

U.S. Envoys in Beijing to Smooth 'Bumpy Path' **NYT, 2 March 2010**

BEIJING — Two senior United States officials arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for meetings aimed at smoothing relations with Beijing after months of economic and political disputes. The officials, Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg and Jeffrey A. Bader, the senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council, are to hold high-level discussions with Chinese officials "about the broad U.S.-China relationship, where we are at this stage," the State Department spokesman, Philip J. Crowley, said on Monday. "We've gone through a bit of a bumpy path here," he said, "and I think there's an interest both within the United States and China to get back to business as usual as quickly as possible."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/03/world/asia/03china.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Justices Won't Hear Uighur Case **NYT, 2 March 2010**

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday said it would not decide a case involving Chinese Muslims detained for eight years at Guantánamo Bay that had been set for argument this month. The prisoners, captured in Afghanistan or Pakistan after the Sept. 11 attacks, have been determined to pose no threat to the United States, but the government has opposed their request to be released in the United States. In October, the court agreed to decide whether a federal judge in Washington had the power to order the men released from the prison at the naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States. But other countries have recently said that they would accept the detainees, and on Monday the justices said that factual developments since it had agreed to hear the case might "affect the legal issues presented."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/02/us/politics/02detain.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Sino-U.S. relations experience "spring chill": spokesman **People's Daily, 2 March 2010**

Sino-U.S. relations experienced a "spring chill" at the beginning of 2010, said Zhao Qizheng, spokesman of the third session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Tuesday. Zhao made the remarks in response to a question about China-U.S. relations at a press conference at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6906461.html>

U.S. responsible for retrograde Sino-U.S. ties: China advisory body spokesman **People's Daily, 2 March 2010**

The United States should be responsible for the current retrograde bilateral relationship with China, said Zhao Qizheng, spokesman of the annual session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Tuesday. Zhao made the remarks at a press conference of the top political

advisory body's annual full session, which will open Wednesday.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6906509.html>

US hopes top-tier talks will improve China ties

People's Daily, 3 March 2010

The United States said Tuesday it expected more top-level dialogue with China in the coming months and voiced hope for cooperation in pressing Iran on its nascent nuclear program. U.S. State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said that China has proposed to the United States a date for the next round of "Strategic and Economic Dialogue," which last year involved Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vice Premier Wang Qishan of China.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6906766.html>

Expert says China-U.S. tensions temporarily relieved

People's Daily, 3 March 2010

Tensions between the United States and China will be temporarily eased as two senior U.S. officials visit Beijing with hopes of patching up ties, an expert said Tuesday. "The United States sent two senior diplomats to China because it is reluctant to see U.S.-China rifts spiraling out of control," said Pei Minxin, a senior associate of the China Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6908041.html>

North 'Still Forging U.S. Dollar Bills'

Chosun Ilbo, 3 March 2010

North Korea seems to have suspended the state-sponsored drug trade last year but continues to trade in counterfeit dollar bills and cigarettes, the U.S. State Department claims. The annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report released by the department on Monday said, "Hard-to-detect fake US\$100 notes made only by North Korea turned up in 2008 and 2009 in San Francisco and the South Korean city of Busan, although it was unclear how long the notes had been in circulation," AFP reported.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/03/2010030300504.html

Manmohan, Advani spar over foreign policy

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday witnessed an interesting passage of arms when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh intervened repeatedly and rejected BJP leader L.K. Advani's charge that U.S. pressure was behind India's decision to talk to Pakistan. In a sharp verbal duel during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Mr. Singh asserted that there is no change in the U.S. policy on India-Pak relations after President Barack Obama came to power.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article138850.ece>

Holbrooke slams linking Kashmir to America's Afghan policy
The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Careful not to mention Kashmir by name, Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Wednesday rubbished Pakistan's attempt to link the Kashmir issue with the American approach to stabilise Afghanistan. Fresh from a trip to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, Mr. Holbrooke said he did not agree with people who have advocated the inclusion of Kashmir in the U.S. regional approach to end the war in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article133211.ece>

India upset with Holbrooke view on Kabul attack
The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Indian officials have described as "absolutely incorrect" the statement by Washington's AfPak envoy, Richard Holbrooke, that India was not the target of last week's terrorist attack in Kabul. The officials expressed surprise and even consternation at this assertion, which, they said, ignored the fact that the terrorists' primary target was a building used by the Indian medical mission. The U.S. assessment, they said, also ran counter to what Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, has established so far.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article139119.ece>

Asif, Altaf fail to meet; Malik shunned
The News, 3 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Despite the best efforts of President Asif Ali Zardari, he could not meet MQM chief Altaf Hussain in London nor was he able to talk to him on telephone, top MQM sources confirmed. And in an even more significant development, the MQM Secretariat in London stopped Interior Minister Rehman Malik from coming to London to meet Altaf Hussain on February 26. A top MQM leader I talked to in London tried to soften the impact of these developments but did not deny it.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27580

U.S. to Send Bomb Kits for Air Force of Pakistan
NYT, 3 March 2010

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States will deliver 1,000 laser-guided bomb kits to Pakistan this month and is considering additional arms sales to help the Pakistani Air Force combat insurgents in the Afghan border region. The Air Force secretary, Michael B. Donley, said Tuesday that the arms sales came in response to a request made by the air chief of the Pakistani Air Force in December. "There continues to be a dialogue back and forth," Mr. Donley said, noting that the government had already agreed to sell Pakistan munitions and night vision goggles, and was also stepping up training.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/03/world/asia/03pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Japan Offers New Plan in Okinawa Dispute

NYT, 4 March 2010

TOKYO — The Japanese government has approached United States officials with a tentative proposal for resolving a festering dispute over an American air base in Okinawa, the Japanese news media reported on Thursday. The proposal would modify a 2006 deal to relocate the Futenma Marine Corps air station, a busy helicopter base, from a crowded city in southern Okinawa to a less populated area in the island's north. Under the new proposal, the base would be moved to the same location but would be smaller and have a diminished impact on local residents and the environment, according to the reports in major Japanese newspapers.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/04/world/asia/04japan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

'Asif's Swiss cases can't be reopened'**The News, 4 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Money-laundering cases against President Asif Zardari cannot be reopened in Swiss court because President Zardari, under international law, enjoys sovereign immunity, reported a New York-based weekly 'Pakistan Post' by quoting French William, spokesman of the Swiss Embassy in London. The paper reports that in a telephonic interview, French William said that all heads of state enjoy sovereign immunity; however, if any state lifts that immunity then there would not be any reason for Swiss authorities to apply that immunity.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27604

Former Pakistani Officer Embodies a Policy Puzzle**NYT, 4 March 2010**

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — With his white turban, untrimmed beard and worn army jacket, the man known uniformly here by his nom de guerre, Col. Imam, is a particular Pakistani enigma. A United States-trained former colonel in Pakistan's spy agency, he spent 20 years running insurgents in and out of Afghanistan, first to fight the Soviet Army, and later to support the Taliban, as Pakistani allies, in their push to conquer Afghanistan in the 1990s. Today those Taliban forces are battling his onetime mentor, the United States, and Western officials say Colonel Imam has continued to train, recruit and finance the insurgents. Along with a number of other retired Pakistani intelligence officials, they say, he has helped the Taliban stage a remarkable comeback since 2006.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/04/world/asia/04imam.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

China's Bank Chief Says Currency Is Unlikely to Rise**NYT, 7 March 2010**

BEIJING — China's central bank governor indicated Saturday that the government was unlikely to detach the value of China's currency from that of the dollar anytime soon, echoing Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's statement on Friday that exchange rates would remain "basically stable" for now. Many Western economists and leaders, including President Obama, have called for China to let its currency, the renminbi, appreciate against the dollar, arguing that an artificially cheap renminbi increases Chinese exports at the expense of the rest of the world's economies. At a Saturday

news conference, the central bank head, Zhou Xiaochuan, said China should be "very cautious" about revaluing its currency, also known as the yuan, as long as major economies remained mired in slow growth.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/07/world/asia/07china.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Pak deploying US equipments along J&K borders: Antony
Daily Excelsior, 7 March 2010**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Mar 6: Expressing serious concern over the US equipping Pakistan Army with modern weapons, Defence Minister, A K Antony today said that instead of using against terrorists, the Pakistan Army was deploying such equipment on Jammu and Kashmir borders. "United States decision to provide sophisticated weapons to Pakistan is a matter of serious concern to India. The US should ensure that these weapons are not targeted against India", he said while talking to reporters here.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar07/news.htm#1>

**US helped ISI create extremists: Petraeus
The News, 7 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Noting that Pakistan has made significant progress in its fight against extremism that threatens its existence, a top US military general has refused the certificate of "American satisfaction" to Islamabad in its war against terrorism. "I wouldn't allow you to put words in my mouth," General David Petraeus, Commander of the US Central Command told Charlie Rose of the PBS in an interview when he asked: "So the bottom line is you are satisfied with the Pakistani effort and the Pakistani cooperation and the Pakistani effort to wipe out the Taliban in Pakistan?"

