

# Security of Pak's N-arms worries US

By David E. Sanger  
and Thom Shanker

**Crawford (Texas):** Two recent assassination attempts on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf have renewed concern in the Bush administration over both the stability of a critical ally and the security of its nuclear weapons if Gen Musharraf is killed or removed from office.

Administration officials would not discuss their contingency plans for Pakistan, but several said the White House was revisiting an effort initiated just after the September 11, 2001, attacks to help Pakistan improve the security of its nuclear arsenal and to prevent Al Qaida or extremists within the Pakistani military or intelligence services from gaining access to the country's weapons and fissile material.

"It's what we don't know that worries us," said a senior administration official, "including the critical question of how much fissile material Pakistan now holds and where it holds it." Three years ago, American officials estimated that Pakistan had enough highly enriched uranium to manufacture 40 nuclear weapons, and it is assumed that the figure has grown.

"It's one of the things that we're concerned about—nuclear materials or weapons-related information falling into the hands of terrorists or states who harbour them irrespective of what country we're talking about," a State Department official said Monday. "We have discussed these concerns with Pak-

istan, and we continue to do so. Pakistan has taken those concerns very seriously."

The Pentagon has analysed whether US forces could seize or secure Pakistan's nuclear arsenal if it appears likely to fall into the hands of terrorists or their sympathisers, part of a broad effort at planning for nuclear emergencies around the world. But a number of current and former administration officials said they had concluded that it was impossible to be certain where all of Pakistan's nuclear materials and weapons components were stored.

One Pentagon official said any raid by the American military to secure Pakistan's nuclear arsenal during a period of chaos would be "an extremely difficult and highly risky venture". Other administration officials termed it simply impossible.

Officials said they were relatively confident that even if Gen Musharraf lost power or was killed, Pakistan had established some fairly reliable nuclear safeguards. Nuclear warheads, triggering devices and the delivery systems for the weapons are all stored separately. Thus, it would be difficult to steal a complete weapon, said administration officials and academic analysts.

The degree to which the US may have aided in that process is a secret, in part because the Bush administration does not want to worsen anti-American sentiments in Pakistan. But there are other reasons, administration and Pentagon officials say. NYT News Service



## 'No N-roll-back'

Denying international pressure to roll back Pakistan's nuclear arms programme and its stand on Kashmir, President Pervez Musharraf (above) has said there is no question of backing out on these issues as only a "traitor" can do so.

## IA flights

Indian Airlines will resume services to Pakistan from January 9 with a bi-weekly Delhi-Lahore-Delhi flight. IA officials said the Delhi-Lahore services would be available on Fridays and Mondays. The one-way fare will be Rs 4,870 and the return fare will be Rs 8,830 in the business class and Rs 3,745 and Rs 6,795 in the economy class.

## Saarc agenda

Accomplishment of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement and a social charter to eradicate poverty from the region could be the major achievements during the Saarc summit being held in Islamabad from January 4 to 6, foreign secretary Shashank said before crossing the Wagah border to Pakistan on Tuesday.

# Bush leaves amid 'go back' slogans

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, NOV 21.** The U.S. President, George W. Bush's controversial and action-packed four-day visit to Britain ended today after provoking the biggest-ever demonstration against a foreign dignitary in recent memory as an estimated 100,000 people walked through central London on Thursday evening urging him to "go back".

The organisers put the figure at 200,000 but even by police estimates of 110,000, it was the biggest show of public anger against what was dubbed the "Bush-Blair axis" since the one-million strong anti-war march in February. The security 'bubble' around Mr. Bush, how-

ever, made sure that he did not come face to face with his tormentors and, in a widely reported gaffe, his wife Laura wondered what all the fuss was about.

"We haven't seen that many protests. But we have seen many American flags and people welcoming us," she said.

Her remarks came even as, just yards away in Trafalgar Square, a life-size effigy of Mr. Bush was pulled down by a cheering crowd in a mock replay of the toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue in Baghdad. The event, greeted by loud cheers, followed a massive rally which saw protesters, wearing masks and carrying anti-war and anti-Bush banners, walk past

Whitehall and Downing Street. "Thank God, there's no oil in England," said one banner while another depicted Mr. Bush as "An American war wolf in London".

For hours on Thursday, large parts of central London were taken over by peace activists, led by a disabled Vietnam veteran, Ron Kovic. Among protesters, who included school children, professionals, civil rights activists, pensioners and housewives, there were Americans who said they were 'proud' of their country but 'ashamed' of their President.

"This is probably one of the largest demonstrations that London has ever seen on a weekday," said a spokesman of Stop the War

Coalition which had organised the march with a host of anti-war and civil liberties groups. There was no respite from protests even after the official tour ended this morning with a formal farewell from the

Queen and Mr. Bush and wife flew to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair's Parliamentary constituency, Sedgfield on a private visit. Mr. Blair's constituents displayed banners and raised slogans calling Mr. Bush "World No. 1 Terrorist" while the Blairs took their guests around. This was the first time since Mr. Bush arrived in Britain four days ago that he was actually seen in public for any length of time.

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**BUSH IN U.K. / LONDON MAYOR JOINS PROTESTERS**

# Leaders rule out early exit from Iraq

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, NOV 20. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the visiting U.S. President, George W Bush, made clear today that there was no question of pulling out of Iraq until the 'job' was done and scoffed at speculation that they were looking for an early exit strategy.

"We will finish the task we have begun," Mr. Bush said. Mr. Blair was more emphatic saying: "We will stay until the job is done."

Using identical language at a joint press conference here after talks in Downing Street, they said the terrorist attack in Turkey this morning had strengthened their resolve not to give in to the sort of 'intimidation' that had seen increasing attacks on American and British forces in Iraq.

Mr. Bush denounced those behind such attacks as 'thugs' and Mr. Blair called for "unshakable unity of purpose" to fight terrorism which, he said, was causing havoc in places as far apart as Kashmir, Chechnya and Palestine. "We stand side by side with the U.S. and other allies to rid the world of this once and for all," Mr. Blair said declaring that there would be "no compromise" with terrorists.

The two leaders' strong defence of their actions in Iraq came as thousands of protesters were gathering a short distance away for what was billed as the biggest anti-Bush demonstration during his current visit. Organisers, led by the Stop the War Coalition, planned to topple a statue of Mr. Bush in Trafalgar Square later in the evening as a dramatic climax to the series of protests that have dogged Mr. Bush's visit since he

arrived here on Tuesday.

Despite unprecedented security, protesters milled round Buckingham Palace, where Mr. Bush and his wife are staying, and burnt an American flag leading to scuffles with the police. Security fears led the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to drop out of a function where he was to be given a medal for his contribution to Anglo-U.S. relations.

"We are making it impossible for George Bush and his people to move around as they want," a spokesman for protesters said.

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, who is bitterly opposed to the Bush-Blair 'axis,' organised a "peace reception" attended by anti-war artistes, writers and MPs.

# Bush and Blair set for solidarity show

- Security costs around £10 m
- Guantanamo deal probable

Vijay Dutt & Reuters  
London, November 18

GEORGE W. Bush and Tony Blair will mount a defiant show of solidarity after the US President flies to London on Tuesday for his first visit to a major European capital since war in Iraq polarised the world.

Tens of thousands of protesters have vowed to give the president his first taste of European anger at the war. But if the British prime minister is a reluctant host, he has shown no sign of it, robustly defending his decision to defy other big European powers and support Bush's war in Iraq.

"The prime minister believes this is precisely the right time for President Bush to be visiting this country," Blair's spokesman said.

"He believes that the majority of people welcome Bush, recognise the importance of the relationship with America and acknowledge the commitment it is showing to establish democracy in Iraq alongside our diplomats and soldiers."

Prince Charles will meet Bush, who will stay at Buckingham Palace as guest of Queen Elizabeth. But his guardians, fearing an al-Qaeda attack, have ruled out such traditional events as a royal horse-drawn carriage ride.

British police will mount the biggest security clampdown ever for a visiting leader, with weekend suicide bombings in Istanbul adding to the tensions. The police strength has been almost trebled from 5,000 to 14,000 as fears mounted about al-Qaeda hijacking peaceful protests to target Bush. The cost of security operations during the

**WEDNESDAY** A march poking fun at the fact that Bush, worried by the prospect of massive street protests, will not receive a royal procession

**THURSDAY** Topping of giant home-made statue of Bush in London's Trafalgar Square after march over Westminster Bridge, before Houses of Parliament and through Whitehall

three-day stay of Bush is likely to be around £10 million.

The biggest ever security operation was mounted following heightened terrorism fears about suicide bombers, suspected to be in the country, getting activated and attacking the President's cavalcade of over 35 cars.

A suspect, who is being kept in a high security prison, has reportedly said there are between 10 to 15 people ready to launch an attack. Special Branch officials have also warned the American Secret Service that a "mentally deranged lone fanatic with a fixation for George Bush" may be at large in London.

About 250 American security agents, most of them armed, will also be on duty. It is said that over 2,000 British police officers will also be armed. But a foretaste what might happen when the anti-war protesters march on Thursday was provided by a 61-year-old woman who climbed on the top of the Buckingham Palace Gate and hung a US flag and waved a placard saying 'Bush Go Back'.

British commentators say the



**WHAT LIES AHEAD:** President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush walk out of the White House toward the presidential helicopter on Tuesday.

visit will be uncomfortable for Blair — under fire at home over Iraq, especially within his own Left-leaning Labour Party.

But Blair has remained steadfast. In a key foreign affairs speech last week he said critics of the war should accept that Iraqis were better

off without Saddam, and denounced what he called a "propaganda monster about America". Blair will hope to clinch a deal on British detainees at the US camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. There are now 10 Britons among more than 600 prisoners there.

Reuters

## US media fears a PR disaster

New York, November 18

SINCE DAVID Blaine left his box overlooking the Thames, the American media's interest in Britain has rarely strayed beyond Tony Blair's support for the war in Iraq, and the monarchy. So it is little surprise that the visit of President George Bush is the talk of the airwaves and a subject worthy of the front pages.

But where there once would have been excitement there is only anxiety. "This is not a prediction but a terrible foreboding," writes David Frum, Bush's former speechwriter who claimed credit for the phrase "axis of evil", in *The National Review*. "I fear that Bush's imminent state visit to the UK is shaping up as one of the worst media debacles of his presidency."

His analysis of the reasons for the dire prediction is not an uncommon view among Americans. "Bush is not widely popular in Britain," Frum writes. *Newsweek* goes further: "What Blair needs to do is distance himself from Bush, not hug him close."

Mark Steyn, of the *New York Sun*, puts the protests

down to "the explosive European streak that remains implacably pro-Saddam, pro-Yasser, pro-jihad, pro-Faliban, misogynist homophobic, pro-anyone as long as they're anti-American... as to the derangement of the crowd, they're impervious to reason".

William Safire, a *New York Times* columnist, blames the "anti-war crowd" and "apostles of cut-and-run". "They are reported to be planning the great photo-op of pulling down a mock statue of George Bush in front of BBC and al-Jazeera cameras," he writes.

"In Britain this week, two statesmen are tying their white ties without pomp in tough circumstances, united in taking the political heat," Safire writes.

The last time Bush broke bread with the Queen was in 1992 in the White House when his father was President. At the time he wore cowboy boots embellished with God Save the Queen and asked Her Majesty if she had any black sheep in her family.

But, as *Time* says: "This time he's in charge. Whatever Bush does, Blair will have to live with it."

