



The POST

THE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT

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Zardari points to infiltration

Asks Karzai Afghanistan's soil must not be used against neighbours

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai on Wednesday held wide-ranging talks focussing on jointly fighting terrorism, strengthening bilateral ties and ways to address regional issues related to peace and security. President Karzai who flew in here late Wednesday afternoon on a two-day visit arrived at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and met President Zardari

soon after his arrival. The two leaders have frequently met in the past and have expressed

the resolve to remove misunderstandings and move forward in the fight against militancy.

During the exclusive and delegation-level talks, President Zardari stressed the need for enhanced

interaction between the two countries to better cope with the issues
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Tehran, Washington spar over Kabul

KABUL: Iran's outspoken president on Wednesday criticised Western troops as an obstacle to peace in Afghanistan and mocked the US defence secretary during their overlapping visits to the war-torn country. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, paying his first visit to Afghanistan since he and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai were re-elected last year, took issue with the policies of arch-foe Washington. "We do not see the presence of
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US House poised for pullout

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives was poised to vote Wednesday on a measure demanding President Barack Obama withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan, in a key election-year test for his war strategy. The resolution, which was not expected to pass, calls for Obama to pull US forces out of Afghanistan 30 days after the bill becomes law or, if he decides that is too dangerous, by no later than
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Shedding burden of defeat

Players penalised

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE: The PCB has struck against its players with venom unseen in recent memory, carrying out the deepest cull of a senior cricket team in many years and banning and fining seven of its top players after the side's disastrous, winless tour of Australia. It has banned Younis Khan and Mohammad Yousuf, from playing for Pakistan in any format for an indefinite period, while handing out one-year bans to Shoaib Malik and Rana Naved-ul-Hasan. Shahid Afridi and the Akmal brothers were fined Rs2-3 million [\$24,000-35,000] for various misdemeanours and put on six-month probations. Action had been expected once details of the inquiry committee's report recom-

mendations were leaked in the press on Monday and Ijaz Butt, the PCB chairman, had followed it up by saying "more than significant action" would be taken against players. While the punishments for Malik, Rana, Afridi and the Akmal brothers were expected, the action against Younis and Younis has caught most people off-guard. "Mohammad Yousuf and Younis Khan, keeping in view their infighting which resulted in bringing down the whole team, their attitude has a trickle-down effect which is a bad influence for the whole team should not be part of national team in any format," the board said in its statement issued on Wednesday. The PCB has stopped short of calling the punishment a life
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Army Board promotes 29 brigadiers

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: The meeting of the Army Promotion Board was held here on Wednesday with Chief of the Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kiyani in the chair in which 29 brigadiers were promoted to the rank of major general.

The meeting reviewed the performance and seniority of commanders belonging to various formations.

According to ISPR, Selection Board for promotion of Brigadiers to the rank of Major General for the year 2010 was held at General Headquarters on Wednesday.

The Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani presided the Board and 29 Officers have been recommended for promotion to the rank of Major General by the Selection Board.

The Officers recommended for promotion to the rank of Major General include Brigadier Nadir Zeb, Armored Corps, Brigadier Allah Ditta Khan, Artillery, Brigadier Obaid Ullah Khan, Artillery, Brigadier Naveed Ahmed, Artillery, Brigadier Mian M Hilal Hussain, Artillery, Brigadier Muhammad Zahid Latif Mirza, Air
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LAHORE: PML-N workers celebrate the victory of their candidates. -APP PHOTO

Cabinet approves state enterprises' restructuring

Gilani reiterates resolve to restore Constitution

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The cabinet Wednesday approved the restructuring of major public sector enterprises (PSEs) with a view to bringing about financial discipline, revival and good governance.

Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, while chairing the meeting of the cabinet, declared that it was imperative to devise ways and means to

stop this ill management and lack of commitment which was resulting in massive losses of public funds which could have been used for the development of the country and welfare of the people. He further said that better management of these public sector enterprises through restructuring would be able to create fiscal space to provide relief to the common man. The objective of restructuring, he added, should be to

improve the performance of the PSEs and reduce burden on national exchequer.

The cabinet was considering a report of Cabinet Committee on Restructuring (CCOR) of Public Sector Enterprises which has made recommendations to save these enterprises from loss of billions of rupees. In pursuance of the decision to introduce austerity measures, a Cabinet Committee on

Restructuring (CCOR) of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) was constituted at a special cabinet meeting held on 16th December, 2009.

