

Donors pledge \$5.4 billion in aid to Pakistan

50 countries to raise money for rehabilitation of the 3.3 million people affected by the earthquake

B. Muraidhar Reddy

Pervez Musharraf who is under flak from within for the weak response from the West for earthquake relief despite Islamabad's unequivocal support to the international war against terrorism.

The decision of the Opposition parties to boycott the conference in protest against the alleged reluctance of the Government to take them on board in the relief and reconstruction efforts did cast a shadow on the high-profile event but failed to have any impact on the enthusiasm of donors in expressing their solidarity with Gen. Musharraf and the people of Pakistan.

Preliminary estimates suggest that of the \$5.4 billion pledged by the world community, about \$1.9 billion would be in the form of grants and the rest as soft loans. Nearly one-tenth of the relief and reconstruction cost would come from the United

States.

At the international donors' conference organised by the United Nations on October 26, Pakistan received pledges to the tune of \$2.4 billion. In other words the new pledges made on Saturday were to the tune of \$3 billion. Observers are worried as to how many of the pledges would really translate into cash flows considering that only 20 per cent of what has been pledged on October 26 has materialised so far.

The single largest donor country was the United States, which pledged \$510 million, including \$156 million already donated. Of the 30 countries that offered financial help Saudi Arabia pledged more than \$340 million, China \$300 million and Iran \$200 million.

Overwhelmed by the response, Gen. Musharraf told the delegates in his concluding

speech that all finances would be utilised transparently on improving the lot of the quake's survivors. "Your support clearly indicates that the world community is with us, your understanding at this hour of need will never be forgotten," he said where pledges outweighed the initial reconstruction cost put at \$5.2 billion.

"My deepest appreciation and gratitude for the world community for helping Pakistan in this hour of need. Participation of donors from around the world shows that this world is a global village and this joint heritage of mankind takes countries forward. Pakistan does realise that we need to be an important member in the comity of nations to have a position of respect in the world," Gen. Musharraf said.

Addressing a major concern of donors he held out a categorical assurance that all contributions

would be spent clearly and at places as desired by the donors for the well being of the survivors. "Let me assure this gathering that whatever assistance, cooperation and understanding you have shown at this hour, will never be forgotten — the money you have pledged will be accounted for and spent transparently."

He announced plans for holding a similar conference of Pakistanis from around the world to raise the shortfall and meet the target. "I know that with the resources available now, with the support of the international community, the NGOs and with the determination, zeal and patriotism of the people of Pakistan and the strategising by the Government of Pakistan, I have no doubt that we will deliver and convert this challenge into an opportunity for the poor people of the affected areas."

Pervez opts for relief over F-16s

Muzaffarabad (Pakistan), Nov. 4 (Reuters): Nearly a month after Pakistan's catastrophic earthquake, President Pervez Musharraf said he was postponing the purchase of F-16 warplanes from the US to provide more relief to quake victims.

Musharraf, visiting quake-hit regions on the Id holiday today, also said the world had not responded to the quake as generously as to last year's Asian tsunami because western tourists weren't caught up in it.

"I am going to postpone that," Musharraf said when asked about the purchase of the aircraft. "We want to bring maximum relief and reconstruction effort," he said, while stressing that maintaining national security was also important.

The US said last year it was willing to sell Pakistan F-16 fighters and Islamabad has been expected to buy about 80 of them.

Earthquake survivors had little to celebrate on Id nearly four weeks after more than

73,000 people were killed in the country's worst disaster.

People in predominantly Muslim Pakistan mark the holiday by dressing up in new clothes and visiting family and friends but there was little festivity at a tent camp for homeless survivors in the ruined city of Muzaffarabad.

"This Id, I have no clothes

'The magnitude of the calamity here is much more than the tsunami... I would appeal to the world to see reality'

and no shoes but what matters most is this Id my father is dead," said 10-year-old Sana, camped out at a tent village on a sports ground near the devastated university in the capital of Pakistan Kashmir.

"I've lost everything. I don't know how many days I will sit here because everything is gone," said Sana, who

was living with her mother and grandfather.

Pakistan Kashmir and adjoining North West Frontier Province bore the brunt of the 7.6 magnitude quake, which also seriously injured more than 69,000.

In an interview with BBC radio, Musharraf said he believed the earthquake had caused greater damage than last year's tsunami, which killed more than 230,000 people.

"The tsunami — I think if one compares it realistically — I would think the damage here is much more. The magnitude of the calamity here is much more," Musharraf said.

International donors responded generously to the tsunami because "it affected people from many countries of the world, especially the West who were tourists in various areas."

"Here, unfortunately, this is a remote area, poor people affected. I would appeal to the world to see reality — that it is these people who deserve aid much more."



Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf greets a boy at a makeshift tent camp in Muzaffarabad. (Reuters)

Overloaded Pak ferry sinks, 60 die

Karachi, Nov. 4 (Reuters): A passenger ferry believed to have been overloaded sank in southern Pakistan today drowning at least 60 people, including children, government officials said.

"According to our information, 60 people have been killed," a navy spokesman, Lieutenant Commander Salman Ali, said of the ferry accident.

The ferry sank in a coastal creek near the town of Keti Bandar, in Thatta district, which is at the mouth of the Indus river, about 70 km southeast of Karachi, Ali said. "We have sent our diving and rescue teams to the area," he said. A spokesman said 80 people were on board the boat when the accident happened.

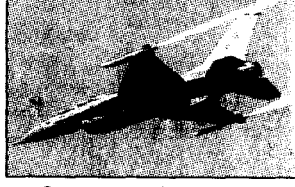
ত্রাণেই জোর, এফ-১৬ কেনা পিছিয়ে দিল পাকিস্তান

ইসলামাবাদ, ৪ নভেম্বর: প্রাকৃতিক
বিপর্যয়ের সামনে মাথা নোয়াতে হল
সামরিক সমঝোতাকে।

ভূমিকম্প-পরবর্তী ত্রাণ ও
পুনর্গঠনের উপর জোর দিতে এফ-১৬
যুদ্ধবিমান কেনা পিছিয়ে দিচ্ছে
পাকিস্তান। আজ এই ঘোষণা করেন
প্রেসিডেন্ট পারভেজ মুশারফ।

ঈদের দিন ভূমিকম্প-বিধ্বস্ত
মুজফ্ফরাবাদে এসেছিলেন মুশারফ।
একটি সেনা হাসপাতাল পরিদর্শন
করার পরে তিনি এফ-১৬ কেনা প্রসঙ্গে
সাংবাদিকদের বলেন, “আপাতত সেটা
স্থগিত রাখছি। এখন পুনর্গঠন ও ত্রাণের
উপরেই জোর দিতে চাই আমরা।”
তবে একই সঙ্গে প্রেসিডেন্ট জানান,
পুনর্গঠনের জন্য প্রতিরক্ষা বাজেটে
হাত দেওয়া হবে না। তাঁর কথায়,
“এমন কোনও সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া উচিত
নয়, যার ফলে দেশের নিরাপত্তা বিঘ্নিত
হতে পারে।” ওয়াশিংটন থেকে মার্কিন
বিদেশ দফতর অবশ্য জানিয়েছে, তারা
এই নিয়ে পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে আলোচনা
চালিয়ে যাবে। দফতরের এক কর্তার
মতে, “ভূকম্পের ফলে এফ-১৬ বিক্রির
মৌজিকতা শেষ হয়ে যাচ্ছে না।”