The Guardian

# Prez charming Bush reveals he loathes war

Vijay Dutt & The Guardian  
London, November 14

AWARE OF the threat of anti-war protesters to upset his visit to London, President George Bush has gone on a charm offensive to win over his detractors. He acknowledged his critics and said it was fantastic that the British people were free to demonstrate against him.

"I am pleased to be going to a country which say that people are allowed to express their mind. That's fantastic. Freedom is a beautiful thing. And the fact that people are willing to come out and express themselves says I'm going to a great country."

The President is expected to meet families of soldiers who died in Iraq and he said he would "share with them a deep grief, my sorrow for the sacrifice. He has also tried to dispel the image of being a hawk and warmonger.

Bush said, "I understand people not liking war. I don't like war. War is the last choice a President should make, not the first." He also allayed the fear that he would take military action against Iran and North Korea, described by him as the other two members of the "axis of evil".

"I'm really looking forward to spending time with my friend — and I emphasise 'my friend' — Tony Blair," Bush said. "He's a smart, capable, trustworthy friend, and we've got a lot to talk about."

He went out of his way to deny the suggestion that Blair had sacrificed Britain's independence by maintaining such a close relationship with Wash-

## English treat

PRIME MINISTER Tony Blair is planning to give President Bush a taste of home when he visits Blair's home in Trimdon, a sleepy town in the far north of England.

The Trimdon rumour mill was in overdrive Thursday over which lucky restaurant or pub would get the presidential seal of approval.

A taxi driver said police helicopters had been buzzing in the area while newspapers said FBI agents had been seen, taking notes and photographs.

Reuters, Trimdon

ington. "He's plenty independent. If he thought the policy that we have both worked on was wrong, he'd tell me," he said.

"Never once has he said to me, ever, 'gosh, I'm feeling terrible pressure'," Bush said.

"I have never heard him complain about the polls, or wring his hands. The relationship is a very good relationship because I admire him, and I admire somebody who stands tough."

American officials have hinted that a deal might be brokered over the nine Britons held at the Camp X-Ray.

Political commentators were, however, sceptical that Bush's overtures would win any of his many critics. But it would help Blair to make a strong case for closer ties with Washington.

# Britain breaks ranks with US over Iran

London, Nov. 12 (Reuters): Britain, Washington's staunchest ally in the war in Iraq, admitted today to differences with its partner over how to tackle the nuclear ambitions of Iran.

While the US reacted quickly and harshly to an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report which said Tehran had dabbled in activities possibly linked to atom bomb-making, British foreign secretary Jack Straw unusually broke ranks today to strike a

cautious note. "We should be reacting calmly to the latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency," he told BBC Radio.

"This report, which certainly is very worrying in terms of what it discloses, also shows a pretty high level of cooperation."

The nuclear safety agency's report this week said although no evidence had so far been found of a bomb programme in Iran, Tehran had experimented with possibly linked activities

like plutonium production and uranium enrichment.

The report prompted US secretary of state Colin Powell to accuse "hidebound clerics" in Tehran of dragging Islam into "the political gutter".

Straw will meet Powell for talks in Washington later in the day.

The US wants the IAEA board to pass a resolution to report Iran to the UN Security Council, a move which could lead to sanctions against Tehran. But Britain may resist,

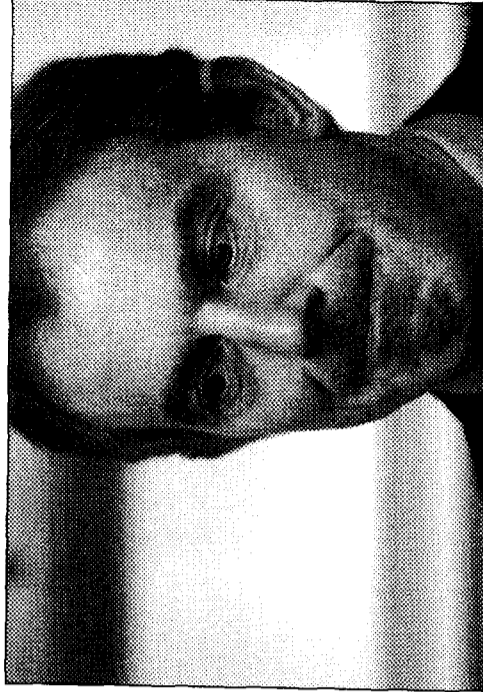
along with France and Germany. The three have tried to engage with Iran, to the dismay of Washington which has long taken a tougher line. Last month the European trio secured Iranian agreement to snap inspections of its nuclear sites and a freeze of uranium enrichment.

Speaking on BBC Radio, Straw, who has made building ties with Tehran a cornerstone of his diplomatic agenda, was careful to respect Iran's heritage.

"We want to see a process by which Iran comes fully into the democratic modern fold while being able to show full respect to its Islamic roots and the fact that it is an Islamic republic," he said, going on to admit differences with Washington.

"Because of the history between Iran and the United States, the issue... is felt more sensitively than it is in Europe," he said.

"We have different analyses but we share a common objective."



British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London. (Reuters)

# Bush's visit to U.K. sparks protest threats

By Hasan Suroor

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10-15

LONDON, NOV 11. The first-ever state visit of the U.S. President, George W. Bush, to Britain next week has provoked such widespread hostility that the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has been forced to defend it saying he believes that "this is exactly the right time for him to come".

Mr. Blair's intervention came as anti-war campaigners claimed that up to 100,000 people were expected to join demonstrations against the visit and an opinion poll showed that 60 per cent Britons were opposed to Britain's "special relationship" with the Bush administration in the wake of the Iraq war.

Mr. Bush is likely to spend most of his time in 'purdah' to avoid ugly scenes. To prevent any embarrassment from anti-war MPs, he is likely to be kept away from Parliament as well in sharp contrast to Mr. Blair's high-profile address to the U.S. Senators and Congressmen when he visited Washington recently.

Reports suggested that the three-day visit did not include any of the "traditional haunts for a state visit". "Not for Mr. Bush the dreaming spires of Oxford, nor the relaxing spas of Bath. Neither will he be venturing to Wordsworth

country or crossing the border to see Scotland's historic capital, all traditional haunts for a state visit," *The Times* noted.

Security concerns were said to be verging on paranoia with U.S. officials reported to be demanding that large parts of Central London — the potential venue of protests — be shut down and all demonstrations banned during the visit.

A "battle of wills" was reported to be going on between U.S. security agents and the British police. The anti-war Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, wants all legitimate protests to be allowed putting him at loggerheads with American officials who want the area around Buckingham Palace, where Mr. Bush would be staying, to be closed.

Mr. Blair, in a speech on Monday, scoffed at critics. "For many, the script of the visit has already been written. There will be demonstrations. His (Mr. Bush's) friends wonder at the timing.

His enemies rub their hands at what they see as potential embarrassment. I believe this is exactly the right time for him to come," he declared as the Stop the War Coalition and a host of civil rights groups rolled up their sleeves to take to the streets.

# Pak launches al-Qaida hunt to clear American doubts

Angor Adda (Pakistan), Oct 2

PAKISTANI FORCES killed 12 suspected Taliban and al-Qaida fighters on Thursday and arrested 10 in an operation near the Afghan border barely a day after US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage expressed doubts about its commitment to fighting terrorism.

The announcement of the operation had come hours ahead of the scheduled arrival of Armitage and Assistant Secretary Christina Rocca to Pakistan on Thursday, who, however, put off their visit to October 4 citing "scheduling issues".

The operation followed observations by Armitage on Wednesday that Musharraf was supportive of crackdown against al-Qaida and the Taliban but it was not the case with all the army and security officials in Pakistan.

"I personally believe that President Musharraf is genuine when he assists us in the tribal areas and he has from inside of the border, but I do not think that affection for working with us extends up to down the rank of Pakistan Security Community," Armitage said in Washington.

The operation against al-Qaida also followed a meeting of top military officials presided over

a Cobra helicopter swooped overhead firing machineguns at positions in the rugged tribal country just a few kilometers from the Afghan frontier.

"The fighting is still going on," said Major General Faisal Alavi. "Some of these guys got out of the houses and have gone into folds in the ground and into the trees. Our guys are trying to flush them out, but they are putting up very stiff resistance."

Two Pakistani soldiers were wounded by grenades. Ten fighters were arrested, four possibly of Arabic origin and six apparently Pakistanis or Afghans. Some of the detainees were

blindfolded and all had their hands tied behind their backs.

A large cache of arms, mines and basic surveillance equipment was found in one of the rebel compounds, located around 1.5 miles from the frontier town of Angor Adda.

Alavi, commander of special forces in the area where the operation is taking place, said some captives appeared to be from the Taliban regime.

Alavi told reporters Pakistani troops had surrounded a compound late on Wednesday where they believed al-Qaida fighters were hiding.

Reuters



Pakistani troops prepare for battle against al-Qaida fighters.

by Musharraf on .

"We believe that some al-Qaida men have taken shelter in South Waziristan tribal belt af-

ter carrying out attacks in Afghanistan's Paktika province," Gen. Sultan said.

Small-arms fire crackled and



# Pak salt on US cut: No troops 'at any cost'

Islamabad, Oct. 26 (Reuters): Pakistan today said it had told the US it would not send any troops to Iraq, the state news agency reported.

Information minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed was quoted by the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) as saying it had been made clear to the US that "Pakistan will not send its troops to Iraq at any cost".

Pakistan had already ruled out sending troops to join the multinational peacekeeping force after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, without the consent of the Iraqi people. Analysts have said sending troops to a fellow Muslim country would lead to problems at home for Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf.

APP quoted Ahmed as saying

at the silver jubilee celebrations of an Urdu language newspaper that the Muslim community was "undergoing a very difficult period of its history" and Pakistan had to be "very cautious to steer itself out of the crisis".

## Envoys tour border

In an apparent attempt to stem the growing tide of international criticism that it was not crack-

ing hard on al Qaida militants, Pakistan has taken top Islamabad-based diplomats on a conducted tour of the Pak-Afghan border claiming that its troops killed 10 militants and detained 230 others in recent operations.

Corps commander Lt General Ali Muhammad Aurkzai told a team of foreign diplomats that three phases of the operation Al Meezan, which was launched on

October 2, have been completed while the fourth phase is on.

During the operation 10 militants were killed and 230 al Qaida suspects detained, Aurkzai was quoted as saying by official APP news agency.

The ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats, who visited the agency belonged to Russia, Sweden, Egypt, Brazil the Netherlands, Finland, Nor-

way, Belgium, Japan, South Africa, Canada, Australia, Iran, China, UK, Turkey, Indian diplomats, however, were not invited.

The tour of top diplomats followed criticism by the US and the international media that Pakistan was not cracking hard on Taliban and al Qaida militants who regrouped in Afghan borders, specially in the inaccessible tribal areas.

### **Myanmar faces ASEAN action**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Myanmar's ruling junta needs to free pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, soon or risk a crisis that could lead to its expulsion from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Malaysia's Foreign Minister said on Monday. "Whether ASEAN is willing to take that step is something — we have to see what Myanmar does during this period," the Foreign Minister, Syed Hamid Albar, said in an interview. "The crucial thing is releasing Suu Kyi." International pressure is building on ASEAN to overcome its tradition of non-interference in the affairs of member states and get tough with the military Government to release the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mr. Hamid said. An ASEAN Foreign Ministers' summit took the unprecedented step last month of telling Myanmar to free her. Malaysia fears "the possible expulsion of Myanmar if they fail to go along with the accepted views among ASEAN" . — AP

**THE HINDU**

22 JUL 2003

# N-proliferation: US reposes faith in Gen

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Washington:** The Bush administration has said Pakistan's nuclear proliferation activities are all in the past. The US believes General Musharraf's assurances that no transfers are going on at the present time.

