

The Nation, 1 February 2007

Pak not to hand over AQ Khan to anyone

ISLAMABAD - Vowing not to hand over Dr A Q Khan to anyone, Pakistan on Wednesday expected that the US administration would intervene in making so-called 100-hour legislation balanced by minding its language about Pak nuclear programme.

The Times of India, 1 February 2007

Indo-US N-deal gives Pak PM heebie jeebies

ISLAMABAD: Apprehending that the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal could lead to an increase in fissile material available with India, Pakistan said it would take measures to ensure the 'credibility of our deterrence.'

The New York Times, 1 February 2007

Chirac Unfazed by Nuclear Iran, Then Backtracks

PARIS, Jan. 31: President Jacques Chirac said this week that if Iran had one or two nuclear weapons, it would not pose a big danger, and that if Iran were to launch a nuclear weapon against a country like Israel, it would lead to the immediate destruction of Tehran.

The Indian Express, 1 February 2007

By 2017, four new reactors to provide cheaper electricity

CHENNAI, JANUARY 31: The country will have four new Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) by 2017, which will produce cheaper electricity at a cost of Rs 2.50 per unit, Baldev Raj, director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam, said today. All the four reactors were in the development stage and would not come under international safeguards.

The Times of India, 2 February 2007

Saran to meet Burns to work out 123 pact timetable

NEW DELHI: Special envoy Shyam Saran will meet his US counterpart Nicholas Burns on Friday to work out a timetable on formal negotiations on a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement, said US ambassador to India David Mulford.

Daily Times, 2 February 2007

Iranians want capacity to enrich uranium under NPT

LAHORE: Most Iranians want their country to have the capacity to enrich uranium for nuclear energy, but a majority also agrees that Iran should comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which forbids signatories from developing nuclear weapons.

The Hindu, 2 February 2007

Ivanov concludes sensitive mission to Iran

DUBAI: The head of Russia's National Security Council, Igor Ivanov, has concluded a carefully calibrated visit to Iran, where he promised that a Moscow-aided civilian nuclear power plant in the southern city of Bushehr would be commissioned by the year-end.

The Indian Express, 2 February 2007

Iran to push ahead with nuclear programme

Tehran: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has launched anniversary celebrations for Iran's Islamic Revolution with a defiant promise to push ahead with the country's controversial nuclear programme.

The New York Times, 2 February 2007

Iran Leader Calls Nuclear Sanctions Ineffective

TEHRAN, Feb. 1: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, under increasing criticism at home, said Thursday that his nation was becoming a superpower and that the United Nations sanctions would not deter it from pursuing its nuclear program.

The New York Times, 2 February 2007

Chirac Unfazed by Nuclear Iran, Then Backtracks

PARIS, Jan. 31: President Jacques Chirac said this week that if Iran had one or two nuclear weapons, it would not pose a big danger, and that if Iran were to launch a nuclear weapon against a country like Israel, it would lead to the immediate destruction of Tehran.

The Hindu, 2 February 2007

Ahmadinejad under fire on nuclear issue

The unanimous vote in the United Nations Security Council to impose limited sanctions on Iran has plunged the country's political, security, and religious establishment into a frenzied debate. Iranians are deeply split on how Security Council Resolution 1737 should be interpreted. Two sharply divergent lines, symptomatic of the growing internal rift, are emerging.

Daily Times, 3 February 2007

Iran allows cameras at nuclear facility

TEHRAN: A senior Iranian official said on Friday Iran had allowed the installation of surveillance cameras at a complex where it is set to begin expanding enrichment of nuclear fuel.

The New York Times, 3 February 2007

Iran Installs Equipment for Large-Scale Uranium Enrichment

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2: International nuclear investigators have confirmed that Iran is beginning to install equipment in the large underground chamber in Natanz, the center where Iranian officials have said they will move to industrial-scale enrichment of uranium, according to foreign diplomats and American officials.

The New York Times, 3 February 2007

Chirac's Iran Gaffe Reveals a Strategy: Containment

PARIS, Feb. 2: When President Jacques Chirac said this week that he would not be overly worried if Iran obtained a nuclear weapon, he inadvertently said aloud what some policy makers and arms control experts have been whispering: that the world may have to learn to live with a nuclear Iran.

The Times of India, 4 February 2007

Saran headed home after nuclear talks in US

WASHINGTON, Feb 3: India's key negotiator on the civil nuclear deal with the United States, Shyam Saran, wound up talks with senior officials on the next steps to be taken for implementing the deal.

Daily Times, 4 February 2007

Iran allows UN nuclear inspectors free hand

TEHRAN: Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on Saturday asserted that Tehran allows United Nations officials free reign to inspect the country's atomic sites, amid claims it is blocking inspectors.

The Nation, 4 February 2007

US-India relations: an appraisal

India and the US are strategic partners today but they were not always friends. They were, however, also never adversaries not even during the Cold War when India was a Soviet ally. Can they remain steadfast friends and partners?

People's Daily, 4 February 2007

U.S. top nuclear envoy expects

Christopher Hill, U.S. chief negotiator for the six-party talks, said Saturday that he expects "some real changes" in next week's six-party talks.

Korean Herald, 4 February 2007

Pyongyang to demand fuel oil at nuclear talks

North Korea is demanding up to 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil a year in exchange for freezing activity at its main nuclear facility in Yongbyon, Japan's Asahi Shimbun reported yesterday.

International Herald Tribune, 4 February 2007

Tehran's nuclear bravado may exceed its expertise

After decades of largely clandestine efforts, Iran is expected to declare in coming days that it has made a huge leap toward industrial-scale production of enriched uranium, a defiant act that the country's leaders will herald as a major technical stride and its neighbors will denounce as a looming threat.

The New York Times, 4 February 2007

U.S.: N. Korea Must Live Up to Pledge

SEOUL: North Korea must live up to its pledge to fully dismantle its nuclear program, the main U.S. envoy to disarmament talks said Sunday, as news reports suggested Pyongyang may be willing to shut down a key reactor.

The Indian Express, 5 February 2007

123 countdown

India's special envoy on civilian nuclear cooperation, Shyam Saran, has done well to clear the air in Washington on the next steps towards the implementation of the July 18,

2005 Indo-US agreement.

The Hindu, 5 February 2007

BrahMos missile test-fired successfully

CHANDIPUR-ON-SEA: Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, with an advanced capability of sharp manoeuvring, was successfully test-fired on Sunday from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur-on-sea in Orissa.

