briefing here..

Daily Times, 17 October 2006

**Pak-Afghan border not sealed: NATO chief**

London: NATO's top commander voiced confidence on Monday that the military alliance in Afghanistan will prevail despite a surge of insurgent violence and deadly fighting in the south of the country. Speaking at the opening of a new intelligence gathering centre, General James Jones notably expressed concern about the porous Afghan Pakistan border across which Taliban fighters enter and leave violence wracked Afghanistan. We all feel the stress and strain of ongoing operations, he said, but added everybody's working very hard to make sure that we have the right amount of forces at the right place at the time..

Paktribune, 17 October 2006

**Pakistan not giving ethnic colour to Taliban issue: Kasuri**

Islamabad: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri has said Pakistan is not giving ethnic colour to Taliban issue and is desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan. He said this while talking to the journalist during an Iftar dinner hosted by him for the media men in foreign office Monday. Responding to a question, he said it was decided in the meeting between President Bush, President Musharraf and President Karzai that there would be no open talk on reservations about Afghanistan. It is clearly mentioned in UN secretary general report on Afghanistan that five command centres of Taliban are located inside Afghanistan..

The Nation, 17 October 2006

**Editorial: Afghan problem**

There seems no end to the controversy about who is responsible for militancy in Afghanistan. The Afghans ceaselessly charge Islamabad with sending across trained terrorists to strengthen the ongoing insurgency in southern and eastern Afghanistan. Occasionally there are reports attributed to commanders of the NATO led troops there making the same complaint. Islamabad has steadfastly denied the allegation. In an interview with Sky News on Sunday, Mr Shaukat Aziz maintained that Pakistan wanted to see a strong, stable, peaceful and vibrant Afghanistan. That makes a lot of strategic sense..

Daily Times, 17 October 2006

**Opinion: Women in the two Punjabs (Ishtiaq Ahmed)**

The information one gets from human rights organisations from both the Pakistani and Indian Punjab is that sexual harassment of low caste/low community women is widespread. I have had the privilege of freely visiting both sides of the Punjab. The two Punjabs are similar, but also different in many ways, one being the situation of women. The differences are easily noticeable. East Punjab has been a progressive state within the Indian Union and has done well economically and educationally..In sharp contrast, when Ahmad Salim and I visited villages in the Pakistani Punjab there was no question of seeing a female face..

Daily Times, 18 October 2006

**Thanks to AQ Khan: Proliferation ghost still chasing us: Musharraf**

LAHORE: Nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's proliferation activities greatly damaged Pakistan's image, to the point that no country is now willing to give Pakistan technology for nuclear power generation, President Gen Pervez Musharraf has said. In an interview with ARY television, the president said Pakistan could have been declared a rogue state or faced severe sanctions because of Dr Khan. We are not an oil producing country and imagine how critical it would have been for Pakistan in case of sanctions. This proliferation ghost is still chasing us. Gen Musharraf said it was wrong to call Dr Khan the father of Pakistan's nuclear programme, as there were some 7,000 other scientists who worked for many years on the programme..

Daily Times, 18 October 2006

**World must stop supporting Musharraf: Balochistan Opp**

QUETTA: Opposition parties in Balochistan have asked the international community to stop supporting Pakistan's military led government and help end the army's involvement in the country's political affairs. Addressing journalists at an iftar dinner arranged by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Balochistan President Lashkari Raisani, on Tuesday, Balochistan Assembly opposition leader Kachkol Ali said the situation in the country was more critical than in 1971 because Pakistan was facing simultaneous internal and external challenges. He said that the West and US's continuing support for successive Pakistani military rulers had undermined the democratic process and destroyed democratic institutions here..

The Nation, 18 October 2006

**Editorial: Defining autonomy**

IT is good to hear from Inter provincial Coordination Minister Salim Saifullah Khan that a number of subjects in the concurrent list will be transferred to provinces to enhance the quantum of autonomy, and in this regard the government will get a constitutional amendment passed from the parliament before the next budget. Addressing a Meet the Press Programme of Lahore Press Club on Monday, he said a draft of the proposed legislation would first be worked out in consultation with the provincial governments and later talks would be held with various opposition parties on the basis of a report of parliamentary subcommittee headed by Senator Wasim Sajjad. But he did not explain whether this committee has prepared any report and if so when it would be made public..

Dawn, 18 October 2006

**Editorial: A deadline for autonomy**

THE minister for inter provincial coordination has promised that the much awaited constitutional amendment bill providing for enhanced provincial autonomy would be adopted before June 2007. This will be widely welcomed. It has been felt in political quarters that the federation would function more efficiently and amicably in Pakistan if the provinces were granted greater freedom of decision making in their own affairs. The periodic unrest in the smaller provinces, especially Sindh and Balochistan, can be attributed to the sense of deprivation these units suffer from on account of the over centralisation of power. In order to demarcate the jurisdictions of the centre and the provinces, the Constitution of 1973 provides for two legislative lists..

