

Indian Express, 1 September 2008

Infiltration along International Border underscores BSF vulnerability

KANACHAK (INTERNATIONAL BORDER), AUGUST 31: Life on the International Border is never easy but the last few days have been especially harrowing for Ram Krishna Sharma. Sharma has a farm just inside the border fence, metres from the spot where three militants sneaked in on Monday night as Pakistani gunmen provided covering fire. As the Jammu region hobbles to normal after the violent and crippling Amarnath protests, Sharma has got a chance to sell his produce of brinjals. But the infiltration has probably put paid to any chances he had of persuading daily-wage labourers to work on his field

Asian Age, 1 September 2008

ISI threat more after Musharraf exit: NSA

Aug. 31: National security adviser M.K. Narayanan has said that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence had become "hyperactive" in recent months, and he feared it would become a bigger menace with President Pervez Musharraf's departure as the civilian leadership might not be able to keep it under a tight leash. Mr Narayanan said in an interview to Karan Thapar on India Tonight that the India-Pakistan relationship and issues pertaining to Kashmir "are not easiest of the things." He added: "We have seen a fair degree of progress during Musharraf's regime and several half-cooked and three-quarter-cooked ideas are in the pipeline... But to take them forward, we need great statesmanship and courage."

Indian Express, 2 September 2008

'India keen to open Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road for trade'

New Delhi, Sep 2: Responding to the demand widely made in the Kashmir valley that the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road be opened for trade, Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Tuesday voiced India's keenness to do so and affirmed that the "road will be opened" "We would like to expedite" the re-opening of the trade route, Patil said in an interview in Delhi, adding that New Delhi was willing to conclude any formalities and discussions with Pakistan in this regard

Daily Excelsior, 4 September 2008

All set for weekly bus to roll in: 480 persons entitled to cross LoC every month

JAMMU, Sept 3: With cross-LoC Poonch-Rawlakote bus service all set to run every week from September 8, a maximum of 480 passengers would be able to cross the line dividing the State at Chakkan-Da-Bagh in Poonch district in a month. While increasing frequency of the bus service from twice a month to four times a month, the authorities have decided that number of the persons permitted to cross LoC by either side every fortnight will not be reduced from 60 per trip. "Now every week, each side could issue permits to at least 60 persons to cross LoC which means 240 persons from this side and an equal number from the other will be able to cross Chakkan-Da-Bagh point every month", official sources said

Daily Excelsior, 6 September 2008

Baglihar to generate 2800 MUs per year

JAMMU, Sept 5: With the trial test of Baglihar Hydro Electric Project having begun to pave the way for its formal commissioning in October-November, the 450-Mega Watt project will generate 2800 million units of electricity per year and each unit will cost Rs 3.10. Authoritative sources told the EXCELSIOR that trial testing of 150 Mega Watt (MW) first unit of the project has begun and the same will be completed by the end of current month. Before putting first unit on load testing, the authorities

concerned will start simultaneous trial testing of other two units having capacity of 150 MW each in order to make all the three units ready for commissioning by ending October or first week of November

Indian Express, 6 September 2008

Pakistan using US anti-terror funds to prepare for war against India: Obama

Washington, September 5: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has said that Pakistan is using US aid meant for the war on terror to 'prepare for a war against India'. He will hold Islamabad accountable for these massive funds and increase pressure to bust terrorist safe havens if he becomes President, Obama said on Fox News

Asian Age, 10 September 2008

Zardari: Good news on Kashmir coming

Sept. 9: Pakistan's new President Asif Ali Zardari said at a press conference on Tuesday shortly after his swearing-in that backdoor negotiations were on with India and that the nation would "hear good news about Kashmir" soon, possibly "within a month" and definitely before India's general elections, due next year. Thanking the people of Pakistan for "their trust in me", Mr Zardari said he accepted the presidency in the name of his slain wife Benazir Bhutto and the "martyrs of democracy."

News, 12 September 2008

Zardari expects breakthrough on Sir Creek, Siachen

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is hopeful that the two pending disputes with India - Siachen and Sir Creek - will be resolved very soon and an atmosphere of trust will be created in which India and Pakistan will try to achieve a breakthrough to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Talking to The News on Thursday, President Zardari assured that his government will not depend on secret diplomacy. "All the possible solutions on Kashmir will be discussed first in a parliamentary committee on Kashmir and then the final solution will be approved by parliament," he said

Dawn, 15 September 2008

Crisis deepens as India blocks Chenab flow

ISLAMABAD, Sept 14: India has closed Chenab water flow and as a result the shortage in Pakistan has become more severe. Sources told Dawn on Sunday that the water blockade by India could adversely affect the Kharif crops, particularly cotton and sugarcane which were in maturity stage and required final watering, and the sowing of Rabi crops early next month. They said that the Pakistan Indus Water Commission had taken up the matter with the federal government and convened a meeting on Tuesday to take stock of the situation and try to reach a diplomatic solution with New Delhi. If the Chenab closure prolongs, the sowing of Rabi crops, particularly wheat, would be hit severely

