

Tehran Times, 1 January 2008

**Larijani says Iran ready for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Egypt**

Ali Larijani, the former secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, who is on tour of Egypt has underlined Tehran's readiness for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Egypt, Al-Alam TV reported. "Iran is ready to offer Egypt its nuclear experiences under the supervision and regulations of International Atomic Energy Agency," Larijani said in a meeting with Egyptian prominent authors and journalists like Gamal Fahmi who is a member of the board of the Egyptian Press Union.

The Hindu, 1 January 2008

**DPRK misses nuclear declaration deadline**

The North Korean authorities have missed the year-end deadline for issuing a comprehensive declaration of their nuclear weapons programme, according to South Korea. In a statement, a spokesperson of the Republic of Korea (RoK) said in Seoul on Monday "it is regrettable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has not provided a declaration of all its nuclear [arms] programmes by December 31, 2007, as committed in the October 3rd agreement."

The Times of India, 1 January 2008

**Pakistan, India exchange lists of nuclear facilities**

Pakistan and India exchanged lists of their civilian nuclear facilities on Tuesday under an agreement that prohibits them from targeting each other's nuclear installations, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said. The two South Asian nuclear rivals - who have fought three wars since 1947 - have exchanged such lists annually since 1992, said a Foreign Ministry statement.

BBC News, 2 January 2008

**Real test looms for N Korea**

North Korea has missed another nuclear deadline. Under a deal reached in February 2007, the North Korean regime of Kim Jong-il had agreed to do two things by December 31: disable its Yongbyon reactor site, and provide a full declaration of all its nuclear activities. But the year ended with work still incomplete at Yongbyon - and stony silence from Pyongyang.

BBC News, 2 January 2008

**N Korea quiet on nuclear deadline**

North Korea stressed economic issues but failed to mention a missed deadline for disclosing details of its nuclear programme in a New Year editorial. The communist nation pledged to improve citizens' lives and restated a demand for the US to end its "hostile policy". But it did not acknowledge Monday's deadline for providing a full declaration of its nuclear activities. South Korea, Japan and the US have all expressed disappointment at the North's failure to meet the deadline.

IRNA, 3 January 2008

**US official calls for unconditional Iran talks**

A former US official has stressed unconditional talks between Iran and the United States

are pivotal for sorting out problems. Speaking to Alalam Wednesday night, Richard Murphy, former Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, said: "We need to cling to new thoughts and approaches." Talks between the US and Iran should be calm and concentrated on the nuclear issue, without asking for preconditions."

AFP, 3 January 2008

#### **Iran's Khamenei vows to keep enriching uranium**

Iranian Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday vowed the country would not give up uranium enrichment, saying Iran should seek to have nuclear plants generating 20,000 megawatts of energy in 20 years. The UN Security Council has demanded that Iran halt enrichment, which the West fears Tehran could use to develop nuclear weapons technology. "In the next 20 years, we should have at least 20,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity," Khamenei said in a speech in the central city of Yazd, state television reported.

BBC News, 3 January 2008

#### **N Korea nuclear delay 'is normal'**

China has played down North Korea's failure to meet a deadline on declaring its nuclear programme. "The pace is faster in some areas and slower in others. This is normal," a foreign ministry spokeswoman said. Pyongyang had promised to declare all its nuclear programmes and disable its main reactor by the end of 2007, but neither deadline was met. The pledge was part of a deal agreed in February under which North Korea would become nuclear-free in return for aid. The US recently expressed doubt that North Korea would ever give a complete declaration of its nuclear activities.

The News, 4 January 2008

#### **N Korea vows to bolster war deterrence**

North Korea, which missed a year's end deadline to declare its nuclear programmes, vowed Friday to build its "war deterrence," accusing the United States of stepping up preparations for an attack. Rodong Sinmun, the mouthpiece of the North's ruling Korean Workers' Party, also denounced as a trick a US statement last month that it was accelerating the scrapping of its own nuclear weapons stockpile. "The DPRK (North Korea) people, seeing through to the criminal nature of US imperialists, has already been building up their defence capability," it said in a commentary. "To cope with the mounting US nuclear war manoeuvres, the DPRK will further strengthen its own war deterrence."

The News, 4 January 2008

#### **'Iran has no interest in resuming ties with US'**

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Thursday that Iran sees 'no benefit' in resuming ties with the United States at the moment but did not rule out a resumption of relations in the future. In his most significant speech on foreign policy in several months, Khamenei also vowed that Iran would not halt sensitive work in its controversial nuclear programme as demanded by the West. "Cutting ties with the United States is one of our basic policies. We have never said that they will be cut for ever," Khamenei told students in a speech in the central city of Yazd.

IRNA, 4 January 2008

**Leader: Iran must have produced nuclear energy long ago**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said on Thursday that Iran must have produced nuclear energy several decades ago to meet the growing need to electricity. The Leader said that Iran needs to produce 20,000 megawatts electricity in the next 20 years from nuclear energy to keep up with growing demand and the economic development plans.

