

The New Indian Express, 1 January 2005

India-China military exercise worries Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Clearly worried about proposed joint military exercises by India and China, including those focussed on combating terrorism, a top Pakistani official has said such operations should not cross the "red lines". "Pakistan supports joint efforts to combat the scourge of international terrorism but believes that in such endeavour no red lines should be crossed," Dawn newspaper reported on Friday quoting the unnamed official. He was commenting on the reported decision by New Delhi and Beijing during Indian Army chief Gen. N.C. Vij's just concluded visit to China to undertake joint exercises that will enable them to train their personnel for joint military operations.

Daily Excelsior, 4 January 2005

Babbar Khalsa militant wanted by FBI held

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: A Babbar Khalsa militant who was involved in an assassination attempt on a senior police official in Punjab and was wanted by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for various crimes in the US has been arrested by Delhi Police. Prem Pal Singh (48), son of a former Army captain, had stayed in the US, UK, Germany and Thailand for over 16 years using fake passports, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West district) Deependra Pathak told reporters here today.

The Hindu, 8 January 2004

Punjab police takes custody of Babbar Khalsa militant (Devesh K. Pandey)

NEW DELHI, JAN. 7. A Crime Branch team of the Punjab police was here yesterday to take custody of the former Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) militant, Prem Pal Singh, arrested by the Special Staff of the South-West Delhi police on December 29, apparently to probe his suspected role in the sensational Chandigarh jailbreak by three BKI terrorists last year. Prem Pal, who was convicted for a murderous assault on the Punjab Additional Director General (Vigilance) way back in 1985, jumped parole in 1988 and fled to Thailand from where he went to Germany, the United Kingdom and then to the United States.

Daily Excelsior, 11 January 2004

'Pak rejected demand to nab Azhar'

NEW DELHI, Jan 10: Repeated demands by US FBI, the Interpol and India's CBI to nab Masood Azhar, one of the three militants released by India in return for the release of hijacked passengers of Indian Airlines' flight IC-814 in 1999, has been rejected by Pakistan, a media report said. "Nothing illustrates the clout Azhar used to enjoy more vividly than the Musharraf administration's decision to decline a request by the Interpol for taking him into custody. Interpol had been prompted to act at the behest of the US Department of Justice which wanted charges filed against him," the US-based 'South Asia Tribune', run by a Pakistani, said.

Daily Excelsior, 11 January 2004

'No point capturing Laden, terrorism will continue anyway'

PARIS, Jan 10: The capture of Osama bin Laden, head of the Al-Qaeda network, remains a major United States aim but will not be enough to end worldwide Islamic "terrorism," say politicians and specialists. "We must not suppose that the day we catch bin Laden will mean the disappearance of terrorism," said French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie. "Catching him will change nothing for world terrorism, which is to be found today in networks in a large number of countries." Bin Laden was reported to have narrowly evaded capture at Tora Bora in the Afghan mountains in December 2001.

The Hindu, 12 January 2005

Buddhadeb apprises Manmohan of security threat

KOLKATA, JAN. 11. The Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, was today apprised by the West Bengal Chief Minister, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, of the security threat to the eastern part of the country with Bangladesh being used as a springboard to foment militancy in the region. The two met at the Raj Bhavan for about an hour after Dr. Singh arrived in Kolkata on a two-day visit to the city. Mr. Bhattacharjee had, on earlier occasions, expressed concern over the activities of operatives of the Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) in the region who are alleged to be providing covert support to militant outfits such as the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) operating in parts of north Bengal and Assam. These outfits are suspected to have links with Maoist extremists in Nepal.

Daily Excelsior, 17 January 2005

FBI to seek Indian help to nab Masood Azhar

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: A team of US-based Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will arrive here shortly to gather more evidence against Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of American tourists in Jammu and Kashmir in 1995 and his links with the hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane in 1999. Official sources said the team would arrive in the national capital soon and would hold talks with CBI and collect some more evidences against the Jaish-e-Mohammed supremo, who has been reportedly lying low after the US started mounting pressure Islamabad to hand him over. The FBI team may also meet those arrested in connection with the hijacking of the IC-814 case after securing required permission from the designated court.

Daily Excelsior, 17 January 2005

HM militant nabbed in capital

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: Police have apprehended a Pakistan-trained militant of the Hizb-ul- Mujahideen from Karol Bagh area of Central Delhi. Aijaz Ahmed Farash was arrested by the sleuths of the special cell after a raid on his hideout in Regarpura area

of Karol Bagh last evening, police said. During interrogation, Farash disclosed that he joined JKLF in 1991 and took training in arms at Muzaffarabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

The Hindu, 18 January 2005

No request for extraditing Jaish leader: Pakistan (B. Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 17. Pakistan today said that there was no request from India seeking the extradition of Masood Azar, chief of the twice-banned Jaish-e-Mohammad and one of the three persons released by New Delhi in exchange for the freedom of the passengers on board the hijacked Indian Airlines in 1999. Responding to a question at the weekly briefing, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman, Masood Khan, said there was no "such request" from India. A few weeks ago Mr. Khan had asserted that India had not shared any details of the December 13, 2001, attack on its Parliament.

Daily Excelsior, 20 January 2005

Terrorist held in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 19: Barely a week before Republic Day, a terrorist was arrested tonight in the high security Connaught Place area in the heart of the Capital. The terrorist, identified as Manzoor, was arrested on a tip-off from intelligence agencies, police sources said. A loaded pistol was recovered from his possession, they said. Manzoor is suspected to belong to Al-Mansoorian outfit, a front for Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Toiba, the sources said adding this aspect was being verified with Jammu and Kashmir police. He is suspected to have been sent here to disrupt Republic Day celebrations, the sources said adding interrogation was on to ascertain his exact plans.

Daily Star, 20 January 2005

Dhaka summit to focus on trade, terrorism

The Dhaka Declaration at the 13th Saarc Summit is likely to include ways to increase regional trade through Safta and a greater focus on implementing regional projects and finding out potential areas of economic co-operation. Advisor to the Foreign ministry Reaz Rahman said this while briefing newsmen about the programme for the summit which was finalised yesterday. The Dhaka Declaration may also include ways to stop financing of terrorist activities within the region under the additional protocol on terrorism and the social charter on the rights of individuals, both signed at the 12th summit in Islamabad.

The Hindu, 22 January 2005

Alleged militant nabbed

NEW DELHI, JAN. 21. An alleged member of militant outfit Al-Umar, who was trying to set up a base in New Delhi under the garb of a shawl dealer, has been arrested by the New Delhi police. According to the police, the Army Headquarter Liaison Unit had tipped-off the New Delhi police about the presence of a militant in New Delhi following which Inspector Ishwar Singh and his team developed further intelligence. The suspect -- identified as Firdaus Ahmed Bhat alias Manzoor, a resident of Srinagar -- was arrested from Baba Kharak Singh Marg in Connaught Place on Wednesday afternoon. The police recovered a Chinese pistol of .22-bore and live cartridges from his possession. The accused has been booked under the Arms Act.

The Assam Tribune, 26 January 2005

Barbed wire fence along Tripura-Bangla border by 07

AGARTALA, Jan 25 A 736-km-long barbed wire fence would be erected along the border with Bangladesh in Tripura by 2007 to check infiltration, smuggling and movement of insurgents into the state, BSF Director General Rajsekhar Mooshahari today said. It is a well-known fact that the ultras of different outfits of the north-eastern region are using the Bangladesh soil and fencing the border would be effective in checking it... Past experiences show that the fencing yielded results, he told reporters here. Mooshahari was speaking to the press after his visit to the border areas of West Tripura district where work is on to put up the fence.