

The Times of India, 1 August 2006

### **America nails Pak-blessed terror camps**

WASHINGTON: When India's national security establishment and foreign office mandarins meet with interlocutors from Islamabad and Washington over the next few days amid a spat over sponsorship of terrorism in the neighbourhood, they could draw upon court proceedings in Lodi, California, to make their case if their own material is considered suspect. In an unprecedented development, the US Department of Justice and the FBI earlier this year took the help of a satellite imagery expert from the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) to nail the existence of terror camps in Pakistan in a case involving a Pakistani father and son duo. As part of the evidence at the trial, the US government expert testified that jihadi camps existed and operated in various parts of Pakistan from 2000 to 2005, and specifically opined that a series of camps, including a well-known Jaish-e-Mohammed camp, were located in the Balakot area of Pakistan. The prosecution wheeled out the expert, Eric Benn, an analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency, to make its case against Hamir Hayat, while convicting him of planning to wage a jihad against the United States after training at a terrorist camp.

The Times of India, 1 August 2006

### **India upset with US for underplaying Pak's role**

Washington: 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 kind of information I got out of the (Hayat interview) transcript... is consistent with the physical things I observed," Benn testified in US district court. "This would be a militant camp." The testimony undermines Pakistan's insistence that there are no terrorist camps in the country, a pro forma denial that is often buttressed by state department certification about Islamabad being a frontline ally in the war on terrorism. Pakistan has now turned around charges that it hosts terrorist groups to charge India with sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan. It has also furnished its own list of terror suspects it wants New Delhi to apprehend and send back in lieu of India's 20-most wanted, including Dawood Ibrahim.

China Daily, 1 August 2006

### **Bush authorizes graphite export to China**

President George W. Bush on Monday authorized the export to China of 2 million pounds (907,200 kg) of bulk graphite and said he did not believe the items would prove detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry. Bush notified the leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate of the move in a letter. Bush said he had certified that the export of the graphite and processing equipment "is not detrimental to the United States space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile of space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China."

The Telegraph, 1 August 2006

**In the air, US tastes own medicine**

New Delhi, July 31: India today gave the US a mild taste of its own airspace defence mechanisms adopted after 9/11 when it forced a private cargo aircraft to land in Mumbai after the plane changed its call sign from military to civil. The Boeing 747 cargo transporter for a company called Atlas Air was radioed to land in Mumbai failing which, it was warned, that Indian Air Force fighter aircraft from the South Western Air Command would scramble and 'escort' it into Indian airspace. The aircraft was at first identified as a US Air Force plane and when it was refused permission, it sought permission to enter Indian airspace as a civil aircraft. The Indian response is much milder compared to what the US Air Force would do after 9/11, mainly because it was an American plane and the military-to-military relations have improved since 2002. Washington's own rules ask for suspicious aircraft entering US airspace to be shot down or 'escorted down'. Earlier this year, the Cabinet Committee on Security cleared a new airspace and anti-hijacking security drill. Much of it is on the lines of the drill adopted by the US after 9/11.

The Indian Express, 2 August 2006

**India, US pharmacopeia agencies sign agreement**

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: The Indian Pharmacopeia Commission (IPC) and United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) today signed a memorandum of understanding to promote greater cooperation through exchange of information and to increase awareness about the importance of quality and safety medicines. These two organisations are responsible for ensuring quality and standardisation of medicines sold in India and US respectively. On behalf of the IPC the MoU was signed by Secretary (Health) and Chairman IPC, P K Hota and Executive Vice-President and CEO of USP Dr Roger L Williams. According to a press statement, the MoU will promote greater interaction between the IPC and USP through collaboration on regional scientific conferences, seminars, training workshops and educational courses. The aim is also to facilitate communication to obtain necessary information and chemicals to develop science-based monographs, reference standards of mutual interest and promote collaboration on testing for reference standards of medicines. The MoU is the second step in ensuring quality of medicines with US cooperation.

The Tribune, 2 August 2006

**FBI has images of terror camp in Pak**

Washington, Aug 1: Pakistan's claims that it does not have terrorist training camps in its territory has been strongly contested by the FBI which has told a US court that satellite pictures pointed towards such a camp. In the trial of 23-year-old Pakistani American Hamid Hayat, who has been accused of terrorism-related charges, Defence Intelligence Agency's expert Eric Benn has stated that there was as much of a 70 per cent 'probability' that the satellite images pointed to a militant training camp near Balakot in northeast Pakistan. Much to Pakistan's embarrassment, Benn told the district court in California that although he did not 'detect any formal weapons training', including firing ranges, targets, rocket launchers or explosives testing, it did not mean they were not taking place. The structures and trail in the remote terrain fit the 'signature' of 'militant training', as opposed

to regular training of Pakistani armed forces, he said.

Hindustan Times, 3 August 2006

### **US renews export ban on Pak's Pakland Corp**

Washington: The US has renewed an order denying export privileges to Pakistan's Pakland PME Corporation and its owner Humayun Khan till August 2015 for allegedly shipping US nuclear triggers to Islamabad. Khan, who is reportedly close to Pakistan's military establishment, has been indicted by the US Department of Justice in the case but is said to be roaming freely in Pakistan. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the US Department of Commerce also notified that the firm's South African collaborator Asher Karni, who is currently in a US prison, has been placed in the Denial Persons list with immediate effect. In its original order last year, the BIS presented evidence that Khan conspired with others to illegally export to Pakistan items subject to the Export Administration Act. Between 2003-04, Pakland and Khan "conspired" to have "triggered spark gaps" and "oscilloscopes" under the controlled list to be exported from the US to Pakistan without required licences, the BIS said.

Newindpress, 3 August 2006

### **Jaswant's 'mole' letter fraudulent, contains no truth: US**

NEW DELHI: The woes of senior BJP leader Jaswant Singh on alleged mole in PMO issue continued on Wednesday with the United States distancing itself from a purported letter in which a former Senator was said to have mentioned about the informer and Congress tabling a breach of privilege notice against the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha. A senior American administration official termed as a "fraudulent, poor imitation" of official US government correspondence the letter said to have been written by Senator Thomas Graham to former American Ambassador to India Harry Barnes on the "mole" in the PMO during P V Narasimha Rao's tenure allegedly leaking nuclear secrets. "The letter does not contain a shred of truth. The US was not asked to examine it (the letter) before its publication in newspapers. Had we been asked, we would have pointed out that it is fraudulent, poor imitation of official US government correspondence," the administration official told PTI.

Hindustan Times, 4 August 2006

### **'Nothing nefarious in mole letter'**

Washington: The US government says it has nothing to do with the alleged correspondence between a former American ambassador to India and a senator that suggested the existence of a mole in then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's office in the 1990s, but does not see anything nefarious in it. Even if authentic it was at best an exchange between two private individuals, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said on Thursday while making three points about the so-called correspondence between one Thomas Graham and Harry Barnes, former ambassador to India. "One, we can't verify that this correspondence is in fact authentic. Two, the individuals involved were not employed by the US government at the time listed on the correspondence and were in fact working in private non-governmental organisations, he said. "Third, the initial press reporting on the alleged correspondence was very selective in how it was put out," McCormack said. But he still did not see anything nefarious in the

copy of the 'correspondence' that he had seen.

The Indian Express, 4 August 2006

### **Bengal's comrades applaud as US opens first trade mission**

KOLKATA, August 3: From Washington to Writers' Buildings it's not been a very familiar route for either business, politics or diplomacy to travel. But tomorrow, West Bengal is going to record two 'firsts': one, the setting up of a Foreign Commercial Service office by the US government in Kolkata for the first time ever. And, two, the Writers' visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard A Boucher who is scheduled to meet Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. Though billed as a courtesy call, the two leaders are expected to discuss business and other issues of importance affecting the region. Said state's Commerce and Industry Minister Nirupam Sen: "It's a good thing that such a senior US diplomat is coming to Kolkata. We want US capital, we want US investments to come into our state. We are in contact with the US government in this regard," Sen told The Indian Express. Boucher's visit has been synchronized with the setting up of the Foreign Commercial Service Office which will be led by a Foreign Commercial Person. This office, sources said, will facilitate business in and out of West Bengal and the North-Eastern region, including Sikkim, with the US.

The Indian Express, 4 August 2006

### **Integrating the U.S.-India circuit**

The evolving technology connections between India and the United States are a particularly fascinating aspect in their current high-energy engagement. The focus here is not on sensitive technologies such as nuclear cooperation, nor on the exchanges between the two governments. From this writer's privileged perch close to the high-technology hub in the Silicon Valley, the attempt is more to outline the corporate and business-to-business connections driven by shifts in technology and the emerging implications for India. The close link between Silicon Valley and the Indian IT buzz centres such as Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Gurgaon is now well recognised. To speak of the imprint of Indians, and now of Corporate India, in the global business environment of which Silicon Valley is an integral part is not patriotic hype. It is visible in the critical mass of Indians at all levels in the Valley, in the growing awareness about Indian capabilities among educated Americans, and if proof is still needed, in the fact that as many as 220 of the Fortune 500 companies have some presence in India.

