

aAsian Age, 1 December 2008

Editorial: Time to act firmly, decisively on Pak

The resignation of Union home minister Shivraj Patil has come not a day too soon. Reflecting the bitter public mood, we had urged the home minister in these columns on Sunday to put in his papers. We are gratified he has lost no time in doing so. Now we do know that for some time past the intelligence agencies have been consistently warning the government to expect an attack from Pakistan on Mumbai. Such intelligence can never be pinpointed as regards time or location of attack. But the reports by the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing were ominous in some of the details they offered, and they have proved to be accurate enough. The frequency and consistency of material contained in their reporting indicated quite clearly the direction in which enemy plans were moving. It is the government which was not sufficiently attentive to the dire warnings. The Maharashtra administration was downright shoddy in its response. But so was the National Security Council secretariat, which took its own time interpreting and analysing the available intelligence

Dawn, 1 December 2008

Govt convenes all-party conference

ISLAMABAD, Nov 30: Political and diplomatic activities revolving round the possible fallout of the Mumbai carnage on Pakistan-India relations acquired a hectic pace on Sunday with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani going all out to defuse tension that many believe could bring South Asia on the verge of a conflict. With disturbing signals emanating from New Delhi suggesting the Indian government's attempt to raise the ante by discussing 'all possible actions', President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani secured the support of a large number of politicians, including the main opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, for the way they are handling the situation

Dawn, 1 December 2008

Editorial: Post-Mumbai bilateral tension

It is almost Pavlovian in its predictability: India and Pakistan are escalating the bad blood between them, with aggressive elements from both sides growling to make the rest of the world cringe. Besieged by criticism, the Indian prime minister has conferred with his army and intelligence heads. On the Pakistani side, the PPP government wants to tread cautiously and is not resorting to verbal tit-for-tat, knowing full well Pakistan's own vulnerabilities, but the opposition is aggressive, appealing to nationalism, but not without a modicum of self-interest in the ongoing domestic political contest

Hindu, 1 December 2008

Zardari: if evidence points to any group in my country, I shall take the strictest action

Karan Thapar: President Zardari, how do you respond to the terrorist strike in Mumbai, which has killed perhaps as many as 200 people and left several hundred injured? Asif Ali Zardari: I am appalled, Sir. I am hurt, I am bleeding. Your wound takes and brings attention to my wound, which is also very recent. I stand with the people of India. I stand with the leadership of India. I am sorry that you all are going through this. I can see it on the television. Today's television, today's information technology brings all the pain to us in our bedrooms in our homes

Hindu, 2 December 2008

India serves demarche on Pakistan

NEW DELHI: The High Commissioner of Pakistan Shahid Malik was called to the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday evening and served a demarche which asked Islamabad to take 'strong action' against those responsible for last week's Mumbai terror strikes. Mr. Malik was informed that the Mumbai attacks were carried out by elements in Pakistan and told that Islamabad's actions 'needed to match the sentiments expressed by its leadership that it wishes to have a qualitatively new relationship with India,' said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Vishnu Prakash.

Hindu, 3 December 2008

Pranab rules out military action

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday said 'time will show' what action India will take in response to the Mumbai terror attacks. Every sovereign nation has the right to protect its territorial integrity and take action as it saw fit, he told journalists. He, however, cautioned against misinterpreting his observation to mean military action

Hindu, 3 December 2008

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Hindu, 3 December 2008

Pakistan offers 'joint investigating mechanism'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has offered India a 'joint investigating mechanism' to probe the Mumbai attacks, and said it could be headed by the National Security Advisers of both countries. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi made the offer in a 'policy statement' telecast over the state-owned Pakistan Television. The statement followed India's demarche demanding action to match the 'sentiments' expressed by the Pakistani leadership

Hindu, 3 December 2008

Take action against LeT founder, says India

ISLAMABAD: New Delhi has asked Pakistan to take action against Hafiz Saeed, the founder leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the group suspected of involvement in the Mumbai attacks. Official sources said Saeed is one of three individuals in a list of 20 against whom India demanded immediate action by the Pakistan government. The other two are the Mumbai underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, believed to be living in Pakistan, and Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Maulana Masood Azhar, a Pakistan national freed from an Indian prison in exchange for passengers on a hijacked Indian Airlines plane

Hindu, 3 December 2008

Opinion: India's Pakistan problem is Pakistan's problem too By Siddharth Varadarajan

