

The Tribune, 1 April 2005

**India to ratify convention on N-safety**

New Delhi, Mar. 31: India has decided to ratify the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Ministry of External Affairs announced today. The instrument of ratification was submitted today to the Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency, who is the Depository of the convention. The Convention on Nuclear Safety was adopted in Vienna on June 17, 1994. It entered into force on October 24, 1996. The convention establishes a legal obligation on the part of the states parties to adopt certain safety principles for constructing, operating and regulating land-based civilian nuclear power plants under their jurisdiction. It provides for obligatory reporting and review procedures, while recognising the basic principle that safety of nuclear installations remains a national responsibility. The Ministry issued a statement which said: "Fully conscious of the responsibilities arising from the possession of advanced and comprehensive capabilities in the entire gamut of nuclear fuel cycle operations, India attaches great importance to the issue of nuclear safety. It shares the objective of the convention for maintaining a high-level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international cooperation, including in safety-related technical cooperation.

People's Daily, 1 April 2005

**Removal of US nuclear threat needed to denuclearize Korean Peninsula: DPRK**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Thursday said it is necessary to remove the growing US nuclear threat to the Korean Peninsula if the region is to be denuclearized. "If the Korean Peninsula is to be denuclearized, it is necessary to put an end to the growing US nuclear threat in and around the peninsula," a spokesman for the DPRK's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "If the peninsula is to be nuclear-free, it is necessary to clear South Korea of all nuclear weapons of the US and root out every element that can help South Korea have access to nukes," he said. The spokesman also added that "before anything else the US should roll back its hostile policy aimed at toppling the system of the DPRK through a nuclear war." He said the DPRK's consistent strategic goal is to achieve lasting peace and stability and realize the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Khaleej Times, 1 April 2005

**US policy shift on Iran - weakness or ploy? (Dr N. Janardhan)**

One wonders about US President George W. Bush's sudden support for European efforts to negotiate a deal under which Iran would abandon uranium enrichment in return for trade benefits and security guarantees. Is it a formula derived from a position of weakness, or is it a ploy to expose the futility of negotiating with Teheran and building a case for aggression and regime change? There are several reasons to explain why Bush changed tack and announced that 'Iran is not Iraq', putting at rest speculation about any immediate build-up to another military adventure. First, the US shift appears to be conditioned more by political, rather than military, considerations. It is hard to imagine that Washington cannot mobilise the required troops to fight another war on another front. What it doesn't have for sure is the political sanction for military action, both domestically and internationally.

The Hindu, 1 April 2005

**North Korea demands nuclear talks on "equal terms"**

SEOUL, Mar. 31: North Korea said on Thursday the United States should first remove all potential nuclear threats in the region before it would discuss giving up its own nuclear programme, and demanded that it be treated as an equal in disarmament talks now that it has atomic weapons. "Now that we have become a nuclear power, the six-party talks should be disarmament talks where participants can solve the issue on an equal basis," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency. The unidentified spokesman added that the nuclear crisis could no longer be resolved through discussions on a potential "reward" in return for "freezing" the nuclear programme. "If the peninsula is to be nuclear-free, it is necessary to clear South Korea of all the nuclear weapons of the U.S. and root out every element that can help South Korea have access to nukes," the spokesman said. "Of course, this should be confirmed through verification." The United States has said it has removed all its nuclear arsenal from the Korean Peninsula, and it wasn't clear exactly what the spokesman was referring to.

Daily Times, 1 April 2005

**Most Americans say 'no' to nuclear weapons (Will Lester)**

Even though the Soviet Union is gone, the nuclear fears that fuelled the Cold War have not gone away. A majority of people believe it is likely that terrorists or a country will use the weapons within five years. Most Americans say they do not think any country, including the United States, should have nuclear weapons. That sentiment is at odds with current efforts by some nations that are trying to develop the weapons and by terrorists seeking to add them to their arsenal. The only use of an atomic bomb - by the United States against Japan at the end of World War II - provokes sharply different reactions, depending on the age of those asked. Young adults tend to

disapprove, while older Americans tend to approve, an AP-Ipsos poll found. Albert Kauzmann, a 57-year-old resident of Norcross, Georgia, said using the bomb in 1945 "was the best way they had of ending" World War II. Six in 10 people age 65 and older approve of the use of the atomic bomb at the end of World War II; the same percentage of respondents 18 to 29 disapproves.

Daily Times, 1 April 2005

#### **US will consider 'other' options if Korean nuclear talks fail**

HONG KONG: The United States will consider other options if North Korea refuses to return to six-party talks on curbing its nuclear weapons drive, a senior official reiterated on Thursday. But Christopher Hill, the new assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, stressed Washington would do all it could to get the talks back on track. "If it doesn't work, obviously we will have to see what other ways (there are)," said Hill, who will head the US delegation to the stalled talks. "One option that is not available to us is to walk away from it," he told reporters. Hill, in Hong Kong at the end of a familiarisation tour, said his top priority was to get North Korea back to the talks. Meanwhile, North Korea said on Thursday that six-way talks aimed at ending a standoff over its nuclear programme should be transformed into arms reduction talks, as it has already produced nuclear weapons. North Korea's foreign Ministry said in a statement that Pyongyang has already become a nuclear power and participants in the six-party talks should be equally positioned at any arms reduction talks.

The News, 1 April 2005

#### **'Pakistan, India still differ on sharing missile test alerts'**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has failed to reach a formal agreement with India on giving advance warning of missile tests due to rows over sharing sensitive details on launch sites and trajectories, the foreign minister said. "They wanted more information than we are prepared to give," Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri told Japan's Kyodo news service in an interview published on Thursday. The South Asian neighbours were also unable to reach agreement on whether cruise missiles should be included, when they met late last year in a bid to finally hammer out the long-awaited deal, he said. In a TV interview, Kasuri said that the delivery of F-16 aircraft is a great success of Pakistan's foreign policy and the opposition should express happiness over it overtly. He said Pakistan has a very credible defence force. The purpose of acquiring F-16s is to maintain minimum credible deterrence. He added Pakistan's relationships with India and Afghanistan have improved remarkably. Replying to a question, he said Pakistan will be holding an international conference in Islamabad from April 6. As many as 26 foreign ministers will be coming to attend it, while the Chinese premier will inaugurate it.

The News, 1 April 2005

#### **Arak N-reactor to be ready by 2007: Iranian opposition**

PARIS: A heavy water reactor in central Iran should be able to produce up to 10 kilograms of plutonium by 2007, enough for a nuclear bomb, an exiled Iranian opposition group claimed on Thursday. The National Council of Resistance said the main unit of the reactor near Arak was already producing heavy water and work on a third unit is "near an end." The 40-megawatt heavy water nuclear reactor should be ready in 2006 or 2007, said Mohammed Mohaddessin, head of the group's foreign affairs committee. "The Iranian regime is engaged in an all-out race against time to terminate the complex," Mohaddessin told a news conference in Paris. The objective, he claimed, is "to obtain plutonium to build a nuclear bomb." The existence of the reactor has been known for several years and Europeans, who are in negotiations with Iran, had asked Tehran to stop construction and build a light water reactor instead. Iran refused. Nuclear experts consider heavy water reactors a danger because they provide for a simpler way of producing bomb fuel. Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency that the reactor near Arak would be finished in 2014, said Mohaddessin, citing information from the group's sources inside Iran.

Daily Times, 1 April 2005

#### **Govt alerted to Indo-Israeli plan against nuclear installations**

LAHORE: The Interior Ministry has directed provincial governments and the authorities in Islamabad to increase security around the country's nuclear installations against the backdrop of reports that Indian and Israel intelligence agencies were spying on them, BBC Urdu Service reported on Thursday. According to the ministry, Indian and Israeli intelligence agencies had trained 25 Afghans in Kabul and sent them to Pakistan to glean information about its nuclear installations. The ministry wrote a letter to home secretaries and the Islamabad chief commissioner on March 5, warning them to be extra vigilant, according to BBC. The ministry wrote that another group of Afghans was also being trained in Kabul and that two Afghans namely Hazrat Ali and Haji Zahir had been assigned to recruit spies. The ministry said that the Indian government had supplied fake Pakistani currency to the two Afghans. The ministry directed the provincial governments to be on the alert for suspicious Afghans and send regular updates on their measures in this regard. BBC Urdu Service reported that Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao said that he did not know if the ministry had written such a letter.

Daily Times, 1 April 2005

### **Pakistan test-fires N-capable missile**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan successfully test-fired short-range, nuclear-capable Hataf II, or Abdali missile on Thursday. The homegrown Hatf II missile, which can hit targets up to 180 kilometres away and carry all types of warheads, came less than two weeks after Pakistan tested its longest-range missile. It employs solid fuel technology and can be launched from a mobile launcher. During war it can hit military installations easily because it cannot be intercepted by anti-missile systems. "All desired technical parameters were validated," a military statement said. Rivals India and Pakistan, who alarmed the world by conducting back-to-back nuclear detonations in 1998, carry out frequent missile tests despite an ongoing 14-month-old peace process. Islamabad indicated that it had informed its larger and more powerful neighbour in advance of Thursday's test, in accordance with an unwritten 1999 agreement. "As part of the usual confidence-building measures, prior notification of the test had been given to all concerned," it added.

Aljazeera, 1 April 2005

### **US "dead wrong" on Iraq**

US intelligence agencies were "dead wrong" in assessing Iraq's weapons programmes and still know dangerously little about current nuclear and biological threats, a presidential commission has said. After a year-long inquiry, the panel on US intelligence capabilities said in a scathing report on Thursday that the decision to invade Iraq in March 2003 - based on dubious intelligence - had irreparably damaged US credibility. "We conclude that the intelligence community was dead wrong in almost all of its pre-war judgments about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction," the commission said. "We simply cannot afford failures of this magnitude". The commission warned that US intelligence on the capabilities and intentions of Iran and North Korea - both locked in nuclear disputes with the United States - may be "disturbingly" shaky.

The News, 1 April 2005

### **India welcomes US offers of strategic partnership**

NEW DELHI: India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has welcomed last week's offer from the United States to sell warplanes, nuclear reactors and missile systems, India's media reported on Thursday. Singh initially expressed "disappointment" in a telephone call with President George W Bush on the offer because it included a decision by the United States to resume the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. However, speaking to reporters on Wednesday on his way to Mauritius, Singh changed his tone to one of cautious welcome. "India welcomes the development," Singh told reporters covering his visit. "The fact is that the US has expressed its willingness to engage in matters related to increased cooperation in matters related to nuclear as well as non-nuclear issues. It is a fact they (US) want the strategic relationship to grow in depth. We have to find out what they want exactly, what they have in mind," Singh added.

Daily Times, 1 April 2005

### **EU3 mull compromise in Iran nuke talks**

VIENNA: France, Britain and Germany are considering letting Iran keep nuclear technology that could be used to make bombs, an apparent move towards a compromise with Tehran, diplomats said on Wednesday. Such a step would lead to a clash with Washington, which has backed European Union talks with Iran on condition Tehran renounce all activities that could produce nuclear fuel. However, a US State Department spokesman dismissed the diplomats' remarks, saying Washington and the EU-3 were still united in insisting Iran must halt all sensitive technology. Sharing Washington's suspicions that Iran may be planning to develop nuclear arms, the EU trio has offered Iran political and economic incentives to scrap its uranium enrichment programme, which can produce reactor fuel but could also give Tehran the capability to make bomb-grade material. The EU has previously said nothing short of dismantling the project will convince it that Iran does not want nuclear weapons, but diplomats said it was now considering letting Iran keep a limited enrichment programme.

Dawn, 2 April 2005

### **UN goes after nuclear terrorists** (Thalif Deen)

UNITED NATIONS: After seven long years of negotiations, the United Nations has finalized an international convention against nuclear terrorism. "It's a major achievement," Rohan Perera, chairman of the UN Adhoc Committee on Terrorism, told IPS on Thursday, just hours after the 191 member states approved the draft treaty by consensus. "I am sure that it is the shared sentiment of all delegations that this is indeed a significant and commendable step forward" in the global fight against terrorism, he added. The treaty comes nearly eight years after Alexander Lebed, a decorated Soviet war hero and a former national security chief under President Boris Yeltsin, told a US television network that there were about 100 suitcase-sized Russian nuclear weapons missing and unaccounted for. The Russian secret intelligence agency, the KGB, is said to have acquired an unspecified number of small nuclear weapons, each weighing less than 75 pounds that were never included in any post-Cold

War inventory on global disarmament.

The Nation, 2 April 2005

### **Indo-Israeli nexus**

There is little justification for Interior Ministry officials to try to play down the report about an Indo-Israeli conspiracy against Pakistan's nuclear assets. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that not only would India and Israel very much wish to see our nuclear installations destroyed but also the US, which we mistakenly regard as a friend to rely upon, would be no less happy at such an eventuality. The almost daily reference to Dr A.Q. Khan's clandestine proliferation network, either in US official utterances or the news media, is designed to keep Islamabad under pressure. The implications are quite serious that needs no more underlining. As soon as Washington is through with the menace of terrorism in the region, the rationale of Pak-US friendship would disappear in its eyes, especially when it is developing far stronger ties with India. At that time the charge of proliferation could be dug up in justification of the need for the programme's rollback. The tag of Islamic fundamentalism could give the need an added force.

The News, 2 April 2005

### **Centrifuges to be sent to Vienna: Kasuri** (Farhan Bokhari)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided in principle to hand over components of its used nuclear centrifuges to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - the Vienna based UN nuclear watchdog, in a significant measure to assist ongoing international investigations tied to Iran's nuclear programme, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said on Thursday. Kasuri's statement followed last month's remarks by President General Pervez Musharraf, publicly acknowledging for the first time that Pakistan was considering such a request from the IAEA. The announcement, which is likely to be criticised by opposition groups, promises to put an end to weeks of speculation over Pakistan's public acknowledgement of an agreement with the IAEA. Briefing senior newspaper editors and columnists at the Foreign Office over lunch on Friday, Kasuri, however, refuted suggestions that the agreement with the IAEA would in any way compromise Pakistan's nuclear programme. At the same time, he said Pakistan was against any attack on Iran over US-led western allegations that Tehran was pursuing a programme to produce nuclear weapons.

Daily Times, 2 April 2005

### **Yushchenko says previous Ukraine regime sold missiles to Iran, China**

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview on late Thursday that nuclear-capable cruise missiles were sold illegally to Iran and China under Kiev's previous regime. "I confirm this, though I do so with bitterness," Yushchenko, who will make an official visit to Washington next week, told NBC. He said the X-55 missiles were exported under a forged contract that had Russia as the country of destination, but did not say when the sale took place. A copy of the contract obtained by NBC appeared to bear clearance stamps for the export of 20 missiles to the Russia, which has denied any role in the sale, NBC said. No nuclear warheads were sold with the missiles, made in 1987 which have a range roughly of 3,200 kilometres and were poorly maintained, according to a Ukrainian source familiar with the investigation. US intelligence officials quoted by NBC said China and Iran each obtained six missiles. Ukrainian officials have offered conflicting accounts of the number of rockets delivered.

Daily Times, 2 April 2005

### **US dismisses Korea's demand**

SEOUL: The main US envoy on the North Korean nuclear standoff on Friday dismissed Pyongyang's latest conditions for returning to disarmament talks and called on the communist nation to return to the stalled negotiations. His comments follow a statement by a senior North Korean diplomat who reaffirmed that his nation would abstain from talks until the United States apologises for labeling the North an "outpost of tyranny." The North on Friday also said it will convene its rubber-stamp parliament - expected to endorse an ongoing boycott of the talks - later this month. In a lecture at Seoul National University, US Ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill said the North's latest statement "was not helpful." "Serious problems should not be dealt with ... sarcastic statements," said Hill, who has been named US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. Hill urged North Korea to "stop with these silly press announcements," and said they should bring their concerns to the arms talks. On Thursday, North Korea said it wanted to be treated as an equal at the six-nation disarmament talks, now that it claims to have nuclear weapons. It also urged the United States to verifiably remove all potential nuclear threats in the region. "Now that we have become a nuclear power, the six-party talks should be disarmament talks where participants can solve the issue on an equal basis," an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The Associated Press, 2 April 2005

**N Korea Wants Japan Out of Nuclear Talks** (Bo-Mi Lim)

SEOUL: North Korea said Saturday it remains committed to international negotiations on ending its nuclear weapons program, but demanded Japan withdraw from the six-nation talks. The comment came a day after the communist regime repeated that it would stay away from the stalled talks until the United States apologized for Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice calling North Korea one of the world's "outposts of tyranny." International efforts to resume the negotiations gained urgency after North Korea claimed in February that it has nuclear weapons. The talks, which also involve China, Russia and South Korea, have been suspended since June after three rounds of inconclusive meetings. On Saturday, North Korea said the Japanese government should not be a part of the talks because of what it called Japan's "cunning and vulgar" intention to exploit the process for its self-interest. "Japan's participation in the six-party talks only complicates the problem more and leads to a failure of coming to a resolution," the North's state-run Minju Joson newspaper said in a commentary carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency. "There is no longer any need to include Japan in the six-party talks."

The New York Times, 2 April 2005

**E-Mails Reveal Fraud in Nuclear Site Study** (Matthew L. Wald)

WASHINGTON, Apr. 1: Government employees studying whether Yucca Mountain in Nevada would be a suitable place to bury nuclear waste acknowledged in e-mail messages to each other that they had made up details about how they had done their research in order to appear to meet quality standards, according to some of the messages made public on Friday. Some of the frank exchanges included instructions to erase them. The Energy Department, which is trying to open a waste repository at the mountain, 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, disclosed the existence of the e-mail messages two weeks ago. On Friday, a subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Reform released dozens of pages of the messages. One analyst wrote that a computer program had generated data he could not explain, so he withheld it from the quality assurance department, known as QA.

The News, 2 April 2005

**North Korea asserts nukes parity with US**

SEOUL: Hopes for a speedy resumption of six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons drive faded on Friday after Pyongyang declared itself a nuclear power at par with Washington and said its new goal was regional disarmament. Analysts said that the North Korean statement injected doubt into an already complicated search for a resolution to a standoff that dates back to October 2002. North Korea said on Thursday that six-way talks were no longer adequate, because while the talks had been going on, it had developed from a country seeking nuclear weapons to a full-fledged nuclear power. Three rounds of talks bringing together the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States have been held, with the first round in August 2003 and the last taking place in June last year in Beijing. North Korea failed to show up for a fourth round, scheduled for September 2004. "Now that the DPRK (North Korea) has become a full-fledged nuclear weapons state, the six-party talks should be disarmament talks where the participating countries negotiate the issue on an equal footing," North Korea said in a foreign ministry statement released by its official Korean Central News Agency. At the core of the crisis is Washington's own arsenal of nuclear weapons, according to the North Koreans, arguing that it was because of the threat of pre-emptive nuclear attack from Washington that North Korea was driven to go nuclear in the first place.

People's Daily, 2 April 2005

**US says DPRK should abandon nuclear ambitions**

The United State reiterated on Friday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should abandon its nuclear ambitions. "We have a proposal that we put forward at the last round of talks... it's important for North Korea to come back to the six-party talks so that we can talk about how we move forward on that proposal," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters. "We have no preconditions for the talks," McClellan said. "North Korea needs to make a strategic decision, and that decision is to abandon their nuclear weapons ambitions. "And they need to come back to the six-party talks so we can talk about how we move forward on the proposal we have put on the table. It's a proposal that we believe addresses the concerns of all parties," McClellan said. The six-party talks, involving the United States, the DPRK, the Republic of Korea, China, Japan and Russia, have been stalled since June 2004.

International Herald Tribune, 2 April 2005

**N. Korea offers to widen nuke talks**

PYONGYANG: North Korea says six-party talks aimed at ending a standoff over its nuclear program should be transformed into wider arms reduction talks. It says the negotiations should look at the nuclear threat posed by

the United States on the Korean Peninsula. The statement issued through North Korea's official news agency says the six-party dialogue can only "bear fruit" if it seeks ways to root out the threat that the U.S. poses. North Korea in February acknowledged it had already produced nuclear weapons before withdrawing from the talks indefinitely. However, North Korean Premier Pak Pong-Ju last week held talks in Beijing with China's top leaders and reiterated that his country was ready to resume negotiations on its nuclear programs, but only when conditions were right. The U.S. says North Korea should return without preconditions to the six-party talks, which involve the U.S., North and South Korea, China, Japan and Russia. North Korea boycotted the talks last year after attending three rounds, blaming U.S. "insincerity."

The Japan Times, 2 April 2005

**Nuclear foes want Rokkasho, Monju on U.N. nonproliferation agenda** (Eric Johnston)

KYOTO: Japanese and international antinuclear groups plan to use an upcoming United Nations conference on nuclear nonproliferation to push for a moratorium on the Rokkasho atomic fuel reprocessing plant and the Monju prototype fast-breeder reactor. "Given the growing stockpiles of plutonium and weapons-usable nuclear fuel around the world, it makes no sense whatsoever for Japan to advocate reprocessing at Rokkasho, which enriches uranium fuel, or the restart of the Monju fast-breeder reactor. These two plants will add to the danger of nuclear proliferation," said Tom Clements of Greenpeace International in Washington at a recent gathering of antinuclear activists in Kyoto. As of March 2004, Japan had around 45 tons of plutonium in storage, including nearly 5.5 tons at nuclear plants and related facilities, and another 39 tons at overseas reprocessing plants -- mainly in England and France. In their campaign to put a stop to both plants, Clements and other members of Greenpeace, along with Aileen Mioko Smith of Green Action Kyoto and representatives of Tokyo-based Citizens' Nuclear Information Center, plan to be in New York during the May 2-27 U.N. nonproliferation conference.

The New York Times, 3 April 2005

**A Fierce Debate on Atom Bombs From Cold War** (William J. Broad)

For over two decades, a compact, powerful warhead called the W-76 has been the centerpiece of the nation's nuclear arsenal, carried aboard the fleet of nuclear submarines that prowl the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. But in recent months it has become the subject of a fierce debate among experts inside and outside the government over its reliability and its place in the nuclear arsenal. The government is readying a plan to spend more than \$2 billion on a routine 10-year overhaul to extend the life of the aging warheads. At the same time, some weapons scientists say the warheads have a fundamental design flaw that could cause them to explode with far less force than intended. Although the government has denied that assertion, officials have disclosed that Washington is nevertheless considering replacing the W-76 altogether. "This is the one we worry about the most," said Everet H. Beckner, who oversees the arsenal as director of defense programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The Hindu, 3 April 2005

**Draft treaty on nuclear terrorism**

UNITED NATIONS, Apr. 2: After seven years of talks, a U.N. committee has approved a draft treaty to fight nuclear terrorism, with the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, urging all nations to sign it. The draft, adopted by consensus yesterday, defines acts of nuclear terror and bolsters the legal framework to combat it, requiring those who threaten or commit such crimes to be extradited or prosecuted, and encouraging exchange of information and cooperation among states and a broad range of mutual assistance obligations. The treaty was first proposed by Russia in 1998 and took seven years to negotiate. Moscow acted following attempted black market sales of nuclear materials after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

The Times of India, 3 April 2005

**Pak N-experts had close links with Laden, LeT**

NEW DELHI: Pakistani nuclear scientists A Q Khan and Sultan Bashiruddin Mehmood had held meetings with Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders, exchanged letters with militant groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba and attended their gatherings and rallies, a media report said. "When the CIA searched (Sultan Bashiruddin) Mehmood's UTN (Umma Tameere-Nau) office in Kabul, they found large amounts of data on the construction and maintenance of nuclear weapons from the Kahuta laboratories. It also found letters exchanged between the UTN and Islamist extremist organisations including Lashkar-e-Toiba," a report in Pakistani weekly Friday Times said. Mehmood, a close confidante of A Q Khan and a former director of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, was arrested on October 23, 2001, at the headquarters of the UTN which he had set up for "humanitarian work in Afghanistan", it said. Quoting the famed journal Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, the article said Khan and Mehmood and other scientists of his organisation "attended Lashkar-e-Toiba gatherings".

