

The Hindu, 1 August 2006

### **India, Pakistan to share evidence on 7/11 blasts**

DHAKA: India and Pakistan have agreed to share information on the July 11 Mumbai blasts, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said late on Monday after a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Mohammad Khan. Asked if India had proposed a fresh set of dates for the Foreign Secretary-level talks, suspended in the wake of the blasts, Mr. Saran said: "We have agreed that we will remain in touch with each other." "On my part, I have conveyed our concerns with respect to the issue of terrorism. We have both agreed that the peace process between the two countries is important and all possible efforts should be made to see that this process is not adversely affected," he said after an hour-long meeting with Mr. Khan. Asked if Pakistan had responded to Indian concerns on terrorism, Mr. Saran said Islamabad felt it was doing everything possible to control these elements. "We have expressed our concerns [on terrorism] and we hope these will be properly addressed." Mr. Khan said he discussed everything with Mr. Saran — where the two countries stood with respect to the peace process — how they should move forward. "It was a positive, good meeting. The peace process is important for both countries and that is something I found my counterpart also believes in ... there is no other option but to pursue it.

The Hindu, 1 August 2006

### **9 SIMI men held in Jabalpur**

Jabalpur: In a major crackdown on the Students Islamic Movement of India, the police arrested nine persons here on Sunday in connection with the July 11 Mumbai blasts. "Nine SIMI activists were arrested here during a special drive carried out on the basis of information about their presence in Gohalpur and Hanumantal areas. 'Tarihik' and 'Moment' books were seized from them," City Superintendent of Police Rakesh Singh said. A mobile phone, belonging to SIMI activist Imran Ansari, who was arrested in Khandwa recently, was seized from Sarfaraz. Based on Imran's confession, the drive to nab SIMI activists was launched on Sunday evening. Mr. Singh said several people had been detained for ascertaining if they had any links with SIMI

The News, 3 August 2006

### **India accuses Bangladesh of supporting terrorists**

NEW DELHI: India has once again accused Bangladesh of letting terrorists operate from its territories. Indian minister E Ahmed, addressing the Lok Sabha (Indian parliament), said terrorists were operating against India from Bangladesh, adding that BSF had asked Bangladesh to hand over 307 most wanted criminals during a meeting between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles' director generals.

The Hindu, 4 August 2006

### **Mumbai blasts: Key LeT militant arrested in J&K**

Jammu: In a significant development in the July 11 Mumbai blasts probe, police have arrested a Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) militant, who was entrusted with the task of establishing a terror network in Mumbai, from Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said today. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Mumbai Police assisted by counter intelligence wing of J-K Police raided a hideout in Sanai Potha belt of

Surankote in Poonch district yesterday and arrested the LeT militant, identified as Abdul Hameed, they said. Soon after the arrest he was whisked away to Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC) in Poonch and was interrogated jointly by the Mumbai and J-K Police, they said. Hameed was arrested following the recovery of his identity card by the SIT from the blast site at Matunga in the city. The card was issued by a private security agency in Mumbai for which he was working as a guard, they said. When his whereabouts were verified from the security agency, he was found missing from Mumbai since the day of the blasts and had not reported for duty since then, the sources said. During preliminary investigation, security agencies found that Hameed was part of an LeT module and had been deployed in Mumbai during the past one and a half years to establish a network and accomplish the tasks of LeT, they said. Hameed had been close to the LeT “divisional commander” in Poonch, Abu Usama, and is believed to have been directly receiving instructions from top LeT leaders across the border to trigger blasts in Mumbai, they said. After seeking remand from the local court in Poonch, he will be taken in a special aircraft to Mumbai. During interrogation, Hameed has revealed some vital information regarding the Mumbai blasts and some more arrests are likely to take place in Baramulla and Poonch districts of the State, the sources said.

