

# Generals in war of words

Mubashir Zaidi and Vishal Thapar  
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GENERAL PERVEZ Musharraf said on Monday that it was his threat of a "non-conventional" war that had pushed India back from the brink of launching a full-scale attack on Pakistan.

"In my meetings with various world leaders, I conveyed my personal message to Prime Minister Vajpayee that if the Indian forces crossed the Line of Control and the international border, they should not expect a conventional war from Pakistan," he said addressing



Pervez addressing the Army Corps in Karachi.

the Army Corps reunion ceremony in Karachi.

He said he believed the message had been conveyed to Vajpayee. "We have defeated our enemy

without going to war," he claimed.

India matched the rhetoric word for word, with outgoing Army Chief General S Padmanabhan asserting in New Delhi that Pakistan's nuclear threats had not served as any deterrent.

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony where he handed over charge of Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, to Navy Chief Admiral Madhvendra Singh, Padmanabhan said, "We were absolutely ready for war. (In the process of preparing for war) We assess the enemy's capabilities. When I say we were ready, (it means) we had assessed

Pakistan's nuclear capabilities (and factored them into our plans)."

He declined to say how close to war the two countries had come during the year-long military standoff which followed the December 13 Parliament attack.

Asked if Operation Parakram, India's biggest and longest ever-military mobilisation, had tamed Pakistan, Padmanabhan said the build-up had yielded "solid" dividends.

"After practising for war for a year, we have the most well-trained army in the world. The equipment situation is the best-ever. The modernisation programme too was speeded up," he said.

3 1 DEC 2002

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## MORE FRIENDLY IN TONE

PKA

WHILE THE SEVERE strains that afflicted the relations between Teheran and Islamabad till the recent past have eased, they have not been completely erased and as much can be construed from the lacklustre visit that Iran's President, Syed Mohammed Khatami, has just made to Pakistan. The two sides have not been able to resolve the differences in their approach to several key issues but they can draw comfort from the fact that they are now able to hold discussions without the carefully suppressed yet clearly perceptible hostility that they once bore towards each other. The state of the bilateral relations that each country has with India is a matter of concern to the other and this is an issue on which Iran and Pakistan do not see eye to eye. For instance, prior to Mr. Khatami's visit Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, had strenuously urged Teheran to factor in Islamabad's sensitivities in respect of India in the course of developing its ties with New Delhi. But Mr. Khatami scrupulously stayed clear of India-Pakistan controversies and prudently urged both sides to resolve their disputes in a just and reasonable manner. Although Teheran appears as eager as Islamabad is to begin work on the Iran-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline, Mr. Khatami did not share his host's perspective that New Delhi's concerns over the security dimensions of the project were exaggerated. On the contrary, Mr. Khatami appears to have suggested that Pakistan must indeed address these concerns while reminding everyone involved (India included) that the project would be of great economic benefit to the region.

An issue that once had the potential to take Iran-Pakistan relations to the breaking point did come up during the visit, perhaps more out of inadvertence, during an interaction which Mr. Khatami had with the Pakistan media. In pointing out that sectarian conflict was prominent among the problems bedeviling the re-

gion, Mr. Khatami revived memories of the Sunni-Shia clashes that have claimed a number of lives — including that of Iranians in Pakistan — over the years. What could have been particularly galling to his audience was that Mr. Khatami's reference to the Shia-Sunni strife was made in response to a query intended to make him reveal his thoughts on developments in Gujarat. But if the Iranian President's reference to sectarian strife within Pakistan was a pointer to that which had remained unchanged in the relations between the two countries, the marked difference in tone with which both sides addressed the issue of Afghanistan was revelatory of the improvements that have been made to the relationship.

From a situation where they were indirectly at war with each other through their proxies in Afghanistan (the Taliban in Pakistan's case and the Northern Alliance in Iran's), the relations between the two countries have now reached a stage where they can seriously talk about cooperating in the reconstruction of their war-ravaged neighbour. In talking about the potential and prospects of their cooperation in Afghanistan, both sides appear to have skirted the controversies that arise on account of their divergent views in respect of the U.S. and of the role that Washington is playing in the region.

Although Mr. Khatami was accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen, thus signifying the scope that both sides perceive exists for bilateral trade, hardly any boost was given to their economic ties. Gen. Musharraf, while referring to the substantial increment in imports of Iranian oil that Pakistan had made, had expressed the desire that Iran would reciprocate by purchasing more wheat and rice from his country. Such a boost in economic ties between the countries of South and South West Asia will apparently, just like the pipeline, have to wait on a more substantial improvement of political ties.

27 DEC 2002

# Khatami takes India pipeline to Pak

PARISA HAFEZI

Islamabad, Dec. 23 (Reuters): Iranian President Mohammad Khatami arrived in neighbouring Pakistan today to discuss Afghanistan, a proposed gas pipeline across Islamabad's territory to India and a possible US-led war against Iraq.

Khatami, accompanied by his defence, foreign affairs and road and transport ministers, was welcomed by President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Jamali at the start of a three-day visit.

"It is a very pleasant day for us," Khatami told Musharraf, reflecting a great improvement in relations between Iran and Pakistan since the fall of the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

The two Presidents discussed their neighbour Afghanistan. "(They) reiterated their desire to work closely for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and for the establishment of durable peace there," said a joint statement.

Iran, a mostly Shiite Muslim nation, backed the opposition Northern Alliance forces in their war against the Taliban, long backed by mainly Sunni Muslim Pakistan.

The conflict fuelled other disputes between Iran and Pakistan and caused sectarian violence in the two countries. It also drew Iran closer to India.

"Khatami's visit is a turning point in Iran and Pakistan's relations," Iran's deputy foreign minister Mohsen Aminzadeh told reporters.

Iran, which has the world's second biggest gas reserves, has proposed building a \$4 billion pipeline across Pakistan to India to tap into the huge Indian market and help promote peace between the subcontinent's feuding nuclear powers.

Last year, Pakistan and Iran had agreed to conduct a study into the feasibility of the pipeline project.

Tehran is worried about repercussions from any US-led

war on Iraq, which borders Iran.

"In this sensitive situation, we should try to expand relations, including in the political, economic and security fields," Khatami told reporters before leaving for Pakistan.

24 DEC 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

# Godhra shadow on Pak-Iran talks

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 24. — Hosting his Iranian counterpart Syed Muhammad Khatami, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has once again raked up the Gujarat violence saying it "exposed the myth of Indian secularism".

Accusing the BJP government of "cynically encouraging" communal riots, General Musharraf said at a banquet he hosted for the visiting Iranian President last night that "what has happened in Gujarat has finally exposed the myth of Indian secularism". Mr Khatami also met Pakistan Prime Minister Mr Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali.

Gen. Musharraf had raked up the Gujarat issue in his address to the UN General Assembly last November, infuriating the state chief minister Mr Narendra Modi who attacked the Pakistani President during his poll campaign addressing him as 'Mian Musharraf' repeatedly.

Making Indo-Pak relations the central theme of his banquet address, Gen. Musharraf accused India of entertaining "hegemonic ambitions" and said New Delhi's



Muhammad Khatami with Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali in Islamabad. — AFP efforts to "impose a military solution on Kashmir and to use coercive diplomacy through concentration of troops on our borders have failed miserably".

He expressed hope that Iran would help resolve the Kashmir issue in line with UN resolutions. While making a brief mention of Iran's "potential" to play a role in easing Indo-Pak tensions, Mr Khatami in his speech avoided direct response to repeated ref-

erences by Gen. Musharraf to such tensions. "We have good relations with both India and Pakistan and we can play an important role in defusing tensions between the two. We have even in the past tried to find solutions to defuse tensions," Mr Khatami said. "While we have welcomed and reciprocated India's recent decision to move its troops back to peace-time locations, we hope

## Rawalpindi explosion

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 24. — A bomb went off today in a small hotel at a bus station in Rawalpindi, outside Islamabad, injuring eight people, police said.

The wounded were taken to nearby hospitals. Police said three of the wounded were in serious condition.

No one took responsibility for the explosion. "We have no information about who was behind this bombing, but we are investigating," police said. — AP

peals by Sheikh Ahmed Omar Saeed and three others convicted in the February kidnapping and killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, a defence lawyer has said, adds AP from Karachi.

British-born Saeed was sentenced to death by an anti-terrorism court in Hyderabad. The three accomplices — Fahad Na-sim, Salman Saqib and Sheikh Adil — were sentenced to life in prison. Their appeals also will be heard next month in the court in southern Sindh, said Abdul W

Kapur, attorney for Saeed.

**Pak injunction on ultras:** A Pakistani court issued an injunction today, against any possible extradition of three Al-Qaida suspects

arrested last week in a joint raid by Pakistani police and the FBI, adds AP from Lahore. The court also demanded prosecutors explain the charges on which the men are being held. The ruling by the Lahore High Court came on a motion filed by the lawyer of two naturalised American citizens and one naturalised Canadian citizen who were arrested, along with six other family members, in a raid last Thursday.

## Appeal in Pearl case

An appeals court scheduled a January hearing to consider ap-

# Convince India of pipeline viability, Pak. tells Iran

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, DEC. 22.** The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has urged Iran to draw India into a dialogue and convince it about the viability and safety of the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline via the land route of Pakistan.

In an interview to Iran's official news agency, IRNA, on the eve of the three-day visit of the Iranian President, Syed Mohammad Khatami, to Pakistan, Gen. Musharraf has argued that it was for Iran to convince New Delhi on the pipeline. "I think, it is only Iran that can convince the country to push through with the gas pipeline".

He felt that the mega pipeline project was viable and should materialise for the sake of the economic progress of the three countries of the region.

Welcoming his Iranian counterpart's visit, Gen. Musharraf said that Islamabad and Teheran need to coordinate efforts on the political and economic fronts, and Mr. Khatami's visit

would help both sides to improve their coordination on issues of mutual interest.

To a question on Teheran-Islamabad commercial relations, he said, a great deal needs to be done on the trade front. Keeping in view the deep historical, cultural and religious relations, as well as the geographical linkages of the two countries, their economic interaction left much to be desired.

"Pakistan is keen on enhancing trade and commercial relations and during my last meeting with President Khatami, we discussed enhancement of economic interaction", he told the agency.

Gen. Musharraf said that Pakistan increased its oil imports from Iran from less than \$100 million to \$500 million. However, Iran had not reciprocated. "We talk about exports of our rice and wheat, so we need to resolve these things. I believe these can be resolved amicably".

He expected President Khatami's visit to be of immense help

to develop a consensus on regional issues, especially on Afghanistan and Pakistan's concerns with respect to India. "There is a need for Iran's understanding of our sensitivities towards India. So, I feel this is the area where Iran needs to clearly understand our very acute sensitivities vis-a-vis India so that in its bilateral relations with New Delhi, this concern is kept in the forefront", he said.

Laying emphasis on coordination between the two sides on regional issues in particular, Gen. Musharraf said: "our efforts vis-a-vis Afghanistan's reconstruction should be coordinated. I don't see any clash in our perceptions as to what is happening in Afghanistan."

"We must not develop a competitive behaviour towards Afghanistan and economic benefits of reconstruction of the war-ravaged country can be shared very well between Iran and Pakistan." he told the agency.

# 'Pak. frustrated probe into its n-technology offer to Iraq'

WASHINGTON, DEC 22. Pakistan had deflected and frustrated a U.N. probe into an offer made by Islamabad to Iraq of nuclear weapons know-how, allegedly made in the 1990s on behalf of Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, former U.N. weapons inspectors were today quoted as saying.

The offer is contained in Iraqi secret service documents.

With help from the Bush Administration which does not want public attention focused on it, Pakistan has also been able to play down the nuclear weapons know-how it had actually provided to N. Korea in return for the Ghauri missile and know-how to build medium range missiles in Pakistan itself, *The Washington Times* reported.

A middleman claiming to present Khan "offered Iraq help in building an

atomic bomb on the eve of the Persian Gulf War, according to UN documents, diplomats and former weapons inspectors," the daily said.

Former inspectors, who spoke to the paper on condition of anonymity, said Pakistani officials did not cooperate when the U.N. nuclear agency tried in the mid-1990s to investigate if the scientist was behind the proposal.

The former inspectors stopped

short of saying that Pakistan Government was involved in the offer to help Iran build a nuclear weapon.

The revelation follows recent news reports that Pakistan assisted North Korea's nuclear programme in return for missiles and missile technology.

Pakistan has denied any link to Pyongyang or Baghdad. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Chritina Rocca, last week said the Pakistani

President, Pervez Musharraf, has given his assurance that nothing is being given to North Korea. This formulation, analysts noted, did not cover what was done in the past.

The U.N. officials told the daily that Iraq did not accept the offer from Pakistan and did not mention it in its latest arms declaration. The offer also is not mentioned in a previous declaration that Iraq made in 1996. — PTI

# Jamali holds talks with PPP leaders to seek support

PKA (11-11-12)

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Prime Minister Mir Zafurullah Khan Jamali held talks with President Pervez Musharraf and senior leaders of former premier Benazir Bhutto's PPP to work out a quid pro quo deal in order to secure a comfortable majority for his government in parliament.



Mir Jamali

Mr Jamali of the Pakistan Muslim League—Quaide Azam (PML-Q) held lengthy discussions with Mr Musharraf on Monday night over political developments in the country after he met a PPP delegation, led by Makhdoom Amin Fahim. During his talks with PPP leaders, he discussed a host of issues, including the formation of a PPP government in the Southern Sindh province as well as future political cooperation to help his government at the centre to get a comfortable majority.

The Jamali government is currently surviving on one-vote majority in the 342-member national assembly. Referring to the Jamali-Fahim meeting, PPP sources said issues pertaining to formation of

government in Sindh were also discussed, amid speculations that the Jamali government and the PPP were trying to reach an understanding to tide over the political

crisis.

The meeting took place in the wake of a one-to-one meeting between Mr Fahim and Mr Musharraf on Sunday, local daily 'Dawn' reported on Tuesday.

In their meeting with Mr Jamali, PPP leaders presented fresh proposals to work out cooperation between their party and the ruling PML-Q at the centre as well as formation of its own government in Sindh, it said. The Sindh assembly is due to meet on December 12.

During the meeting, Mr Fahim also conveyed his reservations over the government's effort to cause defection among the PPP ranks and emergence of a faction

under the nomenclature of the PPP patriots.

Mr Fahim demanded that all the PPP defectors be withdrawn from the federal cabinet to pave way for cooperation between the two parties, the paper said. Six of the ten defectors have been rewarded with ministries in Jamali's cabinet.

Mr Jamali, however, ruled out any such possibility and called upon the PPP to review its policies which caused frustration among its members, the paper said.

Both PML-Q and PPP have to settle a host of differences before deciding on a long-term cooperation. Like the hardline Islamist alliance, the Muttahida Majlis-E Amal (MMA), the PPP also wants Mr Musharraf to quit as army chief and scale down his powers to dismiss parliament.

Ms Bhutto wants Jamali government to either withdraw all the cases against her and her spouse Asif Ali Zardari or provide a fair trial to get their names cleared. PTI

# Russia sidelined Kashmir issue, alleges Pakistan

**Islamabad:** Pakistan on Thursday accused Russia of not focussing on the "Kashmir movement" and getting carried away by the "chauvinist" Indian propaganda. It wanted Moscow to play a "constructive role" in addressing this issue.

The Delhi declaration signed on Wednesday by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Russian President Vladimir Putin focussed on the issue of cross-border terrorism and not on the "Kashmir movement", a foreign ministry statement here said.

"It is unfortunate that the Russian leadership has been taken in by the Indian propaganda," it said, adding that Islamabad was disappointed at "the unwarranted and unbalanced references to Pakistan contained in the so-called Delhi Declaration."

Acknowledging Moscow's role in normalising Indo-Pak ties, the statement said "Pakistan expects Russia, as a major power, to play a constructive role in addressing the grave and fundamental problems in ensuring peace and security in South Asia".

Charging that the declaration has not taken into consideration alleged human rights violation by Indian security forces in Kashmir, it said "the Russian side has also failed to notice India's adamant refusal to resolve the Kashmir dispute in a fair and just manner on the basis of UN resolutions and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people".

The statement followed comments by Pakistan Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali denying Islamabad's role in sponsoring terrorism.

"We have always refuted it. We never believe in it. I do not want to blame Mr Putin for making such a statement while sitting in India," he was quoted as saying by the local media here in response to the Delhi Declaration.

Also allaying fears expressed by Mr Putin over the safety of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, Mr Jamali said the country's nuclear assets were in safe hands.

"Pakistan is a positive thinking country and there was no need for worry about the country's nuclear programme," he said. PTI



# Putin, PM *pas de deux* on Pakistani terror

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Dec. 2. — “Trusted friend” Vladimir Putin arrives tomorrow having already raised concerns in the international community that are music to Indian ears, and go beyond anything the Indians have said. In an interview, the Russian President said he feared the Pakistan nuclear programme could be misused by falling into the hands of terrorists.

Acknowledging that Mr Putin had articulated concerns “even more sharply than Indian leaders”, the foreign secretary, Mr Kanwal Sibal said today that if the international community was concerned about the issues of “fundamentalism, terrorism and WMDs” (weapons of mass destruction), they needed to look at



Mr Vladimir Putin and Mr AB Vajpayee

Pakistan, where all three were juxtaposed, if they were serious about “neutering” terrorism.

Mr Putin will have dinner with Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee soon after his arrival tomorrow at which the focus is likely to be terrorism and Pakistan’s sponsorship of it, Afghanistan, Iraq, energy security and a renewed thrust on bilateral economic relations that

have not kept pace with the political concert of ties.

The bulk of Mr Putin’s meetings are due on Wednesday, when a number of important documents, including an MoU on cooperation against terrorism, will be signed.

The threat perception for Mr Putin’s security has been raised, forcing him to cancel a scheduled talk at the Indian Council for World Affairs.

Mr Vajpayee today said India would seek increased cooperation from Russia in the nuclear field and it could depend on Moscow during any crisis even though other nations were trying to place hurdles in the deepening relationship between the two nations.

“In the military field our cooperation is growing. We depend on our friend Russia,” the PM was quoted by agencies as saying.

3 DEC 2002

THE STATESMAN

# Jihadis may have access to Pak nuke arms: Putin

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 1 DECEMBER

**S**POTLIGHT has been thrown again on the threat of jihadis getting control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, with the Russian President going public with his stark assessment.

The Russian leader has expressed scepticism over the claim of the Musharraf regime that its nuclear installations are safe and out of the reach of the jihadis who have emerged as stronger than ever after the so-called polls in Pakistan. "But, to be frank, our concerns, our anxiety still persists. Our position is such that we believe that practical action should be taken to prevent the dissemination of WMD," Mr Putin said as he expressed the fear that Pak-controlled "WMD could fall into the hands of bandits and terrorists (this is exactly how I would like to call these persons rather than just militants)."

He also apprehended that terrorists in Pakistan could access the designs and other inputs that go into the making of nuclear weapons and that will be not any less dangerous. "Information concerning production techniques of even simple means could be equal to WMD in their destructive potential," he said.

Mr Putin's blunt statement, which provoked an angry rebut-



PUTIN: NUCLEAR MATTER

tal from Islamabad, suits India's campaign against Pakistan. It endorses the long-held Indian complaint about Pakistan becoming a redoubt of jihadis, as well as the inability and reluctance of the de jure authority to stem the slide. It will ensure that the attention remains focused on the vulnerability of Pakistan's nuclear weaponry to jihadi poachings.

The safety of the bombs, which Islamabad unabashedly touted as the property and pride of Islamic world as a whole, has been ceaselessly debated since Musharraf succumbed to US pressure to be part of the "war against terror".

The arrest of a top nuke scientist and unearthing of strong evidence to suggest that he was collaborating with al-Qaeda to design weapons of mass destruction reinforced the suspicion, lending credence to the claim of a celebrated American journalist that US along with Israel was keeping a contingency plan ready to take out the missiles and bombs.

The suspicions of Mr Putin may sound credible because of the backdrop as well as the recent disclosure about Islamabad's clandestine bomb material-missile swap with the Communist dictatorship of North Korea.

2 DEC 2002

The Economic Times

PAM 11

# Pak. resents Putin's remarks

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 1. Islamabad has taken serious exception to the comments of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, on the possibility of Osama bin Laden's presence in Pakistan and his concerns over the security of Pakistan's nuclear assets. Coming as it does just two days before Mr. Putin's official visit to India, the development will not go unnoticed.

The Pakistan Foreign Office issued a long statement explaining that it had taken up the reported remarks of Mr. Putin at a press conference in St. Petersburg on November 22 with the Russian Foreign Office in Moscow.

The statement was issued a day after Mr. Putin's interview to *The Hindu* in which he raised similar concerns.

The statement said the Russian Ambassador in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Office and concerns over Mr. Putin's statements were conveyed.

Pakistan and Russia have not enjoyed warm relations and efforts on both sides since the emergence of Russia, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, for a better understanding have not been successful. Islamabad continues to nurse a grudge that

even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, ties between India and Russia have remained strong.

The Pakistan Foreign Office not only made it known that it would take up both the issues during the Pakistan-Russia Joint Working Group bilateral meeting scheduled in Moscow tomorrow, but also raised several questions on the security of Russia's nuclear assets.

"Both during the exchange in Moscow and during the meeting in the Foreign Office, Pakistan had expressed its disappointment over President Putin's comment which had been made in answer to a media question. It was stressed that Pakistan was a very responsible country and no one should have any fears about our nuclear assets. They are under very tight control, and the regime for Command and Control leaves no room for any concern," the statement said.

It said the attention of the Russian Ambassador was drawn to the fear that Russia's own system of safeguarding its nuclear assets, fissile material and sensitive technology was a matter of serious concern to the international community.

"Russia was engaged in a multi-billion dollar programme with the United States to safe-

guard its assets and material, and also to subsidise scientists so that they would not be tempted to work abroad. There were reports of over 200 cases of attempted smuggling of alleged nuclear material out of Russia. Prominent Russians had expressed serious doubts about the whereabouts of its suitcase bombs. Fissile material had been used for field agricultural monitoring devices throughout the former USSR and all these devices were yet to be accounted for. Pakistan was, therefore, surprised that Russia should express any concern about Pakistan," it said.

On Mr. Putin's comment on Osama, the Russian Ambassador had been told that as had been stated earlier by the Pakistan Government, he was not on Pakistani soil, and the Government had no information as to where else he may be, and if he was still alive.

The statement said the Pakistan Ambassador in Moscow had been informed by the Russian Foreign Office that Mr. Putin had expressed appreciation and support for President Musharraf in his comment, and that Mr. Putin had not been critical of Pakistan.

At the meeting, the statement said, it was recalled that a Russian delegation would arrive in

the middle of this month for bilateral consultations on Security Council matters.

In the second half of January 2003, a Joint Working Group on Strategies Stability would commence its first session, and that Russia had set up such a working group with only a few countries.

"The Russian side alluded to these forthcoming dialogues as evidence of Russia's desire for better and institutionalised relations with Pakistan. During the meeting in the Foreign Office, serious concern was conveyed in the Russian Foreign Ministry statement of November 25 alleging some link between terrorist acts in Indian-Occupied Kashmir, by forces trying to thwart the tendency for relaxation of tension between India and Pakistan, and alleged terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan", it said. It said the Pakistan Foreign Office told the Russian Ambassador that there was no basis for such allegation.

"He was told that the Russian side should also take note of the genocide, serious human rights violations, and rapes committed by the Indian occupation army. Pakistan is fulfilling all its obligations, made to the international community, in combating terrorism."

2 DEC 2002

# India, Pak. troop withdrawal a right move Putin

By Amit Baruah

MOSCOW, NOV. 30. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, at 50, is a young man to be presiding over the destiny of the Russian Federation. The President is confident, at ease in discussing the nuances of foreign policy concerning both Russia and the rest of the world. In this interview conducted at his official Kremlin residence (once occupied by Lenin) late on Thursday night, Mr. Putin, speaking through an interpreter, expresses concern on a range of issues. After the interview to The Hindu and the NDTV is over, I ask him about his English. He grins and says he's still learning. I tell him there wasn't enough time to accommodate all my questions. "Next time," he promises. Excerpts from the interview:

**Amit Baruah:** When you signed the strategic partnership agreement with the Prime Minister,



The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, during an interview in Moscow on Friday.  
— Photos: Vladimir Radyuhin

Atal Behari Vajpayee, two years ago, it contained an important element of developing a counter to the unipolar world order and the democratisation of international relations. How far have the two countries moved in this direction?

This topic of creating a new architecture for international security, building a safer world has become particularly important after the two-polar world ceased to exist and confrontation ended between two opposing systems. After several years of

**"We consider ourselves as a member of the international anti-terror coalition and we hope that all the actions taken in combating terrorism will be concerted action. And, so far, it has been exactly that way. We hope it will stay that way."**

impression (belief) that all the fears and apprehensions had been overcome and we are at a new stage, the world suddenly understood that this was not exactly so. The world is not totally at a stage of harmonic development. It became clear that new threats and challenges have emerged that are no less dangerous than the threats that we faced before. Although the world has changed, the tools, the international instruments that we used before to improve relations, can continue to be used and adapted to the present-day situation. They can be further improved and, here, I have in mind.... the United Nations. From that

point of view, our positions with India are very close. We are in favour of improving the existing mechanisms of the United Nations, mechanisms of improving international peace and security.... It is precisely there that the principles of a multi-polar world should come to the fore.... I think it would be tantamount to an unforgivable and gross mistake should we choose another way....

**Do you think America's policies towards Iraq represent a unipolar, hegemonic approach?**

We share the position of our U.S. partners in the sense that we must make sure that Iraq is not developing weapons of mass destruction and has no such

**"In recent times, President Musharraf has taken a number of resolute steps to combat terrorism. My position is that we should not put all the burden, all the blame on him for negative developments, but we should, rather, try to stimulate him to continue this policy."**

weapons in its possession. But at the same time, we do believe that we should not forget about other hotbeds existing in the world that could pose a certain threat. One such concern.... that we have is the weapons of mass destruction in Pakistan. We have to have a clear picture of where those weapons are — in what status (state), in what condition they are and what will happen to them in the future. There are other regions of the world that we are concerned about no less than Iraq. At the same time, I wouldn't demonise the position taken by the U.S. towards Iraq. We should take into consideration and not forget the events that preceded the tough position taken by the U.S. leadership and President (George W.) Bush. What I have here in mind are the barbaric terrorist attacks against targets in Washington and New York on September 11, 2001. That's why, emotionally, I do understand the U.S. and President Bush's position. At the same time, it has always been our position that decisions of that kind (military action against Iraq) are solely within the competence of the United Nations. It is only the Security Council that can take decisions of that kind. In my conversations with President Bush, he never, not once, insisted on the immediate use of force...in all the conversations I have had with him, in person or over the phone, he kept saying that we should seek a peaceful solution to the problem.... despite the fact that we have had many difficult and complex issues at hand, nonetheless we have always succeeded in reaching agreement and, particularly, Resolution 1441 that has been passed by the U.N. Security Council. We do hope that all the parties concerned will abide by that in full, including Iraq. The latest reports that we receive from Iraq indicate that the situation there is developing in a positive direction.

**Amit Baruah:** When you speak of concerns about weapons of mass destruction in Pakistan, are you afraid that these weapons are going to fall into hands of militants in Pakistan-Afghanistan? Secondly, the missiles for weapons deal between North Korea and Pakistan...Russia is an important guarantor of the nuclear non-proliferation regime...What needs to be done now by the international community?

You are quite right in saying that Russia is one of the guarantors of the NPT. My personal position cannot divert (diverge) from that of my country. In my

capacity as President, I will insist on fulfilling the obligations that exist under the NPT. As regards my concerns, you are quite right that we do have concerns. What we are worried about is not only the fact that weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of bandits and terrorists (this is exactly how I would like to call these persons rather than just militants). Not only that is dangerous, but we also have concerns they (terrorists) could obtain information concerning production techniques of even simple means that could be equal to weapons of mass destruction in their destructive potential. We take note

of the statements made by (Pakistani) President (Pervez) Musharraf that the military potential of his country is safely protected, strictly under control. But, to be frank, our concerns, our anxiety, still persist. Our position is such that we believe that practical action should be taken to prevent the dissemination of weapons of mass destruction. That concerns all countries, including, of course, the situation between DPRK and Pakistan. ....Personally, I do not have any information indicating that Pakistan is transferring military technologies or weapons' systems to some other countries. Therefore, any speculation on this matter can be only theoretical. But, if

that is, in fact, happening, that would be regrettable. We should continue to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, we should act together in a concerted way and prevent any developments in the world towards creation of a one-polar world. We should build international relations on democratic principles....

**Is Osama bin Laden alive and would you label Pakistan a state-sponsor of terrorism?**

Our friendship with India is not against somebody....and we will further continue our friendly rela-

## INTERVIEW

tionship. The negative influence that Pakistan used to exercise in neighbouring Afghanistan in previous years, including support to the Taliban, are well-known facts. It is quite obvious and we are fully aware of the fact that Osama bin Laden not just cooperated with the Taliban, but he was part of the whole system. In recent times, President Musharraf has taken a number of resolute steps to combat terrorism. My position is that we should not put all the burden, all the blame on him for negative devel-

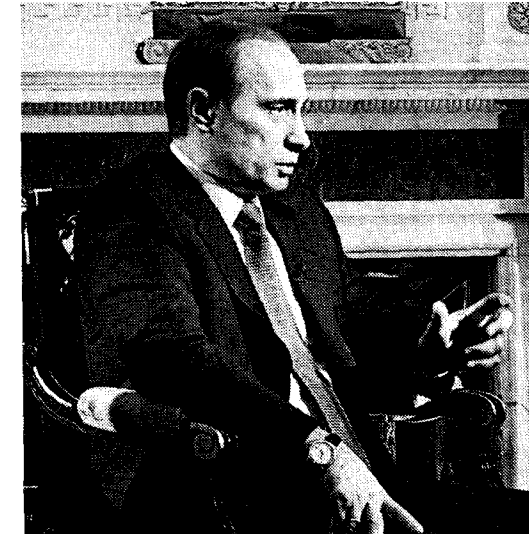
**"We share the position of our U.S. partners in the sense that we must make sure that Iraq is not developing weapons of mass destruction and has no such weapons in its possession. But at the same time, we do believe that we should not forget about other hotbeds existing in the world..."**



opments, but we should, rather, try to stimulate him to continue this policy. We have the right to hope that his actions will be sincere....and effective. Otherwise, all talk on this matter would make no sense.

**Amit Baruah:** It is interesting that you will be going to India from China. For some time, there has been trilateral cooperation between India, China and Russia. What shape do you think this cooperation will take? And, is there any message in your going to India from China?

Should there be any message to be delivered from China, of course, I will discuss that with the leadership of India. But we do not pursue any such task. China is our neighbour and India is one of our major international partners; and a country with which our relations are of utmost importance. We think that we should try to develop our bilateral relations with each of these countries because each relationship is of paramount importance for the Russian Federation. Our position is as follows. We are convinced of the need for positive development of relations be-



tween Russia and India, Russia and China and China and India. I think that all the parties within this triangle are interested in this development. At the same time, I think we shouldn't get ahead of time or move ahead without proper preparation. We should move step-by-step trying to develop harmonious relations, preparing all the necessary conditions. But, of course, our aspiration, overall, should be to develop our relations in as positive a way as possible.

**Why, then, does Russia provide China with weaponry similar to what it provides India — Sukhoi aircraft, Kilo class submarines, advanced de-**

**stroyers — when Russia is aware that China and India have a long-running border dispute?**

Russia is an active player in the international weapons' market....this is a market of high-technology goods; therefore, a highly competitive market. With China, we also share a very long border. And, we too, have had our border disputes between China and the (former) Soviet Union. At the same time, we are gradually settling, resolving those problems. Given goodwill on both sides, any problem can be resolved. We also hope that the questions that are still not resolved, outstanding questions, or issues, between China and India, will be resolved. Very tough competition is going on in the international weapons' market. At the same time, Russia is not delivering weapons to conflict areas. This is our rule and we try to abide by these rules. There is no conflict now between China and India now and I hope there will be no conflict in the future. The more we keep developing relations within the triangle, to which you have referred, the more successful we will be in achieving that positive result.

**Amit Baruah:** To return to bilateral India-Russia relations, bilateral trade between the two countries is not very high. What steps can be taken to increase bilateral trade?

I do agree with you and I do believe that the level of our bilateral trade turnover is not just low, it is inadmissibly low. In recent years, it has not exceeded \$1.5 billion. For our two great countries, it is much too low. Of course, our bilateral commission on trade and economic ties should play its role in this matter....we need to pay more attention to joint investments and the establishment of joint ventures, and,

in the area of military-technical cooperation, we already have some very good examples....we have not achieved this level and quality of cooperation with other countries, as we have achieved with India. We are already engaged in joint development and production of high-tech, very complex and very promising weapons' systems. This is something that we do not do with other countries. We think this experience should be exploited, should be transferred to our civil cooperation. We should focus on improving settlement procedures and conditions for the development of business cooperation....we have very good, ongoing, pilot projects in areas such as energy, high-tech and some others. Those projects should be supported by our two countries....we have the base which should be built upon.

**Does the transfer of military technology suggest that Russia is willing to lease nuclear submarine or help India construct a nuclear submarine? Is there any final agreement on the sale of the aircraft carrier, Gorshkov?**

We are already jointly producing an anti-ship missile (Brahmos)...as regards our cooperation in the nuclear sphere and areas that are closely related to the nuclear sphere, there are certain limitations to that cooperation. Limitations that have to do with the international obligations undertaken by the Russian Federation within the framework of the nuclear club....and various non-proliferation mechanisms and instruments. This is a separate topic we are discussing with our Indian colleagues....I would repeat that all the solutions should be found within the framework of international obligations undertaken by the Russian Federation....as regards combat ships, our suggestions and proposals are meeting with understanding on the part of our Indian colleagues. As you know, in the nuclear field, we are co-operating in constructing....two nuclear power plants....and, as far as I know, the partners are mutually satisfied.

**Amit Baruah:** India has shown interest in becoming a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation? Is the membership of the SCO now open and what will Russia's approach be to India's possible entry?

