

The Hindu, 1 October 2006

**ISI hand in 7/11 Mumbai blasts, say police**

MUMBAI: The Mumbai police have concluded from their investigations into the July 11 serial train blasts that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) conceived the terror attack. It was planned and executed through terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad, which in turn used the now banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and their own modules, Police Commissioner of Mumbai, A.N. Roy told the media on Saturday. Mr. Roy said the Mumbai Police and the Anti-Terrorist Squad solved the conspiracy of the terror attack in which 181 people died and over 700 were injured. Fifteen people were arrested, of whom 12 were directly involved in the blasts. He said the investigators were yet to find concrete evidence against the remaining three, who could be released if found to be not involved. But the investigation was still on, and more details were to be established...

The Hindu, 4 October 2006

**India to give names of terror suspects to Pakistan**

India will shortly present to Pakistan the names of its nationals suspected to be involved in the deadly Mumbai blasts along with related evidence through the joint anti-terror mechanism recently agreed upon, highly placed sources said here today. As many as 11 Pakistani nationals were directly involved in the serial blasts on July 11 in which nearly 200 people died, according to the Mumbai police which said that the attacks were planned by ISI in Pakistan and carried out by Lashkar-e-Toiba with the help of the banned Islamic Students Movement of India (SIMI). Two of the Pakistanis involved are dead but the remaining are believed to have escaped to their country or could be hiding in India. LeT's commander in Pakistan's Bahawalpur district, Azam Cheema is suspected to be the brain behind the conspiracy...

The Indian Express, 5 October 2006

**Day after PM signal to Pak, Govt sits down with 7/11 homework**

A day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Pakistan has to 'walk the talk' on terror, Home Secretary V K Duggal today shared information on the Mumbai investigations with Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon. Both also discussed the contours of the proposed Indo-Pak anti-terror mechanism and the manner in which it can be made an effective forum on dealing with terror suspects in Pakistan. Ahead of the 45-minute meeting, Mumbai Police Commissioner A N Roy and ATS Chief K P Raghuvanshi briefed Duggal on the investigations so far. Sources said they had brought with them details on the disclosures made by Kamal Ansari and other accused in the 7/11 Mumbai blasts...

Hindustan Times, 7 October 2006

**India gives US 11/7 evidence (Nilova Roy Chaudhury)**

India has shared all the evidence collected of Pakistani involvement in the July 11 Mumbai serial blasts with the United States. The US Ambassador to India, David C Mulford, on Friday said, "We had discussions on the evidence and other aspects of the incident." Mulford said India shared evidence of the involvement of the Pakistani spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence and Lashkar-e-Taiba in the blasts which killed 192

people. India is also planning to present the evidence to Pakistan under the joint anti-terror mechanism agreed to by the two countries...

Hindustan Times, 9 October 2006

### **11/7 brain admits to plotting abortive hit on Modi**

Mumbai, October 8: In his confession to police, a copy of which was made available to the Hindustan Times, Faisal Sheikh, the suspected mastermind behind the July 11 Mumbai blasts, has admitted to having planned the failed assassination attempt on Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as well. The plan was foiled by Ahmedabad police, which shot dead the four would-be assassins " including Ishrat Jahan, a 19-year-old BSc student from Mumbra, Mumbai " on June 16, 2004. The 31-year-old engineering dropout, said to be a senior Lashkar-e-Taeba (LeT) operative, told his interrogators: " From 2001, when I returned from Bahawalpur in Pakistan after being personally recruited and trained by the LeT's 'India commander' Azam Cheema, I did everything Babaji (as the 53-year-old Cheema is called by his recruits) wanted." ...