The Hindu, 5 February 2007

India must have a proactive agenda in Iran

Pranab Mukherjee's first official visit to Tehran as External Affairs Minister on Tuesday comes at a time when tension between Iran and the United States is slowly edging towards breaking point.

The New York Times, 5 February 2007

Report: N.Korea Considering Concessions

SEOUL: North Korea is ready to freeze its main nuclear facility and ultimately dismantle its nuclear program but only in exchange for energy assistance, a pro-Pyongyang newspaper reported Monday.

The Indian Express, 5 February 2007

N for Iran

After decades of largely clandestine efforts, Iran is expected to declare in coming days that it has made a huge leap toward industrial-scale production of enriched uranium - a defiant act that the country's leaders will herald as a major technical stride and its neighbours will denounce as a looming threat.

The News, 5 February 2007

Iran - the gathering storm

In April 2006, Iran announced that its pilot facility at Natanz had successfully enriched uranium to a level of 3.5 per cent using a small cascade of 164 centrifuges.

Daily Times, 6 February 2007

Iran to test enrichment soon

VIENNA: Iran has set up centrifuges in two underground nuclear plants and will test them soon as it moves towards the industrial-level enrichment of uranium in defiance of UN demands, diplomats told AFP on Monday.

The Indian Express, 7 February 2007

No military solution to Iran, says Pranab

Tehran, February 7: Opposing the use of military means to resolve Iran's nuclear issue, India on Tuesday said the matter should be settled through dialogue without any further escalation in tensions in the region.

The Indian Express, 7 February 2007

India exceedingly important to us: America

Washington, February 7: The White House has said the civilian nuclear agreement with India is "exceedingly important" to the United States even as it increasingly sees New Delhi as a "vital and important" partner in matters such as Doha Round of trade talks.

The News, 7 February 2007

Olmert says Iranian nuclear plans not as advanced as Tehran claimed

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Tuesday Iran's nuclear plans were not as advanced as Tehran claimed, and it was still possible to exert economic pressure to halt the program without resorting to violence.

The Korean Herald, 8 February 2007

Nuke talks open on cautious note

Negotiators to the six-party nuclear talks arrived in Beijing yesterday hoping to reach written agreement on the implementation of North Korea's nuclear dismantlement.

China Daily, 8 February 2007

Optimism on DPRK talks

The delegates to the Six-Party Talks are gathering again in Beijing today with confidence in a productive session. When they left Beijing in mid-December, observers were disappointed by the seeming deadlock the last round of talks ended in. But the participants were not in that mood.

The Hindu, 8 February 2007

Iran issue: India sees speedy IAEA verification as the way forward

Tehran: India's repeated emphasis on the importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) taking charge of the Iranian nuclear file represents an attempt to reclaim a once surrendered middle position in the looming confrontation between Tehran and Washington.

The News, 8 February 2007

US urges additional UN action against Iran

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday said non-military measures can be effective against Iran's nuclear ambitions and called for a new round of tougher U.N. sanctions if Tehran fails to halt nuclear enrichment that could be used to produce weapons.

People's Daily, 8 February 2007

China shares control of nuclear fusion reactor

Chinese scientists have allowed their counterparts in the United States to start up and control a thermonuclear fusion reactor in eastern Anhui Province.

The Times of India, 9 February 2007

NPT framework broadened by N-deal: US

WASHINGTON: The United States has said that it has broadened the non-proliferation

regime by bringing India inside it through the Indo-US nuclear deal.

The Indian Express, 9 February 2007

North Korea ready to talk nuclear disarmament

BEIJING, February 8: International talks on North Korea's nuclear programme resumed on Thursday after Pyongyang's envoy said he was ready to discuss initial steps toward nuclear disarmament, raising hopes for the first tangible progress at the negotiations since they began more than three years ago.

Daily Times, 9 February 2007

Iran vows to hit back if attacked

TEHRAN: Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday warned that Iran would hit back at American interests worldwide if the United States attacked the Islamic republic to thwart its nuclear programme.

The Times of India, 9 February 2007

Hacker litters Canadian N-safety site with 'nukes'

OTTAWA: Red-faced officials at Canada's nuclear safety watchdog on Thursday said they were probing how a hacker had managed to litter its official website with dozens of colour photographs of a nuclear explosion.

The New York Times, 10 February 2007

Putin Rebukes U.S. for Its Use of Force

MUNICH: Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Saturday that the United States' increased use of military force is creating a new arms race, with smaller nations turning toward developing nuclear weapons.

People's Daily, 10 February 2007

Six-party talks moving to a possible agreement

Envoys to the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue on Friday were examining a Chinese draft document that could see them take the first steps towards denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean Herald, 10 February 2007

China proposal boosts optimism at nuclear talks

BEIJING: International talks seeking to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons entered a second day yesterday with the promise of possible progress after China proposed a draft agreement requiring Pyongyang to halt its atomic program within a couple months.

Daily Times, 10 February 2007

Iran nuclear dispute: ElBaradei fears "chain reaction"

VIENNA: The UN nuclear watchdog director urged Iran and the West to avoid "an uncontrolled chain reaction" towards conflict as he prepared for short-notice talks on Friday with Iran's national security chief.

Daily Times, 10 February 2007

"US within Iran's firing range"

TEHRAN: A top Iranian cleric said Friday the United States was within Iran's "firing range", a day after supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed to hit back at US interests worldwide if attacked.

Dawn, 10 February 2007

N-terror risk is serious: analysts

LONDON, Feb 9: Western governments must take seriously the possibility of terrorists exploding a nuclear bomb as the necessary materials and know-how become easier to acquire, security analysts argue in two new reports.

The Washington Post, 11 February 2007

Putin Hits U.S. Over Unilateral Approach

MUNICH, Feb. 10: Russian President Vladimir Putin, in some of his harshest criticism of the United States since he took office seven years ago, said Saturday that Washington's unilateral, militaristic approach had made the world a more dangerous place than at any time during the Cold War.

The New York Times, 11 February 2007

Accord Proves Elusive at North Korea Talks

BEIJING: Envoys to the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear arms program ended their fourth day of talks without agreement on Sunday, getting bogged down on Pyongyang's demands for compensation should it disarm.