৮ অক্টোবরের ভূমিকম্পে
পাকিস্তানে মৃতের সংখ্যা ৭৩ হাজার
ছাড়িয়ে গিয়েছে, জখম প্রায় ৭০
হাজার। সম্পূর্ণ ধ্বংস হয়ে গিয়েছে
পাক-অধিকৃত কাশ্মীরের ১৫ হাজার
গ্রাম। কিন্তু এই বিশাল ক্ষয়ক্ষতির
পরেও প্রতিরক্ষা খাত থেকে অর্থ নিতে
রাজি নন মুশারফ। মঙ্গলবারই তিনি
জানান, পুনর্গঠন ও প্রতিরক্ষা, দু’টি
আলাদা বিষয়। তাই ত্রাণ তহবিলের
সঙ্গে সামরিক খাতের সম্পর্ক নেই।
মুশারফের এই মন্তব্যে সমালোচনায়
সরব হয়েছিল পিপিপি-সহ বেশ
কয়েকটি বিরোধী দল ও মানবাধিকার
সংগঠনগুলি। আমেরিকার কাছ থেকে
তিনশো কোটি ডলার দিয়ে ৭৫টি এফ-



১৬ কিনতে চায় পাকিস্তান। তা ছাড়া,
ভূকম্পের এক সপ্তাহ পরেই সুইডেনের
কাছ থেকে ১০০ কোটি ডলার দিয়ে
উচ্চপ্রযুক্তি সম্পন্ন রেডার কেনার জন্য
চুক্তিতে সই করেন পারভেজ।
প্রেসিডেন্টের সেই সিদ্ধান্তেরও তীব্র
সমালোচনা করেন মানবাধিকার
কর্মীরা। তাঁদের দাবি, বিদেশ থেকে
উপযুক্ত ত্রাণ আসছে না, এই অভিযোগ
তোলার আগে কোন খাতে কত টাকা
ব্যয় করা উচিত, সে বিষয়ে উপযুক্ত
সিদ্ধান্ত নিন প্রেসিডেন্ট। কিন্তু পাক
প্রধানমন্ত্রী শওকত আজিজ আজ ফের
জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, “দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার যা
পরিস্থিতি, তাতে প্রতিরক্ষা বরাদ্দে
কাটছটি করার প্রস্তাব ওঠে না। শান্তি
আসলে ক্ষমতায়, দুর্বলতায় নয়।”
পুনর্গঠনের জন্য অন্য কোনও খাত
এবং বিদেশি ত্রাণের উপরেই নির্ভর
করছে পাকিস্তান, বলেন আজিজ।

তবে বিভিন্ন মহল থেকে এই
চাপের মুখেই এফ-১৬ কেনার বিষয়টি
পুনর্বিবেচনা করতে শুরু করেন
মুশারফ। সোমবার পাকিস্তানের এক
সংবাদপত্রে মুশারফকে উদ্ধৃত করে
জানানো হয়, “আগের পরিকল্পনা
অনুযায়ী আমরা আমেরিকার কাছ
থেকে সব ক’টি এফ-১৬ বিমান কিনব
না।” কূটনৈতিক সূত্রে জানা যায়, আর
একটি বিকল্প পথের কথাও বিবেচনা
করছিল পাকিস্তান— বেলজিয়ামের
কাছ থেকে হাত ফেরতা এফ-১৬
কেনা। উচ্চপ্রযুক্তির মার্কিন
বিমানগুলির ছ’ভাগের এক ভাগ দাম
হবে সেই বেলজিয়ান বিমানগুলির।
তার পর আজ মুজফ্ফরাবাদে গিয়ে
এফ-১৬ কেনা স্থগিত করে দেওয়া
হচ্ছে, সেই ঘোষণা করেন প্রেসিডেন্ট
মুশারফ। — পি টি আই, রয়টার্স

● দ্বিচারিতার অভিযোগ...পৃঃ ৫

0 0 NOV 2005

Global aid falls short of Pakistan's relief needs

B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD: The donations and pledges received by Pakistan for the earthquake victims from 71 countries and 159 international organisations including the U.N. and NGOs has risen to \$1.246 billion.

The quake, one of the deadliest in the region in a century, killed over 53,000 persons, seriously injured 67,000 and rendered over 3.3 million homeless, a Foreign Office report said here on Tuesday.

The relief assistance includes \$735.8 million pledged by various countries in cash and in the form of relief goods including tents, blankets, medicines, food, water purification systems, helicopters.

Around two dozen medical hospitals from foreign countries

are operating in the affected areas. The amount pledged by U.N. and other agencies has gone up to \$386 million, according to the Foreign Office.

This includes \$125 million from several multinational companies from around the world, individuals, NGOs charities, individuals and money collected through the Saudi telethon.

Donors' meet

The amount however falls short of the estimated \$5 billions required only for the reconstruction of the infrastructure. This figure does not take into account the money to be spent on the rehabilitation of the affected.

A conference of donor countries to assess the situation is scheduled to be held at Geneva on October 26. Pakistan said it would make a strong case for

maximum possible help.

The countries which have sent in the relief goods or pledged aid include Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

THE HINDU

28 OCT 2005

Musharraf opens LoC for relief

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Oct 18. — In a characteristic move, President Pervez Musharraf today proposed to India “through the media” to throw open the Line of Control (LoC) for relief work and allow divided families to meet unhindered. India has welcomed the offer, but has said that it requires more details from Pakistan for implementing it on the ground.

General Musharraf, in a televised press conference in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, said: “We will allow any amount of people coming across the LoC to meet their relatives and assist in the reconstruction efforts.” Stating that no formal proposal has been made to New Delhi, the President remarked: “It is being put across through you (media).” In Delhi, the external affairs ministry spokesperson, Mr Navtej Sarna, said: “If these news reports are correct, we welcome the offer that has been made”. Mr Sarna said the Pakistani leader’s offer was “in line with India’s advocacy of greater movement across the LoC for relief work and closer people-to-people contacts”.

But, he added that while India was willing to facilitate such movements, it awaited word “from Pakistan about the practical details of implementing this intention”.

Gen. Musharraf urged India to agree to the proposal and said that modalities for implementing his proposal had to be worked out. “This has to be formalised. We would like to open up many points than this one route of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and formalise how they will come across. But we will allow every Kashmiri to come across the LoC to assist in the reconstruction efforts,” he said. The General said that for the first time PoK would permit mobile operators to open linkages across the LoC to let Kashmir’s divided families talk to one another.

