

The Hindu, 1 June 2006

India, Pakistan agree on need to tackle terrorism

ISLAMABAD: India and Pakistan on Wednesday agreed on the need to take steps for a "complete elimination" of terrorism. A joint statement at the end of the two-day talks between Union Home Secretary V.K. Duggal and Pakistan Interior Secretary Syed Kamal Shah said the two sides "reiterated their commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and re-emphasised the need for the complete elimination of this menace." It stressed the "need to pursue effective and sustained action against the terrorists."

The Indian Express, 1 June 2006

Terror bid on RSS HQ foiled

New Delhi, June 1: A major attempt to attack the RSS headquarters was foiled when three heavily-armed militants were shot dead in an encounter with the police while trying to enter the heavily-guarded sprawling premises in the wee hours on Thursday. The militants are believed to have come to Nagpur from Patna. Police suspects the militants belong to Pakistan-based Lashka-e-Toiba. Three AK-56 rifles, huge quantity of RDX and 12 hand grenades were recovered from the slain militants after the encounter that took place around 4 am about 100 metres away from the headquarters. The arms and ammunitions were being transported in computer boxes.

The Hindu, 2 June 2006

Terror strike on RSS headquarters foiled

NAGPUR/NEW DELHI: Three terrorists were shot dead on Thursday morning during an abortive attempt to storm the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh headquarters in Nagpur — the latest in escalating terror strikes across India that have brought enormous pressure to bear on the India-Pakistan détente process. Police said the terrorists attempted to drive a white Ambassador car, fitted with a red command-light, towards the building shortly before dawn. When guards at the perimeter of the three-level security cordon flagged down the car, its driver attempted to crash through the barriers. Intelligence sources in New Delhi said all three intruders were thought to be Pakistani nationals, although no detail of their identities was available. Officials noted that the attack came just a day after Union Home Secretary V.K. Duggal and his Pakistani counterpart Syed Kamal Shah met in Islamabad to discuss New Delhi's concerns over continued cross-border terrorism. Investigators believe that either the Lashkar-e-Taiba or the Jaish-e-Mohammad was most likely to have carried out the attack.

The Hindu, 7 June 2006

Kalam for integrated approach to tackle cross-border terrorism

Bangalore: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has called for an integrated approach by the Intelligence Bureau and the police for tackling cross-border terrorism. Delivering the keynote address at the 37th All-India Police Science Congress here on Tuesday, he said that in the backdrop of cross-border terrorism, the nation's capabilities such as communications, rail and business infrastructure stood exposed and vulnerable. Internal security was the foundation of national integration, and with the country passing through a crucial phase following terrorist attacks, the police had an important role to play in not only safeguarding national integrity but also contributing to the development of the country. Mr. Kalam suggested that the congress generate an action plan for the progressive introduction of ICT (information and communication technology) in police forces and the establishment of an e-governance system for the police.

Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2006

Jihadi leaders roaming free in Pak: Saran

ISLAMABAD, June 7: Noting that Pakistan is not trying to control 'jihadi' leaders roaming free on its soil, India has said that confidence between the two countries cannot be built in such circumstances. "The Pakistani Government is not trying to control them, so how confidence can come in these circumstances?", Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran was quoted as telling a group of Pakistani journalists currently on a goodwill visit to India. His remarks came as Pakistan said the two countries should go beyond confidence-building measures to address contentious issues, including the Kashmir problem.

The Hindu, 9 June 2006

Top Al Qaeda leader in Iraq killed

DUBAI: The Jordanian-born wanted militant Abu Musab Al Zarqawi has been killed in an air strike near Baquba in central Iraq. Al Zarqawi, who was known as the Al Qaeda leader in Iraq, died 10 minutes after a safe house where he was confabulating with his group was attacked. Along with Al Zarqawi, his spiritual adviser, Sheikh Abdul

Rahman, was also killed. F-16 fighter jets were used in the strike and two 500-pound bombs were dropped at the site. Al Qaeda in Iraq has been blamed for a spate of attacks on Shias, kidnappings and beheadings of foreigners. Al Zarqawi had also been accused of masterminding suicide bombings last November that targeted three upscale hotels in the Jordanian capital, Amman, resulting in 60 deaths. The US ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad described Al Zarqawi's killing a "great success." He, however, acknowledged that Al Zarqawi's death would not end violence in the country. There is speculation that the Egyptian born Abu Al Masri could succeed Al Zarqawi as the head of the Al Qaeda in Iraq.

Daily Excelsior, 13 June 2006

One killed, 29 injured in 3 blasts at Bus Stand

JAMMU, June 12: A civilian was killed and 29 others including an Amarnath bound female pilgrim from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, were injured when militants lobbed three grenades in quick succession at General Bus Stand this morning. The militants, who were believed to be at least two in numbers, managed to escape after throwing the grenades in a time span of one and a half minutes on Banihal route buses from atop roof of a hotel and shops near Shiv Mandir overlooking Banihal route bus stand, few meters short of an overhead bridge connecting Bus Stand with Hari Market. No arrests have been made so far. Searches were, however, being conducted to apprehend the militants and their harbourers.