In the charged atmosphere generated by the dangerous currents of domestic politics and media-induced panic, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is finding himself under tremendous pressure to respond decisively to initial evidence that 'elements in Pakistan' were responsible for last week's terrorist outrage in Mumbai. What the government has said and done so far has been measured and correct. It has been

mindful of the responsibility and restraint with which the world expects India to conduct itself. And it has reflected the reality that Pakistan today is a country and polity and society that is more at war with itself than with any other adversary, real or imagined. And yet, with elections around the corner and the ruling Congress party under attack for its inept management of internal security, the danger of politically-induced overreach always remains

Dawn, 3 December 2008

Pakistan proposes joint probe

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2: Pakistan on Tuesday proposed a joint mechanism with India to investigate the Mumbai carnage as part of its offer of complete cooperation in efforts to unearth 'the hands behind the dastardly act'. The proposal was made at a briefing by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi to foreign diplomats a day before US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice begins her visit to the region. Diplomatic sources said the offer had been conveyed to India in response to a demarche handed over to Pakistan's High Commissioner in New Delhi Shahid Malik by the Indian external affairs ministry

News, 3 December 2008

Opinion: Mumbai terror: the challenge for Pakistan By Nasim Zehra

In less than 24 hours of ghastly terror that struck Mumbai senior Indian officials were directly and indirectly blaming Pakistan. This included a serving major general, the prime minister and the foreign minister. The unnamed Indian intelligence sources gave the Indian media numerous and changing versions of "evidence" implicating Pakistan in the tragic terror attack. While Pakistan's foreign minister was in Delhi an Indian official handed over a letter containing a "demarche"--essentially a strong protest--alleging the involvement of Pakistani groups in the Mumbai attack. The Indian prime minister asked the Pakistani prime minister that the director-general of the ISI be sent to India, which was initially wrongly accepted. Subsequently the government decided not to send any ISI official

News, 3 December 2008

Opinion: The prime minister's confusion By Shireen M Mazari

Much has already been written and spoken about the Mumbai acts of terror perhaps to saturation point. Amid all the propaganda and lies coming out of India, what has been even more distressing for the ordinary Pakistani is the confusion and bizarre behaviour of its own leadership. Of course, no one can remain unaffected by the carnage of Mumbai and all sane Pakistanis have expressed disgust at these acts of terror and expressed sympathy and solidarity with the victims of terrorism a blight that we have also been suffering from, especially in the wake of 9/1 and the advent of US military aggression in our region. But expressing sympathy with the Indian nation is one thing; the Pakistani leadership's confusion and panic in the early stages of this terrorist saga are another. Nothing reflected the absurdity of the Pakistani leadership more than the very clearly enunciated pronouncement of the prime minister that the Indian PM had requested the DG ISI be sent to India and the Pakistani leadership had agreed and asked the DG ISI to undertake the trip

Hindu, 4 December 2008

Zardari rules out returning fugitives

New York: Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has rejected India's demand to hand over Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Mohd. Sayeed and other fugitives in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks, and doubted whether the arrested terrorist is a Pakistani. Two days after New Delhi's demarche, demanding the handing over of 20

fugitives, Mr. Zardari made known Pakistan's reluctance to part with them. 'If we had proof, we would try them in our courts. We would try them in our land and we would sentence them,' he said on 'Larry King Live' programme on CNN on Tuesday night

Hindu, 4 December 2008

Rice: we'll insist on direct, tough action by Pakistan

NEW DELHI: United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has promised to persuade Pakistan to take 'very direct and tough action,' even as India warned that it would react in 'whatever way necessary' after receiving the response to its demarche to Pakistan served on Tuesday. Asked whether the series of terror attacks in Indian cities warranted Indian military strikes, Ms. Rice wanted New Delhi's response judged by its effectiveness which avoids 'unintended consequences.' She assured India that the U.S. would work 'very closely' to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice and prevent further strikes of this kind. Even if non-state actors were involved, it was Pakistan's responsibility to take action if the terrorists were based on its territory, she observed at a joint press conference with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the end of a 45-minute interaction on Wednesday

Hindu, 4 December 2008

India issues stern warning to Pakistan

NEW DELHI: In a stern warning to Pakistan, India said on Wednesday it was 'determined to take strongest' possible steps to ensure that there was no repetition of incidents like the Mumbai terror attacks. 'We are determined to take the strongest possible measures to ensure that there is no repetition of such acts,' External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here

Daily Excelsior, 4 December 2008

58 civilians, 11 trucks cross LoC

SRINAGAR, Dec 4: Mumbai terror attacks have no impact on the cross-Line of Control (LoC) bus and truck services as 58 people and 11 trucks crossed sides at Kaman Post, the last Indian military post on this side of the border, official sources said today. They said despite high degree of tension between India and Pakistan because of the Mumbai terror attacks, eight fresh guests from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) arrived here in the Karvan-e-Aman bus to meet their relatives here. As many as 16 residents of this side of the border, who had crossed into PoK returned after they met their relatives after more than six decades