The SCO is growing in terms of its significance and the role it plays....and (in) the fight against international terrorism....initially, that Organisation consisted of four former Soviet Republics, including the Russian Federation, and China. One of the major objectives of this Organisation at that stage was the settlement of still-outstanding border issues between China and the former Soviet Republics. And, I must say that practically all the most acute issues have been resolved — either on a bilateral or multilateral level within that Organisation....recently Uzbekistan joined that Organisation becoming a co-founding nation....This is an indication....that this is an open Organisation. We are prepared to engage in consultations with our Indian partners and our partners within the SCO in order to determine what capacity, to what extent, India would like to and be able to participate in the work of that Organisation. At a later stage, we could take a proper decision. I think that India's participation in joint work within that Organisation would help to enhance (its) role....

**Amit Baruah:** India and Pakistan are pulling back their troops from the international border. What's the Russian view on this and what steps should be taken?

We welcome that decision and we believe this is movement in the absolutely right direction. I think that relaxation of tensions in such an explosive and dangerous region....is an act that deserves respect and we will try to support any steps taken by either country towards that objective.

**Amit Baruah:** Are you at all concerned by the long-term presence of American troops in Central Asia, in Afghanistan?

We have repeatedly discussed this matter with our U.S. colleagues. We take note of the statements made by the U.S. side that their intention is to stay in Afghanistan as long as is necessary to resolve all the problems there. And they have no intention of staying there any longer after the counter-terrorist operation is concluded because that would make no sense from the military or any other point of view. We consider ourselves as a member of the international anti-terror coalition and we hope that all the actions taken in combating terrorism will be concerted action. And, so far, it has been exactly that way. We hope it will stay that way.

# Pak ferried missile parts from N. Korea: report

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Washington:** The US may have endangered India's security, as also that of its allies Japan and South Korea, not to speak of jeopardising the lives of its own 100,000 troops in the region by willfully ignoring nuclear and ballistic missile transfers between North Korea and Pakistan in an effort to secure the latter's cooperation in the war on terrorism.

These transgressions occurred as recently as last July when American intelligence agencies tracked a Pakistani cargo aircraft as it landed on a North Korean airfield and took on a secret payload—ballistic missile parts, the chief export of North Korea's military, the *'New York Times'* reported in its Sunday editions. The newspaper said the missile imports were aimed at building a nuclear arsenal that would bring every strategic site in India within Pak-

istan's range. Astonishingly, the Pakistanis used US-built C-130, given to it by Washington ostensibly to fight terrorism, for the operation.

The shipment was brazen enough, in full view of American spy satellites. David Sanger, who reported the story from South Korea, wrote intelligence officials had remarked that even the mode of transport seemed a subtle slap on Washington.

In the past, when questioned by this correspondent about the supply of the C-130s, US officials had maintained that they were non-lethal items that Pakistan needed for anti-terrorism operations. They said India needed only be concerned only if the US resumed the sale of F-16s, which wasn't going to happen.

The C-130s, the newspaper said, were part of the military force that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf had told President Bush would be devoted to hunting down Al Qaida terrorists, one reason

the US administration was hailing its new cooperation with a country that only a year before it had labelled a rogue state. But several times since that new alliance was cemented, American intelligence agencies watched silently as Pakistan's air fleet conducted a deadly barter with North Korea, the paper reported. In transactions that intelligence agencies are still unravelling, North Korea provided General Musharraf with the missile parts he needed to build a nuclear arsenal capable of reaching every strategic site in India.

The revelations angered Indian officials, who, when contacted here in Washington and in New Delhi, said it was up to the US to determine the efficacy of its policies. "We have raised the issue before and have been stonewalled. They don't want to shift the focus from Iraq," an Indian diplomat said.

Some experts even said China was involved in this proliferation.

Pak signs MoU for  
pipeline project

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 13. Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian energy firm, Gazprom, for the construction of a \$3.5 billion trans-Pakistan gas pipeline from Iran to India and to enhance oil and gas cooperation.

The English daily, *Dawn*, said that under the MoU, Pakistan had allowed Gazprom to carry out a pre-feasibility study, without surveying and mapping, of the proposed gas pipeline through Pakistan's naval territory.

The multi-billion Iran-India gas pipeline has been hanging fire for several years. The military regime headed by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, is keen on the project as it sees enormous economic gains but India has serious reservations about the project.

New Delhi is not enthusiastic about the pipeline via the Pakistan land route. Technical committees have been set up by India and Iran to consider the prospects of the pipeline via the sea route.

The paper claimed that the MoU was the first of a series

Gazprom had scheduled to sign with three parties — Pakistan, Iran and India— in the coming two months.

A report in the paper has said that Gazprom would sign a similar agreement with India when the

Russian President, Vladimir Putin, visits New Delhi next month and then with Iran in January next year.

The paper said that Gen. Musharraf had authorised his Petroleum Ministry to sign the MoU, provided Gazprom did not insist on surveying and mapping Pakistan's territory.

A six-member Russian delegation arrived here on Monday morning in a special plane and left for Moscow in the afternoon after signing of the MoU.

Gazprom and Pakistan have agreed under the MoU to increase cooperation in the oil and gas sector, including conversion of diesel vehicles to compressed natural gas and the privatisation process. The MoU would allow the Russian giant to launch a pre-feasibility study on the construction of the pipeline, including routes and economics, and negotiate with international financial institutions for financial support.

14 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

# Hawks' offer to Musharraf

IDREES BAKHTIAR

Islamabad, Nov. 11: The Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed said Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf can be ratified as a civilian President if he vacates his military offices.

"To end the deadlock it is imperative that the National Assembly be convened at the earliest and Gen. Pervez Musharraf should come out of the Legal Framework Order circle to make this possible

"If he vacates his military offices, a way can be found to validate him as civilian President under the aegis of the constitution," Ahmed said here today after a meeting with Musharraf.

He said the present stalemate is not a product of politicians. The political crisis can be resolved only if the National Assembly is convened at the earliest, he added. "It is in the best interests of the nation, armed forces and Musharraf himself" he added.

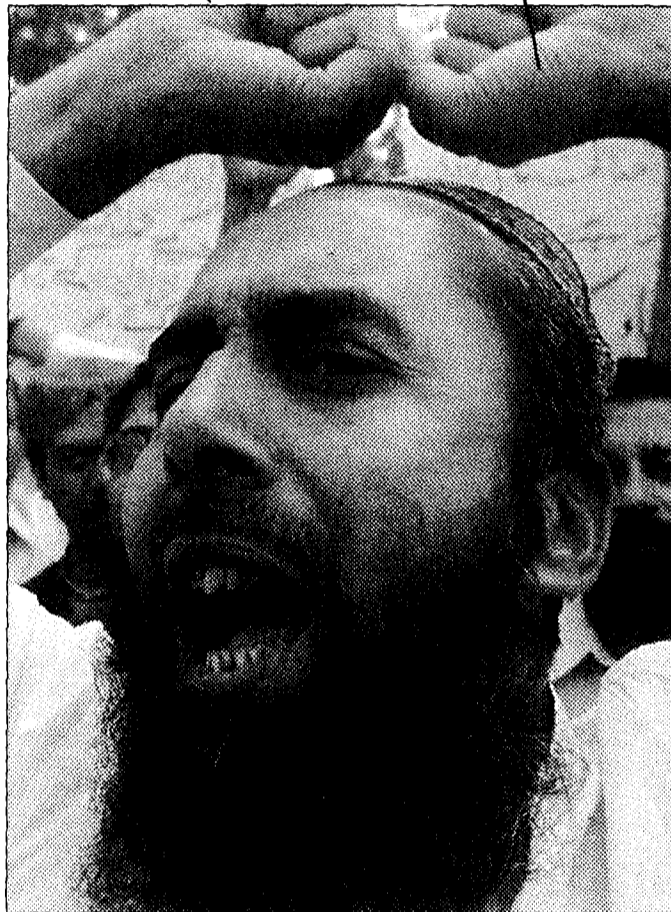
Earlier, Ahmed said he had held talks with the Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan as part of negotiations to chalk out a way for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan.

Imran Khan said there was complete unanimity among them on all issues including the restoration of the constitution.

Khan said it was necessary that the sovereignty of the country be restored and US military bases abolished. He said the arrest of Dr Amir Aziz by the FBI was not acceptable. Khan said he has assured Qazi of his complete cooperation.

## Benazir respect

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said it was very difficult to work with a military dictator who has trampled the constitution. "The law is supreme and



A protester chants anti-US slogans during a rally in Karachi on Monday. (Reuters)

Musharraf should also respect that law," she said in an interview with the BBC. Asked if she would instruct her party to join hands with Musharraf, she said her party's relationship with the general would depend on the mutual respect of the system that had been put into place.

Pakistan said an international security force in Afghanistan closed its supply base in Karachi on Friday, a few days ahead of schedule. A spokesman of Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority said the International Security

Assistance Force, which used Karachi airport and other facilities on commercial terms for almost 10 months, had vacated the airport building.

"They have closed their operations from here and handed over all our facilities, including the hotel, to us," the spokesman said.

The base at Karachi airport was used by Britain and several other members of the international force helping Afghan security forces maintain order in the capital, Kabul.

## Protests over execution in Virginia

Multan, Nov. 11 (Reuters): More than 200 people protested in Pakistan today against the scheduled execution later this week of a Pakistani convicted of murdering two CIA staff in the United States.

Chanting anti-US slogans, the protesters in the central city of Multan denounced the planned execution of Mir Aimal Kansi on Thursday in Virginia as "inhuman" and warned of an angry reaction in Muslim countries.

"There will be an extremely horrible reaction in the Islamic world if Aimal Kansi is executed and it will be strongly resisted," said a statement issued after the protest led by religious and political groups.

The state department warned last week that Kansi's execution could trigger retaliatory attacks on US or other foreign interests overseas.

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war on terrorism and has given permission for the US military to use three remote air bases for logistics for military operations in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Kansi is from Baluchistan province, which borders Afghanistan and is a stronghold of hardline Islamic groups that made big gains in national elections last month by exploiting anger at Washington over its Afghan campaign.

The chief of police in the southwestern province said he had ordered special security for US citizens living in the provincial capital Quetta.

1 2 NOV 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

# Benazir and Sharif tie up with zealots

Islamabad, November 3

ANTI-MILITARY parties have agreed to go into a coalition with right-wing Muslims to form Pakistan's first civilian government in three years.

Nawabzada Nasrullah, the head of the anti-military Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD), which includes the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League faction Nawaz Sharif, said on Sunday his group would back Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman as Prime Minister.

"We have reached an agreement with the MMA to form the government," said Nasrullah. "We have reached an agreement with the MMA to form the government," he added. "We are in full agreement, including the ARD's support for Fazlur Rehman's election as Prime Minister. A formal announcement will be made any time soon."

PPPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar said Nasrullah had been authorised to negotiate a coalition. "If the Nawabzada says the ARD has reached an agreement with the MMA, that is the way it is," he said. "Nasrullah was asked to mediate with all the parties involved so that some consensus could be reached."

Tehmina Daultana, vice-president of Sharif's party, said the former Prime Minister approved Rehman's bid for the premiership. "All the members of the ARD and indeed the MMA are united on one simple platform: we are all democratic forces and we would all like to see democracy restored," she said.

Rehman said on Saturday the MMA would be in a position to form a coalition with a simple

majority with the main ARD parties and some independents. "We are very positive," he said. "According to our latest count, we already have 174 seats," he said.

However, another senior MMA official, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, sowed confusion by holding talks with the pro-military Pakistan Muslim League Quaid-e-Azam (PML-QA) on Saturday, and saying afterwards the two parties were seeking "middle ground".

PML-QA power broker Chaudry Shujaat Hussain appeared in a sombre mood after the meeting, but said: "We shall be able to come to a consensus soon." PML-QA today said they had the support of 180 members needed for a simple majority in the House.

The PML-QA won the most seats in the election on October 10, but its 103 fell well short of the 172 needed for a majority.

## MQM leader to return

Meanwhile, Altaf Hussain, leader of Pakistan's Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) today announced he would return from self exile even as his party geared up to support PML-QA to form a coalition government.

Hussain, who lived in self-exile in London, said in a statement in Karachi today that he would return home shortly.

He said: "I would return to the country at any cost because I don't want to put burden on my consciousness".

Hussain's announcement has raised speculation here that the party might have cut a deal with the PML-QA and the military regime to permit its leader's comeback in return for its support to form the government.

Agencies



# Commonwealth thwarts Pak re-entry

DOMINIC EVANS

London, Nov. 1 (Reuters): Commonwealth foreign ministers upheld Pakistan's suspension from their organisation today, saying last month's elections had not completed the transfer of power from military to civilian rule.

Speaking after a meeting in London, they said it was too soon to judge how much control President Pervez Musharraf, whose 1999 bloodless coup triggered Pakistan's suspension from the group of mainly ex-British

colonies, would hand over to Parliament. "The benchmark for Pakistan is the restoration of democracy," Botswana's foreign minister Mompoti Merafhe, chairman of the eight-strong Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), said.

"No government is in place. We don't know how many of the executive powers held by the President are going to be transferred to the elected members of Parliament," he said.

Ministers agreed to maintain Pakistan's suspension from the

councils of the Commonwealth — the decision-making bodies of the 54-nation organisation — until they had a clearer picture of "the role and functioning of democratic institutions".

The decision followed a report from Commonwealth observers which gave only qualified approval to the October 10 polls, declaring events on the election day "credible" but the overall process unfair.

"We're not calling for new elections. We're saying it could have been better," Common-

wealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon said. "In the meantime, let's see a government formed".

Australia's foreign minister Alexander Downer, voicing Western hopes that Pakistan would be offered some encouragement at today's meeting, had said he expected ministers to recognise the "big step" it had taken down the path towards democracy, even if it was too early to consider its re-admission. But the CMAG statement offered little comfort for Islamabad.

Diplomats said any suggestion of easing the pressure on Pakistan won short shrift from arch-foe neighbour India and African ministers, who argued that it would smack of double standards while Zimbabwe was kept out in the cold.

## Candidate for PM post

The pro-military party, Pakistan Muslim League Quaid-e-Azam (PML-QA), that won most seats in Pakistan's October general election announced its candidate for the Prime Minister's

post today as rival parties hag-gled over their shares of a possible coalition.

The party nominated Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, 58, a veteran politician from the southern province of Baluchistan bordering Afghanistan. The parliamentary leader of PML-QA, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, told a news conference that the party had unanimously decided on Jamali.

"Jamali will be our candidate for the Prime Ministership," Hussain said.

# 'Pak supplied nuclear equipment to N Korea'

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Oct. 18. — Pakistan was a major supplier of critical equipment for North Korea's newly-revealed clandestine nuclear weapons programme. In return, Pakistan got missiles which it could use to counter India's nuclear arsenal, US intelligence officials were today quoted as saying.

The equipment, which may include gas centrifuges used to create weapons-grade uranium, appears to have been part of a "barter deal" which began in the late 1990s. The deal included supply of missiles by North Korea to Pakistan, he officials told the New York Times.

"What you have here is a perfect meeting of interests — the North Koreans had

## Sino-US meeting

BEIJING, Oct. 18. — Launching a diplomatic scramble after North Korea admitted to having a secret nuclear weapons programme, two high-level US officials today met Chinese officials to discuss the situation in the insular communist nation, the US Embassy said.

Undersecretary of state Mr John Bolton and assistant secretary of state for East Asian Affairs Mr James Kelly left a Beijing hotel today for what US officials said was a full slate of meetings. "A number of issues are on the agenda, including North Korea," a US embassy spokeswoman said. Mr Kelly headed a US delegation to Pyongyang from October 31. The delegation had confronted North Korean officials with information that they were developing nuclear weapons in violation of a 1994 agreement. The North Koreans initially denied the allegation, but later admitted to having a nuclear weapons programme, US officials said. — AFP

what the Pakistanis needed, and the Pakistanis had a way for Kim Jong Il to restart a nuclear programme we had stopped," said an official.

The paper quoted a Pakistan Embassy spokesman Mr Asad Hayatuddin as saying that it was "absolutely incorrect" to accuse Pakistan of providing nuclear

weapons technology to North Korea.

"We have never had an accident or leak or any export of fissile material or nuclear technology or knowledge," he said.

The White House yesterday said it would not discuss Pakistan's role or any other intelligence information, the Times reported.

The trade between Pakistan and North Korea appears to have occurred around 1997, roughly two years before Gen Pervez Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup.

However, the dealings appears to have continued even after Gen. Musharraf became president, and there is some evidence that a commercial relationship extended beyond 11 September, the daily said.

# Pak rejects EU findings on polls

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's government has flatly rejected a statement by EU observers which called the October 10 elections flawed, saying the conclusions were "unfortunate and not true".

Accusations that authorities interfered with the electoral process "is indeed unfortunate. This is just not true," a statement released on Saturday by the ministry of information said.

According to a preliminary EU report by the 88-strong observer team issued on Saturday, the interference resulted in "serious flaws" in Pakistan's first general elections since President Pervez Musharraf seized power in a coup in 1999.

"There was no such policy or plan," the government

statement said. It also rejected accusations the election commission had failed to prevent such interference.

"The commission is autonomous and is invested with statutory powers to enforce electoral laws and prevent malpractice."

The "allegation against the person of the President as having 'imposed serious restrictions on campaign activities' together with (a local official) is baseless," the government said. The government also denied that state resources had been used unfairly, and stressed that party leaders had been given their fair share of airtime on state media.

Pakistan said the reforms "were undertaken with the best of intentions." Agencies

# We won't allow U.S. troops on Pak. soil: MMA

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 12. The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), a conglomerate of six Pakistan religious parties, has fired a salvo against the Musharraf Government by asserting that it would not allow U.S. troops to use Pakistani soil.

The alliance, which made major gains in the elections, is all set to form provincial governments in the key North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan, bordering Afghanistan.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami and one of the top leaders of the MMA, told supporters who had gathered to celebrate the MMA's victory, that the alliance would work to achieve its goal of ensuring that the U.S. vacated its military bases in Pakistan.

There is no surprise in the Qazi's assertion as the alliance fought the election on the plank of "anti-Americanism". Observers here would keenly watch the words and actions of the MMA leaders to gauge how far they would go in their campaign against Pakistan's support to the U.S.-led coalition.

Traditionally, religious parties have enjoyed cordial relations with the military in Pakistan. In fact, the main grouse of the liberals in Pakistan is that the religious entities are given legitimacy by successive military and civilian Governments for their own narrow ends. On their own, they have never been a political force. Religious parties and groups in Pakistan got into a confrontation with the military establishment for the first time after the September 11 terror strikes in the United States.

As Gen. Musharraf began taking measures to curb fundamentalist and sectarian elements, the gulf between the military and the religious groups widened. It is in this context that observers believe the MMA leaders may become "pragmatic" and be amenable to counsel from the military

establishment. The rhetoric of the MMA leaders is evaluated against this backdrop.

The Qazi told his supporters: "we will not confront the West but will follow the policy of reconciliation". He went on to say that the MMA would not allow the Western powers take root in the Islamic State. "It is indeed a welcoming sign, a political revolution and the people have revolted against the U.S.," the Qazi said about the victory of the MMA. He urged the workers not to be proud on victory and bow before Allah for this glorious triumph. There were no differences among religious parties, but infidel forces created these to weaken the Islamic brotherhood.

Talking to journalists, he said the MMA would work together with all political parties in Parliament. "Today, I declare that we would not indulge in greed for ministership or fight for chair. Our foremost priority would be to first steer the country out of crises, to establish a justice-based system and to end despondency from society".

He said that to establish a government in the NWFP and Baluchistan the party command would consult each other. He vowed to implement the 1973 Constitution in its Islamic and original form and bring in a Islamic revolution. He termed the MMA's success a victory of the Ummah at large. Its topmost priority would be to relieve the country of American hegemony, overhaul the Government and administrative machinery and "purification" of the institutions. He vowed to act as a coordinator between the West and the MMA to remove the wrong impressions about Islam.

He said prayers five times a day and "Tahajjud" shall be made compulsory for all from a Governor to peon and TV and Radio would have to gradually change from the Western-style to Islamic norms of life.

**EU sees flaws in polls: Page 8**

# Benazir denies pro-India tilt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 5. — Denying that she pursued a pro-India policy, former Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto said that she had supported peace and dialogue with all neighbours, including India, and accused the military regime of "leaving behind" hundreds of young soldiers during the Kargil war.

Under the Musharraf government, Pakistan faces border tensions with India and Afghanistan, whereas peace prevailed with all neighbours during my tenure as Prime Minister, she said in an interview to *The News*.

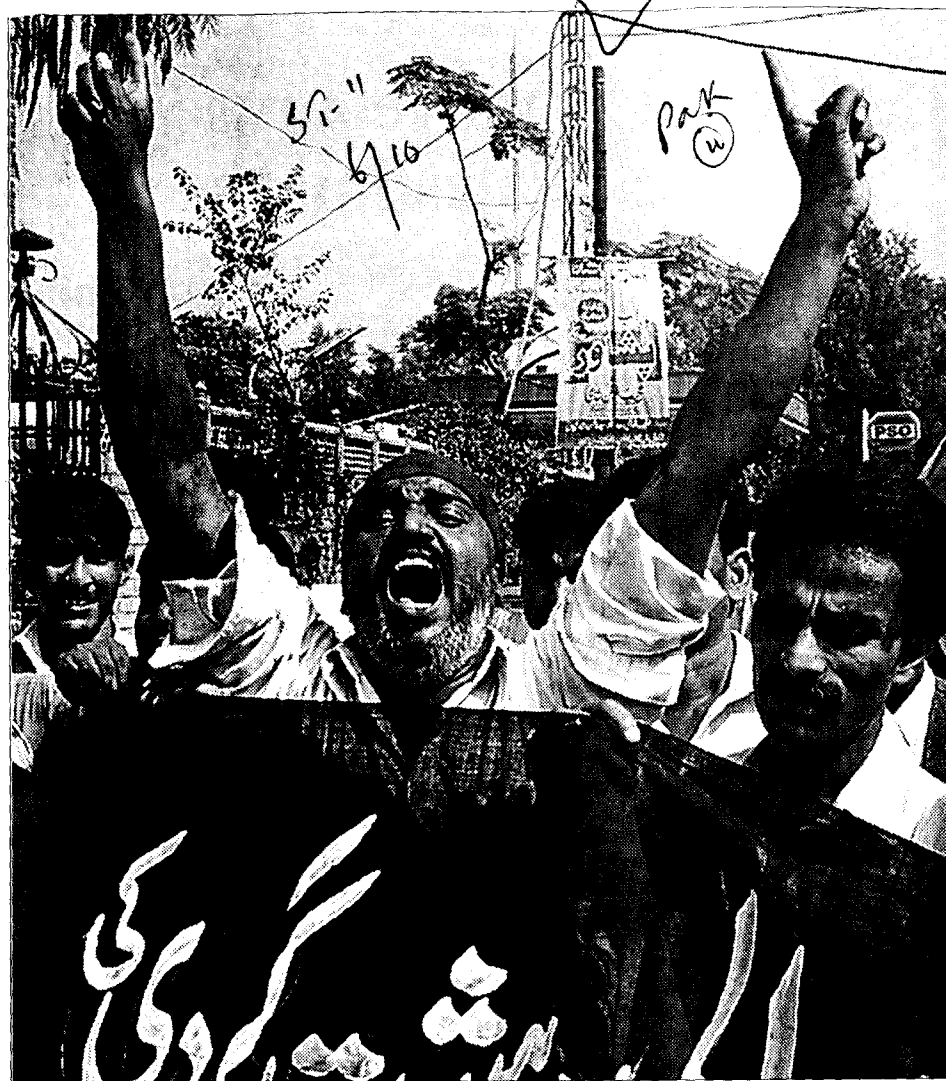
Mrs Bhutto alleged that the Pakistan army's decision-makers left behind hundreds of young soldiers during the Kargil operations, adding that she believed the Bush administration stood for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. She expressed concern over the complex situation faced by Pakistan due to mounting threats of internal terrorism and said all indications were that the government would "rig" the upcoming polls for which she had been debarred from contesting. Denying that she sought any meeting with the US officials during, she said she only reminded the American leadership that peace in South Asian region was possible if it was free from "undemocratic" rulers.

"Our country shrunk, lost and faced the worst kind of instability during the military rules of Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan and Zia-ul-Haq. Musharraf is leading the country into similar and much more serious instability."

**Saarc to monitor polls:** A 38-member Saarc monitoring team has been deputed to observe the 10 October polls in Pakistan, though it was not clear whether there was any Indian representative in the list, PTI adds from Islamabad. The Colombo-based International Centre for Ethnic Studies has picked up the Saarc team, official media reports said here. The ICES coordinated similar missions in Pakistan in 1988, 1990, 1993 and 1997.



Mrs Benazir Bhutto



A Pakistani protester at a rally against violence on Christians. In Peshawar on Saturday. — AFP

## Hardliners step up anti-US campaign

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

LAHORE, Oct. 5. — Islamic party leaders have stepped up their campaign against US presence in Pakistan, labelling next Thursday's general elections a watershed event for anti and pro-US forces.

Thousands of supporters gathered at Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore last evening to hear a succession of Islamic leaders drum up anti-American sentiment, as they vowed to kick out US troops using Pakistani bases for the war in Afghanistan.

Jamaat-i-Islami leader Qazi Hussain Ahmad accused the US Federal Bureau of Investigation of threatening Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia "after setting up FBI centers in Pakistan." About a dozen FBI agents have been operating along the Afghan border area and in some cities in a

bid to track down Taliban and al-Qaida remnants, assisting Pakistani forces. The white-bearded cleric told the 8,000 to 10,000 'faithful' it was "intolerable" that the USA was "interfering in our mosques and seminaries." Qazi Ahmad heads one of six Islamic parties which have formed an alliance called Muttahida Majlils-e-Amal (MMA), combining their forces in the hope of boosting their support over the last vote five years ago.

Railing against the US, MMA's overall leader Shah Ahmed Noorani said it was a question of solidarity for all Pakistanis to oppose the US forces.

Shiite politician Mr Sajid Naqvi, leader of the Millat-e-Jafria Pakistan, criticised the military government of Gen. Pervez Musharraf and held it responsible for the current problems facing the country.

# 'Pak PM to get more powers'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 5. — Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said today he would not be "running" the government after general elections on 10 October and promised to hand over "full" responsibility to the elected Prime Minister.

After a Cabinet meeting here, he said: "After the elections, the Prime Minister will be fully in charge and empowered to govern the country," as quoted by the APP news agency.

He said as the President of Pakistan, he would discharge his constitutional duties to ensure continuity of good governance through constitutional measures.

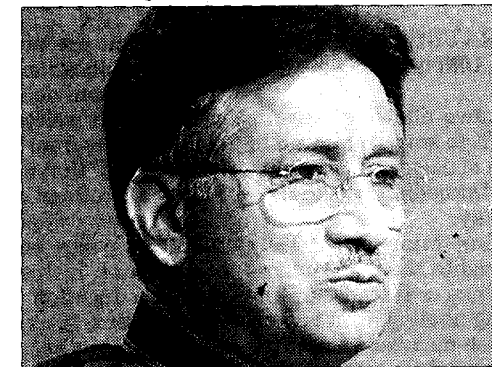
Ever since he brought in the new constitutional amendments granting him powers to dismiss the Parliament, Gen. Musharraf has said he would hand over powers to run day-to-day administration to the Prime Minister and keep a strict vigil on the functioning of the elected government.

In his address to the Cabinet today he said it would be his endeavour to bring political harmony in the country.

"I am confident that as a result of forthcoming elections, a new political culture of tolerance, accommodation and responsibility will emerge replacing the culture of complete political polarisation and conflict as we witnessed in the past decade," he said.

"I believe that Politicians have also realised that political polarisation and hatred will no longer be acceptable to people of Pakistan."

**Joint US-Pak military exercises:** For the first time in five years, the armies of USA and Pakistan would hold fortnight-long military exercises from 15 October, PTI adds from Islamabad. The exercises are "significant" and point to the resumption of joint training between the two countries, officials said, adding the exercises, to be held in the Jhelum and Kharian regions in Punjab province, would involve around 150 to 200 personnel from each side.



General Pervez Musharraf

## PoK PM, President engaged in a tug-of-war

By B. Murallidhar Reddy

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29/9

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 23. The Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Prime Minister, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, and the President, Muhammiad Anwar Khan, are engaged in a tug-of-war over their 'powers' amid a proposal mooted by the Pakistan Government for abolishing the post of either the Prime Minister or the President.

Sardar Hayat Khan has categorically rejected the proposal and dubbed it 'unconstitutional'. The PoK President was a serving General in the Pakistan Army and was elected just two days after he took voluntary retirement from service. The manner in which the ruling party in PoK elected Gen. (retd.) Anwar Khan gave room to suspicions that the Pakistan Army wanted one of its officers at the helm of affairs in PoK.

Local media said Sardar Hayat Khan on Sunday chose to do some plain-speaking with

Anwar Khan. Sardar Hayat Khan told newsmen in the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Muzaffarabad, PoK capital, that under the Constitution, it was not right for the President to expect the same powers as Prime Minister. He said if the Federal Government sought amendments in the powers then it should forward the proposed constitutional package to the PoK Assembly.

He said that Anwar Khan was interfering in the official matters of the elected Government and this affected the performance. "How I can remain silent over the disturbance of the right of the people when someone interferes in the official matters. This will be injustice."

He said the "federal Government has asked me to share powers with the President which is impossible for me, because we have achieved this goal by struggling for a long time".

# EU terms Pak Opp ban illegal

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 29. — European Union election observers have termed the Pakistan government's decision to bar top Opposition leaders from contesting next month's polls as "illegal" and criticised the constitutional amendments by President Pervez Musharraf as "extra-constitutional" incorporation of provisions.

"The disqualification of Mr Nawaz Sharif and the new PML-N leader, Mr Shahbaz Sharif, seems to have no legal basis at all, either in the domestic legislation nor in the internationally accepted practice," the EU poll observers' mission said in its interim report.

Referring to disqualification of Mrs Benazir Bhutto from contesting the polls on the grounds that she has been convicted by a court for not appearing before it to

answer charges of corruption against her, the EU report said it was "widely seen as a person-specific provision targeting the former prime minister".

Rejection of Mrs Bhutto's nomination papers has turned Karachi into a "hot political potato" due to "her popularity", excerpts of the report published by the Pakistani newspaper, *Daily Times*, said today.

The "discontent towards the government due to the disqualification of Mrs Bhutto has seen recent clashes, some turning violent... The potential that this can escalate at anytime into larger civil unrest cannot be ruled out," the report said.

The EU report expressed concern over the constitutional amendments brought in by Gen. Musharraf ahead of the polls empowering himself with more powers and described them as "extra-constitutional".

THE STATESMAN

## Pak bar on oppn leaders illegal: EU poll observers

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# PoK PM, President engaged in a tug-of-war

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THE HINDU

# Pakistan's Afghan policy comeback

19-10  
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By M.K. Bhadrakumar

THE FORMER Pakistan Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, has brought to the public discourse the crystallisation of Islamabad's policy towards Afghanistan in the period since the collapse of the Taliban regime. In an interview with Radio Australia, she spoke about the new Pakistani thrust towards Kabul.

As a perceived politically motivated figure on the Pakistani scene at this juncture, it might be tempting to look away from Ms. Bhutto's allegations about the subterfuges of Pervez Musharraf's Afghan policy, but she is essentially lending credence to hints expressing much the same from several quarters which have stakes in the stabilisation of the Afghan Transitional Government under Hamid Karzai. These include not only Afghan sources but also Iran which is watching with growing concern that in their obsessive zeal to sideline Teheran's influence within Afghanistan, the Americans are giving a wide berth to the systematic Pakistani intelligence operations aimed at weakening Mr. Karzai's Government.

The Afghan Reconstruction Minister, Amin Farhang, last week broke the silence to publicly condemn the mounting evidence of Pakistani intelligence operations.

Ms. Bhutto has alleged that Gen. Musharraf is pursuing a twin-track approach. On one plane, the General is collaborating with the U.S.-led war against terror. This surely enables him to gain appreciation from the Americans for whom he becomes a valuable ally in the hunt for the elusive Al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders. On another plane at the same time, Ms. Bhutto alleges, Gen. Musharraf is maintaining indirect dealings with the very same forces of militancy the Americans are trying in vain to contain.

Ms. Bhutto revealed that functionaries who served in the ISI's Afghan Cell under Zia-ul-Haq, who know the Hindukush and the Pamirs like the palms of their hands, are back in business. She indirectly pointed a

finger at veterans such as the former ISI chief, Hamid Gul.

This is an important corroboration by Ms. Bhutto of the cascading rumours in the Afghan bazaar that a coalescing of the forces of Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been taking place under the supervision of elements of the Pakistani intelligence during the past two to three months in the tangled

which has links with Russia, excessive violence resulting in the wanton killing of Afghan civilians and destruction of whole hamlets, a tendency to "go it alone", insensitivity to the Afghan tribal way of life — American operations show disquieting signs of precipitating another guerilla war. Ms. Bhutto warned that the "Karzai Government is in danger and will not be allowed to consoli-

Abdullah Abdullah. Meanwhile, Pakistani 'diplomacy' has met with astonishing success in creating dissensions within the Kabul power structure. Again, all signs are that the Americans are making a u-turn in their opposition to the expansion of the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to cover the northern and western provinces as well. The Americans would have weighty reasons for doing so (the impending attack on Iraq, NATO's formal induction into Afghanistan, the imperatives of the Trans-Afghanistan gas and oil pipeline project, etc). The ISAF's expansion is a manifestly desirable step towards countering what passes for 'warlordism', but from the Pakistani angle, these are 'warlords' of the erstwhile Northern Alliance. What could be more delightful than NATO containing 'warlords' such as Mohammad Fahim, Ismail Khan, Ustad Atta or Khalili who would otherwise doggedly oppose Pashtun domination?

The ISI knows well enough from its shenanigans in the Amu Darya region in the mid-1990s that the weakening of these leaders would create space for playing the Pashtun card. Afghanistan's friends, especially in the region, should begin to worry about how much the ground has shifted in just eight months. The war in Afghanistan is spinning out of control even before the headiness of the self-proclaimed battle victory last December has dissipated. The tardiness of the reconstruction effort (despite grand visions of a Marshall Plan for Afghanistan); the steady erosion of the international consensus over the so-called war against terror; the persistent attempt to impose a settlement on a notoriously independent people; the recrudescence of mutual suspicions amongst foreign powers about each other's ultimate intentions; the rapidly deteriorating security environment — the international community ought to rethink the Afghan agenda.

