

The Hindu, 1 July 2006

Indian fishermen not released as expected

New Delhi, June 30: India expressed disappointment on Friday that none of the 240 fishermen, whose national status had been confirmed earlier, was released as scheduled, despite an understanding reached between the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Pakistani authorities had informed New Delhi that 20 fishermen were to reach the Wagah border on Friday, but could not do so as their vehicle broke down en route...

The Hindu, 1 July 2006

Russia may lease nuclear submarine to India

Moscow, June 30: A nuclear-powered submarine that will reportedly be leased to India was launched at a shipyard in the Russian Far East, a news agency report said. The Nerpa nuclear submarine was launched at the Amur shipyard and will join Russia's Pacific Fleet in 2007 after undergoing sea trials, the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Vice-Admiral Anatoly Shlemov on Friday. However, earlier reports said the Nerpa submarine was to be leased for 10 years to India under a 2004 secret deal...

The Times of India, 1 July 2006

'India package' in Pak visa regime

Islamabad, June 30: Indians wishing to visit Pakistan, especially businessmen and pilgrims, have been granted additional visa benefits by the Pakistan government in its latest visa policy. Indian businessmen wishing to do business in the country will get a six-month multiple entry visa. Indian pilgrims would get a 15-day visa instead of the earlier five in a "special package" of the new visa policy announced by Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao and Tourism Minister Nilofar Bakhtiar...

Hindustan Times, 1 July 2006

India threatens to walk away from WTO talks

Geneva, June 30: India on Thursday threatened to walk away from a key WTO ministerial meeting aimed at framing a global trade accord in Geneva if the United States refused to make wider cuts on farm subsidies. Asked if Washington refused to offer deeper cuts on subsidies for American farmers at a crucial meeting on Thursday, Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath told a news conference, "I'll ring up my travel agent and get a flight home."...

The Hindu, 3 July 2006

Saran to hold talks in Sri Lanka

Colombo, July 2: Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran is expected to be here in the next few days for consultations with the Mahinda Rajapakse Government on the latest situation in the country in the face of an undeclared war between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan military. Both sides are tight-lipped about the impending visit and it appears to be a conscious decision. "We want to avoid premature and unnecessary publicity given the sensitive issues involved," a senior Sri Lankan Government official privy to the visit told The Hindu. New Delhi is concerned about the surge in violence and targeted assassinations of high-profile figures in the Sri Lanka establishment. The countries are in close touch on the developments and measures required to ensure that the tensions do not escalate. The Rajapakse Government has time and again talked about the need for a greater role to India in assisting Colombo to tackle the threat posed by the Tigers as well in its endeavour towards resolving the ethnic conflict. However, for a variety of reasons, the Sri Lankan Government has been shy of spelling out the exact nature of the role it desires from India...

The Hindu, 3 July 2006

Yechury meets Koirala, concludes Nepal visit

Kathmandu, July 2: Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury on Sunday met Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala before concluding his Nepal visit, during which he gained assurances from the Maoist leadership on their commitment to the peace process and to end the decade-old insurgency. Though the Prime Minister's Office did not give details about the meeting held in Mr. Koirala's Baluwatar residence, media reports indicated that they discussed, among other things, the recent remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Nepal James F. Moriarty regarding the Maoists. Mr. Moriarty had said last week that the U.S. would not be able to continue its support to Nepal if the Maoists join the Government before renouncing violence. Washington has classified the Maoists as a terrorist group...

The Hindu, 3 July 2006

Editorial: Into the home stretch

Having secured the backing of key committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the India-U.S. agreement on civil nuclear cooperation can be expected to overcome its final legislative hurdle — passage before a full sitting of both houses of Congress — some time next month. A junior Senator has threatened to come up with a filibuster but given the decisive support for the Bill at the committee stage, getting the 60 ayes needed in the Senate to overcome such irritants may not prove difficult. Why has opposition melted away in the U.S. legislative branch? The deal with India is seen in Washington as providing the U.S. enormous strategic leverage in Asia; and the White House has shrewdly kept the focus on this big picture. A little bit of textual jugglery ensured that every major congressional critic's pet bugbear was reflected in the preambular language. The Bill bristles with offensive demands on subjects such as Iran and non-proliferation. After the U.S. Atomic Energy Act is amended, Washington will have to move the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for a change in its rules to enable nuclear commerce with India. While work on the India-specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency can proceed alongside the NSG's deliberations, the in-perpetuity safeguards envisaged must not enter into force until the nuclear cartel formally changes its rules...

The Hindu, 4 July 2006

Ready to share experiences, India tells Sri Lanka

Colombo: Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran on Monday called on Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse for an interaction on the latest situation in the island nation. He reiterated India's willingness to share its constitutional experience in accommodating the aspirations of various sections of society. Mr. Saran is here on a two-day visit on an invitation from his counterpart, H.M.G.S. Palhakkara, as part of the periodic high-level consultations between the two countries. Mr. Saran's visit gains significance in view of the mounting international concern at the situation in Sri Lanka and the expectations over India's role. According to Government officials, Mr. Saran delivered a message from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Mr. Rajapakse. An official from the Indian mission said that in the course of the hour-long meeting, Mr. Saran discussed the status of the peace process and talked about India's readiness to share its experiences...

The Hindu, 4 July 2006

Return of sovereignty is solution to Iraq issue: PM

New Delhi, July 4: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh tonight said a solution to the Iraq issue lay in restoration of sovereignty to the people of the conflict-hit country. "There is no readymade solution to the issue. The problem can be solved only through return of sovereignty to the people of Iraq," he said at a joint press conference here with visiting Spanish President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero here. He was responding to a question as to how the Iraq crisis could be resolved considering that the situation in the country was really bad after the US-led troops came there three years ago. The Spanish leader said his government does not support presence of foreign troops in Iraq and had thus withdrawn the country's forces from there. "Iraq should be food for thought. It should be a lesson," he said. Emphasising that the "most important aspect of Iraq is its future", Zapatero said security has to be accompanied by political vision. He said he would prefer UN forces in Iraq to present multilateralism.

