

# Jiang calls for harmony among S. Asian nations

Beijing: In an apparent message to both India and Pakistan, Chinese President Jiang Zemin on Wednesday urged countries in South Asia to live in harmony and treat each other as equals so as to maintain regional peace and stability.



Jiang Zemin

"China sincerely hopes that countries in South Asia will treat each other on an equal footing and co-exist in harmony," he said during a meeting here with visiting Bangladeshi prime minister Khaleda Zia.

"China attaches importance to the development of friendly relations with neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh," he said while pointing out that Beijing pays much attention to South Asia as the stability there concerns the stability in entire Asia.

China, a close ally of Pakistan, has been urging both New Delhi and Islamabad to resume early talks to resolve their differences, including on the Kashmir issue. Mr Jiang pointed out that the world situation was undergoing profound changes and the world was not peaceful with increasing uncertain factors influencing peace and development.

He also offered full cooperation to Bangladesh in the fight against terrorism.

Briefing the Chinese leader on Bangladesh's domestic and foreign policies, Mrs Zia said Dhaka took an active part in regional and international affairs and stands firmly opposed to international terrorism.

During her stay in Beijing, Mrs Zia also met Chinese vice president and the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, Hu Jintao, premier Zhu Rongji and the chairman of the National People's Congress, Li Peng. PH

20 DEC 2002

# China, Dhaka sign defence treaty

ANIL K. JOSEPH

BEIJING, DECEMBER 25

CHINA (W)  
7/6

A DAY after inking a landmark bilateral defence cooperation agreement, Chinese leaders today described Bangladesh as "a reliable and trustworthy friend" and offered millions of dollars as aid.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin said China and Bangladesh are close and friendly neighbours and their friendship boasts a profound historical basis.

Bilateral relations have advanced smoothly on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence although the two countries forged diplomatic ties not too long ago, Jiang said during a meeting here with visiting Bangladeshi PM Khaleda Zia.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin with Bangladeshi PM Khaleda Zia in Beijing on Wednesday. Reuters

There are no prominent problems between the two countries, he said.

With the signing of the defence cooperation agreement, China has become the first country to have a broad-based defence cooperation with Bangladesh. The pact is

an effort to institutionalise existing agreements in the military field. It would 'rationalise' the existing peace-meal agreements to enhance cooperation in training, maintenance and in some areas of production, official sources said. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji said: "The friendship between China and Bangladesh is based on a high level of mutual trust between their leaders and people," Zhu said.

China and Bangladesh yesterday signed three agreements to enhance bilateral economic and defence cooperation.

China has agreed to provide Bangladesh with a grant over US\$7.26 million for the construction of sixth Bangladesh-China friendship bridge over the Dhaleswari river.

—PTI

26 DEC 2002

## China releases democracy activist

*china*  
*HQ-14*  
*25/11*  
**BEIJING, DEC. 24.**

A leading Chinese pro-democracy activist, Xu Wenli, was released from prison on Tuesday and left for the U.S., an American activist announced.



Mr. Xu was released early while serving a 13-year prison sentence on subversion charges, said John Kamm, an activist who has played a role in the release of several Chinese prisoners. Mr. Xu was arrested in 1998 after trying to set up the Opposition China Democracy Party with other activists. The communist government quickly crushed the party and sent dozens of members to prison.

The release came a week after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Lorne Craner, said he had appealed to Chinese officials in human rights talks in Beijing to free Mr. Xu.

Mr. Xu, suffering from hepatitis B, was granted medical parole, Mr. Kamm said. — AP

25 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

China  
10-12  
19/9

## China harps on political solution

By P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE, SEPT. 13.** China today expressed its willingness to "play an active and constructive role" to resolve the crisis sparked by the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush's latest declaration of intent to disarm Iraq.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said its offer was designed to seek a "political solution" entirely "within the framework of the United Nations".

China, the only full-fledged Asian country with the veto power as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, has reaffirmed the importance of a non-military solution and a definitive U.N. initiative.

The options open to China within the Security Council include an abstention from voting on any perceived unilateralist move by the U.S.

With China having exercised the right of abstention during the voting on some U.N. resolutions on Iraq in the overall context of the 1991 Gulf War, Beijing's latest line is seen in the Asia Pacific diplomatic circles as a sign of its proactive

rather than passive intention.

The formulation about the "framework of the United Nations" has been amplified by the Chinese Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan, at the U.N. headquarters where he said that the relevant Security Council resolutions on Iraq should be "abided by in an earnest manner" by the countries concerned.

Japan, the ailing economic superpower, is at present deeply concerned with the prospects of its own moves for an eventual détente with North Korea. Without being dismissive of Mr. Bush's diplomacy of unearthing Iraq's smoking gun of mass-destructive potential, the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, held talks with Mr. Bush in New York by turning the spotlight as much as possible on North Korea, which figures alongside Iraq in a U.S.-perceived "axis of evil". For Tokyo, the Iraq dilemma has much to do with reconciling the Japanese "anti-war" constitution with Mr. Koizumi's political compulsions of being on the right side of the U.S., according to regional

observers.

The Iraq-related official word in Seoul today was that the U.S. had already requested South Korea for assistance in a possible military strike against Saddam Hussein. The request was made even as the U.S. notified South Korea about the details of Mr. Bush's speech at the U.N. even before he actually spoke.

While Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority state, has not made a definitive statement, a highly vocal section of Islamic radicals there today stepped up pressure on the Government in Jakarta to distance itself from America's current thinking on Iraq.

The Malaysian Foreign Minister, Hamid Albar, spoke of his country's sense of 'relief' that the U.S. had, at least for the time being, decided to give the U.N. a chance to come up with a problem-solving resolution on Iraq before Washington itself might make a final move. This sense of some immediate relief was noticeable in other capitals of South East Asia as well.

14 SEP 2002

File  
100-12

# China opens up Tibet

30/8

By C. Raja Mohan

**LHASA, AUG. 29.** From the first floor of a cafe on the edge of the Jokhang square, the sharp evening sun can be seen glistening on the golden canopy of a shrine that is at the heart of Tibetan Buddhism. Pilgrims with prayer wheels in hand joust with tourists looking for bargain prices in the innumerable shops around the temple. The newly-renovated square of the Jokhang temple, located in the Bakhror area of old Lhasa, symbolises a Tibet that is at once rapidly changing and deeply enduring.

If Lhasa is the holy land for Buddhists, Jokhang, which means the house of the Lord, is its inner sanctum. Built in the seventh century, Jokhang hosts the statue of "Sakyamuni" brought to Tibet by the Chinese princess, Wencheng.

The reincarnation ceremonies of the Dalai and Panchen Lamas are held in front of the statue of the Sakyamuni. It is the holiest of the Buddhist monasteries in the world.

For the Chinese, Jokhang is a product of the marriage between the Tibetan King, Songsten Gampo, and the Tang Princess and reflects the historic compact between Tibet and China. The alliance between the Tibetan kingdom and the Tang dynasty brought the advanced technologies of the day from Tang China into Tibet and remains the starting point of the story about the long relationship between Lhasa and Beijing.