Gen. Musharraf tonight said that Indian troops for relief operations were not acceptable to Pakistan and one should not grudge that, but refuted suggestions that his country was reluctant to take aid from India.

His remarks come a day after India expressed its inability to send armed forces’ helicopters without Indian pilots and crew to Pakistan to bolster relief efforts in that country.

THE STATESMAN

Pak row over Israel ties

IMTIAZ GUL

510
20/9

Islamabad, Sept. 19: Targeting last week's historic handshake between President Pervez Musharraf and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ammal (MMA) threatened to oppose any resumption of relations with the Jewish state.

The MMA chief Qazi Hussein Ahmad said establishment of direct contacts between Islamabad and Tel Aviv is an attempt to isolate Pakistan.

At a gathering of the American Jewish Congress in New York, Musharraf said Pakistan would open a new chapter in friendly ties between Islamic countries and Israel, leaving the hardline MMA worried.

"We will give stout resistance to any effort that is aimed at recognising the Jewish state," Ahmad said in Peshawar, adding that Musharraf's friendly gestures towards Israel will isolate Pakistan in the Islamic world.

However, analysts believe the meeting between Musharraf and Sharon is only the tip of an iceberg in promotion of cordial ties between Islamabad and Tel Aviv.

The handshake has not yet

led to a turnaround in Pakistan's policies towards Israel. Musharraf and his allies are still on the defensive to prevent any outcry by the Right-wing parties.

Before the handshake and meeting between the two foreign ministers, the Pakistani government had backed the Palestinians and Israel's unconditional pullout from the occupied territories.

Musharraf and his government still deny any changes in Pakistan's principled position on Jerusalem and say that Israel's recognition will remain linked to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

20 SEP 2000

THE TELEGRAPH

Pakistan for border fencing with Afghanistan

Kabul wants demarcation of Durrand Line

B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday said it had formally approached Afghanistan for fencing its border to put an end to charges of cross-border infiltration.

Foreign Office spokesman Naeem Khan told journalists that Islamabad would take a decision on the proposal after hearing from Kabul.

Significantly, the announcement came hours before President Pervez Musharraf is due to visit the CENTCOM headquarters in Florida for interaction on issues including cooperation in containing terrorism in Afghanistan.

Observers are intrigued at the insistence of Pakistan on fencing of 2400 kilometres of rugged and mountainous terrain along Afghanistan. The initial reaction from Afghanistan is negative. The general but unofficial re-

frain from Kabul has been that Islamabad is not serious about the proposal.

What is more important, voices from Kabul have spoken about the need for Pakistan and Afghanistan to first demarcate the Durrand Line and settle the border issue. Some have even suggested that the fencing proposal by Pakistan is an attempt to legitimise the Durrand Line not accepted by Afghanistan.

Gen. Musharraf floated the idea of fencing during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last week and took everyone by surprise. The proposal follows months of complaints by Afghan and U.S. officials over Pakistan's alleged failure to rein in militants operating from its tribal areas. The criticism became stronger due to an upsurge in violence in the run-up to Afghanistan's parliamentary polls held on Sunday.

20 SEP 2005

THE HINDU

MUSHARRAF IN NY | Says did not ask Rice for civilian nuclear power programme parity with India

In time for Korea talks, Pak confirms N-exports

14/9
Pak

DAVID E. SANGER

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 13

PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan said on Monday that he believed that a Pakistani nuclear expert who ran the world's largest proliferation ring exported "probably a dozen" centrifuges to North Korea to produce nuclear weapons fuel.

During the wide-ranging interview, Musharraf also said that during his Monday meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, he made no demands for an agreement to match the US offer to help India develop a civilian nuclear power programme.

He, however, mentioned that he had asked her to move to

ward a free-trade agreement with Pakistan. That is likely to meet some resistance in Congress, which derailed efforts by the Bush administration after the September 11 attacks to aid Pakistan by lifting restrictions on textile imports.

Of Khan, Musharraf said that after two years of interrogations—which the Pakistanis insisted on doing themselves, rather than allowing the US to do so—there was still no evidence about whether the expert also gave North Korea a Chinese-origin nuclear-weapon design.

Musharraf's comments about the interrogations of the expert, A Q Khan, a national hero who is under a loose form of house arrest in Islamabad, are significant because they tend to confirm the accusations American intelli-



Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in New York on Monday. Reuters

gence officials made against North Korea in 2002.

A dozen centrifuges would not be enough to produce a significant amount of bomb-grade ura-

Musharraf said that in ques-

'Rice assured help on Indo-Pak differences'

NEW YORK: Pakistan has said that the US would continue to support progress in the Indo-Pak peace process, and affirmed its help in the settlement of all outstanding issues, including the "important" Kashmir issue. Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said the US has evinced keen interest in the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Musharraf on Wednesday and has said it would help the two countries resolve differences amicably. PTI

tioning Khan a critical question had not been resolved: Did the scientist give the same bomb design to North Korea and Iran that investigators found in Libya, when it dismantled its uranium programme. 'Whether he passed

these bomb designs to others," he said, "there is no such evidence."

On Pakistan's tentative diplomatic openings toward Israel, the General said they could flourish "in case there is forward movement" on negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. But, he said, "this is by no means recognition of Israel".

On Osama bin Laden, Musharraf said it was possible he was still moving between remote parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan four years after the September 11 attacks. "I will not negate entirely, with confidence, that he is not there," he said. "But I will never accept anybody who says with confidence that he is there." He said later that he often asks, "Do you have intelligence, have you heard him?"

—NYT

Pervez denies Pak pressure for US N-pact

*No demand raised for
parity: Prez to NYT*

PRESS Trust of India
New York, September 13

PAKISTAN APPEARS to have given up efforts to persuade the US to lift restrictions on the supply of technology and equipment for its civilian nuclear energy requirements as has been done in the case of India. President Pervez Musharraf, who had a meeting with US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice here on Monday, told *The New York Times* that he made no demand for an agreement that would match the Indo-US nuclear deal reached in July.

India and the US had signed the historic deal during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington, under which the US offered to resume nuclear fuel supplies to Indian reactors and help New Delhi in its civilian nuclear energy programme. Rejecting Pakistan's demand for parity with India in accessing civilian nuclear technology, the US had said that the landmark accord with New Delhi was a "mechanism to deepen" its commitment to international non-proliferation. "We view India as an exceptional case, and see civil nuclear cooperation as a mechanism to deepen further India's commitment to international non-proliferation", under secretary of state for arms control and international security Robert G. Joseph told the House International Relations Committee on September 8.

Smashing an ISI base in Punjab, the Delhi Police has arrested Mohd Ramzan an alleged agent of the Pakistani intelligence agency who had been tasked to provide shelter to other operatives.



