

The Hindu, 1 August 2006

India talks tough on SAFTA

Dhaka, July 31: India said on Monday that Pakistan's decision to retain its bilateral list for trade with New Delhi under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement had a bearing on the success of the SAARC process. Apart from Pakistan's volte-face on SAFTA, India also called upon South Asian nations to cooperate in the battle against terrorism in the wake of the recent blasts in Mumbai and Srinagar...

The Hindu, 1 August 2006

India talks tough on SAFTA

Dhaka, July 31: India said on Monday that Pakistan's decision to retain its bilateral list for trade with New Delhi under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement had a bearing on the success of the SAARC process. Apart from Pakistan's volte-face on SAFTA, India also called upon South Asian nations to cooperate in the battle against terrorism in the wake of the recent blasts in Mumbai and Srinagar...

The Hindu, 1 August 2006

India, Pakistan to share evidence on 7/11 blasts

Dhaka, July 31: India and Pakistan have agreed to share information on the July 11 Mumbai blasts, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said late on Monday after a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Mohammad Khan. Asked if India had proposed a fresh set of dates for the Foreign Secretary-level talks, suspended in the wake of the blasts, Mr. Saran said: "We have agreed that we will remain in touch with each other."...

The Times of India, 1 August 2006

India upset with US for underplaying Pak's role

Washington, July 31: After reviewing satellite imagery — which the US used last year to prove the existence of jihadi camps in Pakistan in connection with a case involving a Pakistani father-and-son duo — for the jury, US government expert Eric Benn had said the mountainous location and description of the camp near Balakot in northeast Pakistan are consistent with statements made by accused Hamir Hayat. Hayat had been interrogated by FBI last June, when he returned to US after two years of training and indoctrination in Pakistan...

The Times of India, 1 August 2006

India can't afford to snap Israel ties

New Delhi, July 31: Defence minister Pranab Mukherjee may have 'deferred' his visit to Israel last month due to 'political sensitivities', but there is little chance of UPA government capitulating to the Left's demand for severing all military ties with the Jewish state. The Indian armed forces have now come to bank heavily upon Israel for acquiring cutting-edge military technology in areas ranging from UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), radars and thermal imagers to missiles, anti-missile defence and electronic warfare systems...

The Hindu, 2 August 2006

Give specific information on Mumbai blasts: Pakistan

Dhaka, August 1: "Please help us to help yourself," Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan said on Tuesday while calling on India to provide specific information on the Mumbai blasts so that Islamabad could help with the investigation. Sounding positive after Monday night's meeting with his Indian counterpart Shyam Saran here, Mr. Khan, however, regretted New Delhi "pointing the finger" at Islamabad even when conclusive evidence was not available...

The Hindu, 2 August 2006

India raises differential treatment issue

Dhaka, August 1: Notwithstanding objections from Pakistan, India raised the issue of differential treatment accorded to it by Islamabad under the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement at an informal meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers on Tuesday. Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed brought up the matter and will raise it again at the formal session on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Pakistan claimed that its domestic notification restricting trade with India to a positive list, as opposed to a sensitive or negative list required under SAFTA, was not against the agreement...

Hindustan Times, 2 August 2006

India, Pak to make joint proposal on gas pipeline

New Delhi August 1: India and Pakistan are likely to present a joint proposal on pricing of natural gas, which the two neighbours want to import from Iran through an over \$7 billion pipeline. "India and Pakistan are coordinating their response to Iran's offer price of gas it wants to sell to the two countries through the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. In all likelihood the two countries will present a joint proposal when the officials of the three countries meet on Thursday afternoon," a government official said...

The Hindu, 2 August 2006

India seeks access to Chittagong port

Dhaka, August 1: During a meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia here on Tuesday, Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed sought access for goods from northeast India to the modernised Chittagong port. Begum Zia directed her officials to hold an early technical session to operationalise the Sealdah-Joypara rail link, which would provide a connection between Kolkata and Dhaka. Mr. Ahamed, who also met Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan, discussed the boundary issue, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran told presspersons later...

