

The Tribune, 1 September 2004 (Reuter)

Globes.co.il, 2 September 2004

IAI-Elbit Systems Indian Navy deal about to fail

"Defense News" reports that Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) and Elbit Systems (Nasdaq: ESLT; TASE: ESLT) are about to lose a deal to upgrade eight anti-submarine planes for the Indian Navy, because Russia is refusing to take part. The deal has a potential in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Russian participation is necessary because the Tupolev Tu-142 planes to be upgraded are Russian, and Russian consent is needed for their upgrading by a third country, an Indian defense ministry official explained. According to "Defense News", India originally asked Russia to upgrade the planes, but negotiations collapsed when Russia demanded \$888 million for the deal. The Indian Navy then contacted IAI and Elbit Systems. The two companies planned to install multi-task avionics and electronic warfare (EW) systems on the planes. The Indian official said that because Russia was refusing to sign a tripartite deal with Israel and India, the Israeli companies were unable to carry out the upgrading work. The deal Russia turned down was similar to the tripartite deal signed by the three countries for installing Israeli-manufactured Phalcon air reconnaissance systems on three Russian-made Ilyushin 76 planes for the Indian air force.

The Hindu, 4 September 2004

India, Indonesia naval patrol enhanced

CHENNAI, SEPT. 3. The fourth India-Indonesia Joint Co-ordination Patrol (INDINDO CORPAT) started from September 1, for which the inaugural ceremony was held in Sebang, Indonesia. The purpose of the coordinated patrol is to enhance mutual understanding and inter-operability between the naval units of both countries and jointly to prevent smuggling, piracy, drug trafficking and illegal fishing. During the month long patrol, the naval ships of both countries will patrol in their respective areas south of Indira Point in the Six Degrees Channel. Indigenously built Fast Attack Craft, INS Tarmugli commanded by Lt.Cdr Vijay Shah and INS Tarasa commanded by Lt.Cdr Venkatesh visited Sebang for the opening ceremony of INDINDCO CORPAT -04/02. Captain G.M. Gopakumar, Commanding

Officer, INS Utkrosh was the senior officer who represented the Indian Navy, according to a press release.

Central Chronicle, 6 September 2004

Navy considering German offer: Upgrading Shishumar' submarines

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy is considering a major upgrade to their fleet of German-made 'Shishumar' (HDW 209) class submarines to improve their performance profile, defence sources said. The upgrade will comprise putting in the new technology 'Air Independent Propulsion' fuel cells in the submarines, which confer several benefits to the submarine's functioning, as regards noise, endurance and emissions.

The Hindu, 9 September 2004

India to resume patrolling of Malacca Straits

New Delhi, Sept. 8. (PTI): Indian Naval and Coastguard warships are likely to resume patrolling of the strategic Malacca Straits along with other navies of the region shortly. The participation of the Indian Navy was among the topics discussed during the four-day visit here of the Malaysian Naval Chief Admiral Dato Seri Mohd Anwar, who also stressed on holding of more joint exercises between the two countries and training by India of its naval personnel. India has been a major participant in keeping multi-national vigil on the Malacca straits along with navies and Coastguard organisations of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Indian, the US and Australian warships have also jointly patrolled the straits, through which passes Maritime trade worth almost three to four billion US Dollars. The patrolling has been against the menace of international piracy, which is very rampant in the area. The Malaysian Naval Chief during his visit here held discussions with the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswamy and Vice Chief of the Army Staff Lt Gen Shantanu Choudhary.

ColomboPage.com, 9 September 2004

Indian Navy chief expected this weekend

Sept 08, Colombo: Indian Navy Commander Admiral Arun Prakash will arrive this weekend for a four-day visit. He is expected on Sunday and will leave on the 16th. During his stay, Admiral Prakash will meet President

Chandrika Kumaratunga, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Deputy Minister of Defence Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, and the three service commanders.

