

The Times of India, 1 October 2006

Mush to West: You can't do without us

LONDON: General Musharraf has mixed rank self-righteousness with a remarkably stark warning to the West that it could be 'brought to its knees' if Pakistan withdraws its cooperation in the so-called war on terror. Launching a fierce and finger-wagging attack on the West's growing doubts about Pakistan's role in fighting Islamist terrorism, Musharraf said the US and UK had to understand Pakistan is the West's 'main ally...If we were not with you, you won't manage anything.' In his strongest warning ever on the issue, Musharraf declared, "You'll be brought down to your knees if Pakistan doesn't cooperate with you. That is all that I would like to say. Pakistan is the main ally. If we were not with you, you won't manage anything. Let that be clear. And if ISI is not with you, you will fail." But sources here said Musharraf's passionate defence of his country and its infamous intelligence agency on Saturday morning was yet again undermined after Mumbai's police chief firmly blamed the ISI for planning the 7/11 train blasts. In an extraordinary coincidence, Musharraf issued his blunt warning to the West to cease doubting Pakistan's role and commitment to fighting terrorism just a couple of hours before the Mumbai blasts were formally alleged to have been masterminded by the ISI.

Dawn, 2 October 2006

Differences over F-16 deal resolved

WASHINGTON, Oct 1: Pakistan and the US have finalised the F-16 deal after resolving their differences over airspace and technology swapping restrictions Washington had placed earlier, diplomatic sources told Dawn. The letter of offer and acceptance was signed in Islamabad on Saturday. Sept 30 was the last date for final acceptance of the US offer of March 25, 2005, when the Bush administration announced its decision to sell F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. "Under the deal, even a day's delay could have caused an increase of more than \$140 million in the price," said a diplomatic source. The source said that there were also some differences on the money Pakistan is required to pay in advance. "All the differences, on payment installations, on technical restrictions, have been resolved to satisfactory level," he said. Asked to define the level of satisfaction, the source said: "Both sides had to accommodate each other before they reached an understanding." The deal is part of a \$5 billion arms package for Pakistan which includes F-16 fighter jets and an assortment of air and ground weaponry.

The Statesman, 3 October 2006

Expert for Indo-US action against terror

New Delhi, Oct. 2: Asking the US to 'shelve' its Iraq agenda, a security expert has sought joint Indo-US operations against terrorism in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region which would reduce the 'intensity and reach of terrorism by at least 60 per cent'. Maintaining that the strategic objectives of the US and India in regard to the Pakistan-Afghanistan region 'converges at present,' Mr Bharat Verma, editor of leading journal Indian Defence Review, said the two countries should act in military unison to achieve several key objectives. These include isolating the jihadis ideologically, destroying their recruitment network and training infrastructure, create fissures among various outfits, neutralise drug money and other financial channels and neutralise fundamentalist and terrorist outfits, he said. He also said that India and US should work together to 'disallow Pakistan

to gain foothold in Afghanistan as this will ultimately consume Central Asia in jihadi fervour.' In the forthcoming issue of the journal, Mr Verma said while there were no territorial objectives in this kind of a war, it could not also be suggested that terrorism would be eliminated by it.

Daily Times, 3 October 2006

Pakistan, US sign acceptance letter for F-16s

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States have signed a letter of acceptance for a multi-billion dollar package to supply the Pakistan Air Force with F-16 warplanes, an air force spokesman said on Monday. A signing ceremony was held on Saturday in Rawalpindi, he said. Both sides had expected to wrap up the deal a month earlier, but negotiations dragged on because of strings Washington wanted attached. A statement issued by the Pakistan Air Force, however, did not mention what conditions were being set by the United States on use and maintenance of the planes. It said that the United States would supply 18 new F-16 aircraft, as well as an unspecified number of upgraded second-hand F-16s. Previous reports have said the number of second hand aircraft Pakistan was considering buying was 26. The United States will also sell Pakistan missile weaponry and other support infrastructure, and upgrade Pakistan's present fleet of 34 old-model F-16s.

