

The Tribune, 1 March 2007

Indo-US JWG on terror meets

New Delhi, February 28: The Indo-US joint working group on counter-terrorism met today to discuss cooperative strategies to fight the global menace of terrorism.

Indian Express, 1 March 2007

Next attack may come from Pak: US spy chief

Washington, February 28: The top US Intelligence official has said the next attack on America could come out of the Al Qaeda organised in Pakistan. He said President Pervez Musharraf needs to do more to come to terms with the terror outfits trying to 'rebuild' in the country.

The Hindu, 1 March 2007

U.S. rules out direct role in North Pakistan

Washington: The U.S. on Wednesday ruled out a direct role in areas of Northern Pakistan which are witnessing rising Al-Qaeda activities and said it was working with Islamabad to ensure that the region did not become a safe haven for terrorists.

Dawn, 1 March 2007

No direct military strikes inside Pakistan, says US

WASHINGTON, Feb 28: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Peter Pace have indicated that the US will not launch direct military strikes at suspected Al Qaeda targets inside Pakistan's tribal region.

The Times of India, 2 March 2007

India on US 'watch list' for human trafficking

NEW DELHI: India continues to be placed on the US "watch list" of countries allegedly not complying with the international effort to combat human trafficking. Placing state-wise details of human trafficking cases in the Lok Sabha, the minister said the four southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh accounted for over 85% of the total trafficking cases reported so far.

Deccan Herald, 2 March 2007

India-US agree on Pak's role in Afghanistan

New Delhi: The United States appeared to have veered round to accepting an Indian assessment shared with it some time back that the war against terror in Afghanistan was floundering on account of Pakistan's continued links with Taliban elements.

Daily Times, 3 March 2007

US forces routinely fire, pursue Taliban into Pakistan

WASHINGTON: American forces on Afghanistan's eastern border routinely fire on and pursue Taliban fighters into Pakistan, defence officials told Congress on Thursday. The testimony was the most detailed description to date of US military movement in the hostile region.

Dawn, 3 March 2007

US senators call for direct strike inside Pakistan: Pressure tactics may trigger Musharraf's ouster: ambassador

WASHINGTON, March 2: Members of the US Senate have urged the Bush administration to launch military strikes at alleged Al Qaeda targets inside Pakistan, prompting the Pakistani envoy in Washington to warn that such an attitude could bring down the present set-up in Islamabad.

Hindustan Times, 4 March 2007

US business mounts jumbo mission to India

A jumbo-sized 38-company US business mission, including nuclear power firms, high technology contractors and equipment suppliers will visit India from March 5-9 to prepare a roadmap for "future engagement". Led by the US-India Business Council (USIBC), comprising top 230 US companies with investment interests in India joined by a dozen top Indian global companies, the four-city visit marks the first anniversary of president George Bush's path-breaking trip to India. "USIBC is pleased to accompany America's finest companies to India, where we can demonstrate our desire to participate in the India growth story across every sector. We are here to take stock of the progress made thus far and chalk the roadmap for our future engagement," Ron Somers, president of USIBC, said.

Hindustan Times, 5 March 2007

'US spy' shot dead in Pak tribal area

Suspected militants in a Pakistani tribal area shot dead a tribesman accused of spying for US forces operating in neighbouring Afghanistan, officials said on Monday. The body of 30-year-old Qayyum Shahmiri was found early on Monday south of Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan tribal district, a security official told the agency. Shahmiri had been shot in head and chest and a note found near his body said that he was an "American spy", the official said. Pro-Taliban militants last week decapitated an Afghan cleric accused of spying for US forces and making recordings of anti-Taliban speeches in neighbouring South Waziristan.

The Hindu, 6 March 2007

Key accused in Mumbai blasts case is in U.S.

NEW DELHI : Feroz Abdul Rashid Khan, a key accused in the March 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, has been traced in the United States. He had been absconding since 1994 and the Central Bureau of Investigation issued an Interpol Red Corner alert notice, an agency spokesman said here on Friday. U.S. law enforcement authorities have sought more evidence from New Delhi to decide whether Khan (47), located last month, should be detained. The CBI has sent photographs and a dossier to establish his identity. The spokesman said the CBI approached the U.S. authorities in December for deporting or extraditing Khan, against whom the Red Corner notice had been pending for 12 years. The CBI also received a communication from the Interpol in Washington about the presence in the country of Khan, who had acquired U.S. citizenship.

