

Musharraf turns to China

President Musharraf's visit to Shanghai is being seen as an attempt to look beyond the U.S. in international relations.

Nirupama Subramanian

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf, who has described his country's relations with China as "higher than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest sea" is scheduled to leave this week for Shanghai on a visit that analysts view as an attempt by the Pakistani leadership to look beyond the United States in its international relations.

President Musharraf is leading the Pakistani delegation at the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation meeting on June 15. Pakistan, with India, Iran, and Mongolia, has observer status at the SCO, a group that brings together China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. In addition, China has invited Afghan President Hamid Karzai as a special guest to the meeting.

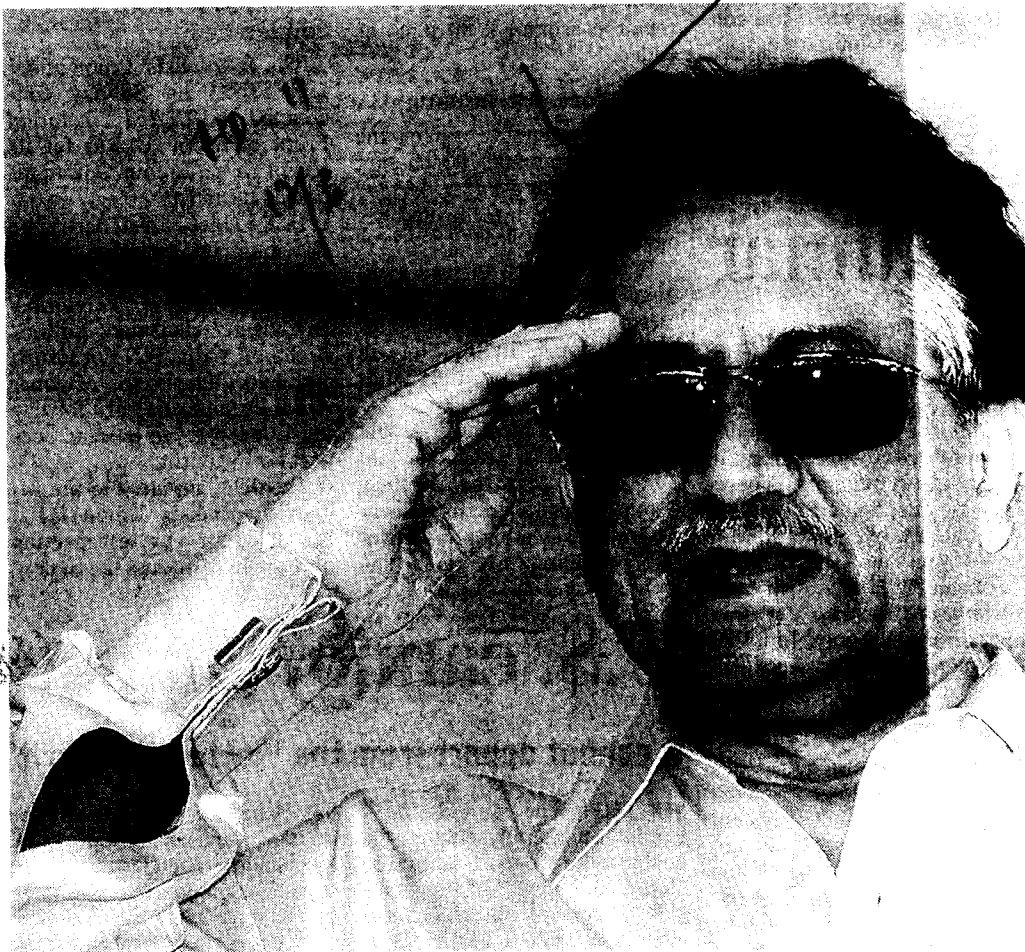
Pakistan's top-level representation at the meeting indicates the importance it attaches both to engagement with China and its participation in the SCO.

