

## **Pak-Afghan Media Monitoring Report (June 2011)**

**By Maryam Naseer**

### **Executive summary:**

In June, the focus of mainstream Pakistani print media revolved to a large extent around conflict and security-related matters in Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Pakistan region. The print media reported on insurgent assaults, civilian casualties and growing security concerns in Afghanistan. Washington's announcement to reduce the number of its troops along with a plan to hand over security responsibility to Afghan forces was also covered by the media. On the political front, Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited Islamabad to discuss matters related to talks with Taliban and cross-border incursions. Iranian Defence Minister Ahmad Wahidi's June 17 visit to Afghanistan for enhancing strategic ties with Afghanistan was also covered as was a June 24 trilateral summit of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. The prospects and potential for economic cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan and signing of some new bilateral accords were also reported. The media coverage also included a proposal by the World Bank for a joint water management system for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### **Security situation:**

During the month under review, 59 percent of the coverage of events, issues and problems on which the monitored Pakistani print media focused were mainly related to conflict and security with reference to Afghanistan. The media not only covered terrorist attacks by the insurgents in Afghanistan but also matters related to the US plan to withdraw troops from Afghanistan.

The total number of insurgent attacks in Afghanistan covered by the print media in June was 26, one less than the number reported by the media the previous month. However, the number of people reported killed in attacks in June was 141, compared to 121 in May. The casualties in June were 116 civilians, 10 soldiers of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF/ NATO) and 15 personnel of Afghan National Police (ANP). As many as 63 people were also injured during the reporting month, among them 58 civilians and five ANP personnel.

The print media covered attacks against high profile targets by the insurgents in June, including a coordinated attack on Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel, which left serious security concerns not only for Kabul but also for Washington regarding the withdrawal of US troops that would begin in July 2011. The insurgents also targeted police stations, hospitals and educational institutions.

Extensive coverage by the Pakistani print media of the cross-border attacks by militants on Pakistani border villages and security forces' check posts reflected the concern over this latest development in the border region already devastated by violence in the militancy. Firing by the Pakistani forces across the border in which several Afghans were reported killed was also

covered, along with a warning by Kabul that such incidents could affect “improving trust and cooperation” between the two neighbors.

The media reported on a meeting of a tripartite commission, comprising senior military representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the coalition forces in Afghanistan, in Kabul on June 27. The meeting reviewed the security situation along the Pak-Afghan border, as well as measures to remove the trust deficit between the countries.

### **Political scenario:**

The Pakistani print media also covered to a considerable extent developments related to political and bilateral relations in June. Up to 35 percent of the monitored news focused on Afghanistan’s political ties with regional countries. The print media gave extensive coverage to Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s visit of Pakistan on June 10. It was seen as a sign of thaw in relations which had been under strain after Karzai’s harsh outburst against Pakistan after Osama Bin Laden’s killing. Karzai’s visit to Islamabad was aimed at securing Pakistan’s backing for talks with the Taliban. It was seen as a breakthrough in bilateral relations when the first meeting of the Joint Peace Commission (formed on April 16, 2011) was held with the two countries’ teams led by Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani and President Karzai. According to the Pakistani print media, Islamabad emphasized an ‘indigenous Afghan-led’ peace process in the meeting, and conflict resolution in Afghanistan through dialogue.

The media portrayed the June 17, 2011 visit of Iranian Defence Minister Ahmad Wahidi to Kabul as a sign of growing strategic and bilateral ties between Tehran and Kabul, and reported that the issues discussed included terrorism, drug smuggling, weapons trafficking and organized crime. The media reported that a positive atmosphere was seen when the Pakistani president and his Afghan counterpart visited Tehran on June 24 to attend a trilateral counter-terrorism summit aimed at fighting terrorism and enhancing regional cooperation. It was agreed to continue the summits at the ministerial level. The next summit was to be held in Islamabad before the end of 2011, it was reported.

### **Economy:**

Efforts by Pakistan and Afghanistan to enhance economic cooperation were also covered by the print media to some extent (6 percent of the monitored news). On June 11, Hina Rabbani Khar, the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and her Afghan counterpart, Dr Zalmay Rassoul, signed a 23-point Islamabad Declaration aimed at boosting economic ties in the presence of the Pakistani Prime Minister and the Afghan President. By signing the declaration, both countries agreed to improve infrastructure, initiate cooperation in the banking, energy, mines and mineral sectors and significantly increase cultural, parliamentary, student, youth and people-to-people contacts. Both countries also agreed to establish special industrial and economic zones to speed up the reconstruction process. In order to develop the infrastructure,

upgrade of road and railway links was also considered along with setting up of a railway link from Peshawar to Jalalabad.

Another major development reported by the mainstream Pakistani media related to a proposed water management system between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The World Bank proposed the mechanism, called Kabul River Basin (KRB) Management Commission, for dispute resolution and joint management of water resources by the two countries on the pattern of Pakistan-India Permanent Indus Commission. A US \$3.5 million component of the project was stated to be allocated to assist dialogue for greater cooperation on use of water and development of a joint system for data collection, verification, analysis, storage and dissemination through geographic information system (GIS) and digital elevation model (DEM). As illustrated by the print media, other international non-governmental organizations such as South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI), Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and Climate Change Adaptation Fund had already agreed to support the World Bank proposal.

At the Tehran summit, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran agreed to implement a gas supply pipeline project for developing the three countries' economies.

## **Template for an Overview of Pak-Afghan Region**

**June 2011**

### **Conflict Monitoring**

#### **Security Landscape**

- **DAILY TIMES/PESHAWAR/June 4: “Afghan bomb kills four NATO soldiers”:** A bomb attack killed four foreign soldiers from NATO’s US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, the military said. “Four ISAF service members died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today (Saturday),” a statement said. ISAF does not give details of the nationalities of dead soldiers or how fatal incidents happen, leaving that to officials from the relevant country.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\05\story\\_5-6-2011\\_pg7\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\05\story_5-6-2011_pg7_8)
- **DAILY TIMES/KANDAHAR/June 4: “Afghan university bomb kills two”:** A bomb blast at an Afghan university killed two students on Saturday in Kandahar, one of the most troubled places in Afghanistan, police said. One of the dead was also secretary of the police chief of Kandahar province. “The blast took place near the engineering faculty of Kandahar University and has killed two students, one of them my office secretary,” police chief General Abdul Razaq said. A second explosion, which happened after police cordoned off the area, injured three people, including two policemen, he said. Both blasts had been caused by remote-controlled improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Shortly afterwards, Kandahar’s top justice official, Aqil Shah Khan, survived an assassination attempt in a drive-by shooting, Razaq said. “He was shot at by two motorcycle riders, but the round hit his hand and he is slightly injured and currently in hospital receiving treatment,” he added.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\05\story\\_5-6-2011\\_pg7\\_10](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\05\story_5-6-2011_pg7_10)

- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 5: “Helicopter crashes in Afghanistan’s east, two NATO troops killed”:**Two service members from the NATO-led force in Afghanistan were killed when a helicopter crashed in a volatile eastern area on Sunday, the coalition said, with the Taliban claiming to have shot the aircraft down. “I can confirm a helicopter has crashed in eastern Afghanistan,” said British Major Tim James, a spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). “We have no indication of any enemy activity in the area at the time,” he said. ISAF soon after released a statement, which said two service members, had been killed in the crash. It gave no other details. Most of the foreign troops fighting in the east are American, although there are also troops from other countries. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said by telephone from an undisclosed location that one of the terrorist group’s fighters had brought the helicopter down in the Sabari district of eastern Khost province, not far from the Pakistan border, using a shoulder-fired rocket. Residents in Sabari district said they saw a helicopter catch fire, with black smoke pouring from the aircraft before it crashed in a mountainous area of the district.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\06\story\\_6-6-2011\\_pg7\\_35](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\06\story_6-6-2011_pg7_35)
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 10: “4 policemen killed in Kunduz blast”: June 10:** A suicide bomber blew himself up on Friday outside a mosque where a remembrance ceremony was being held for a slain police commander. The blast killed four police officers, authorities said. Security forces confronted the bomber before he entered the mosque in the northern city of Kunduz, said provincial police chief Samiullah Qatra, who attended the ceremony. A scuffle broke out and the bomber detonated his explosives, the force of the blast blowing out windows of the mosque, Qatra said.(AP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/11/4-policemen-killed-in-kunduz-blast.html>
- **THE NEWS/KABUL/June 11: “Police commander among 20 killed in Afghan blasts”:**A series of bombs and explosions killed at least 20 people in Afghanistan’s southern and eastern flashpoints on Saturday, among them at least eight children and four women, government officials said. The attacks came as the UN said that May was the deadliest month for civilians in Afghanistan since at least 2007, with 368 deaths and 593 injuries of documented. In Saturday’s deadliest incident, a vehicle hit a mine in Arghandab district of the southern province of Kandahar, one of the main battlegrounds in the nearly 10-year Taliban-led insurgency against the Kabul government and Nato troops. “Today at 10:00 am, 15 civilians were killed, including eight children, four women and three men,” the ministry said. One woman was also wounded in the explosion, it added. Mines and crudely made bombs planted on roadsides are trademark tactics of the Taliban and other insurgents fighting to bring down the Western-backed government and evict US-led foreign troops. In the eastern province of Khost, a suicide bomber on Saturday killed three people including the commander of a provincial Afghan police rapid reaction force and wounded 12 others, officials said. The attacker blew himself up in front of the police unit’s base, Khost deputy police chief Mohammad Yahqoob Mandozai said. “The commander of the unit, Colonel Zaher ... has been killed,” Mandozai said.  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6653&Cat=13&dt=6/12/2011>

- **THE NEWS/KABUL/June 11: “May deadliest for Afghan civilians since 2007”**: May was the deadliest month for civilians in Afghanistan since at least 2007, the UN said on Saturday, as 15 people were killed by a mine in the southern province of Kandahar. The UN’s Afghan mission (UNAMA) said it had documented 368 deaths and 593 injuries of civilians in May due to the ongoing conflict. “More civilians were killed in May than in any other month since 2007 when UNAMA began documenting civilian casualties,” UNAMA human rights director Georgette Gagnon said in a statement.  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=52205&Cat=1&dt=6/12/2011>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 15: “11 Afghan dies in suicide, other attacks”: KABUL, June 15:** The Taliban targeted top government officials in Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing 11 people in two suicide attacks and firing rockets at the vice president and interior minister, who escaped unhurt. Nine civilians were among those who died in the attacks, which came days after the United Nations warned of an unprecedented rate of civilian casualties in Afghanistan over recent weeks. Two of the strikes hit central Afghanistan, not far from the heavily secured capital Kabul, and were claimed by the militia leading a nearly 10-year armed campaign against US-led Nato troops and the Afghan government. In the first incident, an attacker drove a car laden with explosives towards the education and agriculture departments in Mahmud Raqi, capital of Kapisa province northeast of Kabul. Officials said the driver blew himself up when he was stopped at a nearby checkpoint. The interior ministry said: “As a result, five civilians and two policemen were martyred and one policeman and three civilians were injured.”(AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/16/11-afghans-die-in-suicide-other-attacks.html>
- **THE NATION/BAJAUR AGENCY/June 16: “Afghan militants storm Pak villages”**: Armed with sophisticated weapons, over 300 militants Thursday crossed into Pakistan and attacked villages in Bajaur Agency, killing five people, three women and two children, while eight others sustained injuries. In a pre-dawn attack, at about 4am the group of militants crossed over the Pak-Afghan border along the Kunar province of Afghanistan and attacked Pakistani villages Manu Jangal and Takha, adjacent to the border at tehsil Mamoon. Over 300 militants, who were armed with mortars, rockets and machine guns, targeted civilians. It has also been reported that the militants have detained and taken away some volunteers of local peace Lashkar formed against militants in Bajaur.  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/17-Jun-2011/Afghan-militants-storm-Pak-villages>
- **DAWN/QUETTA/June 17: “8 traders injured in firing by Afghans”**: “Eight Pakistani traders running their business in Spin Buldak district’s Vesh area, close to the Pak-Afghan border, were injured when Afghan soldiers opened fire,” officials said. Pakistani security officials said the issue would be taken up at a tripartite meeting scheduled for June 21. According to sources, Afghan forces launched an operation in the market on Friday morning in connection with the extension of commercial area and started demolishing shops belonging to Pakistani traders without any notice or taking them into confidence. When the Pakistani traders resisted the move, Afghan soldiers started firing in which eight people were injured. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/18/8-traders-injured-in-firing-by-afghans.html>

- **DAWN/KABUL/June 18: “Nine killed in Kabul police station attack”:**Nine people were killed on Saturday when three attackers armed with suicide vests and machine-guns stormed a police station in the heart of the Afghan capital Kabul, officials said. The militants, at least one of whom was in army uniform, got into a compound housing the police station in the crowded main central market area, near the Afghan presidential palace, defence ministry and other official buildings. Five civilians were among the dead along with three policemen and one officer from Afghanistan’s intelligence agency, interior ministry spokesman Najib Nikzad said. Ten civilians and two police were wounded. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest embarrassing breach at a supposedly secure location in Kabul, which comes weeks before limited foreign troop withdrawals are due to start from Afghanistan. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/19/nine-killed-in-kabul-police-station-attack.html>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 19: “Eight foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan”:**Eight foreign soldiers died in one day in Afghanistan, officials said Sunday, including four in a single incident believed to have been a vehicle accident. The four died on Saturday of “non-battle related injuries” in southern Afghanistan, the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement. That incident, in a region containing many of Afghanistan’s bloodiest battlegrounds, came on a day when ISAF said four other foreign soldiers also died in separate insurgent attacks — three in the south and one in the east. In line with policy, ISAF did not give further details of what happened in any of the incidents, or the nationalities of the troops who died. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/20/eight-foreign-soldiers-killed-in-afghanistan.html>
- **DAWN/KHOST/June 21: “Militants threaten Afghan court”:****June 20:** Militants in Afghanistan’s violent east will target courts and judges after the execution of two fighters convicted over a brutal bank raid, one of the leaders of the Al Qaeda-linked Haqqani network said on Monday. At least 40 people were killed when seven gunmen and suicide bombers, dressed in border police uniforms, attacked an office of private lender Kabulbank on Feb 19, triggering gunbattles that lasted several hours. The National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan’s intelligence agency, said the two men were hanged in Kabul’s Pule Charkhi prison on Monday for their part in the attack. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/21/militants-threaten-afghan-courts.html>
- **THE NEWS/KABUL/June 21: “Bomber targets Afghan governor kills two”:**A Taliban suicide bomber targeted a provincial governor in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing two civilians and wounding another two, the interior ministry said. The attack struck the usually peaceful province of Parwan, when the bomber tried to enter the compound of governor Basir Salangi. “At around 10:45am Tuesday, a suicide bomber detonated himself in front of the gate of the Parwan governor’s compound. As a result, two civilians including women were martyred and two others injured,” the ministry said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing. Elsewhere in Afghanistan, three policemen were killed by a landmine blast Uruzgan, said Amanullah Hotaki, the chief of the local provincial council. Also on Monday, two men — one a shopkeeper and another a foreign forces

contractor — were shot dead Kandahar, police said. Taliban spokesman Qari Yosuf Ahmadi took responsibility for all the attacks.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6921&Cat=13&dt=6/22/2011>

- **THE NEWS/KUNDUZ/June 24: “Kunduz blast claims six lives”:**Five Afghan civilians and one policeman were killed on Friday by a bicycle bomb, which exploded in a bazaar in northern Afghanistan, Kunduz governor s spokesman told AFP. The bomb was attached to a bicycle and went off in the bazaar in Khan Abad district, said Kunduz provincial spokesman Mahboobullah Saeedi. So far we have confirmed six people including one policeman dead and 18 injured. There are currently around 130,000 international troops in Afghanistan under the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) including some 90,000 from the United States. (AFP)  
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54373&Cat=1&dt=6/25/2011>
- **DAWN/PULI ALAM/June 25: “Bomb attack on Afghan hospital kills 20”:**A bomb at an Afghan hospital on Saturday killed at least 20 people, including women and children, days after President Barack Obama said 10,000 US forces would leave the country this year. The suicide car bombing in Logar province, about 75km south of Kabul, also wounded over 20 people and officials warned the death toll could rise. An eyewitness described horrific scenes of victims on fire and body parts scattered in all directions after a sports utility vehicle (SUV) blew up in the remote district of Azra, close to the border with Pakistan. The attack was condemned “in the strongest terms” by the United Nations, which said the hospital’s maternity ward was badly damaged in the attack and many of the victims were women and children. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/26/bomb-attack-on-afghan-hospital-kills-20.html>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 26: Girl carrying explosives killed in Afghanistan”:**An eight-year-old Afghan girl was killed when a bag of explosives given to her by Taliban militants exploded as she approached a police outpost in southern Afghanistan, the government said on Sunday. “The insurgents handed over a bag with a homemade bomb to an eight-year-old girl and asked her to take it to police forces,” the Ministry of Interior said in a statement. “As the girl was getting close to the police, it exploded and killed the girl.” There have been occasional cases of militants using female bombers — or more commonly of fighters dressing up as women in head-to-toe burqa — but the use of children had been almost unheard of until recently. (Agencies)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/27/girl-carrying-explosives-killed-in-afghanistan.html>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 27: “Afghan bomb blasts kill 7”:**Two bomb attacks ripped through vehicles carrying civilians in Afghanistan on Monday, killing seven people including children, the government said. One bomb planted by the side of a road in Ghazni province, southeast Afghanistan, hit a minibus early in the morning, the interior ministry said. “Four innocent civilians, including two children, were martyred in the blast,” said the ministry. A second bomb struck a car in a separate area of the same province, killing three, it added. Taliban militants are leading a bloody insurgency, now in its 10th year, against Afghan and foreign forces. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/28/afghan-bomb-blasts-kill-7.html>