The Indian Express, 5 January 2008

**Time running out, but we've not given up on N-deal: India**

India said on Friday that it had not dumped the nuclear deal with the United States, opposed by the Left allies, but feared that time was running out to clinch it. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said New Delhi was still trying to find ways out of the face-off with the Left parties, who have threatened to end support if the deal is pursued, but did not indicate how a solution could be found. "No, I have not given up," he said in an interview. "We are working on how we can proceed."

Korea Times, 5 January 2008

**Hill Starts Asian Tour Amid NK Nuke Concern**

The top U.S. envoy to the North Korean six-party talks left for Northeast Asia and Russia Friday to discuss international efforts to get the communist country to declare all its nuclear programs, according to the U.S. State Department. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill will be in Tokyo from Jan. 7-9; Seoul from Jan. 8-10; Beijing from Jan. 10-11; and Moscow from Jan. 11-12.

People's Daily, 5 January 2008

**DPRK says not to blame for delay in implementing six-party talks agreement**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said on Friday the delay in the implementation of the agreement stemming from the six-party talks was caused by other countries' delay in fulfilling their commitments under the accord. Targets set in the Oct. 3 agreement had not been met, except on the disablement of nuclear facilities, when the Dec. 31 deadline set in the accord expired, a spokesman of the DPRK's Foreign Ministry said, quoted by the official Korean Central News Agency.

AFP, 5 January 2008

**Khamenei warns Iran will 'humiliate' any attacker**

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Friday that the country would humiliate any possible attacker over its controversial nuclear programme. "This peace-loving nation would humiliate any aggressor, regardless of its size and level so that it won't even think of aggression again," Khamenei was quoted as saying by state media during a visit to the central city of Yazd.

The Korea Herald, 6 January 2008

**U.S. says N.K. yet to provide nuclear declaration**

The U.S. is still waiting for North Korea to provide a declaration of its nuclear programs

and expects it to include the controversial uranium weapons program, the State Department said Friday, according to Yonhap News Agency. "They (North Koreans) have not yet provided what they've said is their final declaration," spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters. "And we are still waiting for that."

Chosun ilbo, 7 January 2008

### **U.S., N.Korea in Fresh Standoff Over Nukes**

Breaking a long silence, North Korea on Friday called on the U.S. to strike it from the blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism, saying it had already declared its nuclear programs and stockpiles in November. But the U.S. said the North "needs to get about the business of completing this declaration" after the Dec. 31, 2007 deadline passed without action. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack on Saturday said that the U.S. had not seen the "full and complete declaration" North Korea undertook to make under a six-nation agreement.

The Indian Express, 7 January 2008

### **Top US official helped Pak steal N-weapons secret: report**

Senior US officials helped Pakistan steal atomic weapons secrets through Turkish agents in exchange for money and other benefits, with ISI passing on the sensitive information to the now disgraced nuclear scientist A Q Khan, a media report claimed here on Sunday. Intercepted communications showed that former ISI chief Mahmoud Ahmad and his colleagues stationed in Washington were in constant contact with attaches in the Turkish embassy, according to The Sunday Times.

People's Daily, 8 January 2008

### **IAEA chief to visit Iran this week**

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will begin a two-day visit to Iran Friday to help solve the Iranian nuclear issue, agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said Monday. ElBaradei hopes his visit can contribute to clarifying some vague issues regarding Iran's nuclear programs, and would help to find measures to improve and accelerate the IAEA's supervision and inspection of the programs, Fleming said.

The Korea Herald, 8 January 2008

### **China planning to secure North Korea's nuclear arsenal: report**

China has contingency plans to dispatch troops into North Korea and secure nuclear weapons in the event of instability in the hardline communist state, according to US experts who have talked to Chinese military researchers quoted as saying by AFP. Any intervention by Beijing would be done as far as possible after consultations with the United Nations but unilateral action was not ruled out, the experts said in a report published on the websites of two US think tanks.

The Korea Herald, 8 January 2008

### **Hill to seek breakthrough in N. Korea nuclear declaration stalemate**

Top U.S. nuclear envoy Christopher Hill was scheduled to make his first trip to South Korea of the new year on Tuesday as part of a regional tour to discuss the next step after

North Korea's failure to meet a key deadline to detail its atomic program, according to the South Korean Foreign Ministry, reported Yonhap News Agency.

The Korea Herald, 8 January 2008

**Hill to meet with Lee on Thursday**

The top U.S. nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill arrives in Seoul today to discuss the impasse over North Korea's nuclear declaration, and to meet President-elect Lee Myung-bak. Hill, who is the assistant secretary of state on East Asian and Pacific affairs, will stay here until Thursday. Members to the six-party talks are currently considering opening a round of talks to give momentum to the recently stalled process.

The Hindu, 8 January 2008

**Theft forces N-plan revamp**

Canada's nuclear regulator is changing the way it tracks lost, stolen and missing nuclear devices that may be used in making crude dirty bombs following a pointed warning by the U.N. atomic watchdog. Newly disclosed internal E-mails show that the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency contacted officials in Ottawa after a Canadian Press investigation raised serious questions in July about how closely the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission monitors devices.

