

The Hindu, 1 August 2005

**Two F-16s for Pakistan** (B Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: The United States has approved an initial shipment of two F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. According to a Washington news report in Pakistan daily The News the decision to provide Pakistan with two older but refurbished F-16s could be linked to the recent India-U.S. defence agreement. Quoting a Congressional source on the timing of the decision the paper said, "They (Bush administration officials) didn't want to start moving F-16s to Pakistan until after the Indian Prime Minister had come and gone."

The Indian Express, 31 July 2005

**Nepal coup: Six months later, King not so strong** (Yubaraj Ghimre)

KATHMANDU: Six months from the day he took power, promising peace, meaningful democracy and economic development, ground realities are pushing King Gyanendra into an ever tighter spot. His track record in terms of delivery as bad, if not worse than the 12 years of multi-party rule that he labelled a "failure on all fronts". Nepal today stands isolated, with the world community and the UN system pressing the King to return Nepal to democracy and encourage negotiations with the Maoists who have waged war against the state since February 1996—a conflict that has cost nearly 13,000 lives. World leaders, from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, have asked the King to reach out to political parties at the earliest, but the monarch appears reticent to do so. King Gyanendra is expected to have a tough time explaining the execution of his 'road map to democracy and peace' at the United Nations General Assembly as head of the Nepali delegation.

Deccan Herald, 1 August 2005

**US Congress passes energy bill** (L K Sharma)

America's nuclear power industry is sought to be revived by the Bush administration through tax incentives for new plants. The industry has been starved of new reactor orders for three decades now. US Congress passed a wide-ranging energy bill that gives tax incentives worth 14.5 billion dollars to different sectors. Welcoming the passage of the bill, President George Bush said, "The bipartisan energy bill passed on Sunday will give America a comprehensive national energy strategy for the first time in more than a decade and is critically important to our long-term national and economic security."

The Hindu, 2 August 2005

**Pakistan to seek reduction of forces in Jammu and Kashmir**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will reiterate its demand for reduction of forces in Jammu and Kashmir at the talks in New Delhi later this week. Talks on confidence-building measures (CBMs) in conventional defence mechanisms are scheduled for August 5 and 6 and those on nuclear CBMs for August 8. They are part of the ongoing composite dialogue between the countries.

The Indian Express, 2 August 2005

**Haste makes n-waste? India pact generates radiation in US**

WASHINGTON: A recent US-India nuclear agreement was so hastily concluded the Bush administration is only now beginning to figure out how to implement it in the face of tough questions from the US Congress and non-proliferation experts. The agreement, announced July 18 after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met President George W. Bush at the White House, upends decades-old non-proliferation rules and will require changes in US law and international policy.

The Indian Express, 2 August 2005

**US-India-China: Giants at play** (Ziad Haider)

Stronger economic ties will create stronger constituents for peace in both countries and raise the threshold for conflict. This raises a key question. In what scenarios would India deem siding with the US against China worth jeopardising its commercial links with China? In short, as India leverages US strength for its own ends, India's Nehruvian strain of non-alignment and multilateralism may not always be able to digest the US's preponderance of power. Here too, India may be compelled to close ranks with China and others.

The Indian Express, 2 August 2005

**US ignores India, will jet F-16s to Pak**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has approved an initial shipment to Pakistan of two F-16 fighter jets, a down payment on what is expected to be a larger sale of newer US fighters over Indian objections, congressional sources briefed on the plan said on Friday. The decision to initially provide Pakistan, a war on terrorism ally, with two older but refurbished F-16s comes less than two weeks after President George W Bush reversed long-

standing US policy by promising to help India, Pakistan's nuclear rival, develop its civilian nuclear power sector.

The Hindu, 3 August 2005

#### **Dhaka seeks ICJ help for legal reforms**

NEW DELHI: The legal fraternity in Bangladesh has sought the cooperation of the Indian Council of Jurists (ICJ) and the All India Bar Association (AIBA) for bringing about legal reforms in that country. The need for such cooperation was conveyed to a 12-member delegation of jurists under the auspices of the ICJ and the AIBA that visited Bangladesh last week, according to a press release from Adish C. Agarwala, convenor of the ICJ.

