

aHindu, 1 January 2009

Bush speaks to Manmohan, Zardari

Crawford: US President George W Bush on Wednesday spoke to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan B President Asif Ali Zardari and all the three leaders agreed to avoid any action that would "raise tensions" in the region. Mr. Bush "called prime minister (Manmohan) Singh of India and separately president (Asif Ali) Zardari of Pakistan. President Bush urged both ... to cooperate with each other in the Mumbai attack investigation as well as on counter-terrorism in general," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. Mr. Bush spoke from his ranch in Crawford in Texas

Indian Express, 1 January 2009

'We've given enough proofs, Pak in denial mode'

'We've given enough proofs, Pak in denial mode' India slammed Pakistan for being in a denial mode on involvement of elements based in that country in the Mumbai attacks and said Islamabad's "defiance" of the world opinion would not be conducive for the overall stability of the region. "We have given enough evidence (against perpetrators of last month's Mumbai Terror attacks). Evidence is not only with India but also with the investigating agencies of the US and the UK," Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma told reporters in Chandigarh

Indian Express, 1 January 2009

No hot pursuit on terrorists operating from Pak: India

India on Wednesday virtually ruled out any hot pursuit on terrorists operating from Pakistan's soil by taking a leaf out of the Israeli air strikes on Gaza strip. "So that incident or that event, (Israeli air strikes) we cannot draw any lessons for the way we deal with Pakistan," Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said when asked whether New Delhi can draw lessons from the Israeli air strikes to pursue terrorists in Pakistan. He recalled that India had strongly criticised the Israeli strikes and urged the country to stop those attacks on Palestine

Hindu, 3 January 2009

'Pakistan doesn't require treaty'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's contention that it does not have an extradition treaty with India to hand over possible suspects in the Mumbai terror attacks does not hold water, say diplomatic observers, as it is a signatory to international conventions that demand that states either prosecute terror suspects or extradite them to the country that wants to try them. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said in an interview that Pakistan would not extradite any of its nationals suspected of involvement in the Mumbai attacks as there was no extradition treaty with India. If any such person was found in Pakistan, the Minister said, he would be tried under Pakistani laws

Hindu, 4 January 2009

Manmohan hopes sense will prevail on Pakistan

SHILLONG: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday expressed the hope that 'some sense' would prevail on Pakistan and it would hand over for trial the terrorists responsible for the September 26 attacks in Mumbai. Speaking to journalists here, Dr. Singh made it clear that 'war is no solution' to the problems between India and Pakistan. The Prime Minister hoped Islamabad would listen to the demands of 'civilised countries' to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 'horrible' acts in Mumbai

Hindu, 6 January 2009

Evidence handed over to Pakistan

NEW DELHI: India on Monday summoned Pakistan High Commissioner Shahid Malik to the Foreign Office here to hand over 'material' about Pakistani involvement in the Mumbai terror attacks. The move is part of the diplomatic offensive by New Delhi to convince the international community and Islamabad to take tangible action against the masterminds of the Mumbai attacks

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Hindu, 7 January 2009

Telephone trail key part of evidence shared with Pakistan

New Delhi: The evidentiary dossier given to Pakistan on Monday marks the first systematic Indian presentation of what ongoing investigations into the Mumbai terrorist attacks have revealed so far. Though many of the facts about how the attacks were staged have been known for some time now, the 69-page document - a copy of which is with The Hindu - provides crucial details about the telephone links between the attackers and Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives and identifies for the first time the names of six 'Pakistan-based handlers' who were constantly in touch with the gunmen even as they wreaked havoc in the city during the November 26-29, 2008 incidents

Hindu, 7 January 2009

Manmohan points the finger at Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday squarely blamed the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba for the Mumbai terror strike and pointed out that there was enough evidence to show that the attack, executed with military precision, had the support of some official agencies of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said terrorism was largely sponsored from outside the country, mainly Pakistan, which 'utilised terrorism as an instrument of State policy.'

Hindu, 7 January 2009

No proof given, says Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Tuesday the information given to it by India on the Mumbai attacks did not constitute 'proof' and, responding to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's speech in New Delhi, warned that allegations against the Pakistani state could end 'all prospects of serious and objective investigations' into the incident. In the National Assembly, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Adam Khan and Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir told the Committee on Foreign Relations that the material handed over by India was 'not sufficient' and could not be regarded as 'evidence.'