The Hindustan Times, 4 July 2006

India, China parliaments to sign first-ever MoU

Beijing, July 3: Indian and Chinese parliaments are set to sign the first-ever Memorandum of Understanding to open a new avenue for bilateral exchange. The MoU is expected to be signed after Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee meets with his Chinese counterpart, Wu Bangguo, who is also ranked no 2 in the hierarchy of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on Monday. Chatterjee, heading a parliamentary delegation to China, arrived on Monday for an official visit that will last till July 8. The two sides are expected to have wide-ranging discussions on bilateral issues as well as other topics of common interest, sources said. The visit is expected to boost parliamentary-level cooperation between India and China at a time when both sides are taking steps to enhance political, military, cultural and people-to-people contacts that are key to increased mutual trust between the two neighbours, analysts said.

The Hindu, 5 July 2006

Revive talks, India tells Sri Lanka

Colombo, July 4: India on Tuesday said "special efforts" were needed to halt the spiraling violence in Sri Lanka as

further escalation of tensions would have "consequences." Wrapping up his two-day visit to the island nation, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran told Indian journalists here that while efforts were on to strengthen the ceasefire between the Government and the Tamil Tigers, it was necessary to "revive political dialogue" for a solution to the ethnic conflict that would accommodate the aspirations of all sections...

Hindustan Times, 5 July 2006

Tharoor wows African leaders

Banjul/Addis Ababa, July 4: Shashi Tharoor kicked off his campaign road show with a charm offensive at the recently concluded African Union summit at Banjul in Gambia. In his speech at a special session of the ministerial executive council of the 53-nation AU summit, Tharoor promised to focus on African issues in the future, if elected. Tharoor, who is currently UN under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, alluded to India's traditional relationship with Africa to underline his sincerity in solving problems of the continent if he is elected to world body's top post...

Hindustan Times, 5 July 2006

India, China parliaments to sign first-ever MoU

Beijing, July 3: Indian and Chinese parliaments are set to sign the first-ever Memorandum of Understanding to open a new avenue for bilateral exchange. The MoU is expected to be signed after Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee meets with his Chinese counterpart, Wu Bangguo, who is also ranked no 2 in the hierarchy of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on Monday. Chatterjee, heading a parliamentary delegation to China, arrived on Monday for an official visit that will last till July 8...

The Times of India, 5 July 2006

Business to flow if Indo-US deal approved

Washington, July 4: Business worth billions of dollars is likely to flow for Indian and American firms, including defense contracts valued at up to USD 9 billion for Lockheed Martin, if the Congress approves the historic Indo-US civilian nuclear deal some time soon, a report said on Tuesday. The House International relations Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee have last week overwhelmingly approved draft legislation seeking to make exemptions in US energy laws to enable Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation...

The Hindustan Times, 6 July 2006

Asian giants make border history- Rahul Das

Nathu La, July 5: "You are under enemy observation now," read the signboard at the windswept terrain misted by a swirling mass of cloud and flanked by two mighty peaks on the Indo-China border between Sikkim and Tibet. Till yesterday, Nathu La was just another tourist destination, drawing hordes from all over the country for a first hand experience of the "border and ice". Today the signpost has been replaced by "Qing Dao Zhelilai. Women Shi Hao Pengyou," , which roughly translated, means "Please Come Here. We are very good friends." Sino-Indian bonhomie is at its peak and its party time at Nathu La, teeming with journalists and government officials. Hands that once wielded guns, are preparing for Thursday 's carnival, when the Silk Road opens after 44 years. Roads are being spruced up, tents are being rigged and the hills are reverberating with the drone of generators, brought in to light up the icy swathe. "I am very happy. My long-cherished dream is being fulfilled," Sikkim chief minister Pawan Kumar Chamling told the Hindustan Times on Wednesday. In an exclusive chat with the HT, he recalled how everybody scoffed at him when he insisted that the road be reopened in 1994. "People dismissed me then. But look what's happening now?" he said. Chamling hoped that the opening of the historic trade link will also be a watershed in Sino-Indian ties...

The Hindu, 9 July 2006

Talks with IAEA on India-specific safeguards accord

New Delhi, July 8: Senior officials of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the International Atomic Energy Agency held daylong talks here on Saturday on an India-specific safeguards agreement with the IAEA. This is the second round of discussions in line with the March 2006 plan to separate India's civilian and military nuclear facilities. The IAEA team comprised Olli Heinonen, Deputy Director-General (Safeguards); Vilmos Cserveny, Director (External Relations and Policy Coordination); Johanne Rautenbach, Director (Legal); and Herman Nackartes, Director (Safeguard Operations). The Indian delegation included officers from the External Affairs Ministry...

Hindustan Times, 9 July 2006

India informed about Agni-III test firing: Pak

Islamabad, July 8: Pakistan on Sunday said India had informed it in advance about the test firing of its nuclear-capable intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-III, as part of a bilateral agreement. "We have been informed of the test by India as part of agreement on the test firing of missiles," Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said when her reaction was sought on the test firing of Agni-III, which is capable of hitting targets at a distance of 3,500 kms, from a range in the Bay of Bengal on Sunday...