- **THE NATION/KABUL/June 28: “10 dead in midnight attack on Kabul’s 5-star hotel”**:The popular Intercontinental hotel in Kabul came under a suicide bombing attack Tuesday, a US official told Fox News on late Tuesday night. The attack was still ongoing. Afghanistan news agency TOLONews reported at least 10 people were killed. That number was yet to be independently confirmed. Up to six suicide bombers are believed to have attacked the hotel, Afghan police said. Multiple explosions were heard at the hotel. Afghan police were battling the assailants with machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades as tracer rounds went up over the blacked out building. Afghan National Police have secured the area around the hotel. Kabul’s police chief said at least three of the suicide bombers blew themselves up. (Agencies)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/29-Jun-2011/10-dead-in--midnight-attack-on-Kabuls-5star-hotel>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 29: “Nato strike ends Kabul hotel attack; 19 dead”**:Nato helicopters fired rockets before dawn on Wednesday at Taliban gunmen who stormed one of Afghanistan’s premier hotels, ending a brazen, nearly five-hour assault that left 19 people dead, including all eight attackers.The attack on the Inter-Continental was one of the biggest and most complex to have occurred within Kabul and appeared designed to show that the militants were capable of striking even in the centre of power at a time when US officials were speaking of progress in the nearly 10-year war. Militants who had managed to penetrate the hotel’s security measures began the attack at about 10pm on Tuesday. The state-owned hotel was hosting delegates attending an Afghan security conference and a large wedding party when the militants struck. (AP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/30/nato-strike-ends-kabul-hotel-attack-19-dead.html>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 30: “20 killed in Afghan landmine blast”**:Twenty Afghan civilians including women and children were killed on Thursday when a landmine exploded under a bus they were travelling in, a senior police figure said. “An IED (improvised explosive device) struck a bus, 20 civilians were killed,” said Haji Mosa Rasooli, accusing the Taliban of being behind the blast. The Islamist militants, who have been waging a near decade long insurgency against the Afghan government and foreign forces, were not immediately contactable for comment. The blast occurred in the remote and volatile southwestern province of Nimroz.The incident came on the same day as a father, a mother and their four children were killed in southern Afghanistan when a roadside bomb ripped through their car. The family were travelling to Lashkar Gah, the main town in Helmand province, when they were killed, provincial spokesman Daud Ahmadi said. “Four children, one female, and one male were killed in the sedan car en route to (the provincial) capital,” he added. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/01/20-killed-in-afghan-landmine-blast.html>
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### **Media reports in Pakistan on Attacks and Casualties in Afghanistan (June 2011)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No. of Attacks</b>	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Injured</b>
June 4	Terrorist attack (TA)	1	4 NATO	-
June 4	TA	2	2 Civilians	3 include 1 Civilians 2 ANP
June 5	TA	1	2 NATO	
June 10	Suicide attack (SA)	1	4 ANP	-
June 11	SA, TA	3	20 include 19 Civ 1 ANP	4 Civilians
June 15	SA	2	11 include 9 Civ 2 ANP	4 include 1 ANP 3 Civ
June 18	TA, SA	2	9 include 5 Civ 4 ANP	12 include 10 Civ 2 ANP
June 19	TA	4	4 NATO	
June 21	SA, TA	3	7 include 4 Civ 3 ANP	2 Civ
June 24	TA	1	6 include 5 Civ 1 ANP	18 Civ
June 25	SA	1	20 Civ	20 Civ
June 27	TA	2	7 Civ	-
June 28	SA	4	19 Civ	-
June 30	TA	2	26 Civ	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>63</b>

**Table 2: Details of Casualties Reported**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Injured</b>
Civilian	116	58
NATO/ISAF troops	10	0

ANA	0	0
ANP	15	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>63</b>

**Strategic developments:** This section covers all news and comments about security other than violent incidents, terrorist/insurgent attacks and ongoing military operations.

- DAILY TIMES/PESHAWAR/June 1: “Hundreds of Afghan Taliban attack Pakistan post in Dir”**: Hundreds of heavily armed militants on Wednesday besieged a remote Pakistani post on the Afghan border, killing at least one policeman as helicopter gunships were deployed, officials said. Pakistani officials said the militants attacked from Afghanistan, targeting the Shaltalu checkpoint in a remote part of northwestern district Dir, where Pakistan sought to put down a Taliban insurgency two years ago. “Militants came from Afghanistan and attacked our forces. The operation is continuing,” said Lieutenant General Asif Yasin Malik, the top military commander in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Qazi Jamilur Rehman, a senior police officer in the area, said the army was helping police after militants attacked the checkpost on three sides. “We have sent reinforcements. Army helicopters are also shelling,” he said. “They are in the hundreds and very well armed with light and heavy weapons. The area is remote and surrounded by mountains,” Rahim Gul, a police official told AFP by telephone from the nearby Barawal police station.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story\\_2-6-2011\\_pg1\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story_2-6-2011_pg1_6)
- DAILY TIMES/ISLAMABAD/June 1: “US trolling for Afghan Taliban to open talks”**: After 10 years of bloody battle in Afghanistan, the United States is trolling for Taliban officials to talk peace with before the July drawdown of American troops. Washington’s special envoy, Marc Grossman, has a one-point agenda: to reconcile Afghanistan’s warring factions, say Western diplomats in Pakistan and Afghanistan. But as Washington seeks negotiating partners, it has little knowledge of who among the Taliban has the clout to make talks worthwhile. Grossman, therefore, is trying for access to Mullah Mohammed Omar, the one-eyed Taliban leader, according to Imtiaz Gul, head of the Center for Research and Security Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan’s capital. In a meeting earlier this month in Islamabad, Gul said Grossman told him that he was looking for “persons or groups who can provide us access to Mullah Omar, who can demonstrate their ability to approach Mullah Omar and get him on board, who can get through to Mullah Omar to open talks.”  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story\\_2-6-2011\\_pg7\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story_2-6-2011_pg7_6)
- DAILY TIMES/June 2: “White House prepares initial Afghan drawdown”**: President Barack Obama, with Osama bin Laden dead and a fiscal crisis on his hands at home, looks set to announce an initial US troop withdrawal from the costly Afghan war that could be larger than previously expected. Some current and former officials say Obama could easily announce a pullout of at least 10,000 troops over the next year as the administration seeks to capitalise on gains against the Taliban in the south and the Navy SEAL raid last month that killed the al Qaeda leader in Pakistan. At the start of this year, with violence raging after nearly a decade of war, a minimal pullout of less than 5,000 troops had been anticipated. Obama has made no final decision and, as far as is known, has received no formal

recommendations from the Pentagon about how many soldiers should be pulled starting in July from the 100,000-strong US force in Afghanistan. General David Petraeus, the commander of US and NATO troops in Afghanistan, is expected to present his recommendations in the next week or so to Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\03\story\\_3-6-2011\\_pg14\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\03\story_3-6-2011_pg14_7)

- **DAILY TIMES/HELMAND/June 5: “Afghan pullout will be gradual, says Gates”**: Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Sunday that the US was not about to pull up stakes in Afghanistan and a gradual withdrawal of combat troops would be done slowly and responsibly. The US administration faced a delicate balance in deciding how many troops to withdraw – a decision expected next month – and the number settled on should not “cause our allies to race to the exits because they think we are”, Gates said during a visit to Afghanistan. “We do not want the Afghans or any others in the region to think we are pulling up stakes and taking (off) out of here,” Gates said when asked about the drawdown by a soldier at a forward operating base in southern Helmand province. US General David Petraeus, commander of the 150,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, will soon make recommendations to President Barack Obama, following Obama’s pledge last year to start bringing US combat troops home. That commitment followed Obama’s December 2009 decision to send 30,000 extra US troops in a bid to arrest a growing Taliban-led insurgency.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\06\story\\_6-6-2011\\_pg7\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\06\story_6-6-2011_pg7_8)
- **DAILY TIMES/June 6: “Gates warns against quick pullback in Afghanistan”**: US Defence Secretary Robert Gates wrapped up an emotional farewell visit to military posts in Afghanistan on Monday warning against pulling troops out too quickly. Gates was asked repeatedly during his tour how the death of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden would affect US strategy and what the impact would be on President Barack Obama’s plan to begin pulling out troops from Afghanistan in July. “My view is that we’ve got to keep the pressure on. We’re not quite there yet,” he said. “I think we’ve made headway on our major goals, which have been to disrupt al Qaeda and try and defeat them. Clearly the killing of bin Laden was a big deal in that,” Gates told a soldier at Combat Outpost Andar in Ghazni Province. “We’ve still got a ways to go and I just think we shouldn’t let up on the gas too much at least for the next few months.” US General David Petraeus, commander of the 150,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, is due to make recommendations to Obama on how many soldiers can be pulled out.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\07\story\\_7-6-2011\\_pg7\\_18](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\07\story_7-6-2011_pg7_18)
- **DAILY TIMES/June 6: “US mulls larger troop pullout from Afghanistan”**: Top White House national security advisers are considering much more significant troop reductions in Afghanistan than those discussed even a few weeks ago, The New York Times reported late Sunday. The newspaper said some officials were arguing that such a change is justified by the rising cost of the war and the death of Osama bin Laden. President Barack Obama is

expected to address these decisions in a speech to the nation this month, the report said. The National Security Council is convening its monthly meeting on Afghanistan and Pakistan on Monday, and assessments from that meeting are likely to inform decisions about the size of the force, The Times said. Before the new thinking, US officials were anticipating an initial drawdown of 3,000 to 5,000 troops, the paper noted. Those advocating steeper troop reductions did not propose a withdrawal schedule, according to the report. But the latest strategy review is about far more than how many troops to take out in July, the paper noted. It is also about setting a final date by which all of the 30,000 surge troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan, The Times said.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\07\story\\_7-6-2011\\_pg14\\_9](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\07\story_7-6-2011_pg14_9)

- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 7: “Afghans want Taliban dropped from UN sanctions list”:** Afghan officials are asking the United Nations Security Council to lift sanctions against some 50 Taliban figures, a senior diplomat said on Tuesday, amid moves towards reconciliation. The council’s al Qaeda and Taliban sanctions committee is expected to decide whether to remove the names – who include members of the High Council for Peace set up last year by Afghan President Hamid Karzai to seek talks with the Taliban – by the middle of this month. Western officials in Kabul say they are trying to set up communication channels with Taliban leaders but stress this is at a very early stage. Karzai set up the peace council to seek talks with the Taliban in return for them laying down their arms and accepting the constitution, although its overtures have been rejected by the terrorists. Peter Wittig, Germany’s ambassador to the UN and chairman of the Security Council’s al Qaeda and Taliban sanctions committee, said on a visit to Kabul that about 50 delisting requests were pending.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story\\_8-6-2011\\_pg1\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story_8-6-2011_pg1_3)
- **DAILY TIMES/ISLAMABAD/June: “Pakistan conveys to NATO its concern over cross-border incursion”:** Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, European Union and Luxembourg, Jalil Abbas Jilani met Assistant Secretary General (Operations) of the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Martin Howard on Tuesday to convey the country’s concern over the recent cross-border incursion from Afghanistan in central Dir. Ambassador Jilani emphasised timely NATO/ISAF action to prevent such incursions as well as sharing of information about hideouts of such elements in Afghanistan and their support mechanism, said a message received from Belgium.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story\\_8-6-2011\\_pg7\\_23](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story_8-6-2011_pg7_23)
- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 7: “NATO nearing ‘decisive blow’ in Afghan war: Gates”:** Defence Secretary Robert Gates, wrapping up a final visit to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief, said Tuesday that US-led forces are on the verge of securing a “decisive blow” against the Taliban. “I leave Afghanistan today with the belief that if we keep this

momentum up we will deliver a decisive blow to the enemy and turn the corner on this conflict,” Gates told coalition officers in Kabul. “And if we do, it will be because of the service and sacrifice of all of you,” he said, before departing for Brussels. During a four-day trip that took him to American bases in the south and east, Gates offered a cautiously optimistic forecast for the war effort, saying now was not the time to ease up on the Taliban-led insurgency. Although the main purpose of his trip was to say goodbye to troops, Gates found himself sparring at a distance with White House aides who are pushing for a faster drawdown of the 100,000-strong US force.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story\\_8-6-2011\\_pg14\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story_8-6-2011_pg14_1)

- **DAILY TIMES/DERA ISMAIL KHAN/June 8: “Maulvi Nazir vows to escalate anti-US fight in Afghanistan”:**A powerful militant group plans to step up its fight against American troops in Afghanistan in response to intensified US drone missile strikes on its territory, two of its commanders said on Wednesday. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been pounding an area of South Waziristan along the Afghan border controlled by Maulvi Nazir, one of Pakistan’s most influential militant leaders. Since Friday, at least 34 militants have been killed in four drone strikes, intelligence officials say, possibly launched because high value al Qaeda or Taliban figures were spotted. An escalation by Nazir’s men in Afghanistan could complicate the United State’s efforts to pacify the country as it starts a gradual troop withdrawal in July. “Because the United States is launching these strikes we will send more fighters to Afghanistan and step up our operations against US forces,” Maulvi Younus, one of Nazir’s senior commanders, told Reuters. “We have no other option. We have no weapons which shoot them (drone aircraft) down so we will fight the United States in Afghanistan.”“We have lots of mujahideen (holy warriors). It is not a problem. If drone strikes continue we believe many tribesmen will join us because they (drone strikes) are killing ordinary people,” said Qari Yousaf, a close aide to Nazir. “Our shura (council of commanders) will decide on the appropriate time to send more fighters (to Afghanistan) and how many will go.”

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story\\_9-6-2011\\_pg7\\_2](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story_9-6-2011_pg7_2)

- **DAILY TIMES/WASHINGTON/June 8: “US senator wants 15,000 troops out of Afghanistan”:**President Barack Obama should withdraw a minimum of 15,000 US troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2011, the chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee said on Tuesday. “At least 15,000 by the end of this year. That’s what I think would be considered significant,” Senator Carl Levin, a Democrat, told reporters outside the Senate. Obama said on Monday he would soon announce his decision on how many US troops to withdraw from Afghanistan beginning in July to start a gradual pullout from that country. The White House says Obama expects to receive a recommendation from his military commanders on the withdrawal, the start of a transition to Afghan security control

scheduled to conclude in 2014. Levin's suggestion appeared to put him at odds with the ranking Republican on his committee, Senator John McCain.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story\\_9-6-2011\\_pg7\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story_9-6-2011_pg7_8)

- **DAWN/BRUSSELS/June 9: “Crisis in Afghanistan: No US ‘rush for the exits’: Gates”:**US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday there will be no “rush for the exits” by the United States in Afghanistan, attempting to ease concerns after Germany warned that pulling too many Americans out of the 10-year war could risk Nato ‘s strategy. President Barack Obama is expected to announce soon how many troops he will cut from the 100,000-strong US force in Afghanistan in July, leading to fears that other Nato allies involved in the fight against Taliban insurgents may follow suit.Gates sought to reassure allies at a meeting of defence ministers at the alliance’s headquarters in Brussels, where he arrived this week direct from a 12th and final tour of Afghanistan before he retires at the end of the month.”Even as the United States begins to draw down next month, I assured my fellow ministers that there will be no rush to the exits on our part and we expect the same from our allies,” Gates told reporters. Nato ‘s Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he was confident the US troop withdrawals will not affect security in the war-torn country.(AP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/10/crisis-in-afghanistan-no-us-rush-for-the-exits-gates.html>
- **DAWN/BRUSSELS/June 10: “Gates blasts Nato, questions future of alliance:”**In his final policy speech as Pentagon chief, Gates questioned the viability of Nato, saying its members’ penny-pinching and lack of political will could hasten the end of US support. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was formed in 1949 as a US-led bulwark against Soviet aggression, but in the post-Cold War era it has struggled to find a purpose. “Future US political leaders — those for whom the Cold War was not the formative experience that it was for me — may not consider the return on America’s investment in Nato worth the cost,” he told a European think tank on the final day of an 11-day overseas journey. Gates has made no secret of his frustration with Nato bureaucracy and the huge restrictions many European governments placed on their military participation in the Afghanistan war. He ruffled Nato feathers early in his tenure with a direct challenge to contribute more front-line troops that yielded few contributions. (AP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/11/gates-blasts-nato-questions-future-of-alliance.html>
- **THE NEWS/ISLAMABAD/June 10: “Zardari, Karzai vow joint terror fight”:**Supporting Afghan-led reconciliation process, Islamabad Friday assured Kubul that it would leave no stones unturned in making the Afghan driven peace process a fruitful one. This transpired after marathon meetings between the visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his Pakistani counterpart President Asif Ali Zardari here at the Presidency. According to diplomatic sources both Kabul and Islamabad have gained significant grounds during the

meetings, and would unveil major policy steps in making the Afghan driven peace and reconciliation process sincerely a meaningful exercise. “It is Pakistan’s war, we are fighting our own war. These are the people who are killing our children, killing our brothers and sisters,” Zardari said in a joint press conference with Karzai, referring to Pakistan’s own battle against extremists.