Asian Age, 7 January 2009

Editorial: Time for harder line on Pakistan

Jan. 6: If Pakistan was in right earnest about pursuing the terrorist case after the November 26 attacks on Mumbai, which external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee has quite appropriately called "unpardonable," it would have long ago begun processes that were credible and that evoked in Indians a feeling of confidence. This

would have been in line with its bilateral assurances to India at the highest level, and in keeping with its position as a signatory to regional and international protocols on terrorism. That, alas, has so far not been the case. On Monday India officially handed over material to Pakistan that it has been able to painstakingly collect, collate and analyse to nail the involvement and complicity of Pakistani "actors" of different kinds, state and non-state, a distinction not always easy to draw in Pakistan's case as the line between them is thin, as foreign secretary Shivshankar Menon has noted

News, 7 January 2009

Pakistan rejects India's allegation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday emphatically rejected the allegation by Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh that the Mumbai attacks had the support of some Pakistani official agencies. Foreign Office spokesman Muhammad Sadiq, in a statement here, said instead of responding positively to Pakistan's offer of cooperation, India had chosen to embark on a propaganda offensive. 'It will not only ratchet up tensions but occlude facts and destroy all prospects of serious and objective investigations into the Mumbai attacks,' he said. The spokesman said the Indian approach was fraught with grave risks and would further vitiate the situation in South Asia. 'Only yesterday the government of India was advised not to embark on political point scoring. Regrettably this advice has not been heeded,' he said

Hindu, 10 January 2009

ISI has responded to Indian dossier, says Gilani

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on Friday described the Indian decision to 'freeze' the composite dialogue process in the wake of the Mumbai attacks as 'regrettable,' and urged the world not to let tensions between the two countries escalate. His remarks came as U.S. Vice-President-elect Joe Biden arrived here on a day's visit during which he met President Asif Ali Zardari. Mr. Gilani and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were also present. The outgoing chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a separate meeting with Army chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani

Indian Express, 10 January 2009

Not just in our backyard By Ashley J. Tellis

Whenever New Delhi points a finger at Pakistan in the aftermath of a terrorist attack in India, a weary world seems to say, 'Here we go again!' The old enmity between the two countries can tire spectators who often quickly dismiss Indian accusations of Pakistani malfeasance as little other than political recriminations. Yet, the latest terrorist assault in Bombay leaves no doubt about the authenticity of the Indian charge. The West would do well to take notice that this bloodbath was not the work of homegrown militants aggrieved by India's failure to integrate its Muslim minority but of the dangerous Pakistani terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), whose wider goals threaten not only secular India but also the West and even Pakistan itself

Dawn, 10 January 2009

Gilani says ISI's response forwarded to India

ISLAMABAD, Jan 9: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday said that premier intelligence agencies of the United States and Pakistan had been working closely to untangle the knots of the Mumbai carnage mystery and recently the Inter-Services Intelligence had provided a detailed response to questions and issues raised by US investigators on behalf of their Indian counterparts. 'Our ISI has given its feedback, which has been forwarded to India,' he told reporters after addressing a seminar on 'Democracy in Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Hindu, 11 January 2009

Dossier is credible, but give Pakistan some time: Mulford

New Delhi: The U.S. has contended that the dossier given by India to Pakistan on the Mumbai attacks was 'credible' but suggested that New Delhi should allow time to Islamabad to act on it. U.S. ambassador to India David C. Mulford said the dossier contains extensive inputs from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). 'From what I have seen it is a very credible material. The FBI is cooperating in Mumbai...It is information which tells and gives a very accurate account of what has happened,' he told Karan Thapar's programme 'Devil's Advocate.'

Dawn, 12 January 2009

Durrani claims all were on board

ISLAMABAD, Jan 12: Former National Security Adviser Major-General (retd) Mehmood Durrani has defended his decision to disclose Ajmal Kasab's identity as a Pakistani national, claiming he had been authorised by the prime minister in writing to speak on matters of national security and Pakistan-India relations, and it was his understanding that the Ajmal Kasab issue was within this domain. Talking to DawnNews, he said that all stakeholders had been taken into confidence before the statement on Ajmal Kasab was made public. He asserted that he did not breach the confidence or the trust of the leadership. He denied he had any differences with the prime minister before his sacking from the top cabinet position

Hindu, 15 January 2009

War is last option, says Army Chief

Jan. 14: Confirming that Pakistan had moved troops from its western to its eastern borders, Indian Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor said on Wednesday that India was keeping all its options open, and that the "military option is the last option". Addressing his annual press conference here on the eve of Army Day on Thursday, Gen. Kapoor said: "There is a larger amount of tension since 26/11. We feel the perpetrators (of the Mumbai terror attack) came from Pakistani soil. We in India are keeping all our options open. This is not hysteria for war, but all options are open - diplomatic, economic and the last resort is the fighting option." He went on: "The military option is the last option. The decision is on the political leadership. The political leadership has said that war is not an option but (that) all options are open."

Dawn, 15 January 2009

UK supports prosecution of suspects in Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: Rejecting India's demand for extradition of 'suspects' of the Mumbai attacks, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband has said the UK supports their prosecution in Pakistan as they have 'broken the law' of that country. 'We will support their prosecution under Pakistani law, because they have broken the law in Pakistan. It's Pakistani law they have broken as well as international decency and common sense,' Mr Miliband said in Karan Thapar's 'Devil's Advocate' programme. There was no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan for handing over suspects, he said

Dawn, 15 January 2009

Indians provided information, not evidence: Gilani

ISLAMABAD, Jan 13: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday the government was carefully examining the 'information' about the Mumbai terror attacks received last week and was prepared to cooperate with India to uncover facts. In a policy statement made in the National Assembly, he said that Pakistan

would share with India results of its own investigation in due course of time. He said India had not provided any evidence, just information. 'All that has been received from India is some information. I say information because these are not evidence.'