The definition of these ties for the modern times remains unfinished, as the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama, has lived in exile in India for more than four decades. But on the ground here, Tibet is being fast integrated into China. Its broad new boulevards, shopping malls and Karaoke bars make Lhasa look like any other booming provincial city of China.

Work is under way to link the Jokhang square with the Yutuo Road that is now a wide and glittering "pedestrians-only" bazaar. Some complain that as Tibet catches up with the breathless economic growth in China over the last two decades, its old cultural order is being destroyed. Officials of the local Government here say that the new prosperity and the massive effort to restore its religious and other monuments are bringing Tibet in tune with the changing world.

The Jokhang square is at the centre of the contest between tradition and modernity in Lhasa. Tibet's quest for modernisation while preserving its unique cultural legacy is closely linked to the dramatically altering re-

## LHASA JOURNAL

lationship between Tibet and China. And India, with its own deep links to Tibet, has inevitably become a part of the political dynamic between Lhasa and Beijing. And Tibet, in turn, has added to the uncertainty to Sino-Indian relations over the last five decades.

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China is now ready to let its complex relationship with Tibet hang out in front of the world. As part of a new charm offensive, China has released some high profile political prisoners and invited Gyalo Thondup, elder brother of the Dalai Lama, to visit Tibet for the first time in decades. It has also opened the door for foreign diplomats and journalists to see and assess the situation in Tibet.

Underlying this relative openness in Beijing about Tibet is the political confidence that it has turned things around in the sensitive region. While the Dalai Lama might be received by heads of State and Government around the world and the Hollywood backs his campaign for the Tibetan cause,

Beijing believes it has the situation in Tibet in full control.

Since Deng Xiaoping initiated in the early 1980s a more liberal policy towards Tibet after the ravages of the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s, there is enough of visible transformation in Tibet that the Chinese leadership today can boast about. The last few years have also seen a reasonable amount of social stability in Tibet, and China is sure that its side of the story can now be told with some credibility.

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For journalists from India it is a long way to come to Tibet via Beijing.

After all, Lhasa is barely half a step and jump from the Indo-Gangetic plain. Lhasa and South Eastern Tibet, intimately linked to India through geography and history, have created the Indo-Tibetan culture, religion and arts. But as developments in Tibet during the 1950s and 1960s destabilised Sino-Indian relations, the links between Tibet and its neighbouring regions in India were snapped. Tibet increasingly became remote for India. The Chinese decision to let Indian journalists into Tibet is hopefully the first step towards allowing greater contact between the two societies.

Indian visitors today get a warm welcome in Lhasa. From the Jokhang, where Indian architectural influences are so visible, to the nightclubs where Hindi movie songs are being belted out, India's cultural presence in Tibet is all-pervasive. At the airport, the Indo-Tibetan motifs and the Devanagiri script remind us that we have entered a familiar cultural zone. So does the traditional Tibetan practice of garlanding visitors with the "Kada."

Confirming the shared culture is the Indian-style chaos at the airport, in marked contrast to the order and discipline in other Chinese cities.

9 0 AUG 2002

# China for global regime on non-proliferation

By P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE, AUG. 25.** Announcing "a licensing system" for the sensitive export of ballistic missiles as also the related know-how and components, China today called for a non-discriminatory international regime of non-proliferation.

The State Council of China authorised the official Xinhua News Agency to release the relevant Regulations in Beijing today. China's latest move at the big league's chess-board of power-play is designed to project the communist state's political will to abide by the rules of the global game in controlling the spread of missiles and missile technologies that could deliver weapons of mass destruction. Beijing's new action is aimed at addressing the allegations of the West, notably the U.S., about unabated transfers of missiles or their components and know-how by a few Chinese entities to some countries of concern to Washington.

In all such cases, including the suspicions about the supplies of missiles and the related know-how to Pakistan, China has consistently maintained that no transactions other than normal state-to-state ex-

changes have occurred and that there has been no infraction of the relevant international law. However, the latest move by Beijing acquires importance as a sequel to the Sino-American understanding reached on the missiles issue during the final stages of the Clinton presidency in 2000. The 24-article document, in the name and style of Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Export Control of Missiles and Missile-Related Items and Technologies, has been effective since August 22 when the Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, signed it. Under it, no unit or individual would be allowed to export the identified items without an explicit sanction in terms of a new licensing system. The stated purpose is to tighten the existing controls in this sphere.

Publicising the new regulations, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kong Quan, said in a statement that the promulgation of the latest order was in tune with his country's non-proliferation policy. As a signatory to a series of international treaties on non-proliferation issues, China had always honoured its obligations towards the global community, he underlined. Even in regard to highly sensitive dual-use technologies and items, which could be put to both

civilian and military applications, China had consistently adopted a "prudent and responsible attitude", Mr. Kong said.

The prudence at stake was amplified to connote China's efforts over the years to improve the framework of export controls by "drawing on other countries' experiences" and by reviewing the domestic situation.

Presenting the latest measure as "a step forward" in fine-tuning China's legal framework to meet the global challenge of arresting the spread of missiles, the spokesman spelt out a renewed commitment. China, he said, "will continue to take an active part in the (promotion of) international cooperation in non-proliferation".

## CPC Congress

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has proposed that the CPC's 16th national Congress be held on Nov. 8 this year.

The Congress has been in international news for the expectation that a leadership change might be considered during the meeting which will also focus attention on China's current economic and political developments.

26 AUG 2002

# Taiwan drops move for referendum

China  
HK 13

9/8

Taipei, August 8

TAIWAN SAID on Thursday that it will not hold a referendum on formal independence unless China forces it to, speeding further away from a presidential statement backing the idea that infuriated Beijing and surprised Washington.

The Cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council said in a policy paper that the Government was preparing legislation for such a vote, but it would not be used unless Beijing forced the democratic island to reunify under the "one country, two systems" formula.

"If communist China forces Taiwan people to change the status quo in the future, the Taiwan people will have the right to express their opinion through a referendum," the paper said.

Taiwan would "ready, but not use" legislation for a referendum to defend itself, it said.

Public opinion polls have shown a majority of Taiwan people favor the status quo; Taiwan and China split at the end of a civil war on the mainland in 1949, but the island has not formally declared independence. Taiwan Premier Yu Shyi-kun made similar comments to American businessmen during a stopover in New York earlier this week. "If Taiwan maintains the status quo, legislation for a referendum would not be necessary," the *United Daily News Group* quoted Yu as saying.

The United States signaled

on Wednesday that President Chen Shui-bian was on his own in the latest flare-up in cross-strait tensions, stressing that it would not support formal independence for the island's 23 million people.

China has tried to woo Taiwan into reunification under the "one country, two systems" formula already used in the recovery of two former European colonies, but it has threatened to attack if the island declares independence.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule under the formula, which promises a high degree of autonomy, followed by Macau two years later.