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27658

**Sri Lankan Leader Rejects U.N. Plan to Study Abuses
NYT, 7 March 2010**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president has rejected a United Nations plan to appoint a panel of experts to look into allegations of human rights abuses in the nation's civil war, a statement from the president's office said Saturday. In a phone conversation on Friday evening, President Mahinda Rajapaksa told the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, that such a step was "totally uncalled for and unwarranted," the statement said. In New York, Mr. Ban's spokesman, Martin Nesirky, confirmed that the secretary general had told Mr. Rajapaksa he intended to form a panel to "advise him on the way forward on accountability issues related to Sri Lanka."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/07/world/asia/07lanka.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**U.S. Sees a Terror Threat; Pakistanis See a Heroine
NYT, 7 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Relations between the United States and Pakistan often

have a through-the-looking-glass quality, where almost nothing appears quite the same from the other side. The latest example is the case of Aafia Siddiqui. In the United States, authorities say Ms. Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist who once studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is suspected of having links to Al Qaeda. She was convicted by a New York court in February of trying to kill American military officers while in custody in 2008 in Afghanistan. She faces life in prison when she is sentenced in May. In Pakistan, she has become a national symbol of honor and victimization so potent that politicians of all stripes, Islamists, the news media and an increasingly anti-American public have all lined up to champion her claim of innocence.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/06/world/asia/06wen.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

U.S. Reaches Out to Tokyo's Real Power NYT, 8 March 2010

TOKYO — Even as Japan's new leaders have promised to transform the way the nation is governed, they have left one thing unchanged: the prime minister, like many before him, is backed by a shadowy leader who is widely seen as really running the country. Now, at a time of turmoil in Washington's ties with Tokyo, American officials are reaching out directly to that power behind the throne. According to Japanese and American officials, diplomats have been quietly negotiating a visit to Washington as early as next month by Ichiro Ozawa, the secretary general of the governing Democratic Party and its widely acknowledged power broker. The possible visit, which could include a meeting with President Obama, was first suggested to Mr. Ozawa in February by Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell during a visit to Tokyo, said the officials, who asked not to be identified because the plan was still tentative.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/08/world/asia/08japan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

China Blames U.S. for Strained Relations NYT, 8 March 2010

BEIJING — The blame for friction in Chinese-United States relations "does not lie with China," and it is up to the United States to take steps to repair the frayed ties, China's foreign minister repeated Sunday. The minister, Yang Jiechi, said at a news conference that the administration of President Obama had seriously disrupted the relationship by announcing the sale of weapons to Taiwan and holding a White House meeting with the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, in a three-week period this year. China suspended military exchanges with Washington and threatened other reprisals after the American moves. American officials have expressed frustration with China's trade policies, including its refusal to revalue its currency, and with Beijing's reluctance to press Iran to open its nuclear program to international inspection.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/08/world/asia/08china.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

FM: China not to cave in on 'core interests'

People's Daily, 8 March 2010

Beijing does not employ a hard line on its relations with the United States, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told a news conference Sunday, indicating that China's recent comments aimed only to protect the country's "core interests". Yang Jiechi said Sunday that it's up to the United States to put bilateral relations back on track. China's stance at the Copenhagen climate summit in December and its tougher rhetoric and measures in recent China US trade and diplomatic issues have raised foreign concern and speculation that the country may drop its low-profile diplomacy and take to a tougher position on international affairs, some analysts say.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6911533.html>

**Korea-U.S. Joint Drills Start
Chosun Ilbo, 8 March 2010**

Korea-U.S. joint annual military drills aimed at improving capabilities in case of war on the Korean Peninsula started Monday. More than 18,000 U.S. troops with 10,000-plus combined forces and 8,000-odd from the U.S. mainland and elsewhere, a smaller scale than last year, take part in the exercises, dubbed "Key Resolve," that will last until March 18 across the nation. Over 26,000 U.S. forces participated in the drills last year, which included a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. This year's reductions may be intended to mollify the North Korean regime, which denounced the exercises every year.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/08/2010030801007.html

**Toyota plans public test to prove U.S. expert wrong
Asahi Shimbun, 8 March 2010**

FREMONT, California--Toyota Motor Corp. will hold an open test in Los Angeles on Monday to prove that its electronic control system is not to blame for complaints of sudden unintended acceleration in its vehicles. The move came after David Gilbert, an automotive technology professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, suggested a possible design flaw during a hearing of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce in February. Toyota aims to disprove Gilbert's allegations by replicating his experiments.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003070142.html>

**Al-Qaeda spokesman held in Karachi
The News, 8 March 2010**

KARACHI: The American-born spokesman for al-Qaeda has been arrested by Pakistani intelligence officers in Karachi, two officers and a government official said on Sunday, the same day Adam Gadahn appeared in a video urging US Muslims to attack their own country. The arrest of Gadahn is a major victory in the U.S.-led battle against al-Qaida and will be taken as a sign that Pakistan, criticised in the past for being an untrustworthy ally, is cooperating more fully with Washington. It follows the recent detentions of several Afghan Taliban commanders in Karachi, including the movement's No 2 commander.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27661

Pakistan, US to hold vital strategic talks by March-end
The News, 8 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States have agreed to hold their most important strategic dialogue of the recent years with the elevated echelon in the last week of this month in Washington. Diplomatic sources told The News here on Sunday that the talks were taking place for the first time after the initiation of the new policy of the Obama administration for the region. The failure of India in its quest for a role in the region has turned the interaction into a conspicuously important event.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27672

Pakistan Government Site Is Attacked
NYT, 8 March 2010

LAHORE, Pakistan — A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden truck into the main gate of a safe house used by one of Pakistan's security agencies for the interrogation of suspects in Lahore early on Monday. The explosion killed at least 15 people, including guards, hospital officials said, and flattened the building. At least 83 people were wounded in the explosion, nine of them critically, according to doctors from a nearby hospital where the victims were taken. The blast left a crater 12 feet deep and was heard across the city, witnesses said. Rescue workers dug through the rubble of the destroyed building looking for people trapped in the debris. The police said Monday afternoon they had found the head of the bomber.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/world/asia/09pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Japan Drops Denial of Cold War 'Treaties'
NYT, 9 March 2010

TOKYO — Japan ended decades of denials on Tuesday by confirming the existence of secret cold war-era agreements with Washington that, among other things, had allowed American nuclear-armed warships to sail into Japanese ports in violation of Japan's non-nuclear policies. The existence of the pacts, known in Japan as the "secret treaties," has long been known from declassified documents in the United States and the testimony of former American and Japanese diplomats. But successive prime ministers denied their existence, turning the agreements into a symbol for many Japanese of how Liberal Democratic governments had turned their country into a stunted democracy run without full consent by the public.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/10/world/asia/10japan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Sanctions on Iran counterproductive, says India
The Hindu, 9 March 2010

India believes sanctions on Iran are counterproductive, the government told Parliament on Tuesday in the first public articulation of the government's views on U.S. efforts to tighten the screws on the Islamic Republic. The statement was made in response to a question about whether Washington had objected to Indian gasoline sales to the Islamic Republic.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article223516.ece>

'India, Russia to ink pact on fifth generation fighter aircraft'
The Hindu, 9 March 2010

India and Russia are expected to sign the first of a series of agreements for the development of fifth generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) to meet futuristic requirements of the Indian Air Force during Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi later this week. "We expect to ink the agreement for the development of FGFA design and its technical parameters after March 10," sources in the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) said. The comments come ahead of Mr. Putin's two-day visit to New Delhi beginning on Thursday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article223155.ece>

China and India Join Climate Accord
NYT, 9 March 2010

WASHINGTON — China and India formally agreed Tuesday to join the international climate change agreement reached last December in Copenhagen, the last two major economies to sign up. The two countries, among the largest and fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the world, submitted letters to the United Nations agreeing to be included on a list of countries covered by the so-called Copenhagen Accord, a three-page nonbinding statement reached at the end of the contentious and chaotic 10-day conference. China and India join more than 100 countries that have signed up under the accord, which calls for limiting the rise in global temperatures to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, beyond pre-industrial levels. The agreement also calls for spending as much as \$100 billion a year to help emerging countries adapt to climate change and develop low-carbon energy systems, accelerated energy technology transfers to the developing world and steps to protect tropical forests from destruction.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/10/world/10climate.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Panel: Secret nuke pact hushed up for decades
Asahi Shimbun, 10 March 2010

For years, secrets and deceptions were the order of the day when government officials stood before the Diet and told lawmakers that U.S. Navy ships never carried nuclear weapons into Japanese ports or when passing through its territorial waters. That's the thrust of a report released Tuesday that was ordered by Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada soon after the Democratic Party of Japan took power last September to verify the existence of secret pacts between Japan and the United States.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003090385.html>

Japan pitches nuke technology
Asahi Shimbun, 10 March 2010

PARIS--Japanese officials Monday touted the credibility of the country's nuclear technologies at an international conference on nuclear power organized by the

French government."Japan has steadily continued the peaceful use of nuclear power," said Tadahiro Matsushita, vice minister of economy, trade and industry. Representatives from 62 countries are attending the two-day conference.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003090399.html>

