

# Suicide blast kills 4 Pak soldiers in Kashmir

## Explosion, gunshot rock Srinagar in Indian

AFP, Muzaffarabad / Srinagar  
A suicide bomber killed four Pakistani soldiers yesterday near the demarcation line with India in Kashmir, the latest in a spike of attacks in the Pakistani-administered zone.  
The bombing came a day after President Asif Ali Zardari visited the area -- a fault line that has sparked two wars with India and distracted Pakistani attention from an expanding Taliban menace along the Afghan border.  
The attacker detonated his explosives outside a barracks in Tarar Khal, southeast of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir.  
"It was a suicide attack. The target was the army barracks. We have collected evidence and body parts of the attacker which proves that it was a suicide attack," police official Irfan Masood Kishvi said.  
Sardar Khurshid, another senior police officer in the area, said: "I can confirm that four soldiers were martyred and 11 wounded in the blast."  
Suspected Muslim militants on Wednesday

opened fire in the main market area of Indian Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, killing at least one police officer and sending residents ducking for cover.  
Police said one or two gunmen had taken up positions in a city centre hotel, which was quickly surrounded by heavily armed members of the security forces.  
Local resident Joginder Singh said the gunmen appeared to be directing their fire at a paramilitary camp near the hotel in Srinagar's busy Lal Chowk district.  
A pro-Pakistan militant group, Jamiat-ul-Mujahedin, said it was behind the assault.  
"Three of our men have launched a fideyean (suicide) attack in Lal Chowk," the group's spokesman Jameel Ahmed told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location.  
Wednesday's assault came as Indian Kashmir's chief minister marked his first year in office by pledging to slash the security force presence in the revolt-hit Muslim-majority region if militant violence continued its recent downward trend.  
Kashmir was split into two in the bloody

aftermath of independence from British rule over the subcontinent in 1947. Nuclear rivals India and Pakistan each control a part of the mountainous land but both claim the region in full.  
Wednesday's attack was the fourth suicide bombing in Pakistani Kashmir since June. On December 27, a bomber killed seven people outside a mosque in Muzaffarabad and analysts warn that the Taliban are extending their reach.  
Militants have killed more than 2,890 people across Pakistan since July 2007, until recently concentrating attacks in the northwest, the neighbouring tribal belt and cities rather than the northern mountains and the east.  
The elected leader of Pakistani Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider, condemned the attack in Tarar Khal and blamed Taliban-linked extremists.  
"The terrorists have attacked the Pakistan army and the entire Kashmiri nation condemns this attack," he told AFP, confirming the death toll of four dead and 11 wounded.

# Two US missiles kill 11 militants in Pakistan

AFP, Miran Shah  
Two US drone attacks killed at least 11 militants in Pakistan's tribal belt on the Afghan border yesterday, flattening an extremist Taliban training centre, Pakistani officials said.  
A suspected US drone fired a missile at militants trawling through the wreckage of the mud-brick fort in Sanzali village in North Waziristan, trying to pull out bodies and survivors after an earlier attack on the centre.  
"Two foreigners died in the initial attack," a senior Pakistani security official in the northwestern city of Peshawar told AFP. The nationalities of the two were not immediately clear.



PHOTO: AFP  
An Indian police officer (R) checks sleeping passengers at Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) railway station in Mumbai on Wednesday. Security has been tightened at sensitive locations in Mumbai following an anonymous threat call to carry out explosions..

# Police identify Karachi blast masterminds

ANI, Lahore  
Karachi Police Chief Wasim Ahmed has claimed that the culprits responsible for the Asura blast, which killed 42 people in Karachi on December 28, have been identified and will be brought before the public within a week.  
The Daily Times quoted Ahmed, as saying that the investigations had led the police to the masterminds of the terror attack, but further details could not be disclosed.  
He said police were now aware of how the Ashura blast had been planned.