Paktribune, 18 October 2006

**Extremists out to harm the Country: Musharraf**

Islamabad: President Musharraf has said that extremist elements are eroding the socio-political environment of Pakistan and should be rooted out by adopting moderate and enlightened policies. While talking to a private TV channel, he said that his chief priority after taking over the reins of the government was to streamline the economical, and adopting a successful roadmap he managed to salvage the Countrys economy and all goals can be achieved by a successful economy. He said that he changed the education syllabus of the Country and also adopted a conducive policy about the much controversial seminaries, and has refuted the notion that Taliban government was considered as an extremist element in the pre-9/11 era, and action was taken against them in the post 9/11 Scenario, when they had become quite violent..

Dawn, 19 October 2006

**Nato monitoring tribal peace deal**

BRUSSELS, Oct 18: Nato expressed fresh concern on Wednesday about insurgents crossing into Afghanistan and warned that it was closely monitoring a Pakistani peace deal in a volatile border area to see if it has any effect. That border needs to be addressed, said James Appathurai, spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. There are certainly concerns in many circles that there is support for the... spoilers, in particular the Taliban coming from across the border, he told journalists in Brussels. His remarks came as Nato announced that troops and warplanes killed up to 14 insurgents on Tuesday after

dozens of rebel gunmen ambushed a convoy in Afghanistan's northeastern Nuristan province near the Pakistani border..

Daily Times, 19 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: AQ Khan: first hero then villain?**

President Musharraf has said many times that Dr Khan will not be surrendered to the United States or exposed directly to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But he has also said that It is wrong to call Dr Khan the father of Pakistans nuclear programme, as there were some 7,000 other scientists who worked for many years on the programme. Dr Khan knew just one part of the project, enrichment of uranium to weapons grade. Dr Khan knows nothing about converting this enriched uranium to a bomb and making its trigger mechanism for explosion and then putting the bomb in a delivery system for explosion, because this is not his technology. The fact is that Dr AQ Khans major achievement was his exploration of North Korea as a supplier of delivery systems for Pakistan's nuclear devices..

Daily Times, 19 October 2006

**Kasuri assures Pakistans support to Moon**

Islamabad: Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri called South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon in New York over the telephone to congratulate him on being elected the United Nations secretary general. Kasuri told Moon that his unanimous election was a manifestation of his leadership, diplomatic qualities and experience, according to a Foreign Office statement on Wednesday. Foreign Minister Kasuri hoped that under Moons leadership, the UN would be able to make progress in its reforms agenda, including the Security Council reform, which should be more democratic..

Paktribune, 19 October 2006

**Pakistan to install modern machine for compiling data of travelers at Pak-Afghan borders**

ISLAMABAD: Government has approved installation of ultra modern system on all entry and exit points on Pak-Afghan borders in NWFP to work out data of those traveling across the border. National Data Base and Registration Authority will (NADRA) will install this system. The approval was accorded in a high level meeting held here Wednesday in interior ministry. Meeting was presided over by the Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao. Minister of state for interior, Zafar Iqbal Warriach, Interior Secretary Kamal Shah, IG FC, Commandant FC, DG FIA and chairman NADRA attended the meeting..

Dawn, 19 October 2006

**Editorial: The elusive consensus**

PRIME Minister Shaukat Aziz's call for developing a broad national consensus on critical national issues comes against a political background characterised by a lack of agreement on some of the nations fundamental problems. Speaking at a PAF commanders conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, the prime minister said that internal dissensions had led to vulnerability, and therefore what the country needed was a broad consensus on fundamental national issues for the greater good of the people. He did not, however, tell

us precisely how a national consensus is to be achieved, and what effort his government is making to solve some of the problems whose solution has dodged the nation for a long time..

Dawn, 20 October 2006

**Musharraf spells out agenda for uplift, unity**

Rawalpindi, Oct 19: President General Pervez Musharraf gave an overview of the domestic environment and spelled out four areas which are and will continue to be his focus: economy, combating militancy and extremism, efforts to sustain democracy, and strengthening national integration. The president was addressing the Armed Forces Officers of Islamabad and Rawalpindi Garrisons at the Army Auditorium here on Thursday. He said having revived the countrys economy, the focus is now on sustaining its growth and transferring the benefits to the people. Combating militancy and curbing extremism in the society is and will continue to be his focus, the president added..

Daily Times, 20 October 2006

**North Waziristan peace body to meet regularly**

Peshawar: The committee that negotiated the peace agreement in North Waziristan on Thursday decided to hold regular meetings to keep in touch with the political agent to ensure appropriate action against any violation of the deal between pro-Taliban militants and the government. The committee decided this at a meeting with NWFP Governor Ali Muhammad Jan Orakzai at Governors House. The committee reviewed the situation in the North Waziristan Agency in the aftermath of the peace agreement, said an official statement..