The Tribune, 12 September 2004

Pak softening on Sir Creek (Rajeev Sharma)

New Delhi, September 11: The chances of a bilateral resolution of the maritime border dispute between India and Pakistan on the Sir Creek issue have brightened with Islamabad's softening its decades-old stand, sources said today. In many ways, the Sir Creek issue is more important than other contentious issues between India and Pakistan like Siachen because while Siachen has largely military and strategic implications, the Sir Creek dispute has economic and human angle to it apart from its security and strategic overtones. Resolution of the Sir Creek dispute would not only mean resolving the maritime dispute with Pakistan - like India has already done with Myanmar and Bangladesh - it would also mean a huge respite to fishermen of both countries who inadvertently cross over to the other side and rot in jails for years.

Xinuanet.com, 13 September 2004

India deploys warships in Gulf region

NEW DELHI, Sept. 12 (Xinhuanet) - India has sent some of its most powerful warships for deployment in the Gulf region as New Delhi steps up efforts to use its navy to project power in regional waters and to build closer defense ties with Middle Eastern countries, according to Indo-Asian News Service (IANS). A task group of six ships, a submarine and helicopters from the Indian Navy's Mumbai-based Western Fleet, the maritime force's main war-fighting arm, left for the Gulf last week and will be in the region for three weeks, said navy spokesman Commander Vinay Garg. The group includes two 6,700-ton Delhi-class guided missile destroyers, the most advanced and largest warships built by India, and INS Talwar, the latest Russian-built stealth frigate. "The deployment of the Indian Navy ships in the north Arabian Sea also involves visits to ports of friendly nations," Garg said, noting that the group would split into two to call at ports in Oman, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. Besides calling at ports, the Indian warships will carry out "passing exercises" or brief maneuvers with the other navies. In recent

years, India has stepped up efforts to use its navy to project its influence in the Indian Ocean region.

The Indian Express, 13 September 2004

Navy looks at French Atlantique (Shiv Aroor)

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12: The Indian Navy is exploring the possibility of acquiring French Atlantique maritime reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft to replace its ageing fleet of Russian TU-142s. The Navy is understood to be interested in purchasing the new upgraded Atlantique, for which a team from the Navy has visited France. The Navy has been compelled to consider purchasing Atlantique aircrafts after Russia quoted a very high price late last year to upgrade India's current maritime surveillance fleet of Russian Tu-142s with maritime avionics suites. An Indian IL-38 is being upgraded with a maritime radar by Russia. "There is a certain budget to upgrade the Tu-142s, and that has been far exceeded in Russia's offer. This forced the Navy to look at Israel as a possible upgrade partner. That deal is currently pending," a South Block source said. An offer earlier this year for American P3C Orion long-range reconnaissance aircrafts was blocked by commanders as the aircraft is vintage-era and the Americans are keen to off-load them. The Atlantique, made by a European consortium, that includes Dassault Aviation of France (makers of Mirage fighters) is primarily built for anti-submarine and anti-surface operations but can engage in search and rescue, mine-detection and long-range maritime surveillance. It has an underwing weapons capacity of 3,500 kg and internal payload of 5,500 kg. The Pakistan Navy has an earlier version of Atlantiques, one of which was shot down in 1999 when it entered Gujarat.

Newstoday.net, 13 September 2004

CBI exposes chink in INS Rajali

Chennai, Sept 12: A security lapse in the high security Naval Air Station, INS Rajali, in Arakonam came to light when three persons lead by a sleuth from the Central Bureau of Investigation managed to sneak into the airbase - which houses reconnaissance aircraft Tupolev 142Ms - to trap and arrest a junior engineer of Military Engineering Service for accepting a bribe of Rs.10,000 for a deal in cable lying works. According to sources, the

CBI officer along with a Railway employee and a staff from a nationalised bank managed to gain entry into the base located 90 km away from Chennai, on 8 September, without disclosing their identity. The three managed to make their way inside, posing themselves as construction workers. The top brass in the Naval Air Base now seem to be more worried about the security lapse - though they prefer to call it breach of security - than the instance of corruption inside the high security zone. INS Rajali, commissioned in 1992, incidentally is the one and only land air base of Indian Navy. Financial Express, 14 September 2004

Russian 'No' Puts India-Israel Project In Trouble (Hume Siddiqui)