Dawn, 4 December 2008

Rice hints at Al Qaeda involvement: India determined to act 'decisively'

NEW DELHI, Dec 3: In an escalation towards an uncertain denouement, India warned Pakistan on Wednesday that it would use any means to thwart cross-border terror attacks on its territory. And visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hinted that last week's massacre in Mumbai could have an Al Qaeda hand. 'Whether there is a direct Al Qaeda hand or not, this is clearly the kind of terror in which Al Qaeda participates,' she told a press conference during the one-day visit here. 'We are not here to jump to the conclusion that who is responsible,' Ms Rice said. As she spoke India's Defence Minister A.K. Antony met the chiefs of India's armed forces and urged security measures to watch out against an aerial attack by militants. Indian news agencies said Mr Antony asked the armed forces chiefs to be prepared to counter and prevent a repeat of 9/11-type of attacks carried out by Al Qaeda

Asian Age, 5 December 2008

India puts Pakistan trade talks on hold

Dec. 5: Pakistan India trade talks scheduled in this month have been postponed in the wake of the situation after the terrorist attacks in Mumbai last week, officials here said. "The talks have been postponed. India has put on hold all ongoing official initiatives to perk up bilateral trade," a trade ministry official said. The secretary-level talks on enhancing trade ties between the two countries was to be held in first week of December in Islamabad. "The Indian trade minister has informed Pakistan that its secretary trade would not be available for talks on the scheduled date," the official said

Hindu, 5 December 2008

India has 'proof of ISI involvement'

New Delhi: India has proof of the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency in last week's terrorist attacks in Mumbai but will not level a public accusation because the ensuing tension in bilateral relations would play into the hands of those responsible for the incidents, authoritative sources claimed here on Thursday. Asked for the sort of proof linking the ISI to the attacks, the sources said investigators had 'the names of the handlers and trainers, the locations where the training was held, and some of their communication through Voice over Internet Protocol have addresses that have been used by known ISI people before.'

Asian Age, 6 December 2008

LoC quiet despite rise in tension

Dec. 5: The Line of Control (LoC) as well as the International Border (IB) splitting Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan have been quiet over the past week despite mounting tensions between the two countries in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks. Officials in Srinagar and Jammu said on Friday that although the "dividing line" has witnessed a string of violation of the November 2003 ceasefire, no such incidents were reported during the past week. Also, no infiltration attempt by militants or any other undesirable elements has been reported taking place either along the 767-km LoC or the 198-km IB, called working boundary by Pakistan during this period

Hindu, 7 December 2008

Pakistan-origin hoaxes to divert attention: India

NEW DELHI: The External Affairs Ministry has dismissed a series of attempts being made in Pakistan to suggest that India is being intemperate in dealing with the fallout of the Mumbai terror attacks. No sooner the Foreign Office and the Defence Ministry dismissed claims that additional troops were being moved to the western borders than India has to face up to allegations that External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee made a call to Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on November 28, threatening military action if Islamabad did not wind up the Lashkar-e-Taiba and other militant groups

Hindu, 7 December 2008

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Hindu, 7 December 2008

McCain warns Pakistan of Indian air strikes

ISLAMABAD: United States Senator John McCain has said there is enough evidence of the involvement of former Inter-Services Intelligence officers in the planning and execution of the Mumbai attacks. If Pakistan did not act swiftly to arrest the people involved, the Senator said, India would be left with no option but to conduct aerial operations against select targets in Pakistan. Senator McCain, the Republican presidential candidate who lost to Barack Obama, told a select group of Pakistanis at an informal lunch in Lahore on Saturday that this was conveyed to him by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi

Hindu, 7 December 2008

Hoax call fuels anxiety about nuclear war

ISLAMABAD: A hoax call that was made to Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari last week by a man who pretended he was Minister for External Affairs Pranab Mukherjee and who spoke in a 'threatening' tone, fuelled anxiety on Saturday about the potential for an accidental nuclear war in the region in such a situation. As international concern mounted about the vulnerability of the Pakistani civilian leadership to such a dangerous hoax, as revealed by Dawn newspaper on Saturday, the Pakistan government made a thinly veiled accusation against India for setting off the controversy by disclosing the details to the Pakistani media. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sherry Rehman condemned 'such efforts aimed at using the media for negative diplomacy at a time when tensions are running high between the two countries.'

