

aHindu, 1 June 2008

**Burney episode regrettable, he is always welcome: New Delhi**

NEW DELHI: New Delhi on Saturday said the denial of entry to Pakistani Minister Ansar Burney to India was regrettable and he was always welcome to visit the country. Mr. Burney, a prominent human rights figure, who arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here from Dubai on Friday night, was denied entry by an immigration official 'on account of inadequate documentation.' He was sent back on the same flight he had flown in

Dawn, 1 June 2008

**Pakistan-India commission on Indus holds meeting**

LAHORE, May 31: Representatives of India and Pakistan in the Permanent Indus Commission of the two countries met here on Saturday and expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the two countries over the exchange of information about floods and other water-related issues. The Pakistan delegation was led at the meeting by Syed Jamaat Ali Shah while the Indian side was headed by G. Aranga Nathan. The representatives of the two countries also cut a cake to mark the 100 meeting of the PIC

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Asian Age, 2 June 2008

**India, Pak to inspect each other's water plans**

India, Pak to inspect each other's water plans June 1: Pakistan and India have agreed to allow each other to inspect the Baglihar Dam and the Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project. Addressing a joint press conference in Lahore after holding talks on Saturday evening, Pakistan Indus basin water commissioner Jamat Ali Shah and Indian Indus basin water commissioner Oranga Nathan said that India has assured Pakistan that Baglihar Dam is being built in line with the recommendations of the neutral experts commission

News, 3 June 2008

**Indian obstinacy blocks breakthrough on Kishan Ganga plan**

Indian obstinacy blocks breakthrough on Kishan Ganga plan LAHORE: The talks between India and Pakistan on the controversial Kishan Ganga project failed because of the stubborn attitude of the Indian Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), The News learnt here reliably on Monday. 'It seems that the Indian delegation in Pakistan to settle controversy over the Kishan Ganga project was not given enough decision-making power by their government to decide the project's future or they have not prepared well for talks,' said sources privy to the meeting

Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2008

**Firing again on LoC in Poonch**

POONCH, June 6: Pakistani troops were again reported to have opened firing on Line of Control (LoC) at Salhutri in Krishna Ghati area of this district last night in an

apparent attempt to push trained militants into this side. Official sources said firing from Pakistan side started late last evening and continued for two and a half hour at Kirpan Post in Salhutri area. Some retaliatory shots were also fired by Indian side

Hindu, 11 June 2008

#### **Another Indian on death row: Burney**

Islamabad: Pakistani rights activist Ansar Burney has found, after Kashmir Singh, another Indian on death row, Karpal Singh, languishing in jail in the Punjab province since 1992. Mr. Burney, former Human Rights Minister, on Tuesday said workers of his organisation had come across Karpal in the course of their welfare work in prisons. Karpal, who hails from Gurdaspur, was convicted of murder and destroying property in 1992. 'Interestingly, while the case was registered in the railway station in Faisalabad, Karpal Singh was convicted by an anti-terrorism court in Lahore,' Mr. Burney told PTI on the phone from London, expressing doubts whether he was given a fair trial

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Hindu, 13 June 2008

#### **Secret skirmishes scar LoC**

NEW DELHI: Indian troops stationed along the Line of Control had come under repeated attacks before an assault which claimed the life of a soldier earlier this month, an investigation by The Hindu has found. At least seven skirmishes have taken place since January in the Mendhar-Poonch belt alone, in addition to the June 5 attack on the Kranti Border Observation Post, near Salhotri village, which claimed the life of 2/8 Gurkha Regiment's Jawashwar

Hindu, 13 June 2008

#### **Two Pakistanis jailed as 'Indians' for a decade**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities had mistakenly jailed two of its nationals for a decade, suspecting them to be 'Indians,' a visiting Indian judicial delegation found on Thursday. This was discovered when a four-member Indian team of the bilateral Judicial Committee on Prisoners visited Indian fishermen held in the Youthful Offenders' Industrial School or juvenile jail in the port city of Karachi

Hindu, 15 June 2008

#### **Testing times for troops on Line of Control**

JAMMU: Lines of razor-sharp wire trailed harmlessly from the poles that make up the India-Pakistan border fence, like so much confetti. On the night of May 9, a large group of jihadist infiltrators had cut their way through the barbed wire and concertina rolls that make up the fence, near the town of Samba. The wiring had been slashed at least 30 places. Officers listened with disbelief, as soldiers stationed at an observation post just 200 metres away insisted they had seen and heard

nothing. But all this summer, similar events have been playing themselves out all along the Line of Control

Indian Express, 15 June 2008

**Revealed: how Pak and China didn't want India at UN high table**

New Delhi, June 14: New Delhi has obtained 'documented evidence' of Beijing acting in concert with Islamabad to stall India's efforts for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). India, Brazil, Germany and Japan (referred to as G4) were looking to renew their bid last year after a UN panel had suggested immediate UNSC expansion as an 'intermediate arrangement' subject to review after a specific timeframe. But key to G4's efforts was a consensus in the African Union (AU) to accept this transitional approach. So the AU Summit in Accra last year assumed significance given that AU was going by its own consensus which called for at least two UNSC seats for Africa with full privileges, including the right to veto.

