

give up my main objective: the big ramp line on the left side of the wall. Instead, Wilson and I tried the right buttress, spending a day on it. Progress was poor. Wilson had to leave on October 1. While Perkins and Murphy were on the wall, I made a circumambulation around Cerro Kishtwar via the Muni La and Chomochar Glaciers. The peak is hard on all sides and the northeast face will give a superb mixed climb.

ANDREW MACNAE, *England*

Hagshu Attempt. Britons John Barry and John Romo set up their Base Camp on September 12 in bad weather. They attempted the peak by the north gully but bad weather defeated them. (Apparently, the first ascent of Hagshu was made by Poles several years ago.)

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

Kun and Nun. An Italian expedition reached the summit of Kun (7087 meters, 23,252 feet) on August 16. Base Camp and Camps I, II and III were at 4000, 5500, 6100 and 6350 meters. The summit climbers were Santino Calegari, Battista Scanabessi, Mario Meli and Andrea Giovanzana. A French team led by Daniel Pertraud lost a member on Kun, Michela Cisotti, an Italian member of the team. She slipped and fell at about 6800 meters. The others reached the summit via the east ridge on August 17 and 18. An international expedition of police from India (Indo-Tibetan Border Police), Britain and New Zealand climbed Nun (7135 meters, 23,410 feet) by the east ridge. On August 23, New Zealander Steve Bruce, Britons Trevor Barnes, Jonathan Wakefield, Indians Pasang Lhakpa Sherpa, Nima Wangchuk, Khem Raj, Mohan Singh and two other Indians reached the summit. Germans under the leadership of Peter Metzger climbed Nun via the east ridge on September 9, 11 and 19. Nun was climbed on August 14 on the route from the west by three members of a Japanese expedition led by Hisashi Nakaoka: Yasuhiro Hashimoto, Masakatsu Tamura and Hiroaki Nakayama. An Indian team led by Harish Kumar Arya climbed Nun via the north face. Norwegians led by Aass Morten reached 7000 meters on July 19 from the west but were stopped by steep ice. A Spanish expedition led by Juan Orellana which attempted the western route of Nun also failed to get to the summit. A French group led by Michel Cormier was unsuccessful on the west ridge.

India—Eastern Karakoram

Chong Kumdan and Other Peaks. Our expedition consisted of Indians Muslim H. Contractor, Bhupesh Ashar, Vijay Kothari, Dhiren Pania, Ajay Tambe and me as leader, Britons David Wilkinson as British leader, Paul Nunn, Lindsay Griffin, John Porter, Neil McAdie and Dr. William Church, liaison officer Captain Arun Pandey and six porters. After completing preparations and

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Photo by Harish Kapadia

**Mamostong Kangri's north face seen
from Chong Kumdan group.**



permissions, we left Leh on July 9 and started with 25 mules from Sasoma on the 12th. The approach to Base Camp was over the Saser La (5395 meters) and then north up the Shyok River. The Saser La was easy, but we crossed the Aq Tash and Thangman Nalas with some difficulty. Rock slabs below the Kumdam Plain were not fit for passage by loaded mules. We ferried loads and finally cajoled the mules up the Chong Kumdan Glacier moraine to within two-hours' walk of our proposed Base Camp. This we established at 5100 meters on July 18 on the only green spot beside the glacier near the junction with the Chogam I Glacier. This was as scheduled, which was remarkable as other expeditions have been delayed by bureaucratic and terrain hurdles. From July 19 to 21, loads were ferried to Base Camp. The main glacier was reconnoitered and above the junction of the Chogam II Glacier, Polu Camp was set up at 5450 meters. Contractor and I explored the western head of the glacier towards Nup Col (6250 meters). Porter and McAdie went up the Chogam III Glacier and explored the northwestern approaches to Chong Kumdam I. The early climbs completed the necessary knowledge of the region. Camps I and II were placed at 5900 and 6300 meters. The following first ascents were made. *Chong Kumdan V* (c. 6520 meters, 21,391 feet): This peak lies on the southeast ridge of Chong Kumdan I and rose above Base Camp. Wilkinson, Church, Griffin, Nunn, Porter, McAdie, Tambe and Ashar reached the summit in a two-day push on July 21 and 22 via the southeast ridge on ice and mixed terrain. *Chong Kumdan IV* (c. 6520 meters, 21,391 feet): Wilkinson and Church traversed the Chogam I Glacier to the foot of the peak on the northeast ridge of Chong Kumdan I on steep ice and mixed ground. They reached the summit on July 26. *Kichik Kumdan* (c. 6640 meters, 21,785 feet): This dome-shaped peak had a surprise in store for us. The peak was of hard ice and the north side had a continuous cornice. Nunn and Griffin climbed the steep south face to the east ridge on July 30. Keeping a few meters below the cornice, they had to traverse on ice constantly. After reaching the summit, they continued to the west but the difficulties did not cease. After six hours of ice work they got to the west col and returned to their bivouac exhausted. A second attempt on August 4 failed. *Chang Col* (c. 6500 meters, 21,326 feet): Contractor, porters Pasang Bodh and Tikam Ram, and I reached this high col between Chong Kumdan I and Kichik Kumdam on August 2. *Chong Kumdan I* (7071 meters, 23,200 feet): Wilkinson, Church, Porter and McAdie climbed this prized peak on August 4. It had been reconnoitered from all angles and finally the four were established near the Chang Col bergschrund. They left at three A.M. to climb the west face with head-torches in extreme cold. After sustained difficulties on ice and hard snow, they turned north onto a ramp where they had to guard against loose stones. They reached the northwest ridge at 6800 meters and climbed the ridge unroped to get to the top at ten A.M. The peak was later attempted on August 14 by Griffin and Nunn, but sickness of the latter stopped them at 6640 meters. The North and Central Kumdam Glaciers are major branches of the main glacier and lead to the northeast and northwest respectively. There was no history of visitors until we entered from August 8 to 16. We were stopped by two days of bad weather at Camp I North. Finally, from