The Indian Express, 8 January 2008

**N-deal: Vienna talks cover a lot of ground, one more round needed**

India and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have covered significant ground towards working out a safeguards agreement at the second round of negotiations held last week in Vienna, but sources indicate that another round of technical talks may be needed before an agreed text is possible. Indicating that the next round of talks could take place in mid-January, an IAEA spokesperson, when contacted, said: "The latest round of talks ended last Saturday and the consultations are planned to continue next week."

The Indian Express, 9 January 2008

**Senator wants US Cong to pass N-deal before India**

A senior Republican lawmaker has suggested that the US Congress "look at" passing the 123 Agreement for civil nuclear cooperation between New Delhi and Washington to give a fillip to the UPA government's efforts to pass it in the Indian Parliament. "A decision will have to be made as to whether or not we should take the position of whether or not India is willing to support the 123 Agreement and get it through their Parliament," said Republican Senator George Voinovich in the course of a teleconference.

The Indian Express, 9 January 2008

**N-heat off, Khamenei steps up pressure**

A rift is emerging between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, suggesting that the President no longer enjoys the ayatollah's full backing, as he did in the years after his election in 2005. There are numerous possible reasons for Ahmadinejad's loss of support, but analysts all point to one overriding factor: the US National Intelligence Estimate last month, which said Iran

had suspended its nuclear weapons programme in 2003 in response to international pressure.

Dawn, 9 January 2008

### **Britain's decision on N-plants likely to help sway others**

Britain is expected on Thursday to back a new generation of nuclear power plants, adding to the gathering momentum behind atomic energy as part of the solution to the world's energy problems. Already, countries like France and Finland are building new nuclear plants and, in the United States, companies have begun filing applications for operating licences. Even without a government go-ahead, there would be nothing in theory to stop new nuclear plants being constructed in Britain.

People's Daily, 9 January 2008

### **Chinese FM: Top U.S. nuclear envoy Hill to visit China**

Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that top U.S. envoy on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula Christopher Hill will visit China from Jan. 10 to 11 as part of his four-country tour for consultations about the resumption of the six-party talks. Hill will meet with Wu Dawei, Chinese vice foreign minister and chief negotiator on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said. Both parties will exchange views on issues concerning the six-party talks.

Chosun Ilbo, 9 January 2008

### **Pyongyang 'Not Ready' for Full Declaration: Hill**

Chief U.S. nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill on Tuesday said that North Korea is still not prepared to deliver a full declaration of its nuclear programs after missing a deadline for the declaration set for the end of last year. "A key issue is (North Korea's) requirement to give us a correct and complete declaration. It is pretty clear that they are not ready to do that," he said.

The Hindu, 10 January 2008

### **India, IAEA meeting from January 16**

Negotiators from India and International Atomic Energy Agency will hold the next round of talks on the India-specific safeguards from January 16. Last week's talks were considered to be the final round to prepare the agreed draft text, particularly on the issue of India's right to hold its strategic reserve to cater to lifetime supply to its civilian nuclear plants. India and IAEA, however, failed to reach a final 'agreed text' in the third round.

The Indian Express, 10 January 2008

### **Indo-US N-deal: Critics try to deter intl groups**

Critics of the Indo-US civil nuclear agreement on Wednesday urged two international groups whose approval is vital to the deal to take steps to ensure it does not undermine global non-proliferation efforts. Nearly 100 non-governmental organizations and 25 individuals made their case in a letter to the 45 nations of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which governs international nuclear trade, and to some board members of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog. The letter argued that

the deal would "damage the already fragile nuclear nonproliferation system and set back efforts to achieve universal nuclear disarmament."

The Korea Herald, 10 January 2008

### **Seoul, Washington mull informal nuke talks**

In an attempt to reinvigorate the stalling North Korean denuclearization process, the chief negotiators of South Korea and the United States agreed to seek an informal round of six-party talks, possibly within this month. Visiting top U.S. nuclear envoy Christopher Hill made visits, to South Korea's top foreign policymakers upon his arrival here on Tuesday. He will pay a visit to President-elect Lee Myung-bak today.

The Times of India, 10 January 2008

### **IAEA chief heads to Iran as nuclear probe enters final stage**

The head of the UN atomic watchdog is flying to Iran this weekend as the long-running probe into Tehran's disputed nuclear drive appears to be entering its final decisive phase. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei is due in Tehran on Friday and Saturday in an attempt to bring the IAEA's four-year investigation into Iran's atomic activities closer to conclusion. The aim, according to ElBaradei's spokeswoman Melissa Fleming, was to resolve "all remaining outstanding issues and (enable) the agency to provide assurance about Iran's past and present nuclear activities."

Dawn, 10 January 2008

### **Tehran, IAEA discuss 'contamination source'**

Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog have wrapped up the latest chapter in ongoing talks aimed at resolving ambiguities over the contested Iranian nuclear programme, the ISNA news agency reported on Wednesday. "Over the last few days, Iranian officials and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts carried out their final discussions about the source of contamination," an official told the agency. "These negotiations ended on Tuesday and the IAEA experts returned to Vienna on Wednesday," the official added.