Dawn, 20 October 2006

**Pakistan, UK working to resolve death penalty issue**

Islamabad, Oct 19: Authorities in Pakistan and the UK are hopeful of arriving at a consensus formulation for an extradition treaty between the two countries that effectively deals with the key hurdle of conflicting laws relating to the death penalty, informed sources told Dawn. The bilateral extradition treaty will give both sides the legal cover to extradite people wanted by each other in terrorist acts and other crimes. However, finalisation of the treaty has been delayed by the conflict on the death penalty issue in the laws of the two states. Pakistani laws, both Penal Code and the Islamic provisions, stipulate death penalty in certain cases of homicide while the UK and the European Union have not only abolished capital punishment but also espouse universal abolition of the death penalty..

Dawn, 20 October 2006

**Editorial: A case for clemency**

ONE hopes that President Musharraf will intervene and pardon Mirza Tahir Hussain, the Briton who has been on death row for the last 18 years and now faces execution on November 1. There are many reasons to pay heed to the international communitys pleas to avert what they describe as a miscarriage of justice. Mr Hussain was visiting Pakistan in 1988 when he hired a taxi to take him to his familys village in Chakwal. He claims that the taxi driver tried to sexually assault him and produced a gun, which went off during a

scuffle between the two men, killing the driver. Mr Hussain drove the taxi until he found the police, ostensibly for help, but was instead arrested for the crime. He has always maintained his innocence and says that he acted in self defense..

Daily Times, 20 October 2006

**UN flag raising ceremony: Pakistan favours UNSC reforms: Kasuri**

Islamabad: Pakistan favours United Nations Security Council UNSC reforms on the basis of consensus, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said while addressing UN flag raising ceremony on Thursday. We oppose an increase in the permanent members of the Security Council as this amounts to creating more centres of privilege, he said. He said the UN had to face up to a changed world, as its members had increased almost four fold since its inception..Kasuri said the world still confronted serious challenges in terms of peace and security, poverty, disease, environment and national disasters, adding that these challenges needed a coordinated response at the regional, national and international levels..

Daily Times, 21 October 2006

**7 killed, 30 injured in Peshawar blast**

PESHAWAR: A powerful bomb exploded in a crowded market Friday near the headquarters of a paramilitary force killing seven people and injuring more than 30. Hospital and police officials have said that 13 people are in a serious condition. The bomb which had been left in a fruit cart exploded in the markets 10 minutes before Iftari, Senior Superintendent of Police Operations Iftikhar Ahmed told Daily Times. This is terrorism, Ahmed said, referring to the deadliest explosion in Peshawar since the MMA took power in November 2002..

Daily Times, 21 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Al Qaeda, Pakistan and the UK**

The news from British intelligence circles is that Al Qaeda has become better organised in Pakistan and is planning to target the United Kingdom in the coming days. The 7/7 attack last year was nothing compared to what may be in the works, they calculate, and their fears are founded on what some British Pakistanis nearly pulled off some months ago at Londons Heathrow airport. They think that Al Qaeda has enough resources in the UK to stage an attack on the scale of 9/11. The connections are obvious. Osama Bin Laden is ensconced somewhere near the borders of Pakistan. Some say he and his men have been seen in Chitral, but the fact is that most Al Qaeda men have been captured in Pakistan from the safe houses of political parties..

Dawn, 21 October 2006

**35 items for provinces from concurrent list**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 20: The federal government is considering transferring 35 of the 47 subjects on the concurrent list to the provinces and giving more powers to provincial finance commissions, says Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Sher Afghan Niazi. We have proposed drastic revision of the concurrent list and more autonomy for provincial finance commissions to strengthen relations between the federation and the federating units, he added..

Dawn, 21 October 2006

**Iftar time blast kills six in Peshawar**

PESHAWAR, Oct 20: Six people, three of them children, were killed and 39 others injured when a bomb went off in a crowded market near Jinnah Park here on Friday. The explosive device, placed in a push cart, exploded when people were busy buying foodstuff for Iftar, police said. Provincial police chief Riffat Pasha said it was a time bomb which went off around 20 minutes before Iftar. He described it as an act of terrorism. In Islamabad, Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao said it was too early to say who might have been responsible for planting the improvised explosive device..

Dawn, 22 October 2006

**Mastermind of rocket plan traced**

RAWALPINDI, Oct 21: The security agencies, investigating into a foiled bid to fire rockets in the vicinity of the Parliament House and explosion in Pindi park, have traced the mastermind of the episodes, who is son of a retired senior army officer, Dawn has learnt. The security agencies had been hunting for the mastermind after eight people who the interrogators believe are involved in the rocket fire attempt were captured and a large quantity of weapons was recovered from their possession..