The Hindu, 3 August 2006

"Manmohan, Musharraf can meet on NAM sidelines"

Dhaka, August 2: Islamabad is open to the idea of a meeting between Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit to be held in Havana in the middle of September. Talking to this correspondent on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said Islamabad would like the two leaders to meet on September 15-16. Describing Sunday's meeting between the two Foreign Secretaries a "positive

development," Mr. Kasuri once again offered his condolences to the victims of the July 11 Mumbai blasts...

The Hindu, 3 August 2006

Bangladesh polls evoke interest, says Ahamed

Dhaka, August 2: India will work with any government the people of Bangladesh elect in the January 2007 elections, Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed said on Tuesday. Mr. Ahamed, who is here to attend the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting, was speaking at a luncheon meeting hosted by India-Bangladesh friendship organisations...

Hindustan Times, 3 August 2006

India must do a few things for nuclear deal, says US

Washington, August 2: The Bush Administration says that it is "fully supportive and fully behind" efforts to see the India-US nuclear deal being implemented, but that India too has to do a few things to see it through. The US House of Representatives has passed the enabling bill and "we're working with the Senate to get a vote scheduled," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said...

The Times of India,, 5 August 2006

Consultant to study Indo-Pak gas pricing

New Delhi, August 4: The \$7 billion Asian pipedream is unlikely to become a reality, with Tehran, Islamabad and New Delhi failing to break the logjam over price at which gas will flow to India through an overland energy lifeline from Iran's Farsi fields. As a last ditch effort, the three countries on Friday agreed to form a committee and hire a global consultant to find a way out...

The Times of India, 5 August 2006

Oil-for-food: Natwar admits to help Andleeb

New Delhi, August 4: Beleaguered Natwar Singh, indicted in the Iraqi oil-for-food scam, on Friday admitted that he wrote to Iraqi authorities to help Andleeb Sehgal, a friend of his son Jagat and insisted there was nothing wrong about it. Indicted by the Pathak Authority of misusing his position, the former External Affairs Minister told a news channel that he had told Justice Pathak that the signatures on the letters were his, but the language was not his...

The Hindu, 5 August 2006

Indian convoy fired at

United Nations, August 4: A convoy of the Indian battalion with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon came under fire in the Markaba area of Lebanon on Thursday . But there were no casualties.

The Times of India, 5 August 2006

India readies plan to pull out soldiers from Lebanon

New Delhi, August 4: With Israeli forces and Hezbollah stepping up their attacks against each other, India has kept contingency plans ready to pull out its 673 soldiers deployed in

the 1,990-strong UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) if required... Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the flagging off of the 3 Grenadiers battalion going for United Nations Peace-keeping duties to Ethiopia-Eriteria, Maj-Gen Malhan said it was for the government to decide whether or not to pull back Indian troops from Lebanon...

The Hindu, 6 August 2006

India expels Pakistani diplomat

New Delhi, August 5: Hours after Islamabad declared Indian Visa Counsellor Deepak Kaul persona non grata on Saturday, India expelled Political Counsellor in the Pakistan High Commission Syed Muhammad Rafique Ahmed in a tit-for-tat action. The expulsions, the first publicised since India and Pakistan resumed their peace process in January 2004, come weeks after the July 11 Mumbai blasts...

The Indian Express, 6 August 2006

Editorial- Attack on the idea of India

How ironic that Tony Blair should be the first major political leader to point out that the nature of our Kashmir problem has changed. In a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council last week the British PM said, "Whatever the outward manifestation at any one time—in Lebanon, in Gaza, in Iraq and add to that in Afghanistan, in Kashmir, in a host of other nations including now some in Africa—it is a global fight about global values; it is about modernisation, within Islam and outside of it; it is about whether our value system can be shown to be sufficiently robust, true, principled and appealing that it beats theirs."...

The Hindu, 6 August 2006

China preferred choice for pharma cos. — study

Mumbai, August 5: China is considered a preferred choice over India by nearly 90 per cent of pharmaceutical executives for low-cost drug manufacturing, according to a survey released by Bain & Company, a leading global business consulting firm. Worryingly, only 17 per cent of the survey's respondents cite innovation as a key asset of Indian drug makers. Bain's sampling of 179 international executives with headquarters in North America, Europe, Asia and India also expressed concerns about intellectual property protection (56 per cent), parallel trade or grey market imports (52 per cent) and regulatory uncertainty (46 per cent) affecting the Indian industry...