Aljazeera.com, 3 April 2005

### **U.S. says Israel must renounce nuclear weapons**

Israel is thought to have about 200 nuclear warheads at Dimona. U.S. State Department has called on Israel to forswear nuclear weapons and accept (IAEA) international Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all nuclear activities. Officials at the Bush administration have called on India, Pakistan and Israel to act like Ukraine and South Africa, which in the last decade renounced their nuclear weapons. The officials refer to Israel's military nuclear capability, as distinct from "nuclear option," which must be rolled back, although not necessarily in the "foreseeable future." Those remarks contradict the custom of senior administration officials who always avoid any possible confirming reference to Israel's nuclear weapons. The officials, who hold middle-level and lower ranks, are Jackie Wolcott Sanders, ambassador, Conference on Disarmament and special representative of the president for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and Mark Fitzpatrick, acting deputy assistant secretary for nonproliferation.

The News, 4 April 2005

### **Fuel for South Asia's arms race**

The United States has far better ways to reward Pakistan for its helpful but selective pressure on Al Qaeda and the Taliban than President Bush's decision last week to break with 15 years of policy and sell Pakistan high-performance fighters whose only plausible use is to threaten India. Balancing those sales by offering New Delhi the chance to purchase, and perhaps build, similar planes doesn't lessen the damage of the Pakistan sale. It compounds it. The worst thing for these two nuclear powers, which have fought three wars against each other since 1947, is to encourage them to engage in a new, American-fuelled arms race. The United States does have a compelling strategic interest in helping Pakistan. But the right kind of help does not consist of selling Pakistan's armed forces, led by the country's military dictator, President Pervez Musharraf, prestigious, expensive and dangerous weapons systems. Decades of swollen military budgets have virtually bankrupted Pakistan, leaving its government unable to afford adequate spending on education and job-creating economic modernization. Instead, its leaders have fed the Pakistani people a diet of belligerent nationalism and projects like nuclear weapons that are designed to enhance a sense of prestige.

The News, 5 April 2005

### **North Korean envoys in China for N-talks**

SEOUL: Two senior North Korean officials were in China for discussions on resuming stalled six-party talks to end Pyongyang's nuclear programme, South Korean media reported on Monday quoting diplomatic sources in Beijing. First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-ju and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, both involved in the six-party talks, arrived in Beijing on Saturday, according to separate reports by Dong-a Ilbo and Chosun Ilbo newspapers. It was not clear whether the two officials were travelling together, they said. Dong-a Ilbo said Kang was meeting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei for consultations on resuming the talks, which involves the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and China. Kang is believed to be a key architect of North Korea's nuclear diplomacy and a close confidant of leader Kim Jong-il. Chosun Ilbo said Kim was also meeting with Wu. Three rounds of the talks produced little progress and Pyongyang has refused to meet for a fourth round. North Korea has said the United States must first drop what Pyongyang calls a hostile policy against it and agree to turn the talks into comprehensive disarmament negotiations that also address US nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula. The official US policy is it does not have nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula. China, which is the North's largest benefactor, is pressing for the resumption of the talks.

Dawn, 5 April 2005

### **Delhi's main worry is 'nuclear threat'** (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, Apr. 4: Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told senior army commanders on Monday that a future conventional war in the region was neither likely nor something to worry about, but said it was a larger nuclear threat as well as a far less tractable terrorist menace they should watch out for. Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference here, Mr Mukherjee said in this context there was a need to search for a cost-effective combination of technology and manpower to meet the country's defence requirement. "The most potent challenges faced by the country is not from conventional wars, but from unconventional threats at both the low end of the spectrum such as religious fundamentalism, terrorism, insurgency, arms smuggling and at the high end from nuclear and missile threats and weapons of mass destruction," Mr Mukherjee said. "We have to strengthen our border and airspace management, internal security and maritime environment to face these challenges successfully," he said. Referring to India's neighbours, Mr Mukherjee said New Delhi's approach towards Pakistan is to pursue a dialogue with the government on all outstanding issues and simultaneously to expand people-to-people contacts and promote confidence-building measures.

Aljazeera, 5 April 2005

### **Iran seeks nuclear deal with EU**

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami has said that Tehran hoped to strike a deal with the European Union on its peaceful use of nuclear energy. On a visit to Vienna, Khatami said Iran and the EU were working "to find a solution to the right of our land for the peaceful development of nuclear energy and also to overcome the worries of our European colleagues". The Iranian president said his country opposed, as other nations do, "the gross misuse of nuclear technology, which is the development of fearsome atomic weapons". But he said that even oil-rich Iran needs peaceful nuclear technology. Iran "does not want anything other than what law and the international community agree to," Khatami said.

Hindustan Times, 5 April 2005

#### **India, Pak, Israel must renounce nukes to join NPT: US** (S. Rajagopalan)

Sticking to its rigid stand, the United States wants the upcoming review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to reaffirm that India, Pakistan and Israel could join the treaty only as non-nuclear weapon states. "Just as South Africa and Ukraine did in the early 1990s, these states would have to forswear nuclear weapons and accept IAEA safeguards on all nuclear activities to join the treaty," says US Ambassador for Disarmament Jackie Wolcott Sanders. The 35-year-old NPT, a treaty that India regards as discriminatory, comes up for a review every five years. The seventh in the series, to be a month-long affair, gets under way in New York on May 2. Writing in the State Department's Electronic Journal, President George W Bush has hailed the NPT as a key legal barrier to nuclear weapons proliferation. The US, he avers, will carry out its treaty commitments and work to ensure its continuance in the interest of world peace and security. Sanders, however, did not sound optimistic on the prospects of India, Pakistan and Israel joining the treaty by renouncing nuclear weapons. "We recognize that progress toward universal adherence (to NPT) is not likely in the foreseeable future," she noted in a companion piece on strengthening the NPT.

Dawn, 5 April 2005

#### **Iran made its own centrifuges: US**

WASHINGTON, April 4: Iran was quietly making gas centrifuges at a site in Tehran that was later detected by international inspectors, a Washington-based anti-nuclear proliferation group says. The new study by the Institute for Science and International Security goes beyond the initial US claim that the network allegedly headed by Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan had supplied Iran with centrifuges needed for enriching uranium. It also contradicts media reports that Iran was using nuclear fuel supplied by the Khan network and instead says that Tehran used imported Chinese uranium fuel gas to test its centrifuges. The Iranian centrifuge-making facility is identified as Kalaye Electric, which was established near Tehran in 1995, and in Persian it simply means 'electric goods'. Corey Hinderstein, a deputy director at the institute who researched the Iranian site, claimed: "The Iranians have been using the site to research, develop and manufacture gas centrifuges for uranium enrichment." She said Iran had to reveal the real purpose of the site when international pressure forced them to allow inspectors from the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, to visit Kalaye Electric in May 2003.

People's Daily, 6 April 2005

#### **Top DPRK diplomat visits China: FM Spokesman**

Kang Sok Ju, first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), visited China from April 2-5, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced in Beijing Tuesday. Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Dai Bingguo held talks with Kang and exchanged views on issues of mutual concern including bilateral relations and the Korean Peninsula nuclear weapon situation, the spokesman said at a regular press conference.

Daily Times, 6 April 2005

#### **Khatami says nuclear talks at delicate stage**

PARIS: Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said in an interview published on Tuesday that Iran and key European countries are in a delicate stage in their negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme. "I believe that the Europeans and us are advancing carefully in this area," Khatami was quoted as saying in an interview with Le Figaro newspaper. "We are in a delicate situation." The Iranian leader, on an unofficial visit in Paris, was to meet on Tuesday with President Jacques Chirac, where the nuclear issue was likely to be discussed. France, Germany and Britain are in talks with Iran to try to negotiate a permanent suspension to uranium enrichment, which can create both fuel for energy and the core of nuclear weapons. Iran has insisted that a current freeze is short-term. The United States, which says Iran's nuclear programme is aimed at producing weaponry, has softened its tone to see if the diplomatic approach can work.

Dawn, 6 April 2005

#### **IAEA board to decide fate of EIBaradei**

VIENNA, April 5: The governing body of the UN nuclear watchdog will meet later this month to decide whether Mohamed ElBaradei will remain for a third term at the agency's helm despite fierce opposition by the United States. An internal document circulated among the 35 members of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) board of governors, obtained by Reuters, said the closed-door meeting would take place on April 27. ElBaradei, an Egyptian lawyer with decades of experience as a UN diplomat, has been the director general of the IAEA since 1997, when he took over from Sweden's Hans Blix, who later became the head of the UN arms inspection body UNMOVIC. "The US is still opposed to the appointment of ElBaradei and will do its best to see that someone else runs the agency," a diplomat said.

Aljazeera, 6 April 2005

#### **Iran, France hold nuclear talks**

Iranian President Muhammad Khatami has met French President Jacques Chirac for talks on Iran's nuclear program and the situation in Lebanon. On the nuclear issue, Khatami said on Tuesday he was "certain that today we are closer to a solution than we were a while back." "We have taken some positive steps," he said, expressing hope for "even more significant progress" at further talks at the end of this month. He said Iran had proposed an overall plan to resolve the nuclear issue, and the European reaction, particularly that of France, has been very open. France, Germany and Britain are trying to negotiate a permanent suspension of Tehran's efforts to enrich uranium, which can be used both as fuel for energy or in nuclear weapons. In a later press conference, Khatami also expressed his hopes for a "free, democratic and independent" Lebanon. The premier also said that "Iran and France are in agreement to make every effort to preserve peace and stability in Lebanon".

The Indian Express, 6 April 2005

#### **Pak-China to jointly produce JF-17 planes** (K.J.M. Varma)

ISLAMABAD, Apr. 5: Vowing to maintain both nuclear and conventional deterrence with India, Pakistan on Tuesday launched the joint production of JF-17 fighter aircraft with China, close on the heels of the US decision to supply it F-16 jets. The launch by President Pervez Musharraf coincided with the visit of Chinese premier Wen Jiabao today, and was conceived by both countries after flight testing last year in China. "Pakistan would meet its arms requirements for its forces for maintaining deterrence in both conventional and non-conventional fields," with India, state-run PTV quoted him as saying. "Pakistan would not confine to acquiring high-tech weapons but will also explore other options," Musharraf said. He said the launch reflected the 'all-weather' friendship between the two countries, which would be strengthened with Wen's visit. Islamabad and Beijing, which have a close defence ties for over two decades, initiated the JF-17 project several years ago when both nations struggled to acquire fourth generation aircraft.

The News, 6 April 2005

#### **North Korea sees 'no justification' for N-talks**

MANILA: There remains "no justification" for a speedy resumption of six-party talks aimed at defusing nuclear tensions in the Korean peninsula, Choe Thae Bok, North Korea's head of parliament said on Tuesday. He said that his country has built up a nuclear arsenal because of the threat of a US strike, as China relaunched efforts to persuade Pyongyang to resume nuclear disarmament talks. He told a conference in the Philippines that the North is ready to return to stalled nuclear disarmament talks if the United States apologises for labelling it an "outpost of tyranny" and agrees to coexist peacefully. He urged lawmakers from other nations to persuade Washington to take that action. "Due to the constant attempts of the United States to suffocate my country with the same tyranny as they resort to in the international stage, the Korean people experience the permanent threat of aggression," Choe told a conference of world parliamentarians in Manila. As a result, he said, North Korea had no choice but to stop participating in the six-way disarmament talks, and to reinforce its "nuclear arsenal in order to defend our ideology and system ... and our liberty and democracy."

Tehrantimes.com, 6 April 2005

#### **Iran will not abandon peaceful use of nuclear power: Khatami**

PARIS: Iran cannot agree to give up the peaceful use of atomic power and retains the right to resume "nuclear activities," Iranian President Mohammad Khatami told a French newspaper Tuesday. "We are ready to consider any reasonable solution, but we reject the definitive suspension of our activities," he told Le Figaro at the start of a 24-hour visit to Paris. "The Europeans must understand that the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and international conventions authorize us to possess nuclear technology for peaceful ends," Khatami said. "I hope this problem can be resolved peacefully. But if there is a bid to pressurize us into giving up peaceful nuclear power, that would be unacceptable for us," he said. Iran says it has suspended all work linked to enrichment while the talks with the European Union proceed. According to Reuters, Khatami said he took seriously the threat of a possible military attack by the United States on Iran's nuclear facilities.

The News, 6 April 2005

**'No compromise on minimum deterrence'**

KAMRA: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday described the launch of JF-17 Thunder aircraft production project as a giant leap towards indigenisation and self-reliance, saying Pakistan would maintain minimum level of defensive deterrence in both conventional and unconventional fields as it wanted peace with dignity and honour. Addressing the launching ceremony of the production the project of the multi-role fighter plane, jointly developed by Pakistan and China, the president said it reflects time-tested friendship between the two countries. "The time-tested, all-weather and deep-rooted Pakistan-China friendship is going from strength to strength and will be further enhanced with the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao," he said hours before the arrival of Chinese leader for a three-day visit. "Pakistan has come a long way and stands at the threshold of a major leap forward by acquiring indigenous capability of manufacturing the JF-17 aircraft, which will form the backbone of Pakistan Air Force," he said, at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. Pakistan, he added, stands for peace but jealously guards its sovereignty. "We want peace but we want it with honour and dignity," he emphasised.

The News, 6 April 2005

**Khatami expects 'significant' headway in N-talks**

PARIS: Visiting Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said here on Tuesday he expected "significant" headway at a meeting of Iranian and European negotiators on his country's controversial nuclear programme late this month. "I think we have made positive steps. Iran has proposed a global plan to settle this issue," Khatami told a press conference following 90 minutes of talks with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac at the Elysee palace. "The European reaction, particularly that of France, has been very open. I hope that during the next meeting on April 29, thanks to French support but also to the reception given to this global plan, we will be able to make even more significant headway," he noted. "We are today closer to a solution than some time ago." The EU is currently considering, ahead of a meeting next week with Iranian negotiators in Geneva, a proposal by Tehran to allow it to produce low enriched uranium, and on a small scale.

The News, 6 April 2005

**Groundbreaking of Chasnupp-2 on Friday** (Muhammad Anis)

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) would achieve another landmark with the groundbreaking of 300MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (Chasnupp-2) to be held on Friday (April 8). Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Strategic Programme would perform the groundbreaking ceremony in presence of Chinese officials and other senior PAEC officials at Chashma site, Mianwali. The sign for installation of C-2 was signed on March 24, 2003 between PAEC and concerned Chinese authorities. The negotiations gained momentum after the visit of President Gen Pervez Musharraf to China in November 2003. A spokesman of PAEC said that the construction of C-2 would increase economic activity, employment opportunities for thousands of engineers and scientists, skilled and semi-skilled workers at the plant site and associate upstream industry located all over Pakistan.

Dawn, 6 April 2005

**Iran's nuclear conundrum** (Najmuddin A. Shaikh)

There is, at least on the surface, a great deal of justification for concern about the degree to which Pakistan, as a neighbour and suspected proliferator, will be drawn into the current crisis in Iran-US relations and perhaps even into the efforts the Europeans are making to defuse the crisis by offering Iran such political and economic incentives as would persuade it to give up its pursuit of an independent nuclear fuel cycle. The concern is perhaps a little premature. In their meeting with European negotiators in Paris on March 23, the Iranians agreed to continue the talks in April. There was no meeting of minds at the March meeting with the Iranians continuing to maintain that they had a legal right to enrich uranium for use in civilian reactors. However, Iran is maintaining the present suspension of such activity and is willing to forego the assembly of any more centrifuges.

The International Herald Tribune, 6 April 2005

**Nuclear Iran I: The principle is set, now what's the price?** (Stanley A. Weiss)

LONDON Since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, Washington has made much of its self-righteous principles. No negotiations. No lifting of the U.S. economic embargo. No diplomatic relations. At least not until Tehran stops supporting terrorism and pursuing weapons of mass destruction. But these high principles yielded low returns. Washington's do-nothing, say-nothing stance toward Shiite Iran failed to change Tehran's behavior yet succeeded in depriving the United States of a valuable partner, from combating the Sunni terrorism of Al Qaeda to stabilizing Iraq. So now that Tehran is perhaps three years away from having a nuclear weapon, Washington has wisely decided it has other principles. With the recent decision to join the European Union in offering Iran economic incentives to give up its nuclear program, the Bush administration is now negotiating with the Islamic Republic, with Europe as the middleman.

The Times of India, 6 April 2005

**'US may build new nuclear warhead'**

WASHINGTON: The US agency overseeing nuclear programmes has asked Congress to approve funds to study the feasibility of a new nuclear warhead that could be deployed in less than 10 years without testing, Xinhua reports. Linton F Brooks, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, was quoted by the Washington Post on Tuesday as telling the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on strategic forces that the current Cold War stockpile of nuclear warheads is inadequate technically and militarily. "We want to explore whether there is a better way to sustain existing military capabilities in our stockpile without nuclear testing," Brooks said. The yields of most nuclear warheads in the current stockpiles "are probably too high" and as their casings are not designed to penetrate earth, "we have no capability against hardened, deeply buried targets", he said. The new warheads would be designed to be less sensitive to ageing and would be easier to certify as safe and reliable, Brooks said.

Hindustan Times, 6 April 2005

**Iran can't be allowed to have nuke weapons: US**

WASHINGTON, Apr. 6: Inability to prevent India and Pakistan from going nuclear is not an excuse for Iran to be allowed to do the same, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said, without directly naming the two de facto nuclear weapon powers. Answering a reporter, who asked at the National Conference of Editorial Writers why Iran can't have a nuclear programme when Pakistan and India have one, Rice on Monday said, "The Iranian nuclear programme is a very serious matter. "We would have preferred that the NPT had constrained other states (obviously an allusion to India and Pakistan) as well, but because you were not able to constrain states in the past does not mean that you have to stop trying to constrain states in the future, particularly one like Iran that has a very long history and rap sheet when it comes to terrorism. This is, after all, probably the most important supporter of terrorist rejectionist organisations, for instance, in the Middle East."

Daily Times, 7 April 2005

**China wants to cooperate with Pakistan in nuclear power generation: Jiabao**

ISLAMABAD: China is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in generating nuclear power after the completion of the second phase of the Chashma Nuclear Power project, said Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. Addressing the China-Pakistan Business Cooperation Conference on Wednesday, Mr Jiabao said China attached great importance to its relations with Pakistan in all fields. However, he said the economic and trade relations between both countries did not match their political and strategic relationship which needed to be enhanced rapidly. The Chinese premier said China and Pakistan could realise the actual potential of their economic and trade relations by improving cooperation in joint ventures, hi-tech industry, telecom, development of the mining industry and manufacturing. He said China would like to invest in Pakistan in various sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture and tourism, which would help create more jobs for Pakistanis.

People's Daily, 7 April 2005

**N. Korean talks could resume in June**

China's envoy to the United Nations said Wednesday that a meeting April 2 between officials in Beijing and Pyongyang was "very positive" and that talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program could resume in June. "We are working to make sure we pave the way for the resumption of the six-party talks very soon," Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said in New York. "I think it will be a couple months. Everyone is talking about June." The North Korean delegates, who visited China, "indicated that they believe six-party talks are the way, although sometimes they have certain conditions," Wang said. The U.S., Russia, South Korea and Japan have joined three previous rounds of inconclusive negotiations. North Korea rejected a fourth round while announcing Feb. 10 that it had developed nuclear weapons. "We have no indication that North Korea has yet agreed to return to the table," US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters in Washington Wednesday, adding that the U.S. remains "prepared to hold talks with no preconditions, and we urge North Korea to return to the table."

The News, 7 April 2005

**Iran pledges to keep uranium enrichment freeze during EU talks**

TEHRAN: Iran is prepared to keep its controversial uranium enrichment programme suspended for several months, provided negotiations with the European Union make progress, chief negotiator Hossein Mousavian said on Wednesday. "This is not a problem of days or months," Mousavian told AFP. "What's important is to reach a basic agreement which guarantees that negotiations can be successful." If such an agreement is reached, "negotiations can continue for several months." Tehran agreed in November to suspend its enrichment activities as a goodwill gesture for a maximum of six months, but the Europeans want the suspension to become permanent, a demand the Iranians have termed "absurd". Iran says it has the right to enrich uranium to low levels

to produce atomic fuel for civilian power stations, but highly enriched uranium can provide the core for an atomic bomb.

China Daily, 7 April 2005

**Nuclear power expansion set to spread inland** (Fu Jing)

SHANGHAI: China is pressing ahead with plans to expand its nuclear power industry with five new power stations planned for construction by 2010. And, for the moment, demand for the plants is outstripping supply with leading energy companies identifying new sites in inland regions, despite the government stated priority for power stations in coastal areas. Prior to the State Council's recent decision to "actively speed up development" of this kind of energy, China Power Investment Corporation found sites in inland regions such as Sichuan and Anhui provinces and Chongqing Municipality which they say are suitable for the construction of nuclear power stations. Yu Peigen, the company's general manager in charge of nuclear power, said site-identification work has been completed in nearly 10 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. "We have finished preparatory work for nuclear power construction in coastal Shandong and Liaoning provinces and are waiting approval from the State Council," said Yu.

Khaleej Times, 7 April 2005

**China plans to build 40 new nuclear reactors in next 15 years**

BEIJING: China plans to build 40 nuclear reactors within the next 15 years to achieve a new, increased target for generating capacity, state media reported on Thursday. From now until 2020, two to three 1,000 megawatt reactors will be put into commission every year, the China Daily said, citing the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense. "We are speeding up development of nuclear power because it is clean and green energy," said Zhang Fubao, deputy department director of China Atomic Energy Authority. The goal is to boost combined capacity from the current 8,700 megawatts to 40,000 megawatts by the year 2020, the paper said, up from a previously announced 2020 target of 36,000 megawatts. In a readjustment of earlier plans, the Chinese authorities now seem more willing to consider expansion of its nuclear generating capacity to the interior, rather than concentrating on the east coast. "Demand for the plants is outstripping supply with leading energy companies identifying new sites in inland regions, despite the government-stated priority for power stations in coastal areas," the paper said.

The Tribune, 7 April 2005

**Missile shield for India** (Maj Gen Satinder Kapoor (ret'd))

With India and Pakistan having joined the exclusive nuclear club and the attendant military technology upgrade, it is abundantly clear that any future conventional conflict with both traditional Indian adversaries - China and Pakistan - has the potential of upgradation to confrontation wherein the use of missiles is likely for delivery of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), be they nuclear or non-nuclear. Protection of the air space has thus assumed a level of importance, which is unprecedented. Before any decision on a weapon system such as Patriot is gone into, it would be advisable to understand the threat scenario and its imminence. Today we in India, have a credible nuclear potential. With the near parity that exists between India and Pakistan in the nuclear field, a nuclear deterrence is automatically in place, threats of first use by Pakistan notwithstanding. Both nations have also seen the futility of a limited or full scale conventional war to resolve major issues like Kashmir. For the present, there is no emergency issue with the Chinese, which can lead to a serious conflict.

China Daily, 7 April 2005

**US nuclear plants vulnerable to terrorist attacks**

Fuel storage pools at nuclear power plants in 31 states of the USA may be vulnerable to terrorist attacks that could unleash raging fires and deadly radiation, scientists advised the US government on Wednesday. The group of nuclear experts said neither the government nor the nuclear industry "adequately understands the vulnerabilities and consequences of such an event." They recommended undertaking a plant-by-plant examination of fuel storage security as soon as possible. In the meantime, plant operators promptly should reconfigure used fuel rods in the storage pools to lower decay-heat intensity and install spray devices to reduce the risk of a fire should a storage facility be attacked, the scientists said. Congress sought the study by a National Academy of Science panel because of the heightened concerns that terrorists might seek to target nuclear power plants. The release Wednesday of a declassified version of the report followed months of debate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over how much of the findings should remain secret, and therefore, unavailable to potential terrorists.

The New York Times, 7 April 2005

**Study Finds Vulnerabilities in Pools of Spent Nuclear Fuel** (Matthew L. Wald)

WASHINGTON, Apr. 6: Terrorists could plausibly mount a successful attack on the pool of spent fuel at a nuclear power reactor, according to a study done for Congress by the National Academy of Sciences. The scientists said federal regulators should evaluate each plant to determine if some of the fuel should be moved into dry casks to lower the risks. The report contradicts the position of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which says that the pools, maintained at more than 100 reactors, are as safe as casks, which reactor owners have turned to only as their pools have reached capacity. An attack would be difficult but "certainly no more difficult than the Sept. 11 attacks," Kevin Crowley, the study director at the National Academy, said in a conference call with reporters. Louis J. Lanzerotti, the chairman of the committee that issued the report and a professor of physics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, said the study group "identified several scenarios that could have serious consequences at some plants." The report was finished last summer as a classified document, but release of an unrestricted version was delayed until Wednesday by arguments between the academy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over what could be made public.