# US asks Pakistan to extradite Huji chief

ANI, Lahore  
The United States has sought from the Pakistani government an early arrest and extradition of Ilyas Kashmiri, the fugitive chief of the pro-Kashmir Jihadi group, Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji), in connection with the assassination of seven CIA agents in Afghanistan's Khost province.  
Kashmiri is being accused of coordinating a suicide attack on the CIA Forward Operating Base on December 31, 2009, which killed seven CIA officers and injured six others.  
Earlier, a Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman had claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that the TTP

had managed to infiltrate the base with the suicide bomber, who was disguised as a soldier of the Afghan National Army.  
According to sources in Islamabad, the suicide-bombing mission had been planned in the North Waziristan tribal area, which is allegedly sheltering hundreds of the fugitive al-Qaeda and Taliban militants wanted by US intelligence agencies.  
And the human bomb, who exploded himself at the CIA base in Khost is believed to have been dispatched by Kashmiri.  
Sources added that Pakistani authorities are already trying to hunt down Kashmiri for his involvement in several terrorist activities carried out in different parts of Pakistan.

# Hubble telescope shows earliest photo of universe

AP, Washington  
The Hubble Space Telescope has captured the earliest image yet of the universe just 600 million years after the Big Bang, when the universe was just a toddler.  
Scientists released the photo Tuesday at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society. It's the most complete picture of the early universe so far, showing galaxies with stars that are already hundreds of millions of years old, along with the unmistakable primordial signs of the first cluster of stars.

# Roadside bomb kills four children in Afghanistan

AFP, Jalalabad  
A suspected roadside bomb killed four children and injured dozens including nine foreign troops yesterday, officials said, as a police officer who defected to the Taliban was captured.  
In a day of violence that saw more than 60 people, including 13 school children, injured across the country, Afghan officials and Nato were at odds over the cause of a massive explosion in eastern Nangahar.  
The blast happened at around 10:00am (0530 GMT) in the Rodat district of the troubled province, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, the provincial governor's spokesman, adding that the cause was a roadside bomb.  
"One policeman was killed, four children were killed, and more than 40 are wounded," he said.  
"This was the action of the armed opposi-

tion," he said, referring to Taliban-led militants who have a significant presence in the region.  
An investigation was underway to determine the cause, he told AFP.  
Nato's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said however the blast was caused by unexploded munitions.  
"Nine International Security Assistance Force service members were wounded in an explosion in the Rodat district of Nangarhar province this morning," the ISAF statement said.  
"The blast is believed to have been caused by the detonation of unexploded ordnance," it added, without mention of child fatalities.  
ISAF did not give the nationality of the wounded soldiers, though US forces are dominant in the region.  
The Interior Ministry said earlier that 13 school children were among those wounded when a police vehicle drove over the bomb.