Deccan Herald, 5 August 2006

### **US official backs India's concerns**

Washington: A senior Bush administration official has expressed support for India's concern that the United States Senate plans to approve legislation that will prevent India from ever obtaining nuclear enrichment, reprocessing or heavy water technologies. A senior Bush administration official has expressed support for India's concern that the United States Senate plans to approve legislation that will prevent India from ever obtaining nuclear enrichment, reprocessing or heavy water technologies. These are also key technologies for weapons production, and in bilateral discussions, Indian officials have indicated their broad support for the United States objective of restricting their proliferation. But the US Senate proposal to enshrine these restrictions into a binding

legislation means that India will be excluded from any future change of policy when, for example, New Delhi and Washington could conceivably collaborate in a multinational framework to develop enrichment, reprocessing or heavy water for peaceful energy purposes. Commenting on the pending legislation, newly nominated United States Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-Proliferation John Rood told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the reasons for the Indian administration's concern regarding the proposed statutory prohibition was that it 'singles out sales to India'.

The Hindu, 5 August 2006

#### **American claims and questions of fact**

Not for the first time, India's strategic establishment is learning that the world after September 11, 2001, looks suspiciously like it did before those horrific events. Last month, as Indian authorities made clear their anger with Pakistan for failing to act against the terror groups that executed the Mumbai serial bombings, United States Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher demanded that New Delhi "find the evidence" to support its claims. Mr. Boucher noted that "some of the groups that are suspected in these bombings are actually outlawed in Pakistan," and asserted that "no country has done more than Pakistan in the ongoing fight against terrorism." Mr. Boucher's position, of a piece with the U.S.' reflexive pre-9/11 support for Pakistan, might have been persuasive if his own office hadn't been saying just the opposite. Although Country Reports on Terrorism, an annual State Department publication, praises Islamabad for cooperating "closely with the United States and other nations in a campaign to eliminate international terrorism," the facts it records on Pakistan-based jihadi organisations do not a little to undermine this assertion.

The Hindu, 5 August 2006

#### **U.S. wants Pakistan to move against terrorists: Boucher**

KOLKATA: Even though Pakistan has set itself a national policy to end terrorism and President Pervez Musharraf has "made it clear that he does not want them [terrorist groups in his country] there, obviously there is a lot of work to do", United States Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher said here on Friday in reference to India's charge against Pakistan of abetting cross-border terrorism. "Terrorist activity in anybody's territory needs to be eliminated ... the U.S. was working with everybody in this region against terrorism." As for Pakistan the U.S. was trying to encourage the government there "to move against any terrorist group" which has a presence in that country, he said. On the future of the nuclear agreement between the U.S. government and India he said: "Our nuclear deal is not dependent on Iran and India was making a rational and strategic calculation of its interests for importing pipe-gas from Iran. I do not think that will change." Mr. Boucher, who was addressing a press conference, said he was "very confident that the Bill [on the nuclear pact] would be passed by the Congress which will allow us to implement the deal the way it was signed."

The Times of India, 5 August 2006

**Pakistan, US sign MoU to check terrorism**

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to fight terrorism and drug trafficking along the troubled Pakistan-Afghanistan border, Pakistan and US signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) worth \$2.7 million in security and communications equipment, The News reported on Friday. US ambassador Ryan Crocker, Pakistani Minister for Interior Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao and Frontier Constabulary (FC) Commandant Navid Malik Khan signed the documents. A press release of the US embassy said, "it will promote Pakistan's efforts to enhance the capacity of the FC by raising additional 50 platoons to protect the 286 km border of the frontier region". In a coordinated move to support security forces, the MoU follows commitments the US government made last year to provide \$30 million in supplemental funds to fight narcotics and enhance border security. More than \$15 million of the assistance is dedicated to delivering communications, transport and security equipment to the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Balochistan Frontier Corps. A large portion of this equipment will be delivered to the Frontier Corps by the end of this year.

The Hindu, 6 August 2006

**Centre tilting towards U.S.: Basu**

KOLKATA: "Give us a chance to support you ... but you must not allow your Government to be dictated to by the United States," was what veteran Marxist leader Jyoti Basu told Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, when the latter had called on him at his residence during his visit to the city last month. Recalling the conversation between the two at a function here on Saturday to commemorate the 118th birth anniversary of Muzaffar Ahmed, a pioneer of the Communist movement in the country, Mr. Basu said that even though he told Dr. Singh that "we shall be going to the people whenever you deviate from the Common Minimum Programme" he assured him that it was not the intention of his party - the Communist Party of India (Marxist) - to topple the United Progressive Alliance Government at the Centre. The Prime Minister told him then that his Government was not pro-U.S. but was only having talks with the U.S. Government to seek its cooperation on matters related to industry and the like.

Daily Times, 7 August 2006

**US accuses Pakistan of chopper misuse**

ISLAMABAD: The US government has accused the Ministry of Interior of using its expensive helicopters for works other than the purpose they were given, to counter terrorism and drugs smuggling along the Pak-Afghan border. Pakistani officials denied the allegation. Sources said the accusation was made by Anne Patterson, US assistant secretary of state for international narcotics control and law enforcement, in a recent meeting with Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao and other Pakistan officials in Washington. Sources said Ms Patterson said the US had inside information that these helicopters were not being used exclusively to monitor the activities of drug barons and terrorists. She did not elaborate what these other uses were. Sources said Mr Sherpao responded that this was not true, and that both the helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft provided to Pakistan by the US were being used for the purposes they were provided.

Dawn, 7 August 2006

### **US calls for resolution of new row in S. Asia**

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The US advised India and Pakistan on Sunday to resolve the latest row over the expulsion of diplomats between themselves. On Saturday, India and Pakistan expelled each other's senior diplomats, accusing them of indulging in practices 'incompatible to their diplomatic status'. 'This is an issue that needs to be resolved between India and Pakistan,' said a State Department official when asked to comment on the development. In the 1980s, when their bilateral relations were very tense, India and Pakistan regularly expelled each other's diplomats but a tit-for-tat move at this stage has raised serious concerns about the viability of the ongoing peace process between the two neighbours. In Washington, however, the development is seen as a 'routine diplomatic occurrence', as one senior diplomat put it. Diplomatic sources recalled that last week the US expelled two Kyrgyz diplomats in retaliation for the 'unwarranted' expulsion last month from the central Asian nation of two American envoys.

Dawn, 7 August 2006

### **US relaxes visa rules for Pakistani students**

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: US authorities have started helping Pakistani students who are admitted to various American institutions but are unable to come because of visa restrictions, a senior Pakistani activist said on Sunday. Dr Abdul Rashid Piracha, president of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani-descent of North America, said his group lobbied intensely for the students and 'we are now happy to report some progress.' There are estimated 10,000 Pakistani physicians in the US and APPNA is their largest representative body with branches all over North America. Dr Piracha said that two years ago, only 20 to 26 per cent of Pakistani doctors accepted for residency programmes in the US were able to come to this country. But last year almost 76 per cent of them came. He said that at their meetings with officials at the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security, they also discussed problems faced by other Pakistani students and urged them to help relax restrictions on student visas.

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The Hindu, 8 August 2006

**India may lose US preferential trade benefits**

Washington, Aug. 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 review follows complaints from Capitol Hill that countries like India and Brazil, which avails trade benefits, have not been helpful in efforts to achieve agreement in the Doha Round of global trade talks. "Countries that don't want to give us access to their markets in the WTO negotiations, why should we continue to give them preferential treatment?" wondered Charles Grassley, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee that has jurisdiction over any legislation to extend the GSP programme.

The Hindu, 8 August 2006

**India rules out violation by 2 firms**

NEW DELHI: New Delhi said on Monday that its "preliminary assessment" showed that two companies - Balaji Amines and Prachi Poly Products - had not violated Indian regulations or international regulations while transferring chemicals to Iran. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the United States' sanctions on the companies were not justified. "We have seen the reports about imposition of sanctions on two Indian companies ... Balaji Amines and Prachi Poly Products. The sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government on the two Indian firms relate to transfer of some chemicals to Iran. Our preliminary assessment is that the transfer of such chemicals was not in violation of our regulations or our international obligations," he said. "[The] Government of India's commitment to prevent onward proliferation is second to none. We have instituted a rigorous system of export controls and our track record in this regard is well known. India is working with the international community, including the U.S., as a partner against proliferation. In this context the imposition of sanctions by the U.S. on our firms - which in our view have not acted in violation of our laws or regulations - is not justified," the spokesman said.

