

SURGICAL STRIKES
5 things that led India to do that

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised hopes of a new era in relations with Islamabad when he paid a surprise Christmas Day visit to his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif. In the months since, relations between the nuclear-armed archrivals have unravelled, culminating in the Indian military's strikes this week on militants along the de-facto border with Pakistan in Kashmir that prompted a furious response from Pakistan.

PATHANKOT ATTACK

Just days after Modi's holiday visit to Sharif, militants from across the Pakistan border launched an audacious attack on an Indian airforce base that left seven soldiers dead. India blamed the raid at Pathankot in Punjab state on a Pakistan-based militant group that also staged a 2001 attack on the Indian parliament. Sharif promised Modi to take action against those responsible. But Pakistan's response was not that India hoped for. Modi even invited Pak investigators in India for probe and to gather information. Analysts says India's cooperative overtures were hit a wall on the Pakistani side.

DEADLY KASHMIR PROTESTS

Indian-administered Kashmir erupted in violence in July after a popular militant leader was killed in a gun battle with security forces. India slapped a curfew on the restive Himalayan region and internet and mobile phone services were snapped. But residents continued to take to the streets to protest Indian rule, with more than 80 people killed in the ongoing unrest. Sharif declared the militant commander as a martyr and ordered all the government institutions to launch a campaign to highlight the issue globally, further stoking tensions between the neighbours.

URI ARMY BASE ATTACK

On September 18, militants staged a predawn raid on an Indian army base near the de-facto border dividing Kashmir, killing 19 soldiers -- the worst such attack in 14 years. India blamed the attack at Uri on Pakistani-based militants, the same group blamed for the Pathankot attack. Modi vowed to punish those responsible, while also launching a diplomatic drive to isolate Pakistan, including by pulling out of a regional summit, in a major snub to Pakistan.

PUBLIC PRESSURE

The Uri attack triggered public fury and demands for military action, including from senior members of Modi's own party. Modi, given his credentials as a strong Hindu nationalist, has been critical of the previous Congress rule for not taking serious action over what he called Pakistani aggression. The pressure mounted as his goodwill postures to Sharif backfired with the two attacks on Indian soil. Besides this, Modi was left with no choice because of what the army said was substantial intelligence of militants preparing to attack Indian towns and cities before the surgical strikes.

INTERNATIONAL OPINION

India may have also been counting on the fact that Modi enjoys a closer relationship with Washington than his predecessors, and therefore international reaction to India's strikes might be muted. The West has been very critical of Pakistan's stance to fight terror as terrorism spread globally due to Islamic state attacks on Europe, US and other parts of the world.

SOURCE: AFP



Villagers sit inside a vehicle as they evacuate their village near the border with Pakistan in Akhnoor, northwest of Jammu, India, yesterday. Inset, Indian army soldiers stand on a tank transporter outside an army camp in the Jammu region. UN chief Ban Ki-moon yesterday offered to mediate between the neighbours following an alarming spike in tensions. PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS



Pakistan bans all India TV channels

PTI, New Delhi

Two days after India's movie industry body banned Pakistani artists and technicians from working in India, Islamabad yesterday banned the broadcast of all Indian television channels in Pakistan, ANI reported.

Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) said strict action would be taken if TV channels and distribution networks failed to implement the ban after October 15. It said it has been receiving complaints that several local private channels were showing Indian talk shows, reality programmes and dramas without permission.

To protest the September 19 terror attacks in Uri, the Indian Motion Picture Producers Association (IMPPA) on Thursday passed a resolution banning Pakistani actors and technicians from working in India until relations between the two countries returned to normal.

In retaliation, Pakistani cinemas have already stopped screening Indian films in "solidarity" with the country's armed forces. Nadeem Mandviwalla, whose Mandviwalla Entertainment runs eight cinemas in Karachi and in the capital, Islamabad, told Reuters on Friday that the ban in Pakistan was in response to the IMPPA ban.

Since the terror attacks on Uri+ - that killed 19 soldiers - a few political parties and some other organizations warned Pakistani artists in India against staying on. Last week, the Maratha chauvinist Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) asked actors and artistes from Pakistan, including Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan, to leave India. It issued a 48-hour deadline, after which it said the party would "push them out".

In India, Salman and others have spoken against banning Pakistani artists.

China snubs India again

Foils move to ban JeM chief at UN; blocks Brahmaputra tributary for dam

AGENCIES

China yesterday blocked a UN move to ban Pakistan based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar in an apparent snub to India as tension rises between New Delhi and Islamabad over a cross-border attack.