The issue figured in both the White House and State Department briefings on Monday and spokesmen at both places certified that Pakistan's current assurances on the matter were credible.

"I'm not in a position to discuss those (past) matters relating to classified information and intelligence matter, but let me talk to the present," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

President Musharraf had assured us that (proliferation) is not happening now. And that's important."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher reminded a questioner that Secretary of State Colin Powell had said in

October of 2002 that he had had very specific conversations about proliferation with Gen. Musharraf "where he assured us that Pakistan was not participating in any kind of activity of that nature."

"And I checked this morning, and I would say that...we continue to accept that assurance," Mr Boucher added.

Washington's resounding endorsement came amid doubts in several quarters, including within Pakistan, about how the so-called rogue elements could have leaked or sold nuclear secrets without the knowledge of the Pakistani establishment, given the strict tabs they kept on the top scien-

tists now under interrogation.

One analyst pointed out in the 'Dawn' newspaper that "all the Pakistani scientists associated with our nuclear programme, including Dr A.Q. Khan, had remained under 24-hour strict military surveillance all through the years since the programme was started."

One in-service brigadier had always remained at the side of Dr Khan during his waking hours and a French envoy was once beaten up for getting too close the nuclear establishment.

"So, with all that protection, it appears

rather impossible for these scientists to have branched out on their own to set up their individual nuclear shops. They must have had help from some of their own protectors," the commentator said.

But Washington, which evidently pressured Pakistan's military establishment to probe the leaks and appears to have an inside track of the developments, continued to insist that that all was hunky dory.

Mr Boucher said the US welcomed Pakistan's investigation and its debriefing of individuals who may have valuable information to convey.

"It's a further indication of the priority that President Musharraf has placed on ensuring that Pakistan's sensitive assets don't fall into the wrong hands," he added.

Mr McClelland said the US would continue to work with Pakistan on a number of fronts, including the war on terrorism and "taking steps to make sure we're doing everything we can to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction around the world."

## Hitting the highroad



George Bush



Pervez Musharraf

- Pakistan's N-proliferation 'is in the past'
- 'All Pak N-scientists under 24-hour military surveillance'
- 'Scientists must have had help from some of their own protectors'

## Pallone opposes \$3b aid to <sup>with Pak</sup> Pakistan <sup>19-17</sup>

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 1. The Democratic member of the U.S. Congress, Frank Pallone, has expressed concern about the proposed \$3 billion package to Pakistan and has vowed to oppose the same when it comes for Congressional approval.

The five-year package starting 2005 will come in rough annual instalments of \$600 million and the Congress will have to appropriate this money each time.

In a letter to the President, George W. Bush, the Congressman from New Jersey has urged that assistance to Pakistan be limited to the economic component and to further impress upon Islamabad the importance of moving towards democracy and stopping cross-border terrorism.

"If these concerns are not appropriately addressed, I intend to oppose Congressional consideration of this aid package," Mr. Pallone has said.

"I find it extremely problematic to be providing further U.S. military assistance to a country like Pakistan given Musharraf's authoritarian regime and the militant insurgency in Kashmir by Pakistani Islamic terrorists," he argued.

Mr. Pallone, the founder of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, has warned the President that a "rogue" nation like Pakistan has a track record of using foreign military supplies against India, harbouring the Taliban and providing uranium enriched equipment to North Korea.

Pakistan, in Mr. Pallone view, remains a major source of proliferation and Gen. Musharraf's efforts to halt cross-border terrorism have been "inadequate at best".

The Bush administration, in the last week or so, has faced criticism on the Pakistani aid package with some maintaining that Gen. Musharraf gets too much without giving anything tangible in return; others have argued that the resumption of a military sales pipeline to Pakistan is not in America's long-term interests, especially in the context of an evolving relationship with India.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

## REWARDING MUSHARRAF

THE UNAMBIGUOUS AMERICAN endorsement of his leadership must come as a morale booster for the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf. Along with the economic and military assistance that his ally, George W. Bush, has promised, this support will considerably strengthen his hands to face the domestic political storm being raised by myriad groups of Islamic religious fundamentalists. The body language of the American President matched his measured words on the grounds of his exclusive retreat at Camp David and he had but one message: that the U.S. values the Pakistani connection and is not ready to forsake it. "We have no better partner in our fight against terrorism than President Musharraf," Mr. Bush said in clear acknowledgement that the time had come for Washington to repay the Pakistani ruler for his extraordinarily bold and tactically shrewd decision to abandon support for the Taliban and align with the U.S. in its war against the Al-Qaeda and overthrow the hardline regime in Kabul. The American President pointedly referred to their continuing partnership in the fight against terrorism and cited the arrest of more than 500 Al-Qaeda suspects in Pakistan. Gen. Musharraf in turn underscored his allegiance to the fight against terrorists by reminding his host that in the operation to flush out Taliban remnants he had ordered his army for the first time ever into the lawless semi-autonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan.

The \$ 3 billion package of financial and military assistance over a five-year period that Mr. Bush announced holds much promise, even though the gift wrapping does carry the mandatory warnings on movement towards democracy et al that any allied military ruler receives. The red carpet welcome accorded to Gen. Musharraf and Washington's readiness to meet his demands and share his concerns were a signal in the main of the American goal of ensuring the stability of the country and its concurrent anxiety to keep at bay the obscurantist elements whose voice is becoming increas-

ingly strident. The resurgent coalition of Islamic parties, which is winning popular support by criticising the close U.S.-Pakistan ties, has dismissed the aid package as an insult and the denial of the F-16 fighter planes as a slap in the face. But it must be noted that the continued denial of the one item that Gen. Musharraf must have desperately wanted in the package has been prompted as much by American reluctance to upset the warming relations with India as by concerns over Islamabad's proven complicity in proliferation of nuclear and missile technology. Pakistan has denied providing North Korea with the designs for centrifuges to enrich uranium that has led to the erection of a second nuclear project and Gen. Musharraf is said to have told the U.S. that the clandestine relationship has ended. The U.S. would want to see concrete proof of this break, considering past denials of such links with the regime in North Korea.

If the decision over the F-16s will please New Delhi, it must also be satisfied that Mr. Bush held up the bilateral route for solving India-Pakistan problems and refused to walk into the trap laid by Gen. Musharraf inviting American mediation over Kashmir. Mr. Bush confined himself to repeating the assurance that the U.S. will remain engaged in South Asia, at the same time urging effective action to end cross-border militancy. Washington will watch how far Gen. Musharraf fulfils his commitment of a "100 per cent" effort to stop incursions across the border. The Kashmir dispute apart, the Pakistani leader launched on his current four-nation diplomatic drive to ensure that Western interest in his country does not wane with the focus shifting to the Middle East. His rhetorical pronouncements in London and the high profile visit to Camp David have brought the spotlight momentarily on him. As he returns home via Paris and Berlin, a host of political, economic and security problems await him. The Pakistani people will also look forward to further steps towards the promised "sustainable democracy".

# Pervez wants Bush roadmap for Kashmir

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, June 25. — Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has said he would like Mr George Bush to involve himself in a West Asia-style "roadmap" on Kashmir, but feared India would not allow that as it wanted a bilateral resolution.

Asked in an interview with ABC whether Mr Bush supported Pakistan's desire for more involvement by him in the Kashmir dispute, Gen. Musharraf said: "Yes, he always says he will remain committed to bringing peace and harmony between India and Pakistan."

Asked if he would consider giving up either the post of President or Army Chief, Gen. Musharraf said: "I was wearing four hats initially. When I took over (as President), I was the Chief of Army Staff, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief Executive and President. I didn't take these hats by choice. ...Circumstances put me in the situation. But then I realised this is not correct ... I started removing the hats."

"On the first opportunity, I gave up my position as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and then, after a Supreme Court order, I gave up my position as Chief Executive. Once I feel stability has come I

## 'A traitor'

ISLAMABAD, June 25. — Calling Gen. Musharraf a "traitor", Mr Nawaz Sharif told the *Daily Times* from exile that he and Mr Vajpayee had "almost" decided on a deadline to resolve the Kashmir issue but the process was sabotaged by the Pak Army's Kargil conflict.

"Mr Vajpayee's Lahore visit was a link in the chain. Had it not been for Kargil the issue of Kashmir would have reached a historical resolution," he said. — PTI

would certainly like to take off this, the one that remains," he said, but did not specify which position he meant.

About the US not supplying F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, the Wall Street Journal today reported that "the Bush Administration feared giving military aid (to Pakistan) that could, in a change of government, end up in the wrong hands."

**General on peace:** President Musharraf has assured Mr Bush that he will make 100 per cent effort to end crossborder "incidents" against India. "Musharraf has committed to a 100 per cent effort at trying to end crossborder incidents", a senior Administration official said briefing reporters on the Camp David, adds PTI.

**'Fait accompli':** The lavish praise and aid to Pakistan suggests that the US is considering Islamabad's nuclear weapons capability as a 'fait accompli' and is now more worried about preventing control of the weapons from falling into the wrong hands, the *New York Times* reported today.

The praise Mr Bush lavished on the General, and the grant of \$3 billion in economic and military aid for the next five years, shows that Mr Bush and his aides seem to regard Pakistan's nuclear weapons capacity "as a fait accompli," the report said.

More reports on page 2

# এফ ১৬ নয়, মুশারফকে ফের বললেন বুশ

সীমা সিরোহি ● ওয়াশিংটন

২৪ জুন: মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট জর্জ ডব্লিউ বুশ পরিষ্কার জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, ইসলামাবাদ এ বারও এফ-১৬ জঙ্গি বিমান পাবে না।

সন্ত্রাস দমনের প্রক্ষে আমেরিকার পাশে দাঁড়ানোর পুরস্কার অবশ্য পাকিস্তান পেয়েই চলেছে। বুশ জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, পাকিস্তানকে আমেরিকা তিনশো কোটি ডলারের প্যাকেজ দিচ্ছে। পাঁচ বছর মেয়াদি এই প্যাকেজের অর্ধেক অর্থই বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে সামরিক সাহায্য বাবদ।

পাকিস্তানের প্রেসিডেন্টকে নিজের ব্যক্তিগত অবসর বিনোদনের জায়গায় মধ্যাহ্নভোজনে আমন্ত্রণ জানিয়েই বুশ বুঝিয়ে দিয়েছিলেন, মুশারফকে তিনি বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিতে চান। মুশারফই দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার প্রথম কোনও নেতা যাঁকে বুশ ক্যাম্প ডেভিডে আমন্ত্রণ জানানেন। প্রায় ৯০ মিনিট ধরে দু'জনের মধ্যে আলোচনার পরেও বুশ মুশারফের খোলাখুলি প্রশংসা করে বলেন, “পাকিস্তানের প্রেসিডেন্ট এক জন সাহসী নেতা এবং তিনি আমেরিকার বন্ধু। পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে আমেরিকার দৃঢ় বন্ধুত্বের সম্পর্ক আছে।” সেই সঙ্গেই মৌলবাদী মুসলিম সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের দমনের ব্যাপারে মুশারফের উপরে চাপ অব্যাহত রাখতে বুশ জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন,