Daily Excelsior, 7 August 2006

### **Salahuddin warns militancy could spread to other Indian States**

Islamabad: Urging Pakistan to intervene militarily to resolve the Kashmir issue, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin asserted that no political solution was possible since India and the international community had “wasted the opportunity by not responding to (Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf’s CBMs.” “On the Kashmir issue, Islamabad cannot take a u-turn. Kashmir is an indigenous movement. Pakistan is a party to it. It is Pakistan’s responsibility to provide every kind of support to the movement-although until now it has been giving it diplomatic, moral and political support. We want Pakistan to initiate a military intervention in Kashmir,” he said, in an interview to the Friday Times from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). However, noting Pakistan had not plumped for such a step, he said it was “justified in taking that decision but Kashmiris were disgruntled with it” for not doing so. Ruling out the possibility of the issue getting resolved through talks, Salahuddin said India and the international community had “wasted the opportunity of holding a political dialogue by not responding to Gen Musharraf’s CBMs.”... “One year, five years, ten years or hundred years... Time doesn’t matter in freedom movements. India has realised that if Kashmir is not resolved soon, militancy will spiral out of Kashmir and spread to other parts of the country,” he said...

The Hindu, 8 August 2006

### **Underworld don arrested near Nepal border**

New Delhi: Fazal-ur-Rehman wanted in connection with several cases of kidnapping, was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell at Sanauli along the Indo-Nepal border on Sunday. He was wanted by the CBI and the Interpol had issued red corner notices against him. Delhi Police Commissioner K.K. Paul on Monday said they had reliable inputs indicating that Fazal, who earlier operated from Dubai for seven years, shifted his base to Malaysia and then to Nepal last year. He started operating from Nepal so that he could visit his native place at Darbhanga in Bihar by crossing the porous India -Nepal border...

The Hindu, 8 August 2006

**LeT planned to bomb Bangalore (B.S. Ramesh)**

Bangalore: While there has been speculation on whether terrorist outfits have infiltrated into Karnataka and whether threats by extremist outfits should be taken seriously, investigations by the Bangalore police have revealed the existence of Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) cadres in the State and plots by them to divide the people and the nation. The investigations have revealed that the LeT had hatched the plan to destabilise India and Bangalore in particular, at a masjid in Saudi Arabia. It was in that country that the LeT had set into motion its plan for a Jihad against India and decided to recruit people for this cause. The LeT, investigations have revealed, had “divided” Karnataka into two segments and placed two persons it had trained in sabotage, jihadi and other terrorist activities to head them. The mandate to the two modules was to attack vital scientific and economic installations and dams in the State. While Afsar Pasha was in charge of the LeT module to look after south Karnataka, Mehaboob Ibrahim Sab Chopdar Ibrahim was in charge of north Karnataka. In turn, Pasha had recruited five persons and trained them in LeT methods of sabotage...

Dawn, 8 August 2006

**Anti-India terror groups exist in Pakistan: Boucher**

New Delhi, Aug 7: The United States on Monday acknowledged that certain terrorist groups having “designs” against India still exist in Pakistan but it also expressed the hope that peace talks between the two neighbours would resume at an appropriate time anyway. US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, who had earlier said that India had no evidence to accuse Pakistan for the Mumbai blasts, said in an interaction with Indian MPs and business captains here that “things have advanced” since he made the remarks weeks ago. “We all know there is terrorism in the region. Some of terrorism is in Pakistan. Some of the groups that have designs against India still have pieces in Pakistan,” he was quoted by ZeeNews channel as saying... “I don’t see the issue of Kashmir and terrorism linked in anyway,” Mr Boucher said. “We need all to fight terrorism for variety of reasons. But it is also good to see progress made on Kashmir. We would like to see that as well.”...

The Indian Express, 10 August 2006

**Bay of Bengal countries to join hands against terror (Jayanth Jacob)**

New Delhi: The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries have decided to strengthen the fight against terrorism and transnational crimes, besides stepping up of efforts to have a free trade area for the region by early next year at the 9th ministerial meeting of the group held in New Delhi today. The group members—India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Thailand—will work together for an “across-the-board” and “comprehensive” strategy to combat terror more efficiently. The framework of the plan include sharing intelligence, greater cooperation on law enforcement issues such as having extradition treaties and combating the financing of terrorism and drug trafficking in the member countries. In fact, the BIMSTEC countries already have a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism & Trans National Crimes to tackle the problems. The 3rd meeting of the Joint Working

Group would take place in Myanmar in December 2006. The member countries, led by India, stressed the need for fighting terrorism together in the region in a more comprehensive manner...