News, 15 June 2008

**Pak-India Judicial Committee suggests early release of prisoners**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-India Judicial Committee on Saturday recommended to both the governments that all the prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been confirmed by their respective High Commissions should be released immediately. The members of the Indian Chapter of the Committee, following their visit to Pakistani jails and meeting the Indian prisoners, said with regard to those prisoners whose national status has not been confirmed, exercise in respect of their national status be finalized within one month and in any case before the Committee's next meeting in India.

Indian Express, 17 June 2008

**Infiltration levels down to new low, less than 20 terrorists sneak in '08**

New Delhi, June 16: Despite a series of high profile infiltration bids and cross-border firing incidents over the past few weeks, this year has seen a new low in the number of terrorists who successfully managed to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir from across the Line of Control. Latest intelligence estimate, collated from various security agencies, indicate that less than 20 terrorists have successfully infiltrated into the state till May this year. This is a drastic drop from last year when almost 150 terrorists sneaked into India within the first five months

Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2008

**For the first time, Hindu family crosses over to PoK**

JAMMU, June 16: For the first time since the opening of cross-LoC point Chakkan-Da-Bagh more than two and a half years ago in Poonch district, a Hindu family of three members from Nowshera tehsil of Rajouri district today crossed over to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) to meet the family of their cousin at Samoi Garoon, a remote village of PoK. The Hindu family of Ved Prakash hailing from village Bhawani in Nowshera tehsil of Rajouri district was jubilant and all praise for the authorities for facilitating their meeting with the cousin after more than six decades

Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2008

**Kashmir cornerstone of foreign policy: Gilani**

ISLAMABAD, June 16: Terming the Kashmir issue as the "cornerstone" of his party's foreign policy, Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani today said it wanted "genuine" representatives of the Kashmiri people to be involved in the dialogue process for a "just" and "durable" solution. Sustainable peace in South Asia cannot be achieved without resolving the Kashmir dispute which has "bedevilled relations

between Pakistan and India" over the past six decades, Gilani told Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik during a meeting in his chamber at Parliament House

Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2008

### **Weekly cross-LoC bus in offing**

JAMMU, June 17: As a part of cementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between India and Pakistan and to further enhance people to people contact, the weekly cross Line of Control (LoC) bus service in Jammu and Kashmir is in the offing. At present, the fortnightly cross-LoC bus service is being operated at two points- Poonch-Rawalakote in Jammu division and Uri-Muzaffarabad in Kashmir province. Among the other three crossing points sanctioned by the Central Government for the benefit of the divided families, only Teetwal is operational at present while Tatapani in Jammu division came to close after six months of its opening and Sillkot in Kashmir could not be made operational for obvious reasons

Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2008

### **India, Pak to increase rail freight**

NEW DELHI, June 18: Freight operations between India and Pakistan through rail are expected to increase with railway officials from both the countries exploring ways in this direction during the ongoing bilateral talks here. The three-day inter-Governmental talks began yesterday with the Indian officials proposing to increase the frequency of freight trains in the Wagah-Attari sector. "Talks would conclude tomorrow and an agreement is expected to be signed on various issues concerning Indo-Pak rail operation taken up during the meeting," a senior railway Ministry official said

Daily Times, 19 June 2008

### **Indo-Pak challenges and opportunities (Dhruva Jaishankar)**

With worsening domestic security, uneven relations with the United States, and its own survival in limbo, the new regime in Islamabad has more urgent issues on its mind at present than Kashmir. The high-level talks between India and Pakistan last month seem to have gone off smoothly after a short hiatus and the installation of a new government in Pakistan. The appearance of bonhomie between officials of both sides was buttressed by several symbolic demonstrations of goodwill, including an agreement to provide consular access to prisoners, discussions to possibly establish special economic zones along the border, and even talk of visa-free travel between the two countries.

