

The Hindu, 3 March 2008

Fresh violence in Nandigram

KOLKATA: After more than three months of relative calm, fresh violence erupted in Nandigram area of West Bengal's Purbo Medinipur district on Sunday when activists of the Trinamool Congress-led Bhoomi Ucched Pratirodh Committee clashed with Communist Party of India (Marxist) workers

The Hindu, 8 March 2008

Jihad in the cyber city

BANGALORE: If Bangalore needed a face to advertise the new India it represents, it needn't have looked further than Shibly Peedicaal Abdul. From small-town origins in Kerala, Abdul built a successful career at a multinational and even set up his own firm. Now, though, he is one of India's top terrorists: a key player in the Students Islamic Movement of India-linked networks that have carried out a string of terror strikes across southern India since 2003

The Hindu, 9 March 2008

The jihad in "God's Own Country"

Kerala jihadists, with their close link to the worldwide Salafi-jihadi movement, claim their struggle forms part of the same tradition. Kerala's government is alive to the threat. Last year, clashes between Islamists and Hindu fundamentalists in Malappuram led police to make several hundred arrests. But the resilience of SIMI's networks shows no quick-fix solution exists to the growing problem

The Asian Age, 10 March 2008

OPINION: The many sides of Deoband message (Inder Malhotra)

Deoband's highly respected Islamic seminary, Darul Uloom, was, in every respect, the appropriate venue for the first All-India Anti-Terrorist Conference, organised by the Islamic Madrasas Association, at which 6,000 madrasas (traditional Islamic schools) were represented. The message emanating from it has deservedly received wide welcome, though there have also been several reservations about, and objections to, the Deoband Declaration. Of these only a few can be adjudged to be valid

The Asian Age, 10 March 2008

Kerala cops trace another boat for LTTE

Munabam (Kerala), March 9: Kerala has come under the scanner of the security agencies of the state and Central governments, with the state police coming across another boat being built for the LTTE at Kodungalloor in Thrissur district. The boat, being built at St. Sebastian Marine Industries at Kodungalloor, is much larger and more sophisticated than the one which was being built for the Tigers and seized by the Tamil Nadu police from Munambam last week

The Indian Express, 12 March 2008

Terror insurance gaining ground in Varanasi

Lucknow, March 11: Owner of a mall at Sankara area in Varanasi, Manish Talwar has opted for a policy that offers cover in case of a terror attack. "This was something long

overdue. Varanasi has witnessed riots, strikes and terror attacks. The twin blasts at Sankatmochan Mandir and Railway Station in 2006 had created a scare among people" said Manish. He is not alone, sources said 15 establishments in Varanasi have opted for the terrorism cover

The Asian Age, 12 March 2008

Antony warns against sea terror attacks

New Delhi, March 11: Defence minister A.K. Antony on Tuesday warned against dangers of terror attacks from the sea in the region and called for greater international vigil to ward off these threats. The region already faced a menace from sea pirates and the terror threat had dimensions of bringing in non-state actors as well as agents of transitional crimes, Mr Antony said while inaugurating an "international maritime search and rescue conference (IMSARCON) 2008" here

The Hindu, 13 March 2008

"Ultras were on terror mission"

MUMBAI: The two suspected terrorists of Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HuJI), shot dead by the police here on Tuesday night, possessed two kg of RDX, enough to trigger serial blasts in six places. The encounter occurred on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the March 12, 1993 terror attacks. The terrorists were gunned down at Kashimira off Mira Road in Thane district in a joint operation by the Pune and Mumbai units of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of the Maharashtra police

Times of India, 19 March 2008

'SIMI activists were planning serial blasts'

NEW DELHI: The Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) ' whose ban was extended for another two years by the Centre last month ' and its associates were planning serial blasts in the country, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. "While there is no present input indicating any specific plans of SIMI to attack important installation, one arrested person disclosed that he along with his SIMI associates were planning to commit serial blasts and other serious offences," minister of state for home Sriprakash Jaiswal said in a written reply

Hindu, 21 March 2008

The distant war in the neighbourhood (Praveen Swami)

Governments across Central and South Asia are profoundly concerned about the growing influence of Islamist movements and their terrorist offshoots - problems which, in India, are often incorrectly understood as responses to local events...Pakistan's continuing ideological and military crisis, as well as the resurgence of the Islamists in Afghanistan, will thus impact not just these states or India. It will, instead, contribute to the shaping of a wider regional destiny. Despite this, the conflict in Central Asia is little understood - and even less reported on - in India

Hindu, 22 March 2008

China's mid-air terror trail leads to Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Investigations into the attempted mid-air bombing of a Chinese airliner on

March 7 has thrown up evidence that a Pakistan-based Islamist terror group may have aided its perpetrators. Wire service reports citing Chinese civil aviation sources say the two terrorists who attempted to blow up the China Southern flight CZ6901 from Urumqi to Beijing carried Pakistani passports, although their nationality still remains undetermined. A third member of the cell, believed to be a Pakistani national, is reported to have escaped

Hindu, 23 March 2008

Bangladeshis held in Bangalore

Bangalore: The Bangalore police on Saturday arrested a Bangladeshi, said to be an associate of the two suspected militants gunned down by the Mumbai police on March 11, and seized fake Indian currency notes printed abroad from him. Based on his information, 15 more Bangladeshis, including four women, were arrested.