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/11-Jun-2011/Zardari-Karzai-vow-joint-terror-fight>

- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 11: “Karzai for joint efforts to stop border attacks”:** Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday that Afghanistan and Pakistan needed to work together to stop cross-border attacks by militants. Urging Pakistan to intensify efforts against terrorists at a press conference with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, the Afghan president said: “The facts are so bare, the wound is so clear and hurting that it now requires both of us to work diligently and extremely aggressively and effectively to curb terrorism and radicalism in this region.” (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/12/karzai-for-joint-efforts-to-stop-border-attacks.html>
- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 12: “Pakistan ready to target ‘bad Taliban’: Kabul”:** Pakistan is more willing than before to play a role in Afghanistan’s tentative peace process with the Taliban and has agreed to target the hideouts of Taliban fighters and other insurgents who attack Afghanistan and refuse to take part in faltering peace talks, Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s top officials said Sunday after a visit to Islamabad. Karzai, who met Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, called on the Pakistani government to help Taliban rebels take part in any peace negotiations, said Muhammad Masoom Stanikzai, secretary of a peace council set up by Karzai. “During the talks, the message of the Afghan government was very clear,” he said. “The message was that those (rebels) who want to join the peace process and reconcile should be facilitated and the means should be prepared for them in order to enable them to join the negotiations,” he added. But those who do not want to join the reconciliation process “must be dropped... No room should be left (for them to) arrange and organise and encourage people to fight and continue the war.” In response, Pakistan was “much more welcoming than at any other time”, said Karzai’s spokesman Waheed Omer.(Agencies)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\13\story\\_13-6-2011\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\13\story_13-6-2011_pg1_1)
- **DAILY TIMES/June 12: “Dilemmas weigh on Obama’s Afghanistan drawdown”:** From a position of lonely authority, President Barack Obama faces wrenching political and even moral dilemmas as he plots a troop drawdown in Afghanistan due to begin next month. The White House insists Obama’s decision will be driven solely by battlefield dynamics, despite growing angst in Washington about the heavy human and economic sacrifice demanded by the nearly decade-long war. Obama promised 18 months ago — when he announced a troop surge to push back the Taliban and buy time for Afghan political and security development

— that in July 2011: “our troops will begin to come home.” Now that deadline is due, after months of fragile progress, and a Washington turf war is raging over the size of the withdrawal. (AFP)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\13\story\\_13-6-2011\\_pg14\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\13\story_13-6-2011_pg14_7)

- **THE NEWS/June 13: “US for peace talks with Afghan Taliban”:**The United States is seeking to split the UN sanctions list for Taliban and al Qaeda figures into two as part of a bid to induce the Taliban into talks on a peace settlement in Afghanistan, diplomats said on Monday. The move comes as Washington prepares to start pulling out its 97,000 troops in Afghanistan next month as part of a process to hand over all combat operations against Taliban insurgents to Afghan security forces by 2014. US Defense Secretary Robert Gates said earlier this month there could be political talks with the Taliban by the end of this year, if the NATO alliance continued to make military advances on the ground, putting pressure on the insurgents. Diplomats said the United States had put forward two resolutions about the sanctions list to other members of the 15-nation Security Council -- one on splitting the joint list and the other on removing some Taliban names. The sanctions subject those named on the list to travel restrictions and asset freezes.(Reuters)

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=16985>

- **DAILY TIMES/LAHORE/June 13: “Obama weighs scale of Afghanistan pullout”:**The Obama administration opens an internal debate this week on the size of a troop withdrawal from Afghanistan amid growing doubts in Congress about the cost and purpose of the decade-long war and public pressure to bring it to a rapid end, the Los Angeles Times reported on Monday. President Obama is expected to announce next month the size and pace of a drawdown he promised in December 2009, when he rolled out a strategy that included adding 30,000 US troops in hopes of breaking the Taliban’s momentum. “He will reach a decision on the number in deliberations with Defence Secretary Robert Gates and Gen David Petraeus, who are known to favour a small initial reduction in the 100,000-strong troops on the ground, and other officials who want to move more quickly,” the report said.(Daily Times Monitor)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\14\story\\_14-6-2011\\_pg7\\_5](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\14\story_14-6-2011_pg7_5)

- **DAWN/KABUL/June 14: “Secret talks may see US troops stay for decades in Afghanistan”:**Though not publicised, negotiations have been under way for more than a month to secure a strategic partnership agreement which would include an American presence beyond the end of 2014 — the agreed date for all 130,000 combat troops to leave — despite continuing public debate in Washington and among other members of the 49-nation coalition fighting in Afghanistan about the speed of the drawdown.American officials admit that although Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, recently said Washington did not want any “permanent” bases in Afghanistan, her phrasing allows a variety of possible

arrangements. “There are US troops in various countries for some considerable lengths of time which are not there permanently,” a US official told the Guardian. Precedents include the US military presence in Europe and Japan since the Second World War and, more recently, in Iraq.(Dawn/ Guardian News Service)

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/15/secret-talks-may-see-us-troops-stay-for-decades-in-afghanistan.html>

- **DAILY TIMES/June 14: “Taliban, US play cat and mouse in Afghan flashpoint”:**They went to open a new foothold to win hearts and minds in one of the deadliest parts of Afghanistan, but within minutes US Marines were trapped in an ambush with bullets flying. “We are the real mujahideen, we want to kill the infidel,” was the Taliban marksman’s rallying call as he eyed the group of Americans in Sangin district, today the bloodiest battlefield in the nearly 10-year war in Afghanistan. Pops and snaps of an incoming barrage of machine-gun fire pinned the troops down in canals and trees as insurgents attacked from a maze of mud buildings. “Those dudes see you lying down so they can’t be that far away,” Lieutenant Travis Topolski told the squad as his marines shot back, aiming at tiny holes cut into houses — Taliban firing positions. As US President Barack Obama mulls how many of the 100,000 American troops in Afghanistan to withdraw and how quickly this summer, Sangin, in the southern province of Helmand, shows how sophisticated and organised the Taliban are. The district has been a byword for danger for years. First under the British, who withdrew in 2010, and again since US Marines swept in to clear the fertile area, which is bordered by a key Taliban supply route, last year.(AFP)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\15\story\\_15-6-2011\\_pg14\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\15\story_15-6-2011_pg14_7)
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 15: “US won’t leave Afghanistan: Mullen”:**The top US military officer is vowing long-term commitment to Afghanistan, touting progress in the war against the Taliban and its al-Qaeda allies ahead of an American drawdown. Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on the “Charlie Rose” television interview show on Tuesday that although some troops would be withdrawn, a continued US presence was assured. “Since I’ve been out there in the last three and a half, four years, it’s still the leading question is, ‘You left us before, are you going to leave us again?’” he said. “A couple years ago I got to the point where they’re only going to believe we’re going to be there if we’re there... and certainly there will be some troops that come out this summer... and yet that isn’t a message that we’re leaving.”  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6762&Cat=13&dt=6/16/2011>
- **DAILY TIMES/June 15: “Taliban reintegration hits wall in Afghan hotspot”:**Multi-million dollar plans to reintegrate Taliban fighters into society to help end a decade of war have hit a stalemate in one of Afghanistan’s toughest battlegrounds. Despite a deal struck earlier this year between the government and tribal elders in the north of Sangin district,

violence continues and US Marines are dubious of insurgent claims to want peace. Since US special forces killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan last month, support has been growing for a negotiated peace with the Taliban as NATO allies remain determined to withdraw all combat troops from Afghanistan by late 2014. But a plan to reintegrate low-level fighters, which has been running for about a year and has cost at least \$140 million in foreign aid, has proved to be a complicated and unpopular process.(AFP)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\16\story\\_16-6-2011\\_pg14\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\16\story_16-6-2011_pg14_7)

- **DAILY TIMES/LANDIKOTAL/June 16: “Too early for Taliban talks to play decisive role”**:Despite hopes that talks with the Taliban could provide the political underpinning for the US staged withdrawal from Afghanistan, the discussions are still not at the stage where they can be a deciding factor. With Washington due to announce next month how many troops it believes it can safely pull out of Afghanistan, diplomats say that months of talks between the two sides - a crucial building block in any eventual political solution - have yet to develop into serious negotiations. “Right now they are gauging each other’s temperature,” said one diplomat who is involved in international discussions about how to reach a political settlement in Afghanistan. A Western diplomat in Kabul gave a similar account, saying, “There are no serious load-bearing talks going on, a lot of contacts.” President Barack Obama is expected to announce next month how many troops he plans to withdraw from Afghanistan as part of a commitment to begin reducing the US military presence from July and hand over to Afghan security forces by 2014.(Reuters)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\17\story\\_17-6-2011\\_pg7\\_20](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\17\story_17-6-2011_pg7_20)
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 17: “Pentagon opposes quick removal of troops from Afghanistan”**:Pentagon officials have been telling President Barack Obama that a significant number of troops cannot be called back from Afghanistan this July. The Defence Department and the White House have been mulling over a strategy to convince the American people of the necessity of a slow but steady withdrawal over a long period of time rather than a quick removal. They warn that despite the death of Osama bin Laden, the Taliban and al-Qaeda continue to pose a cross-border threat. The department of Defence is willing to let a smaller of number of troops leave Afghanistan. These troops might not necessarily be part of combatant forces.(Reuters)  
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6819&Cat=13&dt=6/18/2011>
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 17: “Obama hears from Petraeus on Afghan troop options”**:The top US commander in Afghanistan has laid out several options for President Barack Obama to reduce the number of troops there, the White House said on Thursday, signaling a plan would be announced soon. General David Petraeus presented recommendations to Obama and the president’s national security advisers in a meeting, White House spokesman Jay Carney said. “They discussed a range of options. As I think the

general has said in the past publicly, this was a question of options plural and not option. That conversation will continue,” Carney told a White House news briefing.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6822&Cat=13&dt=6/18/2011>

- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 17: “Pentagon wants to extend surge till 2012”:**The timeline would mean the president could promise large troop reductions to a war-weary public just ahead of the November 2012 presidential elections in which he seeks a second term, but military officials told the Journal that the electoral schedule had nothing to do with their proposal. Instead, they said they were focusing on placing as much pressure as possible on the Taliban and the violent eastern provinces bordering Pakistan, especially during the next two warm-weather fighting seasons, usually the period of heaviest fighting from militants. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/18/pentagon-wants-to-extend-surge-till-2012.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 18: “US says delinking Al Qaeda from Taliban to help peace”:**The United States said on Saturday that a UN resolution which separated the Taliban from Al Qaeda would encourage Afghan militants to join the reconciliation process in their country. “The new regime will be an important tool to support the government of Afghanistan’s efforts to reconcile with insurgents who are willing to cut ties to international terrorist organisations, including Al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan’s constitution, including its protections for all Afghan women and men,” the State Department said on Saturday. The passage of the two resolutions was “a tangible sign of support by the international community for Afghan reconciliation efforts,” the State Department said. By separating the Taliban from Al Qaeda, the resolutions “contribute to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency”, the statement said. (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/19/us-says-delinking-al-qaeda-from-taliban-to-help-peace.html>
- **DAILY TIMES/MARJAH/June 19: “Fears surface over US-trained local Afghan police”:**A cornerstone US policy to turn Afghan farmers into armed watchmen to keep out the Taliban has hit controversy and been scaled back over allegations of infighting and illegal taxation. In Marjah, the 1,150 trained local police or “arbaki” patrol an area transformed from insurgent hotbed into a mostly peaceful farming district in southern Afghanistan since a military operation 15 months ago. Creating the force has been key to the American military’s strategy to reverse a nearly 10-year Taliban insurgency and begin drawing down troops from July with a view to ending its combat mission in 2014. But President Hamid Karzai has expressed concern that the new groups could feed a fresh generation of warlords, doubts shared by many Kabul-based policy experts and some US commanders. (AFP)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\20\story\\_20-6-2011\\_pg14\\_5](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\20\story_20-6-2011_pg14_5)

- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 19: “Mullah Omar key for US in Afghan talks: experts”**:The US may be in talks with the Taliban but its key challenge will be reaching out to the militants’ elusive, one-eyed leader Mullah Omar as momentum builds for a peace deal in Afghanistan, experts say.Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday that the United States and other foreign countries were in contact with the Taliban, the first official confirmation of their involvement in talks after nearly ten years of war. While diplomats say contacts are at a very early stage, Karzai’s remarks show the increasing focus on a political settlement to the Afghan war after the death of Osama bin Laden and as foreign combat troops prepare to leave by 2014. The support of the Taliban leader, for whom Washington offers a \$10 million reward, is considered vital for any ceasefire or power-sharing deal. But his location, long thought to be somewhere in Pakistan, remains a mystery. The search has particular momentum given President Barack Obama’s promise to start pulling out some of the 90,000 US troops from Afghanistan next month ahead of a full withdrawal within three years. (AFP)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\20\story\\_20-6-2011\\_pg7\\_13](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\20\story_20-6-2011_pg7_13)
- **DAILY TIMES/NEW YORK/June 20: “Few Taliban leaders embrace reconciliation”**:A well-financed Afghan government programme aimed at bringing Taliban fighters to the government’s side appears to have met with little success. Of the 1,700 fighters who have enrolled in the 10-month-old programme, only a handful are midlevel commanders, and two-thirds are from the north, where the insurgency is much weaker than in the south, said Major General Phil Jones, the director of a NATO unit that is monitoring the programme, according to The New York Times. The total is only a fraction of the 20,000 to 40,000 Taliban insurgents, and many of the fighters who have taken advantage of the programme may not even be Taliban, just men with weapons, the newspaper said in dispatch from Kabul. The Taliban’s leaders have yet to embrace reconciliation, the Times said. Defence Secretary Robert Gates acknowledged publicly on Sunday that the United States had begun preliminary reconciliation talks with members of the Taliban, but he expressed scepticism about the results. (APP)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\21\story\\_21-6-2011\\_pg7\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\21\story_21-6-2011_pg7_3)
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 20: “US cautioned to take Pakistan along on talks with Taliban”**:Pakistan cautioned the United States on Monday that its peace talks with the Taliban might not make headway without clarity on ‘reconcilables’ and without taking Islamabad and Kabul on board about dialogue with the Afghan insurgency leadership.US Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Frank Ruggiero in his meetings at the Foreign Office was rather curtly told that American unwillingness to share information on the talks was against the spirit of rebuilding modicum of trust after a spate of bruising incidents beginning with the May 2 Abbottabad raid on Osama bin Laden compound. In a statement on Mr Ruggiero’s meetings, the Foreign Office said: “The importance of clarity

and strategic coherence as well as transparency to facilitate the Afghan people and the Afghan government in the process for peace and reconciliation” was underscored. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/21/us-cautioned-to-take-pakistan-along-on-talks-with-taliban.html>