India, Russia to sign defence deals
The Hindu, 10 March 2010

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin will arrive in New Delhi on Thursday on a two-day visit during which the two sides are likely to conclude the long-delayed agreement on aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov and sign defence deals worth USD 4 billion. Coming three months after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Russia in December 2009, Putin's India trip has a wider agenda like taking bilateral technological and energy cooperation to a new level.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article228418.ece>

China strikes back with report on U.S. human rights record
People's Daily, 12 March 2010

China Friday retorted U.S. criticism by publishing its own report on the U.S. human rights record. "As in previous years, the (U.S.) reports are full of accusations of the human rights situation in more than 190 countries and regions including China, but turn a blind eye to, or dodge and even cover up rampant human rights abuses on its own territory," said the Information Office of the State Council in its report on the U.S. human rights record.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6917669.html>

Seoul Pledges to Develop Nuclear Recycling Technologies
Chosun Ilbo, 12 March 2010

The government on Thursday pledged to develop technology that will dramatically reduce radioactive waste and recycle spent nuclear fuel as an alternative resource. The pledge, a thinly veiled protest against U.S. refusals to allow Korea to reprocess its own spent nuclear fuel rods, was made by Prime Minister Chung Un-chan in his opening speech at the 2010 Summit of Honor on Atoms for Peace and Environment that kicked off in Seoul.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/12/2010031200908.html

U.S. Crack WMD Team Takes Part in Joint Exercises
Chosun Ilbo, 12 March 2010

A U.S. unit specializing in the removal of weapons of mass destruction from North Korea in the event of a war is taking part in this year's South Korea-U.S. joint military exercises known as "Key Resolve," according to U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Walter Sharp. Sharp told reporters at the Combined Forces Command headquarters in Seoul the North's WMD threat is a "shared responsibility" between South Korea and the U.S. The allies will closely cooperate to locate, secure, and eliminate WMDs.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/12/2010031200780.html

Kissinger Warns of 'Calamity' if N.Korea Keeps Its Nukes
Chosun Ilbo, 12 March 2010

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on Thursday warned of "global calamity" if nuclear weapons proliferate due to North Korea's nuclear program. He was giving a lecture at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, an independent think tank in Seoul. "We have very little fear from North Korea's nuclear capability. The kind of weapons that North Korea can produce we can surely handle with whatever defensive system we have," Kissinger said. "But the real danger is, if North Korea, a state which has no significant resources, by starving its population can create nuclear capability, the temptation for other countries to follow that road would be overwhelming."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/12/2010031200595.html

Japan dealt blow after EU backs tuna ban
Asahi Shimbun, 12 March 2010

Stung by a European Union decision, Japan is increasing its efforts to stave off a proposed ban on international trade of bluefin tuna from the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. At a gathering of representatives of the EU's 27 member nations on Wednesday, the EU decided to support the international ban to protect the species. The decision raises prospects that the 175 signatory parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will vote in favor of the ban at a meeting that starts Saturday in Qatar.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003110404.html>

Okinawa presses Tokyo on base move
Asahi Shimbun, 12 March 2010

Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima stepped up the pressure on the central government Wednesday, voicing his opposition to relocating the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma within the prefecture. In a meeting with Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano, Nakaima said the prefectural government opposes any plan to move the air base to the U.S. Camp Schwab in an inland area of Nago. "It is impossible to understand the plan," Nakaima told Hirano. Nakaima shared some remarks from the meeting with reporters.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003110400.html>

Russia to build 12 atomic plants in India; Revised pact on Gorshkov
The Hindu, 12 March 2010

Giving a fillip to their ties, India and Russia on Friday signed 19 pacts, including three in civil nuclear field and one for purchase of 29 MiG-29 fighters besides inking the revised agreement on Gorshkov aircraft carrier, a deal that was stuck for three years over price. Under the agreements in civil nuclear field, Russia will build 12 atomic plants — six in Kudankulam and six in Haripur in West Bengal.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article243518.ece>

**India and Russia Sign Development Pacts
NYT, 12 March 2010**

NEW DELHI — India and Russia signed a series of agreements on nuclear, space and military issues on Friday, after a visit by Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin of Russia. The agreements pave the way to build at least a dozen more Russian nuclear power plants for an energy-starved India, and to funnel more Russian weapons to India's military. The countries also reached agreements to work together on space and fertilizer projects, two crucial areas for India, which has sought to send rockets into space even as its farmers, who make up about 70 percent of the population, struggle to coax subsistence from the soil.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/13/world/asia/13india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Nuclear cooperation will cover all areas: Putin
The Hindu, 13 March 2010**

India-Russia cooperation in civil nuclear energy will be wide ranging and cover areas such as nuclear waste and safety of reactors as well, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said, during a video conference with businessmen from the country's main metros here. Mr. Putin also advised a section of Indian business and strategic community to be "realistic" in its attitude towards Pakistan and take into consideration the action taken by Islamabad against some militant organisations operating along its border with Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article243754.ece>

**Nawaz still believes Zardari is biggest threat
The News, 13 March 2010**

LONDON: PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif on Friday repeated that he would continue to consider President Zardari as the biggest threat to democracy in Pakistan until he changed his ways, for which he would continue to step up pressure. He told a community meeting here that Asif Zardari was under pressure from all sections of the society and "he was on his knees". He told the community that the current rulers knew and understood no other language but popular pressure. He rubbished the charge of 'friendly opposition', and reminded the audience that the pressure tactics were the best weapon as it had worked miraculously with reference to the restoration of the judges and the repeal of the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO).

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27759

**Screening law affecting Pak-US ties, NA told
The News, 13 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Ammad Khan Friday said that the US law regarding screening of Pakistani nationals at American airports was humiliating and it was affecting the Pak-US relations, as Pakistani citizens were being targeted and humiliated through this legislation. He was responding to a call attention notice regarding return of Fata MNAs delegation from America, who refused to pass

through the scanner at the Reagan International Airport, Washington.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27763

**US report damns impunity in Nepal
Kathmandu, 13 March 2010**

Impunity for human rights violators and threats against the media were the most serious problems for Nepal in 2009, said a new US State Department report on the rights situation in Nepal. Released on Thursday, the 2009 report on human rights in Nepal states that both the government and political parties have contributed to the worsening rights situation in 2009.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/12/top-stories/US-report-damns-impunity-in-Nepal/6071/>

**Chinese Leader Firmly Defends Currency and Trade Policies
NYT, 14 March 2010**

BEIJING — Premier Wen Jiabao sharply defended China's currency and trade policies on Sunday against what he called foreign "finger-pointing," charging instead that the developed world seeks to force unfair changes in those policies "just for the purposes of increasing their own exports." Mr. Wen's remarks, which echoed a rebuke on Thursday by one of China's central bankers, were perhaps the sharpest yet in a brewing disagreement between Beijing and Washington over the two nations' economic positions. In a more than two hour news conference at the close of China's annual legislative session, Mr. Wen repeated that China will keep its currency, the renminbi, "basically stable" despite calls by the United States and other developed nations to let its value increase.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/15/world/asia/15china.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**China, Russia pledge joint efforts to fight drug trafficking
People's Daily, 14 March 2010**

China and Russia agreed Friday to strengthen cooperation in combatting drug trafficking in order to protect people in both countries and safeguard social stability. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Viktor Ivanov, head of Russia's drug control agency, and Chinese Ambassador to Russia Li Hui.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6918618.html>

**Pak-US strategic dialogue on 24th
The News, 14 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday said the objective of strategic dialogue with the US, scheduled for March 24 in Washington, is to enhance people-to-people strategic relationship which will bridge the trust deficit. The prime minister on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting at the PM House to develop a comprehensive, coherent and well-coordinated approach for the forthcoming Pakistan-US strategic dialogue. The meeting was also attended by Chief of the Army Staff General (COAS) Ashfaq Parvez Kayani.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27779

**China Uses Rules on Global Trade to Its Advantage
NYT, 15 March 2010**

HONG KONG — With China's exports soaring, even as other major economies struggle to recover from the recession, evidence is mounting that Beijing is skillfully using inconsistencies in international trade rules to spur its own economy at the expense of others, including the United States. Seeking to maintain its export dominance, China is engaged in a two-pronged effort: fighting protectionism among its trade partners and holding down the value of its currency. China vigorously defends its economic policies. On Sunday, Premier Wen Jiabao criticized international pressure on China to let the currency appreciate, calling it "finger pointing." He said that the renminbi, China's currency, would be kept "basically stable."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/15/business/global/15yuan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**China's currency exchange rate formation system,
People's Daily, 15 March 2010**

Chinese's Premier Wen Jiabao Sunday said the Obama administration should not lecture it how to manage its economy, widely thought a bright spot after a much depressed global one, and suggested Washington not engage in protectionist measures to shut out Chinese goods. Though Mr. Wen brushed aside external calls for Beijing to resume appreciating its currency, saying the yuan is not "undervalued", he also left the door open for a continuous reform in China's currency exchange rate formation system, given the outside pressure isn't there.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6919501.html>

**New U.S. Envoy Warns N.Korea Over Human Rights
Chosun Ilbo, 15 March 2010**

The new U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues has reaffirmed that the U.S. will not normalize relations with the North unless it improves the treatment of its people. Robert King was speaking at the State Department on Friday in his first meeting with reporters since he started the job. King said the U.S. enactment of the North Korean Human Rights Act reflects these concerns, while the six-party nuclear talks are a step into the future of U.S.-North Korea relations.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/15/2010031500853.html