The Times of India, 9 July 2006

Nathu La boost 'India-China Friendship Yr'

Beijing, July 8: A series of high-level bilateral visits and the reopening of the Nathu La pass after 44 years have infused vigour and vitality into Sino-India relations with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao laying the icing on the cake by backing the emergence of a "strong" India. As the two Asian giants mark 2006 as 'India-China Friendship Year', Wen said his country sincerely hoped that India would develop and become "strong" and that Beijing would treat New Delhi as "equal"...

The Indian Express, 9 July 2006

India 12th richest nation: World Bank

Washington, July 9: India has emerged as the 12th wealthiest nation in the world with its GDP touching \$785.47 billion or Rs 35, 34,615 crore in 2005, calculated by the World Bank. US was the wealthiest nation with GDP of \$12.46 trillion, according to a list of 15 wealthiest countries prepared by the World Bank in terms of their Gross Domestic Product. The GDP figures have been adjusted to reflect purchasing power...

The Hindu, 10 July 2006

Chidambaram not to attend SAARC meet

Islamabad, July 9: Minister of State for Finance Pawan Kumar Bansal will represent India at the first meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation Finance Ministers here on Monday. Indian officials here said Finance Minister P. Chidambaram would not be able to attend because of other engagements...

The Hindu, 10 July 2006

Strategy to ensure better profitability

Chennai, July 9: Physicist- turned management strategist and a pioneer of the "business novel", Eliyahu Goldratt, known globally for his 'Theory of Constraints' developed and fine-tuned over three decades, has embarked on a mission to spread his message to Indian industry — and is apparently succeeding too. The Israeli management guru, who was in Chennai recently to conduct a workshop on his Viable Vision (VV) programme aimed at top representatives of companies potentially interested in taking up his "unrefusable" offer, finds increasing relevance of this unique strategy in particular to supply chain management...

The Times of India, 10 July 2006

India won't swap Arif for Sarabjit

New Delhi, July 9: The Indian government will not swap Sarabjit for Arif. According to senior Indian officials negotiating with Pakistan on prisoner exchange, such an exchange has not been contemplated by India and is unlikely to be. During the last round of talks between the home secretaries of India and Pakistan, Indian officials did raise the issue of Sarabjit, but only to tell the Pakistani side that he should be treated "compassionately"...

The Times of India, 10 July 2006

EU-India trade to get boost at Helsinki meet

Brussels/Helsinki, July 9: European Union officials are the first to admit that India has not occupied as much mindshare in Europe as it should have, and indeed far less than China. Trade figures are a good indicator of this disparity. Though the EU is India's largest trade partner, India is only EU's tenth largest partner. While EU-India trade amounts to 40 billion euros, EU's trade with China is around 200 billion euros. But that is likely to change in the coming months...

The Hindu, 11 July 2006

No change in talks format, says Pakistan

Islamabad, July 10: No changes were being contemplated in the format of the composite dialogue with India, the

Pakistan Foreign Ministry said here on Monday. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam denied a newspaper report that Pakistan would push for a change in the format, including a demand for regular interactions at the political level and for dropping some subjects from the process. The two sides agreed on eight subjects, including Kashmir, for talks in the composite dialogue process that began in 2004. The process completed its third round last month. The Foreign Secretaries are to review the third round later this month...

The Hindu, 11 July 2006

China-India trade to surpass target

New Delhi, July 10: China exudes confidence that the \$20 billion China-India trade target will be surpassed before 2008, thanks to the deepening trade and economic relations between the two countries. The deepening of bilateral trade and economic ties had helped increase the share in international trade, enhance the overall bilateral relationship and upgrade the living standards of the people, Zheng Quingdian, Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy here said on Monday...

The Hindu, 11 July 2006

Anti-dumping duty on Indian phenol

Beijing, July 10: China on Monday slapped a temporary anti-dumping duty of up to 20.38 per cent on the import of Nonyl Phenol from India as well as Taiwan...

The Hindu, 12 July 2006

World condemns blasts

Washington, July 11: The United States, Britain, Pakistan, Afghanistan and South Africa on Tuesday condemned the Mumbai bomb blasts, saying they were terrorist acts designed to strike at innocent people. "Today there were multiple terrorist attacks in India — in Srinagar and in Mumbai. We condemn these attacks in the strongest possible terms," U.S. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said...

The Hindu, 12 July 2006

India rebukes Pakistan on SAFTA

Islamabad, July 11: India on Tuesday used the SAARC Finance Ministers' meeting to deliver a sharp rebuke to Pakistan for refusing to extend the regional free trade agreement to it, and made a veiled criticism of Islamabad for not doing enough to curb terrorism. Minister of State for Finance Pawan Kumar Bansal said in his statement to the conference, called to discuss the setting up of a SAARC Development Fund, that India was "surprised" Pakistan would continue to trade with it under an existing positive list even after the coming into effect of the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement...

Hindustan Times, 12 July 2006

India will not be in nuclear club: Rice

Washington, July 11: The Bush administration is hard at work to win legislative approval for the Indo-US nuclear deal before the US Congress goes into summer recess on August 4. However, Washington and its three major western allies are against India's entry into the nuclear club as a weapon state...By requiring India to place two-thirds of its existing and planned civil nuclear reactors under the watchful eye of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), this initiative would be a net gain for the cause of non-proliferation worldwide...

The Times of India, 12 July 2006

'Developed countries must take initiative to push WTO talks'

New Delhi: India on Tuesday countered allegations that it was responsible for a collapse of the ministerial level meeting to put the stalled WTO talks back on track, with commerce and industry minister Kamal Nath saying that developed countries needed to take the initiative to move the talks forward. Making it clear that the onus was on developed countries to push the talks forward, Nath ruled out the possibility of India softening its stance to accommodate the demands of US for steep tariff reduction for farm products without adequate cut in agricultural subsidies...

