

# Kidnap brain to be punished, Pervez to China

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, Oct. 15. — Expressing grief over the killing of a Chinese hostage during a rescue bid, Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has assured Beijing that the masterminds behind the abduction would be "pursued and punished severely".

In a message to Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao last night, Gen. Musharraf said: "The masterminds behind this terrorist action will be pursued relentlessly and meted out the most severe punishment."

Conveying his "sense of shock, indignation and sorrow," at the hostage taking incident in Pakistan's south Waziristan which ended with one of two Chinese hostages being killed during a rescue bid, he said the kidnapping was "evidently aimed at undermining the historic friendship between our two people".

He said people in Pakistan and China shared the same sorrow for the tragic incident though best ef-

orts have been taken by Pakistani government to free the hostages.

In a letter to Chinese premier Mr Wen Jiabao, Pakistan Prime Minister Mr Shaukat Aziz also condoleed the death of the Chinese hostage and promised measure increase security for Chinese citizens there.

Meanwhile, China today sent a team to Pakistan to deal with the affairs of the two Chinese engineers who were taken hostage.

The team, headed by Mr Chen Jian, assistant to the minister of commerce, will convey condolence from the leadership of the CPC and from the state council to the Chinese personnel in Pakistan, sources said.

#### Militant held

Pakistani police said today they have arrested an Al-Qaida linked local militant, Syed Adnan Shah (26), suspected of involvement in an attack on an army general and a foiled attempt to blow up the US consulate here, AFP adds from Karachi.

THE STATESMAN

16 OCT 2004

# Chinese hostage, five kidnappers killed in Pak

DAVID BRUNNSTROM  
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 14

A Chinese engineer held hostage by Al Qaeda-linked militants in Pakistan was killed on Thursday but his colleague was rescued in a commando assault that killed their five kidnappers, officials said.

Chinese engineers Wang Ende and Wang Peng were heading to work on a dam project in the remote South Waziristan tribal region when they were kidnapped on Saturday by Uzbek and Pakistani militants led by a former Guantanamo Bay detainee.

Pakistani military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan identified the dead hostage as Wang Peng, who had worked as a surveyor on the project. He said Wang Ende was unharmed. Both men worked for state-run Chinese firm Sino Hydro Corp.

China's Foreign Ministry

## Pak Assembly passes dual-posts bill

ISLAMABAD: Amid Opposition protests, Pakistan's National Assembly on Thursday passed a Bill allowing General Pervez Musharraf to hold the dual posts of President and Army Chief despite his pledge to shed the uniform by the year-end. The 342-member National Assembly pass it with a simple majority. —PTI

spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue voiced "deep sympathy and grief" to the family of the dead man. China's official Xinhua news agency said Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri told Chinese ambassador Zhang Chunxiang he felt sorry for "the failure" of the operation.

The assault was carried out by commandos disguised as a tribal delegation, one of whom

was seriously wounded, Pakistani security sources said. It was launched after shots were heard from the compound where the hostages were held, Sultan said.

Two Pakistanis held with the engineers were freed unharmed, Sultan said.

Pakistani officials said the kidnapping was led by an Al Qaeda-linked tribesman named Abdullah Mehsud, a former inmate of the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, who gave instructions to the kidnappers by phone from a secret location.

He threatened on Monday to order the killing of one of the Chinese unless the kidnappers and their captives were allowed to join him. The military assault came after efforts by members of Mehsud tribe, including some of his relatives, failed to persuade him to order the release of the hostages. —Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS

15 OCT 2004

# Death in Gwadar

## Contradictions in China-Pakistan relationship

That both Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao have publicly asked Islamabad to take better care of Chinese nationals there, following bomb attack in Gwadar which killed three Chinese engineers and injured nine, shows there are strains underlying the apparently gung-ho relationship between the "all-weather allies". The blast follows the contradictions of Pakistan's foreign policy, as it turns itself into a launch pad for Islamist militants in Kashmir and Afghanistan. Nowhere, however, is Islam as ferociously repressed as in another territory adjoining Pakistan, but located within the boundaries of its closest ally — China's Xinjiang province, home to 15 million Muslims. Xinjiang's mosques, for example, operate under draconian rules: no criticism of authorities, no contact with foreigners. Xinjiang is as full of informers as Tibet is, and those suspected of harbouring separatist sentiments are executed summarily. But while Islamabad provides all support to Kashmir's *jehadis*, it recently deported three Chinese Islamic militants back to China who, of course, did not live long after that. *sin pak*

