

VOA News, 1 January 2009

### **Pakistan, India Swap Lists of Nuclear Facilities**

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry says it has swapped a list of nuclear facilities with India, as part of an agreement prohibiting attacks on such installations. The countries have routinely exchanged these lists on the first day of the year since 1992, under an agreement signed two decades ago. Thursday's exchange was carried out as normal, despite tensions from November's deadly attacks in Mumbai by suspected Pakistani militants. On Wednesday, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari told U.S. President George Bush by phone that any Pakistani involved in the attacks would be dealt with sternly.

Hindustan Times, 2 January 2009

### **Pvt firms have to wait to enter N-power biz**

Leading private power producers like Tata Power, Reliance Infrastructure and GVK will have to wait for at least seven to eight years before they are allowed to enter the nuclear power generation business. These companies had announced plans to set up nuclear power projects after the India-US civil nuclear deal was signed on September 6, 2008. Jairam Ramesh, minister of state for power, told Hindustan Times that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the ministry of power have decided to push for partnerships within the public sector to develop nuclear power projects in India. As a result, a major chunk of the targeted nuclear power capacity by 2020 24,000 MW is now expected to come through the public sector route.

The Economic Times, 3 January 2009

### **Indo-US nuclear deal listed as major achievement of Bush regime**

The Indo-US civilian nuclear deal that changed dynamics between the US and India has been listed as one of the major achievements of the Bush presidency. Ahead of the inauguration of US president-elect Barack Obama later this month, the White House has published two documents highlighting US president George W Bush's major achievements in the last eight years. "The United States completed a historic civil nuclear agreement with India, reshaping the relationship between the world's two largest democracies," said one of the documents titled "Highlights of Accomplishments and Results".

The Hindu, 3 January 2009

### **China tested first nuke-bomb for Pak in 1990: US arms expert**

China had tested for Pakistan its first nuclear bomb as early as in 1990, enabling Islamabad to respond within weeks to the Indian atomic tests eight years later, a top US nuclear expert has claimed. "The Chinese did a massive training of Pakistani scientists, brought them to China for lectures, even gave them the design of the CHIC-4 device, which was a weapon that was easy to build a model for export," former US Air Force Secretary Thomas Reed told American news magazine 'US News and World Report'. Reed, who had worked at Livermore National Laboratory as a weapons designer, had co-authored a new book - The Nuclear Express: A Political History of the Bomb and Its Proliferation - with Danny Stillman, the former director of the technical intelligence division at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Wall Street Journal, 3 January 2009

### **Let's Commit to a Nuclear-Free World (Dianne Feinstein)**

When Barack Obama becomes America's 44th president on Jan. 20, he should embrace the vision of a predecessor who declared: "We seek the total elimination one day of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth." That president was Ronald Reagan, and he expressed this ambitious vision in his second inaugural address on

Jan. 21, 1985. It was a remarkable statement from a president who had deployed tactical nuclear missiles in Europe to counter the Soviet Union's fearsome SS-20 missile fleet. President Reagan knew the grave threat nuclear weapons pose to humanity. He never achieved his goal, but President Obama should pick up where he left off.

The Hindu, 3 January 2009

### **Towards a zero-nuclear weapon world (R Rajaraman)**

Nearly two years have passed since American statesmen George Shultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn proposed a programme to free the world of all nuclear weapons. It received fairly wide support in the U.S., the U.K. and Western Europe, and interest in it has been kept alive through a series of conferences on it around the world. But it is yet to result in any concrete action or commitment on the part of any country towards faster arms reduction. Nor has it generated any groundswell of world opinion demanding swift action towards that end. In fairness it must be said that the chances of any nuclear disarmament initiative succeeding are very slim. The vision of a nuclear weapon free world is far from new.

The Times of India, 6 January 2009

### **US nuclear mission to visit India**

The Americans are coming. India is to receive its first commercial nuclear mission after the signing of its historic nuclear deal with the US on October 11, 2008 in Washington. The intent of this visit is to establish an advantage in the projected \$150 billion business potential with India. It is learnt that the US India Business Council (USIBC) and NEI is bringing the largest trade mission ever to visit India over the next few days. While details of the delegations agenda while in India are still under wraps, it is expected that it will meet with senior Indian government officials, the leaders of India's top public-sector undertakings, and senior executive counterparts from Indian companies.

The Hindu, 7 January 2009

### **BHEL to enter nuclear area**

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) has approved a massive expansion programme to enhance its manufacturing capacity to 20,000 MW by 2012 and its foray into nuclear power equipment production such as generators, turbines and nuclear reactors along with joint venture partners. The company has also decided to open an office at Shanghai in China by March to source castings and forgings from China and develop a working relationship with Chinese suppliers. The approval comes close on the heels of doubts raised by sections of the Power Ministry over the ability of BHEL to fulfil its obligations in view of the massive capacity addition programme during the XI Plan.

Hindustan Times, 8 January 2009

### **India in talks to buy US anti-nuclear missile shields: report**

India is in preliminary talks to buy American missile shield systems to protect against a nuclear threat, a British newspaper reported quoting US officials in New Delhi. Although India's need for greater protection against threats emanating from Pakistan and other volatile countries in the region was highlighted in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks, the talks were reported to have taken place over the last two years. Officials at the US embassy in New Delhi told the Financial Times that talks so far have been mainly at the technical level. They said US defence officials had conducted computer simulations with their Indian counterparts to demonstrate the capabilities of such technology.

International Herald Tribune, 9 January 2009

**NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT I: The key is how to count the nukes**

In salary negotiations in the business world, there's a simple axiom: The first person who mentions a number loses. The same is true for arms-control negotiations. When one side tips its hand by revealing its numerical goal, the other side has a distinct advantage. In that sense, the proposal of Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn for a nuclear "zero option" is a loser. But even if these four statesmen's crusade for a nuclear-free world employs questionable tactics, it can help the United States, Russia and other nuclear powers reframe the debate about their nuclear arsenals. In that sense, it could still turn out to be a winner.

International Herald Tribune, 9 January 2009

**NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT II: Toward a nuclear-free world: a German view**

In 2007 Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn issued an appeal for a world free of nuclear weapons. Their knowledge and experience as respected secretaries of state and defense and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee under Republican and Democrat administrations gave their concerns about the growing nuclear threat special weight. Being realists, they knew that the abolition of all nuclear weapons could only be achieved gradually, and therefore they proposed urgent practical steps aimed at realizing this vision. The appeal met with broad approval and prominent support in the United States; as far as we know no supporting decisions by European governments were issued...

International Herald Tribune, 9 January 2009

**Obama's worst Pakistan nightmare**

To get to the headquarters of the Strategic Plans Division, the branch of the Pakistani government charged with keeping the country's growing arsenal of nuclear weapons away from insurgents trying to overrun the country, you must drive down a rutted, debris-strewn road at the edge of the Islamabad airport, dodging stray dogs and piles of uncollected garbage. Just past a small traffic circle, a tan stone gateway is manned by a lone, bored-looking guard loosely holding a rusting rifle. The gateway marks the entry to Chaklala Garrison, an old British cantonment from the days when officers of the Raj escaped the heat of Delhi for the cooler hills on the approaches to Afghanistan...

The New York Times, 10 January 2009

**U.S. Rejected Aid for Israeli Raid on Iranian Nuclear Site**

President Bush deflected a secret request by Israel last year for specialized bunker-busting bombs it wanted for an attack on Iran's main nuclear complex and told the Israelis that he had authorized new covert action intended to sabotage Iran's suspected effort to develop nuclear weapons, according to senior American and foreign officials. White House officials never conclusively determined whether Israel had decided to go ahead with the strike before the United States protested, or whether Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel was trying to goad the White House into more decisive action before Mr. Bush left office. But the Bush administration was particularly alarmed by an Israeli request to fly over Iraq to reach Iran's major nuclear complex at Natanz, where the country's only known uranium enrichment plant is located.

The Washington Post, 11 January 2009

**Iran Using Fronts to Get Bomb Parts From U.S.**

The Iranian businessman was looking for high-quality American electronics, but he

had to act stealthily: The special parts he coveted were denied to Iranians, especially those seeking to make roadside bombs to kill U.S. troops in Iraq. With a few e-mails, the problem was solved. A friendly Malaysian importer would buy the parts from a company in Linden, N.J., and forward them to Iran. All that was left was coming up with a fake name for the invoice. Perhaps a Malaysian engineering school? Of course, you can use any other company as end-user that you think is better than this," the Iranian businessman, Ahmad Rahzad, wrote in an e-mail dated March 8, 2007...

Los Angeles Times, 12 January 2009

### **The cost of nuclear security (Stephen I. Schwartz and Deepti Choubey)**

Seven years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, at a time when government officials and outside experts are expressing growing concern about the prospect of a nuclear 9/11, few members of Congress know how much the United States spends on nuclear security or where the money goes. When Secretary of State-designate Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Energy-designate Steven Chu head into their Senate confirmation hearings Tuesday, they'll face difficult questions about how the U.S. is addressing nuclear dangers. Although most lawmakers would rank nuclear threats at the top of their list of national security concerns, they won't have sufficient or comprehensive information to work with. But Congress can fix this. Our report, the first public examination of open-source data, shows that the U.S. spent at least \$52.4 billion on nuclear weapons and programs in fiscal 2008.

The Economic Times, 12 January 2009

### **India requires Rs.1.5 lakh crore for meeting nuclear power targets**

India will have to invest Rs.1.5 trillion in nuclear power plants if it is to meet an ambitious target of generating 63,000 mega watts (MW) from nuclear power by the year 2020, a leading parliamentarian said Monday. "India would require Rs.1.5 lakh crore (Rs.1.5 trillion) if we are to meet the target of generating 63,000 MW using nuclear power. This is possible only through the public private partnership route," said Abhishek M. Singhvi, member of parliament and chairman, India-US Forum of Parliamentarians. "This requires amendment to the Atomic Energy Act and new legislation like the Liability Act," he said while addressing a US delegation of civil nuclear power companies which is here to expedite talks with the government and understand policy issues.

The Economic Times, 12 January 2009

### **AEC wants 10-year tax rebate for nuclear power plants beyond 2010**

Nuclear power plants that come into operation after 2010 may still be able to enjoy ten-year tax holiday if a recommendation by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) is accepted by the government. AEC has sought tax relief on income from power generation business to be extended to companies that start nuclear power generation before March 31, 2020. As per the current provision in the Income-Tax Act, income arising from power generation is exempt from tax for 10 years if the units begin operation between April 1, 1993 and March 31, 2010. A senior government official, who did not wish to be named, said the tax exemption was very crucial to scale up nuclear power production to 20,000 mw by 2020.

AFP, 12 January 2009

### **Nuclear-related programs cost US 52 bln dollars in 2008: report**

The United States spent at least 52 billion dollars on nuclear-related programs last year, most of it to maintain and refurbish its arsenal of nuclear weapons, a report said Monday. The report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said the estimate was pieced together from publicly available documents because the

government does not track overall spending on nuclear-related programs. "Total appropriations for nuclear weapons and weapons-related programs in fiscal year 2008 were at least 52.4 billion dollars, according to the best available data," the report said. It said the Defense Department's costs of deploying and maintaining nuclear weapons was a partial estimate, and therefore may be too low.

The Hindu, 13 January 2009

**A.Q. Khan nuclear proliferation network is a closed chapter: Pak**

Pakistan on Tuesday said that nuclear proliferation network of atomic scientist A Q Khan was a "closed chapter" and the country is "mindful of its responsibilities as a nuclear weapon state as well as its international obligations." "A Q Khan is a closed chapter," Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said in his response to the US State Department's sanctions on Khan, his 13 associates and three companies for their involvement in nuclear proliferation. "The sanctions are not against the state or government. The US has, in fact, applauded Pakistan's contribution to promote global non-proliferation," Gilani said in an official statement.

Press Trust of India, 13 January 2009

**Obama must step up action against secret nuclear trade: Berman**

The new US administration of President Barack Obama must step up action to stop clandestine nuclear trade involving Pakistan and take further action against A Q Khan network of nuclear proliferators, an influential American Senator has demanded. In comments, hours after the Bush administration slapped sanctions on the A Q Khan network, Senator Howard L Berman, Chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "These sanctions, though belated, are welcome. "But this is not enough," he argued. The senator also wanted action against Iran and North Korea. Berman spoke as the US State Department slapped sanctions against the disgraced Pakistani atomic scientist Abdul Qadir Khan, now under house arrest, his 13 associates and three firms linked to his nuclear proliferation network.

Dawn, 13 January 2009

**US imposes sanctions on A.Q. Khan, 12 others**

The US State Department imposed sanctions on Monday on 13 individuals and firms and Dr A.Q. Khan figures prominently on the list, indicating that the United States still considers him a dangerous proliferator of nuclear weapons. An official notification also urged the international community to "remain vigilant" to ensure that the network did not resume its activities. The sanctions order noted that Dr Khan had admitted his guilt but later retracted his statements. The move indicates that his efforts to exonerate himself through the Pakistani judicial system had not impressed Washington. "We believe these sanctions will help prevent future proliferation-related activities by these private entities, provide a warning to other would-be proliferators," the State Department said.

Daily Times, 13 January 2009

**Nuclear disaster in South Asia (Brian Cloughley)**

At this time of tension between India and Pakistan, it is as well to reflect on the consequences of war. We all hope that something like the mock despatch, below, is never written. But given the interview with NDTV in which "the Home Minister said it would now be [up to] Pakistan to ensure that such acts [as the Mumbai attacks] are never repeated by its citizens against India, because the price they will pay if this is repeated will be enormous," it is obvious there can be no assurance that India will not attempt a strike across the border. That would lead to all-out war...

The Times of India, 13 January 2009

### **Eyeing uranium supply, India to back Kazakh bid for WTO**

State-owned Nuclear Power Corporation and Kazakh national atomic firm Kazatomprom are working on a uranium supply deal that may eventually see India's sole N-power firm set up its first overseas plant in joint venture in Central Asia's fastest-growing economy. A team of Kazatomprom executives is coming to India for advanced negotiations. The two sides will try and sew up talks so that a deal may be signed when Kazakh president Nursultan Nazarbayev visits India as the Republic Day chief guest. The talks will first focus on getting nuclear supplies from Kazakhstan and could later move to setting up reactors in joint venture.

Livemint, 13 January 2009

### **For a share of the nuclear business pie**

It is three months since the India-US nuclear deal was signed into law in the US, and intense lobbying is on for the \$160 billion nuclear business pie. Both countries are holding high-level discussions and are in the process sizing each other up before deals can be negotiated and finalized. Sixty members from the US industry and government are currently in India to explore business opportunities. But they perhaps expected a smoother ride. Former Indian Ambassador to United States Lalit Mansingh says acceptance of US firms as suppliers would depend on how they tackle issues of ability, reliability and liability. "The common belief is that America hasn't built a nuclear power plant in the last 30 years. Russia and France have proven ability and continue to build new reactors. Reliability is a chronic issue when we do business with the US..."

The Times of India, 14 January 2009

### **Nukes make Pakistan a complex issue: Hillary Clinton**

Holding Pakistan as one of the main challenges being faced by the incoming Obama Administration, US Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton has said the South Asian nation is different because of the nuclear weapons it possess. "Pakistan has a particular complexity because of its nuclear weapons capacity," Clinton said during the course of her nomination hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last night. At the same time, Clinton said she was confident that the new democratically-elected government of Pakistan would cooperate fully with the Obama Administration in fighting the war against terror in the region.

VOA News, 14 January 2009

### **Clinton Backs Six-Party Talks for Ending North Korean Nuclear Program**

At her Senate confirmation hearing on Tuesday, Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton expressed support for the Chinese-led six-party negotiations aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program. But she told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the negotiating process championed by the Bush administration is being reviewed. President-elect Barack Obama said during the campaign that he was willing to try face-to-face diplomacy with leaders of adversary countries, like North Korea, if it would help resolve key problems. But in her Senate testimony, his Secretary of State-designate said both she and the incoming President believe the six-party process, underway since 2004, has merit both as a negotiating vehicle and as a channel for bilateral dialogue with Pyongyang.

The Korea Herald, 14 January 2009

### **Bush concerned about uranium program**

U.S. President George W. Bush expressed concern on Monday that North Korea might have a uranium-based nuclear program. "North Korea is still a problem. There

is a debate in the intel community about how big a problem they are. But one of my concerns is that there might be a highly enriched uranium program," Bush said in a final news conference to wrap up his eight years in the White House. He urged North Korea to verify its nuclear weapons programs under a multilateral aid-for-denuclearization deal. "In order to advance our relations with North Korea, the North Korean government must honor the commitments it made, to allow for strong verification measures to be in place to ensure that they don't develop a highly enriched uranium program, for example," he said.

The New York Times, 14 January 2009

### **North Korea Maintains Its Tough Stance**

In what appears to be its first official message to the incoming Obama administration, North Korea has demanded that the United States normalize relations with it before the North abandons nuclear weapons. "It is a twisted logic to assert that the bilateral relations can be improved only when we show nukes before anything else," the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "We will never do such a thing as showing our nuclear weapons first, even in 100 years, unless the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat to the North are fundamentally terminated." The statement, distributed Tuesday night, came a week before President-elect Barack Obama formally takes office, and coincided with the Senate confirmation hearings for Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mr. Obama's choice to be secretary of state.

Press Trust of India, 14 January 2009

### **Kazakh President coming to India on Jan 23, N-deal expected**

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Chief Guest for this year's Republic Day, will undertake a four-day visit here from January 23 during which the two countries are expected to sign a civil nuclear agreement and a few other pacts. Nazarbayev, who will be accompanied by a large delegation, will hold talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and meet President Pratibha Patil and other leaders. He will be the first leader from Central Asia to be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. During the visit, the two sides are expected to sign a civil nuclear agreement besides a few other agreements. Kazakhstan is known to have the world's second largest reserves of uranium which India desperately needs to enable its atomic plants to continue running.

The Times of India, 15 January 2009

### **Army gears up for challenge of jihadi 'dirty' nuclear bombs**

Even as India keeps all its options open in the wake of 26/11, the Army is also gearing up for "fourth-generation warfare" to tackle the possibility of jihadi outfits arming themselves with "dirty" nuclear bombs. This comes at a time when the prospect of jihadi outfits or "rogue" state agents gaining access to Pakistan's enriched uranium, nuclear components or know-how is once again becoming a clear and present danger, with alarm bells clanging round the globe. On Wednesday, it was Army chief General Deepak Kapoor's turn to express the "hope" that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal or technology would not fall into the wrong hands.

Dawn, 15 January 2009

### **Nuclear assets in safe hands, NA told**

The National Assembly was informed on Wednesday that the country's nuclear command and control structure was in place and nuke assets were in safe hands. "The propaganda being unleashed by some international papers carries no weight," said Privatisation Minister Syed Naveed Qamar while speaking on a point of order raised by Ahsan Iqbal of the PML-N. Mr Iqbal drew the attention of the house to a

report, titled "Alarm on Pakistan's nuclear controls" published in International Herald Tribune and reproduced by the New York Times and said that conspiracies were being hatched to de-nuclearise Pakistan after dubbing an "irresponsible state".

The Economic Times, 15 January 2009

**NPCIL may raise Rs 50k crore via tax-free bonds**

India's nuclear power corporation is planning to raise Rs 50,000 crore through tax-free bonds to realise its target of 22,000 mega watts by 2022, according to a government official who asked not to be named. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL), which operates 17 plants with a total capacity of 4,120 mw, plans to raise the money by 2011 through tranches of tax-free bonds, said the official. The Atomic Energy Commission, India's apex body for all things nuclear, has sent a proposal in this regard to the Prime Minister's Office. NPCIL estimates that the 2022 target could be met if the technology transfers and fuel supply contracts from foreign countries pan out as planned.

Tehran Times, 15 January 2009

**Russia will fulfill duties on Iran's nuclear power plant**

Russia will fulfill its commitments on completing Iran's first nuclear power plant in Bushehr despite of any pressures, said Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mahmoud-Reza Sajjadi. Speaking in an interview with the Russian newspaper Zavtra Online, the ambassador said Iran did not believe that the Russian side has deliberately delayed completion of the 1,000-MW power plant. Based on the previously agreed timetable, the power plant which is being built in cooperation with Russia, was to become operational in fall of 2008. However its construction was delayed for various reasons including some difficulties occurred in delivering its remaining equipment and necessary fuel.

Reuters, 16 January 2009

**U.S. signs nuclear cooperation deal with UAE**

With just five days left in office, the Bush administration signed a nuclear deal with the United Arab Emirates on Thursday despite concerns in Congress the UAE is not doing enough to curb Iran's atomic plans. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hailed the nuclear energy cooperation deal, which she signed at the State Department with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan. "We applaud the UAE's commitment to the highest standards of safety and security on nonproliferation in its pursuit of nuclear power," said Rice, who said she believed Congress would support the deal. The UAE minister said his government had been "transparent" about the nuclear arrangement, which establishes a legal framework for commerce in civilian nuclear energy between the two countries.

Reuters, 16 January 2009

**South Korea nuclear envoys go to tough-talking North**

South Korean nuclear envoys left on a rare visit to North Korea on Thursday aimed at advancing sputtering disarmament talks, days after the communist North issued tough terms for ending its atomic ambitions. North Korea may try brinkmanship to increase its bargaining leverage with the team of U.S. President-elect Barack Obama after it takes office next week, President George W. Bush's top Asia adviser said in Washington on Wednesday. No date has been set for the return of South Korean nuclear envoy Hwang Joon-kook, leading one of the few nuclear delegations Seoul has ever sent to its neighbor, the foreign ministry said.

The Hindu, 16 January 2009

### **L&T ties up with WEC; strengthens nuclear power sector**

Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro on Friday strengthened its capability in the nuclear power sector as it entered into an agreement with US-based Westinghouse Electric Company to build nuclear power plants in the country. The two firms signed an MoU to address primarily India's need for building Westinghouse's 1,000 MW nuclear power plants using pressurised water nuclear reactors with modular construction technology. "The MoU with WEC is for modular nuclear reactors. We are already an established player in the nuclear power field. In L&T, our focus will be on providing a one-stop-shop solution for nuclear power plants," L&T Board member M V Kotwal told reporters here.

Reuters, 16 January 2009

### **U.S. atomic firms try to break India nuclear logjam**

Top U.S. firms have lobbied hard in India this week for a share in the country's lucrative nuclear market, but there was little progress on key policy issues such as accident liability protection for suppliers. The visit by a 60-member delegation has been the biggest push yet by U.S. companies such as General Electric to enter the multi-billion dollar Indian market opened to global trade after New Delhi signed a deal with the United States last year. U.S. reactor manufacturers and services suppliers have been jubilant over the deal, but they still lag in a competitive scramble with Russian and European firms whose governments guarantee their liability in case of an industrial accident.

The Guardian, 17 January 2009

### **North Korea has plutonium ready for up to five nuclear bombs, reports claim**

North Korea today threatened to "shatter" the conservative South Korean government in Seoul, as reports emerged that Pyongyang claims to have weaponised enough plutonium stocks to produce four or five nuclear bombs. Relations across the heavily fortified border have turned frosty since South Korea's president, Lee Myung-bak, came to office last year promising to get tough on his communist neighbour after a decade of attempts by liberal governments to engage with Pyongyang. In December, North Korea closed border crossings and accused Seoul of plotting to assassinate the North's leader, Kim Jong-il.

Press Trust of India, 17 January 2009

### **Pak wants India-type waiver for civil nuclear programme**

Pakistan has said it wants an exemption from the NSG and International Atomic Energy Agency on the lines of the waiver given to India to boost its civil nuclear energy generation capacity with Chinese help. Pakistan did not oppose the NSG's waiver of its rules last year to allow India to acquire atomic technology and know-how because it expected similar treatment from the world community, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said. He said Islamabad is seeking additional atomic power plants from China and would like exemption from NSG and IAEA for supply of technology for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Referring to the India-US civil nuclear deal, Gilani told Japan's Kyodo News that Pakistan expected similar treatment from the world community.

AFP, 17 January 2009

### **Iranian nuclear programme has no civilian goal: Sarkozy**

Iran's nuclear enrichment programme has no civilian purpose and is dragging it into a dangerous confrontation with the international community, France's President Nicolas Sarkozy said Friday. "The International Atomic Energy Agency underlines the rapid and worrying progress in Iran's nuclear enrichment programme, which

everyone knows has no civilian end purpose," he told foreign diplomats based in Paris. "The moment is coming when Iran's leaders will have to make a choice," he warned, as part of an annual foreign policy address. "Either they provoke a serious confrontation with the international community or, and this is what France wants, we come to a negotiated deal in these talks which have been going on for, mark this, five years."

The Hindu, 17 January 2009

#### **UAE set to be first nuclear Arab country (Ewen MacAskill)**

The United Arab Emirates took a step on Thursday towards becoming the first Arab country to acquire a nuclear capability, a move that could prompt other states to seek to join the club and alter the balance of the power in the region. The Gulf state said it was seeking a nuclear programme for energy, not to produce an atomic weapon. But other Arab countries, if they built reactors, may be more likely to switch from civilian to military use. The UAEs embassy in Washington said yesterday that Condoleezza Rice, the Secretary of State, was scheduled to sign a nuclear co-operation pact with her UAE counterpart, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayid al-Nahyan, at the State Department. The pact had been delayed because of protests by members of Congress that it could accelerate nuclear proliferation and add volatility in the region.

The Times of India, 18 January 2009

#### **BHEL to tie up with UK's Sheffield for nuclear forgings JV**

State-run power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals is set to form a joint venture with UK-based Sheffield (Forgemasters) to manufacture nuclear forgings. The joint venture is expected to be on a technology transfer basis and BHEL would buy the technology from the foreign firm. "BHEL will form a joint venture with UK-based firm Sheffield (Forgemasters) to manufacture nuclear forgings," sources said, but refused to divulge further details about the tie-up. BHEL is expected to register 30 per cent growth in the next three years on the back of a robust order-book of about Rs 45,000 crore.

The Hindu, 18 January 2009

#### **India's fast nuclear reactors to be redesigned to cut costs**

Scientists and engineers at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) are hoping to save around Rs.5 billion (Rs.500 crore or \$104 million) by modifying the design of four fast reactors on the anvil for nuclear power plants. "The proposed reactors are going to be different in many ways from the prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) designed by us and which are under construction," IGCAR director Baldev Raj told IANS. With the Rs.35-billion PFBR project progressing at good pace at Kalpakkam, 80 km from here, the Indian government has sanctioned building of four more 500 MW fast reactors. A breeder reactor is one that breeds more material for a nuclear fission reaction than it consumes, so that the reaction - that ultimately produces electricity - can continue.

The Times of India, 18 January 2009

#### **France first to get piece of Indian N-pie**

Stealing a march over US, Russia and UK, France will take the first bite of the lucrative Indian nuclear pie. Over the next few months, France will deliver 300 tonnes of enriched uranium to India, and by the end of this year will have a contract for six nuclear reactors. After meeting PM Manmohan Singh and national security adviser MK Narayanan, Jean-David Levitte, diplomatic adviser to French president Nicholas Sarkozy, told journalists on Saturday that France was on track to translate

the Indo-French nuclear agreement into action. Areva, which has been selected as one of the top vendors of reactors and technology by the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPCIL), will be able to generate electricity from these reactors within eight years.

Daily Times, 18 January 2009

#### **Gilani rules out IAEA access to Dr AQ Khan**

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday ruled out the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would be given access to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan. In an interview with Kyodo News, the prime minister said Dr Khan's "network is broken and there is no need for any other information". Gilani said the United States had stopped pressuring Pakistan to freeze or roll back its nuclear programme. "We are following the international norms and I do not think there are any [US] concerns at the moment," Gilani told the Japanese wire service. The prime minister said Pakistan was seeking new nuclear power plants from China and wanted the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the IAEA to approve the supply of nuclear technology to Pakistan for peaceful use.

The Economic Times, 19 January 2009

#### **Canada, UK eye nuclear power deal with India**

After the US, it is the Canadians and British who are eyeing nuclear power deals in India. Officials from the nuclear power industry of the United Kingdom and Canada will be here from Monday to talks on the subject. The two teams are being led by high-profile ministers - British secretary of state for business, enterprise and regulatory reform Peter Mandelson and Canadian minister of international Trade Stockwell Day. The UK, where no new plants have been built in the past two decades despite 20 per cent of the country's electricity being generated from nuclear power, has changed its policy recently and is planning more plants. Britain needs to import reactors from France, US or Russia.

Gulfnews, 19 January 2009

#### **UAE signs deal with Japan for peaceful nuclear power**

The UAE has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Japan for exploring possibilities of developing peaceful nuclear energy. The cooperation agreement was signed by Saif Sultan Al Aryani, the UAE Foreign Minister's undersecretary, and Takamori Yoshikawa, Japan's senior vice-minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. The memorandum is to take into consideration all safety measures, security and nuclear non-proliferation aspects. Al Aryani said in a statement, after signing the memorandum, that the UAE was keen on cooperating in the field of peaceful atomic energy with highly responsible countries in this regard.

The Economic Times, 19 January 2009

#### **L&T, BHEL shares rise on nuke deals**

Commercial nuclear power generation activity in India is back in the limelight with Larsen & Toubro and even Bharat Heavy Electricals having entered into joint ventures with overseas companies for their forays into nuclear equipment production in the recent past. Analysts maintain that apart from the aforementioned companies, Areva T&D, Walchandnagar Industries, Tractor India are likely to be beneficiaries of this trend in the long term (2-3 year period). BHEL has approved a massive expansion programme to enhance its manufacturing capacity to 20,000 MW by 2012 and its foray into nuclear power equipment production such as generators, turbines and nuclear reactors along with joint venture partners. The company has entered into talks with French major Areva, General Electric and a few others for this purpose.

International Herald Tribune, 19 January 2009

**France and UK reportedly push for EU sanctions on Iran**

France and Britain are spearheading an effort within the European Union to pass new sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme but have so far had limited success, French daily Le Monde said on Monday. The two are among the toughest towards Iran among a group of six countries -- also including the United States, China, Germany and Russia -- that has obtained several rounds of U.N. sanctions against Tehran while pushing for talks. Western powers fear that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian atomic programme. Iran says it only wants to master nuclear technology to generate electricity in order to meet its growing power needs.

Xinhua News, 20 January 2009

**China says nuke weapons not targeting any country in peacetime**

China, for the first time in history, revealed in detail of its longstanding policy of "no first use of nuclear weapons" Tuesday, promising that its nuclear missile weapons are "not aimed at any country" in peacetime. In a white paper on national defense released by the Information Office of the State Council Tuesday, China reaffirms its will to implement "a self-defensive nuclear strategy". "In peacetime, the nuclear missile weapons of the Second Artillery Force are not aimed at any country," the white paper says. "But if China comes under a nuclear threat, the nuclear missile force of the Second Artillery Force will go into a state of alert, and get ready for a nuclear counterattack to deter the enemy from using nuclear weapons against China," the white paper says.

Reuters, 20 January 2009

**Canada says plans India trade pact, nuclear deals**

Canada plans to sign a free trade agreement with India and help New Delhi expand its civil nuclear energy sector, its trade minister said on Tuesday. Canadian firms including federally owned Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd, Cameco Corp and SNC-Lavalin are eager to forge joint ventures or work with Indian firms to help build billion-dollar nuclear reactors and supply uranium, Stockwell Day told Reuters in an interview. A major uranium producer, Canada lifted a ban on trade in nuclear products with India after New Delhi signed a landmark civil nuclear deal with the United States last year. "India has defined the need for may be 25-30 reactors and we can be part of this plan," Day said.

Reuters, 20 January 2009

**UN's Ban urges disarmament forum to break deadlock**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on the world's only multilateral disarmament forum on Tuesday to overcome a decade-long deadlock and launch substantive negotiations on curbing nuclear and other weapons. Diplomats hope that the administration of Barack Obama, due to be sworn in as U.S. president later in the day, will offer initiatives to revive the moribund Conference on Disarmament. During the election campaign, Obama pledged to make the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide a central element of U.S. arms control policy and said he would not authorise development of new nuclear weapons.

The Times of India, 20 January 2009

**China for nuke strike to ward off threats**

China said on Tuesday it adhered to the principal concerning "no first use of nuclear weapons", but if the country came under nuclear threat, it was prepared for a

"counterattack to deter the enemy from using nuclear weapons". China was still confronted with long-term, complicated and diverse security threats and challenges, the government said in a white paper. It did not identify the sources of threats but said that issues of "traditional and non-traditional security threats, as well as domestic and international security are interwoven and interactive". China said that there were still "some factors of uncertainty" in the Asia-Pacific security situation although it was stable on the whole.

The Times of India, 21 January 2009

### **BrahMos missile test fails after early 'success'**

The Army's endeavour to induct the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile as "a precision-strike weapon" took a hit on Tuesday, with the missile failing to achieve laid-down parameters in a test. This comes at a time when the Pakistan Army is galloping ahead in inducting its nuclear-capable Babur land-attack cruise missile (LACM) - developed with China's help to have a strike range of over 500 km - in large numbers into its arsenal. Initially, the BrahMos LACM test from the Pokhran field firing range at 10.23am on Tuesday was touted as "successful" by defence ministry officials. But later in the day, this newspaper learnt that it had been quite unsuccessful.

Business Standard, 21 January 2009

### **Slowdown not to affect India's nuclear plans**

India's nuclear power programme is unlikely to be affected by global slowdown since Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) - the sole company currently authorised to set up nuclear plants in the country - is cash-rich. NPCIL Chairman and Managing Directors SK Jain said that the company had cash reserves of over \$2.75 billion to fund the equity portion of the projects which will be based on a debt equity ratio of 70:30. India envisages a capacity of 60,000 mega watt (Mw) by 2032 against current capacity of 4,120 Mw. "We can mobilise the debt portion through domestic lending and external commercial borrowings. Two domestic agencies also have accorded AAA credit rating for us," Jain said...

The Economic Times, 21 January 2009

### **L&T to announce second major global nuclear tie-up: Sources**

Engineering major Larsen and Toubro is expected to soon announce a tie-up with a global player in the field of nuclear power. The tie-up, expected to be announced in a day or two, would be in the field of developing nuclear power equipment market in India, sources close to the development said. When contacted, a company official declined to comment, but said "nuclear power is a focus area for us." The sources said the issue came up for discussion at a meeting of L&T board today. The partnership would be the second major tie-up in the nuclear power segment within a week for L&T, which earlier this month, announced a memorandum of understanding with Westinghouse Electric Company, a group company of Toshiba Corporation, for Modular Nuclear Power Reactors.

Business Standard, 21 January 2009

### **India Inc expects Obama to stay committed to nuke deal**

Indian industry expects US President Barack Obama to remain committed to the Indo-US nuclear deal hoping the new American administration will not create roadblocks for outsourcing, which is more helpful to the US firms than businesses in India. As the business leaders hailed Obama's swearing in as US President, they gave vent to their concerns over the possibility of the new American administration making the landmark Indo-US nuclear deal contingent on New Delhi signing the test-

ban treaty. "We expect Obama's continued support to the Indo-US nuclear deal. We are hopeful that Obama would take steps to ensure continuity of the 123-agreement and give shape to commercialisation of the agreement," Ficci Secretary General Amit Mitra said.

The Washington Post, 21 January 2009

### **Despite Historic Pact, U.S. Firms Are Hampered in Setting Up Reactors in India**

It took three years of diplomatic wrangling to get a controversial agreement signed late last year to allow India to participate in global civilian nuclear trade, but U.S. business executives now say there are more hurdles to overcome before they can start setting up reactors and selling fuel to India. The largest-ever business delegation from the United States met with high-level Indian officials, lawmakers and nuclear executives last week and pored over the fine print in the historic agreement. Some executives said it would take at least two to three years to jump through the bureaucratic hoops, complete the commercial negotiations and sign the contracts.

The Hindu, 22 January 2009

### **Canada offers reactors, uranium**

Canada could meet whatever needs India identifies in the nuclear energy sector by offering reactors in the range of 250-1000 MWe, the visiting Minister for International Trade and for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Stockwell B. Day, said on Wednesday. In an interview to The Hindu after opening a Canadian Trade Office here, he said his country was one of the leaders in the nuclear industry. With representatives of the Canadian nuclear industry accompanying him, he held discussions with Indian officials on the opportunities that would benefit India. "We have a proven technology that will work well with what India already has. It is heavy water technology."

The Times of India, 22 January 2009

### **Swiss nuclear smuggling suspect claims CIA link**

A Swiss man suspected of involvement in the world's biggest nuclear smuggling ring claims he supplied the CIA with inside information that led to the breakup of the black market network led by Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. In a documentary scheduled to air today on Swiss TV station SF1, Urs Tinner says he tipped off US intelligence about a delivery of centrifuge parts to build nuclear weapons in Libya. The shipment was seized at the Italian port of Taranto in 2003, forcing Libya to admit and eventually renounce its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. The 43-year-old Tinner is suspected, along with his brother Marco and father, Friedrich, of supplying Khan's clandestine network with technical know-how and equipment that was used to make gas centrifuges.

The Hindu, 22 January 2009

### **'Safety critical in nuclear power stations'**

As India makes forays into nuclear power, the issue of safety will become critical for averting a mishap, head of a leading government-owned firm said on Thursday. "There is a need to take adequate safety measures to avoid any disaster as the country is going for nuclear power," National Projects Construction Corporation Chairman and Managing Director Arbind Kumar said. After being allowed to get into nuclear trade, India is taking steps for boosting power supply from this source. For the beginning, the public sector enterprises (PSEs) would be allowed to set up and run the nuclear power generating stations.

The Times of India, 22 January 2009

### **BrahMos to be tested again within a month**

A day after the land-attack version of BrahMos failed to perform properly during a test at the Pokhran firing range, defence scientists on Wednesday declared they would test-fire the supersonic cruise missile within a month after rectifying the errors. "The missile in itself is proven. The test's main objective was to evaluate the new homing scheme for the Army's Block-II missiles to hit a specific small target, with a low radar cross-section, in a multi-target environment," BrahMos Aerospace chief A Sivathanu Pillai told TOI. "The complicated mission called for an advanced algorithm and intelligence embedded in the missile. The problem was in the software, not hardware..."

AFP, 23 January 2009

### **Obama will make NKorea nukes a priority: SKorea envoy**

The new US administration will make North Korea's nuclear disarmament a priority despite other pressing world problems, according to South Korea's chief nuclear negotiator. "The North Korean nuclear issue may not be as urgent as the Gaza Strip." said Kim Sook. "But it will be high on the list of priorities in both the short and long term in view of nuclear proliferation and weapons of mass destruction." Kim, quoted by Yonhap news agency, said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pointed out the urgency of handling the nuclear issue during her congressional confirmation hearing. Clinton said last week the Obama administration will pursue a "very aggressive effort" against North Korea's alleged weapons proliferation.

The Hindu, 24 January 2009

### **Delay in delivery of a Russian n-submarine**

The delivery of a Russian nuclear submarine to India could be delayed by more than a year as a result of a sea trials accident two months ago. The Shchuka-B class attack submarine, Nerpa, was to be handed over to the Indian Navy in August 2009, but sea trials were halted in November after 20 crewmen died in an accidental release of toxic fire-fighting gas. Officials at the Amur shipyard, which has built the submarine, cited financial and organisational, rather than technological, reasons for the delay. The shipyard has encountered difficulties forming a new team for pre-delivery trials.