- **DAWN/KABUL/June 21: “The Taliban’s wishlist”:**The ground is being readied at last for talks between the US and the Taliban. Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, and Robert Gates, the US defence secretary, have just confirmed that preliminary contacts are under way. Equally important, the UN Security Council’s sanctions list has been divided so as to separate Taliban leaders from those of Al Qaeda, making it easier politically to remove restraints on the freedom of Taliban leaders to travel safely to meet negotiators. There is a long way to go before full-scale talks begin, not least in creating a consensus in Washington behind their necessity. In a television interview on Sunday, Gates declared: “We have said all along that a political outcome is the way most wars end. The question is when and if they [the Taliban] are ready to talk seriously.” (Dawn/Guardian News Service)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/22/the-talibans-wishlist.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 21: “US to reveal size, pace of Afghan pullout today”:**President Barack Obama will announce the size of his drawdown of US troops from Afghanistan on Wednesday, mapping out an endgame for a 10-year war that has exacted a fearsome human and financial toll. Two administration officials said Obama would reveal the fruit of his deliberations on a pullback due to begin next month, in a pivotal moment for US war strategy and his own political prospects ahead of his 2012 re-election bid. The president must decide the pace and size of reductions to a 30,000-strong troop surge which he ordered in December 2009, a deployment which brought the US garrison to 100,000 soldiers. Some analysts also expect him to chart a glide path of future withdrawals which will lead up to the planned Afghan security takeover in 2014. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/22/us-to-reveal-size-pace-of-afghan-pullout-today.html>
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 22: “Obama declares beginning of end of Afghan war”:**President Barack Obama Wednesday ordered all 33,000 US surge troops home from Afghanistan by next summer and declared the beginning of the end of the war, vowing to turn to nation building at home. In a watershed moment for American foreign policy, Obama also significantly curtailed US war aims, saying Washington would no longer try to build a "perfect" Afghanistan from a nation traumatized by its blood soaked history. "Tonight, we take comfort in knowing that the tide of war is receding," Obama said in 13-minute primetime speech at a time of rising fatigue over costly foreign wars among Americans ground down by deep economic insecurity."Even as there will be dark days ahead in Afghanistan, the light of a secure peace can be seen in the distance. These long wars will come to a responsible end," Obama said. (AFP)  
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=17467>

- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 22: “Obama sees hope for ‘progress’ in talks with Taliban”**:US President Barack Obama said Wednesday he believed progress could be made in talks with the Taliban to help find a political solution to the 10-year war in Afghanistan. "We do know that peace cannot come to a land that has known so much war without a political settlement. So as we strengthen the Afghan government and security forces, America will join initiatives that reconcile the Afghan people, including the Taliban," Obama said. "Our position on these talks is clear: they must be led by the Afghan government, and those who want to be a part of a peaceful Afghanistan must break from Al-Qaeda, abandon violence, and abide by the Afghan constitution. "But, in part because of our military effort, we have reason to believe that progress can be made," he said.(AFP)  
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=17469>
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 22: “Plan to fence, mine Afghan border”**:Pakistan is seriously considering to ‘fence and mine’ some important parts of the Pak-Afghan border, in the wake of increasing incursions by militants from the Afghan side into Bajaur, Upper Dir and Mohmand tribal regions, knowledgeable sources told Dawn. The plan has been there for some time and specific details were also worked out by the security establishment, but it was put on hold because of opposition from Kabul. However, recent incursions from across the Durand Line have made the authorities to consider reviving the project. Heavily armed militants have crossed into Pakistan’s border more than four times in less than 25 days and clashed with Pakistan’s border forces. In a recent attack by militants in Mohmand this month, the Pakistan Air Force had to be called in to recapture a post. (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/plan-to-fence-mine-afghan-border.html>
- **DAWN/LONDON/June 22: “Cameron ‘fully agrees’ with Obama’s Afghan strategy”**:British leader David Cameron “fully agreed” with US President Barack Obama that “sustained pressure” could be applied to Afghan insurgents despite a troop cutback, his office said Thursday. In a call made hours before Obama announced the withdrawal of thousands of US troops from the war-torn nation, Cameron reaffirmed to the US leader that Britain would remove all of its combat troops by 2015. Obama briefed Cameron on the latest situation on the ground and “the implications for the timing of the withdrawal of the US surge,” according to a Downing Street statement. “The prime minister fully agreed (with) the president’s assessment, noting the good progress being made on security transition,” continued the statement. The pair “agreed that in due course the progress on transition would make it possible to sustain pressure on the insurgency while allowing a progressive reduction in International Security Assistance Force levels,” it added. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/cameron-fully-agrees-with-obamas-afghan-strategy.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 22: “Obama readies withdrawal plan: 30,000 US troops to quit Afghanistan by 2012 end”**:As President Barack Obama finalises his plan to

withdraw up to 30,000 troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2012, the Pentagon indicated on Wednesday that its top commander in that country would also leave earlier than expected. Pentagon officials told reporters that Gen David Petraeus might leave Afghanistan by mid-July, much sooner than the original September target date for the change of command. Gen Petraeus will return to Washington to take over the reins of CIA from Leon Panetta who is now going to the Pentagon as the new defence secretary. Gen Petraeus was tentatively scheduled to leave on July 18, a US military newspaper Stars and Stripes reported. The US Senate will start confirmation hearing for his replacement, Central Command deputy Marine Lt Gen John Allen from Tuesday. (Reuters)

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/obama-readies-withdrawal-plan-30000-us-troops-to-quit-afghanistan-by-2012-end.html>

- **DAWN/OTTAWA/June 22: “Canada releases secret Afghan war documents”:**The Canadian government on Wednesday released 4,000 pages of top secret documents detailing Afghan prisoner transfers, holding them up as proof of no wrongdoing by Canadian soldiers. The files were believed to contain evidence that Canada transferred prisoners to Afghan custody knowing they could be tortured, in violation of Canadian and international law. “These documents clearly show that there are no credible allegations against the Canadian Armed Forces and at all times our forces acted in accordance with international law in their handling of Taliban prisoners,” Defence Minister Peter MacKay said. Opposition parties had threatened to force an election last year over the government’s refusal, citing national security concerns, to produce the sensitive Afghan war documents. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/canada-releases-secret-afghan-war-documents.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 23: “Withdrawal plan risky: Mullen:”**The US military chief told Congress on Thursday that President Barack Obama’s decision to withdraw up to 33,000 troops from Afghanistan by next summer was riskier than what he thought. But US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton strongly supported the decision. “We have broken the Taliban’s momentum. We do begin this drawdown from a position of strength,” she testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, however, told the House Armed Services Committee that President Obama’s “decisions are more aggressive and incur more risk than I was originally prepared to accept,” and added that keeping more troops in Afghanistan longer would have been a safer. Commentators across the US have interpreted the plan as marking the beginning of the end of the US combat role in Afghanistan. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/withdrawal-plan-risky-mullen.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 23: “Commanders say Obama overruled them on Afghanistan:”**US President Barack Obama’s military commanders said Thursday he ignored their advice for a more modest drawdown from Afghanistan and warned his decision carries

risks for the war effort. Both General David Petraeus and Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Obama's plan to withdraw 33,000 surge troops by the end of next summer was more "aggressive" than they had recommended. Asked by Senator Carl Levin if he was prepared to resign over the war policy, Petraeus said: "I don't think it's the place for the commander to consider that kind of step unless you are in a very, very dire situation." Petraeus, who indicated that he had received emails suggesting he should quit in protest, said: "This is an important decision, it is again a more aggressive approach than the chairman (Admiral Mullen), (Central Command chief General James) Mattis and I would have, indeed certainly, put forward. (AFP)

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/commanders-say-obama-overruled-them-on-afghanistan.html>

- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 23: "UK says it's also in talks with Taliban"**: Britain is also holding talks with Taliban as part of efforts to find a political solution to the Afghan problem. "Contacts do take place, but this is an Afghan-led process and Britain will assist and facilitate," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said at a news conference held at the Foreign Office on Thursday after his talks with a Pakistani delegation headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. The British confirmation follows a similar acknowledgement over the weekend by US Defence Secretary Robert Gates that Washington is holding talks with Taliban representatives. Like the American official, Mr Hague also said Britain's contacts with Taliban were at a "preliminary stage". (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/uk-says-its-also-in-talks-with-taliban.html>
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 23: "Pakistan sceptical about withdrawal plan"**: Pakistan sounded sceptical on Thursday about President Barack Obama's plans for a phased withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. The Foreign Office avoided a direct reaction to the announcement and said the matter would be discussed with the US at next week's meeting of the 'core group' on Afghanistan. The group comprising officials from Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US will meet on June 28 in Kabul. "We have ongoing engagement on issues of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and counter-terrorism. We will have the opportunity to discuss these issues in greater detail when the core group of Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US will meet," FO spokesperson Tehmina Janjua said. (Staff Reporter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/pakistan-sceptical-about-withdrawal-plan.html>
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 23: "Talks with Taliban not 'pleasant' but 'necessary': Clinton"**: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday that U.S. talks with the Afghan Taliban were "not a pleasant business, but a necessary one," and said that the direct contacts had been made possible by President Obama's aggressive military strategy against the insurgents. "Only now are we beginning to see the kind of outreach that evidences a willingness to discuss the future," Clinton told a Senate hearing. She described the discussions as "very preliminary." U.S. officials held three meetings this spring with

Mohammed Tayeb al-Agha, an aide to Taliban leader Mohammad Omar but are unsure how the dialogue will proceed. They were reassured following the last contact when the Taliban, as agreed between the two sides, posted a coded acknowledgment of the discussion on its Web site, but there has not been another meeting, officials said.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=17528>

- **THE NATION/PRAGUE/June 23: “Pullout won't ease pressure on Taliban”:**The planned US troop reduction in Afghanistan does not mean any relaxation in pressure on the insurgency, Prime Minister David Cameron said on Thursday, while his government resisted calls to detail its own withdrawal timeline. During a visit to fellow NATO member Czech Republic, Cameron said it was significant that only 10,000 of the troops would leave this year, with the remainder in 2012. "What this means is there will be no let-up in the pressure on the insurgency in Afghanistan," he told a media briefing. "I'm satisfied that the removal of the (US troop) surge will still enable us to keep up the pressure on the insurgency as we transition to Afghan control between now and 2014." Obama's plan will bring home the entire "surge" force that he sent to Afghanistan in 2010. Although the war is unpopular among American voters, military advisers have said a rapid departure from Afghanistan is not a good idea because they fear it could allow Taliban insurgents to quickly regain lost territory. (Reuters/AFP)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/International/24-Jun-2011/Pullout-wont-ease-pressure-on-Taliban>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 24: “Afghanistan urges end to attacks”:**The Afghan government on Friday called for an end to the alleged cross-border attacks from Pakistan, warning that such incidents could affect “improving trust and cooperation” between the two countries. Four children were killed late on Thursday allegedly by Pakistani shelling in the latest attack in the northeastern province of Kunar, Kabul said. “The Afghan government calls for the immediate cessation of the artillery fire against Afghan villages. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/25/afghanistan-urges-end-to-attacks.html>
- **THE NATION/WASHINGTON/June 24: “US boosting Afghan defence against Pakistan”:**Accusing Pakistan of trying to have a say in Afghan affairs, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has stated that the US was building up Afghanistan’s capacity to defend itself against regional and other players pushing to gain influence in the country. Clinton told a Congressional panel that Pakistan does not want Afghanistan to become a satellite of India, and that whatever happens in the war-torn country will not affect Pakistani strategic interests. ‘So it (Pakistan) has in the past invested in a certain amount of instability in Afghanistan’, she said in her testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday during a hearing on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Analysts saw her statements as biased.

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/International/25-Jun-2011/US-boosting-Afghan-defence-against-Pakistan>

- **DAWN/KHOST/June 26: “Haqqani network ‘may thwart peace initiatives’”:**The United States may be hopeful of a political deal with the Taliban as it withdraws troops from Afghanistan but dealing with the main enemy in the east is another matter entirely. The Haqqani network, described as “thugs and gangsters” by one US commander, is the driving force of the insurgency along much of Afghanistan’s eastern border with Pakistan, where some of the war’s worst fighting takes place. While it is allied with the Taliban, some experts say its links to Al Qaeda and ruthless ambition to rule Khost, Paktia and Paktika provinces make it less likely to engage in reconciliation efforts with Kabul and the West. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/27/haqqani-network-may-thwart-peace-initiatives.html>
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 27: “Rockets fired on fleeing Afghan militants: army”:**The army denied on Monday it had intentionally fired hundreds of rockets into Afghanistan, but accepted that some `rounds` might have accidentally landed in Afghan border areas. “Rounds were fired for engaging the fleeing militants and there is a possibility that some may have accidentally gone across the border,” ISPR chief Maj-Gen Athar Abbas said. The army’s position was made public after incidents of firing of rockets and cross-border militant incursions came under discussion at the 34th tripartite commission meeting of senior military representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and coalition forces in Kabul. The commission meets quarterly to discuss coordination of military operations along the Pak-Afghan border. An ISPR statement said: “Steps for better coordination and enhanced cooperation to avoid misunderstandings as regard to the border security were discussed.” (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/28/rockets-fired-on-fleeing-afghan-militants-army.html>
- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 27: “Pakistan must show it wants Afghan peace: US”:**Washington’s special envoy to Afghanistan said on Monday that Pakistan must prove it wants an end to the war by preventing militants from hiding out on its soil and enabling those who launch attacks on the Afghan side of the border. Marc Grossman, US special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, said in Kabul that discussions among Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States being held this week in the Afghan capital are important to coordinate efforts to find a political resolution to the nearly decade-long war. He said they also are an opportunity to clearly convey to Pakistani officials that part of their responsibility for bringing peace is to stop supporting insurgent safe havens and those who attack Afghans and international forces in Afghanistan. “We’ve been pretty clear that going forward here, we want the government of Pakistan to participate positively in the reconciliation process,” Grossman said at a news conference. “Pakistan now has important choices to make.” Grossman and representatives from more than 40 nations are attending a meeting of the International Contact Group. The group’s 11th meeting comes after President Barack Obama announced last week he was ordering 10,000 US troops home by year’s end;

as many as 23,000 more are to leave by September 2012. That would leave 68,000 US troops in Afghanistan. (AP)

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story\\_28-6-2011\\_pg7\\_2](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story_28-6-2011_pg7_2)

- **THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE/KABUL/June 29: “NATO says Haqqani commander killed in Afghanistan”**:The NATO force in Afghanistan said Thursday that a senior commander in the al Qaeda-linked Haqqani network wanted over an attack this week on a leading Kabul hotel had been killed in an air strike. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) identified Ismail Jan as deputy to the senior Haqqani commander inside Afghanistan and said he was killed in the eastern province of Paktya on Wednesday. It was not possible to confirm Jan’s death or position independently and ISAF provided no immediate details on how they knew he had been killed. (AFP)  
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/199529/nato-says-haqqani-commander-killed-in-afghanistan/>
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 30: “Australia not to cut troops in Afghanistan”**:Australia, unlike several other countries part of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, does not intend to reduce its military presence in the war-torn country till 2014. Australian Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ric Smith is visiting Pakistan after his trip to Kabul and will attend the meeting of International Contact Group on Afghanistan and Pakistan. During his stay here, the special envoy has already met Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani. Mr Smith has been advocating Australia’s enhanced engagement with Pakistan.(Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/01/australia-not-to-cut-troops-in-afghanistan.html>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 30: “Afghan security doubts escalate after hotel attack”**:The brazen Taliban attack on a landmark Kabul hotel this week, which left 21 people dead, has raised fresh questions over Afghan forces’ ability to protect their country as US-led troops withdraw. Despite help from a Nato helicopter and foreign special forces, it took four hours to quell the fierce assault by heavily armed militants who struck Tuesday night, underlining precarious security even in the heart of the capital. One survivor, Aziz Ahmad, said that some Afghan police had run away from one of the nine suicide bombers in Tuesday’s Intercontinental Hotel battle instead of shooting to protect civilians. Another man, who he believed to be a police officer, had even swapped his police hat for a white hat typically worn by Afghans at prayer to divert attention from him, Ahmad said. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/01/afghan-security-doubts-escalate-after-hotel-attack.html>
- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 30: “NATO blames Haqqani network for attack on Afghan hotel”**:The US-led coalition on Thursday blamed an al Qaida affiliated network working jointly with Taliban fighters for a deadly attack on a luxury hotel in Kabul — an assault that raised doubts about the ability of Afghan forces to handle security as foreign troops withdraw. The coalition also reported that a leader with the Haqqani network suspected of having provided assistance, including weapons, fighters and training, to the

gunmen who attacked the Inter-Continental hotel was killed Wednesday night in a precision airstrike. Ismail Jan, the deputy to the senior Haqqani commander inside Afghanistan, and other Haqqani fighters died in the airstrike in Gardez, the provincial capital of Paktia province, the coalition said. Nine suicide bombers launched an attack on the hotel late Tuesday, triggering an hours-long standoff with Afghan security forces, who were assisted by coalition mentors and NATO helicopters. In all, 20 people were killed, including the nine attackers. (AP)

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\01\story\\_1-7-2011\\_pg7\\_25](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\01\story_1-7-2011_pg7_25)

- **DAILY TIMES/LANDI KOTAL/June 30: “Three more checkpoints along River Kabul to check entry of militants”**: Three more security checkpoints have been set up in Loy Shelman and Sheen Pokh areas along River Kabul’s bank near the Pak-Afghan border. Sheen Pokh is a remote area of Landikotal bordering Afghanistan to the east and west and Mohmand Agency to the north, which is around 40 kilometers from Landikotal Bazaar in the north. It was usual with militants to come across the River Kabul into Sheen Pokh for carrying out subversive activities. The step has also been taken to obstruct likely penetration of insurgents from across the border in Afghanistan into Pakistan via ghost porous routes, APA Landikotal Iqbal Khattak said while talking to local media men. “Security forces and the political administration’s Khasadar Force will have to jointly perform their duties at these newly setup checkpoints in the far-off Sheen Pokh and Loy Shelman area in Landikotal,” APA maintained.