“তালিবানের বিরুদ্ধে আমাদের অভিযানে পাকিস্তানের সাহায্য জরুরি।”

উপ-প্রধানমন্ত্রী লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণীর সঙ্গে বৈঠকের পনেরো দিনের মাথায় এ বার পাক প্রেসিডেন্টের সঙ্গে আলোচনাতেও ভারত-পাক সম্পর্কের কথা

উঠেছে। বুশ বলেন, ভারত-পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে উত্তেজনা প্রশমনের লক্ষ্যে সাহায্য করতে তিনি প্রস্তুত। কিন্তু এ ব্যাপারে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে হবে ভারত ও পাকিস্তান নেতৃদ্বয়েই। কোনও অবস্থাতেই যে তিনি ভারত ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে

সমস্যা মেটাতে মধ্যস্থতা করবেন না তা বুশ স্পষ্ট জানিয়ে দেন। তবে “শান্তির লক্ষ্যে আমাদের পক্ষে যা করা সম্ভব তার সবই আমরা করব” বলেও তিনি মন্তব্য করেন। নতুন করে শান্তি প্রয়াসে উদ্যোগী হওয়ার জন্য বুশ আজ প্রধানমন্ত্রী অটলবিহারী বাজপেয়ীর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে প্রেসিডেন্ট মুশারফেরও প্রশংসা করেন। দু'দেশের মধ্যে “কাশ্মীর-সহ সমস্ত ব্যাপারেই নিজেদের মধ্যে যোগাযোগ আরও বাড়াবে বলেও” তিনি আশা প্রকাশ করেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে মুশারফেরও বক্তব্য, “সন্ত্রাসবাদী কাজকর্মের মাধ্যমে কোনও মহৎ উদ্দেশ্যকেই যুক্তিযুক্ত করা যায় না। সন্ত্রাসের রূপ যাই হোক, পাকিস্তান তার নিন্দা করে।” কিন্তু কাশ্মীর প্রসঙ্গে তাঁর পুরনো অবস্থান থেকে নড়েনি মুশারফ। আজও তিনি বলেন, ভারত ও পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে মূল সমস্যা কাশ্মীরই।

বুশ বলেন, ওসামা বিন লাদেনকে ধরার চেষ্টা আমেরিকা চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। ইঙ্গিতপূর্ণ ভাবে মুশারফের দিকে তাকিয়েই বুশ বলেন, “তার জন্য কত দিন লাগবে সেটা কোনও ব্যাপারই নয় মি. প্রেসিডেন্ট।”

‘সহিষ্ণু ও সমৃদ্ধ পাকিস্তান গড়তে’ তিনি উদ্যোগী হয়েছেন বলে মুশারফের প্রশংসা করার পাশাপাশি প্রেসিডেন্ট বুশ বলেন, পাকিস্তানের “গণতন্ত্রের লক্ষ্যে এগোনো দরকার”।

## দিল্লি দিল গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্ট

জয়ন্ত ঘোষাল ● নয়াদিল্লি

২৪ জুন: ক্যাম্প ডেভিডে মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট জর্জ বুশ এবং পাকিস্তানের প্রেসিডেন্ট পারভেজ মুশারফের শীর্ষ বৈঠকের মুখে বাজপেয়ী সরকার আমেরিকার কাছে একটি গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্ট দিয়েছে। এই গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্টে বলা হয়েছে, মুশারফ ইসলামাবাদ ছেড়ে লন্ডনের পথে পাড়ি দেওয়ার আগে সেনাবাহিনীর কোর কমান্ডারদের এক বৈঠকে সাফ জানিয়েছে দিয়েছেন যে, কাশ্মীর প্রঙ্গে পাকিস্তান কোনও রকম আপস করতে রাজি নয়। কাশ্মীর প্রঙ্গে এক ইঞ্চি জমিও পাকিস্তান ছাড়বে না। আপস করতে হলে করতে হবে ভারতকে।

বুশের সঙ্গে বৈঠকের আগে পাক সেনাবাহিনীর কাছে মুশারফ যা যা বলেছেন, সে ব্যাপারে বিস্তারিত তথ্য-সহ ভারতীয় গোয়েন্দা বাহিনী একটি রিপোর্ট প্রধানমন্ত্রী এবং উপ-প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কাছে জমা দিয়েছে। এই রিপোর্টে অবশ্য আরেকটি কথা বলা হয়েছে। সেটি হল, পারভেজ সেনা অফিসারদের কাছে ওই বৈঠকে বলেছেন, আমেরিকার একটা চাপ অবশ্য তাঁর উপরে আছে। নানা কারণে এই চাপকে সম্পূর্ণ অগ্রাহ্য করা আর পাকিস্তানের পক্ষে সম্ভব নয়। আমেরিকা ও ভারতের মধ্যে এখন নিয়মিত গোয়েন্দা তথ্য বিনিময় হচ্ছে। দিল্লিতে মার্কিন দূতাবাসে এখন এফ বি আই-এর দু'জন অফিসার নিযুক্ত, আবার দু'জন ভারতীয় গোয়েন্দা অফিসার ওয়াশিংটনে একই ভাবে নিযুক্ত।

এর পর সাতের পাতায়

25 2003

25 2003

মোহন বাজার কাপড়

# Bush gives Pak \$3bn, but no F-16s

Press Trust of India

SFI 25/6

WASHINGTON, June 24. — President George Bush today ruled out any immediate sale of F-16 *Fighting Falcons* to Pakistan, making it clear that it will not be a part of a \$3 billion package announced for Islamabad.

“In the package that we discussed, the five-year \$3 billion package, half of that money goes for defence matters of which the F-16 won't be a part,” Mr Bush said at a joint press conference at Camp David after he met President Pervez Musharraf.

The US President's response came when a reporter referred to media reports quoting Deputy Prime Minister Mr LK Advani as having said after his recent visit to the USA that Washington had given an assurance that it would not sell F-16s to Pakistan.

The questioner asked if the Pakistani people should believe Mr Advani.

Gen. Musharraf interjected telling the President that he could not escape questions on this issue. Mr Bush responded saying Gen. Musharraf had been a “strong advocate” for the sale of F-16s to Pakistan, but made it clear that it would not be part of the package.

Pakistan had paid for 28 F-16 jets, sale of which has been stalled

following the 1998 anti-nuclear sanctions against Islamabad. The US President said he would work with Congress on a \$3 billion economic aid package for Pakistan, and announced he would sign a trade and investment framework agreement with Islamabad.

“I will work with the US Congress on a \$3bn economic assistance package to help advance security and economic opportunity for Pakistani citizens,” he said. After 90-minutes of talks at the presidential retreat, Mr Bush declared that he would stand by and be ready to help resolve (India-Pakistan tension) but a final agreement requires ... both the Pakistan and Indian governments. “We will do all we can to promote peace.”

Mr Bush said he was encouraged by the moves Gen. Musharraf and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee made in easing tension between the two sides. “I am hopeful the two countries will deepen their engagement on all issues, including Kashmir.”

President Musharraf assured Mr Bush that Pakistan “abhors terrorism in all its forms and manifestations” and no cause can be promoted through terrorist acts. At the same time, the General insisted that for Pakistan Kashmir is “a core issue.”

On the nuclear issue, he said: “Pakistan follows a strategy of minimum deterrence. We are not into any arms race (with India) but we do maintain forces to ensure this strategy of minimum deterrence.”

Gen. Musharraf also invited President Bush and the US First Lady to visit Pakistan.

**I will work with Congress on a \$3 billion economic assistance package to help advance security and economic opportunity for Pakistani citizens**

GEORGE W BUSH



# Dollars, not fighters, for Pervez

S. Rajagopalan  
Washington, June 24

US PRESIDENT George Bush on Tuesday announced a \$3-billion aid package for Pakistan but ruled out sale of F-16 fighter jets. The details of the package were not released immediately, apart from a statement that half of the money would be for "defence matters".

At their 90-minute Camp David meeting, Bush made it clear to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf that the onus of finding a solution to the Kashmir dispute lay with Pakistan and India. The US could, at best, aid the process.

It was clear from Bush's remarks at a brief joint news conference that he

had, in line with promises made to Indian leaders, taken up the subject of cross-border terrorism with Musharraf. He emphasised the need for 100 per cent commitment on dealing with terrorism, which was preventing a solution to Kashmir. "Every party involved with this issue must focus on not allowing a few to undermine the hopes of many," Bush said.

Musharraf, speaking after Bush, agreed that "there is no cause that can be justified or promoted through terrorist acts".

The Pakistani President, as expected, had raised the subject of F-16s, but Bush made it clear that Washington was in no position to accept the de-



**Pervez Musharraf**  
*Getting a mixed bag*

mand. This was broadly in line with the assurances US leaders had recently made to Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani.

When a reporter raised the subject of F-16s at the news conference, Musharraf interjected and told Bush he could not escape questions on the matter.

Bush responded by saying that Musharraf had been a "strong advocate" for the sale of F-16s to Pakistan, but it won't be part of the aid package.

The US President praised Musharraf, describing him as "a courageous leader", and thanked him for Islamabad's continued help in the war on terror. But he went on to say that Pakistan "will require movement toward democracy", particularly in enhancing the rights of women and girls.

Bush announced that besides the aid package, the two countries will sign an agreement on trade and investment. Musharraf said he hoped this agreement would precede a free trade agreement.

**\$3 BILLION PACKAGE FOR PAK.**

# **Bush raises infiltration issue with Musharraf**

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24. The United States President, George W. Bush, has stressed that while the United States wanted a peaceful resolution of the discord between India and Pakistan, its role will be "to aid the process forward" and that the principal decision-makers will be the governments in New Delhi and Islamabad. At the end of his meeting with the visiting President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, at Camp David, Mr. Bush said F-16s will not be a part of the \$3 billion package being assembled for Pakistan.

The U.S. and Pakistan will be initialling a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. "The President (Gen. Musharraf) is not afraid to bring up the issue of F-16s. He has been a strong advocate for the sale of F-16s to Pakistan. In the package that we discussed, the five-year, three billion package, half of that money goes for defence matters, of which the F-16s won't be a part. Nevertheless, we want to work closely with our friend to make sure the package meets the needs of the Pakistani people", Mr. Bush said.

The two Presidents had a 90-minute session at the Laurel Cabin of Camp David on Tuesday after which they addressed a news conference before adjourning for lunch with their wives. Prior to taking two questions each from each side, both Mr. Bush and Gen. Musharraf made an opening statement. "I'm encouraged by the progress President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee may have made in easing tensions between Pakistan and India. I am hopeful that the two countries will deepen their engagement on all issues, including Kashmir. In our meeting we discussed the need to address extremism and cross-border infiltration; and I assured the President that the United States will do all we can to promote peace", Mr. Bush said in prepared remarks.

25 JUN 2003

# Armitage to go easy on Pakistan

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri  
New Delhi, May 7

UNLIKE LAST summer, the Indian government does not expect the visit of US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage to bring about a breakthrough in Indo-Pakistani relations. At best, New Delhi and Washington hope the Pakistanis will give him a concession, "something incremental", to gift wrap and take with him to India.

The nature of the concession will be ascertained during Armitage's meetings in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Both Indian and US officials say Armitage's visit in India will focus mostly on bilateral

## THE DAY AFTER

### India welcomes

- Islamabad's announcement that it will revive links
- Decision to restore mission strength

### Pushing for

- Action to curb infiltration
- Composite dialogue which will include Kashmir

concerns like technology sanctions and regional issues like Afghanistan and Iraq. Indo-US issues were the dominant theme even at Armitage's meeting with National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra at London's

Heathrow Airport on Monday.