The Times of India, 7 August 2006

Expelled Indian diplomat to return today

Islamabad, August 6: Senior Indian diplomat Deepak Kaul, who has been expelled by Pakistan government accusing him of "indulging in undesirable activities," would travel back home on Monday through the Wagah border. Kaul, Consular (Visa) at the Indian High Commission, would leave for home in the morning by road, Indian officials said...

The Indian Express, 8 August 2006

US could end trade benefits for India

Washington, August 7: The United States will review whether to withdraw long time trade benefits for India, Brazil and 11 other advanced developing countries, US trade

officials said on Monday. The decision follows the recent collapse of world trade talks, which many members of Congress blame on the reluctance of large developing countries like India and Brazil to open their markets to more foreign goods...

The Hindu, 8 August 2006

"India offered to restore J&K to pre-1953 status"

Islamabad, August 7: Prior to the Mumbai blasts, India told Pakistan that it was prepared to restore Jammu and Kashmir to its pre-1953 status, The Nation newspaper said on Monday. A non-paper that India gave to Pakistan days before the blasts on trains in Mumbai said it was willing to consider handing over all subjects bar defence, foreign affairs and communications to the Jammu and Kashmir Government, the newspaper reported. Quoting diplomatic sources, the report said the non-paper could become the basis for "formal discussions" on Kashmir when the peace process got back on track...

The Times of India, 8 August 2006

Boucher eats his terror words

New Delhi, August 7: Even as India described the US sanctions against two Indian chemical companies for exports to Iran as "unjustified", visiting US official Richard Boucher on Monday tried to make amends for his earlier statements by conceding that certain terror groups in South Asia, with "designs" against India, lived and operated in Pakistan. Many in India saw his statement as a necessary reversal of his earlier statement that there was no "evidence" to accuse Pakistan...

The Times of India, 8 August 2006

Editorial: General Anesthesia

Islamabad's brutal treatment of an Indian diplomat, who was hooded, handcuffed and confined at an undisclosed location before being expelled from the country, doesn't square very well with its insistence that the peace process must not be affected by the Mumbai train bombings. It's worth asking why Islamabad is shifting gears by reverting to an earlier pattern of India-Pakistan relations. Historically, Pakistan's military rulers have a sell-by date after which they lose their legitimacy and find it difficult to retain power...

The Hindu, 9 August 2006

Lee hails economic momentum of India, China

Singapore, August 8: Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday hailed the "momentum" that India and China had achieved in Asia's economic domain at this stage. Addressing the City-State on the eve of its National Day, Mr. Lee said Singapore's economic pacts with several countries would "protect" it, if the global trade talks, now "stalled," were to fail altogether. Singapore has just now marked the first year of implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with India...

The Indian Express, 9 August 2006

India a responsible actor on non-proliferation: US

Washington, August 8 :The Bush administration has said that the sanctions imposed on two private Indian firms for allegedly providing Iran with nuclear material did not reflect

New Delhi's non-proliferation record and hailed India as a "very responsible actor" in the field. The administration also said it had not deliberately withheld information from Congress on sanctions against the Indian firms...

The Times of India, 9 August 2006

US may end trade benefits for India

Washington, August 8: India may be among one of the countries which could lose preferential trade benefits granted by the United States as the Congress complained that these countries were not adopting a stand that is beneficial for solving the stalemate in WTO talks. The United States Trade Representative Susan Schwab has said that Washington wanted to determine whether certain countries should be excluded from the Generalized System of Preferences program which grants duty-free treatment for goods from 133 developing countries...

The Hindu, 10 August 2006

Ahmadinejad keen on energy ties with India

Tehran, August 9 : Declaring that his government had put behind it the "dismay" it felt at India's vote against Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last year, President Mahmud Ahmadinejad told The Hindu on Tuesday that he was looking forward to a "promising horizon" as far as bilateral relations were concerned. The two countries had historical and civilisational ties, deep cultural affinities, as well as a common point of view on many regional issues...