**India, US set to boost high technology trade
The Hindu, 15 March 2010**

India and the US hope to significantly expand bilateral cooperation in critical areas like defence/ strategic trade, civil nuclear cooperation, biotechnology, nano-technology and civil aviation after two-day talks on high technology starting here Monday. Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao arrived here Sunday to co-chair the seventh meeting of the India-US High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG), its first since President Barack Obama took office, with Dennis F. Hightower, Deputy

Secretary of Commerce.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245150.ece>

Govt faces tough task on nuclear liability bill

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

With the BJP and the Left parties having strong reservations over the nuclear liability bill, Government faces an uphill task in getting the measure approved in Parliament this week. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is keen to secure Parliament's nod for the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill before he leaves for Washington around the middle of next month to attend a summit meeting on nuclear security.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245179.ece>

US Treasury: China trims \$5.8 billion debt in Jan

People's Daily, 16 March 2010

China retained its spot as the biggest foreign holder of U.S. Treasury debt in January even as it trimmed its holdings for a third straight month. The string of declines underscored worries that the U.S. government could face much higher interest rates to finance soaring budget deficits, the Associated Press reported Monday.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6920651.html>

White House: U.S.-China ties in "good shape"

People's Daily, 16 March 2010

The White House said on Monday the bilateral relationship between the United States and China is in "good shape" although there are a number of differences between the two countries. "We have a mature relationship with China," Jeffrey Bader, senior director for Asian affairs of the White House's National Security Council, told reporters.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6920749.html>

Obama is playing with fire over Chinese currency: British economist

People's Daily, 16 March 2010

U.S. President Barack Obama's pressure on China over its currency's exchange rate is a manifestation of hypocrisy from the West and will not work, a British economist has said. "The president is playing with fire... Obama really should tread carefully. At the same time, the United States is now at risk of sparking what could be an all-out trade war," said Liam Halligan in an article carried by this week's Sunday Telegraph.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6920494.html>

UN: N.Koreans Live in Pervasive 'State of Fear'

Chosun Ilbo, 16 March 2010

The United Nations special investigator for human rights in North Korea says the country's government has created a pervasive "State of Fear," which strips the population of all rights and freedoms. The investigator, whose mandate ends in June,

has just submitted a report to the UN Human Rights Council, which takes stock of the situation in North Korea during the past six years. The UN Investigator, Viti Muntarbhorn, presents a bleak assessment of the human-rights situation in North Korea. During the past six years, he says he has witnessed numerous harrowing and horrific abuses perpetrated against the population.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/16/2010031600493.html

Kim Jong-il 'Has \$4 Billion in European Banks'
Chosun Ilbo, 16 March 2010

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has US\$4 billion hidden in secret accounts in European banks to continue his lavish way of life if he is forced to flee the country, the Sunday Telegraph reported. "The money is the profits from impoverished North Korea selling its nuclear and missile technology, dealing in narcotics, insurance fraud, the use of forced labour in its vast gulag system, and the counterfeiting of foreign currency," the British daily said. "Much of the money was held in Swiss banks until authorities there began to tighten regulations on money laundering."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/16/2010031600233.html

S. Korea sought in missile defense
Asahi Shimbun, 16 March 2010

SEOUL--The United States has asked South Korea to put a regional defense system against ballistic missiles on the agenda for regular security talks between the two countries, sources in Seoul said. Such talks could lead to South Korea's participation in the U.S. ballistic missile defense (BMD) system, prompting Japan to change its own security policies. South Korea remains cautious about entering such talks, while Washington continues to press Seoul on the matter, the sources said.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003150383.html>

US search for LeT link with Jamaat: Shafique
Daily Star, 16 March 2010

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed on Tuesday said the US government was examining if Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami had any link with Pakistan based militant organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba. The US will assist Bangladesh in combating militancy and terrorism and finding out its financiers, the minister told reporters at his office at the secretariat. Shafique, who just returned home after his 10-day visit to the US, said he was also assured of help to bring back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22726

Yuan 'not cause of US woes'
People's Daily, 17 March 2010

A top government policy adviser has said the value of the Chinese currency is not the reason for the US trade deficit, and that Washington should restructure its economy if it wants to improve its trade balance. "The yuan's value is not the cause of the US deficit, which is actually caused by its defective economic structure," Xia

Bin, economist and counselor of the State Council, told China Daily on Tuesday.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6921713.html>

China, Britain inaugurate strategic dialogue at higher level

People's Daily, 17 March 2010

China and Britain Tuesday inaugurated their first higher-level strategic dialogue during British Foreign Secretary David Miliband's visit to China. Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo and Miliband co-chaired the dialogue, which was held at vice foreign minister level in the past. "Elevating the strategic dialogue mechanism is a meaningful event," Dai said at the start of the talks, noting that the mechanism was an important channel for the two nations to make in-depth communication.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6921586.html>

Central Gov. to redouble financing for Tibet's development

People's Daily, 17 March 2010

China's Central Government will enhance its financial support to Tibet's development during the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2010-2015), according to Sita, a senior Tibetan official. During the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), the Central Government has spent around 150 billion yuan (22 billion U.S. dollars) boosting Tibet's economic and social progress. The figure is expected to double to 300 billion yuan in the next five years, said Sita, deputy head of the United Front Work Department of Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6922552.html>

North Korea and the prospects of dynastic succession

Chosun Ilbo, 17 March 2010

A new expert panel headed by the vice foreign minister will advise the ministry's Diplomatic Record Declassification Review Division. Liberty Forward Party lawmaker Park Sun-young, Democratic Party leader Jang Sang and Daily NK publisher Han Ki-hong to the U.S. embassy last month to discuss the political situation in North Korea and the prospects of dynastic succession there. U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Kathleen Stephens was also present.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/17/2010031700811.html

Rao emphasises India's role in Afghanistan

The Hindu, 17 March 2010

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao has concluded her visit to Washington, during which she impressed upon U.S. officials the importance of India's continued commitment to its developmental work in Afghanistan. Her trip also saw a sharp focus on high-tech trade and the Strategic Dialogue that was initiated last July when Secretary Clinton visited India. In a brief to U.S. interlocutors earlier this week Ms. Rao drew attention to several key regional issues according to Rahul Chhabra of the Indian Embassy, including her talks with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan in February. She also touched upon the recent developments in Afghanistan and stressed "that Afghanistan presented the foremost security related challenge in the

region," Mr. Chhabra said. In that context, Ms. Rao emphasised the need "for the international community to stay the present course in Afghanistan for as long as it is necessary." U.S. officials reportedly conveyed their appreciation of the important developmental work being done by India in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article248418.ece>

India will be a dominant player in South Asia, Middle East
The Hindu, 17 March 2010

India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean and proud martial traditions will make it a dominant player in South Asia and the Middle East in the next 25 years, a Pentagon report has said. US Joint Forces Command in its latest report of emerging geopolitical and technological trends, which estimates their potential impact on future military operations, said it will likely have a role to play as America encourages the growth of India as a regional and even global power.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article248387.ece>

Seven militants killed in NWA drone attack
The News, 17 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Seven suspected militants were killed and three others sustained injuries in yet another attack by the US spy planes on Zhawa village near Dattakhel Tehsil in North Waziristan on Tuesday. However, some news agencies, while quoting Pakistani security officials, said 10 militants, including al-Qaeda-linked suspects, were killed in the drone strikes. Official and tribal sources said four US drones were seen flying over the border villages of Dattakhel and Mohammad Khel near the border with Afghanistan's Khost province during the attack.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27825

President seeks US civilian N-cooperation
The News, 17 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday called upon the United States to assist Pakistan in civilian nuclear technology to help the country overcome its energy crisis, on the one hand, and bridge the trust deficit between the two countries on the other. He said this during a meeting with Director of US National Intelligence Admiral Dennis C Blair, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. Briefing the media, spokesperson for the President Farhatullah Babar said the president said that provision of civilian nuclear technology would go a long way in addressing misperception about the US in Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27829

Pakistan Charges Americans With Terrorism
NYT, 17 March 2010

LAHORE, Pakistan — Five young American Muslims detained in Pakistan last December on suspicion of seeking to join jihadists in Afghanistan were formally charged Wednesday, in a case that added to fears that Westerners might be increasingly be turning to Islamist-inspired terrorism. The five men, friends from the

Washington suburbs in their late teens and early 20s, pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include plotting attacks in Afghanistan as well as raising funds to commit terrorism and planning attacks against Pakistani allies and targets within the country, according to Hassan Katchela, a defense lawyer for the men. Some of the charges carry life sentences.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/18/world/asia/18pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Pakistan: Drone Strikes Reported NYT, 17 March 2010