International Herald Tribune, 11 February 2007

Iranian negotiator says nuclear program is no threat to Israel

MUNICH, Germany: Iran's nuclear program is not a threat to Israel and the country is prepared to settle all outstanding issues with the International Atomic Energy Agency within three weeks, its top nuclear negotiator said Sunday.

The News, 11 February 2007

UN cameras installed at N-plant

TEHRAN: The UN nuclear watchdog has installed surveillance cameras at Iran's underground nuclear plant where "industrial-scale" enrichment of uranium is planned, an Iranian official said on Saturday.

The New York Times, 12 February 2007

Nuclear Talks on North Korea Hit Roadblock

BEIJING, Feb. 11: Negotiations on a step-by-step deal that the Bush administration hopes will lead North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program appeared near collapse on Sunday over North Korea's demands for huge shipments of fuel oil and electricity before agreeing to a schedule for turning over its nuclear weapons and fuel.

The New York Times, 12 February 2007

SKorea: NKorea Nuke Talks to Be Extended

BEIJING: A South Korean official said Monday that talks on North Korea's nuclear program were expected to be extended another day. "Consultations among the countries are under way in a more sincere manner," the official said on condition of anonymity due to the ongoing diplomacy. "The talks are expected to continue tomorrow."

The News, 12 February 2007

Iran promises "great" nuclear news by April 9

TEHRAN: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad marked the 28th anniversary of Iran's revolution on Sunday pledging to pursue the country's nuclear programme and promising to announce "great" achievements in the days up to April 9, "especially nuclear" developments.

The Japan Times, 12 February 2007

'Indirect' aid for N. Korea, not money: Aso

Foreign Minister Taro Aso ruled out Japan giving North Korea the economic or energy aid it is demanding at the six-party denuclearization talks but said Tokyo is ready to provide "indirect" assistance.

The New York Times, 13 February 2007

North Korea Agrees to Nuclear Disarmament Steps

BEIJING: North Korea agreed on Tuesday to take steps toward nuclear disarmament in exchange for \$300 million in aid under a deal President George W. Bush hailed as the best chance to get it to scrap its atomic weapons program.

The New York Times, 13 February 2007

U.S. Holds Out North Korea Deal as Model for Iran

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday held out as a model for Iran a deal under which North Korea will take steps toward giving up nuclear arms, and analysts said it might bolster Iranians who favor talks with the West.

International Herald Tribune, 13 February 2007

Straight talk on Iran

Before things get any more out of hand, President George W. Bush needs to make his intentions toward Iran clear. And Congress needs to make it clear that this time it will be neither tricked nor bullied into supporting another disastrous war. How little this administration has learned from its failures is a constant source of amazement. It seems the bigger the failure, the less it learns.

International Herald Tribune, 13 February 2007

Iran's nuclear web

WASHINGTON: International inspectors confirmed this month that Iran is equipping its uranium enrichment plant at Natanz, a step that brings it closer to building an atomic bomb and brashly defies a United Nations resolution passed in December.

Daily Times, 13 February 2007

EU worried about Iran nuclear bomb

LONDON: Iran will at some point be able to develop sufficient weapons-grade material for a nuclear bomb, according to the conclusions of an internal European Union document, reported the Financial Times on Tuesday.

The Hindu, 13 February 2007

Putin offers nuclear know-how to Riyadh

DUBAI: Russia has offered to work together with Saudi Arabia in the fields of atomic energy, high technology and transportation as part of its effort to anchor its ties with Riyadh. According to the Russian news agency, Ria Novosti, Russian President Vladimir Putin has listed "metals, nuclear power, high technologies, and transportation infrastructure" as possible areas of cooperation.

The Tribune, 13 February 2007

Indo-US N-deal is a worry: Pak minister

New Delhi, February 12: Eight days before Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri arrives here for formal talks on the India-Pakistan Joint Commission, Islamabad today publicly voiced concerns about the India-US nuclear deal and bracketed Kashmir issue with Palestine and Iraq problems.

The Tribune, 13 February 2007

Iran strikes conciliatory tone on nuclear programme

TEHRAN: Tens of thousands of flag-waving Iranians converged on Azadi Square on Sunday to voice support for Iran's bid for nuclear energy, as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed to press forward with the country's uranium-enrichment program.

The Indian Express, 14 February 2007

Success with Pyongyang shows way on Tehran

NEW DELHI, February 13: North Korea's willingness to accept a phased deconstruction of its nuclear weapon programme in return for international energy aid and a normalisation of relations with the United States marks a big success in global non-proliferation efforts and opens the door for renewed diplomatic activism on getting Iran, the other nuclear hold out, to follow suit.

The News, 14 February 2007

Iran opposes proliferation of nuclear weapons: Ahmadinejad

TEHRAN: Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said that Tehran is "opposed to any proliferation" of nuclear weapons and is always ready to talk about its nuclear program. In an interview in Tehran with a U.S. television, Ahmadinejad said, "We are opposed to any proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons."

The Indian Express, 14 February 2007

N Korea to get 1 m tonnes fuel

Beijing, February 13: 1 Shutdown North Korea will begin initial steps towards denuclearisation within 60 days of the announcement of the agreement. South Korea,

China, the United States and Russia - but not Japan - will provide 50,000 tonnes of fuel oil or an equivalent value of economic or humanitarian aid in return.

The Washington Post, 14 February 2007

U.S. Flexibility Credited in Nuclear Deal With N. Korea

The six-nation deal to shut down North Korea's nuclear facility, four months after Pyongyang conducted its first nuclear test, was reached yesterday largely because President Bush was willing to give U.S. negotiators new flexibility to reach an agreement, U.S. officials and Asian diplomats said yesterday.

The New York Times, 14 February 2007

Pact With North Korea Draws Fire From a Wide Range of Critics in U.S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13: The deal that could lead North Korea to shut its main nuclear reactor came under criticism from both ends of the political spectrum immediately after it was announced on Tuesday. From the right, hardliners argued that the United States should have held out until North Korea agreed to fully declare and dismantle its entire nuclear program.

The New York Times, 14 February 2007

The Lesson of North Korea

It is welcome news that North Korea has agreed to move toward dismantling its nuclear weapons program in exchange for fuel oil and international acceptance - including the hope of eventual recognition by the United States.