Indian Express, 14 October 2006

### **For Mumbai cops, Pak link lies in phone call, dialect**

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13: The contents of the Pakistan dossier prepared by the Anti-terrorist Squad (ATS) may be a bit thin on specific evidence on the 7/11 blasts but it has details on the Pakistani operatives who crossed over to conduct operations. Three detainees free after Mumbai ATS admits it has no evidence '93: 4 more convicted  
Relatives of 7/11 accused allege torture, probe ordered 7/11: London cops to take lessons on probe  
Accused go back on confession. Police commissioner A N Roy and ATS chief K Raghuvanshi have already briefed the Central government about the Pakistani involvement. However, they have not submitted any documentary evidence or dossier yet. The investigation into the 7/11 blasts, which were initially perceived to be purely the handiwork of locals, changed course after the arrest of Kamal Ansari from Madhubani in Bihar on July 21...

Daily Excelsior, 18 October 2006

### **Pak sponsored anti-India terror unabated: JJ Singh (UNI)**

New Delhi (Oct 17): Even as India and Pakistan today announced resumption of their composite dialogue aimed at restoring peace and tranquility between the two, Army chief Gen JJ Singh maintained that Pak-sponsored anti-India activities continued unabated with the terror training-infrastructure across the border intact. Briefing media persons at the conclusion of the Army commanders "conference here, Gen Singh" while reiterating the charge against Pakistan " pointed to the continuing anti-India terrorism within the country " though he admitted to the frequency having gone down as compared to previous years. The Army chief said infiltration from across the Western borders continued, though through areas other than the traditional Jammu & Kashmir. "Now terrorists are getting in through Rajasthan and our neighbouring Nepal and Bangladesh...." New Delhi and Islamabad today announced dates for Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two neighbours "from November 13 to 15 in New Delhi" marking the resumption of the composite dialogue between the two countries that was stalled after the July 11 serial blasts in Mumbai that claimed more than 180 lives...

Daily Excelsior, 19 October 2006

**Terrorism principal challenge to national security: PM**

New Delhi (Oct 18): Terming terrorism as principal challenge to national security, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today told armed forces to upgrade its terrorism fighting capabilities as well as step up surveillance and interdiction system. Maintaining that the threat of terrorism was international, he said India would have to reorient its strategic thought to combat the scourge by re-working its relations with major powers as well as in the country's immediate neighbourhood. "Terrorists are becoming increasingly sophisticated in the way they deal with death and destruction. Thus, there is a need to upgrade our capabilities, which have traditionally been geared to conventional threats". Calling for developing a national security strategy, the Prime Minister said the policy to deal with terrorist threats, could not be restricted only to preparators of terrorist acts, but should also seek to modify the behaviour of the States where terrorists find safe haven, sanctuary and material sustenance. Mentioning Pakistan in this regard, the Prime Minister said New Delhi had put Islamabad "on notice" that any democratic Government in India would find it difficult to continue on its present path of addressing all outstanding issue unless the Government of Pakistan clearly deals with the issue of terrorism...

The Hindu, 19 October 2006

**BSF, BDR exchange fire**

Kolkata: A 27-year-old Indian was shot dead allegedly by a border guard of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in north Bengal even as the Border Security Force and the BDR exchanged fire in the southern part of West Bengal on Wednesday. A woman and a youth working on a field on the Indian side were injured in the exchange of fire in the Chohotia border outpost area in North 24 Parganas district at 11.40 a.m. The exchange lasted nearly an hour, a senior BSF official told The Hindu. "Unprovoked" firing of nearly 700 rounds by the BDR triggered the exchange, the BSF retaliating with around 200 rounds, the official said. This year more than 15 exchanges of fire occurred in the sector, some a sequel to attempts by BSF jawans to check the movement of cattle smugglers into the country, he added. A flag meeting was held in the afternoon. BSF authorities expressed concern over the "unprovoked and heavy firing by the BDR," the official said. Around the same time of the exchange of fire, the BDR guard allegedly entered the Indian side in the Hili thana area of South Dinajpur and shot at a private tutor from point blank range. He died on way to hospital. Authorities in the BSF's Malda sector said a "strong protest was lodged with the BDR's 14th Battalion in connection with the incident." A cap, presumed to belong to the BDR guard, was recovered from the spot, according to the district police.

The Hindu, 19 October 2006

**Lashkar-e-Taiba founder released (Nirupama Subramanian)**

Islamabad: Lashkar-e-Taiba founder and leader of Jamaat-ud-daawa (JuD) Hafiz Saeed, was released early on Wednesday after 71 days in detention. Immediately after his release, he described India as Pakistan's "eternal enemy" and criticised the Government for buckling under Indian pressure to detain him. The controversial JuD chief was first detained on August 9, ordered freed by the Lahore High Court on August 28 but rearrested the same day. The court struck down his detention on Tuesday for the second

time, saying the Punjab Government had violated the Constitution in not serving detention orders to the accused at the time he was detained, and in not telling him the charges against him... While freeing Mr. Saeed, the judge made caustic remarks on the grounds of the detention, observing it was not a crime to raise funds for "Muslim brothers," and that to say he had to be detained because he was endangering foreign relations was tantamount to suggesting the judiciary could be pressured by other countries.

The Hindu, 20 October 2006

**Bangladesh, a launching pad for terrorists: M.K. Narayanan**

Bangalore: National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan on Thursday said India regarded Bangladesh as a "sanctuary" for terrorists and also a "launching pad" for them into India. "We are in touch with the Bangladesh Government on the issue and I think the cooperation is not as forthcoming as it should be," Mr. Narayanan told presspersons here after addressing a meeting of senior police officials of the State on the national security scenario. Mr. Narayanan said as India wanted to maintain friendly relations with its neighbours, it would continue dialogue and persuasion with Bangladesh. He said apart from Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives, leaders of several militant outfits operating in the North-East, such as Paresh Barua, were living in Bangladesh and aiding terrorism...

The Indian Express, 20 October 2006

**As India readies Pak terror dossier, CIA team on its way to take stock (Pranab Dhal Samanta)**

New Delhi (Oct 19): As India prepares a dossier on terror to share with Pakistan in an effort to take forward the Havana understanding, a top CIA team, headed by its Deputy Director of Intelligence Carmen Medina, is coming here next week to discuss the terror situation in India following the Mumbai train blasts as well as the the Pakistan linkage. Sources said both sides will also discuss the security situation in Afghanistan. It's learnt that Medina is being accompanied by Nancy Powell, who is the intelligence officer in-charge of South Asia in the National Intelligence Council that is responsible for co-ordinating information from across the US intelligence community. This visit comes within weeks of US Ambassador to India David Mulford saying Washington was in close contact with New Delhi on investigations in the Mumbai blasts where the police claimed that ISI was behind the plan...

The Hindu, 23 October 2006

**"Choking terrorist funds needs global effort" (Vinay Kumar)**

New Delhi: With terrorism becoming a global problem, the international community faces a tough challenge to go after money that is used to finance terrorist cells across the world, said Professor Jimmy Gurule, a former United States Government official. Professor Gurule played a key role in evolving the anti-terrorism strategy of the U.S. in the post 9/11 scenario. "Threat of terrorism is a global problem, going after money is a critical component of any counter terrorism strategy and it has to be a global cooperative and collaborative effort. The financial pipeline is the lifeblood of terrorist organisations and shutting off that pipeline requires global effort," Professor Gurule, who specialises in international criminal law, said while talking exclusively to The Hindu here... On the

U.S. experience in blocking the "money pipeline" of terrorist groups, Professor Gurule, who was the Under Secretary in the Treasury Department from 2001-03, said President George Bush on September 23, 2001 signed an order authorising the Treasury Department to freeze bank accounts of any individual or businesses suspected to be involved in financing terrorism...

The Indian Express, 23 October 2006

**Intelligence sharing only if Pak cooperates: Narayanan (Press Trust of India)**

New Delhi (Oct 22): India will share intelligence with Pakistan under the joint anti-terror mechanism only if New Delhi sees a "great deal" of cooperation from the neighbouring country, National Security Adviser M K Narayanan has said. He said they had "pretty good evidence" of ISI's involvement in the Mumbai blasts, but it would be shared with Pakistan after "certain legal issues" are clarified. He hoped this would be done before the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries meet in New Delhi from November 13 to 15. "This is entirely a counter-terrorism investigation mechanism... If the anti-terrorism mechanism goes forward and we see there is a great deal of cooperation forthcoming from Pakistan and there is a great deal of comfort between India and Pakistan, then may be we could (share intelligence)," Narayanan told CNN-IBN when asked if intelligence would be shared with Pakistan. "That is our ultimate hope. But that's at a much later stage."...

The Hindu, 23 October 2006

**RDX, cash recovered from JeM militant**

New Delhi: A man allegedly owing allegiance to Pakistan-based militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has been arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi police. The police said the accused was a carrier of arms, explosives and communication equipment for JeM militants in various parts of the country, including Delhi. They recovered 3 kg of RDX, a detonator, a timer and Rs.10 lakh in cash from him. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Alok Kumar said the accused, identified as Pervez Ahmed Radoo, a resident of Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir, was arrested near Azadpur market on October 14... "We had despatched a team to Jammu and Kashmir, where we were working closely with our counterparts on some of the leads the accused had provided... The police said JeM chief in Srinagar, identified as Shergill, had entrusted Pervez with triggering explosions in the Capital on Diwali or Id..."

The Indian Express, 24 October 2006

**ISI trying to infiltrate our troops, will expose link: Pranab**

New Delhi (Oct 23): Calling it a matter of "extreme concern", Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee today said that Pakistan's ISI was continuing with efforts to infiltrate the armed forces for sensitive military plans and information. He said meticulous internal investigations were on to expose the "kingpins" and unearth the espionage network. Speaking to reporters after the arrest over the weekend of two Army men - Havildar Ritesh Kumar and Signalmen Anil Kumar Dubey - who were allegedly passing on military information to an employee of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, Mukherjee said "ISI is trying to infiltrate and subvert our armed forces". He indicated that preliminary investigations suggested a connection with other spying rackets in the forces,

spread from J&K to Delhi to Kathmandu. "We are aware of the fact that the ISI is active and sometimes we catch the moles they have established in different organisations. But if it is in the Army, naturally we shall have to ensure that these types of things do not happen. Wherever there is leakage or laxity, that has to be blocked," he said. "The espionage rings might have started from Kashmir. Our military as well as civilian intelligence outfits and investigating agencies have been pressed into action to bust the rings and find the kingpins." Investigations into ISI-backed spy rackets come weeks ahead of the likely resumption of Indo-Pak talks.

The Indian Express, 24 October 2006

### **3 suspected HuJI men held from Lucknow**

Lucknow, October 23: The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) today arrested three Bangladeshi nationals, suspected to have links with the terror group Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI), from Blunt Square in Lucknow. The three are brothers and were living under assumed Hindu names and one of them had even procured a ration card, STF officials said. They have been identified as Mohammed Khairul Hasan, Mohammed Kaushar and Mohammed Yar. The police also seized two cellphones from their house in Blunt Square, under the purview of Aalamganj Police Station. Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar Pandey said the trio went around in the locality under assumed names of Deepu Sarkar, Sonu Sarkar and Dipak. "One of them (Mohammed Kaushar) managed to get a ration card issued in the name of Sonu," Pandey said. "We have also seized an affidavit in which he has mentioned the same address for a passport, in his assumed name." According to officials, a team tasked with tracking the HuJI terror group's base in the state got information about the trio's presence in Blunt Square, after which the arrests were made...

The Indian Express, 25 October 2006

### **PM: Credible proof of Pak role in 7/11**

New Delhi (Oct 24): Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said there was "credible evidence" of Pakistani involvement in the July 11 train blasts in Mumbai. "All I can say is that there is credible evidence", he told reporters when asked about the comments made by NSA MK Narayanan that there was "pretty good" but not "clinching" evidence of ISI's involvement even as Union Home Secretary VK Duggal spoke of "fairly solid" evidence. On the Indo-Pak Joint Mechanism to fight terrorism, the PM said "it is a trial". "We have to experiment...we have to talk as we are not going to war with Pakistan". Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who is the new External Affairs Minister, said India would share information with Pakistan regarding the blasts and see the response. "We will exchange information with Pakistan. After that we have to see how they react," he said.

The Hindu, 25 October 2006

### **Anti-terror mechanism to be key item on agenda (Nirupama Subramanian)**

Islamabad: Discussions on a framework for the proposed anti-terrorism joint institutional mechanism will be a key item on the agenda at the coming talks between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri told Dawn that Pakistan would propose that the "Additional Foreign Secretaries" head it, and that it "include two relevant people from each side." National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan

said in an interview on CNN-IBN that India was thinking of a "two-tier mechanism" and that this proposal would be presented to Pakistan at the November meeting of the foreign secretaries. He indicated that India too wanted an Additional Secretary or Special Secretary to head the mechanism, with representation from the intelligence agencies of both countries. The setting up of a joint institutional mechanism was a proposal emanating from the Havana meeting between President Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2006

**New Defence Minister's message to Pak; Create "tension-free" situation on borders**

New Delhi (Oct 25): Taking over as External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee today sent out a message to Pakistan and other neighbours that "tension-free" situation should be created on the borders to enable countries of the region to live in peace. He steered clear of the controversy over the kind of proof collected by security agencies with regard to Pakistan's involvement in the July 11 Mumbai blasts, saying "certain evidence" had been gathered which will be shared with Islamabad. "We cannot alter our neighbours. As we cannot alter our neighbours, it is desirable to live with our neighbours in peace and create tension-free situation on our borders with our neighbours," Mukherjee told reporters while responding to questions on Pakistani role in terror attacks in India... "Our law enforcement agencies have gathered certain evidence," Mukherjee said, adding it will be shared with Pakistan... To a question about terrorism emanating from Bangladesh, Mukherjee disagreed with a suggestion about use of "force" against it. The Minister said India has already taken up the issue with Bangladesh and suggested to them that it is in the interest of both countries that terrorist activities are curbed...

The Hindu, 27 October 2006

**Two suspected Pak militants arrested in Mysore (PTI)**

Bangalore (Oct 27): Two suspected Pakistani militants have been arrested in Mysore after a shoot-out, a senior police official said. The militants fired from an AK-47 rifle at the police party when intercepted and the latter returned fire before arresting them around midnight yesterday, Mysore Police Commissioner Pravin Sood said. The arrested were identified as Mohammed Fayed and Ali Hussain. Two bullets fired by the militants hit a police vehicle. But none was injured on either side in the shoot-out, Sood said. An AK-47 rifle, a pistol and some ammunition were recovered from the militants, he said. "We had some information about them and intercepted them". Sood said a satellite phone, which they were using to communicate with Pakistan and Kashmir, was also seized, besides some documents from them. "They (the militants) were here on a definite plan," he said. Asked where the militants were proceeding to, he said the police were interrogating them.

Hindustan Times, 27 October 2006

**Terror is biggest threat, says PM (Ashok Das)**

Hyderabad (Oct 26): Terming terrorism a "hydra-headed monster", Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday asked the police forces to tackle this "great danger" in a determined manner. "The most dangerous threat today is terrorism. From an occasional footnote, it has become a hydra-headed monster. There are several strains of terrorism

present, and you will need to keep abreast of developments in tackling this great danger," he said in his address... The Prime Minister said, "Today's terrorists are most sophisticated and have transnational linkages and adequate resources" Knowledge and determination are required if we are to succeed against these elements." "Many of you are being posted to areas like the Northeast, J&K or states where Naxalites are active. The problems in these regions are different. The nuances of each situation have to be appreciated and skillfully dealt with. All this will demand sensitive handling of complicated situations on your part. Understand the reasons for disaffection and alienation and possibly, you will find some answers to your challenges. In the final analysis, see yourself as the guardian of all citizens. Try to bring the alienated back to the path laid down by law," he said...