The Hindu, 13 July 2006

'Pakistan must act against terror groups'

New Delhi: India on Wednesday called on Pakistan to take "urgent steps" to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, act resolutely against terrorist groups and uphold its commitment to end extremism as enshrined in the

January 6, 2004 joint press statement. A day after the Mumbai serial blasts, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman described as "appalling" remarks made by Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri that drew a link between the Mumbai attacks and non-resolution of disputes between India and Pakistan...

The Indian Express, 13 July 2006

US offers help in tracking terror agents

New York: As India started the hunt for the terrorists responsible for the series of bomb blasts in Mumbai and Kashmir on Tuesday, the US said it was with India in its war against terror. How much will India endure? Leaders and people from across political spectrum — President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, opposition leader Senator Hillary Clinton, a number of Congressmen and Indian Americans — were quick to not only condemn the blasts and express solidarity with the people of India, but also offered their unqualified support in war to defeat terror...

The Hindu, 14 July 2006

Manmohan to focus on terrorism

New Delhi, July 13: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will have discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, while a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush is also on the cards during Dr. Singh's July 16-18 visit to St. Petersburg for the G-8 summit. Top South Block officials said on Thursday that Dr. Singh, who would also meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel, is expected to raise the issue of terrorism in the wake of Tuesday's serial blasts in Mumbai. An interaction between Dr. Singh and Chinese President Hu Jintao is also likely...

The Indian Express, 14 July 2006

Belarus supports Shashi Tharoor for top UN job

Minsk, July 13: Belarus has extended its support to India's nominee for the post of United Nations Secretary General, Shashi Tharoor. The support for Tharoor's candidacy was conveyed by Belarus Prime Minister Sergei Sirdorsky to visiting Minister of State for Industry Ashwani Kumar. The writer-diplomat is among four Asian candidates who have so far registered with the UN for the candidacy...

The Hindu, 14 July 2006

Another round of BSF-BDR firing

Kolkata, July 13: Less than two weeks after a heavy exchange of fire between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) across the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, jawans of the two forces again exchanged fire in the Gaighata area of the district on Thursday...

Hindustan Times, 14 July 2006

India sends another Army battalion to Congo

New Delhi, July 13: India is beefing up its presence in the UN peacekeeping force in Congo with an additional 850 strong infantry battalion leaving Saturday for the restive Katanga province ahead of elections later this month... Battalion commanding officer Colonel Rajeev Malhotra expressed confidence that his troops would rise to the occasion...

Hindustan Times, 14 July 2006

ONGC loses Angolan bid to Chinese consortium

New Delhi, July 13: Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), India's largest oil producer, has lost out on a bid for an oil block in Angola to a Chinese-led consortium. The Indian firm offered 310-million dollar signature bonus for becoming a partner in Block 18 but its bid fell short of \$725 million offered by a 75/25 Sino-Angolan joint venture, Sonangol-Sinopec International (SSI), industry sources said...

The Hindu, 15 July 2006

Baseless charges, says Pak.

Islamabad, July 14: Pakistan on Friday described as "unsubstantiated allegations" Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's comment that the Mumbai bombers had received assistance from "across the border", reaffirmed President Pervez Musharraf's offer of help with the investigation, and said the peace process must continue in the interests of both countries. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the "allegations are altogether unsubstantiated and we have already rejected them."...

The Hindu, 16 July 2006

India to turn world focus to terrorism emanating from Pak

St Petersburg, July 15: Using the platform of the G-8 Summit, India will seek to turn the focus of the international community to terrorism emanating from Pakistan and emphasise the need for adopting "zero tolerance" towards the scourge anywhere in the world. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is participating in the Summit of the world's most developed countries in the backdrop of the deadly serial blasts in Mumbai, will impress upon the international community to shed its segmental approach while dealing with terrorism and isolate terrorists "whatever their cause" and "whichever country" provides sustenance to them...

The Hindu, 16 July 2006

India, Singapore to enhance air connectivity

Singapore: India and Singapore have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance air connectivity. The unresolved issue of "fifth freedom" will be taken up later. Civil Aviation Secretary Ajay Prasad said, "We have got very good fifth freedom rights out of China." India now had "a fairly liberal tie-up" with Thailand, too, in this domain...

Hindustan Times, 16 July 2006

Iran rejects Indian price for tripartite gas pipeline

New Delhi, July 15: Iran has rejected India's demand for a price equivalent to international long-term gas supply contracts for the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline gas saying New Delhi should forget about buying Iranian gas at a low price. Tehran is seeking at least 7.2 dollars per mBtu price for gas it wants to sell to India and Pakistan through the over 7 billion dollar pipeline while New Delhi is willing to pay no more than 4.2 dollars per mBtu for gas delivered at its border...

The Economic Times, 16 July 2006

India not for a hasty trade deal with Japan

New Delhi: India isn't likely to opt for a fast-track negotiation process to clinch a comprehensive trade deal with Japan. Though the Japanese side insists that trade negotiation should formally be launched during Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's meeting with Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the G8 meet at St Petersburg on July 17, India has serious reservations on a speedy negotiation process. Congress president Sonia Gandhi recently expressed concerns about the opening up of the country's agriculture sector, and asked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to "very carefully scrutinise" India-ASEAN FTA. Analysts feel that the direction may affect speedy conclusion of trade pacts with Japan and Korea as well...

The Hindu, 17 July 2006

India among most preferred private banking destinations — KPMG report

Mumbai, July 14: India is one of the most preferred private banking destinations as its economy is not only growing at 8 per cent annually, but is also going through a transformation to the next level of maturity. This enables double digit returns on most asset classes which is not the case in a majority of countries, according to Abizer Diwanji, Head, Transaction Services, KPMG India...