(The writer is a former IFS officer who has served in Afghanistan.)

*The locus of the new phase of Pakistani intervention in Afghanistan lies in the Pashtun frustrations over the post-Taliban power structure.*

mountains of the south-eastern and eastern provinces. Mr. Hekmatyar, of course, had been the favourite of the Pakistani intelligence during the entire Afghan Jihad. Mohammad Yousaf, who once headed the Afghan Cell, narrates in his definitive book, *Silent Soldier: The Man Behind the Afghan Jihad*, that once when Mr. Hekmatyar flouted Pakistani guidance, Zia ordered the ISI to warn him that "it was Pakistan which made him an Afghan leader, and it was Pakistan which can equally destroy him". The virtue Zia found in Mr. Hekmatyar (which holds good even today) was that though ambitious, he lacked a tribal or ethnic power base, being a Ghilzai Pashtun who grew up in the Tajik north, cut off from Pashtun tribal networks in the south and southeast and, therefore, open to Pakistani manipulation.

Last week, Mr. Karzai felt compelled to name Mr. Hekmatyar for reverting to his bad old ways of stooping to conquer Kabul, this time in league with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Unfortunately, the U.S. military operations in the southeastern and eastern provinces are increasingly proving counter-productive and are planting the seeds of an anti-American (and anti-Karzai) resistance. Faulty intelligence, distrust of the Tajik-dominated Afghan security

date in Afghanistan". From Pakistan's point of view, several factors have fortuitously worked to its advantage to stage such an audacious comeback out of the debris of its Afghan policy in a matter of eight months. The regional powers engaged in Afghanistan during the past four or five years are to be equally blamed that the Pashtun trump card has been allowed to be held in Pakistani hands. The locus of the new phase of Pakistani intervention in Afghanistan lies in the Pashtun frustrations over the post-Taliban power structure. The Northern Alliance is also at fault in not showing a spirit of compromise towards the Pashtuns.

Again, like in the 1980s, Pakistan keeps the Pashtun constituency fractured. American attempts to evolve a Pashtun leadership have been thwarted, as the murder of the Vice-President, Haji Qadir, and Commander Abdul Haq testify. And, now, the assassination attempt on Mr. Karzai himself for which Afghan officials are pointing fingers at Mr. Hekmatyar.

Pakistan is playing astutely on the diplomatic front too. It stands ostensibly committed to state-to-state relations with Afghanistan. The Americans have been pressing Kabul authorities to work with Pakistan in a spirit of "forget and forgive", to quote the Afghan Foreign Minister,

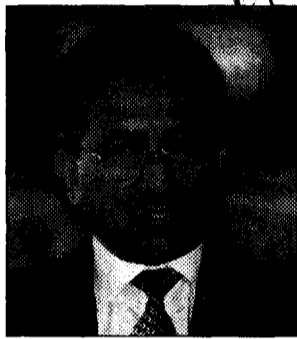
# Pervez pats himself on the back for Ramzi catch

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 15 SEPTEMBER

**F**OR Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Saturday's announcement of the arrest of Al Qaeda leader Ramzi bin Al-Shibh from a Karachi building shoot-out last Wednesday was little short of a windfall.

Issuing a congratulatory statement to the ISI, Gen Musharraf took the opportunity to pat himself on the back about Pakistan's co-operation with the US' war on terrorism, which is now almost wholly concentrated within Pakistan. For his efforts, General Musharraf now returns to Islamabad with a \$300 million US aid in his kitty.

This is also the second time that Gen Musharraf, while in the US, has had the happy opportu-



**MUSHARRAF: I, ME, MYSELF**

nity to announce big ticket arrests. On his last visit in February, it was the arrest of Omar Sheikh, prime accused in the murder of Daniel Pearl (though that was marred by Sheikh's admission that Pearl was dead and that he had been in ISI custody a week

before his arrest was announced). What was inevitably obscured in the PR exercise was that the arrest and identification of Bin Al-Shibh was almost a chance affair.

Reports from Karachi point to the fact that it were the American investigators who identified Bin Al-Shibh rather than the Karachi police. About a week ago, an Al-Jazeera correspondent had interviewed Bin al-Shibh and Khalid Shaikh Mohamed, now regarded as chief of operations of Al Qaeda, at a house in Karachi.

The identification of Bin Al-Shibh turned out to be the US investigators' work rather than their Pakistani counterparts. The interview alerted the FBI, who have now fanned out throughout Pakistan in the new phase of the US-led war on terrorism.

# Pak considers Ramzi extradition

**Karachi, Sept. 15** (Reuters): US officials led the interrogation of key al Qaeda suspect Ramzi Binalshibh today, as Pakistan pondered likely extradition requests from the US or Germany.

Pakistani officials said they were prepared to send Binalshibh and his associates abroad for trial, but said no decision had yet been reached on where they should go.

"It has been decided to hand over the arrested al Qaeda militants, but no decision has been taken as to which country they will be handed over to," an interior ministry official said.

Binalshibh, wanted in the US and Germany for his alleged role in planning the hijacked plane attacks on the US, is one of the most important al Qaeda members to be taken into custody over the past year.

Officials say he was a very prominent member of an al Qaeda cell in the German city of Hamburg and a roommate of

Mohamed Atta — the suspected ringleader of the September 11 hijackers.

US officials have said the Yemeni national, who was refused a visa into the US at least four times before September 11, 2001, wanted to join the 19 hijackers involved in the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Both American and German governments have already expressed interest in taking Binalshibh into custody.

"We certainly want custody of him," the US President's National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told Fox News. "We will work with the Pakistani officials."

"We certainly want to be able to find out what he knows," Rice added.

The German prosecutor's spokesman said her government had not yet filed an extradition request with Pakistan and was still examining the situation be-

fore deciding on the next move. But interior minister Otto Schily has made it clear they would like to try Binalshibh.

"We in Germany have issued an international arrest warrant that we want to enforce," Schily told ARD Television in Copenhagen yesterday.

"If there are competing interests, we must come to an agreement with other countries," Schily added.

But Schily said late tonight that Berlin would not pursue the extradition of Binalshibh and would bow to Washington's wishes to try him.

Schily told ARD that since Germany was not directly affected by the alleged crimes of the accused it would not seek his extradition. "The extradition attempt of the US has precedence," he said.

Schily and other European interior ministers met US attorney general John Ashcroft in Copenhagen on Saturday to dis-

cuss US concerns that the lack of extradition agreements with a number of EU states, who object to its use of the death penalty, could prevent it bringing suspects to trial.

Germany, which has played a central role in the investigation into the September 11 attacks as three of the suicide hijackers had lived in the country, has refused to release evidence against another suspect unless Washington gives assurances it will not be used to impose the death penalty.

German investigators reportedly have evidence linking September 11 suspect Zacarias Moussaoui to Mohammed Atta.

Four of the six conspiracy charges Moussaoui faces in a US court carry a possible death sentence, a punishment banned in European Union states, including Germany.

Binalshibh, a second high-level al Qaeda suspect, died 10

others are now being held in a secret, high-security location in Pakistan.

"They are being interrogated to retrieve maximum possible information about other al Qaeda suspects in Pakistan," an army source, who asked not to be identified, said.

The source said the arrested men were being kept blindfolded and handcuffed during questioning, with the two leading suspects held separately from their colleagues.

"Most of the time, it's FBI officials who are interrogating them," he added.

Yesterday, President George W. Bush had hailed the capture and vowed to hunt down other suspects still at large.

"Thanks to the efforts of our folks and people in Pakistan, we captured one of the planners and organisers of the September 11 attack that murdered thousands of people..." Bush told reporters at Camp David.

## Bus blast kills 1 in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (Pakistan), Sept. 15 (Reuters): One man died and five were injured when a small bomb went off inside a bus in southern Pakistan today.

The bus had just left the terminal in the southern city of Hyderabad bound for Karachi when the bomb exploded. A young brother and sister were among the wounded, while one of the passengers lost his left leg. "I heard the blast and then there was crying and wailing everywhere," said Masood Ali, who was on his way to Karachi. "I was hit by several pieces of flying glass."

Police immediately cordoned off the scene, tightened security at the bus terminal and said they had detained the driver, conductor and cleaner of the bus for questioning.

# Kashmir is a pillar of power in Pak: Gen

**New York:** Gen Pervez Musharraf has said he will be thrown out of power if he abandons the Kashmir issue. "No leader, no government of Pakistan can leave or abandon the issue of Kashmir. Any effort to sideline this issue will not work because the people are involved in it," he said in an address to the Asia Society here on Friday.

Elaborating further on the pitfalls for a Pakistani leader abandoning the Kashmir issue, he went on to say, "It is not possible. Nobody can do it. He'll be eliminated. He'll be out of government. He'll be defeated. His government will be defeated."

Gen Musharraf said it was also time that India dropped its opposition to outside mediation on the question. "We have been trying for all these years through a bilateral approach to move forward on Kashmir. Where has it ended?" the President asked. "If bilateralism is not producing results, certainly mediation or third-party involvement is the answer," he said.

He said the dispute was undermining peace in the region. "The issue has to be solved. I am certainly not a rigid person. We have come a long way and we need to solve this problem with a flexible approach," he said.

While the US said it had "pushed" Gen Musharraf "hard" to stop cross-border infiltration, he claimed that the issue did not figure at all in his talks with President George W. Bush.

"They believe our words and the US has not talked about the issue of infiltration during this visit as claimed by Indian national security adviser Brajesh Mishra," he told reporters in New York before leaving for Pakistan on Saturday.



**"No leader, no government of Pakistan can leave or abandon the issue of Kashmir..He'll be eliminated, his government will be defeated"**

Mr Mishra had told Indian journalists in New York on Friday that the US had given a very "hard message" to Gen Musharraf to stop infiltration and sponsoring violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that President Bush's tough talk on cross-border terrorism was conveyed by American officials to India. "In fact, I can convey to you he did speak in very strong terms to Gen Musharraf yesterday (Thursday)," he said.

On Mr Bush's meeting with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, he said the American President reiterated to the Prime Minister the "total commitment" of his country against terrorism.

Mr Bush told Mr Vajpayee that he would press Pakistan strongly on the need to stop cross-border terrorism and sponsorship of violence to disrupt the Jammu and Kashmir elections, Mr Mishra said. Agencies

# Pak. concedes E.U. team's demand

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 6.** The row between the Pakistan Government and the team of election observers from the European Union (E.U.) has been partly resolved with the decision of the Pakistan Election Commission to provide them identity cards to move around freely during the Oct. 10 election.

The advance team of the E.U., which is here for over three weeks now, has been engaged in a war of words with the Government over their status. The Pakistan Foreign Office de-

clined to entertain a request from the team for a formal memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide them security and enable them to travel freely wherever they wanted.

The E.U. has announced that it intended to send the largest ever team of observers to oversee the elections.

The chief of observer team had said that the decision was an indication of the interest shown by the E.U. in the transfer of power from the military to a civilian set-up.

At one stage, the Foreign Office took serious exception to

interviews in the media by the Chief Observer of the E.U. team, John Cushman, raising questions about their status and security.

The Foreign Office maintained that the E.U. team had come on its own and there was no question of extending it either a formal invitation or signing an MoU.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office had made it clear that it would be the same with regard to election observers from other bodies like the Commonwealth, Organisation of Islamic Conference and SAARC.

On Thursday, the Chief Election Commissioner, Irshad Hasan Khan, assured the Chief Observer of the E.U. team that the commission had taken adequate steps to hold the elections in a "free and fair" atmosphere. Mr. Cushman had called on him to discuss a host of issues related to the election.

The E.U. team is faced with a delicate situation as most of the mainstream parties have repented to it about the alleged "pre-election rigging and discriminatory approach" of the military Government towards various parties.

# Musharraf warns of dangers in Iraq raid

**London, Aug. 29:** Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has warned that any United States attack on Iraq would have "very negative repercussions" in the region and could increase support for extremists.

He said he backed the US war on terrorism but warned that attempts to topple Saddam Hussein would increase Islamic alienation and boost anti-American feeling.

Pakistan had too much to deal with around its own borders

to get involved in further military action around the world, he added.

"We have got too much on our hands here in this region to get involved in anything else, especially when one is very conscious that this will have very negative repercussions around the Islamic world," he said.

"We are on their side with the Americans side with whatever is happening around but that does not mean that we can start participating in activities all around the world."

"Let's deal with what is happening around our country."

"I think it would alienate the Islamic world more. It is already dangerous that all political disputes at the moment all around the world are unfortunately involving Muslims, and Muslims are feeling that they are on the receiving end everywhere."

"There is a feeling of alienation in the Muslim world and I think this will lead to further alienation."

General Musharraf, who has faced protests about his close co-

operation, with the US in the fight against al Qaida and the Taliban, said the "vast majority" supported him.

But he said American action against Iraq could increase support for Osama bin Laden and other extremists — although he denied it could destabilise his regime.

His comments come as ministers in Britain prepare to consider a call by the Commons foreign affairs Committee to propose a deadline for Iraq to comply with UN Security Council resolutions

on weapons inspections.

Jack Straw, foreign secretary, said: "Existing UN resolutions require immediate Iraqi compliance, including on weapons inspections. The Government will nonetheless be giving further consideration to this recommendation."

Straw, in his official response to the foreign affairs committee's report on the war against terrorism, has also emphasised the need to tackle Iraq's arsenal of chemical and biological arms.

He acknowledges that Iraq

would be a "better place" without Saddam but stopped short of advocating a policy of "regime change" in Baghdad.

A Pakistani court today delayed hearing a petition filed by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto challenging laws barring her from October polls until September 11.

Bhutto's legal team sought the adjournment as its leading lawyer, Kamal Azfar, was ill, another lawyer on the team, Farooq Naik, told reporters.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



Musharraf: Nervous times

# Pervez admits militant incursions across LoC

HTC & Agencies  
Islamabad, August 20

MAKING NO bones about the Islamic militants' incursions into Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf said yesterday in an interview, "The possibility is there...It's like the Afghan border, only much worse."

However, Musharraf said there had been no large-scale or Government-sponsored movement of Islamic rebels over the de-facto border since he pledged to halt the incursions earlier this year.

Musharraf said India had failed to match his steps towards an easing of tensions and expressed frustration at New Delhi's refusal to agree to dialogue, for which he has been calling for months.

Musharraf said he has told Armitage and US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who made two trips to the region this year to negotiate a resolution that "we have to start a process of dialogue on Kashmir and that is an important factor."

Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha said the President's admission about incursions



Musharraf talks to reporters in Rawalpindi on Monday.

has only buttressed Delhi's position that cross-border terrorism is continuing.

Indian officials said Musharraf's statement was a con-

firmation of "worst fears" and amounted to admitting that infiltration was going on "with the knowledge of the Pakistani authorities".k



# Musharraf in Dhaka

Did he achieve his hidden agenda? 5/19

There is no doubt that the real purpose of General Pervez Musharraf's three-day Dhaka sojourn was much more than signing the economic and cultural agreements with the host government. That Islamabad would provide duty and quota free access to Bangladeshi tea and jute goods had been decided earlier. Asked whether he would apologise for the genocide committed by the Pakistani Army, he commented "I have said more than I should have". That he would not concede Dhaka's demand of \$4 billion as part of a settlement of division of assets and liabilities between the two former wings of Pakistan was also known. Nor was there any possibility of his taking back the 2.5 lakh stranded Pakistanis, living in camps since Bangladesh's liberation. Like his predecessors, he washed his hands of the issue because of the fear that by repatriating them he ran the risk of getting caught in Pakistan's ethnic quicksand.

However, it was the covert part of Musharraf's visit which is a cause for worry. He held a breakfast meeting with his batch-mates of the Kakul Military Academy to renew personal contacts. This and his other official meetings were marked with such camaraderie that he couldn't resist saying that "my visit is like homecoming". It speaks volumes of his warm feelings for Begum Zia's BNP-Jamat-e-Islam coalition government although barely two years ago he had cancelled an appointment with Sheikh Hasina at the UN when she dared to decry military dictators. Rebuilding close fraternal ties with the military of the two countries was a priority. Senior defence officials accompanying him firmed up proposals of training Bangladeshi armed forces in Pakistani establishments and supplying Pakistani military hardware. But nothing was said about the western media reports of 150 Al Qaeda and other jihadis shipped clandestinely from Karachi to Chittagong recently. ISI's involvement in smuggling arms to India's north east via Cox's Bazar and CHT is an established fact. India's worry is whether Begum Zia will become a willing accomplice in Pakistani machinations.

Musharraf's visits to Dhaka, Colombo and Beijing are a measured diplomatic initiative

# Calling on neighbours

By J.N. DIXIT

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF visited Bangladesh and Sri Lanka with a brief stop-over in China in the last week of July and the beginning of August. This is a measured diplomatic initiative by Musharraf with the objectives falling into two categories. The first category of objectives is in terms of the broad politico-strategic interests of Pakistan. The second was country specific in relation to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and China.

The political and strategic aims of the visit were determined by the immediate context of regional security and political developments from Pakistan's point of view. Musharraf has stabilised and legitimised his political position as Pakistan's head of State. He has also completed the necessary steps to hold elections in Pakistan on his terms. He is considered a major positive factor in the US-led campaign against international terrorism. He also seems to have put in place both domestic arrangements and international equations aimed at the economic survival of Pakistan. His interaction with leaders of the major powers and all regional powers in the Islamic world seems to confirm his incremental acceptability in international politics.

There is only one aberration in this apparently positive scenario for Pakistan: Musharraf's inability to bring in substantive change in Pakistan's India policies. He is already on the defensive against segments of Pakistani public opinion critical of his joining the anti-terrorist campaign, performing a complete U-turn in Pakistani policies supporting the Taliban, Al-Qaeda etc. The *bona fides* of his move towards holding general elections are under doubt, both at home and abroad. The US and the West continue to pressurise him to pull back from supporting separatist terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Since coming to power in 1999, Musharraf's interaction with the Chinese leadership has been less than satisfactory and those with other South Asian leaders minimal. The Almaty conference on Asian security, the ministerial meeting of the ARF, the Asian Security Forum in Brunei have resulted in implied criticism about his India policies and his not fulfilling the promises he made about eradicating terrorism in his speeches of January 12 and May 27, 2002.

His objectives at the macro-level, therefore, seem to be to intensify Pakistan's relations with important South Asian countries like Bangla-



FRIENDS INDEED: Pervez Musharraf with Khaleda Zia in Dhaka

desh and Sri Lanka, to touch base with the Chinese leadership and to seek Beijing's support for Pakistan's regional policies. This is to ensure that Pakistan does not get isolated on the issues of terrorism, relations with India and in regional equations. His second objective was to seek support for Pakistan's India (specifically Kashmir) policies. Third, to seek Chinese support in dealing with India as well as the uncertain political situation in Afghanistan. Fourth, to augment economic and technological relations with all these countries.

Musharraf's visit to Bangladesh was replete with important political undertones. He is the first military head of State and government from Pakistan to visit Bangladesh after Bangladesh's liberation. In contrast to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's visit to Dhaka in July 1974, Musharraf officially regretted the tragic violence in Bangladesh preceding and during the liberation war. (He, of course, did not specifically mention the Pakistani army as perpetrators of this violence.)

Bhutto had not expressed any regret and it was with reluctance that he visited the Martyrs' Memorial at Savar near Dhaka. Bhutto had demanded that his visit to the memorial should be a private one and there should be no military guard of honour. Musharraf apparently has closed this feeling of bitterness in the Bangladeshi psyche. Not that the people of Bangladesh generally did not have reservations about the commander-in-chief of the Pakistani army coming to their country.

While this may be so, there has been a new foreign policy and political dynamics in Bangladesh-Pakistan relations since the advent of military rule in Bangladesh. This

dynamics is positive and has been an incremental phenomenon, responsive to Bangladeshi threat perceptions and interests. India looms large in Bangladesh's foreign and security policies as a potential threat. Therefore, Bangladesh needs to counter-balance the potential threats it perceives with equations with countries like Pakistan.

Compulsions born of history and Bangladesh's geo-strategic location have transcended the memories of India's support to Bangladesh's freedom struggle. Dhaka, therefore, believes in cultivating close relationship with Pakistan to redress the over-arching geographical presence of India. Pakistan is equally interested in creating a subcontinental balance of power *vis-à-vis* India. These orientations of Pakistani and Bangladeshi foreign policy underlined Musharraf's visit.

The two agreements signed during his visit on cultural and technological cooperation serve two purposes. First, the cultural agreement by implication means Pakistan acknowledge the separate ethno-cultural identity of Bangladesh, while at the same time emphasise links between Bangladesh and Pakistan as Islamic countries — a measure that would counter the influence of 'Hindu India'. The agreement on technological cooperation is an umbrella under which Pakistan can be of assistance to Bangladesh for defence supplies. There are defence technology capacities in Pakistan which Bangladesh cannot get from other countries unless it is willing to pay very high prices.

Both Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreements with the US for location of American forces in their respective territories. This results in an unarticulated security

arrangement also. No overt political or security agreement was signed, as this would have evoked a critical response from India which Bangladesh wants to avoid. Musharraf's visit was an important event adding substance to Pakistan-Bangladesh relations.

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations, particularly economic and security ties, have been close and substantive since 1977 — barring a gap of three years between 1987 and 1989. Bilateral trade is substantive. Pakistan has been a reliable and steady supplier of defence equipment to Sri Lanka over the years. Sri Lankan military and paramilitary personnel have been and are trained in Pakistan.

The Sinhalese also consider Pakistan as a more reliable friend against Tamil separatism because of India's social, ethnic and linguistic linkages with Sri Lankan Tamils. Sri Lanka is aware that no durable solution to ethnic conflict can be achieved without the support of India. But at the same time, Colombo legitimately feels the need for other subcontinental actors supporting them against excessive Tamil demands. Musharraf's visit has been fully responsive both to specific needs and the general orientations of Sri Lanka's security and foreign policies. He stressed the need of smaller countries of South Asia having a close relationship with each other to counter the asymmetric influence that India can generate.

As far as China is concerned, the visit was too brief. The most important signal Musharraf gave by stopping over in China was to stress that Pakistan considers China as its most reliable friend not only in terms of bilateral political, economic and defence cooperation, but also in terms of structuring a regional security environment in Central and South Asia. There are also reports of Musharraf having requested the Chinese to facilitate Pakistan's membership of the ASEAN Security Forum, ARF. There was also a message that Musharraf's closeness to the US would not be at the cost of any dilution of Pakistan's relations with China.

Musharraf's visits to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and China are a timely and measured diplomatic initiative. It is obvious that India should monitor Pakistan's relations particularly with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the coming months, to see that these equations do not militate against interests in these countries and relations with China.

# Gen to end tour with Beijing visit

JOHN RUWITCH  
BEIJING, AUGUST 1

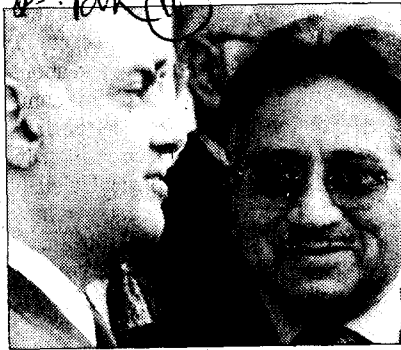
98-7 MS

IT IS billed as a "stopover" enroute to Islamabad from Colombo, but Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's brief visit to Beijing on Friday will be much more than a refuelling layover, analysts say.

Musharraf is due in Beijing on Friday for his third visit to China since December, and is set to depart 10 hours later. He would meet Chinese President Jiang Zemin and was likely to seek a reaffirmation of support from the Chinese leader at a time of high tension with arch-rival India, analysts said.

In return, long-time ally Beijing may seek reassurances of his government's loyalty despite leaning closer to the US and the West in the war on terror after the September 11 attacks. "China was not too happy with the way Pakistan dived into the war against terrorism. It's not that they disagreed with it, but that they were not fully consulted," said Samina Yasmeen, an expert on international politics at the University of Western Australia.

He will come to Beijing with key votes of confidence from abroad in his pocket. He will have just wrapped up visits to



**Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf with Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo on Thursday. Reuters photo**

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka that were officially concerned with trade, but he was expected to rally support for his position.

Professor Yan Xuetong, director of the Institute of International Affairs at Tsinghua University here, said Musharraf would want to solidify those gains. "Pakistan hopes China will increase its support and could be hoping China's military aid will increase, too," Yan said.

"I think this trip is to update China on his bilateral talks, Pakistan's latest policies and, with Pakistan's imminent election,

## Benazir to face law on return: Gen

■ COLOMBO: President Pervez Musharraf on Thursday said former PM Benazir Bhutto will face legal processes if she returns, ending her self-imposed exile. "She was twice PM, but failed both times. She went out of Pakistan on her own and there were cases against her here. She has been sentenced twice, she has to face legal processes," he said. His comments came amidst speculation that Bhutto is heading for a dramatic showdown by flying back along with prominent US and European Union politicians and a battery of lawyers. —Agencies

he's probably looking for China's support domestically," said Sun Shihai, a South Asia specialist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. His stopover in Beijing will take him thousands of kilometres out of his way, but it will send a signal to sceptics at home and abroad that Pakistan is as close as ever to China. Musharraf's close relationship with China is reflected in the fact that he arrives when China's senior leaders are preoccupied with domestic affairs and a pending leadership transition, one political analyst said. —Reuters

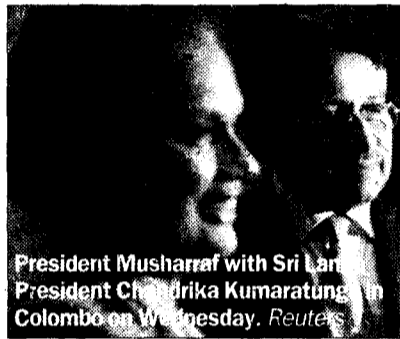
# Musharraf arrives in Colombo for talks

PERK 95/16  
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, JULY 31

PAKISTANI President Pervez Musharraf arrived in Colombo by a special aircraft from Dhaka to a warm welcome this evening for an overnight official visit aimed at bolstering bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, including trade relations and military cooperation.

President Musharraf, accompanied by his wife, Sehba Musharraf, was received at the airport by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and his senior Cabinet colleagues.

Musharraf inspected a guard of honour



President Musharraf with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga in Colombo on Wednesday. Reuters

by the Army after a 21-gun salute.

Wickremesinghe will pay a courtesy call on the visiting President later this evening, while President Chandrika Kumaratunga

will host a state banquet after they hold discussions at the President's house here.

Official talks, followed by signing of a framework agreement towards a free trade pact between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, are due to be held tomorrow at 'temple trees', the Prime Minister's official residence here. He is scheduled to leave Colombo tomorrow afternoon.

Musharraf leads a 17-member delegation that includes Commerce Minister Abdul Razzak Dawood, Information Minister Nisar A Memon, Environment and Local Development Minister Shahida Jamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Inam-ul-Haqie.

# Pervez regret sparks new controversy

FROM ASHIS CHAKRABARTI

**Dhaka, July 30:** Instead of healing the wounds of the past, Pervez Musharraf's "regret" for the Pakistani army's "excesses" during Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971 has stirred a fresh controversy here.

The Pakistani President wanted Bangladesh to forget and "bury the past"; but the controversy has only revived bitter memories. As most parts of the country today observed a strike to protest police attacks on girl students of Dhaka University last week, many saw Musharraf's statement as an "insult" to the memories of the victims of the Pakistani army's brutalities and a ploy to sidestep the demand for an official apology.

The government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia seemed unsure about how to react to Musharraf's "regret", realising that it fell far short of meeting the old demand for an official apology from Pakistan.

In fact, he did not go far beyond what former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said about 1971 during a visit here in 1998.

"We neither said we wanted an apology nor said we don't want an apology," foreign minister M. Morshed Khan argued today. The government would rather leave it to the "wisdom" of the Pakistani leaders and people to decide if they considered it necessary to formally apologise to Bangladesh.

Khan, however, did not miss the opportunity to try and put the ball back in the court of the Opposition Awami League. Knowing that Musharraf's statement has opened up old passions, he came ready to a press conference this afternoon with a copy of a 1974 agreement between India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, that provided for "clemency" to the Pakistani "war criminals". The "reconciliation" attempts with Pakistan, he sought to argue, began with

none other than Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led the liberation war. "It's a pity that not only Pakistan but also some of our own leaders want us to forget our history." How can we forget 1971 that saw the painful birth of this nation, Bangladesh's leading poet Samsur Rahman asks. He and national professor Kabir Chowdhury led a protest yesterday against Musharraf's visit, demanding that the Pakistani leader offer an "unconditional apology" to Bangladesh for the massacre of nearly three million people and the rape of over 200,000 women.

"Can we ask Ferdausi to forget the horror of Pakistani army men raping her for months", says an angry writer and civil liberties movement leader Shahrar Kabir. Ferdausi Begum, a well-known sculptor now, was also at yesterday's protest rally to represent, as she said, those "dishonoured women". After suffering her agony in silence for 29 years, Fer-

dausi Begum narrated the story of her rape and torture two years ago to chroniclers of these women victims of 1971. Kabir thinks there can be no reconciliation with Pakistan till it offers an apology and agrees to a trial of the war criminals.

Much of Bangladesh's politics still revolves around the spirit of 1971, with the Awami League claiming to uphold it and accusing the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party of trying to erase it from the nation's memory with the help of the Jamaat-Islami, Pakistan's collaborator in 1971 and now a partner in the government.

Privately, though, leaders of both parties concede that they do not really hope Pakistan to tender an official apology or allow a trial for the war crimes. But reactions to Musharraf's remark have once again proved that 1971 remains, not in the past, but in the present and possibly the future of Bangladeshi politics and society.

## Students' strike hits Bangladesh

**Dhaka, July 30 (Reuters):** A day-long strike called by Bangladesh's Opposition students to protest against alleged police brutality took hold across the country today, disrupting banks and businesses, and closing schools.

The last week has seen the worst violence at Dhaka University in three decades, leaving at least 150 students, teachers and journalists injured after police stormed a women's dormitory and arrested several residents.

The campus was tense but peaceful today with hundreds of riot police barricading entrances and paramilitary troops guarding the house of vice-chancellor Anwarullah Chowdhury.

Students have called for the resignation of the vice-chancellor who has closed the university indefinitely on fears of fresh violence. "It seems we are in a cage and the situation on the campus today is like a lull after a storm," said Sohel Mahmud, a third-year science student.

Analysts fear fresh unrest could spread political turmoil and threaten the rule of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who has been in power for less than a year.

Students play a key role in the country's volatile politics and have often fought battles on behalf of political mentors.

31 JUL 2002

# A new beginning to Pak.-Bangla ties

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 30. The unqualified regrets expressed by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to the people and the Government of Bangladesh for the excesses committed by the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh war of independence undoubtedly marks a new beginning in the troubled Pakistan-Bangladesh relations since 1971.

The reluctance of successive military and civilian regimes in Pakistan to apologise for the conduct of the Pakistani military and para-military forces in the then East Pakistan has been a sore point in the ties between Dhaka and Islamabad since the birth of Bangladesh in 1971.

Of course, the demand of the people and Governments of Bangladesh was an unqualified apology. To that extent, the regret expressed by Gen. Musharraf falls short of expectations.

And there are several other contentious issues. But the occasion and manner in which he chose to bow his head before the people of Bangladesh would help to a great extent in healing the wounds.

"Your brothers and sisters in Pakistan share the pains of the events of 1971. The excesses committed during the unfortunate period are regrettable," Gen. Musharraf wrote in the official visitors' book on Monday after laying a wreath at the National Martyrs Memorial outside Dhaka, dedicated to those killed in the war. It was the main theme of his address at the banquet hosted in his honour by the Bangladesh President, Jamiruddin Sirkar.

"We were a family torn faced by a whirlwind of unfortunate events. It takes time for truth and wisdom to reassert their sway. It takes time for peace, reconciliation and reconciliation to return. That time, I believe, has

come", he said at the banquet. It is certainly not an easy task for any Pakistani to come to terms with the dismemberment of the country, leave alone express regrets about the excesses in the course of the liberation war. The dilemma in Gen. Musharraf's case is double as he also happens to wear the hat of Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

It must be said to the credit of Gen. Musharraf that he initiated the process of "atonement" for the sins of soldiers in East Pakistan when he published the full report, barring a few lines, of the Hamoodur Rehman commission that had extensively documented the Army excesses.

The report was made public almost 25 years after it was written. Of course, partly the Musharraf Government was forced to make public the document after an Indian magazine published the main findings and recommendations in August 2000. Media, NGOs and the intelli-

gentsia in Pakistan made a strong demand for the release of the report.

The initial reaction of the Musharraf Government was that it served no purpose to dig into the past and hence it was not prepared to make public the report. However, Gen. Musharraf took every one by surprise when he announced in 2001 the willingness of his regime to release the report but after a scrutiny by a committee to delete portions that could be detrimental to the country's security. It appears that after deletion of a few lines relating to the United States and China, the Government stuck to its promise.

The voluminous report is a damning indictment of the Army at the highest level. Several senior Army officers have been named not merely for dereliction of duty but also for crimes against the civilian population, particularly women.

# Pervez says sorry for '71 atrocities

HFI-1  
Dhaka, July 29

PK-11

MORE THAN three decades after Pakistani troops carried out a genocide during the Bangladesh liberation war, General Pervez Musharraf today regretted the "excesses" and called for burying the past.

Musharraf, the first Pakistani Army ruler to visit Bangladesh since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, chose, ironically, to record his expression of regret while paying homage at a memorial, about 50 km from Dhaka, for those who laid down their lives for Bangladesh's liberation.

"Your brothers and sisters in Pakistan share the pains of the events of 1971. The excesses committed during the unfortunate period are regrettable," Musharraf wrote in the official visitors' book after laying a wreath at the national martyrs memorial at Savar.

"Let us bury the past in the spirit of magnanimity. Let not the light of the future be dimmed. Let us move forward together," Musharraf said, adding that "courage to compromise is greater than to confront".

An estimated three million people were killed and nearly 300,000 women were raped by Pakistani Army and their local henchmen, comprising mainly fundamentalist groups, during the nine-month liberation war.

The Pakistani President, according to official BSS news agency, also spoke of the sincere greetings and good wishes he carried from the people of Pakistan for "their Bangladeshi brothers and sisters".

Agencies

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5-11 22/9

## Musharraf calls for 'meaningful dialogue'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 21. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has called for a "meaningful dialogue" between India and Pakistan to defuse the current tension and resolve the Kashmir dispute in line with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

In an interview to the Saudi daily, *Al-Watan*, Gen. Musharraf claimed that the only way to resolve the dispute was to allow the people of Kashmir to exercise their "right to self-determination."

The United Nations resolutions had provided for a plebiscite to ascertain the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

"We can move towards the resolution of the dispute if India recognises that Kashmir is a dispute between Pakistan and India and it needs to be settled," Gen. Musharraf said.

The call for resumption of a dialogue had been the consistent theme of his Government, particularly after the shuttle diplomacy of senior functionaries of the Bush and Blair Governments in May/June this year.

There have been many indications from the managers of the Musharraf regime in the last five weeks that the commitment given by the Pakistan President to the interlocutors from the U.K. and the U.S. are conditional. It appears that he had told the

British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, and the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, that Islamabad could respond effectively to India's concerns only if New Delhi was willing to reciprocate with substantive measures. Islamabad had expected the "facilitators" engaged in shuttle diplomacy to persuade India to initiate the process for a phased withdrawal of troops from the border and make some beginning towards resuming the stalled dialogue.

The fact that Mr. Straw left Islamabad without meeting Gen. Musharraf on Saturday has led to speculation. One interpretation is that Gen. Musharraf did not deem it necessary to meet Mr. Straw as, in Pakistan's assessment, the facilitators from the U.S. and the U.K. had not succeeded in prevailing upon India to respond "adequately" to his commitments.

In his interview to the Saudi paper, Gen. Musharraf said a "meaningful dialogue" could lead to a breakthrough, paving the way for a peaceful and long-lasting settlement of the Kashmir issue, in accordance with the U.N. resolutions. Maintaining that the "Kashmiris are waging a legitimate struggle for the implementation of the U.N. resolutions, which provide for their right to self-determination," he said India had been trying to "crush" the struggle.



# Musharraf snubs Straw

Mubashir Zaidi  
Islamabad, July 20

IN AN apparent snub, President Pervez Musharraf denied Jack Straw a meeting today while his Government told the British Foreign Secretary there will be no more concessions to India.

*Dawn* reported that Musharraf's refusal to meet Straw was triggered by his anger at the UK Minister's "bias" against Islamabad and an "off-the-record offensive remark" he had made

about the General. The paper didn't reveal what the remark was.

But British High Commission spokesman Colin Hicks said Musharraf had not snubbed Straw. The meeting couldn't be arranged because the Foreign Secretary's parleys with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Inamul Haq had gone on for too long. "There's no problem as far as I'm aware of; the call with Haq has just gone overtime," Hicks claimed.

Some Pakistani offi-

21/7  
cials seemed to support *Dawn's* version. They said Musharraf might have snubbed Straw because he is angry at the failure of the Western diplomats to produce what he wants most — a dialogue with India.

Later, Straw stopped over in New Delhi on his journey back to London and held a second round of talks with External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha. They both asked Islamabad to do more to "permanently" stop infil-

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 JUL 2002

## Pak. war games begin today

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JULY 15. India will watch with interest the involvement of senior military officers of Pakistan's nuclear command and control organisation in the 10-day war games scheduled to begin at Rawalpindi tomorrow.

War games are confined to senior officers of the rank of Major Generals and above. They do not involve troops and are intended to test out certain doctrines. Pakistan's war games, "Sabut Kadam-II" (Conclusive Steps), which are taking place when tensions between the countries are high, "should be watched closely to understand what war doctrines are being tested by Pakistan," said Defence Ministry sources here.

According to reports here, Maj. Gen. Salahuddin, Army Commander of the Strategic Force Command which possesses Islamabad's nuclear delivery systems and, possibly, the nuclear arsenal, is among the senior officers invited for the war games. His superior, the Director-General of Strategic Plans Division, Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, will also take part in the war games that

are expected to be supervised by the Pakistan President and Chief of Army Staff, Pervez Musharraf.

The Indian military, on the other hand, does not have a separate nuclear command but is said to be in the process of setting up one. Last month, senior Defence Ministry officials had said that India was interested in setting up a nuclear command but the proposal requires to be discussed extensively.

Although officers of Pakistan's nuclear structure will take part in the games, the issue does not give rise to apprehension among Indian security planners. They would be more interested in knowing, if that can be managed, what kind of nuclear doctrines would be tried out by the Pakistan military.

Since war games of this kind take place at a theoretical level with no troop involvement, the matter was not considered significant enough to be raised at the weekly telephonic conversation between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two armies. The next conversation is scheduled to take place tomorrow, when Sabit Kadam-II begins.

# Pervez clears nuclear air

Islamabad, June 1 (Reuters): Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf tried to allay growing world fears of a nuclear war with India, saying in a television interview today no sane person could imagine such a conflict.

"I don't think either side is that irresponsible to go to that limit," Musharraf told CNN.

"I would even go to the extent of saying one shouldn't even be discussing these things, because any sane individual cannot even think of going into this unconventional war, whatever the pressures."

Musharraf also said Pakistan had moved some of its troops hunting fleeing al Qaida and Taliban militants on the Afghan border towards the Indian border and could move all of them if the military stand-off with India worsened.

"We haven't moved the entire force," Musharraf said of the thousands of Pakistani troops deployed along the western border with Afghanistan to help the US-led coalition hunt Taliban and al Qaida fugitives after the collapse of the Taliban government in Afghanistan in December.

But he added: "If the situation worsens (on the Indian border), yes we have plans to move all from the western border

(with India)." India has said it will not be the first to strike with nuclear weapons. Musharraf said he would go beyond that.

"We've called for a no-war pact (with India), that there shouldn't be any war," he said. "We've called for denuclearisation of South Asia, so we've called for a reduction of forces."

Musharraf told CNN that Pakistan "will fight militancy in any form", a key demand by India and world leaders trying to defuse the crisis. He said he had risked personal threats by ordering a crackdown against terrorism and religious extremism.

"There have been threats from all directions," he said, adding that for that reason arrangements for his personal security had been tightened. But he added that he believed in destiny and was not afraid for his life. "There has to be some movement forward," he said about the chances of resuming the broken peace talks with India.

"And the movement forward is certainly the issue of addressing, initiating the process of dialogue, and squarely addressing the dispute of Kashmir."

Musharraf said he would be willing to meet Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee at a regional summit at the Kazakh city of Almaty next week.

# Islamabad goes on diplomatic offensive

Agencies

ISLAMABAD, May 29. — General Pervez Musharraf is dispatching five special envoys to the USA, Europe and some Islamic countries to explain Pakistan's stand on tensions with India, officials said today.

The envoys, who met Mr Musharraf yesterday, will carry his message that Pakistan does not want war with India and is ready to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue, they said. The diplomatic offensive follows Mr Musharraf's nationwide broadcast on Monday in which he blamed India for the military stand-off and vowed Pakistan would not initiate war.

Former President Mr Farooq Ahmed Leghari has been asked to visit Russia and Germany. Other special emissaries include former Senate chairman Mr Wasim Sajjad, former foreign secretary Mr Najmuddin Sheikh, ex-ambassador to India Mr Ashraf Jehangir Qazi and former army chief General Jehangir Karamat.

Their destinations would be announced later. Press reports said Sheikh or Qazi was likely to visit the USA.

The USA has welcomed Pres-

## J&K terrorists not being supported now: Pak official

NEW YORK, May 29. — A senior Pakistani intelligence official has implicitly acknowledged Islamabad's support to terrorists in Kashmir but claimed that it was halted months ago.

"Ask me about the present, not about the past. I am certainly not allowing this to happen. On this, the world may rest assured," said the official in an interview published in the *New York Times* today. Though the official was not identified, the paper said he was appointed by President Pervez Musharraf in the agency shake up.

— PTI

ident Musharraf's pledge to stop Pakistani territory being used as a launchpad for terrorism, but warned against "impassioned rhetoric" that could deepen the South Asian crisis. US officials chose to react to Mr Musharraf's speech on Monday by highlighting his remarks on terrorism, rather than his defiant tone on the brewing conflict with India.

"We want to see concrete action," said US state department deputy spokesman Philip Reeker yesterday. "We're looking very closely for evidence that infiltration have stopped. We welcome these positive statements but we want to see them followed by concrete actions," he said.

US deputy secretary of state

Mr Richard Armitage will fly to the region next week.

Meanwhile, the USA indicated permitting supply of spare parts for Pakistan's existing US-origin defence equipment. It is also likely to provide helicopters capable of reaching its Afghan borders where US and Pakistani troops are conducting operations against Al Qaida and Taliban.

"The foreign military financing will facilitate continued military support for Operation Enduring Freedom by allowing the supply of spare parts for Pakistan's existing US-origin equipment as well as by providing C-130 support and helicopters to improve transport and access to border areas," an official report said.

The report detailed US support for Pakistan during the fiscal year 2003 and projected an overall \$ 305 million assistance in addition to the \$ 921 million provided during the fiscal year 2002 to fight terrorism in Afghanistan. *The News* said today. The US assistance included \$ 600 million dollar economic and budgetary support apart from \$ 220 million payments under the logistical support agreement, it said.

Another report added that worried commanders of Pakistan-based militant groups were trying to evolve a new strategy following what they saw as the Pakistan government's decision to sever ties with them in an effort to ease tension in the region, militants said today. "We have been stabbed in the back and abandoned by Pakistan in the same way in which it had disassociated itself from the Taliban," Mohammed Musa, spokesman for the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammed told a press agency over cellular phone.

**Move against media:** Pakistan government may soon finalise new defamation laws for working journalists, editors and publishers for carrying questionable reports with penalties.

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THE STATESMAN

5 0 MAY 2002

# E.U., Russia alarmed at Pak. tests

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, MAY 29.** Russia and the European Union have expressed grave concern over Pakistan's missile tests and urged Islamabad and Delhi to take urgent steps to defuse their tensions.

Pakistan's latest series of ballistic missile tests "cannot help aggravating the situation in South Asia, which is already alarming, and are at variance with the repeatedly declared readiness of the Pakistani leadership to take joint efforts with the international community towards political settlement of the crisis," Russia and the E.U., said in a joint statement issued after their one-day summit meeting in Moscow on Wednesday, the *RIA Novosti* news agency reported.

"Realising that terrorism is everyone's enemy Russia and the E.U. hope that India and Pakistan make efforts to avoid a new round of confrontation with unpredictable consequences and will act fast to do everything necessary to reduce tension as a first step to resume a productive dialogue aimed at a peaceful resolution of difference," the Russia-E.U. statement said.

The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, offered to mediate between India and Pakistan during a regional security conference in Kazakhstan next week.

The Indian and Pakistani Ambassadors to Russia on Tuesday conveyed to the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Losyukov, the willingness of their leaders, the Prime Minister, A. B. Vajpayee, and the President, Pervez Musharraf, to meet the Russian leader. Mr. Losyukov said Mr. Putin would hold separate meetings with the Indian and Pakistani leaders.

The Russian President will meet Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Musharraf also as an envoy of the new Russia-NATO Council, the Russian television said.

The Council was set up at a Russia-NATO summit in Italy, whose Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, proposed that Mr. Putin convey to the Indian and Pakistani leaders NATO's concern over the South Asia standoff and the readiness of the alliance to "take responsibility for stability in the region under certain circumstances," the television said.

THE HINDU

# Defiant Pak tests another missile

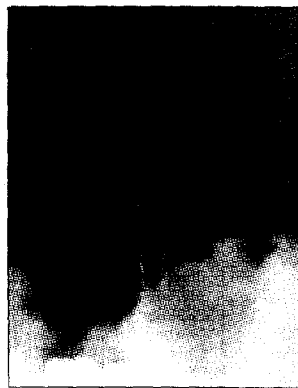
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Pak  
Islamabad\New Delhi: Pakistan test-fired the newly-developed short-range missile Hatf-III, also known as Ghaznavi, on Sunday, ignoring strong reactions from the international community.

India dismissed the test as "missile antics" targeted at Pakistan's domestic audience. "What is important is for the international community to understand the actual mindset of the Pakistani leadership," an MEA

spokesperson said.

She also termed "provocative" Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's statement warning that his forces would move into Indian territory should a war break out. "It is yet another indication of Pakistan refusing to see the writing on the wall," she said responding to questions on Gen Musharraf's interview to *The Washington Post* in which he said, "Should a war erupt between India and Pakistan, we will take the offensive into Indian territory."



The Ghaznavi missile in flight on Sunday.

In St Petersburg, U.S. President George W. Bush joined his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in expressing his "strong reservations" over the test.

Mr Bush urged India not to see the recent missile tests as a "provocation". "Obviously we hope that there is restraint in the area," he said. Mr Putin also expressed regrets over the tests.

The leaders continued to pressurise Gen Musharraf to stop cross-border terrorism in Kashmir.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

27 MAY 2002

## Pak. test-fires Ghauri missile

ISLAMABAD, MAY 25. Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable missile today.

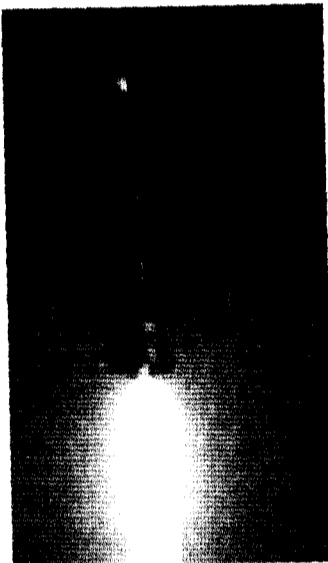
"Pakistan today carried out a successful test-fire of its indigenously developed medium range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hatf-V (Ghauri)," an official statement said.

"This was the third test of the Ghauri missile system. According to the data collected from the test, all the design parameters have been successfully validated. The Ghauri can carry warheads with great accuracy," the statement said, adding that Pakistan's last missile tests were in April 1999.

The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, "has congratulated the scientists, engineers and all others involved with the programme on their outstanding success, which is a source of pride for the nation.

"The series of tests are a part of the research and development of Pakistan's indigenous missile programme, which is an essential element of Pakistan's policy of maintaining minimum deterrence in the interest of our security.

"It demonstrates Pakistan's determination to defend itself, strengthen national security and consolidate strategic bal-



**A Pakistan Television image showing the launching of the Ghauri missile on Saturday. — AP**

ance in the region," the statement said.

The missile was fired in northern Pakistan, a security officer said. "The Hatf-V can be tipped with any warhead. Any ballistic missile can carry a nuclear warhead."

The missiles have a range of between 1,500 and 2,000 km. — AFP

## Fully prepared: Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, MAY 25. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, said he was not "impressed" by the reported two months' deadline given by India for him to crack down on militants and stop infiltration into India.

Referring to India's reaction that New Delhi was not impressed by Islamabad's test-firing of missiles, Gen. Musharraf told a conference of Islamic clerics that "we in Pakistan too were not impressed by any deadline of two weeks or two months. They talk of giving two weeks or two months time (to Pakistan). We are not impressed by such talks either."

Gen. Musharraf told the national "seerat" conference in which a number of Islamic scholars took part that Pakistan is "fully prepared if war is imposed on us and no one should entertain misunderstanding on this account".

The world community was aware of Pakistan's strength. "It is time now to consolidate our internal unity by sinking personal, political, sectarian or parochial interests".

The General also spoke about the need for overcoming religious and sectarian differences by adopting a policy of tolerance. Referring to the hardline elements, he said everyone could have opinions. But it was the responsibility of the government to take people along and respect their sentiments, while taking any decision of any national importance.

"But when the Government takes such a decision in line with the nation's ideology, it becomes incumbent upon the entire nation to support and strengthen the decision."

He also spoke of the need for forging national unity in the hour of crisis and appealed to the mainstream political parties which had boycotted the all party meeting to discuss the standoff with India. He guaranteed holding of general elections before October 12 this year.

Reports in Pakistan media, meanwhile, said the government has approved "sweeping" measures against militants.

The government had asked the Ministry of Finance, State Bank of Pakistan, Law and Justice Division and provincial Home Departments to take appropriate measures against the banned militant outfits, reports said. — PTI

THE HINDU

2 MAY 2002

We are not scared of war: Musharraf

# Pak tests *Pak (u) ST-1* Ghauri *26/5*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, May 25. — Amid heightened Indo-Pak tension, Pakistan today successfully test-fired a medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads and having a range of 1500 kms that could cover major parts of India.

"The missile was tested at 9:10 a.m. It showed 100 per cent accuracy. It hit the target," President Pervez Musharraf told a religious gathering here shortly after the launch of *Hatf-V*, known as *Ghauri*.

"We are not scared of war", Gen Musharraf said, adding he would shortly address the nation to apprise people about the border tension.

Reacting to the test, the first of a series of launch planned for the next three days, India said it was the "fruit of Pakistan's clandestinely acquired missile programme." But a Pakistani army statement said the *Ghauri* missile system was indigenously built.

Critics point out that it was a version of North Korea's *Nodong I* missile and Chinese *M-11* missiles which could go up to 1500 kms.

Gen Musharraf announcement followed reports that the government had approved "sweeping" measures against five banned militant outfits, including the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiyaba.

Gen Musharraf said he was not "impressed" by the reported two months' deadline given by India to crack down on militants and stop infiltration.

Referring to the Indian reaction that Delhi was not impressed by Pakistan test-firing missiles, he told clerics that "we in Pakistan too were not impressed by any deadline of two weeks or two months".

He said: "We do not want war but we are not scared of it...Pakistan is fully prepared if war is imposed on us and no one should entertain misunderstanding on this account".

Gen Musharraf used the gathering to make a plea for tolerance, urging clerics to "have a big heart" and shun extremism.

"We should show the world through our behaviour that we belong to a dynamic and progressive religion which, in fact, is a *Deen* — a way of life," he said.

## PM: Patience exhausted

MANALI/ NEW DELHI, May 25. — Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, here on holiday, told reporters today that "our patience is exhausted" but dismissed the test-firing of *Ghauri* as "not a serious matter for us".

He is expected to speak to Mr George W Bush, Mr Tony Blair and Mr Vladimir Putin. French President Mr Jacques Chirac phoned him and agreed that terrorist acts must stop. Mr Vajpayee also discussed the border situation with President Mr KR Narayanan over phone. — SNS

would be to approach the jihad leadership to convince them that the current international climate demands that the Indian Army be given "a breather" to fulfil its promise of a negotiated settlement.

The USA and Russia led the international community in condemning the *Ghauri* test-firing, adds a report from St Petersburg. The secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell, said the USA was "disappointed". President Vladimir Putin said "Russia regrets the tests are being conducted in the conditions of conflict". Canada and Japan said the test could aggravate tension.

**Pak shelling:** Pakistani troops continued shelling forward Indian positions and villages in Kargil, a Srinagar report adds.

THE STATESMAN

20 MAY 2002



# Pakistan faces world pressure

25/5  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK  
AND AGENCIES  
Pakistan  
G11

**Washington:** Pakistan appears to be under increasing international pressure to stop cross-border terrorism in Kashmir as the United States asked Islamabad to stop infiltration and the United Nations asked it to halt terrorist acts across the line of control.

Taking note of India's anger over the continued terrorist attacks, the U.S. has announced that deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage would visit Islamabad and New Delhi on June 4 to help release the tensions.

This comes in the wake of Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee writing to President George W. Bush earlier this week, giving him India's assessment of the situation and informing him of the compulsions of New Delhi's war preparations. Mr Vajpayee reportedly told Mr Bush that infiltration and terrorist attacks fomented by Islamabad had increased despite the U.S.' efforts to contain them. This left New Delhi with little choice but to meet the challenge amidst rising anger at home, he said.

Jolted into action, the Bush administration cranked up the heat on Gen Musharraf. This yielded a part-conciliatory statement from Islamabad forswearing terrorism while continuing its moral and political support to the cause of Kashmiri independence. But Mr Vajpayee dismissed the statement as a rehash of past promises that had not been kept.

State department deputy spokesman Philip Reeker said it was vital for all sides in the Kashmir imbroglio to exercise restraint and reduce violence. "An important component to this process is an end to infiltration into Kashmir; and, as we have done before, we call upon Pakistan to do all it can to achieve this objective."

U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell said on the sidelines of the U.S.-Russia summit in Moscow that the situation was very dangerous. "But I hope both sides realise that they are at a

## Heavy firing at Siachen Glacier

**New Delhi:** The Pakistani army on Friday opened heavy artillery fire in the Siachen Glacier and exchanged small arms fire with Indian troops in the Kargil area, a sector which has remained quiet so far. As the situation on the border continues to be serious, officials said that the spate of shelling across the Line of Control and the international border in Jammu and Kashmir was on the rise.

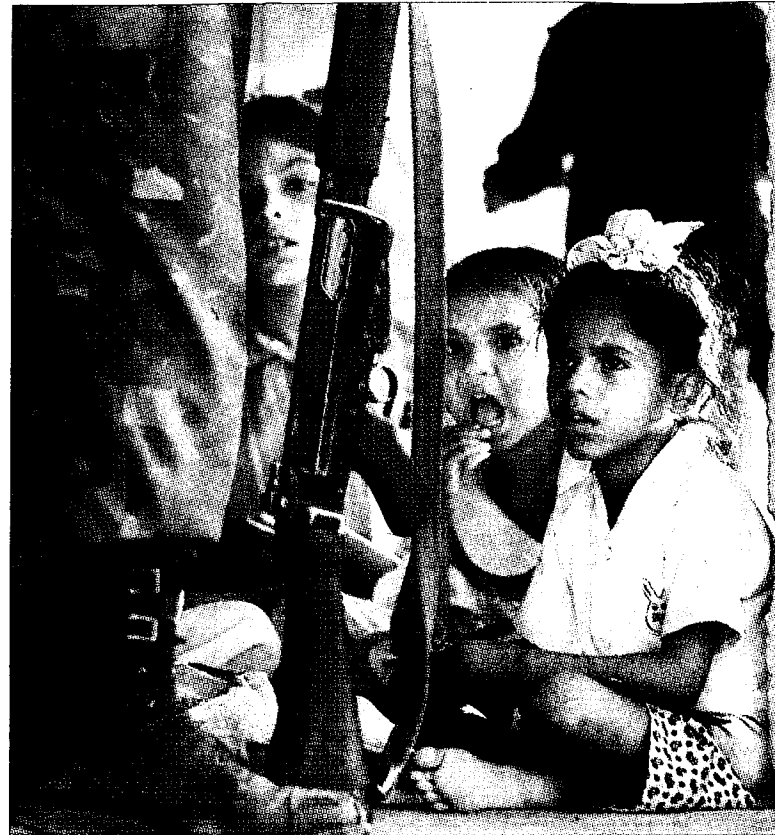
Officials said between May 17 and 24, the borders witnessed an unprecedented 42 incidents of mortar shelling.

Meanwhile on May 18, Indian troops for the first time shelled and destroyed a terrorist camp, including two bunkers and ammunition depot, in PoK. PTI

very critical point," he said. Mr Powell, who spoke to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and also Indian external affairs minister Jaswant Singh over the phone, said, "We will get them to step back."

At their summit meeting, President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to work closely to defuse the Indo-Pak stand off and Moscow is sending an envoy to Islamabad ahead of Mr Armitage's South Asia mission. Sources also did not rule out roping in China to try to convince its close ally Islamabad to crack down on terrorist network operating in J&K from Pakistani soil.

Meanwhile, the United Nations dealt a severe blow to Pakistan on Kashmir that could change the dynamics and complexion of the contentious issue. In a statement on Thursday secretary-general Kofi Annan suggested the bilateral route to resolve the differences over Kashmir.



**THE 3 R's — READING, WRITING, RIFLES:** School children inspect a soldier's gun at a primary school that has partially been converted into an army camp, 48 km from Amritsar near the Pakistan border, on Friday.

He also implicitly pointed to Pakistan as the originator of terrorism in the region by asking it to stop such acts across the line of control.

The brief two paragraph statement issued by Mr Annan's office read: "The secretary-general is increasingly concerned by the alarming rise in tension between India and Pakistan. He is in close contact with the leaders of both sides, to encourage them to resolve their differences, including over Kashmir, by peaceful means.

"The secretary-general considers it

essential that the logic and language of war be replaced by the logic and language of peace. At the same time, he wishes to reiterate his unconditional condemnation of all acts of terrorism. There can be no tolerance for such acts, especially across the line of control in Kashmir. The secretary-general accordingly urges President Musharraf to take vigorous action to ensure full implementation of the policy set out in his speech of 12 January."

● Pak hopeful of U.S. involvement, Page 11

## Islamabad decides to conduct missile tests

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** In a move to signal its ability to counter India, Islamabad has informed New Delhi that it will conduct a series of tests involving short- and medium-range missiles between May 25 and 28.

Observers say the decision, which has to be conveyed to New Delhi as per existing agreements, is also aimed at reassuring domestic audiences in Pakistan, who are nervous about the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with India. "This is routine and not central to the current situation. What is and what we would expect and judge by is the specific action taken by the Pakistan government to stop cross-border infiltration and terrorism," external affairs ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said.

Ms Rao also dismissed as completely speculative a media report that said India had decided to give Pakistan two months to roll back cross-border terrorism ahead of the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, India is continuing with its diplomatic offensive to convince the international community that Pakistan, despite repeated assurances, was yet to take any concrete action against cross-border terrorism. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has already written to U.S. President George Bush, Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair about this. External affairs minister Jaswant Singh is also expected to convey India's concerns about Pakistan's "nefarious designs" when he talks to U.S. secretary of state Collin Powell on Friday night.

The visiting European Union external affairs commissioner Chris Patten, who met Mr Singh and national security advisor Brajesh Mishra, was told "directly and candidly" that India had exercised enough patience in the face of "grave provocation" by Pakistan in fuelling terrorism, actively aiding infiltration and trying to "sabotage" preparations for the elections, Ms Rao said.

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# That war-like stench all over again

If peace has to come in, Musharraf must go, says Pakistan's former prime minister

**T**HE smell of war is in the air. Like helpless actors, India and Pakistan, are inexorably moving in the direction of a deadly conflict.

That conflict is fuelled by hate and revenge as much as it is fuelled by a conflict that already triggered three wars in half a century. Hate driven Kashmiri militants, camouflaged as Indian soldiers, mowed down women and children with guns and grenades in the blood-soaked valley of Kashmir. They wanted revenge, they took it.

They killed the wives and

scale offensive operations into Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Pakistan might retaliate with strikes of its own in the belief that its nuclear deterrent would limit the scope of an Indian counterattack."

If the militants wanted to deflect attention from the heat of allied forces taking on the al Qaeda in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, they've succeeded. The fight that began in Kabul in September last year triggered by militants flying planes into the Twin Towers has every possibility of turning into a fight for Srinagar, triggered by militants determined to provoke an Indo Pak clash.

A critical error by the international community was the conclusion that a military dictator could

defuse tension between India and Pakistan or prevent the rising tidal wave of extremism. The second error was the inability to distinguish between indigenous regional conflicts and terrorism. The Middle East flared up when Israeli premier Ariel Sharon exploited changed global perceptions to invade the Palestinian



**SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS**

**BENAZIR BHUTTO**

children of Indian army soldiers deployed on the borders. The message was clear: if the militants could target Indian army families in their homes, the Indian soldiers at the Line of Control could hardly deter them.

Chances of a war was predicted by American CIA chief George Tenet in March. Testify-

**The great white hope in the fight against terrorism is sinking in a quicksand of his own making. The General's tenure has been marked by the rise of extremism, terrorism and regional tension. He missed the opportunity at Agra to sign a confidence building treaty with India and carries the baggage of being the architect of the Kargil conflict**

ing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, he stated, "If India were to conduct large-

scale offensive operations into Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Pakistan might retaliate with strikes of its own in the belief that its nuclear deterrent would limit the scope of an Indian counterattack."



scale offensive operations into Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Pakistan might retaliate with strikes of its own in the belief that its nuclear deterrent would limit the scope of an Indian counterattack."

There is one way the prospect of war can be prevented: a change of regime. This can come about by the officer corps of the Pakistan Army — they can ask Musharraf to resign and allow a new government to initiate confidence building measures and a dialogue with a

**There is one way the prospect of war can be prevented: a change of regime. The Pak Army's officer corps can ask Musharraf to resign and allow a new government to initiate confidence building measures and a dialogue**

clean slate.

There is a precedent to this demand: in 1971, the senior officers of the Pakistan Army went to the then military dictator, General Yahya Khan who also wore the cap of Army chief, asking him to resign. Yahya did, facilitating the formation of a new government that picked up the pieces. It signed the Simla Agreement in 1972 which held peace in place until both India and Pakistan detonated nuclear devices in 1998. Since 1998, the two countries have thrice come to the brink of war.

Reports indicate that the corps commanders do speak up. They opposed the April 30 referendum. They will debate a two front war at a time when their men are stretched out both at the eastern and western borders. The view of Pakistan's important and powerful ally, America, is pivotal too. The White House was vocal in its support for General Musharraf. President Bush called him "my friend". Now it will have to choose between a

man considered a friend and risking a limited war that could get out of hand.

New Delhi will reflect before starting a military action which lacks the support of the U.S. But it enjoys far greater freedom of action than Islamabad had during the Kargil fighting. Then, President Clinton could dictate to a debt-ridden Islamabad that was held hostage by the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. President Bush might find it difficult to dictate to New Delhi. New Delhi's economy is largely independent. If there's one weapon Bush has in his hand that can deter New Delhi, it's the threat of international mediation over Kashmir.

A military setback could cook Musharraf's goose. It's far better for him and the region that he agrees to a regime change to prevent the start of armed hostilities that could trigger a nuclear nightmare. And it's far better for New Delhi to accept such a regime change rather than allow a limited war that could spill out of control.

During his testimony before the Senate Committee last March, CIA director Tenet said the decision to turn Islamabad into an ally in the wake of the September 11 bombings was "a fundamental political shift with inherent risks." Those risks are now evident as the South Asian region teeters on the brink of a violent tomorrow.

that's more conducive to armed solutions than to political ones. Musharraf, the great white

# Pak not soft on jihadis: Sattar

FROM BHARAT BHUSHAN

Islamabad, May 5: Pakistan is not going soft on Islamic militants, Pakistan's foreign minister Abdul Sattar claimed here in an interview.

He denied that the initial arrest and the subsequent release of those accused of being militants or their associates showed that the action against the jihadis was not a matter of conviction but of mere convenience for Pakistan.

They could not be kept under indefinite detention without sufficient evidence, as the law did not allow that, he said. "But please observe that none of these people at this time is engaged in activity of the type which they were pursuing in the past. Secondly, there are still a number of people under detention and the government is following up to bring their cases to trial," Sattar argued.

The Indian fear that these organisations would now start functioning under new names has also been belied, he said. No

new organisation had come up, and if they did with an agenda similar to that of the militant organisations, "then these organisations will also offend the law and would not be allowed to function", the Pakistan foreign minister said.

Sattar also dismissed out of hand the suggestion that Pakistan was setting up special camps (*kilnmas*) in PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) for the remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida members. Such people, he argued, would have to cross the Afghanistan-Pakistan border first and deal with the Pakistani and "coalition forces" monitoring the border and then pass through Pakistan's territory undetected. He suggested that this was not an easy task.

The foreign minister was asked to comment on the sudden increase in infiltration across the Line of Control into Jammu and Kashmir in the last couple of months, after an initially declining trend. He replied saying that the Indian Prime Minister himself was on record saying that he

was satisfied that the LoC was being respected.

When asked whether this was before March when the new trend in infiltration was detected or after, Sattar admitted that Vajpayee's statement could have been of a slightly earlier period. However, he said that India had a tendency "to ascribe the activities of the people of India-held Kashmir to outside inspiration, instigation or interference".

He described this "as a diversionary technique which does not contribute to a salutary policy towards the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir question".

Kashmir, Sattar said, had "cast a very dark shadow" on India-Pakistan relations. "It is time for the two countries to recognise the realities and find a solution so that we can get on with the task of developing our bilateral relations," he felt.

Commenting on Pakistan's view of contacts between Sardar Abdul Qayoom from the PoK and Abdul Ghani Lone and Mir-

waiz Omar Farooq of the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference in Dubai, Sattar claimed that Islamabad had never objected to such contacts. Claiming that he was not fully aware of the discussions that took place, he said: "Quite clearly, one or two individuals cannot speak for the Kashmiri leadership as a whole."

Pakistan patronises the Hurriyat, which is currently divided on using jihad as a method to achieve its goals and opting for reconciliation and dialogue with India. Which of the two positions does Islamabad support?

"Our central position is that the Kashmir issue has to be settled in conformity with the wishes of the people of the state. Until an appropriate method is found for ascertaining the opinion of the people of the state, the statements by one leader or another, while they are perfectly within their right to issue them, cannot be considered to reflect the opinion of the people of the state as a whole," Sattar said.

In that case, why does not Pakistan advise the Hurriyat leaders to assess their real support among the people by participating in the coming election?

"The Kashmiri leadership is astute. It fully comprehends the wishes of the Kashmiri people. And we are sure that they will make decisions that will serve the interests of the Kashmiri people. We will not presume to advise one or the other leader. We will respect the considered opinion of the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference," the Pakistan foreign minister said.

But was Pakistan opposed to free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir? Sattar said while nobody could be opposed to free and fair elections anywhere "but we have to remember that elections in India-held Kashmir or on the Pakistan side do not mean a disposal of the Kashmir question in accordance with the principles (Security Council resolutions) which were accepted at one time by both India and Pakistan and are still accepted by Pakistan".

# UK mounts pressure on Musharraf

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, May 23. — The British Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, today told the three Indian services chiefs about continuing British pressure on Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism. In an attempt to defuse tensions, British foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw may arrive here on Tuesday.

Defence sources said Admiral Boyce pointed out that Britain was concerned about the possibility of a war breaking out in the sub-continent. The British are also pointing out they are trying to put pressure General Pervez Musharraf to end cross-border terrorism and the suicide-squad strikes in Jammu and Kashmir. India has already given Britain "evidence" on Pakistan's involvement in cross-border terrorism.

The British have reportedly said they are asking Pakistan "to deliver" and make good its 12 January promises.