The Hindu, 3 August 2005

#### **Ties reinforced, says Seychelles President**

CHENNAI: Seychelles President James Alix Michel on Tuesday said that he was "more positive than ever that India and Seychelles would get closer together in every field possible." Sounding upbeat on India-Seychelles relations, at the end of his three-day visit to India, he said that his visit further reinforced the ties of friendship and cooperation.

The Hindu, 3 August 2005

#### **Nepal lets off Delhi-bound private plane**

KATHMANDU: Nepal on Tuesday allowed a Delhi-bound private aircraft, which had violated its airspace, to take off saying the crew had made a mistake by entering its territory. The EMB-135 aircraft and all those on board were allowed to go as there was no suspicious intention involved in their entering the Nepalese territory, Civil Aviation authorities said. It was just a mistake on the part of crew, an official said. The authorities on Monday forced the chartered jet plane to land at the Tribhuvan International Airport after it entered the Nepalese territory without permission.

The Indian Express, 3 August 2005

#### **Argumentative Indians - The debate on the Indo-US nuclear pact, in Parliament and outside it, should be welcomed**

The on-going debate on the Indo-US nuclear framework has had its full share of acrimony and political posturing. This is inevitable given the paradigm altering nature of the pact that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George Bush entered into last month. But there is also something unprecedented about the current public articulation. It breaks the mould of national consensus that had marked earlier debates on foreign policy. We need to recognise this as a healthy sign of a mature democracy. It should not only deepen our political discourse but help the country forge a more clear-sighted and agile response to international events in the future, without the accompanying ideological baggage that had accumulated over the years.

The Hindu. 4 August 2005

#### **No secret agreement with US: Manmohan**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday that the Indo-US joint statement was not a departure from the basic tenets of the country's foreign policy. He denied there was any secret accord with the US and said all that had been agreed to was included in the joint statement. The Government had not made any commitment on the ongoing negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty other than what had already been made by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime. Nor had India's autonomy in managing the country's nuclear weapons programme been compromised.

The Hindu. 4 August 2005

#### **Iran willing to go ahead with pipeline project**

NEW DELHI: Iran says the change of regime following elections in that country will not have any impact on the fate of the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. According to the visiting Iranian Deputy Oil Minister, Hadi Nejad-Hosseini, the new Iranian Government is willing to go ahead with the project. He said here on Wednesday that Mani Shankar Aiyar had been asked to expedite the process so that its implementation could begin by the end of the year.

The Hindu. 4 August 2005

#### **Parties' concern over Nepal situation**

NEW DELHI: Expressing deep concern over the 'deteriorating political situation' in Nepal, nine political parties that comprise "Nepal Democracy Solidarity Committee", on Wednesday decided to mobilise national and international opinion on it. At a meeting the Committee decided it would organise an all-India convention here on August 26 to which they would invite representatives of the seven political parties of Nepal that have formed a

coalition there.

The Hindu, 4 August 2005

#### **'India made a junior partner of the US'**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh faced a two-pronged attack on Wednesday in the Lok Sabha by the Left and the NDA over the July 18 India-US joint statement. They charged him with compromising the country's independent nuclear policy. India had been made a junior partner of the US which could "use India" as a "counterbalance" against China. National Democratic Alliance chairman Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the charge in the structured debate on Dr. Singh's statement on his visit to the US that resulted in the joint statement by Dr Singh and U.S. President George Bush.

The Indian Express, 4 August 2005

#### **US to drop N-plants from entities list**

NEW DELHI: Even as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh tackles the Opposition in Parliament over the nuclear understanding with the US, Washington is already translating intent into action. Barely weeks after Singh's visit, US has decided to remove Tarapur and Rajasthan atomic power stations from its entities list. This will open up the doors for US companies to freely trade on a range of items and material at both these plants. Earlier, this trade was difficult because being under the entities list of the US Department of Commerce meant several rounds of screening and review which discouraged companies.