The Hindu, 11 August 2006

**U.K. foils plot to blow up U.S.-bound planes (Hasan Suroor)**

London: Britain on Thursday went on the “highest” security alert after the discovery of an alleged terrorist plot to commit what Scotland Yard described as “mass murder on an unimaginable scale” by blowing up as many as 10 United States-bound flights originating from the United Kingdom. The plot, which might have been carried out in the next few days, was likely to have involved a “wave” of almost simultaneous attacks by detonating “sophisticated” liquid explosives smuggled into planes in hand luggage. Flights bound for major American cities, including Washington DC, were reported to have been on the terrorists’ hit list... British Home Secretary John Reid said that had the plot been executed it would have caused loss of life on an “unprecedented scale.” He complimented the MI5 and the anti-terror police on foiling it in good time... In a massive operation, 21 people were arrested and police were searching premises across the country. The names of the arrested persons were not disclosed but Mr. Reid said the “main players” were in custody...

The Hindu, 12 August 2006

**Probe into Mumbai blasts on (Prachi Pinglay)**

Mumbai: A month after serial blasts killed 187 people on Mumbai’s local trains, the police have still not revealed who was responsible for the attacks or how they were carried out, though eight persons have been arrested. The first arrests were made on July 21 when the police picked up Kamal Ahmed Mohammed Vakil Ansari and Khalid Aziz Raunak Aziz Shaikh from Madhubani district of Bihar. The third arrest was that of Mumtaz Ahmed Maqbool Ahmed Chaudhary from Navi Mumbai the same day... On July 24, Unit II of the Mumbai police Crime Branch handed over Tanvir Ansari, a Unani doctor, to the Anti-Terrorism Squad. Dr. Ansari, who works in a hospital in central Mumbai, was said to hold an important position in the terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba. On July 25, Jameer Ahmed Latif Ur Rehman Shaikh, of Mumbai, and Shaikh Sohail Mehmood, of Pune, were picked up by the Crime Branch and handed over to the ATS for formal arrests. On July 27, Mohammed Faizal Ata-Ur Rehman Shaikh, 30, and his brother Muzammil Ata-Ur Rehman Shaikh, 22, were arrested. They were alleged to be part of a large network of “like-minded people, who assembled and planted explosive devices on the trains.” After these, there have been no fresh arrests in the blasts case. All the eight are in police custody and continue to be questioned.

The Indian Express, 12 August 2006

**Al-Qaeda planning attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, US warns India (Associated Press)**

New Delhi: The US Embassy in New Delhi warned on Friday that foreign militants, possibly al-Qaeda members, may be planning to carry out bombings in India’s two major cities in the coming days. In an e-mail sent to American citizens living in India, the Embassy said New Delhi, the capital, and Bombay, the country’s financial and entertainment hub, were the likely targets, and that the attacks were believed to be

planned for either before or on Independence Day, between August 11 to August 16. The embassy confirmed that it had sent the e-mail, and the Maharashtra Chief Secretary confirmed that authorities had intelligence about a possible terror plot ahead of Independence Day. However, Chief Secretary, D K Sankaran, refused to provide additional details, saying only that “adequate security measures are being taken at sensitive installations, offices and areas.” “We have urged US citizens to keep a low profile, be alert and attentive to their surroundings,” an embassy spokesman said. The information was gathered by U.S. intelligence agencies and the embassy was working closely with the Indian government, he added. “Likely targets include major airports, key central Indian government offices, and major gathering places such as hotels and markets,” he added...