President Pervez Musharraf

DIPLOMATIC TANGLE

What the Chinese wanted for Hu

THE WHITE House's grand welcome to Manmohan Singh in July has apparently had its reverberations far and wide. Chinese diplomats, preparing for the visit of President Hu Jintao to Washington, were quick to say, "Nothing less than what the Singh got", according to an account in the *Washington Post*. But the Bush administration was not keen on such a lavish spread for the Chinese leader. The administration, according to the *Post* dispatch, nixed the state visit idea. Also, "no multi-course dinner, just a little lunch". But the Chinese diplomats got their US counterparts to agree to a White House arrival ceremony and a gun salute. Hu's visit, however, had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour.

HTC, Washington

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Pakistan is cosyng up to Israel to show a moderate face to US

By Jal Taraporevala/TNN

The first ever meeting between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Israel, Khurshid Kasuri and Silvan Shalom, has underscored the motivations both nations (which do not maintain formal diplomatic relations) have in holding senior level discussions. Islamabad has long been suspicious of the growing ties between India and Israel, especially in the defence and security fields. This being so, the Musharraf regime seems to calculate that breaking the ice with the Jewish state could gradually lead to Indo-Israeli relations assuming a less anti-Pakistan focus. The discussions should also be interpreted as another tangible demonstration to the US of Pakistan's intention to steer a moderate course as a prominent nation in the Islamic world.

For its part, Israel has for years favoured the approach of forging contacts with Islamic nations as a tactical means of undermining the influence of the fundamentalist Palestinian groups like Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. Pakistan fits into this overall strategy in view of its political position and nuclear weapons capability. Besides, it is no coincidence that Israel has been keen to hold talks with Pakistan at a time when it is increasingly



SHALOM: Israeli FM Silvan Shalom (right) and his Pakistan counterpart Khurshid Kasuri

concerned about Iran's nuclear programme, mounting instability in Iraq and growing radicalisation at the grassroots level in several Islamic countries.

Despite these tentative efforts to examine the relationship afresh, enormous obstacles remain to be overcome before full diplomatic links are established. Pakistan will be reluctant to build friendly ties with the Jewish state unless substantive progress is achieved in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The unilateral

Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip notwithstanding, Israel and the Palestinians remain as far apart as ever on resolving the so called final status issues which lie at the heart of their dispute. There are also certain domestic political compulsions which will ensure that Musharraf proceeds

cautiously on the question of developing ties with Israel. After all, given the narrow political base of support of the Musharraf regime, it will be anxious not to further antagonise the militant groups or the six-party pro-Islamist opposition alliance, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, which currently holds power in

Baluchistan and the NWFP. Before taking the next crucial step, the government will therefore want to gauge the public reaction to the move to openly talk to Israel.

**NEWS
ANALYSIS**

Hardline Pakistani groups oppose talks with Israel

Islamabad: Hardline Pakistani lawmakers walked out of Parliament in protest and Islamic groups prepared to hold rallies across the country on Friday to condemn the first formal talks between Pakistan and Israel, which critics said were a step toward diplomatic recognition of the Jewish state.

"We urge people to fully participate in the rallies to tell the rulers that we will not allow them to recognise Israel," said Ameer ul-Azeem, spokesman for Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal, an opposition coalition of six Islamic parties.

Ul-Azeem also criticised President Gen Pervez Musharraf for arranging Thursday's meeting between the foreign ministers of the two nations without consulting the Parliament.

After the meeting, Musharraf told reporters that the government had made no decision to establish formal ties with Israel.

"Pakistan will not recognise Israel until the establishment of a free and independent state for the Palestinian people," he said. AP

মিশর-সন্ত্রাসেও জড়াল পাকিস্তান

Amr & Bin W

25/9

শর্ম এল-শেখ (মিশর), ২৫ জুলাই: লোহিত সাগরের তীরে জঙ্গি হামলার সঙ্গে জড়িয়ে গেল পাকিস্তানের নাম। মিশরি গোয়েন্দাদের ধারণা, পাঁচ থেকে ন'জন পাকিস্তানি জঙ্গি এই হামলায় যুক্ত। সিনাই প্রদেশের দু'টি গ্রামে পুলিশের সঙ্গে আজ গুলির লড়াইও চলে জঙ্গিদের। ছয় পাকিস্তানি জঙ্গির খোঁজে খুকুম ও রুইসাত নামের পাহাড়ি ওই গ্রামদু'টিতে যায় পুলিশ। গোয়েন্দাদের কাছে খবর ছিল, ওই গ্রামদু'টিতে পাকিস্তানি জঙ্গি লুকিয়ে রয়েছে।

তবে মিশরের বিস্ফোরণে পাক জঙ্গিদের হাত আছে তা মানতে নারাজ পাক প্রেসিডেন্ট পারভেজ মুশারফ। আজ লাহোরে মুশারফ বলেন, পাকিস্তান থেকে আল কায়দার শিকড় উপড়ে ফেলা হয়েছে। তাদের পক্ষে লন্ডন বা মিশর কোথাওই জঙ্গি হানা ঘটানো সম্ভব নয়।

আজ দুই জঙ্গির ছবি বিভিন্ন জায়গায় পাঠিয়ে তাদের সম্পর্কে তথ্যও জানতে চেয়েছে মিশর।

লন্ডনের বিস্ফোরণেও জড়িয়েছিল পাকিস্তানের নাম। ব্রিটিশ গোয়েন্দাদের দাবি, লন্ডনে বিস্ফোরণে জড়িত তিন জঙ্গি পাকিস্তানের মাদ্রাসা থেকেই প্রশিক্ষণ নিয়ে গিয়েছিল। মিশরের স্বরাষ্ট্র দফতর সূত্রে দু'জনের ছবি প্রকাশ করে বলা হয়েছে, এদের নাম মহম্মদ আখতার (৩০) এবং তাসাদুক হুসেন (১৮)। এরা দু'জনেই পাকিস্তানি। দক্ষিণ সিনাইয়ের বিভিন্ন চেকপোস্টেও ওই জঙ্গিদের ছবি পাঠিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। গোয়েন্দাদের ধারণা, জাল জর্ডনীয় পাসপোর্ট নিয়ে মিশরে ঢোকে জঙ্গিরা। পরে হোটেলের রিসেপশনে পাসপোর্ট ফেলে রেখে উধাও হয়ে গিয়েছে।

মিশরের বিস্ফোরণের সঙ্গে পাকিস্তানের নাম জড়িয়ে যাওয়ার ঘটনা এই প্রথম। পাক সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে এই অভিযোগ অবশ্য অস্বীকার করা হয়েছে। পাক বিদেশমন্ত্রকের মুখপাত্র মহম্মদ নঈম খান বলেছেন, “মনে হয় না মিশরের বিস্ফোরণে ওই নয় পাকিস্তানির সম্পর্ক রয়েছে। সবই

সংবাদমাধ্যম মারফত কেনেছি। মিশর সরকার কিছু জানায়নি।”