Hindu, 7 December 2008

Key Mumbai blasts suspect hiding in Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Onlookers watched in amazement as a wiry young man jumped out of a second-floor window of the Gulistan Apartments near the Shalimar Talkies on Mumbai's Grant Road, and ran, hobbling, down the street. Ever since he escaped the Delhi police who hammered at his door in May 2006, Rahil Abdul Rehman Sheikh has gone on to become one of India's most wanted terrorists. He is alleged to have played a key role in that year's serial bombings in Mumbai as well as abortive terror attacks in Gujarat and New Delhi

News, 7 December 2008

Mumbai blasts

ISLAMABAD: The civil and military leadership has struck a common ground regarding the country's security situation, especially in the wake of the Mumbai blasts, urging India to provide solid evidence before levelling any baseless allegations against Pakistan. This was observed during long, detailed meetings chaired by Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani here on Saturday. Defence and security chiefs, senior members of the federal cabinet and PML-N leaders attended the meetings and discussed the overall security situation of the country's eastern and western borders. Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in fact held two separate meetings one in the day and the other late Saturday night

News, 7 December 2008

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Hindu, 8 December 2008

Revealed: home of Mumbai's gunman in Pakistan village

FARIDKOT (NEAR DEPALPUR): The little house was certainly that of a poor family, with a courtyard to one side and a small cart propped up in one corner. The old man and middle-aged woman who answered the door were not the owners. No, they insisted, the owners were away. 'They've gone to a wedding,' said the old man, identifying himself as Sultan. He was, he said, Amir's father-in-law. So, that would make him Ajmal's grandfather? At last, it seemed, this was the right place. It had taken days to get to Faridkot, a small, dirt-poor village in Pakistan's Punjab province. More than a week after the arrest of the only Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist taken alive during the terror strike on Mumbai, so little was still known about him. His name, for instance. Was he Mohammed Amin Kasab, Azam Amir Kasav? Or was he Mohammed Ajmal Amir? The name Kasai in fact means he would hail from a butcher community - that would be his caste. But it was recorded as Kasav, then later Kasab. The discrepancies reportedly stemmed from the fact that the Mumbai police officers who first questioned him were Marathi speakers and unable to communicate with the south Punjab resident in anything other than Hindi patois

Daily Times, 8 December 2008

Editorial: Senator McCain and 'Indian strikes'

From the tone of the statement one can say that the Senator, possibly along with the rest of the US delegation, wanted Pakistan to respond positively, 'after receiving evidence from India', to the Indian demand that the culprits named by them be arrested. The Senator talked in the future tense about his willingness to persuade India not to embark on military action against Pakistan. He thought America would not be able 'do much' if India attacked Pakistan. He was more mindful of the assertion that India's Mumbai attack was an Indian 9/11 like America's in 2001, after which the US took the option of attacking Afghanistan

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Pakistan launches operation against banned organisation

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan military said on Monday it had mounted an 'intelligence-led operation' against a banned militant organisation in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and made several arrests. Military spokesman Major-General Athar Abbas did not specify that the target of the operation was the Lashkar-e-Taiba, nor would he confirm if Lashkar commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, suspected by Indian investigators of having masterminded the Mumbai attacks, was among those arrested

Hindu, 9 December 2008

India in 'wait and watch' mode to Pakistan arrests

New Delhi: India on Monday reacted cautiously to reports from Pakistan that security agencies there had taken into custody senior Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives wanted in connection with the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Though Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the publicity wing of the Pakistani armed forces - on Monday formally noted that an 'intelligence-led operation against banned militant outfits and organisations'

is under way and that 'arrest and investigations are on,' Indian officials told The Hindu that the nature of the action being taken was still not clear. According to Pakistani newspapers, LeT commanders Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Zarar Shah are among those arrested, though no official in that country has been willing to confirm this on record

Hindu, 9 December 2008

Opinion: Pakistan and the Lashkar's jihad in India By Praveen Swami

'Whoever they are,' Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said last week of the terrorists who attacked Mumbai, 'they are stateless actors who are holding hostage the whole world.' 'I very much doubt,' he continued, asked about the arrested terrorist Mohammad Ajmal Amir, 'that he's a Pakistani.' President Zardari's claims have disintegrated with media reports from Pakistan confirming that Amir is indeed a Pakistani national linked to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. Pakistan, under intense pressure, has since begun a crackdown on Lashkar offices in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, although its seriousness of purpose is still far from clear. How events develop from here will settle the question of whether the Lashkar is, in fact, a non-state actor-or a covert instrument of the Pakistani state. In 1987, Osama bin-Laden's ideological mentor and a professor of religious studies together founded the Markaz Dawat-ul-Irshad - the Centre for the Propagation of the Faith and its Teachings. It was to grow into an empire. Today, the Pakistan-based Jamaat-ud-Dawa runs a web of educational, medical charitable - and military - institutions on a sprawling campus at Muridke near Lahore