Hindustan Times, 14 August 2006

### **Al-Qaeda presence in Jammu & Kashmir detected (Press Trust of India)**

New Delhi (Aug 13): Intercepts of telecommunication messages between terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and their mentors in Pakistan suggest that cadres of foreign terrorist group Al-Qaeda were present in the Kashmir valley. Senior security officials engaged in gathering ‘techint’, or technical intelligence, in the valley said there were intercepts of communications between Lashker-e-Taiba cadres about the presence of Al-Qaeda members. The sources said while some of them were hiding in the higher reaches of Bandipore in north Kashmir along with LeT ‘chief commander’ Bilal alias Salahuddin, a few more were believed to be holed up in the dense forests of Budhal in Qazigund along the Jammu-Srinagar highway in south Kashmir. Both these locations are strategically placed as terrorists could flee to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) within a short span of time in the event of any military offensive, they said. The communications between two LeT groups in Bandipore and PoK that were intercepted were on a very low frequency transmitter, a mode of communication not generally used by terrorists. The other intercept was of a conversation on a Thuriya satellite phone, sources said. Al-Qaeda has apparently been roped in by LeT to step up militancy in the Kashmir valley, they said.

Hindustan Times, 14 August 2006

### **One more LeT module busted; 2 held (Press Trust of India)**

Mumbai (Aug 13): Mumbai Police on Sunday claimed to have busted yet another Lashkar-e-Taiba module in the city by arresting two suspected members of the terror outfit, who allegedly underwent training in Pakistan. “The duo will be interrogated to find out if they were involved in the July 11 serial blasts or know the persons who hatched the conspiracy,” a top Mumbai police official said. Police are also on the look out for three more members of the module who are at large and could prove potential danger to the law and order in the city, the official said. A LeT module, headed by Faizal Sheikh, was busted last month and five members, including Faizal, of the group were arrested in connection with the July 11 serial train blasts. The two arrested on Sunday have been identified as Shabbir Ahmed Mushiullah... and Nafiz Ahmed Jamir Ahmed Ansari (29)... were arrested by the Mumbai crime branch under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and produced in a local court, which remanded them to police custody till August 17. “Mushiullah and Ansari were dedicated members of Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), who knew of all developments about the

organisation,” a senior crime branch official said. Sources said that Mushiullah and Ansari went to Dubai in May 2003 and from there they moved to Pakistan where they are alleged to have undergone training at LeT camps for arms and ammunition handling, bomb making, etc.

The Indian Express, 14 August 2006

**These LeT men have Lucknow link (Sanjay Singh)**

Lucknow (Aug 13): Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists Abrar Ahmed alias Raj alias Isha, a native of Bahraich, and Anas alias Rizwan of Faislabad, Pakistan, who were arrested by the Delhi Police’s Special Cell on August 10, were in Lucknow on August 6. Both took a train on that day to Jammu, from where they came to Delhi last week and were arrested at the railway station with 2-kg RDX and five detonators. The two reportedly confessed that they planned to carry out strikes in Delhi before the Independence Day. Abrar’s bag containing his belongings had been lying in the cloakroom of Lucknow’s Charbagh railway station for the past six days. This morning, a Delhi Police team led by ACP Sanjeev Kumar, brought Abrar to Lucknow and seized the bag. The team found a Pakistan passport issued in the name of Rizwan, an I-card, hotel bills and Nepali currency from the bag. Besides, there were some documents that confirmed Rizwan stayed in Nepal as well, before entering into India. “Their presence in Lucknow has once again brought into focus the infiltration from the Indo-Nepal border. Police should take immediate steps to trace Abrar’s links in the city,” a senior police officer said.

The Hindu, 16 August 2006

**Lashkar-e-Taiba more organised now (Devesh K. Pandey)**

New Delhi: If revelations by the recently arrested Pakistani militant Abu Anas are anything to go by, the Lashkar-e-Taiba has now become an “organised” terrorist outfit with links in the Pakistan Army. During interrogation, Anas reportedly disclosed that as personal security guard to Zaki-ur-Rehman, second-in-command in the LeT hierarchy, he witnessed frequent meetings of his master with Pakistan Army officials and those from the Inter-Services Intelligence. “It is very natural that an outfit working in coordination with members of a disciplined force will in due course learn to function in an organised and disciplined manner. It will also be inclined to bring in some kind of an order into its functioning,” said a senior police officer...