This reflects Indian determination to take the peace process one step at a time. It also reflects New Delhi's view that the ball has been in Pakistan's court since the December 13, 2001, attack on Parliament and that the only show in town is cross-border terrorism.

Diplomatic sources on both sides say there is no question of Armitage putting pressure on India. New Delhi knows that he and US Secretary of State Colin Powell are sympathetic to India's case. The two have privately admitted that President Pervez Musharraf has "cheated" on his promise to President George W. Bush to end terrorist infiltration.

But their stance is tempered by the State Department's pointperson on South Asia, Christina Rocca. She feels Pakistan can fulfil its promise only if India talks seriously about Kashmir.

While Armitage is sure to tell Pakistan that it is time to deliver on its terrorism promise, he will not apply the economic squeeze that India wants. He is also publicly praising Musharraf, say diplomatic sources, because the general's ego is seen as one of his weaknesses.

India said it has sent to Islamabad the name of its high commissioner for acceptance. The ambassador to China, Shiv Shankar Menon, is a frontrunner for the hot seat.

8 MAY 2003

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Bush, Blair to review war

WASHINGTON, APRIL 7. The United States President, George W. Bush, and the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, are grappling with three of the world's toughest conflicts in Mr. Bush's 25-hour visit to Belfast, discussing war and rebuilding in Iraq while trying to revive peace efforts in Northern Ireland and West Asia.

Mr. Bush left Washington early on Monday en route to Belfast for a summit meant primarily to review war progress and to iron out differences about how Iraq will be rebuilt and governed when hostilities end.

Bomb threats forced police to shut down a Belfast airport and a major highway hours before Mr. Bush was expected to arrive. Police blasted apart a suspicious package but could not confirm it contained explosives.

The reconstruction question has divided the President's advisers and the United States and Britain. Mr. Blair and his Eu-



**A young girl watches as a U.S. Army Civil Affairs unit delivers food and water to families in Abu Shawaich in Iraq on Monday. — AFP**

ropean allies want deeper U.N. involvement in post-war Iraq than Mr. Bush, who seeks a transitional governing authority consisting of Iraqi exiles and people living in the country

now. A U.S.-led coalition will likely run the country for more than six months until a new Iraqi government is in place, the Deputy Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, said Sunday. — AP

8 APR 2003

THE HINDU

# U.S. lifts ban on travel to Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, APRIL 18.** The U.S. today lifted the 13-month travel ban on its citizens and certain category of employees to Pakistan and authorised the immediate return of U.S. embassy and consulate employees to Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar.

After a church blast in March 2002 in the diplomatic enclave, which two U.S. citizens, including the wife of a diplomat, died, America had withdrawn its essential diplomatic and non-diplomatic staff from Pakistan and ordered families of employees to leave the country immediately.

Family members of official Americans ordered to leave the

country in March 2002 are not yet being allowed to return. "Because of regional tensions and continued high security concerns about terrorists in Pakistan, all U.S. citizens should defer travel to Pakistan. U.S. citizens in the country are strongly urged to depart. This supersedes the Travel Warning issued March 28, 2003", travel advisory put out by the State Department said.

It said U.S. citizens who remain in Pakistan despite this warning should take appropriate precautions to ensure their security and safety. These measures include being vigilant of their surroundings, avoiding crowds and demonstrations, keeping a low profile, varying

times and routes for all required travel and ensuring travel documents are current.

"Americans are also encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad or the Consulates in Peshawar or Lahore and enrol in the warden system (emergency alert network) to obtain updated information on travel and security in Pakistan. Persons wishing to register at the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi should call that office", it said.

The latest advisory said from time to time, the missions in Pakistan might suspend public services for security reasons. Also, official Americans may be prohibited from travelling to certain areas of Pakistan.

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THE HINDU

19 APR 2003

# US waives \$1bn Pak debt

Mubashir Zaidi & Agencies  
Islamabad, April 5

THE US on Saturday waived Pakistan's \$1 billion debt and rescheduled the remaining \$2.3 billion to be paid in easy instalments in 38 years, in return for the country's co-operation in the war on terror.

US Ambassador to Pakistan Nancy Powell signed the agreement with Secretary of Pakistan's Economic Division Waqar Masood Khan.

The debt write-off, promised by US President George W. Bush last year to his Pakistani counterpart Pervez Musharraf, was delayed by several months after it got entangled in a

lengthy debate in the US Congress.

"The new relationship between the United States and Pakistan is not just about September 11. It is about the rebirth of long-term relationship between our two countries," Powell said.

Pakistan, which has over \$36 billion external debt, owed around \$3.3 billion to the United States and its lending agencies. Of this, US has written of \$1 billion and rescheduled the remaining \$2.3 billion to be repayable in 38 years, including 15 years' grace period at a reduced interest rate.

Finance Minister Shoukat Aziz said the debt write-off would pro-

vide significant relief to Pakistan's cash starved economy. He added that the United States and its allies have written of \$1.62 billion worth of Pakistan's debt.

Besides, last year United States provided \$600 million budgetary support to meet the costs of war on Afghanistan, \$190 million to provide border security at the Afghan border, \$56 million for commodity support and \$100 million by USAID for the education sector, Aziz said.

The new American assistance has enabled Pakistan to order a new fleet of Boeing aircraft for Pakistan Airlines and helped a number of American companies to invest in

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Pakistan, he said. "I want to stress that waiving the \$1 billion debt is just one piece of a multi-faceted, multi-billion dollar assistance package the United States is providing to Pakistan," Powell said, adding, Washington hoped Pakistan would make good use of the debt write-off and devote more funds for social development.

"This \$1 billion in debt relief will add to the momentum of Pakistan's economic recovery."

The government now has more room to spend for schools in rural areas, improve teacher training, expand immunisation and anti-AIDS programmes, she said.

6 APR 2003

# Joining the dots ✓

## ✓ Islamabad manages to scare itself ✓

Some people in Islamabad's establishment appear to have succeeded in scaring themselves. Not just the fundamentalist Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, but more respectable Pakistani defence analysts and newspapers are expressing the view that after Iraq, Pakistan could be next. The speculation has been provoked by Washington slapping sanctions on the notorious AQ Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), which peddles nuclear technology to interested foreigners. They were followed by a phone call to General Musharraf from secretary of state Colin Powell, reportedly on the issue of nuclear proliferation. The sanctions came after US officials had alleged for many months that KRL supplied Pyongyang with nuclear weapons technology in exchange for No Dong medium range missiles. As things stand the sanctions look like a wee little slap on the wrist, they run only for two years, and are applicable only to KRL, which implies they could be easily evaded by setting up bogus companies to funnel equipment to KRL. That seems unusually mild but America in its present mood will do no more even after Powell's public warning.

Why then the conviction that Pakistan could be next? Islamabad likes to whine about Washington's "ingratitude" in return for their grudging and ambiguous help in the terror war — Islamabad yields up Al Qaeda men from time to time but continues to protect others — despite the four billion dollars in aid it has managed to wangle from Washington. It is conceivable that the cries of ultra-nationalistic rhetoric and injured innocence following the sanctions are meant to exert pressure on Washington, currently distracted by Iraq. If so, they have worked, because Washington now says sanctions against KRL are not related to its nuclear activities, which is a climbdown. Face saving done, could Washington get down to the serious business of discouraging Islamabad from taking advantage of its preoccupation elsewhere and opening once again the *jehadi* floodgates in Kashmir? Fingers are pointed at the US state department's human rights report just released which mentions a "concerted campaign of execution-style killings of civilians" and other atrocities by Islamabad-backed extremists, which nails the lie of a "liberation struggle" being waged in the state. Musharraf's sham referendum has also been called into question. But do two swallows make a summer? The moot point is that, if the reason for invading Iraq is the conjunction of weapons of mass destruction with Islamic fundamentalism, both factors exist to a much greater degree in Pakistan. Washington religiously avoids drawing the obvious conclusion, although it is increasingly apparent to Pakistanis themselves.

On the other hand, America called for talks with Pakistan in the same breath as condemning the massacre on the innocents in Kashmir. It will take much more to give up the temptation to parade Pakistan as the only friend in the Muslim world who will jump to attention whenever asked. Delhi needs to be seen as firmer and more resolute on the principles that are at stake in Iraq and which have been so brutally violated by the Americans and the British.

4 APR 2003

THE STATESMAN

# Iraq: Pak. favours U.N. nod

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 31. Pakistan has apparently told the United States that it would prefer any military action against Iraq to be approved by the United Nations. This message was conveyed by the visiting Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, to the President, George W. Bush, at the White House on Thursday.

Mr. Bush dropped by the meeting between Mr. Kasuri and the National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice. Among other things, Mr. Bush is said to have praised Pakistan's support for the U.S. anti-terror campaign. "The President acknowledged

the contribution of Pakistan to the war against terrorism", Mr. Kasuri remarked.

Pakistan is among the 11 nations in the Security Council, which are calling for more time for weapons inspections in Iraq; and have also been making the point that the Iraqi crisis would have to be handled under the aegis of the United Nations.

## Protests in Pak.

By Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 31. The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), alliance of six religious parties, organised protests throughout the country on Friday, against

the possible attack on Iraq by the United States.

The MMA usually chooses Friday to run its campaigns as religious congregations come handy. The response of people to the protest call was immediately not clear. However, it is certain that the Alliance would turn the heat on the Pervez Musharraf-Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali Government on the Iraq issue in the coming days and weeks.

The alliance, which emerged as the third political force in the October last general election, obviously sees the Iraq crisis as an opportunity to rally people's support in its favour.

THE HINDU

1 FEB 2003



# Musharraf's call spurs debate

By K.K. Katyal

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**NEW DELHI, JAN. 13.** Washington's relations with Islamabad are a major subject of discussion in Pakistan not only because of the embarrassment caused to it by the woman-beating charge of its Permanent Representative, Munir Akram, but also because of the controversy over the "hot pursuit" of Al-Qaeda members in Pakistan by American forces and the inclusion of Pakistan in the list of countries whose nationals are required to be registered with the Government during their stay in the U.S.

In this context the debate received a fillip by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf plea last week that the two countries needed to have for a "broad-based strategic vision". The reactions of the press, a credible index of the public opinion, are varied. Some call for a review of the ties with Washington, others want the Government to address the immediate relationship instead of focussing on the long-term vision, some others want a tough line to be adopted on Kashmir and on relations with India, instead of dependence on the U.S. on these issues. The advocates of the hard line on India would like Gen. Musharraf to become a whole-time Chief of Army Staff and entrust the burdens of presidency to someone else.

This last aspect is pointedly dealt with by *Nation* and *Naw-i-Waqt*. According to the *Nation*, "To all intents and purposes, President Musharraf's policies vis-a-vis the U.S. and India have not been successful. To the people's utter outrage, the Government has failed to check the FBI's needlessly intrusive activities in the country. As far as New Delhi is concerned the language of peace and reconciliation constantly emanating from Islamabad has not had any impact. We should be prepared for a conflict that India seems determined to inflict upon us. A credible defence of our frontiers demands undivided attention to the armed forces' upkeep, it bears repeating here that the President should keep one hat. In this time of crisis, he is more needed as COAS."