Tribune, 9 December 2008

Militants shifting camps

With tension mounting between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attack, the militant training camps across the border are being vacated and relocated to other places. As India has constantly been building diplomatic pressure on Pakistan and America has also been backing India in its claim over Pakistan to hand over the people responsible for the terrorist attack in Mumbai, the militant leadership fearing a 'surgical strike' by India on their camps in PoK, are slowly vacating the camps. 'For the past few days we have been witnessing increase in activities across the line of control and we have intelligence inputs that the militant training camps across the border are being vacated and the inmates shifted to other locations.' a senior intelligence officer told The Tribune on condition of anonymity

Dawn, 9 December 2008

Pakistan renews cooperation offer: International obligations to be fulfilled: Defence Committee

ISLAMABAD, Dec 8: Pakistan has renewed its offer of full cooperation to India, including intelligence-sharing and assistance in investigation into the Mumbai attacks as well as setting up a joint investigation commission. The announcement was made on Monday after a meeting of the defence committee of the cabinet, which reviewed the regional security situation in the backdrop of renewed Pakistan-India tensions. The committee reiterated Pakistan's resolve not to allow its soil to be used for any kind of terrorist activity anywhere in the region and the rest of the world, Information Minister Sherry Rehman said in a briefing for media

Dawn, 9 December 2008

Extradition demand rejected in response to demarche

ISLAMABAD, Dec 8: Pakistan has rejected India's demand to extradite three fugitives and urged it to share evidence proving that elements from this country territory had

carried out the recent attacks in Mumbai. This was communicated to India in a demarche from Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir to Indian High Commissioner Satyabrata Pal in response to India's second demarche which had listed actions it wanted Pakistan to take. The response came amid reports from various parts of the country, including the federal capital, that a crackdown had been launched against the outlawed Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jamaatud Dawah. This was one of the main demands made in the Indian demarche of Dec 1

News, 9 December 2008

Jaish chief confined to his headquarters

LAHORE: The Pakistani authorities have placed restrictions on the movement of Maulana Masood Azhar, the chief of the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), by confining him to his multi-storeyed concrete compound in the Model Town area of Bahawalpur. Well-placed official sources say Masood Azhar's activities have been restricted in the wake of the Indian government's recent demand to hand him over to New Delhi

Hindu, 10 December 2008

Mumbai terror cash trail leads to Karachi

MUMBAI: Investigators have determined that payments for a voice-over-Internet protocol service used by the terrorists who stormed this city last month were made from Karachi, Mumbai police sources told The Hindu. The investigators have found that a still-unidentified individual using false identification papers routed \$ 290 to the VOIP service Vox Phone through a Karachi office of the money-transfer giant, Western Union. Police in Mumbai intercepted calls made by the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, who attacked Mumbai, to two VOIP numbers from six Indian mobile phone numbers

Hindu, 11 December 2008

Ajmal names trainers: police

MUMBAI: The interrogation of Mohammad Ajmal Amir Iman, the only terrorist caught alive after the Mumbai attacks, has named those who trained the terrorists, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rakesh Maria told journalists here on Wednesday. Lashkar operative Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi, Abu Hamza, Kahfa and Hafiz Saeed were among the trainers. The police were still verifying the details of others. While each of the four played key roles, the names of the chieftains were yet to be learnt, Mr. Maria said.

Daily Times, 12 December 2008

'Gunman arrested in Mumbai is my son'

LAHORE: A man who has identified himself as Amir Kasab of Faridkot village near Punjab's Depalpur tehsil has claimed that the lone gunman arrested after the Mumbai terror attacks is his son, according to a report in a local newspaper. 'I was in denial for the first couple of days,' he told the newspaper in the courtyard of his house in Faridkot. '[But] now I have accepted it ... this is my son, Ajmal.' The newspaper said that the family now appears to have disappeared. daily times monitor

Dawn, 12 December 2008

Dawa offices in most cities and towns sealed: Hafiz Saeed, others in custody

LAHORE, Dec 11: Jamaatud Dawa Amir Hafiz Mohammad Saeed was placed under house arrest for three months as the countrywide crackdown on the organisation continued on Thursday. Police sealed Qudsia Mosque, the headquarters of Jamaatud

Dawa in Chauburji Chowk, and 18 other offices throughout Punjab. Five offices were sealed in Sialkot. Twenty-five members of the organisation, including Ameer Hamza, Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Maulana Naseer Hamza, Saifullah Mansoor, Dawa's director of public relations, Col (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed, and Rajanpur district president Talib Rehman, were detained. A large number of publications of the organisation were seized

