

aTimes of India, 4 October 2008

### **BSF chief blames Pakistan for infiltration**

JAMMU: Border Security Force (BSF) Director General M.L. Kumawat has accused Pakistani troops of repeatedly opening fire on Indian security forces in recent weeks to help infiltrators cross into India. After conducting a review of the situation on the international border Friday, Kumawat told reporters that infiltrators had made frequent bids to cross into the Indian side in the past few weeks but failed due to the counter offensive of the BSF troopers. "Frequent infiltration attempts are a serious matter. We have taken certain measures at the sensitive spots and we will take more measures to pre-empt the Pakistani attempts to facilitate infiltration. Pakistani troops provide cover fire to infiltrators," he said

Daily Times, 5 October 2008

### **Iran to reduce Pakistan's gas if Indian supplies suspended**

ISLAMABAD: Iran has proposed a reduction in Pakistan's gas supply if supply to India is wilfully disrupted. Official sources in Islamabad told Daily Times on Saturday that the ECC of the cabinet's Sub-Committee on Gas Import Projects has been informed that Iran has proposed to include the new clause to the proposed Gas Sale Purchase Agreement of the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. If the supply of gas to India is wilfully disrupted by Pakistan, Iran shall have the right to reduce Pakistan's gas supply in the same proportion

Indian Express, 6 October 2008

### **Opinion: A tall order By Ejaz Haider**

Did President Asif Ali Zardari call the militant Islamist groups operating in Kashmir 'terrorists' while speaking with the US newspaper The Wall Street Journal? To begin with, we don't have a direct quote from Zardari on the issue. This is how the report puts it: 'He speaks of the militant Islamic groups operating in Kashmir as 'terrorists' - former President Musharraf would more likely have called them 'freedom fighters.' Zardari has been castigated in Pakistan for putting it thus but what did he actually say and what was the context? We don't know. Did Bret Stephens, the interviewer, ask him, 'Mr President, do you think the groups fighting India in Kashmir are terrorists?' Did Stephens differentiate between this and that group?

Hindu, 6 October 2008

### **Zardari calls J&K militants terrorists**

New York: Declaring that India is not a 'threat' to his country, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has described the militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir as 'terrorists,' the first such admission by any top Pakistani leader. 'India has never been a threat to Pakistan. I, for one, and our democratic government is not scared of Indian influence abroad,' Mr. Zardari told Wall Street Journal in an interview. He spoke of the militant groups operating in Kashmir as 'terrorists,' the paper said, noting that former President Pervez Musharraf would more likely have called them 'freedom fighters.'

Hindu, 6 October 2008

### **No Indian pressure to free Sarabjit: Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Law Minister Farooq Naek said on Sunday that his government was not under pressure from India to release Sarabjit Singh, the Indian national who is on death row following his conviction by Pakistani courts on terrorism charges, but was examining his case from a 'human angle.' Mr. Naek, who is to meet the 42-year-old Sarabjit among other prisoners at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail on Monday, told reporters in that city it would be premature to say how the government planned to

proceed in the matter

News, 7 October 2008

**Editorial: Terrorists or freedom fighters?**

In an interview to a leading US magazine, President Asif Ali Zardari has described militants operating in Kashmir as 'terrorists'. Till now, every Pakistani leader has described these people as 'freedom fighters'. In yet another diversion from the past, Mr Zardari has stated that India poses no threat to Pakistan and that Islamabad was not intimidated by its international influence. If these words mean a change in Pakistan's policies vis-a-vis its neighbour to the east, they could be immensely significant (not least the fact that in all likelihood it runs counter to the thinking still in currency at GHQ). For the past many decades, indeed since 1947 and the violent birth of the country, Pakistan's strategy in Kashmir has revolved around backing the freedom struggle in the Indian-held territory. A number of 'jihadi' groups have taken centre stage in this. The Pakistani establishment has always distinguished these forces from militants engaged in terrorism, although the line of distinction has become increasingly hazy over time. Certainly, Asif Ali Zardari seems to be lumping Al Qaeda, the Taliban and the 'jihadis' all together when he uses the term 'terrorist'. Although these organizations have maintained a lower profile since 2003, following a pact between Islamabad and New Delhi, the outfits themselves have been allowed largely to remain intact. Indeed, India has recently complained militants are again being sent across the LoC