People's Daily, 7 April 2005

#### **US urges DPRK to return to six-party talks**

The United States on Wednesday renewed its call for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to return to the six-party talks. "We have no indication that North Korea has yet agreed to return to the table," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said at a news briefing. "We reiterate we remain prepared to hold the talks with no preconditions, and we urge North Korea to return to the table for serious discussions so that international concerns about its nuclear programs can be resolved and so that North Korea can end its international isolation," Boucher said. The United States has said it remains committed to the six-party talks even though the DPRK declared on Feb. 10 to withdraw from the talks. Three rounds of the six-party talks have been held to try to resolve the nuclear confrontation between the United States and the DPRK. The six-party talks have been stalled since June last year as the DPRK accused the United States of adopting a hostile policy towards DPRK.

The News, 8 April 2005

#### **Japan seeks information on Qadeer's N Korea links**

ISLAMABAD: Japan's foreign minister has asked officials in Islamabad for information about Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's links to North Korea, a Japanese official said on Thursday. Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura made the request at a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri. "The Japanese foreign minister urged the Pakistani side to provide Japan more information on so-called Dr AQ Khan's connections," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hatsuhsa Takashima told reporters after talks between the two ministers. He did not say what was Kasuri's response to the request. Japan has no diplomatic ties with North Korea and has been demanding the reclusive communist state return to international nuclear disarmament negotiations. North Korea declared in February that it has built nuclear weapons. At the meeting with Kasuri, Machimura promised that his country would resume annual development loans for Pakistan that were suspended after Pakistan carried out the nuclear tests, Takashima said.

People's Daily, 8 April 2005

#### **China to continue to make efforts to reopen six-party talks, FM spokesman**

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang vowed in Beijing Thursday that China would continue to make efforts to restore six-party talks as soon as possible, calling for the concerned parties to show flexibility, sincerity and good will. Qin said in a reply to a reporter's question that China had a long and deep exchange of views with the first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kang Sok Ju during his visit to China this week, in order to promote peace and dialogue and push forward the involved parties to take substantial measures to reopen the talks. Qin stressed that China's position on a nuclear free status on the Korean peninsula remains unchanged and that China will continue to make efforts to promote dialogue and consultation to safeguard peace and stability on the peninsula.

Deccan Herald, 8 April 2005

#### **Diplomacy and 'deterrence' (M B Naqvi)**

The euphoria of warming relations has not slowed down the race for nuclear and conventional weapons. Euphoria continues to grip the media and the people in both Pakistan and India that relations between the two countries are improving rapidly, even though the so-called 'Composite Dialogue' has made no progress whatever, despite two failed successive attempts. A third bout of talks is scheduled, may be it is under way. But it has to be noted that its results will be known only some months later. Since contacts between newsworthy people are continuing and both governments are consciously encouraging euphoric sentiments, there is a basis for optimism though frequent reality checks are necessary. The sole superpower is making rapid diplomatic moves with the objective of keeping both countries securely yoked to its chariot. Doubtless, America stands behind the eruption of much of

this euphoria, as a result of the two governments responding to American facilitation. Hence, the bilateral dialogue continues to be re-scheduled, no matter how many times it fails.

United Press International, 8 April 2005

### **China plans to use more nuclear energy**

Beijing, China, Apr. 7: China plans to build 40 nuclear power plants over the next 15 years, an official announced at a symposium in Shanghai Wednesday. Zhang Fubao, an official from the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, said nuclear energy would play an increasingly important role in the development of China's power generating industry. Xinhua quoted Zhang as saying nuclear energy would become a pillar of power supply in eastern China's coastal region. The Ling'ao Nuclear Power Station in southern Guangdong province and the Qinshan Plant in eastern Zhejiang are undergoing expansion, and new nuclear plants are being built in both provinces. By 2020, the generating capacity of China's nuclear power sector is to reach 40 million kilowatts, accounting for 4 percent of the country's total installed power generating capacity, Zhang said. Nuclear power provided 2.3 percent of China's electricity in 2004. The Shanghai symposium coincided with the start of the China International Exhibition on Nuclear Power Industry, an event attracting more than 130 enterprises and research institutes from around the world.

The Washington Post, 8 April 2005

### **Editorial: Nuclear Freeze**

With both parties furiously mobilizing their bases, the war over judicial nominations seems headed for an apocalyptic showdown. Republicans, incensed at Democratic obstruction, threaten the "nuclear option": a procedural trick to abolish the filibuster for nominations. Democrats threaten to retaliate by bringing the Senate to a standstill. Were President Bush and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) inclined toward statesmanship, they could tamp down the crisis. They have shown little such inclination, though this week has seen encouraging signs from Mr. Frist. As a rule we are not fans of tactics, such as the filibuster, that are intended to prevent up-or-down votes on judicial nominees. Decency demands that nominees receive reasonable and prompt consideration; the Senate owes the presidency and the judiciary timely votes as well. But Republicans are wrong to single out the filibuster as an abomination that must be placed out of bounds in all circumstances.

The Associated Press, 8 April 2005

### **U.S. Envoy: N. Korea Nukes Went to Libya**

SEOUL: Stung by the lapses of intelligence on Iraq's weapons programs, a top U.S. diplomat insisted Thursday that Washington has concrete evidence North Korean nuclear material went to Libya's since shuttered atomic arms operation. He warned that North Korea's cash-strapped communist regime could still be a risk for a further spread of atomic arms technology and materials. Christopher Hill, the main U.S. envoy on the North Korea nuclear standoff, told The Associated Press that even though Libya got the nuclear material from a Pakistani black market nuclear network, the North Koreans must have known where their material would end up. Hill, U.S. ambassador to South Korea who leaves next week to become assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said there is "physical evidence that the material that arrived in Libya had started its journey" in North Korea. He said the evidence was "beyond my reasonable doubt." It was the strongest on-the-record claim by a U.S. official that such evidence exists.

The Indian Express, 9 April 2005

### **Pakistani charged with exporting nuclear equipment: US**

A Pakistani businessman, Humayun A. Khan, was charged with arranging the shipment to his homeland of equipment used in nuclear weapons development in violation of US export restrictions, the Homeland Security Department said today. A federal grand jury in Washington this week indicted Khan, 47, on charges of conspiracy and violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison, according to a news release from Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Khan is believed to be at large in Pakistan, said Dean Boyd, a Homeland Security spokesman. As part of the case, US authorities unsealed a guilty plea by Asher Karni, 51, an Israeli national who lived in Cape Town, South Africa, before his arrest in 2004. He admitted making unlawful exports to Pakistan and India. The indictment says Khan is owner and chief executive of Pakland PME Corp in Islamabad, Pakistan. Sometime around August 2002 he asked Karni, owner of Top-Cape Technology in Cape Town, to help him acquire certain models of oscilloscopes made by Tektronix Inc of Beaverton, Oregon, according to the news release. Khan was an authorized distributor for Tektronix in Pakistan.

The News, 9 April 2005

### **North Koreans asked to get combat-ready against US invasion**

SEOUL: North Korea's army chief on Friday ordered all citizens to be combat-ready for a US invasion and said the communist country would increase its nuclear deterrent unless Washington drops its alleged hostile policy. Vice Marshal Kim Young Chun, chief of the Korean People's Army, said "all servicepersons and citizens should firmly arm themselves" and "keep themselves in full combat readiness to deal sternly with the US imperialists' new scheme to wage war," according to a report by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. "The more the United States stubbornly pursues its hostile policy ... we will continue increasing our nuclear deterrent for self-defence," Kim said at a national meeting commemorating the 12th anniversary of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's becoming chairman of the National Defense Commission. The remarks Friday, echoing similar recent rhetoric, comes amid international efforts to lure North Korea back to talks aimed at convincing it to give up its nuclear weapons programmes.

China Daily, 9 April 2005

#### **DPRK warns to strengthen nuclear deterrent**

A senior military official of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday warned that his country will strengthen its self-defensive nuclear deterrent in face of the US moves to stifle it. "The US persistent hostile policy toward the DPRK will only prompt Pyongyang to bolster its self-defensive nuclear deterrent," said Kim Yong-chun, Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, at a national meeting marking the 12th anniversary of Kim Jong-il's election as chairman of the National Defense Committee. He accused that the United States should be chiefly blamed for the present deadlock of the six-party talks, saying that the United States is working hard to bring down the system in the DPRK and is staging large-scale war exercises aimed at invading the DPRK. "If the US imperialists dare to launch a war of aggression on the peninsula, the army and people of the DPRK will turn out as one in a just war and mercilessly wipe out the aggressors and win a final victory in the stand-off with the US," he said.

Daily Times, 9 April 2005

#### **Controlling the world's most dangerous weapons** (Stephen G Rademaker)

In this new century, let us rise to the challenge of our time: preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and thwarting terrorists' deadly aims. If we work together, I have no doubt that we shall prevail. A new world emerged on September 11, 2001 - a world more uncertain and dangerous than the one we knew before. In countries around the world, innocents are the target of a new type of war. Terrorists, including Al Qaeda, are trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Terrorists demonstrated their willingness to use these devastating weapons even before September 11 with the use of poison gas in Tokyo's subway. These weapons have become the terrorists' weapons of choice precisely because they seek to destroy innocent life on an indiscriminate, mass scale. The greatest threat before humanity today is the nexus of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction proliferation.

The Guardian, 9 April 2005

#### **US nuclear warhead plan under fire** (Julian Borger)

Washington: Democrats and American arms control groups warned yesterday that a new Bush administration scheme to replace ageing nuclear warheads could be used as a cover for the eventual construction of a "black arsenal" of new weapons. The plan, known as the reliable replacement warhead programme (RRW), was unveiled this week by Linton Brooks, the head of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Instead of maintaining the old stockpile by monitoring the warheads and replacing occasional spare parts, RRW would entail the design, production and deployment of a new generation of warheads. These would not require testing, and therefore would not break the US moratorium on nuclear tests. Mr Brooks said the new warheads would be used in existing cold war era weapons. The construction of a warhead production facility would also maintain the expertise and infrastructure for the US to respond flexibly to new threats. "We need to maintain the capability to respond to potential future requirements," he said.

The New York Times, 9 April 2005

#### **U.S. Says Banned Nuclear Technology Went to Pakistan and India** (David S. Cloud)

WASHINGTON, April 8: Federal prosecutors investigating the smuggling of nuclear technology disclosed Friday that a South African businessman had pleaded guilty to arranging illegal exports of American-made equipment both to Pakistan and its regional rival, India. Asher Karni, an Israeli who lives in South Africa, entered the guilty plea last September and has been cooperating with investigators, prosecutors said. The prosecutors, however, kept the proceeding secret until Friday, when they unsealed the plea agreement and charges brought against Humayun Khan, an Islamabad businessman with longstanding ties to Pakistan's military. Mr. Khan is said to be Mr. Karni's partner. As part of Mr. Karni's plea agreement, he acknowledged that he also was involved in 2002 in selling sophisticated electronic equipment to government agencies in India, some of which are involved in nuclear weapons and missile research. It is not clear whether the goods he sold were useful for making nuclear weapons.

The New York Times, 9 April 2005

### **EDITORIAL: Terrorist Attacks on Reactor Pools**

A report just released by the National Academy of Sciences bears two disturbing revelations. The cooling pools for nuclear waste at some reactor sites may be far more vulnerable to a devastating attack by terrorists than federal regulators are willing to admit. And the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is operating in a hermetically sealed cocoon that makes it difficult for anyone - even the academy, armed with a Congressional mandate - to tell whether the public is adequately protected. The academy was brought into the fray after a group of scientists, analyzing reports published by the regulatory commission itself, issued a report suggesting that a terrorist attack could crack the pools that hold used nuclear fuel at reactor sites, thereby causing a leak of cooling water and setting off fires that could unleash radioactive plumes worse than those at Chernobyl.

The New York Times, 9 April 2005

### **Nukes Are Green** (Nicholas D. Kristof)

If there was one thing that used to be crystal clear to any environmentalist, it was that nuclear energy was the deadliest threat this planet faced. That's why Dick Gregory pledged at a huge anti-nuke demonstration in 1979 that he would eat no solid food until all nuclear plants in the U.S. were shut down. Mr. Gregory may be getting hungry. But it's time for the rest of us to drop that hostility to nuclear power. It's increasingly clear that the biggest environmental threat we face is actually global warming, and that leads to a corollary: nuclear energy is green. Nuclear power, in contrast with other sources, produces no greenhouse gases. So President Bush's overall environmental policy gives me the shivers, but he's right to push ahead for nuclear energy. There haven't been any successful orders for new nuclear plants since 1973, but several proposals for new plants are now moving ahead - and that's good for the world we live in. Global energy demand will rise 60 percent over the next 25 years, according to the International Energy Agency, and nuclear power is the cleanest and best bet to fill that gap.

Daily Times, 9 April 2005

### **Japan pondered pre-emptive attack on North Korea in 1994**

TOKYO: Officially pacifist Japan in 1994 studied the possibility of a pre-emptive attack on North Korea amid fears of a missile launch, even though it lacked the military capability, an official and a report said Friday. The Sankei Shimbun said the Defense Agency conducted a simulation on mobilizing fighter jets in the event of an imminent missile threat by the Stalinist state. Asked about the report, Defense Agency Director-General Yoshinori Ono said: "I checked if such a thing took place and received a report that it likely did." Ono stressed that Japan remained pacifist. "The principle of our country is defense-only, and we have maintained the stance of not having such (offensive) capabilities," he said. "Even if it is theoretically and legally possible to attack enemy land, we should not have the capabilities and do not have them at the moment. The Japan-US security alliance supplements it," he said. The Sankei said the 1994 study was conducted amid rising concerns over North Korean threats as a year earlier Pyongyang test-fired an intermediate-range Rodong-1 missile into the Sea of Japan (East Sea) between them.

Dawn, 9 April 2005

### **Pakistan to build more N-power plants: Ground breaking of Chashma-2** (Sher Baz Khan)

MIANWALI, Apr. 8: Dr Ishfaq Ahmed, special adviser to the prime minister on strategic programme, said on Friday Pakistan would build more nuclear power plants after the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (CHASNUPP-2) to achieve its target of generating 8,800mw by 2020. He was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of the Chashma-2 project, which will be completed by 2011 at a cost of Rs51 billion. The project, with a gross production capacity of 340mw, will be jointly built by the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) under the monitoring of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The plant using enriched uranium and light water will be the country's third nuclear power plant after the 137mw Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp) and the 325mw Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (CHASNUPP), phase-I. Recalling the problems faced by Pakistan in the wake of embargo imposed by the Canadian government on Kanupp soon after India had conducted nuclear tests in 1974, the adviser said that Pakistani scientists had been able to efficiently run and manage the plant.

The New York Times, 9 April 2005

### **North Korea Said to Reject China's Bid on Nuclear Talks** (Joel Brinkley)

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8: After two senior-level meetings between North Korean and Chinese leaders over the last two weeks to discuss the North's nuclear-weapons program, the Chinese have failed so far to persuade North Korea to rejoin nuclear disarmament talks, senior administration officials and diplomats said Friday. As a result of the continuing deadlock, informal discussions have begun among the five parties to the talks on new, more aggressive strategies that could be used if and when it is decided that the talks have reached a dead end. Among the steps being discussed, the administration officials and diplomats said, are increasing the frequency and

intensity of United States and South Korean military exercises in the region. Even now, North Korea grows incensed with each exercise. In addition, intelligence gathering operations and reconnaissance about the North would be increased in a manner that the North Korean government would be sure to notice, the officials said. And enforcement activities against North Koreans involved in drug trafficking and weapons smuggling, among other illegal activities, would be expanded, possibly including increased patrols that might lead to interceptions of North Korean ships.

The News, 9 April 2005

**Work on Chashnupp-2 kicks off** (Muhammad Anis)

MIANWALI: Construction work on Chashma Nuclear Power Plan Unit-2 (Chashnupp or C-2) kicked off here on Friday with Pakistan and China pledging to build more nuclear power plants for peaceful use of nuclear energy. Pakistani engineers are tasked with carrying out the installation and commissioning of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Unit-2 (C-2). It would be linked to the national grid by the year 2011. The groundbreaking ceremony of the 325-MW power plant was performed by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Strategic Programme Dr Ashfaq Ahmad at a ceremony held at Kundian here on Friday. Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan, PAEC Chairman Parvez Butt, Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Zhang Chunxiang, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Salman Bashir, Vice President of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), Wang Shoujun and other senior officials were also present.

Daily Times, 10 April 2005

**Time running out to get North Korea to talks, says US expert**

BEIJING: North Korea is taking an increasingly hardline stance on talks on its nuclear ambitions, a US expert said on Saturday, after five days of talks with leaders of the isolated regime. Selig Harrison, of the Washington-based Centre for International Policy, said Pyongyang was ready to return to six-party talks, but that the opportunity to persuade it to dismantle its nuclear programmes had been lost. The best that the US, Japan, Russia, South Korea and China could now hope for at talks that have been stalled since last June was a freeze of existing programmes, and time was running short even for that, Harrison said. "There has been a major policy shift in Pyongyang in recent weeks. The hardline elements there are riding high, the army has increasingly asserted its control over nuclear policy," Harrison told reporters in Beijing. "Now North Korea is not prepared to discuss dismantling its nuclear weapons until complete normalisation of all economic and diplomatic relations with the US," he said.

Daily Times, 10 April 2005

**Expert says North Korea changing policy on six-party talks**

BEIJING: North Korea has undergone a major policy shift in its approach to the six party talks on its nuclear arsenal and is now only willing to dismantle its weapons after the United States grants it full diplomatic relations, a leading North Korean expert said Saturday. The new policy, instituted by hardliners in the Stalinist government, was detailed in talks in recent days between high level leaders like Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's number two leader, and Selig Harrison, head of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Center of International Policy, Harrison said. "North Korea is not prepared to discuss dismantling its nuclear weapons until the complete normalization of all economic and diplomatic relations with the United States," Harrison told journalists. "However, they did make clear that they are ready to freeze their nuclear arsenals at present levels, specifically they are prepared to freeze activities at the five megawatt Yongbyon reactor in respects to the six party talks and direct bilateral talks with the US." Without a freeze, North Korea could extract spent fuel rods at the reactor and reprocess enough plutonium to build an additional six nuclear bombs, he said.

The Hindu, 10 April 2005

**U.S. nuclear warheads plan under fire** (Julian Borger)

WASHINGTON, Apr. 9: Democrats and American arms control groups warned yesterday that a new Bush administration scheme to replace ageing nuclear warheads could be used as a cover for the eventual construction of a "black arsenal" of new weapons. The plan, known as the reliable replacement warhead programme (RRW), was unveiled this week by Linton Brooks, the head of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Instead of maintaining the old stockpile by monitoring the warheads and replacing occasional spare parts, RRW would entail the design, production and deployment of a new generation of warheads. These would not require testing, and therefore would not break the U.S. moratorium on nuclear tests. Mr. Brooks said the new warheads would be used in existing cold war era weapons. The construction of a warhead production facility would also maintain the expertise and infrastructure for the U.S. to respond flexibly to new threats.

Daily Times, 10 April 2005

### **Nuclear experts due today for talks**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of experts working to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons will arrive in Pakistan today (Sunday) for talks, an official said. Experts from 44-member Nuclear Suppliers Group - a voluntary organisation that monitors sensitive dual-use equipment from industrialised countries that could be used for illicit weapons - will meet Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad on Monday, the official said on Saturday. He said the experts had no plan to inspect any of Pakistan's nuclear facilities.

Tehrantimes.com, 10 April 2005

### **Fischer: EU does not oppose Iran nuclear energy generation**

VIENNA: Austrian President Heinz Fischer said here Thursday European Union does not oppose generation of nuclear energy by Iran and the country is entitled to peaceful use of nuclear technology. In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Fischer said agreement should be reached in talks between Iran and the European Union on the issue that both Europe and the world have the right to obtain the guarantees that Iran would not deviate towards production of nuclear arms. The nuclear talks between Iran and the EU are "very difficult, hard and very critical" because there is concern that in light of peaceful nuclear activities, there would be the possibility for production of weapons of mass destruction, said the president. Nuclear activities, especially in the region wherein Iran is located, are very sensitive because the Middle East is a very critical region from the standpoint of global politics, he added.

Tehrantimes.com, 11 April 2005

### **IAEA chief says Al-Qaeda sought nuclear weapon: TV**

OSLO: The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said in an interview that Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups had sought to obtain a nuclear weapon, Norwegian television reported on Saturday. "They were actively looking into acquiring a nuclear weapon and other weapons of mass destruction," Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in an interview in Vienna with Norway's commercial TV 2 channel. TV 2 said that ElBaradei's remarks referred to the Al-Qaeda network, blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, and other extremist groups. Its website quoted ElBaradei as saying that proof had been found in Afghanistan, where U.S.-led-troops toppled the Taliban government in 2001 after it refused to hand over Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden. "I would be surprised if they did not try to acquire nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. That would be the most horrible scenario because these extremist groups -- if they have the weapon, they will use it," ElBaradei said.

Daily Times, 11 April 2005

### **'Pakistan's nuclear plants are environment friendly'**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's nuclear power plants are environment-friendly and safer than other power plants in the world, said Javed Iqleem, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) member, on Sunday. Pakistan with the help of China will set up a third nuclear power plant in Chashma and the project, with a gross production capacity of 340 mega watt (MW), will jointly be built with the coordination of China National Nuclear Corporation at the cost of Rs 52 billion, he added. He said Pakistan had only two nuclear power plants, Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) and Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-1, and had planned to increase its capacity to 8,800 MW at the end of 2030. "The world uses coal generally to produce electricity through nuclear power plants, but Pakistan uses 48.5 percent gas with other components to generate electricity from its nuclear plants," he said.

The New York Times, 11 April 2005

### **North Korea Deals a Blow to Arms Talks** (Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING, Apr. 10: The North Korean government has disavowed a commitment to negotiate a step-by-step elimination of its nuclear weapons program with the Bush administration but may freeze the production of nuclear bombs under strict conditions, said an American specialist on North Korea who completed a visit there this weekend. The specialist, Selig S. Harrison of the Center for International Policy in Washington, said in an interview that he had been informed by several top-ranking North Korean leaders that the United States must pledge to respect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity before any freeze could be discussed. The Bush administration has rejected conditions for resuming negotiations. "We have lost the opportunity to negotiate a step-by-step agreement that would lead to the eventual dismantling of their nuclear program," Mr. Harrison said in Beijing after returning from Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. "They are no longer willing to discuss that possibility."

Reuters , 11 April 2005

### **US Says No Deadline, Concessions for North Korea**

SEOUL: The United States has not set a deadline for North Korea to return to stalled nuclear talks and will not

offer concessions to bring it back to the table, the chief U.S. negotiator said on Monday. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs Christopher Hill said in an interview he was reluctant to put a deadline on North Korea's return to the talks but that options were being considered in case they fell through. "A time will come when we have to decide whether this is the right option and whether we have to look at other options," Hill said. "One option we don't have is to walk away. We have got to figure out how to solve this problem." "I am really reluctant to put a deadline out there, especially an artificial deadline," Hill told Reuters at the U.S. embassy in Seoul, where he has been ambassador for less than a year. It was his first interview in his new role.

Dawn, 11 April 2005

**Under-trial businessman had no role in N-project: Pakistan denies reports** (Anwar Iqbal)

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10: Pakistan has rejected media reports as 'malicious' and 'unfounded' that Islamabad had tried to illegally buy nuclear devices from US companies. On Friday, the US government formally charged a Pakistani businessman Humayun A. Khan with illegally exporting devices from the US that could also be used in developing nuclear weapons. Mr Khan has denied exporting any equipment for Pakistan's nuclear programme and the indictment, unsealed before a federal jury in Washington on Friday, acknowledges that the devices can also be used for treating kidney stones. "The government of Pakistan was not involved at any stage, in any capacity and in any way, directly or indirectly," Pakistan's deputy chief of mission in Washington, Mohammed Sadiq, told Dawn. "Humayun Khan was not involved in procuring triggers or other equipment for Pakistan's nuclear programme."

