NEWS

US to take over main role in southern Afghanistan

over the main role in southern Afghanistan from the British in a shake-up of the region's command structure, a newspaper reported yesterday.

vast area known as Regional Command South is to change following the arrival of some 21,000 US troops in the area last year, said the Times which cited an unnamed source.

Thousands more American

servicemen are due to arrive in the south of the war-torn country in 2010, as part of a buildup in forces to battle a fierce Taliban insurgency.

Canada, with a permanent American deputy commander, the paper said. This structure will be replaced by two division-sized

servicemen each in the southeast and southwest, according The new structure will be in

place in the second half of this Britain's Ministry of

Defence is considering whether to push for a rotating command in the southwest section that will include its forces in Helmand province, the report added.

ROM PAGE 16

Jyoti Basu's lungs was increasing while his sensory apparatus weakened and C-reactive protein in blood reduced, diminishing his resistance mechanism, said critical care specialist Susruth Banerjee.

affecting his brain. Fluid is accumulating in his cells and being neutralised with medicine," he said. Maity said, "Jyoti Basu's

condition is critical. He has dysfunction cardiac and renal systems and stiffness of the

"The stiffness of lungs is usually reversible but with his heart and renal dysfunctions it has become uncertain," said

decide whether to perform tracheotomy, a surgical procedure on the neck to open a direct airway through an incision in the windpipe.

Admitted to AMRI Hospital on January 1, Jyoti Basu remained on ventilatory support and his oxygen requirements has increased, said a medical bulletin.

told the paper that "the overall structure... is a work in prog-

In fresh violence four US troops and a French soldier were killed in separate incidents in Afghanistan on Wednesday as the UN reported the deadliest year yet for civilians in a spiralling Taliban-led insurgency.

Two US soldiers died in an IED (improvised explosive device) strike in the east of the country. Another died in fighting, also in the east, and a fourth died of wounds suffered in an IED explosion in the south.

The French defence ministry said a non-commissioned officer died on the road between Bagram and Nijrab in the east, the third French soldier to die in as many days. Meanwhile, four Afghan

military engineers and a civilian were killed when a bomb commands of about 30,000 device they were trying to defuse went off in the eastern province of Khost, said Zahir Wardak, a senior military official.

The latest fatalities come a day after seven people died in violence at a protest against an alleged desecration of the Koran by foreign forces, officials said.

Stop illegal VoIP

Moni in separate messages expressed deep shock at the devastation caused by the catastrophic earthquake.

The meeting approved the proposal to bring Gopalganj under the National Service. Youths having secondary

and higher-secondary certificates will be provided with temporary employment under this safety net scheme. The cabinet also approved

the extension of retirement age of freedom fighters in public service, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told journalists after the meeting. He said the extension

would be considered effective from December 13, 2009. The government on

October 19 extended the service age of the freedomfighter officials and employees from 57 to 59 years. The cabinet approved

formulation of new guideline for Internet gateway, Internet gateway Exchange and Internet Gateway Service to make the ICT rules more effective and asked the authorities concerned to formulate a new law.

The cabinet also approved the draft of Bangladesh Tourism Board Bill 2009.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE Malaysian firm

FROM PAGE 1 and MRV from April 1 this year to ensure safe and risk-free travel of its citizens. COURT CORRESPONDENT

The existing hand-written passports will not be valid for travelling and renewal after that deadline. Hand-written passports can be issued after April 1 only on emergency basis, said the member.

Failing to meet the deadline may put the country's manpower business at risk, he said.

Brig Gen Md Refayet Ullah, director of the Tk 526 crore project for MRP and MRV, said he would ensure that everything goes fast so that line. Bangladesh can start issuing MRP and MRV in the quickest possible time.

He said IRIS Corporation Berhad will produce passports for three years and Bangladesh will take over the charge of the project in the third year.

He said he had already urged the home ministry to send two experts teams--one to Poland and another to France--for finalising passport booklets and lamination foil to save time, Refayet said. His next most important task is to sign a contract with the Malaysian company, he added.