NEW DELHI, SEPT 12: Russia has reportedly refused to be a third party in a \$100 million contract between an Israeli defence firm and Indian Navy. This could jeopardise the upgradation project of eight anti-submarines planes due for India. According to defence ministry officials, the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) and leading Israeli defence firm Elbit Systems may lose the contract due to Russia's refusal to participate in it. Russian participation and consent for third party involvement is binding in the project as it supplied the Tupolev TU-142 planes to be upgraded, the officials confirmed. India had originally asked Russia to upgrade the planes, but negotiations collapsed since Russia demanded a whopping \$888 million for the deal. The Indian Navy then turned to IAI and Elbit Systems, who planned to install multi-task avionics and electronic warfare (EW) systems on the planes. The deal, which is being "turned down" by Russia, is similar to the tripartite deal signed by the three countries for installing Israeli-manufactured Phalcon air reconnaissance systems on three Russian-made Ilyushin 76 planes for the Indian Air Force.

SunNetwork.org, 14 September 2004

Kochi shipyard to begin production of warships

Coimbatore, Sep 13 - The manufacture of warships will begin shortly at the Kochi Shipping Yard, said the Flag-Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command (Kochi), Vice-Admiral S C S Bangara. Preliminary works for the production of warships had begun and the project would take shape by this year-end, he said. With

nearly 60 per cent of the work complete, the Rs. 600 crore-naval training academy at Ezhimala in Kerala would begin functioning in a year. It will house and train 900 navy personnel, while excess capacity would be utilised for sailors and officers from other countries. Ten to 12 countries were presently utilising Indian Navy's training establishments at various places.

The Hindu, 14 September 2004

Indian Navy chief holds talks in Sri Lanka
Colombo, Sept. 13 (PTI): Indian Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash, today held talks with his Sri Lankan military counterparts, the first in the last five years, officials said. Admiral Prakash, who arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit to the country, inspected a military guard of honour at the army headquarters here today.

The Hindu, 16 September 2004

Indian, Japanese warships conduct joint exercises (Sandeep Dikshit)

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15. India has opened a new chapter in defence cooperation with three of its naval ships conducting joint exercises with two Japanese naval ships off the Mumbai coast early this month. Both sides have kept the exercise under wraps. India is wary of upsetting China while Japan has a huge domestic constituency opposed to its "Self-Defence Force," adopting an aggressive posture. Senior officials of both the countries have confirmed the development. The 'Pass-Ex' or passing exercise on September 2 is seen as the first step towards developing harmony between the two naval forces before undertaking more complex manoeuvres involving all the three naval dimensions - surface, sub-surface and air. It also marks a turning point in ties with Japan that soured after the nuclear tests India conducted in 1998. The ties started improving in 2000 with the visit of the then Defence Minister, George Fernandes, to Japan. Since then, naval ships have visited each other's ports several times but exercises were limited to the two Coast Guards till two naval ships visited Japan shortly after Mr. Fernandes' visit.

The Indian Express, 16 September 2004

Pak Navy aims to bridge colossal gap with India: Chief (Amir Zia)

KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 15: Pakistan's Navy, striving to expand with Chinese and French technology, said on Wednesday it wanted more ships and submarines to narrow a huge gap in capabilities with the nuclear-armed rival India. "The disparity between the Pakistan Navy and Indian Navy is colossal. It is not to our liking," Admiral Shahid Karimullah, Chief of Naval Staff, told reporters in Karachi. "Indians have no dearth of weapons supply from Russia, whereas we suffered because of sanctions," he added. "We have disparity in every field, whether you talk of ships or submarines."

Hindustan Times, 17 September 2004

India will underwrite Lanka's integrity, says Indian Navy chief (PK Balachandran)

Colombo, September 16: India will underwrite Sri Lanka's territorial integrity, says the Chief of Staff of the Indian Navy, Admiral Arun Prakash. "We are solidly behind Sri Lanka's efforts to safeguard its territorial integrity. Its integrity is certainly in our interest. We can't watch Sri Lanka falling apart. We are committed to underwriting its integrity," Admiral Prakash told select Indian journalists at the end of his official visit in Colombo on Thursday.