Hindustan Times, 10 August 2006

US reviewing trade preferences for India, 12 others

Washington, August 9: The Bush administration has asked for public comments on a proposal to limit, suspend or withdraw trade preferences to India and a dozen other countries as part of a major review ordered after the collapse of world trade talks. US Trade Representative Susan Schwab does not link the review to the stand taken by India and other advanced developing countries at the world trade talks. She suggests it is only part of a broader examination ordered in 2005 with a view of distributing benefits of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) more equally...

Hindustan Times, 11 August 2006

India must give new dates for talks: Pakistan

Islamabad, August 10: Pakistan has asked India to give new dates for talks among the foreign secretaries that got postponed following the terror attacks in Mumbai last month. The comments came a week after Islamabad detained and then expelled Indian diplomat Deepak Kaul alleging he was a spy. India retaliated by expelling a Pakistani diplomat...

The Indian Express, 11 August 2006

Al-Qaeda planning attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, US warns India

New Delhi, August 10: The US Embassy in New Delhi warned on Friday that foreign militants, possibly al-Qaeda members, may be planning to carry out bombings in India's two major cities in the coming days. In an e-mail sent to American citizens living in India, the Embassy said New Delhi, the capital, and Bombay, the country's financial and

entertainment hub, were the likely targets, and that the attacks were believed to be planned for either before or on Independence Day, between August 11 to August 16...

Hindustan Times, 11 August 2006

China accuses India of erecting trade barriers at Nathu La

Beijing, August 10: China has accused India of erecting unilateral and restrictive trade barriers at the strategic Nathu La border trade market, which was opened in July with much fanfare after a 44-year hiatus. "India has unilaterally imposed restrictions on trade through Nathu La," vice chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region Hao Peng said in Lhasa...

Hindustan Times, 11 August 2006

'India will not be dictated on Iran'

Washington, August 10: With India unwilling to accept dictation from external powers, relations between India and Iran may cause policy differences between New Delhi and Washington, says a new Congressional study. This, however, is unlikely to derail their own "global partnership", the study adds. While US policy is to isolate Iran and to ensure that its nuclear programme is used for purely civilian purposes, India has never shared US assessments of Iran as an aggressive regional power, notes the Congressional Research Service report...

The Hindu, 12 August 2006

U.S. warns of terror attacks in India

New Delhi, August 11: The United States has warned that "foreign terrorists," including those from the Al-Qaeda, were "allegedly" planning to carry out a "series of bombing attacks" in or around New Delhi and Mumbai in the days leading to August 15. A travel advisory posted on the U.S. Embassy website on Friday said the terrorists were working on a timeframe of August 11-16. "Likely targets include major airports, key central Indian Government offices, and major gathering places such as hotels and markets," the warning said...

The Hindu, 13 August 2006

Nathu La: China disappointed at 'low levels' of trade

Beijing, August 12: A month after trading formally re-started across the Nathu La pass linking Sikkim and Tibet, Chinese authorities have expressed disappointment at the "low levels" of trade taking place. According to Xinhua, China's official news agency, Deputy Chairman of the Tibetan Autonomous Region Hao Peng has blamed the Indian side, citing a series of restrictions that New Delhi has imposed on the number of items that are permitted to be traded...

Hindustan Times, 13 August 2006

India, Pak to go ahead with technical-level talks

New Delhi, August 12: India and Pakistan are expected to hold discussions on the Sir Creek border dispute this month amid assertions by officials that technical-level parleys on various issues will go ahead despite the indefinite postponement of talks between foreign secretaries in the wake of Mumbai blasts. Officials of the two countries are

expected to meet in Pakistan this month to discuss the Sir Creek issue...

Hindustan Times, 13 August 2006

India third largest investor in UK

London, August 12: Making rapid strides, India has emerged as the third largest investor in the UK...India has also emerged as the second largest investor in London, said Sharma, who was the chief guest at a function organised by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, UK, to celebrate India's Independence Day. Referring to India's vast potential, Sharma said at present a State and a half fed the entire country and if the "agriculture revolution" became a reality, it would put the IT revolution to shade...