IRIS won the tender with a quotation of Tk 267 crore, beating Flora Telecom that quoted Tk 347 crore. Although there were a few loopholes in the tender documents of IRIS, the government chose the firm considering its proposed bud-

As per the conditions, IRIS will produce 2.2 million passports each year. The evaluation committee

member said MRP and MRV could have been introduced easily before the deadline had the government chosen a firm shortly after the evaluation report of the responsive companies was submitted on November 23. "We repeatedly requested

the government high-ups to finalise the firm without further delay. But it took about two months to make the decision," he said, wishing not to be named. A summary of the home

ministry suggesting that the project be awarded to IRIS was sent to the cabinet committee on government purchase on December 27, but it took over two weeks to get approved.

Earlier, the seven-member evaluation committee changed its decision a couple of times in

Land grabbers

FROM PAGE 1

The Jatiya Party lawmaker also appreciated the state minister for housing's recent bold remarks about land grabbers.

In response, the state minister for law said it would not be appropriate for him to give out the specific names of the newspapers, their owners, and the journalists, adding, "But we all know who they are."

less than a month because of alleged lobbying and counterlobbying by influential politi-

OUR CORRESPONDENT, cians and businessmen. Satkhira Sensing the urgency, soon Police recovered the body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader,

after assuming office the present Awami League government moved to expedite the project. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved Tk 283 crore for the project on March 19 last year. The government also

involved the Armed Forces Division to expedite finalisation of the project and introducing MRP and MRV before the dead-The AL government of 1996-2001 had first taken the initia-

tive to introduce MRP following the ICAO's instructions to all its 181 member countries. However, the following BNP-Jamaat government scrapped

the move after assuming office

Since the project was initiated, influential politicians and businessmen have been in a race to get the financial benefit out of the multi-million-dollar project, virtually delaying introduction of MRP and MRV.

PM okays FROM PAGE 1

the ground that none of these

in 2001.

bidders had prior experience regarding rental power projects. The projects include Barisal

50 MW heavy fuel oil (HFO)fired plant, contract for which was awarded to Coastal Saba, Noapara 100 MW HFO-fired plant and Bheramara 100 MW diesel-fired plant with the contracts awarded to Otobi, and Jamalpur 30 MW HFO-based plant and Thakurgaon 50 MW diesel-based plant with Rahim Afroozgetting the deals. The diesel-fired plants will

have to be installed within 120 days of signing contracts with the PDB and HFO-fired plants within 270 days. The HFObased plants will enjoy a rental contract for five years and diesel-based ones for three The cost of power from

diesel-based plant will be around Tk 14 per kilowatt hour and from HFO-fired plant around Tk 7. The PDB) will it at around Tk 2.6 per kilowatt hour. This huge loss will have to be subsidised by the government. Previously the caretaker

government had given rental power contracts to companies like Energy Prima, Venture Energy and Precision Energy to generate power within May 2008. All these companies failed to set up the power plants in time, and a couple of these rental contractors have not produced power till now.

last rental power contract was awarded to Asian Entech to install a 55 MW plant in Sikalbaha for three years. This project was supposed to be launched in July last year but it is yet to begin commercial operation.

Headmaster

The successful candidate will now have to face viva voce.

The schedule of viva voce will be displayed at notice boards of District Primary Education offices. Candidates can also log on

to www.dpe.gov.bd for sched-

20 killed

troops and a French soldier were killed in Afghanistan on Wednesday as the UN reported the deadliest year yet for civilians in a spiralling Taliban-led insurgency.

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Meanwhile, four Afghan military engineers and a civilian were killed when a bomb device they were trying to defuse went off in the eastern province of Khost, said Zahir Wardak, a senior military official.

day after seven people died in violence at a protest against an alleged desecration of the Koran by foreign forces, officials said. 'Two Isaf (International

Security Assistance Force) service members from the United States were killed today as a result of an IED (improvised explosive device) strike in eastern Afghanistan," the force said in a statement.

"An Isaf service member from the United States was killed today during an engagement with insurgents in eastern Afghanistan. In a separate engagement another Isaf service member from the United States died of his wounds today as a result of an IED strike in southern

Frantic search

With every hour crucial, international rescue teams began arriving with heavy lifting gear, sniffer dogs and desperatelyneeded medicines, food and water.

