

aHindu, 1 August 2008

### **Pranab takes up ceasefire violations with Quereshi**

COLOMBO: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Pakistan counterpart Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quereshi on Thursday prepared the ground for a formal meeting between their Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Yousuf Raza Gilani on August 2 on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit here. Dr. Singh and Mr. Gilani, who are arriving on Friday for the summit on August 2 and 3, are expected to discuss a range of issues, including the recent tensions that have crept into bilateral relations

Hindu, 1 August 2008

### **India, Afghanistan behind unrest, says Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has hit out at India and Afghanistan for the troubles in its north-western frontier tribal areas and pulled up Afghanistan for a bomb blast outside its consulate in the western Afghan city of Herat on Thursday; three people outside the consulate were injured. A Foreign Ministry statement said, 'Pakistan holds the government of Afghanistan responsible for the safety and security of its personnel in its embassy in Kabul and consulates in Herat, Kandahar, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif.' Afghanistan's Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to 'convey the grave concerns' of the Pakistan government

Hindu, 2 August 2008

### **Who is controlling ISI, asks India**

COLOMBO: While maintaining that it was too early to link the blasts in Ahmedabad and Bangalore to any outside agency, India on Friday said it 'would like to know' who controls Pakistan's Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). 'India draws a clear line of distinction between the Pakistan government and rogue intelligence agencies. But like [U.S. President George] Bush we would like to know who is controlling the ISI,' said top government sources

Hindu, 2 August 2008

### **India-Pakistan peace process: hopes & fears (Nirupama Subramanian)**

When the Indian and Pakistan Foreign Ministers spoke over the telephone two weeks ago just before their Foreign Secretaries met, Shah Mahmood Qureshi opened the conversation with his government's trade policy that was announced a day earlier and contained several new measures to loosen up the trade regime with India, including an invitation to CNG bus manufacturers to set up plants in Pakistan. At any other time, India might have had good words to say about the trade policy that expands the positive list of items for import from India and in which, for the first time, Pakistan signalled its willingness to put aside its 'Kashmir first' slogan to solicit Indian investment. But Pranab Mukherjee's tone was unusually curt. 'I have not seen it,' he said, as India sought to convey its anger over the bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, for which it holds Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence responsible

Indian Express, 2 August 2008

### **Attack on Indian Embassy was aided, abetted by ISI: US**

Washington, August 1: US intelligence officials have concluded that elements of Pakistan's military intelligence service provided logistical support to militants who staged last month's deadly car bombing at the Indian Embassy in Kabul, US officials familiar with the evidence said Thursday. The finding, based partly on unspecified communication intercepts, has dramatically heightened US concerns about long-standing ties between Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI) and Taliban-allied groups that are battling US forces in Afghanistan, according to two US

government officials briefed on the matter

Dawn, 2 August 2008

**US slander against ISI rubbished: Indian embassy blast**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 1: Pakistan on Friday angrily rejected a report that the United States had accused its main spy agency ISI of helping to plan a fatal bombing at India's embassy in Kabul last month. Citing unnamed officials, the New York Times said intercepted communications had provided clear evidence that the ISI was involved in the July 7 suicide attack on the Indian mission, which killed around 60 people. 'It's rubbish. We totally deny it,' Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq said. 'This is a baseless allegation that the New York Times keeps on recycling using anonymous sources. These stories always die afterwards because there is no proof,' Mr Sadiq said, speaking from a regional summit in Colombo

News, 2 August 2008

**Gilani, Singh seek peace amid tension**

COLOMBO: As tension continues to mount between Islamabad and New Delhi, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Indian counterpart Dr Manmohan Singh, in their maiden meeting here on Saturday evening on the sidelines of the 15th Saarc Summit, agreed to continue the peace process. The meeting lasted more than an hour in the Taj Samundra hotel where the Indian prime minister was staying. The host prime minister did not appear before the media but Prime Minister Gilani told waiting newsmen that his meeting was 'good and constructive'. 'We have decided to move forward in the interaction,' said Prime Minister Gilani

Times of India, 3 August 2008

**CBI chief: Extradition of Dawood to top agenda**

NEW DELHI: New CBI director Ashwani Kumar on Saturday refrained from making any direct comment on almost all the sensitive cases being handled by the agency, including Aarushi murder case, but stated it would try hard to get Dawood Ibrahim extradited. The agency has maintained that Dawood is hiding in Pakistan. Speaking to reporters, said he was not in a position to say anything on the Aarushi case so soon. "Whatever I do know has come to me through the media but it does seem that the CBI has done a good job in the investigations," he said. "We will try hard and hopefully not just get Dawood back but also other criminals," said Kumar. On collaboration with foreign agencies, Kumar said, "CBI's role is not limited within the country. We want to have joint operations, investigation, joint prosecution even with other countries."