The Hindu, 15 June 2006

Over 30 dead, 40 hurt in claymore blast in Sri Lanka

Colombo, June. 15 At least 30 civilians were killed and 40 others injured in a powerful claymore blast, which hit a passenger bus, triggered by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka's north-central Anuradhapura district on Thursday morning, the Army said. We still do not know the exact number of persons killed as the bodies are in pieces. The bus was toppled and completely damaged. The number of fatalities could be at least between 30 and 35 innocent civilians, including women, Prasad Samarasinghe, the military spokesperson, told The Hindu. The powerful claymore blast was triggered around 7.40 a.m. on Thursday. This is the biggest civilian target by the LTTE since the signing of the February 2002 ceasefire agreement.

The Hindu, 16 June 2006

Sri Lankan Air Force continues 'deterrent strikes' in rebel areas

Colombo: June. 16 The Sri Lankan Air Force continued with its "deterrent strikes" in rebel-held north and east for the second day on Friday morning. They took two or three targets. These are limited operations, the military spokesperson, Prasad Samarasinghe told The Hindu. He declined to specify the locations. "All I can say is that they are in the north and east," he said. There were no figures on casualties. The "deterrent strikes" were launched by the Sri Lankan security forces on Thursday after a claymore mine explosion, suspected to be triggered by the LTTE which killed 64 civilians and wounded 84 others in north-central Anuradhapura district. The facilitator for the Sri Lankan peace process, Norway, said it "condemns in the strongest terms the most recent incidents of violence in Sri Lanka." A total of 519 people have been killed since December 2005, including Muslims, Sinhalese and Tamils, the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. It said the continued attacks on civilians "are exacerbating the already critical situation in Sri Lanka." Thursday's violence, Oslo said, took "violence in Sri Lanka to a new level." It did not name the LTTE, but described the claymore attack as "the bloodiest attack on civilians since the parties to the peace process in Sri Lanka signed the ceasefire agreement in 2002." Calling for an "immediate halt of all violence in Sri Lanka," the Norwegian Minister for International Development, Erik Solheim, said "a spiral of worsening violence, which is bringing Sri Lanka towards full civil war."

The Hindu, 20 June 2006

Bomb explodes in train

LUCKNOW: A crude bomb went off and three more live explosives were found in the Mathura Express when it stopped at the Charbagh railway station here on Sunday night, police said on Monday.

Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2006

Pakistan exporting terror: Duggal

SRINAGAR, June 23: India today decried the continuing export of terrorism by Pakistan and the presence of terrorist training camps on its territory while reaffirming New Delhi's resolve to continue dialogue with Islamabad within the composite dialogue framework encompassing many Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

"Unfortunately, infiltration continues from across the border where terrorist outfits and training camps are still

functional. Despite Pakistan having given a written commitment not to allow its territory to be used for any terrorist activity, the implementation and situation on the ground leaves much to be desired," Union Home Secretary V K Duggal today said while addressing the Editors Conference on social infrastructure focusing on Jammu and Kashmir here. "There is little evidence to prove that the terrorist infrastructure on the other side is being dismantled," he added. He said bilateral relations with Pakistan cannot move forward at the desired pace unless it immediately puts an end to its territory being used by terrorists or their supporters in any manner. The Home Secretary reiterated that diplomatic efforts like the dialogue process with Islamabad as well as Confidence Building Measures would continue.

The Hindu, 28 June 2006

Rajiv assassination

NEW DELHI: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has said that it deeply regretted the May 21, 1991 assassination of the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and described it as a "monumental historical tragedy." Anton Balasingham, LTTE's chief negotiator and ideologue, told NDTV: "As far as that event [Rajiv assassination] is concerned, I would say it is a great tragedy, a monumental historical tragedy for which we deeply regret and we call upon the Government of India and the people of India to be magnanimous to put the past behind and to approach the ethnic question in a different perspective." Mr. Balasingham said the LTTE was prepared to build a new understanding with India provided New Delhi made a "positive gesture" towards the Tigers. Mr. Balasingham's remarks come at a time when the European Union has banned the LTTE and the Tigers have themselves undermined Norway's role as facilitator

Daily News, 30 June 2006

Tigers stand self-condemned, says Dr Kaarthykeyan

NEW DELHI: It took 15 long years for one of the world's most dreaded terrorist groups - the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to come out with the truth on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991. In an interview to a private television channel, chief negotiator of the LTTE Anton Balasingham "deeply regretted the monumental historical tragedy" and pledged never to do anything or act anything inimical to the geopolitical interests of India. For DR Kaarthykeyan, former CBI Director and head of the Special Investigation Team that probed the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, it amounts to clear and definite confession on behalf of LTTE, thus confirming that his findings in the case were/are absolutely correct.