The services made a detailed presentation on the current situation along the border and the Line of Control.

Admiral Boyce may meet Mr George Fernandes tomorrow.

Mr Straw is expected to hold talks with senior Indian leaders. With tensions mounting, many senior British diplomats had cancelled their leave and returned to India.

**Blair plea:** The Indo-Pak stand off echoed in British Parliament where Prime Minister Mr Tony Blair said it was essential for Pakistan to stop supporting cross-border terrorism in Kashmir and for India to offer a mechanism for resumption of bilateral dialogue, adds PTI from London.

THE STATESMAN

2 MAY 2002

# 110-14 Russia proposes arc of stability'

By Vladimir Radyuhin 20 4

**MOSCOW, APRIL 19.** The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has called for the establishment of an "arc of stability" stretching from Europe to China. The "arc" would rest on two pillars: a new, closer relationship between Russia and NATO, to be sealed next month, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which unites Russia, China and four Central Asian countries.

Russia would be a key player in the new security arrangement. "We have very close ties with Asian states by sheer virtue of our geographic position and large territory," Mr. Putin said after talks with the visiting President of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, in the Kremlin on Friday. "We have developed ve-

ry good relations with the People's Republic of China in the format of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. This could add up to an arc of stability that would include very many countries and eventually evolve into a highly promising global security set-up."

Mr. Putin's "arc of stability" stands in stark contrast with the "axis of evil" concocted by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, earlier this year. Russia and NATO are expected to wrap-up a new cooperation accord at a summit scheduled for May 14-15 in Reykjavik, Iceland. Under the new terms, Russia will sit alongside the other 19 NATO nations to jointly formulate policy on peacekeeping, missile defence, and efforts to stop the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

10-11  
10-1

# Russian parliamentary team meets Musharraf

17/4

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 16. A Russian parliamentary delegation headed by Dimitriy Rogozin, Chairman, Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the State Duma called on the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, here today and exchanged views on a wide range of issues.

The visit of the delegation is seen as an exploratory mission to improve ties between Pakistan and Russia.

Mr. Rogozin conveyed a message of goodwill on behalf of President Putin. Gen. Musharraf reciprocated the sentiments.

An official statement said the

Russian delegation praised President Musharraf's efforts and plans to bring stability in the country and improve Pakistan's image as a forward-looking state in the comity of nations.

Gen. Musharraf emphasized the need to develop bilateral relations and expressed the hope of an early meeting with the Russian President.

The President and the Russian delegation exchanged views on issues relating to regional security, Afghanistan, Pakistan-India relations, anti-terrorism campaign and prospects of future cooperation in various fields. The President

also informed the visiting Parliamentarians about the reform agenda being implemented by the present Government for political and economic stability of the country.

Diplomatic and political observers believe that with the collapse of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, one of the major hurdles in normalisation of ties between Pakistan and Russia stands removed. Before September 11 last year, when the Taliban was reigning supreme in Afghanistan, there were efforts by Pakistan and Russia to better their relations but the efforts did not go very far.

# Putin agrees to pay Soviet debt to Germany

HD-15  
12/9

**BERLIN, APRIL 11.** The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, and the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, capped a two-day summit meeting on Wednesday in the eastern German city of Weimar by resolving a long-standing dispute over Soviet debt to the German Government.

The \$440 million settlement of all outstanding payments between the now defunct Soviet and East German states represented less than one tenth of the original German demand, but removed a nagging obstacle to improved relations between the two countries. The dispute centred on the appropriate exchange rate for the debt, originally in transfer roubles, which were used for trade within the former Soviet bloc. The agreed rate was well below even recent German demands. "This was the only present Schroeder had to give," said Alexander Rahr, an expert on German-Russian relations at the German Council on Foreign Relations.

"This will have a positive impact," said Mr. Schroeder at a news conference to close the meeting. Mr. Putin called the deal "just and fair." The two leaders also agreed on important foreign policy issues, highlighting the strengthening bilateral relations between their countries, while taking a line that differed from that of the



**The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder (right), jokes with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, at the end of two-day German-Russian consultations in Weimar, eastern Germany, on Wednesday. — AP**

United States. "This is a sign of Germany's growing self-assurance. They do not call Washington first," Mr. Rahr said. It also demonstrated that Germany was "now clearly Russia's main strategic partner in Europe," he said.

On Iraq, Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Putin agreed that military intervention would require a mandate from the United Nations, while insisting on the resumption of international weapons inspections inside the country. "We both agree," Mr.

Schroeder said, "that pressure should be maintained on Iraq to bring about a change in the situation and secure the return of the international inspectors to the country." He also backed Russia's request for greater influence in NATO. The Atlantic alliance recently offered Russia a new relationship that would include a Russian ambassador in meetings on issues of mutual concern. But Russia has called for the right to be included in decision-making. — *New York Times*

400-15

# Russia to expand ties with Iran

Russia

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, APRIL 5.** Russia reasserted its resolve to expand economic and military ties with Iran despite U. S. objections.

The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, received the visiting Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharazi, in a demonstration of importance Moscow attaches to relations with Tehran.

Mr. Kharazi, who arrived in Moscow on Thursday, had been due to visit here in February but the visit was put off. Washington has branded Iran as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and North Korea, and has accused Russia of supplying Teheran missile and nuclear technologies.

The Russian Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, has strongly denied the charges, describing them as "nothing but a myth." "Nobody has ever presented us with any facts to prove these



**The Russian President, Vladimir Putin (right), with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharazi, in Moscow on Friday. — Reuters**

allegations and we know such facts will never be given because there are none," he said on Thursday, reiterating that

Russia would continue selling conventional weapons to Teheran.

By according top-level treat-

ment to Mr. Kharazi, Russia has sent a clear signal to the world that it is not going to give in to American pressure.

A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow was anxious to give a "political impulse" to talks with Iran on "a number of major projects in power generation, aircraft building and transport".

Russia is building a nuclear reactor at the Bushehr power plant in Iran and the sides are discussing plans for the supply of a second reactor.

Russia also hopes to win contracts for the construction of thermal power stations in Iran.

Last year, the two countries signed a long-term military cooperation accord which can make Iran the third biggest buyer of Russian armoury after India and China.

Russian-Iranian trade surged from \$600 million in 2000 to nearly \$1 billion last year.

THE HINDU



# US mum on nuke report that upset the Russians

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW, MARCH 10

AFTER sending "disturbing" signals to Moscow by labelling Russia as a likely target for US nuclear strike, the Pentagon on Sunday denied any of the seven countries mentioned in the leaked report were on Washington's present hitlist.

"We will not discuss classified details of military planning or contingencies, nor will we comment on selective and misleading leaks," Army Lt Col Catherine Abbott said on Saturday reacting to the report published in the *Los Angeles Times* the same day. The US, however, refrained from issuing a categorical denial to the sensational "leak".

*LA Times* said its story was based on a classified Pentagon report that mentioned China, Russia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Libya and Syria.

Russian commentators on Saturday criticised the reported US move to prepare contingency plans to use nuclear weapons against Russia and other countries. With Russia in the middle of a three-day holiday weekend, there was no official comment on the report.

Dmitry Rogozin, an influential member of Russia's parliament, said Washington

could be trying to intimidate Russia after months of closer cooperation.

"We have to understand the US has many strategic nuclear weapons trained on Russia and draw our own strategic conclusions," Rogozin, head of Foreign Affairs Committee of the lower house of parliament, told NTV television. "This is the policy of the big stick, a nuclear stick intended to intimidate us and put us in our place."

NTV also quoted Leonid Ivashov, a former top Defence Ministry official and now an influential observer, as saying the report showed the US saw post-Soviet Russia as a "geo-political rival".

The *LA Times* said it was the first time an official list of target countries had come to light.

The leaders of both countries are to meet in Russia in May with the aim of clinching an accord on reducing strategic nuclear arsenals. Vyacheslav Nikonov, president, Politika think-tank, told NTV the report would call into question all US motives in international relations.

"If America wants to cooperate in military operations...if it intends to reduce strategic nuclear warheads, the Bush directive is a very negative signal which will be received in an appropriate fashion by Russia's leadership," he told NTV.

Arundhati Inerico

INDIAN EXPRESS

MAR 2001

# Pak. fails to convince Japan on resuming aid

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 17. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has not succeeded in persuading Japan to resume economic assistance and investment in the country.

During his trip to Tokyo, the Japanese leaders wanted Gen. Musharraf to improve law and order and ensure continuity of economic policies to attract Japanese investment in Pakistan. "Their (Japanese) biggest concern is the law and order situation and our President told them that his Government is taking all necessary measures to have peace across the country," the Commerce Minister, Razak Dawood, said at a press conference here after his arrival from Tokyo on Saturday.

Mr. Dawood said assurances were given to Japan that the

military Government would ensure continuity of policies beyond October.

He conceded that there was no discussion on the resumption of the much talked about \$ 500 million annual Japanese assistance to Pakistan, suspended in 1998 when Pakistan went nuclear.

"The resumption of our annual assistance was not on the agenda, therefore, nobody talked about it. All I would say is that there is nothing on annual aid resumption except \$ 300 million aid that has already been announced by Japan for social sectors".

Japan seems to have also linked the issue of resumption of aid to signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by Pakistan. Gen. Musharraf tried to impress upon the Japanese leaders that while Islama-

bad was committed to not being the first to undertake any further nuclear tests, it might be compelled to reconsider its stand if the regional situation so demanded.

Barring the 'feel good factor', Gen. Musharraf has not got any thing concrete in his just-concluded visit to Tokyo. Pakistan could have decided not to raise the issue of resumption of economic assistance at this juncture as Japan is facing economic difficulties.

Mr. Dawood said Japan was positive to Pakistan's request for aid for various projects, including the development of Landhi site area in Karachi, Kohat tunnel, Indus highway and a couple of other projects in fisheries, agriculture, food processing, textile, information technology and human resource development.

18/3

18 MAR 2002

18 MAR 2002

# Lack of evidence won't mar Pearl case: Pakistan

Mubashir Zaidi  
Islamabad, March 6

THE AUTHORITIES have denied the impression that lack of evidence could mar the Daniel Pearl murder case.

In a statement, the Government of Sindh spokesman said that as it was surely a complex investigation which had necessitated obtaining of the second remand and nothing was final in the process of investigation till date up to the time of the presentation of the challan before Administrative Judge.

He further stated that the impression not only was an attempt to discredit the investigation but was also aimed to convey a wrong impression to the general public at-large.

He said that there was ample evidence available which could connect the accused persons with the commission of the crime and for securing conviction in the case.

Meanwhile, the Sindh High Court has disposed off a constitutional petition filed against the possible extradition of Ahmed Omar Sheikh, main accused in murder case of Wall Street Journal reporter, Daniel Pearl.

When the matter came up for hearing this morning, Syed Zaki Muhammed, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) for Pakistan and Advocate General of Sindh Raja Qureshi orally submitted that if the respondent decides

## Pak trial for Sheikh before extradition

PAKISTAN WILL try the chief suspect in the kidnap-slaying of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl before considering sending him to face charges in the United States, President Pervez Musharraf's spokesman said, AP reports.

The spokesman, Maj Gen Rashid Qureshi, said on Tuesday that the notification had been conveyed formally to the US Embassy, which declined to comment.

HTC, Islamabad

to deliver the husband of the petitioner to the officers or authorities of a foreign country, then he will be delivered without any contravention of the law of the land.

Sadia Omar Sheikh, the wife of Omar Sheikh, moved the court submitting that her husband was a law abiding citizen, father of a three-year-old baby girl and was engaged in business.

He has no connections with any religious or banned jihadi group and was not connected with the alleged murder of Daniel Pearl. She prayed the court to issue necessary orders preventing her husband from being extradited.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

7 MAR 2002

# General says Pak will try Omar first: Report

KAMRAN KHAN  
KARACHI, MARCH 5

**A**FTER considerable dithering, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has reportedly told the US that it would try Sheikh Omar Saeed for the kidnapping of American *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl before deciding on Washington's request for his extradition.

"He will be tried in Pakistan according to the law," Pakistan daily *Dawn* quoted a senior interior ministry official as saying. But ten days before the four men charged with Pearl's kidnap and murder go to trial, Pakistani prosecutors and police say they are "almost empty-handed," with little evidence linking the defendants to alleged crimes.

"So far, there is nothing to connect the four suspects with Pearl's murder," said a police official here. Two of Pakistan's best-known criminal lawyers have been retained to defend the men, charged with kidnapping, murder and terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Omar's wife Saida filed a petition seeking the Sindh High Court's intervention to prevent the government from extraditing her husband. But the petition was dismissed after the prosecution assured that if and when he was extradited it would be under the laws of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Omar, under police detention, has refused to eat since Saturday demanding he be allowed to meet his father.

Omar, who had confessed to his role in the abduction, after a conversation with his father last week, has refused to say anything

more on the Pearl case, *The News* daily said. He has also refused meals demanding that he be allowed to meet his father.

"Omar's father was angry with his statement in Court and urged him not to speak further," a police official said.

Now, this could prove disastrous to the prosecution. An investigation report delivered recently to senior members of President Pervez Musharraf's administration concluded the evidence is so fragile that the defence team could trounce the prosecution.



"We have no eyewitness to Pearl's kidnapping, torture or murder," said an official. "It is like going to court empty-handed." Neither Pearl's body nor his articles of clothing have been recovered. No murder weapon have been found, and police have not identified who the actual killers were.

"At the outset, the court would like to examine the weapons used or any other related material such as blood-stained clothing of the victim or the search report from the scene of the (crime)," a police official said. "The police have nothing to offer as material evidence in response to those questions."

Saeed said in a preliminary court appearance last month that he helped plan Pearl's abduction, then claimed in court last week that police tried to coerce him into making a false confession.

The three other men—Salman Saqib, Sheikh Adil and Fahad Nasim—allegedly were involved in sending e-mails to media announcing Pearl's abduction. Prosecution sources said much of the prosecution's case hinges on the four men's statements to police-statements that defense attorneys already have challenged in court as tainted by strong-arm tactics.

Police investigators add that US FBI agents, who played a role on technical aspects of the case, are unlikely to be willing to testify on behalf of Pakistani prosecutors in court. The prosecutors' primary evidence is the 3 1/2-minute digital videotape showing men slashing his throat. But defense attorneys are likely to challenge the authenticity of the tape as heavily and poorly edited.

—LATWP (with Agencies)

## U.K. humiliated at Commonwealth

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, MARCH 4. Not since the former Indian Prime Minister, I. K. Gujral, in a rare fit of anger, called it a "third rate" power has so much public humiliation been heaped on Britain by a Third World leader as by the Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, and his Ministers, in recent days marking a new low in London's relations with its former colony.

Even as Britain was today deeply disappointed that it failed to force Harare's suspension from the Commonwealth, it was even more embarrassed by the tongue-lashing that the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, got from leaders of a fellow Commonwealth country. The media today highlighted the Zimbabwean Information Minister, Jonathan Moyo's outburst in front of TV cameras in Australia on Sunday when he told Mr Blair to "shut up" and accused him of suffering from a "colonial hangover".

"He needs to be told that Zimbabwe will never be a colony again, never. He can make as much noise as he wants, and the more noise he makes the more he exposes himself to the international community," an angry Mr. Moyo said contemptuously dismissing Mr. Blair's criticism of the Mugabe regime as a "disgraceful" interference in a sovereign country's affairs.

This followed Mr. Mugabe's stinging attack at the weekend when he told Mr. Blair to "go to hell" and stop messing up with his regime. However, it is Mr. Moyo's statement which has been noted for its "rudeness" with observers pointing out that while Mr. Mugabe's remarks could be explained away as election rhetoric, addressed to a domestic audience in the midst of a difficult campaign, Mr. Moyo had overstepped diplomatic norms by attacking the Prime Minister of another country at an international conference. They recalled that in recent months, he had been responsible for cracking down on the foreign media in Harare leading to the expulsion of all British journalists.

Britain's failure to push through Zimbabwe's suspension was widely seen as a sign of a "racial divide" at the heart of the Commonwealth with African, Asian and Caribbean nations asserting themselves against what they regard as attempts by "white" member-states to impose their will. "The... problem is the uneasy, quasi-paternalistic relationship between white developed countries and other member states," *The Independent* said.

THE HINDU

- 5 MAR 2008

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# Commonwealth leaders on a collision course

**COOLUM, MARCH 3.** Commonwealth leaders appeared to be on a collision course today over what action to take against Zimbabwe amid a deepening rich man-poor man rift over whether to impose sanctions.

The political violence in Zimbabwe was again set to overshadow discussions as Commonwealth leaders went into a second day of talks here, with some Asian nations privately saying they would close ranks with the African lobby to defeat any move to slap sanctions on Harare.

Britain and Australia have already acknowledged that their call for immediate sanctions to protest the political violence in Zimbabwe has failed to win support.

But even a collective push joined by Canada and New Zealand to threaten President Robert Mugabe with sanctions if the March 9-10 elections are deemed to be unfair seems to be back-firing.

"The scene is unfolding in Zimbabwe. It is not unfolding in Coolum," Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa told journalists in a stout and rare public defence of Mr. Mugabe.

"How does it (the Commonwealth) handle Zimbabwe? Why should it handle Zimbabwe?", Mr. Mkapa said, railing at what is being perceived as interference in another country's internal affairs.

The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has condemned the escalating violence as an "outrage against democracy" and called for a statement "making clear our total abhorrence and condemnation of what's happening in Zimbabwe".

Meanwhile, Commonwealth leaders have called on rich member countries to tear down trade barriers and work to help eradicate poverty for all its 1.7 billion people.

Globalisation and how best to channel its benefits to developing countries, who make up the bulk of the 54-nation body, has emerged as a dominant theme at a meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government here which is set to issue a declaration later.

Even the location of the talks, in a tiny but affluent seaside resort more used to hoards of surfers and tourists than visiting heads of state and packs of journalists, has served the underscore the huge gap between rich and poor.

The Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, summed it up today when at the launch of a new investment fund for Africa he accused developed countries of over-eating and over-consuming.

The average Westerner consumed 200 litres of milk a year, compared to the average African who drank just 30, he said. The situation was the same for beef and textiles. The result — starvation in Africa, and a glut in the West.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, in his opening speech yesterday took pains to stress the need to tackle poverty by harnessing the benefit of globalisation.

"The widening gap between rich and poor is one of the gravest problems we faced today. Poverty means disease, hunger, no clean water, limited communications. It is deeply destabilising and one of the greatest threats to democracy.

"No one in the world can have a secure future when half the world has no future at all." — AFP

# CHOGM split on racial lines over curbs on Harare

96-5 4/3



Zimbabwe hit back, telling Tony Blair to "shut up" and accusing him of trying to re-colonise Africa. Information Minister Jonathan Moyo said Blair was making "irresponsible statements". *Reuters*

## AGENCIES

COOLUM (AUSTRALIA), MARCH 3

CANADA sought on Sunday to break a deadlock after African and Asian nations on Sunday closed ranks against former colonial power Britain to oppose sanctions against strife-torn Zimbabwe. "Everybody has agreed that nothing will be done before the elections", Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien told reporters, adding a communique would be issued on Monday.

Earlier, the nations split along black-white lines over whether to take action against Zimbabwe on Sunday, with African states opposing suspension calls by Britain fearing a return to neo-colonialism, Australia said.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who has backed calls for action against Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe over claims he is rigging this

week's presidential election, said African states had joined forces to protect one of their own.

"Africa was colonised by Europeans. Africans grew to resent and despise that colonisation and there is still that strong sense that Britain and other countries (are) sometimes being neo-colonialist," he said.

The Commonwealth, largely a group of former British colonies, has been under pressure to follow the US and the EU and imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe. One-third of the 54 Commonwealth members are African states.

On Sunday, Commonwealth leaders met in a retreat to try and reach a compromise on Zimbabwe, but they look set to take no action. Reflecting the African Opposition to punitive action against Mugabe, Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa said any action before the election would be premature.

But British Prime Minister Tony Blair said here on Sunday that he thought there was enough evidence of violations of democracy to suspend Zimbabwe now. Yet Blair conceded his call for action had fallen on deaf ears. "Other countries don't agree and you need unanimity at the Commonwealth," Blair said.

The Commonwealth election observers group in Zimbabwe said on Saturday it had received "credible reports of violence, met with victims of violence, witnessed several incidents of violence and has itself been a victim of election-related violence."

Despite this intimidation, Australia believes Tsvangirai could still win the election even though it will not be free or fair, but questioned whether Mugabe and the Army would allow him to take power. Mugabe has described the elections as the last chance to rid the country of the vestiges of colonialism.

INDIAN EXPRESS

4 MAR 2002

# CHOGM adopts action plan to combat terrorism

HP-14  
8/3  
COOLUM (AUSTRALIA), MARCH 2. Commonwealth leaders, meeting here after a delay enforced by the September 11 attacks, today adopted an action plan to stamp out terrorism.

The plan was drafted by a special group set up by the Secretary General, Don McKinnon, to examine ways of helping Commonwealth nations implement U.N. Resolutions on combating terrorism.

The conference spokesman, Joel Kibazo, said that the action plan covers legal and financial measures, as well as enhancing law enforcement in member countries.

The leaders deferred a decision on what action to take against Zimbabwe, agreeing to raise the issue during a two-day retreat, officials said.

"The debate didn't take very long as leaders agreed that tomorrow (Sunday) will be the day when they will give it a longer time," said Mr. Kibazo.

The issue of what to do about the political violence in Zimbabwe has split the ranks of the 54-nation Commonwealth, with African nations leading opposition to British and Australian calls to suspend Harare.

Commonwealth Ministers on Friday failed to agree on what measures to take, passing the issue up to their leaders for resolution.

Earlier, opening the 35 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II appealed to Commonwealth leaders to

strive to embrace reform and bridge cultural differences to meet new challenges and counter terrorism.

She made a strong plea for greater racial and religious tolerance, saying it was its diversity that made the 54-nation group relevant in the 21st century. But she added: "The Commonwealth must move with the times if it is to remain relevant to all generations."

Dressed for a colourful ceremony in flame-red with a matching hat, the Queen also used her speech to underline the need for a continuing effort to reach consensus in a summit which looks set to be overshadowed by differences over Zimbabwe.

She told the 900 guests, including the leaders of 35 Governments, the Commonwealth, established in 1931, was an organisation which had defined its own values and ideals through its particular focus on issues important to it, notably sustainable development and good governance.

"It has also developed its own style of informality, tolerance and an insistence on bringing all along together on the sometimes difficult path of building consensus."

This tradition of consensus was in spite of the remarkable variety of its membership with every region of the world represented, every size of nation at all stages of development and all the great religions," she said. — AFP

THE HINDU



# Commonwealth adopts anti-terrorism code

**Perth (Australia), March 2** (Reuters): Commonwealth leaders agreed at their summit in Australia today to expel any member state that aided, financed or harboured terrorists.

In the first major announcement of their four-day meeting, the leaders said they had agreed on a "terrorist action plan" under which members would also act to stop abuse of financial systems and freeze and confiscate the assets of terrorists.

They also called for the promotion of democracy, but showed no sign of taking any action against Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe over allegations that he is intimidating voters and rigging the result ahead of a March 9-10 presidential election.

Commonwealth leaders

today refused to re-admit Pakistan, suspended from the 54-nation body after the 1999 military coup, officials said.

In 1999, the Commonwealth suspended Pakistan after a military coup by Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Fiji has twice been suspended after racially-inspired coups in 1987 and 2000, but was welcomed back into the Commonwealth at the summit following elections last year.

"The Commonwealth is not a police force," one southern African leader said, adding it would be premature even to consider what action to take until the Zimbabwe elections were over. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has been leading a campaign to suspend Zimbabwe from the 54-nation group, said the Commonwealth's credi-

bility was on the line.

"If, after the elections in Zimbabwe, the Commonwealth observers report there was malpractice and intimidation... then it is essential we take action against Zimbabwe if Mugabe is still in power," he said.

Mugabe, who has led Zimbabwe for 22 years, faces a stern challenge from Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change.

The European Union has already imposed sanctions on Mugabe's inner circle and withdrawn its election observers after Zimbabwe refused to accredit their head. Opening the summit with Commonwealth head Queen Elizabeth, secretary general Don McKinnon called on rich nations to adopt more humane globalisation policies.

# Editor of Pak daily quits

Islamabad, March 2

IN A blow to claims of freedom of press in Pakistan, the editor of leading daily *The News*, resigned today protesting pressure on him to sack three senior correspondents, including one who revealed the confessions of the mastermind behind killing of US journalist Daniel Pearl.

The editor, Shaheen Sehbai, said in his resignation letter addressed to the daily's editor-in-chief, that he was quitting due to pressure exerted on him by officials of the Pakistan government, according to Committee of Pro-



DANIEL PEARL

tection of Journalists. He accused the government of pressuring editor-in-chief Mir Shakeelur Rehman to fire him and three reporters - Kamran Khan, Amir Ma-teen, and Rauf Klasra - because their reports had an-

gered the officials. Sehbai said he would rather quit than dismiss the reporters. However, the Pakistan Government has denied Sehbai's allegations.

Pakistan's principle information officer Ashfaq Ahmad Gondal said that Sehbai resigned from *The News* following differences between him and his management and the Government has nothing to do with it.

Meanwhile, the wife of Omar Sheikh, prime suspect in Pearl's killing, has appealed to Pakistan not to extradite her husband to the US.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

MAR 2 2002

HPD-17  
1/3

# Pak. to consider extradition of Omar Sheikh

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, FEB. 28.** Pakistan today indicated that it was prepared to consider the request made by the United States for extradition of Omar Sheikh, the prime suspect in the Daniel Pearl murder case, after the investigations into the case were complete.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Aziz Ahmed Khan, told a news conference here that the issue has formally figured in discussions between Pakistan and the U.S. and at the moment Islamabad would continue its with its investigations.

In response to a question Mr. Khan said Sheikh is under investigation for Pearl's murder. "First let us complete those investigations, before a decision was made to extradite him to U.S." He denied the suggestion that the extradition was delayed because of any mistrust or lack of a extradition treaty between the two countries. He said there was a treaty between British India and U.S. before Partition. Pakistan assumed the treaty after its creation. "Technically, an agreement exists. In this particular case, we will continue with investigations".

Asked why Sheikh, who was also indicted by U.S. for kidnapping of American tourist in India in 1994 was not extradited

earlier, he said it could be because Sheikh was in hiding. "Probably, the gentleman was absconding. He was not traceable", he said.

The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Rashid Qureshi, who was also present at the press briefing, denied reports in the media that a U.S. aircraft was fired upon two days ago while it was landing at Jacobabad airbase in Pakistan. It is currently being used by American forces for their operations in Afghanistan.

"That is an absolutely incorrect report. There was no firing on any U.S. aircraft". However, he said confusion was created by the presence of a brick kiln on the path of landing.

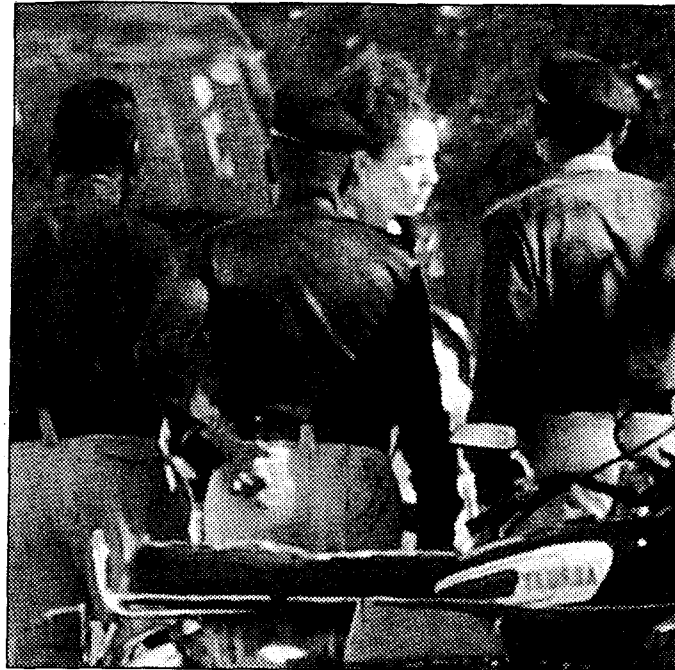
The sensors of the aircraft were activated after they detected the heat from the kiln. The aircraft was not fired upon as reported, Maj. Gen. Qureshi said.

Replying to a question, Gen. Qureshi also said the U.S. has agreed in principle to sell arms to Pakistan and modalities were discussed during the President, Pervez Musharraf's recent visit to the U.S. He said the details of sales would be discussed at the meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee, constituted recently by the two countries. The committee was expected to meet in a few months, he said.

THE HINDU

1 MAR 2002

# Police warned not to use force on Omar



Marianne Pearl (second from right) outside her residence in Karachi on Monday. (AP/PTI)

FROM BRIAN WILLIAMS

**Karachi, Feb. 25** (Reuters): A Pakistani judge extended today the police detention of three key suspects in the kidnap of murdered US reporter Daniel Pearl but also ordered police not to coerce them in an attempt to extract confessions.

The three suspects, including alleged ringleader Omar Sheikh, a British-born Islamic radical, complained they were being pressured to admit to a crime that has shocked the world by its barbarity.

In a brief appearance before a Karachi anti-terrorism court, the judge extended the trio's detention for 14 days after police said they needed more time to find Pearl's body and the weapon used to cut the *Wall Street Journal* reporter's throat on camera.

Omar Sheikh, 28, had been arrested on February 12 while Sheikh Abil and Salman Saquib, both accused of sending ransom emails, had been taken into cus-

tody four days earlier.

"The (14-day) remand has been granted on the basis that the investigation agency wants to recover the dead body and wants to recover the weapon used in the offence," Raja Qureshi, advocate general of Karachi's Sindh government, told reporters after a hearing closed to the press and public.

Khawaja Naveed, defence lawyer for Adil and Saquib — Omar Sheikh does not have a lawyer — said all three complained to the judge that while they were not maltreated, they had been pressured into signing confessions including putting their names to blank sheets of paper.

"The honourable court has directed the police not to use coercive measures and not to pressurise the suspects," Naveed told reporters.

Omar Sheikh refused to make a confessional statement at the hearing, raising questions about a confession police said he

made to them shortly after his arrest in which he claimed to be the kidnap ringleader.

Police said Omar Sheikh confessed during interrogation to planning the kidnap to protest a government crackdown on Islamic militant groups opposed to the US-led war in Afghanistan.

They added he also portrayed the kidnapping as a protest against US treatment of Afghan Taliban and al Qaida prisoners.

Pearl, the *Journal's* South Asia bureau chief, disappeared on January 23 in Karachi while working on a story about Islamic radicals in Pakistan and links with Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Omar Sheikh was in police custody when US and Pakistani authorities received a videotape last Thursday showing Pearl's killing.

Omar Sheikh's detention, connected to his February 12 arrest, was due to run out tomorrow. With white cloth hoods over

their heads, the three accused were hustled in and out of the Sindh High Court building in under an hour.

## Nationwide manhunt

A nationwide manhunt extending from the teeming streets of Karachi to the border with Afghanistan was under way for seven people suspected of carrying out the murder itself. They included an Arab man with possible links to bin Laden.

A group calling itself the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty claimed responsibility for Pearl's kidnapping and accused him of being a spy — first for the CIA, then for Israeli intelligence.

The US ambassador to Pakistan, Wendy Chamberlin, said today the United States had since late November been seeking the extradition of Omar Sheikh for an earlier kidnapping.

"Omar Sheikh is a nasty character. He's been involved in

kidnappings and crimes against American citizens for many years. He's someone that we've had our eye on for many years and ... this has been an ongoing effort," she told CBS television.

Chamberlin said she was likely to bring up the topic at a meeting tomorrow with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf even though Pakistan lacks an extradition treaty with Washington.

## Criminal charges

The Bush administration is strongly considering bringing criminal charges in the kidnapping and murder of Daniel Pearl, US law enforcement officials said today.

The officials emphasised that no final decision has been made on whether to bring charges in this country. They said the justice department was considering convening a grand jury in Washington or in Alexandria, Virginia, to hear evidence and possibly bring an indictment in the case.

# Checks and balances

Musharraf offers old wine in old bottles

General Musharraf, who has been told in Washington that he should seek legitimacy through the ballot box if he wishes to continue in power, expressed apparently liberal sentiments at a meet for intellectuals in Lahore, where he conceded the sovereign right of a democratically elected Prime Minister. As usual with the wily general there is some fine print; it lies in his call for "checks and balances". This is normally a democratic principle, but the general hardly has in mind such institutions as an independent judiciary; rather, what he is asking for is a division of powers between the Prime Minister, President and chief of army staff. Since at this moment he is president and chief of army staff at the same time, that would concentrate quite a bit of power in his own hands without having to exert himself at the hustings. He says such a division of power would prevent army takeovers as well as prevent "misuse of power" by elected leaders, but is silent about what would constitute such misuse. The real point, of course, is that in a democratic society there are institutions like the courts, popular elections, a free media and so on to prevent misuse of power; it is not the armed forces' brief to fill the breach.

A lot of attention is now focussed on Pakistan's *jehadi* groups, but the real problem may not lie with them so much as their manipulators — shadowy corps commanders, generals and ISI men who have arrogated the kind of powers that belong to parliaments and courts in democratic societies. Witness the coup that Musharraf triggered when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif asked Pakistani army regulars and *mujahideen* to withdraw from Kargil in 1999; is it that the misuse of power by politicians Musharraf is referring to is when they begin to trespass into areas the army considers its own rightful domain, such as the conduct of foreign policy and the cultivation of *jehadi* networks? The usual excuse is that politicians are corrupt, so generals need to acquire power, but another way of looking at it is that the kind of division of powers that Musharraf is speaking of existed anyway even in Pakistan at its most democratic; since politicians exercised little real power, the thing that was left to them was to utilize the offices they held to line their pockets. By this reading, Musharraf is not offering anything more than his earlier plans for a limited role for politicians and representative institutions by October 2002; and the only way to curb the destabilising policies pursued by Islamabad, including cross-border terrorism, is to curb the generals themselves.

23 FEB 2002

# Pak clips ISI's wings in Kashmir, Afghanistan

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is downsizing its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency by around 40 per cent, including completely disbanding the unit dealing with Afghanistan and tempering the Kashmir cell, according to reports from Islamabad.