Times of India, 3 August 2008

**Infiltration along LoC should stop, says Menon**

COLOMBO: Foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon described the meeting between PM Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Yousaf Gilani as "relatively frank". Decoded, it means the PM was forthright and upfront about Pakistan's hand in terror attacks against India. But it has been a trying week for Gilani. If he was closely questioned about ISI fuelling terrorism during his US visit, Pakistan's global "bad boy" image was bluntly underlined by Karzai at the SAARC summit when he denounced the use of "militant radicalism as an instrument of policy" and warned that "we are watching the wild fires of terrorism sweeping across the region"

Hindu, 3 August 2008

**Gilani offers to probe embassy attack**

COLOMBO: Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday assured his

Indian counterpart, Manmohan Singh that Islamabad would independently investigate the terrorist attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul which killed 60 people, including four Indians. Mr. Gilani said he would interact with Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai to 'get to the root' of the case. Pakistan would do everything required to put the dialogue process back on track. Mr. Gilani told Dr. Singh that Islamabad considered the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) the most important confidence building measure in the effort towards improvement of relations. There was consensus among all major political parties in Pakistan on improving relations with India, he said

Daily Times, 3 August 2008

**EDITORIAL: Indo-Pak policy contradictions**

While the media is shouting against the US for 'slandering Pakistan' after reports of President Bush's complaint about 'ISI complicity' in Taliban attacks inside Afghanistan, the information minister, Sherry Rehman, is reported to have said in Islamabad the other day that some old elements of the ISI could be involved. But Pakistan is not sitting idle. After the Washington complaints, Islamabad has supplied 'proof' of Indian involvement in terrorism inside Pakistan. This has prompted India to report that SMS messages received from Pakistan predict more blasts in Kerala after Karnataka and Gujarat

Hindu, 4 August 2008

**Editorial: Gilani's positive response**

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani made a decisive break from past practices by promising to conduct an enquiry into New Delhi's allegation that the Inter-Services Intelligence was involved in the July 7, 2008, suicide bomb attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul. In the past, governments in Islamabad tended to either dismiss such charges out of hand or respond cynically with counter-allegations. Several factors, besides Mr. Gilani's commitment to promoting the process of détente in South Asia, underlie the change in response this time. Democratic forces in Pakistan have learnt through bitter experience that for their survival and continued relevance on the political scene, they must establish control over the military and its intelligence arm. An ineffective, perhaps inept, effort to achieve this purpose was made a few days ago

Indian Express, 4 August 2008

**Editorial: After Colombo**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's decision not to make a joint appearance before the press after Saturday's talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Yousuf Raza Gilani, in Colombo was a deliberate political snub. It was meant to demonstrate New Delhi's anger at Islamabad's complicity in the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul last month. In the talks described as 'frank', 'candid' and 'open' - strong words in diplomatic parlance - the PM is said to have laid out India's mounting concerns at the Gilani government's inability to prevent its rogue intelligence agency, the ISI, and the armed forces from undermining the bilateral relationship. India was not alone in targeting Pakistan. In a departure from normal diplomatic practice, Afghan President Hamid Karzai accused Pakistan, in the opening session of the South Asian summit, of harbouring terrorists and providing them 'institutional support' (read the ISI)

Times of India, 5 August 2008

**ISI looking to push 800 militants into India: BSF**

INDORE: Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI is looking for an "opportunity" to push nearly 800 militants into India and vigil has been further intensified at the country's

frontiers to prevent it, Border Security Force (BSF) Director General A K Mitra said on Monday. "We have received information that nearly 800 militants are waiting to cross over to India at the borders and the ISI is looking for an opportunity to push them into the country," Mitra told reporters after inaugurating the newly constructed residential premises of the BSF here

Daily Times, 5 August 2008

### **Musharraf blames India for unrest in Balochistan**

QUETTA: Many foreign hands, including India, are to blame for the unrest in Balochistan, Dawn News quoted President Pervez Musharraf as saying on Monday. Speaking at a lunch hosted by Balochistan Governor Nawab Zulfikar Ali Magsi at the Governor House, he said, 'I am 1,000 percent certain that the elements involved in target killings and subversive activities are being financed and trained by foreign elements that do not want peace in the country.' He added that insurgents would not be allowed to derail the development process in the province, APP reported

Hindu, 12 August 2008

### **Pakistan troops lob mortars, India retaliates**

NEW DELHI/POONCH: The attack by the Pakistan troops on Indian posts in Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir marks yet another breach of the five-year-old ceasefire agreement. No casualties were reported from the Indian side, which also retaliated with controlled fire, according to Army sources here. This is the 22nd violation of the November 2003 ceasefire agreement by Pakistanis since January this year

