

AFFAIRS OF HEART

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From Pakistan with hope

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NEW DELHI: This one is for those who believe that hearts can be mended and political borders blurred with love. And that is what these two boys from Pakistan who made their way to a private hospital here in the Capital learnt.

Though India is not home, it isn't an "aggressive neighbour" either for the two boys who are here to get a bit of work done on their ailing hearts. Sami and Abu Baker from Pakistan were diagnosed with tetralogy of fallot -- a condition that indicates a hole in the heart and narrowing of the major artery supplying blood to the lungs. Both the children were blue when they were born and this discoloration increased with age. Over the past few months they had frequent episodes of deep bluish discoloration, difficulty in breathing and often fell unconscious. Realising the urgency of the situation and understanding that



ALL'S WELL: *Sardar Khan of Pakistan kisses his son Sami who recently underwent free cardiac surgery at Max Heart & Vascular Institute in New Delhi.*

-PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

their parents would not be able to pay for their treatment, Rotary Club Lahore and Faridabad came to their rescue and arranged for their medical care and surgery at the Max Heart and Vascular Institute at Saket in New Delhi.

"The children had to be operated upon urgently, surgery for which required advanced heart care system comprising experienced paediatric and cardiac care

and this appropriate package was available here. Within two days of complete diagnosis, both the boys were operated upon and the hole in the heart repaired," says the Director (Cardiac Surgery) of Max Heart and Vascular Institute, Anil Bhan.

The hospital, meanwhile, is expecting two more children next week from Pakistan for similar surgery.