The Tribune, 8 August 2006

**India tells USA to rein in Pakistan**

New Delhi, August 7: India today conveyed two things directly to the United States - neither being music to ears of the 'strategic partner'. New Delhi forthrightly told Washington that the imposition of American sanctions on two Indian firms was 'not justified' and the international community needed to do more to make Pakistan deliver on its January 6, 2004, promise to dismantle all infrastructure of terror from within Pakistan or Pakistan-controlled territories. The twin messages were given to the visiting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Mr Richard Boucher, during his official talks with Indian diplomats. Mr Boucher's main interaction was with his Indian counterpart, Joint Secretary (Americas) Dr S Jaishanker and the two talked for nearly 150

minutes. Mr Boucher also met Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran and Joint Secretary (Eurasia), Dr J Bhagwati, separately for half an hour each. On his part, Mr Boucher told the Indian officials that the US-India civilian nuclear cooperation agreement was on track and moving swiftly towards conclusion - something which he chose to say on record at a FICCI business meeting as well.

The New York Times, 8 August 2006

### **Big U.S. Business Troupe Is Being Readied for India**

NEW DELHI, Aug. 7: The Bush administration is organizing a business delegation to India this fall, potentially the largest such mission ever to a single country, an administration official said Monday, and one that underscores the economic potential of a nation of 1.1 billion, with an annual growth rate of 8 percent. "That's a reflection of interest in India," the official, Assistant Secretary of State Richard A. Boucher, said, referring to what could be a delegation of up to 400 American business leaders planned in November. Trade between the countries has grown by a projected 21 percent this year, to nearly \$26 billion, according to the United States Trade Commission and American Embassy officials here. Exports to India are expected to grow still further if Indian officials carry through with economic changes sought by Washington, including the end of restrictions on foreign investment in industries like retailing and banking. The United States is India's largest trading partner.

Daily Times, 8 August 2006

### **US Congress clears F-16 deal**

ISLAMABAD: The US Congress has cleared the sale of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan and the deal does not contain any extraordinary security conditions, the Foreign Office said on Monday. Asked to comment on reports that the United States was insisting on extraordinary security precautions, FO spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said the agreement contained a standard clause to ensure that there was no transfer of technology to a third country. Pakistan signed similar agreements with other countries while selling or purchasing any equipment, she said. An exchange of a letter of offer from the United States and letter of acceptance from Pakistan would take place to finalise the deal, she said. Alsam dismissed press reports that the United States had conveyed to Pakistan that the equipment supplied for the war against terrorism should not be diverted for other uses.

The Indian Express, 8 August 2006

### **After no evidence, Boucher says Pak terror groups have ?designs? on India**

New Delhi, August 7: The US today said there are terror groups in Pakistan having 'designs' on India. Though he did not name any such groups, Richard Boucher, US Assistant Secretary of State, who had earlier said that India has no evidence to accuse Pakistan for the Mumbai blasts, pointed out 'things have advanced' since he made such remarks weeks ago. :We all know there is terrorism in the South Asian region. Some of the terror groups that have designs against India still have pieces in Pakistan," he said while addressing a gathering at the FICCI office. Boucher, however, expressed hope that the legislation at the US Senate about the Indo-US Civilian nuclear cooperation will not deviate from the July 18 joint agreement between the two countries. "The Bill passed by

the House of Representatives reflected the agreement, the way it was agreed on July 18. The administration too is committed to it," he added. Boucher also spoke about the "accelerated" momentum in the Indo-US relations based on the "shared values and mutual interests".

Hindustan Times, 9 August 2006

### **US may make India pay for WTO intransigence**

Washington/New Delhi, August 8: In a move that could hurt Indian exports, the US has ordered a review to determine whether to "limit, suspend or withdraw" preferential trade benefits to India, Brazil and 11 other developing countries under the US's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The exercise is being widely seen as a fallout of the collapse of the recent WTO talks and the criticism it sparked within US Congress on the "unhelpful" stand of countries like India, Brazil and Argentina at the Doha Round negotiations. However, US trade representative Susan Schwab, who announced the review on Monday, made no reference to the WTO stalemate. She instead dwelt on how a few countries were reaping benefits under the GSP. But the review covers most of the major members of the G20, which has been battling the US over trade concessions. If the US withdraws GSP benefits to countries like India, Brazil and Venezuela for forging an alliance, as part of G20, then their exports will be impacted. The GSP programme, started in 1974, currently provides duty-free treatment for 3,400 products from 133 nations. According to the US trade data, last year India's exports under GSP stood at \$4,179 billion and they covered auto spares, furniture and jewellery.

The Nation, 9 August 2006

### **Uncalled for**

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher, who is currently on a visit to India, has expressed certain views which clearly lend themselves to objectionable interpretations. While not saying so in so many words, which would have been highly inconsistent with diplomatic norms, he suggested that India join hands with the US to take joint action against terrorist groups in Pakistan. Islamabad must take serious note of his utterance and seek immediate clarification from Washington.

Reportedly also, Mr Boucher, talking to an audience of businessmen after he had met with Indian officials, remarked, 'Some of the (terrorist) groups that have designs against India still have pieces in Pakistan.' He did not elaborate to say how he had reached that conclusion. He avoided, though, linking the Mumbai train explosions to Pakistan. It should be recalled that when India tried to implicate Pakistan in the incident soon after it took place, he had spoken from Washington to rule it out, pointing out that India had not been able to offer any evidence to substantiate the charge. His remark is positive, that the tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats should not result in tension, even though India acted unfairly in declaring the Pakistani diplomat persona non grata. There was no charge against him. He was merely a victim of retaliation.

The Nation, 9 August 2006

### **Prestige weapons?**

The Bush administration has justified its decision to sell 36 F-16 Falcon fighter jets to Pakistan on grounds that it would increase American 'access and influence' in Islamabad.

Pakistan's military regime, which will incur a debt of \$ 5 billion to purchase the planes made by Lockheed Martin, considers the deal a boost for Pakistan's security. Close examination of the deal and of the history of similar US-Pakistan deals indicates that the stated goals of neither the US nor the Pakistani rulers are likely to be advanced with the F-16 purchase. If anything, the F-16s are a pay off from Washington for General Pervez Musharraf's military regime - a sort of 'toys for the boys' gift - that is expected to extend the regime's survival. That is all that concessional arms transfers under previous pro-US Pakistani military regimes have achieved. Let us first look at the F-16 deal from the perspective of Pakistani national security. Not long ago, General Pervez Musharraf declared that the greatest threat to Pakistani security comes from extremist ideologues and terrorists within the country. Domestic extremism in Pakistan would be fought more effectively with investment in the neglected social sectors. \$ 5 billion could go a long way in expanding education, healthcare and poverty alleviation programmes.

Daily Times, 10 August 2006

### **Are the F-16s up to scratch?**

We'll talk about the new GHQ another time; this week it is the F-16s. While buying these expensive planes at a time when the country needs all the money it can muster to make the lives of its people a little easier, is a criminal waste of money. Are these aircrafts even worth it? So then, despite the fact that the infrastructure of the country is in the state it is in: water soluble roads that are pot-holed with the slightest rain; rickety bridges that collapse at the merest provocation; an electricity distribution system that is so weak and frayed it breaks down with sickening regularity; schools that do not have chairs and tables or safe drinking water for children; government-run hospitals that do not even have sutures, bandages, cotton-wool or methylated spirit; a train network which can be decimated by the washing away of a single bridge- despite all of this it seems we must have the blessed F-16s first. Indeed the fact that, the infrastructure of Karachi, the major centre of industry and trade and the city that pays majority of the federation's bills, could be so creaky that it drowns in three inches of rain; when three-fourths of its residents are out of electricity or water, seems to be a greater cause for concern.

People's Daily, 10 August 2006

### **China, U.S. to work on solutions to energy, communicable diseases**

China and the United States on Wednesday pledged to cooperate on global affairs such as energy security, communicable diseases and humanitarian aid. "China-U.S. dialogue on sustainable development, energy security, public health, humanitarian assistance and other global issues not only serves the interests of our two peoples, but also contributes to stability and development of the world," said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai at a China-U.S. forum. Cui and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky led delegations to the second session of China-U.S. Global Issues Forum being held here. The first session of the forum was held in 2005 in Washington. The two-day session will discuss issues such as energy security, clean energy, public health, humanitarian assistance, trafficking in people, environmental conservation, sustainable development and international development cooperation.

The Hindu, 11 August 2006

### **US Embassy warns of possible terror attacks in India**

New Delhi, Aug. 11: The U.S. Embassy in India's capital warned Friday that foreign militants, possibly al-Qaida members, may be planning to carry out bombings in two major Indian 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 targets of the alleged plot, and that the attacks were believed to be planned around India's Independence Day, which falls on Aug. 15. The Embassy confirmed that it had sent the e-mail, although Indian officials refused to comment on the warning. Word of the alleged plot came a day after British police said they had thwarted another terrorist plot, possibly just days away, to blow up U.S.-bound jetliners over the Atlantic and kill thousands. Investigators described a plan on the scale of the Sept. 11 attacks that would use common electronic devices to detonate liquid explosives concealed in sports drink bottles to bring down as many as 10 planes in a nearly simultaneous strike.