AFP, 11 January 2008

### **IAEA chief ElBaradei in Iran to seek nuclear answers**

UN nuclear watchdog director Mohamed ElBaradei arrived in Tehran Friday on his first visit in over one-and-a-half years aimed at resolving outstanding questions over Iran's contested nuclear programme. ElBaradei is expected to meet officials including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran's atomic energy organisation chief Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, and possibly supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Indian Express, 12 January 2008

### **'Have to carry Left, nobody will sign deal with a minority govt'**

or the first time, the Government has made it clear that the Left's withdrawal of support will effectively derail the Indo-US nuclear deal. Ending speculation over whether a minority government can go ahead with the deal, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said: "We have to carry our supporters with us (the Left) because if they withdraw support, then the Government will be in a minority. Nobody is going to sign an

international agreement of this nature with a minority government."

AFP, 12 January 2008

### **UN nuclear chief presses Iran leaders on cooperation**

UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei on Saturday met Iranian leaders on a visit aimed at persuading Tehran to intensify cooperation with his agency over its disputed nuclear programme. ElBaradei the day earlier had pressed top Iranian nuclear officials to provide swifter answers to questions about areas of ambiguity in the history of its atomic drive, which the West fears could be used to make the bomb.

BBC News, 12 January 2008

### **Tehran warns US over nuclear row**

Tehran has warned the United States not to try and use the dispute over the Iranian nuclear programme to bring Iran to its knees. The warning came from supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during a meeting with the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei. Ayatollah Khamenei insisted that Iran was not building a nuclear bomb. He also said that the issue should not even be considered by the United Nations Security Council.

The Korea Herald, 12 January 2008

### **Seoul may join anti-WMD initiative**

The Foreign Ministry has asked President-elect Lee Myung-bak's transition team to review the possibility of fully participating in the U.S.-led initiative against weapons of mass destruction, sources said yesterday. "The Foreign Ministry has presented the view that we should consider formally joining the Proliferation Security Initiative in order to fortify the Korea-U.S. alliance as well as to cooperate with the rest of the international community. We are thereby cautiously considering it," a source from the transition team said.

AFP, 13 January 2008

### **Sarkozy says pressure on Iran should be increased**

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said he wants international pressure stepped up on Iran over its refusal to halt its contested nuclear programme, in an interview published Sunday. "Iran is persistent in not respecting its international obligations, we want to continue to increase international pressure within the (UN) Security Council and European Union, until the country fulfills all its international obligations, that is to say it suspends sensitive activities and implements supplementary guarantees sought by the IAEA," Sarkozy was quoted as saying in the Al Hayat daily.

AFP, 13 January 2008

### **IAEA sets new deadline for Iran to clear up nuclear file**

The UN atomic watchdog announced on Sunday that Iran has agreed to clear up remaining questions on its nuclear programme - including any military activity - in four weeks. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general, Mohamed ElBaradei, and Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad agreed that a "work plan" on ending the Iran nuclear standoff should be

completed in four weeks, the agency said in a statement.

BBC News, 13 January 2008

### **Confront Iran danger early - Bush**

US President George W Bush has warned of the dangers he says are posed by Iran, in a speech in its Gulf neighbour, the United Arab Emirates. Mr Bush said Iran threatened the security of all nations and should be confronted "before it's too late". In a speech in Abu Dhabi on the latest leg of a Middle Eastern tour, he also urged the region to embrace democracy.

Zee News, 14 January 2008

### **China pledges nuclear co-op with India**

China on Monday pledged to promote co-operation with India on civil nuclear energy. The pledge came in a joint statement issued after talks between visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao in Beijing. In the statement, the two neighbours declared it was time to build "a relationship of friendship and trust" and become "sensitive to the concerns and aspirations" of each other.

Radio Netherlands, 14 January 2008

### **South Korean president offers North Korea deal**

The new South Korean President Lee Myung-bak says he is willing to meet his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong-il if he agrees to end his nuclear programme. Seoul says it is also prepared to help its northern neighbour with a large aid programme. However, if Pyongyang rejects the proposal, relations with North Korea will harden. North Korea recently failed to meet an international agreement to produce a report on its ordnance before the end of 2007. The United States suspects Pyongyang of developing nuclear weapons.

Assyrian News Network, 14 January 2008

### **Bush Privately Lauds Israeli Strike on Syria**

In one of the most extensive, face-to-face security discussions since an Israel Air Force attack on a Syrian nuclear reactor last autumn, U.S. President George W. Bush privately commended his Israeli host on what was described as an important preventive action, according to an Israeli official briefed on the high-level exchange. Bush's private endorsement of the Sept. 6 attack -- offered in the context of Jan. 9 discussions in Jerusalem on the Iranian threat and Israel's cardinal opposition to nuclear weapon development programs in the region -- was disputed by Olmert spokesman Mark Regev. "I don't know that to be true," Regev said.