Two suspected American missile strikes killed at least seven militants in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, Pakistani officials said. An intelligence official and an army official said some insurgents had also been wounded in the strikes, in two separate areas of the North Waziristan tribal region. They said the first strike was aimed at a vehicle near Miram Shah, which is the capital of North Waziristan. About 50 minutes later, three missiles hit a vehicle carrying insurgents in another town. The C.I.A. has repeatedly taken aim at militant positions in Pakistan's tribal regions since December, when a suicide bomber killed seven Americans at a C.I.A. base in Afghanistan. The intelligence officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the news media.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/17/world/asia/17briefs-dronebf.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

As Deflation Fears Persist, Japan Eases Monetary Policy NYT, 18 March 2010

TOKYO — In a bid to shore up a deflation-plagued economy, Japan's central bank eased monetary policy further Wednesday by increasing a loan program for banks. The move sets the country, the world's second-largest economy after the United States, on a path divergent from those of other industrialized nations. Central banks around the world have in recent weeks contemplated rolling back stimulus steps put in place during the global economic crisis, gradually shrinking excess liquidity in their banking systems. The Federal Reserve said Tuesday that it would let a mortgage-security purchase program expire at the end of March in the United States.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/18/business/global/18yen.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Door of diplomacy still open on Iran's nuclear program: Chinese diplomat People's Daily, 18 March 2010

It's still not the time to talk about sanctions against Iran as the door of diplomacy is still open on finding a compromise over its nuclear program, He Yafei, China's ambassador to the United Nations Office in Geneva, said on Wednesday. "I think the door of compromise through negotiations, the door of diplomacy, is not closed," He told reporters.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6922936.html>

Expert Warns of N.Korean Uranium Supply to Iran
Chosun Ilbo, 18 March 2010

A U.S. expert has raised the over reports that North Korea exported unenriched uranium to Syria before a reactor there was bombed by Israel, claiming the material may have been intended for Iran. Leonard Spector, a deputy director of the Monterey Institute of International Studies' James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, made the remarks Tuesday. Spector quoted reports as saying the 45 tons of what is known as "yellowcake" were then delivered to Iran via Turkey. The material would be sufficient for several nuclear weapons if enriched to weapons grade. The 45 tons could be only the first of many such shipments, he speculated.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/18/2010031800904.html

Japan 'unpredictable' as U.S. deals with China
Asahi Shimbun, 18 March 2010

A sense of crisis is growing in the United States that the world's sole superpower may be unable to use its vast military might if the situation concerning China is left unchanged. That nervousness was seen in the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) released in February by the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama. It revealed a focus on the threats posed by China on the U.S. ability to act freely in the ocean, outer space and cyberspace.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003170257.html>

U.S. sees chances, risks in China military buildup
Asahi Shimbun, 18 March 2010

Following is the excerpts from an interview with Gen. Chip Gregson, assistant secretary of defense in charge of Asian and Pacific security affairs, about the Quadrennial Defense Review's influences on the Asia-Pacific region and the Japan-U.S. alliance. Question: One of the confusions that QDR has created was that the United States might abandon the two major theater war (MTW) construct (in which the country is prepared to fight two major wars simultaneously).

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003170256.html>

India, U.S. sign trade and investment agreement
The Hindu, 18 March 2010

A framework for cooperation on trade and investment was on Wednesday signed by Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma and U.S. Trade Representative Ronald Kirk. The agreement aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation between India and the U.S., building on rapid growth between the two countries in recent years, according to an official statement. Saying that the numerous synergies linking the two economies have not been tapped fully yet Mr. Sharma added that this agreement would encourage development of small and medium enterprises, and also help with the deployment of clean energy and environmental technologies. "Closer collaboration with entrepreneurs and private sector leaders in both our countries will enhance our work," Mr. Sharma said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article253986.ece>

10 more killed in NWA drone attacks

The News, 18 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Ten more militants were killed and two others sustained injuries in two separate US drone attacks on Hamzoni and Mezar villages in North Waziristan on Wednesday. Official and tribal sources said the CIA-operated drones first fired three missiles at a car reportedly carrying some militants from the Hamzoni village to the nearby Khattey Killay. The sources said there were, in fact, two cars on way to Khattey Killay village carrying militants but the driver of the first car sped away.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27838

Yuan solution 'will be found'

People's Daily, 19 March 2010

The top US envoy to China on Thursday expressed confidence that the two countries will find a solution to the yuan exchange rate. "I think in due time, it will be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties," Ambassador Jon Huntsman told an audience of students at the prestigious Tsinghua University.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6924150.html>

China sends envoy to US to discuss trade frictions

People's Daily, 19 March 2010

China's government Friday said it was sending an envoy to the United States to try to ease trade frictions with American politicians have lately crowed about Chinese currency's valuation. However, Beijing has cautioned that pressure from US side could complicate talks, according to a report filed by The Reuters Friday. The announcement, and comments by China's commerce ministry, appeared aimed at lowering the temperature in an increasingly heated dispute, with U.S. senators threatening to slap duties on Chinese products if Beijing does not allow the yuan to rise, the report said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6924931.html>

Korean, U.S. Lawmakers Form Task Force for FTA

Chosun Ilbo, 19 March 2010

Korean and U.S. lawmakers will form a task force as a means to propel ratification of the Korea-U.S. free trade agreement. U.S. Senator Pete Sessions suggested the foundation of the task force during a visit by Korean lawmakers to Washington on Wednesday. The task force consisting of about 20 lawmakers from both countries will assist the two nations in securing congressional approval of the pending trade agreement, which was signed in 2007.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/19/2010031900679.html

Okada in talks with Gates ahead of G-8

Asahi Shimbun, 19 March 2010

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada plans to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates in Washington in late March, officials said Thursday. During the meeting, Okada will explain alternative sites that Tokyo is considering for the relocation of the U.S.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture. One site is off the Katsuren Peninsula and the other is at Camp Schwab, both in Okinawa Prefecture.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003180406.html>

**Citing Recession, U.S. Again Presses China on Revaluing Currency
NYT, 19 March 2010**

BEIJING — China's reluctance to allow the value of its currency to rise "is a real concern" to both the United States and the country's other major trading partners and could be subject to negotiations in coming weeks, the American ambassador to China said on Thursday. At the same time, a Chinese trade official offered the first hint of flexibility on the issue, saying his organization was polling more than a thousand Chinese manufacturers on how a change in exchange rates would affect their business. In a speech to students at Tsinghua University in Beijing, the ambassador, Jon Huntsman, said that economic problems in the United States had increased pressure there for a change in the value of the renminbi, which China currently ties to the value of the dollar. That has kept Chinese exports comparatively cheap and, some contend, hampered other nations' recovery from the global recession.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/business/global/19yuan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Chidambaram to visit Britain to discuss anti-terror cooperation
The Hindu, 19 March 2010**

Union Home Minister P Chidambaram will leave on a three day official visit to United Kingdom on Saturday and will hold talks with top intelligence officials there. During the visit, Mr. Chidambaram will discuss issues relating to security with the Home Secretary Alan Johnson, Foreign Secretary David Miliband and the British Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Adviser Simon Mcdonald.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258336.ece>

**No compromise on national issues: troika
The News, 19 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The top political and military leadership on Thursday resolved not to make any compromise on strategic national issues and decided the forthcoming Pak-US strategic dialogue needs to cover the full spectrum of relationship to establish the confidence of the people. The decision was taken at a meeting of the troika — President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani — along with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi here at the Presidency in which matters relating to strategic dialogue with the US and issues relating to the war against militants were discussed.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27857

**A Guilty Plea to 2 Terrorism Charges
NYT, 19 March 2010**

CHICAGO — A Chicago man pleaded guilty on Thursday to helping plan the terrorist

attacks in Mumbai, India, that killed 163 people in 2008. The man, David C. Headley, also pleaded guilty to charges of plotting to attack a Danish newspaper that published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2005. In his plea agreement, Mr. Headley said Ilyas Kashmiri, an Islamic militant operating in Pakistan, had said the attackers should behead captives and throw their heads out of the newspaper building to heighten the response from Danish authorities.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/us/19cartoon.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Paper in China Sets Off Alarms in U.S.