Dawn, 11 April 2005

**Chashma-II power plant**

It is reassuring that China and Pakistan have finally started work on the second unit of the Chashma nuclear power plant as the project is of vital national importance. The 340-megawatt (MW) second unit is expected to be operational in 2011 and will help Pakistan correct its generation imbalance in favour of cheaper sources of energy. Under the 2002 policy for power generation projects, the focus has shifted from meeting the rise in demand for power to promoting cheaper and indigenous sources of fuels and developing renewable energy sources. As of today, Pakistan has an installed generation capacity of 18,598 MW. Of this, nuclear power has a share of barely three per cent while the bulk of the power comes from thermal sources, which stand at 65 per cent, followed by hydroelectric power at 32 per cent. It is predicted that by 2010, Pakistan will face a shortfall in natural gas supply. In that event, a number of power plants now run on gas will become defunct. Keeping this in mind, one option Pakistan has before it is to try to obtain more power from other sources of energy, such as nuclear power.

Dawn, 11 April 2005

**Global nuclear challenges** (Mahdi Masud)

The forthcoming seventh review conference of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which entered into force 35 years ago in 1970, is due to commence within a few weeks in New York. The treaty makes a vital contribution to international security by acting as a barrier to nuclear proliferation and by pursuing the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons. The treaty, whose signatories now number 190, provided for two basic obligations. The non-nuclear states renounce the option of acquiring nuclear weapons in return for assurance of unimpeded access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. On their part, the nuclear weapons states (the US, Russia, China, UK and France) pledged progress towards elimination of nuclear weapons. Thirty five years down the line, two problems inherent in the treaty have raised their heads. On the one hand, the commitment on nuclear disarmament on the part of nuclear weapons signatories is nowhere near fulfilment or even serious consideration in spite of cuts in nuclear arsenals by the US and Russia.

Daily Times, 11 April 2005

**Nuclear group arrives in Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD: A Global Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) delegation arrived here on Sunday for negotiations with Pakistan today (Monday) at the Foreign Office. The global nuclear supplier group will talk with Foreign Office additional secretary Tariq Usman. The delegation, headed by a Swedish nuclear expert, will exchange views with Tariq Usman on matters about the sale and export of nuclear equipment and other issues. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jillani said the talks would expand bilateral relations with the delegation. "Pakistan wants to extend bilateral relations with the nuclear supplier group, which is in our interest," he added.

Daily Times, 11 April 2005

**VIEW: Defeating North Korea's nuclear blackmail** (Hideaki Kaneda)

Japan's policy towards North Korea should continue to emphasise solidifying ties with the US and strengthening

cooperation with China, South Korea, and Russia, making every effort to promote early resumption of the six-party talks. But dialogue cannot be an end in itself. Progress will be impossible if North Korea is allowed to turn its mere participation in talks into a bargaining chip. North Korea's announcement that it possesses nuclear weapons has fuelled a diplomatic frenzy. To persuade North Korea to return to the six-party talks - with China, Japan, the US, Russia, and South Korea - on defusing the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula, Japan, the US, and South Korea have now offered to expand the scope of the talks to allow North Korea to raise any issue that concerns it. This could be a grave mistake.

The News, 11 April 2005

#### **Iran vows not to give up uranium enrichment**

TEHRAN: Iran will not abandon uranium enrichment, despite its negotiations with the European Union on its nuclear programme, a senior official said on Sunday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said Iran would never renounce its right to carry out the process, but was hopeful about the outcome of the talks with Europe. Britain, France and Germany, representing the European Union, have been trying to persuade Tehran to scrap all parts of its atomic fuel cycle, particularly uranium enrichment which can be used to make atomic bombs as well as fuel for power plants. Asefi said uranium enrichment was Iran's legitimate right, reiterating comments made almost daily by Iranian officials. "Iran will never give up its (uranium) enrichment activities," Asefi told a weekly news conference. Washington, which suspects Iran of using civilian atomic power as cover for a weapons programme, backs the talks but wants Iran to give up its disputed nuclear activities. Iran, which insists its atomic ambitions are entirely peaceful, has agreed to suspend uranium enrichment while the talks with the EU continue but insists the freeze is temporary. "Iran's uranium enrichment suspension is only for a short period of time," Asefi said. "It will be until reaching an agreement with the EU."

The News, 11 April 2005

#### **Editorial: Chashnupp: a second step forward**

The initiation of construction work on the Chashma Nuclear Power Plan Unit 2 (Chashnupp-2) is not only another building block in Pakistan-China friendship but is also a step forward in meeting the future energy needs of the country through indigenous sources. The plant is scheduled to be commissioned in August 2011. On completion Chashnupp-2 will add 325 megawatts to the national grid, in line with the targets in the energy sector set by the government in 2001. The project will follow further extension in the shape of Chashnupp-3 and Chashnupp-4 to achieve the overall objective of attaining around 10 percent contribution of nuclear energy to the country's total power generation by 2030. This push for peaceful use of nuclear energy will enhance human and technological expertise in the country, as well as create a sense of energy security for future, amid climatic and regional political uncertainties on reliance on hydel power.

The News, 12 April 2005

#### **NSG briefed on Pak measures against N-proliferation**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which polices global exports of material and equipment that can be used in atomic weapons, held talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials here on Monday on preventing illicit exports of nuclear technology. The three-man delegation of the 44-nation anti-proliferation body was led by its Chairman Richard Ekwall of Sweden, and also including his successor-to-be Roald Naess met Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan and Additional Foreign Secretary Tariq Usman Haider, who deals with nuclear-related matters, officials said. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said the meeting had been "extremely fruitful" and had allowed the government to explain the steps it took last year to establish an export control regime on sensitive materials. Jilani said the first meeting had been "exploratory" in nature. During the meeting Haider explained the steps Islamabad had taken to set up export controls for sensitive material and technologies, Jilani said. "The NSG appreciated the efforts and steps taken by Pakistan in this regard," he added.

The News, 12 April 2005

#### **Russia delays nuclear fuel shipments to Iran**

MOSCOW: Russia is likely to delay shipments of enriched uranium fuel to Iran to start up a Russian-built atomic power plant there until the autumn, a source in the Russian nuclear authority said on Monday. In February Moscow and Tehran signed a fuel supply deal long opposed by Washington, which believes that Iran could use Russian know-how to make nuclear weapons. At the time officials said fuel shipments to the Bushehr plant may start as soon as April. "It's difficult to say when they (shipments) are going to start but I think we are going to do this in the autumn," the source in Russia's Atomic Energy Agency told Reuters. Russia's nuclear ties with Iran, which date back to the early 1990s, have been marked by many delays that diplomats have linked to Moscow's reluctance to blatantly push ahead with a plan in a way that can seriously hurt its ties with Washington. But the source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the latest delay did not have any underlying political reasons.

Daily Times, 12 April 2005

**Reports says Korean parliament may touch on nuke talks**

MOSCOW: North Korea's parliament began a session on Monday that could clarify whether the reclusive communist state is ready to return to six-way talks on its nuclear programme, Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported. Tass, one of few foreign media organisations in North Korea, said an official announcement about the Supreme People's Assembly session, initially planned for March 9, did not contain its agenda. But the agency quoted foreign diplomats in Pyongyang as saying North Korean leaders may use the opportunity to announce their position on the future of the talks involving the United States, Japan, Russia, South Korea and China. The talks, aimed at freezing Pyongyang's military nuclear programmes, have been stalled since last June, when North Korea said it wanted to see the outcome of the US presidential election before deciding whether to resume them.

Daily Times, 12 April 2005

**NSG appreciates Pakistan's steps for nuclear export regime**

ISLAMABAD: The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) has appreciated the steps taken by Pakistan for the establishment of a Nuclear Export Regime (NER) and its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, said Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jillani on Monday. Jillani said the two-member NSG delegation, comprising the incumbent chairman, Ambassador Richard Ekwall, and incoming chairman, Roald Naess, held talks with Additional Foreign Secretary Tariq Usman Haider in Islamabad. The spokesman described the talks as extremely fruitful and said the NSG delegation's visit offered Pakistan an opportunity to explain the steps taken for the establishment of the NER on sensitive material and technology consistent with Pakistan's strong commitment to non-proliferation. The FO spokesman said as a responsible nuclear weapons state, which fulfilled most of the criteria for the membership of the nuclear suppliers group, Pakistan hoped to have mutually beneficial relations with the NSG member countries as a partner while maintaining its nuclear deterrence as an indispensable part of security. "Both sides agreed to continue discussions in the future," he added.

Hindustan Times, 12 April 2005

**Japan sets July deadline for deal with EU on nuclear reactor**

TOKYO, Apr. 12: Japan said on Tuesday it expected to reach an agreement with the European Union by July on the site of a revolutionary nuclear reactor amid a deadlock in talks on the multibillion-dollar project. Both Japan and France want to host the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), an experimental reactor billed as a testbed for clean, inexhaustible energy. "We have agreed to reach an agreement on the site issue by July," said Japanese Science and Technology Minister Nariaki Nakayama after talks with visiting EU research commissioner Janez Potocnik. "We have to do it. We will make efforts toward that goal," said Nakayama. The European Union has threatened to go it alone if Japan does not drop its bid. Nakayama said the Europeans "asked us to speed up the discussions." The United States and South Korea support Japan's offer to build ITER in Rokkasho-mura, a northern village near the Pacific Ocean, while China and Russia back the bid of the southern French town of Cadarache.

The Korean Herald, 12 April 2005

**Editorial: Roh tough on N. Korea**

After two frustrating years of seeing absolutely no progress in joint efforts with allies and neighbors to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions, President Roh Moo-hyun reveals he is not a man of limitless patience. His government has so far been on the softer side in the multilateral nuclear talks which brought together the United States, Japan, China, Russia and the two Koreas. The president, who has spent nearly a year vainly waiting for Pyongyang delegates to return to the negotiating table in Beijing, released his toughest words ever on the northern regime this week while visiting Berlin. Many who remember that former president Kim Dae-jung initiated his "sunshine policy" of engaging North Korea in a speech during his visit to Berlin in 2000 expected that Roh too would make yet another gesture of appeasement while in the German capital.

The News, 13 April 2005

**China defends N-cooperation with Pakistan**

NEW DELHI: Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said on Tuesday Beijing's nuclear cooperation with Pakistan was fully compliant with international anti-proliferation norms and dedicated to peaceful purposes. Old reporters in New Delhi that China's nuclear ties with Islamabad are subject to "the supervision and the safeguards" prescribed by the International Atomic Energy Agency. "The nuclear cooperation between China and Pakistan is completely for the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy," Wen told reporters, when asked if nuclear cooperation between China and Pakistan would hamper relations between New Delhi and Beijing reaching their full potential. "And I think China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation, the project of the Chashma nuclear power plant is a very good example," he added. "The China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation is in complete compliance with the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty)." Wen described his four-day India visit as "historic" and as having produced "rich results".

"We have produced very rich results through this (India) visit. It is fair to say that this is a historic visit," Wen said, adding that when he met host Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday, Singh had told him: "Prime minister, actually we two are making new history."

China Daily, 13 April 2005

#### **Nuke watchdog: North Korea is top problem**

The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Tuesday that North Korea is a more immediate problem for nuclear arms control officials than Iran. Mohammed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said both the North Korean and Iranian issues could only be solved through diplomacy. "For us North Korea is a black hole," he said. He said unlike Iran, where negotiations were ongoing, in North Korea "the parties are now dormant or in a frozen situation." ElBaradei said he hoped a way would be found to "engage North Korea in a fully substantive discussion" about issues associated with the nuclear problem, including regional security, economic sanctions, trade negotiations and humanitarian assistance. "These two situations - Iran and Korea - are both complex (and) cover interrelated issues," he said during a visit to Albania to donate nuclear medical equipment to detect cancer.

The News, 13 April 2005

#### **Japan, EU hope to break nuclear impasse by July**

TOKYO: Japan and the European Union on Tuesday gave themselves less than three months to break a deadlock over which side will host a multibillion-dollar project to build a revolutionary nuclear reactor. The European Union wants to build the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in France and has threatened to go it alone unless Japan drops its rival bid. Talks in Tokyo aimed at breaking the impasse led only to an agreement to make a decision before the July 6-8 summit in Scotland of the Group of Eight nations, which will be attended by the Japanese and French leaders. "We have agreed to reach an agreement on the site issue by July," Japanese Science and Technology Minister Nariaki Nakayama said after talks with visiting EU research commissioner Janez Potocnik. "We have come to the stage where we have to reach a political settlement," Nakayama told reporters. "We have to do it." ITER, which would emulate the sun's nuclear fusion, is designed to generate inexhaustible supplies of electricity at some time in the future, but is not expected to be operational before 2050.

Daily Times, 13 April 2005

#### **North Korea focuses on guns and butter, not six-way talks** (Martin Nesirky)

North Korean experts said Kim Jong-il had good reason to look distracted - his isolated communist country is mired in a nuclear crisis. Preoccupied or indifferent, North Korea's leader cut a distant figure at a parliament session that made clear the economy is in bad shape and the focus is still on the military despite renewed efforts to feed the people. North Korean television showed rare video footage of Kim Jong-il as he strode onto the platform in the huge hall where delegates had gathered for Monday's delayed annual meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly. As members voted as one for this year's budget - which included a 30-percent boost in funding for agriculture and a smaller rise in defence spending - Kim flicked through papers with furrowed brow and gazed into the middle distance. North Korean experts said Kim had good reason to look distracted - his isolated communist country is mired in a nuclear crisis.

Dawn, 13 April 2005

#### **F-16 deal, N-issue not linked: US** (Anwar Iqbal)

WASHINGTON, April 12: The United States has refused to link the F-16 deal with Pakistan to the indictment of a Pakistani businessman for allegedly trying to buy nuclear-capable equipment from this country. At a Monday afternoon briefing in Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher refused to be dragged into a media debate that started on Friday when US prosecutors unsealed an indictment before a federal jury. The jury was told that a Pakistani businessman, Humayun A. Khan, had tried to buy equipment from the United States that had both military and medical use. Since then several US newspapers have stipulated that the indictment could jeopardize the US offer to sell F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. Pakistan has already rejected the allegations as "malicious and unfounded," saying that the Pakistani government never tried to purchase such equipment in the United States, "directly or indirectly."

The New York Times, 13 April 2005

#### **Sharon Asks U.S. to Pressure Iran to Give Up Its Nuclear Program** (David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON, April 12: Spreading photographs of Iranian nuclear sites over a lunch table at the Bush ranch in Texas on Monday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel urged President Bush to step up pressure on Iran to give up all elements of its nuclear program, according to senior American and Israeli officials. Mr. Sharon said Israeli

intelligence showed Iran was near "a point of no return" in learning how to develop a weapon, the officials said. However, Mr. Sharon gave no indication that Israel was preparing to act alone to attack Iranian nuclear facilities, a prospect that Vice President Dick Cheney, who was at the lunch, raised publicly three months ago. In a conversation lasting more than an hour, Mr. Sharon argued that European nations negotiating with Iran were softening their position and may be willing to allow it to hold on to technology to enrich uranium. American officials said the evidence Mr. Sharon presented, including aerial photographs of sites in Iran, was neither startling nor new to Mr. Bush. But they said the prime minister was clearly pressuring Mr. Bush not to allow the European negotiations with Iran to drag on.

Reuters, 13 April 2005

#### **No Aid to North Korea Until Nuclear Crisis Ends: Roh**

SEOUL: South Korea is willing to begin paying for the cost of unification with the North even before it occurs, but there will be no major aid until a nuclear crisis is resolved, the South's president has said in Germany. South and North Korea have been divided since the end of World War II and are technically at war since an armistice, and not a peace treaty, ended the 1950-53 Korean War. "We have a policy to support the North Korean economy and help it stand on its feet," President Roh Moo-hyun said during a visit to Germany on Tuesday. The South Korean presidential Blue House provided the text of Roh's comments on Wednesday. "But the North Korean nuclear problem must be resolved for substantive assistance to be possible," he told German leaders. The capitalist South is more than 30 times as prosperous as the communist North and twice as populous. "The South Korean people will probably not object, even before unification, to taking on the cost of ensuring the success of North Korea's economic reform and opening," he said.

The Associated Press, 13 April 2005

#### **U.N. Set to Approve Global Nuclear Treaty**

UNITED NATIONS: After a seven-year campaign led by Russia, U.N. member states have reached agreement on a new global treaty making it a crime for would-be terrorists to possess or threaten to use nuclear material. The 191-member General Assembly body was scheduled to vote Wednesday on a draft resolution calling on all countries to sign and ratify the "International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism." Nicolas Michel, the undersecretary-general for legal affairs, said a U.N. committee negotiating the convention reached agreement on the text on April 1 and there is no opposition to its adoption. "It has to be seen as a breakthrough after more than seven years of negotiations," he said at a news conference Tuesday. Negotiating the treaty -- which has 28 articles -- posed major problems, including defining terms such as "radioactive material" and "device" and deciding who should be subject to criminal prosecution and who should be exempt.

Aljazeera, 13 April 2005

#### **Vanunu put back on trial**

Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu has gone on trial, accused of violating terms of his release from prison by talking to foreign reporters and trying to visit the West Bank. The 50-year-old former technician was released last April after serving an 18-year term for giving secrets about the Dimona nuclear reactor to a British newspaper. His revelations led experts to conclude that Israel had nuclear weapons. "It is shameful to Israeli democracy to bring me back to court after all those years in prison," Vanunu told journalists outside the Jerusalem court. "This case is proving to the world that Israel is not a real democracy. "As a human being, I have the right to express my political views and my ideas. I have no more secrets," he said.

Khaleej Times, 13 April 2005

#### **Iran denies secretly shifting processed uranium**

TEHERAN: Iran denied on Wednesday reports that it had secretly shifted processed uranium from one of its nuclear facilities in a bid to go on with enrichment activities it has agreed to suspend. "Iran is seeking to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, so it makes no sense to smuggle uranium and enrich it in the country," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said. "This is propaganda by some Western countries. (Such reports) have happened before and proven unfounded later," he was quoted as saying by the ISNA student news agency. Asefi was reacting to reports that Iran has been spiriting an unspecified quantity of processed uranium out of a facility in Isfahan, which is monitored by the UN watchdog, to an unknown location. Iran has agreed to suspend the enrichment of uranium as it negotiates with Britain, France and Germany to win trade, security and technology rewards in return for giving guarantees that it is not trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The Japan Times, 13 April 2005

#### **Japan to push fast CTBT activation at nuclear talk**

Japan will propose that participants at a forthcoming international nuclear conference include a statement urging an early implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in a final document to be adopted at the end of

the meeting, according to government officials. Outlining Japan's negotiations strategy for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference that begins May 2 in New York, the officials said Japan, as the only nation to suffer an atomic attack, will urge the participating nations to reduce "nuclear armaments of all kinds." The strategy has also been set in light of the 60th anniversary this year of the atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Tokyo intends to persuade the United States, which has voiced opposition to the inclusion of the statement, of an early implementation of the treaty, they said. A senior Foreign Ministry official said: "There is no country other than the United States that is against CTBT ratification. There is a possibility for the United States to make a concession."

Reuters, 14 April 2005

#### **Rice Plays Down Iran Nuclear Threat**

NEW YORK: The United States will decide this summer whether to pursue a tougher stance on Iran's nuclear program at the United Nations Security Council, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told The Wall Street Journal in an interview published on Thursday. Rice said Washington has faith in European-led negotiations aimed at ensuring that Iran's nuclear program remains non-military, and that what matters most is "a unity of purpose" among all the nations involved. Her remarks come shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon urged President Bush to take a tougher line on Iran and said the country was approaching a point of no return in its quest for nuclear weapons. Rice, however, told the newspaper the Israelis had provided "no new revelation" on Iran's alleged nuclear program. She also played down the immediate urgency of nuclear threats from North Korea. She dismissed as a bid for attention Pyongyang's recent declaration that it has nuclear weapons as well as its decision to walk away from multi-party talks on eliminating its nuclear program.

Reuters, 14 April 2005

#### **Dirty Bomb a Fear, Not Nuclear Terrorism - Musharraf**

RAWALPINDI: Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, his country at the center of one of the world's worst nuclear proliferation scandals, said on Thursday fears that terrorists could get their hands on nuclear weapons were unfounded. But he said in an interview it was possible they could get hold of a far less threatening "dirty bomb" using enriched uranium and conventional explosives to spread radioactivity. "My frank view is very different to all the concerns the world shows and my frank view is, no way, this cannot happen," Musharraf, who is also Pakistan's army chief, told Reuters when asked if he saw a risk of a terrorist obtaining a nuclear bomb. "Something called a dirty bomb could go into their hands but if we think that they can possess a bomb, they can make a bomb and possess it, that is not the case." Musharraf said the proliferation by disgraced Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, being talked about around the world, had involved technology to enrich uranium to weapons grade.

Dawn, 14 April 2005

#### **Suppression of N-terror treaty approved by UN (Masood Haider)**

UNITED NATIONS, Apr. 13: The UN General Assembly approved a nuclear terrorism treaty on Wednesday that would oblige governments to prosecute those who illegally possess atomic devices or radioactive materials. The document, after seven years of negotiation, is the 13th anti-terrorism convention and the first completed since the Sept 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. The pact will be open for signature on Sept 14 in New York, during a high-level summit and needs ratification from 22 nations to become international law. The General Assembly passed it by consensus, without a vote. The accord, called the Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, is meant to stop clandestine networks from using or possessing nuclear weapons. It obligates governments to prosecute or extradite individuals who possess radioactive materials or nuclear devices or those who threaten others while possessing such materials. The text also calls for exchanges of information and assistance among governments.

Tehrantimes.com, 14 April 2005

#### **Iran has right to use nuclear energy for peaceful uses: EIBaradei**

TIRANA: Mohammed EIBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said both the North Korean and Iranian issues could only be solved through diplomacy. "For us North Korea is a black hole," he said. He said unlike Iran, where negotiations were ongoing, in North Korea "the parties are now dormant or in a frozen situation." EIBaradei said he hoped a way would be found to "engage North Korea in a fully substantive discussion" about issues associated with the nuclear problem, including regional security, economic sanctions, trade negotiations and humanitarian assistance. "These two situations - Iran and Korea - are both complex (and) cover interrelated issues," he said during a visit to Albania to donate nuclear medical equipment to detect cancer. EIBaradei said he was optimistic that he would eventually be able to tell Tehran "that it has the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful uses but also, at the same time, to assure the international community that the Iranian program is exclusively for peaceful purposes."

The Indian Express, 14 April 2005

### **Iran denies smuggling of uranium from Isfahan site**

TEHRAN, Apr. 13: Iran today denied a report that it may have secretly moved some sensitive nuclear material from a site being monitored by the UN's atomic watchdog. Diplomats said on Tuesday that the IAEA was taking an inventory of processed uranium at the Isfahan uranium conversion facility in Central Iran amid concerns some may have been moved. They said one intelligence agency had accused Iran of spiriting an unspecified amount of processed uranium, which could be processed further and enriched for weapons purposes, out of Isfahan to an unknown location. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi denied Iran had smuggled any uranium out of Isfahan. "Our nuclear activities are transparent and under the supervision of the IAEA," he said. Iran agreed last November to freeze work at Isfahan and all other nuclear fuel-related activities while it tries to reach agreement with the European Union over the future of its nuclear programme.

The Australian, 14 April 2005

### **Beijing gets tough on nuke talks** (Peter Alford)

TOKYO: China's President Hu Jintao is reported to have indefinitely postponed a visit to Pyongyang in a sign of mounting international frustration over North Korea's refusal to return to six-party talks. Mr Hu, who has just completed a landmark visit to India, was pencilled-in to travel to the North Korean capital in the middle of this month. In what has become the pattern of Beijing-Pyongyang diplomacy in recent years, his visit would have been preceded or accompanied by an announcement that Kim Jong-il's regime would return to talks with China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and the US. However, despite at least three high-level discussions in Pyongyang and Beijing in the past two months, the Chinese have been unable to get any clear undertaking to rejoin the negotiations. According to reports in Seoul and Washington, diplomats in Beijing said Mr Hu had now "indefinitely postponed" his trip. Since September, North Korea has boycotted the six-party talks, aimed at persuading it to abandon its nuclear weapons programs.

The Daily Telegraph, 15 April 2005

### **Terrorist WMD threat played down**

Terrorist groups and organisations have neither the capacity nor the ambition to produce weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix and other experts said at a conference in Helsinki today. "I'm as concerned about global warming and its long term effects" as about the immediate threat of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction, said Mr Blix, a former Swedish diplomat who was charged with searching for such weapons ahead of the US-led invasion of Iraq. "Support and co-ordination from states would be needed for terrorists to produce WMDs," he said at a conference called WMD terrorism: how scared should we be? Mr Blix acknowledged, however, that "there is a small but not zero risk" of terrorists laying their hands on weapons of mass destruction, and called for more preventive measures. "Material and technology are now widespread and an ability to create WMDs is also greater," he said.