The Pioneer, 13 August 2006

BSF keeping vigil on Indo-B'desh border

Silchar (Assam), August 12: The Border Security Force was maintaining strict vigil in Assam's Cachar and Karimganj districts bordering Bangladesh following Wednesday's mortar attack by Bangladesh Rifles that killed two women. No fresh incidents of firing were reported since yesterday and troops were on high alert to prevent any "misadventure" by Bangladesh Rifles, BSF officials said here today. The BSF claimed it had shot dead five BDR personnel on Thursday. People who had fled border villages were not willing to return to their homes following the mortar attack. Residents of Harinagar, Kinnarkal and Tukirgram villages in a 32-km stretch along the border are still panicky despite top district officials assuring them of their safety...

The Hindu, 15 August 2006

Manmohan asks Pak. to take steps to end cross-border terror

New Delhi, Aug. 14: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today asked Pakistan to take concrete steps to end cross-border terrorism to enable the peace initiatives to succeed. "We have taken several initiatives...to be successful; these initiatives need an atmosphere of peace. It is obvious that unless Pakistan takes concrete steps to implement the solemn assurances it has given to prevent cross-border terrorism against India from any territory within its control, public opinion in India, which has supported the peace process, will be undermined," he said...

The Hindu, 15 August 2006

BSF, BDR agree to pull out additional troops

Dhaka, August 14: After the recent exchange of heavy gunfire, the Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles have agreed to pull out additional troops from the frontier, abide by border guidelines and land-boundary agreement. The agreement was reached at a Sector Commander-level flag meeting on Sunday at Harinagar on the Indian side. The two forces agreed to withdraw their additional troops by 5 p.m. on Monday, lift 'red alert' and abide by the land-boundary agreement of 1974, official sources here said...

The Hindu, 16 August 2006

India-China celebration of freedom and friendship

Bumla, August 15: The traditional Assamese drums were beaten, buffalo horns were blown and the colourful Bihu dance was performed on Tuesday morning at this frontier

post at an altitude of 15,500 feet above sea level on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the India-China border. Only, this time round the ritual was to welcome not the new Assamese calendar year but a visiting delegation of China's People Liberation Army who joined hands with the Indian Army to celebrate the Indian Independence Day. Assamese youth had the Chinese delegation spellbound with a spectacular presentation of the traditional Bihu dance. Colonel Li Ming, who headed the Chinese delegation, the PLA officers, their wives and children, applauded the performance...

The Hindu, 16 August 2006

Ties to enhance security: Putin

Moscow, August 15: Russia sets great store by its traditional relations with India and views strategic partnership between the two countries as contributing to stability and security in Asia and the world, President Vladimir Putin said in his Independence Day greetings to the Indian leadership...In a telegram to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the Russian leader praised India's achievements since independence...

The Hindu, 16 August 2006

'Indian support for Nepalese quest unwavering'

Kathmandu, August 15: India said on Tuesday it stood firmly behind the Nepalese people in their quest for peace...He was speaking at a function held to mark the 60th Independence Day of India. The Indian envoy announced that India would almost treble its annual outlay for economic development projects in Nepal to about NRs. 2.4 billion. A large number of Indians living in Nepal and local people attended the function...

The Economic Times, 17 August 2006

India way off development goal: ADB

Manila, August 16: The Asian Development Bank on Wednesday said India, despite making significant improvement in access to primary education, would not meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets as in the case of other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. ADB in its annual statistical publication - Key Indicators 2006 - said the MDG targets for universal primary enrolment and two-thirds reduction in child mortality were unlikely to be met unless governments rapidly intensified efforts to improve basic education and access to primary health care for the poor. India, along with Bangladesh, had made significant progress in improving access to primary schooling but concerns remained regarding the quality...

The Tribune, 17 August 2006

Maoists seek India's help in abolishing monarchy

Kathmandu, August 16: Maoists in Nepal today sought India's help in abolishing monarchy and establishing a republican set-up...He said the neighbouring country should help in establishing a republican set-up. The senior Maoist leader also hoped that India would soon release the Nepalese rebels serving jail terms there...