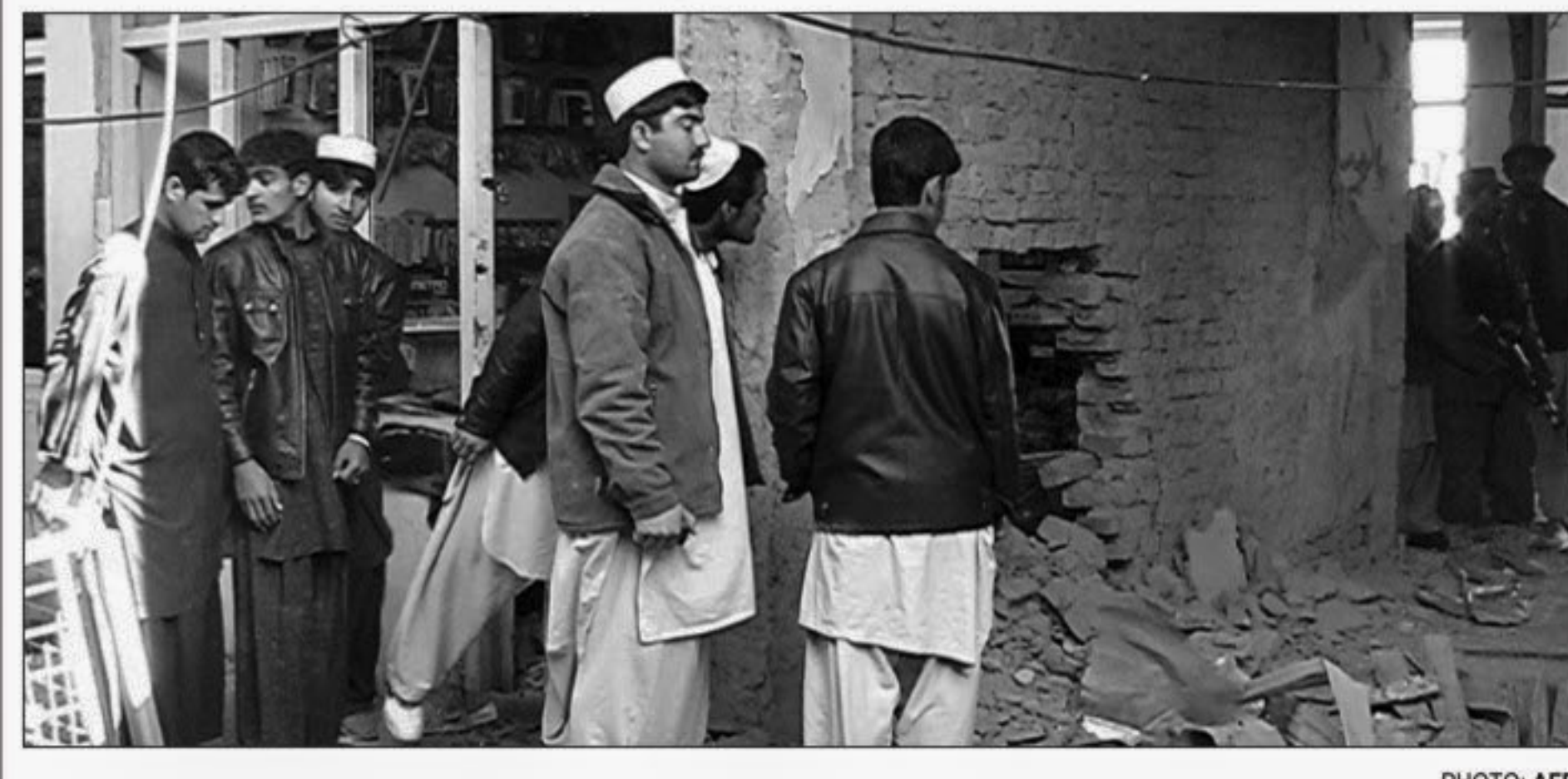


PHOTO: AFP  
Afghan bystanders inspect the site of bomb blast in Khost province on Wednesday. Four children were killed when a Taliban-type roadside bomb tore through a police vehicle in eastern Nangarhar province yesterday, the interior ministry said in a statement.

# Book written by bin Laden's son sheds light on his family

AP, Riyadh  
With a book written by one of Osama bin Laden's sons, and with news of a daughter sheltering in the Saudi Embassy in Iran, some of the blanks are being filled in on the life of the 9/11 mastermind's large family, including lurid details of his parenting style.  
Two weeks ago, the son, Omar bin Laden, revealed that many of the children who had been with their father in Afghanistan escaped to Iran following the 2001 US-led invasion, and were still together in a walled compound under Iranian guard.  
Confirmation came with the news that a daughter, Eman bin Laden, had taken refuge in the Saudi Embassy in Tehran. Saudi officials are negotiating with the Iranians to allow Eman to return to Saudi Arabia, where she was born, and on Tuesday Omar bin Laden told The Associated Press that he, as well as his wife and mother, had applied for visas to go to Tehran and help speed Eman's case.  
Omar and his wife, Zaina Alsabah, later e-mailed the



OMAR BIN LADEN

AP to report that another bin Laden son, 16-year-old Bakr, had been allowed to leave on Dec. 25. It said "He arrived with great joy at the destination of his choice," and was with relatives. The e-mail did not disclose where Bakr was, but said he was not in Saudi Arabia.  
Bin Laden's family was already under the spotlight in "Growing Up Bin Laden," written by Omar and his mother, Najwa bin Laden, and published in late October.  
The book describes a brood of children up to 20 from different wives who were raised from an early age by an authoritarian father who shunned the luxury his inherited wealth could buy.