The Indian Express, 14 January 2008

### **Informal NSG waiver likely before March**

Ahead of a key meeting between India and IAEA on a safeguards agreement for the implementation of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, the 45-member NSG is apparently optimistic about giving waiver to New Delhi before March to allow nuclear commerce with it. It is learnt that even countries like Switzerland and New Zealand, which had been resisting the move, had come around, softened their stand and in fact were working

towards making a written draft on the exemption to enable trade in nuclear material and technology with India.

AFP, 14 January 2008

### **Trade, Iran stand-off driving Sarkozy's nuclear strategy in Gulf**

President Nicolas Sarkozy's decision to export French atomic know-how to the Middle East and Africa promises rich commercial rewards, while further isolating Iran over its nuclear ambitions, experts say. After visiting Saudi Arabia, Sarkozy arrived Monday in Qatar and was to go on to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he is expected to sign a framework accord Tuesday on nuclear energy cooperation.

AFP, 14 January 2008

### **Israel says all options open to stop Iran going nuclear**

Israel warned on Monday that all options were on the table in preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, echoing Washington in ratcheting up the rhetoric against their archfoe. "We are not ruling out any option," a senior government official quoted Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as telling parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. "Anything that can lead to preventing Iran from nuclear capability is part of the legitimate context when dealing with the problem."

The Christian Science Monitor, 15 January 2008

### **Iran promises to come clean on its nuclear program**

Following talks with the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over the weekend, Iran has agreed to answer remaining questions about its nuclear program within four weeks, the UN watchdog announced Sunday. The announcement comes in the wake of an apparent confrontation between Iranian patrols and US warships in the Strait of Hormuz, and in the midst of US President George Bush's tour of the Middle East.

AFP, 16 January 2008

### **Iran sees end to nuclear crisis 'very soon'**

Iran voiced optimism Wednesday that the international crisis over its nuclear programme would soon be resolved "once and for all". "We think the conditions and circumstances are quite favourable and we are getting ready to solve the (nuclear) issue once and for all," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri told reporters. The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog agency, Mohammed ElBaradei, "showed that some of the problems related to the nuclear issue have been solved," he added.

AFP, 16 January 2008

### **US diplomat casts doubt on new Iran nuclear deadline**

A US diplomat expressed doubts here Wednesday that Iran would clear up remaining questions on its nuclear programme before a mid-February deadline, after failing to live up to earlier promises. "We are disappointed that Iran failed to meet the November deadline, the December deadline," the US ambassador to the UN in Vienna Greg Shulte, who was speaking at the Slovenian Society for International Relations, told AFP.

The Hindu, 18 January 2008

**Disappointment if nuclear deal falls through: Manmohan**

As uncertainty continues over the fate of the India-U.S. nuclear deal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Thursday that it would be a disappointment if it fell through and he would pray to God to give him courage to be graceful under pressure. "I have already said that if the deal does not go through, it will be a disappointment but in life one has to learn to live with many disappointments," he said.

The Times of India, 18 January 2008

**North Korea unlikely to abandon nuclear arms: Bush envoy**

North Korea is unlikely to abandon its nuclear weapons before US President George Bush leaves office in January 2009, his special envoy said Thursday, calling for a revamp of six-party talks to end the crisis. Jay Lefkowitz, special envoy for human rights in North Korea, also accused China and South Korea of not exerting enough pressure on North Korea during the talks that first began in 2003 to end Pyongyang's nuclear weapons drive.

The Korea Herald, 18 January 2008

**Lee to spur North Korean reform with incentives**

South Korea's next president said Thursday he hopes to entice North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program through boosting its economy, but declined to address how he would exert pressure on Pyongyang if it does not respond. Lee Myung-bak, a conservative former Seoul mayor who has said he would not shy away from criticizing the North, told foreign journalists that his administration would place an emphasis on resolving the North Korean nuclear standoff after taking office next month.

AFP, 18 January 2008

**New delivery of Russian nuclear fuel to Iran: official**

Russia Friday delivered a third consignment of fuel for Iran's Bushehr nuclear power station, the official news agency IRNA reported. "The third load of fuel arrived Friday morning at the Bushehr site" in the south of the country, IRNA quoted the Organization for Production and Development of Nuclear Energy as saying in a statement. Like the first two consignments, the third weighed 11 tonnes. The five loads to come "will be delivered to Iran under the foreseen calendar," the statement added.

AFP, 18 January 2008

**China urges Iran, Europe to resume nuclear talks**

China has urged Iran to resume negotiations with the international community in a fresh attempt to end their long-running standoff over its nuclear programme, state press reported Friday. Beijing's call came with Washington's second top diplomat and Iran's chief nuclear negotiator both in China to lobby for support ahead of a key meeting next week on possible sanctions against the Islamic regime. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met with Saeed Jalili, who is regarded as more hardline than his predecessor whom he replaced in October, and who is a close ally of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The New York Times, 19 January 2008

### **U.S. Sees Stalling by North Korea on Nuclear Pact**

A debate is under way within the Bush administration over how long it can exercise patience with North Korea without jeopardizing the fulfillment of a nuclear agreement that President Bush has claimed as a foreign policy victory. With North Korea sending signals that it may be trying to wait out Mr. Bush's time in office before making any more concessions, administration officials are grappling with how the United States should react. The debate has fractured along familiar lines, with a handful of national security hawks in Vice President Dick Cheney's office and at the State Department arguing for a more confrontational approach with Pyongyang.