Indian Express, 6 March 2007

US forces attack Pak post

US and Afghan forces reportedly attacked a Pakistani Army border post in the North Waziristan region and detained a shepherd for questioning. Local daily The News said in a report from Miranshah, headquarters of North Waziristan Agency, that Afghan and coalition forces have carried out an attack on Kunar army post on Saturday night. However, no loss of life or damage to property was reported. Pakistani forces apparently did not retaliate and the target was possibly fighters crossing into Afghanistan's Paktika province or North Waziristan at night. Eyewitnesses said the Afghan and US military personnel held a local tribal shepherd, Sher Ali, and took him to a US base in Paktika.

Hindustan Times, 7 March 2007

India, China polluting US weather: study

Pollution from China and India is affecting the weather in America, especially the west coast, according to a recent study. "During the past few decades, there has been a dramatic increase in atmospheric aerosols mostly sulfate and soot from coal burning especially in China and India," explains Professor Renyi Zhang, lead author of the study conducted by Texas A&M University researchers. Both countries have seen huge increases in their economies, which mean more large factories and power plants to sustain such growth. All of these emit immense quantities of pollution much of it soot and sulfate aerosols into the atmosphere, which is carried by the prevailing winds over the Pacific Ocean and eventually worldwide, the researchers reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Hindustan Times, 7 March 2007

US industry's cautious welcome to India nuclear deal

A group of American companies has backed US civil nuclear deals with India and Russia but cautioned that such agreements must not inadvertently undermine the resurrection of the American nuclear industry. "Cooperation with other nations is an essential part of our nuclear energy future," industry leaders representing the American Council on Global Nuclear Competitiveness told US Energy Secretary Samuel W Bodman at a meeting on Tuesday. "However, in negotiating such agreements, we must remember that the presence of a vibrant US nuclear energy manufacturing and supply infrastructure is essential if we are to successfully influence nuclear energy and non-proliferation policies in other countries," said USEC Inc CEO John Welch.

Hindustan Times, 7 March 2007

US finds 'numerous serious' human right problems in India

The United States says the Indian government generally respected the rights of its citizens but still faced "numerous serious problems" like extra-judicial killings of persons in custody, disappearances, torture and rape by police and security forces. It also acknowledged lapses in its own handling of terror suspects. "While the civilian authorities generally maintained effective control of the security forces, there were frequent instances in which some elements acted independently of government authority," said the State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices released here on Tuesday. Unusually, the Congressionally mandated annual report card of 196 countries acknowledged that the United States, too, had fallen short of international standards in its handling of terrorist suspects. "Our democratic system of

government is not infallible, but it is accountable," it said.

The Times of India, 7 March 2007

'US turns blind eye to Pak's rights record'

WASHINGTON: The United States has castigated Pakistan, a key ally in the fight against terrorism, for multiple human rights failures, but Amnesty International accused it of turning a blind eye to many abuses there. Pakistan's "poor" record included restrictions on citizens' right to change their government, extra-judicial killings, torture, rape and an increase in disappearances of activists and political opponents. However, Amnesty International accused the Bush administration of continuing to turn a blind eye to many instances of abuse by countries cited by the State Department for appalling human rights records in the name of national security.

Hindustan Times, 8 March 2007

India, Pak acted in a statesman-like manner: US

Observing that India and Pakistan have acted in a statesman-like manner during their anti-terror talks, the United States has said there has been a considerable expansion in the range of dialogue between the two countries and a number of new ideas for resolution of issues like Kashmir have been brought in.

Hindustan Times, 8 March 2007

US faulted for cutting aid to India

The Bush administration has proposed an unwarranted 35 per cent cut in aid to India in its 2008 budget, raising doubts about the US commitment to transforming ties with the world's largest democracy, a key lawmaker said on Wednesday. In a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rep. Tom Lantos, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, said the proposed cut "disregards the critical priorities of our Indian partners, ironically casting doubt on the administration's commitment to the goal of transformational diplomacy at the very time when sweeping progress is within our grasp."