"The priority is to find survivors," said Elisabeth Byrs, a spokeswoman for the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"We are working against the

Casualty figures were impossible to calculate, but Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive said the final death toll from the magnitude 7.0 quake could be "well over 100,000."

President Rene Preval, whose home and official palace were destroyed, said 50,000 could be dead. US Secretary of State Hillary

Clinton, who cancelled an Asia BSF men tortured trip and returned to Washington, said the death toll Shafiqul to death and threw his body into the river, they would reach "tens of thousands" and warned of an unimaginable disaster in a Locals found the body country which is already the poorest in the Western hemisphere. Alamgir Hossain, officer Teams of civilian and miliin charge of Kaliganj Police

tary experts arrived the airport, which was operating even though the control tower collapsed.

Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and Spain all offered teams. Australia, Britain and Japan were among the countries that made multi-million dollar aid pledges.

Other rescuers headed to the impoverished nation by sea. The USS Carl Vinson aircraft

carrier was to arrive Thursday with destroyers and more Coast Guard ships en route and 5,000 troops on stand-by. "I have directed my adminis-

tration to respond with a swift,

coordinated and aggressive effort to save lives," US President Barack Obama said. The Red Cross launched a 10-million-dollar appeal, the World Food Programme offered

15,000 tonnes of food and the World Bank said it would provide an extra 100 million dollars in aid. In Tokyo, Haiti's charge d'affaires Jean-Claude Bordes mourned for a city he learned

"The conversations, I had

had been "totally destroyed".

(by phone), were not too long. I just heard screams. Our country

is destroyed, we have nothing left. It's God will, we have to accept it," he told reporters.

With thousands of people missing, dazed survivors in torn clothes wandered through the rubble as aftershocks rocked

Injured survivors were carried on makeshift stretchers past piles of smashed concrete, from which crushed bodies

The earthquake was the latest tragedy to hammer Haiti, which has been scarred by years of unrest, crime, political

Former US president Bill Clinton, a United Nations special envoy to Haiti, warned of an unprecedented humanitarian disaster.

that nearly three million people -- almost a third of Haiti's population -- may need aid, making this one of the great humanitarian emergencies in the history of the Americas," Clinton said in the Washington Post. Meanwhile, a total of 36 UN

son for the UN mission in Portau-Prince, said yesterday. The dead include four police officers, 19 military personnel and 13 civilians. The 19 military fatalities

include 14 Brazilian peacekeepers. However, A total of 188 UN staffers are still unaccounted. Another UN spokesperson

Jordan reported that three of its peacekeepers died, while eight Chinese soldiers were buried in rubble and 10 were

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) set "There are hundreds of

thousands of people who are sleeping in the streets because they are homeless," MSF coordinator Hans van Dillen said. "We see open fractures, head

proper surgery at this stage." Among them was the UN mis-

sion headquarters and a major hotel where 200 tourists were missing.

FROM PAGE 16

Pakistan since August, had been in the lawless tribal area bordering Afghanistan where the missiles hit but he left before the attack, a TTP spokesman told AFP. "Hakimullah Mehsud was

Shaktoi where the drone attack took place," the spokesman Azam Tariq said from an undisclosed location. "But he had left the area

already when the drone attack took place. He is alive and completely safe."

His comments came after local television stations carried unconfirmed reports that Mehsud may have been killed in the strike on the border of North and South Waziristan, the seventh on Pakistan's lawless northwest tribal belt this month.

about his death but we are not 100 percent sure," a senior security official told AFP requesting anonymity. Tarig did not say when

Mehsud left the area, which Pakistan security officials described as "very remote". Hakimullah Mehsud

assumed leadership of the group blamed for the deaths of thousands of people in attacks in Pakistan after his predeces-August 5.

apparently amid fierce infighting over his succession On January 9, Hakimullah

Mehsud appeared in video clip alongside a Jordanian who blew himself up on a US military base in Afghanistan last month, killing seven CIA agents and his Jordanian handler.

of Baitullah Mehsud, and sources close to intelligence services said US efforts to track down Hakimullah Mehsud had been stepped up since the CIA bombing. Thursday's assault took

Taliban fighters.

some top fighters.

The identities of the dead were not immediately known, an army official and an intelligence official said.