গোয়েন্দাদের ধারণা ট্রাকে সজ্জির আড়ালে বিস্ফোরক নিয়ে গিয়েছিল জঙ্গিরা। একটি ট্রাকে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটানো হয় গাজালা গার্ডেন হোটেলের রিসেপশনে। অন্য ট্রাকটি ছিল শর্মের পুরনো বাজার এলাকায়।

তবে নতুন করে একটি গোষ্ঠী এই বিস্ফোরণের দায় স্বীকার করায় মিশরের গোয়েন্দাদের দাবি নিয়ে সন্দেহ দেখা দিয়েছে। ‘মুজাহিদিন মিশর’ নামের ওই গোষ্ঠীর দাবি, তাদের পাঁচ জঙ্গি শনিবার শর্ম এল-শেখে সাতটি আত্মঘাতী হামলা চালিয়েছে। আগে আল কায়দার ঘনিষ্ঠ আবদুল্লা আজম এই হামলার দায় স্বীকার করেছিল। সে সম্পর্কে ওই গোষ্ঠী বলেছে, “আল কায়দার দাবি বিশ্বাস করবেন না।”

তবে আমেরিকার সন্ত্রাসবিরোধী বিশেষজ্ঞদের ধারণা, লন্ডন এবং মিশর, দু'টি বিস্ফোরণের পিছনেই লাডেনের ভূমিকা রয়েছে।— রয়টার্স, পি টি আই

26 JUL 2004

ANABANAZAR PARIKA

Pak, Iran ministers meet on pipeline

Associated Press



Iranian oil minister, Mr Bijan
Namdar Zanganeh

ISLAMABAD, July 6. — Oil ministers from Iran and Pakistan met today to discuss a proposed gas pipeline that would transport Iranian gas to Pakistan and India, the state news agency reported.

The Iranian minister, Mr Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, told reporters before the meeting started that neither Pakistan nor India would back away from the project, even if other countries object to it, the Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported. The USA in particular has voiced reservations about the proposed pipeline.

"I do not believe that Pakistan and India will consider any external pressure," AFP quoted Mr Zanganeh as saying. He said he hoped to reach "some general conclusions" with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Amanullah Khan Jadoon, during his visit.

At the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the progress made by officials on both sides and "expressed satisfaction on its pace".

Iran proposed the 2,775-km pipeline to export its natural gas to Pakistan and India in 1996, but the project has never gotten off the ground mainly due to India's worries about the security of the pipeline in Pakistan.

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THE STATESMAN

ঘরে-বাইরে চাপ ঘুম কাড়ছে মুশারফের

মার্কিন বাধায় বুলে রইল ইরানের গ্যাস

১৭ জয়ন্ত ঘোষাল • ইসলামাবাদ

১ জুন: আমেরিকার প্রবল চাপে ইরান-পাকিস্তান-ভারত গ্যাস পাইপলাইনে সাড়া দিতে পারছেন না পারভেজ মুশারফ। কারণ, ওই প্রকল্পে রাজি হলে আমেরিকা আর্থিক নিষেধাজ্ঞার কথা পর্যন্ত ভাবতে পারে বলে হুমকি দিয়েছে।

৪ তারিখ ভারতের পেট্রোলিয়াম মন্ত্রী মণিশঙ্কর আইয়ার এ দেশে আসছেন। পাকিস্তানের মন্ত্রী আমানুল্লা খানের সঙ্গে তাঁর বৈঠকও হবে। কিন্তু পাকিস্তান আপাতত কোনও সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে রাজি নয়। সম্প্রতি সি এন এনকে দেওয়া সাক্ষাৎকারে পারভেজ মুশারফ জানিয়েছেন, এ ব্যাপারে এ বছরের মধ্যে পাকিস্তান চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত নেবে। পাশাপাশি পাকিস্তান সরকার এ-ও জানিয়েছে, গ্যাস আনার জন্য তাদের বিবেচনায় রয়েছে তিনটি দেশ— কাতার, তুর্কমেনিস্তান ও ইরান। এর মধ্যে ইরান থেকে গ্যাস আনাই যে আর্থিক দিক থেকে সুবিধাজনক, তা ঘরোয়া আলোচনায় পাকিস্তানের সরকারি মহল স্বীকার করলেও আমেরিকার চাপে ইতিবাচক সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়া সম্ভব হচ্ছে না।

ইরানের সঙ্গে গ্যাস পাইপলাইন প্রকল্পে গেলে আমেরিকা যে তা ভাল ভাবে নেবে না, তা আগেই দুই দেশকেই চিঠি দিয়ে জানিয়েছে বৃশ প্রশাসন। তার উপর বিদেশ মন্ত্রকের সহ-সচিব ক্রিস্টিনা রোকা দিন কয়েক আগে পাকিস্তানে এসে বলে গিয়েছেন, আমেরিকা তেমন হলে পাকিস্তানের বিরুদ্ধে আর্থিক নিষেধাজ্ঞার কথাও ভাবতে পারে।

মণিশঙ্কর আইয়ার অবশ্য পাকিস্তানকে বোঝানোর আশ্রয় চেষ্টা করছেন, এই গ্যাস পাইপলাইন হলে আর্থিক দিক থেকে পাকিস্তানের কতটা লাভ হবে। আইয়ার বলেছেন, ভারত-পাকিস্তান দু'দেশই জ্বালানির অভাব আছে। ভারতে যে তেল ও গ্যাস প্রয়োজন, তার ২৫-৩০ ভাগ দেশে উৎপাদিত হয়। তাই এই পাইপলাইন হলে ভারতের তো সুবিধাই, পাকিস্তানেরও কম লাভ হবে না। পাকিস্তানের মধ্যে দিয়ে পাইপলাইন যাওয়ায় প্রতি মাসে ১৬ কোটি ডলার করে আয় করতে পারে মুশারফের সরকার। সম্প্রতি ফিকির প্রতিনিধিদল এ দেশে এসে সে কথাই বুঝিয়েছে প্রেসিডেন্টকে। এই প্রকল্প নিয়ে আডবাণীও কাল মুশারফের সঙ্গে কথা বলেন। কিন্তু দেশের অর্থনীতির জন্য এই প্রকল্প জরুরি বুঝেও সায দিতে পারছে না পাকিস্তান।