The cabinet expressed its strong resolve to optimise the functional ability of public sector enterprises (PSEs) and emphasised that those have a critical significance not only for the national economy but also for better living standards
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US drone hit kills 14 in NWA

THE POST REPORT

MIRANSHAH: US drone attacks on a village in Miran-shah killed 14 militants and wounded many others.

According to reports of a foreign media source, American drone planes fired 3 missiles on the house of a militant commander in village
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CRC split over control of resources

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Differences have surfaced among the members of Constitutional Reforms Committee over the issue of handing over the control of natural resources to provincial governments.

The committee, chaired by its chairman Raza Rabbani, met in the Parliament House on Wednesday. Nationalist members from Sindh and Balochistan demanded handing over control of rights of natural resources to provinces. They also demanded that revenue thus earned should also be utilised by the provinces only.

The PML-N members, however, resisted this demand and stressed that natural resources should remain a federal subject while the share of provinces should be increased accordingly. Senator Raza
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Seven killed in attack on NGO office in Mansehra

ONLINE

PESHAWAR: Seven people including two women were killed on Wednesday when gunmen attacked the office of a US-based NGO in Mansehra.

The gunmen attacked the offices of World Vision near Oghi town, in Mansehra district of NWFP, police said.

"Some armed people stormed the building of World Vision NGO. There was firing and also an explosion inside," police official

Sajid Khan told media. "They opened fire and also exploded hand grenades," he said. The aid worker confirmed the attack and subsequent clashes.

"Six staffers of the NGO are dead, six are seriously injured. More information is coming. The staffers are trapped in the office," one of the aid workers talking to media said.

There were reports of injuries among students of nearby schools after stampede among them. The build-

ing of the NGO has been completely collapsed and the blast formed a 14 feet craft on the site of the blast.

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik has sought report from IG NWFP

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani have strongly condemned the blast. In their separate message, the President and the Prime Minister said that the nation is united against terrorists and they would not be
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NAB chief goes on long leave

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau Chairman Naveed Ahsan has gone on long leave and Deputy Chairman Irfan Nadeem has assumed responsibilities of acting chairman.

Sources of NAB, while confirming it, said the NAB chairman had requested for long leave in an application to President Asif Ali Zardari.

Naveed Ahsan in his application said that he tendered his resignation on February 24 to Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani but was
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Indian defence budget and poverty

MAMOONA ALI KAZMI

ACCORDING to the budget presented by the Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, India's defence expenditure has been raised to Rs. 1,47,344 crore for 2010-11, a 4 percent increase from the last year's Rs. 1,41,703 crore. The rationale being given by the Finance Minister for the increase in the budget was deteriorated security environment of India. It seems quite astonishing that India now using the internal mishaps as basis for the increase in the defence budget. Whereas, in reality India needs a huge defence budget to finance its defence deals

with different countries such as Israel, Russia and America. Israel is poised to grab a major chunk of the whopping \$30 billion that New Delhi will spend on defence purchases over the next five years. In the past three years, India had spent as much as \$10.5 billion on military imports, making it amongst the largest arms importers in the developing world. India's military imports are expected to reach \$30 billion by 2012. India is a country, which bullies neighbouring countries and has no direct threat of aggression from any other country, so it can not justify such a massive defence budget. The Indian Government is increas-

ing its defence budget and is not bothering about what is happening to the common man. Two-third of India's 1.1 billion citizens continues to live on less than \$1 a day. The people living below the poverty line have nothing to do with the defence budget. The socio-economic indicators of Indian society do not allow India to have a huge defence budget. The poor condition of its agriculture, education, employment etc. has exposed its fake economic progress.

According to International Herald Tribune, "there are too many signs of an over confidence (in India) that look more and more like hubris". Paradoxically, only a false sense of eco-

nomical growth is spreading throughout India notwithstanding the reality. According to a survey conducted by the BBC World almost half of all Indians feel that their country's economic "miracle" has done nothing to benefit them or their families. The survey revealed the growing sense of division in Indian society between the newly affluent middle classes and the socially disenfranchised rural poor.

The percentage of inflation is much higher than what is projected at the national level by the Government. For common man, inflation means rise in the prices of wheat and flour. The poverty-stricken people are
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