It is generally thought that Pakistan's Islamists harbour animus towards India or the West, what is missed is they have greater cause for animus against China, Pakistan's most important strategic ally. Coupled with the *modus operandi* of the bombing — remote-controlled explosive device — that makes them the prime suspects. Baluchi nationalists are secondary suspects, as they have made threats against those involved in constructing the Gwadar port, which Chinese engineers were. They do not, however, have a record of this kind of violence, while Al Qaeda certainly does — witness the similar killing of 11 French engineers working on Agosta-class submarines for the Pakistani navy, in Karachi two years ago. In which case, if coupled with the slaughter of Pakistani troops in the failed "hammer and anvil" drive, supposed to drive Al Qaeda militants in Pakistan's border regions into the safe though unwelcoming arms of American forces in Afghanistan, it is Al Qaeda that has had the upper hand so far in encounters with Pakistan's security forces. So much for General Musharraf standing solid as a rock against terror.

8 MAY 2004

# Pak clears blast cloud with <sup>\$1.2</sup> China nuke deal <sup>Rock</sup>

**Islamabad, May 4 (Reuters):** Pakistan and China signed a deal today to build a new nuclear power plant, underlining economic cooperation between the longtime allies a day after a car bomb killed three Chinese technicians in southern Pakistan.

Officials from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and the China National Nuclear Corporation participated in the signing ceremony, witnessed by Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali, in an agreement experts valued at around \$600 million.

"With the signing of the C-2 (Chashma-2) project, PAEC has achieved yet another landmark and this project will be an important milestone in historical relations between Pakistan and China," a statement distributed at the ceremony said.

Pakistan will be keen to underline close ties with China following the attack at Gawadar port, which Islamabad saw as a strike at the heart of investor confidence and its broader economic interests.

A car bomb was triggered by remote control as a minivan carrying 12 Chinese and two Pakistanis passed by. Besides the three dead, nine Chinese and two Pakistanis were wounded.

Pakistani security forces today detained and questioned 13 suspects in the southern port of Gawadar. Reports said police traced details of the van used by suspected militants to carry out the attack with a remote controlled device.

A "red alert" has also been issued at airports across the country.

Initial suspicions in the bombing focused on Islamic militants opposed to Pakistan's support for the US-led "war on terror" or on Baluchistan nationalists angry at being sidelined

from the development project.

More than 300 Chinese nationals are working to turn Gawadar into a deep sea port and major trading hub, and China is providing \$198 million of the \$248 million project costs.

The statement said the second nuclear plant to be built by China at Chashma was for peaceful use only, after a nuclear proliferation scandal involving a top

## Qadeer aide

**Amsterdam, May 4 (Reuters):** A Dutch business associate of Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani scientist who admitted leaking nuclear secrets, has been charged with illegal exports to Pakistan, the Dutch news agency ANP reported yesterday.

The case involves the export of 20 kg of a chemical which can be used to make mustard gas as well as ball bearings and other equipment, the agency said. It said the Dutch man, identified only as Henk S., had been charged with illegally exporting "strategic goods" to Pakistan from 1999 to 2002.

Pakistani scientist set alarm bells ringing over the safety of the country's atomic programme.

The new power plant will be built at Chashma, on the banks of the Indus river, 280 km south of Islamabad and beside the first plant China helped to build. It will have a capacity of 300 megawatts and take more than six years to complete.

The first Chashma nuclear installation was built in 1999 and connected to the national power grid early in 2000.

Pakistan vowed to go nuclear after India exploded its first nuclear device in 1974.

# China active on Pak N-plant

Press Trust of India  
Beijing, April 8

CHINA ON Thursday said it has stepped up efforts to build the second phase of the Chashma nuclear power plant in Pakistan.

"China and Pakistan have reached the agreement on the second phase of the Chashma nuclear power station several years ago. Now we are stepping up efforts to the signing of the agreement," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said when asked to comment on the status of the Sino-Pak plan on the second phase of the Chashma nuclear power plant.

The spokesman did not say whether Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri discussed the issue during their meeting here.

However, Kong said Li and Kasuri had a "very productive" meeting and had an "in-depth" discussion on all aspects of bilateral relations between China and Pakistan. Last month, China said relevant depart-

ments of the two sides were having discussions on the nuclear power project, which would be carried out under the supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Committee, Pervez Butt, had also visited Beijing in March for talks with the China National Nuclear Cooperation for setting up the 300 Megawatt power plant in Punjab province.

Media reports last month said China and Pakistan were haggling on the price of the nuclear deal. The first phase of the Chashma nuclear power plant, built by China, became operational in 1999.