The Times of India, 11 August 2006

### **US refuse to comment on Pakistani links**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration on Friday remained tight lipped on the role played by US intelligence agencies in busting the suspected Al Qaeda plot to blow up several airliners over the Atlantic and its Pakistani links. Washington also refused to comment on media reports that pressure was applied on Islamabad to make a "key arrest" that eventually led to a number of arrests in UK. "One of the things that we're doing, of course, is we're cooperating with the British authorities, and they're the lead in the investigation and subsequent prosecution and I don't want to say anything that might in any ways adversely affect the ongoing investigation. I'll wait for the British authorities to get that information out to the public," US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said in a TV interview. The nation's top law enforcement officer also refused to confirm or deny a report that pressure was brought on Pakistan to make a key arrest that led to nabbing of suspects in the United Kingdom.

The Times of India, 11 August 2006

### **Warning on terror attacks very innocuous: Govt**

New Delhi: The government has described the US embassy advisory on possible Al-Qaeda attacks in New Delhi and Mumbai as "very innocuous". It, however, refrained from commenting on the presence of foreign terrorists in the country. "It is normal for a mission to issue advisories whenever they have information. We too do the same thing. They do their security arrangements based on that. It is a very innocuous advisory," Union Home Secretary VK Duggal told a press conference. He was commenting on the warning issued by the US embassy that Al-Qaeda and other foreign terrorist groups may carry out attacks in the Capital and in Mumbai ahead of or during the Independence Day. from Friday till August 16 and the likely targets were airports, vital government installations and crowded places. The warning came a day after a major terror plot was foiled in Britain. Duggal repeatedly ducked questions on whether there was any presence of Al-Qaeda in the country. "I have only seen the advisory and there is no intelligence input shared with us.

The New York Times, 11 August 2006

### **Senators Press China on Iran, N.Korea**

BEIJING: A group of U.S. senators pressed China on its ties with North Korea and Iran, they said on Friday as they neared the end of a visit that covered Washington's often volatile trade and security links with the rising Asian power. China's backing of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning North Korea's missile tests last month was "a historic and very significant step," said Senator Mark Dayton, a Minnesota Democrat. China has hosted six-party talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons that also include the two Koreas, Japan, Russia and the United States. Negotiations have stalled since November, following a U.S. crackdown on North Korean bank transactions spurred by claims Pyongyang counterfeited U.S. cash and trafficked drugs. The visitors raised Washington's belief that China needed to do more to press North Korea to return to the talks, said Senator Arlen Specter, an Pennsylvania Republican. "I did express the view that China could do more, having had such a long-standing relationship with North Korea, to help the negotiations," he told a news briefing in Beijing.

The Washington Post, 11 August 2006

### **U.S. Envoy Asks China To Release Activist**

BEIJING, Aug. 10: A top U.S. diplomat said Thursday that she had urged Chinese officials to release a blind rural lawyer who was detained after exposing forced abortions and sterilizations in eastern China. Assistant Secretary of State Ellen R. Sauerbrey told reporters that she raised the case of Chen Guangcheng on the sidelines of the China-U.S. Global Issues Forum, being held in Beijing. "We believe that there has been a certain violation of normal standards and are urging China to release him from imprisonment," said Sauerbrey, who is in charge of the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. Chen is a self-taught lawyer whose work drew unwelcome attention to the government's family planning policies, embarrassing officials in eastern China. He has been charged with destroying public property and disrupting traffic in what rights activists say is a politically motivated case. He was arrested and charged in June but has been under house arrest or in detention since last September.

Daily Times, 11 August 2006

### **No Pakistani hand in India terrorism: Boucher**

NEW DELHI: US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher has categorically ruled out Pakistani involvement in supporting terrorist acts in India. "It is the considered opinion of Washington that based on the information available with it that government of Pakistan is not involved at all in supporting terrorist acts in India," Boucher told a select gathering of Muslim representatives in New Delhi during his four-day trip to India earlier this week, reported The Asian Age daily. The US state department official issued the remarks in response to questions posed by his guests about Pakistan's alleged role in terrorists acts on Indian soil, such as last month's Mumbai train blasts. Among the gathering were: Jamia Millia Islamia Vice Chancellor Prof Mushirul Hasan, Raashid Alvi (Congress), Arif Mohammad Khan (BJP) and Wajahat Habibullah. According to Raashid Alvi, the US official showed an interest in understanding Indian Muslim opinion about the US. 'During the 30-odd minute meeting, he tried to know about the Indian Muslims and minority issues.'

Dawn, 12 August 2006

### **US, Pakistan agree to work in IT sector**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 11: The United States and Pakistan on Friday agreed to work together to enhance and upgrade IT disciplines in major universities, promote broadband internet and increase computer usage in Pakistan. The two sides also agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in e-governance, spectrum management, human resource development and capacity-building. A statement issued here said that the agreement was reached during a meeting between Minister for Information Technology Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari and US Coordinator for International Communications and Information David A Gross. State Minister Ishaq Khan Khakwani, Secretary Furrugh Qayyum and other senior officials also attended the meeting. Mr Gross said he had been thoroughly impressed with the scale of progress achieved by Pakistan in the telecom sector within the past three to five years. It had not only won Pakistan recognition in the form of prestigious GSMA Award but also put Pakistan prominently on the radar screen of international IT firms. "Until a couple of years ago, Pakistan was not even heard of in the telecom arena. But 37 million mobile phone subscribers within a couple of years point to the vision and the effort of the government in moving from old system to the new telecommunication system," he said.

China Daily, 12 August 2006

### **Sino-US talks cement mutual trust**

A group of US senators who have been in China this week for talks with Chinese lawmakers on a range of bilateral issues will meet President Hu Jintao on Saturday. Headed by Ted Stevens, president pro tempore of the US Senate, and Senator Daniel K. Inouye from the State of Hawaii, the nine-member delegation is the highest ranking US congress delegation to make an official visit to China this year. The meeting with Hu wraps up the delegation's five-day China visit. Bilateral relations and other regional and international topics of common concern, including international security, will be on the agenda. The group also met with top legislator Wu Bangguo on Friday. The Chinese and US congress members held their third meeting on Wednesday in Guilin, a resort city in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), Sheng Huaren, heading the Chinese representatives. Stevens said in a press conference on Friday that the meeting had considered China-US relations, the Taiwan question, China's peaceful development, bilateral trade and other regional and international issues.

The Times of India, 13 August 2006

### **India terror alert a general warning: US**

WASHINGTON: The US alert on the possibility of terror strikes in India, possibly including by al-Qaida members in the run-up to its Independence Day on August 15, was a general warning rather than one based on 'definitive information'. The 'Warden Message' of warning put out by the US embassy in New Delhi spoke in "somewhat more hypothetical terms in saying 'possibly including' members of al-Qaeda. So it's not definitive information that is there and we certainly weren't trying to convey that," State Department Deputy Spokesman Tom Casey told reporters on Friday. But the US is

certainly concerned in general about activities not only of indigenous terrorist groups but of the possibility of those linked, or in any way associated, with al-Qaeda, any time there are such possibilities, he added. "Certainly, again we had information that came to our attention and it came to the attention of the Indian Government that led us to be concerned about this possibility occurring again and that's why we were alerting Americans to it," Casey said. US missions abroad put out a 'Warden Message' to the American community whenever they have any kind of information about a potential threat, whether that's a terrorist action or of other kinds of violence or potential concerns to American citizens, he noted.

The Hindu, 14 August 2006

### **Bring a censure motion against Bush: Mulayam**

LUCKNOW : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav said on Sunday that the UPA Government should bring a censure motion in Parliament against U.S. President George Bush for terming Muslims as 'mafia'. Stating that the Samajwadi Party had condemned the statement, he said it was wrong to blame the entire community for the misdeeds of some. Addressing a public meeting at the SN Inter College in the perfume city of Kannauj, he said Israel had attacked Lebanon at the behest of the U.S. Mr. Yadav, who earlier announced a Rs. 358-core development package for Kannauj and distributed Kanya Vidya Dhan cheques and unemployment dole to the beneficiaries, criticised the Central Government for setting different rules and standards for Uttar Pradesh. Though Uttar Pradesh was the biggest state and had given the maximum Prime Ministers, it was being ignored by the Centre. On the contrary, New Delhi was creating hurdles in the State's development, he said. Without naming UPA chairperson and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, he said his government's people-friendly policies were being opposed by those who had no knowledge of U.P.'s crops, its farmers and their problems, as well as social inequality.