The Hindu, 5 August 2005

#### **US-China move on UN Council expansion**

UNITED NATIONS: United States and China have agreed to work together to block a plan to expand the powerful UN Security Council backed by Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, China's UN Ambassador said on Wednesday. Wang Guangya said he reached the agreement with John Bolton during a meeting on Tuesday, which was the new US Ambassador's first full day in his new post, because both believe the proposal by the so-called Group of Four would divide the UN's 191 member states. Washington and Beijing are already on record as opposing the G-4 resolution for different reasons, but the agreement would mark a new joint effort to prevent its approval by the U.N. General Assembly, which requires a two-thirds "yes" vote.

The Hindu, 5 August 2005

#### **New Indian law to hit AIDS control (Rajesh Nair)**

PONDICHERRY: The AIDS control programme of Africa, especially in Burkina Faso, would be adversely affected due to recent legislation in Parliament to ban companies from producing cheap copies of brand name drugs, said anthropologist Alice Desclaux. She has been working in African countries for the past several years on the World Health Organisation's AIDS control programme. Ms. Alice, who is in Pondicherry to attend a seminar in the French Research Institute, told The Hindu that the legislation would jeopardise the entire AIDS control programme in Africa. "The legislation came at a time when some of the African countries were showing signs of controlling the epidemic. About 80 per cent of patients in Burkina Faso depend on antiretroviral drugs produced by Indian companies. They all depend on fixed-dose combinations and their concerns are especially about second-line treatments and special treatments such as paediatric presentations that still do not exist as generics," she said.

The Hindu, 5 August 2005

#### **Talks with Pakistan on CBMs today (B. Muralidhar Reddy)**

ISLAMABAD: A series of bilateral meetings between India and Pakistan are scheduled in New Delhi from Friday under the composite dialogue process. As per the timetable, the second round of the dialogue will be completed by the month-end. A high-level Pakistani delegation left for New Delhi on Thursday for talks with their Indian counterparts on nuclear confidence building measures (CBMs) on August 5 and 6. Led by Tariq Osman Hyder, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the nine-member team includes Syed Ibn-e-Abbas, the newly appointed Director-General, South Asia. The Indian side will be headed by Additional Secretary, External Affairs Ministry, Meera Shankar.

The Hindu, 10 August 2005

#### **Singapore eyes India, China for economic opportunities (P. S. Suryanarayana)**

SINGAPORE: Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has called upon the City-State to "continue to reinvent" itself and "seek [economic] opportunities ... in India" as also China, the southeast Asian countries and West Asia. In a National Day message on the 40th anniversary of independence, being celebrated with enthusiasm on Tuesday, Mr. Lee said: "We did not start off as a financial centre, an electronics-manufacturing base or an air-and-sea hub, but we made ourselves all these. ... We must continue to ... build new competencies, as we are

doing in biotechnology and multi-media". For this, Singapore must turn the focus on its "external wing" as well, he noted and cited India as an area of interest under this spotlight. The reference to India acquires importance in the context of Singapore's Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with India, which came into force on August 1. The City-State is intensifying its economic interactions with China, too, besides implementing bilateral free trade agreements involving the United States and Japan. The "rise of China and India" as major players on the international stage has become a key theme in Singapore's foreign policy more recently.

The Hindu, 12 August 2005

#### **Britain to ease nuclear sanctions against India**

LONDON: Britain has decided to ease sanctions against India relating to civilian nuclear energy ahead of Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit to New Delhi. "The Government has notified Parliament yesterday [Wednesday] about the significant changes in its laws regarding the export of dual-use nuclear technologies to India," a Foreign Office spokesman said on Thursday. The British decision comes close on the heels of the India-U.S. nuclear deal paving the way for the supply of nuclear fuel to Tarapore and other reactors, ending the three-decade-old freeze. Under the relaxed rules, applications for items under the dual-use list of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) will now be allowed to India on a 'case-by-case basis' and only when their end-use will be in an IAEA-safeguarded civilian nuclear facility.