Daily Times, 7 October 2008

**Editorial: Trade corridor: paradigm shift we've been waiting for?**

An official of the World Bank in Islamabad says the Bank is ready to lend Pakistan \$2.25 billion for a trade and energy corridor focusing mostly on Gwadar Port and its land link with China: 'the trade and energy corridor that would serve as a gateway for commerce and transport between South Asia, Central Asia, China and the Gulf countries'. In this proposed scheme of things, Pakistan will set up a big oil terminal and refineries at Gwadar with Chinese help because most of the oil will be transported to China from there

Asian Age, 7 October 2008

**Editorial: Has Zardari really changed Pak line?**

There will naturally be careful efforts in New Delhi to read the tea leaves in the light of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari's extraordinary remarks in a recent interview to the Wall Street Journal. The Pakistani leader said India had never been a threat to Pakistan, and that the militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir were "terrorists". If Mr Zardari were a stable, strong leader, the sentiments he has given expression to could quite appropriately have been termed revolutionary. They mark an absolute departure from any paradigm that has operated in India-Pakistan relations; and if taken to their logical conclusion, together the two statements offer a formulation that can be a firm foundation for building sturdy, good ties between the two countries. This sense is only reinforced when seen in conjunction with Mr Zardari's March statement as PPP chief that India-Pakistan relations should not be made "hostage" to the Kashmir issue, which should be left for future generations to resolve

Tribune, 7 October 2008

**Separatists take exception to Zardari's remarks**

Separatist leaders in Kashmir have resented and strongly reacted against the statement of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, wherein he had described the Kashmir militants as 'terrorists' and that India was no threat to Pakistan. The

hardline Hurriyat Conference chairman, Syed Ali Geelani, said it was wrong on Zardari's part to say that India was no threat to Pakistan. 'This is against the historical facts', he said, claiming that the three Indo-Pak wars and the Kargil war had taken place only on 'India's initiative'. 'Friendly countries do not fight', Geelani commented and added that India had celebrated the creation of Bangladesh after the 1971 war.

Tribune, 7 October 2008

**Editorial: Zardari speak; Begin a new era in India-Pakistan relations**

WHATEVER may have prompted Pakistan President Asif Zardari to tell some truths, they are indeed welcome. In an apparent turnaround of the Pakistani position, the civilian President has, for the first time, admitted that India has never been a threat to his country. More interesting, he has described the Kashmiri militant groups operating from Pakistan as 'terrorists', instead of 'freedom-fighters' as his predecessor General Pervez Musharraf had once described them. He has also spoken strongly in favour of better trade relations with India and identified some items like cement and cotton, which can be exported to India. All this is music to the Indian ears used as they are to hearing threats of 'thousand-year wars' and 'jehads' from across the border

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2008

**Editorial: This Zardari**

This Asif Ali Zardari sounds positive and helpful. He has made certain significant statements in an interview to Wall Street Journal. According to the Pakistan President, the militant groups operating in Kashmir are "terrorists". He has made it clear that he has no objection to the India-United States nuclear cooperation pact so long as Pakistan is treated at "par". "Why would we begrudge the largest democracy in the world getting friendly with one of the oldest democracy?" he has asked. He is rather categorical: "India has never been a threat to Pakistan. I, for one, and our democratic government is not scared of Indian influence abroad." He comes out as an extremely realistic politician: "There is no other economic survival for nations like us. We have to trade with our neighbours first." He has responded with a "string of welcome, perhaps even historic surprises", to quote the newspaper, to a query whether he would consider a free-trade agreement with India

Times of India, 8 October 2008

**Now, a global tourist resort at Wagah-Attari border**

NEW DELHI: Tourism minister Ambika Soni on Tuesday inaugurated a tourist resort, Aman Umeed Bhavan, earlier popularly known as Neem Chameli, at the Attari-Wagah international border near Amritsar. The complex has a built up area of about 10,000 sq ft and is spread over 1.75 acres of land, with facilities of restaurants, bar, shops, rooms and toilet facilities for domestic as well as foreign tourists, in particular from Pakistan. It also has a reception and a lobby. Speaking on the occasion, Soni said the flow of tourists from across the border would help in further promoting peace between the two countries. She added that tourism had vast potential for employment generation and an institute of hotel management set up in the area would provide opportunities for youth to work in the sector