The Indian Express, 17 August 2006

**18 SIMI activists held with ‘incriminating documents’ (Rajeev Pi)**

Kochi (Aug 16):Eighteen suspected activists of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) were today arrested from Binanipuram in Kerala’s Ernakulam district. Police said “incriminating material”, including a book printed in Pakistan, has been seized from the accused. Their interrogation has pointed to a militant network extending beyond the state, and central agencies have been alerted, police sources added. According to the sources, all the eighteen accused were working under the cover of other Muslim organisations. They were nabbed from a local auditorium while they were in the middle of a meeting. Those rounded up include the Imam of a mosque in Ernakulam and an electrical engineer from Tamil Nadu, who works as a guest lecturer in a local Muslim institute. The Imam is the local organiser of the outfit and the engineer is a former SIMI

leader with links to several militant outfits, sources revealed, adding that the remaining were students, mostly in their twenties, from central and southern Kerala districts...

The Hindu, 18 August 2006

### **Trans-Atlantic bomb plot planner was Jaish member (Praveen Swami)**

New Delhi: New evidence has emerged that Rashid Rauf, identified by Pakistani authorities as the leader of a plot to blow up at least 10 Trans-Atlantic flights, was a former member of the Jaish-e-Mohammad — an organisation that, along with the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hiz-bul Mujahideen, spearheads the jihad against India in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere. Hafiz Allah Bakhsh, father of Jaish-e-Mohammad leader Maulana Masood Azhar, told Reuters that Rauf “was a member of our group, but later he deserted and joined our rivals.” Bakhsh said Rauf left after he became increasingly interested in operations targeting the West. “Our cause is Kashmir,” Reuters quoted him as saying of Rauf’s new outfit, “while their main cause is Afghanistan. They are anti-American but we are not.” Bakhsh spoke to Reuters at what the news agency described as the “Jaish’s headquarters in Bahawalpur” — further evidence that the organisation continues to enjoy the freedom to operate openly despite having been proscribed by Pakistan in 2002... Interestingly, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which western news reports suggest may have helped funnel funds to the Trans-Atlantic bombers, also has a significant presence in Bahawalpur. Indian investigators believe several key suspects in the Mumbai serial bombings, including Rahil Sheikh, Muzammil Sheikh, Faisal Sheikh and Zabiuddin Ansari, trained at camps run near the south Punjab town by top Lashkar operative Azam Cheema...

The Indian Express, 18 August 2006

### **ISKCON blast: ‘Clues point to Manipuri outfit’**

New Delhi (Aug 17): A day after a grenade attack on the ISKCON temple in Imphal left four dead and 50 injured, police are yet identify the insurgent outfit responsible. While no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, top police officials say they have found clues which may point to the involvement of Manipuri outfits operating in the state. ISKCON international head Damodar Das was operated upon today for splinter wounds. Among the injured are foreign nationals and members of ISKCON — two Americans, one Swiss and an Irani... Police said an unexploded grenade was recovered from a mandap erected outside the temple. The attack — the first in Manipur where a crowded public place was targetted — has left a widespread feeling of indignation and outrage among the people...

Daily Excelsior, 21 August 2006

### **3 J&K ultras held in Punjab (UNI)**

Gurdaspur (Aug 20): Punjab Police have arrested three militants from a police barrier at Madhopur in the district near Jammu and Kashmir border and recovered arms and ammunition along with fake currency. Senior Superintendent of Police Paramjit Singh Umranangal said here today that the militants have been identified as Jahagir, Jahir and Israr Ahmed, all residents of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. The SSP said that police recovered two AK 47 rifles, a revolver and a pistol, four-and-a half kg of explosives, four magazines of AK 47 rifle, 106 cartridges, five detonators and Rs 1.05 lakh in fake

currency from their possession. Mr Umranangal said apart from this police also recovered two trucks, a car and a motorcycle from them. He suspect that all the militants are affiliated to Hizbul Mujahideen.

