

Pak plays for time

Mubashir Zaidi & Agencies
Islamabad, January 1

ISLAMABAD TODAY admitted the presence of terrorist outfits in the country, but added that it might take some time to contain and eliminate them. "We have some organisations which are extremist and even terrorist in nature," Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar has told *Frontline* magazine.

He made special mention of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) and the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen in this connection.

Meanwhile the Government kept up its crack-down on terror, with the country's police arresting 100 more Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) activists. Karachi police chief Tariq Jameel said all LeT and JeM offices in the city had been sealed and their telephones disconnected. President Bush today praised Musharraf for his steps against terror.

The Government said it would also like to take action against the 20 fugitives named

FIVE IN TERROR LIST NOT IN PAKISTAN

Amit Sharma
Ludhiana, January 1

SOURCES IN the Home Ministry told *Hindustan Times* that five of the militants whose names figure in the list of 20 that India has given Islamabad, for extradition, may not be in Pakistan, though they operate out of that country.

India wants them to be handed over, though Islamabad may use the excuse that these men are not in Pakistan at the moment to stonewall India's demand just as it had done earlier in the case of the Karachi-based don Dawood Ibrahim.

Two of these five militants are Paramjit Singh Panjwar

and Lakhbir Singh Rode, who spend some time abroad in Germany and England respectively.

Hindustan Times spoke to Panjwar over the telephone. The tele-conference was arranged through his business partner in the US, and there was no means of confirming whether Panjwar was speaking from Germany as he claimed to be doing.

He was dismissive about India's list. "We are well aware how Indian agencies prepare their lists, sitting in air-conditioned rooms," he said derisively. Though he claimed to live in Germany, visiting Pakistan occasionally for 'business purposes', he ducked the question when asked for his address.

by India in its list, but added that Delhi must furnish supporting evidence to prove the named individuals' complicity in terrorist acts on Indian soil.

"If credible evidence to sup-

port the Indian Government's charges is provided to Pakistan and in case any of the persons about whom evidence is provided is found to be residing in Pakistan, appropriate action

under Pakistan's law will be taken. Islamabad has received a list from Delhi and will certainly take action, but the list does not contain any evidence, and in the absence of evidence it is difficult to take action against any individual or group," Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Khan told a news briefing.

Military spokesman Major General Rashid Qureshi, who was addressing the news briefing with Khan, said Pakistan had taken necessary defensive measures in the face of continuing Indian military build-up. "There is concentration of forces close to the border and the LoC, which poses a threat to Pakistan. India has also activated its forward air bases and there is information about naval movements as well," he said. Commenting on Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's New Year article signalling his willingness to discuss Kashmir, Khan said Pakistan would welcome any move towards dialogue. "Pakistan would like to resolve all outstanding disputes, including the core issue of J&K".

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