The Hindu, 17 August 2005

#### **India, Russia ink \$350m aircraft engine agreement** (Vladimir Radyuhin)

MOSCOW: The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has signed a contract with the Russian state arms export company Rosoboronexport for licence production of a Russian engine for Indian jet trainers. The \$350-million deal provides for the manufacture in India of 250 AI-55I engines and an option for subsequent production of another 1000 engines. The engines will power India's intermediate single-engine jet trainer HJT-36 and its newest twin-engine version HJT-39. The contract was signed by HAL Chairman, Ashok K. Baweja, and Rosoboronexport Director-General Sergey Chemezov on Tuesday at the Moscow International Aerospace Show MAKS-2005 in the presence of Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who inaugurated the show at Zhukovsky airfield outside the Russian capital. HAL is participating in Russia's biannual air show for the first time. Its stall displays models of the HJT-39, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and the Advanced Light Helicopter (Dhruv).

The Hindu, 17 August 2005

#### **India, China to join hands against old killers** (Bindu Shajan Perappadan)

NEW DELHI: The two global heavyweights in the field of alternative therapy, India and China, will now be doing much more than just exchanging helpful medical snippets and facilitating occasional visits by experts. If things go as planned, the two countries will soon be embarking on an ambitious new project for identification and testing of traditional and even forgotten herbs that can be used to control and combat killer diseases like hepatitis and diabetes. Under the project, the two countries will pick out "two-three promising herbal preparations" for further evaluation, clinical studies and commercial use. Having already taken the first step forward, Indian researchers have identified four herbs each for hepatitis and diabetes, which find mention in ancient Indian literature and have the least known toxicity. The herbs that will be crossing the border for clinical studies in China for diabetes are 'karela', 'fenugreek', 'gurmar booti' and 'Indian kino tree', while 'hurricane weed', 'katuka', 'amla' and 'licorice' will be tested for use in treatment of hepatitis.

The Indian Express, 17 August 2005

#### **Oil wars forge Chindia vs world**

New Delhi August 17: Indian and Chinese oil firms will sign agreements aimed at bidding jointly for foreign oil and gas projects and reducing cut-throat competition, a top Indian official told Reuters on Tuesday. The energy-hungry Asian giants, which have stretched global supplies and contributed to the record rise in oil prices, are competing for stakes in foreign oil and gas projects to secure supplies. Indian firms will sign separate memoradums of understanding (MOUs) with Sinopec Corp, China National Petroleum Corp. and CNOOC, the head of Indian oil ministry's international division said. "They have given a very specific and strong commitment for cooperation," Talmiz Ahmad told Reuters after a visit to China. Indian firms likely to sign the MOUs include Oil and Natural Gas Corp, its overseas subsidiary ONGC Videsh, Oil India Ltd., Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd, he said.

The Hindu, 23 August 2005

#### **Russia offers latest MiG fighter jet** (Vladimir Radyuhin)

MOSCOW: Russia has upped its bid to win the Indian tender for the purchase of 126 multi-role combat aircraft by offering the latest MiG fighter jet. The MiG-35 fighter showcased at the Moscow International Air Show last week

will have at least one crucial advantage over its competitors in the IAF tender - Dassault Aviation's Mirage 2000-5, Lockheed Martin's F16, and the SAAB's Gripen. "It is the world's only plane to be powered by an all-axis thrust vectoring engine that enables it to fly safely at any angle of attack," said MiG corporation head Alexei Fyodorov. The MiG-35 (export name of the MiG-29M/M2 version) is powered by the innovative RD-33OVT engine, whose nozzles can move in all directions. This makes it even more manoeuvrable than the Russian-built Su-30MKI, the world's first fighter jet with up-and-down thrust vectoring engines, which forms the backbone of the IAF's fleet of long-range fighter jets.