Writing in *Daily Times*, Shaukat Qadir of the Islamabad Policy research Institute said General Musharraf was trying to reach out to "alternative power sources internationally," such as China, "a constant [friend of Pakistan] despite new realities, Iran, a fresh option..."

During the visit, President Musharraf is likely to push for Chinese investment and other assistance in the building of two more nuclear power plants of 300 megawatts each, *The News* reported on Sunday.

The Pakistan Foreign Office had said the two leaders would discuss a range of bilateral issues. Spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said she was not aware of any likely discussions on the subject of the nuclear power plants.

The estimated cost of the two plants is \$1.2 billion. China helped Pakistan build Chashma-I and Chashma-II, each with a capacity for generating 300 megawatts of nuclear power. The first has been in operation since 2000 and construction of the second,



Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf ... seeking a nuclear deal with China? - PHOTO: REUTERS

which began recently, is expected to take five or six years. Both are based on a Chinese prototype.

Ever since the civilian nuclear deal between India and the U.S., and especially after it became clear that the U.S. would not extend the same kind of offer to Pakistan, President Musharraf has been keen on concluding a deal with China along similar lines. The two countries signed a "framework agreement" on energy cooperation during President Musharraf's visit to Beijing in February.

During the celebrations to commemorate the 55th anniversary of Pakistan-China relations last month, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said the two countries were working at enhancing cooperation in the field of "nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under international safeguards - for the production of electricity."

In addition, Pakistan is seeking Chinese

assistance in developing its oil and gas sector. It is seriously pushing the idea of oil and gas pipelines from Gwadar in Balochistan to western China. At the same function, Mr. Aziz said such a facility would provide China with a shorter and more economical route for its oil supplies from the Gulf region. Mr. Aziz also spoke of setting up a "mega oil-refinery" at Gwadar to "further facilitate China's oil imports from our region."

Pakistan wants to build on its "all-weather" friendship with China in other areas too. The two countries are set to inaugurate a daily bus service that will link the Chinese city of Kashgar with Gilgit on June 15. Another bus, three times a week, will operate between Tashkurgan in China's northwestern Muslim-dominated region of Xinjiang and Sost, a Pakistani border town.

China will also provide \$350 million for repairs to the Karakoram Highway, damaged badly in the October 2005 earthquake.

It is an important route in the overland trade between the two countries.

The two countries also collaborate on defence projects such as the co-production of JF-17 fighter aircraft. Last year, Pakistan signed a deal for Chinese F-22P frigates for its navy. The two navies conducted joint exercises in the Arabian Sea last November. During President Musharraf's visit to Beijing in February, the two countries concluded another framework agreement - aside from the one on energy cooperation - on defence cooperation.

President Musharraf is also expected to hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the SCO meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

It will give him an opportunity to meet Mr. Karzai. The Afghan leader visited Pakistan earlier this year but was unable to meet President Musharraf.

THE HINDU

1 2 JUN 2006

\$600-mn Pak-China defence deal inked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, MAY 23

PAKISTAN has clinched a \$600-million defence deal with China, which includes construction of four F22P frigates for the Pakistani Navy, upgradation of the Karachi dockyard and transfer of technology for indigenous production of modern surface fleet.

The deal has been finalised and the keel for construction of the F-22P frigates would be laid at the Hudong-Zhonghua shipyard in Shanghai this year, chief of Pakistan Navy, Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir, who concluded a week-long visit China yesterday, told the state-run APP.

Under the deal, three frigates would be built in Shanghai and the fourth one would be constructed in Karachi which would also be upgraded to enable Pakistan to build its own fleet of frigates later. Tahir said the first frigate

would be delivered to Pakistan in 2008 and the other three by 2013 along with transfer of technology.

The frigates would be equipped with organic helicopters specially designed for surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles along with numerous associated self-defence systems, he said, adding that the "modalities of design and configuration are at the final stages."

The four Chinese frigates would be in addition to the four Pakistan Navy would be buying from Greece. The deal to buy four naval vessels from Greece was struck during the just concluded visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to Athens.