The Japan Times, 14 February 2007

Tokyo positive but still cautious about new six-party deal

Senior government officials on Tuesday praised the landmark agreement reached in the six-party talks on the denuclearization of North Korea but were also cautious, saying Japan still has a long and difficult road ahead to keep the nation secure and resolve the abduction issue.

The New York Times, 14 February 2007

China Makes Deal for Two Nuclear Plants

BEIJING, Feb. 13: The French state-run company Areva has unexpectedly agreed to a \$5 billion deal to build two nuclear power plants in China weeks after an American rival appeared to have won a competition that dragged on for more than two years.

The Tribune, 14 February 2007

Uranium for energy

In nuclear jargon, the phrase uranium enrichment sets off sparks. Uranium enrichment means separation of the minuscule fissile isotope U235, a process, if taken to 90 per cent, gives the explosive core for atomic bombs.

The Washington Post, 15 February 2007

Conservatives Assail North Korea Accord

The White House yesterday found itself fending off a conservative revolt over the North

Korea nuclear deal, even scrambling to mollify one of its own top officials who expressed sharp disagreement with a provision that could spring Pyongyang from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The Daily Yomiuri, 15 February 2007

Questions remain over 6-party agreement / Failed 1994 framework casts doubt on whether Pyongyang will honor commitments

The six-party agreement reached Tuesday calling on North Korea to shut down and seal its nuclear facilities in return for energy aid as a step toward resolving questions over its nuclear program is similar to one reached by Washington and Pyongyang in 1994 to freeze the latter's nuclear development.

Deccan Herald, 15 February 2007

Hope on the horizon?

A breakthrough has been achieved in dealing with the problem posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons programme. An agreement has been reached under which North Korea has promised to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear reactor within 60 days in return for 50,000 metric tons of fuel aid or economic aid of equal value.

Deccan Herald, 15 February 2007

Ordeal not yet over for US, North Korea

For Mr Bush, bogged down in Iraq, his authority undercut by the November elections, any chance to show progress in peacefully disarming a country that detonated a nuclear test just four months ago could no longer be passed up.

The Indian Express, 15 February 2007

Dear Leader's olive branch

Yet again, there is hope that the nuclear imbroglio in the Korean peninsula might be resolved. Under the terms of a pact announced on Tuesday, North Korea will receive \$ 400 million in fuel oil and assistance for disabling its nuclear facilities and allowing inspectors into the country.

The Times of India, 15 February 2007

Govt gets going on two N-plants

NEW DELHI: Convinced that its nuclear winter's over after endorsements from both US and Russia, the government is stepping on the gas with nuclear-power projects envisaged in the 2007-2012 11th Plan period.

The Hindu, 15 February 2007

A welcome agreement

For the third time in 13 years, the United States and North Korea have managed to reach an agreement on the broad framework of reciprocal steps they must take in order to bring about the Korean peninsula's de-nuclearisation.

Hindustan Times, 15 February 2007

Pyongyang could set precedent

The North Korean nuclear deal was contingent on the movement of two hitherto immovable objects - Kim Jong Il and George W Bush. In the end, domestic pressures compelled both to do so. As a result, a major international crisis has been averted in North-east Asia.

BBC News, 15 February 2007

Will the North Korean deal hold?

The announcement of a deal over the North Korean nuclear programme represents a significant step forward, but it would be very surprising if the path ahead was smooth. A number of serious obstacles lie in the way as well as a great deal of mistrust on both sides.

The Japan Times, 15 February 2007

Breakthrough with North Korea

After tumultuous negotiations, the six-party talks reached agreement on a deal that would end North Korea's nuclear-weapons program and end the country's international isolation. The agreement took three and a half years to conclude, during which the North exploded a nuclear weapon.

The Tribune, 15 February 2007

Nuclear wisdom

The six-nation process that began over three years ago to get North Korea's nuclear weapon programme dismantled is ultimately on the way to achieving success. The US, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea and North Korea finally reached an agreement in Beijing on Tuesday that Pyongyang would close down all its nuclear facilities in exchange for security guarantees and financial and energy aid.

The New York Times, 15 February 2007

South Korea and Japan Split on North Korea Pact

TOKYO, Feb. 14: The deal to freeze North Korea's nuclear program has had immediate ripple effects in Japan and South Korea, apparently freeing South Korea's hands and tying Japan's.

The Tribune, 15 February 2007

Nash suggests new treaty for limiting atomic weapons

New Delhi, February 14: Nobel Laureate John Forbes Nash today suggested a non-discriminatory way of limiting and controlling the widespread use of atomic weapons and of the resources to make them quickly.

Daily Times, 15 February 2007

No bar to nuclear ties with Russia: Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said on Wednesday the kingdom does not see any obstacle to cooperating with Russia on developing a nuclear energy program.

The Times of India, 16 February 2007

Buying Peace

The North Korean deal, which freezes its nuclear weapons programme in exchange for free fuel, is very good news.

The Times of India, 16 February 2007

EU asks India to join NPT, CTBT

NEW DELHI: The European Union on Friday made it clear that India will have to take a 'few steps' like associating with NPT and the CTBT before the 25-nation body can decide on cooperating with it in civil nuclear energy.

The Statesman, 16 February 2007

Inter-Korean talks from 27 Feb

SEOUL, Feb. 15: South and North Korea today agreed to hold a fresh round of ministerial talks later this month in Pyongyang. This follows Tuesday's six-nation agreement on the North's 'initial actions' to dismantle its nuclear programs, the unification ministry said today.

The Times of India, 16 February 2007

Bush defends North Korea nuclear deal

WASHINGTON: US President George W Bush hit back at critics of a breakthrough deal to halt North Korea's nuclear weapons program and called on the communist state to live up to its commitments.

The Indian Express, 16 February 2007

Faith-based nonproliferation

So... North Korea's Kim Jong Il has finally decided to give up his nuclear ambitions in return for diplomatic recognition and foreign aid. The Bush Administration will no doubt be praised with scorn for finally being 'reasonable' and recognising 'reality,' but the exercise strikes us as something close to faith-based nonproliferation.

Hindustan Times, 16 February 2007

China wants quick work on North Korea deal

Beijing, February 15: China called on Thursday for all sides involved in a pact reached here this week on phasing out North Korea's nuclear programme to immediately begin work on implementing the deal.

