

Taliban arrests had 'negative impact'

Says Afghan official, but Holbrooke praises

AFP, Kabul/Washington

The arrest of Taliban leaders has had a "negative impact" on peace talks between the Afghan government and the insurgents...

Kabul government that there had been contact with the Taliban, with the intention of discussing an end to the insurgency now in its ninth year...

PPP govt pushing Pakistan towards 'anarchy': Imran

ANI, Lahore

Criticising the Pakistan People's Party (PPP)-led government for failing to address issues such as price hike, poverty and unemployment...

issues facing the country, and warned that the present volatile situation could lead to massive civil disobedience in the coming days...

The Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chief said the people of the country have lost faith in the government, which had only been offering fake and hollow promises...

US allows India to quiz Mumbai attack kingpin

AFP, New Delhi

The United States will permit India to question a Chicago man who has admitted scoping out sites for the deadly 2008 Mumbai attacks...

The assurance came following a telephone conversation between Chidambaram and US Attorney General Eric Holder on Friday...

"It is my understanding that India would be able to obtain access to David Coleman Headley to question him in a properly constituted judicial proceeding..."

ing an inquiry or trial (and) it is also my understanding that Headley is obliged to cooperate fully and truthfully in such proceedings, he said.

Headley pleaded guilty Thursday to 12 terrorism charges after US prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty or to allow the suspect to be extradited to India.

"The conversation (with Holder) has clarified a number of aspects concerning the plea agreement," Chidambaram added.

The Washington-born son of a former Pakistani diplomat and American woman, Headley spent two years casing out Mumbai ahead of the November 2008 attacks by 10 Islamist gunmen that left 166 people dead.



A man holds a placard demanding "No Base In Okinawa" during an anti-war demonstration in Tokyo yesterday. Some 600 demonstrators marched in central Tokyo...

Pak gunmen kill 7

AFP, Quetta/Karachi

Gunmen have shot dead seven people in separate incidents in Pakistan's restive southwest, police said yesterday.

At least three Shia Muslims were killed on Saturday when two men riding a motorbike opened fire on the outskirts of Quetta...

"All three men died on the spot," senior police official Tariq Manzoor told AFP.

In another incident, three people including a student and two employees of Mastung cadet college were killed in a drive-by shooting on Friday.

They were returning to Quetta from Mastung town, 55km south of the provincial capital, when gunmen riding a motorbike opened fire on their vehicle.

"Two employees of the college died on the spot while the student succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital," local police official Mohammad Alam said.

Manmohan asks state govts to look into death of tigers

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Concerned over death of tigers in reserves, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has decided to personally take up the matter with state governments.

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh yesterday said that the prime minister has expressed his concern regarding tiger deaths in the reserves during a meeting of National Board for Wildlife held on Thursday.

Pointing at 60 tiger deaths last year, the minister said "a conspiracy" has been hatched by mining and estate mafia with the support of some politicians.

"The prime minister has agreed to lend the weight of his office for monitoring state governments' reserves. He will also take up the matter with the chief ministers of various states," he said.

"It is a very alarming matter to become worried that 60 tigers died last year against the average mortality of 30 reported in the past. These are not accidents."

US weighs more troops for north Afghanistan

AFP, Washington

US commanders may send an additional 2,500 troops to fend off the Taliban in northern Afghanistan, a region that had been relatively peaceful until recently, a defence official said Friday.

US officers were conferring with German commanders leading Regional Command North about shifting some of the forces in a US troop buildup to the north instead of the south, the official told AFP.

The "tentative" plan was for roughly 2,500 American troops, including trainers for Afghan security forces, to deploy to the north, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Barack Obama approved the deployment of 30,000 additional troops in December to turn the war around, and most of the 10,000 that have arrived so far have been sent to the volatile south, the spiritual heartland of the Taliban insurgency.

Plans for a possible shift of forces emerged after a senior German general said the Nato-led force was planning an offensive in the northern Kunduz province.

General Bruno Kasdorf, chief of staff of the Nato-led International Security and Assistance Force, told German ARD public radio Thursday...

Advertisement for Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University. Includes details about the 2nd Annual Convocation and the 20th Anniversary of the university.



Pakistani students and mourners gather at a hospital receiving bodies of victims of shooting in Quetta yesterday and chant slogans against the deadly attack.

Kashmir to assess water loss due to treaty with Pakistan. Official sources said Friday the state cannot harness the waters of the Jhelum, Indus and Chenab as much as it would have liked to because of the restrictions.

Under the 1960 World Bank-brokered treaty, India has got complete control over the waters of three rivers - Ravi, Sutlej and Beas - that flow into Pakistan through Punjab.

Maoists kidnap 5 officials in Jharkhand, later release all

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Ranchi

Maoist rebels abducted five government officials, including an additional judicial magistrate, at gun point from Latehar district in Jharkhand yesterday noon.

The rebels, however, released all of them at Gumla after a few hours, police said.

Latehar Superintendent of Police Kuldip Dewadi said more than five armed Communist Party of India-Maoist rebels abducted the five government officials, including ADM Shrawan Soya, at gun point.

Rebels equipped with sophisticated weapons also abducted PWD officer H. Bhengra, assistant engineer Adish Sayru Ram, driver officer Vinod Sinha and dairy officer Kiran Singh from Bandhua village under Manika block of Lather district, the police official said.

The kidnaping incident took place when the officials were on the move to inspect developmental works in the area, Dewadi added.

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Advertisement for Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation. Includes an invitation for an international tender for the import of 50,000 M.Tons of sugar. Lists tender details, terms, and contact information for Quazi Golam Murtaza.