Central Chronicle, 19 September 2004

Brahmos to be put on sale display

NEW DELHI: For the first time, the supersonic Indo-Russian cruise missile Brahmos will be put on display-cum-sale at the South African Defence Expo scheduled to be held from September 21. India has recently started commercial production of the 300-km range, land, air and underwater launched missile and its display at the Pretoria show indicates that New Delhi will go ahead with its exports. Besides the cruise missile, India would be showcasing its main battle tank MBT Arjun, Advance Light Helicopter and other armaments at the expo, which will culminate in a dazzling African air show.

Gulf Daily News, 20 September 2004

Indian naval ships to pay goodwill trip (Soman Baby)

TWO ships from the Indian Navy will pay a goodwill visit to Bahrain this week. INS Delhi (Missile Destroyer) and INS Kulish (Missile Corvette) will be berthed at Mina Salman from Wednesday to September 26. The

commanders of the two ships will meet with various Bahraini authorities and other dignitaries, said Indian Embassy counsellor H R Mohey. The programme also includes an invitation-only reception on board on Wednesday evening. A visit to the ship is also being organised for students, along with a football and volleyball matches with the Bahrain Royal Navy.

The Tribune, 21 September 2004

Indo-US naval exercises scaled down

New Delhi, September 20: The Malabar series of exercises, the sixth between the Indian and the US navies have been scaled down this year with the Pacific Command only fielding a nuclear submarine and two Perry class frigates. The exercises which are to begin off the Goa coast from October 1, were expected to see at least one nuclear powered aircraft carrier from the US. But the schedule worked out by the joint Naval group steering committee has been put off now. It also would have been for the first time that Indian Naval warships would have had a chance to match their skills against these giant carriers. Apparently the recent ship-docking tiffs off the Mumbai coast has cast its shadow on the exercises, which the Navy is still not saying as 'scaled down'. Last year, over nine warships' including a Los Angeles class nuclear submarine, took part in the joint exercises off the Cochin coast.

The Tribune, 29 September 2004

India, Singapore to hold joint naval exercise

New Delhi, September 28 India and Singapore have agreed to hold joint naval exercise in south China during the middle of the next year. Visiting Singapore Naval Chief Rear Admiral Ronnie Tay today gave an invitation to Indian Naval warships to undertake joint manoeuvre in the south China sea. Frontline Indian warships, including the just-acquired stealth frigates from Russia, will join in the week-long exercises with Singapore Navy's sophisticated anti-submarine warships. Though India and China held some exercises off the Shanghai port last year, this would be first time that Indian Warships would be involved in manoeuvre in the South China sea. Rear Admiral Tay, who is on a three-day visit here, held discussions with his Indian counterpart Admiral Arun Prakash. He also met the Army Chief Gen N.C. Vij and Vice

Chief of the Air Staff. The visit of the Singapore Naval Chief comes on the heels of the discussions held by the Malaysian Naval Chief here last month during which revival of joint patrolling of the Malacca Straits had also figured. India and Singapore have been holding joint exercises for the past 11 years, but these have been in Indian waters.

The Hindu, 30 September 2004

India-U.S. naval exercise from tomorrow

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29. India and the United States will begin a joint naval exercise - Exercise Malabar 04 - from October 1. Frontline ships from both navies would participate in the exercise. "This is the third such exercise to be held in the post-Pokhran [II] phase. From the U.S., a Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser, an Oliver Hazard Perry class guided missile frigate, one Los Angeles class nuclear submarine and P3C Orion aircraft will be participating," an official statement said. From the Indian side, one Delhi class guided missile frigate, one Shishumar class submarine, one underway replenishment tanker, Sea Harrier fighters, fixed and rotary wing aircraft are scheduled to take part.

The Hindu, 30 September 2004

'Brahmos will have to wait'

MADURAI, SEPT. 29. The supersonic Brahmos missile, the undetectable ship defence system that works on ramjet propulsion covering a range of 230 km, will have to wait for about 10 years before its technology can be declared mature, according to S. Sundarajan, Deputy Programme Director, Brahmos, Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad. He was delivering a lecture on the 'Trends and Challenges - Guided Missile Programme' to mark the foundation day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at the Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi.