

They were followed by mountain guide Wolfgang Neumuller (28) and Dr. Florian Mittermayer (31) on August 26, also in the afternoon.

The weather on the peak during the summit bid remained bad (misty with constant snowfall) during the climb. Alex Goelles (28) finished 200 meters below the summit and had to retreat for fear of frost bite. He was with the second party, which comprised Wolfgang and Dr. Florian. The other two proceeded in bad weather to the top.

Alex said, "The last 300 meters was a steep slope of 40 degrees. The seracs between Camp II and Camp III were also very dangerous and we crossed all the terrain in single file (roped together)."

The group also had two women climbers, Sabine Kraml (25) and Anita Maruna (17), Doctor Roland Maruna's daughter. Sabine reached 6200 meters (Camp II) but came down feeling sick.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

*Pute Towers, Various Ascents.* It was reported that Tom Goodwin and Pete Scott (N.Z.), Johan Gouws (South Africa) and Sam Stacey and Peter Thompson (U.K.) made the first ascent of the Third Tower (5800 m) via a long east-facing gully above the Yain Hisk pasture, followed by the crest of the south ridge. On August 8, they attempted Gutum Talji (ca. 5500 m) to the south of the Yain Hisk Glacier. Goodwin, Gouws and Thompson reached one of several summits. The team also climbed Batokshe (ca. 6000 m) south of Batura II. (*High Mountain Sports* 171)

*Ultrar Sar, First Ascent.* The most significant achievement of the last Karakoram season was the first ascent of the difficult and dangerous Ultrar Sar (7388 m), by the Pakistanis called Ultrar II, and known also as Bojohagur or Bojohagur II. It is the main peak of the two-summit massif of Bojohagur Duanasir situated in the southeast part of the Batura Muztagh, ca. 15 kilometers north of Nagar and ca. 13 kilometers north from the Karakoram Highway. In the last few years it had been renowned as the world's highest still unclimbed mountain.

In July the virgin summit was finally conquered by two separate Japanese expeditions. On July 11 the first ascent was completed by a duo from the Japan Alpine Club Tokai expedition, including the party leader, Akito Yamazaki. The pair climbed alpine-style from the southwest side of the mountain. Sadly, during the descent, the exhausted Yamazaki developed high altitude sickness and died at Camp I on July 19. On July 31 the summit was ascended again, by a Japan Kathmandu Club Expedition led by Ken Takahashi. The climbers fixed 4000 meters of ropes from 5200 meters to 7300 meters. The summit team consisted of the leader and four other members: Masayuki Ando, Ryushi Hoshino, Wataru Saito and Nobuo Tsutsumi. They followed the south ridge.

During the last decade Ultrar Sar had attracted more than 15 expedition from six or seven countries (including Norway in 1993). Their desperate attempts claimed a number of lives. The exploration was initiated in 1986 by a Japanese party, of which Ken Takahashi was a member. This year four parties gained permission to attempt Ultrar Sar: three from Japan (two of them successful) and one Pakistani-Korean. The slightly lower Ultrar West (7329 m) was ascended in 1984 by three climbers from a Japanese expedition.

JOZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik*

*Ultrar Sar, South Ridge, Attempt.* A Pakistan-Korean joint expedition to Ultrar Sar (7388 m) failed on an attempt on the south ridge due to bad weather that lasted 20 days. The expedition—the first of its kind—featured two Pakistani climbers, Hidayat Hussain (deputy leader) and Arifullah Baig. The two reached Camp I at 5600 meters while the Koreans, led by Seo Ki Seok