Hindustan Times, 17 July 2006

PM to seek cohesive action to combat global terrorism

New Delhi, July 14: With images of horror and anguish from Mumbai a blast weighing heavily, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is expected to ask leaders of the G8 countries to come out with "cohesive" action and a "credible strategy" to effectively combat global terrorism. Singh, who leaves for St Petersburg on Sunday on a three day visit for the G8 Summit, would also seek to leverage mounting international outrage to compel Pakistan to honour its commitment to end terrorism and violence directed against India...

Hindustan Times, 17 July 2006

Blasts fallout: Indo-Pak secy-level talks deferred

New Delhi, July 14: The Indo-Pak foreign secretary level talks are the latest casualty of Tuesday's serial blasts. India has called off the talks that were to be held here next week, top government sources said. Reflecting New Delhi's mood, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said that "unsettling events" had taken place. "Cooperation is a two-way street. No cooperation can be one-sided... India will do what it has to do," he said...

The Hindu, 17 July 2006

India for friendship but Pakistan must deliver on commitments, asserts Manmohan

St. Petersburg, July 16: While energy security, education, and health are the three major themes of the G8 Summit taking place in St. Petersburg, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh sees it also as "an opportunity... to sensitise world leaders to our concerns, particularly with regard to terrorism," aided and abetted from across the border. With the murderous bombings in Mumbai and Jammu & Kashmir underlining the fact that "terrorism continues to be a major concern of India," he will ask world leaders to share this concern "because terrorism anywhere and everywhere constitutes a threat to civilised ways of living" and "no cause is great enough to justify recourse to the killing of innocent men, women, and children."...

The Hindu, 17 July 2006

India to raise `concerns over certain aspects' of nuclear deal

St. Petersburg, July 16: When Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets President George Bush on Monday morning in St. Petersburg, he will take up his Government's "concerns about certain aspects" of the legislation in the U. S. Congress relating to the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal that is supposed to grant "permanent waiver" to India. The concerns he will raise have "already been conveyed to the United States Government at all levels," Dr. Singh told Indian journalists on board the Air India flight taking him and his delegation to the G8 Summit...

The Indian Express, 17 July 2006

G-8 endorses nuclear cooperation with India

St. Petersburg, July 16: Eight years after condemning India's nuclear tests, the Group of Eight industrial countries today broadly endorsed the nuclear deal between New Delhi and Washington. Ahead of N-vote, Burns, Saran meet in Paris. This historic reversal underlines India's changing nuclear status in the world after the nuclear agreement signed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W. Bush last year...

The Hindu, 18 July 2006

India, Bangladesh officials to visit disputed enclaves

Dhaka, July 17: Bangladeshi and Indian officials will at an early date pay a joint visit to the enclaves and territories under dispute between the two neighbours, seeking a solution to the boundary problems that date back to Partition in 1947. The decision came from the 3rd meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) that ended here on Monday — both sides agreeing to accelerate the process of resolving the longstanding issues...

The Hindu, 18 July 2006

"Give evidence"

Islamabad, July 17: Pakistan on Monday described the postponement of the foreign secretary talks as a "negative development" for the peace process between India and Pakistan and said the efforts to combat terrorism and the peace process could not be viewed in a "sequential" way. Making a rare appearance before the media, Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammed Khan said at a news conference that Pakistan hoped there would be a resumption of the process soon, although India had given no timeframe for rescheduling the postponed meeting...

The Times of India, 18 July 2006

India, other nations urge removal of trade barriers

ST Petersburg, July 17: Voicing serious concern at rising protectionism in developed countries, India and four other countries attending outreach meeting of the G-8 (group of eight) made a strong pitch for eliminating subsidies, high tariffs and other trade barriers generating distortions in the world agricultural market. The Doha round is the best chance to open world markets, level the playing field, share wealth and create jobs, the outreach countries comprising India, China, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico said in a "position paper" to the G-8 summit...

The Indian Express, 18 July 2006

Indian diplomacy at G-8: How to play all sides

St. Petersburg: For Indian diplomacy, today was the one to play all sides. While the squabbles among the major powers have come out into the open at the G-8 summit here, India is in a happy situation where it can move forward with every one of them. India's art of diplomatic finesse was its finest. At one moment it was about building a 'natural alliance' with the United States. And in the next, the first ever trilateral summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao, the focus was on building a "multi polar world"...

The Hindu, 19 July 2006

4 ships headed for Lebanon

New Delhi, July 18: The Government has sent four naval ships to Lebanon for evacuating Indians from the country, where the Hizbollah militant groups are under Israeli attack. The ships will be in the vicinity of the Lebanon coast on Wednesday. In view of the naval blockade by Israel, the Government is in touch with Tel Aviv to ensure safe passage to Indian citizens in the event of the situation deteriorating further...

The Hindu, 19 July 2006

Manmohan has 'not lost hope' about Doha Round

New Delhi, July 18: Fresh from his discussions at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh provided a cautiously optimistic insight into the prospects of the deadlocked WTO negotiations. He was addressing a press conference on the return flight to Delhi on Tuesday...

The Times of India, 19 July 2006

Forget Kargil, Siachen: Kasuri tells India

Islamabad, July 18: India and Pakistan should "forget" Siachen and Kargil if they wish to move forward in improving relations, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Wednesday. Likening India's hold over Siachen heights to the 1999 Kargil operations by Pakistan, Kasuri said: "If India talks about Kargil, Pakistan will talk about Siachen. The story then will be unending. So let us not always try and go back into history"...