Hindustan Times, 15 August 2006

### **Scent Petersburg**

'The balance of power inhibits the capacity to overthrow the international order; agreement on shared values inhibits the desire to overthrow the international order. Power without legitimacy tempts tests of strength; legitimacy without power tempts posturing. Combining both elements was the challenge and the success of the Congress of Vienna (1815) which established a century of international order uninterrupted by a general war.' The unipolar order rests on power devoid of legitimacy and risks the dangers Henry Kissinger mentions. The G8 summit at St Petersburg marked Russia's subtle challenge to this order. Its effort is of great consequence to India. Since 1919, the international order has been bereft of legitimacy. The Congress of Versailles lacked vision. The UN, based on Great Power compact, was stymied by the Cold War. Its end in 1989 yielded a unipolar world. Solution to the issue of security has been consistently avoided. Security rests on compact, not domination. To quote Kissinger again, 'the stability of an international system depends on the degree to which it combines the need for security with the obligation of self-restraint... For absolute security for one country must mean absolute insecurity for all others.'

Daily Times, 16 August 2006

### **US lauds role of Pakistan in breaking plot**

WASHINGTON: The United States praised Pakistan on Monday for playing 'a very important role' in foiling the alleged British airline bomb plot and helping in the broader war on terrorism. 'The Pakistanis, as the British have pointed out, played a very important role in breaking this cell,' White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters. 'And President Musharraf has certainly taken considerable risks in moving against terror. And we welcome all advancements in breaking into the terror network,' said Snow. British Prime Minister Tony Blair telephoned Musharraf on Friday to thank him for his help.

Hindustan Times, 17 August 2006

### **Indian activist to head US institute on racial justice**

New York: An Indian American women's rights activist has been promoted president and executive director of Applied Research Centre (ARC), a public policy institute advancing racial justice in the United States through advocacy, research and journalism. According to a posting on the ARC website, on Wednesday, Sen will immediately take over the leadership role vacated by founding director Gary Delgado who steps down this month. Delgado will continue as president emeritus of the institute, which he had founded in 1981 and headed till date. "This is an important time for the nation to recommit itself to racial justice," the New York-based Sen, who served as the centre's communications director prior to this promotion, said. "From immigration and health care to education and national security, we must craft solutions to pressing political problems by confronting the legacy of racial inequality in this country," she said. ARC board of directors chair Susan Colson, in a statement, said, "In the 25th anniversary year of the Applied Research Center, we are thrilled to usher in an unprecedented period of growth and expansion with a visionary leader pulled from our own ranks."

The Indian Express, 17 August 2006

### **The US-Pak Weapons Deal: No bang for the bucks**

The Bush administration has justified its decision to sell 36 F-16 Falcon fighter jets to Pakistan on grounds that it would increase US 'access and influence' in Islamabad. Pakistan's military regime, which will incur a debt of \$ 5 billion to purchase the planes made by Lockheed Martin, considers the deal a boost for Pakistan's security. Close examination of the deal and of the history of similar US-Pakistan deals indicates that the stated goals of neither the US nor the Pakistani rulers are likely to be advanced with the F-16 purchase. If anything, the F-16s are a pay off from Washington for General Pervez Musharraf's military regime - a sort of 'toys for the boys' gift - that is expected to extend the regime's survival. That is all that concessional arms transfers under previous pro-US Pakistani military regimes have achieved. Let us first look at the F-16 deal from the perspective of Pakistani national security. Not long ago, General Pervez Musharraf declared that the greatest threat to Pakistani security comes from extremist ideologues and terrorists within the country. Domestic extremism in Pakistan would be fought more effectively with investment in the neglected social sectors. Five billion dollars could go a long way in expanding education, healthcare and poverty alleviation programs.

The Hindu, 17 August 2006

**Pakistan cites cooperation with U.S., Britain**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has held up the example of its cooperation with U.S. and British intelligence agencies in the uncovering of the London terror plot to suggest that India learn from this. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said at a briefing on Tuesday that the kind of steps Pakistan took to foil the plot to blow up transatlantic flights was possible when countries "trust and cooperate and share intelligence with each other." "We cannot cooperate with any country which is in the habit of making allegations and which has a history of not cooperating with us. We have not received any evidence whatsoever in any terrorist act in India and it is not possible for Pakistan to offer any kind of cooperation in the absence of that," she said. Reacting to a question about the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's appeal in his Independence Day speech asking Islamabad to take concrete steps against cross-border terrorism, Ms. Aslam said Pakistan was committed to fighting terrorism, and to the peace process with India. "It is a process which requires sincerity and commitment by both sides. This is a process that is meant to resolve issues and disputes that has caused conflict, tensions and distrust in this region. To allow terrorism to undermine this process would be very unfortunate," she said.

People's Daily, 18 August 2006

**Chinese FM talks over phone with U.S. secretary of state**

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing talked over phone with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday, according to a press release from China's Foreign Ministry. The press release said they exchanged views on how to further implement the consensus reached by Chinese President Hu Jintao and U.S. President George W. Bush at an outreach session of the Group of Eight (G8) summit in Russia's St. Petersburg in July. The ministry gave no further details about the phone talks.

China Daily, 18 August 2006

**'US shut up on Beijing arms spending'**

The United States should "shut up" over Beijing's growing military spending, China's ambassador to the United Nations said in comments broadcast Thursday. Ambassador Sha Zukang told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that U.S. concerns about the country's burgeoning military might were misguided. "It's better for the U.S. to shut up," Sha said. "Keep quiet. It's much, much better. "China's military buildup is not threatening anyone," he added. "This is a legitimate defense." Much of its spending is defensive, ambassador Sha Zukang asserted. U.S. President George W. Bush's administration has recently called for closer military ties with China. A 10-member Chinese military delegation was invited to observe US naval exercises "Valiant Shield 2006," in the Pacific in the past June. But American officials, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, have expressed unease. Sha said other countries need not worry about China's growing economic and military might, because "China basically is a peace-loving nation." Incomplete statistics show that in 2005 China's military expenditure was roughly at US\$ 35 billion, while the Pentagon spent more than US\$420 billion.

Hindustan Times, 19 August 2006

**US 'stands with India' in fight against terrorism**

Washington: 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. "The US is a great friend of India. We admire your democracy and civilisation. Our two countries are developing a close strategic partnership," Nicholas Burns, under secretary of state for political affairs, said on Friday. "We are fundamentally opposed to all groups that direct terrorism at India. We were saddened by the Mumbai bombings, and stand with India in the fight against terrorism," he said during an online interactive forum - "Ask the White House". 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 Monday, US is fighting a global war on terror that targets peace-loving countries around the world. And as the president noted, the biggest lesson of the past week is that there is still a war on terror going on and there are still individuals who aim to kill innocent people to achieve political objectives, he said.

Dawn, 19 August 2006

### **Mastermind of UK plot in Afghanistan, US told**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Pakistan has sought US help to capture an Arab Al Qaeda terrorist who allegedly masterminded the foiled plot to blow up trans-Atlantic jetliners and operates out of Afghanistan's eastern mountains where hundreds of American troops are based, an intelligence official said on Friday. Pakistani authorities have passed details regarding the Al Qaeda member to the American military, including his whereabouts in the remote Nuristan and Kunar provinces on the Pakistan border, through which hundreds of militants and locals routinely cross, the official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the investigation, declined to reveal the Al Qaeda operative's name or nationality. But he allegedly exchanged messages carried by a courier with detained British national Rashid Rauf, who is being interrogated by Pakistani authorities in connection with the plot that was smashed last week with at least 30 people arrested, the official said. The wanted operative is a close aide to Al Qaeda No. 2 Ayman Al Zawahri, the official said. Detained terror suspects have told interrogators that Al-Zawahri likely approved the plan.

The Hindu, 19 August 2006

### **What the U.S. is doing to Pakistan**

New strands in an emerging "strategic" relationship between Pakistan and the United States, carefully crafted after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, demand the attention of all those interested in South Asian dynamics. The 9/11 attacks were a wake-up call for Washington and the West: the cost of abandoning Afghanistan to the Taliban and the growth of an extremist polity in Pakistan was too high a price for the U.S. to pay. Apart from cracking down on Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the U.S., after publicly "busting" the A.Q. Khan nuclear smuggling ring in January 2004, has shown that nuclear non-proliferation is a key objective of American policy towards Pakistan. Soon after 9/11, the then U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, put Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on notice - you are either with us or against us. The General had little choice in the matter: he had to be "with" the Americans. In the past four years, American influence in "core" areas of Pakistan's security seems to be growing. This, clearly, is not

restricted to mere cooperation in anti-terrorist actions or using Pakistan as a logistical base for Afghan operations.