Times of India, 9 October 2008

**Army jawan killed as troops foil infiltration bid in J&K**

JAMMU: An Army jawan was killed as troops foiled yet another bid by militants to infiltrate under the cover of firing from Pakistani side along Line of Control in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior army official said on Thursday. This is the

fourth infiltration bid in past 12 days and sixth in the last three weeks along the Indo-Pak border in J&K. A group of unidentified militants entered Indian territory under the cover of cross-border firing along LoC in Keri sub-sector of Rajouri district late Wednesday night, he said

Daily Times, 9 October 2008

#### **Editorial: Army, India, Al Qaeda and Zardari**

On the day President Asif Ali Zardari sat down at the Presidency and discussed national security and operational preparedness of the armed forces with the Services Chiefs, an AFP report noted that 'A month after coming to power, President Asif Ali Zardari risks losing the support of Pakistan's powerful military establishment with a string of foreign policy gaffes'. The assessment was attributed to both named 'analysts' and unnamed 'sources'

Daily Excelsior, 10 October 2008

#### **Pak troops change strategy on LoC to push intruders**

JAMMU, Oct 10: Following series of protests lodged by India at various levels over cease-fire violation by Pakistan army and Rangers at Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) mainly with a view to give covering fire to infiltrators, the troops across LoC and border have started mixing up with infiltrators to push the latter instead of opening direct firing on Indian posts. Official sources said the new strategy of Pakistan army has been witnessed in three to four intrusion bids last week on LoC in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. "Instead of directly opening fire on troops on this side from their posts, Pakistan army soldiers have been mixing up with infiltrators to target forward posts of Indian positions and helped the militants to cross LoC", sources said referring to the new trend witnessed on LoC during three-four intrusion bids last week which had reportedly been foiled

Hindu, 11 October 2008

#### **We can make borders irrelevant: PM**

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told a press conference here on Friday that good relations with Pakistan, 'our very important neighbour to the North are an essential part of our policy.' 'My vision of India-Pakistan relations is that both countries situate their bilateral relations in a cooperative framework of mutual understanding. We seek the normalisation of our relations with Pakistan, a solution of all issues that cause estrangement, including Jammu and Kashmir through dialogue and peaceful negotiations in an atmosphere free of violence. While we cannot change borders, we can make them irrelevant,' he said

Hindu, 11 October 2008

#### **Pakistan voices concern over Siachen**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday reiterated its commitment to the peace process with India but also flagged 'serious concerns' over Siachen and the sharing of river waters as the country's new National Security Adviser Mahmud Ali Durrani prepared to leave for New Delhi for talks with his counterpart M.K. Narayanan. The top Pakistani official, who retired from the Army as a major-general and served as ambassador to the U.S. in the Musharraf regime, will arrive in the Indian capital on Saturday for the first ever talks between the National Security Advisers of the two countries

Hindu, 12 October 2008

#### **India 'encourages' U.S. nuclear cooperation with Pakistan**

New York: In a statement that marks a significant shift in India's public attitude towards the prospect of Pakistan entering into nuclear agreements with other

countries, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Friday that he was in favour of the United States cooperating with Islamabad in the civil nuclear area. Asked at a news conference in Washington shortly after the signing of the 123 Agreement about his views on possible nuclear cooperation between Pakistan and the U.S. and China, Mr. Mukherjee said India would encourage greater use of civil nuclear energy by its neighbour. 'In respect of civil nuclear cooperation between Pakistan and the U.S., we would like to encourage civil nuclear cooperation - its full use of nuclear energy - as we believe every country has its right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes

Hindu, 13 October 2008

### **Cross-LoC trade set to take off despite hurdles**

SRINAGAR: The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AJKCCI), Zulfiqar Abbasi, on Sunday called for immediate steps to remove impediments in facilitating the trade across Line of Control (LoC) from October 21. He said absence of a direct telecommunication link between the two parts was the biggest hurdle. Mr. Abbasi told The Hindu that so far their visit had been very successful and they were looking forward to having a similar meeting with the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry. 'We discussed the modalities for the trade. We have identified all the issues and impediments on which we are making recommendations to both the governments,' he said adding that both sides had agreed to set up a joint platform to address all these issues

Hindu, 13 October 2008

### **Violation of treaty will damage ties: Zardari**

ISLAMABAD: Simmering Pakistani discontent over the perception that India is doing the country out of its fair share of Chenab waters has found expression at the highest level with President Asif Ali Zardari urging New Delhi to stand by the Indus Waters Treaty. In a statement made on Sunday to the State-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Mr. Zardari said a violation of the 1960 water-sharing treaty between the two countries would damage bilateral ties. 'India should not trade off important regional objectives for short-term domestic goals,' he said

Tribune, 13 October 2008

### **PoK delegation explores Jammu's trade potential**

Jammu, October 12 A 19-member delegation of the PoK traders, headed by Zulfiqar Abbasi, arrived here today. The delegation was accorded a warm welcome by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Industries. Addressing a meeting of the traders from both the sides, Abbasi stressed on the need for better infrastructure and communication modes for the success of the cross-LoC trade. He supported the idea of opening all the historic routes for trade. He said they could only exchange gifts in such vehicles

Dawn, 13 October 2008

### **Chenab water blocking may hurt ties, says Zardari**

ISLAMABAD, Oct 12: President Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday Pakistan would raise the issue of India's move to block Chenab's water, adding that it could harm confidence-building efforts between the two countries. 'Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had assured me in our meeting in New York that his country was seriously committed to our water-sharing treaty. We expect him to stand by his commitment,' President Zardari said in a statement. He said Pakistan expected India to abide by international agreements. 'Pakistan would be paying a very high price for India's move to block Pakistan's water supply from the Chenab river,' he said

Hindu, 14 October 2008

### **Check ceasefire violations, India tells Pakistan**

NEW DELHI: India on Monday conveyed its concerns to Pakistan over ceasefire violations and the continuing infiltration of militants into Jammu & Kashmir and pointed out that these irritants, if left unchecked, would not contribute to on-going efforts to improve bilateral ties. Pakistan, on the other hand, expressed its desire for closer relations with India and suggested the need to wrap up talks on a couple of territorial disputes and avoid creating fresh ones such as over the management of waters of rivers flowing through both countries. During talks between National Security Adviser M. K. Narayanan and his Pakistani counterpart Mahmud Ali Durrani here, India is also understood to have raised the issue of the bombing of its embassy in Afghanistan in which the hand of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence is suspected

Times of India, 14 October 2008

### **Indian denied visa, Pak girl crosses over for wedding**

AMRITSAR: Love, as the saying goes, knows no boundaries. In a case of cross-border alliance where the denial of a visa almost ruined a marriage, a gutsy 20-year-old Hindu girl from Peshawar took matters in her hands and reached here to tie the knot with her fiance. The wedding was solemnized on Monday. About two years ago, Pawan Kumar, son of Dhyani Chand of Peshawarian Nagar here, had visited a relative in Pakistan and stayed with the family for sometime. During his visit, the two families decided on marriage between Pawan and Inder's daughter, Anita. October 13, 2008, was fixed as the date for wedding

Daily Excelsior, 14 October 2008

### **117 cross over from Chakkan-Da-Bagh; PoK elders throng Poonch**

JAMMU, Oct 13: Despite suffering from ailments, several elderly citizens of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) today crossed over to this side from Chakkan-Da-Bagh cross-LoC point in weekly Poonch Rawlakot bus services in Poonch district hoping to see their divided family members at the fag end of their lives. The elders were among 117 civilians who crossed LoC from Chakkan-Da-Bagh today. Deputy Commissioner, Rawlakot, Muzaffar Mohd today also travelled upto cross-LoC point reportedly to review arrangements ahead of the launch of trade between two parts of the State from October 21