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\01\story\\_1-7-2011\\_pg7\\_16](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\07\01\story_1-7-2011_pg7_16)

- **THE NEWS/BOWRI TANA/June 30: “Afghans accuse Pakistan of stoking war on border”**: At the last military post before the Pakistan border, Afghan district governor Wali Shah explains why the insurgents seem untouchable, "The Pakistan government protects them," he said. Shah has daily experience of a key problem threatening any future peace deal in Afghanistan, namely that Taliban rebels fighting US troops and the Kabul government live and operate in safety from Pakistan. "When Pakistan says it will crack down on them, it is just pretending," he told AFP at Bowri Tana, a US and Afghan army post in the eastern province of Khost, 11 kilometres (seven miles) from the border. "The Taliban are trained by the ISI (Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency) and come into Afghanistan to launch attacks. Pakistan doesn't want the violence here to stop. It doesn't want Afghanistan to develop." For years, Afghans and Pakistanis have traded accusations of blame over the insurgents who pose a threat to security in both countries and seemingly criss-cross the porous border with impunity.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=17888>

## **Political Developments:**

- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 1: “Karzai heads to Italy amid tension with NATO”:**Afghan President Hamid Karzai left Wednesday for a one-day visit to Italy amid a row over civilian casualties in NATO-led military operations in his war-torn country. Karzai will hold talks with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to discuss closer ties, a statement from his office said, adding he would also attend a ceremony marking the anniversary of Italian unification. The visit comes a day after the Afghan president furiously criticised NATO-led military operations which result in civilian casualties, warning that it risked becoming an “occupying force” if fatal air strikes continued. He also said that such attacks were now “banned” although analysts question whether Karzai actually has the power to do anything about them. On Sunday Karzai had issued a “last warning” to foreign forces over civilian casualties, following the killing of what he said were 14 innocent Afghans in an air strike in the troubled southern province of Helmand.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story\\_2-6-2011\\_pg14\\_4](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story_2-6-2011_pg14_4)
- **DAILY TIMES/NEW DELHI/June 1: “India commits to help Afghan security forces”:**India on Wednesday pledged to help strengthen the capabilities of Afghanistan’s security forces after a meeting between the defence ministers of both countries in New Delhi. Indian Defence Minister A.K. Antony “conveyed the government of India’s willingness to work with the Afghan government in building the capabilities of Afghan security forces,” a statement said. His Afghan counterpart Abdul Rahim Wardak is on a three-day visit to India accompanied by a seven-member team. Afghan-Indian ties have raised hackles in Islamabad, where the Pakistani government and military establishment have long considered Afghanistan its own strategic asset to offset the perceived threat from India in the east. India last month pledged \$500 million in fresh aid to Afghanistan, raising New Delhi’s contribution to \$2 billion, to be spent mainly on development projects. India’s military assistance has so far been limited to training Afghanistan’s security personnel and investing in small infrastructure projects. Any greater involvement of Indian forces in Afghanistan would likely face objections from Pakistan, India’s regional adversary. President Hamid Karzai’s government has stepped up training of Afghan troops ahead of the scheduled withdrawal of NATO troops by 2014 from the country, where the Taliban has waged an insurgency since 2001.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story\\_2-6-2011\\_pg14\\_5](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\02\story_2-6-2011_pg14_5)
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 3: “US, Afghanistan push ahead on long-term deal”:**This week, the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai submitted a counterproposal to a US draft of the “strategic partnership” agreement, Afghan officials said. The agreement, expected to be concluded in coming months, would outline the US role in Afghanistan as President Barack Obama gradually withdraws the 100,000 US soldiers now locked in a fierce battle with the Taliban and other militants. Fresh from the Navy SEAL raid that killed Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and facing budget pressures at home, Obama looks set to announce an initial troop withdrawal starting in July that could be larger than earlier expected. If successful, the deal might ease worries among those Afghans who fear the United States will pull out too quickly, leaving a weak, impoverished government to fend off militants, and those who worry the foreign forces they see as occupiers will never leave. But the negotiations also highlight the strains in an asymmetric relationship in which Karzai has drifted further from the West and western doubts have grown about a government widely

seen as corrupt and inept. "Because of the current absence of clarity about long term US goals ... the Afghans are looking at this agreement to provide strategic clarity anchored in as many detailed, long-term commitments as possible," said Ronald Neumann, who was US ambassador to Afghanistan from 2005 to 2007.

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/04/us-afghanistan-push-ahead-on-long-term-deal.html>

- **DAILY TIMES/PESHAWAR/June 4: "KP asks Karzai to rein in Taliban":**The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has demanded the Afghan president stop Taliban from attacking Upper Dir district while criticising the NATO for ignoring terrorists' cross over from Afghanistan. "We have demand President Hamid Karzai to take steps against attacks from Afghanistan by Taliban in Upper Dir district," said the provincial government's spokesman Mian Iftikhar Hussain while briefing media on a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Ameer Haider Hoti. The meeting discussed Wednesday's cross-border attack launched from the territory of Afghanistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief Fayaz Toro briefed the cabinet on the situation in Upper Dir where security forces suffered casualties in clashes with the Afghan Taliban last week. The provincial cabinet also questioned the NATO's ability to stop such attacks, according to the government's spokesman. "The NATO could have stopped these attacks, if it had liked doing so," he maintained. And said, "We may conclude that the NATO, by not stopping these attacks, was, actually, supporting the Taliban." This was the first time when Hussain was seen using strong words against the NATO.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\05\story\\_5-6-2011\\_pg7\\_4](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\05\story_5-6-2011_pg7_4)
- **DAILY TIMES/BERLIN/June 7: "No solution to Afghan problem without Pakistan":**Political solution is of paramount importance to Afghanistan problem but this cannot be achieved without the support of Pakistan. This was stated by the head of the Task Force for Afghanistan and Pakistan at Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Philipp Ackermann, while talking to Pakistani delegation comprising officials from Ministry of Water and Power, IPDF, SMEDA and people from renewable energy in the German capital here Tuesday. The delegation is on a week-long visit on the invitation of German Foreign Office to discuss alternative energy in Germany and opportunities for Pakistan. "We think that we cannot find solution to Afghanistan (issue) without Pakistan. Similarly, we feel that the political solution is of paramount importance to Afghanistan issue as we feel that military solution is not feasible".  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story\\_8-6-2011\\_pg7\\_20](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story_8-6-2011_pg7_20)
- **DAILY TIMES/ISLAMABAD/June 8: "Karzai to visit Pakistan from June 10-11":**On the invitation of President Asif Ali Zardari, Afghan President Hamid Karzai will undertake a two-day visit of Pakistan from Friday, a Foreign Office statement issued said on Wednesday. "Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoy close cordial relations. President Karzai's visit will contribute to further enhancing friendship and close cooperative ties between the two brotherly peoples and countries," the statement added. The question for many is whether Pakistan can or should try and persuade Afghan Taliban based on its soil to join peace talks with the government in Kabul and the US-led military coalition supporting it.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story\\_9-6-2011\\_pg1\\_4](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story_9-6-2011_pg1_4)

- **DAILY TIMES/WASHINGTON/June 8: “US aid to Afghanistan needs sharper focus”**:The benefits of US foreign aid for Afghanistan could melt away with a planned US troop withdrawal, according to a congressional study that recommends the Obama administration focus on long-term, sustainable development. The two-year study by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee’s Democratic majority, which is to be released on Wednesday, urged the administration to make more effective use of the roughly \$320 million a month in foreign aid it spends in Afghanistan, with a focus on sustainability. The administration’s fiscal year 2012 request for Afghanistan includes roughly \$3.2 billion in foreign aid. The report comes as President Barack Obama prepares to announce a decision on when to start bringing a sizable number of the 100,000 US troops home from Afghanistan, a step toward decisively ending the long, costly war. On Tuesday, Senator Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a member of Obama’s Democratic Party, said the president should withdraw a minimum of 15,000 troops by the end of this year.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story\\_9-6-2011\\_pg7\\_29](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\09\story_9-6-2011_pg7_29)
- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 9: “Karzai to press Pakistan to back peace talks with Taliban”**:Afghan President Hamid Karzai will seek public assurance from Pakistani leaders in Islamabad on Friday that they will protect any Taliban official who wants to enter the peace talks, Afghan officials said.Karzai’s trip to Pakistan will provide an indication of whether relations between the two wary neighbors have improved since US Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan on May 2. The raid aggravated tensions, as Afghan officials said bin Laden’s presence in Pakistan proved their longstanding contention that the war against terrorism should be focused there, not in Afghanistan. Afghan leaders say they are looking for meaningful gestures from Pakistan’s leaders that they would not attempt to quash any peace talks they launch with Taliban leaders and their insurgent allies. “Pakistan has to encourage all those elements that they will talk to us and give them a guarantee,” said Karzai’s national security adviser, Rangin Dafdard Spanta. “And Pakistan has to arrest all others that are not ready to make peace with us.”However, officials in Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry did not respond to the requests.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\10\story\\_10-6-2011\\_pg7\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\10\story_10-6-2011_pg7_3)
- **DAILY TIMES/WASHINGTON/June 9: “Resumption of Indo-Pak talks must for success in Afghanistan: Crocker”**:Resumption of talks between India and Pakistan is important for the success of international community in Afghanistan, a senior US diplomat, nominated by President Barack Obama to be his next envoy to Kabul, told lawmakers on Wednesday.“With respect to India, I’m pleased to see, from my possible future perspective in Afghanistan, that dialogue between the foreign secretaries of the two nations has resumed,” Ryan Crocker told a Senate committee during his confirmation hearing. “I think that’s an important step. I hope they sustain it and they broaden it because clearly the degree to which India and Pakistan start to see some capacity to work together — it’s to the benefit of the region, and it’s to the benefit of us. But again, that falls under the purview of others, particularly as it relates to India,” Crocker said. Crocker, a former US ambassador to Pakistan, was responding to question from Senator Jeanne Shaheen who wanted to know how he viewed the prospects of America ever being successful in persuading the Pakistanis to change their relentless focus on India as a primary source of threat to their nation, and instead

throw their weight more decisively behind the US in the war on militancy, particularly against the Quetta Shura in North Waziristan, and against Lashkar-e-Tayyaba.(Online)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\10\story\\_10-6-2011\\_pg7\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\10\story_10-6-2011_pg7_7)

- **DAILY TIMES/ASTANA/June 9: “Kazakh senate rejects plan on Afghan deployment”:**Kazakhstan’s upper house of parliament on Thursday rejected a plan to send servicemen from the mainly Muslim Central Asian state to join NATO-led forces in Afghanistan, after the Taliban threatened severe consequences. The decision by the senate overturned a vote by the lower house in May to send four servicemen to join the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and is a rare instance of discord between the two parliamentary chambers. It follows a public threat by the Taliban, which issued a statement warning that such a deployment would have a “long-term negative impact” on relations. “The committee on international relations, defence and security proposes rejecting this bill in general and sending it back to the Mazhilis (lower chamber of parliament),” Mukhtar Altynbayev, a former defence minister, told fellow senators. Senators made no reference to the Taliban statement. Kazakhstan, where 70 percent of the 16.4 million population are Muslim, would have become the first former Soviet republic in Central Asia to send a contingent to join the ISAF. (Reuters)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\10\story\\_10-6-2011\\_pg14\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\10\story_10-6-2011_pg14_3)
- **THE NEWS/ISLAMABAD/June 10: “Govt aborts Karzai-Nawaz meeting”:**A meeting between the visiting Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief, Nawaz Sharif, could not be held as the host government did not allow it, it has been learnt. The Afghan leader, who arrived in Islamabad on Friday, had conveyed his desire to meet Nawaz Sharif, which the leader of the opposition readily accepted. “As the session was being firmed up, Nawaz Sharif decided to host a lunch for Karzai at his Raiwind estate on Sunday, and the programme was duly communicated to the visitor,” a senior PML-N leader told The News. He said that the Pakistan Foreign Office was involved in coordinating the Karzai-Nawaz meeting as per the protocol requirements, but it was thwarted by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, who instructed the foreign ministry to abandon it.(Reporter)  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6625&Cat=13&dt=6/11/2011>
- **THE NATION/WASHINGTON/June 10: “Majority in US says leave Afghanistan”:**Just over half of US adults favour pulling out of Afghanistan while one-third think US troops should remain, a poll released Thursday indicated. The Harris poll for BBC World News America found 51 percent do not believe US policies in Afghanistan are likely to succeed while 14 percent say they will. More than one-third, 36 percent, said the government of President Hamid Karzai is unfriendly to the United States, with only 19 percent saying the Afghan government is a friend and ally. While 52 percent favor leaving Afghanistan, 35pc said the United States should stay. The poll found little change in US attitudes towards Afghanistan since the killing of Osama bin Laden.  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/International/11-Jun-2011/Majority-in-US-says-leave-Afghanistan>

- **THE NEWS/ISLAMABAD/June 11: “US keenly following Karzai s visit Many high profile Americans to visit Pakistan shortly”**:The United States has been keeping close track of just concluded visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai to Pakistan. US ambassador to Pakistan Cameron Munter had a marathon meeting on urgent basis with Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir in the Foreign Office immediately after the Afghan President left for home on Saturday evening. Earlier US President Barack Hussain Obama s special envoy for the region ambassador Marc Grossman called the foreign secretary in the wee hours of the same day to gather information about the progress on the peace front on the region in the wake of the ongoing visit. The foreign secretary has reported to the leadership and other top officials concerned about the interaction in question and what had transpired in the same.(Reuter)  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=52121&Cat=2&dt=6/12/2011>
- **THE NATION/ISLAMABAD/June 11: “Karzai invites Nawaz to Kabul”**:Afghan President Hamid Karzai Saturday made a telephone call to PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif and expressed goodwill gesture for him. According to diplomatic sources, President Karzai before leaving Pakistan after two-day official visit called Nawaz Sharif and invited him to visit Afghanistan. Sources said the PML-N chief thanked the Afghan President for the invitation and expressed his best wishes for the people of Afghanistan.  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/12-Jun-2011/Karzai-invites-Nawaz-to-Kabul>
- **THE NATION/ISLAMABAD/June 11: “Pakistan backs Karzai’s roadmap”**:Reiterating their commitment to joint efforts against terrorism and radicalism, Pakistan and Afghanistan Saturday expressed their commitment for an ‘indigenous Afghan-led’ process of reconciliation for sustainable peace in Afghanistan. Addressing a joint press conference after witnessing the signing of 23-point ‘Islamabad Declaration’ here at PM’s House, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Afghan President Hamid Karzai expressed their resolve to work closely for reconciliation and peace. The two leaders earlier held a one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks that focused on the transition phase after the start of withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan from July. They also inaugurated the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Commission for Reconciliation and Peace, which was also attended by Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, Chairman of the Afghan High Peace Council.(Reuters)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/12-Jun-2011/Pakistan-backs-Karzais-roadmap>
- **DAILY TIMES/WASHINGTON/June 12: “Huntsman questions Obama’s Afghanistan policy”**:Potential presidential candidate Jon Huntsman is suggesting a faster timetable for pulling US troops from Afghanistan than the one laid out by President Barack Obama. Obama plans to bring home next month the first batch of about 100,000 American servicemen currently in Afghanistan, with all combat troops leaving by 2014. Huntsman, a former Utah governor who was Obama’s ambassador to China, thinks that may not be fast enough because of the financial cost of the war and because of waning public support. Huntsman tells CNN’s “State of the Union” that it’s his “hunch” that Americans want to be “out of there are quickly as we can get it done.” (AP)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\13\story\\_13-6-2011\\_pg14\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\13\story_13-6-2011_pg14_8)

- DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 13: “Joint management of water proposed with Afghanistan”**:The World Bank has offered finances and services as an ‘honest broker’ to help Pakistan and Afghanistan in joint water management under a bilateral treaty on the pattern of Pak-India Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. Sources told Dawn on Monday that the lending agency that had brokered Pak-India treaty and later helped Pakistan in development of Mangla and Tarbela dams has already done necessary work, including arrangement of about \$12 million from five other lenders to finance at least four technical studies and the negotiation process. “It is in the bank’s financial clout and its worldwide experience that provides the necessary incentives for reaching a trans-boundary agreement and paving the way for its successful implementation,” said a World Bank communication seeking support from the two neighbours. “As the most suitable institution for such an undertaking, the bank would sponsor and promote this crucial dialogue and cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan for economic development and security in the region,” it added.(Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/14/joint-management-of-water-proposed-with-afghanistan.html>
- DAWN/PESHAWAR/June 14: “UN will recognise Taliban as political force”**:Opening the budget debate in the assembly on Tuesday, he said the UN would soon remove the Afghan Taliban from its list of terrorist organisations and it had already opened doors for negotiations with the group.“I am telling you on the floor of the house that the UN will very soon declare the Taliban movement a political party,” he said and urged the government to resume talks with the ‘forces of resistance’ in the province and tribal areas to end the ongoing bloodshed. Mr Durrani, a close associate of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, said Afghan President Hamid Karzai had discussed the matter during his visit to Islamabad last week and sought Pakistan’s cooperation. He said major developments were taking place in the region and the US was planning to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before 2014. “If Karzai and America can negotiate with the Taliban why cannot our government talk with the local (militant) groups,” he said. He asked the government to stop using force in the tribal region and begin negotiations.(Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/15/un-will-recognise-taliban-as-political-force.html>
- DAILY TIMES/BERLIN/June 14: “No political solution in Afghanistan without Pakistan: Ackermann”**:Political solution is of paramount importance for Afghanistan and this political solution cannot be achieved without the support of Pakistan. This was stated by head of the Task Force for Afghanistan and Pakistan at Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Philipp Ackermann, on Tuesday. Talking to a Pakistani delegation, comprising officials from the Ministry of Water and Power and Finance, CEO Independent Project Development Facility (IPDF) Adil Anwar, President National Forum and Managing Editor Energy Update Naeem Qureshi, Chairman Renewable Energy Society (Research), Dr Allah Nawaz Qaiserani and Secretary General Iftekhhar Qaiserani at the German capital on Tuesday, he said, “We think that we cannot find solution to the Afghan issue without Pakistan. Similarly, we feel that political solution is paramount for Afghanistan issue as we feel that military solution is not feasible.”(PR)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\15\story\\_15-6-2011\\_pg7\\_30](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\15\story_15-6-2011_pg7_30)

- **THE NEWS/June 14: “Will US ever leave Afghanistan?”**:The war in Afghanistan continues unabated. The Taliban keep on inflicting horrible damage on the US and Nato forces, some of which is not even reported in the media. On the other hand, the Americans, along with troops from the European countries, are trying to stem the tide of the war. However, there has been little effort to find out a political solution to the crisis: the US believes that everything should be sorted out in the battlefield. There have been some developments recently tied to the war that have largely gone unnoticed. Nevertheless, these are significant and one way or the other will have noteworthy bearing on the overall scheme of things. First, General Petraeus is in Washington with his proposals on the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. It has been reported that US troops who were part of 2009 surge are scheduled to begin coming home in July.(Reuter)  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=52611&Cat=2&dt=6/15/2011>
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 15: “Karzai plans to leave office in 2014: Gates”**:Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has had testy relations with the administration of US President Barack Obama, plans to leave office at the end of his current term in office, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday. “He told me he plans to step down in 2014,” Gates told members of the US Senate Appropriations Committee. Karzai, who was elected president in 2004 and re-elected in fraud-tainted 2009 elections. Concern that Karzai may seek to remain in power after his time is up have surfaced in recent months. The outgoing Pentagon chief, who said he has spent “a lot of time” with Karzai since taking over as defense secretary, last met the Afghan president in early June. “Frankly, I think that we have often not done a very good job of listening to President Karzai,” he said.  
<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6763&Cat=13&dt=6/16/2011>
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June17: “Protests lodged with Nato, Kabul”**:Pakistan expressed “serious concern” to the US embassy and summoned a senior Afghan diplomat over the cross-border attack, the foreign ministry said in a statement. It said Nato aircraft intruded around 2.5km inside Pakistani territory and attacked a military post. “A joint inquiry of the incident has also been requested,” it said, without saying when did the incident take place.Local officials said it occurred early on Friday and that a few bombs were dropped but no casualties were reported. Separately, Pakistan summoned Afghan ambassador in Islamabad Majnoon Gulab to the Foreign Ministry and lodged the protest over the attack by “100-150 terrorists” on three border villages in Bajaur on Thursday.(Agencies)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/18/protests-lodged-with-nato-kabul.html>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 17: “Russia eyes bigger role in Afghanistan”**:Although Russia has refused to send troops to join the Nato-led war in Afghanistan; Moscow has been flexing its muscles in the region bordering much of ex-Soviet Central Asia, which Russia views as its traditional sphere of influence. “Relations, I think, are at their highest in the past 20 years, and they are moving and expanding ... But I would like them even wider,” Russian ambassador Andrey Avetisyan said in an interview in Russia’s vast, opulent Kabul embassy on Thursday night. Russia has embarked on a series of infrastructure and hydroelectric projects in Afghanistan, where the Soviet Union lost 15,000 troops fighting mujahideen insurgents before trudging away from the country in 1989. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/18/russia-eyes-bigger-role-in-afghanistan.html>

- **THE NATION/KABUL/June 18: “US in direct talks with Taliban”:**The United States is in contact with the Taliban about a possible settlement to the near decade-long war in Afghanistan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday, the first official confirmation of US involvement in negotiations. It also confirms speculation that the US was pursuing its own initiative to find a political settlement to the decade-long war. Karzai denied earlier reports - including his own statements - that his government was negotiating with Taliban leaders but he said that the Americans were doing so. “From the government side we don’t have any negotiations with them, but the important part is negotiations with the Pakistanis, which are very important for us,” he said. (Agencies)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/19-Jun-2011/US-in-direct-talks-with-Taliban>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 18: “Iran defence chief makes rare visit to Afghanistan”:**Iran’s defence minister made a landmark visit to Afghanistan on Saturday to bolster ties as Kabul prepares to assume security control from NATO-led forces and Washington seeks to wind down its almost decade-old tenure. Iran and Afghanistan share a long border and history, and Western powers have alleged that Tehran’s involvement included supporting the Taliban insurgency to compete with US influence. Iran denies that charge. “The Islamic Republic of Iran considers Afghanistan’s security as its own security, has put a lot of effort towards stability in Afghanistan and will continue to help in this regard,” Iranian state broadcaster IRIB quoted Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi as saying. Vahidi’s visit, during which he met Afghan counterpart Abdul Rahim Wardak, was the first by an Iranian defence minister in 92 years, according to IRIB. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/19/iran-defence-chief-makes-rare-visit-to-afghanistan.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 19: “Contacts with Taliban ‘very preliminary’, says Gates”:**US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Sunday that the Obama administration had only made “very preliminary” contacts with the Taliban and it could take months to broker a peace deal with them. On Saturday, Afghan President Hamid Karzai told reporters in Kabul that Afghan and US officials had engaged the Taliban and he was looking to Pakistan to mediate peace talks. But Mr Gates, who has advocated inflicting a crushing defeat on the Taliban to negotiate a better deal with them, downplayed the significance of these contacts. In an interview to CNN, Mr Gates also said that Osama bin Laden’s death in the May 2 US raid had seriously degraded Al Qaeda, which could now split into a set of regional terror groups. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/20/contacts-with-taliban-very-preliminary-says-gates.html>
- **THE NATION/KABUL/June 19: “US ambassador hits back after Karzai criticisms”:**The US ambassador to Afghanistan hit back at President Hamid Karzai's repeated criticisms of foreign forces Sunday in a rare public acknowledgement of tensions underpinning US-Afghan relations. Karl Eikenberry said some comments by Afghan leaders had been "hurtful and inappropriate", adding that when his country is "called occupiers and worse, our pride is offended and we begin to lose our inspiration to carry on". Although he did not mention Karzai by name, the remarks by Eikenberry - who is due to leave his job

soon - came after a series of comments by Karzai sharply criticising the coalition effort in Afghanistan. (AFP)

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/International/20-Jun-2011/US-ambassador-hits-back-after-Karzai-criticisms>

- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 20: “Afghanistan complains to Pakistan over cross-border shelling”:** Afghanistan on Monday complained to Pakistan about its alleged shelling of Afghan villages, soon after an assault by Pakistani forces drove terrorists across the border. An Afghan ministry statement said Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul spoke to the Pakistani ambassador over shelling by the Pakistani military of villages in the Sarkano district of Kunar province, close to the border, earlier on Monday. “The foreign minister expressed the Afghan side’s concern for the shelling of Afghan villages by Pakistani artillery ... and conveyed the Afghan government’s request for such shelling to stop,” the statement said. “The recent shelling has caused casualties among Afghan. (Reuters)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\21\story\\_21-6-2011\\_pg1\\_2](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\21\story_21-6-2011_pg1_2)
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 20: “Obama mulls over pullout as peace talks continue”:** President Barack Obama is preparing to announce his much-awaited plan for withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan, as the US media reported on Monday that the United States, Taliban and Pakistan were involved in serious peace talks. Also on Monday, the White House said that President Obama was getting close to announcing his pullout plan, but gave no date. “His announcement will come soon,” White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters, adding that Mr Obama was now finalising the plan to fulfil a pledge he made in December 2009 to start withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan by July 2011. And the US media reported that the Obama administration was engaged in “real but extremely delicate” talks with the Taliban. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/21/obama-mulls-over-pullout-as-peace-talks-continue.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 22: “Obama briefs Zardari on his plan for Afghanistan”:** US President Barack Obama assured President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday that his administration would continue to include Pakistan in all its decisions relating to Afghanistan. Diplomatic sources in Washington told Dawn that Mr Obama telephoned Mr Zardari to convey his assurance. President Obama briefed President Zardari about the new US plan for Afghanistan, a diplomatic source said. “He said he looks forward to working with Pakistan for bringing peace to the region.” President Obama also said that “the US will continue to include Pakistan in all its decisions relating to Afghanistan,” the source added. (Reuters)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/obama-briefs-zardari-on-his-plan-for-afghanistan.html>
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 23: “Afghan pullout signals new power struggle”:** The oldest cliché in Afghanistan is to describe the country in terms of the “Great Game”, the 19th-century geo-strategic chessboard of British colonists, Afghan kings and Russian tsars. Yet there is little doubt that, with the start of a phased American troop withdrawal, the bugle has been sounded for a fresh bout of political and military scrambling to shape the destiny of a perilously fragile nation. In the short term, Wednesday night’s announcement from Washington will have a greater impact on US politics than on Afghan security. Just 10 per

cent of the American force is due to leave this year, leaving some 90,000 soldiers behind. It's easy to forget that only six years ago the US contingent was just 12,000 strong. But it does signal the starting point of Taliban peace talks. On Sunday, the outgoing US defence secretary, Robert Gates, confirmed the Obama administration was engaged in "outreach" talks with Taliban members, the first US acknowledgement of such contacts. (Dawn/Guardian news service)

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/afghan-pullout-signals-new-power-struggle.html>

- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 23: "Petraeus says won't resign over Afghan troop plan":**The US commander in the Afghan war said Thursday he disagreed with President Barack Obama's decision for a troop drawdown in Afghanistan but ruled out resigning in protest. General David Petraeus, the outgoing commander of the Nato-led coalition in Afghanistan, said he favored a more modest timeline for a troop withdrawal but told senators it was his duty to carry out the decision. Asked by Senator Carl Levin if he was prepared to resign over war policy, Petraeus said: "I don't think it's the place for the commander to consider that kind of step unless you are in a very, very dire situation." Petraeus indicated that he had received emails suggesting he should quit in protest. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/petraeus-says-wont-resign-over-afghan-troop-plan.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 23: "Pakistan must be part of Afghan peace process: US":**Pakistan must be a part of the Afghan peace process, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Congress on Thursday while announcing that senior Afghan, Pakistani and American officials would meet next week for further talks on this issue. But the outgoing Defence Secretary Robert Gates said that success was possible in the war in Afghanistan even if Pakistan failed to fully cooperate in countering militants along its border. In an interview to the AFP news agency, Mr Gates said that "some positive steps" by Pakistan were needed but "as long as the picture stays mixed like that, that we can be successful". (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/pakistan-must-be-part-of-afghan-peace-process-us.html>
- **THE NATION/KABUL/June 23: "Afghan court overturns poll results":**A special Afghan court set up by President Hamid Karzai after fraud-marred parliamentary elections last year threw out results in about a quarter of the seats in the assembly on Thursday, raising fears of a constitutional crisis. The court ruled that 62 lawmakers elected to the 249-seat lower house of parliament would have to vacate their seats and be replaced by new members because of alleged poll fraud. Karzai's critics have said the court was set up after the disputed 2010 election, in which Karzai's rivals made major gains, to further his political aims rather than serve justice. "Are we heading for a constitutional crisis? I'm totally flabbergasted," one Western diplomat said after he watched court officials painstakingly announce revised results for dozens of districts live on national television. "The question it raises is whether you have a constitutional democracy or not. What are we doing here?" (Reuter)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/International/24-Jun-2011/Afghan-court-overturns-poll-results>
- **THE NEWS/KABUL/June 24: "Cross-border attacks could affect relations, warns Kabul":**The Afghan government on Friday called for an end to cross-border attacks from

Pakistan, warning that such incidents could affect “improving trust and cooperation” between the two wary allies. The high-level warning comes after days of claim and counter-claim over cross-border attacks by the neighbours, whose relations are strained over the militancy faced by both. Four children were killed late Thursday by shelling in the latest attack in the volatile northeastern province of Kunar, Kabul said. There was no immediate comment from Pakistan.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6997&Cat=13&dt=6/25/2011>

- **THE NATION/TEHRAN/June 24: “Time to implement gasoline project”:** Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran on Friday agreed to expand and strengthen trilateral cooperation for peace, stability and development in the region. This was agreed during a trilateral meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad here on Friday. The three leaders agreed that terrorism is a big hurdle in the way of regional development, which must be tackled and eliminated through enhanced cooperation and that trade and economic activities should be promoted within the region. (Agencies)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/25-Jun-2011/Time-to-implement-gasline-project>
- **DAWN/TEHRAN/June 25: “Accord with Kabul, Tehran to jointly fight terrorism”:** Presidents of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran agreed on Saturday to jointly fight militancy as they attended a counter-terrorism summit. “All sides stressed their commitment to efforts aimed at eliminating extremism, militancy, terrorism, as well as rejecting foreign interference, which is in blatant opposition to the spirit of Islam, the peaceful cultural traditions of the region and its peoples’ interests,” a joint statement said. Asif Ali Zardari, Hamid Karzai and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad agreed to continue meetings at ministerial level ahead of the next summit in Islamabad before the end of 2011, added the statement. Speaking at the summit, Mr Zardari said: “Terrorists violate both human and divine values by inflicting death and destruction on fellow human beings. They have no religion.” (Agencies)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/26/accord-with-kabul-tehran-to-jointly-fight-terrorism.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 25: “While US talks withdrawal, Afghan corruption soars”:** The farmer picking apples in the outskirts of Kabul must pay the Taliban \$33 to ship out each truckload of fruit. The governor sends in armed men to chase workers off job sites if the official bribes aren’t paid. Poor neighbourhoods never get their UN-provided wheat, long since sold on the black market. These are some of the elements, large and small, that together form the elaborate organised crime environment Afghans contend with daily. And despite the hoped-for success of the US military surge and President Barack Obama’s claims of significant progress, Afghanistan’s resemblance to a mafia state that cannot serve its citizens may only be getting worse, according to an upcoming report by the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank. (AP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/26/while-us-talks-withdrawal-afghan-corruption-soars.html>
- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 25: “US bringing wars to ‘responsible’ end, says Obama”:** US President Barack Obama said on Saturday that he had begun the process of bringing the war in Afghanistan to a ‘responsible end’. In his weekly radio address to his

nation, President Obama said his Wednesday announcement to start pulling out US troops from Afghanistan next month was 'a way forward'. "Because of the extraordinary work of our men and women in uniform, civilians, and our coalition partners, we will soon begin bringing our troops home, just as we've begun doing in Iraq," he said. "After a decade of conflict, we're finally bringing these wars to a responsible end." (Reuters)