The New York Times, 20 August 2006

### **Keep Pakistan on Our Side**

In the wake of the foiled terror plot in London involving British Muslims with Pakistani connections, all eyes are again on Pakistan as the breeding ground for terrorists. While the arrests may serve as proof to some that the country cannot be relied on as an ally in our fight against Islamic extremism, we would argue that the recent events should harden our resolve to support it. On Sept. 12, 2001, the United States gave Pakistan a stark choice - be with us or against us. Understanding the dangers and opportunities of this choice, President Pervez Musharraf chose to stand with America, and since then he has taken tremendous steps to fight Islamic extremists and move Pakistan toward enlightened moderation. Pakistan has worked closely with the United States, sharing intelligence and capturing and handing over many terrorists, including top Al Qaeda leaders. It has sent more than 70,000 troops to the Afghan border and conducted successful operations to flush out foreign fighters. Hundreds of Pakistani troops have been killed in these efforts, and thousands injured.

The Indian Express, 21 August 2006

### **'Unprecedented' security plan for Pakistan F-16s**

Islamabad, August 20: Pakistan has said negotiations on an 'unprecedented' security plan that the US wanted from it before the sale of F-16 jets would start only after Washington forwards a letter of offer. John Hillen, Assistant Secretary of Political-Military Affairs was today quoted by Daily Times as saying that Pakistan had agreed to an 'unprecedented' security plan. The plan obliges Islamabad to 'comply' with conditions laid down by US for F-16-related bases and facilities before equipment is supplied, Hillen told House International Relations Committee on July 20, according to The Daily. "We...have had a US government security survey of their bases and facilities. We've put into the deal that they must comply with the approved security plans for their F-16-related bases and facilities before we release any systems in the sale. We will monitor compliance with the security plan requirements and end-use monitoring programme," he said. Routine access to F-16 aircraft equipment and munitions is in restricted areas and limited to Pakistan Air Force personnel that are pre-approved for such.

Dawn, 21 August 2006

### **US investors to explore energy sector**

WASHINGTON, Aug 20: A 48-member delegation of US investors will visit Pakistan next month to look for investment opportunities in the energy sector. This was conveyed by US officials to a Pakistani delegation that participated in an energy conference in Washington this week to explore various options for meeting the growing energy needs of South Asia. India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal also participated in this conference. Organisers of the conference, US Energy Council and US Agency for International Aid, emphasised the need for interaction among South Asian nations to deal with the energy affairs. During the conference, US officials also tried to dissuade Pakistan and India from involving in the \$7 billion gas pipeline connecting them via Iran,

and advocated the ADB-funded Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline and its possible extension to India. The US delegates suggested that making Afghanistan a transit would bring a positive change to the South and Central Asian regions, preventing the emergence of another Taleban-like force. "Besides promoting the South and Central Asian energy corridor, the Americans also advised us to focus on developing alternative sources of energy," said Parliamentary Secretary for Cabinet Division Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, who represented Pakistan at the conference along with Senator Abdul Malik Qadri, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources.

Dawn, 21 August 2006

### **Musharraf to meet Bush next month**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 20: President Pervez Musharraf is scheduled to visit Washington on Sept 21-22 where he will hold talks with US President George W. Bush, sources told Dawn. "The meeting will take place at the White House most probably on Sept 22," a source said. According to informed sources the two presidents will also have a one-to-one meeting. The war against terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, defence cooperation, democracy, Pakistan-US strategic dialogue, Indo-Pakistan peace process particularly the Kashmir issue, the Middle East crisis and Iran's nuclear programme would be the key talking points, it is learnt. President Musharraf will address students at the Georgetown University. Also on the cards is a meeting with the Pakistani community from across the US and interaction with the media. The president will be in the US for almost 10 days. In New York he will attend the opening of the United Nations General Assembly session. On Sept 25 the president will participate in launching spread over two days in New York of his autobiography, In the line of fire, which will be released by the American publishing house Simon and Schuster. President Musharraf is due to embark on the tour on Sept 11 which will take him to Europe, Cuba and the United States. He will remain away from the country till Sept 28. His first stop will be Brussels where he has been invited to address the European Parliament.

Dawn, 21 August 2006

### **Former US officials stress support for Pakistan**

NEW YORK, Aug 20: Citing Pakistan's help in capturing and handing over terrorists, including top Al Qaeda leaders since 9/11, two former Bush administration officials maintained that 'the recent events should harden our resolve to support it (Pakistan)' instead of chiding it. "With Pakistan's help, Britain and the United States were able to prevent a tragedy last week. We must ensure that such help is always available, and hope that it eventually becomes unnecessary through Pakistan's efforts," Richard L Armitage, former US deputy secretary of State, and Kara L Bue, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, said in a well-argued Op-Ed article in Sunday's New York Times. "Pakistan has worked closely with the United States, sharing intelligence and capturing and handing over many terrorists, including top Al Qaeda leaders. It has sent more than 70,000 troops to the Afghan border and conducted successful operations to flush out foreign fighters. Hundreds of Pakistani troops have been killed in these efforts, and thousands injured," they pointed out. Noting that "in the wake of the foiled terror plot in London involving British Muslims with Pakistani connections, all eyes are again on Pakistan as the breeding ground for terrorists", they argue "while the arrests may serve as proof to some

that the country cannot be relied on as an ally in our fight against Islamic extremism, we would argue that the recent events should harden our resolve to support it."

Daily Times, 22 August 2006

### **Half a million Pakistanis prospering in US**

WASHINGTON: There are 500,000 Pakistanis living in the United States and they are prospering, according to a forthcoming book by Adil Najam, a young Pakistani academic at Tufts University, Boston. The mean household income in the United States in 2002 was \$57,852 annually, while that for Asian households, which includes Pakistanis, was \$70,047. By contrast, about one-fifth of young British-born Muslims are jobless, and many subsist on welfare, the book says. A report on the Pakistani community appearing in the New York Times on Monday notes, 'Hard numbers on how many people of Pakistani descent live in the United States do not exist, but a forthcoming book from Harvard University Press on charitable donations among Pakistani-Americans, 'Portrait of a Giving Community,' puts the number around 500,000, with some 35 percent or more of them in the New York metropolitan area. Chicago has fewer than 100,000, while other significant clusters exist in California, Texas and Washington DC.' The newspaper report, filed from Chicago, describes in colourful terms a stretch of the sprawling city's Devon Avenue, part of which is named for Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and part for Mahatma Gandhi.

China Daily, 22 August 2006

### **Hu, Bush to boost economic, trade ties**

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday exchanged views with U.S. President George W. Bush on the phone on cementing economic dialogue and promoting bilateral trade ties. Bush first extended his condolences over China's losses sustained from a recent typhoon that hit several coastal provinces in southeast China. Bush said Washington hoped that the U.S.-China economic dialogue and cooperation would be enhanced, which would surely inject fresh impetus to the already robust economic and trade relations between the two countries. Hu said that with the strengthening of the economic ties between China and the United States, enhanced bilateral economic dialogue would be conducive to the economic and trade cooperation and the development of the constructive cooperative relationship between the two countries. The dialogue would also bring about positive impact on the global economic growth, as well as the world's stability and security, Hu said. China would like to continue contacts with the United States in this respect, Hu added.

The Hindu, 23 August 2006

### **Eight held in U.S. for supporting LTTE**

COLOMBO: In two separate cases, eight persons have been arrested and charged by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with conspiracy to provide "material support and resources" to the LTTE. The U.S. embassy here, which provided details, however, said the charges were merely allegations and the defendants were presumed innocent until proved guilty. While Colombo took note of the development by publicising it on the web site of its Peace Secretariat, there was no word from the Tamil Tigers. A press statement by the U.S. embassy here said two complaints were unsealed on August 21 in

U.S. District Court in Brooklyn charging 13 defendants with multiple crimes, including conspiracy to provide material support and resources to the LTTE, a designated terrorist organisation. It said four of the defendants were arrested on Long Island, New York, on August 19, after three of them travelled to New York from Canada to attempt to purchase Russian-made SA-18 surface-to-air missiles, missile launchers, AK-47s, and other weapons to be used by the LTTE. In the second complaint, multiple defendants are charged with providing material support to the LTTE that included the procurement of military equipment and dual use technology, fund raising and money laundering through "front" charitable organisations and U.S. bank accounts.

Hindustan Times, 24 August 2006

### **US plane bound for India turned back to Amsterdam**

Mumbai, August 23: Twelve passengers were arrested from a Mumbai-bound Northwest Airlines flight that returned to Amsterdam's Schiphol airport after the pilot raised an alert over worrying behaviour, the Dutch ANP news agency reported. The plane was flying with 149 passengers on board when what the pilot called "behaviour of concern" prompted him to return to Amsterdam. The jet, flying over Germany at the time, was escorted back to Amsterdam by two Dutch F-16s as soon as it entered Dutch air space. "Northwest is cooperating with the appropriate government officials. Flight 42 is cancelled for today, but will be travelling to Mumbai tomorrow. Passengers are being accommodated at local hotels," the company said. The flight, NW0042, will now leave Amsterdam at 9 am local time on Thursday, and land in Mumbai at 8.30 pm IST, 22 hours behind schedule, an executive in the US-owned airline's office at Mumbai airport said. Flight NW0041, scheduled to leave Mumbai for Amsterdam at 12.30 am on Thursday has, as a result, been "delayed" by 46 hours- it will now leave at 10.30 pm on Friday.