China extended its technical "hold" on JeM chief Masood Azhar for a further three months in the UN Security Council's 1267 committee. JeM is blamed for many attacks in India including recent attacks in military bases in Pathankot and Uri. India also holds it responsible for the 2001 parliament attack in New Delhi.

The resolution to ban him was co-sponsored by the US, UK, France and India, with 14 other countries acquiescing.

In the past six months, India has lobbied with China to lift the hold. It has had absolutely no effect. In response to India's efforts, China has continued to ask India to "talk directly" to Pakistan about it.

China's action comes after India admitted to carrying out strikes against terrorist launching pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, across the Line of Control.

China trod a careful middle path while reacting to the strikes, calling for restraint and de-escalation of tensions between India

and Pakistan. However, with the extension of the hold against Azhar though, China has signalled full support to Pakistan and its terror proxies, reported Indian media.

The report came after China blocked a tributary of the Brahmaputra river in Tibet as part of the construction of its "most expensive" hydro project, which could cause concern in India as it may impact water flows into the lower riparian countries.

The Lhalo project on the Xiabuqu river, a tributary of the Yarlung Zangbo (the Tibetan name for Brahmaputra), in Xigaze in Tibet involves an investment of 4.95 billion yuan (\$740 million). Zhang Yunbao, head of the project's administration bureau was quoted as saying by Chinese state-run Xinhua



Lhalo project on Brahmaputra.

news agency yesterday. It is not clear yet what impact the blockade of the river will have on the flow of water from the Brahmaputra into the lower riparian countries like India and Bangladesh as a result, it said.

The blockade of the Brahmaputra river tributary comes at a time when India's reported decision to suspend talks with Pakistan under Indus Water Treaty as part of its efforts to hit back at Pakistan in the aftermath of the Uri attack.

Panic as Iran mortar shells hits Pakistan

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Iran reportedly fired mortar shells into Pakistan's Balochistan province on Wednesday, causing panic among the local population.

"Mortar shells fired by Iranian border guards landed in the district of Panjgoor," a provincial government official said, according to The Indian Express.

Two of the shells landed near a Frontier Corps checkpoint while the third landed at a place called Killi Karim Dad. No loss of life or damage was reported following the shelling.

Pakistani security forces have reportedly tightened security at the border following the shelling. Authorities in Islamabad have raised the issue with Iranian officials.

Pakistan shares a 559 mile border with Iran, which has accused Islamabad of allowing terror groups to use its territory to launch strikes across the border.

The shelling came hours before India claims it sent troops into Pakistan to carry out "surgical strikes" against suspected militants.

TWITTER, SEX TAPES AND MARITAL ISSUES

US race hits new low

AGENCIES

Slime and sleaze has bubbled to the top in the most revolting US Presidential election in living memory courtesy Republican Party nominee Donald Trump.

The billionaire entertainment mogul's forays into smut and smudge about a former Latina beauty contestant has resulted in a blowback about his own peccadillos, even as he has threatened to raise marital issues involving his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton and her spouse in the second presidential debate.

"She's nasty," Trump told The New York Times on an interview published Friday night, "but I can be nastier than she ever can be."

"Hillary Clinton was married to the single greatest abuser of women in the history of politics," Trump told The Times. "Hillary was an enabler, and she attacked the women who Bill Clinton mistreated afterward. I think it's a serious problem for them, and it's something that I'm considering talking about more in the near future."

He also told the Times that his own marriage history does not prevent him from being able to make attacks against the Clintons' relationship. Trump has been married three times, and his first marriage fell apart after he carried on an affair with Marla Maples.

And when asked specifically about his affair with Maples, he responded, "I don't talk about it. I wasn't president of the United States."

That came after, much of America is still in shock after Trump came unhinged in a series of 3am tweets casting aspersions on a former Miss Universe who he had termed as Miss Piggy (because she was overweight), including urging them to "check out sex tape and her past."

The exhortation only resulted in his critics and rivals checking out Trump's own past, to discover that had told a radio show of watching the infamous pornographic video of billionaire heiress Paris Hilton, and finding her attractive when she was only 12. Worse followed: The tabloid media, and even some of his supporters, went catatonic after it emerged that Trump himself appeared in a soft-porn Playboy video in 2000.

The Democrat said that Trump's overnight attacks on the former beauty queen a new evidence that he lacks the steadiness to be president. The Machado issue helps Clinton with both women and Hispanics, key voters in a battleground state like Florida.