Dawn, 22 October 2006

**Maximum autonomy to provinces backed (Ahmed Hassan) Ahmed Hassan**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 21: Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Salim Saifullah Khan on Saturday supported giving provinces maximum autonomy but stressed the need for keeping it within precincts of a strong centre vital for strong federation. Talking to newsmen here, the minister said that the government had decided to activate parliamentary sub committee headed by Senator Wasim Sajjad which would create a consensus on a formula of transfer of powers to provinces..

Daily Times, 22 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Significance of Peshawar blast**

Someone bombed a crowded market in Peshawar on Friday, killing seven and injuring more than 30. No one knows who did it. Although this isnt the first time that the province has been treated to terrorism, it certainly is the most dastardly act of terrorism since the present Taliban and Al Qaeda loving MMA government came to power four years ago. Also, it is the fourth such act in a month. This brutal fact should make the Peshawar government realise that someone is sending it a message..There are 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and a million of them in the NWFP and the Tribal Areas. Hence, Mr Durrani should be very careful about accusing anyone of the bomb blast..

Daily Times, 22 October 2006

**Opinion: How credible is Pakistani democracy? (Dr. Hasn-Askari Rizvi) Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi**

Musharraf has rightly suggested that Pakistan faces serious internal challenges. However, these internal challenges cannot be addressed by continuing with the current strategy of



cooption of the political aspirants on the terms and conditions laid down by the army-dominated power elite Can Pakistan be described as a democratic state? The official circles maintain that Pakistan returned to genuine democracy with the setting up of elected federal and provincial governments in November December 2002, bringing an end to the 4th phase direct military rule in Pakistan..

Daily Times, 22 October 2006

### **India, Afghanistan behind Peshawar blast**

PESHAWAR: Investigators suspect that Friday's blast in Peshawar could have , originated from Afghan and Indian intelligence collaboration in Kabul. DIG (Operations) Malik Saad told Daily Times that police were looking for clues to determine whether the man who executed the attack was a local or an Afghan. Injured gypsy women in Lady Reading Hospital told investigators they had seen the man for the first time in the area, but they could not identify whether he was a local or an Afghan. A counter intelligence official said the blast was linked to a wider regional conflict suggesting that the mastermind was from across the (western) border..

Daily Times, 23 October 2006

### **NATO will not be given access to airports: FO**

Islamabad: NATO forces in Afghanistan will not allowed access to Pakistans airports, Radio Tehran quoted Foreign Office Spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam as saying. The Pakistan government will soon finalise the draft agreement on transfer of facilities with NATO forces in Afghanistan, Radio Tehran quoted a private TV channel as saying. Aslam said that talks on an agreement with NATO regarding provision of facilities had been underway. She said the interior, foreign and defence ministries were reviewing the draft sent by NATO..

Dawn, 23 October 2006

### **Nine tribesmen freed in Khar**

KHAR Bajaur Agency, Oct 22: Pakistani authorities have released nine tribesmen after holding them for more than a year on suspicion of links with the Taliban and Al Qaida, a tribal elder and residents said on Sunday. The men, who included relatives of fugitive militant leader Faqir Muhammad, were captured by Pakistani security agencies in May 2005 in the Bajur tribal region and were accused by the government of sheltering foreign militants. The men were freed on Saturday as a gesture of good will following a meeting between government officials and elders from Bajur, said Malik Abul Aziz, the head of a council of tribal elders..

Dawn, 23 October 2006

### **Editorial: More power to provinces**

THE government is to be commended for accepting the importance of provincial autonomy to stability and harmony in Pakistan. While autonomy may not resolve all the problems facing the country, decentralisation will certainly give various sections of society a greater sense of participation in governance. It may actually help improve policymaking and implementation. In quick succession, the federal information minister, the prime minister, the minister for inter provincial coordination and now the

parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Sher Afgan Niazi, have spoken about the governments intention of conceding greater autonomy to the provinces..

The Nation, 23 October 2006

**Editorial: Another task force**

Construction of dams since long has been a matter of national concern as they take priority when it comes to strengthening both agriculture and industry, which need a continuous supply of water for cultivation and power generation to ensure unhindered production. The task force set up for the five mega dams, Bhasha, Kalabagh, Akhori, Munda and Skardu to Katzara, on the Prime Ministers directive is a positive step only when it actually expedites the construction process rather than being another paper shuffling exercise of setting up an artificial mechanism that would do nothing. The government pins high hopes on the task force, believing that it would attract bilateral and multilateral donors to contribute to the infrastructure of the dams, each costing an estimated \$7-10 billion..