Financial Express, 9 March 2007

You ain't seen nothin' yet

We have much to celebrate in the strengthening of Indo-US ties, but you would be disappointed if I did not acknowledge that there are areas for improvement. Some of them are difficult, but it is essential to keep working on them for the benefits they bring to our partnership. What is perhaps most positive is that our countries are both experiencing solid growth and a burgeoning expansion in bilateral trade and investment. Last year, President Bush and Prime Minister Singh committed to doubling bilateral trade in three years to \$50 billion, a goal that is well on its way to being achieved. Annual compounded growth of nearly 25% in each of the last two years has produced \$32 billion in merchandise trade in 2006. Our services trade is equally vibrant. IT and financial, banking, legal, and accounting services give us a surplus in services trade, which reflects the rising demand for professional services in India as its economy matures.

Daily Times, 9 March 2007

Palm oil looks for new high on India, US demand

KUALA LUMPUR: Palm oil prices are holding on to last year's strong gains, despite a global flight from risky assets, and when industry analysts gather in Malaysia next week they are likely to say that the rally is far from over. Bullish demand from India to the United States and dry weather hurting supplies in Indonesia could push prices to new highs for the product widely used as a cooking oil but also for cosmetics, soaps and, increasingly, for fuel. There is a tremendous demand from the food sector and there is not going to be sufficient supplies of other competing oils, said M R Chandran, a leading industry analyst and a former head of Malaysian Palm Oil Association.

Hindustan Times, 9 March 2007

Indo-US ties very good, says Robert Gates

United States Defence Secretary Robert Gates has described Indo-US defence ties quite good. At a press briefing Gates, however, refused to comment on India's role in Afghanistan. "Well, I don't want to get into India's military role, but I would say that the relationship between ourselves and India is quite good, and remarkably better than when I left government 14 years ago," he said.

Hindustan Times, 9 March 2007

Bill Gates slams US visa policies

Slamming American immigration policies, Microsoft Chairperson Bill Gates has said the US was shutting the door on the best and the brightest at a time when the country needed it the most. Gates, one of the most vocal in the industry to constantly plead for an increase in skilled worker visas, told the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labour and Pensions that the United States must also come to terms with the issue of permanent residency over and above what it intended to do with the H1B visas.

Zee News, 10 March 2007

US Congressional bill may impact Indo-US nuke pact, IPI pipeline

Washington, Mar 9 (PTI) A bill has been introduced in the US Congress aimed at enforcing punitive action against companies doing business with Iran that may impact Indo-US nuclear pact and create obstacles for Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. Chairperson of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee Tom Lantos introduced the Iran Counter Proliferation Act of 2007 yesterday that will plug loopholes on allowing the US administration to waive sanctions and get tough with companies doing business with Iran.

The Hindu, 10 March 2007

Nevada to open Assembly with Hindu prayer

New York: The Assembly of the U.S. State of Nevada will open with a Hindu prayer on March 19, reflecting the growing influence of Indian-Americans in the political arena. Director of Public Affairs of Hindu Temple of Northern Nevada Rajan Zed will read a prayer for the success of the session.

The Tribune, 11 March 2007

Pak not to provide military bases to US

Islamabad, March 11: Pakistan would not provide military bases to the USA if it launches

attacks on Iran, Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said.

Hindustan Times, 12 March 2007

US law to meet science & technology challenge from India, China

Washington, March 10: With US dominance challenged by emerging countries like India and China, a bipartisan legislation aimed at preserving its competitive edge in science and technology was introduced in the Senate.

The Indian Express, 13 March 2007

'US looking at post-Musharraf era in Pak'

New York, March 12: The United States is possibly looking at a post-Musharraf administration in Pakistan, if media reports are any indication.

Hindustan Times, 14 March 2007

Second round of Pak-US strategic dialogue put off again

Islamabad: The United States has once again put off the second round of its broad-based strategic dialogue with Pakistan, slated to be held in Islamabad this month, amid reports that Washington is pressuring Islamabad to step up the crackdown on Taliban and Al-Qaeda forces.

Daily Times, 15 March 2007

US and Pakistan cooperating against Taliban, says Gates

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates has pointed to continued Taliban and Al Qaeda activity on the Pakistani side of the border with Afghanistan as a key problem and said that the US was working with Pakistan in trying to deal with the problem.