*Naw-i-Waqt* sees Gen. Musharraf's pro-U.S. stance, apart from other factors, as causing divisions and disunity in the country (instead of forging unity). "It is not possible for the Army alone to wage a war, when it is deprived of a full-time Chief. Let Gen. Musharraf and his nominated Jamali Government prepare the nation for war, sacrificing their (personal) interests for the sake of the country's solidarity. Donning his uniform, General sahib needs to take over the stewardship of the Army and entrust presidency to an experienced and wholesome politician. The General is known for his action-orientation and is in a position to gauge the gravity of the situation and take decisions, which are in keeping with national interest, over and above his personal interests. Also, we need to have a second look at our relations with the U.S. though an effective action plan."

Daily *Khabrain* draws attention to the contradiction in the U.S. actions — on the one hand, American agencies like the FBI have a free run in Pakistan, arresting whosoever they like, and, on the other, life has been made difficult in the U.S. for peaceful Pakistanis. What is the justification for this double standard? It asks and adds that the requirements of the time demand revision of American policies.

Daily *Jang* advises the Government to "concentrate on efforts to get results from present-day ties with the U.S. instead of worrying about broad-based strategic vision".

*Dawn* refers to Pakistan's enduring assets like its geographical location but bemoans that "the pull of this asset has been weakened by the country's chaotic domestic situation and the mismanagement of its economy. A politically stable and economically vibrant Pakistan would be an ardently sought partner by all those nations, interested in peace, progress and regional economic cooperation....The U.S. is going to stay in the region. Pakistan would do well to set its house in order and develop itself economically and socially."

According to daily *Ausaf*, it is in the interest of both the U.S. and the BJP that the Kashmir issue remains unresolved. In its view, the U.S. would lose its clout in the region in case the Kashmir issue is settled on a just basis.

The Pakistani leaders need to ensure that they do not commit the mistake of total reliance on the U.S. and, instead, work for the support of the Muslim nations, the paper says.

# U.S. asks Pak. to lift diplomat's immunity

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8. The United States has asked Pakistan to withdraw the diplomatic immunity of its envoy to the United Nations, Munir Akram, after New York City prosecutors sought to bring misdemeanor assault charges against him as a result of a quarrel with a woman.

Marjorie Tiven, the City Commissioner in charge of U.N. issues, wrote to the U.S. mission here on December 26 requesting that the envoy's immunity be removed, according to Edward Skyles, the Mayor's spokesman. He said the Manhattan District Attorney's office had advised city officials that it was prepared to prosecute if Mr. Akram's immunity was lifted.

Pakistan has not yet informed the U.S. of any decision. The State Department lodged its request with Pakistan on Decem-

ber 28, media reports today said.

On December 10, the New York City police were summoned by an emergency call to a residence in Manhattan, police officials were quoted as saying.

Marijana Mihic, 35, told the operator that a man whom she identified as her husband had smashed her head into a wall and that her arm hurt, according to the police dispatcher's notes of the conversation.

She said the man had hit her before. "Female caller states husband has diplomatic immunity," the dispatcher noted.

When police officers arrived, Ms. Mihic said that Mr. Akram, 57, was her "boyfriend" (not husband as she first told the police) and that after an argument with him she had tried to leave. *The New York Times* reported. "He (Akram) prevented her

from leaving, he grabbed her and she fell," said Brian Burke, a police spokesman.

The police officers at the scene reported that Ms. Mihic had a bruise on her head.

Mr. Akram was at the residence when the police arrived and identified himself as an Ambassador, the daily said. "There was nothing really that the officers could do," Lt. Burke said.

U.N. envoys enjoy immunity from local criminal prosecution.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Mission today said that Mr. Akram and his friend had reconciled.

"The Ambassador and his friend both strongly believe that there is no basis for any legal action in this matter," said Mansoor Suhail, the spokesman.

"And they have both commu-

nicated that belief to the concerned authorities."

Once the police officers arrived at the residence, Ms. Mihic seemed to become less alarmed, and she refused medical attention when an ambulance from the city's Emergency Medical Service went to the scene, city officials said.

The District Attorney's office advised Ms. Tiven that Mr. Akram could be prosecuted for a misdemeanor charge of third degree assault, a law enforcement official said.

She wrote to Patrick F. Kennedy, a senior diplomat at the U.S. mission here, with the State Department lodging its request with Pakistan on December 28.

The incident comes at a bad time for the Ambassador as Pakistan has taken a seat on the 15-nation Security Council for a two-year term. — PTJ

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## REDUCING FRICTION

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THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN Washington and Islamabad that U.S. troops would not enter Pakistan's territory without its permission would appear to have defused a potentially explosive dispute. This agreement was struck at a meeting held at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border between senior military officials of the two sides and followed on a categorical pronouncement from Islamabad that it had not granted the right of "hot pursuit" to the U.S. At the same time, Islamabad has reiterated its commitment to cooperate with the U.S. military forces in Afghanistan as they hunt the remnants of the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda and officials of the two sides are understood to have reassessed and fine-tuned the arrangements for effective coordination. Such a clarification of the approach both sides needed to take in respect of the policing of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border had become necessary after an incident in late December when a Pakistani border guard opened fire on a U.S. military patrol and the latter retaliated with the bombing of a religious school (the precise location of which has yet to be pin-pointed). This incident occurred at a time when protests against the U.S. military presence in the region had again flared up inside Pakistan and amid some signs that Washington was not entirely satisfied with the assistance it was receiving from Islamabad in the fight against global terror. The possibility of an armed clash between U.S. and Pakistani troops should have been minimised if the senior officials have indeed addressed all the irritants.

There are, however, a few attendant circumstances which suggest that the situation is not as uncomplicated as it has been made out to be. Washington has yet to disown an assertion made by one of its military spokesmen in Kabul a few days ago that Pakistan had indeed given permission to U.S. troops to cross over from Afghanistan but had desired that such incursions be conducted without fanfare and without officially claiming a right to do so. Islamabad

has also not denied, and has thereby appeared to confirm, reports that officials of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been operating with a fair measure of freedom within Pakistan as they hunt down those suspected of involvement in terrorist activities. Taken in their totality the circumstances suggest that the working arrangement established between Islamabad and Washington is one which allows for a great deal of operational flexibility but one which still allows Pakistan to maintain its sovereign dignity. Such an arrangement is advantageous to both sides since it allows Pakistan to make use of the superior investigative and intelligence-gathering tools available to the U.S. as they jointly track down the terrorist network while still allowing Islamabad to deny that its independence has been eroded. Deniability on this score is important to both Washington and Islamabad since there has been an upsurge of resentment against the U.S. military presence in the region among the people of Pakistan, especially those living in the vicinity of its border with Afghanistan.

While an immediate cause for conflict might have been averted, deeper sources of friction still remain. The mounting evidence that Washington is preparing for a military attack on Iraq — almost as a continuation of the war against the Taliban — has strengthened suspicions in Muslim majority countries that the U.S. has embarked on a war against Islam. New procedures being enforced by U.S. federal agencies, which require that men above the age of 16 and hailing from specified countries — mostly those with a Muslim majority, including Pakistan — must have their fingerprints and photographs registered so that they can be tracked down at any time have contributed to the ire against the U.S. As the military and police operations against global terror proceed apace, there are as yet no signs that the social and political dimensions of the problem are being addressed.

THE HINDU

2003

# U.S. to stop 'hot pursuit'

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By B. Muralidhar Reddy M I

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 6. The dispute between Pakistan and the United States, triggered by the firing by American troops inside Pakistani territory last week, has ended with the latter agreeing that its forces cannot enter Pakistani territory without permission. The agreement was arrived at a meeting between representatives of the Pakistan and U.S. forces patrolling the border as part of the hunt for Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives fleeing Afghanistan.

The Pakistan Defence Minister, Rao Sikandar Iqbal, said here that the Government had dispatched defence officials to the border with Afghanistan and told the U.S. military not to enter its territory without permission. At the same time, Pakistani and U.S. troops would continue to cooperate in the hunt for Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives. Till date Pakistan is believed to have handed over 423 suspected Al-Qaeda and Taliban men to the American forces.

"The U.S. troops have been clearly told that next time there will be no violation from their sides, and that they will not cross our border from Afghanistan," Mr. Iqbal said.

Two days ago, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, had characterised the clash between Pakistan and U.S. forces as a "misunderstanding" and asserted that Pakistan forces alone would operate against terrorists inside the country.

The war of words in the last few days is a sequence to an incident on December 29 when a Pakistani border guard shot and wounded an American soldier in the Paktika province, just a few hundred metres from Pakistan's border. The shooting prompted U.S. forces to call in an airstrike on a building where the guard was believed hiding.

The U.S. military said the building it hit was inside Afghanistan. Islamabad, however, maintained that one bomb landed on its side. An inquiry has been ordered. "The incident is still being investigated as to what fell where," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Aziz Ahmed Khan, said at the regular press briefing.

Mr. Khan reiterated that as for operations within Pakistan "there is no ambiguity left. Pakistani forces alone are conducting all activities in Pakistani territory. This is the only incident of its kind. To make this fuss about it is really uncalled for."

THE HINDU

7 JAN 2003

# Pak.-U.S. tensions over 'hot pursuit' to the fore

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 4. The simmering tension between the United States and Pakistan over operations in pursuit of the Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives came to the fore today with Pakistan categorically rejecting the American thesis that it reserved the right to 'hot pursuit' inside the Pakistani territory in search of those fleeing Afghanistan.

A firm and terse statement by the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, that operations against suspected Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives would be solely and exclusively conducted by Pakistani forces was triggered by the bombing of a religious school inside Pakistan territory by the U.S. forces on Saturday.

The U.S. forces had claimed that they resorted to bombing following firing from the Pakistani side. While the U.S. maintained that the bomb fell inside the Afghan territory, Pakistan has contradicted the claim.

The whole dispute appears to be related to the sanctity of the Durrant Line, the disputed borderline separating Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The incident and the exchange of hot words in the last few days clearly mark an end to the bonhomie, at least at the official line, between the U.S. and Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

It could not have been taken up at a more inopportune time for the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and the Prime Minister, Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali.

The prevailing anti-American sentiments in the country were evident in the mass rallies organised by the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal

(MMA), alliance of six religious parties, against the possible U.S. attack on Iraq. There were vociferous demands in the rallies for ejecting the American forces from Pakistan soil and slogans against Gen. Musharraf for allegedly compromising with the sovereignty of the country by letting the Americans conduct search and seizure operations in Pakistan at will. Extension of new immigration regulations to Pakistanis has only added fuel to the fire.

The Jamali Government is clearly miffed by the statement by an American military spokesman in Afghanistan that the American forces can pursue suspects into Pakistani territory.

The statement was made following American bombing of Angoor Adda, a Pakistani area, near the Pak.-Afghan border in South Waziristan tribal area on December 29.

In a telephone conversation with the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, Gen. Musharraf complained about the bombing as well as the statement.

The Pakistan Government quoted both of them as saying that there was some "misunderstanding" about the incident.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistani and U.S. authorities were in close contact with regard to the Angoor Adda incident and Gen. Powell had telephoned Gen. Musharraf on Friday.

"Both agreed that the incident may have occurred due to some misunderstanding at the operational level on the ground."

He said the two leaders reiterated the need to further strengthen coordination to ensure that such incidents did not recur.

Mr. Kasuri said he also took up the matter with the U.S.

Ambassador in Pakistan on December 31.

"From the very first day, it has been absolutely clear and fully understood that operations within Pakistani territory would be conducted solely and exclusively by our own forces and in response to decisions taken by Pakistan."