NYT, 20 March 2010

It came as a surprise this month to Wang Jianwei, a graduate engineering student in Liaoning, China, that he had been described as a potential cyberwarrior before the United States Congress. Larry M. Wortzel, a military strategist and China specialist, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on March 10 that it should be concerned because "Chinese researchers at the Institute of Systems Engineering of Dalian University of Technology published a paper on how to attack a small U.S. power grid sub-network in a way that would cause a cascading failure of the entire U.S."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/21/world/asia/21grid.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Secret pact files probably shredded

Asahi Shimbun, 20 March 2010

Half of the "most important documents" detailing a secret Japan-U.S. agreement allowing U.S. warships to carry nuclear weapons into Japan were likely shredded, a former senior Foreign Ministry official said Friday. Kazuhiko Togo, who was director of the ministry's Treaties Bureau from 1998 to 1999, told a Diet committee that he handed over all related documents on the matter to his successor when he was transferred as director of the European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003180400.html>

Open up markets, U.S. tells India

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

The U.S. has called upon India to open up its markets and further liberalise trade policies in order to strengthen bilateral ties. Speaking at a conference organised by the Asia Society here on Saturday, Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake mentioned four areas where India should change its laws to make the market more open and receptive to foreign capital: increasing the cap on foreign direct investment, reducing agricultural import barriers, lowering barriers to infrastructure development (by developing a long-term debt market and removing local content requirements) and reducing regulatory barriers to business.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article260772.ece>

Up to India to pass liability law: Blake

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

A senior U.S. official said on Saturday that the liability law was an important component of the India-U.S. civil nuclear partnership, and it was up to the Indian government to find ways of passing it in Parliament. "The nuclear liability law is an

important part of the partnership. But it is up to India to determine the mechanics of passage of the legislation. So I will leave that to them to see how that would proceed," Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake said here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article260718.ece>

Pak-US strategic dialogue to be complex: Holbrooke
The News, 20 March 2010

WASHINGTON: US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke has said the strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the United States of America had a broad and complex agenda. However, the focus will be to strengthen democratic institutions in Pakistan, eliminating terrorism, ending poverty and finding solutions for the power crisis, he told reporters at a briefing at the State Department here on Friday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27877

Pakistan has proved anti-terror resolve: FM
The News, 20 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan has proved its resolve to fight terrorism with a series of sustained actions as he stressed that the US commitment to the region is critical to long-term security and stability. He told a Washington newspaper that Pakistan has already demonstrated its anti-terror commitment with capture of many top terrorist leaders and elimination of more than 600 al-Qaeda fighters. The foreign minister, who leads Pakistan at March 24 strategic dialogue with the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington, also cited successful operations against the Taliban militants in the mountainous north-western and tribal regions. Pakistan continues to view the United States as a partner at war with a common enemy "despite past differences and distrust," he told The Washington Examiner.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27886

China, Russia sign 1.6 billion-U.S. dollar cooperation documents
People's Daily, 21 March 2010

China and Russia signed 15 cooperation documents totalling 1.6 billion U.S. dollars in Vladivostok on Saturday. Representatives of the governments and business communities of the two countries signed the documents covering economic, technological, energy and infrastructure cooperation.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6925505.html>

China, Russia vow further interregional cooperation, sign deals
People's Daily, 21 March 2010

China and Russia pledged here Saturday to further interregional cooperation with each other and signed a series of cooperation deals. Governor of Russia's Primorsky Territory Sergey Mikhaylovich Darkin and visiting Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping met here and exchanged views on the development of bilateral ties and cooperation between neighboring regions of the two countries.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6925516.html>

India-U.K. to deepen anti-terrorism cooperation

The Hindu, 21 March 2010

India and the U.K. will seek to deepen bilateral anti-terrorism cooperation as Home Minister P. Chidambaram will meet his British counterpart and top intelligence officials here on Monday. Mr. Chidambaram, who arrived here last night on a three-day official visit, will have in-depth talks with British Home Secretary Alan Johnson to intensify cooperation on security issues, including efforts to combat terrorism.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article261181.ece>

Pak-US mistrust still exists: CIA chief**The News, 21 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: CIA Chief Leon Panetta has said that there was still mistrust between the US and Pakistan and would take time to go away. He also said that the arrest of Taliban leaders, including Mulla Baradar, has had an impact on the ongoing reconciliation process with the Taliban, but appeared unsure whether the impact was good or bad. Leon Panetta was talking to The News here at the Pakistan Embassy on Friday while attending the reception given in honour of Pak Navy chief Admiral Noman Bashir.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27891

Pakistan will get fair hearing on civil nuclear deal request: US**The News, 21 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Though Pakistani and US officials are optimistic about the strategic dialogue being held here next week, some of them are warning about overblown expectations. "Pakistan will get a fair hearing of its requests, ranging from civil nuclear deal to simplification of the Coalition Support Fund delivery and market access. But all of these will require a process and will not happen overnight," said a US official.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27903

Google Shuts China Site in Dispute Over Censorship**NYT, 23 March 2010**

SAN FRANCISCO — Just over two months after threatening to leave China because of censorship and intrusions from hackers, Google on Monday closed its Internet search service there and began directing users in that country to its uncensored search engine in Hong Kong. While the decision to route mainland Chinese users to Hong Kong is an attempt by Google to skirt censorship requirements without running afoul of Chinese laws, it appears to have angered officials in China, setting the stage for a possible escalation of the conflict, which may include blocking the Hong Kong search service in mainland China. The state-controlled Xinhua news agency quoted an unnamed official with the State Council Information Office describing Google's move as "totally wrong."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/technology/23google.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

N.Korea to Try American for Illegal Entry**Chosun Ilbo, 23 March 2010**

North Korea says it will put a U.S. citizen on trial for allegedly entering the communist country illegally. The North's state-run Korean Central News Agency reports the American, identified as Aijalon Mahli Gomes from Boston, will be tried

because his "crime has been confirmed."The 30-year-old American is believed to have snuck into the North from China in January and was captured upon entry.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/23/2010032300938.html

Hatoyama again stresses U.S. alliance

Asahi Shimbun, 23 March 2010

YOKOSUKA, Kanagawa Prefecture--Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama reiterated Japan's position that its alliance with the United States stands at the core of the nation's defense policy."The policy of striving to defend ourselves while placing the Japan-U.S. alliance at the center will continue under the Hatoyama Cabinet," Hatoyama said in a speech to new graduates of the National Defense Academy on Monday.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003220194.html>

U.S. Ambassador was only giving his opinion"

The Hindu, 23 March 2010

While the U.S. on Tuesday denied that it had taken a decision to provide "direct access" to India to question Pakistani-origin American citizen David Coleman Headley, who has pleaded guilty to charges of plotting the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, sources in the government maintained "these are legal matters where not opinions but U.S. law will prevail."Reacting to the clarification by the U.S. ambassador to India, Timothy Roemer, the sources said that so far "nothing has changed for India" since Headley entered into plea bargain last week with U.S. prosecutors, pointing out that the U.S. Ambassador was only expressing his opinion. Mr. Roemer said the U.S. had provided "substantial information" from the confession made by David Headley and was committed to doing so in the future.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article268732.ece>

Kayani, Petraeus agree to enhance defence ties

The News, 23 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani met with US Central Command Commander General David Petraeus at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between Pakistan and the US. During the meeting, General Petraeus and General Kayani discussed ways to advance cooperation and collaboration in countering extremist violence in Afghanistan, as well as US support for Pakistan's own fight against violent extremists. They also discussed improvements in coordination between Pakistan's military and US forces in eastern Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27932

Govt files fresh plea to investigate AQ Khan

The News, 23 March 2010

LAHORE: The federal government has filed a fresh application with the Lahore High Court, seeking permission to probe claims made in two recently published reports in The Washington Post about transfer of nuclear secrets to Iraq and Iran, government lawyer Naveed Inayat Malik said on Monday."We basically seek permission to see Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and investigate into the matter as well as restrain him from making any statement and interacting with anybody," the lawyer said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27933

**India's Woes Reflected in Bid to Restart Old Plant
NYT, 23 March 2010**

VELDUR, India — "Wherever there is a lamp, there is darkness below it," said Bava Bhalekar, a fisherman and local leader in this village roughly a hundred miles south of Mumbai. "The tragedy is that while our village has this project, we ourselves don't have electricity." "This project" is the power plant that Enron built. A decade after Enron withdrew from the project, the Indian government and two Indian companies are promising to bring the plant to full capacity. The tragedy, as Mr. Bhalekar and his fellow villagers see it, is that even after the plant is fully operational, their daily blackouts — now from 3 to 7:30 p.m. — will still occur, with just slightly fewer hours without electricity.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/business/global/23enron.html?ref=asia&page_wanted=print

**Taiwan: Help for a Tiny Nation Facing Rising Waters
NYT, 24 March 2010**

Taiwan pledged Tuesday to rescue Kiribati, a tiny South Pacific ally, from rising sea levels in a move intended to raise Taiwan's international profile. After President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan offered to help rescue Kiribati, the Foreign Ministry said it would look into offering the small nation, a chain of atolls, expertise accumulated from post-typhoon relief work. President Anote Tong of Kiribati told Mr. Ma, who was visiting in the South Pacific, that the people of Kiribati might one day have to evacuate to Taiwan if sea levels continued to rise, the news media reported.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/24/world/asia/24briefs-Taiwanbrf.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Russia, China push Iran to change stance
People's Daily, 24 March 2010**

Russia and China have quietly made clear to Tehran they want Iran's government to change its approach to the nuclear issue and accept a UN atomic fuel offer. Russia's and China's coordinated diplomatic approaches took place in Tehran around the beginning of March, according to several UN Security Council diplomats, reported the Reuters.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6929236.html>

**U.S. Experts to Debate Korean Troop Control Handover
Chosun Ilbo, 24 March 2010**

Several upcoming events in the U.S. will discuss whether handing over full control of Korean troops to Seoul and disbanding Combined Forces Command in the planned timeframe by 2012 is a good idea. The Asia Foundation's Center for U.S.-Korea Policy will host a conference on the issue in Washington on Thursday with conservative heavyweights including Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, Prof. Bruce Bechtol of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Patrick Cronin, a senior advisor at the Center for a New American Security, Prof. Kim Sung-han of Korea University, and Grand National Party lawmaker Hwang Jin-ha.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/24/2010032400635.html