মুশারফের সরকারের উপরে আমেরিকার চাপ যে বর্তমানে প্রবল থেকে প্রবলতর হচ্ছে, সাম্প্রতিক কয়েকটি ঘটনা লক্ষ করলে বেশ বোঝা যায়। দেশে প্রবল ক্ষোভ সত্ত্বেও এখন আল কায়দার বিরুদ্ধে ব্যাপক অভিযান চালাচ্ছে মুশারফের সরকার। আল কায়দার তিন নম্বর নেতা আবু ফায়াজ আল লিব্বিকে গ্রেফতার করে আমেরিকায় পাঠানো হয়েছে। এর আগেও বেশ কয়েক জন জঙ্গিকে আমেরিকার হাতে তুলে দিয়েছে পাকিস্তান। আমেরিকার চাপে ইজরায়েলকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার বিষয়টি নিয়েও ভাবছে মুশারফের সরকার। স্বাধীন প্যালেস্তাইন রাষ্ট্র গঠনে বাধা না দিলে পাকিস্তান স্বীকৃতি দিতে পারে ইজরায়েলকে। এই নিয়ে আলোচনা চলছে। তার উপর আমেরিকার ঘোষিত 'শয়তানের অক্ষ'-এর অন্যতম ইরান। ফলে ইরানের সঙ্গে বাণিজ্যিক সমঝোতায় পাকিস্তানকে যেতে দেওয়ার তীব্র বিরোধিতা করেই চলেছে আমেরিকা।

তাই আর্থিক সুবিধার হাতছানি সত্ত্বেও টানাপোড়েনে ভোগা ছাড়া গতি নেই পারভেজ মুশারফের।

আডবাণী আনবেন কাশ্মীর রোডম্যাপ

জয়ন্ত ঘোষাল • ইসলামাবাদ

১ জুন: পারভেজ মুশারফ ভারতের দেওয়া শিথিল সীমান্তের প্রস্তাব মেনে নিলেও তাঁর এখন প্রশ্ন, অতঃ কিম?

কারণ পাকিস্তানের প্রেসিডেন্ট শুধুমাত্র সীমান্ত শিথিল করে ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্যে সন্তুষ্ট নন। লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণীকে তিনি কাল জানিয়ে দেন, তিনি শুধু শিথিল সীমান্তে থেমে থাকতে চান না। ভারত-পাকিস্তান শান্তিপ্রক্রিয়ার লক্ষ্যটা আদতে কী? কোন পথে কী চূড়ান্ত লক্ষ্য তা এগোবে, তা তিনি ভারতের কাছ থেকে জানতে চান। এবং আডবাণীকে তিনি দায়িত্ব দিয়েছেন, ভারতের বিরোধী দলনেতা হিসাবে যাতে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে কথা বলে আলোচনা এগিয়ে নিতে সাহায্য করেন। পারভেজ বলেন, ভারতীয় সংবাদমাধ্যমে এমন একটা ধারণা তৈরি করা হচ্ছে যে পাকিস্তান শিথিল সীমান্তকেই চূড়ান্ত সমাধান বলে মেনে নিচ্ছে। ব্যাপারটা আদপেই তা নয়। শিথিল সীমান্ত একটা পদক্ষেপ মাত্র।

আগামী সেপ্টেম্বরে নিউ ইয়র্কে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সাধারণ সভা উপলক্ষে মনমোহন এবং পারভেজের দেখা হবে। এই বছরের মধ্যেই কাশ্মীর সমস্যার একটা সমাধানের দিকে পৌঁছাতে মরিয়া পাক প্রেসিডেন্ট সেপ্টেম্বরেই লক্ষ্য করে এগোচ্ছেন। তার আগে অগস্টে দুই দেশের বিদেশ সচিবদের বৈঠক। ভারতের পক্ষে মধ্যস্থতাকারী সতীন্দ্র লাষা এবং পাকিস্তানের জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা উপদেষ্টা তারিক আজিজের একাধিক বৈঠকও হবে। নিউ ইয়র্কে যাতে কাশ্মীর সমস্যার সমাধান-সূত্র নিয়ে একটা জায়গায় পৌঁছানো যায়, সে জন্য এই বৈঠকগুলোকে কাজে লাগাতে চান মুশারফ। তাই আডবাণীর মাধ্যমে মনমোহনের কাছে 'রোড-ম্যাপ'ও পাঠাচ্ছেন তিনি।

সেই ধাপগুলো কী? ● সীমান্তকে অপ্রাসঙ্গিক করে তোলা। ● ৭০০ কিলোমিটার নিয়ন্ত্রণরেখা থেকে সেনা সরানো। ● শুধু ধর্ম নয়, আঞ্চলিক স্বার্থ ও জনগণের বসবাসের ভিত্তিতে কাশ্মীর সমস্যার সমাধান খোঁজা। ● কাশ্মীরে

স্বায়ত্তশাসন নিয়ে আলোচনা। ● চূড়ান্ত সমাধান।

গত অর্ধ শতাব্দীরও বেশি সময় ধরে নিয়ন্ত্রণরেখা ঘিরে দু'দেশের মধ্যে যে সংঘাতের ক্ষেত্র তৈরি হয়ে আছে, এই বছরের মধ্যে তার মীমাংসার আশ্রয় চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছেন পাকিস্তানের প্রেসিডেন্ট। কিন্তু সমাধান বললেই হবে না। এ বিষয়ে দুটো বিপরীত মনোভাব নিয়ে চলছে দুই দেশই। ভারত যেমন বলেছে, সীমান্ত নতুন করে রচনা হবে না। পাকিস্তান বলছে, নিয়ন্ত্রণরেখাকে স্থায়ী হিসেবে দেখতে তারা রাজি নয়। এই অবস্থায় আলোচনার পরিবেশ তৈরি করতে চারটি প্রস্তাবকে ছাড়পত্র দিয়েছেন পারভেজ। সেগুলি হল ● কার্গিলের সঙ্গে রাস্তা সংযোগ। ● মুন্ডাবাও-খোকরাপার রেলপথ। ● করাচি-মুঘই সমুদ্রপথ খুলে দেওয়া। ● দুই পঞ্জাবের মধ্যে ব্যবসা বাড়ানো। ক্যাবিনেটের মাথাদের সঙ্গে এ নিয়ে একপ্রস্ত আলোচনাও করে নিয়েছেন কালি।

কিন্তু পারভেজ যতই তাড়াছড়ো করুন, ভারত ইতিমধ্যেই স্পষ্ট করে দিয়েছে, তাড়াছড়ো করে কোনও সমাধানসূত্রের পথে যেতে তারা রাজি নয়। তাই তিনি যতগুলো সমাধানসূত্রই দিন না কেন, ভারত এ ব্যাপারে মুখ খোলেনি। সম্প্রতি কাশ্মীরকে ছয়টি (পাক অধিকৃত কাশ্মীর ও উত্তর এলাকা, জম্মু ও ডোডা, রাজৌরি, লাদাখ, কার্গিল-ড্রাস, কাশ্মীর উপত্যকা) ভাগে ভাগ করে সেনা সরানো

এর পর পাঁচের পাতায়



01 JUN 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

কাশ্মীর রোডম্যাপ

প্রথম পাতার পর ও স্বায়ত্তশাসন দেওয়ার যে প্রস্তাব তিনি দিয়েছেন, তাতে ভারত রাজি নয়। তাই মুশারফের ছটফটানি আরও বাড়ছে। আগে দিল্লির বৈঠকেই তিনি মনমোহনকে বলেছিলেন, শিথিল সীমান্ত নিয়ে রাজি হয়ে শেষ পর্যন্ত কী পাবে পাকিস্তান?