The Minister made it a point to mention that Pakistani forces were fully capable of securing and protecting the country's borders. Pakistan's role in and contribution to the fight against terrorism were significant and highly appreciated.

"Our troops are highly disciplined, organised and efficient and has been demonstrated time and again that they are capable of undertaking all actions that are expected of them."

In a separate statement, the Interior Minister, Faisal Saleh Hayat, denied the U.S. claim that it was allowed to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan in hot pursuit.

He said the American forces could not enter Pakistan to take action against persons involved in attacks against allied forces in Afghanistan.

The agreement between the U.S. and Pakistan did not mention any such thing.

In another statement, the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations, Rashid Qureshi, asserted that there was no ambiguity in the understanding between the coalition forces operating in Afghanistan and the Pakistan Government that all operations on Pakistani territory would only be conducted by Pakistani forces.

He said that if the coalition forces observe anything unusual along the border, they provide information to the Pakistani forces which conduct actions on Pakistani soil.

THE HINDU

4 JAN 2003

JAN 2003

## Two killed as Pak., U.S. forces clash

WASHINGTON, JAN. 1. Two Pakistanis were killed and an American injured in the first ever border clash between U.S. and Pakistani forces near the Afghan village of Sikhin in which an American F-16 dropped a bomb hitting a Muslim religious school on the Pakistani side, the U.S. military has confirmed.

The gun battle between the U.S. and Pakistani forces began on Sunday when a Pakistani border guard fired on the Americans during a disagreement on a mission being conducted with the Pakistani forces.

"A Pakistani Border Scout opened fire with a G3 rifle after the U.S. patrol asked him to return to the Pakistani side of the border," a U.S. military statement said yesterday.

The Americans ended the skirmish by dropping a 500-pound bomb from an F-16 which hit a religious school where the scouts took refuge, killing two of them, *Washington Times* reported, quoting the statement.

"That individual and several others retreated to a nearby structure. Close air support was requested and one 500-lb bomb was dropped on the target area," the statement said, adding one American soldier was injured and two members of the Pakistani Border Scout were killed. Media reports quoted witnesses and local officials as saying that the bomb hit a seminary in Burmol village in South Waziristan tribal area of Pakistan.

The U.S. statement did not give details of the joint U.S.-Pakistani mission or say whether it was taking place inside Afghanistan or Pakistan. — PTI

**THE HINDU**

2 JAN 2003

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19/2

# A relationship at odds

By Navnita Chadha-Behera

*The U.S.-Pakistan alliance (in the war on terror) was tactical, born out of the given exigencies of the situation and not due to any fundamental shifts in the strategic imperatives governing the relationship.*

**T**HE PAKISTAN Foreign Minister, Khurshid Kasuri's mission to the United States has failed to prevail upon the Bush administration to exempt Pakistani nationals from being subjected to compulsory registration and fingerprinting under a new INS (Immigration and Naturalisation Service) directive. For the first time since September 11, 2001, when Pakistan reclaimed its status as the U.S.' 'frontline ally', it has been bracketed with countries alleged to be harbouring terrorists. The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Nancy Powell, had fired the first warning shot. Her statement that Pakistan must not allow itself to be used as a "platform for terrorism" evoked strong protests from the Pakistan Foreign Office and demands for her expulsion by the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA). The ensuing debate has, however, failed to address the root cause of these growing fissures owing to the divergent U.S. and Pakistani strategic goals in the region.

The key objective of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom was to capture the Al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership and dismantle the terror network in South Asia. Pakistan, on the other hand, is averse to dismantling the domestic jihadi network because that has been its chosen instrument for securing its critical foreign policy goal of liberating Kashmir. This alliance is coming under strain precisely due to these conflicting interests.

After the devastating September 11 terrorist strikes, Washington decided to target the Al-Qaeda and its host, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which necessitated Pakistan's cooperation for political and operational reasons. It realised that the war on terrorism, at least in the initial phase of regime change in Kabul, was not possible without active Pakistani cooperation. Faced with a U.S. ultimatum of "you are with us or against us," the Pervez Musharraf regime too had little choice but forsake the Taliban. The resulting U.S.-Pakistan alliance was tactical, born out of the given exigencies of the situation and not due to any fundamental shifts in the strategic imperatives governing the relationship. In the short term,

both countries have gained limited dividends. Pakistan's support was crucial in routing the Taliban regime. It allowed the U.S. forces to use its three airbases, station troops and shared intelligence on the Al-Qaeda. It also permitted joint military operations on Pakistani soil and handed over hundreds of Arabs to the U.S. filling the cabins in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pakistan was rewarded with lifting of sanctions, economic aid, legitimating Gen. Musharraf's military regime and a promise of facilitating a bilateral dialogue with India on Kashmir. The last element held the key.

Gen. Musharraf's political calculation in helping the American military campaign in Afghanistan rested on protecting Pakistan's stakes in Kashmir. He tried hard to draw a fine distinction between terrorism on the country's western borders in Afghanistan and jihad or the "freedom struggle" on the eastern front in Kashmir. Washington obliged in part. After banning the two terrorist groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, accused of attacking India's Parliament, the task of pursuing the Pakistan-based jihadi groups became a secondary consideration — a task entrusted to their bilateral counter-terrorism working groups. When India upped the military ante and massed troops on the border following the Parliament attack, the Bush administration intervened to avert a possible war between the two neighbours. While Gen. Musharraf was forced to concede that Pakistan would not allow jihad in the name of Kashmir, Washington also leaned upon the Indian leadership to observe restraint. The U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, argued that terrorism against India would be addressed in the second phase of the war on terrorism. The Bush administration vouched for Gen. Musharraf's regime; that it was committed to crack down on terrorists at home but

needed more time to do so.

However, with both countries reaching an impasse in securing their respective fundamental goals, the initial bonhomie has given way to growing scepticism. For the U.S., the leaders of the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban have proved elusive. Reports of the Al-Qaeda regrouping and attacking American troops before melting away in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan have been mounting. The constant refrain heard from U.S. military commanders has been that Pakistan could do more to combat Islamic militants in the border areas but has chosen not to.

There is an increasing lack of trust in the Pakistani leadership, armed forces and intelligence services about their capacity to deliver in the war against terror. Since August last year, they have been talking of "hot pursuit of Al-Qaeda remnants and Taliban into Pakistani territory", a statement first made by Dan Macneil, U.S. military commander in Afghanistan. Culminating in the first clash between Pakistani and U.S. military forces across the Durand Line, it triggered a heated debate on the issue of hot pursuit.

The wild goose chase for Osama bin Laden and the remnants of the Al-Qaeda has drawn a blank partly because the Bush administration has not understood the logic and character of the terror network in the region and partly due to Gen. Musharraf's reluctance to launch a concerted drive against the Pakistan-based jihadi groups. The U.S. approach overlooks the ground reality that the Al-Qaeda thrives on a vast, deeply entrenched and integrated network of more than 50 radical groups which share deep bonds of Islamic ideology, common political targets — U.S., India and Israel — training facilities and resources. These groups, unlike states, are operating from a radically

different worldview. Some have their own agenda and are unlikely to emulate the Musharraf regime and abandon the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Washington must understand that the Al-Qaeda cannot be vanquished without simultaneously targeting its support structures — the other jihadi groups — in the region.

The Musharraf regime is reluctant to take on the jihadi networks because of their indispensability to Pakistan's Kashmir strategy, which has grown for two reasons. First, the Kashmiris in the Valley no longer revere Pakistan as their saviour and are less willing to do its bidding. The Kashmiris' perception of their protector buckling under international pressure during the Kargil crisis and in jilting the Taliban has confirmed their worst fears that Pakistan does not have the wherewithal or the political will to go to war against India to liberate them. Kashmiris have become pawns in Pakistan's strategy of bleeding India. Second, Pakistan had armed and trained Kashmiri militants but never trusted them as reliable partners. Islamabad is increasingly nervous that they will strike a deal with New Delhi. This is evident from the growing rift among the Hurriyat leadership, the killing of the moderate Kashmiri leader, Abdul Ghani Lone and the dismissal of senior (Valley-based) commanders of the Hizbul-Mujahideen. The jihadi groups are, therefore, Gen. Musharraf's only leverage against India. The Pakistani establishment resents the growing U.S. pressure and the public demands for ending infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir. Islamabad also feels the U.S. is backing off from its commitment to actively engage in brokering a Kashmir settlement through a dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The impending war in Iraq and Pakistan's presence in the U.N. Security Council will ensure continuity in the U.S.-Pakistan alliance in the near future. But unless Washington and Islamabad mount a concerted effort to address the underlying fissures, Gen. Musharraf's prophecy that Pakistan could be the next U.S. target after Iraq, may well come true.

*(The writer is a Reader in International Politics, Delhi University.)*

# Powell embarrasses Pak again

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Washington:** The United States continues to embarrass its front-line ally Pakistan with revelations about terrorist activity in that country.



Colin Powell

Following up its persistent charge that Islamabad has still not stopped infiltration into Kashmir and has proliferated nuclear technology to North Korea, Washington dropped a bombshell on Wednesday when Secretary of State Colin Powell disclosed that Iraq had used its embassy in Pakistan to maintain contact with the Al Qaida.

Presenting the US case against Iraq at the United Nations on Wednesday, Powell revealed that from the late 1990s until 2001, the Iraqi embassy in Pakistan played the role of liaison to the Al Qaida organisation.

Pakistani officials initial-

ly tried to spin their way out of the situation by suggesting its intelligence had worked in tandem with the US in exposing the Iraqi operation.

But military leader Gen. Musharraf blew the cover in Moscow and invited embarrassment by vehemently denying that the Iraqi embassy in Pakistan was a contact point between the Saddam Hussein regime and the Al Qaida.

"I haven't heard entirely what he (Powell) said. I have to analyze it. But if he said it, it is certainly not the truth.

"We don't have any information of (Pakistani) intelligence on this. If he (Powell) has, we must analyze it," wire services quoted the general as saying.

Evidently, Washington dropped the ball on its ally without informing it, and also kept Islamabad out of the loop in gathering intelligence on Iraqi activities in Pakistan.

Despite Pakistan's claim that it does not enjoy good relations with Iraq, officials

here have embarrassed Islamabad before by revealing the overtures Pakistani nuclear scientists made to the Saddam Hussein regime.

In building the US case against Iraq, Mr Powell also addressed the widely held belief that Iraq and Al Qaida are antithetical, and that Saddam Hussein's secular tyranny and Al Qaida's religious tyranny do not mix.

"I am not comforted by this thought. Ambition and hatred are enough to bring Iraq and Al Qaida together; enough so Al Qaida could learn how to build more sophisticated bombs and learn how to forge documents, and enough so that Al Qaida could turn to Iraq for help in acquiring expertise on weapons of mass destruction," Mr Powell said.

India also figured in the case the US is making

**Evidently, Washington dropped the ball on its ally without informing it, and also kept Islamabad out of the loop in gathering intelligence on Iraqi activities in Pakistan**

against Baghdad, with Powell informing the UN that the Iraqi officials negotiated with firms in Romania, India, Russia and Slovenia for the purchase of a magnetron production plant in an attempt to reconstitute its nuclear program.

But in India's case, Washington depended on the legal proceedings and prosecution New Delhi initiated against the errant Indian company to buttress its case against Iraq.