The Hindu, 18 August 2006

Indo-Russian hi-tech centre opens in Siberia

Moscow, August 17: An Indo-Russian centre for research, development and

implementation of joint high-technology projects opened in Siberian city of Novosibirsk on Thursday. Initially the centre would be involved in development and implementation of projects in processing of metals and alloys with the help of lasers and power electronics systems.

Hindustan Times, 18 August 2006

UK terror suspects' faith made in India

London, August 17: Among those arrested in connection with the recent terror plot to blow up transatlantic airliners, the key figures seem to be linked to the Tablighi Jamaat, an orthodox Islamic movement that was formed in India in 1927. Its headquarters was in Nizamuddin, Delhi. The followers of the Tablighi Jamaat have to adhere to the strict tenets of Islam. However, now security agencies — not just in Britain but across Europe and in the US — are concerned that the missionary movement has become a sleeper or active cell of militants and has links to Al Qaeda...

The Times of India, 18 August 2006

India won't be bound by law passed by US, PM tells RS

NEW DELHI, August 17: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday admitted in the Rajya Sabha that the government was concerned with two versions of the India-US nuclear Bill in the US Congress. But he assured the House "if the final Bill passed by the US Congress is not in consonance with joint agreement of July 18, 2005, India will draw its own conclusions"...

The Times of India, 19 August 2006

US stands with India in war on terror

Washington, August 18: The United States stands with India in the fight against terrorism and is fundamentally opposed to all groups that direct terrorism against it, according to a senior Bush administration official. Denying a suggestion from a questioner from India that the US government is taking measures against terrorist outfits of concern only to US and UK, Burns said as President Bush had reminded on Monday, US is fighting a global war on terror that targets peace-loving countries around the world...

The Hindu, 19 August 2006

Humanitarian crisis looms large in the Jaffna peninsula

Colombo, August 18: With curfew in force for the eighth successive day and no end in sight to the fighting between the Sri Lankan military and the LTTE, a humanitarian crisis seems looming large in the Jaffna peninsula. Because of the intensity of the fighting, all routes to the peninsula are closed. Air operations are suspended and the sea traffic has come to a standstill. Food stocks and medical supplies are fast running out. Alarmed over the developing situation, the Government of Sri Lanka is believed to have approached India for supply of relief goods...

The Tribune, 19 August 2006

India offers sops to ASEAN to save FTA

New Delhi, August 18: India today offered major tariff concessions to ASEAN to save the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) as the latter has threatened to suspend talks on

the trade agreement. Concerned over the fallout, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath will attend the ministerial-level meeting in Kuala Lumpur next week to put India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement negotiations back on the rails. Some developed countries have already blamed India for the failure of the Doha round of WTO talks...

The Tribune, 19 August 2006

China to cut import tariffs on Indian goods

Beijing, August 18: China will cut tariffs on over 1,700 kinds of imported products, including automobiles, chemicals and textiles from India and four other Asian nations from September 1 under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. Products that will come under the new arrangement include agricultural products, medicines, chemicals, textiles, metal products, mechanical and electrical products, motor vehicles and spare parts...

The Times of India, 20 August 2006

India to help Lanka resolve political crisis

New Delhi, August 19: With bloody conflict raging in Sri Lanka between the government forces and the LTTE, India has pitched in to help by offering a political formula to resolve the crisis. India has offered a devolution formula, based on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, which could take care of the interests and aspirations of all sections of the society of the island nation, official sources said...

The Hindu, 21 August 2006

India, Singapore seek 'interoperability' of air forces

Singapore, August 20: India and Singapore have held their first-ever air staff talks as part of the ongoing process of improving linkages under the bilateral Defense Cooperation Agreement. An important aspect of the talks, held last week, was the focus on "mutually supportive roles," including "interoperability" between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and its Singapore counterpart for disaster management and humanitarian relief in South East Asia...

Hindustan Times, 21 August 2006

Bhutan alerts India of possible flooding

Guwahati, August 20: Bhutan has warned India of a possible dam burst on its territory that could cause heavy flooding downstream in some areas in the northeastern state of Assam, officials said on Monday. An Assam government official said a formal communication from Bhutan had been received late on Sunday indicating the formation of an artificial dam on the Jampani river following massive mudslides in recent weeks...