The Hindu, 25 January 2009

### **Kazakhstan signs agreement to supply uranium**

India and Kazakhstan on Saturday signed a major agreement for supply of uranium and a comprehensive cooperation in civil nuclear energy programme. Kazakhstan also invited India to join in uranium exploration. The pact was among a clutch of agreements signed here during the visit of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. President Pratibha Patil was present on the occasion as External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee his Kazhakstan counterpart, Marat Tazhin signed the extradition treaty. Besides these, both countries also signed a protocol on the accession of Kazhakstan to the World Trade Organisation (WTO); a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organisation and National Space Agency and between ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd and National Company KazMunai.

BBC News, 26 January 2009

### **US to have 'vigorous' Iran talks**

The new US envoy to the United Nations says Barack Obama's administration will make Iran's nuclear plans a diplomatic priority and pursue direct talks. Susan Rice told reporters she looked forward to "vigorous diplomacy that includes direct

diplomacy with Iran". Under George W Bush, there were no direct US nuclear talks with Iran. The UN has urged Tehran to halt uranium enrichment, amid fears it could be used for military purposes. Iran says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful. In the run-up to his inauguration last week, Mr Obama promised a "new approach" in the dispute. Last month he called for "tough but direct diplomacy", offering Iran economic incentives to end its nuclear programme or face tougher sanctions.

Reuters, 26 January 2009

### **Obama likely to take cautious approach on Iran (Sue Fleming)**

U.S. President Barack Obama's outreach to Tehran is likely to be cautious ahead of June elections in Iran despite a promise in his inaugural address to engage anyone "willing to unclench your fist." The Obama administration is reviewing U.S. policy toward Iran but analysts expect no immediate shift in the current strategy to rein in Tehran's nuclear activities - with more sanctions likely and small steps toward dialogue. "You don't suddenly rush out and try to get everything done in the first 100 days. One of the keys will be to test the parameters of a dialogue," said Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies think-tank.

Fox News, 26 January 2009

### **Carter Says U.S. Can Get North Korea to Give Up Its Nuclear Weapons**

Former President Jimmy Carter said Monday he believes North Korea would be willing to give up its nuclear weapons for U.S. diplomatic recognition, a peace deal with South Korea and America, and if it got new atomic power reactors and free fuel oil. "It could be worked out, in my opinion, in half a day," Carter said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press. Last week, North Korea's Foreign Ministry said it would give up its nuclear weapons only if Washington establishes diplomatic relations with the regime and the U.S. ceases to pose a nuclear threat to the North - an apparent reference to Pyongyang's long-standing claim that American nuclear weapons are hidden in South Korea. Both Seoul and Washington deny the accusation.

Global Security Newswire, 26 January 2009

### **Supporters Press for U.S. Ratification of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**

Nuclear nonproliferation advocates said they hoped that U.S. President Barack Obama would quickly follow through on his promise to push for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Bloomberg reported Friday. "There is a problem and regulation is needed, Tibor Toth, head of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization. The arrangements in place to address the threat posed by nuclear weapons are showing cracks in the facade. To enter into force, the global ban on atomic blasts must be ratified by 44 nations that had nuclear power programs at the time the treaty was opened for signature. There are nine holdouts - China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and the United States.

AFP, 27 January 2009

### **Iran seeks 'concrete' changes under Obama**

Iran on Tuesday said it was seeking a "concrete change" in US policy towards the Islamic republic under new President Barack Obama after he extended a diplomatic hand to Washington's arch-foe. "We are awaiting concrete changes from new US statesmen," government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency. "On several occasions our president has defined Iran's views and the need for a change in US policies," he said. His comments followed an interview Obama gave to pan-Arab satellite television channel Al-Arabiya in which he

extended a diplomatic hand to the Muslim world and said the United States would in the next few months lay out a general framework of policy towards Tehran.

Press Trust of India, 27 January 2009

**India actively considering Canada's offer for nuclear coop**

India is actively considering Canada's offer for nuclear cooperation and the government will soon finalise the draft agreement after working out on the final technical details and conditions under which business can be done, a senior Diplomat has said. The Canadian draft agreement is under active consideration of the government and will be finalized soon as India recognized Canadian efforts at NSG and its ability to provide nuclear material and technology for peaceful civilian purposes," S M Gavai, Indian High Commissioner to Canada said during the Republic Day celebrations here.

AFP, 27 January 2009

**Multilateral nuclear talks with NKorea 'essential': Clinton**

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Tuesday it was "essential" for the United States to pursue the multilateral nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea that began under George W. Bush. In her first news briefing since taking charge of US foreign policy last week, Clinton made it clearer than previously that President Barack Obama's administration will largely follow the format pursued under President Bush. "With respect to North Korea, the six-party talks are essential," Clinton told reporters when asked if her testimony at a Senate hearing on January 13 indicated there were other ways to engage Pyongyang on disarmament.

Fox News, 27 January 2009

**Study Warns of Iranian Nuclear Threat but Downplays Russia Military Capabilities**

Iran is one to watch cautiously for its potential to finally produce a nuclear bomb, but Russia likely will have more bark than bite, according to a newly released assessment by Britain's International Institute for Strategic Studies. The think tank's 'Military Balance 2009,' an annual assessment of global defense and military developments, estimates that Iran will have enough enriched uranium by the end of the year to produce one nuclear bomb, according to a report on the study by Sky News, a corporate sister of FOX News. Announcing the new report on Tuesday, Mark Fitzpatrick said the threat isn't necessarily as big as it sounds.