Hindu, 12 December 2008

Pakistan invokes the 'K' word

New Delhi: Pakistan on Tuesday responded to India's call for the United Nations to act against the Jamat-ud-Dawah and other organisations linked to the Mumbai terrorist attacks by saying it would ban the outfit if asked by the U.N. to do so. But it also added the diplomatic equivalent of a non-sequitur by invoking the 'K' word and calling for terrorism's 'root causes' to be addressed. Speaking at a special session on terrorism of the Security Council, Pakistan's U.N. ambassador began by saying he was 'deeply troubled' by what had happened in Mumbai. 'The best outcome of the tragedy,' he said a few seconds later, 'would be the resolution of the issue of Kashmir.'

Hindu, 12 December 2008

Ajmal names trainers: police

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Hindu, 12 December 2008

'The terrorists want to destroy Pakistan, too' By Asif Ali Zardari

The recent death and destruction in Mumbai, India, brought to my mind the death and destruction in Karachi on Oct. 18, 2007, when terrorists attacked a festive homecoming rally for my wife, Benazir Bhutto. Nearly 150 Pakistanis were killed and more than 450 were injured. The terrorist attacks in Mumbai may be a news story for most of the world. For me it is a painful reality of shared experience. Having seen my wife escape death by a hairbreadth on that day in Karachi, I lost her in a second, unfortunately successful, attempt two months later

Hindu, 13 December 2008

India: house arrest, sealing won't do

NEW DELHI: India has told United States interlocutors that it remains unimpressed with the house arrest of the chief of the Jamat-ud-Dawah and the reported sealing of some of the offices of this front organisation of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. The steps initiated by Pakistan should be taken to their logical conclusion, including dismantling of the terror infrastructure. This was conveyed during a telephonic conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Wednesday and during meetings with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte on Friday

Hindu, 13 December 2008

M.S. Gill against cricket team's tour of Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Union Sports Minister M.S. Gill on Friday virtually prompted the government not to send the Indian cricket team to Pakistan next month. Mr. Gill said

the country's team, under the prevailing circumstances, should not tour Pakistan. He, however, pointed out that the final decision on the subject rested with the government.

Hindu, 13 December 2008

Furnish evidence, says Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said it was continuing the crackdown on the Jamat-ud-Dawah, the Laskhar-e-Taiba front organisation designated by the United Nations Security Council as a 'terrorist' entity, locking down its offices after placing the group's leader Hafiz Saeed under house arrest. At the same time, the government asked India to furnish evidence to back its allegations that Pakistani nationals were involved in the Mumbai attacks in order to take its investigations forward

News, 13 December 2008

Pakistanis will not be handed over to India

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani have reiterated that all the actions against the banned militant outfits would be taken under the country's laws and no Pakistani citizens would be handed over to India or any other country and they would be tried in the country's courts of law. The decision was taken at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on Friday in which they exchanged views on the current security situation in the country, following the ban on militant outfits and the Pak-India relations in the aftermath of the Mumbai attacks

Hindu, 14 December 2008

India willing to share evidence, but not now: Pranab

New Delhi: Voicing scepticism over Pakistan acting decisively against terrorists operating from its soil, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said such elements were 'let off' in the past after some initial action. 'Therefore we shall have to see whether these [actions by Pakistan] are taken to their logical conclusion,' he said, asking Islamabad to ensure that the terror infrastructure was dismantled completely. Reacting to Islamabad's demand for evidence of the involvement of the Pakistan-based elements in the Mumbai attacks, Mr. Mukherjee said India was ready to provide it but not at this juncture when investigations were yet to be concluded

Hindu, 14 December 2008

Mumbai police write to Centre on Ajmal's plea

MUMBAI: The Mumbai police have written to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the surviving terrorist of the Mumbai attacks, Mohammad Ajmal Amir Iman's plea seeking contact with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. Rakesh Maria, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) told reporters on Saturday that on December 11, Ajmal wrote a three-page letter in Urdu, seeking 'consular access' and legal aid from the Pakistan High Commission

News, 14 December 2008

PAF chases away Indian warplanes

LAHORE/RAWALPINDI: Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter jets intruded into Pakistan's airspace twice on Saturday, drifting some four kilometres inside the Kashmir and Lahore sectors, Geo News reported. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighters, already in the air as part of Air Defence Alert mission (Combat Air Patrol), rushed to counter the threat in the Kashmir and Lahore sectors, forcing the Indian warplanes to flee back to their airspace