Hindustan Times, 21 August 2006

Reframe Constitution, end war: India to Lanka

New Delhi, August 20: With bloody conflict raging in Sri Lanka between the government forces and the LTTE, India has pitched in to help by offering a political formula to resolve the crisis. India has offered a devolution formula, based on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, which could take care of the interests and aspirations of all sections of the society of the island nation, official sources said in New Delhi...

The Hindu, 22 August 2006

Karunanidhi against one-upmanship in taking up Sri Lankan issue

Chennai, August 21: As the issue of Sri Lankan Tamils rocked the Assembly for the second day on Monday, Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, without naming any organisation, cautioned against resorting to one-upmanship in going to their rescue. He was responding to the deputy whip of the Congress Legislature Party C. Gnanasekaran. At a time when "we are fighting against the Sinhala chauvinists and Sinhala hegemony" and for protecting the Sri Lanka Tamils, there could be a competition in defending them. But it was unfair to push aside a person who rushed to their rescue, Mr. Karunanidhi said...

The Hindu, 22 August 2006

Musharraf's remark brings up awkward question

Islamabad, August 21: Was a recent remark by President Pervez Musharraf about the "reality" of Intelligence agencies of India and Pakistan "operating against each other" an admission of meddling? This is what Gen. Musharraf said in an interview to Frontline when interviewer A.G. Noorani asked him if internal security experts should meet and exchange information about threats to each other...

The Times of India, 22 August 2006

India, Russia to enhance military ties

Moscow, August 21: India and Russia have agreed to hold joint war games on Russian soil next year to enhance military ties and share experience in handling low-intensity conflicts at high altitudes, Army Chief General J J Singh said. Singh, who is on his maiden visit to Russia, held wide-ranging talks with Chief of General Staff of the Russian armed forces General Baluyevsky and Commander-in-Chief of the Land forces Colonel General Alexei Maslov on Monday...

Hindustan Times, 22 August 2006

India, Lanka agree on aid to Jaffna

Colombo, August 21: India and Sri Lanka have agreed on a plan to send emergency humanitarian supplies from India to beleaguered Jaffna by sea, according to the Sri Lankan government's Defense Spokesman, Keheliya Rambukwella. This has been necessitated by the absence of a safe air or sea route between Colombo and Jaffna...

The Hindu, 23 August 2006

Pakistan: no word from India on Sir Creek

Islamabad, August 22: Pakistan said on Monday that it had not received any word yet from India on the expert level talks scheduled for August 23 and 24. Indian officials said no dates had been agreed upon. A decision to hold a meeting of experts to discuss modalities for an agreed joint survey of the creek was taken when the Defense Secretaries of the two countries met in May to discuss the Siachen and Sir Creek issues...

The Times of India, 23 August 2006

ISI supports terror groups active in J&K

New Delhi, August 22: Maintaining that Pakistan has not dismantled the terror

infrastructure existing on its soil, India on Wednesday said the neighbouring country's intelligence agency ISI continues to provide "directions" and "logistics" support to terrorist groups like LeT active in this country...He said information about existence of terrorist training camps was passed on to Pakistan during the Home Secretary-level talks between the two countries...

Hindustan Times, 23 August 2006

EADS plans €2 bn investment in India

Frankfurt, August 22: European aerospace and defense group EADS will invest 2 billion euros (\$2.57 billion) over the next 15 years in India in production as well as research and development facilities, Financial Times Deutschland reported. The group currently represented there only by an Airbus branch office, plans cooperation between its Euro copter subsidiary and India's HAL to develop a new army helicopter...

The Hindustan Times, 24 August 2006

India to give 11/7 proof to Dhaka

New Delhi, August 23: India is increasing its anti-terror pitch on the sub continental platform. It will raise the issue of the presence of masterminds of the July 11 Mumbai serial blasts — Zahibuddin Ansari, Fayaz Kagzi and Rahil Abdul Rehman Sheikh — in Bangladesh during the home secretary-level talks beginning in Dhaka from Thursday. Home ministry sources said evidence collected during the investigation into the blast has confirmed the presence of the trio in Bangladesh. The reports are conflicting. While some of those accused are suspected to have escaped to Nepal, sources said the trio left for Kolkata on the night of the serial train blasts and subsequently crossed over to Bangladesh...