Chen said on Saturday that holding a referendum was a "basic human right" and in reality there was "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Strait. This triggered a furious response from Beijing, which said he was leading the island to disaster.

US National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack said on Wednesday there was no change in Washington's commitment to a one-China policy. "Our policy with respect to China and Taiwan and differences between the two is long-standing, well known and unchanged. The US has a one-China policy and we do not support Taiwan independence," McCormack said.

Chen began backpedalling on Tuesday, saying the media had oversimplified and misinterpreted his speech.

Reuters

## Taiwan scraps war games to defuse tensions with China

By Alice Hung

Taipei: Taiwan scrapped planned war games on Wednesday as part of apparent efforts to defuse tensions with China after President Chen Shui-Bian enraged Beijing by backing a referendum on formal independence for the island.

The defence ministry had decided to cancel anti-submarine drills off eastern Taiwan, set for August 15, to avoid speculation and misunderstanding, a ministry official said.

"The situation in the Taiwan Strait is tense. We cancelled the exercises to avoid misunderstanding," a spokesman said. He declined to give further details.

Taipei's mass-circulated

China Times said in a front-page report on Wednesday that Mr Chen, commander-in-chief of the island's armed forces, had ordered the ministry to cancel the drills to 'express goodwill to the other side'.

Beijing considers Taiwan a rebel province and has threatened to attack if the democratic island of 23 million declares independence or drags its feet on unification talks.

Mr Chen said holding a referendum was a 'basic human right' and that in reality there was 'one country on each side' of the Taiwan Strait. This triggered an angry response from Beijing, which warned that he was leading the island to disaster. Reuters



# China rejects Taiwan leader's call for referendum

Beijing: China on Monday angrily rejected a suggestion by Taiwan's leader that the island allow a referendum on its future, warning that pursuing formal independence would "bring Taiwan into disaster."



Chen Shui-bian

The communist mainland government, which claims self-governing Taiwan as its own territory, didn't mention any specific steps planned in response to the proposal made in a weekend speech by President Chen Shui-bian.

Beijing also criticised Mr Shui-bian's comment in the speech on Sat-

urday that both sides are countries—an idea that Beijing rejects—and an earlier remark that Taiwan might "walk its own road."

The two sides split amidst civil war 53 years ago.

China has threatened to invade if Taiwan declares formal independence, though that threat was not repeated in the statement on Monday by the mainland's Taiwan affairs office.

"The sovereignty and territorial integrity of China can't be separated," said Li Weiyl, a spokesman for the office. Mr Weiyl said Mr Shui-bian's speech "will seriously sabotage relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait and affect peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific re-

gion."

China accused Mr Shui-bian of pursuing independence in defiance of the wishes of Taiwan's people.

"It will affect the economy of Taiwan, harm the fundamental interests of Taiwan residents and bring Taiwan into disaster," it said.

The statement said Mr Shui-bian's comment on Saturday that Taiwan should change its laws to allow a referendum on its future was an attempt to "split China."

The criticism came as Mr Shui-bian's aides were trying to defuse fears among Taiwanese that he was recklessly provoking their giant neighbour. The island's top official for China policy, Tsai Ing-wen, said Tai-

wan had no plans to seek a permanent split with China. "Taiwan's China policy has not changed," Ms Ing-wen said at a news conference. "We will pursue these things in a practical and flexible way."

Despite Ms Ing-wen's comments, Taiwan's stock market plunged 5.8 per cent on fears of rising tensions.

Also on Monday, a mainland state newspaper reported that China's military was planning exercises in mid-August aimed at Taiwan.

Land, sea and air forces will practise simulated attacks and beach landings along China's southeastern coast, which faces Taiwan, "The China Daily" said in its Hong Kong edition. <sup>AP</sup>

# China slams Chen remarks

The Straits Times/ANN

BEIJING, Aug 4. - China said today it would never tolerate an independent Taiwan following a call by the Taiwanese President, Mr Chen Shui-bian, for a referendum on the island's future.

"There is only one China in the world and the mainland and Taiwan are both a part of China," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman was commenting on defiant remarks made by Mr Chen yesterday in which he maintained the island's right to hold a referendum on possible Taiwan independence.

"Taiwan's future and destiny can only be decided by the 23 million people living on the island," Mr Chen said in a teleconference with the pro-independence overseas Taiwanese association in Tokyo.

He also stressed Taiwan's statehood and independent sovereignty, saying that "each side (of the Taiwan Strait) is a country".

The foreign ministry spokesman added that a more formal response would be issued by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, China's cabinet.

Officials at the Taiwan Affairs Office were not immediately available for comment today.

The mainland press, however, failed to report on Mr Chen's comments, although most papers carried remarks made yesterday by foreign ministry spokesman Mr Kong Quan in which he slammed a US bill that describes Taiwan as an ally.

"Taiwan is part of China and absolutely not a 'dependency'," Mr Kong was quoted by the People's Daily as saying.

## China tells UK not to interfere in Hong Kong

**Hong Kong:** China on Friday urged Britain to mind its own business over Hong Kong after London expressed concerns that its former colony was becoming less tolerant of demonstrations.

A Chinese foreign affairs ministry spokesman here said that Hong Kong's affairs were "purely internal concerns ... no foreign countries have the right to make irresponsible remarks and reckless comments."

Since the 1997 handover, the territory's government has acted "in accordance

with law, and all basic rights and freedom of the people of Hong Kong are fully guaranteed," he said in a statement.

However, authorities in Hong Kong on Wednesday welcomed the 11th report compiled by the British foreign and Commonwealth office, saying London had again made "a positive assessment of developments" in the territory. British foreign secretary Jack Straw presented the bi-annual report on Hong Kong to Britain's parliament on July 23, following his visit to the city last week. AFP

# China, Nauru forge diplomatic ties

The China Daily / Asia News Network

BEIJING, July 21. — The government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the Republic of Nauru signed a joint communique today on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The Chinese assistant foreign minister, Mr Zhou Wenzhong, and the Nauruan President, Mr Rene Harris, signed the communique on behalf of the two governments in China's Hong Kong special administrative region.

The two countries have decided upon mutual recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level as from 21 July 21, according to the communique.

The Chinese government supports the efforts made by the Nauruan government to safeguard state independence, sovereign and territorial integrity and develop its national economy.

The Nauruan government recognises that there is but one China in the world, that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory.

The Nauruan government has decided to sever "diplomatic relations" with Taiwan as of today. The two governments have agreed to provide each other with all the necessary assistance for the establishment and performance of the functions of diplomatic missions in their respective capitals in accordance with international practice, according to the communique.

**US military team visits Taiwan on submarine deal:** A team of US submarine experts has quietly visited Taiwan to assess its requirements relevant to eight conventional submarines. Washington has agreed to sell the island, a report said today. The US military group, which flew into Taipei last week, asked Taiwan "to specify its options on items including the type of submarine to purchase, its fighting system, power and torpedo," the *China Times* said. It said the US team first visited Taiwan in September, led by a rear admiral.

The US group advised the Taiwanese navy that the German built Dolphin-class submarines now serving the Israeli navy could be taken into consideration, said the paper.

22 JUL 2002

THE STATESMAN

## Chinese diplomat shot in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, June 30. — Chinese diplomat was shot and killed by unknown gunmen in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek in an apparent gangland dispute, police said today.

Mr Umurbek Agemberdiyev, the head of interior ministry's press department, said the diplomat, who held the post of consul, was shot and killed last night as he and a businessman were driving in the centre of Bishkek.

The Chinese diplomat was identified by police as Van Tu Yu. There was no one available at the Chinese embassy to confirm the identification.

The businessman, identified as Nurmachamed Umarov, was a Uighur. Mr Agemberdiyev said adding that the shooting could have been a contract killing, with Umarov the main target. "It could have been a mafia sorting out," he said. — AP

THE STATESMAN

1 11 2002

# China stresses on 'three links' with Taiwan

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, June 25. — Beijing yesterday proposed that authorities on both sides of the Taiwan Straits entrust civil groups to jump-start talks on the three direct links of trade, transportation and mail services. This is the first time the mainland has called for such immediate and concrete action from Taipei since it initiated the idea of establishing the links through non-official consultation.

Mr Li Bingcai, deputy director of Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said entrusted industrial bodies from Taiwan and the mainland can sign documents after reaching agreements on technical matters through consultation. The documents may include such contents as the ports that each side should open to the other and shipping companies and airlines that may be involved. He made the proposal in separate

meetings with two delegations consisting of opposition Kuomintang and People First Party members and business leaders.

Mainland officials and experts from trade, transportation, civil aviation, information industry, science and technology, education, postal administration, tourism and weather-forecast departments attended the meetings.

The 34-member Cross-Straits Economic and Trade Association delegation was headed by KMT heavyweight Her Zyh-huei. PFP's Fu Kun-chi led the Cross-Straits Political and Economic Exchanges Association. The visits signalled the latest efforts made by Taiwan's opposition parties and business circles to lift the decades-old ban by Taiwan authorities on the three direct links. Li said as long as the three links are viewed as domestic affairs within one country, their realization can be achieved at an early date.

THE STATESMAN

26 JUN 2002

# Begum Zia's son gets key party post

Statesman News Service

DHAKA, June 23. — Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has appointed her son, Mr Tareq Rahman, as joint secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) ostensibly to groom him as her political successor.

Begum Zia, chairperson of the BNP, inducted Tareq in a key post in the party which the standing committee, the highest policy making body of the BNP, unanimously welcomed last night. Tareq's entry into the party is certain to strengthen the position of the young turks in the BNP who played a pioneering role to force President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury to resign a couple of days ago.

Talking to reporters on his new assignment as joint secretary-general, Tareq, who is in his late thirties, thanked the party leadership and its rank and file to lend support to him in organising the party effectively. The appointment of Tareq signals the dynastic rule taking its firm root in the country like other nations in the sub-continent. Bangladesh saw such politics when the Awami League unanimously choose Sheikh Hasina to lead the party six years after the assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1981.

Similarly, Begum Khaleda Zia was elected as the chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party after the assassination of her husband and the then president Gen. Ziaur Rahman in an abortive coup in May 1981.

Though Tareq was made one of the important party officials yesterday, he has been taking keen interest in politics for quite some time in the past. He campaigned for his mother in the 1991, 1996 and 2001 general elections in Bangladesh.

**Minister seeks protection:** The minister of state for home, Mr Lutfuzzaman Babbar, sought protection alleging that he has received a death threat from a leading businessman of the country, PTI reports. He filed a complaint with police on 8 June saying he had received a death threat on 5 June after the government cancelled permission for production of liquor by a company owned by Jugantor daily's proprietor.

## Twenty-six North Korean asylum-seekers leave China

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, June 23. — Twenty-six North Korean asylum-seekers left China today, ending a month-long wrangle that had pitted Beijing against both Koreas.

Twenty-three of them had been holed up at South Korean diplomatic missions in Beijing hoping to get a ticket to freedom, while another was released from more than a week in Chinese detention.

Earlier in the day, two asylum-seekers left China after awaiting a decision on their fate at the Canadian embassy for more than a fortnight, embassy spokeswoman Ms Jennifer May said.

The nearly two dozen North Koreans crowding into the South Korean consulate under ever tighter conditions were "very pleased" with the solution to the case.

With the departure of the 26, a total of 64 North Koreans are known to have been allowed to leave China this year after gaining entry into foreign missions in Beijing and elsewhere.

So far, all of them have gone via third countries to South Korea, marking the successful end of a flight from famine and repression at home. But the wave of refugees has proven awkward for Beijing which has traditionally close ties with Pyongyang.

THE STATESMAN

24 JUN 2002

# Row over asylum seeker <sup>China (W)</sup>hots up

BEIJING, JUNE 14. China on Friday rebuffed South Korea's demand to return a North Korean seized at a visa office, plunging into its second diplomatic battle in five weeks over a wave of asylum bids at foreign embassies.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman rejected Seoul's accusations that China violated international law on Thursday when police dragged the man away from the South Korean office in Beijing. He also criticised diplomats who were punched and kicked when they tried to intervene.

The stance appeared to reflect a tougher Chinese policy toward asylum bids by North Koreans fleeing famine and oppression, dozens of whom have been allowed to leave for the South in the past three months after seeking refuge at consulates and embassies.

"China will not turn the person over to South Korea," said the spokesman, Liu Jianchao. "The demand is unreasonable."

Mr. Liu refused to say whether the man would be sent home to North Korea. He had tried five times in the past to enter China and has been repatriated twice, Mr. Liu said. South Ko-

rea's Yonhap news agency said the man, who is in his 50s and surnamed Won, was accompanied by his 15-year-old son. The boy remained in the visa office on Friday, joining 17 other North Korean asylum-seekers already holed up in South Korean diplomatic offices.

In another sign of China's harder line on asylum bids, the Foreign Ministry announced on Thursday that it had issued a notice to embassies demanding that they turn asylum-seekers over to police.

Thursday's incident erupted just weeks after China and Japan resolved a diplomatic furore over the seizure of a five-member North Korean family at a Japanese consulate. They were allowed to leave for South Korea via the Philippines.

No progress was reported in talks on the fate of two North Koreans still at the Canadian embassy where they sought refuge on June 8.

Mr. Liu suggested that South Korea was to blame for Thursday's incident, saying Seoul had asked China to stop such asylum bids after a North Korean man sought refuge at its embassy on May 23. — AP



# Beijing makes most of tension

Jaideep Mazumdar  
Kolkata, May 21

CHINA HAS been upgrading its naval and Intelligence facilities in the Great and Small Coco Islands off the Myanmar coast in the Bay of Bengal, taking advantage of India's preoccupation on its western borders. Over the past three months, China has also moved in missile boats and other attack vessels at Myanmar's naval facilities it has built or upgraded.

According to sources in India's new Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), China has not only upgraded its SIGINT (Signal Intelligence) and ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) facilities in the Great Coco Islands, but has also started establishing new facilities like rocket telemetry and radar emissions monitoring stations in the Small Coco Islands. These islands were leased to China by Myanmar in 1994. "Chinese activity, as picked up by our satellites as well as those of other friendly nations, in the Small Coco Islands poses a grave security threat to India," a top DIA source told *Hindustan Times*. The Small Coco Islands lie just north of the Andaman Islands in the Alexandra Channel and China could well use the facilities there to launch missile attacks on the Indian mainland, especially strategic installation

## Straw visit

BRITISH FOREIGN secretary Jack Straw will visit India and Pakistan next week to help ease rising tensions between the two countries. "The possibility of war between India and Pakistan is real and very disturbing," he said in London.

AFP, London

along India's east coast.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China has upgraded Myanmar's naval facilities at Sittwe in Arakan province, Bassein in the Irrawaddy Delta and Monkey Point near Yangon. Port facilities at Akyab (adjoining Sittwe), Kyaukpyu and Mergui have also been upgraded. "Over the past three months, massive dredging operations have been carried out to enable the PLA's largest vessels, the LUDA-class missile destroyers, to dock in the Great Coco Islands. These naval bases and ports have been upgraded to handle crafts far in excess of what Myanmar has. This can only mean that China is determined to dominate the Bay of Bengal and pose a perpetual threat to India from Myanmar," said the DIA officer.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

22 MAY 2002

# Tibetan group excluded from UN conference

China  
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5-12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

7/9

UNHQ, April 6. - China today scored a victory in the United Nations when it was able to prevent a pro-Tibetan human rights group from attending the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

After intense lobbying by China, the preparatory conference on summit last night voted 107 to 45 to reject the application of the Tibet Justice Center of Berkeley, California, for accreditation. Another 19 members abstained.

The group's name was recommended by the Secretariat along with more than 170 NGOs. Beijing had launched an aggressive but successful campaign to keep the group out of the meet scheduled from 26 August to

24 September.

Mr D'Arcy Richardson, chair of the group's environment committee, said the vote was the result of "blatant censorship enforced by China while the rest of the world stands by and watches".

Mr Dennis Cusack, president of the group, said he had asked UN Secretary General Kofi Annan "to look into the irregularities that have plagued Tibetan organisations in the accreditation process, and to ensure that the Secretariat and the UN stop manipulating the system to serve one nation's political ends".

The vote, which split the UN membership along north-south lines, came eight weeks after the summit's preparatory committee rejected an application from the International Campaign for Tibet.

THE STATESMAN

# China opens door for farm products to meet WTO vow

Reuters  
SINGAPORE, 22  
MARCH

China has started handing out 2002 import quotas for agricultural products, opening the door for its huge market as Beijing has promised to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), traders said on Friday.

They said some companies had received low-tariff-rate import quotas (TRQs) for vegetable oils, such as palm oil and soyoil, as Beijing was releasing the quotas by products.

No Chinese government officials were immediately available for comment.

Beijing's pledges to the WTO include 2002 imports of up to 85 million tonnes of wheat, 5.85 million tonnes of corn, 2.0 million tonnes of rice, 2.52 million tonnes of soybean oil and 2.4 million tonnes of palm oil under the TRQ scheme.

To protect its hundreds of millions of farmers, China in the past had strictly limited imports of those agricultural products, with almost no imports of corn or wheat over the past few years.

Some traders said it had begun delivering import quotas for corn. Beijing was expected to complete the announcement of TRQ allocations by the end of next week.

A trader at a Chinese state company confirmed quotas for some 10,000 tonnes of palm oil had been given to COFCO, the country's state-owned trading company.

Many palm oil cargoes were already waiting at Chinese ports for customs clearance. Buyers had shipped them in advance on concerns that prices would rise when the large portion of allocations



Thinking out of the box

are announced next week and China starts buying, the trader said.

In the soyoil market, a trader at a major international house based in Beijing said: "Two companies silently got part of the TRQs. They are using that to clear the customs."

The trader said one of them had already used the TRQ to import about 17,000 tonnes of soyoil from South Korea as the cargo had to land in China before March 20, when the country's rules on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) take effect.

One palm oil dealer from a Kuala Lumpur trading house said he heard that Beijing had handed out import licences to several firms.

"We don't know exactly about the amount, but I was told it's very small and I don't have any more details. I was also told the rest of the quotas will be released next week," he said.

Some freight brokers in Kuala Lumpur said between 250,000 and 400,000 tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia are piling up in various ports in China on expectations that Beijing would release the import licences soon.

# China seeks talks on US steel tariff ✓

Beijing, March 15

CHINA ON Friday called for talks with the United States over steel tariffs affecting \$350 million in Chinese steel sales per year and said it would make its first complaint to the WTO if they failed.

"Now, we want consultations. By my understanding, we will only file a complaint if both sides cannot reach an agreement," a Foreign Trade ministry spokeswoman said just four months after China joined the World Trade Organization.

The United States said last week it would slap tariffs of up to 30 percent on a range of foreign steel imports from March 20 to help its struggling domestic industry. The European Union has already lodged a complaint with the WTO and other major steel producers, including China, have responded with protests.

"China believes the U S steel protection measures do not com-



Zhu Rongji

ply with the relevant rules of the WTO," the Foreign Trade Ministry said in a statement.

"The U S Government's decision will have a serious impact on the normal exports to America by Chinese steel enterprises."

Premier Zhu Rongji criticized Washington on the issue.

"This will affect \$350 million worth of China's steel, making it impossible to export to the Unit-

ed States," he told a news conference at the end of the annual two-week session of the National People's Congress, or parliament. "Can I show the same concern over our steel as U.S. leaders show over their soybeans?" Zhu said. "Will it be acceptable if I raise import duties on soybeans by 30 percent?"

China has just reached a compromise with the United States on rules governing imports of genetically modified (GMO) foods, which threatened \$1 billion worth of U.S. soybean sales.

U S President George Bush lobbied for a relaxation of the GMO rules, which go into effect on March 20, while on a trip to China last month.

China has announced a temporary system until December which will make license requirements easier to fulfill. The trade ministry statement said China had asked, through the WTO, for "consultations" with the US at a time and a place set by Washing-

ton. The ministry spokeswoman said China had not yet received a reply.

China is the world's biggest manufacturer of steel but is a net importer because domestic demand far outstrips supply for high-end products.

It exported about 700,000 tonnes of steel products worth more than \$300 million to the United States last year, industry officials say. Foreign Trade Minister Shi Guangsheng blasted the planned U.S. tariffs on Tuesday as a violation of the spirit of free trade and threatened to lodge a complaint with the WTO.

Chinese officials had already met officials of the U S Trade Representative office and sent a letter to express Beijing's opposition to the U S tariffs, Shi said.

The issue might be discussed at talks between U S Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Shi when they meet for regular consultations in Beijing in early April, officials said. **Reuters**

16 MAR 2002

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

## Israel, China settle Phalcon row

*W/Asch* *China* *(2)* *10-15 15/3*  
**JERUSALEM, MARCH 14.** Ending the dispute over cancellation of an Israeli Phalcon spy-plane sale to China, Tel Aviv has agreed to pay Beijing \$350 millions in compensation for scrapping the signed deal in the face of stiff U.S. pressure.

The agreement to compensate China, which has apparently further angered with Tel Aviv planning to supply the same spy planes to India, was signed by the Director-General of Israel's Defense Ministry, Amos Yaron with Chinese authorities in Beijing yesterday.

The agreement was signed in a friendly atmosphere, with both parties expressing satisfaction and looking forward to fruitful cooperation in the future, English daily *Ha'aretz* reported today.

The cancellation of the deal under stiff U.S. pressure in July 2000, shortly after the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin's visit to the Jewish state, had threatened warm ties between the two coun-

tries that had developed since 1992.

Washington had contended that the spy plane would give China a strategic advantage over America's AWACS aircraft in any possible conflict over Taiwan.

Israel wants to sell three Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) to Indian Air Force and the two sides have been negotiating the estimated \$1 billion deal for quite some time now.

The Phalcons' radar systems will extend the IAF's range of operation giving India control and monitoring capabilities from the sky.

While the total cost of building the plane and its components stands at \$260 millions, China had paid Israel \$190 millions prior to cancellation. Yesterday's agreement includes reimbursement for the sum already paid by China, *Ha'aretz* reported. — PTI

THE HINDU

10 March 2001

## China awaits U.S. explanation on 'n-hit list'

By Amit Baruah

SINGAPORE, MARCH. 12. Beijing said today that it was waiting for an "official" and "more clear-cut" explanation from the United States about the possibility of using nuclear weapons against China, Russia and five other nations.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, who spoke on the issue for the second day in succession in Beijing, said some American officials had made statements on a secret U.S. Government report leaked to the media.

China, he said, was a peace-loving country, which did not pose a threat to any other nation. "China has always held that nuclear weapons should be comprehensively prohibited and thoroughly destroyed," the spokesman maintained.

"Countries with nuclear weapons should undertake unconditionally not to be the first to use them and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states or nuclear weapon-free regions," Mr. Sun said.

He noted that China and the United States had in place an agreement whereby both countries consented not to target each other with nuclear weapons.

THE HINDU

13 MAR 2002

# 'New global order poses crisis for China'

By ELA DUTT

WASHINGTON: The United States' anti-terrorism war, its closer ties with Russia and India and a stepped-up presence in countries bordering China pose a new security crisis for the Asian giant, says a think-tank here.

It implies China may be facing a threat both within and outside its borders and that controlling dissent within could be as much of a problem as securing its borders. The Austin, Texas-based Strategic Forecasting Centre (Stratfor), says China's long-running attempts to revamp its military and get a new leadership in place are taking on new urgency in the midst of a changing strategic dilemma. "It is surrounded by U.S. troops deployed in the war against terrorism, Russia and India are growing closer to Washington and Beijing is nervously eyeing Japan's emerging military reach and coming economic collapse," says Stratfor.

"How Beijing adjusts its security posture to deal with these myriad concerns will shape U.S.-China relations, regional security and perhaps the Chinese regime and nation's very ability to survive," cautions Stratfor which claims to advise the private sector and governments. As Beijing prepares to release the 2002 defence budget, strategic planners there fear the emerging 'unipolar world' dominated by the U.S. With U.S. forces in Central, South and Southeast Asia, Russia is sidling up to

Washington, and Japan is rapidly shifting the role and reach of its heretofore purely defensive Self Defence Forces, the organisation notes in a report released on Monday.

"The dilemma Beijing faces is whether to focus its security resources on the potential regional instabilities and threats to energy supplies posed by U.S. deployment, or to bolster



Chinese Muslims walk next to a Chinese military officer towards the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday.

internal security before economic and social pressures tear China apart."

The Chinese armed forces are tasked with protecting the authority of the Communist Party, maintaining social stability and defending 13,000 miles of land borders with 14 different countries, plus maintaining sufficient capa-

bilities to fulfil China's standing threat to retake Taiwan by force, a task complicated by Washington's relations with Taipei.

While the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, North Korea's attempted satellite launch and Washington's wars in Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan have added some urgency to China's strategic planning, much of this has been channelled into accelerating the technological training and equipping of a smaller, better-educated military, says the report. "These changes reflect both the underlying concern with internal stability and the desire to recast China's police forces as the agents of domestic security, leaving the military to deal with external threats it is better-trained to handle," Stratfor emphasises.

With the U.S. reaction to the September 11 attacks in full swing, China's security planners have a new wrinkle in their threat forecasts, concludes Stratfor. U.S. forces now ring China with deployments in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Philippines, along with the longstanding U.S. bases in Japan and South Korea. Besides being suddenly surrounded, Beijing has seen the U.S. military presence in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf balloon amid the global anti-terrorism campaign, and created a situation where Washington has given itself carte blanche to do whatever it deems necessary, whenever and wherever, to tackle the potential terrorist threats, says Stratfor. (IANS)

# Sino-US arms proliferation talks fail

Reuters

BEIJING, Feb. 21. — China and the USA have failed to reach a deal on curbing proliferation of weapons technology despite an appeal by US President Mr George W Bush, a top US official said today.

Mr Bush had been hoping to secure a guarantee from China not to export missile and other weapons technology to nations hostile to the USA, especially those he had labelled "an axis of evil" — North Korea, Iran and Iraq, analysis said.

China denies breaking any non-proliferation agreements and wants the USA to lift sanctions on



Mr Bush and Mr Jiang Zemin shake hands at the end of a conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. — AP/PPTI

Chinese entities for violating such arms sales to Taiwan, which it regards as a rebel province.

## Bush hails Jiang move against terror

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, Feb. 21. — China and the USA today agreed to step up two-way cooperation in the war on terrorism with Mr George W Bush praising Mr Jiang Zemin for his assistance in fighting terror.

"We recognise that terrorism is a threat to both our countries and I welcome China's cooperation in the fight against terrorism," Mr Bush told a joint press conference with Mr Jiang after Bush thanked Mr Jiang for his "strong support" in

war against terrorism and said the two sides would also discuss intelligence — an important part in fight against terrorism. US-China relations are "mature" and "important" to the world, he said. Mr Zemin said his talks with Mr Bush achieved "pragmatic" results on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern.

**An aerial feat**  
BEIJING, Feb. 21. — Mr Bush's Air Force One will fly over Russia without stopping there. No Air Force One has ever sliced through Russian air space unless a US President was on his way to a destination in Russia or the former Soviet Union, according to the White House. — AFP

Taiwan happy: Taiwan's foreign minister Mr Er Chien today hailed the visit of US President Mr George W Bush for not trading away the island's interests to Beijing, adds Reuters.



# The price China pays

2/21 An unsocialist labour policy 5/4

One of the first things that visiting Chinese prime minister Zhu Rongji did was to send some of his delegates to an electronics shop in the capital to find out and compare prices of electrical appliances in India with those in China. This shows the extent to which the Chinese leadership is focussed on the economy — the border question is not uppermost in their minds. Chinese goods are six to ten times cheaper than Indian ones. One gets an accurate estimate of the cost of abundant skilled manpower. But also, it seems that labour ethics in China are not exactly what they should be. Many American companies have complained that prison labour is used to unfairly compete against their own products. China

The positive side is that the Chinese are known to exploit economies of scale. Their factories are huge and produce millions of units. What this shows is that China's approach to the capitalist development of its economy is as ruthless and realistic as was its earlier approach to collectivisation of farms. And this is possible because of the autocratic control exercised by the Communist Party. So, democracy does slow down the pace of development. Downside is that, in the absence of representative government, development is geographically unequal. Further, as capitalism makes its way in China, the demand for political freedom is bound to arise and it is not at all certain that China will cope with the inevitable transition or that its economy will not suffer as a result.

THE STATESMAN

23 JAN 2002

# We aren't playing the third umpire, Beijing tells Delhi

■ 'We'd like India and Pak to resolve their problems like two neighbours'

JYOTI MALHOTRA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

INDIA and China have agreed on a mechanism for discussions on counter-terrorism, even as visiting Chinese premier Zhu Rongji stressed to Prime Minister A B Vajpayee that Beijing was not a party to the dispute between India and Pakistan.

Highly placed sources in the government, sounding quite pleased at the turn of the conversation this evening between Vajpayee and Zhu, said the Chinese Premier was "extremely friendly and cordial and determined in his comments."

Zhu briefed the Prime Minister about Musharraf's two visits to Beijing in late December and early January, while Vajpayee explained to him about New Delhi's strategy on Pakistan.

Which is when Zhu said, very clearly, that China is against terrorism, the sources said. In fact, Musharraf's clear purpose for visiting Beijing was to get China's support in case of a war with India. But his interlocutor, Zhu Rongji, is said to have bluntly told him that Islamabad should not expect Beijing to take sides.

Zhu put out much the same message in his talks with the Indian leader-

ship today. Not only is China not party to the Indo-Pakistani dispute, he said, but that Beijing would like the two South Asian countries to resolve their problems in a spirit of neighbourliness.

"He was very careful to avoid taking sides between Pakistan and India," the sources said.

Zhu invited the Prime Minister to China, an invitation that the PM accepted with some alacrity. China Air-

lines is also going to start direct flights to India and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh will likely go on the inaugural flight on March 28.

Both sides signed seven agreements today, including on the peaceful applications of space and water resources. Earlier in the day, Zhu met President K R Narayanan and Leader of the Opposition Sonia Gandhi.

Even though a discussion on the delineation of the Line of Actual Control was not on the cards, Zhu is believed to have brought it up. He expressed satisfaction at the progress of the talks and said they should conclude early.

After the exchange of maps on the least contentious middle sector late last year, both sides are now expected to exchange maps on the western sector by the end of this year.

Zhu, who is described as China's reformer-premier, also stressed on the need to expand bilateral trade and investment, which stands at \$3 billion annually. A joint economic group is also likely to be set up to promote economic cooperation.



ANIL SHARMA

INDIAN EXPRESS

15 JAN 2002

## China removes spy thorn

Beijing, January 13

CHINA TODAY released and exiled a convicted spy ahead of US President George W Bush's visit to Beijing next month, paving the way for his smooth trip.

China's judicial authority has granted a commutation to convicted spy Wang Ce and freed him today before the sentence expires, the official Xinhua news agency reported from Hangzhou.

Wang, 52, was flown out of China today, Xinhua said without providing the destination. He was found guilty of illegally crossing the border and financing criminal activities harmful to China's national security by the intermediate people's court of Hangzhou and sentenced to four years in jail. He was actively involved in organising and participating in activities of overseas organisations hostile to the Chinese Government, the report said. He stole into China on November 2, 1998 and was later arrested by China's state security department for engaging in activities that jeopardised China's national security, Xinhua said.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 54 JAN 2002

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# China pledges ties with Bangladesh

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REUTERS

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DHAKA, Jan. 12. — Chinese Premier Mr Zhu Rongji today said his country would always remain a friend of Bangladesh, which relies heavily on Chinese assistance for development and defence.

"Whatever changes may take place on the international arena, China will always be an old friend of Bangladesh," he said while inaugurating a multi-million dollar international conference centre in the Bangladesh capital, built with Chinese assistance.

China is one of Bangladesh's key development and trade partners and also the main supplier of military hardware, government officials said. The two countries signed seven memoranda of understanding yesterday expanding cooperation in fields of economy, energy and infrastructure.

China has built five river bridges in Bangladesh that significantly improved road connections.

Mr Rongji arrived in Dhaka yesterday for a two-day visit before heading to New Delhi. Mr Rongji today said the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, completed in July 2001, was a manifestation of the friendship between the two countries.

THE STATESMAN

13 JAN 2002

# China PM discounts threat theory

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, Jan. 11. — Chinese Premier Mr Zhu Rongji, who is visiting India this week, has sought to allay fears of an alleged "China threat" while emphasising Beijing's earnest desire to have friendship and good-neighbourliness with India and the world.

"China, in our view, cannot pose a threat to the region or the world," Mr Rongji said while commenting extensively on the oft-repeated "China threat" theory in the West, Southeast Asia and India.

"China has never been a threat to the region and the world, nor will it ever become one," Mr Rongji asserted, prior to his six-day official visit to India from 13 January.

"It is a set guidelines of China's foreign policy to develop friendly, cooperative and good-neighbourly relations with India on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence," Mr Rongji, who is also a member of the standing committee of the politburo of the ruling Communist party of China, said.

Chinese scholars say there are some people in the West, who associate China with a gloomy psychology, thinking that when China grows strong, it would become a "threat", and that it is therefore necessary to "contain" the communist giant.

For example, in a report "Asia



The Chinese Premier Mr Zhu Rongji's wife receives a bouquet from a boy as Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia looks on. At Dhaka airport on Friday. — AP/PTI

in 2025", the Pentagon said that China would become the biggest threat to US interests in the

Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Rongji, who left here today for Bangladesh on the first leg of

his South Asian tour, cited three reasons for China's belief that a developed China would not pose a threat to other countries.

Firstly, China has a time-honoured tradition of cherishing friendship and good-neighbourliness, the Chinese premier explained.

Secondly, like many other countries in Asia, China was subjected to "bullying and oppression" by Western powers, Mr Rongji noted. "As victim of hegemonism, China will never subject others to the same suffering," he said.

Thirdly, he said that after over two decades of reform and opening up to the world, China is already closely integrated with the rest of Asia.

"China's development is impossible without Asia, while Asia's development also needs China," he said.

Mr Rongji further added, "As home to one-third of the Asian population, South Asia is an important part of Asia adjacent to China. Proceeding from its policy objective of maintaining regional stability, China attaches importance to developing friendly relations with all South Asian countries."