People's Daily, 19 January 2008

### **Russian FM to attend 6-nation talks on Iran nuke issue in Berlin**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will attend six-nation talks in Berlin on Tuesday aimed at solving the international dispute around Iran's nuclear program, the ministry said on Friday. "The meeting is expected to discuss ways of regulating the Iranian nuclear program," a ministry spokesman was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying. Foreign ministers from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany are likely to consider new sanctions against Iran.

The Indian Express, 19 January 2008

### **Nuclear deal: Burns quits, India-IAEA talks still on**

While the key US negotiator on the nuclear deal, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, on Friday decided to resign from the Bush Administration, India and the International Atomic Energy Agency made steady progress in their negotiations on a safeguards agreement in Vienna with sources indicating that another round of talks could not be ruled out though one more day of negotiations still remains. Burns, who led the US team in all its negotiations with India on the nuclear deal, including the 123 Agreement, is said to have resigned citing personal reasons.

The Indian Express, 19 January 2008

### **CPM won't hesitate to pull plug on n-deal: VS**

Kerala Chief Minister V S Achuthanandan on Friday said the CPI(M) would not hesitate to withdraw support to the UPA Government if it went ahead with agreement. "The party will not allow the UPA Government to proceed with the pact to help US President George W Bush when elections are round the corner in America," Achuthanandan said. India is in the midst of negotiations with the IAEA to firm up a safeguards agreement before approaching the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for changes in its guidelines to permit international nuclear commerce.

AFP, 20 January 2008

### **Russia delivers more than half nuclear fuel to Iran: official**

Russia has delivered more than half the fuel for Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant, after a fourth consignment arrived on Sunday, the official IRNA news agency reported. "The fourth consignment of fuel arrived Sunday morning, weighing 11 tons at the Bushehr site" in southern Iran, IRNA quoted the Organisation for Production and Development of Nuclear Energy as saying in a statement. Russia has so far delivered 44 tons of fuel, after

shipments which arrived on December 17, 28 and January 18. It is due to deliver a total of some 82 tonnes of nuclear fuel in eight consignments, with the last due next month.

The Hindu, 21 January 2008

### **No forward movement on nuclear deal, says CPI(M)**

Even as the government negotiators are holding talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on a safeguards agreement, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Sunday said there was no forward movement on the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal. "Negotiations are still on with the IAEA. Let them come back with the draft and report to the UPA-Left joint committee on the nuclear deal. The committee will decide about it but it is not going beyond it. There is no forward movement," CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat told reporters here.

The Indian Express, 22 January 2008

### **N-cooperation and defence technology to be highlights of Sarkozy visit**

Ahead of French President Nicolas Sarkozy's visit to India, both countries have concluded negotiations on an agreement for civilian nuclear energy cooperation that will only be signed after India concludes a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and obtains the necessary exemption from the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group. Sources said both the countries can swiftly operationalise the agreement once these two steps were completed. France, which has been a key supporter of the nuclear deal, is likely to bag the contract for 1000 MW light water reactors for which the Jaitapur site has been identified.

The Indian Express, 22 January 2008

### **France Says New Iran Resolution Imminent**

The U.N. Security Council's five permanent members and Germany are expected to agree Tuesday on a new resolution to pressure Iran over its nuclear program, a French diplomat said. But a U.S. official said differences over the issue remain. The senior French diplomat, who briefed reporters Monday on condition that he not be identified by name, said an agreement was very close and should be finalized by the six nation's foreign ministers at a meeting in Berlin, Germany.

The Hindu, 23 January 2008

### **Uranium sale a problem: Canberra**

Australia was seeking closer ties with India even though it had not firmed up its position on an exemption for India at the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) and declined to sell uranium unless it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Speaking at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) here on Tuesday, Australian High Commissioner John McCarthy said the sale of uranium to India was a 'problem' because the new Labour government would abide by its pre-election promise of not supplying it to non-NPT signatories.

The News, 23 January 2008

### **World powers agree on draft for new Iran sanctions**

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany agreed on

Tuesday to impose new sanctions on Iran over its suspect nuclear program, yet the measures appeared to fall short of what the Bush administration had wanted. After months of diplomatic bickering and US pressure, Washington and its European allies overcame strong Chinese and Russian resistance to a third UN sanctions resolution and they all approved a draft that expands and strengthens the penalties that were in the two earlier ones.

BBC News, 23 January 2008

### **Russia plays down Iran sanctions**

Russia has played down reports a draft UN resolution on Iran's nuclear programme will call for new sanctions. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the draft agreed on Tuesday did not require tough new measures against Tehran. But it does call for countries to be vigilant in their trade with Iran, Mr Lavrov said. Diplomats said on Tuesday the draft agreed by the foreign ministers of the five permanent Security Council members and Germany would impose new sanctions.