The Nation, 23 October 2006

**Opinion: The nightmare years 1999-2006 (Roedad Khan)**

On October 12, General Musharraf was pushed into history and assumed an awesome responsibility. Now that he was in power, all eyes were riveted on him. He had to demonstrate to the people and the outside world that the assault on democracy and suspension of the constitution was fully justified by his performance and that his military rule was qualitatively superior to civilian rule. Unlike his democratic predecessors, he commanded absolute power and had no excuses. He enjoyed the advantages of total power without any of its responsibilities. There was no reason why he could not challenge and demolish, brick by brick, the corrupt system he said he had inherited..

Daily Times, 24 October 2006

**Govt advised to ban protests in front of Parliament House**

ISLAMABAD: Intelligence agencies have advised the Interior Ministry to ban protest demonstrations in front of Parliament House, apprehending that miscreants and terrorist organizations could exploit the situation pretending to take part in the protests. Intelligence agencies have also reported that the continuity of the protests is tarnishing the image of the country in the world, particularly in the West, and have proposed the allocation of a piece of land in the federal capital where aggrieved parties may stage their protest..

Dawn, 24 October 2006

**Anti terror proposal next month: Kasuri**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Pakistan will formally present its proposal regarding contours of the joint anti terrorism mechanism with India at the foreign secretary level talks in New Delhi next month, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri told Dawn on Monday. Pakistan and India agreed to set up a joint anti terrorism institutional mechanism at a meeting on the sidelines of NAM summit in Havana last month. When contacted, Foreign Minister Kasuri said formal discussions on a broad framework of the ant -terrorism mechanism would be a key item on the agenda of the upcoming foreign secretary level

meeting..

Nation, 24 October 2006

**Opinion: Musharrafs Pakistan (SHERRY REHMAN)**

Seven years after General Musharraf seized power through a military coup against an elected government in 1999, he remains committed to one goal. That one goal is the continued concentration of power in the hands of one person. The Generals strategy is simple. Like other military rulers before him, he has been manipulating the popular vote through rigged elections and referendums to legitimise his hold on power. The Constitution has also been regularly amended to consolidate his rule. As a corollary to that he has consistently taken Pakistan away from democracy instead of locking the country into a transition to democratic rule. In doing so he has created a crisis of governance in the country, politicised the military, undermined the rule of law, compromised the independence of the judiciary, weakened the federation and subverted the supremacy of parliament by assuming all powers as both COAS and President simultaneously..

Dawn, 24 October 2006

**Editorial: The rights and wrongs of Kargil**

THE controversy touched off by President Musharrafs claims about Kargil will never end because no independent inquiry has been conducted on the episode and there is no way of knowing the truth. The versions presented by different parties who had a say in the events of May to July 1999, however, lead to one undisputed conclusion. The military action was planned primarily by the army supposedly taking the civilian government on board, while the move to bring it to an end through the good offices of the Americans was basically made by the Nawaz Sharif government. The two actors in the drama are now arguing about the various developments to justify their own policy decisions..

Dawn, 25 October 2006

**Dr Khans role in N. Korea bomb denied**

WASHINGTON, Oct 24: The technology the Khan network provided to North Korea was meant for developing civilian nuclear energy and not weapons, says a senior Pakistani military official. The official said, in a background briefing on the countrys nuclear strategy at the Pakistan Embassy, that the information had been obtained from Dr A.Q. Khan who has been in the governments custody since his February 2004 confession that he was running a secret network of nuclear proliferators. Dr Khan says that the North Korean programme was for developing fuel for civilian purposes, said the official. US intelligence reports also confirm the Pakistani claim, saying that the test North Korean conducted on Oct 9 was plutonium based while Pakistan uses uranium for producing nuclear fuel..

Dawn, 25 October 2006

**Pact with Nato to be made public**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 24: Salient features of an Afghanistan specific agreement that Pakistan is negotiating with the 26 member North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Nato would be made public, well placed government sources told Dawn on Monday. The

agreement for transit facility was requested by Nato exclusively for its peace mission in Afghanistan early this year and it has been in the works for more than six months now. The salient features of the agreement with Nato would definitely be made public, a senior military official told this correspondent on Tuesday. Officials at the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defence keeping a close watch on it also endorsed the view..

Daily Times, 25 October 2006

#### **Former brigadiers son plotted rocket attacks**

ISLAMABAD: The son of a retired Pakistani brigadier is among three Al Qaeda-linked terrorists arrested for masterminding attempted rocket attacks near the presidents house and parliament, police said on Tuesday. The suspects were seized on Monday, based on information provided by eight alleged militants detained earlier this month after the three foiled attacks, Islamabads Inspector General of Police Iftikhar Ahmed Chaudhry said. They are educated. One of them is son of a retired army brigadier, one of them is an engineer who was technically aware of making circuits, Chaudhry told AFP. They are hardcore terrorists..