The Indian Express, 15 April 2005

### **UN votes to outlaw nuclear terror** (Colum Lynch)

UNITED NATIONS, Apr.14: The 191-member UN General Assembly on Thursday unanimously approved a treaty outlawing the use of nuclear weapons by terrorists and their supporters. The Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism is the first anti-terrorism treaty to be adopted since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. It is the 13th anti-terrorism treaty and builds on recent efforts by the UN Security Council to compel states to strengthen their laws and policies to combat terrorist groups. The treaty, which governments will begin signing at the General Assembly session in September, criminalizes the possession or use of radioactive material or a nuclear device "to cause death or serious bodily injury." It also makes it a crime to use a nuclear device to damage property or the environment or to attack a nuclear facility. It requires governments that ratify the treaty to amend national laws to prevent terrorists and their supporters from financing, planning or participating in nuclear terrorism.

Daily Times, 15 April 2005

### **Sharon says no plan to strike Iran's nuclear sites**

WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, following talks with US officials on Iran's nuclear programme, said Israel was not planning a military strike on Iran to prevent it from getting the bomb. "Israel is not leading the struggle. Of course we exchange intelligence, we exchange views, we discuss (these) issues, but it's not that we are planning any military attack on Iran," Sharon told CNN in an interview. "Of course we take all precautions and all the steps to defend ourselves. But it's not that Israel should give the answer to the international problem," Sharon told Fox News in a separate interview. Widely believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear power, Israel sent jets to bomb the Iraqi reactor at Osiraq in 1981, driving Saddam Hussein's quest for the bomb underground and fueling recent speculation that it might attack Iran. Unhappy with European-led diplomatic efforts to win

Iranian agreement to curb uranium enrichment, which can be used to produce nuclear arms - Israel has called for UN sanctions instead.

China Daily, 15 April 2005

**North Korea to increase nuclear deterrent**

North Korea's No. 2 leader said Thursday the nation will increase its nuclear deterrent to defend against the alleged threat of a U.S. invasion, and ordered citizens to defend the country "at the cost of their lives." The United States has repeatedly said it has no intention to invade despite an ongoing standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The nation claimed in February to possess atomic weapons and said it would boycott international disarmament talks. Last month, it said it had bolstered its nuclear arsenal. "We will continue increasing our self-defensive nuclear deterrent against the enemies' policy to isolate and stifle the republic," Kim Yong Nam, head of the North's legislature, said at a meeting honoring the birthday of founding President Kim Il Sung. "If the U.S. imperialists recklessly set the fire of war on the Korean Peninsula despite our repeated warnings ... we will mercilessly and completely destroy the invaders so they won't live again," Kim was quoted as saying by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

Dawn, 15 April 2005

**Making the NPT effective** (Ghayoor Ahmed)

The next review conference of the parties to the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is scheduled to be held at the UN headquarters in New York from May 2 to 27. The NPT requires a review conference every five years to assess the implementation of the treaty's provisions and to make recommendations on measures to further strengthen it. The last review conference was held in the year 2000. In a statement issued on March 7, on the eve of the 35th anniversary of the NPT, President George W. Bush called for the cooperation of all member states to strengthen the treaty to face the challenges that have come to light since it was reviewed five years ago. He also stressed that to meet these challenges to the NPT and common security it was necessary to ensure that the treaty remains an effective instrument of global security. President Bush also reaffirmed America's commitment to carry out its obligations under the NPT.

The Hindu, 15 April 2005

**Sending a dangerous nuclear message** (Richard Norton-Taylor)

Contradictory U.S. and British nuclear proliferation policies will lead other states to conclude that nuclear weapons earn respect and deter attack. A FEW days before the United Kingdom's general election on May 5, an international conference will confront one of the most pressing issues facing the planet. Its outcome will help determine the future security of states around the world, including Britain. It is a safe bet it won't get a mention during the election campaign. The issue is nuclear weapons. On May 2, representatives of 189 countries will gather in New York to discuss how to stop them spreading further. The nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) review conference comes at time when Iran is widely suspected of trying to acquire nuclear weapons, North Korea says it has nuclear weapons, western governments are warning about the threat of nuclear terrorism and the United States administration is toying with the idea of building a new generation of "usable" mini-nukes.

The Nation, 16 April 2005

**Editorial: Confronting nuclear terror**

The UN General Assembly has unanimously approved an anti-nuclear terrorism convention that is expected to be signed by various heads of state and government early September when they assemble in New York for the next Assembly session. Pakistani Permanent Representative Munir Akram, however, made an important intervention, while it was being put to vote, emphasising that the causes giving rise to extremist and violent tendencies would have to be tackled to put an end to the widespread menace of terrorism. He rightly pointed out that the underlying reasons for anyone to take recourse to militancy were denial of the right to self-determination to people under forcible foreign occupation, and economic and political injustice. He categorically stated that an international decision or convention designed to curb the terrorist phenomenon ought not to impinge on legitimate freedom struggles.

The Nation, 16 April 2005

**Editorial: Veiled threat**

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's telling CNN that his country has no plans to attack Iran's nuclear facilities is not particularly encouraging, because he said that 'this time' (as opposed to the Israeli attack on Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981), a US-led 'coalition of democracies' would be at work. This lack of plans is not therefore because Israel has seen the error of its past rogue behaviour, and has decided to become a peaceful and respectable global citizen. Clearly, considering its close relationship with the USA, it has received assurances, come to

understandings and been made privy to plans, that will only be apparent to the rest of the world on some fateful day, or after some dire occurrence. Israel sees an Iranian nuclear capability, even if not operationalised, as a threat to its existence, just as it did an Iraqi equivalent. Therefore, it will not rest until Iran's nuclear programme, no matter how peaceful it might be, is destroyed. Mr Sharon is obviously scare-mongering when he claims, without offering an iota of evidence, that Iran's programme is reaching a 'point of no-return.' By this he means that certain technical problems will have been solved, though he admits that Iran will still be years away from actual weaponisation, assuming of course that Iran does indeed desire this.

The Guardian, 16 April 2005

**Vanunu faces extended curbs on travel** (Duncan Campbell)

The Israeli police are seeking tougher restrictions on the nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, whose travel ban is about to expire. Mr Vanunu, 50, who is to be tried next month for talking to journalists, has been told that the police will seek tighter restrictions on his movements and on whom he can talk to and about what. Human rights lawyers and his supporters say the action is "obsessive and oppressive". Several supporters, including the Nobel peace prize winner Máiread Corrigan, are due in Jerusalem next week to publicise his case on the anniversary of his release from prison. When he was released last April from an 18-year sentence for leaking secrets of Israel's nuclear weapons programme to the Sunday Times, he was told he could not leave Israel for a year. He had hoped to move this month either to the US, where his adoptive parents live, or to Britain, where he was recently elected rector of Glasgow University. But the police have told him they will seek to extend the ban on travel and impose tighter restrictions on whom he associates with.

The Hindu, 16 April 2005

**U.S. cannot sell nuclear power technology: Rice** (Sridhar Krishnaswami)

WASHINGTON: The United States has said that it cannot sell nuclear power technology to India yet because of Non-Proliferation Treaty implications. In an interview to The Wall Street Journal, the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, was asked if Washington was prepared to sell nuclear reactor technology to India and work out a safeguard deal. "No, no, we're not there, that is not the case. We are having, as you know, with the Chinese civil nuclear discussions. We have agreed with the Indians that we can talk about a variety of energy sources but obviously there are NPT implications that are quite serious about civilian nuclear power in India," she said. The State Department has carried the full text of the interview on its website. "We do need to recognise and to help countries deal with the energy demands that they are facing. And if you look at China or India...there is a demand for stable energy sources. It's one reason...that we have energy dialogues that are popping up all over the place because we are going to take a look at what we can do because it's going to happen that oil-rich troublesome states will have leverage if you can't help people find alternative means to meet their energy demands," she said to a question on India dealing with Iran.

The Korean Herald, 16 April 2005

**Seoul rebuffs U.S. military plan on N.K.**

South Korea has rejected a U.S. move to draft a scenario of military operations that deals with possible internal turmoil in North Korea because the plan undermines Seoul's sovereignty. The presidential National Security Council said it decided in January put a stop to the operational plan after it was informed of the plan by Joint Chiefs of Staff office. "According to our review, the plan's contents are inappropriate ... and (we) concluded that several points could limit the Republic of Korea's exercise of sovereign rights," the council said in a statement. The council said the Defense Ministry notified the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command of its decision and the two allies will discuss the issue through proper channels. The plan, codenamed OPLAN 5029-05, lists details on military actions in stages, according to the level of North Korea's internal troubles, including massive North Korean defection, regime change and military coups. Defense Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Shin Hyun-don said working-level officials at the combined command have been discussing the issue since last year.

Daily Times, 17 April 2005

**MD Tahir invites Indian president to visit Dr AQ Khan**

LAHORE: Advocate MD Tahir has invited Abdul Kalam Azad, Indian president and scientist, to visit Pakistan and meet Scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan. He said, in a letter, that various delegations from across the border were visiting Pakistan and people from various fields were interacting with each other, so the scientists of both countries should also meet. "You rendered tremendous service to your nation in becoming a nuclear power. Similarly Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has also done a great job in this field and the whole nation is proud of him. This is an era of modern technology in which scientists have a pivotal role to play," he wrote.

People's Daily, 17 April 2005

### **Iran sees no need of US participation in nuclear talks**

A top Iranian nuclear negotiator said on Saturday that Iran saw no need for the United States to participate in the talks over Iran's disputed nuclear program despite Washington's support for Europe's diplomatic efforts to find a solution. "Washington seems lately to be taking a more down-to-earth approach towards Iran's nuclear program, closer to that of the Europeans," Sirous Nasseri said in an interview with the official IRNA news agency. However, Nasseri played down US engagement in the talks between Tehran and the three EU member states including Britain, France and Germany who are trying to persuade Tehran to give up uranium enrichment in return for economic incentives. "I personally do not see any need for the presence of the Americans at the negotiations and even don't believe it could be helpful," Nasseri said. He indicated that the US seemed to have started abandoning its threats against Iran, realizing the country's weight in the Middle East.

Dawn, 17 April 2005

### **Sharon gave Bush photos of Iran's N-plants: radio**

RIYADH, Apr. 16: Israel reportedly handed over documents and aerial photos of Iranian nuclear installations to President Bush during the Texas summit earlier this week, Israeli public radio reported on Saturday. Ariel Sharon's military adviser General Yoav Gallan Gallan, who accompanied the Israeli premier to the summit, presented the photos together with information the Israeli intelligence services claim to have gathered on Tehran's nuclear programme, the Israeli radio added, without mentioning how the photos were taken. It just said that the images showed the Iranian nuclear programme was at a "very advanced" stage. This stance apparently differed from the US version that Iran was at least five years away from making a nuclear device. "Our intelligence community has used in the past an estimate that said Iran is not likely to acquire a nuclear weapon before the beginning of the next decade. That remains the case," he said.

The Associated Press, 18 April 2005

### **North Korea Nuke Shutdown Raises Concerns**

WASHINGTON: The apparent shutdown of a nuclear reactor in North Korea is raising concerns among Bush administration officials that Pyongyang has finished producing spent fuel rods laced with weapons-grade plutonium. A U.S. official familiar with the situation said there could be at least two other possibilities, neither of which was troubling: that the reactor had run into mechanical trouble or that North Korea was bluffing to raise anxieties. In the past, North Korea has claimed to have taken major steps in its pursuit of a nuclear weapons arsenal, but U.S. analysts say only some of those claims are genuine. Even so, North Korea is believed to have already produced at least one atom bomb, and the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia are trying through so-called six-nation talks to negotiate elimination of the nuclear weapons program. North Korea had agreed to return to the bargaining table last September after a three-month hiatus but since then has refused to resume the talks.

Daily Times, 18 April 2005

### **'North Korea may boost its N-arsenal'**

TOKYO: North Korea has halted operations at a nuclear power reactor at the centre of an international row, a move that could let Pyongyang reprocess spent fuel to retract plutonium and boost its nuclear arsenal, a press report said on Sunday. The United States will shortly send Christopher Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, to South Korea, Japan and China for talks to cope with the new development in the nuclear standoff, the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun said. Washington has verified that operations at the five-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon were suspended in April, the influential daily said in a report from Washington quoting sources including US government officials. The US administration reached the conclusion by analysing satellite pictures and estimating temperatures on the walls of nuclear facilities and amounts of steam coming from boilers at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, the report said.

Daily Times, 18 April 2005

### **Pyongyang says US lying**

SEOUL: North Korea on Sunday accused the United States of fabricating information, citing a US news report which said the American government wrongly claimed the communist nation had exported nuclear material to Libya. The North was reacting to a Washington Post report last month that said the Bush administration told its Asian allies earlier this year that North Korea had sold nuclear material to Libya, when the shipment in fact went first to Pakistan. The Washington Post said that North Korea, according to intelligence, had supplied uranium hexafluoride which can be enriched to weapons-grade uranium - to Pakistan. It was Pakistan, a key US ally with its own nuclear arsenal, that sold the material to Libya, it said. The US government had no evidence that North Korea knew of the second transaction, according to officials quoted by the Post. "The US is gravely mistaken if it thinks that its clumsy fabrication of fraud information may work everywhere," the North's state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary carried by its official Korean Central News Agency.

Reuters, 18 April 2005

**Seoul: N.Korea Halts Nuclear Reactor, Reason Unclear**

SEOUL: North Korea has suspended the operation of its nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, a South Korean foreign ministry official said Monday, a move analysts said could be aimed at extracting material for nuclear weapons. The official said the purpose of the stoppage was unclear, but also said Seoul was treating the suspension as a potentially serious development. North Korea said explicitly for the first time in February that it possessed nuclear weapons. It has also previously said it had reprocessed nuclear fuel to get weapons-grade plutonium. South Korean and Japanese media reported at the weekend that North Korea had stopped the reactor in Yongbyon. "We have more or less what had been reported in the media, but we'll have to see what North Korea's intention or its future actions will be," Kim Sook, the foreign ministry's director general for North American affairs, told South Korea's KBS radio. Analysts said a suspension of the plant could allow the North to extract spent fuel rods, which could be turned into weapons-grade plutonium.

Reuters, 18 April 2005

**Iran's Khatami Says Army Ready to Repel Strikes**

TEHRAN: President Mohammad Khatami said Monday Iran had the military might to deter attacks against the Islamic state, which is under Western pressure over its nuclear program. "Iran's armed forces are fully prepared to defend the Islamic republic," Khatami said in a speech at the annual Army Day parade. "Iran is ready to pay any price but not yield to any aggression and oppression," he said as army units marched past. The United States and Israel accuse Iran of developing atomic weapons and have vowed to stop Tehran acquiring them. But U.S. officials have played down media speculation they were planning military action and Israeli Prime Minister last week said his country was not planning a military strike to prevent Iran from getting the bomb. Iran insists its nuclear ambitions are limited to peaceful electricity generation.

The Hindu, 18 April 2005

**Nuclear power for the 21st century (M.R. Srinivasan)**

While India is determined to pursue nuclear energy development as a home-grown programme, it is keeping a door open for importing light water reactors using enriched uranium. An international conference on nuclear power for the 21st century, was held in Paris on March 21 and 22, and was attended by Ministers, high-ranking officials, and experts from 74 countries and 10 international organisations. It was organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and was hosted by the French Government. The aim was to discuss future policies and examine the potential of nuclear power to meet the century's energy needs while respecting social concerns and expectations. The Indian delegation was headed by Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, and included this writer, and S. K. Jain, chairman and managing director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

China Daily, 19 April 2005

**US sees possible UN action on North Korea**

The United States said that it may try to take North Korea to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions if Pyongyang refuses to resume international talks on its nuclear program. "If North Korea refuses to come back to the six-party talks, then I fully expect we would consult with our partners in the region about the next steps, and that's certainly one possibility," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. The six-nation talks involving the North Korea and South Korea, China, Russia, the United States and Japan aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear arms ambitions stalled after three inconclusive rounds. North Korea did not show up for a fourth round set for September 2004, and declared in February that it had nuclear weapons for self-defense. "North Korea previously made a commitment to come back to the six-party talks," McClellan said as US President George W. Bush traveled here. "North Korea's failure to follow through on that commitment and its provocative words and actions only further isolate it," the spokesman said.

People's Daily, 19 April 2005

**US calls on DPRK to return to talks**

The United States said on Monday that it is prepared to resume the six-party talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) without preconditions and urged the DPRK to return to the talks. "Once again (I) reiterate, the United States and others are prepared to hold the talks without preconditions," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said at a briefing. "The most important thing is how we are going to solve this problem. And the way to solve this problem is to go back to talks. The way to solve the problem for the North Koreans is to go back to talks," Boucher said.

The News, 19 April 2005

### **WMD commission 'absolves' Bush of rigging Iraq intelligence** (Kaleem Omar)

KARACHI: Talk about snow jobs! When the expletive-deleted hit the fan early last year with the admission by the chief US weapons inspector that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, US President George W Bush had to do something to try to repair the damage to his credibility in the eyes of the American people. Repairing his credibility in the eyes of the rest of the world was a lost cause, since he had no credibility in their eyes anyway. But Bush didn't really care what the rest of the world thought. They could go jump in a lake as far as he was concerned. For domestic political reasons in a US presidential year, he did, however, care what the American people thought of his Iraq policy, all the more so since he was seeing his popularity rating plunging to an all-time low. So, in order to shift the blame for the WMD fiasco away from his administration, Bush decided to make US intelligence agencies the fall guy. In this connection, his first move - back in June last year - was to sack CIA chief George Tenet, a Clinton appointee.

Daily Times, 19 April 2005

### **Terrorists bent on using chemical and bio weapons: Australia**

SYDNEY: Terrorists in Asia and elsewhere are bent on using chemical and biological weapons which present a "real and deadly threat," Australia said Monday as a major anti-proliferation conference opened in Sydney. "Chemical and biological weapons (CBW) present a real and deadly threat," said Foreign Minister Alexander Downer in a statement. "Terrorists, including in our region, are intent on developing CBW capabilities, while proliferators are using increasingly sophisticated means to source the ingredients for weapons of mass destruction." Downer told the annual meeting of the Australia Group - a forum of 38 countries, plus the European Commission, which works to prevent CBW proliferation - that international cooperation on export controls was the only way to combat the threat.

Dawn, 19 April 2005

### **Tehran not cooperating in N-probe, say diplomats**

VIENNA, April 18: Tehran is not cooperating fully with a probe by the U.N. nuclear watchdog into Iranian officials' meetings with smugglers who had links to Abdul Qadeer Khan, diplomats said on Monday. The diplomats said the meetings in 1987 and 1994 were key to help determine whether Iran's programme was originally intended to produce electricity, as Tehran insists, or to make bombs, as Washington maintains. Iran's failure to cooperate fully with the United Nations on the issue worried the European Union's "big three" powers, the diplomats said. Britain, France and Germany resume nuclear talks with Iran in Geneva on Tuesday. Several Western diplomats familiar with the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) investigation said Iran appeared to be withholding information about the two meetings, both of which took place in Dubai. "They are not cooperating on this issue," said one diplomat. He said there was a lack of documentation and there were inconsistencies in the Iranian accounts of the meetings with people known to be part of Dr Khan's network that supplied Iran and Libya with sensitive atomic technology.

The Asahi Shimbun, 19 April 2005

### **N. Korea shuts down nuke reactor** (Nobuyoshi Sakajiri)

WASHINGTON: North Korea has stopped operations at a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon north of Pyongyang, several sources here have confirmed. The stoppage is likely in preparation for extracting spent fuel rods to reprocess into plutonium, they said. North Korea resumed operations about two years ago at the nuclear facility, which Pyongyang in 1994 agreed with Washington to halt. Pyongyang has said it completed the reprocessing of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods, and in February, a senior North Korean official said it had become a "nuclear power." If the 8,000 spent fuel rods are reprocessed, they could produce enough plutonium for about five more nuclear weapons, experts said. That could double the amount Pyongyang likely already has, which is enough to make four to six weapons, according to some estimates. Washington confirmed this month that the reactor stopped, based on satellite images of the Yongbyon facility and surrounding areas and on temperature estimates of the facility's concrete walls and of steam emissions, sources said.

The Guardian, 19 April 2005

### **Bomb fear as North Korea halts reactor** (Jonathan Watts)

North Korea has halted operations at its nuclear reactor, prompting the fear that it may be extracting fuel rods for processing into weapons-grade plutonium. Less than a week after Pyongyang threatened to expand its atomic arsenal, the action seems to be designed to frighten the US and regional powers into resuming talks. The 5MW reactor in Yongbyon is thought to have been in operation since early 2003, several months after international nuclear inspectors were ejected. Analysts estimate that the rods could yield enough plutonium for at least two bombs if North Korea has the necessary reprocessing technology. The CIA and South Korean intelligence believe Pyongyang has enough fissile material for six weapons. More would increase its military options or, it is feared, let it sell bombs for much needed foreign currency.

Daily Times, 20 April 2005

**Iran will resume atomic enrichment: Mousavian**

MOSCOW: Iran will pursue uranium enrichment but will never use it to make nuclear weapons, Iran's Supreme National Security Council deputy head Hossein Mousavian said on Tuesday. Iran resumed talks on Tuesday in Geneva with France, Britain and Germany, who have demanded that Tehran permanently give up its uranium enrichment programme in exchange for economic and political incentives. "Iran will certainly use this right for peaceful purposes," Mousavian told journalists in Moscow after meeting senior Russian officials. Iran says its nuclear programme is for generating electricity and denies accusations by Washington that it is seeking nuclear weapons. "Iran will abide by all international agreements and conventions to create the atmosphere of trust and will use these programmes in a peaceful way and will never make nuclear weapons," Mousavian said.

Khaleej Times, 20 April 2005

**Iran demands progress in nuclear talks with EU-3**

LONDON: Iran will end nuclear talks with three European powers unless its ideas for a compromise are accepted as the basis for future negotiations, a senior Iranian official said in remarks published on Wednesday. Hassan Rowhani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Iran would walk away from the negotiations with Britain, France and Germany if no "tangible progress" were made soon. Sharing Washington's suspicions that Iran may be planning to develop nuclear arms, the EU trio has offered Iran political and economic incentives to scrap its uranium enrichment programme, which can produce reactor fuel but could also give Tehran the capability to make bomb-grade material. Rowhani gave no specific details of Iran's proposed compromise, but diplomats have told Reuters Tehran wants to run a small plant for enriching uranium and keep the door open to fitting it with tens of thousands of centrifuges to produce enriched-uranium fuel on an industrial scale.

Khaleej Times, 20 April 2005

**Opportunity for Iran**

Iran and the European Union returned to the negotiating table yesterday to thrash out their differences over Teheran's nuclear programme. This meeting comes after a long gap which saw dramatic transformation in the West's stance on Iran's nuclear programme. Thanks to the persistent efforts of Europe's Big Three - Britain, France and Germany - to resolve the business with Iran peacefully and diplomatically, the United States, which was initially impatient with EU's conciliatory approach, has finally come around to the idea of trying a carrot-and-stick approach to deal with Iran. This is a major departure from Washington's avowed policy on Iran. Teheran must not lose this opportunity in its own interest. It's good that Iran has already temporarily suspended its uranium enrichment programme. However, it is seeking EU's nod to limited uranium enrichment for 'peaceful purposes' - to generate nuclear energy.

The Indian Express, 20 April 2005

**UNSC distant choice on N Korea: Seoul (Jack Kiim)**

SEOUL, Apr. 19: The five countries trying to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons ambitions have not formally discussed the possibility of taking Pyongyang to the UN Security Council, South Korea said on Tuesday. The White House said on Monday it would consider referring the crisis to the Security Council for possible sanctions if Pyongyang refused to return to the six-party talks it has boycotted since last year. South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee that international efforts to end the North's nuclear plans still rested with talks. "I don't believe the possibility is at hand," Ban said, referring to UNSC involvement. "There are no discussions at the government level." The two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and China have held three inconclusive rounds of talks, but North Korea has refused to meet for a fourth round, saying Washington must first drop what it called a hostile policy.