The Hindu, 24 August 2006

Manmohan: I have Bush's assurance

New Delhi, August 23: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday told the Lok Sabha that United States President George W. Bush had assured him that he did not intend shifting the goalposts of the July 2005 civilian nuclear agreement. However, if extraneous elements, not envisaged in the agreement, found their way into it, we would draw "appropriate conclusions," Dr. Singh said. The U.S. Congressional process was not yet over and he could not predict what would emerge...

The Hindustan Times, 24 August 2006

World Bank loosens purse strings

Washington, August 23: After withholding assistance to certain Indian projects because of allegations of corruption, the World Bank has approved a \$672 million package for India's health sector. The Bank's approval on Tuesday followed "strong action" taken by the Government of India. It says the move follows after India took strong action in response to the complaints of "wrong-doing" in the procurement process...

The Hindu, 25 August 2006

ASEAN agrees to resume free trade talks with India

Kuala Lumpur, August 24: The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

agreed on Thursday to resume free trade talks with India, breaking months of deadlock, but the regional grouping wants India to offer deeper concessions before an agreement is reached. Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said India's revised offer last week to further whittle down to 560, the items it wants excluded from the pact was a "good sign," but that the timetable for tariff cuts, which is spread out until 2022, was far too long...

Hindustan Times, 25 August 2006

India sends special envoy to West Asia

New Delhi, August 24: With hostilities ending in Lebanon, India has sent its Special Envoy C R Garekhan to the region to take stock of the situation there and assess how New Delhi can help post-conflict. Garekhan will be visiting four countries, including Lebanon, Syria and Oman during his 10-day visit that began on Monday, officials said here on Thursday...

The Times of India, 25 August 2006

India favours Japan's trade block proposal

Kuala Lumpur, August 24: India on Thursday strongly supported Japan's proposal for a pan-Asia trade block that will include 10 members of Asean and six other countries. Apart from Asean members and India, the proposed free trade area will include China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand...

The Hindu, 26 August 2006

India, ASEAN to stay the dialogue course

Singapore, August 25: India and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have averted a looming crisis in their difficult trade talks and agreed to stay the dialogue course. This was indicated by Commerce Minister Kamal Nath and ASEAN Secretary General Ong Keng Yong in separate phone-in interviews to The Hindu from Kuala Lumpur on Friday. Special Secretary G. K. Pillai, High Commissioner R. L. Narayan, and Joint Secretary P. K. Dash were members of the delegation headed by Mr. Kamal Nath, while Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz led the ASEAN side...

The Economic Times, 26 August 2006

India proposes trade agreement with Nepal

New Delhi, August 25: India has proposed a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) with Nepal to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties. Nepal has agreed to look into India's proposal. The proposal was mooted by India at the two-day meeting of the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) on trade, transit and cooperation to control unauthorised trade in New Delhi. The Nepalese delegation was led by the country's commerce & industry minister Bharat Bahadur Thapa while the Indian delegation was headed by commerce secretary S N Menon...

Hindustan Times, 26 August 2006

India in talks with Nepal for power projects

New Delhi, August 25: Facing acute shortage of electricity, India is talking to Nepal for tapping the potential the Himalayan country has. "We are talking to Nepal. There lies a potential of about 60,000 MW electricity generation," Power Minister Sushil Kumar

Shinde said in the Lok Sabha during the Question Hour. He said that India had invested in Bhutan as well for similar projects and possibilities were being explored to set up power generation projects in Nepal...

Business Line, 26 August 2006

Article-Why FDI eludes India

The importance of Foreign Direct Investments has been well spelt out in India in different forums and at all levels over the last decade. Recently an international consultancy firm rated India second, ahead of the US, in the FDI Confidence Index, while Unctad put India as the third most attractive destination in the world for FDI. However, a hard look at the FDI flows into India reveals a different picture. Though the fourth largest economy, India gets only 0.8 per cent of total global FDI flows and less than 3 per cent of the total FDI flows to developing countries...