The move will result in transfer of about 4,000 ISI personnel, mostly drawn from the armed forces, back to the parent cadres. Although its official size is secret, the ISI is thought to be about 10,000 strong.

By undertaking the cuts, President Musharraf has lived up to his claim that he is recasting Pakistan's policies and he can fire out-of-line militarists in the Pakistani establishment "within a minute". Although

the moves are attributed to Islamabad's own realisation of its faulty policies, they meet an important benchmark set by Washington and New Delhi.

The cuts, which amount to a public repudiation of Pakistan's policies, were disclosed by senior Pakistani military and intelligence officials to the *New York Times*, amid intense pressure from Washington following the Daniel Pearl abduction. Two former officials linked to the outfit were detained for questioning last week in an effort to crack the case.

Senior officers of the Afghanistan and Kashmir units have already been transferred, and the others are being ordered to return to other military units, Pakistani officials told the paper. The Musharraf

regime has not initiated any disciplinary action, but the U.S. has asked to interview several dozen of them to learn more about their ties to the militants. Pakistani authorities are said to be considering the request. Despite the downsizing, Pakistani

## THE HAWK'S ABOUT-TURN

- ▶ Pak's action meets U.S., Indian benchmark
- ▶ ISI's Afghan unit scrapped
- ▶ Kashmir cell pared down
- ▶ Indian reaction is guarded

officials displayed a marked reluctance to give up covert activities, including fomenting violence (euphemistically called special ops) against India.

"The reluctance to shut down Kashmir-related operations has two reasons," one intelligence official was quoted as saying. "One, Pakistan cannot trust India and cannot close down intelligence gathering or even special operations against its traditional enemy.

"Second, the military and intelligence

officers are disturbed by the loss of Afghanistan already. It is not prudent to disturb them further with the loss of the Kashmir front altogether." But according to reports from Islamabad, the Afghanistan cell has been completely closed down and the Kashmir cell has been reduced to an intelligence gathering detachment. Senior officers of the two cells have already been repatriated to their parent units while others are said to be under transfer.

Indian officials withheld comment but suggested that even a limited reigning in of the ISI would go a long way in easing tensions in the region. If Pakistani genuinely cuts out ISI support to terrorist activity in J&K, it would provide space for a political process, they said.

A senior Pakistani intelligence officer told NYT that he had no doubt that the plans to eliminate the two units represented a major about-face. "This has been a major change for Pakistan," he said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21 FEB 2002

# Pak links new Pearl suspect to IA hijack

## Indian agencies doubt claim

HT Correspondents

New Delhi/Islamabad, Feb 15

PAKISTANI INVESTIGATORS are floating a new name as the mastermind in the Daniel Pearl abduction, a hitherto unknown Jaish-e-Mohammed member called Mansur Hasnain. They also say he was a key player in the IC-814 hijack. Indian officials have expressed scepticism about Pakistan's claim.

Media reports in Pakistan say Omar Sheikh, presently in custody in Pakistan as the main suspect in the abduction, told his interrogators that Pearl was being held by a man called Hyder.

Pakistani police, reports Pakistani newspaper *The News*, say that Hyder, aka Imtiaz Siddiqui, is a false name for a Jaish member called Mansur Hasnain. It quotes a senior policeman as saying that Hasnain was "also involved" in the IC-814 hijack. The 1999 hijack led to Sheikh's release from an Indian jail. "Because of that Sheikh Omar owes his life to Mansur Hasnain," Pakistani police reportedly claimed.

According to this report, Omar told police that on February 5 he had received an e-mail from Hasnain saying "Dad has expired." This was a code to say that Pearl was dead.

Indian agencies like the CBI say no one called Hasnain was behind the IC-814 hijack. They are clear that Abdul Rauf, brother of Jaish's chief and founder Masood Azhar, was behind the hijack. This was confirmed by the confessions of a hijack accomplice, Abdul Latif. Latif named a number of Pakistani-based terrorists, but no

one called Hasnain.

CBI sources said that "perhaps Omar provided an alias used by Rauf. Perhaps Hasnain is an assumed name of Rauf. There is nothing to prove yet that Hasnain is the same person as Rauf." Indian officials say they are investigating, but believed it unlikely.

The former head of RAW's Pakistan desk, B. Raman, said the Pakistani police were trying to ensure that only the Jaish is blamed for Pearl's abduction. "But kidnapping is not the Jaish's modus operandi. That is more the style of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami." HuM, he noted, had abducted and murdered Western tourists in Kashmir.

However, the two Harkats "are close to the army" and Islamabad would want to protect them, he said. Omar Sheikh is more Harkat than Jaish. Putting up Hasnain as a red herring would serve to keep the Harkats out of the picture.

Pakistan is still trying to pin the Pearl abduction on India. Brigadier Javed Cheema of Pakistan's Interior Ministry said in Islamabad on Thursday that Sheikh was "misleading" investigators. He claimed Sheikh had links with India. The Dawn newspaper reported that "Pakistani authorities are focussing on the Indian connection to the case."

US officials, said other reports, were considering the possibility that rogue ISI elements were responsible and had asked for a list of ISI officials who had worked in the ISI's Afghan cell.

Related report on Page 10

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 FEB 2002

# Musharraf returns a disappointed man

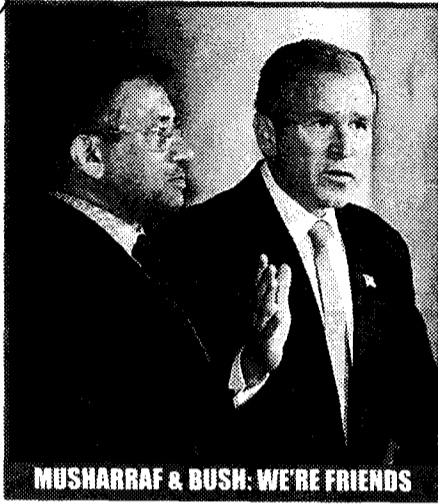
Indrani Bagchi

NEW DELHI 14 FEBRUARY

**G**EORGE BUSH is proud to call General Pervez Musharraf his "friend." Mr Musharraf's warm reception in Washington, unprecedented scope to air his views and grievances against India, an extended 45-minute meeting with the US President followed by an hour-long lunch together, no doubt confirms this. But the bottomline is that the Pakistani President has returned home a disappointed man.

All these atmospherics did not, apparently, constrain the US from balking at filling out Musharraf's wish list to Pakistan's satisfaction. On the three significant demands that would be of concern to India — pressure India to de-escalate, open up supplies of military equipment and grant trade concessions on textile exports — Washington remained remarkably tight-fisted.

For starters, on the issue closest to Pak-



MUSHARRAF & BUSH: WE'RE FRIENDS

istan's heart, Kashmir, the US formulation is a mirror-image of India's position, not Pakistan's. Notwithstanding Mr Bush's public

statement that he would like to see the resumption of the Indo-Pak bilateral dialogue, the White House fact sheet was perfectly clear about what had been offered to Mr Musharraf. "President Bush and President Musharraf also discussed the situation in south Asia and called for de-escalation of tension and a resumption of the Pakistan-India dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including Kashmir."

On Wednesday, Mr Bush had held out a ray of hope to Pakistan by saying that his government would "encourage" the two sides to sit down and enter into a meaningful dialogue, but only if both India and Pakistan asked for it. But there was no mention of the "aspirations of the Kashmiris" which used to be an old US position, a phrase used incessantly over the past couple of days in New York and Washington by Mr Musharraf.

The two most crucial items on Mr Musharraf's shopping list — defence equipment and greater trade concessions — were

conspicuous by their absence, making the "deliverables" from the visit too meagre for Mr Musharraf's comfort, where he could not even get an assurance of pressure on India to de-escalate.

The US formally resumed defence cooperation with Pakistan with a \$1 million in IMET programmes for training and education. Tagged on is a dialogue on nuclear security issues, which raises questions once again about whether the US would be monitoring Pakistan's nuclear programmes more closely than ever. There was no mention of resuming supplies of defence spares to Pakistan or even lifting the restrictions on military sales.

Defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld was quoted as saying: "Those discussions are ongoing." Instead of setting up a JWG on counter-terrorism with Pakistan as with India, the US government instead found it more politic to establish one on law enforcement, leaving no one in any doubt about where terrorism was to be found.

*The Economic Times*



# Alms but no arms for Pervez

Park W  
HTI  
15/2

**HTC and Agencies**  
*Washington/New Delhi, Feb 14*

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf received handsome praise and economic aid from the US after meeting President George W Bush on Thursday. But Bush declined to provide the Pakistani leader F-16s or any type of military hardware. The US said it supported dialogue on all issues, not just Kashmir, and avoided any mention of mediation.

Bush was lavish in his praise, calling Musharraf "a leader of great courage and vision". He said the US was com-

mitted to its ties with Pakistan "as long as our goals remain the same", and this would not be "a short-term dance".

But US aid was generous. Pakistan will receive \$220 million in "emergency money" as reward for joining the war against terror. However, the money was earmarked for various non-military programmes. For example, \$34 million has been tagged for education this year. Two million dollars were set aside for restoring democracy. Bush also forgave \$1 billion in debts owed by Islamabad. A further \$1.8 billion in debt was rescheduled at lower interest.

The US, reflecting congressional resistance, gave less when it came to trade. Bush committed the US to giving \$142 million in market access for Pakistani apparel exports.

Musharraf will leave Washington disappointed at the lack of any tangible military gains. Bush and he agreed to revive the bilateral defence consultative group and officer exchange programmes.

Bush and US officials were careful not to speak of mediation. Bush said the US hoped to "facilitate meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan". Observers noted that even the two Congress resolutions made no mention of Kashmir. The MEA again said Delhi sees no role for third-party mediation.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell phoned External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh in Madrid and briefed him on the Pakistani leader's visit.

## Why India is smiling



Musharraf Bush

**AID** \$220 million in US aid tagged for specific uses. No diversion to army or jihadis allowed

**TRADE** US textile concessions to Pakistan will not impact Indian exports

**ARMS** Pakistan fails to get F-16s or even arms spare parts from the US

**KASHMIR** US thumbs down mediation. Careful to say dialogue must not be just about Kashmir

# Omar admits to Pearl abduction

Karachi, February 13

SHEIKH OMAR has confessed to kidnapping Daniel Pearl, but the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent's whereabouts are still unknown.

"The interrogation is continuing. He is talking but he is a tough nut to crack. We hope he will come out with the truth," said Sindh police chief Syed Kamal Shah. "Unless we discover firm evidence on Daniel, I would say it is unclear (if he is still alive)."

Shah also hinted that Omar could be misleading his interrogators. "The initial statement of an accused may not be true. Initially, every accused tries to dodge his interrogators and mislead them."

Omar was flown to Karachi amid tight security after his arrest in Lahore yesterday, ending

ing a massive manhunt by the police and the FBI. He is understood to have been under constant questioning since his arrest, both by police in Lahore and in Karachi, where the reporter disappeared on January 23.

Sources said Omar had told interrogators that several people were involved in the kidnapping, but refused to identify them or give Pearl's whereabouts. He has said he "believes" the 38-year-old journalist is alive and his last telephone contact with the "mutual friends", who are holding the reporter in Karachi, was made a few days ago.

London-born Omar is the Jaish-e-Mohammad kingpin. But police today said a number of other militant groups, including some linked to the Taliban, could also be involved.

Police had said they expected to produce Omar in court today and ask for him to be remanded in custody for 14 days. However, there was no sign of him at the Sindh High Court till this afternoon.

Raids are still on to find Pearl. "Last night we conducted a raid in the Gulistan-e-Jauhar area of Karachi, but nothing was found," a police source said.

Before he disappeared, Pearl was trying to contact radical Islamic groups and was working on a story about possible links between alleged shoe-bomber Briton Richard Reid and al-Qaida.



Omar Sheikh

Reuters

# Vajpayee returns Pervez nuclear fire

S Rajagopalan and HTC  
Washington/Agra, February 13

pkw @ HFA

14/2

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf fired off his US visit yesterday with a hyperbole, suggesting that India might have conducted a new, clandestine nuclear test. Both New Delhi and Washington rejected the charge, India calling it one more instance of Pakistani "kite flying". In a stinging rebuttal, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee called Musharraf's statement another attempt to mislead global opinion.

The Pakistan President's hosts too took his charge with a big dash of salt. A Bush Adminis-

tration spokesman dismissed the claim saying: "We don't have any information on this... I'm sceptical on this."

In an address to two leading US think-tanks, his first public engagement in Washington, Musharraf stunned the audience, saying he had "indications", though no conclusive proof, of India carrying out a fresh nuclear test. Musharraf used the forums to make a strong pitch for "third party mediation" to resolve the Kashmir dispute. "The bilateral approach stipulated by the Simla Agreement has failed".

On the nuclear front, he began by criticising India's recent Agni-



Pervez Musharraf



Atal Bihari Vajpayee

## WAR OF WORDS

**CHARGE:** Musharraf claims New Delhi conducted a clandestine nuclear test.

**REBUTTAL:** Atal says the Pak President is misleading the world.

**SCEPTICISM:** The Americans dispute General Pervez Musharraf's claim.

II missile test and then alleged a clandestine nuclear test by Delhi. It was unclear whether he meant India had already conducted a test or if it was making preparations for one. As he put it: "The missile test carried out by India, and some information, some

news even, of maybe a possibility of a nuclear test, is untimely and, may I also say, provocative."

Asked by a South Asia specialist to explain, he said: "There were certain indications and I did share this information, yes, with the US leadership. I can't give conclusive evidence, but I thought, if at all there is a possibility, it should be checked."

In New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said: "We have had a number of such wild allegations. Such allegations are false. We reject them in their entirety."

Addressing an election rally in Agra, Vajpayee iterated that India had no plans for another

nuclear test. He described Musharraf's allegation as an attempt to mislead the world.

A few days ago, Musharraf had alleged that Indian agencies were involvement in *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl's abduction, a charge which "deeply irritated" US officials.

On his claim about India's "secret nuclear test", US officials said they hadn't heard of any such thing. "I would like to think that if that had happened, there would be some alarm bells ringing in Washington and I haven't heard any, so I am sceptical," a senior official said.

On Kashmir, Musharraf said "bilateralism has failed".

# Omar held on eve of Pervez US visit

HTC and Agencies  
Islamabad/Washington, Feb 12

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Abadria PAK (M)

**JAISH-E-MOHAMMAD LEADER** Omar Sheikh, prime suspect in the Daniel Pearl abduction case, was arrested today in Lahore. Sheikh told the police the US journalist was alive. The arrest comes on a day when President Pervez Musharraf begins his state visit of the US. The arrest is unlikely to stop the visit from being overshadowed by the kidnapping.

Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil said Sheikh was being brought to Karachi for questioning. "During the initial phase of investigation, he said Pearl is alive and in Karachi," the police chief said. The arrest was carried out by a police team from Sindh which travelled to Lahore.

Pakistan's interior secretary Tasneem Noorani said, "He was picked up at 3 pm...It wasn't a car chase or anything. He was arrested quite peacefully."

The arrest comes at a time when Musharraf arrives in Washington to face a hostile US press and a grateful Bush administration. The *Washington Post* greeted him in an editorial, saying the Bush administration "should make clear to the Pakistani leader that he must decisively break with the terrorists on [the Kashmiri] front as on others." It criticised the General's recent reference to violence in Kashmir as a "freedom struggle."

President George W Bush, who wants to thank Musharraf for his cooperation in the US war against terror, is nevertheless expected to turn down

any demand for weapons. The Pakistani leader, say analysts, is more likely to receive lavish praise and moderate amounts of economic aid.

The US House of Representatives, for instance, is considering a resolution praising the Pakistani leader for "confronting" terrorism.

Sheikh's arrest was preceded by the capture of three other kidnap suspects — Fahad Naseem, Sheikh Adil and Salman Saqib. In addition, two ex-ISI officers, Khalid Khawaja and Aslam Khan Sherani, had been detained by the Pakistani police in connection with the Pearl case, *The New York Times* reported. Khawaja, a former pilot of Osama bin Laden, was close to Sheikh Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani, the man Pearl went to meet the day he was abducted.

In New Delhi, Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Nirupama Rao said Sheikh's arrest had vindicated the charge that Pakistan is a terrorist safe haven. Pakistan had no "excuses," she said, for not acting on India's terrorist list of 20.

That the arrests and Musharraf's visit happened the same day, says India's former High Commissioner to Pakistan G Parthasarathy, "is not entirely coincidental...I will not be surprised if Pearl is released an hour before Musharraf reaches the White House." Indian sources say they expect President Musharraf will try to leverage Daniel Pearl's release to procure weapons and money from the Bush administration.

Related report on Page 7

## IC-814 to Pearl

Omar Sheikh's odyssey



**THE MAN** Born to Pakistani parents in London, 29-year-old Omar Saeed Sheikh is an alumnus of the LSE. Attended school with England cricket captain Nasser Hussain.

**THE MOTIVATION** Moved by a documentary on Bosnia (*Destruction of a Nation*) in 1992, he takes to jihad.

**KIDNAP SPECIALIST** In 1994, enters India to abduct foreigners to gain Masood Azhar's release. He liked to kidnap people he could relate to.

**NOT IN TOP 20** He's not among India's most wanted as all cases against him were dropped when he was released in exchange for hostages of flight IC 814

**BUT INDIA GAINS** If Sheikh is handed over to US, Indian investigators will most likely get access to him. India doesn't have an extradition treaty with Pakistan but as a long shot, New Delhi is likely to ask Islamabad to give India custody of Omar.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 FEB 2002

# Pervez, Karzai forget differences

Islamabad, February 8

PAKISTAN AND Afghanistan today decided to bury the hatchet with President Pervez Musharraf pledging to support the Hamid Karzai administration.

Karzai, who was on his first visit to Pakistan as Afghanistan's interim leader, and Musharraf told a joint press conference here that Islamabad's support to the Taliban regime needs to be forgotten. Both countries now look forward to forging a lasting cooperation against terrorism.

Karzai said Afghan leaders remember the times when Pakistan helped Afghans fight jihad against Soviet Union and provided shelter to several people. "The past is filled with tremendous help from Pakistan. We fought our jihad from this country. We have two million refugees here. My home is Quetta," he said.

Musharraf said both sides have agreed to have relations on the basis of non-interference and mutual in-



AFP PHOTO

LET'S BE FRIENDS: Afghan leader Hamid Karzai gets a hug from Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on his arrival in Rawalpindi on Friday at the start of a two-day visit.

terest. The two sides also agreed not to allow their territories to be used against each other.

Karzai ruled out the possibility of US forces leaving Afghanistan without eliminating terrorism. "Without

help from the US we would have found it very difficult to defeat terrorism in Afghanistan. We are working against this

evil for many years. We could not defeat it. It was only the strong stand of

PAK (W)

President Musharraf and the help we received from the us and international community that we defeated terrorism."

"We need to look for militants' hideouts in the caves and wherever they are. They have done shocking things. We will use every force we have to defeat terrorism in Afghanistan and the rest of the world," he said.

Afghan refugees would soon return to Afghanistan after his administration stabilised the food and economic situation so that they could settle down in their homes, Karzai said. "We Afghans have nothing but goodwill for Pakistan for its help to fight Soviet Union as well as for hosting two million Afghan refugees."

On pro-Taliban and al-Qaida fighters of Pakistan, who were captured and held in Afghanistan, he said his administration looked at the possibility of releasing all of them. But Afghanistan and the coalition forces were examining the details of the prisoners.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Pak (u)  
HD-1

## Musharraf 'hopeful' of Pearl release

9/2

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 8. Raising hopes of an early release of the abducted American journalist, Daniel Pearl, the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, today said he was "extremely hopeful" that the case would be solved successfully.

Addressing a joint news conference here with the visiting Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority, Hamid Karzai, Gen. Musharraf said the authorities were hopeful of securing Pearl's release.

It is for the first time since the *Wall Street Journal* reporter disappeared from Karachi that Gen. Musharraf has directly commented on the subject. Political and diplomatic observers believe that the General has much at stake in getting the journalist released and apprehending the culprits behind the

kidnapping in view of his proposed meeting with the U.S. President, George W. Bush.

Gen. Musharraf's optimism came soon after a statement by senior officials in the Sindh province that Pearl's release would be secured in the next 24 to 48 hours. Police believe that the 38-year-old Pearl is alive.

Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh, one of the three militants swapped for the passengers of an Indian Airlines plane hijacked in 1999, has emerged as the main suspect in the case. But police have not been able to track him down.

Reports from Karachi said that police were raiding the homes of his relatives and friends. They were also questioning the uncle of Farhad Naseem, who was found to have had photos of Pearl on his laptop. He was detained on Thursday. (A Reuters report from

Karachi, quoting police sources, said three men had been formally arrested for their alleged involvement in Pearl's kidnapping. The three, who were detained earlier this week, would be charged when police would ask a magistrate to remand them for further questioning).

### Musharraf for U.S.

Gen. Musharraf left tonight for the U.S., prior to his official visit beginning on February 12 for a meeting with Mr. Bush. He will stay at Boston for two days with his son.

The General is scheduled to have a luncheon meeting with Mr. Bush on February 13 and hold discussions on wide-ranging issues, including bilateral relations and the Indo-Pak. standoff. This will be Gen. Musharraf's first official visit to Washington after he assumed power in October 1999.

7 12 1999

## Pak President Told To Rein In Terror Groups, Satisfy India

# Powell queers Musharraf's pitch

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 6 FEBRUARY

WITH A visit of Pak Prez Pervez Musharraf to Washington coming closer, the US secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, put something of a dampener on Gen Musharraf's wishlist. A day after Gen Musharraf resorted to traditional India-bashing rhetoric, Mr Powell asked the Pakistani ruler to take expeditious action against terrorist groups in his country in a way that would give India confidence.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Powell said Gen Musharraf should act to scale down "the incidents over the LoC and round up terrorist organisations and do it in a way that will give India confidence that they are both united in the coalition against terrorism and not let it degenerate into a campaign against each other".

He added Gen Musharraf should implement the promises he made on January 12 when he promised to put an end to the jehadi establishment that had taken root in Pakistan. However, he did not hesitate to praise Gen Musharraf for that speech. Describing Gen Musharraf's January 12 address as a "seminal event", Mr Powell said it "not only dealt with terrorism and extremism in a way I believe New Delhi found constructive, but sent a clear message to Pakistanis that terror must end if Pakistan is to enter the 21st century with expectation of progress and a



decent life for its people."

Mr Powell's comments, coming ahead of Gen Musharraf's February 13 visit to the US, might sober down what could otherwise have been little short of a victory lap. Feted by the US for his stand on terrorism, Gen Musharraf is widely expected to ask for more US help in his fight against radical Islam.

## Govt relaxes guidelines for stranded Pak nationals

New Delhi  
6 FEBRUARY

IN A humanitarian gesture, India on Wednesday decided to give safe passage to Pakistani nationals stuck in the country following January 1 suspension of rail, bus and air services.

Relaxing the current regulation, the government said it would allow Pakistani nationals to leave the country through any authorised check-post by rail, bus or air.

Pakistani citizens would be permitted to cross over to their country by land route at the Wagha Road check post at Amritsar and that instructions have been issued to this effect to all state governments and Union territories, an official release said. As per the existing instructions, Pakistani nationals enter and leave India only from ports of entry specified in their visa, the release added.

Meanwhile, home minister L.K. Advani assured the United States on Wednesday that India was taking necessary steps to combat terrorist funding and money laundering. This was conveyed by Mr Advani to US deputy treasury secretary Kenneth Dam. — PTI

## Pak keen on reviving cricket ties with India

K J M Varma  
ISLAMABAD 6 FEBRUARY

AFTER HAVING declared that he did not believe in cricket diplomacy, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said on Wednesday his country was prepared to play against India "anywhere, anytime". "We are ready to play against India even in India," Mr Musharraf told reporters after a felicitation ceremony to honour the hockey team which won a six-nation tournament in Kuala Lumpur recently.

"Pakistan will be keen to play against Indian teams, anywhere, anytime," Mr Musharraf was quoted as saying by the official APP newsagency.

Urging New Delhi not to mix sports with politics, he said, "We are ready for a dialogue as well as sports ties with India". In Kathmandu last month, Mr Musharraf had said he did not believe in "cricket or bus diplomacy", disapproving the approach of the late President Zia-ul Haq and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in dealing with India.

India has refused to play cricket with Pakistan after the 1999 Kargil War. — PTI

*The Economic Times*

7 FEB 2002

# Kashmir cannot be sidestepped: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 5. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, today said Kashmir remained central to Indo-Pakistan relations and appealed to the international community for an early resolution of the dispute on the ground that bilateralism had proved to be a 'farce.'

Addressing a joint session of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir Assembly and Council on the occasion of the 'Kashmir solidarity day,' Gen. Musharraf accused the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, of indulging in "brinkmanship" on the Kashmir crisis. He also asserted that Pakistan would defend every inch of its sovereignty if war were imposed on it.

The Kashmir issue could not be side-stepped or wished away, Gen. Musharraf said, and argued that it had to be addressed seriously. Though a solution to it could be an extended and a difficult process, Pakistan would go along in finding a lasting solution.

"Instead of engaging in brinkmanship, Mr. Vajpayee should accept my offer of a dialogue. Instead of responding positively to the hand of reconciliation extended by me, the Indian leadership has continued with its threatening noises and persists with its massive deployment of troops... which have brought the two countries to a position

of eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation." Gen. Musharraf spoke in English throughout, barring the last two minutes of his 45-minute speech, when he broke into Urdu to address the religious elements in Pakistan.

Repeatedly referring to his January 12 address to the nation, wherein he had outlined measures to tackle the 'jehadi' groups, the General reiterated that his Government would not allow any individual or organisation to pursue an "independ-

ent agenda" on foreign policy issues, including Kashmir. "Leave Kashmir to my Government and me. I assure you that we will not let down the people," he said, adding that he had not acted under pressure from anyone in unveiling the road map to tackle terrorism.

Political and diplomatic observers believe that Pakistan and PoK have never witnessed such heightened activity at the Government level over the observation of solidarity day. A

state holiday was declared in Pakistan and PoK, and all the Government and semi-Government offices, banks, educational institutions and commercial and business centres remained closed. The bazaars and streets were flooded with colourful banners and posters expressing solidarity with the Kashmiris.

Referring to the military build-up by India and the statements emanating from its leaders, Gen. Musharraf said, "this is brinkmanship at its most dangerous." A reason for his tough stance could be the perception here that the military regime was not responding effectively to the Indian moves.

The General accused India of "denigrating and maligning the freedom struggle" and categorically rejected charges of cross-border terrorism.

He pledged his country's continued "political, moral and diplomatic support" to the Kashmir cause.

"India has a sinister design to denigrate and malign the Kashmiri freedom movement. It is also trying to hoodwink international public opinion by playing on the aspirations of the Kashmiris... I categorically assure our Kashmiri brothers that the people and the Government of Pakistan and on my personal behalf would honour their commitment and extend full political, diplomatic and moral support."

## 'Speech time-worn'

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, FEB. 5. Expressing disappointment over the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf's address in the Legislative Assembly of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir today, India said the General had turned the clock back and reverted to "time-worn and untenable positions on terrorism."

Though sources here declined to affirm that the address had overridden Gen. Musharraf's positive observations on curbing terrorism in his televised address on January 12, they said his remarks on Kashmir today did contradict his earlier observations. By describing the happenings in Kashmir as "freedom struggle" and saying that the developments there were free of terrorism, Gen. Musharraf had laid his intentions on the border State open to question, the sources said.

According to a statement issued this evening, Gen. Musharraf's "formulations, unfortunately, have reverted to yesterday's cliches confirming the apprehensions voiced earlier by us." India had "rather hoped that Gen. Musharraf would utilise this opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to end cross-border terrorism, also about not supporting terrorism in any form." His observations on Jammu and Kashmir amounted to an "interference" in its "internal affairs."

6 FEB 2002



## **Pak to extradite suspect in Pearl kidnapping to U.S.**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to extradite Muhbarak Ali Shah Gilani, the alleged suspect in the kidnapping of *The Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl to the U.S., a media report said.

Pakistan has alleged that Gilani, who was being held as a prime suspect in Mr Pearl's abduction despite his strong denials as well as his inability to provide any tangible leads to locate the correspondent, had called up top Indian officials before the kidnapping. He would be extradited to the U.S. as American authorities have given proof of him receiving \$400,000 from certain unnamed organisations in America, the report said.

While Gilani's links with Mr Pearl's kidnapping as well as his linkages with India were yet to be established, the U.S. reportedly uncovered a vast network of his disciples and funding agencies which financed his Rawalpindi-based Al Faqura organisation.

Local media reports of confessions made by Gilani after his surrender said that the millionaire spoke of his invaluable services to Pakistan's security services in the past.

Meanwhile, a top U.S. Treasury official on Monday arrived in Pakistan to push for the release of Mr Pearl and to discuss efforts to curb funding for terrorists. Deputy treasury secretary Kenneth Dam was scheduled to meet President Pervez Musharraf later on Monday, the U.S. embassy in Islamabad and Pakistani authorities said. (Agencies)

# Pak minister calls OIC redundant

*Manama (Bahrain), Jan 20*

A PAKISTANI minister on Saturday criticised the Organisation of the Islamic Conference for its failure to support member-State Pakistan in its dispute with India.

The Jeddah-based OIC has so far issued no statement on the tension between Pakistan and India. "The OIC so far is proving to be a totally redundant and toothless unit. Can't they at least get together and raise their concern?" Minister of Telecommunications Javed Ashraf Qazi told reporters in Bahrain.

Qazi was trying to explain Pakistan's position on the crisis. "If the OIC wants to have some meaningful reason for their existence, they must unite on all Muslim causes and raise their voice," Qazi said.

He said he got "outright support" from the leaders of the UAE Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain and was pleased with their understanding of the situation.

The Gulf States have urged Pakistan and India to defuse the tension by moving their troops away from the border and starting a dialogue.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 JAN 2002

# Pakistan springs a tit-for-tat list

HT Correspondents  
Islamabad/New Delhi, Jan 19

TOUGHENING ITS stand on India's demand for 20 wanted terrorists and criminals, Pakistan today said it would give India its own 'wanted list' for handover.

Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said Pakistan is preparing its list, which would be handed over to New Delhi so that the exchange of criminals can be done on a "reciprocal basis". Those on Pakistan's list, said Sattar, have taken refuge in India after committing terrorist acts in Pakistan. He refused to disclose the names or the number of those sought by Pakistan.

Asked if Pakistan was considering the extradition of non-Pakistanis, as indicated by Colin Powell, he said the decision would be taken only on merit. Sattar said they were tracing them as he was yet to check how many of them were in custody. He said the Indian list contained names of some criminals involved in cases as old as the hijacking case of 1981.

Pakistan had informed the US Secretary of State during his stay there that Islamabad would insist on the handover of wanted Pak-

## FIRE AGAIN

FIRES BROKE out on Saturday in various floors of the Pakistan Government building that was gutted in a major blaze on January 15, destroying records of terrorist groups. The files lying abandoned in offices across the 16-storey building caught fire, the APP news agency said.

PTI, Islamabad

istanis living in India. Most of them are believed to be mohajir activists wanted over Karachi's ethnic violence. Islamabad is reportedly also planning to rake up India's arrest and release of Syed Tahir Hussain, a crony of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Hussain was arrested in India in May and released by a Delhi High Court judge.

Pakistan plans to argue that India failed to hand him over because of a lack of an extradition treaty — the reason why they can't hand over Dawood Ibrahim and Mumbai blast suspects. Analysts believe Pakistan will tie up

the extradition procedure with legal knots till provided a face-saver of some sort by India. The delay will allow it to move many of the fugitives to havens in the UAE and elsewhere.

But India sees the battle really being about persuading Washington. On his trip to New Delhi, India beefed up its terrorism case against Pakistan by presenting Powell two dossiers of evidence in the form two aide memoires, say sources. The first listed hundreds of phone calls linked to the December 13 terrorists, all of which were made to Pakistan. The second provided precise details of the various crimes, movements and identity documents on each of the 20 persons on the 'wanted list'.

**'Tensions easing':** In an interview to CNN, Pervez Musharraf has said tension between India and Pakistan had eased in the last week due to the vibes coming from New Delhi and the diplomatic efforts undertaken by the US. He also said he was under the impression that Vajpayee wanted a dialogue with Pakistan on all issues, including Kashmir.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

20 JAN 2002

# Some militants freed after scrutiny

Free Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 15. — The Pakistan government has released some of the detained activists of the banned militant organisations after scrutiny, media reports said today.

Reports from Karachi said that over 400 members of the militant groups including those of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiyaba blamed for the attack on the Indian Parliament were arrested till yesterday.

According to a report in Pakistan daily, *Dawn*, some of them have been released yesterday after scrutiny.

Confusion reigned supreme over the numbers arrested during the ongoing nation wide crackdown. While some reports put the total number of arrests between 1,300 to 1,600, others quoted Pakistan's interior secretary Mr Tasneem Noorani as saying that over 1,400 members were arrested and 390 offices sealed.

However, these figures did not include the militants arrested in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Media reports here also said that the crackdown against militant groups was not confined only to the banned five outfits. Two outfits of the five banned outfits namely Jaish and Lashkar were active in Jammu and Kashmir while the other three were banned for domestic sectarian violence.

According to reports, the present crackdown included militant organisations Al Badar and Harkatul Mujahideen which



A policeman stands guard in front of a detention cell in Karachi on Tuesday. — AP/PTI

were also active in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan police were on the look out for Harakatul chief, Fazlur Rehman Khalil, who has gone underground.

The Pakistan government, in a bid to thwart the attempts of some groups resurrecting themselves with different names, last night declared that none of the outlawed groups could operate under a changed name.

One of the banned outfits,

Tehrike-Jafria of Pakistan, a Shi'ite sectarian outfit, banned by President Gen Pervez Musharraf said it had changed its name to Millat-e-Jafria.

Jaish-e-Mohammad is also reportedly operating under different names. A spokesman of the interior affairs ministry here drew the attention of the government to Section 11 B-I (b) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 which prohibits the activities of a

proscribed organisation to operate under a different name.

Meanwhile, reports from northern Pakistan said a piquant situation has arisen as several elected representatives in the local legislative assembly belonged to one of the banned outfits, TJP. It was, however, officially clarified that council members elected on TJP tickets would be given a chance to disassociate themselves from the defunct group.