Hindustan Times, 24 August 2006

### **Indians among 326 immigration violators in Houston**

Houston (US), August 23: US authorities have arrested 326 criminal aliens and immigration status violators, including Indians in a weeklong crackdown called 'Operation Return to Sender'. The arrested aliens also included citizens from Pakistan, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Colombia. Some of the apprehended aliens had allegedly committed crimes such as homicide, aggravated sexual assault of minors, and robbery, assault, human smuggling, narcotics trafficking. Of those arrested during the local operation, 30 were fugitive criminals with final orders of deportation, 89 were non-criminal fugitives with final orders of deportation and 17 are illegal aliens with criminal convictions. The rest were immigration violators. Return to Sender is an ongoing nationwide initiative by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement department. The local operation in Houston ended on Monday. The ICE has already deported 142 of these individuals to their home countries. "Criminal aliens are a threat to the safety of our children, families, community and our nation," said Kenneth L Landgrebe, field office director for the ICE Detention and Removal Operations office in Houston. The operation is part of ICE's ongoing process of targeting aliens who had received final orders of removal from a federal immigration judge.

Daily Times, 24 August 2006

### **Sino-US tussle in Africa**

China's rising and underreported influence in Africa is posing a direct challenge to American influence and undermining US policy, wrote Raymond W. Copson, who retired from the US Congressional Research Service, in an article in The Los Angeles Times. To a large extent, he is right in his assessment of ever-increasing Chinese penetration in Africa and its implications on the American influence in the region. Operating very mutely and steadily, Beijing, apparently in its search for cheap energy sources, has been able to establish its sway across the African continent within a very short time. Take Darfur, where China had been in the forefront in blocking the US-backed sanctions against the Sudanese officials involved in bloodshed - the flourishing trade with Sudan kept Beijing from joining hands with the US to put pressure on the government of Omar Hassan Bashir. Similarly in Zimbabwe, where the US and its Western allies are channelling food directly to the people through international and non-government organisations, China is alleged to directly encouraging and providing food and other material support to the government of Zimbabwe, which is notorious for feeding its supporters only and letting suspected political opponents go hungry .

People's Daily, 25 August 2006

### **New U.S. treasury secretary to visit China next month**

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson will pay his first visit to China next month after taking office in July, an official told Xinhua on Thursday. Treasury spokeswoman Brookly McLaughlin said she could confirm that Paulson will visit Beijing in September, but declining to give more details. McLaughlin, also deputy assistant secretary for public affairs, said the United States is trying to promote further relations with China. "The U.S. relationship with China may be the single most important economic relationship of the 21st century," she said. "Continuing to develop a constructive and mutually-beneficial economic relationship with China now is vitally important since the decisions we take in the next few years will guide the U.S.- China relationship over the next generation - and the shape and pace of global growth for years to come, " she added.

China Daily, 25 August 2006

### **China, US benefit from friendly trade relations**

Chinese and US economies bring benefits to each other despite the challenges they face. To begin with, the two economies have become the "double engines" driving the world economy. It is widely believed that the United States is the biggest consumer country and China the largest investment maker. As a matter of fact, China boasts super-big consumption, too. The country, for example, ranks first among the world's economies in turning out and consuming cereals, meats, cotton, aquatic products and fruits. In addition, housing construction and sales in China are unrivalled by any other country in the world. The mileage of newly constructed highways is extended significantly each year and more and more automobiles are owned by Chinese families. Just as the United States' colossal consumer demand powers the growth of manufacturing sectors in many other countries, the Chinese economy's demand for raw materials, energy and investment is making its strength felt in Asia, Oceania, Europe, South America and Africa. Japan and European countries particularly benefit from this, because it allows them to export large quantities

of machinery and equipment to China. There are many active players on the global economic landscape, such as Japan, the EU, India and Brazil. But China and the United States are the two most eye-catching ones. This is because China has not only become one of the world's most important manufacturing centres but also developed into one of its major capital suppliers..

China Daily, 25 August 2006

### **US backs greater IMF say for China**

WASHINGTON: The US government is backing a bigger IMF role for China heading into the global body's annual meeting next month in Singapore, an official said. But the administration could run into trouble with congressional critics of Chinese trade practices. The International Monetary Fund seal is seen in Washington, DC. The US government backs a bigger role at the IMF for China heading into the global body's annual meeting next month in Singapore, an official said. Treasury spokeswoman Brookly McLaughlin confirmed the thrust of an interview given to the Washington Post by Tim Adams, the deputy Treasury secretary for international affairs, who endorsed China's claim for more IMF voting rights. "But it's not just China," she said. "He (Adams) expressed support for the idea of providing a small ad-hoc increase to the four countries that are underweight in every variable of the current quota calculations -- China, South Korea, Turkey and Mexico -- as part of a first step toward broader IMF reform." At the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the Fund says it will press ahead with plans to revamp its voting structure to give more influence to fast-developing countries. But some US critics oppose any increase for China's IMF influence unless the booming country takes rapid steps to revalue its currency, whose relatively cheap value has encouraged an explosion in Chinese exports.

The Times of India, 26 August 2006

### **US proposes raising H1-B visas for Indians**

NEW DELHI: The US on Friday said it has a proposal to raise the H1-B visa quota for Indians by 25 per cent and is taking steps to reduce the waiting period for visa applications, particularly students, of this country. It also denied that religion was any criteria for issuance or denial of visa to anybody. Efforts are underway to raise the quota for H1-B (short duration stay) visas for Indians and there is a proposal to hike it by 25 per cent, Peter G Kaestner, newly-appointed Minister for Consular Affairs at the US Embassy said. At present, the limit of such visas meant for those employed temporarily is 80,000. Last year, the cap was one lakh. The issue is political in nature and US Congress has to decide on it finally, the official said. Kaestner, who has served at the US Embassy earlier also, said he felt the number would remain inadequate even after the hike. The US H1B visa is non-immigrant visa, which allows a US company to employ a foreign individual for up to six years. The H1B visa-seekers could be those employed temporarily in a speciality occupation or as a fashion model of distinguished merit and ability. Kaestner said the number of Indian students in the US was growing, recording an increase of 30 per cent last year.

Hindustan Times, 26 August 2006

### **Pak teacher in US gets 15 years in jail for aiding LeT**

Washington, August 26: A third-grade Pakistani teacher at a Muslim school was sentenced to a 15-year jail term in the United States on Friday on charges of aiding the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Prosecutors had sought a sentence of 30 years for Ali Asad Chandia, 29, one of the 11 Muslim men charged in US District Court in Alexandria in June 2003 with training with and fighting for the LeT. Chandia, they said, trained at a Lashkar camp in Pakistan and helped the group acquire equipment with potential military applications when he returned to the United States. The equipment included unmanned aerial vehicles, night-vision equipment and wireless video cameras. Federal investigators also found a CD-ROM in Chandia's car containing videos that glorified Osama bin Laden and the 19 hijackers who carried out the September 11 attacks, prosecutors said. District Judge Claude M Hilton in Alexandria did not explain his reasoning as he imposed the sentence and ordered Chandia, who had been free on bond, into custody. Earlier, Chandia, who teaches at a Muslim school in Maryland, had told the judge that he did not "deserve to spend a single day in prison."

Hindustan Times, 26 August 2006

### **Flight of jobs between India and US a two-way street**

Washington, August 25: The flight of jobs between US and India is "a two-way street" as Indian companies are setting up operations in this country and employing many Americans, Indian ambassador Ronen Sen has said. "People know about our call centres. What they don't know is that Indian companies are doing the same thing abroad. This is a two-way street. There are seven centres in the United States so far of just one company. There are other companies as well," Sen, who is currently touring North Carolina State, told The News and Observer. Sen, who would be meeting business, academic and political leaders in North Carolina to strengthen Indo-US ties, argued that Indian firms look at a variety of factors when hiring foreigners even when so much human capital is available at home. "They look at it in terms of time zones. Not just in the US, but all over Europe. They need people who speak German and other languages. Indian companies are now investing abroad. To be competitive, they need to be based here. Not just offices, but local manufacturing plants," he said. Asked if Americans should view India as a third world source of cheap labour, Sen maintained that businesses come for the cost savings "but they stay for the quality."