The Times of India, 3 October 2006

Rope In US

It's too early to write off the joint anti-terror mechanism agreed to in Havana, as many are wont to, with the Mumbai police uncovering Pakistani links to the 7/11 attacks. Rather, the joint mechanism offers precisely the forum for presenting the evidence and taking up General Musharraf on his offer to cooperate in investigating terrorist crimes in India. The alternative offered by BJP president Rajnath Singh - cutting off diplomatic ties with Islamabad - is an extreme one that will scuttle the peace process entirely. Even during the Kargil war, when an NDA government was in power and India was subject to explicit Pakistani invasion, New Delhi scaled back but did not completely sever all ties with Islamabad. In the case of 7/11 and other terror attacks New Delhi should continue compiling evidence and confronting Islamabad as well as the international community with it. Even the asperity with which General Musharraf responds to criticism that Pakistan continues to be a haven for terror - whether coming from the Canadians, the Afghans or anyone else - demonstrates that Islamabad is sensitive to international pressure on this score.

The Indian Express, 3 October 2006

Cotton's other reality check: Boom may take India past US

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2: For those who thought India's cotton story was only about farmer suicides, attributed to failed crops despite the Centre clearing a Rs 17,000-crore package for distressed farmers in four states on the back of the Vidarbha package announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, think again. What has gone virtually unnoticed is the quiet revolution in the country's cotton sector. At a meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board in early September, it was estimated that production in 2006-07 would be between 265-275 lakh bales. While the final figures will only be out by November, if

these estimates hold true, India would become the largest cotton producer in the world after China, displacing the US, currently the second largest cotton grower. India's percentage share of world cotton production, according to the US Cotton Market Monthly Economic Letter, June 2006, was 16.1 in 2005-06 May and 17.5 in 2006-07 June. The US share was 21.1 in 2005-06 May and 18.1 next June. India's climb can be gauged from the fact that its percentage share was only 12 in 2002-03.

The Telegraph, 4 October 2006

US blow to India's UN post race

New York, Oct. 3: India's hopes of getting Shashi Tharoor elected as the next secretary-general of the UN were dashed after the US cast its veto against New Delhi's nominee. One veto was cast against Tharoor on Monday in the first straw poll in the Security Council in which five permanent members used blue coloured ballot paper to indicate a veto. Tharoor conceded defeat as soon as it became clear that a permanent member had voted against him, though he had improved his position in the latest straw poll and continued to be a close second in the race. He wrote to the frontrunner, South Korean foreign minister Ban Ki-Moon, congratulating him. Before dropping out of the race, Tharoor issued a statement thanking the Indian government for nominating him as its candidate. The votes for electing the secretary-general are so secret that all Security Council members use the same pen in order not to identify the voters even by the ink or pen points they use for marking the ballot papers. But it is clear that the Americans vetoed Tharoor's candidature because the Bush administration told New Delhi in advance that they had decided to throw their support behind South Korea's foreign minister.

Dawn, 4 October 2006

US asks India to stop blaming Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Oct 3: The United States on Tuesday advised India not to blame Pakistan for the Mubmai blasts without certain proof and suggested that New Delhi should resolve the issue through a 'direct contact' with Islamabad. "India should communicate with Pakistan by having direct contact instead of talking about the Mumbai train blasts in the public," US Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker told a news conference. He said the United States wanted Indian and Pakistani governments to discuss all the issues between them, including the Kashmir dispute, to normalise their relations. "We hope that both the countries would keep all their channels open to rectify their misunderstandings," he said, adding that accusing statements would serve no purpose. The United States, he said, appreciated the spirit and sense of understanding reached between President Gen Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at Havana for resolving the disputes peacefully. Mr Crocker did not rule out the possibility of extending nuclear technology to Pakistan for civilian purposes. Both the countries, he said, had started discussion over the issue and currently Pakistan's energy requirements were being assessed.

The Hindu, 7 October 2006

Deal may be delayed: Mulford

There might be a delay in the passage of legislation in the U.S. Congress on civilian nuclear cooperation with India, U.S. Ambassador to India David Mulford told a press conference here on Friday...

Asian Age, 7 October 2006

Mulford Expects Delay

Washington has admitted for the first time that the United State-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006 (S 3709) may not be taken up by the US Congress in November as the lame duck session, which is expected to run from one to three weeks, essentially deals with money issues and the nuclear deal may not be prioritised appropriately...

The New York Times, 7 October 2006

Fearful Pakistan Villagers Rebuild Homes

A year after surviving Pakistan's devastating earthquake, Dubri Bandi's villagers still live in fear. The might of the 7.6-magnitude quake of Oct. 8, 2005, is evident across the Himalayan terrain in Pakistan's part of Kashmir. Towering over this isolated settlement, Dina mountain was cleaved in two...