Hindu, 15 December 2008

India: no air space intrusion

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has rejected Pakistani claims of air space intrusion on Saturday night over Lahore and parts of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). 'There has been no air space violation as has been alleged,' said the IAF spokesperson. Other IAF officials felt the reason for the Pakistani claim could be 'overexcitement' or 'propaganda' and referred to the toned down observations from Islamabad later in the day to support their contention. Earlier on Sunday, the Pakistan Air Force claimed to have scrambled its fighters to force IAF planes to return

Hindu, 15 December 2008

Terrorists' dead bodies to wait as Pak turns its back

Nearly three weeks after the Terror attack in Mumbai, the Police is clueless as to what to do with the bodies of nine Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists killed on November 26 since various Muslim organisations have refused to bury them in the country while Islamabad appears to be disinclined to accept the mortal remains

Daily Excelsior, 16 December 2008

After zero, 12 PoK citizens reach Poonch

JAMMU, Dec 15: After last week's zero arrival from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) in weekly Poonch-Rawlakote bus service from Chakan-Da-Bagh in Poonch district, 12 PoK citizens arrived in the bus today as tension between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of last month's Mumbai terror attacks has started receding. Last week, not even a single citizen from PoK had come to this side following strained relations between two countries and rumours that cross-LoC routes might be closed down after Mumbai attacks. This was for the first time since cross-LoC route was opened on November 21, 2005 that not even a single PoK citizen had come to this side

News, 17 December 2008

No plan to attack Pakistan: Indian defence minister

NEW DELHI: India said on Tuesday that it had no plan to attack Pakistan. 'We are not planning any military action,' AK Antony, the Indian Defence Minister, told reporters in New Delhi. But he added that 'unless Pakistan takes action against those terrorists who are operating from its soil and against India, and also against all those who are behind the Mumbai terrorist attacks, things will not be normal.' 'We have to think about the safety of our people. I cannot say what course of action we will take, but unless Pakistan shows sincerity in what they are saying, things will not be as usual,' he added.

News, 17 December 2008

Pakistan denies India shared evidence of Mumbai attacks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically denied that India had shared any evidence with it regarding the Mumbai attacks. Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee while interacting with the media in Srinagar said on Tuesday that India had shared evidence with Pakistan, demanding that now Pakistan should take steps to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure on its territory rather than giving mere assurances. 'Words must be followed by action,' he said at a press conference. Mukherjee said that sanctuaries of terrorists should be dismantled. He said the Mumbai attacks were not linked to the ongoing liberation struggle in the held Kashmir. 'Absolutely not. India has neither formally nor informally shared any evidence regarding the Mumbai attacks with Pakistan. We have requested them several times. Also, India has not made up its mind regarding our proposal to send a

high-level delegation to India in this regard and our requests to take up our offer of exchanging information and setting up a joint investigation team,' a Foreign Office spokesman told The News

Daily Times, 17 December 2008

Editorial: Mumbai attack as a tool of domestic politics

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani told the National Assembly Monday that he had 'turned down a request that Britain be allowed to investigate those detained [in Pakistan] after the Mumbai attacks'. He went on to assure the House that Jama'at-ud Dawa's 'welfare activities' would not be blocked, as 'thousands of people are benefitting from them', but that, from now on, its activities would be monitored. If this statement was not enough to ward off the pressure of the opposition assault on his government - 'the government is defending India before India does' - he threw in a challenge to India too: 'if war is thrust on the country, we will give a befitting response'. He added, 'The nation, the army and the political leadership are united, and we can defend our national sovereignty'. The airspace violations by Indian planes, dismissed at first as a 'technical mistake', were made a major subject of angry discussion by the media and the opposition leaders

Dawn, 18 December 2008

Blame game to undermine peace process, says Qureshi

ISLAMABAD, Dec 17: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has urged India to get into the cooperative mode, cautioning that the chain of events would otherwise take both countries back to the old days of hostility. 'Let us get into a cooperative mode and not indulge in blame game and finger-pointing which would not only be counterproductive, but would take us back from where we had started,' he said at a news conference with Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt after holding talks with him here on Wednesday. Urging India to work together with Pakistan against the threat posed by terrorists, Mr Qureshi said: 'We should not succumb to these challenges; we should rather stand up to these challenges collectively to defeat the designs of those elements that have caused this strain in relations.'