Tribune, 14 October 2008

### **Cross-LoC trade in dual currency**

The trade bodies from both parts of undivided Jammu and Kashmir have decided to use dual currency (Indian and Pakistani) for cross-LoC trade while the US dollar will be the reference currency, stated Zulfiqar Abbasi, president of the PoK Chamber of Commerce and Industry, here today. Interacting with mediapersons on the sidelines of an exhibition of industrial products, Abbasi said they had formed working groups in which people affiliated with same businesses would sit together and explore trade possibilities

Dawn, 14 October 2008

### **Pakistan to press India for 'stolen' water**

LAHORE, Oct 13: Pakistan would neither drop its claim nor sell the Chenab water which India 'stole' in September this year, Indus Commissioner Syed Jamaat Ali Shah said here on Monday. Talking to newsmen at the International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), he said a delegation would leave for India on the

18th and re-emphasise its demand for 200,000 acre feet of water that India used to fill Baglihar dam. 'India will have to compensate Pakistan during the coming Rabi season. Otherwise, Islamabad will resort to other treaty mechanisms to get its due share,' he insisted

Daily Times, 14 October 2008

#### **Editorial: Chenab waters and Pakistan's fear**

President Asif Zardari has given expression to the general unease in Pakistan about the sharp reduction of water in the Chenab River over which India has recently inaugurated the Baglihar Dam in the Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir state. His statement was careful and it was conditional, admitting an area of uncertainty over whether India was blocking the water or not: 'Any Indian move to block Pakistan's water supply from the Chenab River would damage bilateral ties'. In response to Pakistani requests, India has offered to stage talks in New Delhi on the Chenab water flows on the 23rd of this month.

Tribune, 15 October 2008

#### **Opening of trade route to strengthen Indo-Pak ties**

A delegation of the Muzaffarabad (PoK) Chambers of Commerce has said the opening of the trade route between the two parts of the undivided state would pave way for building strong bonds between India and Pakistan and would help in strengthening the ongoing peace process. While speaking in the interaction session with the media, the PoK chamber president Zulfikar Abbasi said the opening of the trade link between the two countries should be looked upon as a first milestone towards 'thousand miles journey' that may lead to strong bonds between the two nations besides helping in building up of peace process

Times of India, 21 October 2008

#### **58 ceasefire violations by Pak since 2003: Antony**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan had violated the five-year-old border ceasefire as many as 34 times since January but the Army has managed to thwart a majority of the infiltration bids across the Line of Control this summer. "A total of 58 incidents of ceasefire violations by the Pakistani side have taken place since the ceasefire came into effect in November 2003. Our troops suffered four fatal and 13 non-fatal casualties in them," defence minister A K Antony told Lok Sabha on Monday

Hindu, 22 October 2008

#### **Apples, honey cross LoC**

SALAMABAD (URI): The much-awaited cross-LoC trade began on Tuesday with Jammu and Kashmir Governor N.N. Vohra flagging off a caravan of 13 trucks carrying goods on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road. At the Chakan Da Bagh crossing point on Poonch-Rawalakote road, Governor's Adviser H.H. Tyabji flagged off the first consignment of three trucks at Poonch. Describing the cross-LoC trade as an important confidence-building measure aimed at normalising India-Pakistan relations, Mr. Vohra said the people of Jammu and Kashmir would benefit as the trade links would open up new vistas of economic progress in the region

Hindu, 22 October 2008

#### **'LoC trade will lead to closer ties'**

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) declared Tuesday as the Day of the Commerce Caravan to mark the inauguration of the first trade between the two sides of Kashmir since 1947. PoK Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, who was at Chakothi to receive the trucks that came in from the

Indian side and send off the PoK trucks, expressed the hope that cross-LoC trade would help towards a resolution of the Kashmir problem

Daily Times, 22 October 2008

**Editorial: Making the borders 'irrelevant'?**

As fifteen trucks laden with 'gift items' cross the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir today, a first step will have been taken in 'making borders irrelevant', a policy agreed between Pakistan and India. The decision on this policy was taken last month by the PPP coalition government and agreed to by New Delhi. The idea is to replace an earlier policy of confrontation in which neither party was making headway with a lateral attempt to 'to solve the Kashmir dispute by creating 'soft borders' and allowing free movement of goods and people'

