

The Hindu, 2 November 2004

Bitta alerts on jailed terrorist

JAIPUR, NOV. 1. The president of the All India Anti-Terrorist Front, Maninderjit Singh Bitta, today urged the Rajasthan Government to be alert in the incarceration of the dreaded Punjab militant, Daya Singh Lahoria, who was recently awarded life sentence for kidnapping the son of the Congress leader, Ramniwas Mirdha, in 1995, in view of his new associations coming to light. Mr. Bitta said the self-styled chief of Khalistan Liberation Force, Harnek Singh, arrested in Punjab in August had revealed that he too was involved in the kidnapping to secure the release of their accomplice, Davinder Pal Singh Bhullar. Talking to reporters here, Mr. Bitta demanded that Lahoria be tried again as an accused in the case relating to the bomb attack on him. Mr. Bitta, who is the former president of Indian Youth Congress, pointed out that the accomplices of Lahoria might make an attempt to get him freed from prison.

New Indian Express, 2 November 2004

Dhaka hears out Delhi, but says no terror camps

NEW DELHI: Efforts to get Bangladesh to pay more attention to the North-East insurgent camps in its territory drew much the same response from Dhaka, which repeated its assurance but refused to acknowledge the presence of any such terrorist infrastructure on its soil. In the first high-level interaction between the two countries since the devastating October 2 blasts in the North-East that left over 60 people dead, visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan assured India that it was committed "not to allow the use of its territory for activities prejudicial to Indian interests". Unlike Myanmar where the administration does not deny the presence of such camps, Bangladesh refuses to share the Indian assessment and, in fact, maintains that the list of 193 camps provided by New Delhi did not exist. Some of them, it says, are BDR camps while the rest could not be found.

Daily Excelsior, 2 November 2004

Al-Libby takes over Al-Qaeda command

NEW DELHI, Nov 1: North African Abu Araj-al-Libby, described as more dangerous than terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and his deputy Al-Zawahiri, has taken over the command of Al-Qaeda operations worldwide, especially in the United States and the United Kingdom. According to Pakistan's leading news magazine 'Newsline', intelligence agencies have identified Abu Faraj-al-Libby as the man in charge of Al-Qaeda operations, but finding him is not going to be easy. He is believed to be coordinating Al-Qaeda cells worldwide to carry out terrorist activities, particularly in the US and the UK. The debriefing of several dozen militants captured in Pakistan has resulted in identifying Abu-Faraj-al-Libby. At least two or three UK-based militants are believed to have travelled to Pakistan and held meetings with Al-Libby to finalise these attacks, the Magazine said. The Pakistan Interior Ministry has announced a reward of 20 million rupees for information leading to the capture of Al-Libby, meaning "father of Faraj from Libya."

The Hindu, 3 November 2004

LeT operative remanded

AHMEDABAD, NOV. 2. Moulana Nasiruddin, an alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba operative, who was handed over to the city crime branch by the Hyderabad police on Monday, was remanded to seven days police custody by a special POTA court here today. D.G. Vanzara, Additional Commissioner (crime branch), said Nasiruddin was the mastermind of the murder of the former Gujarat Minister, Haren Pandya.

The Hindu, 6 November 2004

Terrorism, still the primary security concern: report

NEW DELHI, NOV. 5. Terrorism continues to be India's primary and most immediate security concern, according to the annual report of the Defence Ministry for 2003-2004 released here today. The principal threat to peace and stability in the region remains fundamentalism and terrorism and the "ingrained adventurism of a section of the Pakistan military". The terrorism faced by India is typically cross-border and State-sponsored. According to the Ministry, diplomacy remains India's chosen means of dealing with these challenges, but effective diplomacy has to be backed by credible military power.