The New York Times, 7 October 2006

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Dawn, 7 October 2006

Donors likely to pledge \$800m more

Major international donor agencies, led by the World Bank, have indicated to make available an additional \$800 million or 'even more' as sought by President Pervez Musharraf, but want the government to address concerns about corruption in the quake-affected parts of the NWFP and AJK...

The New York Times, 9 October 2006

U.S. To Train 30, 000 Teachers in Pakistani Quake Areas

The United States will train 30,000 teachers and build 50 schools in quake affected areas of Pakistan, the U.S ambassador said on Sunday, the first anniversary of an earthquake that killed 73,000 people...

The New York Times, 9 October 2006

Ex - President Bush Seeks More Quake Aid

Former President George H.W. Bush has appealed for nearly \$100 million in aid for survivors of last year's South Asia earthquake, saying tens of thousands face another winter living in tents...

The Washington Post, 9 October 2006

Pakistan must do more on Taliban: U.S. senator

Pakistan has to do more to control its border with Afghanistan and stop Taliban insurgents organizing in Pakistan where al Qaeda leaders are also present, a U.S. senator

said on Friday...

Dawn, 14 October 2006

PM to visit US next month

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz will make a brief visit to the United States next month for an important UN-related event in New York, it is learnt...

Indian Express, 14 October 2006

Stop terror attacks on India: US to Pak

The US has asked the Pakistan government to use its influence with terrorist groups to completely stop attacks on India, Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said...

Indian Express, 14 October 2006

US hasn't told us to curb terrorism: Pak

Pakistan on Friday said it has not received any request from the United States to use its influence on militant groups to stop attacks in India and insisted that it did not support or encourage violence...

Indian Express, 16 October 2006

U.S. Troops Kill 3 Suspected Militants

Coalition and Afghan troops carried out a pre-dawn raid on a housing compound in central Afghanistan on Monday and called in airstrikes for support in an ensuing clash that left three militant suspects dead...

The New York Times, 16 October 2006

Peacekeeper Commander Mired in Afghan Combat

Leaning against the red webbing that passes for upholstery in a military aircraft, Lt. Gen. David Richards, the British commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan, scanned a press clip as he flew back to the capital from Kandahar, the center of combat operations in the south...

The Washington Post, 16 October 2006

Mr. Rumsfeld's Afghanistan

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's Oct. 7 op-ed, "Afghanistan: Five Years Later," demonstrates why so many call for his removal...

The Washington Post, 16 October 2006

The General in His Labyrinth

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's military president, is a contradictory figure: a dictator convinced that he's the best hope for democracy, a moderate Muslim reluctant to confront fundamentalists, a powerful man who exudes confident aplomb but suffers from lifelong insecurity as a migrant in his own land...

The Hindu, 17 October 2006

Bush to push for deal in Congress session

The U.S. President, George W. Bush, has assured India that his administration remained

committed to the nuclear agreement with India and he would try to push for Congress' approval for the deal during its lame duck session...

The Indian Express, 17 October 2006

Bush calls up Manmohan, talks N-deal

Amid uncertainty over the fate of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, President George W Bush called up Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and discussed the issue...

Dawn, 17 October 2006

Bush, Singh discuss Pakistan, Afghanistan

US President George W. Bush made a telephone call to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday, and the two leaders discussed a range of issues that included regional developments pertaining to Pakistan and Afghanistan, said an official statement from New Delhi...

The Nation, 17 October 2006

US-freed 8 prisoners arrive

As many as eight Pakistanis released from the US captivity at Guantanamo Bay and Bagram Airbase arrived here on Monday by a special plane, an Interior Ministry official said...

The Nation, 18 October 2006

Cheney says US active in Pakistan

US Vice President Dick Cheney said Tuesday that the United States was taking part in anti-terrorism operations in Pakistan, where more Al-Qaeda members have been caught or killed "probably than any place else."...

The Indian Express, 18 October 2006

Did Bush threaten Manmohan? Govt says NO

The government rubbished media reports which suggested that US President George W Bush had "threatened" Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday that India should not vote for Venezuela in the elections for non-permanent members of UN Security Council...