The New York Times, 16 February 2007

North Korea Likely Forced Into Nuclear Deal: Envoy

SEOUL: North Korea was probably pushed to take a deal to shut down its nuclear reactor in return for aid because of its faltering economy and limited diplomatic options, a senior South Korean official said on Friday.

Daily Yomiuri, 16 February 2007

N-weapons: DPRK's Aladdin's lamp

A joint statement adopted at the latest round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear

program stipulates two-phase measures toward Pyongyang's denuclearization in return for energy support.

The New York Times, 16 February 2007

Swedish Nuclear Officials Seek IAEA Help

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's top nuclear officials on Friday decided U.N. experts should be invited to inspect the country's atomic power plants after a string of malfunctions raised concerns about safety. The relatively minor incidents have not posed any threat of radioactive leaks.

The New York Times, 16 February 2007

Japan Approves U.N. Sanctions on Iran

TOKYO: Japan's Cabinet on Friday approved sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program under U.N. Security Council guidelines, increasing international pressure on the Islamic country for refusing to suspend uranium enrichment.

The Hindu, 16 February 2007

India's anti-Iran votes were coerced, says former U.S. official

New Delhi: A former ranking official of the Bush administration acknowledged on Thursday that India's votes against Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were "coerced."

The Hindu, 17 February 2007

Draft 123 text to be given to U.S.

New Delhi: With major differences persisting on lifetime fuel guarantees for safeguarded reactors, the reprocessing of spent fuel and a reference to a future Indian nuclear test as a condition for the United States to cut off nuclear cooperation, India has drafted its own 14-clause version of the crucial bilateral nuclear agreement with the U.S. which will be handed over to American officials in Washington next Monday by Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon.

The Tribune, 17 February 2007

EU envoy plays hard on N-deal

New Delhi, February 16: Despite a strategic partnership with India, the European Union is not prepared to take a soft position on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal. This was conveyed in clear terms to the Indian leadership by top European Union diplomat Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Times of India, 17 February 2007

'N-deal in danger if talks don't gather pace'

NEW DELHI: India seems to be dragging its feet on the Indo-US nuclear deal. While Indian officials have denied that any hard deadline exists for the "non-paper", the fact remains that neither the 123 nor the IAEA safeguards agreement is yet more than a twinkle in the eye. A senior official said, "such deadlines are not set in stone".

The Times of India, 17 February 2007

Iran n-plant has links with A Q Khan: US

NEW DELHI: Iran's contentious nuclear facility at Natanz, which is at the heart of the present nuclear controversy, has "unexplained ties with the A Q Khan network," said the US ambassador to IAEA, Gregory Schulte.

The Indian Express, 17 February 2007

Military action no option against Iran: US envoy in IAEA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 16 : Days before the IAEA Director General submits his report on the Iranian nuclear programme to the UN Security Council, US envoy in IAEA Gregory Schulte today said military action was not an option and there was still time before Iran can have nuclear weapons.

People's Daily, 17 February 2007

China tightens export control on nuclear goods, technology

China's State Council on Friday promulgated amendments to its regulations regarding the export of nuclear goods and technologies for both civil and military use, requiring the importers to fulfill more obligations to ward off acts of nuclear terrorism.

Daily Yomiuri, 17 February 2007

50 N-weapons believed possible

An agreement adopted at the latest round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program stipulates two-phase measures toward Pyongyang's denuclearization in return for energy support.

Daily Times, 17 February 2007

US and developing nations accept plan to cut Iran N-aid

VIENNA: Western and developing nations broadly accept a UN nuclear agency plan to cut almost half its aid projects in Iran, diplomats say, easing fears of a row over how strictly to apply UN sanctions against Tehran.

The Hindu, 17 February 2007

'Rademaker is not a U.S. official'

New Delhi: Responding to an article in The Hindu ('India's anti-Iran votes were coerced: former U.S. official', February 16), U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford said the individual quoted was "not a U.S. official."

The New York Times, 17 February 2007

China Controls Seek to Prevent Terrorism

BEIJING: China said Saturday that its new export controls on nuclear technology requiring buyers to meet stricter obligations would prevent terrorists from obtaining nuclear weapons or dangerous radioactive material.

The New York Times, 17 February 2007

Top Official: Iran Needs Nuclear Fuel

TEHRAN: Iran's top leader said Saturday the country's oil and gas reserves will

eventually dry up and defended the drive to produce nuclear fuel, claiming it was the only way to avoid dependence on the West for energy.

International Herald Tribune, 18 February 2007

On nuclear issues, U.S. must decide which enemy is worth talking to

WASHINGTON: When it comes to finding a way to disarm your enemies, here is a puzzle: How do you decide which dictatorial, nuke-building regimes to negotiate with, and which to freeze out, sanction or intimidate with a couple of aircraft carriers?

Daily Yomiuri, 18 February 2007

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT / N-proliferation main U.S. concern

An agreement adopted at the latest round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program stipulates two-phase measures toward Pyongyang's denuclearization in return for energy support.

Hindustan Times, 18 February 2007

'Pak secretly agrees to give Saudis N-bomb'

New York City, February 17: Pakistan has agreed to provide Saudi Arabia nuclear weapons and missiles last month, according to an Israeli intelligence website debka.com. The website stated that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Saudi King Abdullah concluded an agreement with 'seven secret clauses' on January 21, during his visit to Saudi Arabia.

The Tribune, 18 February 2007

Bush all set to attack Iran: Report

London, February 17: The Bush administration's preparation to strike Iran is complete, with the top commander of the US central command having received computerised plans for Operation Iranian Freedom, a report has said.

Daily Times, 18 February 2007

N-energy Iran's 'future destiny', says Khamenei

TEHRAN: Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave his unequivocal backing to Iran's nuclear programme on Saturday, saying it was the 'future and destiny' for a country whose fossil fuels would one day run out.

The Washington Post, 18 February 2007

The Iran Options

President Bush's actions toward Iran are consistent with two very different underlying strategies. Both start with a correct reading of Iran's behavior at home and in the region as dangerous to U.S. interests and to the prospects for peace and democracy in the Middle East.

The Tribune, 19 February 2007

India, Pak to sign pact on N-risk

New Delhi, February 18: In a major confidence-building measure, India and Pakistan will sign an agreement to reduce the risk from accidental use of nuclear weapons on

Wednesday when the foreign ministers of the two countries meet here.