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2008

**PoK traders reciprocate with grapes, figs, spinach, garlic; Commercial business too begins with Rs 35,000 consignment**

JAMMU, Oct 22: While traders from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) today reciprocated with three lorries full of locally produced vegetables, fresh fruits and basmati rice etc as gift items for Poonch traders, commercial trade on Poonch-Rawalakot route also began with goods worth Rs 35,000 purchased by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu from their PoK counterparts. Contrary to a low key function in Poonch yesterday during launch of cross-LoC trade on Poonch-Rawalakot route in view of model code of conduct imposed in the State for Assembly elections, it was a high profile function at Zero Line at Titrinote in PoK today with PoK 'President' Raja Zulkarnain Khan, a host of Ministers, bureaucrats, political leaders, journalists, Advocates and school students turning up to flag off three lorries full of gift items for Poonch signaling launch of cross-LoC trade from Rawlakot

Rising Kashmir, 23 October 2008

**Editorial: Move Beyond Trade**

Trucks laden with merchandise from both parts of Kashmir have finally rolled on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road thus fulfilling the long pending desire as well as demand of the people on both sides Though it has begun on a symbolic note with handful of trucks reaching Chakothei trade centre on other side and Salamabad on this side but the beginning in itself is the major achievement for the people. The trade across LoC has not come without a cost. It is the huge investment of 61 years which has been made mostly on this side for this thing to happen. It is unfortunately the precious blood which has spilled over the roads in Kashmir for the last so many years. The people have not laid down their lives only for the trade or the movement of civilians but for a larger goal. But the fact remains that it is a good beginning for a process which can culminate in finding a durable, peaceful and amicable solution to the people. Opening of the road for trade comes after three months of Muzaffarabad chalo called by traders of Kashmir in wake of economic blockade in Jammu

Hindu, 24 October 2008

**India offers shorter stint for its diplomats in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: The tense security environment in Pakistan's capital has forced India to offer its diplomats and officials posted here the option of a two-year stint instead of the usual three years. Eventually, Pakistan is to become a 'no children' posting for Indian officials, diplomatic sources said. Last month's attack on the Marriott hotel, in which at least six foreigners, including the Czech ambassador and a Danish official, were killed, has forced a serious rethink about security among diplomats based in Pakistan

Hindu, 25 October 2008

### **India raises ISI issue**

NEW DELHI: India raised with Pakistan the issue of Inter Services Intelligence's alleged involvement in acts of violence against its personnel and assets, manifest recently in the bombing of its Kabul embassy, during a special meeting of the Joint Anti-Terror Mechanism (JATM) on Friday. The bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul led to a close evaluation of the new regime's capability to control anti-India elements but New Delhi decided to continue the dialogue process and add to the confidence-building measures initiated by the Gen. Pervez Musharraf regime

Times of India, 25 October 2008

### **India, Pak exchange lists of terror suspects**

ISLAMABAD: India and Pakistan on Friday night exchanged names of terrorists hiding in each other's country, and decided to make the joint anti-terrorism mechanism a continuous process. A statement issued after a daylong meeting of the mechanism said that information on issues of mutual concern, including the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul, was exchanged

Daily Excelsior, 25 October 2008

### **India rejects Pak charge on Chenab river flow**

NEW DELHI, Oct 24: Rejecting Pakistan's charge that it had blocked Chenab river water flow, India today turned down the neighbouring country's demand for compensation, asserting that there was no wrong-doing by it. At the meeting of Indus Water Commissioners here in the backdrop of Pakistan's allegations, the Indian side furnished data related to outflow of water in river Chenab from this country to show that it had released sufficient quantity despite low availability, sources told

Times of India, 26 October 2008

### **Pak boys cross border to make it big, land in jail**

FARIDKOT: They are both runaway minors from Pakistan biding their time in jail-cum-observation home here. While one left home in a huff after his father married the second time, the other came here pursuing his dreams. Incidentally, while Sunil, 14, had unknowingly strayed into the Indian territory in May, Nasir, 15, crossed over three months later, to make it big in TV reality show. Today, the two are repentant and curse the day they left their homes. "We should have been more careful," they told TOI. A resident of Falea tehsil of Sindh province, Sunil had left home on May 15 in a show of protest against his father, who brought in a second wife much against the wishes of his (Sunil's) mother. His march ended three days later, at a juvenile home on this side of the border.