Daily Times, 15 March 2007

Boucher's visit not related to judicial crisis

WASHINGTON: Both the US State Department and the Pakistan embassy have described the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher - who arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday - as 'routine' and of 'no special significance'.

Daily Times, 16 March 2007

Pakistan and US discuss regional and international issues

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the US exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional issues, including the situation in Afghanistan and Iran's nuclear programme, at a meeting between US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher and Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan on Thursday.

Daily Times, 16 March 2007

US advised not to push Pakistan too far

WASHINGTON: "Picking a fight with old, loyal ally Pakistan is both morally wrong and fraught with untold dangers. The US has forgotten how it forced another compliant military ruler, Egypt's Anwar Sadat, into policies his people hated," writes noted Canadian journalist and commentator Eric Margolis.

China Daily, 16 March 2007

China regrets US move on Macao bank

China deeply regrets the US decision to prohibit American financial institutions from dealing with a Macao bank, which has been accused of laundering money for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Nation, 17 March 2007

US-Pak ties

The visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher to Islamabad has not rekindled the hope that his country's strained ties with Pakistan are on the mend.

The Nation, 18 March 2007

Trust deficit

The trust deficit between the USA and Pakistan remains a problem. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher's visit to Pakistan, his second in the recent months, is perceived as part of the Bush Administration's plan to continue exerting pressure on Pakistan to crack down on militants operating in the region bordering Afghanistan.

Deccan Herald, 19 March 2007

China ahead of India, US in research

Washington: China is 'racing ahead' of both the United States and India in producing graduates with advanced engineering and technology degrees and in its ability to perform basic research, according to a new study.

Daily Times, 20 March 2007

US embassy convoy attacked in Kabul

KABUL: A US embassy convoy was hit by a suicide car bomber in Kabul on Monday, resulting in the deaths of some people, police said. It was not immediately known if the dead included American nationals, but an embassy spokesman said US Ambassador Ronald Neumann was not in the convoy.

Hindustan Times, 21 March 2007

India rejects US offer of joint operations against LeT

NEW DELHI: India has rejected a US proposal for joint operation against Lashkar-e-Toiba, in a move that has baffled many given that LeT is the principal terror threat to India, and that counter-terrorism has been a high bilateral priority.

Hindustan Times, 22 March 2007

US working with India for peace in Nepal

Washington: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says Washington is working in close cooperation with India on the possibilities of a peace agreement in Nepal that includes a demobilisation or a disarmament of Maoist rebels.

Daily Times, 22 March 2007

US opposes IPI pipeline

NEW DELHI: The United States has told the Indian government that it is opposed to plans to build a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India through Pakistan, US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said on Wednesday.

Deccan Herald, 23 March 2007

'India not bound by US orders'

New Delhi: Maintaining that the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project was of vital interest to the country's energy security, the Left parties on Thursday said America's opposition to the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline was an outrageous interference in New Delhi's affairs.

Deccan Herald, 23 March 2007

India must not be influenced in its foreign policy by the US.

Washington's warning to India to desist from co-operating with Iran on the gas pipeline is an infringement on India's foreign policy decision-making. The United States believes that Iran is developing nuclear weapons and that co-operating with Tehran on economic projects amounts to enhancing its economic capacity and enabling it to persist with the nuclear weapons programme.

Daily Times, 23 March 2007

Musharraf will resolve uniform issue constitutionally: US official

WASHINGTON: President General Pervez Musharraf has himself said that he will handle the uniform issue in accordance with the constitution in the process of elections, a senior US administration official told reporters on Thursday in answer to a question about the military ruler's retention of his uniform.

People's Daily, 23 March 2007

Chairman of U.S. Joint Chief of Staff visits China

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a four-day visit, the latest sign of the warming ties between the two armed forces.

People's Daily, 23 March 2007

Roundup: Six-party talks recess, to restart soon

Top Chinese envoy to the six-party talks Wu Dawei said Thursday in Beijing that the current round of talks had recessed and would restart soon.

China Daily, 23 March 2007

China, US militaries step up exchanges

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is keeping a close watch on Taiwan secessionists' actions and attempts to seek "independence", the Chief of the General Staff Liang Guanglie said Thursday, March 22 in Beijing.