Dawn, 24 January 2008

### **Rice offers Tehran prospect of normal ties**

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Wednesday she believed the nuclear standoff with Iran could be resolved diplomatically and offered the prospect of normal ties with Tehran if it gave up sensitive nuclear work. Just one day after getting agreement on a draft UN Security Council resolution against Tehran, Condoleezza Rice held out the incentive of a 'more normal relationship' and expanded trade if Iran gave up its nuclear enrichment work.

The Nation, 24 January 2008

### **Iran brushes off new curbs threat**

Iran described as illegal and ineffective on Wednesday the threat of new UN sanctions and said it would clear up any remaining questions about its nuclear programme in talks with the UN watchdog. Iranian officials said there was no need for the UN Security Council to take up the nuclear issue again as they were engaged in intensive talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency. They said the six major powers had made a 'mistake' in drawing up a new text on Tuesday to put before the council and warned that Iran would not be deflected from its development of nuclear power even if a third sanctions resolution were adopted.

Dawn, 24 January 2008

### **IAEA visits Iran's advanced centrifuge site**

Iran has allowed top UN nuclear monitors to visit an advanced centrifuge development site for the first time in a gesture of transparency about its disputed atomic drive, diplomats familiar with the matter said. One of the diplomats, close to the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the IAEA was nearing the end of an inquiry into Iran's nuclear activity and cited concern a new big power move to increase sanctions on Tehran could hurt the process. Six world powers agreed in Berlin on Tuesday to the outline of a new UN sanctions resolution although diplomats said the draft lacked punitive trade measures Washington had sought.

The Times of India, 24 January 2008

### **Iran receives 6th shipment of Russian nuclear fuel**

Iran received a sixth shipment of nuclear fuel Thursday from Russia, destined for a power plant being constructed in the southern port of Bushehr, the official IRNA news agency reported. The report said the 11-ton load of enriched uranium arrived in Iran and was transferred to the light-water Bushehr nuclear power plant on Thursday morning. The remainder of the fuel will arrive in two separate shipments in the coming weeks, it said.

BBC News, 25 January 2008

### **UN Iran sanctions draft 'agreed'**

A draft UN resolution on new sanctions against Iran will include curbs on trade and a travel ban for Iranian nuclear scientists, diplomats say. The US, UK, France, Russia, China and Germany have agreed to put the draft measures to the UN security council, the BBC's Laura Trevalyan has learned. Two sets of UN sanctions have already been imposed on Iran, to punish it for continuing to enrich uranium. The proposed sanctions include restrictions on government backed trade with Iran, and also cargo controls to ensure countries are not selling anything to Iran which is on the banned list.

Dawn, 25 January 2008

### **Iran confident of no attack**

Iran feels it has done enough to avert an imminent US attack and is confident its cushion of petrodollars will help it weather the impact of a third round of mild sanctions, Iranian analysts and politicians say. Iranian leaders have vowed to press on with Tehran's disputed nuclear work regardless of new UN sanctions, after world powers this week agreed the outline of a new resolution. The steps were far weaker than US officials had previously pushed for after Russian and Chinese reservations became more pronounced following a US intelligence report which said Tehran has halted a nuclear weapons programme in 2003.

Dawn, 26 January 2008

### **Pakistan tests ballistic missile**

Pakistan on Friday conducted a successful training launch of the Shaheen-1 (Hatf-IV) medium-range ballistic missile. The launch by the Strategic Missile Group (SMG) of Pakistan Army's Strategic Force Command (ASFC) was conducted at the conclusion of the annual field training exercises of the Shaheen-1 Missile Group. The Shaheen-1 Ballistic Missile System, with a range of 700km, is an operationalised weapon system and is routinely fired during training exercises by ASFC troops.

The Hindu, 26 January 2008

### **Delhi, Paris firm up nuclear pact**

India and France on Friday sought to give a new momentum to their relations by finalising an agreement for cooperation in the civil nuclear field and agreeing to move defence ties beyond the buyer-seller relationship. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said this at a joint news conference with the visiting French President Nicolas Sarkozy at the end of their talks. Dr. Singh said, "We have finalised negotiations for a bilateral pact on

cooperation in civil nuclear energy. I conveyed our appreciation of France's steadfast support for lifting the restrictions."

The Hindu, 26 January 2008

### **Talks with IAEA moving forward: Manmohan**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for an India-specific safeguards agreement were 'moving forward' but added that international agreements took time to be concluded. On the other hand, French President Nicolas Sarkozy felt the issue would be resolved in a 'matter of weeks.' They were asked about the fate of the talks with the IAEA at a joint press conference on Friday.

AFP, 26 January 2008

### **Israel suspects Iranians already working on nuclear warhead**

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said, in an interview published Saturday, that Iran is "quite advanced" in its work on atomic weapons and may already be fashioning a nuclear warhead. "We suspect they are probably already working on warheads for ground-to-ground missiles," Barak said in an interview with The Washington Post and Newsweek magazine. He also suggested that Iranians "probably have another clandestine enrichment operation beyond the one in Natanz."