8 FEB 2003

THE TIMES OF INDIA



# Pak minister advances US visit to douse immigration inferno

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Washington:** Thousands of Pakistani men in the US are holding back from registering themselves under a controversial identification scheme that requires them to be fingerprinted and photographed, hoping that the government in Islamabad will cash in on its frontline ally status to bail them out.

Reports from community and immigration activists across the US suggest that very few Pakistanis are reporting for the fingerprinting and photographing process that began on Monday and is scheduled to end on February 21.

The issue has prompted Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Kasuri to advance his visit to the US by ten days. He will now begin his trip on January 18. Mr Kasuri told reporters in Islamabad that the issue will be on top of his agenda when he meets US officials. He has promised to seek special treatment for Pakistanis in the US. According to estimates, there are between 20,000 to 50,000 Pakistanis who are guilty of visa rules violation and who can be deported if the rules are strictly implemented.

Thus far there has not been any indication of the US, especially the immigration and homeland security authorities, inclination to show any spe-

cial consideration to Pakistan. Arguments about Pakistan's frontline status in the war on terrorism is met with the counter that in almost every major terrorist act of the past decade, including the killing of CIA personnel, the World Trade Center blasts and the embassy bombings in Africa, among other incidents, the perpetrators have emerged from Pakistan and returned there to take shelter.

In effect, innocent Pakistanis, including many brilliant students and skilled professional workers who come here under the J1 and H1-B visa programmes like their Indian counterparts, are paying for the increasingly jihadi atmosphere engendered by the military-controlled and dominated Pakistani governments.

Under the new immigration regulations, men above 16 from 20 Islamic countries, who are not permanent US residents, green card holders or diplomats are required to register under the rules that many activists say unfairly targets young Muslim men. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are the last two, and the most prominent countries, that have been called to comply with the new rules.

While the Saudi men are only in the few hundreds, Pakistanis are a thriving community, with tens of thousands working on a range of both blue-collar and white-collar jobs. Passport and visa violations, mostly

from overstaying, are said to be rampant among the blue-collar types.

Mr Kasuri is expected to argue that deporting Pakistani aliens, even if they are in visa violation, will aggravate the anti-US mood that the military dispensation often uses as a bargaining chip. In seeking that they be granted amnesty, Pakistani officials are also expected to make the economic arguments that remittances to the country will be affected.

Mr Kasuri said, "Pakistan understands the concerns of the US for its security, but wants to be removed from the list of countries whose citizens have to undergo the INS registration. Not a single Pakistani was involved in the 9/11 incident and Pakistan has been a frontline state fighting along with the US against international terrorism. We want a soft attitude towards us."

Mr Kasuri also has other troublesome issues to deal with on his visit. Among them is the scandal involving diplomat Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, who is in a jam after allegedly bashing up his Croatian girlfriend. At the insistence of the New York law enforcement authorities, the state department has asked Pakistan to withdraw his diplomatic immunity to enable his prosecution.

Pakistan is yet to respond to the demand.

16 JAN 2003

# Allies agree on chase of militants without angry remarks

## US, Pak in secret hunt deal

Islamabad, Jan. 6 (PTI): Amidst reports that they have agreed to continue the hot pursuit of al Qaida and Taliban militants without making their chase public, American and Pakistani military officials held a meeting at a village on the Pakistan-Afghan border to defuse current tensions.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and US secretary of state Colin Powell have agreed that troops on the ground would react according to the situation but neither side would issue a statement without consulting the other, diplomatic sources in Washington told the *Dawn*.

"This means that if a situation requires hot pursuit, it will be done but there will be no angry remarks from either side, as we saw after the December 29 incident," a Washington-based diplomat said.

In Pakistan, the clash caused angry protests in several cities against US forces while American military officials insisted that they reserved the "right to cross the border"

The assertions by US military officials that they had a



Suspects Muhammed Abid Afridi (right) of Pakistan and US citizen Ilyas Ali leave a Hong Kong court after agreeing to be extradited to the US. They are wanted for plotting to supply missiles to the al Qaida. (AP/PTI)

right to hot pursuit the fleeing Taliban and al Qaida forces drew angry reactions from Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Muhammad Kasuri who in a statement rejected the American officials' claims on hot pursuit.

However, according to the newspaper, the US forces could go in hot pursuit without making their chase public.

Military officials of Pakistan, US and allied forces in Afghanistan met yesterday at

Angoor Adda, a Pakistani border village in southern Wajiristan agency to defuse tensions on the border and to boost efforts to counter efforts of Taliban and al-Qaida operatives. The meeting, which lasted throughout the day, was held amid tight security, *The News* reported from Wajiristan's headquarter town of wana.

The Pakistani delegation was represented by general office commanding Kohat Mohammad tahir and commandant of the Waziristan Scouts Force Mohammad Saeed Khan while a US general stationed in Afghanistan headed the 8-member team of allied forces.

The meeting followed tensions between the two sides after a Pakistani scout allegedly fired on a US soldier and wounded him on December 29. Subsequently a US plane bombed a madrasa located close to the border.

The meeting took stock of the situation on the border after the border clash. During the meeting all shops were closed and people coming for shopping were not allowed to enter the local bazaar.

# Border skirmish

Musharraf's balancing act gets trickier

The first ever clash between US and Pakistani troops shows that General Musharraf is backing himself into a corner. Pakistan is ruled, as the popular wisdom goes, by three A's — Army, Allah and America. The Army needs to line up with Allah, or the fundamentalists who claim to represent Him — the proxy war against India requires a supply of indoctrinated terrorists to be sent into Kashmir. ~~The evidence is in the~~ lengths to which Musharraf went to create space for the fundamentalist MMA coalition during the November elections — they were given full freedom to campaign, which the secular parties weren't; the college degree and other requirements for election candidates which hobbled secular parties were waived in the case of the MMA, as a *madrassa* education was considered an adequate substitute. Musharraf is now reaping the whirlwind, as army and fundamentalists are precluding the close alignment with America that he would wish for. Al Qaeda and Talibanist forces are allowed to use sanctuaries in Pakistan's tribal northern region to regroup and attack American forces in Afghanistan, and there is disagreement between Washington and Islamabad about whether the US has the right of hot pursuit into Pakistani territory. Simmering tensions have boiled over into a skirmish in which a Pakistani scout shot at and injured an American soldier, and a US F-16 bombed an abandoned *madrassa* in which the assailants had taken shelter.

The incident is being used by the fundamentalists to rally their supporters for protests calling for the withdrawal of American forces from the region, while the US military must be frustrated at being effectively neutered by secretary of state Colin Powell's master-stroke of going along with Musharraf. The *madrassa* bombing and the announcement that followed, that it had the "express consent of the Pakistani government" to pursue attackers, were intended to drive home that message that it can't be business as usual for long. If there is a war in Iraq, which is very likely, the fundamentalists will step up their protests, but Pakistan is now in the UN Security Council, and Musharraf will find himself in the unenviable position of having to go along with a US invasion of Iraq. That would effectively terminate the rapprochement between Musharraf and the fundamentalists. Despite their best efforts, the fundamentalists have not been able to get more than a couple of thousand people to gather at a rally, which shows that they have less support among common people than within army echelons. Musharraf's best option now is to stand against the fundamentalists and mend fences with secular and democratic forces in the country. Short of that, his shelf-life will be even less than that of other Pakistani dictators.

6 JAN 2003

THE STATESMAN

# Pak, US trade fire over hot pursuit

Mubashir Zaidi & Agencies  
Islamabad, January 4

AMID REPORTS of a fresh shootout between US and Pakistani troops on Friday, Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Muhammad Kasuri has rejected assertions by US military officials that American troops in Afghanistan reserve the right of hot pursuit of Taliban and al-Qaida men into Pakistan.

"From the very first day, it has been fully understood that operations within Pakistani territory would be conducted solely and exclusively by our own forces," he told the media here. Kasuri's outburst followed co-

## Pervez denies making nuclear threat

CLARIFYING IIS remarks on the possibility of an "unconventional" war — interpreted as a nuclear war — had Indian forces crossed the LoC. President Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday

that he had meant guerrilla warfare and not a nuclear strike. He said 1.5 lakh retired soldiers would retaliate against any invading Army if it transgressed the LoC.

HTC, Islamabad

ments by the US military spokesman at Bagram, Capt Alayne Cramer, that "US forces reserve the right to pursue enemy attackers across the border". Firing erupted between Pakistani and US troops on the

Afghanistan border on Friday night, prompting frantic calls by President Pervez Musharraf to State Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to thwart another US aerial bombing in Pakistani areas, like last Sunday.

The political mercury has been rising in Pakistan over the last few days over American assertion of its right of hot pursuit and Sunday's exchange of fire between Pakistani and US forces and the subsequent air raid by Allied planes on a madrasa inside Pakistan.

Tension mounted on Friday with reports that Pakistani scouts were again exchanging fire with coalition troops near Angoor Adda in South Waziristan. "The firing continued for two hours," said *Dawn*. Locals said Allied helicopters and planes circled the area throughout Friday, raising fears of another air raid.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

5 JAN 2003

5 JAN 2003

# Anti-US rallies rock Pakistan

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 3. — Thousands marched through cities across Pakistan today to protest a potential US-led war against Iraq.

The demonstrations were called by hardline Islamic leaders who won unprecedented support in recent nationwide elections.

Security was high and extra troops were deployed near the US embassy in the capital and at other sensitive sites. There were no reports of violence.

About 7,000 people demonstrated outside the Madni Masjid mosque in Peshawar, chanting "Down with America" and "Long Live Saddam Hussein".

In Islamabad, about 400 people rallied in front of the Red Mosque. Several dozen police officers stood nearby wielding riot shields and sticks; traffic was diverted and two fire trucks were parked at the edge of the crowd, but there was no violence. "The USA has started a war against Muslims," cleric Samiul Haq told the protesters from a small platform outside the mosque. "This is a war between the friends of Allah and the friends of Satan".

Protests got under way in the afternoon, after traditional Friday prayers in which hardline clerics rallied their supporters at mosques. The religious leaders who called for the demonstrations also urged shop-owners to down their shutters in sympathy, but many were open. In Lahore, some shop-owners said they were staying shut for fear of violence.

THE STATESMAN

4 JAN 2003

# Pak & US forces exchange fire

Washington, January 1

TWO PAKISTANIS were killed and an American injured in the first ever border clash between US and Pakistani forces near the Afghan village of Sikhin in which an American F-16 dropped a bomb that hit a madrasa on the Pakistani side, said the US military.

The gun-battle between the American and Pakistani forces began on Sunday when a Pakistani border guard fired on the Americans after an altercation over a joint mission.

"A Pakistani Border Scout opened fire with a G3 rifle after

the US patrol asked him to return to the Pakistani side of the border," a US military statement said.

The Americans ended the skirmish by dropping a 500-pound bomb from an F-16 that hit a religious school where the scouts took refuge, killing two of them, *Washington Times* reported.

"That individual and several others retreated to a nearby structure. Close air support was requested and one 500-lb bomb was dropped on the target area," the US military statement said, adding one American soldier was injured and two members of

the Pakistani Border Scout were killed.

Reports quoted witnesses and local officials as saying the bomb hit a seminary in Burmol village in the South Waziristan tribal area of Pakistan.

The US statement did not give details of the joint US-Pakistani mission, neither did it say whether it was taking place inside Afghanistan or Pakistan.

US forces cooperate with Pakistani forces on the other side of the border in their search for al-Qaida fugitives, but do not cross into the Pakistani territory to pursue fugitives, the paper said.

PTI



US soldiers at a village in Afghanistan on Wednesday.

AP