

India to press Pakistan on Mumbai probe

India's foreign minister said he would press Pakistan on the progress of its probe into the Mumbai attacks as he arrived in Islamabad yesterday for talks aimed at reviving a peace process broken off after the assault.

effort to build a peaceful, friendly and cooperative relationship between our two countries. Krishna said he was looking forward to receiving feedback from Pakistan on India's "core concern of terrorism".

India has blamed Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants for the Mumbai attacks and has also linked ISI to the attacks, which Pakistan denied. Pillai's comments were the most direct accusation yet of Pakistan by India.

Eight dead in Kandahar suicide attack

BBC ONLINE

Three American soldiers and five Afghan civilians have died in a Taliban suicide attack on a police base in southern Kandahar province, Nato said yesterday.

A suicide car bomber rammed the compound entrance before insurgents fired rockets and machine guns in Tuesday evening's raid.

The compound belongs to the elite National Civil Order Police, which operates within the Afghan police force and mans 11 checkpoints around Kandahar city.



Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse heads the weekly cabinet meeting held at a military base in northern Kilinochchi district yesterday.

Sri Lanka cabinet meets in former rebel-held area

BBC ONLINE

The Sri Lankan government held a meeting of its cabinet ministers in the northern region, making it the first such session there since Tamil rebels were defeated last year, officials said yesterday.

The special cabinet meeting was held in Kilinochchi, the former capital of the defeated Tamil Tigers in the far north of the island.

The town was the guerrillas' stronghold for 11 years until January 2009.

The BBC's Charles Haviland in Colombo said that by assembling there, the government was making a clear statement of its role in reunifying the island.

Former senator of Balochistan shot dead

BBC ONLINE

A former senator from the Pakistani province of Balochistan has been shot dead yesterday in the provincial capital of Quetta.

Habib Jalib was killed by two unknown gunmen outside his home in the Musa colony, police said.

He was the Balochistan National Party's secretary general. Angry supporters chanted slogans and protested against the killing in Quetta.

Another Baloch politician, National Party's Maula Buksh Dashti, was assassinated in Turbat town on Sunday.

Agreement on unified command to fight Maoists in India

IANs, New Delhi

A unified command, an extensive Rs 1,750 crore infrastructure package and helicopter support were amongst the measures agreed upon to counter Maoists at Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meeting with Maoist affected states here yesterday.

The central government and the leaders of the states agreed to revisit their anti-insurgency strategy by deciding to form unified commands in the four worst hit states - Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal, with a retired major general as one of its members.

The decision was taken at a daylong meeting convened by the prime minister at his 7, Race Course Road residence. The chief ministers of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, the governor of Jharkhand, which is under president's rule, and a minister

from West Bengal attended.

In his opening remarks, the prime minister said that 'though law and order is primarily a state subject, the ramifications of the problem of left wing extremism call for sustained coordination between the centre and the states not only regarding the overall strategy but even on the regular operational issues'.

'On the security side, the state forces obviously will have to be further strengthened, though the position has improved in the past few years. I also think that we need more young men and women from these areas in our security forces. In case there are issues regarding intelligence sharing or the pattern or nature of CPMF deployment, I would like to hear them,' the prime minister said, stressing 'that we cannot afford to let inter-personal issues come in the way of our strategy to tackle Left Wing Extremism'.

13 nations pledge to double tiger population by 2022

IANs, Bali Island

Thirteen nations, including Bangladesh, yesterday agreed to step up their conservation efforts with the aim of doubling the wild tiger population by 2022, officials said.

Officials and conservationists from the tiger-range countries met in the Indonesian resort island of Bali from Monday through yesterday to hammer out plans to be discussed at the Tiger Summit in Russia in September.

The 13 tiger-range countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

'This meeting was crucial in that it gave more focus to conservation plans drawn up at previous meetings in Nepal and Thailand,' said Harry Santoso, director of biodiversity conservation at Indonesia's forestry ministry.

'We are confident that with concerted efforts, the global tiger recovery programme will be

successful,' said Santoso, who also headed the Indonesian delegation.

The global wild tiger population has been reduced to an estimated 3,200 animals, including 400 Indonesian Sumatran tigers, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

They are being threatened by habitat fragmentation and destruction, loss of prey, poaching and illegal trade.

At the meeting, countries presented their national tiger recovery programmes and outlined commitments to meet the target of doubling wild tiger numbers by 2022.

The meeting also endorsed a draft declaration to be adopted by leaders at the Tiger Summit in Russia.

It also called for increasing enforcement efforts to reduce the trafficking of tiger parts and to eradicate poaching and identifying and protecting key tiger habitats, such as breeding areas.

Shutdown paralyses Kashmir valley

IANs, Srinagar

The Kashmir Valley shut down yesterday in response to a call by separatists while life in the summer capital ground to a halt with authorities imposing curfew-like restrictions in several areas.

Restrictions in Srinagar's old city as well as Maisuma and Batmollo localities were imposed as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order, police said.

Security forces were patrolling the areas, disallowing any pedestrian and vehicular movement.

Vacancy Announcement Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED (An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Ashuganj, B.Baria-3402, Bangladesh. Mobile : 01714-047037, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com

National Housing Finance And Investments Limited CAREER OPPORTUNITY. National Housing, a multiproduct financial company is looking for immediate appointment for the following positions: # Branch Manager, # Law Officer, # Internal Audit Officer, # Front Desk Officer.