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/26/us-bringing-wars-to-responsible-end-says-obama.html>

- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD June 27: "Only Afghan-led talks acceptable, PM tells US"**: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani reassured the US on Monday that Pakistan remained committed to peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, but appeared little supportive of Washington's direct contacts with Taliban, bypassing Islamabad. "Pakistan sincerely desires peace and stability in the region to ensure development and prosperity," he said in a statement which significantly emphasised that Islamabad only "supports Afghan-led reconciliation and peace process". Prime Minister Gilani also spoke to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and discussed the political process in Afghanistan and strains in Pakistan-US ties. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has already distanced himself from the talks the US is having with Taliban by insisting that the Americans, and not his government, were spearheading the dialogue. The US has said that the three meetings held with a group of Taliban representatives led by Tayyab Agha, an aide to Mullah Omar, in Qatar and Germany were just preliminary contacts. (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/28/only-afghan-led-talks-acceptable-pm-tells-us.html>
- **THE NEWS/RAWALPINDI/June 27: "Pak-US-Afghan forum in Kabul discusses security situation"**: The Tripartite Commission comprising senior military representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and coalition forces in Afghanistan, held a meeting in Kabul on Monday. General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, General Sher Mahammed Karimi, Chief of the Afghan General Staff and General David H Petraeus, Commander International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan headed the respective delegations, says an ISPR press release on Monday. The meeting reviewed the current security situation along the Pak-Afghan border. Measures to improve effectiveness of ongoing operations in the respective areas also came under discussion. Steps for better coordination and enhanced cooperation to avoid misunderstandings as regard to the border security were also discussed. Forum reiterated the resolve and commitment to restore peace and stability in the area. The commission is a recurring event, and Monday's meeting was the 34th since the inaugural session conducted in Islamabad in 2003.  
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=7051&Cat=13&dt=6/28/2011>
- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 27: "Afghan MPs ask for help over poll court ruling, UN urges caution"**: "The United Nations urged the Afghan parliament on Sunday not to take any action that might provoke unrest after election officials rejected a ruling by a specially appointed court that threw out a quarter of lawmakers elected last year. The court, established by presidential decree after fraud-marred parliamentary elections, ordered on Thursday that 62 lawmakers elected in the September poll vacate their seats in the 249-seat house over fraud concerns. The ruling has been condemned as unconstitutional and illegal by Afghan officials and international poll observers. Staffan de Mistura, the UN special representative in Afghanistan, said the disagreement over the disputed election must be resolved in accordance

with the Afghan constitution. “Parliamentarians should act responsibly in making their constitutional demands, and not resort to sit-ins, protests or other actions which could provoke public unrest,” de Mistura said in a statement. The court was set up by President Hamid Karzai last year after weeks of infighting over the election, in which Karzai’s rivals made major gains. Critics have said the court was set up to further Karzai’s political agenda and silence opposition. (Reuters)

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story\\_28-6-2011\\_pg14\\_3](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story_28-6-2011_pg14_3)

- **DAILY TIMES/KABUL/June 27: “Afghanistan warns against ‘external interference’ over poll dispute”**:The Afghan government warned the international community on Monday not to interfere in a deepening political crisis after lawmakers appealed for help over a specially formed court that overturned results for a quarter of the seats in parliament. The special poll court, established by a presidential decree after fraud-marred parliamentary elections last year, ordered on Thursday that 62 lawmakers elected in the September poll vacate their seats in the 249-seat parliament. The ruling has been condemned as unconstitutional and illegal by Afghan officials and international observers. Critics have said the court was set up to further President Hamid Karzai’s political agenda and silence opposition. The deepening political uncertainty comes at a worrying time for Afghanistan, with violence at record levels and NATO-led forces preparing to hand over security to Afghans in several areas at the start of a process that will end with all foreign combat troops leaving by the end of 2014. (Reuters)  
[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story\\_28-6-2011\\_pg14\\_7](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story_28-6-2011_pg14_7)
- **THE NATION/LONDON/June 28: “Pakistan has a key role to play in Afghanistan: Hague”**:British Foreign Secretary William Hague said on Tuesday that Pakistan had a major role to play for peace in Afghanistan and that his country recognised the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan in the fight against extremism and terror. Speaking at a news briefing at the FCO following his joint last week’s visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan with the UAE Foreign Minister, Hague said he was encouraged by his discussion with the Pakistani leadership on a range of issues common to both the countries. Hague said in his discussion, the Pakistani leaders called for promoting reconciliation process in Afghanistan. He added that the UK has always welcomed dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan as friendly relations between the two neighbours would yield positive impact on the regional peace and environment. (APP)  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/International/29-Jun-2011/Pakistan-has-a-key-role-to-play-in-Afghanistan-Hague>
- **DAWN/KABUL/June 28: “Pakistan says stop ‘blame game’ at US, Afghan talks”**:Pakistan on Tuesday called for the “blame game” to stop as the United States, Afghanistan and Pakistan met to discuss security in the region amid a Taliban insurgency and heightened tensions over cross border shelling. President Hamid Karzai has condemned the firing of 470 rockets from Pakistan into Afghanistan over the past three weeks. Islamabad says only that “a few accidental rounds” may have crossed the border when it pursued militants who had attacked its security forces. The escalation of fighting on the border between Pakistan’s ethnic Pashtun tribal areas and Afghanistan has underscored the difficulties the three countries face in working together to reach a political settlement to the

10-year Afghan war. “We need to end this blame-game,” Salman Bashir, Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary, told a news conference after a meeting of three countries in Kabul, without making any specific reference to border shelling. (Reuters)

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/28/pakistan-says-stop-%E2%80%9Cblame-game%E2%80%9D-at-us-afghan-talks.html>

- **DAWN/WASHINGTON/June 29: “Kabul much safer than it was: Obama”:**US President Barack Obama insisted on Wednesday that Kabul is “much safer than it was” but said he expected attacks like the one on the Intercontinental Hotel to continue for “some time.” Nine heavily armed Taliban militants, some in suicide vests, stormed the hotel late Tuesday, sparking a ferocious battle with Afghan commandos and a Nato helicopter gunship that left at least 21 dead including the attackers. “Kabul is much safer than it was, and Afghan forces in Kabul are much more capable than they were,” he told a White House press conference. “That does not mean there will not be events like this taking place. That will go on for some time. Our work is not done.” The attack came weeks before the first foreign forces begin withdrawing from Afghanistan ahead of the planned close of combat operations at the end of 2014. (AFP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/30/kabul-much-safer-than-it-was-obama.html>
- **THE NATION/ISLAMABAD/June 29: “Pakistan backs Afghan-led peace”:**Pakistan on Wednesday reaffirmed its support for the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, and its readiness to encourage and facilitate a process that is all inclusive.The reaffirmation came during the first meeting of the Working Level of the Afghanistan Pakistan Joint Commission for Peace held in Kabul at the premises of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Pakistani delegation led by Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir was composed of Mohammad Sadiq, Major General Ishfaq Nadeem Ahmad, Major General Sahibzada Isfandyar Pataudi and Alamgir Babar. The Afghan delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Jawed Ludin was composed of Masoom Stanakzai, Mohammad Umar Daudzai, Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Gen Hassamudin Marzi, Mohammad Younus Farman, General Afzal Aman and Fazal Karim Aimaq.  
<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/30-Jun-2011/Pakistan-backs-Afghanled-peace>

### **Economy:**

- **DAILY TIMES/ISLAMABAD/June 7: “Afghanistan to follow Pakistan’s model for microfinance”:**The Afghanistan government has decided to follow Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund’s (PPAF) multiple interventions being carried out under its credit and enterprise development programme for the benefit of marginalised and ultra-poor communities in various parts of the country. A three-member delegation of Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme comprising Ikram-ullah Qureshi, Khalilullah Zafri and Shafiullah Rasikh is currently visiting Pakistan to get firsthand knowledge about the PPAF’s Programme for Increasing Sustainable Microfinance (PRISM), Microfinance Innovation Outreach Programme (MIOP), Islamic Financing and Products as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation practices for poverty alleviation. The PPAF-funded PRISM has five components of credit enhancement, equity fund, technical support/institutional strengthening fund for microfinance institutions, knowledge management and policy

dialogue and programme management. In an effort to enhance the access of poor rural women and men to productive assets, skills, services and improved technologies, the PPAF launched Microfinance Innovation and Outreach Programme (MIOP), which has played a key role in designing, implementing and funding projects to improve the livelihood and productivity of rural poor people.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story\\_8-6-2011\\_pg5\\_11](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\08\story_8-6-2011_pg5_11)

- **DAILY TIMES/ISLAMABAD/June 10: “Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement”**:Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Friday directed Customs authorities to maintain at any cost appointment of insurance companies with double AA rating for issuance of insurance guarantee equivalent to amount of import duty against goods imported for Afghanistan through Pakistani land route. Mumtaz Haider Rizvi, Member Customs Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Friday informed the Senate Standing Committee that FBR has selected four reputed insurance companies with double AA rating—which have been appointed for issuance of insurance guarantee equivalent to amount of import duty against goods imported for Afghanistan through Pakistani land route. He further said FBR would not accept the insurance guarantee of any insurance company, which could not be encashed in Pakistan on goods imported under Afghan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). Double AA rating assigned by the PACRA, is the only basis for selection of these insurance companies i.e. National Insurance Company Limited (NICL), Adamjee Insurance Company, New Jubilee Insurance Company and EFU Insurance company. Member Customs also informed that much awaited Afghan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) would be operationalized from June 12, 2011 and all arrangements have been finalised in this regard.  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\11\story\\_11-6-2011\\_pg5\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\11\story_11-6-2011_pg5_8)
- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 11: “Pakistan-Afghanistan declaration signed”**:Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a 23-point declaration here on Saturday. Hina Rabbani Khar, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and her Afghan counterpart, Dr Zalmai Rassoul, signed the Islamabad declaration in the presence of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Through the declaration, the two countries agreed to improve connectivity and infrastructure development, initiate cooperation in energy, mines and mineral sectors and significantly increase cultural, parliamentary, student, youths and people-to-people contacts. According to details of the declaration issued by the Foreign Office, the two countries expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the two-tier joint commission mechanism for facilitating and promoting reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan.(AP)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/12/pakistan-afghanistan-declaration-signed.html>
- **THE NEWS/WASHINGTON/June 14: “US welcomes commitment to implement Afghan-Pak Transit Trade Accord”**:The United States has welcomed the announcement by President Asif Ali Zardari and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai, pledging full implementation of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA).“This step is a concrete demonstration of the common shared vision of development, prosperity and peace the two presidents share, and it will make a significant contribution to regional stability,” the State Department commented as President Karzai wrapped up his visit to Islamabad. The APTTA concluded after years of effort and replaces an outdated agreement dating from

1965. The statement by Spokesman Mark Toner called the agreement a “major breakthrough,” demonstrating strong economic and political cooperation between the two countries.

<http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=52598&Cat=2&dt=6/15/2011>

- **DAWN/ISLAMABAD/June 18: “Germany to help Pakistan, Afghanistan”**: German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dirk Niebel has said that his country will work with Pakistan and Afghanistan for restoring lasting peace and ensuring stable livelihood in the region. Talking to journalists on Saturday at the conclusion of his visit to Pakistan, during which he met President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Mr Niebel said peace in the region was in the interest of the developed world. He said he was thankful to Pakistan for fighting terrorists as the country had suffered heavy civilian and military casualties. “We have to prepare both countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan) to ensure better livelihood for their people. However, both countries have to do some homework for achieving it.” He said Germany would help in capacity building and financing projects for achieving stable livelihood in the region. But he also urged Pakistanis to do something on their own by tapping new taxpayers to raise funds for development work and also to improve relations with neighbouring countries like India. (Reuter)  
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/19/germany-to-help-pakistan-afghanistan.html>
- **DAILY TIMES/ISLAMABAD/June 20: “Pak-Afghan Transit Trade”**: Government of Pakistan plans to establish the Transit Trade Regulatory Authority (TTRA) to regulate the incoming and outgoing transit trade consignments according to the national needs. National Logistic Board in a presentation proposed establishment of the Trade Regulatory Authority with putting in place the tracking system and biometric systems at exit and entry points of the country. The Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh Monday chaired a meeting about the proposal for the constitution of the trade regulatory authority presented to him by the chairman of National Logistic Board and attended by the Secretary Finance, Planning and Development, Secretary Communications and Secretary Defence and others. (Reuter)  
[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\21\story\\_21-6-2011\\_pg5\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\21\story_21-6-2011_pg5_7)
- **DAILY TIMES/LAHORE/June 28: “US spends \$20bn a year on air-con in Iraq, Afghanistan”**: The US military spends about \$20 billion annually on air conditioning military tents and temporary structures in Iraq and Afghanistan, Brigadier General Steve Anderson, who served as chief logistician to General David Petraeus in Iraq, was quoted as saying by The Telegraph on Tuesday. He said the US Department of Defence (DOD) is shockingly inefficient in its energy use. “In essence what we’re doing is we’re air conditioning the desert over there in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places,” the report quoted Brig Gen Anderson as saying. Taking into account raw fuel, transport and security, “DOD will spend about \$20 billion annually to air-condition tents and temporary structures,” he told National Public Radio. The fuel used to power air conditioners in remote bases in Afghanistan is shipped into Pakistan, before being transported by land for more than two weeks, the officer said. He elaborated that it must cross 800 miles of roads, many little more

than “improved goat trails”, and areas where insurgents will use roadside bombs to target troops serving the US war effort. (Daily Times monitor)

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\29\story\\_29-6-2011\\_pg7\\_7](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\29\story_29-6-2011_pg7_7)

- **DAILY TIMES/JEDDAH/June 28: “Afghanistan seeks foreign donors after IMF talks fail”:** Kabul is pursuing talks with international donors for foreign aid after a breakdown in discussions with the IMF left millions of dollars in aid in limbo, Afghanistan’s finance minister said on Tuesday. Foreign aid is expected to decline sharply in the coming years, especially after the Kabulbank scandal which strained relationships with donors, Omar Zakhilwal told Reuters in an interview in the Saudi port city of Jeddah. “No doubt Kabulbank has complicated our relationship with donors. Our hope is that the donors will not make a political issue out of this, which to some extent they have ... it is a very technical issue, not a political issue,” he said. On Monday, Afghanistan’s central bank governor said he resigned his post because he feared for his life following his role in investigating the scandal. Corruption, bad loans and mismanagement cost the politically well-connected Kabulbank, Afghanistan’s biggest private lender, hundreds of millions of dollars in what Western officials in Afghanistan openly call a classic Ponzi scheme. (Reuter)  
[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\29\story\\_29-6-2011\\_pg7\\_6](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\29\story_29-6-2011_pg7_6)

#### Assessment:

#### Annexure 1: News reports related to strategic developments

S. No	Date	Newspaper	Subject/Theme
1.	June 1	Daily Times	Hundreds of Afghan Taliban attack Pakistan post in Dir
2.	June 1	Daily Times	US trolling for Afghan Taliban to open talks
3.	June 2	Daily Times	White House prepares initial Afghan drawdown
4.	June 5	Daily Times	Afghan pullout will be gradual, says Gates
5.	June 6	Daily Times	Gates warns against quick pullback in Afghanistan
6.	June 6	Daily Times	US mulls larger troop pullout from Afghanistan
7.	June 7	Daily Times	Afghans want Taliban dropped from UN sanctions list
8.	June 7	Daily Times	Pakistan conveys to NATO its concern over cross-border incursion
9.	June 7	Daily Times	NATO nearing ‘decisive blow’ in Afghan war: Gates
10.	June 8	Daily Times	Maulvi Nazir vows to escalate anti-US fight in Afghanistan
11.	June 8	Daily Times	US senator wants 15,000 troops out of Afghanistan
12.	June 9	Dawn	Crisis in Afghanistan: No US ‘rush for the exits’: Gates
13.	June 10	Dawn	Gates blasts Nato, questions future of alliance
14.	June 10	The News	Zardari, Karzai vow joint terror fight
15.	June 11	Dawn	Karzai for joint efforts to stop border attacks
16.	June 12	Daily Times	Pakistan ready to target ‘bad Taliban’: Kabul
17.	June 12	Daily Times	Dilemmas weigh on Obama’s Afghanistan drawdown
18.	June 13	The News	US for peace talks with Afghan Taliban
19.	June 13	Daily times	Obama weighs scale of Afghanistan pullout