People's Daily, 21 April 2005

**S. Korea urges North back to talks**

South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, Ban Ki-moon, has expressed serious concern about the suggestions that DPRK is reprocessing spent fuel rods from its nuclear reactor. Ban Ki-moon told a press conference in Seoul that South Korea is closely watching activities at the North's Yongbyon nuclear reactor. He says, if the stories are true, reprocessing the nuclear material is not in the interests of North Korea or the international community. DPRK's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, Han Song-ryol, recently declared that DPRK has shut down its nuclear reactor and plans to transfer the fuel to boost its "deterrence" against possible attacks. The South Korean Foreign Minister also urged DPRK to return to the six-party talks.

The News, 21 April 2005

**Sharon tries to pawn off fake photos of Iran's 'nuclear installations' (Kurt Nimmo)**

It's really sad when you have to read newspapers and web sites in the Middle East to find out what is happening in the United States. For instance, al-Jazeera was about the only site outside of Israel to report that General Yoav Gallan, war criminal Ariel Sharon's "military advisor" (that is, he tells Arik the Butcher the best way to kill Palestinians and other Arabs), "has reportedly handed Bush documents and aerial photos of Iranian nuclear installations during the Israeli prime minister's meeting with the US President George W Bush, Israeli public radio reported." In short, the Israelis have devised a few fake photos to lie on Bush since Iran does not actually have "nuclear installations," as the International Atomic Energy Agency reported late last year. Israel wants the United States to bomb the daylight out of Iran, a possibility that will grow more and more remote as time passes, a fact that really freaks out Sharon and his Jabotinskyite partners in international crime who want every Arab or Muslim nation in the Middle East bombed or at least cowed by the same sort of shock and awe Bush used against Iraq.

Daily Times, 21 April 2005

#### **Zarqawi said to have 'dirty bomb'**

WASHINGTON: Abu Musab Zarqawi, believed to be linked to Al Qaeda, is preparing a radiological explosive - or dirty bomb - for an attack, according to a report published by the Washington Times. The right-wing newspaper, which has good sources in the intelligence community, attributes the report to unnamed US officials, who also say that analysts are unable to confirm the reliability of the information's sources. According to correspondent Bill Gertz, "The classified reports have been distributed to US intelligence agencies for several consecutive months and say Zarqawi, Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, has stored the nuclear device or dirty bomb in Afghanistan, said officials familiar with the intelligence. One official said the intelligence is being questioned because analysts think Al Qaeda would not hesitate to use a nuclear device if it had one. However, the fact that the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) has reported the nuclear threat in several classified reports distributed since December indicates concern about it."

Daily Times, 21 April 2005

#### **Iran warns Europe it may halt nuclear talks**

TEHRAN: Iran warned on Wednesday that it would halt negotiations over its nuclear programme if Europe failed to heed its proposals on uranium enrichment - but nevertheless said the talks were going well. Chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani reiterated Iran's insistence that it would not halt enrichment, a process which makes fuel for nuclear reactors but can also be the explosive core of nuclear bombs. His comments came as diplomats from Britain, France and Germany - the EU-3 - were holding more talks with their Iranian counterparts in Geneva, ahead of a more senior-level meeting in London on April 29. "The Europeans should tell us whether these ideas can work as the basis for continued negotiations or not," Rowhani told the Financial Times of London, referring to Iran's proposal that would allow some uranium enrichment. "If yes fine. If not, then the negotiations cannot continue," he said. "These ideas are the very last possible ideas that we could come up with as compromise options."

Dawn, 21 April 2005

#### **Musharraf rules out inspection by IAEA**

MANILA, Apr. 20: President Pervez Musharraf said on Wednesday that he would never allow foreign inspectors into the country to examine Pakistan's nuclear facilities. "That is tantamount to admitting that we cannot be trusted in our own house," he told a breakfast meeting of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. Asked whether he would allow inspectors from the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect the country's nuclear facilities, President Musharraf said: "Why?" "Our nuclear programme is for the protection of the people of Pakistan," he said. "You have to understand that this is a very sensitive issue for us. "And our people are sensitive to outsiders coming into our country asking questions. It's as though we cannot be trusted," he said. "If the IAEA has questions about our nuclear programme then let them ask us. We have nothing to hide. "We will give them all the information they want but we will not allow their inspectors into our country to question our officials or inspect our facilities.

Reuters, 21 April 2005

#### **Sharon Says Worried World Accepting 'Nuclear' Iran**

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon voiced concern on Thursday that the world was growing accustomed to the idea Iran would build a nuclear bomb but said the time was not ripe for military action to stop it. "Ultimately, I don't think there will be any alternative but to bring (Iran) to the U.N. Security Council and to take diplomatic and economic steps as pressure to stop this (nuclear effort)," Sharon told Israel Radio. GM expanded market share in China, where GM Asia Pacific President Troy Clarke spoke yesterday. It didn't do as well in North America. "I am troubled by the fact -- we hear this perhaps more in Europe than in the United States -- that the world is beginning to grow accustomed to the idea that the day will come and Iran will be a member of the nuclear weapons club," he said. "This is particularly troubling, mainly because we are aware of Iran's threats against

Israel. It is a country where even the so-called moderates speak of a national goal of destroying Israel and the Jewish people." Asked whether Israel would consider bombing Iran nuclear facilities, Sharon said: "I don't think this is the stage for military operations. I think the stage now is one of economic, diplomatic pressure on Iran."

Reuters, 21 April 2005

**U.N. Envoy To N. Korea Steps Aside For Probe** (Colum Lynch)

UNITED NATIONS, Apr. 20: The United Nations' special envoy to North Korea, Maurice F. Strong, decided Wednesday to step aside until U.N.-appointed investigators and federal prosecutors finish examining his financial ties to a South Korean lobbyist accused of trying to bribe U.N. officials. The move comes less than a week after federal authorities charged Tongsun Park, a South Korean businessman, with lobbying U.N. officials as an "unregistered agent" of Saddam Hussein. A witness said Park in 1996 and 1997 invested \$1 million in Iraqi funds in a Canadian company owned by the son of a high-ranking U.N. official, a federal investigator said.

Khaleej Times, 21 April 2005

**N. Korea going all-out to build atomic bombs: defector**

SEOUL: North Korea has poured all its resources into developing nuclear weapons, including a likely scheme to enrich uranium, the highest official from the communist state to defect to the South said on Thursday. Hwang Jang-yop was the architect of the North's Juche ideology, an extreme form of self-reliance advocated by the North's late founder Kim Il-sung. Hwang was head of international relations at the Workers' Party of Korea, the ruling communist party, and a close confidant of current leader Kim Jong-il, before defecting in 1997. "It is a small country, but it has thrown all its strength behind the programmes from the very beginning," Hwang told a forum organised by South Korea's opposition Grand National Party. Hwang said he had been told by the communist party's secretary heading armament responsibilities in 1996 that the country had decided to begin a uranium-enrichment programme. He said his knowledge of the North's nuclear programmes was indirect, but said he had lengthy discussions with Kim Jong-il, who appeared set on boosting the country's stockpile of nuclear materials, despite a 1994 pledge to stop development.

Khaleej Times, 21 April 2005

**Saudi nuclear interest is heightening worries**

VIENNA: Saudi Arabia has quietly begun talks on a UN-sanctioned agreement that could curtail any outside probe of its atomic intentions - a move that heightens concerns in a region already edgy about rival Iran's nuclear programme. The Saudis deny any plans to develop nuclear weapons, and diplomats close to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) told AP that the UN nuclear monitor has no firm evidence that would cast doubt on the Saudi assertions. But the diplomats say that past Saudi nuclear interest is heightening worries, as is the timing of the efforts to sign on to the IAEA's small quantities protocol that would exempt the country from most of the agency's control authority. Born of more trusting days, the agreement has been joined by dozens of countries, most of which have never experimented with nuclear weapons. But the protocol is now viewed with suspicion within the agency, after revelations of other loopholes that have allowed prewar Iraq, Iran, Libya and other countries to work secretly on known or suspected nuclear weapons programmes.

BBC World Service.com, 21 April 2005

**Burma 'used chemicals on rebels' (Mike Thomson)**

Karen rebels have been fighting for an independent state for years. An international human rights group has accused the Burmese army of using chemical weapons in an attack on rebel groups in the country. The incident is alleged to have taken place near Burma's north-western border with Thailand in February. The attack left Karen fighters vomiting blood and unable to walk, Christian Solidarity Worldwide says. The group says it has evidence which suggests that chemical weapons were responsible for the men's injuries.

The Korean Herald, 21 April 2005

**U.S. stresses focus still on six-way talks**

The United States shrugged off talk that it is looking at other options than dialogue to stop North Korea from pursuing its nuclear weapons development, stressing the focus is to get the North back to the six-party negotiating table. Two and a half years into the dispute, there is persistent speculation Washington's patience is wearing thin and is open to other options, including referring North Korea to the Security Council for possible sanctions if Pyongyang refuses to return to the stalled six-way talks. South Korea has made clear that it is firmly opposed to any Security Council option. The White House and the State Department on Wednesday echoed each other by saying the U.S. priority is a resumption of the six-way talks, which involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia. The North has shunned the talks since the end of the third round in June. "Our focus is on getting North Korea back to the talks. I think that's the focus of all parties in the region," White House

spokesman Scott Mclellan said.

Daily Times, 21 April 2005

### **US inspections of Russian nuclear facilities not being considered**

MOSCOW: Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said Wednesday that Moscow was not considering the possibility of American inspectors visiting Russian nuclear installations, the Interfax news agency reported. The report followed US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's statement to the contrary just hours earlier during an interview with the Ekho Moskvyy radio station. She said that she and Ivanov had discussed the issue over dinner Tuesday night, and that she had won assurances of some improved access. She added her hope, however, that more progress would be made before the Moscow meeting next month between US President George W Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Dawn, 22 April 2005

### **India denies buying N-parts from Israel** (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, Apr. 21: India denied on Thursday that it had purchased electronic equipment for its nuclear programme from an Israeli middleman who was recently arrested in the United States. "We have seen those reports which are regarding prosecution proceedings of Asher Karni, an Israeli national in the US," Indian foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said. He was referring to reports that Asher Karni may have sold advanced electronic equipment to government agencies in India. The reports also mentioned that one Humtek Communications of Bangalore had sought to buy electrical components for the Space Applications Centre through Asher Karni. Mr Sarna said: "We have examined these reports and have found no evidence of any procurement as reported in these news reports. Space Applications Centre has confirmed that no item has been procured from Humtek Communications. Furthermore the Space Applications Centre is responsible for civilian space applications and does not work on rockets as mentioned in these reports."

Reuters, 22 April 2004

### **U.S. Sees Nothing Definitive on N. Korea Nuke Tests**

WASHINGTON: The United States has not seen evidence that North Korea is preparing for a nuclear weapons test, although it has seen "lots of stuff suggesting interesting activity," a senior administration official said on Friday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was responding to a Wall Street Journal Online story, which said the United States warned China that "North Korea could be preparing for a nuclear-weapons test and asked the Chinese to urge Pyongyang to desist." "We've seen something that suggests they are talking about (a nuclear test). There has been lots of stuff suggesting interesting activity the official said. "As far as I can tell, it's not definitive. "The official did not know of any warning to China about a possible North Korean test but said the recent activity had "raised some interest within the Bush administration." The State Department does not have any new assessments to offer regarding its long-standing concern over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, a spokeswoman told Reuters.

The Associated Press, 22 April 2005

### **U.S. Cites Concerns Over N. Korea Comments**

WASHINGTON: The United States has told China and its other negotiating partners that it has serious concerns about "recent provocative statements" by North Korea on its nuclear weapons intentions, a State Department spokesman said Friday. In the message, conveyed through diplomatic channels, the United States said North Korea's statements could only keep the reclusive regime in isolation, spokesman Tom Casey said. During three rounds of negotiations, North Korea has asserted it has a nuclear capability and the potential to demonstrate it. In February and again last month, North Korea claimed to have nuclear weapons and said it would not return to the six-nation talks. American analysts said this week they believe at least some of the claims are genuine. U.S. intelligence analysts estimate North Korea has produced at least two nuclear bombs. The diplomatic message to U.S. partners did not suggest that North Korea is about to conduct a nuclear test or take any immediate action along those lines, said a U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Associated Press, 22 April 2005

### **N. Korea Says Nukes Needed for Defense**

JAKARTA: North Korea's No. 2 leader Friday accused the United States of trying to topple Pyongyang's government, shortly after a brief meeting with the South Korean prime minister that was the highest-level exchange between those two neighbors in five years. The developments came amid international efforts to resume six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions. In a speech to delegates at a meeting of African and Asian leaders, Kim Yong Nam of North Korea said the reclusive communist country needed nuclear weapons for self-defense. The United States, with "the largest nuclear arsenal in the world, is now attempting to

stifle the DPRK system by deploying (the) latest means of nuclear war ... in and around the Korean peninsula," Kim said, using the acronym that stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name. "Under such circumstances, it stands to reason indeed for the DPRK to equip itself with a nuclear deterrent as a legitimate self-defensive means."

Daily Times, 22 April 2005

#### **Gorbachev criticises US on large nuclear arsenal**

UNITED NATIONS: Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warned the United States on Wednesday "to cure itself" of hypocrisy over nuclear arms and be prepared to cut its atomic arsenal and take it off "hair-trigger" alert. Addressing a news conference with Ted Turner, the founder of CNN, Gorbachev said the United States should not suggest other nations disarm and make no move to do so itself. "I think the United States is sick. It suffers from the sickness, the disease of being the victor and it needs to cure itself from this disease," Gorbachev said. "I think Russia is ready to cooperate. Now the question is, is the United States - which is the only remaining superpower - is the United States ready to do this? I think not," he added. There are an estimated 34,000 nuclear warheads in silos in Russia and the United States. About 5,000 are on hair-trigger alert, in which they could be fired on 15 minutes' notice.

The Associated press, 22 April 2005

#### **Navajo Nation Outlaws Uranium Mining**

WINDOW ROCK: The Navajo Nation has outlawed uranium mining and processing on its reservation, which sprawls across parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah and contains one of the world's largest deposits of uranium ore. Tribal President Joe Shirley Jr. must give the bill final approval. His spokesman said Thursday that Shirley "strongly" supports it. Mining companies began blasting holes on the reservation, which covers 27,000 square miles, in the 1940s and continued for nearly 40 years until decreased demand closed the operations. By then, the Navajos were left with radiation sickness, contaminated tailings and abandoned mines. To avoid repeating the past, Navajo leaders and grassroots organizations have been working for years to keep mining from starting again. The Navajo Nation Council voted 63-19 Tuesday in favor of the mining ban. Several council delegates predicted the legislation will be challenged in court -- possibly as far as the Supreme Court. Members of Navajo grassroots organizations celebrated outside the council's chambers after the measure was approved.

Hindustan Times, 22 April 2005

#### **Russia calls on NKorea to resume talks on nuclear programme**

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday urged North Korea to quickly return to multi-party negotiations on its nuclear programme which have been stalled for 10 months. North Korea "must come back as soon as possible to the negotiating table," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said at a meeting in Moscow with his South Korean counterpart Yoon Kwang-woong, according to the Itar-Tass news agency. "We must do everything necessary for North Korea to return to the six-part talks," he said. "That is in the interest of everyone and above all the states with a frontier with his potentially turbulent region." Talks involving the two Koreas, China, Russia, the United States and Japan aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme halted in June last year after three inconclusive rounds. North Korea did not show up for a fourth round due in September 2004, and declared in February that it had nuclear weapons for self-defence against what it called a hostile US policy.

Daily Times, 22 April 2005

#### **Sharon seeks diplomatic pressure to check Iran's nuclear quest**

JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said concerted international pressure rather than Israeli military action is needed to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, in an interview published on Thursday. "Yes, there is certainly danger that Iran will become nuclear," Sharon told the Maariv daily. "It's dangerous. Everything must be done in order to stop it." Asked what he meant by "everything", Sharon replied: "I mean every effort, not necessarily war. Israel cannot and does not have to lead this campaign. We don't have to be the spearhead, neither militarily nor diplomatically." Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Israel has come to view the Islamic regime in Tehran as its number one enemy and has voiced fears that Iran is only months away from having the knowledge to build a nuclear bomb. Speculation that Sharon's government could take matters into its own hands was fuelled in January by US Vice President Dick Cheney who warned that Israel might launch a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear programme, an echo of the 1981 attack by the Israeli air force on Iraq's French-built Osirak reactor.

The News, 22 April 2005

#### **The nuclear sage of Pakistan** (Farhatullah Babar)

Six years ago on April 22 Munir Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission for nearly

two decades (1972 - 1991) died. He remained unsung but the events of the past few years have vindicated him, even though full vindication is yet to come. Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto recalled him to Pakistan from the International Atomic Energy Agency where he worked for thirteen years and made him Chairman of the PAEC Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission in 1972. If Bhutto was like Nehru in India in having a nuclear dream, Munir Khan was like Dr. Bhabha, who helped shape the political vision of Nehru for nearly two decades of his stewardship of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission. As Chairman PAEC Munir Khan created a team which gave Pakistan the mastery of complete nuclear fuel cycle, carried out cold nuclear tests in 1983, and built the tunnels in the Chaghai Mountains of Balochistan for tests 15 years later that were to formally declare to the world the country's nuclear status.

Los Angeles Times, 22 April 2005

**Vital Nuclear Parts Missing** (Douglas Frantz)

ZURICH: Critical components and specialized tools destined for Libya's nuclear weapons program disappeared before arrival in 2003 and international investigators now suspect that they were diverted to another country, according to court records and investigators. Efforts to find the missing equipment have led to dead ends, raising what investigators said was the strong likelihood that the sophisticated material was sold to an unidentified customer by members of the international smuggling ring that had been supplying nuclear technology and weapons designs to Libya. The equipment - components for advanced centrifuges, along with material and precision tools to manufacture more of them - does not constitute an immediate threat, but nuclear experts said it would cut years off an effort to enrich uranium for an atomic bomb. The mystery of the missing high-tech equipment illustrates both the extensive knowledge investigators have gained about the smuggling operation and the troubling gaps that remain. It also raises the question of whether a rogue nation or group might be secretly building a nuclear weapon.

The Korean Herald, 23 April 2005

**Roh, Bush may hold June summit on N. Korea nukes** (Joo Sang-min)

The government is pushing for a summit between President Roh Moo-hyun and U.S. President George W. Bush in the United States around June amid signs of escalating tensions over the North Korean nuclear standoff and signs of strains in the time-honored alliance between Seoul and Washington. Officials in Seoul said yesterday that the two governments have held working-level talks to draw up a specific outline for a summit meeting. "Although nothing has been fixed, we see high chances of the summit meeting. A specific schedule will come out after further consultation," Yonhap news agency quoted an unidentified official as saying. Word of the push for a summit coincides with a planned Washington visit in April 26-28 by Lee Jong-seok, deputy head of the National Security Council and a key adviser to Roh on national security. Presidential spokesman Kim Man-soo refused to confirm the summit bid. "A cordial trust exists between Korea and the United States to discuss mutual concerns at any time when needed," he said.

People's Daily, 23 April 2005

**L. America states urged to strengthen cooperation against chemical weapons**

Experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Friday urged the governments and firms of Latin American and the Caribbean countries to step up their cooperation against chemical arms. "A good opportunity to contribute to world peace and security is to get rid of chemical arms," said Guillermo Fernandez de Soto, a member of the OPCW peace council and Colombia's ambassador to The Netherlands. Noting that Latin America spearheads the worldwide campaign for non-proliferation of chemical arms, Fernandez de Soto, speaking at the 6th meeting of National Authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean in Cartagena, Colombia, also asked the governments and firms of those countries to intensify measures against substances possibly to be used in making chemical arms. OPCW Director General Rogelio Pflirter also warned that no country in the world could consider itself free from the possibility that terrorist groups may secretly enter their territories with chemical arms for evil use.

Daily Times, 23 April 2005

**'N Korea going all-out to build atomic bombs'**

SEOUL: North Korea has poured all its resources into developing nuclear weapons, including a likely scheme to enrich uranium, the highest official from the communist state to defect to the South said on Thursday. Hwang Jang-yop, 82, was the architect of the North's Juche ideology, an extreme form of self-reliance advocated by the North's late founder Kim Il-sung. Hwang was head of international relations at the Workers' Party of Korea, the ruling communist party, and a close confidant of current leader Kim Jong-il, before defecting in 1997. "It is a small country, but it has thrown all its strength behind the programmes from the very beginning," Hwang told a forum organised by South Korea's opposition Grand National Party. Hwang said he had been told by the communist party's secretary heading armament responsibilities in 1996 that the country had decided to begin a uranium-

enrichment programme.

The Daily Times, 25 April 2005

### **Top US nuclear negotiator in Seoul to revive Korean talks**

SEOUL: A top US negotiator was in Seoul Sunday on the first leg of a trip to South Korea, Japan and China aimed at reviving six-party talks to end North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, officials said. US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who arrived here late on Saturday, will meet with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon and other officials Monday before heading to China Tuesday and then moving on to Japan Wednesday.

The Daily Times, 25 April 2005

### **Korean military vows to increase nuclear deterrent**

SEOUL: North Korea on Sunday marked the 73th anniversary of its military by vowing to bolster its "nuclear deterrent" and warning it will "wipe out" US forces if Washington tries to invade the communist country. North Korea regularly uses tough rhetoric, and has issued multiple threats since it declared in February that it had nuclear weapons and was boycotting disarmament talks. The latest comments come amid intense diplomacy by the United States to revive those negotiations because of fears that the North might be trying to produce more atomic bombs. Sunday's warning came during a national meeting of senior military officers and party officials on the eve of the 73th anniversary of Korean People's Army, the world's fifth largest with 1.2 million members and the backbone of leader Kim Jong Il's totalitarian rule.

The Daily Times, 25 April 2005

### **Iran determined to resume enrichment**

TEHRAN: Iran is determined to resume uranium enrichment whether talks with the European Union over its nuclear programme succeed or fail, the Foreign Ministry said on Sunday. Last November, Tehran suspended uranium enrichment, which could produce nuclear fuel for power plants or bombs while it negotiated a settlement to its nuclear dispute with the EU. The EU and Washington want Iran to scrap all nuclear fuel work, fearing it is developing the capability to make nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear facilities will be used only to generate electricity. "We will resume uranium enrichment after a while," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told a weekly news conference. "It is on our agenda whether the talks reach a result or not."

The News, 25 April 2005

### **US negotiator in Seoul to revive talks**

SEOUL: North Korea's military chief vowed on Sunday to "steadily bolster" the Stalinist nation's nuclear deterrent as a result of hostile moves by the United States. In a deepening nuclear crisis, Kim Yong-Chun, chief of the general staff of the North Korean People's Army, warned the United States that it would face any aggression head on. His comments, as a top US official visited South Korea in an effort to revive regional talks on the nuclear issue, followed a United States newspaper report that Pyongyang may be planning a nuclear test. At the same time, North Korea's state news agency has reported stepped-up visits to military units by the country's leader Kim Jong-Il. "The army and the people of the DPRK (North Korea) will never remain a passive onlooker to the US moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK, but steadily bolster its nuclear deterrent for self-defence to cope with the enemies' reckless moves for military aggression," Kim Yong-Chun said in a speech carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The People's Daily, 25 April 2005

### **US, S. Korea discuss six-nation nuclear talks**

The chief US and South Korean negotiators in the six-nation talks on the Korea Peninsular nuclear issue said Monday they had reached "complete agreement" on how to deal with the issue, reported Yonhap. "We had a complete agreement on how to proceed and I would say ... the US and the Republic of Korea are cooperating very very well in this very difficult matter," US chief negotiator Christopher Hill said after meeting with South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon. "I would say we have very good understanding of this issue and very good agreement on the best tactics to bring this issue to resolution," said Hill, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs. He did not elaborate, but said the focus is still on diplomacy. "What we're focusing on is the diplomatic track and the need to get the talks going and, more importantly, once they get going, to achieve progress in the talks," he said.

China Daily, 25 April 2005

### **Official: Iran to resume nuke enrichment**

Iran will resume uranium enrichment regardless of the outcome of its negotiations with three European powers over its nuclear program, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday. Speaking to reporters five days before Iran is to resume nuclear talks with France, Britain and Germany, Hamid Reza Asefi said the Europeans appeared to

be serious in seeking an agreement with Iran. But he added that any settlement had to respect Iran's right, as a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to enrich uranium. The Europeans have been offering economic incentives in the hope that Iran will turn its temporary suspension of uranium enrichment activities into a permanent freeze. Asefi said Iran would not continue its suspension of enrichment for long. "It is not a matter of a year, but months," he said of the suspension, which was imposed last year to boost confidence ahead of negotiations. "If Iran feels that the Europeans intend to waste time by prolonging the talks, Iran won't insist on continuing the talks." The United States, backed by Israel, believes Iran is using a civilian nuclear development program as a cover to make atomic weapons. It has threatened to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council, which can impose sanctions, but has held off pending the negotiations with the Europeans. The Europeans also have called on Iran to abandon enrichment, a process that can produce fuel for nuclear reactors and, taken to a higher level, material for bombs. Iran insists its nuclear program is entirely for the generation of electricity and has offered to provide safeguards of its good intentions.