At least 12 people, mostly militants, have been killed in the missile strike," said a local intelligence official. "The targeted site was a militant

"It was a US drone strike...

A senior security official confirmed the death toll, and said four missiles were fired from unmanned planes in the remote area.

All seven strikes this year have hit North Waziristan, a bastion of al-Qaeda fighters, the Taliban and the Haggani network which launches attacks on the 113,000 US and Nato troops fighting the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The administration of US President Barack Obama has put Pakistan at the heart of its fight against al-Qaeda and

The strikes fuel anti-American sentiment in the Muslim nation and draw public condemnation from the government, but a US senator on Wednesday scolded Islamabad for privately supporting strikes while publicly denouncing them.

"What troubles me is the public attack on these drone attacks when at the same time they've privately obviously not told us that we must stop, said Senator Carl Levin, chairman of the US Senate Armed

only understand and acquiesce, but in many cases privately support the drone attacks," Levin said, adding that "the minimum we should expect is a silence on their part rather than a public attack on

Washington. The United States is

increasing pressure on Islamabad to tackle militants who use its soil to launch attacks in Afghanistan and American officials have said that the highly secretive drone programme has eliminated

The researchers said up to 250 milligram (mg) of soil arsenic (in per square metre of

AFP, London/Kabul United States forces are to take

The arrangement for the

The command currently switches every year between Britain, the Netherlands and

to the Times.

year, the paper said.

Referring to this, a source

that Jyoti Basu's heart and lungs were deteriorating. Stiffness of 95-year-old

"These weaknesses are

The doctors will tomorrow

Arsenic in crop

Geoscience.

and hepatitis B and C viruses. A galaxy of leading arsenic researchers from home and abroad studied the impact of irrigation with their findings published in the January issue of the London-based Nature

ABM Badruzzaman and M Ashraf Ali, both professor of civil engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. Talking to The Daily Star at Buet recently, the two experts said arsenic drawn to the sur-

face by groundwater irrigation

is largely removed (up to 62 per

cent) in the following monsoon

if the lands go under floodwater about one metre in depth. But paddy fields not experiencing typical monsoon flooding are particularly at risk of arsenic accumulation, posing a potential threat of penetrating into food chain in future, they

According to official statistics, only 21 percent of Bangladesh's total lands are submerged by floodwater around a metre in depth while the rest remains largely vulnerable to arsenic accumulation due to mining of groundwater.

Ali, having long track records of

arsenic research, worked for

years along with co-researchers at an experimental site in Mnshiganj. The team included experts from from further studies on arsenic and Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard irrigation issues so that various University, USA, and a couple of Swiss and German research centres of excellence.

The current issue of Nature Geoscience that has an editorial titled 'Digging Deeper'focused on arsenic issues and carried their findings based on field studies.

The researchers include tion' to deeper layers. Their field studies found

> deposits of arsenic drawn to the cropland through irrigation. Bangladesh's food basket now heavily depends on the irrigated-rice Boro that contributes 60 percent of annual rice

> behind arsenic accumulation due to groundwater irrigation, drawing of groundwater by over a million shallow pumps from 100-150 feet beneath the surface, 'young' water gathers from all possible directions and with that 'young' carbons get oxidised dissolving iron and mixing arsenic into the water."

Badruzzaman and Ashraf tively safer in terms of arsenic accumulation but "policy planners need to seriously think over extracting groundwater for lands."

> mitigation and adaptation mechanisms can be developed. Both of them also stressed efficient use of water by Bangladeshi farmers in growing winterrice.

> million hectares of arable land are under irrigation now. And typically the rice growers use 3,000 litres of water to produce one kilogram of dry-season rice.

cultivable land) is released into floodwater during the monsoon season, which correspondents to a loss of up to 62 percent of the arsenic added to soil through irrigation each year. The rest is deposited in the cropland unless removed by 'volatilisation and transporta-

do not experience yearly monsoon flooding continue to be burdened with accumulated

large tracts of paddy lands that

output, far surpassing the rainfed Aman output. Explaining the reasons Badruzzaman said, "Due to

washed by monsoon floods, said Badruzzaman, are relairrigation in non-flooded Ashraf Ali emphasised

Cultivable lands, annually

Over half of the country's 8.4

Koko asked to appear in court Feb 15

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, to appear before it on February 15 in connection with a money laundering case.

