

Priyanka campaigns for Rahul

PTI, Amethi  
Campaigning for her brother Rahul in UP's Amethi Lok Sabha constituency, Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday attacked the Mayawati government, saying it "ignored" the region and "created obstacles" in the implementation of Centre's development schemes for the state.  
"The state government is not implementing development schemes in the area and is ignoring the region. On the other hand, whenever we tried to do something, they (the BSP government) created obstacles," she said, addressing a public meeting in Ranipur village in Amethi.

Kashmir separatist to contest Indian polls

AFP, Srinagar  
A leading Kashmiri separatist said Saturday he would run in India's elections starting next week, marking a radical departure for the movement which has until now boycotted polls.  
Sajad Lone, 41, heads the People's Conference, a separatist group in Muslim-majority Indian Kashmir, which has been racked by a deadly revolt against New Delhi's rule since 1989.  
"I have decided to contest the upcoming parliamentary polls with a commitment to use this mechanism as a method to represent the voice of the Kashmiri people," Lone said.  
"This is to take the strength and merits

of our cherished (independence) aspirations to the central stage of India, where it cannot be ignored or censored," he said.  
The announcement came a day after the hardline wing of the region's main separatist alliance, the Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, announced a campaign against participation in the general elections that start Thursday.  
Separatist groups have long argued that taking part in elections in Kashmir was tantamount to accepting Indian sovereignty over the scenic Himalayan region.  
But elections in Kashmir last year witnessed an unprecedented 60 percent voter turnout -- a figure the government in New Delhi has swift to hail as a "victory

for democracy" and a vote for national integration.  
"It's a setback to the separatists as boycott is their accepted strategy," said Tahir Mohiuddin, editor of the widely read Urdu weekly *Chattan*, or *Rock*.  
The insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir has claimed 47,000 lives, according to official figures.  
Lone is one of Kashmir's most vocal separatists, arguing the cause in television debates, newspaper interviews and seminars.  
"Fighting elections is a change of strategy not ideology," Lone said, adding his decision to contest should not be construed as a "victory for Indian democracy or defeat for separatists."



Leader of India's Samajwadi Party Mulayam Singh Yadav (C) is flanked by party leaders Amar Singh (R) and cinema actor Sanjay Dutt (L) as they pose with copies of their party manifesto during its release in Lucknow yesterday ahead of the country's general election.



US soldiers from 1st Infantry Division prepare an RQ-11 Raven miniature unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), seen at right, during a mission to search for weapons caches at Alaugal valley in Nishagam, in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province on Friday.

Left often on wrong side of history: Manmohan

PTI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kochi New Delhi  
Needling the Communists in their bastion, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said the Left parties have often been on the "wrong side" of history by refusing to participate in the Quit India movement, Green and IT revolutions and to back the nuclear deal with the US.  
In a veiled attack on the coming together of parties in the Third Front led by the Left, he asked the people to choose between the stability of the Congress and the coalition of parties which have come together only by the "glue of government" in which there is a continuous struggle for power.

"The Left that rules the state has unfortunately often been on the wrong side of history. When Mahatma Gandhi started Quit India movement the Left did not participate in it. When India became Independent, they said this independence is not for real," he said addressing an election meeting here, the first after his recovery from the heart bypass surgery.  
Singh said in 1960s when the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ushered in Green Revolution, the Left opposed it saying it was only for the benefit of foreign seed companies. Similarly, when Rajiv Gandhi started communications revolution they opposed it saying it will take away jobs.

Swat peace accord hinges on Zardari

Deal to be presented in parliament tomorrow

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad  
A peace deal linked with the Taliban in the Swat Valley in Pakistan's restive northwest is to be presented in parliament Monday even as a question mark hangs over whether President Asif Ali Zardari will ratify the pact.  
Speaking to reporters in Multan Saturday, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said the Feb 16 deal to impose Sharia laws in Swat and six other districts of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in return for the Taliban laying down their arms would be presented Monday in the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament.  
"The aim is to evolve a consensual national strategy," Gilani said.  
The peace deal between the NWFP government and Taliban-aligned Maulana Sufi Muhammad of the Tehrik-e-Nifaz e Shariah-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) seemed to be coming apart Thursday with the cleric shutting down his peace camp to protest against Zardari's

delay in acceding to the pact.  
The president's consent is necessary because the provincial government cannot amend its laws without his consent. Zardari says he will ratify the deal only if peace returns to Swat.  
The Taliban says it's the other way around: that peace can return only if Sharia laws are first in place.  
On Friday, however, the TNSM said the peace deal was intact but this was predicated on Zardari's nod, even as Sufi Muhammad refused to hold talks with a NWFP delegation that had rushed to meet him.  
"We met him (Sufi) during the Friday prayers but he did not participate in the talks," NWFP Information Minister Iftikhar Hussain told The News.  
"The swift move by the NWFP government was aimed at salvaging the shaky peace accord," the newspaper noted.  
In an editorial, however, The News wondered about the rationale behind the peace accord.

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PM has voluntarily abdicated authority Says Advani

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi  
Reiterating his charge that Manmohan Singh is a weak prime minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) prime ministerial candidate LK Advani said Manmohan Singh had "voluntarily abdicated authority".  
In an interview to TV channel, Advani said: "You have a situation in which the prime minister holds office but has no authority, while the person who wields the authority has no accountability", hinting at Congress president Sonia Gandhi.  
"This is not a democracy," said Advani, adding that Manmohan Singh had "voluntarily abdicated authority".  
He also said Manmohan Singh's weakness as prime minister was "patently visible and very clear".  
"I have known cases where the prime minister has proposed some course of action but he is not able to implement it unless he gets clearance from the Congress party president," Advani said.

Muslims should launch their own party

Says Shahi Imam  
INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi  
Accusing political parties of using the Muslim community as just a vote bank, the Shahi Imam of the Jama Masjid here said Saturday that Muslims should join hands and launch their own party that will work for the community's welfare.  
"Muslims in this country have always been secular and have never voted on religious grounds. They have even voted for political parties whose leaders have been Hindus. They even supported the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 1977 and 1989 elections," Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari told IANS.  
"However, none of the political parties who the Muslims have voted for have done anything for their welfare. This is why I think the community should launch its own political party," he said.  
Talking about Uttar Pradesh, where Muslims have over 20 percent of the vote share, Bukhari said that the community has lost all faith in the political parties.  
"Political parties use Muslims just as a vote bank.

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**Format for extra-curricular activities:**

Sl. No.	Description of activities	Attainments, if applicable	Remarks

**Format for academic attainments:**

Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Year of passing	Class/Division /CGPA	CGPA Scale	Remarks

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