The Times of India, 6 November 2004

3 blasts in Hyderabad, cops still clueless

HYDERABAD: Three blasts in quick succession in recent days, one at Kukatpally, another at Saroonagar and the third at the Kalanjali handicrafts showroom bang opposite the Police Control Room on Thursday night— have made the police sit bolt upright. The fact that the sa-boteurs left no tangible clues for the police to work on is causing the latter worry. Investigators said the three blasts may have been meant as an intimidating tactic rather than one meant to cause injuries. "In all the three blasts—including the two on board college buses in the last one week—it is clear that the objective was not to take lives but only to scare someone," a senior police officer told TNN.

The Assam Tribune, 10 November 2004

NE conflicts figure in Colombo meet (Kalyan Barooah)

COLOMBO, Nov 9 Illegal influx from Bangladesh afflicting the North Eastern Region (NER) and its long isolation were identified as major problems for the region having a direct bearing on the insurgency situation. This was part of the Colombo Declaration of the South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) Regional Conference on Intra-State Conflicts in South Asia that concluded here. The Conference saw deficit of news coverage of the Region in the Indian national media. Media people from across the South Asian Region hailing from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka met for two days to

deliberate on the problems affecting the Region ranging from Maoist violence to problem of insurgency in the North-east and seccatarian violence in Pakistan, evaluating the role played by the media in highlighting those problems.

The Hindu, 13 November 2004

Blasts keep policemen on tenterhooks

HYDERABAD, NOV. 12. The string of mysterious blasts that have been rocking the State capital and its fringes for the last couple of weeks continued as one more explosion ripped through a private school bus parked near Jamai-Osmania railway station here early on Friday. Three other college buses parked near the Vignan school bus were also partially damaged. Mahipal, a cleaner of the blasted bus, injured himself after he stepped on shards of glass while scurrying out immediately after the bus blast.

Daily Exceslior, 20 November 2004

'Be alert to ISI threat'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Nov 19: A top army official in charge of the Southern states today said ISI in collusion with fundamentalists and anti-national elements were likely to create problems in the hinterland areas of the country and states like Kerala could no longer afford to ignore the threat. Activities of ISI were assuming 'disproportionate dimensions' and this coupled with increasing nexus between fundamentalists and criminal fringe elements was likely to create problems in the hinterland areas, Major General Paramjit Singh, General officer Commanding for Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka said here.

The Hindu, 22 November 2004

West Bengal steps up offensive against militants (Marcus Dam)

KOLKATA, NOV. 21. Four companies of the India Reserve Battalion, specially trained to counter militancy in West Bengal, are being deployed in the three south-western districts where the Peoples' War (PW) which recently merged with the Maoist Communist Centre has a presence. This is part of a move by the State Government to step up the offensive against militants in the region.

The New Indian Express, 23 November 2004

Terror threat: US consulate, American centre in Mumbai closed

WASHINGTON: The United States closed its consular office and the American Centre in India's commercial hub Mumbai on Tuesday and warned its citizens to take extra vigilance in view of a terror threat, a US official said. "The (US diplomatic) message encourages American citizens in Mumbai's consular areas to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase security," US Embassy spokesman David Kennedy told Reuters. "We take the threat seriously enough."

Southasianmedia.net, 23 November 2004

'B'desh not helping India fight militants'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Monday that Bangladesh has not agreed to help fight militants accused of launching regular attacks against Indian military and civilian targets from its territory. Delhi claims that dozens of Indian rebel groups are based across the hilly border in Bangladesh, where they run training camps and organize attacks. But Bangladesh denies there are rebels on its soil, and has not taken military action like the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, where a Royal Bhutanese Army offensive in December last year wiped out dozens of rebel camps.

The New Indian Express, 30 November 2004

India-Israel terrorism panel begins three-day meet

NEW DELHI: India and Israel on Monday started three days of deliberations here on steps to enhance cooperation bilaterally and internationally in the fight against terrorism. Officials and experts from the two countries, which see themselves as victims of terrorism, are meeting under the aegis of the Joint Working Group on Terrorism set up to promote cooperation in the fight against the global menace. The three-day meeting is the fourth in the series and the second this year, the last having been held in Jerusalem in March.