## China-N Korea ties

China is working on stepping up exchanges with Pyongyang, including an increase in high-level visits that could include a trip by North Korean leader Kim Jong-II, a foreign ministry official said on Thursday, AFP adds. Kim last visited China in January 2001.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

9 APR 2004

# Military contacts

Could boost the peace push

Military specialists would be anxious to see what emerges on the ground from Clause 6 of the agreement initialled in Islamabad recently by the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. It reads: "They reviewed the existing links between the Directors General of Military Operations of Pakistan and India and agreed to consider further strengthening these contacts." Would that mean that the DGMOs would be encouraged to use their hot line more frequently than the prescribed Tuesday tete-a-tete? Or would things move farther afield and a system be established by which regular contacts are maintained by the "opposite numbers" down the chain of command along the Line of Control? As exists between the Rangers and the BSF on the International Border. The desirability of going beyond the two DGMOs was confirmed within days of the ink drying on the document finalised in Islamabad. At the instance of those two senior officers a meeting was arranged of the sector commanders at Batalik (on the eastern fringe of the Kargil region) to "sort out" a misunderstanding. It worked. As did the first meeting after Operation Parakram of the para-military commanders along the IB in Punjab at which they decided not to arrest people who accidentally strayed across the frontier. Two points emerge from those meetings; that there is scope for misunderstanding, and that the sector commanders are capable of clearing the air rather than allow it to reek of ignited gunpowder.

While the bureaucrats and generals in the two capitals might insist that the Line of Control demarcated after the Simla summit of 1972 is unambiguous, those actually "manning" it would have another story to tell. There are quite a few grey areas, the terrain does lend itself to easy reconciliation with a chart, and with some villages and their agricultural holdings actually straddling the frontier the potential for misunderstanding is tremendous. In the mountainous regions, like Kargil, forward posts at higher altitudes are abandoned in winter and when the snows melt away the troops of both sides rush to occupy the vantage heights. That too could spark off trouble, trouble which might be averted if the sector commanders meet regularly to remove the irritants. Some of those might appear mere pinpricks, too trivial to attract the attention of the Lieutenant-Generals at South Block in New Delhi or GHQ in Rawalpindi, but which could set off a chain reaction, even if inadvertently.

It might be too soon to talk of peace and tranquility along the Line of Control but it would be short-sighted to remain satisfied that the big guns have not boomed since a cease-fire was called last November. Anything which equates with tranquility would be welcome, not only because it offers some respite to the soldiers of both sides but also because it helps build the confidence that would be required to resolve larger issues — Siachen being a prime example. The governments need not entertain apprehensions of interaction between the soldiers leading to hot words, and worse. Both armies are professional, had they not pressed the safety-catch on their rifles in November, there would have been no talking peace.

# America finds Chinese hand in Pak nukes

S. Rajagopalan  
Washington, February 15

810 DM  
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US sleuths, cited in a *Washington Post* report on Sunday, have revealed that the packet included text in Chinese, contained step-by-step instructions on how to assemble an implosion-type nuclear bomb.

"It was just what you would have on the factory floor. It tells you what torque to use on the bolts and what glue to use on the parts," one weapons expert who had reviewed the blueprints told the *Post*, adding the designs are "very, very old" but "very well-engineered".

Officials saw a similarity of

THE US now has tell-tale evidence of China's transfer of nuclear weapons know-how to Pakistan in the early 1980s — something it has suspected all these years despite loud denials by Islamabad and Beijing. The evidence has surfaced with the ongoing scrutiny of weapons designs that Libya had procured from the A.Q. Khan network years ago but turned over to the US recently after a decision to renounce weapons of mass destruction.



Abdul Qadeer Khan

the blueprint to a weapon known to have been tested by the Chinese in the 1960s. Though of an older design, the implosion device is said to be smaller and more sophisticated

than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Libya could not make much progress on building a weapon because it did not have any suitable missile or delivery system capable of carrying the 1,000-pound nuclear device depicted in the drawings.

On the Pakistan-Chinese nuclear nexus, the *Post* quoted experts as expressing surprise at the "wholesale transfer of sensitive nuclear technology to another country".

Although the assistance to build the first nuclear weapon appeared to have ended in the

1980s, notes included in the package of documents suggest that China continued to mentor Pakistani scientists on the finer points of bomb-building over a period of several years.

Termining China's actions "irresponsible and short-sighted", weapons expert David Albright said these have raised questions about what else China provided to Pakistan's nuclear programme. As far back as 1983, the State Department had concluded that China had "provided assistance" to Pakistan's nuke programme.

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