THE STATESMAN

16 JAN 2002

# 'I take you on your offer, Mr Vajpayee,

'Alter mind-sets, jettison historical baggage': the second part of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's address to the nation on Saturday

**S**TRICT action will be taken against any Pakistani individual, group or organisation found involved in terrorism within or outside the country. Our behaviour must always be in accordance with international norms.

On this occasion, as President of Pakistan, I want to convey a message to Prime Minister Vajpayee: If we want to normalise relations between Pakistan and India and bring harmony to the region, the Kashmir dispute will have to be resolved peacefully through a dialogue on the basis of the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Solving the Kashmir Issue is the joint responsibility of our two countries. Let me repeat some of the observations made by you, Mr. Vajpayee, some time back, and I quote: "Mind-sets will have to be altered and historical baggage will have to be jettisoned. I take you on this offer. Let us start talking in this very spirit."

Now as Commander of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, I wish to convey another message. The Armed Forces of Pakistan are fully prepared and deployed to meet any challenge. They will spill the last drop of their blood in the defence of their country. Let there be no attempt of crossing the border in any sector as it will be met with full force. Do not entertain any illusions on this count.

I would also like to address the international community, particularly the United States on this occasion. As I said before on a number of occasions, Pakistan rejects and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestation. Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used for any terrorist activity anywhere in the world. Now you must play an active role in solving the Kashmir dispute for the sake of lasting peace and harmony in the region. We should be under no illusion that the legitimate demand of the people of Kashmir can ever be suppressed without their just resolution. Kashmiris also expect that you ask India to bring an end to state terrorism and human rights violations. Let human rights organisations, Amnesty International, the international media and UN peacekeepers be allowed to monitor activities of the Indian occupation forces.

Now we come to the second problem, which causes confusion in our minds and is of our particular concern. It relates to conflicts involving Muslims. Our religious leaders involve themselves in such conflicts without giving serious thought to them. I don't want to talk at length on this. It is for the government to take a position on international issues. Individuals, organisations and political parties should restrict their activities to expression of their views. I request

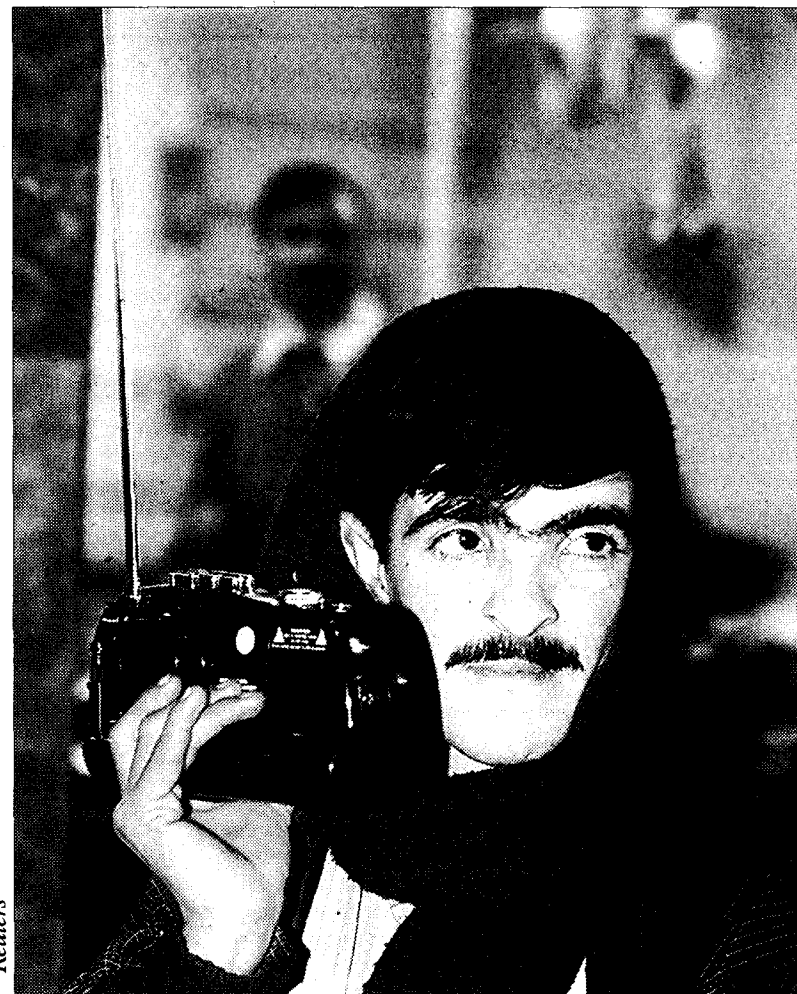
them to express their views on international issues in an intellectual spirit and in a civilised manner through force of argument.

Views expressed with maturity and moderation have greater convincing power. Expressing views in a threatening manner does not create any positive effect and anyone who indulges in hollow threats is taken as an unbalanced person by the world at large.

I would request that we should stop interfering in the affairs of others. First, we should attain the strength and the importance where our views carry weight when we express them.

**N**OW we come to internal decisions. The third issue causing conflict in our minds re-

**It's for the government to take a position on international issues. Individuals and political parties should restrict their activities to expressing their views. Expressing views in a threatening manner does not create any positive effect and anyone who indulges in hollow threats is taken as an unbalanced person by the world at large**



lates to sectarian differences. As I have already pointed out that writ of the Government will be established. No individual, organisation or party will be allowed to break the law of the land. All functioning will be in a regulated manner and within rules.

Now I come to the extremist organisations. Terrorism, and sectarianism must come to an end. I had announced a ban on Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Mohammad on 14 August last year. On that occasion, I had pointed out that Sipah-e-Sahaba and TJP would be kept under observation.

I am sorry to say that there is not much improvement in the situation. Sectarian violence continues unabated. We have busted several gangs involved in sectarian killings. You would be astonished to know that in year 2001 about 400 innocent people fell victim to sectarian and other killings.

Many of the gangs apprehended include people mostly belonging to Sipah-e-Sahaba and some to TJP. This situation cannot be tolerated any more. I, therefore, announce banning of both Sipah-e-Sahaba and TJP. In addition to these, TNSM

(Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat Moham-madi) being responsible for misleading thousands of simple poor people into Afghanistan also stands banned.

This organisation is responsible for their massacre in Afghanistan. The Government has also decided to put the Sunni Tehreek under observation. No organisation is allowed to form Lashkar, Sipah or Jaish. The Government has banned Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Any organisation or individual would face strict punitive measures if found inciting the people to violence in internal or external contexts.

Our mosques are sacred places where we seek the blessings of God Almighty. Let them remain sacred. We will not allow the misuse of mosques. All mosques will be registered and no new mosques will be built without permission. The use of loudspeakers will be limited only to call for prayers, and Friday Sermon and Vaaz. However, I would like to emphasise that special permission is being given for Vaaz (Sermon). If this is misused the permission will be cancelled. If there is any political activity, inciting of sectarian hatred or propagation of extremism in any mosque, the management would be held responsible and proceeded against according to law.

I appeal to all Pesh Imams to project the qualities of Islam in the mosques and invite the people to piety. Talk of obligations towards fellow beings, exhort them to abstain from negative thoughts and promote positive thinking. I hope that all Nazims, Distt. Police officers and Auqaf Department officials will take quick action against violators of these measures.

On Madaris, a detailed policy will be issued through a new Madrasa Ordinance. The Ordinance will be issued in a few days. I feel happy that the Madrasa policy has been finalised in consultation with religious scholars and Mashaikh. I have touched on the merits and shortcomings prevailing in the Madaris. Merits have to be reinforced while shortcomings have to be rooted out. Under the Madrasa policy, their functioning will be regulated. These Madaris will be governed by same rules and regulations applicable to other schools, colleges and universities. All Madaris will be registered by 23rd March 2002 and no new Madrasa will be opened without permission of the Government.

If any Madrasa is found indulging in extremism, subversion, militant activity or possessing any types of weapons, it will be closed. All Madaaris will have to adopt the new syllabi by the end of this year. Those Madaris which are already following such syllabi are welcome to continue. The Government has decided to provide financial assistance to such Madaris. The government will also help the Madaris in the training of their teachers. The Ministry of Education has been instructed to review courses of Islamic education in all schools and colleges also with a view to improving them. So far as foreign students attending Madaris are concerned, we have set rules for them.



**Any madrassa found to be indulging in extremism, subversion or militant activity will be closed. All madaaris will adopt the new syllabi by the year-end. No new madrassa will be opened without the permission of the government. All mosques will be registered and no new mosques will be built without the government's permission**

Foreign students who do not have proper documents would be required to comply with the formalities by 23rd March 2002 otherwise they can face deportation.

Any foreigner wanting to attend madaris in Pakistan will have to obtain required documents from his/her native country and NOC from the government. Only then, he or she will get admission. The same rules will apply to foreign teachers.

Some Ulema were of the view that some poor people who come to Pakistan for religious education should not be deported to the countries of their origin. I agree that this is a genuine demand but such people should regularise their stay in Pakistan through their respective embassies. As I have said, all such activity has to be regulated and the writ of the Government must be established.

**W**ITH a view to ending conflict, I have explained to you at great length the three areas causing confusion in our minds. Making rules, regulations and issuing ordinances is easy but their implementation is difficult. However, I feel all the measures I have announced are of utmost importance. We have to implement them. In this regard, the law enforcement agencies including police must perform their duty. We are introducing reforms in

the police with a view to improving their efficiency. A great responsibility lies on their shoulders.

I have directed the police to ensure implementation of the steps announced by the government and I have no doubt they will be motivated to perform their duty. After reforms and equipped to discharge their duty. Rangers and civil armed forces will be in their support.

We are also taking steps in consultation with the judiciary for speedy trial of cases relating to terrorism and extremism. Anti terrorist courts are being strengthened and necessary orders will be issued in a few days.

Apart from these issues, I would also like to inform you, my brothers and sisters, that we have been sent a list of 20 people by India.

I want to clear our position on this. There is no question of handing over any Pakistani. This will never be done. If we are given evidence against those people, we will take action against them in Pakistan under our own laws. As far as non-Pakistanis are concerned, we have not given asylum to any one. Any one falling under this category will be proceeded against whenever one is found.

**M**Y brothers & Sisters, Pakistan is an Islamic Republic. There are 98 percent Mus-

lims living in this country. We should live like brothers and form an example for rest of the Islamic countries. We should strive to emerge as a responsible and progressive member of the comity of nations.

We have to make Pakistan into a powerful and strong country. We have resources and potential. We are capable of meeting external danger. We have to safeguard ourselves against internal dangers. I have always been saying that internal strife is eating us like termite. Don't forget that Pakistan is the citadel of Islam and if we want to serve Islam well we will first have to make Pakistan strong and powerful. There is a race for progress among all nations.

We cannot achieve progress through a policy of confrontation and feuds. We can achieve progress through human resource development, mental enlightenment, high moral character and technological development. I appeal to all my countrymen to rise to the occasion. We should get rid of intolerance and hatred and instead promote tolerance and harmony.

May God guide us to act upon the true teachings of Islam. May He help us to follow the Quaid-e-Azam's motto: "Unity, Faith and Discipline". This should always be remembered. We will be a non-entity without unity.

(Concluded)

# 'Everyone is sick of this Kalashnikov culture'

The first part of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's address on Saturday, which advocates reforming the country from within

**P**AKISTANI Brothers and Sisters! As you would remember, ever since I assumed office, I launched a campaign to rid the society of extremism, violence and terrorism and strived to project Islam in its true perspective. In my first speech on October 17, 1999, I had said and I quote: "Islam teaches tolerance, not hatred; universal brotherhood, not enmity; peace, and not violence. I have a great respect for the Ulama and expect them to come forward and present Islam in its true light. I urge them to curb elements which are exploiting religion for vested interests and bringing a bad name to our faith".

After this, I initiated a number of steps in this regard. First, in the year 2000, I started interacting with the Taliban and counselled them to inculcate tolerance and bring moderation in their ways. I also told them that those terrorists who were involved in terrorist acts in Pakistan and seeking refuge in Afghanistan should be returned to us. Unfortunately, we did not succeed.

In the year 2001, I think it was January, we sealed the Pak-Afghan borders and I gave directions that no students of any Madrasah (religious seminaries) should be allowed to cross into Afghanistan without relevant documents. After this, I despatched a number of delegations to meet Mullah Omar. I continued to advise them tolerance and balance. Later, on February 15, 2001, we promulgated the Anti-Weaponisation Ordinance. Through this law, we launched a de-weaponisation campaign in Pakistan.

On 5th of June, on the occasion of the Seerat Conference, I addressed Ulama belonging to all schools of thought and spoke firmly to them against religious extremism. On the 14th of August 2001, we finally took a very important decision to ban Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Muhammad and placed Sipah-e-Sahaba and TJP (Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan) under observation.

In addition, on a number of occasions, I called Ulama and Mashaikh and held extensive consultations with them. The objective was to take them on board in our campaign against terrorism and extremism. These measures have been continuing since our government assumed office in 1999. I am explaining the fact that the campaign against extremism undertaken by us from the very beginning is in our own national interest. We are not doing this under advice or pressure from anyone. Rather, we are conscious that it is in our national interest. We are conscious that we need to rid society of extremism and this is being done right from the beginning.

This domestic reforms process was underway when a terrorist attack took place against the United States on the 11th of September. This terrorist act led to momentous changes all over the world. We decided to join the international coalition against terrorism and in this regard I have already spoken to you on a number of occasions. We took this decision on principles and in our national interest.

By the grace of God Almighty our decision was absolutely correct. Our intentions were noble and God Almighty helped us. I am happy to say that the vast majority of Pakistanis stood by this decision and supported our decision. I am proud of the realistic decision of our nation. What really pains me is that some religious extremist parties and groups opposed this decision. What hurts more was that their opposition was not based on principles. At a critical juncture in our history, they preferred their personal and party interests over national interests. They tried their utmost to mislead the nation, took out processions and resorted to agitation. But their entire efforts failed. The people of Pakistan frustrated their designs. As I have said, I am proud of the people of Pakistan who support correct decisions and do not pay heed to those who try to mislead them.

I have interacted with the religious scholars on a number of occasions and exchanged views with them. I am happy to say that our discussions have been very fruitful. A majority of them are blessed with wisdom and vision and they do not mix religion with politics. Some extremists, who were engaged in protests, are people who try to monopolise and attempt to propagate their own brand of religion.

They think as if others are not Muslims. These are the people who considered the Taliban to be a symbol of Islam and that the Tal-

iban were bringing Islamic renaissance or were practising the purest form of Islam. They behaved as if the Northern Alliance, against whom the Taliban were fighting, were non-Muslims! Whereas, in fact, both were Muslims and believers. These extremists were those people who do not talk of 'Haqooqul Ibad' (obligations towards fellow human beings). They do not talk of these obligations because practising them demands self-sacrifice. How will they justify their Pajeros and expensive vehicles?

I want to ask these extremists as to who was responsible for misleading thousands of Pakistanis to their massacre in Afghanistan? These misled people were let down by the very people in whose support they had gone. All of us should learn a lesson from this. We must remember that we are Pakistanis. Pakistan is our identity, our motherland. We will be aliens outside Pakistan and be treated as aliens. Pakistan is our land. It is our soil. If we forsake it, we will face difficulties. This lesson we must learn.

Secular terrorism has been going on for years. Everyone of us is fed up of it. It is becoming unbearable. Our peace-loving people are keen to get rid of the Kalashnikov and weapon culture. Every one is sick of it. It was because of this that we banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Sipah-e-Muhammad. Yet little improvement occurred. The day of reckoning has come. Do we want Pakistan to become a theocratic state? Do we believe that religious education alone is enough for governance or do we want Pakistan to emerge as a progressive and dynamic Islamic welfare state?

The verdict of the masses is in favour of a progressive Islamic state. This decision, based on the teaching of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and in line with the teachings of Quid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal will put Pakistan on the path of progress and prosperity.

**In Islam, Jihad is not confined to armed struggles. Have we thought of waging Jihad against illiteracy, poverty, backwardness and hunger? Pakistan needs to wage Jihad against these evils**

**L**ET us honestly analyse what the few religious extremists have attempted to do with Pakistan and Islam. First, with regard to Afghanistan, they indulged in agitational activities. Look at the damage it has caused! Pakistan's international image was tarnished and we were projected by the international media as ignorant and backward. Our economy suffered. A number of export orders already placed with Pakistani industry were cancelled and no new orders materialised.

This led to closure of some factories and unemployment. The poor daily wage earners lost their livelihood. Extremists also formed a Pakistan-Afghanistan Defence Council! Apart from damaging Pakistan, they had negative thinking and had no idea of anything good for Afghanistan. Did they ever think of bringing about peace to Afghanistan through reconciliation among the Taliban and Northern Alliance? Did they counsel tolerance to them? Did they ever think of collecting funds for the welfare, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-ravaged Afghanistan, or to mitigate sufferings of the poor Afghan people? Did they think of a solution to the hunger, poverty and destruction in Afghanistan?

To my knowledge, only Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi, God bless him, and some foreign NGOs and the UN organisations were providing the Afghans with food and medicines. These extremists did nothing except contributing to bloodshed in Afghanistan. I ask of them, whether they know any thing other than disruption and sowing seeds of hatred? Does Islam preach this?

Now, let us see their activity outside Afghanistan. They initiated sectarian feuds.

Sects and different schools of thought in Islam have existed since long. There is nothing wrong with intellectual differences flowing from freedom of thought as long as such differences remain confined to intellectual debates. Look at what this extremist minority is doing? They are indulging in fratricidal killings. There is no tolerance among them. Quid-e-Azam declared that Pakistan belonged to followers of all religions; that every one would be treated equally. However, what to speak of other religions, Muslims have started killing each other.

I think, these people have declared more Muslims as Kafirs (infidels) than motivating the non-Muslims to embrace Islam. Look at the damage they have caused. They have murdered a number of our highly qualified doctors, engineers, civil servants and teachers who were pillars of our society. Who has suffered? The families of the dead, no doubt. But a greater loss was inflicted on Pakistan because, as I said, we lost the pillars of our society. These extremists did not stop here. They started killing other innocent people in mosques and places of worship.

Today, people are scared of entering these sacred places of worship. It is a matter of shame that police have to be posted outside for their protection. We claim Islam as Deen ora complete way of life.

Is this the way of life that Islam teaches us? That we fight amongst ourselves and feel scared of fellow Muslims, scared of visiting our places of worship where police have to be deputed outside for protection? Mosques are being misused for propagating and inciting hatred against each other's sect and beliefs and against the Government, too.

I would like to inform you that a number of terrorist rings have been apprehended. In Karachi, the Inspector General of Police, while briefing me, informed that the leader of one of these groups is the Pesh Imam (Prayer Leader) of a Mosque in Malir. The Imam has confessed to murdering many people himself. This is the state of affairs. To what purpose are we using our mosques for? These people have made a state within a state and have challenged the writ of the government.

Now, I would like to dwell upon the subject of Madaris or Religious Schools in some detail. These schools are excellent welfare set-ups where the poor get free board and lodge. In my opinion, no NGO can match their welfare aspects. Many of the madaris are imparting excellent education. In addition to religious teachings, other subjects such as science education and computer training are also being imparted there.

I am thankful to them for undertaking excellent welfare measures without State funding. I would also like to say that I have projected madaris internationally and with various heads of states time and again. I think no one else in Pakistan has done so much for their cause. However, there are some negative aspects of some madrasahs. These few impart only religious education and such education which produces semi-literate religious scholars. This is a weakness. Very few madaris, I repeat very few of them, are under the influence of politico-religious parties or have been established by them. I know that some of these promote negative thinking and propagate hatred and violence instead of inculcating tolerance, patience and fraternity.

**W**E MUST remember that historically, the madrasa was a prestigious seat of learning. They were citadels of knowledge and beacon of light for the world. When Islam was at its zenith, every discipline of learning e.g.: mathematics, science, medicine, astronomy and jurisprudence were taught at these institutions. Great muslim luminaries such as Al-Beruni, Ibn-e-Sina (Avesina) and Ibn Khuldoon, were the products of these same madaris.

And if we study history, we see that from the 7th to 15th century AD, transfer of technology took place from the Muslims to the rest of the world. Look at Muslims' condition today. Islam teaches us to seek knowledge, even if it involved travel to China. I am sure you are aware that the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) had told prisoners of war in the Battle of Badar that they would be set free if each of them imparted education to ten Muslims. Quite obviously, this education could not have been religious education as the prisoners were non-Muslims.

So the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) was actually referring to worldly education. If we do not believe in education, are we following the teachings of Islam or violating them? We must ask what direction are we being led into by these extremists? The writ of the government is being challenged. Pakistan has been made a soft state where the supremacy of law is questioned. This situation can not be tolerated any more.

The question is, what is the correct path? First of all, we must rid the society of sectarian hatred and terrorism, promote mutual harmony. Remember that mindsets can not be changed through force and coercion. No idea can ever be forcibly thrust upon any one. May be the person changes outwardly but minds and hearts can never be converted by force. Real change can be brought about through personal example, exemplary character and superior intellect. It can be brought about by Haqooq-ul-ibad (Obligation towards fellow beings).

Have we forgotten the example of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) where Islam was spread by virtue of his personal conduct, true leadership and that is how changes in the world took place at that time.



We have forgotten the teaching of revered personalities of Islam like Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh, Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, Farreed Ganj Shakar, Baha-uddin Zakria etc.

Was Islam spread by them through force and coercion? No. They preached Islam by personal example. I give these examples because it hurts me to see where we have relegated ourselves now. We must restore that status of Madaris to what it originally was. We have to change the state of affairs and take them on the path of improvement.

The second thing I want to talk about is the concept of Jihad in its totality. I want to dilate upon it because it is a contentious issue, requiring complete comprehension and understanding. In Islam, Jihad is not confined to armed struggles only. Have we ever thought of waging Jihad against illiteracy, poverty, backwardness and hunger? This is the larger Jihad. Pakistan, in my opinion, needs to wage Jihad against these evils. After the battle of Khyber, the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) stated that Jihad-e-Asghar (Smaller Jihad) is over but Jihad-e-Akbar (Greater Jihad) has begun. This meant that armed Jihad i.e. the smaller Jihad was now over and the greater Jihad against backwardness and illiteracy had started. Pakistan needs Jihad-e-Akbar at this juncture.

By the way we must remember that only the government of the day and not every individual can proclaim armed Jihad. The extremist minority must realise that Pakistan is not responsible of waging armed Jihad in the world. I feel that in addition to Haqooq Allah (Obligations to God), we should also focus on Haqooq-Al-ebad (Obligations towards fellow human beings). At Schools, Colleges and Madaris, Obligations towards fellow beings should be preached. We know that we have totally ignored the importance of correct dealings with fellow humans beings. There is no room for feuds in Islamic teachings. It is imperative that we teach true Islam i.e. tolerance, forgiveness, compassion, justice, fair play, amity and harmony, which is the true spirit of Islam. We must adopt this. We must shun negative thinking.

We have formulated a new strategy for Madaris and there is need to implement it so as to galvanize their good aspects and remove their drawbacks. We have developed a new syllabi for them providing for teaching of Pakistan studies, Mathematics, Science and English along with religious subjects.

Even if we want these Madaris to produce religious leaders they should be educated along these lines. Such people will command more respect in the society because they will be better qualified. To me, students of religious schools should be brought in to the mainstream of society. If any one of them opts to join college or university, he would have the option of being equipped with the modern education. If a child studying at a madrasa does not wish to be a prayer leader and he want to be a bank official or seek employment elsewhere, he should be facilitated.

It would mean that the students of Madaris should be brought to the mainstream through a better system of education. This is the crux of the Madrasa strategy.

This by no means is an attempt to bring religious educational institutions under Govt control nor do we want to spoil the excellent attributes of these institutions. My only aim is to help these institutions in overcoming their weaknesses and providing them with better facilities and more avenues to the poor children at these institutions.

**We have to stop exploitation of the country's poor and not incite them to violence. We must concern ourselves with our own country. Pakistan comes first. There is no need to interfere in other countries**

We must check abuse of mosques and madaris and they must not be used for spreading political and sectarian prejudices. We want to ensure that mosques enjoy freedom and we are here to maintain it. At the same time we expect a display of responsibility along with freedom. If the Imam of mosques fail to display responsibility, curbs would have to be placed on them. After this analysis, now, I come to some conclusions and decisions: - First, we have to establish the writ of the Government. All organizations in Pakistan will function in a regulated manner. No individual, organization or Party will be allowed to break law of the land. The internal environment has to be improved.

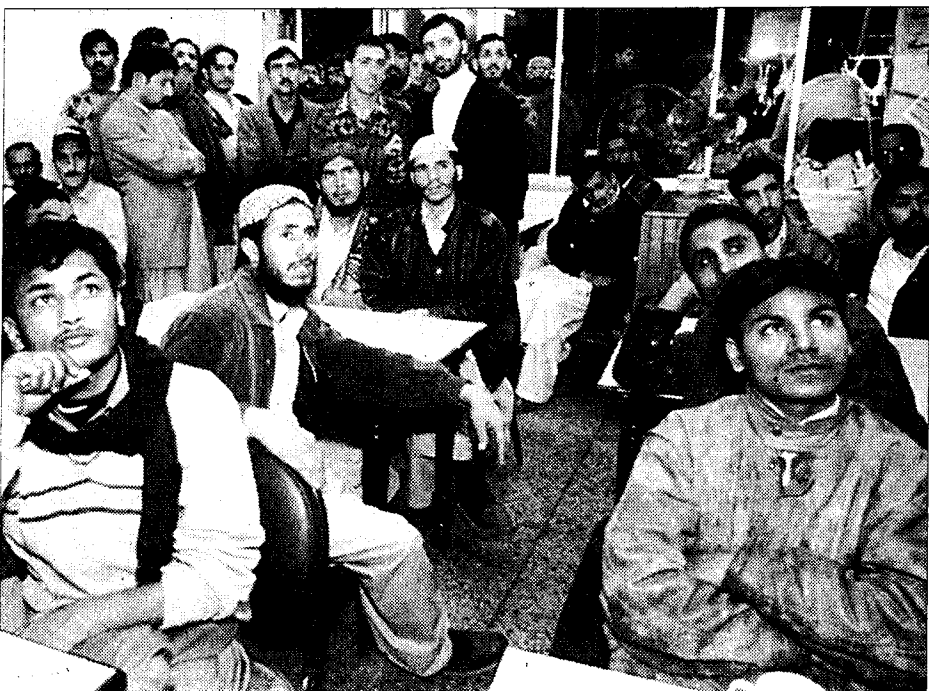
Maturity and equilibrium have to be established in the society. We have to promote an environment of tolerance, maturity, responsibility, patience and understanding. We have to check extremism, militancy, violence and fundamentalism. We will have to forsake the atmosphere of hatred and anger. We have to stop exploitation of simple poor people of the country and not to incite them to feuds and violence. We must concern ourselves with our own country. Pakistan comes first. We do not need to interfere and concern ourselves with others. There is no need to interfere in other countries.

Now I turn to other important issues. In my view there are three problems causing conflict and agitation in our minds. They include; first the Kashmir Cause, secondly all political disputes at the international level concerning Muslims and thirdly internal sectarian disputes and differences.


These are the three problems which create confusion in our minds. I want to lay down rules of behaviour concerning all the three.

Let us take the Kashmir Cause first. Kashmir runs in our blood. No Pakistani can afford to sever links with Kashmir. The entire Pakistan and the world knows this. We will continue to extend our moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmir. We will never budge an inch from our principle stand on Kashmir. The Kashmir problem needs to be resolved by dialogue and peaceful means in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and the United Nations resolutions. We have to find the solution of this dispute. No organization will be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. We condemn the terrorist acts of September 11, October 1 and December 13. Anyone found involved in any terrorist act would be dealt with sternly.


(Tomorrow: Alter mind-sets, jettison historical baggage)




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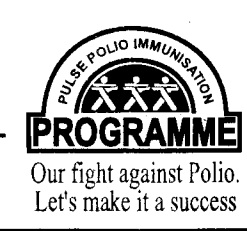
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# Musharraf's speech evokes mixed response

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, JAN. 12.** The so-called 'historic speech' of Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to the nation has evoked a mixed response in the country, with the Lashkar-e-Taiba rejecting the ban decision and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) criticising him for what was termed as a "go-it-alone" policy.

In a statement minutes after Gen. Musharraf finished his speech, a spokesman of the Lashkar claimed from Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoK, that the decision of the Pakistan Government to ban the outfit would not affect its activities.

The Lashkar spokesman, Abdullah Sayyaf, maintained that it was a Kashmiri outfit and was "struggling against the Indian occupation forces in Occupied Kashmir".

"Terrorism is unislamic. We do not justify any terrorism. We do not target civilians, public places, Parliament buildings, buses and public stations," Sayyaf said.

He argued that the Government of Pakistan did not have any evidence to declare Lashkar a terrorist group. He said the Lashkar challenged the whole world to prove that the group was involved in any terrorist act.

He claimed that the Lashkar was only targeting Indian forces and its military installations. He said the ban would not affect the jihad and the group would continue it.

The PPP, led by the former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, criticised the speech of Gen. Musharraf on the ground that it had failed to acknowledge that wrong policies were followed by an 'unelected government'.

"The go-it-alone philosophy where the Cabinet, the National Security Council and other elements were ignored in crucial decision making was one of the reasons of being out of touch with reality and causing grievous harm to the nation State."

The PPP said that the refusal to crack down on private militias de-

spite warnings from democratic forces was one of the factors for the current state of affairs. It said refusal to act led to the show of force by India on the borders and total capitulation, which hurt the national sentiment, as it could have been done from a position of high moral authority.

The spokesperson complained that opportunities were also lost because the regime substituted vengeance for governance since its assumption of office. These lost opportunities included the Agra visit, the opportunity to build a sound South Asian policy after the 'War against Terror' began, which both India and Pakistan joined.

"Instead of telling New Delhi to 'lay off', given the new world situation, only to later 'lie down', the regime could have built a new phase to safeguard the national interest. "Tragically the shortsighted Musharraf regime failed to read the writing on the wall and to devise policies that could enhance the prestige of Pakistan," the PPP said.

Former Pakistan Ambassador to Sri Lanka and well-known columnist, Hussain Haqqani, said that Gen. Musharraf's speech broke no new ground in relation to the standoff with India. The only phrase that could give India some comfort was his statement that "Pakistan will not allow any terrorist activity from its soil anywhere in the world".

Mr. Haqqani said Gen. Musharraf did not emphasise the distinction between 'terrorists' and 'freedom fighters' in Kashmir, which could be seen as a subtle positive signal. "Other than that, the speech represented a whimper rather than a bang."

"The Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad as well as sectarian militias were banned. The fact that the lines regarding Jaish and Lashkar were edited in reflects that this announcement was included as an afterthought, possibly on Mr. Powell's intervention. Of course, it makes little difference as the U.S. ban on these

organisations has already been implemented," he said.

## PTI reports:

### Britain welcomes speech

Britain tonight hoped that India will respond "positively" to Gen. Musharraf's remarks regarding resolution of the Kashmir issue through peaceful means and the ban on the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad blamed for the December 13 terror attack on Parliament.

"We welcome President Musharraf's clear appeal for a normalisation of relations with India and the resolution of differences over Kashmir through peaceful means and dialogue," a statement issued in London by the Prime Minister's office said.

It hoped that India would respond positively to that message and to the banning of the two terrorist outfits involved in the December attack on Parliament.

## Tension will affect use of Pak. airbases: U.S.

**WASHINGTON, JAN. 12.** The United States has said that an Indo-Pak. conflict following rising tension along the border would affect the use of Pakistani airbases given to the U.S. for its campaign against terror in Afghanistan.

"Right now, we have the ability to move things across that (Pakistan) country. And there would be the whole issue of deconfliction or no flying (in case of an Indo-Pak.) conflict and there are lots of complex things that get discussed, and they are being discussed in a very orderly and sensible way," the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, said on Friday.

He, however, said "the President of Pakistan has been exceedingly cooperative." Pakistan allowed the U.S.-led coalition use of four air bases for its campaign.

— PTI

# General bans Jaish, LeT, but sticks to his guns on Kashmir

*'We will not allow Pak territory to be used for terrorist activity'*

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf on Saturday night banned the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), blamed for the terrorist attack on the Indian parliament, but ruled out handing over their leaders to India even as he announced a series of decisions to crack down on Islamic extremism.

In an hour-long nationally telecast address, Gen Musharraf ruled out handing over of any of the Pakistani citizens included in the list of 20 terrorists wanted by India. "The question of handing over any Pakistani does not arise. We shall never do it."

If the government found evidence against them, Gen Musharraf added, "we will try them in our country".

He also said that the non-Pakistanis named in the Indian list had not been given asylum in this country. "If they are found here then we will think of taking appropriate action against them."

During the much-awaited address, Gen Musharraf, dressed in a black *achkan*, appeared tense, in sharp contrast to his usual flamboyant style. He appeared to be rambling during the first half of the address before announcing specific decisions against extremism and terrorism.

Stating that "Kashmir runs in our blood", Gen Musharraf declared that Pakistan would never "budge an inch from our principled stand on Kashmir". But no organisation would be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir, he said.

Gen Musharraf made a fresh offer for a dialogue with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Kashmir but harped

## Lashkar vows to continue jihad

**KARACHI:** Reacting to the ban imposed on it by President Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan-based Kashmiri militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba has vowed to continue its jihad in Kashmir.

"The government of Pakistan has no right to ban us as we are a Kashmir-based group fighting against the Indian forces. We will continue our jihad," Lashkar spokesman Abdullah Sayyaf said, adding that the Lashkar had been banned without any evidence of its involvement in terrorism. (AFP)



Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf addresses the nation on television in Islamabad on Saturday

## MUSHARRAF SPEAK

**DEMAND DAMNED:** Islamabad will not hand over Pakistanis wanted by New Delhi

**WATCH YOUR STEP:** India warned against crossing the border

**TALKS THE TALK:** Offers fresh dialogue with India on Kashmir

**HOME RULE:** No new madrasa can be opened without government nod

on the oft-repeated theme of resolving the issue through dialogue in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Stating that he wanted to send a message to Mr Vajpayee, Gen Musharraf said "as president of Pakistan, I want to say that if one wishes to normalise Indo-Pak relations and bring harmony to the ties, the Kashmir dispute has to be resolved peacefully through dialogue in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It has to be the responsibility of both."