The frigate deal with China follow the two sides' decision to jointly develop JF-Thunder fighter, which they plan to begin shortly. Also Pakistan Air Force plans to buy new Chinese made J-10 fighters.

24 MAY 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

We have China with us, says Musharraf

America has succeeded in "pocketing" India, says Minister

B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD: As details of India-U.S. deals on the civilian nuclear cooperation and other areas began to sink in, Pakistan on Friday sought to remind its special relationship with China and warned that any effort to project New Delhi as a counter to Beijing could trigger an arms race.

"We have our own options. I mean we have a relationship with the U.S. and we would continue to have it. It is a unipolar world, so the relationship will always be there. But we have a relationship with China as well. I went to China just now and we have a strategic relationship

with China," President Pervez Musharraf told a gathering.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed was direct in his comments.

He said Washington had succeeded in "pocketing" New Delhi. Implied in the comment was the suggestion that the U.S. would bank on India to pursue its strategic interests in the region.

The Minister said Gen. Musharraf would meet Mr. Bush on Saturday. The President would request Mr. Bush to persuade India to settle the "core" issue of Kashmir.

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in a dispatch from

Beijing said the two countries were likely to adopt soon a comprehensive plan in the energy sector, under a Framework Agreement arrived at between the two countries last week.

It said the agreement was inked during Gen. Musharraf's visit and includes development of nuclear-based energy resources. "Such cooperation will be in line with Chinese support that is already being extended to develop Chashma nuclear power plant," the news agency said.

Quoting informed sources, it said the two countries would meet in Islamabad shortly to work out a comprehensive five-year energy strategy.

Strike total

Pakistan observed a complete strike on Friday in response to a call given by the religious parties to protest against the offensive

cartoons on Prophet Muhammad in the western media.

Though the strike is not directly related to the visit of Mr. Bush, the religious parties appear to have deliberately chosen the day to embarrass Gen. Musharraf to protest against his regime's "collaboration" with the U.S.-led coalition in the war against terrorism.

Reports said no untoward incidents took place barring a couple of skirmishes between the police and the protesters.

The degree of success achieved by the religious parties in enforcing a strike is partly an indication of the overwhelming anti-American sentiment particularly on the policies of the Bush Government towards Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran.

However it being Friday, which is a half working day, the alliance perhaps did not require

much mobilisation to enforce the strike. Plus since the explosion in Karachi on Thursday, leading to death of an American diplomat, is still fresh in mind, people perhaps did not want to take any risk.

Bush targeted

At the rallies organised in different parts, the Muttahida Majlis-e-Arwal (MMA) leaders targeted Mr. Bush and accused Gen. Musharraf of implementing his agenda in the region.

The largest protest took place in Multan in the Punjab province where the Opposition leader in the National Assembly, Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, addressed a 10,000-strong crowd.

He told the protesters Mr. Bush's visit was aimed at "enslaving the Pakistani nation and rewarding General Musharraf for his patriotism to America."

Pak offers China use of port

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Military ties

BEIJING, Feb. 22. — Pakistan is keen to act as a transit point for China by giving access to the strategic Gwadar port on the Arabian sea to tap the Central Asian markets and vast energy sources, visiting president Gen Pervez Musharraf said.

Pakistan president Gen. Pervez Musharraf will inspect the multi-purpose JF-17 (Thunder) fighter jet, jointly manufactured by China and Pakistan, during his visit to south-west China's Sichuan province. "We are interested in setting up a trade and energy corridor for China," he was quoted as saying by the state-run *China Daily*.

Gen. Musharraf, who is on a five-day state visit to China, was referring to Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea coast in Pakistan's Baluchistan province through which crude oil imports from Iran and Africa can be transported to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region by land.

The maiden flight of JF17 was held on September 3, 2003, in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. Sources also did not rule out a demonstration flight of the JF17 for the visiting Pakistani general.