The Indian Express, 23 August 2005

#### **A foreign policy for Kolkata (C. Raja Mohan)**

The chief minister of West Bengal, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, is not fond of foreign travel. His last trip abroad as chief minister was more than two years ago - in June 2003 to Italy. That visit was easily forgotten, for it did not result in any concrete outcomes for West Bengal. But his visit to the Southeast Asia - Singapore and Indonesia - this week, however, could be a memorable one. For one there is some prospect of Bhattacharjee attracting a substantive amount of foreign investment into West Bengal from private companies in both Singapore and Indonesia. There is a special focus on the potentially huge investments from Indonesia's Salem Group, which wants to set up the Kolkata International Economic Zone, spread over 5,100 acres in South 24-Parganas. Although political stability and other factors have increasingly made West Bengal an attractive destination for foreign capital, Kolkata has not been able to sustain an extended campaign in order to take advantage of this. Bhattacharjee now appears determined to make up for lost time.

The Hindu, 25 August 2005

#### **Kashmir will be focus of my talks: Musharraf (B. Muralidhar Reddy)**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said Kashmir will be the "central point" of his meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session next month. In an interview to Pakistan Observer, Gen. Musharraf said he would raise all bilateral issues. "And, of course, Kashmir issue will be the central point in our talks." Responding to Indian charges, he claimed that there was no infiltration. "I will be raising the issue of alleged cross-border infiltration with the Indian Prime Minister." Gen. Musharraf said he was proud of the recent successful test-firing of the Babur cruise missile, designed and developed by Pakistani scientists. "Indian BrahMos is a borrowed technology from Russia. That is why its range cannot be beyond 290 km, which is well within the MTCR regime. Pakistan should be very proud that it has achieved a credible deterrence and enjoys respect and strong political clout in the world community," he told the English daily.

Hindustan Times, 25 August 2005

#### **To protect India, US could have nuked China in '63**

Top advisers to President John F Kennedy warned him in 1963 that if he pledged to defend India against any attack by communist China, the United States would likely have to use nuclear weapons to enforce the commitment, according to a newly de-classified tape recording. George Ball, Undersecretary of State in the Democratic administration, also warned in what today would be considered insensitive language that using a nuclear response could subject the country to charges of racism following the twin atomic bombings in Japan that ended World War II. "If there is a general appearance of a shift in strategy to the dependence on a nuclear defence against the Chinese in the Far East, we are going to inject into this whole world opinion the old bugaboo of being willing to use nuclear weapons against Asians when we are talking about a different kind of strategy in Europe," Ball told the President during a May 9, 1963, national security meeting in the White House.

The Hindu, 26 August 2005

#### **Accord with United States not to halt indigenous nuclear programme**

THANJAVUR: Technology denial by countries like the U.S. had forced India to develop indigenous technology for its entire atomic energy programme, said Dr. V. Venugopal, Director, Radiochemistry and Isotopes group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), here on Thursday. Delivering the keynote address at a seminar on "Atomic energy, environment, and human welfare" held at the Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Engineering College, he recalled that after the Pokhran nuclear tests, the U.S. stopped fuel for the Tarapur plant and Canadian scientists abruptly left the country. "We were left with no choice but to make our own fuel," he said. The facilities required for the entire nuclear cycle were then indigenously developed - opening of uranium mines, milling, preparing nuclear grade pure uranium oxide, fabrication of metallic and oxide fuels, operation of 15 reactors, reprocessing to recover plutonium and uranium 233, fabricating them into fuels for thermal and fast reactors, finally managing the waste into different matrices for storing and disposal.

The Hindu, 29 August 2005

**Manmohan, Karzai moot gas pipeline project** (Siddharth Varadarajan)

KABUL: India's South Asian diplomacy took a big step forward with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Afghan President Hamid Karzai mooting - for the first time ever in an official document - Afghanistan participating in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The issue was raised by Mr. Karzai during his one-on-one meeting with Dr. Singh here on Sunday. The joint statement issued at the end of the meeting noted that in the context of Afghanistan's historic role of being a "land bridge" between Central and South Asia, the country was interested in seeking closer links with SAARC. On his part, Dr. Singh "welcomed this initiative and affirmed India's support for Afghanistan's engagement with SAARC." Dr. Singh's visit is the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Afghanistan in 29 years. He is also the first foreign head of state or government to visit here for more than a day. Afghan officials are particularly grateful for this, noting that no visiting VVIP has ever spent the night in Kabul or driven through its streets since the Taliban regime was ousted at the end of 2001.