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India and its neighbours

Pak Claims Four bodies of Mumbai Attackers

Pakistan has admitted to the Indian Government that four of the nine terrorists involved in the 26/11 attack have been confirmed to be Pakistani nationals. All the nine bodies of the nine attackers are being preserved at a morgue in a Mumbai hospital in the hope that Pakistan will admit to their identity and claim their bodies. The Maharashtra Home Minister, Jayant Patil, who disclosed in Mumbai on Aug 10 that Pakistan has claimed four bodies, refused to identify them. However, Ajmal Kasab, the lone attacker who was held alive and is being tried in a special court in Mumbai had identified them and their Pakistani addresses. They were: Fahadullah, Au Ismail, Abdur Rehman Bada and Abu Akanksha. Mr. Patil said, since the bodies were decomposing in spite of best efforts, they would be disposed of after taking DNA and forensic samples if Pakistan refuses to claim them. Pakistan has consistently refused to own the slain terrorists as its natives and even its President Mr. Zardari had called them "non-State actors" immediately after the 26/11 attacks shocked the world.

Pakistan has also, for the first time, confirmed the role of one of the two Indians charged in the 26/11 attacks. In its dossier given to New Delhi on July 11, Islamabad has said that Mumbai- resident Fahim Ansari traveled to Pakistan in late 2007 on forged documents as accused by the Mumbai Police. Ansari and Bihar's Shhabuddin Ahmed are alleged to be Indian operatives of Lashkar-e-Toiba and charged with surveying targets in Mumbai, making maps and videos and giving them to their Lashkar bosses in Pakistan to help guide the attackers who raided the city in November. The dossier, an update of the action taken by Pakistan against those named as fugitives by India, mentions that Ansari entered Pakistan in late 1997 under the name "Hamad Hassan" using a bogus Pakistani passport, obtained through misdeclaration of facts. In some more proof of involvement of Pakistan-based terrorists in the Mumbai attack, a forensic examiner from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] told the special court of Justice Tahilayani, where Kasab is being tried that the Global Positioning System [GPS] devices recovered by the investigators had clearly established that the LeT terrorists behind the attacks had traveled from Karachi to Mumbai. The FBI official, whose name has not been disclosed, told the Court on Aug 12 that having examined three out of the five GPS devices, a satellite phone recovered by the Mumbai Police from the Pakistanis and the "way points" [points

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Face to Face

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charted on the device" or the routes noted on the maps,] he found that the ten terrorists had traveled from the Gulf of Karachi to Mumbai. Another US witness also pointed to the Pakistani connection in the Mumbai terror attack via video conferencing from the FBI office in Los Angeles. He told the trial court on Aug 13 that the outboard motor recovered by Mumbai Police from the ten terrorists was among the ones sent by the Company in Japan to Pakistan. The Yamaha engine was recovered from the inflatable dinghy used by the terrorists to make their way into the Mumbai shores from Pakistan. In yet another testimony that showed that the 26/11 attackers came from Pakistan, the enforcement manager of Nokia in the US said, these handsets were delivered to Pakistan from China.

Tharoor demands more, Army chief blasts Pak's dichotomous policy

India has told Pakistan that the prosecution of just a few individuals for the Mumbai attacks was not enough and that severe action was called for against JuD chief, Hafiz Saeed. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shashi Tharoor, said on Aug 12, Pak decision to prosecute some individuals from LeT was a welcome action, but was not enough. "We certainly expect to see some severe actions being taken against him [Saeed] instead of allowing him to wander free and ready to incite more violence against India", he said. Blasting Pakistan for following, what he called "a dichotomous policy" in the fight against terrorism, the Army said, there is again "heightened activity" across the border to push as many militants into Jammu and Kashmir as possible before the onset of winter. He said, it was strange that Pakistan, on the one hand, says it is fighting terror and is therefore moving troops to its Afghan border, but on the other hand, it is perpetuating terror by sending infiltrators.

Meanwhile, latest inputs with the central intelligence agencies confirm that after constructing concrete bunkers along the international border on their side, Pakistan is now trying to send fresh probing missions to India to find out the preparedness of Indian order guarding forces. A senior intelligence official said that Pakistan has so far made three attempts to probing missions to India near the Indo-Pak border in Punjab and Rajasthan but they were foiled by the BSF by killing the intruders. During interrogation, some of those caught near Jaisalmer in Rajasthan revealed that they were sent by border guarding forces of Pakistan to find out border security preparations on the Indian side.

Pakistan's three options to force India back to talks

For its part, Pakistan has three options to force India back into the Indo-Pak equation and pressurize New Delhi to negotiate. These are: Military, militancy and political. The first option is unlikely to bring India to its knees, as has been during the Kargil conflict. The Kargil war brought some unpalatable truths to Islamabad - that none among the international community, including its own all-weather friend China, is in favour of Pakistan pursuing a military operation. Nor is the second option, militancy, likely to achieve Pakistan's interests. India, simply, is too large a country to be pulled down by militant strikes in select cities. Nor is there any support for militancy at the international level, especially after 9/11. Hence, Islamabad is aware it can engage New Delhi only through political negotiations. This is where India had to realize the changed scenario at the regional and international levels. India cannot refuse to negotiate with its neighbours on the issue of terrorism which is a common problem for the US as well as other countries as well. At the same time, political observers say, India should not be taken for granted and that it should negotiate on clear terms, with explicit rewards and costs. "For its part, Pakistan has three options to force India back into the Indo-Pak equation and pressurize New Delhi to negotiate. These are: Military, militancy and political."

Pakistan has been successful in the past few months in pursuing a twin strategy vis-à-vis renewing the composite dialogue with India. The first strategy has been to hold a pistol on India's head, threatening New Delhi to resume the dialogue, and the second strategy has been to hold a pistol to its own head and threatening the international community to force New Delhi to resume the dialogue. Pakistan has

H. E. Mr. Chandradath Singh, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in India [view more...](#)



been successful in convincing the international community that unless the "threat" it faces on its eastern border with India is addressed, it will not be able to effectively secure the environment on its western border. Mr. Obama's Af-Pak strategy mentions about its understanding of Islamabad's sensitivities on Pakistan's eastern border.

The question is why Pakistan is so desperate to renew dialogue with India? From Pakistan's perspective, three issues in the recent years have made Islamabad desperate to revive the dialogue with India. First, the Indo-US nuclear agreement. Once the deal materialized and the US pressurized other countries to agree on an India-specific waiver at the IAEA and NSG, Islamabad realized that India-US relations are now in a different paradigm, which it will not be able to match. The biggest fear for Pakistan at this moment is the Indo-US strategic partnership, reinforced by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to New Delhi, for which Washington is willing to bend international norms and rules, while Pakistan remains bracketed with Afghanistan and is perceived as another failing State.

Moreover, the US is willing to allow India to play a larger role in Afghanistan. Though India has been hesitant and unwilling to provide limited support in terms of contributing to the infrastructure projects, Pakistan considers any Indian presence as against its long-term interests. Pakistan has also been afraid of India exploiting the situation in Baluchistan and the NWFP province if it is allowed to be present in Baluchistan. With the US entering into strategic partnership with India at the global level, willing to bend international rules to accommodate India and inclined to have an Indian presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan fears India had entered into a different league. All these factors plus its focus on Kashmir is forcing Pakistan to rather beg for resumption of dialogue under any circumstances although the previous rounds of talks have seen only limited success to resolve the contentious issues.

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