

The Nation, 1 July 2006

### **No longer the favourite**

Pakistan's military regime might take comfort in the Bush administration's support for reinstating the 300 million dollars in US aid cut by the American Congress due to Pakistan's inadequate efforts for establishing democracy and respecting human rights. But the very fact that the House of Representatives voted to cut aid by a 373-34 vote and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke of the importance of free and fair elections during her recent visit to Pakistan indicates that the phase of unquestioning support for General Musharraf in Washington is now over. Foreign aid appropriations are often the major foreign policy lever available to the American government's legislative branch. Under the US constitution, US Congress is a co-equal branch of government along with the executive, headed by the President, and the judiciary. Unlike Pakistan where almost all power is concentrated in the hands of the country's Chief Executive, who is a uniformed army chief and president, the US system recognises multiple power centers. While making foreign policy is the prerogative of the US president, budget-making falls within the purview of the Congress. Quite often, Congress draws attention to what it considers as lapses of judgement by the president and his foreign policy team by using its power of the purse.

The Tribune, 2 July 2006

### **F-16 deal will not reduce India's advantage: US**

Washington, July 1: The US Defence Department has assured the Congress that the weapon systems requested by Pakistan for F-16 fighter jets would not reduce India's quantitative or qualitative military advantage as the capability already exists in the region. Notifying the Congress about the kind of weapons Pakistan has requested for the jets, it said: "Purchase of these weapons systems would not significantly reduce India's quantitative or qualitative military advantage." "Release of the weapon systems will neither affect the regional balance of power nor introduce a new technology, as this level of capability or higher already exists in other countries in the region," the Pentagon said. The Bush administration has approved the sale of 18 new F-16 fighter jets with an option of offering 18 more to Pakistan.

The Indian Express, 2 July 2006

### **Hillary for Indo-US nuke deal**

WASHINGTON D C, JULY 1: Senator Hillary Clinton has come out in open support of the civilian Indo-US nuclear deal. A Democratic presidential aspirant, Hillary had so far kept quite on the issue, despite attending several reception hosted by her Indian American friends in support of the deal. "I intend to vote in support of this legislation," Hillary said in a statement after the Senate voted 16-2 in favour of the bill. An open statement of support from Hillary, political observers here say, has boosted India's chances in the Senate. The legislation approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is an improvement over the proposal by the Bush administration, which Hillary said sought to "undercut" Congressional authority by asking them to approve an agreement even before it had been negotiated with India, and before India reached its nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA. She said it retains Congressional prerogatives and also ensures that the Congress will not have to vote to approve a final agreement until every nation in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) agreed to permit the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology.

Hindustan Times, 3 July 2006

### **US House panel to review F-16 offer to Pakistan**

Washington, July 1: A key panel of the US Congress, which earlier this week approved the India-US nuclear deal, has been called to meet again on July 13 to discuss the Bush Administration's proposal to sell F-16 aircraft and weapons systems to Pakistan. The Republican chairman of the US House of Representatives' Committee on International Relations, Henry Hyde, on Friday called the meeting after the administration notified Congress about the proposed sale bid apparently to placate a miffed Pakistan. There was no word as yet about a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which too has endorsed the India-US agreement, to review the F-16 deal. Usually Congress gets 30 days to review such offers. The deal goes ahead if Congress does not move to block it. Washington's key negotiator on the India-US nuclear deal, Nick Burns, under secretary for political affairs, has been listed as a witness at the House panel's meeting. A few more witnesses are likely to be added. The \$5 billion weapons package deal for Pakistan awaiting Congress approval, includes sale of 18 new fighter jets with an option to buy another 18, and an offer to upgrade its existing fleet of 34 old model F-16s, manufactured by US aerospace company Lockheed Martin.

The Tribune, 3 July 2006

## **F-16s for Pakistan**

Whatever the US explanation, the sale of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan makes one believe that the Americans say something and do something else, at least in the India-Pakistan context. The Bush administration has been asserting after the signing of the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal that India and Pakistan are placed in different situations and have different requirements. It has also been pointed out occasionally that the days of hyphenated relationships are over. But now comes the announcement from Washington offering a liberal package of F-16s to its 'key ally' in the fight against global terrorism. This is besides the \$370-million arms package '- sale of Harpoon anti-ship missiles and other weapon systems '- to Pakistan for which the Pentagon Defense Security Cooperation Agency had notified to the US Congress in June last. Obviously, these are aimed at cooling the frayed tempers in Islamabad. This 'significant upgrade to Pakistan's existing systems' will obviously bolster the morale of the Pervez Musharraf regime, which has been throttling democracy on different pretexts. Is this what the US wants? The US is rewarding a regime which has delivered very little in the fight against terrorism. The Taliban remnants, a major destabilising factor in Afghanistan, giving sleepless nights to the US forces there, continue to get training in Pakistan. The US should review the F-16 sale to Pakistan in the interest of its own credibility as also peace and stability in South Asia.

The Hindu, 4 July 2006

### **F-16 sale, a commitment towards long-term ties with Pak.: US**

Washington, July 4 (PTI): Acknowledging Pakistan as a "major non-NATO ally," the Bush administration has said that the proposed sale of F-16 fighter jets to Islamabad demonstrates the United States' commitment to a "long-term relationship" with that country. "Pakistan is a major non-NATO ally, which has cooperated closely with us in the global war on terror. This proposed sale demonstrates our commitment to a long-term relationship with Pakistan," White House Spokesman, Tony Snow, told reporters on Monday. The proposed package is valued at approximately \$ 5 billion, he said adding, that the Bush administration has been consulting Congress on the sale since last year. The White House has also confirmed the specifics of the sale which were sent up to Congress by the Pentagon and the State Department last week. "The proposed sale includes 18 new F-16 aircraft with an option to purchase another 18 new aircraft, a support package for up to 26 used F-16s, a munitions package, an upgrade package for Pakistan's current fleet of 34 F-16s, and logistical support" the spokesman said.

The Hindu, 4 July 2006

### **F-16s for Pakistan: New Delhi unhappy**

New Delhi: India said on Monday the decision of the United States to sell 18 F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan was "not conducive" to the improvement of ties between New Delhi and Islamabad. India pointed out that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had during his meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush expressed "disappointment" over such a move. "This step is not conducive to improving ties between India and Pakistan," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters here when referred to the Bush administration's approval of the sale of 18 new F-16s with an option of offering 18 more to Islamabad as part of a \$5 billion weapons deal. Mr. Sarna said this issue had been a subject of discussions between India and the U.S. and New Delhi was reiterating its position on the matter.

Hindustan Times, 4 July 2006

### **RSS gushes over N-deal**

New Delhi, July 3: Differing radically from the BJP's stand on the Indo-US nuclear deal, RSS publication Organiser has expressed the view that the deal has presented India with a "new opportunity" and a stepping stone for entry into the big league. "The other option for India was to continue with isolation and perpetually be in competition with Pakistan," said the weekly, generally perceived to be the Sangh mouthpiece, in an editorial titled 'The N-deal debate'. The editorial was critical of decades of non-alignment and Commonwealth obsessions that had not yielded India much global significance. "Today India is entering a big league. If President Bush, whose domestic rating was rock bottom, is using the Indo-US deal as the most important foreign policy success and has managed to garner support from the sceptical Democrats because they did not want to be seen as voting against India, it only proves India's growth as a world power. This should make India proud," it stated.

The Hindu, 5 July 2006

### **F-16s a legitimate requirement: Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Monday that the new F-16 fighters that it intended to buy from the United States after the deal was approved by the U.S. Congress were a "legitimate defence requirement." Foreign Ministry

spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said at a briefing that Pakistan had received assurances from the U.S. leadership and the State Department that they were committed to the deal. "It is very clear that there is a consensus that it is a legitimate defence requirement. The administration has notified Congress, which needs a 30-day period. We are sure the deal will go through and be approved. We understand that the public hearing has been approved. We do not think there will be any negation of this deal," she said. In its June 28 notice to the Congress about the intended sale, made public on Monday, the Pentagon Defence Security Cooperation Agency said Pakistan would use the new F-16s to provide close air support to the U.S in the "war on terror." Addressing troops in the so-called Northern Areas, President Pervez Musharraf said Pakistan had strategised its defence requirements for the next 15 years and pledged to make the defence of the country impregnable. The state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported that Gen. Musharraf said a strong defence capability was a guarantee for strength and security.