The Washington Post, 26 August 2006

### **China Acquits Journalist of Leaking Secrets**

BEIJING, Aug. 25: The surprise acquittal of a New York Times researcher Friday on charges of leaking state secrets was a blow to state security officials and suggested former president Jiang Zemin's power has ebbed, according to human rights lawyers and advocates. Although Zhao Yan, a researcher for the newspaper's Beijing bureau, was sentenced to three years in prison on an unrelated fraud charge, the dismissal of the more serious charge was greeted with relief by Zhao's supporters. He had originally faced as long as 10 years in prison. Calling the verdict a "welcome surprise," Jerome A. Cohen, an expert on Chinese law who advised the Times, said the case was "a rare example of a court being allowed or instructed to acquit on a charge of the utmost sensitivity." Zhao,

44, was detained in September 2004, 10 days after a Times story accurately predicted that Jiang would resign his last official position as head of the Communist Party's Central Military Commission. The Times has denied that Zhao was the source for news about Jiang's retirement, which was viewed as a highly sensitive state secret, and Zhao has maintained his innocence. President Bush had lobbied on Zhao's behalf.

Dawn, 27 August 2006

### **Pakistani freed by US court**

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 26: Headline-grabbing terror trial of Umer Hayat, a Pakistani American, ended on Friday after a US federal judge in Sacramento sentenced him to time he served in detention since his arrest in June 2005. The accused walked out of the court a free man. Mr Hayat, 48, was arrested on charges of lying to the FBI about his oldest son Hami's alleged terrorist training in Pakistan and his own visits to the camps. His first trial ended in April this year in a mistrial after the jury deadlocked and he agreed to plead guilty to an unrelated charge of lying to customs officials about how much money he carried on a 2003 trip to Pakistan. In his first press interview about the case, Mr Hayat denied he or his son was ever involved in terrorism, saying their confessions, taped by the FBI, resulted from exhaustion and leading questions. He accused the FBI of setting him up and 'screwing' him to justify an expensive and unfruitful investigation into two Lodi imams from Pakistan who since have been voluntarily deported. According to court documents, the FBI paid \$250,000 to an informer to build up the case over a period of three years.

Dawn, 28 August 2006

### **Two barred from returning to US**

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 27: The US government has barred two relatives of Hamid Hayat, a Pakistani-American convicted of supporting terrorists from returning to the country after a long stay in Pakistan. Mohammad Ismail, a 45-year-old naturalised citizen born in Pakistan, and his 18-year-old son Jaber Ismail, who was born in the United States, have not been charged with any crime. However, they are the uncle and cousin of Hamid Hayat, 23, who was convicted in April of supporting terrorists by attending a Pakistani training camp. US authorities said that the men, both Lodi residents, would not be allowed back into the country unless they agreed to FBI interrogations in Pakistan. An attorney representing the family said agents have asked whether the younger Ismail trained in terrorist camps in Pakistan. The men and three relatives had been in Pakistan for more than four years and tried to return to the United States on April 21 as a federal jury in Sacramento deliberated Hayat's fate. But they were pulled aside during a layover in Hong Kong and told there was a problem with their passports, said Julia Harumi Mass, their attorney.

Daily Times, 29 August 2006

### **UK-Pakistani radicals posing greatest threat**

WASHINGTON: The biggest threat to US security emanates not from Iran or Iraq or Afghanistan, but rather from Great Britain, America's closest ally because of Pakistan-oriented young Islamists in that country, according to two noted terrorism experts. Peter Bergen and Paul Cruickshank write in the current issue of New Republic that for terrorist

organisations like Al Qaeda, which has reconstituted itself in Pakistan, ethnic Pakistanis living in the United Kingdom make perfect recruits, since they speak English and can travel on British passports. There is anecdotal evidence for the influence of Muslim extremism on British Pakistani communities. The two authors found strong jihadi sentiments at a fitness centre in East London, frequented by Muslims, five of whose regulars are included among those arrested this month in England and Pakistan on terrorism charges. The authors point out that many of Britain's young Pakistanis are filled with contempt both for the moderation of their parents and for a British society that won't quite accept them. For many, this leaves a vacuum in their identities that radical Islamist preachers have been all too glad to fill. Young British Pakistanis are also unemployed and thus especially vulnerable to the temptations of radicalism.

China Daily, 29 August 2006

### **US seeks bigger IMF role for China**

The United States is seeking to increase the power of China and other countries within the International Monetary Fund to reflect their growing weight on the world economic stage, an effort that is being resisted by some European countries whose voices could be weakened within the organization. The Bush administration, arguing that the IMF has been "asleep" as the world economy changed, is seeking a first step that would grant more voting power immediately to four countries - China, South Korea, Turkey and Mexico - on the grounds that their economic growth entitles them to more influence. But because the administration's proposal would mean less representation by some countries in Europe, it has run into objections and questions, especially among European countries that could lose power. Resistance has come from Belgium, the Netherlands and Scandinavian countries, which might lose voting share to Spain, Ireland and other rapidly growing countries in Europe. In general, Europe would lose voting share to Asia and the United States. Poor countries in Africa also fear a loss of power.

China Daily, 29 August 2006

### **US, China try to revive stalled Doha trade talks**

Beijing and Washington yesterday called for the revival of the stalled Doha Round of global trade talks. The joint call was made by Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai and visiting US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Commerce. Bo said China is ready to push, along with other countries, for an early resumption of the World Trade Organization (WTO) talks. He said he "regrets the suspension of the Doha Round of talks," because setting up a just multilateral trade regime benefits a majority of WTO members. Many WTO members want to complete negotiations this year so that a deal can be submitted to the US Congress before July 2007, when US President George W. Bush's "fast track" authority to propose a trade deal for a yes-or-no vote without amendments runs out. Schwab said the United States would make effort for the restart of the Doha talks, and called for more attention to be paid to market access and development issues, the Ministry of Commerce statement said. The Doha Round was suspended in late July after six major members Australia, Brazil, the European Union, India, Japan and the United States failed to reach a consensus on agricultural and industrial trade. The breakdown of the talks, which were seen as a once-in-a-generation chance to boost growth and ease poverty around the world, is a blow to

both developing and developed economies.

People's Daily, 30 August 2006

### **US top trade envoy says US benefits much from China's breathtaking progress**

U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab said Tuesday in Beijing that the United States benefited greatly from China's rapid economic progress due to its embrace of market-oriented reform and entry into the rules-based international trading system. Addressing an event hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce, Schwab said the impact of China's decision to embrace market-oriented reform and join the rules-based international trading system was "nothing short of breathtaking". Over the past 20 years, China's economy had grown by nearly 10 percent a year and experienced a total growth in real gross domestic product of over 500 percent, she said. Importantly, the people of China had benefited greatly from its engagement with the rest of the world, with an estimated 377 million people lifted out of poverty. "We are now, ourselves, major beneficiaries of China's rapid development. U.S. manufacturers, farmers and service providers have seen U.S. exports to China grow an average of 22 percent a year since China joined the WTO (World Trade Organization) in December of 2001, and U.S. consumers enjoy access to a wide array of high-quality, competitively priced products," said Schwab. Schwab said few trade relationships were more important than that between the U.S. and China.

The Hindu, 31 August 2006

### **U.S. regulation of GE foods a bad model**

It should surprise no one that the United States is applying pressure on India through the World Trade Organisation about its genetically engineered (GE) food labelling requirements, stating that these requirements are a trade barrier. India should, however, take advantage of provisions in the WTO for non-discrimination between trading partners. Other major trading partners of the U.S. - Japan, Canada, the European Union, and Australia - require GE labelling. Currently, the U.S. has a lot on its hands with regard to GE foods, having recently announced that commercial supplies of long grain rice have been contaminated with LLRICE 601, a variety of GE rice not approved for human consumption. This has already had serious ramifications: the European Commission now will test all U.S. rice imports and Japan has banned long grain rice imports from the U.S. altogether. The Commission also expressed unhappiness with the three week delay in being informed about the contamination and did not share the view of the U.S. that there was no risk from the event.

The Hindu, 31 August 2006

### **New US export control rule spoiling high-tech trade: China**

Beijing, Aug 31: Chinese experts on Wednesday, criticised as "unreasonable" the new US export control policy on hi-tech trade with the communist country, saying that it would hinder regular bilateral trade. "It will baffle the regular bilateral trade with many unfair premises and obstacles. China's Ministry of Commerce will be overloaded with certificating work and Chinese companies will shoulder more troubles," the experts said. The criticism came a day after US Trade Representative, Susan Schwab, paid a two-day visit to Beijing and met with Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai and others. The new rule, released by the US Department of Commerce on July 6, is now subject to public

comments until November 3. It affects 47 categories of high-tech products. The rule proposes to strengthen licensing on exports of technologies, which otherwise do not require a license as they are not included in items limited for reasons of national security. As a result, civil-use high-tech technologies are added to the US Government's export control list, which will set up new trade barriers between the two countries and clog up high-tech exchanges, Xinhua news agency quoted experts with the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association as saying.