The Hindu, 19 July 2006

India surging ahead in FBR technology

Chennai, July 18: The "Hanuman jump" that the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) undertook in stepping up from the 13 MWe Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) to the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) which is under construction at Kalpakkam, near Chennai, "is a bold one," Georges Vendryes, honorary executive vice-president, French Atomic Energy Commission, has said. Dr. Vendryes, who was the guest of honour at a function to celebrate 20 years of successful operation of the FBTR, said he had no doubt about India's capability in taking up this "daring challenge," considering the experience of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in building and operating the FBTR...

The Hindu, 20 July 2006

Bush supports Indo-US nuclear deal: White House

Washington, July 19: The U.S. President George W Bush supports the Indo-US civilian nuclear energy agreement and he has made his views known both to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and to members of Congress, the White House said yesterday. The question now is how the issue proceeds in the Congress and in the context of "overwhelming" support at the Committees-level in the House and in the Senate, it said...

Hindustan Times, 20 July 2006

Indian warships sail into Beirut harbour to evacuate Indians

New Delhi, July 19: Joining the surge of foreigners fleeing war-torn Lebanon, thousands of Indians living in that country, on Wednesday gathered at Beirut jetty as four Indian warships sailed into the harbour to evacuate them to safety. Over 1,000 Indians assembled at the jetty as Israeli operations against Hezbollah militia intensified in Lebanon...

The Hindu, 20 July 2006

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/07/20/stories/2006072013120100.htm>

New Delhi, July 19: In a sudden development, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, who was to arrive here on Wednesday morning, has put off his visit due to the West Asia crisis. A statement from the External Affairs Ministry said the Iranian Government had informed New Delhi about the change in Mr. Mottaki's schedule and "proposed that the visit will be rescheduled for other, mutually convenient dates."...

Hindustan Times, 20 July 2006

US lawmakers of all hues throw weight behind N-deal

Washington, July 19: Over 100 US lawmakers from both sides of the political divide came together at a dinner to mark the first anniversary of the historic accord on India-US nuclear cooperation to signify bipartisan support for

the deal. One after another, garlanded senators and representatives came up to voice support for the enabling legislation, expected to come up for vote in both houses of US Congress next week, at the gala dinner hosted on Tuesday by the Indian American Friendship Council on Capitol Hill...

The Hindu, 21 July 2006

Musharraf tells India: give us proof, we will help

Islamabad, July 20: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on Thursday reached out to the families of the Mumbai blast victims, said Pakistan stood united in strongly condemning the terrorist attack, and reiterated his Government's offer of cooperation in the investigations if New Delhi provided evidence. He appealed to New Delhi not to make unsubstantiated allegations, as this would give the terrorists the victory they were seeking...

The Hindu, 21 July 2006

Evacuation of Indians from Lebanon on course

Dubai, July 20: The evacuation of stranded Indians in Lebanon began on schedule on Thursday, with more than 500 boarding the Indian warship INS Mumbai at Beirut harbour. By late afternoon on Thursday, 330 persons were on the ship and around 200 were waiting to board, Indian ambassador to Lebanon, Nengcha Lhouvum, who was at the jetty to supervise operations, told The Hindu over telephone from Beirut. The ship is heading for Larnaca in Cyprus, where an "air bridge" is being established. Air India is slated to pick up the first lot of evacuees on Friday forenoon...

Hindustan Times, 21 July 2006

Kenyan Police claim arrest of Mumbai blast suspect

Mombasa, Kenya, July 20: Kenyan Police claim to have arrested one of India's most-wanted terror suspects — Abdul Karim Tunda — supposedly belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba group. The Lashkar group is suspected to have been involved in the Mumbai train blasts. HindustanTimes.com had reported on July 18 that the Mumbai blasts bore the imprint of the Tunda faction's modus operandi...

The Times of India, 22 July 2006

Confusion over reported arrest of Tunda

New Delhi, July 21: Confusion prevailed on Saturday over the reported arrest of top terror suspect Syed Abdul Karim alias Tunda belonging to the Lashker-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based outfit believed to be behind the July 11 blasts in Mumbai. Tunda, wanted in India for the 1997-98 serial bomb blasts in Delhi, Ajmer and Mumbai, was said to have been detained in Mombasa by Kenyan police...

The Hindu, 22 July 2006

We must move towards resolving Kashmir: Aziz

Islamabad, July 21: Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said India and Pakistan must move beyond simple confidence-building measures to "substantive dispute resolution" of the Kashmir issue to achieve "sustainable peace" in South Asia. "India, Pakistan and the Kashmiri people must show courage, leadership, magnanimity, flexibility and a passion for peace in order to find a credible and lasting solution to the question of Jammu and Kashmir," he told a news conference at the U.N. Headquarters in New York on Friday/Saturday...

The Times of India, 22 July 2006

India won't change stand on Palestine

Hyderabad, July 21: India continues to support the "fair and just" cause of Palestinians and there is no change in its stand on the demand for a separate state of Palestine, said Urban Development Minister S. Jaipal Reddy on Saturday. Condemning Israel's attacks both in the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon, Reddy assured Palestine's ambassador to India Osama Musa that the country would do everything in its power to uphold the cause of the oppressed...

The Hindu, 23 July 2006

'Tunda' disappears

New Delhi, July 22: Less than 24 hours after police in Kenya announced the capture of top Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Syed Abdul Karim 'Tunda,' a deep haze has descended on what experts described as the most significant breakthrough for Indian counter-terrorism efforts in years. A spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs told The Hindu that Kenyan authorities had verbally notified India's High Commission in Nairobi that the individual

arrested on Friday was not Karim, but a Nigerian national with a similar name...

