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General Thoughts

The magazine's analysis of the current turmoil in Pakistan and India's role in the situation provided for an excellent read ("End Game", September 17). Though change of guard has never been smooth in Pakistan, it is hoped that sanity will prevail over Musharraf.

G.M. RAMA RAO, *Visakhapatnam*

Musharraf being replaced by either Benazir Bhutto or Nawaz Sharif does not seem to be a probability in a country long accustomed to the iron rod of a dictator.

J. N. BHARTIYA, *Hyderabad*

One should not write off Musharraf yet. Considering the manner in which he came to power and sent his opponents—Sharif and Bhutto—into exile, one should not be surprised if he bounces back.

VIDYA SAGAR, *Delhi*

This is the most suitable time in Pakistan's chequered history for it to be brought back on track. The country has to shatter the unholy alliance of mullahs and the radical groups, which is an arduous task. The writing on the wall is clear: get united to keep above chaos and disorder.

ARVIND K. PANDEY, *Allahabad*

It is the politicians in Pakistan and Bangladesh who are to blame for the mess the countries are in. In their zeal to finish off their opponents, the leaders create conditions in which ambitious generals like Musharraf are able to easily cease power.

M.M. GURBAXANI, *Bangalore*

If Musharraf indeed wants to prove himself as Pakistan's saviour, he should not fight shy of facing the polls. But then without the support of the army, a defanged Musharraf might have to contend with the possibility of history repeat-



"Time Up?",
September 17, 2007

"Democratic countries like India and the US need to rethink about their support to the Musharraf regime. The dictator must step down."

D.B.N. MURTHY, *Bangalore*

ing itself and the deposed Sharif having the last laugh.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Left with Contradictions

The US has never claimed a chunk of Indian territory *a la* China's claim of Arunachal Pradesh or never usurped a portion of India like China's occupation of the Aksai Chin ("The Karat Dogma", September 17). Yet, the Marxists take everything from the US to be detrimental to our interests. Communism, thy name is paradox.

ASOKE C. BANERJEE, *Kolkata*

Crime—a New Business

Kidnapping is fast assuming the character of an industry not unlike invest-

LIVING ON THE EDGE

KALYAN CHAKRAVORTY

Excerpts from Naipaul's book were unpalatable for any self-respecting Indian. He has exposed the narrowness of his mental horizon by deriding everything at variance with his own practices and viewpoint.

ARUN BALA, *Bathinda*



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ing in stocks ("The Missing Kids", September 17). One's only hope lies in Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's reputation for good governance and his ability to in-

ject fear in the minds of hardened criminals who seem to enjoy political patronage and police protection.

H.R.B.SATYANARAYANA, *Mysore*

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STATESCAN: ANDHRA PRADESH



A PRABHAKAR RAO

The Wild Goose Chase

Andhra Pradesh's former Congress committee president K. Keshava Rao is in an unenviable position today. His son Venkat Rao is being questioned in connection with the death of one of his friends B. Prashanth Reddy at his house under mysterious circumstances. Venkat claims Reddy had committed suicide but he does not have any evidence to prove this. The case has been handed over to the state crime department, reports Senior Editor Amarnath K. Menon.

WEB FEATURE: BIHAR MOB JUSTICE

The Law of the Hand

Bihar has adopted a new justice system. Three such cases have been seen in the past week. Latest being irate villagers lynching 10 alleged thieves to death. Reports Amitabh Srivastava.



RANJAN RAHI

WEB EXTRA: STUDENT POLITICS IN UP

Elections Vetoed

Student politics in the Lucknow University has taken new forms with the government's decision to ban college elections. Mayawati stands firm, Assistant Editor Subhash Mishra.



MANEESH AGNIHOTRI