He quoted Mr Vajpayee's recent remarks that "mindsets will have to be altered and historical baggage jettisoned".

"I take you up on this offer and let us start talking in this very spirit," he said.

The commander-in-chief of Pakistan's armed forces talked tough and warned India that any attempt to cross the border would be met with "full force".

"Don't try to cross the border. We will use our full might in giving a fitting response," he told India.

Addressing the international commu-

nity, especially the U.S., Gen Musharraf declared that Pakistan rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used for any terrorist activity in the world," he said, switching over to English from Urdu.

He then invited the U.S. to play an "active role in solving the Kashmir dispute for the sake of lasting peace and harmony in the region".

Announcing a series of measures to curb Islamic extremism, he banned the Sunni extremist groups Sipah-i-Sahaba and its Shiite rival Tehreek-i-Jafria Pakistan, blaming them for sectarian violence which had claimed more than 400 lives last year. He also banned the Tehreek-i-Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammedi.

All religious schools (madrasas) are to be registered by March end, no such school would open without government permission and foreign students seeking admission to such institutions will also have to seek the government's permission.

Warning that the misuse of mosques would be dealt with sternly, Gen Musharraf said "all the mosques should be registered and no new mosques would be allowed without a no objection certificate" from the government.

He said "loudspeakers in the mosque cannot be used beyond prayer time". There was no immediate response from India to the Pakistan President's televised speech. "Gen Musharraf's speech is being studied in depth. We are analysing it and hope to give a detailed response tomorrow," official sources said. (Agencies)

## U.S. welcomes Musharraf's views

**WASHINGTON:** The state department on Saturday welcomed Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's address and his promise to crack down on militants suspected of committing acts of violence against India.

Maintaining that the speech had provided the basis for both sides to bring down the tension, a senior official said, "Gen Musharraf's speech marks a clear break with the violence of the past in Kashmir and Pakistani society as a whole." (Reuters)

RAJNATH AND WAR CLOUDS REVIVE BJP'S CHANCES BUT

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 JAN 2002



# Pak arrests in speech in speech countdown

**Karachi, Jan. 12** (Agencies): Police in southern Pakistan rounded up about 200 activists from militant Islamic groups today in a pre-emptive move to stifle any violent reaction to President Pervez Musharraf's address.

"It was a precautionary step to avoid any possible reaction to the president's speech," a senior police official in southern Sindh province, Moazzam Jah Ansari, said.

Dozens of activists were detained this morning in raids on three madarsas and two mosques at Karachi, police sources said.

"I can only confirm more arrests have been made today in Karachi," a Sindh provincial police spokesman said.

He said raids and detentions were continuing in various cities across Sindh and that around 200 people have been detained.

A Karachi police official said at least 26 activists from the Jaish-e-Mohammad, the Sipahi-e-Sahaba and the Tehrik-e-Jaffria had been taken into custody.

Sipahi-e-Sahaba, a Sunni Muslim outfit, and its Shi'ite rival, the Tehrik-e-Jaffria, have been blamed for waves of sectarian violence, bombings and killings in the country.

The police said the arrests could be seen as a

measure to avoid any flare-up.

Also among those held were members of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish, blamed by India for the December 13 attack on its Parliament.

At least 30 activists were detained in pre-dawn raids on homes and group offices in Hyderabad, 160 kilometres north-east of Karachi, the police said. Another 20 people have been held in the Sindh cities of Sukkur and Dadu.

While the crackdown took place in different parts of Pakistan, latest reports said the police also arrested several militants in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Sources said today's raids were the latest in a government drive to get tough with militant groups blamed for sectarian violence and for attacks in India.

The government had earlier said more than 100 activists had been picked up since late December, but officials of the militant groups say hundreds of their members have been detained.

The government has also shut offices of militant organisations, including those operating in Kashmir.

The organisations have been barred from displaying banners and flags. They have also been asked not to collect donations.

## AFTER THE ATTACK, THE ACTION

- **DEC. 13:** Pervez Musharraf condemns attack on Parliament
- **DEC. 15:** Says Pakistan ready to "cooperate" in investigations to track down those responsible
- **DEC. 21:** India recalls high commissioner Vijay Nambiar, but Pakistan says it will not retaliate
- **DEC. 24:** Pakistan freezes accounts of Lashkar-e-Toiba and Umma Tameer-e-Nou
- **DEC. 25:** General talks tough after coming back from China. Jaish-e-Mohammad leader Masood Azhar detained

● **DEC. 26:** Pakistan echoes US, declares Lashkar and Jaish illegal

● **DEC. 27:** Pakistan returns New Delhi's blow, halves India's diplomatic staff in Islamabad, prohibits Indian Airlines from flying over its airspace

● **DEC. 30:** Lashkar chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed arrested for making "inflammatory" speeches

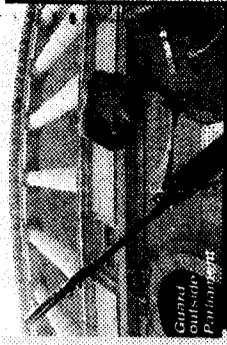
● **JAN. 1:** Pakistan demands proof before acting on a list of terrorists India wants handed over

● **JAN. 2:** Musharraf orders ISI to stop backing militant outfits fighting in Kashmir

● **JAN. 5:** Musharraf shakes Vajpayee's hand at Saarc summit, offers "genuine and sincere hand of friendship to Prime Minister of India"

● **JAN. 6:** Vajpayee and Musharraf have brief "informal interaction" at summit

● **JAN. 7:** The Pakistan President picks a moderate to head a committee on Kashmir



Gupta  
outfit  
Parliament



Masood Azhar



The handshake

P.R. 110.1 1371

# Pak. orders crackdown on militant outfits

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 12. Authorities in Pakistan's Sindh and Punjab provinces launched a massive crackdown on activists of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad on Friday night, just ahead of the President, Pervez Musharraf's speech.

Though it was not clear how many were picked up, reports from Lahore and Karachi said raids continued throughout the night. Several Lashkar and Jaish activists, fearing arrest, went un-

derground. The parent organisation of the Lashkar said several "Mujahideen and practising Muslims" were held. Its web site said another 450 "are on the hit list."

In another development the acting chief of Jamait-e- Ulema-Islam, Maulana Haidri, said the religious parties would launch a nation-wide agitation to force Gen. Musharraf to take back the air bases provided to American forces for operations inside Afghanistan.

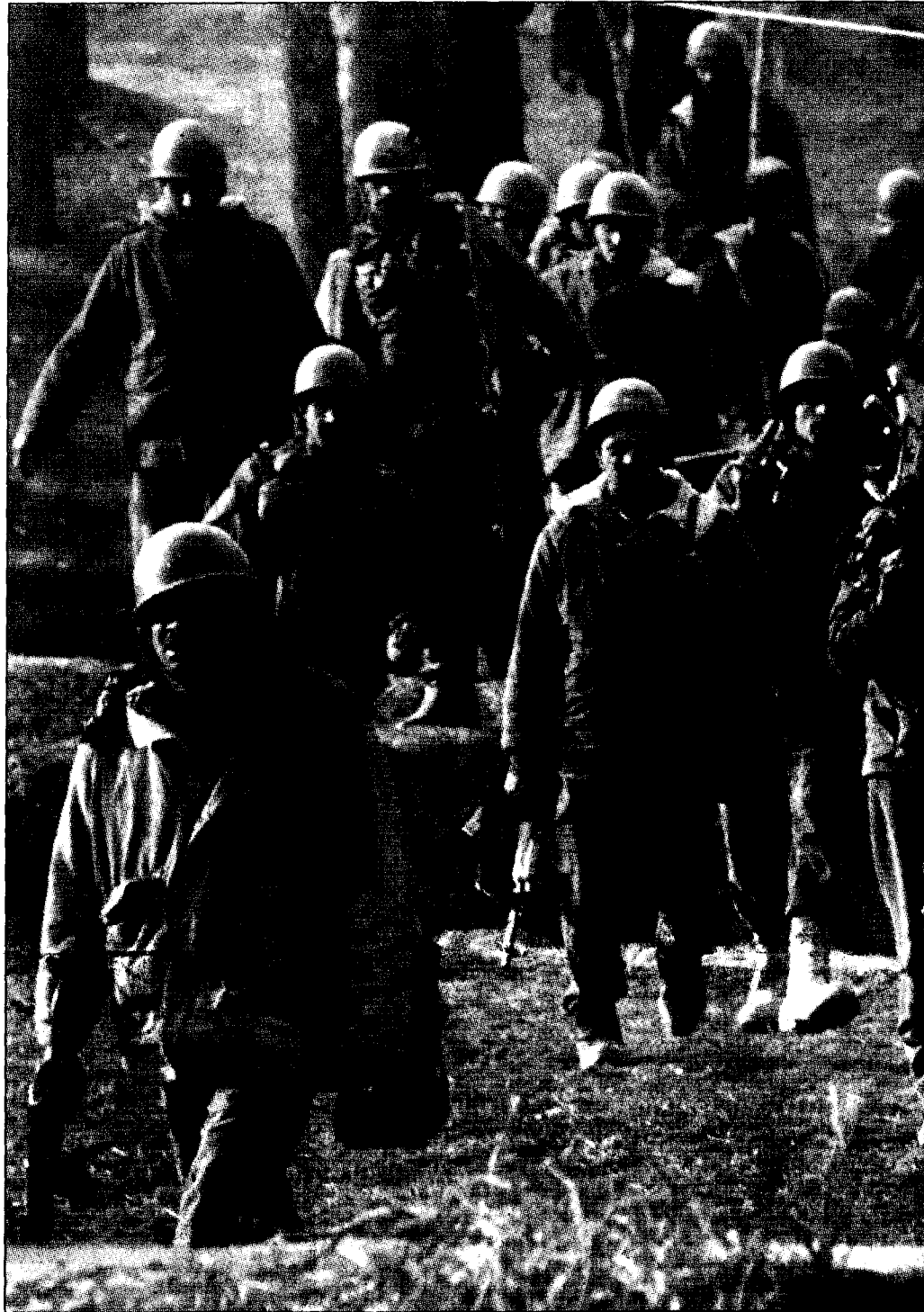
"We are compelled to do so.

There is a heightening stand-off between India and Pakistan and our airbases in the control of enemy's friend forces. Regime rulers with their myopic decisions have put the integrity and stability of the country at stake", the Maulana said.

He accused Gen. Musharraf of being " a friend of disbelievers" and asserted that the President would have to pay a heavy price.

"He (Gen. Musharraf) will go for retributions" the Maulana said and condemned the 'autocratic' style of the President.

# Pervez picks dove for Kashmir



Soldiers on their way back after lifting siege on a mosque in Baramulla. (Reuters)  
 ■ Report on Page 6

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR  
 AND AGENCIES

Islamabad, Jan. 9: Pervez Musharraf today appointed a moderate to head a committee on Kashmir and imposed a security clampdown on Islamabad as the countdown began to an address to the nation the world is waiting for.

Section 144 was enforced in Islamabad, barring people from carrying firearms in the capital territory for the next two months. The move comes amid reports that the government is planning to ban five jihadi outfits and is being seen as an attempt to counter a possible backlash.

Musharraf, who is preparing for his biggest speech since he rallied to the US-led war against the Taliban, today put off his weekly Cabinet meeting by a day. The meeting tomorrow will discuss the government's crack-down on militants, following which the President is expected to address the nation.

The government has constituted a National Committee on Kashmir and appointed as its head Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, a former president of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir who is opposed to militancy.

The names of other committee members will be announced shortly and Musharraf will address its first meeting, scheduled for January 15.

An official announcement said the committee would project the Kashmir issue at the international level and mobilise world opinion to settle it according to UN resolutions.

The formation of the committee coincides with the crack-down on militant groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Toiba, operating in Kashmir.

Qayyum was opposed to Kashmir militancy and was sidelined by the government for several years as a result. Though his Muslim Conference Party secured a majority in the PoK elec-

tions last year, Qayyum could not take over as Prime Minister.

Responding to hints from the Pakistan army, the party elected his junior, Sikander Hayat, to the post and nominated General (retired) Mohammad Anwar Khan as president. Khan was not even a member of the party.

Senior aides said Musharraf's address to the nation would explain to his people the need to crack down on extremist religious violence.

"He will obviously tell the people what this level of extremism and violence was leading us to," a military official said.

"He may ask them to take a look at what is good for the future of Pakistan and Pakistani society," he said, adding that the speech could be tough on what he called an extremist minority that was resorting to violence and intimidation.

US state department spokesman Richard Boucher had said in Washington yesterday: "We look forward to hearing from

President Musharraf in that speech on the course that he believes the nation should follow."

"We expect that they will continue to move against terrorist organisations because of the danger that these organisations pose to Pakistan and its neighbours," he added.

Pakistani officials tried to play down speculation of a ground-breaking address by Musharraf, saying it was now difficult for the military ruler to manoeuvre without appearing to respond directly to pressure from New Delhi to close down militant groups active in Kashmir.

"He had wanted to move in a certain direction, but now he could be seen as acting under pressure," said a senior aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan has sought the UN Security Council's intervention to ease the tension between New Delhi and Islamabad, saying it threatened to escalate into a full-scale war.

## Another attack and war: Advani

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Jan. 9: Home minister L.K. Advani began whirlwind talks at the highest levels of the Bush administration today by cautioning Americans that five faceless terrorists causing another incident akin to the December 13 attack on Parliament could plunge South Asia into war.

Making out a strong case on behalf of India on the world stage since December 13, the burden of Advani's argument with attorney-general John Ashcroft, secretary of state Colin Powell and others today was as follows.

Unless General Pervez Musharraf can convince New Delhi that he is serious about putting down terrorism directed against India, another attack like the one on Parliament will

be blamed on Musharraf by Indian public opinion even if his government did not organise or facilitate it.

Musharraf's steps against Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and other terrorist outfits can carry conviction in India only if he backs it up, as a starting point, by actually handing over at least some of the criminals listed by India.

Musharraf has so far absolved his country of any responsibility for terrorist incidents within India. If he is to be believed, not a single Pakistani has done anything to hurt India.

Puncturing a big hole in Musharraf's self-

proclaimed alibis to avert a conflict and continue the low intensity war to bleed India with these arguments, Advani asked the Bush administration not to harp only on public opinion in Pakistan and about Musharraf's domestic compulsions.

India, too, has similar compulsions, the home minister told Ashcroft, his host here, and Powell, who is scheduled to leave on January 15 on a tour that will take him to Delhi and Islamabad.

### QUOTE

**Their work was done and now injustice is being meted out towards India**

GEORGE FERNANDES  
*on the US*

Public opinion in India has been distrustful of Musharraf's action against terrorists so far. In a democracy, Advani said, it is difficult to defy public opinion. The Americans ought to know that better

than anyone else.

Sources privy to today's talks said Advani gave a concise exposition of Indian fears, suspicions and demands. The Indian side believes Advani's arguments will have a strong effect on the Bush administration which sees the need to avert war in South Asia as paramount to Washington's current self-interest.

Delhi's expectations are that after talking to Advani, the Bush administration will put greater pressure on Musharraf to accommodate some of India's demands. The home minister's visit here may, therefore, provide the key to defusing the current tension between Delhi and Islamabad.

The Bush administration advised Advani to be patient with Pakistan as Musharraf unveiled his grand plan to curb terrorism.

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# Pakistan brushes aside China cargo report

9/1

Mubashir Zaidi  
Islamabad, January 8

PAKISTAN'S *DAILY News* said today that China had sent five ships within 10 days late last month with cargo comprising cartons of unassembled brand new combat aircraft and Air Force-related weapons to Karachi port. This was aimed at reducing the imbalance between the Air Forces of India and Pakistan, the newspaper said.

But the Government denied the report. Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Khan called the report fabricated. "I've seen the report. It is totally fabricated," he told a news briefing this evening.

Quoting Pakistani officials, the newspaper said China had made a speedy delivery of spares and related equipment for Pakistan's strategic assets through the Korakram Highway before Christmas to avoid snow blocking this crucial communication line between the two countries.

"Pakistan's extensive missile defence system has been raised with an active support of the Chinese Government," it said.

Pakistani officials said it was an unprecedented gesture of friendship from China. "China had sent the ships destined for Karachi before President General Pervez Musharraf met Chinese President Jiang Zemin for a crucial dialogue that coincided with the height of border tension between Pakistan and India on December 21".

The newspaper said the Chinese assistance had instantly enhanced the combat capability of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) by several squadrons of brand new Super-7 and the F-7 fighter aircraft had narrowed a dangerous 1:2 ratio of Air Force planes between India and Pakistan.

"Because of military security reasons, Pakistani officials are withholding the exact number of fighter aircraft added to the PAF with Chinese assistance in the last few weeks," the daily claimed. It also said that for the past few years, the Aviation Industry of China and the Aviation Integrated Company of Pakistan had been working on a joint plan to build a lightweight multi-purpose fighter aircraft. "The

project was completed late last year with production ready in time for shipment to Pakistan," it added.

Military officials regard the proposed S-7 fighter aircraft as a variant of China's F-7 fighter plane family, but with enhanced maneuverability, an engine with increased thrust, advanced avionics equipment and modern cockpit configuration. S-7 has night combat capability, and the integrated close range combat effectiveness of the S-7 is 90 per cent higher than that of the original F-7 family.

The daily claimed that before the PAF cargo's arrival from China, the Air Force had made arrangements to shift the unassembled aircraft from Karachi port to various PAF facilities where Pakistani and Chinese officials worked together to assemble and deploy them in record time.

Officials told the paper that since coming to power, President Pervez Musharraf had developed close personal ties with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji.

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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

9 JAN 2002

# India's terror list being analysed: Musharraf

## Blair calls for meaningful dialogue between neighbours

ISLAMABAD: In an apparent climbdown from his hardline stand, Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Monday that his government was "in the process" of analysing the cases of 20 "individuals" whose extradition had been demanded by India for committing heinous crimes.

"We talked about the list of names. We have not fully analysed the details of the individuals (named in the list). We are in the process of analysing (them)," Gen Musharraf told a joint press conference after his discussions with visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Gen Musharraf's remarks came a day after he had, during the just-concluded Saarc summit in Kathmandu, rejected handing in any of the 20 people India wants for their involvement in the December 13 attack on parliament, the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts, the 1999 Kandahar hijacking and other heinous crimes.

"One will look for evidence against them," Gen Musharraf said, adding that a decision would be taken after a close analysis.

Gen Musharraf said he would address the nation in the next few days and would spell out the measures being taken by his government to contain the activities of militant and extremist groups.

Pointing out that he had banned two extremist groups on August 14 last year, he said steps were also being taken against certain other outfits, including the two which were on the watchlist. Gen Musharraf said his country rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and accused India of making "belligerent statements" which were responsible for the tension with Pakistan.

"We should be resolute in our total rejection of all acts of terrorism," Mr Blair said, adding both India

and Pakistan should engage in a "meaningful dialogue" to resolve their disputes, including the Kashmir problem.

Gen Musharraf said he was happy to state that "Pakistan and the United Kingdom hold similar perceptions on global and regional issues.

"Pakistan rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and has fully cooperated with the international coalition in that spirit," he said.

Mr Blair said, "People understand that there can be no place for terrorist acts—either those of September 11 or December 13. In our discussions, you (Gen Musharraf) have made it clear that Pakistan rejects terrorism in all its forms. I welcome it."

The British premier, who flew in here after holding talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi, said a resolution of Indo-Pak issues would be in the greater interest of the people of the two countries and the region. Both countries were facing difficult times and there "is need to resolve the difficult issues through dialogue", he said. "It is possible to bring about a situation which will allow de-escalation of the present tension," Mr Blair added.

Gen Musharraf said he and Mr Blair discussed the issue of Indo-Pak tensions in detail and underlined the need for "defusing the dangerous situation".

Recalling his talks with Mr Vajpayee, Mr Blair said the Indian leader was willing to have a dialogue on all issues with Pakistan.

"Terrorism is terrorism wherever it occurs and whoever are the victims. If the collective will is there, we can break the back of the terrorists," Mr Blair said. (PTI)

### SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY



British Prime Minister Tony Blair has a word with Pakistan foreign minister Abdus Sattar after his arrival at the Pakistan air force base of Chaklala on Monday.

## Pak must gun for terror before talks: Jaswant

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Even as the U.S. and Britain continue to mount pressure on India and Pakistan to begin a dialogue to defuse border tensions, New Delhi on Monday categorically ruled out any talks until there was a substantive change in Islamabad's policy of promoting cross-border terrorism.

"Where is the question of dialogue when there is no change in Pakistan's attitude towards terrorism?" said external affairs minister Jaswant Singh after a two-hour-long meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Monday.

Mr Singh said it was "very regrettable" that there was absolutely no change in Pakistan's attitude and approach towards combating terrorism. Islamabad, he said, continues to maintain double standards, with completely different approaches towards "Western interests and Afghanistan" on the one hand, and Kashmir on the other.

"This is not acceptable to India. You cannot have one attitude about terrorism to the west of Pakistan and an altogether different attitude to the east of Pakistan," Mr Singh said. Indo-Pak relations would continue to be "tense" until Islamabad left the path of terrorism, he emphasised. The CCS reviewed the security situation in the region, the visit of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, developments at the recently-concluded Saarc summit at Kathmandu and other international developments.

On his meetings with Pakistan foreign minister Abdus Sattar on the fringes of the Saarc summit, Mr Singh said he may have met him "at least half-a-dozen times" but "nothing substantial" was discussed. On being asked about Gen Pervez Musharraf's contention that India should provide evidence against the 20 terrorists and criminals whose extradition it had sought, Mr Singh said, "General Sahib toh wohi raag alaapate rehte hai.. We have given them full evidence."

# Latecomer Musharraf delays Saarc summit

## Dashes hopes of meeting with Vajpayee

By Dileep Padgaonkar  
Times News Network

KATHMANDU: With the postponement of the Saarc summit by a day due to the late arrival of Gen Pervez Musharraf, the chances of his meeting Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, which were slim to begin with, have all but evaporated. However, sources close to Mr Vajpayee have still not ruled out the possibility of talks at the level of foreign ministers.

Gen Musharraf could not arrive here on time for the inaugural session—scheduled for early afternoon on Friday—due to adverse weather conditions at Chengdu airport in China.

This was the official version given by the organisers of the summit. But there was intense speculation that the delay may well have been related to the arrest on Thursday of an employee of the Pakistan embassy for allegedly possessing fake U.S. and Indian currency.

The Nepali authorities released the employee following intensive pressure from the Pakistanis. The latter were believed to have made it clear that the participation of Gen Musharraf in the summit proceedings would be compromised unless the matter was swiftly sorted out.

On Thursday, the Pakistan embassy launched a "strong protest" against the employee's arrest and claimed that that the charge levelled at him was a "total fabrication" and an "attempt to sabotage Saarc".

The Nepalese authorities are understood to have decided that the employee would be declared persona non grata and asked to leave the country on January 8, a day after the summit ends. The episode is expected to encourage Nepal to crack down on ISI activities in the kingdom, especially those related to circulation of fake Indian currency notes, drug peddling

and instigating terrorist activities in India.

Right now, however, the authorities are eager to ensure that it does not undermine the success of the summit.

Irrespective of whether or not this incident can be linked to the late arrival of Gen Musharraf, the fact is that it has resulted in the cancellation of the retreat

of the leaders of the Saarc nations at the Nagarkot holiday resort, which was scheduled for Saturday. This would have been the only opportunity away from the glare of the media for Mr Vajpayee and Gen Musharraf to resume their dialogue.

Meanwhile, Indian officials, requesting anonymity, told this newspaper that a meeting between external affairs minister Jaswant Singh and Pakistan foreign minister Abdus Sattar could not be entirely ruled out.

For both India and Pakistan, such a meeting would go some way towards meeting the increasingly vociferous demands

of Washington, London and other major powers—that it is imperative for the two countries to engage in talks to avert an armed conflict. It is understood that India will take a final decision regarding the meeting of the foreign ministers only after careful scrutiny of Gen Musharraf's speech at the summit on Saturday.

At the same time, Indian officials are driving home the point that India's focus in Kathmandu is not on bilateral talks with Pakistan but on the agenda of the summit which addresses issues of terrorism, greater trade in the region and cooperation in a large number of areas relat-

ed to the well-being of the people of South Asia. Discussions held so far on these issues have been conducted in an atmosphere that has been remarkably free of any bitterness or acrimony.

► See Edit: Attack & Retreat, Page 8



Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba (right) with Gen Pervez Musharraf on the latter's arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on Friday.

## Pull back troops, Pak tells India

By Aunohita Mojumdar  
Times News Network

KATHMANDU: Pakistan has called on India to pull back its troops from the border and reiterated its call on the need for a dialogue. Briefing presspersons late in the evening, Pakistan foreign office spokesman Maj Gen Rashid Qureshi said that "there is a requirement and a need and a desire for dialogue from Pakistan's side".

Asked as to whether President Pervez Musharraf had received any assurance of military support from China in the case of an Indo-Pak conflict, he said China had stood by Pakistan and would continue to do so. "It was supportive of the steps being taken by President Musharraf, and the two countries have a long established and time-tested friendship."

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5 JAN 2002

# Pak whisks away former Taliban envoy

**Islamabad, Jan. 3** (Reuters): The former Afghan Taliban ambassador to Pakistan was taken from his home in Islamabad today for questioning by Pakistani officials, an aide said.

"He was taken by four men. They could have been from the intelligence services," said the aide of Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef. A spokesman for the Pakistani foreign ministry told a daily briefing that he had no information on the matter. Other officials were not immediately available for comment.

Zaeef was one of the best-known faces of the Afghan crisis and on December 23 said he had applied for political asylum in Pakistan following the collapse of the Taliban.

He said at the time his application was only for temporary asylum in Pakistan, where he served as the sole spokesman for the fundamentalist militia during the US strikes on the isolated Taliban government.

Yesterday, a Pakistani government official said his asylum application was still being examined. Zaeef became famous as the Taliban's principal voice to the outside world following the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

He was one of three Taliban

ambassadors until Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates broke off diplomatic relations under pressure from the United States in September, leaving Zaeef as the sole spokesman.

The bespectacled 34-year-old ethnic Pashtoon, with his bushy black beard, black turban, white tunic and loose trousers, held regular news conferences in Islamabad which were broadcast live almost daily around the world.

He put forward the Taliban case with an idiosyncratic mix of lecture, metaphor and humour, providing a line of communication with his isolated and reclusive leaders, until Pakistan ordered the closure of the Taliban embassy on November 22.

It is believed that he has two wives and several children and is loath to return to Afghanistan for fear for their safety.

## Moderate quake

A moderate earthquake hit swathes of northern Pakistan and Afghanistan at midday today shaking house foundations and jolting cities across 700 km of central and south Asia. Some damage and minor injuries were reported in the Afghan capital.

The magnitude-5.8 quake was centered north of Peshawar, Pakistan, in the Hindu Kush mountain range of Afghanistan, said Abdul Rashid, seismologist at the Pakistani government's meteorological office.

The US geological survey put the magnitude at 6.0.

The quake struck at 12.05 pm local time and was felt in Islamabad and the eastern city of Lahore.

No injuries or damage were reported in Pakistan, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

More than 500 km away, in Kabul, the Afghan capital, several walls surrounding house compounds cracked and crumbled. One crying woman was taken to the hospital with light injuries, covered in dust and specks of blood.

She was apparently washing her clothes when a wall fell on top of her.

At the airport north of the city, the entire tower shook violently and people ran from the building, but there was no visible damage.

Also, pieces of several bullet-ridden abandoned buildings in Kabul fell to the ground. Many buildings in and around Kabul are very unsafe after many years of shelling and abandonment.



An Afghan soldier carries a stack of mats for his colleagues at their command post in Kabul. (Reuters)

# US forces focus on al Qaida hunt

**Kabul/Washington, Jan. 3** (Reuters): Afghanistan's new rulers said today they were negotiating the surrender of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar as American paratroopers flew in to join the hunt for remnants of Osama bin Laden's fighters.

In a gesture of growing confidence in its own authority, the new, UN-backed interim government in Kabul released 269 frontline Taliban fighters, some of whom had been held as prisoners of war by opposing forces for as long as five years.

Tribal leaders in the southern city of Kandahar said envoys sent into the hills to demand the handover of Mullah Omar had returned having delivered their message to those sheltering him.

"We are still waiting to hear...about our demands," Nasrullah, a spokesman for Kandahar intelligence chief Haji

Gullalai, said. "Basically, we have told them clearly that we want the issue to be resolved without bloodshed and it is their decision how they want to respond."

With air strikes easing, US forces on the ground are also focusing on the hunt for Taliban leaders and for bin Laden and members of his al Qaida militant network, which Washington holds responsible for the September 11 attacks on the United States.

But the trail of bin Laden himself seems to have gone cold in the mountainous expanse dividing Afghanistan from Pakistan.

The Pentagon said yesterday that hundreds of soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division had arrived at a military airfield in the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, allowing more than 1,000 Marines already there to be diverted to other duties.

# For their own sake

## Pakistan's silent majority

Is it possible that Pervez Musharraf meant well when he said, on 25 December, that "no bigoted extremists will be allowed to derail us" and that the "vast silent majority should vow not to be voiceless passive onlookers to our internal destruction"? Earlier he had spoken of forces "eating us from within" and, just before going to Agra, had told people not to talk of raising the Pakistani flag on the Red Fort. These latter statements were not made in the context of the war in Afghanistan, when American pressure has become a factor, but on his own. It is true that Musharraf has failed to deliver as far as curbing radical Islamic activities within Pakistan, but it might be worth asking ourselves whether his failure is due to bad faith or because he can't really act on his own. Also the brother of his interior minister was murdered just after he said that the country could not be left "in the hands of some illiterate mullahs". It is, therefore, quite possible that there is some dim realisation within sections of the Pakistani establishment that the proliferation of jihadi Islam is, quite simply, destroying their country. The media in Pakistan has also said similar things of late, even going as far as to question the policy of supporting "the freedom struggle" in Kashmir. It would be naive to suppose that all this is coming about because of American pressure. A better assumption is that the realities of the Taliban regime have begun hitting home. Benazir Bhutto, still the best bet for Pakistan, has said people fear "the battle against Afghanistan could come to roost in the madrasas of Pakistan" and Musharraf may not be indifferent to this concern.

The vast silent majority exists, there is no doubt about that, but Musharraf and the regime he runs is part of the reason why it remains silent, while the streets are taken over by the likes of Azhar Masood and Hafiz Mohammed Syed or the two Jamats. In the absence of regular political activity, the preponderance of the only political force, that does not need a national assembly to further its ends, is bound to arise. It is difficult to assess the public mood in Pakistan in the absence of normal democratic politics, but Asma Jehangir and her friends, who staged a demonstration at Wagah against war, are some indication that there is a desire for change. In what way? In the way Pakistan has got itself into this mess of low growth, absence of democracy and two expensive enterprises in Afghanistan and Kashmir. In other words, in every way possible.

This, could be India's hope in the long term: the emergence of a popular consensus within Pakistan that the country cannot flirt with radical Islam anymore and that more serious questions regarding crippling foreign debt and growth need to be addressed first. Then, the crackdown we hope for may come. For Pakistan's own sake. There is however a fallacy in this reasoning. Radical Islam is a means to an end to Musharraf. To prove himself he wants Kashmir and religion is only a weapon that he finds handy. And Why? Because he really wants vengeance, for the humiliation of his army in Dhaka. If that is the core issue as he keeps repeating, he is driving his country to war. And the reason why he cannot have Kashmir except perhaps the PoK is that India will not accept religion in politics.

Nor do the rest of the world, If they are honest with themselves.

- 4 JAN 2002



# Pervez snaps ISI lifeline to Lashkar and Jaish

FROM JOHN F. BURNS

Islamabad, Jan. 2: Senior officials said Pakistan's President had ordered the country's military intelligence agency to cut off backing for Islamic militant groups fighting in Kashmir. They said he had ordered the agency to limit future support to groups with local roots that are not part of the Islamic holy war movement.

The Pakistani officials said Pervez Musharraf's orders would end the armed activities of the two groups — Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad — accused in the Parliament attack, as well as of other Islamic militant groups based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Although Pakistani officials questioned the evidence India has against the two groups, they have acknowledged that they have been responsible for about 70 per cent of all attacks in Kashmir in the past three years.

The officials who outlined Musharraf's plans said the Pakistani leader had ordered the shutdown of the wing of the military intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, that deals

exclusively with the armed groups that Pakistan backs in Kashmir. The officials said that in future, Pakistan would limit its backing for the "Kashmir freedom struggle" to groups with roots in Kashmir, and rely on Kashmiris to conduct military operations.

As an example of groups that would continue to get government backing, officials cited the Hizb-ul Mujahideen, which dominated Kashmiri insurgency from its beginnings in 1989 until the mid-1990s, but which rapidly lost primacy as Lashkar and Jaish took over.

Groups like the Hizb, the officials said, would get "moral and political" support from Islamabad, but not military training and weapons. They would also be required to purge all non-Kashmiri Muslims, including the Arabs and Chechens who have fought in the groups accused of the Parliament attack.

"The decision has been made to cut off support to all non-indigenous groups in Kashmir," the officials said. They added that Musharraf believed that the change in policy would "cause a scaling-down of the freedom

struggle, but will not be its end", and that he felt that "lowering the level of insurgency is not too high a price to pay for protecting the country" against attack by India, whose conventional forces far outnumber Pakistan's.

The Pakistani decision seemed certain to be met with scepticism in India, which has accused Pakistan of breaking previous promises.

Western diplomats described the decision as Musharraf's boldest step yet to defuse escalated tension between the two countries.

But the diplomats noted that Pakistani leaders have found that ordering the ISI to change course has not always succeeded. The ISI, operating in the shadows, has long been a rogue agency, capable of continuing support to groups it has formally disavowed, as it did for a few weeks after Musharraf ordered an end to support for the Taliban.

Since then, Musharraf has appointed a new ISI chief, but even he has acknowledged that getting complete control of the agency will take time.

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THE TELEGRAPH

1999

# 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".

- 2 JAN 2002