Dawn, 18 October 2006

US team due for strategic talks

The second round of broad-based Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue aimed at building a long-term sustainable partnership will begin in Islamabad on November 6, it is learnt...

The New York Times, 19 October 2006

Canada Presses NATO to Do More in Afghanistan

Canada is pressing other NATO countries to send more troops to Afghanistan and lift restrictions on the soldiers already stationed there, Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor said on Wednesday...

The New York Times, 19 October 2006

NATO Strikes Kill 9 Afghan Civilians

Airstrikes by NATO helicopters hunting Taliban fighters ripped through three dried mud homes in southern Afghanistan as villagers slept early Wednesday. At least nine civilians were killed, including women and children, said residents and the provincial governor...

Dawn, 19 October 2006

"Nato monitoring tribal peace deal"

Nato expressed fresh concern on Wednesday about insurgents crossing into Afghanistan and warned that it was closely monitoring a Pakistani peace deal in a volatile border area to see if it has any effect. "That border needs to be addressed," said James Appathurai, spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. "There are certainly concerns in many circles that there is support for the... spoilers, in particular the Taliban coming from across the border," he told journalists in Brussels...

The Indian Express, 20 October 2006

As India readies Pak terror dossier, CIA team on its way to take stock

As India prepares a dossier on terror to share with Pakistan in an effort to take forward the Havana understanding, a top CIA team, headed by its Deputy Director of Intelligence Carmen Medina, is coming here next week to discuss the terror situation in India following the Mumbai train blasts as well as the the Pakistan linkage. Sources said both sides will also discuss the security situation in Afghanistan...

The New York Times, 20 October 2006

Afghan Suicide Raids Kill Several Civilians

Several Afghans were killed when a suicide bomber threw himself at a NATO patrol in southern Afghanistan on Thursday...

The Washington Post, 20 October 2006

Suicide Bomber in Afghanistan Kills 3

A suicide bomber killed two children and a British soldier in southern Afghanistan on Thursday and President Hamid Karzai called on NATO forces to use caution during military operations, a day after 20 civilians were killed...

The Hindu, 23 October 2006

Indo-US military exercise in Belgaum from Oct. 25

Hectic preparations are underway for the Indo-US joint military exercise to be held here for a week from October 25...

The Indian Express, 23 October 2006

Nuke agreement US- top priority, assures Burns

Reiterating that the Bush Administration was "determined" to move forward with the "strategic relationship" with India, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns today said the nuclear agreement with India remained the "top concern and top priority" of the US Government...

Dawn, 23 October 2006

US not to get involved in war of words over Mumbai blasts: Burns

The United States has refused to be drawn into the war of words between India and Pakistan over the Mumbai blasts, saying that it has friendly relations with both the countries which prevent it from taking a public stance on this issue...

The Indian Express, 24 October 2006

India gives evidence of ISI hand to US

Top CIA officials met Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon here and are understood to have discussed evidence of Pakistani involvement in the July 11 Mumbai blasts...

The Indian Express, 24 October 2006

Indians Now Visible Faces in US

The train station billboards tell it all. Local travel agents promise the best airfares from New York to Mumbai. Shagun Fashions is selling dazzling Indian saris. And DirecTV offers "the six top Indian channels direct to you."...

The Hindu, 24 October 2006

CIA bounty dropped from Musharraf book

The Urdu translation of President Pervez Musharraf's book "In the Line of Fire" has dropped the part about the CIA paying bounty money to the Government of Pakistan in exchange for the capture of Al-Qaeda suspects...

The Nation, 24 October 2006

US investigators may brief MPs on stock market crash

American investigators, presently probing the \$13 billion March 2005 stock crash, are likely to brief the Parliamentarians as sources claimed the forensic inquiry was falling short of pinpointing any individual responsible for the worst ever debacle..

Dawn, 24 October 2006

Top N-official in US

Lt-Gen Khalid Kidwai, head of Pakistan's Strategic and Plan Division, is in Washington and is scheduled to speak at various think tanks on perceptions and realities about the country's nuclear programme...

CNN, 25 October 2006

One of FBI's 'Most Wanted Terrorists' confirmed dead

An al Qaeda operative wanted in connection with the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings was killed in April in Pakistan, American officials have confirmed...