Hindu, 13 August 2008

### **India resents Pakistan's interference**

NEW DELHI: Reacting to statements by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his official spokesperson on Jammu and Kashmir, India has said the observations 'constitute clear interference in the internal affairs of an integral part of India.' The Centre and the State government are taking all steps necessary to restore law and order in this part of the country. Such statements by leaders of a foreign country do not help the situation, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said here on Tuesday. He was responding to questions on statements by the Pakistani authorities

Asian Age, 13 August 2008

### **NSA: Vacuum after Pervez worries Delhi**

Aug. 12: Indian intelligence agencies have uncovered at least 800 terrorist cells in the country operating with "external support", and are now looking for the brains behind them within India, national security adviser M.K. Narayanan has told Singapore's Straits Times in an interview. "We are concerned that there is a great deal of external inspiration and support, we are also concerned and are looking at a mastermind within the country," he said when asked about investigations into the blasts that rocked Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. On the developments in Pakistan, Mr Narayanan said India is concerned that impeachment of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf may leave a "big vacuum" that will give freedom to radical extremist elements to do "what they like in this country". He also said it is the political vacuum that exists there that "greatly worries us"

Hindu, 16 August 2008

### **Pakistan troops fire at Indian positions**

New Delhi: Pakistani troops fired mortars and rockets at Army and Border Security

Force positions in two places in the forward areas of the Jammu region on Friday, marking yet another ceasefire violation. The two incidents took place within an hour of each other

Hindu, 16 August 2008

**Manmohan: let us avoid harsh statements**

Islamabad: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday told his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani that both countries should adhere to the peace process and refrain from making 'harsh statements.' 'At times harsh statements emanating from either side cast a shadow over the cordiality of relations between India and Pakistan but the regular contacts at the highest level would help to dispel the uncertainties created by them,' Dr. Singh said when Mr. Gilani called him up to congratulate him and the people of India on the 62nd Independence Day

Hindu, 17 August 2008

**India not to blame for 'delay' in LoC trade**

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir not to allow themselves to be influenced by 'misleading' propaganda about the 'delay' on the part of India in starting trade across the Line of Control, and the alleged economic blockade of the Valley. A Home Ministry spokesman said: 'India has been assiduously pursuing the matter of opening trade route across the LoC and would continue to do so. India is ready to commence cross-LoC trade, but awaits Pakistani willingness to implement the agreement reached in April 2005.'

Hindu, 20 August 2008

**Opinion: Pakistan, India and the flawed legacy of Musharraf (Siddharth Varadarajan)**

It is a testimony to the contradictory legacy of Pervez Musharraf that his departure from the President's office in Islamabad should occasion joy in Pakistan but a sense of unease within the Indian establishment. Reviled at home as an enemy of democracy, the former commando managed to genuinely perplex his interlocutors in India. If his advocacy of a new political approach towards the Kashmir issue opened the door to the most promising dialogue the two countries have had in the past six decades, his refusal to abandon the extremist 'assets' that the Pakistani military had built up during the long years of officially-sponsored 'jihad' always remained a latent point of concern in New Delhi

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2008

**Cross-LoC trade at earliest: Pak**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: Amid demands in Kashmir valley for opening the road linking Srinagar to Muzaffarabad in PoK for trade, Pakistan today said it was committed to facilitate cross-LoC commerce and hopes to "finalise the matter at an early date". Pakistan attached great importance to cross-LoC Confidence-Building Measures, Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq said at the Weekly News briefing here

Daily Excelsior, 22 August 2008

**Muzaffarabad bus service resumes**

SRINAGAR, Aug 21: The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service, which was temporarily suspended last week in the wake of violence over Amarnath land row, resumed here this morning with 61 passengers leaving for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Out of the 61 passengers, 58 were returning home to Muzaffarabad, officials said. "Today's bus service was arranged in order to clear the backlog of last week," they said, adding the fortnightly bus service will also ply as scheduled on August 28

Indian Express, 23 August 2008

**Kashmir encounter: 3 Army men, 12 militants killed**

Srinagar, August 23: : Seven more militants were on Saturday killed in a fierce encounter with suspected foreign ultras holed up in a jungle in Machhil sector of north Kashmir that stretched to a second day. "The seven militants were killed in fresh exchange of fire which began in the wee hours today taking the death toll of militants in the operation to 12," Army sources said. An officer of the rank of colonel and three jawans were also killed in the encounter on Friday but there were no casualties on the security forces side today, they said

Daily Times, 30 August 2008

**Editorial: Is Indo-Pak visa policy going to remain tough?**

The Secretaries-General of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and the Pak-India Peoples Forum for Peace and democracy, Messrs IA Rehman and Anis Haroon, have jointly urged the governments of Pakistan and India to ease their reciprocal visa restrictions to enable people from both sides to meet in the cause of peace. Ms Haroon complained that the dialogues promoting peace between India and Pakistan have been 'put on ice' because of an illiberal visa policy