Nation, 25 October 2006

#### **14 killed in Khyber clash over Eid**

KHYBER AGENCY-As many as 14 people were killed while many were injured in an armed clash between two rival groups on the eve of Eid in Khyber Agency. According to Radio Tehran, the clash erupted between rival Ansar Group and Lashkar e Islam group in Khyber agency over the announcement by the provincial government regarding sighting of Shawwal moon. Fourteen people are reported to have been killed while number of others were injured in the bloody clash. Both groups used latest weapons during the fight. Pir Saifullah led the Lashkar e Islam group while Ansar group was led by Mufti Munir Shakir..

Dawn, 25 October 2006

#### **Editorial: Taliban in command?**

Emboldened, it seems, by the September 5 accord with the government, militants in North Waziristan are now institutionalising their authority over the tribal agency. There is now at least one Taliban office in Miramshah, the regional headquarters, and there is no doubt as to who is calling the shots in terms of administration. The militants jurisdiction has lately been formalised by the Taliban council of advisers, with a clearly defined territory in and around Miramshah demarcated as an area of operations where criminal activities are banned. Here it is the Taliban, not the political administration, who will lay down the law for crimes ranging from theft to murder. Punishment is to be meted out in accordance with the Talibans peculiar interpretation of the Shariat, not the state law applicable to the tribal areas..

Daily Times, 28 October 2006

#### **Waziristan peace effectively Talibanising area: UK paper**

LAHORE: Previously touted as a possible blueprint for eradicating the Taliban led insurgency in Afghanistan, it now appears that the North Waziristan peace deal has instead served as the most effective means of Talibanising Pakistan's border areas with

its neighbour. The Daily Telegraph reported on Wednesday that Taliban militants in Pakistan were effectively working towards imposing their own rule on the area by setting up offices, introducing a tax system and taking control of justice in the area all blatant violations of the September 5 peace accord signed by the government and so called pro Taliban tribesmen, which prohibited the group from running a parallel administration in the area..

Daily Times, 28 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Terrorism: it can be anyones son**

The gang which nearly set off rockets near the Presidency turned out to be local boys led by a retired brigadiers son. The suspects were seized on Monday, based on information provided by eight alleged militants detained earlier this month after the three foiled attacks. The rest are also educated, one of them an engineer who was technically familiar with circuits. The police called them hard core terrorists connected to Al Qaeda. The three were the driving force behind the plot and the eight arrested previously were only facilitators. The trio were the masterminds of Al Qaeda whose literature was found in their car. And they were after General Musharraf. They just made a single mistake..

Dawn, 28 October 2006

**Editorial: A check on arms trade**

The international community is now set to begin work on drawing up an international arms trade treaty. The UN Assemblys first committee has adopted a resolution sponsored by 77 states calling for such a pact to be concluded. Although this has been described as a great success by one of the sponsors, the treaty will not end the arms race as peace activists have been calling for. The adversarial circumstances are already evident. The United States, the biggest arms supplier in the world, voted against the resolution, while 26 emerging arms suppliers which include Pakistan and India abstained..

Dawn, 28 October 2006

**Train, two pipelines attacked**

QUETTA, Oct 27: Three security personnel and another man were injured in two landmine explosions in Kohlu and Dera Bugti districts, while three pylons of power transmission lines were blown up, suspending supply to Dera Bugti, on Friday. Armed men blew up two gas pipelines in Pir Koh and Sui gas field, shutting down the Pir Koh purification plant, while unknown people opened fire on the Rawalpindi bound Quetta Express near Mushkaf in Bolan district, injuring two passengers. According to official sources, three power pylons of the 132kv Sui Dera Bugti transmission line were blown up in Pash Bogi area in the early hours of Friday..

Nation, 28 October 2006

**Editorial: Ghulam Ishaq Khan**

FORMER President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who died after a protracted illness at the age of 91, belonged to the generation which has made Pakistan what it is today, and for this he deserves both credit and blame. Born in Bannu in 1915, and entering the PCS in 1940, he was inducted in the CSP in 1951 and held almost all the premier assignments any bureaucrat could wish for. The founding Chairman of WAPDA, Mr Khan later served as

Cabinet Secretary and Finance Secretary before being appointed Governor State Bank, where he played a major role in guiding the economy through the turbulence caused by the 1973 oil shock. Even though his subsequent appointment as Secretary General Defence was unusual, it helped him develop contacts within the armed forces..

Dawn, 29 October 2006

### **Nato blames Pakistan for infiltration**

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Oct 28: The movement of militants from Pakistan into Afghanistan has increased since Islamabad signed a deal with tribal elders along the border last month, Nato's top military commander said on Saturday. The Nato-led International Security Assistance Force was monitoring the situation after the agreement with pro Taliban elders in Pakistans North Waziristan area, Gen James Jones told reporters. Preliminary indications are that the movements across the border have increased since the signing of agreements on the other side of the border, he said at the end of a three day visit to Afghanistan. ISAF was however still evaluating the situation and the first indications may not be conclusive, he said..