Indian Express, 20 June 2008

### **India, Pak agree to increase freight trains**

New Delhi, June 19: India and Pakistan on Thursday agreed to increase the number of freight trains operating between the two countries through the Lahore-Attari border route from the current two pairs to five pairs per day over the next few months

Dawn, 20 June 2008

### **Four soldiers killed in ambush along LoC**

ISLAMABAD, June 19: Four Pakistani soldiers were killed in an encounter with 'unknown miscreants' in the Hajira sector, close to the Line of Control, on Thursday, Inter Services Public Relations said. 'This afternoon an army patrol came under heavy fire from miscreants hiding in thick forest in Batal Area of Hajira Sector, as a result of which two soldiers died on spot, while another two succumbed to their injuries subsequently,' an ISPR official told Dawn by telephone. Sources said the

army patrol had challenged the miscreants, who retaliated with heavy fire. The army later sent reinforcements to deal with the situation. Officials said the encounter continued late into the evening. The identity of the miscreants was not known. This was the most serious incident involving Pakistani troops since Islamabad and Delhi agreed to a ceasefire along the LoC in 2003. The ceasefire has largely held

Daily Times, 20 June 2008

### **Editorial: Pakistan and India's 'official psyche'**

A leading Indian journalist writing in an influential Indian news magazine has asked the Indian government to 'soften' its policy towards Pakistan in view of significant changes taking place in Pakistan. He was encouraged to make his recommendation after recently visiting Pakistan and witnessing the freedom with which Pakistanis were now analysing their country's foreign policy in general and the equation with India in particular. His concluding remark in the article was: 'This is the moment for India to make major, generous overtures to Pakistan and help consolidate its democratisation and demilitarisation. India can earn tremendous popular goodwill by unilaterally lifting trade barriers and liberalising visas. This will not hurt our economy, but will work in India's long-term interest. Similarly, India should tell Pakistan that it is prepared to negotiate a gradual demilitarisation of the border: 'grand reconciliation' is not mere rhetoric'

Times of India, 24 June 2008

### **Pakistan Foreign Minister to visit India on June 27**

NEW DELHI: Just over a month after External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited Islamabad, his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi will arrive here to take the dialogue forward. Mr. Qureshi's three-day visit, from June 27, will take place against the backdrop of his assurance, during Mr. Mukherjee's trip on May 21, to effect a 'grand reconciliation' with India

Dawn, 24 June 2008

### **Delhi sees gas project deal soon**

ISLAMABAD, June 23: Indian Petroleum Minister Murli Deora said on Monday that his country would soon sign an agreement with Iran and Pakistan to construct a multi-billion dollars gas pipeline. Deora said some 'minor problems' on the pipeline project had been sorted out, BBC reported. Deora, who attended a meeting of leading oil exporting countries in Saudi Arabia last week, told an Indian news channel that the agreement to construct the IPI gas pipeline would be signed 'very soon'

Hindu, 28 June 2008

### **India, Pakistan keen on promoting closer ties**

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Friday agreed to hold further discussions on promoting closer ties but Islamabad urged New Delhi to 'give serious thought to outstanding issues that need our consideration' in a political climate that gives both sides the 'unique opportunity' to make the peace process irreversible. Addressing a joint press conference, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi agreed that the climate was right for improving bilateral ties and resolving all the disputes by dialogue

Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2008

### **Kashmir solvable problem: Zardari**

LONDON, June 28: Describing as "solvable" the Kashmir issue with India, Pakistan's ruling PPP chief Asif Ali Zardari has said the two countries should not allow slow progress on it to be an obstacle to work in other cooperative matters. "We must

make viable peace. This (Kashmir) is a solvable problem that must not take further lives," Zardari said in a special vision statement' read out at a conference organised by Tehelka' magazine here yesterday. Pending a final settlement, "we agree with the statement of your Prime Minister supporting an autonomous Kashmir running much of its own affairs," Zardari said. "A Commission can be established between the two countries and the leaders of Kashmir themselves to work out what should be done in foreign and defence affairs," he said

Hindu, 29 June 2008

#### **'Breakthrough' in pipeline project**

NEW DELHI: In a significant development that could give a push to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project, India and Pakistan on Friday declared they had achieved a breakthrough in resolving all 'bilateral commercial issues' that were blocking the implementation of the \$7.4-billion project. New Delhi and Islamabad announced that the Petroleum Secretaries would hold talks on July 1 in Madrid to finalise a common strategy on issues such as Tehran's demand of a price revision clause. Both India and Pakistan are opposed to the new clause and plan to make a joint case at the trilateral meeting that may take place in Tehran next month

Times of India, 29 June 2008

#### **India to Pak: Be clear on terrorism**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan on Friday extended a fresh invitation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to visit the country, saying the political environment in both the countries is "right" to make the peace process "result-oriented". ( Watch ) "We are looking forward to his visit to Islamabad," visiting Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said at a joint press conference with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee here after wide-ranging talks