Times of India, 26 October 2008

### **India to support Pak get help from IMF: PM**

ON BOARD PM'S SPECIAL AIRCRAFT: In what could be a major confidence building measure, India on Saturday said that it will support Pakistan government's effort to tide over a serious financial crunch by backing Islamabad's plan to seek help from the IMF. "I wish the new democratic government in Pakistan well. We would like them to succeed," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said, a day after he had a one-on-one meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani in the Chinese capital Beijing

News, 26 October 2008

### **Pakistan to move WB on Chenab flow**

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD: Indus Water Commissioner (IWC) Jamaat Ali Shah has said Pakistan will approach the World Bank and receive compensation from India for obstructing water flow from the Chenab River and defects in the design of the Baglihar Dam, says an Indian news agency. Talking to Indian journalists at the Indra Gandhi Airport before his departure to Pakistan, Jamaat Ali Shah said he visited the district Dooda of Occupied Kashmir and found several defects in the Baglihar Dam. 'Talks at length were held with my Indian counterpart but I am not satisfied with it,' he said

Rising Kashmir, 27 October 2008

### **Opinion: Drabu Formula: Think it over By Shuhab Hashmi**

On the face of it, the beginning of trade across Line of Control (LoC) is a giant step in the direction of bridging the gap between the two sides of Kashmir. A long pending desire and a demand from people have heralded a new change and it clearly indicates that how governments in Islamabad and New Delhi came under pressure to push forward the trade. It is a known fact that acute reservations from both sides had been always coming in the way of the process to take any final shape

Times of India, 28 October 2008

### **Pak violates ceasefire, fires along LoC**

JAMMU: Less than a fortnight after Pakistan promised to stop cross-border firing, its troops on Tuesday shelled Indian posts, again violating the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops fired mortar shells and rocket projectile grenades and opened small arms firing on Indian posts along LoC in Sabzian area of Poonch district at around 11.45 pm last night, a senior army official said. Around ten shells were intermittently fired for nearly half an hour, he said adding that these shells exploded away from the forward posts and there was no casualty on the Indian side

Asian Age, 30 October 2008

### **Sarabjit out of death cell**

Oct. 29: With growing chances of release, Indian national Sarabjit Singh has been shifted from the death cell to a normal prison in Lahore, officials said. Singh had been awarded capital punishment by Pakistani courts for spying but his hanging was put off indefinitely in May after the Indian government took up his case amid intense pressure from his family and Pakistani human rights activists like Ansar Burney. The Indian was convicted for allegedly triggering blasts killing 14 people in Pakistan in 1990. Sarabjit Singh is called Manjit Singh by the Pakistani authorities and is seen as a spy

Indian Express, 31 October 2008

### **As cross-LoC trade route opens, Kashmir fruit growers eye markets in the Gulf**

Srinagar, October 23 : On Tuesday, as a convoy of 12 pick-up vans carrying different varieties of fruits from the Valley crossed the Kaman Bridge, fruit growers lined up on the LoC to see off the vehicles. The mood was upbeat. After all, locals were witnessing trade between the Kashmir Valley and Pakistan occupied Kashmir after 61 years. India and Pakistan have agreed to start cross-border trade from Kaman in Uri and Chakanda Bagh in Poonch

Tribune, 31 October 2008

### **Traders seek banking facilities, more routes**

The business community on this side has demanded certain measures to ease the trade process across the Line of Control (LoC), which began after a span of 61 years. First the community wants to do away with the barter system transaction. The traders want banking facilities and are waiting a decision on the use of currency. Secondly, instead of just two routes - Uri-Muzzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote - they felt the need of opening traditional trade routes of Suchetgarh-Sialkot, Nowshera-Mirpur and Pallanwala-Chamb