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September 29, 2020: National / International [Current Affairs](#)

1. Army officer martyred in Shakai gun battle

- An army officer was martyred during an exchange of fire between security forces and terrorists in the Shakai area of South Waziristan tribal district on September 28, 2020 night.
 - The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that on receiving intelligence about terrorists` presence in Shakai, security forces were conducting night patrolling in the area when they came under attack.
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2. Abdullah begins visit with `constructive` talks with Qureshi

- Top Afghan peace official Abdullah Abdullah on September 28, 2020 kicked off his three-day visit aimed at seeking greater support from Pakistan with a `constructive meeting` with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.
 - Mr Abdullah soon after his arrival visited the Foreign Office for the meeting with Mr Qureshi. In his comments about the talks, the Afghan leader said he had a `constructive meeting` with Mr Qureshi during which `intra Afghan talks in Doha and strengthening bilateral relations` were discussed
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3. ADB okays \$300m policy based loan

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) September 28, 2020 approved a \$300 million policy-based loan to help strengthen Pakistan's finance sector by supporting measures to develop competitive capital markets and encourage private sector investment in the country.
 - "Capital markets act as a major catalyst in transforming the economy into a more efficient, innovative, and competitive marketplace," said ADB Senior Project Officer Sana Masood
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4. Gwadar to be linked with railway line under CPEC

- Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that a number of companies from Gulf region were interested to establish industrial units in the Gwadar Free Zone.
 - "There has been a lot of progress on free zone in the city that spanned over an area of 2400 acres where not only local and Chinese investors but those from Gulf area were also keen to set up their industries," he said in an interview with a Youtube channel
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5. Shaharyar Afridi de-notified as State Minister for Narcotics Control

- The federal government on Monday removed Shaharyar Afridi who was officiating as state minister of Narcotics Control and Safron.
 - The Cabinet Division issued the notification with the approval of Prime Minister in this regard.
 - According to the notification, "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 92 of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President, on the advice of Prime Minister has been pleased to approve de-notify the appointment of Mr Sheharyar Afridi as Minister of State for States & Frontier Regions and Narcotics Control with immediate effect." Sheharyar Afridi will continue work as Chairman Kashmir Committe
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6. US invites Iran to Afghan peace talks

- The United States has invited Iran to join the Afghan peace talks and is also willing to invest in infrastructure projects linking Central Asia to Pakistan, says Zalmay Khalilzad.

- At a Webinar in Washington this week, US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation also said that the Pakistani leadership `has been sending the right messages` for the success of Afghan peace talks.
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7. Britain to return looted 4,000-year-old plaque to Iraq

- Britain will hand back a 4,000-year-old sculpture to Iraq after an investigation found that it had been looted, the British Museum said on September 28, 2020.
 - Museum experts were called by a specialist London police unit after an online sales platform offered the artefact for sale in May last year with only limited details of its provenance.
 - Despite the online listing describing it as `a Western Asiatic Akkadian tablet` the experts determined the limestone wall plaque came from an ancient Sumerian temple dating to around 2,400 BC
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8. Moody`s downgrades Sri Lanka

- Moody`s on September 28, 2020 downgraded Sri Lanka`s sovereign credit rating by two notches, saying the South Asian nation would be hard-pressed to secure funding to service its huge foreign debt.
 - Sri Lanka was pushed down from `B2` (high credit risk) to `Caa1` (very high credit risk), as the coronavirus pandemic compounded its economic woes, Moody`s said in a statement
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9. Saudi Arabia to host first sports events for women

- Saudi Arabia will host professional golf tournaments for women for the first time ever in November at the Royal Greens Golf & Country Club in Jeddah.
 - The Saudi Ladies International will be the first Ladies European Tour (LET) event to take place in the country and will run from Nov 12-15, with a purse of \$1 million, the third highest paying event after the British and Scottish Open.
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10. Astronomers find extreme galaxy with ultraviolet luminosity

- It was found using observations made with the Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC), at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, (Garafía, La Palma, Canary Islands), and with the ATACAMA Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), in Chile.
 - The discovery was recently published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society Letters.
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