China Daily, 25 April 2005

#### **Seoul: Nuclear test would threaten North Korea's future**

Any move by North Korea to test a nuclear weapon would only isolate it further and jeopardize the future of the state, South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon was quoted as saying on Monday. The strong comments came amid growing concern about the North's continued refusal to resume multinational talks on its nuclear aims and after recent U.S. media reports that Pyongyang might be preparing for its first nuclear test. "If North Korea takes the reckless action of conducting a nuclear test, it will further deepen its isolation and take itself on a road where its future would not be guaranteed," Ban was quoted by Yonhap news agency as telling a forum. The top U.S. negotiator to the six-party talks also began discussions on Monday in Seoul on how to break the deadlock. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill met his South Korean counterpart, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon. Hill is due to travel to Beijing on Tuesday and Tokyo on Wednesday for further talks. "What we are focusing on is the diplomatic track and the need to get the talks going and more importantly, once they get going, to achieve progress," Hill told reporters after meeting Song. Hill said he and Song had a "very good and complete agreement on how to proceed," without elaborating.

Japan Today, 25 April 2005

#### **Nagasaki, Hiroshima mayors head to nuke arms conferences**

NAGASAKI: Mayors of the atom-bombed cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima left for Mexico and the United States on Monday to attend international conferences on nuclear weapons. Nagasaki Mayor Itcho Ito and Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba will attend the Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones starting Tuesday in Mexico City and a conference to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York from May 2. T

The Khaleej Times, 25 April 2005

#### **South Korea warns North Korea not to carry out nuclear test**

25 April 2005, SEOUL: South Korea warned North Korea on Monday against carrying out a nuclear weapons test, saying it would only push the Stalinist country further into isolation. South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon made the comments after the Wall Street Journal reported last week that Washington was concerned a North Korean nuclear test could be in the works. "If North Korea takes reckless measures such as a nuclear test, it will be isolated further from the outside world with its future unguaranteed," Ban told a seminar here. "Nuclear weapons will not guarantee North Korea's security but deepen its political and economic isolation," Ban said. He urged North Korea to resume six-nation talks which are aimed at dismantling the country's nuclear programs. US satellites have spotted increased activity at North Korean sites where underground nuclear tests could be carried out, the Wall Street Journal said Friday, citing a US official. The report came after North Korea raised the stakes in the stand-off over its nuclear programs by shutting off a nuclear reactor. The move would allow spent fuel rods to be removed and plutonium to be extracted for atomic weapons.

The Korea Times, 25 April 2005

#### **Allies Agree on Best Tactics for N. Korean Nukes** (Ryu Jin)

South Korea and the United States reached an agreement on the "best tactics" to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff, top negotiators from the two allied powers said after talks in Seoul on Monday. Christopher Hill, U.S. assistant secretary of state on East Asia-Pacific affairs, said he reached a "complete agreement" with his South Korean counterpart, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, on how to deal with the nuclear-ambitious North amid the escalating tension. "I'd say we have a very good understanding of this issue and very good agreement on the best tactics to bring this issue to resolution," he told reporters, just before a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon, following his 70-minute talks with Song. Hill, the former U.S. ambassador to South Korea who was recently named the point man on the nuclear issue, arrived in Seoul on Sunday in what many call a "last-minute effort" to get the stalled six-party process restarted. He is scheduled to come back to Seoul on Thursday after talking with his counterparts in Beijing today and in Tokyo tomorrow.

Diplomatic efforts have been high among relevant parties in recent weeks as tensions have escalated due to North Korea's suspension of a key nuclear reactor earlier this month, a move which experts say might earn the country more plutonium to bolster its nuclear arsenal.

The Korea Times, 25 April 2005

### **Six-Party Negotiations Must Be Preserved**

North Korea's nuclear ambitions seem to be running to a climax as the Wall Street Journal reported in its online edition Friday that the North is preparing for an underground nuclear weapons test. The paper also said that Washington called upon Beijing to dissuade Pyongyang from undertaking the test. Even though the credibility of the report is hard to trust, it is quite enough to shock the international community, which has stood behind the six-party dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the nuclear standoff between Pyongyang and Washington.

The Tribune, 25 April 2005

### **India sees foul play in reports on nuclear issue** (Rajeev Sharma)

New Delhi, April 24: The Government of India smells a rat in recent reports in the international press casting aspersions on Indian nuclear programme. The government believes that the reports are actually a smokescreen for Pakistan's nuclear proliferation and an attempt to deflect attention from Pakistan to make it seem that the problem is not just limited to Pakistan. New Delhi is of the opinion that such reports obfuscate the main issues and deflect the focus away from the main offenders. The government is of the opinion that whenever there is some pressure on Pakistan with new revelations of its clandestine networks and proliferation bazaar, an attempt is made to somehow drag India into the picture, despite there being not a shred of evidence in this regard.

The Hindu, 25 April 2005

### **India and the Nuclear Suppliers Group** (R. Ramachandran)

From the Indian perspective, maintaining a dialogue with the NSG is important to see if nuclear exports to India can be facilitated under conditions weaker than full-scope safeguards in the future. AFTER ITS visit to Israel in March and Pakistan early this month, the consultative team from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is scheduled to visit India this week. The NSG consists of 44 member-countries and controls transfers of nuclear goods globally in accordance with two sets of Guidelines - I and II. All the members of the NSG are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Guidelines I stipulate controls over transfer of items included in the NSG's Trigger List, which are meant for direct nuclear use such as nuclear material, fuel-cycle related equipment and reactors, non-nuclear material for reactors and equipment and technology meant for reprocessing, enrichment, fuel fabrication and heavy water production. For transfer of such items to a non-nuclear weapons state (NNWS), the controls require full-scope safeguards (FSS) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on all the nuclear activities of the recipient country. Guidelines II lay down conditions for transfers of nuclear-related dual-use items and these require only end-use statement and item-specific safeguards.

The Daily Times, 26 April 2005

### **US may seek UN help on Korean shipments**

NEW YORK: The United States is debating seeking a UN resolution that would allow countries to intercept shipments in or out of North Korea that may contain nuclear materials or components, The New York Times reported on Monday. The newspaper, quoting senior officials of US President George W. Bush's administration and diplomats briefed on the proposal, said the possible resolution would amount to a quarantine of North Korea, although it said White House aides were not using that word. The Times quoted several American and Asian officials as saying the main purpose would be to provide China with political cover to police its border with North Korea, that country's lifeline for food and oil. It was uncertain if China and South Korea, part of six-nation talks about North Korea's nuclear weapons program, would go along with such a plan, the paper reported.

The China Daily, 26 April 2005

### **CIA's final report: No WMD found in Iraq**

In his final word, the CIA's top weapons inspector in Iraq said Monday that the hunt for weapons of mass destruction has "gone as far as feasible" and has found nothing, closing an investigation into the purported programs of Saddam Hussein that were used to justify the 2003 invasion. "After more than 18 months, the WMD investigation and debriefing of the WMD-related detainees has been exhausted," wrote Charles Duelfer, head of the Iraq Survey Group, in an addendum to the final report he issued last fall. "As matters now stand, the WMD investigation has gone as far as feasible." In 92 pages posted online Monday evening, Duelfer provides a final look at an investigation that occupied over 1,000 military and civilian translators, weapons specialists and other experts at its peak. His latest addenda conclude a roughly 1,500-page report released last fall.

The News, 26 April 2005

**Pyongyang will react to UN sanctions with 'do-or-die' spirit**

SEOUL: If North Korea tested a nuclear weapon it would only isolate itself further from the international community, South Korea's foreign minister said on Monday, adding any such move would be "reckless". US media reports have indicated that Pyongyang may be preparing its first nuclear test while stalling on its return to talks aimed at curbing its nuclear ambitions. "If North Korea takes the reckless action of conducting a nuclear test, it will further deepen its isolation and take itself on a road where its future would not be guaranteed," Yonhap news agency quoted Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon as telling a forum on Monday. The chairman of the ruling Uri Party, Moon Hee-sang, played down the chances such a test would be conducted any time soon. "According to my latest intelligence information and sources, we have not detected any movement on a nuclear test happening in North Korea," he told reporters later on Monday.

The News, 26 April 2005

**IAEA to decide on new leader tomorrow**

VIENNA: The UN atomic agency meets on Wednesday to decide on its next director general, with US officials hinting for the first time that they may accept current chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who is the sole candidate. The United States officially opposes ElBaradei, who is 62, serving more than two terms but is actually against the former Egyptian diplomat for not being tough enough on Iran, which Washington charges is hiding a covert nuclear weapons programme, diplomats said. There is no guarantee of a vote Wednesday as the 35-nation board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency may put off the decision until a June meeting, which would be the deadline for choosing a new IAEA director general, diplomats said. ElBaradei's term expires November 30. The new director general would be ratified at an IAEA plenary conference in September. The United States may be forced eventually to accept him as "there is no country that has said it is not able to support ElBaradei," who is widely credited with doing a good job in investigating Iran's nuclear programme, a Western diplomat, who asked not to be named, told AFP. "Everything shows the United States won't have the blocking minority (of 12 votes) needed to stop ElBaradei," another Western diplomat said, referring to the two-thirds majority of the 35-member board needed to elect a director general.

The People's Daily, 26 April 2005

**DPRK defies US threat, demands justification for return to talks**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Monday defied the US threat to take the nuclear issue to the United Nations, demanding justification for its return to the six-party talks. "What matters is that there are still no conditions and justification for the DPRK to participate in the six-party talks," said a spokesman of the DPRK's Foreign Ministry, clearly in response to recent remarks by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "If the US is really interested in the resumption of the talks, it should provide the DPRK with conditions and justification to return to the talks," the spokesman said. "Nevertheless, the US is not interested at all in providing the DPRK with such justification to participate in the talks, but intends to bring the issue to the UNSC in a bid to resolve it through sanctions if the latter disobeys," the spokesman said. Rice told the US FOX TV last Thursday that the United States would go to the UN Security Council and would not wait with folded arms for the DPRK to return to the six-party talks. The DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman said in return: "We make one thing clear: the DPRK will regard the sanctions as a declaration of war." The DPRK have built a nuclear deterrent force despite enormous difficulties in order to effectively cope with the United States, according to the spokesman.

The Korea Times, 26 April 2005

**Allies Agree on Best Tactics for N. Korean Nukes** (Ryu Jin)

South Korea and the United States reached an agreement on the "best tactics" to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff, top negotiators from the two allied powers said after talks in Seoul on Monday. Christopher Hill, U.S. assistant secretary of state on East Asia-Pacific affairs, said he reached a "complete agreement" with his South Korean counterpart, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, on how to deal with the nuclear-ambitious North amid the escalating tension. "I'd say we have a very good understanding of this issue and very good agreement on the best tactics to bring this issue to resolution," he told reporters, just before a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon, following his 70-minute talks with Song.

The People's Daily, 26 April 2005

**US nuclear negotiator leaves S.Korea for Beijing**

A senior US diplomat handling the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula left Seoul for Beijing on Tuesday for further talks on the issue, according to Yonhap. Beijing is the second stop of Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill's trip that will also take him to Japan on Wednesday and back to Seoul on Thursday, it said. On Monday, Hill met his South Korean counterpart, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, and said they agreed on the "best tactics" to resolve the issue. No further details were available. He also paid a call on President Roh Moo-hyun and Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon of the country.

The Digital Chosun, 27 April 2005

**North Korea: a Yawning Gap in Perceptions**

On Monday U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, while visiting Seoul on the first leg of his three-country tour of Korea, China and Japan, met with senior Korean government officials. On that day Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said, "If North Korea goes through with a nuclear test, it will start along a road where the future cannot be guaranteed." The New York Times reported the U.S. government was considering a UN resolution empowering nations to intercept shipments in or out of a particular country that may contain nuclear materials or components -- a measure clearly aimed at North Korea, the daily added. "If the U.S. wants to drag the nuclear issue before the UN Security Council, let it go ahead," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman responded. "We'll consider (U.S.) sanction a declaration of war." Since all this was happening on a single day, we have to conclude that the North Korean nuclear dispute is entering a very serious stage. How different from when President Roh Moo-hyun declared only a fortnight ago, "North Korea is ready to abandon its nuclear development program. This problem will be resolved so long as the U.S. or North Korea don't entertain other schemes or tell a lie."

The Korea Times, 27 April 2005

**Kim Dae-jung Says US More Responsible for Current Nuke Stalemate (Ryu Jin)**

Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung urged the United States on Monday to show "more flexibility" to offer North Korea "concrete benefits" in return for the dismantlement of all nuclear weapons programs. In an address to the Asia Foundation in San Francisco, Kim suggested that North Korea commit itself to a verifiable denuclearization and that the U.S., at the same time, give security assurances and ease the economic sanctions imposed on the impoverished North. "The other nations in the six-party talks can take a firm stance only when the North, despite the rewards offered, refuses to abandon its nuclear ambition," said the elderly statesman, who made the first visit to the U.S. since retiring in early 2003. An ardent advocate of his trademark "sunshine policy" of engaging the reclusive North, Kim's remarks came as a clear opposition to the voices of some American hardliners allegedly seeking measures to apply more pressure on North Korea, which is boycotting talks. Some news reports said officials in Washington are debating a plan to seek a U.N. resolution empowering all nations to intercept shipments in or out of the North that may contain nuclear materials or components, a move tantamount to a "quarantine" of the already isolated state. South Korea \_ along with China and Russia \_ has been very reluctant to options that might annoy North Korea so far, but it is moving toward tougher lines after the nuclear-bent North suspended a key reactor earlier this month to "bolster its nuclear arsenal." Christopher Hill, the top U.S. negotiator, is visiting Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo this week in what many call last-minute efforts to bring the North back to the table. But officials say it is still unclear whether their diplomatic efforts would be fruitful.

The Khaleej Times, 27 April 2005

**UN nuclear chief ElBaradei seeks a third term**

27 April 2005 , VIENNA: UN atomic energy chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who is seeking a third term in office despite US opposition, is a seasoned diplomat at the heart of international controversies such as whether Iran is secretly making atomic weapons. As director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he leads the global effort to uncover nuclear threats to world peace, a task that involves juggling often competing national interests. The United States would like to see the IAEA crack down harder on Iran for what Washington says is a covert nuclear weapons program but ElBaradei insists that its investigation of the Islamic republic needs time. ElBaradei also earned the ire of Washington for using his position to question US intelligence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction under now deposed dictator Saddam Hussein. Washington may be ready however to yield on ElBaradei, a US official who asked to remain anonymous told AFP, as it is having trouble getting an alternative candidate to come forward to oppose the widely respected IAEA chief.

Japan Today, 27 April 2005

**U.S. official arrives in China to discuss N Korea**

BEIJING: A U.S. State Department official arrived in China on Tuesday to discuss restarting six-country talks on North Korea's nuclear ambitions amid suspicions that China's neighbor is bolstering its nuclear capability. Christopher Hill, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, visited Beijing for a 24-hour trip to talk with Foreign Ministry officials about the six-way talks and other bilateral issues before leaving Wednesday morning for Tokyo, a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman said.

Japan Today, 27 April 2005

**Rice warns N Korea against nuke proliferation**

WASHINGTON: U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has warned North Korea against its nuclear ambitions and possible proliferation, citing an ongoing multilateral interdiction initiative and the possibility of referring the case to the U.N. Security Council. While reiterating the United States remains committed to peacefully resolving the nuclear issue through six-party talks, Rice made the warning in a press briefing en route to Brazil on Monday,

according to a transcript of her remarks made available Tuesday by the State Department.

The News, 27 April 2005

### **US still wants talks on N Korea issue: Rice**

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Monday the US reserved the right to seek UN Security Council action on North Korea but remained committed for the time being to seeking a negotiated end to the country's nuclear weapons programme. "We still believe there is a lot to be done within the six-party framework," Rice said, alluding to disarmament negotiations that began almost two years ago. There have been no talks since June 2004 because of North Korea's unwillingness to renew the discussions. Rice spoke to reporters while en route to Brazil, the first stop on a four-country Latin American tour. A decision on whether to seek Security Council action will depend on "the nature of the threat" North Korea poses and the views of other members of the six-party process, Rice added but declined to say how long she would give North Korea to return to the negotiating table.

The Daily Times, 27 April 2005

### **Iraqi insurgents trying to fashion chemical weapons**

WASHINGTON: Insurgents engaged in a guerrilla campaign against US forces and the new government in Iraq are making a concerted effort to gain chemical weapons capability and have already used old Iraqi chemical munitions in their attacks, the top US weapons investigator warned on Monday. Charles Duelfer, head of a CIA-led expert team that unsuccessfully searched for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction in the aftermath of the March 2003 US-led invasion of the country, said the danger that rebels could gain the know-how for manufacturing crude chemical devices "remains an important concern." The warning is contained in a final installment of last year's report by the Iraq Survey Group, which concluded that alleged massive stockpiles of Iraqi chemical and biological weapons used by the administration of President George W Bush to justify the war simply did not exist. The addendum reaffirms that conclusion, with Duelfer pointing out that the investigation "has gone as far as feasible" and the reservoir of available data about Baghdad's weapons programs "has been exhausted."

The Daily Times, 27 April 2005

### **IAEA wants to scrap flaw in N-inspection**

VIENNA: The United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) wants to scrap a little-known loophole in UN nuclear non-proliferation rules, which allows countries to keep out unwanted inspectors, an internal UN document says. The so-called "small quantities protocol" is an agreement that states who say they have little or no nuclear material can sign with the IAEA. The IAEA is tasked with policing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the global pact against nuclear weapons. One result of the protocol is that it allows NPT signatories to remain exempt from rules which compel them to notify the IAEA of stocks of natural uranium up to 10 tonnes, which experts say could be purified into fuel for at least one atom bomb.

The Indian express, 27 April 2005

### **Govt ready with law against smuggling WMDs, N-material (SHISHIR GUPTA)**

NEW DELHI, APRIL 26: Seven years after India conducted the Shakti series of nuclear tests at Pokhran, the UPA government is bringing in a legislation that steel-clads the non-proliferation framework and imposes punishment, upto life imprisonment, on those found involved in proliferating weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems to terrorists, non-state players and other countries. Authoritative sources indicated that the legislation called 'The Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prevention of Unlawful Activities) Bill, 2005' has been drafted and comments are being sought from the DRDO and other agencies to make it foolproof. Though Parliament goes into summer recess from May 13-it was on this day in 1998 when India conducted the last two of the five detonations at Pokhran-efforts are being made to get the legislation introduced and cleared this session itself. The legislation has acquired urgency as private players will soon come into the civilian nuclear energy sector and there's greater emphasis on private involvement in the defence sector. This export control legislation will also help India convince the international community that its non-proliferation record is impeccable and provide impetus to countries such as US and Russia towards sharing of nuclear technology with New Delhi.

The Hindu, 27 April 2005

### **U.S. closes book on search for Iraq WMD**

WASHINGTON: In his final word, the CIA's top weapons inspector in Iraq has said the hunt for weapons of mass destruction has "gone as far as feasible" and has found nothing, closing an investigation into the purported programmes of Saddam Hussein that were used to justify the 2003 invasion. "After more than 18 months, the WMD investigation and debriefing of the WMD-related detainees has been exhausted," wrote Charles Duelfer, head of the Iraq Survey Group, in an addendum to the final report he issued last fall. "As matters now stand, the WMD investigation has gone as far as feasible." In 92 pages posted online on Monday evening, Mr. Duelfer provides a final look at an investigation that occupied over 1,000 military and civilian translators, weapons

specialists and other experts at its peak. His latest addenda conclude a roughly 1,500-page report released last fall.

The Tribune, 27 April 2005

#### **India ratifies N-safety convention**

New Delhi, April 26: India has ratified the decade-old convention on nuclear safety, requiring participating states to maintain a high level of safety in the operation and regulation of nuclear power plants. India is the fiftyfirst among the 56 contracting nations which attended the two-week review meeting at the UN International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna recently. The issue of nuclear safety was deliberated upon in detail, according to a statement by the UN. India has 14 nuclear reactors producing 2,770 MW of electricity. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India is constructing eight more reactors totalling 3,960 MW which will be operational by 2008, taking the installed capacity to 6,780 MW. The target is to progressively increase nuclear power generation to 20,000 MW by 2020. All signatories to the convention have to submit reports to the IAEA, covering construction, operation and regulation of their civilian nuclear power plants. The Vienna session has specifically urged IAEA Director-General Mohamed El Baradei to convene meetings with member states to discuss how best to ensure effective application of the code of conduct on the safety of research reactors.

The Nation, 28 April 2005

#### **US concerned over possible NKorean N-test**

BEIJING :US envoy Christopher Hill Wednesday expressed concerns of a possible North Korean atomic test and cast doubt over the resumption of six-party talks on the simmering nuclear issue. "The future of talks is very much uncertain at this point," the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific told reporters as he left his hotel here en route to Tokyo. "I think it is clear we have a problem here. "We continue to have a North Korean regime that is very ambivalent about whether it wants to negotiate a settlement." Hill held talks with Chinese Vice Foreign Ministers Dai Bingguo, Yang Jiechi and Wu Dawei and would hold further talks in Tokyo and Seoul, US and Chinese officials said. When asked whether or not he felt North Korea was preparing a nuclear weapons test, Hill said that the United States was concerned.

The Nation, 28 April 2005

#### **IAEA puts off vote on new ElBaradei term**

VIENNA: The UN atomic agency has postponed until June a decision on whether to give current chief Mohamed ElBaradei a new term, diplomats said Wednesday. The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-nation board of governors met Wednesday in a special session to discuss the appointment of a new director general when ElBaradei's current term expires November 30. ElBaradei is the only candidate to be the next director general. The chair of the board, Canadian ambassador Ingrid Hall, said that "support for the candidate has increased and that furthermore board members want to see a decision on his reappointment taken by consensus and as soon as possible and no later than the June board (meeting)," according to a copy of her statement shown to AFP.

The News, 28 April 2005

#### **Annan urges India to sign nuclear treaty**

NEW DELHI: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Thursday urged India to sign an international treaty banning nuclear testing and support another that puts a cap on the production of fissile material needed for making atomic weapons. In a public speech in New Delhi, Annan said he was pleased the international community had managed to successfully conclude a convention on nuclear terrorism earlier this month. "I hope India will set an example by rapidly adhering to that convention, and will also soon sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, as well as giving active support to the negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty," Annan said.

The Indian Express, 28 April 2005

#### **Rumsfeld wants deep-earth-piercing N-bomb**

Washington, April 27: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pressed Congress on Wednesday to fund research into an earth-penetrating "bunker buster" nuclear bomb that U.S. Lawmakers dropped from the budget last year. "It seems to me studying it makes all the sense in the world," Rumsfeld told a Senate appropriations subcommittee, referring to a nuclear weapon designed to penetrate the earth and then explode. Proponents argue it could be used to demolish hardened and deeply buried enemy targets. But Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California told Rumsfeld: "It is beyond me as to why you're proceeding with this program when the laws of physics won't allow a missile to be driven deeply enough" to prevent deadly radioactive fallout from spewing into the air after a nuclear detonation.

The Daily Times, 28 April 2005

### **North Korea nuclear talks uncertain: US**

BEIJING: The top US diplomat on the North Korean nuclear crisis said on Wednesday that the fate of six-party talks was in doubt after a day of discussions in China, host of three rounds of inconclusive negotiations. US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill had arrived in Beijing on Tuesday to try to find a way to entice North Korea back into talks on its nuclear programmes that have been stalled for nearly a year. "The future of talks is very much uncertain at this point," Hill told reporters as he left his hotel. "We continue to have a North Korean regime that is very ambivalent about whether it wants to find a negotiated settlement to this."