Senior Special Judge ANM Bashir Ullah passed the order after Koko's lawyers informed the court that the home ministry extended his parole for two months on December 14 last

The court also asked

Gulshan police station to submit the execution report of arrest warrant against Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of former Shipping Minister, the late Akbar Hossain, by February 15. The same court earlier issued an arrest warrant against

but they failed to do so. The Anti-corruption Commission filed the case against Koko on March 17 last year under the money laundering law for siphoning off Tk 19,70,25,000 to Singapore.

Saimon and asked police to

submit a report by yesterday,

As per the deposition, a portion of the money deposited to Koko's bank account came from an account of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd opened in the USA. China Harbour was operat-

ing the New Mooring Container Terminal. The investigation officer of the case included Saimon's name as his involvement with the money laundering was found later.

On November 15 last year,

ing in Bangladesh at the time of

the transfer as it was construct

the court accepted the charge sheet against Koko and Saimon after Assistant Director of ACC Mohammad Abu Syed submitted it sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on November 12 showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

It charged Koko and Saimon with siphoning off Sing\$ 28.84 lakh and US \$9.32 lakh from Bangladesh. 6 Bangladeshi

working for the peacekeeping

mission but none of them was

posted to the UN headquarters in Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, which collapsed in the 7.0-magnitude earthquake. Inspectors Khandaker Hossain Ahmed, Mohammad Abu Bakar, Mohammad Shah Kabir and sergean Mohammad Mabian Mian were posted to Haitian capital Port-au-Prince while

Inspector Abu SM Quamrul Ahsan were posted to Mirebalais. As well as the six police officials, four Bangladeshi nationals serve as civil staffs of UN peacekeeping mission in

Inspector Kaiser Ali and Sub-

Haiti, according to reports from international media. Of the four civilians, Khan H Abedin serving in Port-au-Prince is known to have suffered minor injuries but he is now out of danger, sources

said. However, the condition of the rest is unknown.

Sundarbans

where a captured tigress and a

deer were released. Nearly 60 percent of the Sundarbans lies in Bangladesh Its protection is crucial for both the countries to fight climate change.

"If a lawmaker receives gifts or services worth over Tk. 5,000, he orshe will have to inform the ethics committee," the bill proposed.

A legislator must not

receive any gift if it influences

his or her duties as an MP, it

Bill placed

On the matter of 'freedom of speech' in parliament, the bill says lawmakers' speech must follow the norms of democracy and tolerance. Their speeches must be objective, thoughtful and logical. They should consciously avoid causing harm to any individual who does not enjoy the same privileges.

The bill requires that the

legislators should not know-

ingly mislead the parliament

or the public through the

statements they make. The bill also imposes an obligation upon them to correct parliamentary records as soon as possible when incorrect statements are made unintentionally. Lawmakers must take all reasonable steps to declare any conflict of interest

between their private finan-

cial interests and decisions in

which they participate in the

execution of their office, the

provisions of the bill said.

chose the party's name. He also claimed he had formed IDP with Huji leaders who were not involved in any The Criminal criminal activities.

and seized some important organisation Hizbul Mujahedeen.

tions with many other Huji leaders, investigators say. Salam on December 3 made a confessional state-

ment before a Dhaka court

He also claimed Sheikh Abdus Salam and other leaders of Huji, which was dissolved in 1998, were not involved in any grenade or bomb attacks. He told the interrogators

from Harkatul Mujahideen, a Pakistan-based militant organisation of Afghan war veterans. Azizul said he himself wrote IDP's declaration and

The caretaker government's

IDP leader Azizul

to interrogate him further,' said a CID investigator asking not to be identified.

Investigation Department (CID), which is now carrying out further investigation into the cases, has arrested a number of suspects including one of Huji founders Shaikh Abdus Salam and Abu Yusuf Butt, a leader of Kashmir-based militant

Azizul during interrogation told DB officials he has close relations with Salam and Butt. Moreover, he also admitted he has close rela-

about the August 21 carnage. International Affairs Secretary of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan (BKA) Azizul Hauqe also admitted that he had helped Huji leaders break into mainstream politics during the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance rule and the caretaker government regime.