The Tribune, 19 February 2007

Deal over N. Korean nukes

The settlement arrived at in Beijing at the six-power meeting on the North Korean nuclear issue titled 'Initial actions for the implementation of the joint statement' is a path-breaking document. It makes an effort to solve the North Korean proliferation problem and also shows the way to find a solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.

Dawn, 19 February 2007

North Korea's new deal

The tentative deal on North Korea's nuclear weapon programme on February 13 is worse than the deal that the Bush administration wrecked in 2005, and considerably worse than the one the Clinton administration made but did not abide by in 1994.

The Tribune, 19 February 2007

US ready to help India set up N-data centre

Mumbai, February 18: The US is ready to help India set up a National Nuclear Data Centre (NNDC) and train nuclear and IT scientists to make it an international facility, a US scientist has said.

Hindustan Times, 20 February 2007

Menon to tell US of Indian concerns over N-deal

Washington, February 20: Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon is expected to convey New Delhi's concerns over "certain elements" in the law passed by US Congress on the civil nuclear deal with it during a visit starting on Tuesday.

Daily Times, 20 February 2007

IAEA report on Iran's nuclear programme:

UNITED NATIONS: The Security Council is expected to adopt a wait-and-see attitude after the UN watchdog agency releases a report next Friday on Iran's compliance with demands that it halt sensitive nuclear fuel work, diplomats here say.

Daily Times, 20 February 2007

Iran's slow payment to Russia may delay nuclear plant launch

MOSCOW: Uranium fuel deliveries to a Russian-built nuclear reactor in Iran, and its launch, could be delayed because the Iranian government is dragging its feet on payments, officials said Monday.

The News, 20 February 2007

Chomsky on North Korea, Iraq and Iran

Noam Chomsky is a noted linguist, author, and foreign policy expert. On Feb. 9, he was interviewed on the latest developments in US policy toward Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Venezuela. The following are edited excerpts of the interview: Q: With similar nuclear developments in North Korea and Iran, why has the United States pursued direct diplomacy with North Korea but refuses to do so with Iran?

Daily Yomiuri, 20 February 2007

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT / Gaps seen in Japan, U.S. policies

An agreement adopted at the latest round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program stipulates two-phase measures toward Pyongyang's denuclearization in return for energy support.

The Korean Herald, 20 February 2007

Nations scurry to act on nuke deal

The six member countries of the nuclear talks are gearing up to make some moves on the deal struck in Beijing last week by sending delegates to coordinate steps and arranging working group meetings.

The New York Times, 21 February 2007

Iran Sets Condition to Halt Nuke Program

VIENNA: Iran's chief nuclear envoy said Tuesday his country wants to negotiate over its uranium enrichment program, on the eve of a U.N. Security Council deadline that carries the threat of harsher sanctions. But the country's hard-line president said Iran will halt enrichment only if Western nations do the same.

Deccan Herald, 21 February 2007

Iran dumps UN nuke deadline

Tehran: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday rejected a looming UN deadline for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, saying it would not halt the sensitive nuclear activity as a precondition to talks.

Dawn, 21 February 2007

IAEA's sane advice

Although there is no love lost between Tehran and the IAEA, the atomic watchdog agency has said that sanctions alone will not be effective in resolving the current nuclear face-off between Iran and the US.

The New York Times, 21 February 2007

2 Leaders Rebuff Russia's Nuclear Threats

MOSCOW, Feb. 20: Officials in the Czech Republic and Poland vowed Tuesday that they would not be intimidated by Russia, a day after a general in Moscow declared that nuclear weapons could be aimed at their countries if they allowed the Bush administration to build ballistic missile defenses within their borders.

The Washington Post, 21 February 2007

Antimissile Plan by U.S. Strains Ties With Russia

MOSCOW, Feb. 20: An increasingly angry dispute over U.S. plans to deploy a missile defense system in Central Europe is adding strain to already fragile U.S.-Russian relations.

Daily Yomiuri, 21 February 2007

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT / North Korea 'had plan to attack Japan'

An agreement adopted at the latest round of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program stipulates two-phase measures toward Pyongyang's denuclearization in return for energy support.

The Korean Herald, 21 February 2007

[Shim Jae Hoon]Nuke deal: Back to the future?

A marathon negotiation in Beijing stretching to the wee hours of the morning of February 14 produced a deal that promises to end North Korea's nuclear-weapons program in exchange for diplomatic recognition and aid for Pyongyang.

The Hindu, 22 February 2007

India, Pakistan ink pact on reducing nuclear risk

NEW DELHI: Indian and Pakistani officials signed an agreement on "Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons" in the presence of Foreign Ministers Pranab Mukherjee and Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri at Hyderabad House on Wednesday.

The Indian Express, 22 February 2007

India, US talk of 'relationship beyond N-deal'

Washington, February 22: The whole gamut of bilateral relations, the Indo-US nuclear deal and regional affairs came up for intensive discussions during talks Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon had with US Undersecretary of state for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns.

Deccan Herald, 22 February 2007

N-deal to be signed into law by year-end

As the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Shankar Menon basks in the attention expected from a close friend and budding ally, a top US official has predicted that the remaining details of the US-India civil nuclear agreement will be agreed to and signed into law by the end of this year or early 2008.

The Hindu, 22 February 2007

India imposes ban on nuclear trade with Iran

NEW DELHI: India has imposed a ban on the "direct or indirect" export of all items that could contribute to Iran's nuclear fuel enrichment-related, reprocessing or heavy water-related activities as well as development of nuclear weapon delivery systems.

The New York Times, 22 February 2007

UN Atomic Report May Expose Iran to Wider Sanctions

VIENNA: A U.N. watchdog report due on Thursday is likely to confirm Iran has escalated rather than halted its nuclear fuel program, exposing Tehran to wider sanctions over fears it is secretly seeking atom bombs.

Daily Times, 22 February 2007

North Korea can make nuclear warhead for missile: US experts

SEOUL: North Korea is capable of arming its medium-range Nodong missile with a crude nuclear warhead, two US experts said in a report released on Wednesday. The report by the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) also estimates that the communist state has separated enough plutonium to build about five to 12 nuclear weapons.