The Indian Express, 23 August 2006

**Pak national killed in Mumbai, another held on terror charge**

Mumbai (Aug 22): In an operation which started at midnight and ended early this morning, Maharashtra's Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) shot dead a suspected militant and arrested another in suburban Vadala and Antop Hill areas. Narora security breached, almost 'Jaish was planning suicide strikes in Mumbai' Bomb goes off hours before Lalu train passes KYKL denies role in ISKCON blast A new word in the lexicon, a new line of attack. Police said both were Pakistan nationals but did not say which terrorist outfit they belonged to or how their nationalities had been established. The arrested man was identified as Mohammad Riaz Nawabuddin (21) while the one who was killed was Mohammad Ali Mohammad Chirag alias Abu Osama...

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2006

**Breakthrough in Mumbai blasts; Top Pakistani militant arrested in Kashmir (Agencies)**

Srinagar (Aug 22): The Army today claimed to have achieved a major breakthrough in the Mumbai serial blast case by arresting a top Pakistani militant from South Kashmir early this morning. A Defence spokesperson said troops of 3 para (SF) noticed a person moving in suspicious manner in Nandmarg forest near Shopian in Kulgam area of South Kashmir... On sustained interrogation, the spokesperson said the person revealed his identity, as "Tohfeen Akmal Hashmi alias Abu Ahmad, a Pakistani militant." The spokesperson said Hashmi was the divisional commander of Al-Badr militant outfit in Jammu and Udhampur areas. He said Hashmi admitted to knowing the perpetrators of July 11 Mumbai serial blasts in which about 200 people were killed and about 800 injured. Hashmi revealed that 17 militants were asked to carry out the blasts in India's commercial capital. While 16 ultras returned safe, one was killed in the blast, Hashmi said... Meanwhile, militants set off an explosive device wounding a woman in North Kashmir while two constables were arrested in Handwara and Kulgam in different cases today...

Hindustan Times, 23 August 2006

**Two armed men spotted near Kakrapar atomic plant (Press Trust of India)**

Ahmedabad (Aug 22): Two armed men were spotted in the vicinity of the Kakrapar nuclear power station complex near Surat on Tuesday, triggering a massive search of the area by security forces. Villagers living near the station reported to authorities they had seen the two men in the area, following which local police and CISF troops guarding the atomic facility launched a search... Security at nuclear facilities across the country was recently stepped up following reports that terrorists could target them. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Chairman SK Jain, who is in Delhi, said the villagers had reported that two armed men were seen entering the Kakrapar station. Commandos took up positions inside the control room for the reactors while CISF troops combed the 1.6-km "exclusive zone" between the Kakrapar station's outer fence and an inner barrier around

the nuclear plants, Jain said. The plants were functioning normally, he said. "If at all they have entered the plant, they cannot do anything. The plants can withstand any conventional attack," Jain asserted...

The Indian Express, 24 August 2006

**Terror scare brings back Mumbai-bound flight, 12 arrested (ENS & Agencies)**

New Delhi/Amsterdam (Aug 23): A mid-air security scare sparked by "suspicious behaviour" of some passengers forced a Mumbai-bound flight to return to Amsterdam's Schiphol airport shortly after take-off today. Dutch police detained 12 passengers who were allegedly behaving suspiciously on the flight. Police spokesman Rob Staenacker said he could not disclose their nationalities... However, another report quoted a Dutch Defence Ministry statement, saying: "A number of them (passengers) behaved, in the opinion of the crew, in a suspicious manner. As a result, the captain asked to return to Schiphol. The customs police have taken a number of people off the plane for questioning." The Dutch National Terrorism Coordinator's Office was informed, but said there was no reason to raise the national threat level, spokesperson Judith Sluiter said...