Asian Age, 23 March 2008

'I had no idea about Jaswant's journey'

New Delhi, March 22: As the 1999 Kandahar hijack drama continued to hound the BJP, the saffron party's prime ministerial nominee L.K. Advani has said he had no idea that the then foreign minister Jaswant Singh was accompanying the terrorists on the flight to the Afghan town. The BJP-led NDA government had to release three terrorists in return for the safety of the 160-odd Indian Airlines passengers held hostage on board the IC 814 airplane in December 1999

Indian Express, 24 March 2008

I didn't know Jaswant would go with terrorists to Kandahar... he must have asked Atal: Advani

NEW DELHI, MARCH 23: BJP leader L K Advani has said that he was against the decision to free terrorists in return for the passengers of the hijacked flight IC-814 in 1999. But what's more startling is that Advani says he had nothing to do with the decision to send Jaswant Singh with the terrorists to Kandahar. In fact, Advani, who was then the Home Minister, claims he didn't even know that Jaswant Singh was going until after the decision was taken

Hindu, 26 March 2008

Terror infrastructure in Pakistan intact: Ministry

NEW DELHI: Terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) remain largely intact and continues to be used by Pakistan-based and Inter-Services Intelligence sponsored outfits such as the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Al-Badr for carrying out acts of terror in different parts of India. The Pakistan-based terrorist outfits are well organised, interlinked and have the latest hardware and communication equipment, warns the latest status paper on internal security, prepared by the Home Ministry

Indian Express, 27 March 2008

ISI still training militants, attacks will continue: NSA

New Delhi, March 26: National Security Advisor M K Narayanan on Wednesday said

that attacks on India from Pakistani soil would continue, as the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) continues to train militant groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. "We see no change in the attitude of ISI to mentor terrorist activities of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. Attacks on India from the soil of Pakistan will continue," he said

Times of India, 28 March 2008

SIMI planned attacks in Mumbai, Bangalore

NEW DELHI/INDORE: Former SIMI chief Safdar Nagori and 12 other leaders of the banned outfit arrested on Thursday were planning major terror strikes in Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and tourist spots in Goa, Home Ministry sources said. Mumbai was chosen by SIMI because it is the commercial hub and the other three cities since they were frequented by foreigners in large numbers, the sources said in Delhi

Hindu, 29 March 2008

SIMI investigators focus on missing terror links

SIMI investigators focus on missing terror links NEW DELHI: Intelligence and police officials say the interrogation of the top jihadist ideologue and organiser Safdar Nagori could help to trace missing links in investigations of at least half a dozen major terrorist operations since 2003. On Friday, he was remanded to police custody for two weeks

Indian Express, 30 March 2008

'Held SIMI chief claimed links with Mullah Omar'

Bangalore, March 29 :In January this year, following his chance arrest in the Hubli region of Karnataka, Raziuddin Nasir, 21, a Hyderabad resident and a suspected terror operative, began dropping the names of several key fugitive terrorist leaders from around the world. Lashkar founder says he's banned from going to PoKRailway stations on high alert after terrorist threats SIMI leaders remanded in police custody till April 11 SIMI chief among 13 held in Madhya Pradesh crackdown13 top leaders of banned SIMI arrested

Times of India, 30 March 2008

Post merger with Lashkar, Dawood's men change sect

MUMBAI: Intelligence agencies who have discovered the close synergy between the Dawood Ibrahim gang and the ISI-backed Lashkar-e-Toiba say that consequent to the "merger" with the jihadi group, most members of the underworld outfit have embraced the Ahle Hadees sect. "We are not saying that all Ahle Hadees adherents are terrorists or D-Company members. But it is a fact that now an overwhelming number of Dawood's gang members subscribe to the Ahled Hadees sect," a senior security official told TOI on Friday. The Times of India had on March 28 reported how the D-gang is now a part of LeT

Hindu, 31 March 2008

A jihad on the edge of an abyss (Praveen Swami)

When he found himself staring at the barrel of his bodyguard's assault rifle, Nasir Ahmad Bhat realised the time had come to give up the fight. Since late last year, the Hizb ul-Mujahideen's supreme commander in Jammu and Kashmir has been living in a safehouse

outside Srinagar, under the secret protection of the State government

Indian Express, 31 March 2008

SIMI men were planning to target Advani, Modi: police

NEW DELHI, MARCH 30 : Activists of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), arrested by the Madhya Pradesh police last Thursday, have told police that they planned to target top BJP leaders, including L K Advani and Narendra Modi, because they believed these leaders were linked to the destruction of the Babri Masjid and the post-Godhra riots

Times of India, 31 March 2008

Bangladeshi with alleged link to HuJI held in Agartala

AGARTALA: A Bangladeshi national suspected to have links with terrorist organisation HuJI has been arrested here on charges of indulging in anti-India activities and arms trafficking, police said on Monday