The latest polls show Clinton starting to regain the lead after she was in a deadheat with Trump on the eve of the first debate. Clinton pulled ahead of Trump by three percentage points in a Fox News national poll out Friday, besting the billionaire 43 to 40 percent.

The nationwide results come as Clinton's numbers improve in a number of critical swing states including Florida and Michigan.



Trump with Machado in 1996



Barrel bombs hit Aleppo hospital again

AFP, Aleppo

The largest hospital in rebel-held east Aleppo was bombed yesterday for the second time in days as Syrian government forces pressed a Russian-backed offensive to retake the entire city.

The offensive, announced on September 22, has seen dozens of civilians killed and residential buildings flattened in the east, where an estimated 250,000 people live under government siege.

The Doctors Without Borders (MSF) medical charity warned Friday that "bombs are raining" over the city, turning east Aleppo into "a giant kill box."

As the situation for civilians grows increasingly dire, the biggest hospital in east Aleppo was hit by two barrel bombs yesterday, the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) medical, organisation that supports it said.

M10 had already been hit on Wednesday along with the second-largest hospital in the area, known as M2, in what UN chief Ban Ki-moon denounced as "war crimes."

After the government launched its offensive last month, more than 220 people have been killed by bombardment on Aleppo's east, including six children and 12 other civilians on Friday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

'I lost the argument'

Leaked audio shows a diplomat's inability to end Syria crisis

AGENCIES

Even world's top diplomat can sometimes feel helpless. In a leaked audio released by the New York Times, Kerry is heard lamenting to a group of Syrian civilians last week in New York that his call for US action against Assad's government fell on deaf ears.

The 40-minute discussion, on the sidelines of last week's UN General Assembly, provides a glimpse of Kerry's frustration with his inability to end the Syrian crisis. He veered between voicing sympathy for the Syrians' frustration with United States policy and trying to justify it.

The conversation took place days after a brief cease-fire he had spearheaded crumbled, and as his Russian counterpart rejected outright his new proposal to stop the bombing of Aleppo.

"I think you're looking at three people, four people in the administration who have all argued for use of force, and I lost the argument," he tells the group. "I've argued for the use of force ... but things evolved into a different process."

State Department spokesman John Kirby did not deny that the recording is authentic. It has been widely reported that Kerry pushed President Barack Obama to take a more robust path in Syria, to give teeth to international efforts to force Assad aside and end a civil war now heading into its sixth year.

In the meeting, the Syrian rebel delegation pressed Kerry politely but relentlessly on what they saw as contradictions in American policy. Their comments crystal-

lised the widespread sense of betrayal even among the Syrians most attractive to Washington as potential partners, civilians pushing for pluralistic democracy.

One woman, Marcell Shehwaro, demanded "the bottom line," asking "how many Syrians" had to be killed to prompt serious action.

"Look, I get it," Kerry tells the incredulous Syrians. But he said any further American effort to arm rebels or join the fight could backfire.

"The problem is that, you know, you get, quote, enforcers in there and then everybody ups the ante, right? Russia puts in more, Iran puts in more; Hezbollah is there more and Nusra is more; and Saudi Arabia and Turkey put all their surrogate money in, and you all are destroyed."

At one point, Kerry astonished the Syrians at the table when he suggested that they should participate in elections that include President Bashar al-Assad, five years after Obama demanded that he step down.

Kerry described the election saying it would be set up by Western and regional powers, and the United Nations, "under the strictest standards." But the Syrians were distraught with the idea. They again demanded a more direct American role.

"So you think the only solution is for somebody to come in and get rid of Assad?" Kerry asked.

"Yes," answered back Shehwaro. "Who's that going to be?" Kerry asked. "Who's going to do that?"

SYRIA CRISIS

ROAD SHOW FOR INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF RUNNER AUTOMOBILES LIMITED

All the Eligible Investors [as defined in Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Public Issue) Rules 2015] are invited to participate in the Road Show for the proposed IPO of Runner Automobiles Limited under Book Building Method

ELIGIBLE INVESTORS

- Merchant Bankers and Portfolio Managers
- Asset Management Companies
- Mutual Funds
- Stock Dealers
- Banks
- Financial Institutions
- Insurance Companies
- Alternative Investment Fund Managers
- Alternative Investment Funds
- Foreign Investors who have portfolio investments in capital market of Bangladesh through any Securities Custodian registered with BSEC
- Recognized Pension Funds and Provident Funds and
- Other Institutions as approved by BSEC

SCHEDULE OF ROAD SHOW

Date : **Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

Time : **7:00 PM**

Venue : **Grand Ballroom**

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka

107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue

Dhaka 1215

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