Daily Excelsior, 15 September 2008

India to go ahead with expedition in Siachen

JAMMU, Sept 14: Turning down Pakistan's objections, the Union Government has decided to go ahead with a 21 days expedition in Siachen from October 1 involving 40 persons including 30 civilian trekkers drawn from different parts of the country. Pakistan has been opposing any civilian movement in Siachen area in view of its 'disputed' status since 1984. Last year also, Pakistan's External Affairs Ministry had voiced strong objections to a similar civilian expedition in Siachen but the Government of India had gone ahead with trekking

Dawn, 16 September 2008

Protest lodged with India over reduced water flow

ISLAMABAD, Sept 15: Pakistan formally protested to India on Monday over the reduction in Chenab River flows and sought an emergency meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission for explanation of the violation of the 1960 treaty on water sharing. The reduction has caused substantial losses to standing Kharif crops in most areas downstream of the Head Marala, in Punjab. The irrigation needs of the area are being currently met by increased releases from the Mangla reservoir in order to save rice and sugarcane crops

Daily Excelsior, 16 September 2008

Indo-Pak JWG on cross-LoC trade to meet on Sept 22

NEW DELHI, Sept 15: India and Pakistan will hold a meeting here on September 22 to finalise modalities for initiating trade across the Line of Control (LoC) from October. The meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on cross LoC Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) will be held in the backdrop of terrorist bombings in Delhi yesterday and the increase in infiltration from across the border. "The India-Pakistan Joint Working Group on cross LoC CBMs will be meeting in the National Capital on September 22 to finalise modalities for initiating cross LoC trade in October 2008," the External Affairs Ministry said here this evening in a brief statement

Daily Excelsior, 19 September 2008

Early cross-LoC trade unlikely

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: Early launch of cross-LoC trade appears unlikely as Pakistan is yet to confirm any dates for the visit of a business delegation here from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for discussions on the issue. As per the understanding between India and Pakistan, the Chamber of Commerce of two parts of Jammu and Kashmir were to meet and discuss modalities for trade on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route so that the commerce could begin next month. For the purpose, it was agreed that a delegation of Muzaffarabad Chamber of Commerce would visit Jammu and Srinagar to hold discussions with their counterparts, sources said here today

Indian Express, 21 September 2008

Indo-Pak ties need to be 'creatively re-invented': Zardari

Islamabad, September 20: Ahead of his first meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York, President Asif Ali Zardari said ties with India need to be 'creatively re-invented' with bold commitments and expressed Pakistan's readiness for launch of cross-LoC trade. Making his first official pronouncements in Parliament after he assumed office earlier this month, Zardari said Pakistan would continue to seek the resolution of all outstanding issues with India, including Kashmir, for peace and full normalisation of bilateral ties

Hindu, 23 September 2008

Cross-LoC trade with Pakistan soon

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Monday finalised the modalities of the cross-Line of Control trade and an announcement could be made during the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in New York later this week, official sources said. The decision to go ahead with trade between the regions divided by the LoC was taken at a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC confidence-building measures (CBMs). Zero-tariff trade of items produced in both regions will be conducted on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalkot routes. The Kargil-Skardu route could be added later

Hindu, 23 September 2008

Two jawans, 4 militants killed in gunbattle

Jammu: Two jawans were killed on Monday in a fierce gunfight that broke out on Sunday along the LoC in Poonch when security personnel foiled an attempt by militants to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir. Naik Tape Ajo of the Nagaland Regiment and Sepoy Chiba of One Assam Regiment died in the shootout. Four militants were also killed. The armed militants entered the Indian side ' from the Kabaristan post of Pakistan

Daily Excelsior, 23 September 2008

Two more militants, jawan killed on LoC in Poonch; Army lodges protest in flag meet

POONCH, Sept 22: Army today gunned down two more militants at Kalsan in this sector while losing one more jawan as fresh exchange of firing between troops and infiltrators and covering fire by Pakistan army continued for second day today on Line of Control (LoC). During last two days gun-battle, a total of four infiltrators and two militants have been killed in Kalsan. Army today lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over continued violation of cease-fire agreement and infiltration attempts by militants, backed by Pakistan army, in Poonch sector in a flag meeting between Company Commanders of the two sides at Tatta Pani

News, 26 September 2008

Indo-Pak accord on four trade routes; Singh assures Zardari of respecting Indus Waters Treaty

NEW YORK: Pakistan and India have agreed to resume trade through land routes and decided to open four points for this purpose, including two along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, while two would be on the international borders. The agreement, without any tangible progress towards the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, is perceived to be a departure from Pakistan's historic position on Kashmir followed by the successive governments. Meanwhile, India assured Pakistan that it would stand by the Indus Waters Treaty and Pakistan would get its share of river waters in accordance with the treaty. President Asif Ali Zardari raised the issue of water share in his maiden meeting on Wednesday evening with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in his hotel in New York

Asian Age, 26 September 2008

LoC is Line of Commerce

Sept. 25: India and Pakistan declared on Wednesday that trade across the Line of Control will begin on October 21 this year while modalities for the opening of the Skardu-Kargil road will be discussed. The decision after the first meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan's new President, Mr Asif Ali Zardari, envisages cross-LoC trade on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalkot roads. It was also decided to open the Wagah-Attari road link and Khokrapar-Munabao railway route to all permissible items of trade. Both countries will also continue "interaction between Planning Commissions to develop mutually beneficial cooperation, including in the energy sector"