The Hindu, 27 October 2006

### **Delhi talks may focus on anti-terror mechanism (Amit Baruah)**

New Delhi: The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, Shivshankar Menon and Riaz Muhammad Khan, during their November 14-15 discussions here, are expected to focus on the agenda points agreed on by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in Havana in September... From India's standpoint, the creation of an anti-terrorist mechanism, accepted in principle by Dr. Singh and Gen. Musharraf last month, will be central to the discussions to be held between Mr. Menon and Mr. Khan. The September 16 Havana joint statement, which strongly condemned all acts of terrorism in the aftermath of the Mumbai blasts, said that the leaders had "decided to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to identify and implement counter-terrorism initiatives and investigations." Interestingly, the Havana statement also asked the Foreign Secretaries to "arrange consultations" for an "early solution" to the Siachen issue. Clearly, Dr. Singh and Gen. Musharraf have decided to give priority to resolving the Siachen issue, which is one of the eight items India and Pakistan have been discussing as part of their composite dialogue process...

The Hindu, 27 October 2006

### **India, Russia to counter "threat" from terror (PTI)**

New Delhi: Russia has joined India in demanding that no country should provide a "safe haven" to terrorists as the two countries decided to work together to counter the "emerging threat" to oil and gas installations from terror. The countries, at a meeting of Joint Working Group on counter terrorism here, sought urgent implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1642, which prohibits incitement of terrorism and favours early establishment by the U.N. of a global legal framework to fight the scourge.

The Indian Express, 28 October 2006

### **2 Pak terrorists held after encounter, say Mysore police (Johnson TA)**

Mysore (Oct 27): The Mysore police claimed to have nabbed two terrorists of Pakistani origin from the Al Badr group following a purported encounter on the outskirts of the city late on Thursday night. However, the owners of the house where they stayed said a police team had picked them up a fortnight ago. The police identified the arrested men as Fahad alias Mohammed Koya from Karachi and Mohammed Ali Hussain alias Jahangir. Investigations have revealed that both are Pakistan passport holders and arrived in India

on a 45-day visa issued on November 30, 2005, the state DGP B S Sial said. Ali, allegedly a manager of financial transactions for Al Badr came to Mysore from Kashmir around four months ago, the Mysore police said. In the last eight months Fahad, an alleged recruiting agent for Al Badr, received Rs 12 lakh through banking channels, the state DGP said... The Mysore police have claimed that the "terrorists" were planning to target the Central Institute of Language in Mysore and that they surveyed the government headquarters in Bangalore and sent details to "their headquarters through e-mail." ...

The Indian Express, 30 October 2006

### **3 held for helping Al Badr suspects fake identity (Johnson T A)**

Bangalore (Oct 29): Three Mysore residents were arrested today for allegedly helping one of two militants of Pakistani origin, held on Friday, in obtaining Indian identities by forging birth and domicile certificates and a ration card. Those arrested today were identified as 60-year-old Sadiq alias Sheriff, Nanjappa, 36, and Gopal, 28. They are accused of helping Mohammed Ali Hussain obtain documents that would enable him to get an Indian passport. 'These people were knowingly helping Ali Hussain in his efforts to obtain an Indian identity,' said Mysore police commissioner Praveen Sood. Mohammed Ali Hussain, said to be from the Al Badr terror group, was trying to obtain a passport under the identity of Asif Ali by fabricating key documents, police said. Sadiq alias Sheriff managed to obtain a ration card, birth and domicile certificates issued by the Mysore City Corporation for Ali Hussain, with the help of Nanjappa and Gopal, police said. A search is on for a woman who pretended to be the mother of Ali Hussain to help him obtain the fake documents from the Mysore City Corporation. 'With the help of the accused Sadiq, Ali Hussain had applied for an Indian passport but the application was rejected after he failed a police verification,' police said... According to the police, Fahad, the other Al Badr member arrested on Friday, tried to obtain an Indian passport in Kozhikode, Kerala under the name of Mohammed Koya with the help of travel agents known to his cousin Fathima Begum and her husband...