Dawn, 25 October 2006

Pact with Nato to be made public

Salient features of an Afghanistan-specific agreement that Pakistan is negotiating with the 26-member North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) would be made public, well-placed government sources told Dawn on Monday...

The Nation, 25 October 2006

US Admiral visits Indian mly posts in HK

Head of the United States Pacific Command Admiral William J Fallon visited Held Kashmir on Tuesday and exchanged views with the Indian army officials on matters relating to security at Negrota near Jammu. ...

The Indian Express, 26 October 2006

'N-deal to strengthen non-proliferation'

The United States has said it has taken a number of steps towards strengthening the global non-proliferation regime, which was under "strain", including signing the nuclear deal with India that would bring New Delhi into the non-proliferation framework for the first time...

The Indian Express, 26 October 2006

On Day 1, Pranab gets a call from Condi Rice: will do best to clear n-deal

On his first day in office as External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee got some positive news on the UPA government's most important foreign policy initiative " the Indo-US nuclear deal." US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called to assure him that the Bush Administration will "do its best"to ensure the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Bill passes through the Senate in the November session...

The Indian Express, 26 October 2006

"World will stand to lose if N-deal fails"

As the fate of Indo-US nuclear deal remains uncertain, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman Anil Kakodkar said if it does not go through the American Congressional process, the international community would stand to lose because New Delhi will adopt alternative energy sources, which may not be eco-friendly...

The Hindu, 26 October 2006

Pakistan presses U.S. for civil nuclear energy pact

Pakistan has sent a top official to the U.S. to explain its nuclear programme in the wake of the North Korean nuclear tests and the resulting spotlight on the A.Q. Khan proliferation network, and to present Islamabad's case for a civil nuclear energy pact with Washington, along the lines of the Indo-U.S. agreement...

The New York Times, 27 October 2006

U.S. Urges Tight Security for Cricket World Cup

The United States called for tight security and safeguards against terrorism on Thursday, as nine Caribbean nations prepared to host next year's world cricket championship in the West Indies...

The Washington Post, 27 October 2006

U.S. tries to reassure India over nuclear deal

The United States has reassured India it would try its best to get a landmark nuclear deal approved by a "lame duck" session of Congress next month amid fears the agreement could be slipping away...

The Washington Post, 27 October 2006

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The Washington Post, 27 October 2006

Afghan Officials Say Dozens of Civilians Died in NATO Military Strike

Dozens of civilians were killed in a NATO military strike against suspected Taliban insurgents, Afghan officials said Thursday. Villagers fled the southern region by car and donkey, and hundreds attended a funeral for about 20 people buried in a mass grave...

The Indian Express, 28 October 2006

Nuke deal is 3rd on White House list for lame duck session

The White House, it is understood, has indicated the office of the Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist, that the pending Indo-US civilian nuclear bill be treated among "top three" legislative priorities for the lame duck session of the Congress on November 13. Friends of India at the Capitol Hill contend that this is "not enough to guarantee" the passage of the bill as it is ranked at the bottom of the top three...

The Indian Express, 28 October 2006

?Bush should go for bilateral talks with N Korea?

Former US president Jimmy Carter today came out against the policies of the Bush administration in Iraq and its way of dealing with the situation after the recent nuclear test by North Korea. With threats on the US only increasing despite the war on terror, the former Democrat felt the Republicans are set to lose control of the House of Representatives in the Congressional elections next month...

The Indian Express, 28 October 2006

'N-deal failure won't affect Indo-US ties'

Former US President Jimmy Carter said he was opposed to last year's Indo-US nuclear deal but expressed the hope that the relationship between the two countries would not be affected if the agreement did not go through the US Congress...

Dawn, 31 October 2006

US requires electronic application for visa

Applicants worldwide for US tourist, student or other non-immigrant visas to the United States will be required to complete their visa applications on the Internet using the new Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF) with effect from Nov 6...

The Nation, 31 October 2006

US says Pak military carried out Bajaur raid

The United States said Tuesday that the October 30 strike against a Madarassa in Bajaur area was a Pakistani military initiative, while commending Pakistan's continued efforts to fight terrorists in the region and on its soil. ..

The New York Times, 31 October 2006

Bomb Kills NATO Soldiers in Afghanistan

Three NATO soldiers were killed when their patrol ran into a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nuristan on Tuesday, military officials said, as violence surged ahead of the first winter snowfalls...