During interrogation he

claimed Mufti Hannan and

some members of his group

were responsible for the

bomb and grenade attacks.

Hannan was inducted in Huji

Earlier on November 11

CID raided Azizul's house

documents and a computer hard disk. Azizul said he got closed to Huji members who fought for Taliban in Afghanistan against the former Soviet forces after BKA chief Hafezi Huzur's son died in fighting in 1989.

Hailing from Pangsha in Rajbari, Azizul obtained his master's degree from public administration department of Dhaka University. He was arrested twice earlier. Law enforcers arrested him when he was addressing a rally in favour of the Iran Revolution in 1980 and detained him for around a month.

He was again arrested in

2000 and confined to jail for a

few days on charge of distrib-

uting a leaflet titled

'Hizbullah' that strongly

criticised the then Awam

League government. 5 officials

promotion and joining the office for the post of district fisheries officers. Abdus Sattar and eight others filed the writ on

FROM PAGE 1

promotion and joining the office for the post and saying that the senior officials allowed the posting in the office on January 7, despite the HC order. This action is tantamount to contempt of court, it

January 10 challenging the

FROM PAGE 16 transparent recruitment process. The class IV employees also demanded dismissal of the

doctors interfering in recruit-

ing. Some other employees

also demanded removal of

doctors Moni Lal and Abu

Yusuf Faqir.

BSF tortures

Bangladeshi

trader to death

allegedly beaten to death by

Indian Border Security

Force, from Ichhamati river

near the village Uksa at

Kaliganj upazila of the dis-

as Shafiqul Islam Khan, 35,

son of Nur Uddin Khan of

village Shitalur of the

Shafiqul along with others

started for India to buy cattle

on January 9. As soon as they

reached the Indian territory,

BSF men of Boltala border

floating in the river and

Station, confirmed the inci-

dent and said that the body

bore several marks of injury.

Chaos at DMCH

informed police.

outpost intercepted them.

Quoting locals police said

upazila.

The victim was identified

trict yesterday afternoon.

However, Moni Lal and Abu Yusuf denied the allegations of taking bribe for recruitment. They rather alleged the DMCH Director and Employees Union president Khaleq for the irregularities and corrup-

General Secretary of Class

IV Employees' Union Shamsul Alam told The Daily Star, "Though the director had assured us of recruiting 51 person on our recommendation, he did not keep his word. Besides, some doctors, ministers, lawmakers and other influential persons have been

partially controlling the

held at Dhaka Reporters'

Unity last evening, the doctors

alleged that the recruitment

process lacked transparency

During a press conference

recruitment process.

and they had nothing to do with it.

In separate attacks, four US

The French defence ministry said a non-commissioned

The latest fatalities come a

directed the senior officials to suspend for a month the A later Isaf statement said:

Waziristan around 7 am, landing in a sprawling compound that has been used as a Afghanistan."

Port-au-Prince.

protruded.

tumult and natural disaster.

"Early estimates indicate

staffers have been confirmed dead in the quake, a spokesper-

earlier said more than 100 of its expatriate staff members are still missing, including the head of the mission, Hedi Annabi.

up tent clinics in the city to treat the thousands of wounded.

injuries. The problem is that we can not forward people to The quake turned thousands of buildings into rubble.

Taliban leader

Hakimullah Mehsud, who has led the Tehreek-e-Taliban

present at the same place in

"We are receiving reports

sor Baitullah Mehsud was killed in a US drone strike on The TTP denied Baitullah Mehsud's death for weeks,

The Jordanian claimed the attack was to avenge the death

place in Pasalkot village in a remote area of North Waziristan close to the border with South Waziristan, where Pakistan's military are battling At least two missiles hit the Pasalkot area of North

religious school in the past. August 2008.

missing, state media said.

training camp."

Islamist extremists and says the war in Afghanistan cannot be won without Islamabad's help, but tensions simmer.

Services Committee. Pakistan's leaders "not

On Wednesday, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the controversial drone strikes were a source of tensions with

More than 700 people have died in drone strikes since