The JF17 fighter jet project, which China and Pakistan jointly funded, started in 1999 when CATIC signed a co-operative agreement with the

BEIJING, Feb. 22. — China and Pakistan today decided to further strengthen defence ties which have achieved "fruitful" results. The decision to step up Sino-Pakistani military ties was taken during a meeting between visiting president Gen. Pervez Musharraf and Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Cao Gangchuan here. The armed forces of China and Pakistan have kept close contacts and achieved "fruitful" cooperation over the years, Mr Cao said. He told Gen. Musharraf that China-Pakistan friendship is firmly rooted in hearts of the peoples of the two countries. — PTI

Pakistan Air Force.

Since then, CATIC, Chengdu Aircraft Industry Company, Chengdu Aircraft Designing Institute and the Pakistan Air Force have been developing the fighter jet. The Pakistan president, who discussed the proposal with top Chinese leaders here, said the route on which a feasibility study is being conducted is a shortcut compared with the one via the Straits of Malacca.

The Gwadar port is strategically located as it is quite near the Strait of Hormuz, through which 40 per cent of the world's oil passes, he noted.

China contributed about USD 200 million for construction of Gwadar port's first phase, which was completed last April when premier Mr Wen Jiabao visited Pakistan.

11 3 2005

THE STATESMAN

Missile test breaks ice as Mush salutes Beijing

Pakistan Seems To Have Sent Its Main Weapons Supplier A Clear Signal

By Saibal Dasgupta/TNN

Beijing: Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has begun his five-day tour of China on an unexpected note. He is talking to Chinese leaders in Beijing, including President Hu Jintao, in the backdrop of Pakistan test firing a nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface missile.

The timing of the test firing—around the time Gen Musharraf landed in Beijing on Sunday—has given an entirely unexpected dimension to the agenda for the China-Pak talks.

China is Pakistan's main weapons supplier and has been assisting the latter in building a nuclear power plant. This is the second such project in Pakistan to be built with Chinese support.

Both countries have publicly held the view that the Chinese support is restricted to the peaceful use of nuclear energy by Pakistan.

But Pakistan has now sent out a significant signal about the changing dynamics in the relationship of the two countries by carrying out the missile test immediately before Musharraf was due to meet Hu.

The United States has been op-



posed to Chinese support to Pakistan in the nuclear field.

It is not clear how the United States will react to the emerging situation. Musharraf is also expected to discuss the combined anti-terrorism efforts between the two countries, and work towards promoting closer cooperation between the two countries in nuclear energy, defence, transport and commercial development, sources said.

The recent killing of three Chinese engineers in Pakistan was expected to affect the course of talks between the Pakistani President and Chinese leaders.

but the test firing seems to have changed the mood.

Reports from Islamabad indicate that the Pakistani President is confident that the recent killing of three Chinese engineers in Pakistan would not affect the relationship between the two countries.

Pakistan's government is determined to punish the attackers, and their objectives will not be achieved, he said.

Musharraf will also attend a series of events celebrating the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

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Pakistan in talks with China for eight nuclear reactors

REUTERS

LONDON, JANUARY 3

PAKISTAN is in talks to buy up to eight nuclear power reactors from China for between \$7 billion and \$10 billion, the *Financial Times* reported on Tuesday.

Construction on the plants could start by 2015 and end 10 years later, the newspaper said, quoting a senior Pakistani official.

The new power stations would add 3,600-4,800 megawatts of capacity using a series of 600 megawatt reactors, according to the report.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz formally launched construction last week of a Chinese-supplied nuclear plant at Chashma in the eastern province of Punjab. In September, Pakistan called on the US and other Western countries for help in developing civilian nuclear technology that would meet

its growing energy needs. However, there have been international concerns over Pakistan's activities since its top nuclear scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan, admitted in 2004 selling nuclear technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

Khan, once revered as the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, ran a nuclear black market supplying technology to make highly enriched uranium for nuclear bombs.

Pakistan has said its civilian nuclear facilities are run under International Atomic Energy safeguards and it is ready to accept such measures if additional sites are built.

Pakistan built its first nuclear power station in 1972 with Canadian help. But Western countries—under pressure from the US—later halted cooperation amid suspicions that Pakistan was secretly developing nuclear weapons.