The People's Daily, 28 April 2005

### **EU calls for delay in nuclear talks: Iranian official**

The European Union (EU) has called for a delay in its ongoing nuclear talks with Tehran, a top Iranian official said in Tehran Wednesday. Ali Aqa Mohammadi, top official of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying that the EU call was made due to Iran's presidential elections in June and Britain's parliamentary elections in May. Britain is one of the three EU countries behind the talks, together with France and Germany. The official did not mention whether the EU call would affect the planned next round of talks to be held in London on April 29. However, Mohammadi expressed optimism over the outcome of the future talks, saying "what today is raised as Iran's nuclear case has been a challenge between Iran and the West since the beginning of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The challenge has now turned to a negotiation stage."

Dawn, 28 April 2005

### **Japan to raise N-issue, says envoy**

ISLAMABAD, April 27: Japan said on Wednesday that it had serious reservations about alleged Pakistan-North Korea cooperation in nuclear technology and the issue would be raised by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi who is due here on April 30. "Japan wants more information, if there is any, about Dr A.Q. Khan and the alleged nuclear cooperation between Islamabad and Pyongyang," said Japanese Ambassador Nobuaki Tanaka at a news conference. He, however, said his country would not link its planned resumption of Yen Package Loan to Islamabad with the nuclear issue. Despite having serious concerns over nuclear matters, Japan had decided to resume the annual assistance suspended in 1998, he said. "From our side, non-proliferation, Japanese security concerns, terrorism and more reforms in Pakistan would be the main topics of discussion during Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Pakistan", he said.

Japan Today, 28 April 2005

### **Rice warns N Korea against nuke proliferation**

WASHINGTON: U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has warned North Korea against its nuclear ambitions and possible proliferation, citing an ongoing multilateral interdiction initiative and the possibility of referring the case to the U.N. Security Council. While reiterating the United States remains committed to peacefully resolving the nuclear issue through six-party talks, Rice made the warning in a press briefing en route to Brazil on Monday, according to a transcript of her remarks made available Tuesday by the State Department.

The Korea Times, 28 April 2005

### **S. Korea Reluctant to Join US-Led Security Initiative (Ryu Jin)**

With North Korea's nuclear issue standing at the crossroads, the American-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is once again emerging as a possible means to sanction the reclusive country. Seoul, however, still seems reluctant, according to officials. Nihon Keizai Shimbun, a Japanese daily, reported on Thursday that U.S. administration officials decided to demand that South Korea and China, which have economic ties with the socialist North Korea, join the PSI. The news report comes just days after U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice touted the security initiative, which allows for the seizure of missiles and other potential components of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) while they are being transferred at sea or in the air.

The Hindu, 29 April 2005

### **Iraq was complying: Blix (Ewen MacAskill)**

LONDON: The head of the United Nations weapons inspectors in the run-up to the Iraq war, Hans Blix, on Wednesday night undercut one of the main grounds offered by the U.K. Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith, in his legal advice to the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, as to whether the invasion of Iraq in 2003 was legal. Lord Goldsmith said there would have to be evidence that Iraq was not complying with the inspectors. But Mr. Blix, who has since retired to Sweden, said his inspectors found no compelling evidence that Iraq had a hidden arsenal or was blocking the work of the inspectors. He said there had been only small infractions by Iraq.

The Nation, 29 April 2005

### **Putin opposes Iranian nuclear bomb**

JERUSALEM: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday said he opposed any Iranian effort to build a nuclear bomb and stressed that nuclear cooperation between Moscow and Tehran was limited to civilian activities. Putin, on an historic visit to the Middle East, also sought to ease Israeli fears over Moscow's plans to sell anti-aircraft missiles to Syria and its support for Iranian nuclear activities. Moscow's planned sale of the air defence systems to Damascus is one of the principle bones of contention between Russia and Israel, which could threaten to overshadow the first ever visit by a Kremlin leader to the Jewish state. "The system we are going to supply to Syria is short range and poses no threat whatsoever to Israeli territory," Putin told a news conference. Justifying the decision to press ahead with the missile sale, he said that some 25 percent of Israel's population is of Russian origin, adding: "We want those people to live in security". "We are not planning to do anything that would upset the balance of forces in the region," Putin insisted.

The Indian Express, 29 April 2005

#### **Iran to restart enrichment if EU talks fail**

THE HAGUE, APRIL 28: Iran will restart its uranium enrichment programme if talks with European Union heavyweights France, Britain and Germany fail on Friday, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said on Thursday. "If there is no agreement and negotiations collapse, there is no choice but to restart the programme," Kharrazi told reporters in The Hague after talks with his Dutch counterpart Bernard Bot. Iran is due to hold talks in London on Friday with Britain, France and Germany, who want Iran to give up uranium enrichment in return for incentives such as trade deals. Iran insists its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful.

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

#### **Earth-penetrating nuclear weapons could kill more than a million people: study**

WASHINGTON: Earth-penetrating nuclear weapons can destroy hard-to-reach underground facilities but could also kill more than a million people on the surface if used in heavily populated areas, an official US study has concluded. The congressionally-mandated study comes as US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is pressing Congress for 8.5 million dollars to study the feasibility of designing nuclear weapons casings hard enough to bore through rocket and concrete before detonating. Conducted by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, the study found that earth-penetrating nuclear weapons could effectively destroy deeply buried bunkers with a smaller bang than nuclear weapons detonated on the surface.

The News, 29 April 2005

#### **Putin defends missiles sale to Syria, N-supplies to Iran**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Russian President Vladimir Putin faced down Israeli criticism here on Thursday, saying that Russia's plan to sell anti-aircraft missiles to Syria and supply of nuclear components to Iran do not threaten Israel's security. Addressing Israeli fears that he was affecting the balance of power in the region, Putin urged Iran to do more to show the world that it is not trying to build a nuclear weapon. Putin was speaking on the second day of his historic visit to Israel intended to cement Russia's rapprochement with Israel and boost its profile in the international arena. Putin was given an official welcome on his arrival here late on Wednesday. A military honour guard was presented while Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious leaders lined to greet him. But his visit was shadowed by disagreements with Israel over Russia's assistance for Iran's nuclear programme and sale of anti-aircraft missiles to Syria, which Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he wants Putin to halt the deal.

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

#### **Russia plans nuke fuel shipments to Iran mid-2005**

SOFIA: The Russian nuclear fuel trader TVEL should start fuel shipments for a Moscow-built nuclear reactor in Iran six months before the unit becomes operational in early 2006, a senior company official said on Thursday. Russia is building a 1,000-megawatt nuclear plant in Iran despite strong opposition from the United States, which believes Iran could use Russian know-how to make nuclear weapons. Tehran denies wanting a bomb and says its atomic ambitions are limited to the peaceful generation of electricity.

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

#### **US envoy says six-way talks still best for North Korea**

TOKYO: The top US diplomat on the North Korean nuclear crisis said on Thursday that Washington still believed six-party talks were the best way to solve the crisis and the United States had no intention to "walk away." "I don't want to speculate on when the talks would get going, nor do I want to give an artificial deadline," US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said after a meeting with senior Japanese officials. He added: "We believe the six-party process is the best way to solve this." Hill arrived in Tokyo from Beijing on Wednesday on a whirlwind tour of the region aimed at finding a way to bring North Korea back to stalled talks on its nuclear arms programmes. China, a neighbour and ally of communist North Korea, has hosted three inconclusive rounds of the negotiations. The last talks were held in June 2004. The United States has acknowledged it may be considering stronger moves against North Korea, such as referring its nuclear programmes to the UN Security Council for

possible sanctions, if Pyongyang continued to stay away from talks.

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

**R E G I O N: Israel claims Russia giving Iran WMD components**

JERUSALEM: Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert said on Thursday that Russia is selling Iran components that can be used to make non-conventional weapons. Olmert, however, played down Russian arms sales to Israel's enemies and said Putin is interested in maintaining close relations with Israel. Russia's aid to Iran and Syria, two of Israel's staunchest enemies, are expected to be on the agenda during Putin's visit to the Jewish state, which began Wednesday night. Russia has provided assistance for Iran's nuclear programme and has agreed to sell anti-aircraft missiles to Syria. Olmert, who greeted the Russian leader at the airport, said the nuclear assistance to Iran is a cause for concern. Israel accuses Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons, though Tehran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

**Putin says Iran must accept int'l monitoring of its nuclear activities**

JERUSALEM: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Iran must accept international supervision of its nuclear activities. Putin spoke after a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Katsav. Israel has criticised Russia's support for Iran's nuclear programme. However, Putin insisted Thursday that Russia was only helping Iran develop nuclear energy for peaceful use. "We cooperate with Iran only on its peaceful nuclear programme," Putin said. "To refute the worries of the international community, we inserted clauses clauses in our agreement with them that they would return to Russia spent nuclear fuel from the electricity generator plant so that this material cannot be used for military means. I agree that these steps are not enough and we have to get Iran to agree to nuclear inspections."

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

**Iran will restart enrichment if talks fail**

THE HAGUE: Iran will resume its uranium enrichment programme if talks with European nations this week fail, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Thursday. Speaking after a meeting with his Dutch counterpart, Kharrazi said Friday's were critical. "If talks with European Union are not successful tomorrow, negotiations will collapse and we will have no choice but to restart the uranium enrichment programme," Kharrazi said. France, Britain and Germany have been negotiating with Iran, seeking guarantees it won't use its nuclear programme to make weapons, as Washington suspects. Tehran insists the programme -kept secret for two decades \_ is only for peaceful energy purposes. Iran agreed in November to temporarily freeze uranium enrichment, but insists the move is temporary.

The Daily Times, 29 April 2005

**Annan warns against strike on Iran**

NEW DELHI: United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on Thursday cautioned against military action to punish Iran and said the Islamic republic was "cooperating" with the West on talks about incentives to limit its nuclear programme. "I don't think that a strike on Iranian nuclear facilities is on the cards," Annan said in a reply to questions on the possibility of action led by the United States. "I also don't think there is any need also to take physical action against Iran. It would be unwise, very unwise," the UN chief said at the end of a four-day visit to India. The US government earlier this month promised economic and technological incentives to Iran in a bid to help Britain, France and Germany persuade it to abandon a suspected bid to build nuclear weapons. Washington also agreed to drop its objection to Iran's application to join the World Trade Organisation, and said it would consider on a case-by-case basis the licensing of spare parts for Iranian civilian aircraft, in particular from Europe.

Japan Today, 29 April 2005

**Seoul warns N Korea not to conduct nuke test**

SEOUL: South Korea on Thursday renewed its warning to North Korea not to conduct any nuclear weapons tests, saying such a move would undermine the six-way talks aimed at curbing the North's nuclear ambitions. "North Korea must judge the situation cautiously," Unification Minister Chung Dong Young was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as also saying at a press conference.

The New York Times, 29 April 2005

**U.S. Aide Sees Nuclear Arms Advance by North Korea (DAVID S. CLOUD and DAVID E. SANGER )**

WASHINGTON, April 28: The head of the Defense Intelligence Agency said Thursday that American intelligence agencies believed North Korea had mastered the technology for arming its missiles with nuclear warheads, an assessment that if correct, means the North could build weapons to threaten Japan and perhaps the western United States. While Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, the Defense Intelligence Agency chief, said in Senate testimony that North Korea had been judged to have the "capability" to put a nuclear weapon atop its missiles, he stopped

well short of saying it had done so, or even that it had assembled warheads small enough for the purpose. Nor did he give evidence to back up his view during the public session of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Still, his assessment of North Korea's progress exceeded what officials have publicly declared before. When asked by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York during a hearing on Thursday whether "North Korea has the ability to arm a missile with a nuclear device," Admiral Jacoby responded, "The assessment is that they have the capability to do that, yes ma'am."

The Tribune, 30 April 2005

**North Korea can arm missile with N-device** (Bradley Graham and Glenn Kessler)

Washington, April 29: The Pentagon's top military intelligence officer said on Thursday that North Korea had the ability to arm a missile with a nuclear device, stunning senators he was addressing and prompting attempts by other defence and intelligence officials later to play down the impact. The statement by Vice-Admiral Lowell E. Jacoby before the Senate Armed Services Committee marked the first time that a US official had publicly attributed such a capability to North Korea. Although US intelligence authorities have said for years that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons and could likely reach the United States with its long-range rockets, they had stopped short of asserting that North Korea had mastered the difficult task of miniaturising a nuclear device to fit atop a ballistic missile. But several Senate staff members who witnessed the testimony and have access to US intelligence on North Korea indicated that Jacoby's comments did in fact reflect some recent information they had seen, although they expressed surprise that the Admiral had gone public with the new assessment.

The Hindu, 30 April 2005

**India and Japan pledge to work as 'partners against proliferation'** (Amit Baruah)

NEW DELHI: Setting aside differences on the nuclear issue, India and Japan on Friday pledged to work as "partners against proliferation." Their Prime Ministers agreed to hold annual summits while committing the countries to step up cooperation in the strategic energy sector. In a joint statement and "eight-fold initiative" issued after talks between Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Junichiro Koizumi, Japan explicitly supported India's participation in the East Asian Summit scheduled for December in Malaysia.

The Nation, 30 April 2005

**Khan didn't give centrifuges to N Korea: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday denied the media reports Dr A.Q. Khan has confessed that he provided 13 centrifuges to North Korea. Foreign Office Spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani while commenting on a report of Japanese official television rejected the impression that Dr Khan had made confession that he provided North Korea with 13 centrifuges. He said it was a baseless and unfounded report aimed at harming the growing relations between Islamabad and Tokyo. He said Pakistan has conducted thorough probe into nuclear proliferation and Japan has been taken into confidence as far as the results of our investigations are concerned.

The Nation, 30 April 2005

**Iran's nuclear saga** (FAUZIA QURESHI)

Iran's possible development of nuclear weapons has acquired a central importance in the US foreign policy. The importance of proliferation is enhanced by the potential to reshape the politics and security of an already turbulent and volatile region. There is further consideration to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. If there is a proliferation then who is responsible for it? Do nuclear states like the US oppose proliferation simply out of concern for their citizens' safety or is there something more strategic at work? But why do countries want nuclear weapons? What will happen if Iran really goes nuclear? Iran has been a party to the NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) since 1970, but in 1996 congressional testimony, Director of Central Intelligence John Deutch stated that Iran was actively pursuing an indigenous nuclear weapons capability. In August 2002, the media reported the existence of a pilot uranium enrichment centrifuge plant in Natanz.

The News, 30 April 2005

**EU-Iran talk ends without conclusion**

LONDON: The EU-Iran talks on Iran nuclear program ended without results. An expected showdown in Iran-EU nuclear talks in London should be more sound than fury as both sides feel the negotiations are basically on hold until after Iranian presidential elections in June, diplomats said. "It is still not the end game. Look to June," a European diplomat close to the talks said. In Tehran on Thursday a key Iranian negotiator said the Islamic Republic was "very pessimistic" since the EU has been dragging its feet. Hossein Mussavian said: "Up until now and from the start of the process [in December], especially since the Paris meeting, the Europeans have not undertaken any serious step to bring it to a close."

Dawn, 30 April 2005

### **Time running out for N-talks: Iran**

LONDON, April 29: The time for negotiating over Iran's nuclear program is quickly running out, Iranian official Cyrus Nasserli said on Friday before talks with the EU on Tehran's determination to enrich uranium. "Time is much shorter than the Europeans think," Mr Nasserli said, hinting that Iran would resume uranium enrichment if the two sides failed to reach an agreement. Britain, France and Germany are holding fast to their position that Iran must give up on all nuclear fuel activity in order to provide "objective guarantees" that it will not make atomic weapons, diplomats said. The United States, which backs the EU diplomatic initiative but is not party to the talks, charges that Iran is secretly developing nuclear weapons and must be prevented from obtaining the weapons capability which enrichment represents. "Our point is we simply do not have much time. We have a fuel program and we can't hold it much further," said Mr Nasserli, a key member of an Iranian delegation headed by Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The Daily Times, 30 April 2005

### **Rafsanjani says determined to pursue nuclear programme**

TEHRAN: Iran's powerful former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani insisted on Friday ahead of renewed talks with Europe that Tehran would pursue its atomic energy programme including uranium enrichment "at all costs". "Iran wants to possess all the branches of nuclear technology, including enrichment, and it will do so at all costs," he said at the weekly Muslim prayers in Tehran. "The Iranian nation considers itself strong enough to defend its rights, and not to let you (Europeans) impose any permanent suspension on uranium enrichment," said Rafsanjani, whose sermon was broadcast live on state radio. "I am telling the Europeans that their current effort of dealing with the nuclear case under US pressure will not bear good results," said Rafsanjani. "We will be patient and we will continue these lengthy and fruitless negotiations until you are persuaded that we are not seeking nuclear weapons," he said.

The News, 30 April 2005

### **N Korea may carry out Nuke test by June, says US**

TOKYO The United States has warned the International Atomic Energy Agency that North Korea has been preparing to carry out an underground nuclear test since March and could go ahead as early as June, local news agency said on Saturday. The report, which quoted diplomatic sources in Vienna, came a day after the chief U.S. negotiator to stalled talks on Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions said Washington believed North Korea might be trying to harvest material for a nuclear bomb from a shut-down reactor. According to the sources, who said the information was obtained by satellite photos and from within North Korea, Pyongyang was preparing to test a small-scale plutonium device. The United States had called on China to urge North Korea to halt its preparations.

Dawn, 30 April 2005

### **Selectivity in CTBT**

THE Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has long been in limbo, notwithstanding the fact that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan raised the issue in New Delhi on Thursday. The CTBT was the theme song of the late nineties, when non-proliferation was one of the Clinton administration's major foreign policy goals. Pakistan was then under American sanctions because the Pressler amendment was operative. In May 1998 India conducted a series of nuclear tests, forcing Pakistan to do likewise. Since then, neither of the two South Asian powers has shown any willingness to sign the CTBT. In the meantime, a sea-change occurred in America itself when a Republican administration took over in 2000. Its policies were characterized by unilateralism, as evident from America's refusal to sign the Kyoto protocol and the decision to set up an anti-missile defence shield. For all practical purposes, this "shield" killed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 with Russia. The situation changed dramatically after 9/11, with the war on terror occupying the centre-stage in America's foreign policy.

People's Daily, 30 April 2005

### **US keeps eye on Russian nuclear facilities under Nunn-Lugar program**

The United States wants to keep an eye on its funded program aiming to make nuclear weapons and materials more secure in Russia, rather than demand unlimited access to all Russian nuclear sites, a US Embassy source said Friday. The United States simply wants to see how its money is being spent on the facilities, the Interfax news agency quoted an unidentified US diplomat in Moscow as saying. "The program involves scores of nuclear facilities in Russia and the degree of American involvement in their operations varies. In some cases we are only conducting routine work to raise the safety of the zone where the facility is located, in others, we are directly involved in the elimination of nuclear materials," the diplomat told the Interfax.

The Korea Times, 30 April 2005

### **'More Efforts Needed to Revive Nuke Talks' (Ryu Jin, Reuben Staines)**

Seoul's chief nuclear negotiator said Friday that "more diplomatic efforts" are needed to get the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear arms programs restarted, hinting an intensive tug of war among relevant nations is taking

place behind the scenes. South Korea and the United States, along with other nations, are exerting efforts not only to resume the stalled dialogue, but also to make substantial progress once the talks are restarted in the future, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon said. "We concluded that additional, intensive efforts are needed to bring the main rivals closer for substantial negotiations," he said in a press briefing after meeting over lunch with his U.S. counterpart, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill. "We agreed a more active role on the part of China will be important in this process." Back from a trip to Beijing and Tokyo earlier this week, Hill met with high-level security officials in Seoul in what many experts viewed as last-minute diplomatic efforts by the United States before turning to "other options" to resolve the nuclear standoff. Prior to the talks with Song, Hill met with Unification Minister Chung Dong-young, who chairs the standing committee of the presidential National Security Council (NSC).

The China Daily, 30 April 2005

#### **EU-Iran nuclear dispute talks fail, more planned**

The European Union's so-called "Big Three" and Iran failed to reach agreement over Tehran's nuclear program on Friday but decided to hold more talks in the future. Iran had threatened before the five-hour meeting to resume sensitive atomic activities unless France, Britain and Germany agreed to allow it to carry out small-scale uranium enrichment. "The informal talks have concluded. No conclusions were reached and both sides, the EU Three and Iran, have agreed to go away and reflect on what was discussed and to continue the discussions in future," said a British Foreign Office spokesman. No immediate comment was available from Iran, accused by the United States of having a secret agenda to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran denies the U.S. charge, saying its nuclear program is solely for the generation of power.

Japan Today, 30 April 2005

#### **Non-nuclear states criticize U.S. policy at Mexico conference**

MEXICO CITY: Non-nuclear states criticized the lack of effort for nuclear disarmament by the United States on Wednesday, the second day of a three-day Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones held in Mexico City. Marian Hobbs, New Zealand's minister for disarmament and arms control, cited a "lack of progress in nuclear disarmament" and criticized the United States for its reluctance to promote disarmament since the 2000 Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference.

The China Daily, 30 April 2005

#### **North Korea reactor shut-down problematic, US says**

SEOUL: The United States believes North Korea may be trying to harvest material for a nuclear bomb from a shut-down reactor, the chief U.S. negotiator to stalled nuclear talks said on Friday, adding that this would be "problematic." "The plutonium reactor at Yongbyon has not been running going on three weeks," said Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill. "There could be an effort to reprocess (nuclear material)." Hill told reporters after meeting South Korean officials that the reactor shutdown and the possibility of a North Korean nuclear test were of great concern to powers trying through six-way talks to coax Pyongyang into giving up its atomic programs. "To go ahead and have a nuclear test at a time the six-party talks are in abeyance I think would be very troubling for the talks," Hill said. "Efforts to harvest plutonium at a time the North Korean side is simply boycotting the talks would also be very problematic for the talks," he said. Patience in Washington on the nuclear issue is wearing thin, but Hill told a news conference: "We are not abandoning the six-party process."

The Japan Times, 30 April 2005

#### **EDITORIAL: Treaty against nuclear terror**

Recently the United Nations unanimously approved a treaty that outlaws the use of nuclear weapons by terrorists and their supporters. Incredibly, such actions were not illegal before. The treaty has been touted -- by the United States, no less -- as an important step in the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It thus seems that the U.N. is benefiting from low expectations. Every member of the General Assembly voted to approve the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the 13th antiterrorism treaty passed by the U.N., and the first to be adopted since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It opens for signature next September and will go into effect 30 days after it is ratified by 22 states. Negotiations began seven years ago as Russia's then-President Boris Yeltsin worried about the safety and security of his country's nuclear stockpiles. At the time of its collapse, the Soviet Union had more than 27,000 nuclear weapons, and possessed enough weapons-grade plutonium and uranium to triple that number. Reports of missing or stolen "suitcase bombs" and periodic arrests of individuals with radioactive materials suggest that the concerns were not exaggerated. The International Atomic Energy Agency has reported 175 nuclear-smuggling incidents since 1993, 18 involving highly enriched uranium.

People's Daily, 30 April 2005

#### **S. Korea reaffirms call for peaceful resolution of nuke issue**

South Korea has again called for peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korea peninsula, saying the resumption of stalled six-way talks is the best option to break the nuclear impasse. The call came during a session of the National Security Council(NSC) late Friday amid dampened prospect of the resumption of the nuclear talks following US official remarks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the US threat to take the nuclear issue to the United Nations. The DPRK is demanding an apology from US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for labeling the country as an "outpost of tyranny" earlier this year. North Korea has said it would not return to the dialogue table unless there is an apology. Rice has refused to do so. The DPRK on Monday defied the US threat, demanding justification for its return to the six-party talks. "What matters is that there are still no conditions and justification for the DPRK to participate in the six-party talks," said a spokesman of the DPRK's Foreign Ministry, clearly in response to recent remarks by Rice.

The Asahi Shimbun, 30 April 2005

**N. Korea's nuke program: Japan should mend ties to push the six-party talks**

Pyongyang has to understand that the economic reconstruction it so desires can never be possible without the cooperation of the international community. Two years after restarting a 5,000-kilowatt nuclear reactor, North Korea has shut it down again. A reactor in operation should emit steam, but U.S. satellite photos, taken earlier this month, showed no steam from the North Korean reactor. Nobody knows what Pyongyang is up to. It is a fact, however, that by removing fuel rods and cooling them for a few months, they can be reprocessed to extract plutonium for nuclear weapons. Should that happen, the North Korean nuclear problem would become even graver. Pyongyang must understand that not only was it unacceptable to unilaterally pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but that it also cannot pursue its nuclear weapons program as it pleases. North Korea must not reprocess those nuclear fuel rods.