The Times of India, 23 July 2006

RIL first Indian firm to get UN approval for CSR

New Delhi, July 22: Corporate giant Reliance Industries has earned the distinction of becoming the first Indian oil and gas company to get a recognition from the UN Environmental Programme for Corporate Sustainability Report (CSR). The recognition in the form of "In Accordance" status from the Global Reporting Initiative, a collaborating centre for UNEP, is for the maiden report of the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance group's flagship company highlighting financial performance to social and civic responsibilities...

The Hindu, 23 July 2006

Kasuri: organisations within India to blame

New Delhi, July 22: Turning the tables on India, Pakistan has accused "organisations within India" of engineering the Mumbai bomb blasts and trashed New Delhi's charges that Islamabad had failed to fulfil its January 6, 2004, commitments. Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, in an interview, described India's allegations about Pakistan's involvement in the July 11 bomb explosions as an attempt to "distort and mislead" the investigations. He dismissed New Delhi's charges that Islamabad had failed to fulfil its January 6, 2004, commitment to ensure that no part of Pakistan territory was used to inflict terror on India...

The Times of India, 23 July 2006

Trouble in implementing IPI gas deal: Iran

New Delhi, July 22: Pressing for re-negotiating the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline agreement in view of "changing circumstances", Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Sunday said that there were "some specific difficulties" to implement the project. "I think now both sides understand that it is a little bit complicated because of the changing circumstances from the time when the contract and the agreement was signed," Mottaki said in an interview in Tehran...

The Hindu, 24 July 2006

Second phase of evacuation from Lebanon begins

Dubai, July 23: The second phase of evacuation of Indians from Lebanon began on Sunday with INS Mumbai carrying 444 people to Larnaca, Cyprus, from the Beirut port. It left at 4 p.m. IST. INS Mumbai was making the second trip to Beirut. It carried over 600 evacuees to Larnaca on Friday. Over 400 people boarded INS Brahmaputra at the Beirut harbour and it headed for Larnaca at 9.30 p.m. IST...

Hindustan Times, 24 July 2006

Nuke deal goes before US House

Washington, July 23: The stage is set for the first floor debate and vote on the Indo-US nuclear deal in the US Congress this week. In preparation, the chiefs of the House and Senate panels -- which had passed their respective bills with an overwhelming majority -- have reported the bills to the two chambers. But even as the deal is called a major diplomatic initiative of the Bush administration, concerns have been raised on Capitol Hill about India's breeder-reactor programme...

The Hindu, 24 July 2006

Pakistan trade team puts off visit

Islamabad, July 23: A trade delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has put off a visit to India in view of the cloud in relations following the Mumbai blasts, a delegation member said. The 100-member delegation was due to enter through the Wagah border on July 31 for a five-day visit to India, including stopovers in Chandigarh, Shimla and New Delhi...

The Times of India, 24 July 2006

Now, India a hub for design outsourcing

New Delhi, July 23: In a small basement office in south Delhi, some 20 designers are busy sketching the outlines of new product lines for global giants the likes of Whirlpool and Reckitt Benckiser and, in the process, redesigning the face of outsourcing in India. Offshoring of jobs to India which started off with call-centres and back-office jobs like accounting has today spread to include high-end product design work and even packaging and graphic designs. As manufacturers look at reducing costs and product development cycles, India is fast emerging as the new-age design

board for MNCs...

The Hindu, 25 July 2006

Tharoor, Moon emerge top contenders in UN straw poll

United Nations, July 24: India's nominee for the post of UN Secretary-General, Shashi Tharoor, and South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki Moon have emerged key contenders among the four declared candidates for the top post in the first informal poll held by the 15-member Security Council. While Tharoor got second highest endorsements after Moon in the straw poll held last night, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai and Sri Lankan Jayantha Dhanapala got third and fourth places in the poll, diplomats said...

The Hindu, 25 July 2006

India signs suppression of nuke terror treaty

United Nations, July 24: India has signed an international convention requiring States to make punishable as serious offence under their domestic law, terrorist acts involving use of nuclear material. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, initially proposed by the Russian Federation, was adopted by the UN General Assembly on April 13, 2005 by a consensus and was opened for signature at the UN Headquarters from September 14, 2005...

The Indian Express, 25 July 2006

Pak's nuclear expansion won't derail N-deal with India, assures US

Washington, July 24: Pakistan is building a new nuclear reactor that could produce enough plutonium for 40 to 50 nuclear weapons a year in what would be a major expansion of its nuclear program and could prompt an intensified arms race in South Asia, a report said Monday. But US officials and Congressional aides, who confirmed the Pakistani plan, said it was unlikely to derail a nuclear cooperation accord with India or the sale of US-made F-16 jets to Islamabad...

Hindustan Times, 25 July 2006

Japan urges India to play 'influential role' in Sri Lanka

Tokyo, July 24: Japan's special envoy to Sri Lanka, Yasushi Akashi, has urged India to play a "more influential role" in the island nation's tottering peace process. In an interview at his office in Tokyo, Akashi said he attached "great importance for the role India does play and can play in the future" in Sri Lanka, where a Norwegian-sponsored peace mission has run into rough weather...

The Times of India, 25 July 2006

'US was unwilling to move, so talks failed'

New Delhi, July 24: Unlike the Uruguay Round of trade liberalisation where the Quad countries (US, European Union, Canada and Japan) played on the division in the poor country ranks to walk away with all the benefits, the Doha round has seen the balance tilting towards the developing countries, with even Europe shifting its loyalties. And India has been at the centre of the coalition building efforts which has ensured that the developed countries can no longer dish out small concessions for taking support. The spirit was visible at the G-6 meeting in Geneva, where India and Brazil representing the developing world refused to budge...