Mr Rongji visited Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives in May last year. After the current visit, he will have covered the whole of South Asia, except Bhutan with which China has not established diplomatic relations yet.

THE STATESMAN

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# HK shuts door on Chinese migrants

Hong Kong, January 10. *WG*

HONG KONG'S highest court ruled against thousands of mainland Chinese on Thursday, crushing their dreams of remaining in the prosperous territory and opening the way for their deportation back to the mainland.

The verdict from the Court of Final Appeal was largely a victory for Hong Kong's Government and Beijing, who have sought for years to restrict the numbers of mainland Chinese settling in the territory.

However, a lawyer represent-

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ing some of the migrants said the decision still left room for up to 300 people who met certain conditions to stay. More than 5,000 people had appealed for residency rights in the case.

Confusion marked the faces of many migrants milling outside the courthouse as they realised they would have to leave.

It was not clear when, or whether, the mainlanders would be forcefully sent back. Many of the migrants sneaked into Hong Kong or are overstaying their tourist visas. If deported they would have to rejoin a long queue of people seeking to leave

*China*  
China through official channels, a system they say is haphazard and riddled with corruption.

Mainland families who apply to join their relatives in Hong Kong are never given exit permits at the same time. Spouses, mothers or children can find themselves left behind for years.

The Hong Kong Government spokesman said in a statement that it needed to study the judgment carefully before taking any action and would meet with the migrants' representatives on Friday morning. The ruling contrasts sharply with the same court's stance on the issue in

early 1999, when it granted broad residency rights to anyone with a Hong Kong parent.

Thursday's ruling allows migrants to stay only if they meet two conditions:

- They arrived in the territory before the 1997 handover and were born after their parents gained residency;

- They had formally applied for residency with Hong Kong's Immigration Department before the January 1999 verdict and were led to believe that their applications would be handled in accordance with that verdict.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 JAN 2002

# CHINESE OPERATION ON THE BORDERS

10 8 191  
**D**uring the American air strikes in Afghanistan, China which projects itself as a future superpower, watched helplessly. Although the Chinese government expressed its sympathy after September 11, Beijing seemed to have its own selfish agenda in supporting the operations of the United States of America in Afghanistan.

China, in fact, wanted to see a measured use of force by the US against the taliban although its own central Asian province has long been affected by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Beijing was also not particularly happy over the manner in which Pakistan extended support to the US. Long-term stationing of US-led coalition forces in the region could affect Beijing's covert operations in the south of the Himalayas.

China seems to have had some dealings with the taliban administration, despite knowing that the taliban and al Qaida were providing support for Islamic militants in Xinjiang. In July last, the then Afghan ambassador to Pakistan had guaranteed a Chinese delegation that no group would be allowed to operate against China from Afghanistan. Now it has become known that a Chinese software company operating from Bangalore may have helped the taliban upgrade its telecommunication network.

## Against terror

Chinese diplomatic duplicity is somewhat confounding. The communist regime in the past few years has worked hard to build up the Shanghai Cooperative Forum comprising China, Russia and four other central Asian states. The forum's anti-terrorist centre in Bishkek, the Kyrgyzstan capital, is reported to be busy developing an institutional mechanism against terror for the central Asian region. Yet on the other hand, China has assiduously provided military, political and diplomatic assistance to Pakistan in an attempt to weaken India's territorial integrity since the Sino-Indian war in 1962.

China's involvement in Pakistan has been displayed on many occasions. In the aftermath of the nuclear tests in India, the Pakistan president, Nawaz Sharif, visited Beijing before conducting tests in Pakistan a fortnight later. The act was repeated in 1999 when India launched an aggressive military offensive in Kargil. General Pervez Musharraf has made two visits to China within a fortnight of the attacks on the Indian Parliament.

By describing Kashmir as the "core issue" in Indo-Pak relations, China seems to have departed from its policy of treating Kashmir as a bilateral problem between the two countries. To bolster its stand, China has apparently provided a loan package exclusively for Pakistan Occupied Kashmir for development.

## Making inroads

The recent visit of the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, to Myanmar has gone almost unnoticed by the Indian media. Among other agreements signed between the two was a border security pact. China already has several strategic inroads into Myanmar and the pact is likely to further the process. It is interested in linking Yunnan to a Myanmar port, thereby giving Chinese goods access to the Indian Ocean. This gives rise to fears that China may try to convert the Bay of Bengal into a zone of influence.

Jiang's visit to Myanmar is bound to create mistrust in India. There is already suspicion that China may be arming insurgents in the Northeast. This fact may have ominous ramifications for New Delhi as most of its security forces are engaged in battling terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

During his forthcoming visit to India, the Chinese prime minister, Zhu Rongji, needs to clarify why his government is pursuing a double-edged foreign policy in its relations with India. Despite the numerous rounds of talks held between Beijing and New Delhi to solve the problems created by the line of control between Chinese ruled Tibet and India, China has ensured that the issue remains a problem. China's silence during the US air strikes proves that power is synonymous with military strength. Perhaps when India possesses that kind of military strength, it may be able to deter China.

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190 JAN 2002

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# China not keen to mediate on J&K

Anil K Joseph

BEIJING 9 JANUARY

CHINA ON Wednesday said it was not interested in donning the role of a peacemaker between India and Pakistan and hoped that the upcoming visit of its premier Zhu Rongji to New Delhi would serve to dispel the fears of a "China threat" and enhance mutual understanding.

"I think the role that can be played by China together with the international community is to persuade the two sides to continue to exercise restraint. However, in the end, it is up to the two countries to find a peaceful solution," director general of the Asia department of the Chinese foreign ministry Fu Ying said.

Briefing reporters on the upcoming visit of Mr Zhu to Bangladesh and India from January 11-18, Mr Fu said China wants to persuade India and Pakistan to resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue and consultations. "As far as the tensions between India and Pakistan are concerned, we hope to see the easing of tension," she said, ahead of Zhu's first meeting with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on January 14.

She noted that both India and Pakistan have stated that they don't

want to go to war, "which is an important common point."

"China is working together with the international community to try to promote peace. In the end, it is up to the Indians and Pakistanis to make their own decisions to try and find a solution," she said.

Fu emphasised that Zhu's visit was planned much before the December 13 terrorist strike on Parliament House and the resulting tension between India and Pakistan. "The visit of premier Zhu to

Bangladesh and India was decided a long time ago, long before the (December 13) Indian Parliament incident. So, we have decided to carry on with the visit because we have full confidence in the development of the situation," she said.

While pointing out that China has condemned the terrorist strike on Parliament, Fu hoped that India and Pakistan could cooperate more to eliminate terrorism.

"We believe that if India and Pakistan can have good cooperation, it will be more effective in eliminating terrorism in South Asia," she said. On the Kashmir issue, Mr Fu described it as a "very complicated issue." At the same time, she said the long-standing Chinese position is that India and Pakistan should find a peaceful solution to the problem. — PTI



RONGJI: NOT INTERESTED

The Economic Times

19 JAN 2002