Indian Express, 16 January 2009

No first-use options By Shekhar Gupta

Shortly after conducting the Pokharan II tests, the NDA Government made two significant announcements. One was a voluntary moratorium on further nuclear testing, and the other an unequivocal commitment to no-first-use of nuclear weapons. It is the second that is becoming increasingly relevant as the post-November 26 strategic picture develops. A nuclear weapons power makes a no-first-use commitment only because it is so sure of its conventional deterrence that it believes it won't need the nukes except in retaliation. India's larger strategic thinking is, therefore, predicated on two beliefs: that our conventional strength is sufficient to ward off any future, conventional threat from China, and is adequate to deter Pakistan with a threat of punishment. To that extent, nuclear weapons become the weaker, or the losing side's, option in the subcontinent. India's deterrent, therefore, remains a decisive conventional superiority. Unless you have it, you cannot talk of no-first-use

Hindu, 16 January 2009

Five training camps shut down: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Thursday that it had shut down five training camps and detained or kept under surveillance over a hundred people linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamat-ud-Dawah in connection with the Mumbai attacks. It was also setting up a team of its Federal Investigation Agency to probe the incident. The government, however, said it needed more information from India to proceed with investigations, including access to the site of the terror attacks, and reiterated the offer of a joint probe

Hindu, 17 January 2009

No dilution of position, says Pranab

New Delhi: A day after saying the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack could be tried in Pakistan provided this was done in a transparent manner, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee changed tack to stress there was 'no question' of India giving up its demand that they be handed over to face justice here. With the Opposition parties accusing the government of contradicting itself after insisting that the Mumbai plotters must all be extradited, Mr. Mukherjee met briefly with television reporters on Friday in an attempt to set the record straight

Hindu, 17 January 2009

Act faster on 26/11: Miliband

Islamabad: Stepping up pressure on Pakistan, Britain on Friday asked it to go 'farther and faster' in taking action against those involved in the Mumbai attacks and root out terrorist infrastructure within the country. 'The whole international community wants Pakistan to go farther and go faster,' British Foreign Secretary David Miliband told a press conference here after meetings with Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani

Hindu, 19 January 2009

Pakistan gives probe team 10 days

ISLAMABAD: A three-man team of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency tasked with conducting an investigation on the basis of the Indian dossier on the Mumbai

attacks has been given 10 days to report back with its findings. Rehman Malik, who heads the Interior Ministry, told journalists that the government would also try to 'convert' the information given by India into evidence so that cases could be registered against the perpetrators in Pakistan, in order to bring them to trial in the country. He asked India to come up with more information to help the Pakistani end of the investigations

Hindu, 20 January 2009

Pakistan briefs envoys on Mumbai attack probe

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday briefed representatives of diplomatic missions here on the 'concrete steps' it had taken in the course of its investigation of the Mumbai attacks. Through a PowerPoint presentation, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Rehman Malik, who heads the Interior Ministry, informed the assembled diplomats of the detention of suspects, the launch of a formal inquiry and the setting up of a team of the Federal Investigation Agency comprising anti-terror experts from the Special Investigations Group

Daily Excelsior, 20 January 2009

Several citizens cancel cross-LoC visit

JAMMU, Jan 19: As tension between India and Pakistan refused to die, several citizens on both parts of divided State, who earlier had to wait for months together to visit their relatives, have started canceling their visits despite being granted travel permission by the concerned agencies. Citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), still venturing to cross Line of Control (LoC) on weekly Poonch-Rawlakote bus services have disclosed that a number of people in both parts of divided State have postponed their programme to meet their relatives in view of ongoing war rhetoric between the two countries

Hindu, 24 January 2009

Prosecution not possible: Gilani

ISLAMABAD: After assurances that it would swiftly bring to book any Pakistani found involved in the Mumbai attacks, Islamabad on Friday said prosecution of the suspects would not be possible unless amendments were made to its own laws. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said Pakistan's anti-terror laws did not cover acts committed outside the country. 'There are some discrepancies in the law. Our anti-terror laws need some alteration. If the offence is committed outside the country, we cannot prosecute unless we make amendments,' he told journalists in Lahore

Hindu, 25 January 2009

Pakistan taking Indian dossier "extremely seriously"

Islamabad: Pakistan is taking India's dossier on the Mumbai terror attacks "extremely seriously" and will "have to act fast" to complete its probe, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said. "We are taking it [the dossier] extremely seriously, and we have already started [an] investigation and the results will come soon," he told the Financial Times daily in an interview. Mr. Gilani also hinted that Pakistan could consider extraditing terror suspects to India if bilateral relations were normalised