Hindu, 19 December 2008

Pakistan cricket tour off

NEW DELHI: The Mumbai terror attacks finally sealed the fate of the Indian cricket team's tour of Pakistan with the government deciding not to go ahead with the series slated to begin next month. In a letter to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the government cited 'recent developments as well as the overall circumstances prevailing at present.' The BCCI is expected to communicate the decision formally to its Pakistani counterpart

Hindu, 19 December 2008

Pakistan lists airspace 'violations'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, which last week brushed aside alleged violations of its airspace by the Indian Air Force as 'technical' and 'inadvertent' intrusions, on Thursday expressed concern to India about the incidents. The Pakistan Foreign Ministry handed a note verbale to the Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Manpreet Vohra, listing four 'violations' by IAF planes on December 12 and 13. In a statement, the Foreign Office spokesman said: 'The Indian Deputy High Commissioner was called to the Foreign Office today [Thursday] and a diplomatic note was handed over to him, conveying the concern of the Government of Pakistan on technical and airspace violations by Indian aircraft on 12 and 13 December 2008 in non-conformity with the 1991 Agreement between Pakistan and India on Prevention of Airspace

Violations.'

Hindu, 30 December 2008

Pakistan's military leaders talk of peace

ISLAMABAD: In remarks seen as key to the de-escalation of the post-Mumbai military tensions in the region, Pakistan's military leaders have stressed the need to 'avoid conflict' and for the resumption of the peace dialogue with India. The remarks by Army Chief, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Tariq Majid came during their separate meetings with the Chinese special envoy, Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei, on Monday

Daily Times, 30 December 2008

Pakistan entitled to defend itself, Chinese envoy told

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD/ RAWALPINDI: Pakistan has the right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in case of an aggression, top officials in Islamabad told visiting Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs He Yafie on Monday. The Chinese official, a special envoy to South Asia, held separate meetings with President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, Interior Adviser Rehman Malik, Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Kayani and Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Tariq Majid

Daily Times, 30 December 2008

EDITORIAL: After the threat of war retreats

The temperamental Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who does most of the tough talking from India, says 'no ultimatum has been given to Pakistan to act against terrorists'. If that statement is challengeable, what he says next can be taken as normal and even helpful. He concedes that Pakistan has committed not to allow its territory to be used for terrorist activities and that 'India would share whatever information Pakistan required once the investigation was over'.

Hindu, 31 December 2008

Pranab: no provocative action by India

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday rejected claims made by Pakistan earlier in the day that India had moved its troops closer to the border and activated the forward air bases. Instead, Pakistan would do well to honour the commitments made by its then and present head of state in 2004 and again this year, he said. In an interaction with newsmen, Mr. Mukherjee made it clear that no provocative action was taken by the Indian armed forces and any movement on the ground was part of the Army's normal schedule of exercises and repositioning in the winters

Hindu, 31 December 2008

Relocate troops to 'peace-time' positions: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Buoyed by the entry of traditional ally China in the role of the peacemaker in the region and feeling 'vindicated' by the toned down Indian statements, Pakistan proposed on Tuesday that New Delhi should send it 'positive signals' by deactivating its forward air bases and relocating troops to 'peace time' positions. Indian officials here said India could take neither step as it was being asked 'to undo what we have not done.' The Indian Defence Ministry said last week that the troop movements in the Rajasthan and Punjab sectors were linked to annual winter exercises and did not indicate mobilisation on the border with Pakistan. Defence officials have also denied that forward bases were ever 'activated' in the

present crisis

News, 31 December 2008

Qureshi asks India to de-activate forward airbases

ISLAMABAD: The cumulative international efforts, especially those of the United States, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran, have finally succeeded in de-escalating the tense situation between Pakistan and India, whereby Islamabad on Tuesday welcomed what it saw a positive and welcoming development. What started with terrorist attacks on Mumbai had, after a month, escalated into an imminent war scenario between the two nuclear neighbours. 'Pakistan considers the developments in the last 48 hours as positive and welcoming. India should de-activate its forward airbases and pull the ground forces to peacetime locations to create a friendly atmosphere between the two neighbouring countries,' Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said in a policy statement he read out in Urdu for the PTV

Daily Times, 31 December 2008

Editorial: The message from China

The war-mongers should take pause and pay heed to what the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr He Yafei, here as his government's special envoy, said on Monday: 'Immediately de-escalate tension and resume dialogue with India as a lingering Indo-Pak crisis would strengthen the terrorists'. We should also urgently note the remark by General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani in his meeting with Mr He: 'Pakistan must avoid conflict with India'. The Chinese special envoy flew to Islamabad amid news that Pakistan was removing its troops from the Tribal Areas, where it is fighting a war against the terrorists, and posting them on the eastern border with India in anticipation of conflict. The message was not new but the dispatch of the envoy carried the urgency of reiteration that Pakistan cannot ignore. Beijing had reason to be satisfied with the PPP government's approach to India's verbal aggression. Now it will be reassured by what Pakistan's army chief had to say about conflict with India in general