

### **In Pakistan, India is emerging as prime suspect**

**Hindu, 4 March 2009**

Despite an early statement by the Governor of Pakistan's Punjab province, Salman Taseer, that "the same people who carried out the Mumbai attacks are behind the attack in Lahore," India is emerging as a prime suspect in the eyes of many Pakistanis. In the hours following the Lahore attack, some in Pakistan's influential electronic media said on air they did not want to mirror the finger-pointing by the Indian media following the Mumbai attacks. Even so, many discussions on several television channels with talking heads and politicians, both elected and un-elected, centred on speculation that Indian intelligence agencies were responsible for the brazen commando-style attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team as a revenge against the Mumbai attacks.

### **Pakistan rules out Indian hand**

**Hindu, 6 March 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Thursday the attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore could have been the work of the Al Qaeda and dismissed suggestions that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or India was behind it. Rehman Malik, head of the Interior Ministry, told journalists here that there was no evidence to suggest that the LTTE carried out the attack. He also ruled out media suggestions of Indian involvement, saying there was no evidence to back such theories. He said the preliminary probe was being finalised. Severely embarrassed by the attack and the failure of the police to react swiftly to it, Pakistani officials are desperate for a breakthrough, but it is proving elusive.

### **ISI tells LeT, Hizb: Send 1,500 to J&K**

**Asian Age, 8 March 2009**

March 7: Islamabad appears to have learnt no lessons even after almost the entire world put it on the mat following the 26/11 outrage in Mumbai and even after the terror attack in Lahore on Tuesday in which visiting Sri Lankan cricketers were targeted. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, in its latest instructions to "area commanders" of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Hizbul Mujahideen, has directed them to send at least 1,500 militants from 26 camps located in Pakistan-occupied Kash-mir to carry out disruptive activities in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India by the end of March. Intelligence sources here said the ISI's orders were: "Start fresh recruitment at camps at Rawalakot, Muzaffar-abad, Kotli and Mirpur. Arrange huge funds from rich people of Mirpur settled abroad." It made it clear that operations in Kashmir and India should not stop after 26/11 or Lahore.

### **Pakistan to give Interpol DNA data from Mumbai probe**

**Dawn, 8 March 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The head of Interpol said Sunday that Pakistan had agreed to provide DNA profiles and other data on suspected terrorists it obtained during a probe into the Mumbai attacks, AFP reports. 'Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will send Interpol the DNA profiles that it obtained during its investigation,' Interpol Chief Ronald Noble told a news conference after talks with Pakistani officials. Interpol is a global organisation that facilitates cooperation among police forces of member countries. The profiles will be compared against the 'world's only global DNA database containing more than 83,000 DNA profiles,' he added. 'Information

exchanged through the Interpol data could not only result in potential breakthroughs in the Pakistani investigation but will also help other police forces protect their citizens from terrorist attacks,' he observed.

### **India, Pakistan need peace, says Musharraf**

**Dawn, 8 March 2009**

NEW DELHI: Former president Gen Pervez Musharraf, whose interactions with Indian audiences have traditionally evoked hatred, love and applause, faced a gruelling battery of questions with aplomb here on Saturday, as he single-handedly revived hopes for peace with India and even planted the idea of a joint battle by both countries to eliminate religious extremism. Although billed as a private visit, there was little to suggest it was different from the last time Gen Musharraf visited New Delhi in April 2005 as the head of state. He thanked Indian officials for looking after his protocol and security, indicating New Delhi's support for the first major visit from across the border since the Mumbai terror attacks. The presence of Pakistan's High Commissioner Shahid Malik at the conclave bestowed it with Islamabad's concurrence. In the end Gen Musharraf appeared to vindicate the trust of both.

### **Noble: India must share DNA information**

**Hindu, 9 March 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Interpol, the global police agency, weighed in on Sunday with Pakistan's demand that India must share the DNA information of the Mumbai attackers to help investigations at the Pakistani end. Ronald Noble, secretary-general of Interpol, on his second visit to Pakistan since the Mumbai attacks, lavished praise on the Federal Investigation Agency's investigation into the attack and said it had set an example for police cooperation the world over. He also showered praise on the Pakistani leadership for its "courage" in carrying out the investigation and in admitting that the attacks were partially planned in Pakistan.

### **Siachen and Kargil linked to Kashmir issue: Musharraf**

**Hindu, 9 March 2009**

NEW DELHI: The former Pakistan President, General (retd.) Pervez Musharraf warned of many more Kargils and Siachens if the Kashmir issue was left unresolved. At times ducking questions at the India Today Conclave on Saturday night, he was also emphatic and agitated, especially when asked whether the present Army chief General Pervez Kayani was correct that the Taliban was Pakistan's strategic asset. But Gen. Musharraf only nodded when a Parliamentarian ticked him off after he listed their "ill treatment" as a factor bedeviling India-Pakistan relations. "Aapki nasihat ki zaroorat nahi [We don't require your counsel]," he was told by Lok Sabha Member Mehmood Madani. He did not want to comment on Kargil as it was a very sensitive issue but went on to observe that Siachen and Kargil were linked to the Kashmir issue and warned that if the "story went on" there would be more Kargils and Siachens.

### **Editorial: India should make up its mind!**

**Daily Times, 11 March 2009**

The Interior Adviser Mr Rehman Malik has been endorsed by the visiting Interpol General Secretary Richard K Noble when he called on India to "take the lead in investigations into the Mumbai attacks". Mr Malik's complaint was that the Indian authorities had so far failed to

provide any report on the attacks to Interpol. What was highlighted in fact was India's reluctance to answer the 30 questions posed by Pakistan in consequence of its investigation of the "dossier" received from India. Mr Malik deserves credit for treating the Indian "dossier" in a speedy and efficient manner, objectively and without the knee-jerk reaction of denial. In a similar situation, most Pakistani officials would have thought it "safe" to aggressively deny the charges made by India, as if the truth was disputed between just India and Pakistan.