Daily Yomiuri, 22 February 2007

Japan-Russia uranium enrichment deal near

The government and the nation's major electric power companies have entered the final stage of negotiations with Russia for consigning the enrichment of uranium for fuel in nuclear power plants to Atomenergoprom, or Atomprom, which is to be established as Russia's state-run monopoly for the nuclear energy industry, according to sources close to the deal.

The Indian Express, 23 February 2007

Position on nuke testing not to hinder deal: US

Washington, February 23: The US has said fuel assurances and the issue of nuclear testing will not come in the way of the civilian nuclear deal with India, which it hoped, would be implemented by this year end.

The News, 23 February 2007

President, Premier congratulate on successful missile test

ISLAMABAD: President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz have congratulated the technical team on successful test of Hataf-VI Shaheen-II missile. Pakistan on Friday successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hataf-VI Shaheen - II missile.

Dawn, 23 February 2007

N-risk reduction pact

The ministerial-level talks in New Delhi have ended on a positive note, with the two sides signing an agreement on nuclear risk reduction, besides reaching an understanding on a number of issues to carry the peace process forward.

The Hindu, 23 February 2007

Nuclear accord designed to promote stable environment

NEW DELHI: The objective behind the Agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons, signed between India and Pakistan on Wednesday is to promote a stable environment of peace and security in the region.

The Hindu, 23 February 2007

New clouds over the Korean nuclear scene

The latest six-party accord on the North Korean nuclear arms issue can, ironically, lead to proliferation, if the gathering new clouds are not dispelled by the collective forum. The six parties are China as the Chair, the United States, the two Koreas, Japan, and Russia.

The New York Times, 23 February 2007

Iran Expanding Nuclear Effort, Agency Reports

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22: In open defiance of the United Nations, Iran is steadily expanding its efforts to enrich uranium, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported Thursday. In response, the Bush administration immediately pressed for more severe sanctions against the country, at a moment of greatly increased tensions between Washington and Tehran.

The Washington Post, 23 February 2007

Rice Warns Iran It Risks Further U.N. Sanctions

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 22: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned Iran on Thursday that it will face further punishment and isolation if it forges ahead with efforts to develop a uranium-enrichment program, but she said the United States and other powers are prepared to restart talks aimed at ending the standoff if Iran suspends its most controversial nuclear activities.

Hindustan Times, 23 February 2007

No reply from Tehran

At first sight the Indian announcement banning export of all material, equipment and technology that can contribute to Iran's nuclear programme is a routine measure, in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737 of December 2006.

Hindustan Times, 23 February 2007

US may attack Iran: UK Govt sources

London: United States President George W Bush may attack Iran next year before the end of his tenure if he thinks diplomacy has failed to solve the nuclear issue with the Asian country, senior British government sources said.

The Nation, 23 February 2007

Iran to resist N-rights 'violation'

TEHRAN: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed on Thursday that Iran will not allow anyone to violate its nuclear rights, ahead of a key UN watchdog report on Tehran's controversial atomic programme.

The Korean Herald, 23 February 2007

N.K., U.S. said to plan exchange of nuclear envoys

North Korea's chief negotiator to the six-nation talks aimed at dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear program is expected to visit Washington early next month.

China Daily, 23 February 2007

Nuclear accord helps relations with China: Hill

WASHINGTON: The breakthrough nuclear agreement with North Korea could pay wide-ranging dividends for all sides, especially in the area of already improving US relations with China and America's traditional allies, says chief US negotiator Christopher Hill.

The Indian Express, 24 February 2007

To let Iran go nuclear would be mistake: US

Sydney, February 23: US Vice-President Dick Cheney said on Saturday it would be a serious mistake if Iran were allowed to become a nuclear power.

The Hindu, 24 February 2007

U.S. intelligence "unfounded"

Vienna: Much of the intelligence on Iran's nuclear facilities provided to U.N. inspectors by American spy agencies has turned out to be unfounded, according to diplomatic sources in Vienna.

The Hindu, 24 February 2007

De-escalate the Iran crisis

With the expiry on Wednesday of the 60-day deadline for Iran to suspend its fuel cycle operations, the crisis over that country's peaceful nuclear energy programme is all set to escalate. In December 2006, the United States and its allies succeeded in getting the United Nations Security Council to pass Resolution 1737 imposing limited sanctions on Iran's fuel cycle programme.

The Indian Express, 24 February 2007

Iran sticks to nuclear programme

TEHRAN, February 23: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed on Friday that Iran would defend its nuclear programme and described his country as a potential role model for others trying to develop advanced technology.

Daily Times, 24 February 2007

Tough challenge of Iran

Iran has not complied with the UN Security Council resolution 1737 and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported to the Council that Tehran is continuing to enrich uranium.

Dawn, 24 February 2007

Attack may not destroy N-sites, say analysts

WASHINGTON, Feb 23: Any US attack against Iran could involve thousands of sorties and missile launches lasting weeks, but it still would not eliminate the country's nuclear program, US military officials and analysts say.

The New York Times, 24 February 2007

Leaving the Options Open With Iran

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23: As the Bush administration tries to rally allies to tighten sanctions on Iran yet again, it is sending mixed messages to Tehran about its commitment to a diplomatic solution, trying to create new openings for negotiations even while holding open, ever so vaguely, the possibility that the United States might some day resort to force.

The Indian Express, 24 February 2007

IAEA Chief: North Korea Soliciting Talks

VIENNA: North Korea on Friday asked the chief U.N. atomic inspector to visit four years after expelling his experts and dropping out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty - an encouraging sign the reclusive regime is serious about dismantling its weapons program.

China Daily, 24 February 2007

N. Korea invites IAEA chief to visit

Vienna: North Korea on Friday asked the chief UN atomic inspector to visit four years after expelling his experts and dropping out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty -- an encouraging sign the country is serious about dismantling its weapons program.

Daily Times, 24 February 2007

Pakistan, IAEA sign CHASHMA-2 agreement

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Friday that it had signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) a Safeguards Agreement on the CHASHMA-2 nuclear power plant.

The News, 24 February 2007

Nuclear risk reduction pact

India and Pakistan signed on Wednesday a treaty to reduce the risk of an accidental nuclear war. In 1989 the two countries signed an agreement of non-attack on each other's nuclear installations following which the two sides have been regularly exchanging every year lists of their nuclear facilities.