20.	June 14	Dawn	Secret talks may see US troops stay for decades in Afghanistan
21.	June 14	Daily Times	Taliban, US play cat and mouse in Afghan flashpoint
22.	June 15	The News	US won't leave Afghanistan: Mullen
23.	June 15	Daily Times	Taliban reintegration hits wall in Afghan hotspot
24.	June 16	Daily Times	Too early for Taliban talks to play decisive role
25.	June 17	The News	Pentagon opposes quick removal of troops from Afghanistan
26.	June 17	The News	Obama hears from Petraeus on Afghan troop options
27.	June 17	Dawn	Pentagon wants to extend surge till 2012
28.	June 18	Dawn	US says delinking Al Qaeda from Taliban to help peace
29.	June 19	Daily Times	Fears surface over US-trained local Afghan police
30.	June 19	Daily Times	Mullah Omar key for US in Afghan talks: experts
31.	June 20	Daily Times	Few Taliban leaders embrace reconciliation
32.	June 20	Dawn	US cautioned to take Pakistan along on talks with Taliban
33.	June 21	Dawn	The Taliban's wishlist
34.	June 21	Dawn	US to reveal size, pace of Afghan pullout today
35.	June 22	The News	Obama declares beginning of end of Afghan war
36.	June 22	The News	Obama sees hope for 'progress' in talks with Taliban
37.	June 22	Dawn	Plan to fence, mine Afghan border
38.	June 22	Dawn	Cameron 'fully agrees' with Obama's Afghan strategy
39.	June 22	Dawn	Obama readies withdrawal plan: 30,000 US troops to quit Afghanistan by 2012 end
40.	June 22	Dawn	Canada releases secret Afghan war documents
41.	June 23	Dawn	Withdrawal plan risky: Mullen
42.	June 23	Dawn	Commanders say Obama overruled them on Afghanistan
43.	June 23	Dawn	UK says it's also in talks with Taliban
44.	June 23	Dawn	Pakistan sceptical about withdrawal plan
45.	June 23	The News	Talks with Taliban not 'pleasant' but 'necessary': Clinton
46.	June 23	The Nation	Pullout won't ease pressure on Taliban
47.	June 24	Dawn	Afghanistan urges end to attacks
48.	June 24	The Nation	US boosting Afghan defence against Pakistan'
49.	June 26	Dawn	Haqqani network 'may thwart peace initiatives'
50.	June 27	Dawn	Rockets fired on fleeing Afghan militants: army
51.	June 27	Daily Times	Pakistan must show it wants Afghan peace: US
52.	June 29	Express Tribune	NATO says Haqqani commander killed in Afghanistan
53.	June 30	Dawn	Australia not to cut troops in Afghanistan
54.	June 30	Dawn	Afghan security doubts escalate after hotel attack
55.	June 30	Daily Times	NATO blames Haqqani network for attack on Afghan hotel
56.	June 30	Daily Times	Three more checkpoints along River Kabul to check entry of militants
57.	June 30	The News	Afghans accuse Pakistan of stoking war on border

## Annexure 2: News reports related to political developments

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Category</b>
1.	June 1	Daily Times	Karzai heads to Italy amid tension with NATO	News Report
2.	June 1	Daily Times	India commits to help Afghan security forces	News Report
3.	June 3	Dawn	US, Afghanistan push ahead on long-term deal	News Report
4.	June 4	Daily Times	KP asks Karzai to rein in Taliban	News Report
5.	June 7	Daily Times	No solution to Afghan problem without Pakistan'	News Report
6.	June 8	Daily Times	Karzai to visit Pakistan from June 10-11	News Report
7.	June 8	Daily Times	US aid to Afghanistan needs sharper focus	News Report
8.	June 9	Daily Times	Karzai to press Pakistan to back peace talks with Taliban	News Report
9.	June 9	Daily Times	Resumption of Indo-Pak talks must for success in Afghanistan: Crocker	News Report
10.	June 9	Daily Times	Kazakh senate rejects plan on Afghan deployment	News Report
11.	June 10	The News	Govt aborts Karzai-Nawaz meeting	News Report
12.	June 10	The Nation	Majority in US says leave Afghanistan	News Report
13.	June 11	The News	US keenly following Karzai s visit Many high profile Americans to visit Pakistan shortly	News Report
14.	June 11	The Nation	Karzai invites Nawaz to Kabul	News Report
15.	June 11	The Nation	Pakistan backs Karzai's roadmap	Nwes Report
16.	June 12	Daily Times	Huntsman questions Obama's Afghanistan policy	News Report
17.	June 13	Dawn	Joint management of water proposed with Afghanistan	News Report
18.	June 14	Dawn	'UN will recognise Taliban as political force'	News Report
19.	June 14	Daily Times	No political solution in Afghanistan without Pakistan: Ackermann	News Report
20.	June 14	The News	Will US ever leave Afghanistan?	News Report
21.	June 15	The News	Karzai plans to leave office in 2014: Gates	News Report
22.	June 17	Dawn	Protests lodged with Nato, Kabul	News Report
23.	June 17	Dawn	Russia eyes bigger role in Afghanistan	News Report
24.	June 18	The Nation	US in direct talks with Taliban	News Report
25.	June	Dawn	Iran defence chief makes rare visit to	News Report

	18		Afghanistan	
26.	June 19	Dawn	Contacts with Taliban ‘very preliminary’, says Gates	News Report
27.	June 19	The Nation	US ambassador hits back after Karzai criticisms	News Report
28.	June 20	Daily times	Afghanistan complains to Pakistan over cross-border shelling	News Report
29.	June 20	Dawn	Obama mulls over pullout as peace talks continue	News Report
30.	June 22	Dawn	Obama briefs Zardari on his plan for Afghanistan	News Report
31.	June 23	Dawn	Afghan pullout signals new power struggle	News Report
32.	June 23	Dawn	Petraeus says won’t resign over Afghan troop plan	News Report
33.	June 23	Dawn	Pakistan must be part of Afghan peace process: US	News Report
34.	June 23	The Nation	Afghan court overturns poll results	News Report
35.	June 24	The News	Cross-border attacks could affect relations, warns Kabul	News Report
36.	June 24	The Nation	Time to implement gasoline project	News Report
37.	June 25	Dawn	Accord with Kabul, Tehran to jointly fight terrorism	News Report
38.	June 25	Dawn	While US talks withdrawal, Afghan corruption soars	News Report
39.	June 25	Dawn	US bringing wars to ‘responsible’ end, says Obama	News Report
40.	June 27	Dawn	Only Afghan-led talks acceptable, PM tells US	News Report
41.	June 27	The News	Pak-US-Afghan forum in Kabul discusses security situation	News Report
42.	June 27	Daily Times	Afghan MPs ask for help over poll court ruling, UN urges caution	News Report
43.	June 27	Daily Times	Afghanistan warns against ‘external interference’ over poll dispute	News Report
44.	June 28	The Nation	Pakistan has a key role to play in Afghanistan: Hague	News Report
45.	June 28	Dawn	Pakistan says stop “blame game” at US, Afghan talks	News Report
46.	June 29	Dawn	Kabul much safer than it was: Obama	News Report
47.	June 29	The Nation	Pakistan backs Afghan-led peace	News Report

### Annexure 3: News reports related to economy

S. No	Date	Newspaper	Subject/Theme	Category
1.	June 7	Daily Times	Afghanistan to follow Pakistan's model for microfinance	News Report
2.	June 10	Daily Times	Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement	News Report
3.	June 11	Dawn	Pakistan-Afghanistan declaration signed	News Report
4.	June 14	The News	US welcomes commitment to implement Afghan-Pak Transit Trade Accord	News Report
5.	June 18	Dawn	'Germany to help Pakistan, Afghanistan'	News Report
6.	June 20	Daily Times	Pak-Afghan Transit Trade	News Report
7.	June 28	Daily Times	'US spends \$20bn a year on air-con in Iraq, Afghanistan'	News Report
8.	June 28	Daily Times	Afghanistan seeks foreign donors after IMF talks fail	News Report

### Annexure 4: Editorials related to Pak-Afghan region

S. No	Date/ Newspaper	Subject/Theme
1.	The News/ June 12	A common future <a href="http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=52175&amp;Cat=8&amp;dt=6/12/2011">http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=52175&amp;Cat=8&amp;dt=6/12/2011</a>
2.	The Nation/ June 15	Thanks but no thanks <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/15-Jun-2011/Thanks-but-no-thanks">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/15-Jun-2011/Thanks-but-no-thanks</a>
3.	The Nation/ June 18	Another attack <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/18-Jun-2011/Another-attack">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/18-Jun-2011/Another-attack</a>
4.	Dawn/ June 18	Cross-border raid <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/18/cross-border-raid.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/18/cross-border-raid.html</a>
5.	Dawn/ June 19	UN sanctions` list <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/19/un-sanctions-list.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/19/un-sanctions-list.html</a>
6.	Daily Times/ June 20	Important developments <a href="http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\20\story_20-6-2011_pg3_1">http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\20\story_20-6-2011_pg3_1</a>
7.	The Nation/ June 20	US in talks with Taliban <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/20-Jun-2011/US-in-talks-with-Taliban">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/20-Jun-2011/US-in-talks-with-Taliban</a>
8.	Dawn/ June 21	Talk about talks <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/21/talk-about-talks.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/21/talk-about-talks.html</a>
9.	The Nation/ June 21	Enemy at the gate <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/21-Jun-2011/Enemy-at-the-gate">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/21-Jun-2011/Enemy-at-the-gate</a>
10.	Dawn/ June 24	American drawdown <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/american-drawdown.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/24/american-drawdown.html</a>

11.	Dawn/ June 25	Unclear goals <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/25/unclear-goals.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/25/unclear-goals.html</a>
12.	The Nation/ June 25	Blunt US warning <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/25-Jun-2011/Blunt-US-warning">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/25-Jun-2011/Blunt-US-warning</a>
13.	The News/ June 25	The end begins? <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54419&amp;Cat=8&amp;dt=6/25/2011">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54419&amp;Cat=8&amp;dt=6/25/2011</a>
14.	Dawn/ June 28	Frightening tactic <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/28/frightening-tactic.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/28/frightening-tactic.html</a>
15.	The News/ June 28	Summit in Tehran <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54880&amp;Cat=8&amp;dt=6/28/2011">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54880&amp;Cat=8&amp;dt=6/28/2011</a>
16.	Dawn/ June 30	Rhetoric and reality <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/30/rhetoric-and-reality.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/30/rhetoric-and-reality.html</a>
17.	The News/ June 30	The Kabul attack <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=55244&amp;Cat=8">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=55244&amp;Cat=8</a>

#### Annexure 5: Opinions related to Pak-Afghan region

S. No	Date/ Newspaper	Columnist	Subject/Theme
1.	The News/ June 10	Zafar Hilaly	Before Karzai arrives <a href="http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=51800&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/10/2011">http://thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=51800&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/10/2011</a>
2.	The Nation/ June 12		Zardari-Karzai meeting <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/12-Jun-2011/ZardariKarzai-meeting">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Editorials/12-Jun-2011/ZardariKarzai-meeting</a>
3.	Dawn/ June 14	Khadim Hussain	Of good and bad Taliban <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/14/of-good-and-bad-taliban.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/14/of-good-and-bad-taliban.html</a>
4.	The Nation/ June 15	S.M Hali	Where is the Afghan political surge? <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/15-Jun-2011/Where-is-the-Afghan-political-surge">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/15-Jun-2011/Where-is-the-Afghan-political-surge</a>
5.	The Nation/16	Mahoodm Zaman	Declaration for trade and peace <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/16-Jun-2011/Declaration-for-trade-and-peace">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/16-Jun-2011/Declaration-for-trade-and-peace</a>
6.	The News/ June 22	Asad Munir	Al-Qaeda in Pakistan <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=53807&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/22/2011">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=53807&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/22/2011</a>
7.	Dawn/ June 23	Gwynne Dyer	Leaving Afghanistan <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/leaving-afghanistan.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/23/leaving-afghanistan.html</a>
8.	The News/ June 28	Rahimullah Yusufzai	Time to stop fighting and start talking <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54873&amp;">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54873&amp;</a>

			<a href="#">Cat=9&amp;dt=6/28/2011</a>
9.	The News/ June 28	Dr Maleeha Lodhi	Mission change <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54877&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/28/2011">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54877&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/28/2011</a>
10.	The News/ June 28	Adnan Gill	Another hasty departure? <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54878&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/28/2011">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=54878&amp;Cat=9&amp;dt=6/28/2011</a>
11.	Daily Times/ June 28	Haider Nizamani	The Afghanistan scorecard <a href="http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story_28-6-2011_pg3_6">http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\28\story_28-6-2011_pg3_6</a>
12.	Dawn/ June 29	Mahir Ali	Afghanistan exit via Pakistan <a href="http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/29/afghanistan-exit-via-pakistan.html">http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/29/afghanistan-exit-via-pakistan.html</a>
13.	The News/ June 30	Farooq Sulehria	Warlords as media moguls <a href="http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=55247&amp;Cat=9">http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=55247&amp;Cat=9</a>
14.	Daily Times/ June 30	Mohammad Taqi	Obama's Af-Pak strategy: tossing away the COIN <a href="http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\30\story_30-6-2011_pg3_2">http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\06\30\story_30-6-2011_pg3_2</a>
15.	The Nation/ July 1	Muhammad Jamil	A symbolic drawdown <a href="http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/01-Jul-2011/A-symbolic-drawdown">http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/01-Jul-2011/A-symbolic-drawdown</a>

### Emerging Trends:

S. No	News Reports	No. of News Reports	Positive Trends	Negative Trends
1.	Geo-strategic issues	57	The US announced a roadmap for withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan.  A meeting attended by Pakistani, Afghan and US officials discussed the border and security issues.	Increased insurgent attacks in Afghanistan amid the plan to transfer the security responsibility from foreign troops to Afghan National Army highlighted the challenges.
2.	Bilateral relations	47	Visit of the Afghan president was an important development in the context of bilateral relations.	Due to cross-border incursions not only the number of casualties increased on both sides it could also damage the emerging conciliatory overtures between

				Pakistan and Afghanistan.
3.	Economic cooperation	8	Both countries signed new agreements for economic cooperation and development.	Incidents such as firing on Pakistani traders in Afghanistan in June could undermine bilateral economic ties and cooperation.

## **Methodology: Pak-Afghan Media Monitoring Report**

The media monitoring report is based on daily monitoring of events and developments regarding the Pakistan-Afghanistan region in the mainstream newspapers of Pakistan. Keeping in view the historical and current dynamics of relations between the two countries; four major variables have been identified for media monitoring.

### **1) Conflict Monitoring**

It involves monitoring of casualties (civilian and NATO/ISAF forces) reported by the Pakistani media in the ongoing armed conflict in Afghanistan, the nature of attacks and violent incidents, tactics of these attacks along with the geographical area where the attacks take place. The monitoring also looks at the security situation along the Pak-Afghan border. Counter-terrorism operations of NATO/ISAF as well as those jointly conducted with Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) forces are also taken into consideration. An evaluation of violent activities of militants/actors of conflict is closely scrutinized for mapping the changing security trends.

### **2) Political Developments**

This section involves political developments at the local, bilateral and geostrategic levels with a major focus on Pak-Afghan bilateral ties. Due to overwhelming involvement of regional and international stakeholders in the Afghan conflict, their political significance vis-à-vis withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, the process of reconciliation and the Pak-Afghan joint peace process hold obvious significance and are monitored.

### **3) Economy**

In this section, all media reports related to economic developments in Afghanistan as well as at the bilateral level are reviewed. The potential for bilateral trade cannot be ignored as both countries offer each other access to crucial trade and economic links and multiple promises for their people particularly in the economic and socio-cultural domains. Despite being a landlocked country, Afghanistan's geostrategic location as the doorway to the energy-rich Central Asian Republics gives it immense importance.

### **4) Media**

Through content analysis the prevailing trends of media coverage of Pakistan-Afghanistan issues are gauged. In this regard, editorials, features, news/magazine reports and op-ed pieces are regularly monitored and analyzed. The content analysis also includes a review of the topics under discussion by looking at the tone and manner in which they are presented.

## **Report Writing**

After completion of the monthly monitoring, data is tabulated within each specified area and a report is generated which involves description of major incidents and trends within each specified section during the reporting month as well as a brief analysis of emerging future scenarios. Media monitoring includes content analysis of news related to the Pak-Afghan region in Pakistani mainstream newspapers, as well as review of the tone and emphasis of the media coverage of events/developments under the different areas of focus for the monitoring.