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### **India's 26/11 response packed with primary documents**

**Hindu, 14 March 2009**

NEW DELHI: India's response to a Pakistani questionnaire on November's attacks in Mumbai runs to over 400 pages — almost six times as long as an dossier of evidence released in January. Prepared in response to 30 investigation-related queries prepared by Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency, India's textual response runs to just a few pages — and follows the contours of details published earlier this week in The Hindu. However, the document contains voluminous appendices, which include five compact discs and over 400 pages of primary documentation.

### **Tangible action by Pakistan called for**

**Hindu, 15 March 2009**

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Saturday said he expected Islamabad to follow up on its commitment with "tangible action." India on Friday handed over to Pakistan more evidence regarding the Mumbai terror attacks. "Words and commitments should be followed by tangible action," Mr. Mukherjee told journalists here to a question whether he was satisfied with Pakistan's handling of the investigation.

### **U.S. wants India to de-escalate on border with Pakistan**

**Hindu, 20 March 2009**

New Delhi: South Block may have successfully fought off the initial drive to formally extend Richard Holbrooke's 'AfPak' mandate to India but the Obama administration's Special Representative for the region drew first blood last week, asking New Delhi to draw down its own troop presence on the Pakistan border so that Islamabad can beef up its presence on the Afghan

front. The request that India de-escalate its forces on the border was conveyed to Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon during the latter's visit to Washington last week, well-placed sources said.

### **Pak troops fire indiscriminately at Indian posts in Uri**

**Daily Excelsior, 21 March 2009**

SRINAGAR: In a major ceasefire violation after a gap of few months, Pakistani troops fired throughout the night at Indian posts in Uri sector, leaving a soldier injured. A defence spokesman said today that Pakistani troops fired between 1500 to 2000 rounds at the Indian posts in Kamalkote area of Uri sector between 10 pm last night and 3am this morning. Lance Naik Prakash Singh of 10 JAK rifles was injured in the firing. He said the firing from across the border was unprovoked. Indian troops returned the fire but used small arms fire, the spokesman said.

### **Editorial: All steps back**

**Indian Express, 23 March 2009**

The Mumbai attacks of November 26 appear to have claimed, among their many victims, a probable resolution of the Sir Creek maritime boundary dispute between India and Pakistan. Not only is the five-year-long composite dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad in a freeze but the two states now look set to miss the May 13 deadline for submitting their mutually agreeable claims on continental shelves to the UN Convention on the Law of Seas. Sir Creek, a 96-km-long estuary in the Rann of Kutch, has been a matter of disagreement between India and Pakistan since the late '60s, with Pakistan claiming the whole of the creek and India asking for a maritime boundary midway through it, according to international maritime law applicable to all navigable waterways. Pakistan, till recently, had refuted India's claims of navigability; but negotiations last year, as part of the composite dialogue process initiated in January 2004, had brought Pakistan round to India's perspective.

### **US asks India to support Pakistan on extremists**

**Daily Times, 24 March 2009**

WASHINGTON: The US has called on India to support Pakistan in rooting out extremism. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg also said on Monday that the US backed a 'global role for India. Steinberg delivered the first substantive remarks on India by President Barack Obama's administration which is expected this week to unveil a new strategy on fighting terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. "I think it will be important for India to make clear that as Pakistan takes steps to deal with extremists on its own territory that India will be supportive of that," said Steinberg.

### **Kasab accepts govt lawyer**

**Asian Age, 24 March 2009**

March 23: Looking straight into the camera and at times smiling and showing no signs of remorse, the lone surviving 26/11 terrorist, Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, on Monday admitted to the special judge that he was from Faridkot in Pakistan. Notably, he responded in English when Judge M.L. Thahiliyani asked him certain questions, scotching earlier speculation that he did not understand any language other than Urdu and Punjabi. Earlier, police officials monitoring the CCTV surveillance of Kasab in his cell had said that the terrorist was reading the chargesheet, which is in English. The hearing took place via video-conferencing with him sitting in a chair

inside a barrack of the Arthur Road Jail. Throughout the hearing Kasab, now sporting a French beard, was seen smiling and looked composed. However, when the judge asked if he had received a copy of the chargesheet, Kasab said yes and just laughed.

### **LT warns of fresh attacks on Indian Army**

**Daily Times, 26 March 2009**

SRINAGAR: Banned militant organisation Lashkar-e-Tayyaba on Wednesday warned of fresh attacks against Indian troops, as the Indian Army said a "large number" of guerrillas were poised to infiltrate Indian-held Kashmir (IHK). Eight soldiers and 17 militants were killed in protracted gun battles that started Saturday in IHK's Kupwara district, close to the Line of Control (LOC). Lashkar said its men were involved in the clashes, some of the fiercest in recent years. "The gun battles should serve as a message to India that the struggle for Kashmir's freedom is on with full vigour," Lashkar spokesman Abdullah Ghaznavi said.

### **Indo-Pak Attari Wagah border on high-alert**

**Hindu, 30 March 2009**

Amritsar (PTI): A high alert has been sounded along the Indo-Pak Attari border immediately after the terrorist attack at a police training academy in Lahore on Monday morning. "A high alert has been sounded on Indo Pak Attari border and its surrounding areas immediately after the attack at Lahore", Inspector General (IG) Border security Force (BSF) Himmat Singh said. Mr. Singh said that security has also been enhanced at Indo-Pak Joint Check Post (JCP), the only land transit route in Punjab that leads to Pakistan, particularly in the evening's "Beating Retreat Ceremony" when a large number of people assemble to watch the flag lower ceremony at sunset.