Camp II North, *Laknis* (6235 meters, 20,456 feet) was climbed by the long southeast ridge. After many ups and downs and false summits, Wilkinson, Church, McAdie, Ashar, Contractor, Tambe, porter Pasang Bodh and I completed the ascent on the exposed ridge of rotten rock on August 12. *Chong Ibex Col* (c. 6000 meters, 19,685 feet): At the head of the Central Kumdan Glacier on the north ridge coming from Chong Kumdan II, it links the Kumdan Glacier system with the Terong Glacier, which we had explored in 1985. Ashar, Contractor and Pasang Bodh reached it on August 14 from Camp II North. *Kumdan Terong* (6456 meters, 21,182 feet): Situated on the watershed between the Central and North Kumdan Glaciers, it overlooks the Terong and Siachen Glacier peaks. Approaching from the south, Ashar, Contractor and Pasang Bodh reached the summit on August 15. *Landay* (6170 meters, 20,243 feet): On August 16, the last first ascent was made by McAdie and Church. They crossed the broken main glacier from Base Camp to a narrow valley to the southeast. The next day, they climbed the steep north ridge. *Chong Kumdan III* (6670 meters, 21,884 feet) was attempted unsuccessfully by Contractor, Pasang Bodh and Tikam Ram on August 3. From the col between the peak and Kichik Kumdan, they tried a route from the north first and then the northeast ridge. Loose powdery snow and two crevasses made the ascent too dangerous. Three second ascents were also made on the northern ridge of the Chogam I Glacier. All had been climbed by us in 1989. *Chogam* (6250 meters, 20,506 feet): August 4 by Kothari, Pania and porters Yog Raj Buruwa and Prakash Chand; August 7 by Captain Pandey, Tambe and Ashar; August 15 by Wilkinson, porters Tikam Ram Thakur, Tikam Ram and me; August 16 by Griffin. *Stos* (6005 meters, 19,702 feet): August 7 by Ashar; August 16 by Griffin. *Skyang* (5770 meters, 18,931 feet): August 17 by Wilkinson, Nunn, Griffin, porters Prakash Chand and Tikam Ram and me. By August 24, we were at Sasoma and were back at Leh on August 26. Excellent cooperation and friendship between all team members and porters made this the happiest international expedition in recent years.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

Saser Kangri II, West Peak. The second ascent of the west peak of Saser Kangri II (7518 meters, 24,766 feet) was made by an Indian expedition led by Heera Lohia. They climbed the west face, the first ascent having been made in 1985 by the northwest ridge. On October 6, Wangchuk Gyalchen and Pasang Sherpa reached the summit. On an earlier attempt, on October 1, Fateh Chand, an instructor at the Western Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Manali, was taken ill with high-altitude sickness and died.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

Pakistan

K2. This remarkable climb made by Pierre Beghin and Christophe Profit, which began on the Pakistani side and continued up the northwest ridge and north face in China, is described in a complete article in this *Journal*.