আবার মুশারফ শিথিল সীমান্তেই সন্তুষ্ট, এমন খবর ছড়িয়ে পড়ায় দেশে যথেষ্ট অসুবিধায় রয়েছেন প্রেসিডেন্ট। আরও একাধিক বিষয় তাঁর মাথাব্যথার কারণ। সিয়াচেন থেকে সেনা সরানোর বিষয়ে প্রতিরক্ষা সচিবদের সাম্প্রতিক বৈঠকে কোনও সমাধানসূত্র বেরোয়নি। একই অবস্থা স্যার ক্রিক নিয়ে। কিষণগঙ্গা

জলবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্প নিয়ে আলোচনা চলছে। বাগলিহার প্রকল্প নিয়ে বিশ্ব ব্যাঙ্কের পর্যবেক্ষক আলোচনায় বসবেন।

তবে ভারত ইতিমধ্যেই প্রস্তাব দিয়েছে, পাকিস্তান বাগলিহার নিয়ে আপত্তি না করলে পঞ্জাবের কোনও নদী থেকে পাকিস্তানকে জল দেওয়া হবে, 'ক্ষতিপূরণ বাবদ' ভারতের অনুরোধ, পাকিস্তান যেন কাশ্মীরের মানুষের মুখ চেয়ে এই প্রস্তাবে রাজি হয়ে যায়।

কাশ্মীর সমস্যার সমাধানের লক্ষ্যে অগস্টের মধ্যে এই সমস্যাগুলো মেটাতে চেষ্টা করবে না পাকিস্তান। কারণ পারভেজের চোখ-সেপ্টেম্বরে মনমোহনের সঙ্গে বৈঠকে।

Pak sends N-material to IAEA

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, May 26. — Pakistan has sent centrifuge components to the UN nuclear agency in Vienna to assist its probe of Iran's nuclear programme, the government and a spokesman for the agency said today.

Foreign ministry spokesman Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani told the private Geo news channel that Pakistan had sent "old and discarded parts of centrifuges", accompanied by Pakistani experts, to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Mr Jilani said Pakistan took the decision to send the centrifuge parts on the request of IAEA and Iran, and because "we are against proliferation of nuclear weapons". He did not say how long the examination by the IAEA would take, but said the experts would return to Pakistan with the centrifuge parts. He said it would have "no negative impact on

Pakistan's sovereignty".

In Vienna, IAEA spokesman Mr Mark Gwozdecky confirmed that "testing and analysis of the (Pakistani) samples is underway".

Diplomats in Vienna said the IAEA had received centrifuge components a day earlier from Islamabad for testing that could help agency experts determine whether the traces of highly enriched uranium came in on black market equipment originating from Pakistan or was a result of activities within Iran.

Iran announced last week that it was considering restarting its uranium-enrichment programme, which the Iranians insists is only aimed at generating electricity. The EU and the USA fear the programme is being used to develop nuclear weapons.

Yesterday, Iran pledged after talks with European foreign ministers to stick to its pledge not to develop nuclear weapons and freeze its enrichment programme, and start

talking again in two months time to find a definitive agreement on Teheran's atomic programme.

Last year, the disgraced chief of Pakistan's nuclear programme, Dr AQ Khan, confessed to supplying sensitive nuclear technology to Iran, as well as North Korea and Libya.

Dr Khan, once regarded as a national hero for helping Pakistan gain a nuclear deterrent against arch rival India, is accused of having operated at the centre of an international black market in nuclear weapons technology. He was pardoned by Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf but now lives under house arrest.

Pakistan has refused to allow outsiders, including the IAEA, to interrogate the scientist to glean more information about his network and the nuclear programmes of the countries it supplied, although it says it has shared the results of its own investigations.

27 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

Pak to give Japan info on AQ's N-aid to N Korea

By K J M Varma

Islamabad: Japan has secured an assurance from Pakistan that it would share information about disgraced scientist A Q Khan's past assistance to north Korea's nuclear programme, but failed to win firm support for its bid for the permanent membership of the UN security council.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who was here on a two-day visit, left Pakistan today after intense negotiations with President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz last night.

Koizumi, flanked by Aziz, told the media here that he was satisfied with Musharraf's assurance of sharing information at Islamabad's disposal about the assistance provided by A Q Khan to North Korea in the Stalinist state's nuclear programme, which was of a major concern to Tokyo.

"The President told me that whatever had happened was the act of an individual and the Pakistani government or any other institution was not involved in it in any way," Koizumi said, adding Musharraf and Aziz told him Pakistan would deal very strictly with issues relating to nuclear proliferation and continue to cooperate with global community in this regard. Koizumi, however, did not secure firm support from Pakistan for Japan's bid for the UNSC's permanent membership. Responding to a question on UN reforms, he said Pakistan has explained its position on the expansion of the UNSC.

A joint statement issued at the end of the talks said Pakistan while appreciating "increasing role" of Japan in UN in maintenance of international peace and stability, "expresses its view that the reform of the security council can be achieved through an



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi listens to his Pakistani counterpart Shaukat Aziz prior to their joint news conference in Islamabad on Saturday

appropriate expansion in the non-permanent category."

Pakistan in principle opposes expansion of the UNSC permanent member seats, mainly due to its reservation over India's bid in that category. Apparently, Islamabad is also sensitive to reservations expressed by its close ally China, which firmly opposes Japan's bid for UNSC membership.

Japan, however, stuck to its stand on UNSC reforms in the joint statement, saying Tokyo "expresses its view that the security council should be made more effective, credible and representative through the expansion of its membership in both permanent and non-permanent categories."

In the joint statement, Japan expressed support for the Indo-Pak dialogue process, hoped for its success and welcomed the "recent positive developments" like resumption of the bus service across the LoC. (PTI)

Pakistan warms up to nuclear probe

'DECISION TO SEND N-PARTS FOR INSPECTION'

ISLAMABAD, April 1. — Pakistan has taken an "in-principle" decision to send centrifuges used in nuclear facilities for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Association to help the probe relating to Iran's nuclear programme, Pakistani foreign minister Mr Khurshid M Kasuri said today.

An in principle decision was taken to send old centrifuges to IAEA in line with Pakistan's obligations as a nuclear power, Mr Kasuri said in an interaction with editors and correspondents here. "We want to demonstrate to the world that Pakistan is a responsible nuclear state and has nothing to hide. Iran too has been asking Pakistan to cooperate with the IAEA in this regard."