# CJ to decide


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Uddin sent the petitions to Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam for a decision following a submission placed by Attorney General Mahbub Alam.  
The attorney general yesterday told the court that this bench has no jurisdiction to hear these petitions. Lawyers for Khaleda and Tarique, however, told the court that this bench has jurisdiction to deal with the petitions.  
On Monday, HC bench of Justice Md Momtajuddin Ahmed sent another case to the chief justice for a decision regarding celebration of Khaleda Zia's birth anniversary on August 15.  
Khaleda Zia, and Tarique Rahman, who is now in London for treatment, filed two separate petitions through their lawyers with the higher court, on November 11 last year, for staying the proceedings against them in Zia Orphanage Trust embezzlement case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).  
Earlier, the HC granted them bail in this case and also issued separate rules upon the government and the ACC to explain why the proceedings against them in this case should not be scrapped.  
This court on November 22 last year adjourned hearing the petitions until yesterday.  
The ACC filed the case against Khaleda, Tarique and five others, on July 3, 2008, with the Ramna Police Station in connection with embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming a "fake" organisation, the Zia Orphanage Trust.  
Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq and Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon argued for the petitioners.


# 25 die in China coal mine fire; 3 trapped

AP, Beijing  
A fire in a coalmine in central China killed at least 25 workers, and search efforts continued for at least three others trapped underground, state media reported yesterday.  
The Xinhua News Agency said underground cables caught fire Tuesday afternoon at the Lisheng coalmine in Xiangtan city in Hunan province.  
The owner of the mine and a senior employee were detained, Xinhua said.  
Sixteen more bodies were recovered Wednesday about 1,770 feet (540 meters) below the surface, bringing the death toll to 25, it said.  
More than 70 workers were underground when the fire started and 43 managed to escape, it said. Rescue workers were searching for the remaining miners, who were thought to be on another mining platform at least 2,000 feet (600 meters) underground, Xinhua said.  
The fire was extinguished and the ventilation system was restored Tuesday, so there was a chance that they were still alive, it said.

# JS pledge forgotten

FROM PAGE 1  
from the second session in June without any decision at the BNPPPP. Rather, it was the decision of the BNP high command to remain absent from the House.  
In defence of the boycott, the BNP leaders are accusing the ruling party of not creating congenial atmosphere in parliament for their return.  
The last time the BNPPPP met was on February 22 when it decided to return to the House after an absence for 17 consecutive sittings in the inaugural session.  
The party has yet to elect the deputy leader of the opposition who could have led the opposition bench in parliament in absence of Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia.  
The BNPPPP at its maiden meeting on January 15 elected Khaleda as its parliamentary party leader and empowered her to pick her deputy in the House.  
But, Khaleda, who is enjoying the status, remuneration and allowances of a minister as the leader of the opposition, did not pick her deputy in parliament.  
If a deputy of her party was elected deputy leader of the opposition, he or she could have enjoyed the status, remuneration and allowances of a state minister with an office in parliament. Party lawmakers say had they got the deputy leader, they could have discussed parliamentary affairs with him/her.  
As the leader of the opposition, Khaleda's poor participation in the House proceedings shows her lack of interests to parliament. The opposition lawmakers joined 23 out of total 87 sittings of the ninth parliament, while Khaleda joined only three.  
Being the leader of the opposition in the seventh parliament, Khaleda joined only 29 sittings, while her party deputies joined 219 of total 382 sit-





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