Toshiba, Bill Gates hold reactor talks

Asahi Shimbun, 24 March 2010

A startup involving Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates has sought technological cooperation from Toshiba Corp. in developing a nuclear power reactor capable of operating for 100 years without refueling, Toshiba said Tuesday. Toshiba and TerraPower, an energy-related venture in which Gates holds a stake, are examining their respective technologies before deciding whether to enter into a formal alliance.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003230316.html>

India to write to U.S. for access to Headley**The Hindu, 24 March 2010**

Overlooking the U.S. envoy's remarks here that no decision was taken on giving Indian investigators direct access to David Headley, India on Wednesday said it would soon write to the U.S. for interrogating the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist. The Home Ministry will soon get in touch with the U.S. Department of Justice seeking a date for having direct access to Headley, currently under American custody, top government sources said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article299079.ece>

Pak seeks 'constructive' U.S. role on Kashmir**The Hindu, 24 March 2010**

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that Pakistan still hopes the United States would play a "constructive role" in resolving the Kashmir dispute and providing it with "non-discriminatory" access to energy. "Pakistan seeks peaceful resolution to all issues in South Asia, including Kashmir. We hope the U.S. will maintain its constructive engagement to encourage this process," Mr. Qureshi said at a press conference here at the start of a Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article303582.ece>

India, U.K. discuss security cooperation**The Hindu, 24 March 2010**

India and Britain on Tuesday agreed to work more closely to fight terrorism following talks between Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram and his British counterpart Alan Johnson. Mr. Chidambaram also held talks with Foreign Secretary David Miliband as part of what was described as continuing India-UK bilateral dialogue on security and intelligence-related issues. While the Foreign Office declined to disclose details, the Home Office said that a "range of issues including counter-terrorism" were discussed.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article285630.ece>

US to engage India, Pakistan to end water dispute Officials say potential for water conflict exists**The News, 24 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: A United States official has said that Washington will engage Pakistan and India to help improve their tension-brewing situation over water as Washington wants the two South Asian neighbours to avoid any conflict over the lingering dispute. "I think we need to work on this and find ways to make sure that especially in the Pakistan-Indian case, we can help move that situation forward to an improved situation," US Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero said at a State Department briefing on the occasion of the World Water Day on Monday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27942

**Pakistan asks for US nuclear, mly, intelligence aid: WSJ
The News, 24 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has sent a 56-page document to the US ahead of strategic talks scheduled for Wednesday, seeking expanded military and economic aid in what some American officials believe is an implicit offer to crack down in return on the Afghan Taliban, reports the influential Wall Street Journal. In a report filed by Matthew Rosenberg and Peter Spiegel, the paper said this previously undisclosed document includes requests ranging from the US help to alleviate Pakistan's chronic water and power shortages to pleas for surveillance aircraft and support in developing the country's civilian nuclear program.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27943

**US ready to consider Pak request for N-deal: Hillary
The News, 24 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Notwithstanding India's reservations, the US on Tuesday said it would "consider" Pakistan's request for a civil nuclear deal as it wanted to help the country meet its immediate and long-term energy needs. Ahead of the crucial bilateral strategic dialogue between the US and Pakistan on Wednesday, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made it clear that the issue of energy would be one of the subjects of discussion but refused to pre-judge the outcome of the talks.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27946

**Qureshi wants strategic partnership with US
The News, 24 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee had appreciated the working and institutional connect between different institutions of Pakistan. He was talking to journalists after conclusion of an hour-long meeting with the US Senate committee here at the Capitol Hill on Monday. Qureshi said now it was time to convert the friendship between the United States and Pakistan into a strategic partnership to achieve the objectives.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27952

**China Says It Will Not Adjust Policy on the Exchange Rate
NYT, 25 March 2010**

WASHINGTON — Despite mounting pressure in Congress for the Obama administration to declare China a currency manipulator, the Chinese government is giving no indication that it will change its exchange rate policy. After meeting with officials at the Treasury and Commerce Departments on Wednesday, China's deputy commerce minister, Zhong Shan, told reporters, "The Chinese government will not succumb to foreign pressures to adjust our exchange rate." Mr. Zhong reiterated a statement this month by the Chinese premier, Wen Jiabao, who said he did not believe the currency, the renminbi, was undervalued.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/25/business/global/25yuan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Karzai visit yields major pacts
People's Daily, 25 March 2010

China has announced more investment in Afghanistan and pledged to continue aiding reconstruction efforts in the war-torn neighboring country. President Hu Jintao and his visiting Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai witnessed the signing of three deals on Wednesday, which cover economic cooperation, technical training and the granting of preferential tariffs for some Afghan exports to China. Details were not disclosed. China is seen as a key player in an international coalition seeking to secure and rebuild Afghanistan, particularly after US troops pull out, analysts said, adding that Beijing is striving to help boost security and revive the economy in Afghanistan.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6929577.html>

Big LNG deal signals better Canberra ties
People's Daily, 25 March 2010

China's largest offshore oil producer signed a landmark deal on Wednesday to buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Australia for 20 years, a move analysts said underscores growing commercial ties between the two countries despite recent hiccups. Under the contract, CNOOC will buy 3.6 million tons of LNG per year from British gas producer BG Group's Curtis LNG facility in Queensland in Australia.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6929648.html>

U.S. says no to Pak's request for mediation on Kashmir
The Hindu, 25 March 2010

US on Thursday tossed out Pakistan's request to mediate in resolving bilateral issues like Kashmir with India as it said the country can't dictate the foreign policy of any of the two South Asian countries. Emerging out of the first Cabinet-level 'Strategic Dialogue' between the US and Pakistan here, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said America encourages dialogue between India and Pakistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article304024.ece>

US to speed up arms supply
The News, 25 March 2010

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Wednesday US pledged a \$125 million aid to boost the energy sector in Pakistan, besides allowing Pakistani products access to US markets and speeding up military equipment transfers, Geo News reported. In a joint press briefing with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi here after holding the strategic dialogue with the Pakistani delegation, she termed the strategic sitting important not only for Pakistan but also for the US administration.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27958

Govt to take nation into confidence over talks with US: PM
The News, 25 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday said the government would take the political leadership and the nation into confidence over the outcome of the strategic dialogue with the United States. "The strategic dialogue

is beginning today and the government will hide nothing from the political leadership and the nation," Gilani said while responding to various points of order in the Senate.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27961

China Officials Wrestle Publicly Over Currency

NYT, 26 March 2010

BEIJING — Signs are emerging of conflicting views among China's leaders over whether to allow the country's currency to rise against the dollar. The conflict, which has broken into rare public view, seems to be mainly between China's central bank and its Commerce Ministry. But how it is eventually resolved could decide the course of trade tensions between China and the United States. Many experts contend China deliberately undervalues its currency, the renminbi, making Chinese exports more competitive on global markets and creating jobs in China at the expense of employment elsewhere.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/business/global/26yuan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Sino-US tensions show no sign of easing

People's Daily, 26 March 2010

There are no clear signals of an easing in trade and political tensions in Sino-US relations despite the hope generated by the visits of two Chinese vice-ministers to Washington. Vice-Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said in the US capital on Wednesday that Beijing will reform its currency regime gradually and keep the exchange rate stable.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6930967.html>

USFK Chief Warns of Instability in N.Korea

Chosun Ilbo, 26 March 2010

U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Walter Sharp has warned of sudden regime collapse in North Korea and called for urgent preparation for such an eventuality. Sharp was speaking at a subcommittee hearing of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. "We would also be mindful of the potential for instability in North Korea," he said. "Combined with the country's disastrous centralized economy, dilapidated industrial sector, insufficient agricultural base, malnourished military and populace, and developing nuclear programs, the possibility of a sudden leadership change in the North could be destabilizing and unpredictable."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/26/2010032600290.html

Contingencies 'Could Delay Troop Control Handover'

Chosun Ilbo, 26 March 2010

The handover of full control over South Korean troops to Seoul in 2012 could be affected by the internal situation in South and North Korea at the time, according to an American Korea expert. Larry Nicksch of the Center for Strategic and International Studies made the remarks in a lecture at the KORUS House of the South Korean Embassy in Washington on Wednesday.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/26/2010032600874.html

Headley plea bargain shows al-Qaeda-LeT nexus'

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

Pakistani-American terrorist David Headley's plea bargain under which he confessed to plotting the Mumbai attacks throws light on close links between al-Qaeda and LeT, according to former CIA expert Bruce Riedel. The 49-year-old Headley's story showed clear contours of the close relationship between al-Qaeda and the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, Riedel, who led the review of the Obama Administration's AfPak strategy, was quoted as saying by The New York Times.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

**Everyone agrees on strategic direction of country: Kayani
The News, 26 March 2010**

washington: Pakistan Army chief Gen Kayani has said he has told US lawmakers that if the US helps correct Pakistan's economic and power issues, we would not require anything else and would be able to take care of ourselves. Speaking to the Pakistani community here at the Pakistan embassy on Thursday, Gen Kayani said: "Today Pakistan is being respected and listened to because the nation has fully backed the Pakistani armed forces".