Dawn, 27 January 2008

### **Iran to face travel bans, more asset freezes**

Proposed new UN sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme call for mandatory travel bans and asset freezes for specific Iranian officials and vigilance on all banks in Iran, according to a draft text. The text of 'elements' of a third round of sanctions, obtained on Friday, was agreed on by Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Russia and China and will be the basis of a resolution intended for the Security Council to pass in the next few weeks. Western powers had to soften some proposed measures to meet Chinese and Russian demands.

The Hindu, 27 January 2008

### **Plea against nuclear deal dismissed**

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking to declare the proposed civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States ultra vires the Constitution. The petitioner said the Union government could not enter into an agreement or a treaty under the U.S.-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Co-operation Act, the U.S. Additional Protocol Implementation Act and the Hyde Act with a foreign state without Parliament approval.

The News, 28 January 2008

### **Gulf nuclear plans face big obstacles**

Plans for nuclear power stations in the Gulf face a lack of infrastructure that the region's cash-rich states will take time to overcome, an expert at the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said on Sunday. "These countries are among the richer, and you can buy some expertise," Hans-Holger Rogner, head of planning and economic studies at the

International Atomic Energy Agency, told Reuters. Gulf Arab states - among the world's largest oil and gas producers - are considering nuclear power as they look to meet escalating domestic electricity demand without burning more fuel and eating into record export revenues.

The Indian Express, 28 January 2008

### **Pakistan Says Nuclear Assets Are Safe**

Pakistan's nuclear weapons are safe from Taliban and al-Qaida militants because of the military's stringent security system and a political climate that precludes a takeover by religious extremists, a top official said Saturday. Seeking to dispel international concerns amid increased violence, Khalid Kidwai, head of the Strategic Plans Division which handles Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, said Pakistan uses 10,000 soldiers to keep the weapons safe and has received up to \$10 million in U.S. assistance to that end.

People's Daily, 28 January 2008

### **Iran produces 300 tons of UF6 in Isfahan nuclear facility**

Deputy head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Javad Vaeedi said on Sunday that his country has so far produced 300 tons of uranium hexafluoride (UF6) gas used for uranium enrichment in the Isfahan nuclear facility. Addressing a congregation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Vaeedi said "The Isfahan uranium conversion facility is active and it has produced more than 300 tons of UF6," local Fars news agency reported.

The Hindu, 29 January 2008

### **Prudent to complete n-deal during Bush's tenure, says David Mulford**

The United States favours the completion of the processes relating to the nuclear deal during the tenure of the Bush administration but would wait for India to decide whether or not to go ahead with operationalisation of the deal. "There is no question of being disappointed [over the time being taken by India]. India has its own political process. But time is of essence. It is practical to complete the process, if we can, during the course of this administration," U.S. Ambassador to India David Mulford told newsmen here on Monday.

The Hindu, 29 January 2008

### **Iran receives Russian fuel**

Russia has completed delivering fuel for Iran's first nuclear power plant in the Gulf port of Bushehr on Monday, the official IRNA news agency reported. "With the last consignment, Russia has fully delivered the 82 tonnes of fuel enriched by 1.6 to 3.6 percents along with the supplementary equipment," said a statement from Iran's Organisation for Production and Development of Nuclear Energy. The delivery was the eighth consignment of fuel.

The Hindu, 30 January 2008

### **Uranium production to be stepped up: Kakodkar**

Uranium production in the country would be augmented to match the growing fuel demands of nuclear power reactors, according to Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic

Energy Commission. Speaking to The Hindu during a visit here on Tuesday, he said a uranium mine and processing mill would be commissioned at Tummalapalli in Andhra Pradesh shortly. Projects would be taken up in Meghalaya and Karnataka as part of the exploration programme to remove the present mismatch in demand and supply of fuel.

The Indian Express, 30 January 2008

**Iran approaching nuclear 'peak', says Ahmadinejad**

Iran is approaching a "peak" in its nuclear programme and will not back down in the face of Western demands to halt its activities, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday. "If you (Western powers) imagine that the Iranian nation will back down you are making a mistake," he said in a televised speech in the southwestern town of Bushehr. "On the nuclear path we are moving towards the peak."

The Hindu, 31 January 2008

**'India ready to export nuclear reactors'**

The country is prepared to export commercially viable civilian nuclear reactors to other developing nations across the globe if it is allowed to do so by the Indian government and also by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Anil Kakodkar has said.

Dawn, 31 January 2008

**Iran vows to win N-tussle with West**

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Tehran was close to its target of producing nuclear energy and launched a new tirade against Israel as world powers seek to impose new sanctions on Iran. "The nuclear issue was the most important challenge since the (1979 Islamic) revolution but with the help of God and your resistance, it is ending in favour of the Iranian nation," Ahmadinejad told cheering crowds. "We are moving towards the summit on the nuclear path," he said.