Daily Times, 29 October 2006

### **US paid Pakistan billions of dollars to counter terror (Khalid Hasan)**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has received billions of dollars in reimbursement for its support of US led counter terrorism operations, while Congress has appropriated billions of dollars to reimburse Pakistan for its support of counter-terrorism operations. According to an updated version of a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report on Pakistan, As of September 2006, a total of \$6.64 billion had been appropriated for FY2002-FY2007 Defence Department spending for coalition support payments to Pakistan and other cooperating nations. Pentagon documents indicate that disbursements to Islamabad account for the great majority of these funds: about \$3.6 billion for operations from January 2002 through August 2005, an amount roughly equal to one-quarter of Pakistans total military expenditures during that period..

Daily Times, 29 October 2006

### **Opinion: Oppositions predicament (Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi)**

If the opposition can put its house in order and overcome its indecisiveness, it can cash on popular disappointments and alienation. As long as the government doesn't address the current problems of governance, the potential for street agitation and violence would persist. The opposition political parties have been striving hard for the last year to wrest the political initiative from the government. In addition to issuing tough statements against President General Pervez Musharraf they periodically threaten to launch street agitation. There were occasions when it seemed that the opposition would soon materialise its threat to take on the government in the streets. Some opposition parties and alliances even held public meetings to demonstrate their strength but they could not follow it up with agitation..

Dawn, 29 October 2006

### **Editorial: A dominant figure**

GHULAM Ishaq Khan, who died in his hometown Peshawar on Friday at the ripe old age

of 91, was closely associated with the economic and political history of Pakistan almost ever since the countrys foundation. His training as a bureaucrat ensured that he would bring a certain encrusted conservatism to bear on political developments and he perhaps made no secret of his distaste for politicians, whom he believed to be inconstant. But, on the whole, Mr Ishaq Khans career as a bureaucrat and policymaker was far less controversial than the character it assumed after he was catapulted to the presidency following Gen Ziaul Haqs sudden death. Unfortunately, he then came to symbolise all that is wrong with our political system and state management at the top..

Daily Times, 29 October 2006

### **Sino-Pak rail link soon**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are expected to sign an agreement to lay down a rail link between the two countries during Chinese President Hu Jintaos visit next month. The Chinese president is expect to visit Pakistan on November 23, and the two countries will sign the agreement on this occasion, sources told Daily Times. The sources said the Planning Division had approved a project to study the feasibility of a 750 kilometre rail link from Havilian, Abbottabad district, to the China border. The study will start after the agreement is signed. The sources said discussion on the technicalities of the project would start on November 11, when the Chinese deputy economic minister is due to visit Pakistan, accompanied by a technical team..

Daily Times, 30 October 2006

### **Dialogue the only way for peace in Afghanistan: Fazl**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Muttahida Majlis e Amal (MMA) leader, said that only dialogue could bring everlasting and conducive peace in Afghanistan. Rehman applauded the efforts by the NWFP governor for a peace accord with elders in North Wazirstan. He said this was the initial phase of the peace process in Afghanistan. Talking to reporters, he demanded immediate abolishment of a United nation (UN) Resolution, which has provided North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) with an unbridled license to indulge in genocide. He said Taliban should be given a chance to merge with the Afghan national mainstream through ballot..

Dawn, 30 October 2006

### **Editorial: No end to Baloch unrest**

CONTINUING attacks on trains, gas pipelines and power transmission lines in Balochistan indicate that the situation in the province, far from returning to normal as claimed by the government, remains a source of worry. Clearly, Nawab Bugtis death has not weakened the insurgency which is unlikely to abate so long as the Baloch people perceive themselves to be at the receiving end of the militarys highhandedness and the governments unjust policies. There is realisation among policymakers that more needs to be done to redress the provinces economic and political grievances. The prime minister recently announced a Rs19.5 billion development package for Balochistan, earmarking Rs2.5 billion for the troubled districts of Kohlu and Dera Bugti..

Daily Times, 30 October 2006

**EDITORIAL: Fighting terrorism for money**

An official report released in Washington says Pakistan has received the lions share of a total of \$6.64 billion for 2002-2007 for the coalition fighting terrorism: about \$3.6 billion for operations from January 2002 through August 2005, an amount roughly equal to one quarter of Pakistans total military expenditures during that period. The report says that US Pakistan relations were subject to fluctuations until 9/11 but after 9/11 they improved remarkably because Pakistan became a key ally in US-led counter-terrorism efforts. Even though some Americans may not be very sanguine about the role Pakistan has played in trying to rid the world of Al Qaeda terrorists, important personalities in the US administration and Congress have praised Pakistan for taking up the cause by rounding up hundreds of very dangerous terrorists that no other country could have managed to do..