The News, 24 February 2007

Nuclear deal

The signing of the nuclear deal by Pakistan and India for the reduction of risks of nuclear-weapons accidents between them is not the first accord of its kind. Such agreements include the accord of a more critical nature between Gen Ziaul Haq and Rajiv Gandhi back in 1985, in which the two sides pledged not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

Timesonline, 24 February 2007

Global drive for nuclear power lifts uranium to record high

An increasing demand for nuclear power pushed the global price of uranium to a new high of \$85 per pound yesterday, capping another record week in the commodities sector.

People's Daily, 24 February 2007

Biological, nuclear attacks pose biggest threat to U.S.: Cheney

Visiting U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney said that nuclear and biological attacks which may be launched by terrorists pose the biggest threat to his country, local media reported Saturday.

Hindustan Times, 25 February 2007

India in talks for new consensus on non-proliferation

Washington, February 24: India on Saturday said it was ready to be a part of any "new international consensus" on non-proliferation and was holding talks with its friends on it.

Deccan Herald, 25 February 2007

'N-treaty is discriminatory'

Wellington: President A P J Abdul Kalam on Saturday said that India has not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty since it was discriminatory. President A P J Abdul Kalam on Saturday said that India has not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty since it was discriminatory.

Daily Times, 25 February 2007

Pakistan decries nuclear proliferation on false pretence

WASHINGTON: While Pakistan supports international efforts to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the pursuit of this objective should not be used to hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

The New York Times, 25 February 2007

Iran's Atomic Work has No Reverse Gear: President

TEHRAN: Iran has no reverse gear in its nuclear program, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday, while a deputy foreign minister vowed Tehran was prepared for any eventuality, "even for war."

The News, 25 February 2007

'US not in position to attack Iran'

TEHRAN: Iran said on Saturday the United States was not in a position to take military action against it and urged Washington and its allies to engage in dialogue. "We do not see America in a position to impose another crisis on its tax payers inside America by starting another war in the region," Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told reporters.

The New York Times, 25 February 2007

Foreign Ministers From 7 Muslim Nations Meet in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's prime minister said Sunday that the international standoff over Iran's nuclear program should be resolved through negotiations, not force.

The Washington Post, 26 February 2007

No 'Brakes' on Iran Nuclear Effort

TEHRAN, Feb. 25: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Sunday that his country's disputed nuclear program was like a train "without brakes" or a reverse gear, prompting Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to respond that Iran needs "a stop button."

Dawn, 26 February 2007

Iran needs to suspend, not reverse, N-plan: Rice

WASHINGTON, Feb 25: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Sunday that Iran does not need to reverse its nuclear programme for holding direct talks with Washington; it just has to suspend it.

The Indian Express, 26 February 2007

Iran won't derail its nuclear programme

TEHRAN, February 25: Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday said his country would move forward with its disputed nuclear programme despite international demands that it halt uranium enrichment, comparing the programme to train without brakes, state-run radio reported.

The Indian Express, 26 February 2007

'US in advanced stage of Iran strike plan'

New York, Feb 25: The US is in an advanced stage of 'intensive planning' for a possible bombing attack on Iran, a process that began last year at the instance of President George W Bush, a report has said.

The Hindu, 27 February 2007

Kaiga Power Station unit achieves first criticality

Kaiga (Karnataka): After completion of its construction in record time, the Unit 3 of the Kaiga Atomic Power Station on Monday achieved its first self-sustained thermonuclear reaction and is expected to supply power to the southern grid by March end.

Daily Times, 27 February 2007

'Pakistan could become a failed state with nukes'

WASHINGTON: Normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan and Pakistan's return to democracy is most likely the key to the withdrawal of the military from the political arena as well as to Pakistan's long term stability, but if Pakistan does not transcend the dynamic created by an ideology defined by the mosque and an overly dominant military, it runs the risk of becoming a failed state with nuclear weapons, according to Pakistani academic and journalist Husain Haqqani.

The Hindu, 27 February 2007

Meet ponders tougher measures against Iran

LONDON: Diplomats from five permanent member-countries of the United Nations Security Council (U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia) and Germany gathered here on Monday to discuss tougher measures against Iran in the light of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Tehran had failed to meet a U.N. deadline for suspending its nuclear activities.

Dawn, 27 February 2007

Iran ready for US talks without preconditions

TEHRAN, Feb 26: Iran said on Monday it would be ready to examine positively a request by its arch-enemy the United States for talks but would not accept halting

sensitive nuclear activities as a precondition.

The Washington Post, 27 February 2007

Diplomats Seek Way to 'Reengage' Iran

LONDON, Feb. 26: Representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany said after meeting in London on Monday that they were committed to seeking a negotiated solution with Iran, which has defied a U.N. order to halt its uranium enrichment program.

Daily Yomiuri, 27 February 2007

Govt eyeing tough new radiation law / Bill paves way for ratifying N-terror pact

The government has decided to submit a bill to create a new law to penalize the deliberate release of radiation in preparation for the ratification of an international convention against nuclear terrorism, it was learned Monday.

The Hindu, 28 February 2007

Blair warns Iran on n-plan

LONDON: British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday warned Iran that it was making a "big miscalculation" by what he described as "defying" the international opinion on its controversial nuclear programme.

The New York Times, 28 February 2007

Diplomats Seek Way to 'Reengage' Iran

LONDON, Feb. 26: Representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany said after meeting in London on Monday that they were committed to seeking a negotiated solution with Iran, which has defied a U.N. order to halt its uranium enrichment program.

The New York Times, 28 February 2007

South Korea to Press North on Ending Nuclear Arms

SEOUL: North Korea's chief nuclear envoy looked set on Tuesday to make a rare trip to the United States while South Korea sent a top official to Pyongyang to persuade the North to quickly start scrapping its nuclear arms program.

The New York Times, 28 February 2007

U.S. Less Confident of N.Korea Covert Program

WASHINGTON: The United States is somewhat less confident that North Korea has a production-scale covert nuclear enrichment program than it used to be, a top U.S. intelligence official said on Tuesday.

The Korean Herald, 28 February 2007

'N.K. will reform, but nukes may stay'

President Roh Moo-hyun yesterday said he believes North Korea will eventually open up and reform but that its nuclear weapons development program might continue.