Mr Kasuri, however, dispelled the impression that permitting IAEA to have look at centrifuges would amount to revealing the secrets of the status of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Shi'ite scholar shot in Lahore



A relative of Shi'ite scholar Ghulam Hussain Najfi mourns over his body in Lahore on Friday. — AFP

LAHORE, April 1. — Gunmen fired on car carrying the vice-principal of a Shi'ite seminary in Lahore today, killing him and wounding his daughter, police said.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack on Ghulam Hussain Najfi of the Jamia al-Muntazir seminary. Police said Najfi was going to his home when his car was attacked. "So far, we only know that Ghulam Hussain Najfi has died and his daughter is being treated at a hospital, but we have no other details," a senior officer said. — AP

"Dispatch of outdated and useless centrifuge parts to IAEA would not give any idea of the current status or nature of the country's nuclear programme, which is highly sophisticated."

Asserting that Pakistan

would not permit inspection of its nuclear installations, he said: "Similarly, it has been carrying out probes into allegations of proliferation and would not allow any one to interrogate our scientists. — PTI

02 APR 2005
02 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

Pakistan, Iran "go ahead" for gas project

Pak (2)
HD-14

3/2

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 24. At a juncture when Teheran is engaged in a nuclear standoff with the U.S. on its nuclear programme, Pakistan and Iran have signed four important agreements to bolster bilateral economic relations.

They have agreed to set up a mechanism to ensure their implementation aimed at increasing two-way trade to \$1 billion from the current level of \$400 millions.

The agreements were concluded during the three-day visit of the Pakistani Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz, to Iran, which concluded today.

Diplomatic observers here believe that the agreements elevate Islamabad-Teheran ties to a new level since they drifted apart in the aftermath of 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Pakistan has been under

pressure from Washington not to favour gas pipeline from Iran pending resolution of the nuclear standoff.

During the latest visit, Pakistan and Iran have decided to "go ahead" with the \$4.2-billion gas pipeline project.

Petroleum Ministers of the two countries are expected to meet here some time next month to consider possibility of a technical agreement on the pipeline.

In Teheran, the two sides also took note of the decision of the Indian Cabinet to consider joining the project and Iran indicated that it was willing to consider delivery of gas at a designated point on the border for onward transmission to India.

The Iranian Vice-President told reporters that Iran had offered a \$200 million credit line to Pakistan for engineering and infrastructure projects.

25 FEB 2005

THE HINDU

25 FEB 2005

U.N. Council: Pakistan denies change in stand

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 23. Pakistan has said there is no change in its stand on opposition to expansion of the U.N. Security Council and so the question of it backing the claim of any country for a seat does not arise.

The Foreign Office spokesman, Masood Khan, told reporters that Islamabad believed that the Council must be made more "representative, democratic and accountable." He said the Council's reform should cover size, composition, working methods, decision-making and accountability.

Pressing issues

Mr. Khan said there was no truth in reports quoting the Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, as telling his interlocutors in Tokyo that Pakistan supported Japan's claim for a permanent seat but opposed India's bid. He said Pa-

kistan believed the Council should not create "new centres of privilege, with or without veto." Mr. Khan said it was the endeavour of Pakistan that the overarching reform of the U.N. should not be eclipsed and overshadowed by the debate on the enlargement of the Council.

He maintained that other pressing issues such as development goals, resolution of interstate conflicts, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism must also get equal and proportionate attention. "The proposed reform is, in fact, a quest for a new vision of collective security, one that addresses major threats to peace, security and prosperity."

Mr. Khan said that it was along these lines that Mr. Kasuri has held talks with his Japanese interlocutors. Mr. Kasuri has expressed the hope that Japan would help the international community achieve the objective of a comprehensive and balanced U.N. reform.

Pak admits Khan's role in Iran nuke plan



A.Q. Khan

MASSOUD ANSARI

Islamabad, Feb. 13: Pakistan has conceded for the first time that A.Q. Khan, the rogue nuclear scientist who is under house arrest in Islamabad, passed secrets and equipment to Iranian officials and is now considered the "brain" behind the programme that has put Teheran on the brink of acquiring nuclear weapons.

An investigation by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, details of which have been disclosed to *The Daily Telegraph*, confirmed that Khan, a hero in Pakistan, and his associates sold nuclear codes, materials, components and plans that left his "signature" at the core of the

Iranian nuclear programme. The admission came during private talks in Brussels at the end of last month between European Union officials and senior ministers from Pakistan and India. The EU officials were told that cooperation between Teheran and Khan, 68, and associates from his Khan

Research Laboratories began in the mid-1990s and included more than a dozen meetings over several years.

Most of these meetings were between Mohammad Farooq, a centrifuge expert from KRL, and Iranians in Karachi, Kuala Lumpur and Teheran. Pakistani investigators have

told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that centrifuge drawings acquired by Iran closely resemble the design of the first-generation Pakistan-1 centrifuge.

Khan also helped the Iranians to set up a secret procurement network involving companies and middlemen around

the world, ISI investigators found. The IAEA told Pakistani officials that centrifuges they had discovered at the Doshan Tapeh military base in eastern Teheran closely resembled the Pakistan-2 centrifuges.

Apparently motivated by Islamic zeal in addition to financial gain, Khan, who was arrested in November 2003, devoted more than a decade to the spreading nuclear technology around the world. With increasing focus in Washington on a showdown with Iran, Khan's activities are being viewed with growing alarm.

Pakistan had previously resisted admitting Khan's role in Iran's nuclear plans for fear of diplomatic repercussions. It remains reluctant to co-ope-

rate fully with either the IAEA or President George W. Bush, who has pressed it to allow the CIA to interrogate Khan. The IAEA has not yet found conclusive evidence that Iran has a weapons programme and Teheran claims it "plans to enrich only to the levels that are used to generate nuclear fuel".

Western diplomats believe that Pakistan is afraid that making Khan available to the CIA directly would lift the lid on an extensive network of army officers loyal to Khan.

"This could expose the role of the Chinese in this international black market, or that of other countries that Pakistan cannot afford to antagonise," said an official.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Pervez in dictators' Parade

Washington, Feb. 13 (PTD): Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has, for the first time, made it to a list of "the world's 10 worst dictators" prepared by a US magazine.

Musharraf (in picture on left) ranks seventh in the list drawn up by *Parade* magazine, with Sudan's Omar al-Bashir bagging the top honours. Following Bashir are Kim Jong II (North Korea), Than Shwe (Burma), Hu Jintao (China), Crown Prince Abdullah (Saudi Arabia) and Muammar Gaddafi (Libya).



Japan to lift sanctions on Pak in March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 9

JAPAN will resume its \$500 million annual assistance to Pakistan under the yen loan package from March this year.

The resumption of the loan and the official development assistance (ODA) grant will bring to an end the economic sanctions Tokyo had imposed against Islamabad in May, 1998, for conducting nuclear tests.

The financial assistance was conditional and attached to nuclear non-proliferation, peace, Pakistan's commitment to the fight against extremism and modification of regulations to allow foreign investment in different sectors, Nishiyama, Director (Trade), Japanese Ministry of Commerce, told reporters after meeting Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Prime minister Shaukat Aziz.

Japan was a major donor for Pakistan until the nuclear tests.

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