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27982

**Qureshi satisfied with Pak-US talks on N-cooperation
The News, 26 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Thursday that his delegation had "very satisfactory" talks with Washington on civilian nuclear cooperation and that the case of Dr AQ Khan was "behind us." Qureshi told Reuters in an interview that meetings with the US officials on nuclear cooperation, non-proliferation and export controls had gone well. "I am quite satisfied with the discussions we had," Qureshi said when asked about the nuclear cooperation issue. "I would not like to expand on it at this stage."

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27987

**FO seeks to hide unease over nuclear snub
The News, 26 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan put on a brave face on Thursday, refusing to publicly express its disappointment at being ignored by the US, which refused to give any indication that Pakistan was being considered for a civil nuclear energy deal. Maintaining a stiff upper lip, the spokesman at the Foreign Office, during a weekly media briefing, admitted that the issue was part of the "unprecedented" dialogue and when asked directly, replied: "I think it would be inappropriate to see this (strategic) dialogue process only in the context of a nuclear deal. This dialogue is, as I said earlier, all-encompassing and broad-based. It has many dimensions and energy is one of the areas that are under consideration."

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27991

**Pak-US talks a good beginning
The News, 26 March 2010**

The optics after the first round of the strategic dialogue in Washington are better than the results announced. If ever a picture said a thousand words, it was that of a beaming Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistan's foreign minister, and the American secretary of state, Hillary Clinton. No stiff body language here; much camaraderie,

many words of friendship. The results at first glance appear meagre: a few energy projects, assistance for the Benazir Income Support Programme and a fast track to some military hardware. Also, an apparent firm no to nuclear power plants, and hands off on an American role in promoting India-Pakistan dialogue.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=230954

**U.S. and Pakistan Agree to Reinforce Strategic Ties
NYT, 26 March 2010**

WASHINGTON — Pakistan and the United States wrapped up two days of high-level talks on Thursday, with a raft of economic development initiatives, an agreement to hasten deliveries of military hardware and a promise to put their often mistrustful relationship on a new footing. In a communiqué issued after the talks, the countries said they would “redouble their efforts to deal effectively with terrorism” and would work together for “peace and stability in Afghanistan.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/world/asia/26policy.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Chinese official says China-U.S. trade is win-win game
People's Daily, 27 March 2010**

A sound and stable China-U.S. economic and trade relationship is more important than ever and the trade between the two countries is a win-win game, said Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Zhong Shan in an article published on Friday's Wall Street Journal. “China-U.S. trade and economic cooperation has generated huge and real benefits for the United States, while China has been gaining a lot from it as well,” Zhong stated in the article.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6932374.html>

**2-phase Futenma plan proposed, opposed
Asahi Shimbun, 27 March 2010**

The government on Friday informed the United States and Okinawa Prefecture of a possible two-phase plan to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma within the prefecture. But the idea has been opposed in both Washington and the southern prefecture. The plan envisions shifting Futenma functions in Ginowan first to U.S. Camp Schwab in Nago, and later to a new man-made island off Katsuren Peninsula in Uruma, according to sources.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201003260299.html>

**26/11: Headley names four Pakistani Army officers
The Hindu, 27 March 2010**

Lashkar-e-Taiba operative David Headley has told a U.S. court that serving Pakistani Army officers were involved in the 26/11 terror mayhem in Mumbai, and one of them was “on the other side of the telephone line” with the terrorists during the 2008 attack, news reports said on Friday. According to Outlook Editor-in-Chief Vinod Mehta, the involvement of the Pakistani Army officers proves their “direct link” with the terror carnage in India's commercial and financial capital in 2008 that left 166 people dead, including foreigners.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article306624.ece>

Biden assures Pak team of long-term support

The News, 27 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Praising the progress in fighting the war against terrorism during the last two years, US Vice President Joe Biden affirmed to Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar and Army chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani long-term US partnership, besides full support to Pakistan's economy and security. Biden was talking to Pakistani leaders at the White House on Thursday afternoon where they had gone to meet President Obama's National Security Adviser General (ret'd) James Jones and Biden joined the meeting without any earlier announced schedule. The meeting continued for over 80 minutes. Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Husain Haqqani, was also present on the occasion. According to a top official, Vice President Joe Biden also spoke with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi separately.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28005

Limited options

The News, 27 March 2010

While opening the so-called, first of its kind 'strategic dialogue' with Pakistan, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton argued that the United States had started a 'new day' with Pakistan. Her speech had a tone of optimism about the future cooperation between the two countries. She emphasised that the US government recognised the need to build a long-term reliable relationship with Pakistan's masses as opposed to seeking strategic alliance with the government in power driven by short-term US interest. There was appreciation for the attempts made by Pakistan to combat militancy. There were also promises of continued economic and development assistance to Pakistan. All of this seems good in theory. No one would advise Pakistan to be at war with the US. However, the problem is that the Obama administration has failed to demonstrate that it actually is working on developing a long-term partnership with the people of Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=231131

US justifies drone strikes in Pakistan

The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The US government for the first time has offered a legal justification of its drone strikes against al-Qaeda and the Taliban militants, citing the right to "self-defence" under the international law. The CIA attacks by unmanned aircraft in Pakistan, Somalia and elsewhere have sharply increased under President Barack Obama's administration but have remained shrouded in secrecy, with some human rights groups charging the bombing raids amount to illegal assassinations.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28024

LeT expanding to other South Asian states: US

The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), predominately a threat to India, is fast expanding its operations to other South Asian countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, a top US military official told US lawmakers on Friday. The dangerously expanding influence of LeT, which was responsible for the Mumbai attack in 2008, is an issue of concern for the Obama Administration, said Admiral Robert Willard, Commander of the US Pacific Command, in his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28026

**Al-Qaeda, Taliban militants on the run: FM
The News, 28 March 2010**

WASHINGTON: The al-Qaeda and Taliban militants were on the run and fleeing the Afghan border regions for new destinations since Pakistan has no longer remained as their safe haven, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi declared on Saturday. "Our operations have curtailed the border crossings. Today, Taliban, al-Qaeda and their associates are on the run. They are running away from Pakistan because they're seeing the seriousness, the resolve of the people and the armed forces against militancy," he told the Charlie Rose Show for Public Broadcasting Service.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28036

**American Terror Suspect Traveled Unimpeded
NYT, 28 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — An American charged with helping plan the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, moved effortlessly between the United States, Pakistan and India for nearly seven years, training at a militant camp in Pakistan on five occasions, according to a plea agreement released by the Justice Department last week. The odyssey of David C. Headley, 49, included scouting targets in several cities in India and meeting with a senior operative of Al Qaeda in Pakistan's tribal areas. These and other new details of Mr. Headley's activities, contained in the plea agreement, raise troubling questions about how an American citizen could travel for so long undetected from his home base in Chicago to well-established terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/world/asia/26pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**North Korea Warns South Over Buffer Zone
NYT, 29 March 2010**

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned of deadly consequences on Monday unless the United States and South Korea stop allowing journalists inside a heavily guarded buffer zone that has divided the Korean Peninsula since the armistice more than a half century ago. If the United States and South Korea do not stop using the demilitarized zone for "psychological warfare," they will be blamed for "unpredictable incidents including the loss of human lives," the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency quoted a North Korean military spokesman as saying. While North Korean statements of belligerence are routine, the warning came as tensions in the peninsula were high over the mysterious sinking of a South Korean naval patrol ship near the disputed western sea border with the North on Friday.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/world/asia/30korea.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Unusually Stiff Sentences Given in Rio Tinto Case
NYT, 29 March 2010**

SHANGHAI — Four employees of the British-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto, including an Australian citizen, were found guilty by a Chinese court on Monday of accepting millions of dollars in bribes and stealing commercial secrets. They were sentenced to between 7 and 14 years in prison and ordered to pay hundreds of

thousands of dollars in fines, yielding one the stiffest sentences ever handed down against a high-ranking executive working for a multinational company here. The case heightened the fears of foreign investors doing business here because the four were initially detained on espionage charges, fueling concerns that the prosecution was politically motivated, intended to punish Rio Tinto for its clashes with Chinese companies.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/world/asia/30riotinto.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Delaying Troop Control Handover 'Sends Wrong Message'
Chosun Ilbo, 29 March 2010

U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Walter Sharp has suggested discussions at the "highest levels" of South Korean and U.S. governments over delaying the handover of full control of South Korean troops to Seoul in 2012. He made the suggestion at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services in Washington on Friday, AFP reported Saturday. "If the Republic of Korea comes and asks for a delay, I'm sure that will be a discussion at the highest levels of both governments," he said. "Both governments agreed to this timeline of April 17, 2012. And to change that timeline, both governments will have to agree to change that."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/03/29/2010032900337.html

Civil nuclear regulations necessary: France
The Hindu, 29 March 2010

With the government facing stiff opposition on its Civil Nuclear Liability Bill, France today dubbed the issue as "internal" but said the rules were necessary in order to establish a robust, equitable and efficient liability regime in India. "It is up to India to conduct its internal debates and its democratic debates, the way it has been conducted. So, I have absolutely no comments on the process which is going on in Parliament and with government in that respect," French Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont told reporters when asked for his reaction to the opposition to the bill in India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article321224.ece>