The Nation, 30 October 2006

**Opinion: Cross-border Jirga (Juma Khan Sufi)**

Jirgas are important in the life of Pukhtoon tribes. Since Afghanistan is basically tribal based Pukhtoon dominant society, therefore, it has assumed special significance over the course of history there. Other ethnic groups in one way or other also adhere to the principle of jirga and accept it as time honoured tradition crucial for decision making. The so called grand Jirga proposed by President Karzai has totally ignored the basic tenet of its independence and the tribal sense of participation under the prevailing extraordinary circumstances. President Karzai has ensured its failure from the day one. He prematurely announced its convocation from Washington and stamped it out as Bush sponsored Jirga..Then there is the question of Durand Line, which Pakistan considers as internationally recognised border and Karzai has not yet made up its mind about its ultimate destiny..

Dawn, 30 October 2006

**Opinion: Fair elections are the only answer (Anwer Mooraj)**

WITH just a little over 11 months to the next general elections, the question of who is most likely to be the person to pull the strings that will make the marionettes dance, has certainly excited the public imagination. The position regarding possible alliances will become clearer in the next few months, now that news of a possible collusion between the PPP and the military strongman have surfaced. But unless there is a dramatic turn of events which measures at least five points on the Richter scale, it does look as if it is going to be business as usual and the nation will have to suffer another bout of inane supervision at the hands of the Muslim League government and its allies..

Dawn, 31 October 2006

**82 die as missiles rain on Bajaur: Pakistan owns up to strike; locals blame US drones**

KHAAR Bajaur, Oct 30: Eighty two people were killed, 12 teenagers among them, in an air strike at a religious seminary in Damadola in the Bajaur tribal region on Monday morning. Pakistans military spokesman, Maj. Gen Shaukat Sultan, said those killed in the dawn attack were all militants and denied that there had been any collateral damage. The



operation, he said, was launched following intelligence reports that the seminary was being used as a training facility for terrorist activities. But local residents believe the air strike was carried out by fixed wing US drones which fired hellfire missiles at the compound, killing all those inside the seminary, including its administrator Maulvi Liaqat Ali. However, the military spokesman denied US involvement in the attack..

Daily times, 31 October 2006

**Jirgas on both sides of Pak-Afghan border: Kasuri to visit Kabul for talks**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri will visit Afghanistan soon to hold talks for convening jirgas on both sides of the Pakistan Afghanistan border as agreed between President General Pervez Musharraf and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai, said Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasneem Aslam during her weekly briefing on Monday. Ms Aslam did not give a specific date for Kasuri's visit. She expressed surprise over a reported statement by NATO commanders that attacks inside Afghanistan had increased following the North Waziristan peace accord. She said that this statement had come at a time when NATO itself was trying to conclude similar deals in Afghanistan..

Daily Times, 31 October 2006

**Bajaur airstrike will not derail Waziristan peace process: CM**

PESHAWAR: The airstrike on a madrassa in Bajaur Agency will not affect the Waziristan peace process, but bombings cannot resolve problems and disputes, Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani told reporters at the NWFP Assembly on Monday. Durrani rejected Federal Information Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani's statement that the federal government would not allow the provincial government to pass the Hasba Bill, saying that the bill would be presented in the house for discussion and passed in the ongoing session of the NWFP Assembly. We will make our own decisions, he said..

The Nation, 31 October 2006

**Editorial: Bajaur killings**

IN the worst ever incident of its kind, over 80 persons described as militants were reportedly killed near Khar in Bajaur Agency. DG ISPR Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan has confirmed that a madrassa was targeted by helicopter gunships and precision weapons. According to him, 70 to 80 militants were receiving military training in the madrassa though he said he could not yet confirm the number of dead. According to him the facility was far from the populated area and no women and children were inside during the early morning attack..It is ironic that the attack has come within two days of the reported deal between the local peace committee and the Mohmand tribe at a jirga attended by 3000 tribesmen and elders who had expressed loyalty to the country, vowed to ensure peace in the region and eliminate any foreign activist found in the area..

Paktribune, 31 October 2006

**Pakistan rebuffs NATO's criticism on North Waziristan peace accord**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said criticism from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation NATO of North Waziristan peace accord is uncalled for as NATO itself has signed such two or three agreements in Afghanistan. This was said by Ms Tasneem Aslam, foreign office spokesperson in her weekly press briefing here Monday. She went on to say that

the criticism coming from NATO on North Waziristan peace accord is unwarranted as NATO itself had signed two or three such agreements in Afghanistan. The challenges facing Afghanistan can not be addressed through such statements and allegations, she remarked. Therefore, all will have to work together, she added. This is not the sole responsibility of Pakistan that abiding peace and stability come in Afghanistan and rather it is common responsibility of all..