The Hindu, 24 August 2006

**Pakistan still backs terrorism: Patil**

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that the Government was not satisfied with Pakistan's response to its concerns on cross-border terrorism. India had handed over a list of (wanted) terrorists during (the last round of) Home Secretary-level talks, but Pakistan did nothing except denying their presence there. There is also no information on Pakistan taking any steps to dismantle infrastructure of terrorism on its territory... Replying to supplementaries raised during question hour, Mr. Patil said one or two names from the list provided to Pakistan could be of those involved in the terrorist plot unveiled recently in the United Kingdom... Asked whether the Government would consider severing diplomatic ties with Pakistan, Mr. Patil said India was committed to the dialogue process. There was neither any move nor any need for taking such an extreme step. "We are unhappy, but as a mature democracy cannot take such steps that escalate the situation."... There was indication that the ISI continued to reward terrorists for attacks on security forces and political leaders. The serial grenade attacks on April 14 and July 11, 2006 in Srinagar were reportedly the result of directives received by the terrorist outfits from across the border.

The Hindu, 26 August 2006

**Home Ministry warns of terror strikes (PTI)**

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry has warned of the possibility of strikes by Pakistan-based militant groups during the 10-day Ganesh festival beginning on August 27. It has advised all States, especially Maharashtra, to ensure tight security and prepare to quell any attempt by militant groups to foment trouble. An official spokesman of the Ministry said Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh were in particular asked to be more watchful. The Ministry has ordered tight screening of Ganesh processions. Besides calling for strengthening human and technical intelligence, it said metal detectors must be installed and more security personnel deployed at important temples.

The Indian Express, 29 August 2006

**Lashkar's founder walks free after Pak court says no evidence (Press Trust Of India)**

Islamabad (Aug 28):The Lahore High Court today ordered the release of Hafeez Muhammad Saeed, founder-leader of banned militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba, on the ground that the Pakistan government had failed to provide strong reasons for his arrest. The court held that his detention was based on speculation that he could disturb peace, Saeed's lawyer Nazir Ahmad Ghazi told PTI from Lahore. Judge Akhtar Shabbir quashed the detention order, saying the government had failed to provide any proof or strong reasons for his detention. The court accepted the defence counsel's argument that Saeed had never indulged in activities to disturb peace and the government had failed to provide proof, he said... Saeed, who currently heads Jamaat-ud-Dawa, was arrested on August 10 under the Maintenance of Public Order Act on the ground that he was likely to disturb peace during his planned rally coinciding with Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14...

The Indian Express, 30 August 2006

**Lashkar founder detained again (Reuters)**

Islamabad (August 29):Pakistani authorities detained Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the founder and former leader of the Lashkar-e-Toiba an hour after he was released following a court ruling his detention was illegal, his lawyer said on Tuesday. It is a mockery of the law. It is an insult to the court. They wanted to show the court that the executive is more powerful than the judiciary, said his lawyer, Nazir Ahmed Ghazi. Saeed was first placed under house arrest on August 10. But the High Court in Lahore ordered his release on Monday, saying the government had not provided sufficient evidence to justify his detention, said Ghazi. Authorities said at the time of his original detention that they feared his activities could affect law and order but had nothing to do with an investigation into a plot foiled in London to blow up airliners over the Atlantic. Ghazi said Saeed had been taken to jail and would be held for two months, adding he said he would challenge the detention...

Assam Tribune, 30 August 2006

**Bangla providing arms to Indian ultras: BSF**

Guwahati (Aug 29): The Indian insurgent groups are not only getting shelter and training in Bangladesh, they are also getting illegal weapons, alleged the Border Security Force (BSF). The border guarding agency took up the issue with the officials of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in the meeting, which started in Shillong yesterday. BSF sources said that the BSF demanded the deportation of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) general secretary Anup Chetia and other leaders of the militant groups taking shelter in the neighbouring country. A list of the hideouts and training camps of the Indian insurgent groups in Bangladesh is also being handed over to the BDR delegation during the course of the four-day meeting. BSF sources said that there had been objections and resistance by the BDR men in the construction of border fencing and even taking up of development activities in the villages bordering Bangladesh... It may be mentioned here that from time to time, the BSF submitted lists of the camps and hideouts of the Indian insurgent groups in Bangladesh with the BDR in the review meetings, but instead of

taking action to evict the camps, the Bangladesh authorities always refused to admit the presence of the Indian militant groups in the territory of the neighbouring country.