The Hindu, 26 July 2006

300 more Indians to be evacuated from Lebanon today

New Delhi, July 25: After evacuating 1496 Indians and nationals of some other countries from Lebanon in two batches, the Navy will pull out about 300 more people today from the trouble-torn country facing a war with Israel. One of the four Indian Naval warships, on a stand-by off the Beirut coast, will enter the harbour of the Lebanese capital today to ferry the 300 Indians to Larnaca in Cyprus. They will be airlifted from India from Larnaca on Thursday, External Affairs Ministry spokesman, Navtej Sarna, told reporters here on Tuesday...

The Hindu, 26 July 2006

India blames U.S. for failure of WTO talks

New Delhi, July 25: India has blamed the United States for the failure of World Trade Organisation talks in Geneva, while seeking an end to "structural flaws" in the global trading system especially in agriculture. Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said the Doha round must be based on enhancing the economies and increasing the trade flows of developing countries...

The Hindu, 26 July 2006

Moon, Tharoor top contenders

United Nations: India's nominee for the post of U.N. Secretary-General Shashi Tharoor and South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki Moon have emerged key contenders among the four declared candidates for the top post in the first informal poll held by the 15-member Security Council. While Mr. Tharoor got second highest endorsements after Mr. Moon in the straw poll held on Monday night, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai and Sri Lankan Jayantha Dhanapala got third and fourth places, diplomats said...

The Economic Times, 26 July 2006

India-Bangla border trade to come down

Kolkata: Indo-Bangla trade, valued at Rs 6,000 crore per year, will dwindle through the Petrapole-Benapole border check point since the government has made it mandatory for truckers driving into Benapole in Bangladesh to hold passports and visas. The district magistrate of North-24 Parganas in West Bengal has recently issued an order to this effect. Truckers will have to obtain these by 30th September 2006. If they do not have proper documents, they will be denied entry into Bangladesh from January 2007...

The Hindu, 27 July 2006

House lawmakers vote in favour of Indo-US nuclear deal

Washington, July 26: The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to allow U.S. shipments of civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India, handing President George W. Bush a major victory on one of his top foreign policy initiatives. Congressman Tom Lantos said the proposal, which reverses decades of U.S. anti-proliferation policy, is "a tidal shift in relations between India and the United States."...

The Indian Express, 27 July 2006

It's not about Pakistan's reactor but US reaction- Editorial

There's no race to speak of between India and Pakistan in their capabilities to produce fissile material. The report released by a think tank in the US on Monday that Pakistan is building a new reactor was probably news only to the legislatures and the public of the three countries most immediately affected by the news: Pakistan, India and the US. The three governments were no doubt aware of the construction; subsequently the US government acknowledged that it was aware of the construction and a Pakistani spokesperson said that India too was aware of it. Pakistan's N-capabilities questioned; RS adjourned as Pranab walks out. No hot pursuit into Pak, says Musharraf. Terror: India disappointed with Musharraf statement. No dearth of evidence. Pak 'cracks down', infiltration figures speak otherwise...

The Hindu, 27 July 2006

Pakistan warns against "hot pursuit"

Islamabad, July 26: The war of words between India and Pakistan continues with President Pervez Musharraf warning that "hot pursuit" in Pakistan would be "paid back in the same coin". The President, on a visit to Karachi, reiterated his offer of co-operation in the Mumbai blasts probe but warned against any "punitive action" by India. India last week rejected his offer and instead demanded that Pakistan hand over Mumbai underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin...

The Times of India, 27 July 2006

LEADER ARTICLE: Growing Gap

India and China embarked upon somewhat different courses of development at roughly the same time. Comparisons between the two countries, their achievements so far and their prospects for the future are inevitable. They are the two most populous countries in the world, and they are also neighbours. As latecomers on the road to development, they have had to confront similar problems, but have adopted different strategies...

The Hindu, 28 July 2006

Manmohan's move to avert ASEAN crisis

Singapore, July 27: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is writing to Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to reaffirm India's commitment to carry forward the sensitive trade parleys with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The move is intended to avert a looming crisis in the process that has run into turbulence over the reported remarks of Malaysian Trade Minister that ASEAN is suspending the talks due to

India's alleged intransigence.

The Times of India, 28 July 2006

Indian Navy evacuates 1,869 from Lebanon

New Delhi, July 27: The Indian Navy has so far evacuated 1,869 people, including 1,686 Indians, from war-torn Lebanon and is standing by in case it is required to undertake more rescue missions. Of the 1,869 people transported from Beirut to Larnaca in Cyprus on three navy warships, 112 were Sri Lankans, 64 Nepalis and seven Lebanese with Indian spouses, navy spokesman Captain Vinay Garg said on Friday...

The Hindu, 28 July 2006

Export target raised

New Delhi, July 27: The Central Government has urged exporters to aim at a target of \$125 billion for the current fiscal, which would mean nearly doubling of the country's merchandise exports over three years. Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath assured exporters all support to enable them to cross the official target of \$120 billion set for 2006-07, which envisages a growth of 16.8 per cent. Presiding over a review meeting with export promotion councils and commodity boards here on Thursday, he said the sustained over 20 per cent export growth witnessed in the last few years had made him confident that \$150 billion of exports would be achieved well before the target date of 2009...

Hindustan Times, 28 July 2006

US to impose curbs on two Indian firms for Iran links

Washington, July 27: The Bush administration has decided to impose sanctions on two Indian firms for missile-related transactions with Iran, US officials said on Thursday. The disclosure came hours after the US House of Representatives late Wednesday overwhelmingly agreed the United States should sell nuclear technology to India and rejected a move by critics to delay the vote over concerns New Delhi had not sufficiently aided US efforts to contain Iran.