Hindustan Times, 30 October 2006

### **Now tourism sector on terror list (Aloke Tikku)**

New Delhi (Oct 29): Vital installations, communication links, places of worship, commercial, industrial and scientific centres. There is an addition to this list of potential targets of Pakistan-based terrorist groups: Tourists. A Union Home Ministry official said the list of potential targets was expanded in view of recent intelligence inputs that the tourism sector, especially in a state like Goa, was on the radar of terror groups. Over the last five years, India's foreign tourist arrivals are estimated to have grown at 75 per cent, increasing foreign exchange earnings by 122 per cent and creating nearly 3 million additional jobs annually. But India's share in world tourism is a measly 0.57 per cent. A home ministry official said the objective was to gradually weaken international confidence and create an atmosphere of pervasive terror that would dampen the country's capacity to attract foreign investment. "The moment you target foreigners, it has an impact on foreign perceptions at an escalated level," said Ajai Sahni, executive director of the Institute for Conflict Management. But this is not unique, a direct attack on financial centre, a direct attack on industry like multi-national companies would have comparable consequences, he added... Sahni, however, emphasised that it was important

to keep a sense of proportion. "India is not uniquely threatened, there is not a part of the world which is not threatened. People factor in global risk and compare it with Indian risk. A single incident is not going to alter that," he said.

The Hindu, 30 October 2006

**President takes over in Bangladesh (Haroon Habib)**

Dhaka: Bangladesh President Iajuddin Ahmed on Sunday named himself head of a non-party caretaker government to conduct the next general election amid widespread criticism of holding a political brief for the outgoing Government led by Begum Khaleda Zia. The dramatic development, described as "most unfortunate" by most of the political parties, may trigger fresh political turmoil, political observers, said. The President's highly controversial oath taking on Sunday night as head of the caretaker Government in addition to his position of titular President under parliamentary democracy may plunge the country into further chaos, they observed. After the refusal of Justice K.M. Hasan, former Chief Justice on Saturday, Dr. Ahmed himself proposed to become the head of the caretaker Government in an abrupt manner, while the Awami League-led 14-party Opposition combine rejected the proposal outright...

The Hindu, 30 October 2006

**Political activists leave (Haroon Habib)**

Dhaka: Many people, believed to be political activists of the outgoing Government, have left for India during the last few days for fear of reprisals from opponents. At Benapole on the border with West Bengal, 2,200 people crossed the border on Thursday and 2,700 on Friday with valid documents. Immigration officials say this is "quite unusual."

The Hindu, 31 October 2006

**Malegaon blasts: police make headway**

Mumbai: The Maharashtra police claimed to have made a major breakthrough in the Malegaon serial bomb blasts of September 8 and booked 25-year-old Noorul Hooda Shamshul Hooda, an activist of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India. A court in Malegaon remanded him to the police custody till November 3. Hooda was already under arrest. He was nabbed on October 8 for allegedly being involved in planting a fake bomb at a shopping centre in Malegaon on September 13. "But today he was formally arrested for his complicity in the Malegaon blasts conspiracy," Director-General of Police P.S. Pasricha said here on Monday. He said two other suspects were identified and would be arrested soon. Shabbir Baterywala and Raees Ahmed, arrested earlier under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for being involved in the fake bomb planting, are also going to be booked in the Malegaon blasts case. Forensic laboratories found similarity in the traces of the materials picked up from the blast sites and the hoax bomb site...