China Daily, 23 March 2007

US urged not to sell arms to Taiwan

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island - China's envoy to the United States stepped up pressure

on Washington on Thursday to abandon arms sales to Taiwan following recent pro-independence comments from Taiwan's leader.

China Daily, 23 March 2007

US group sees China getting tougher on piracy

WASHINGTON: China is doing a better job fighting piracy and could announce new initiatives early next week when it hosts a global conference on protecting intellectual property rights, a U.S. business leader said on Wednesday.

Dawn, 24 March 2007

US watching Pakistan protests: Gates

WASHINGTON, March 23: The United States is closely watching a political challenge to President Gen Pervez Musharraf over his suspension of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday.

Dawn, 24 March 2007

Relations with Pakistan to grow: US official

WASHINGTON, March 23: The US relationship with Pakistan is not tied to a particular period and will continue to grow consistently for years to come, says a senior State Department official.

Dawn, 25 March 2007

US senators seek exiled leaders - participation: Musharraf urged to hold fair elections

WASHINGTON, March 24: Chairman and three senior members of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have urged President Pervez Musharraf to ensure that the coming elections are open and free and the exiled leaders of the PPP and the PML-N are allowed to participate.

The Hindu, 26 March 2007

Prevent terror attacks against India: U.S. Senators

Islamabad: The chairman and three senior members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have asked Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to prevent terrorist groups from using Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as a "staging ground" for attacks on India and ensure that his country's coming polls are free and fair.

Daily Times, 27 March 2007

No US pressure for return of Pakistani leaders: Crocker

ISLAMABAD: Ryan C Crocker, the outgoing US ambassador to Pakistan, said on Monday the US was not pressing the Musharraf government to allow the return of former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif.

Daily Times, 27 March 2007

Pak-US alliance under scrutiny as Musharraf in crisis

WASHINGTON: The US strategic partnership with its key 'war on terror' ally Pakistan has come under growing scrutiny in Washington as President Pervez Musharraf reels

from his worst crisis since grabbing power eight years ago.

The Indian Express, 28 March 2007

The general in question

Pakistan and the US would be better served by a policy of nuanced engagement, in which US officials frankly share their concerns with Pakistan's rulers and go beyond them to engage Pakistan's people.

The Times of India, 29 March 2007

US lavishes \$ 4.2 billion on Pakistan without questions

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has funnelled a massive \$ 4.2 billion "blank check" for Pakistan under the so-called war on terror programme with little accountability or congressional oversight, a Washington DC think-tank has revealed in a study.

China Daily, 29 March 2007

China to US: Halt Taiwan weapon sales

WASHINGTON - China's ambassador to the United States urged Washington on Wednesday to continue sending a clear message condemning Taiwan independence and to stop selling weapons to the island.

Hindustan Times, 30 March 2007

Senate panel seeks energy accords with India, China

Washington, March 29: The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved two measures seeking formal agreements with India and China on international energy crisis response mechanisms and engaging them in a dialogue on climate change.

The Hindu, 30 March 2007

U.S. to increase visas for Indian students

New Delhi: Concerned over the decrease in the percentage of Indian students going to America for higher studies, the U.S. on Thursday said it had plans to increase the number of visas for them and speed up the visa issuance process.

The News, 30 March 2007

US hopes Musharraf will stick to his commitment to restore democracy

WASHINGTON: The U.S. State Department spokesman has said the United States hopes Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf sticks to his commitment to restore democracy to his country in elections this year.

Daily Times, 30 March 2007

The US-Pakistan tango

Washington must realise that Pakistan is not just an agent to whom foreign policy tasks can be outsourced. It has its own national interests, its domestic political imperatives and geopolitical concerns. Yes, it must be pressured to do more, but without jeopardising its domestic stability or long-term utility to the United States.

China Daily, 31 March 2007

VAXChina strongly dissatisfied on US trade sanction

The Chinese government expresses strong dissatisfaction about the U.S. decision to impose penalty tariffs against the imports of Chinese coated free sheet paper, Wang Xinpei, spokesman for China's Ministry of Commerce, said early Saturday.

Daily Times, 31 March 2007

US position on Musharraf unchanged

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration continues to express support for President Pervez Musharraf's government and its policies, as was once again evident at the regular State Department briefing on Thursday.