Hindustan Times, 6 July 2006

### **Indo-Pak dialogue to figure in Kasuri's US visit**

Washington: A range of issues including the status of the ongoing Indo-Pak dialogue will be discussed when Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid M Kasuri pays a three-day visit to the US capital starting July 9. The Pakistani Foreign Minister will also raise the issue of a nuclear deal with his country similar to the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement. Kasuri's visit follows the recent trip made to Pakistan by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the Bush Administration's formal notification to Congress of a proposed F-16s package for that country totalling US \$5 billion and including new planes, refurbishments to existing ones and munitions. He is expected to meet top administration officials at various departments and will be interacting at leading think tanks and on Capitol Hill. Kasuri will be addressing the Carnegie Endowment on July 11. The basic thrust of the talks are expected to be on Pak-US relations which became especially significant in the aftermath of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 and the Bush Administration classifying Islamabad as a major partner in the global war on terror. In recent weeks Washington has also been quite apprehensive at the state of Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship and has been trying to soothe the ruffled feathers on both sides of the border. The situation in Afghanistan is likely to be raised when Kasuri meets Rice next Monday.

Deccan Herald, 7 July 2006

### **Hobson's choice for Pak**

US Secretary of State suddenly appeared in Islamabad on June 27 on her way to Kabul. It was several days ago. But its impact continues to be discussed. She was here in Islamabad only in March along with President George W Bush. US Secretaries of State do not travel to countries like Pakistan so many times in a year. The visit's context and purpose is anyhow significant. Obvious context was Afghanistan. NATO military commanders, Americans and Afghan President have long complained that Pakistan is not stopping the Taliban, who, having regrouped and re-equipped inside Pakistan with official assistance, are raiding Afghanistan. Taliban's recent offensive is notably large in size. Both sides have suffered heavy casualties. Even so the casualties of the newly created Afghan Army may prove crippling. Pakistan has been under this pressure for long to be more cooperative with Afghans and NATO forces. What Pakistan can do on the subject is not obvious. After all the Taliban are rising like a political Tsunami in the tribal areas of NWFP and parts of Balochistan. The governments of the two provinces largely comprise religious clerics that were Taliban's progenitors. Under their benign neglect, if not support, the Taliban have prospered and expanded their activities in areas that abut on Afghanistan.

The News, 7 July 2006

### **Pakistan to receive F-16 fighters in next two years: Durrani**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan envoy in United States Mehmood Durrani has said Pakistan will start to receive US F-16 fighter jets delivery within next two years. Pakistan would also get other weapon systems, ships and defence equipment from United States, talking with Geo News Pakistan ambassador said on Friday. He termed a meeting between Pakistani and US energy officials encouraging for boosting bilateral cooperation in the energy sector. He said it was his foremost priority as Pakistan envoy to play key role in strengthening relations with the United States.

The Asian Age, 8 July 2006

### **Misleading India on nuclear deal**

It is not easy to fight the combined strength of the lobbyists for the United States in this country and the Prime Minister and the PMO. With vast resources at their disposal, it is easy for them to turn night into day and vice versa. Ever since the relevant Committees of the two Houses of the US Congress adopted the Waiver Bills to enable

the US to conclude a bilateral agreement with India to give effect to the nuclear deal, these lobbyists and the PMO have gone into an overdrive to convince the people of India that this is the best thing that ever happened in India's history, and there is nothing more for us to do except to stand up and cheer. They have dismissed the concerns expressed by eminent scientists, defence analysts and some of us in politics, as foolish, misguided, mischievous or at best, born out of complete ignorance. Let me try and put the record straight once again. The spokesmen of the government of India, including the foreign secretary, have repeatedly told us that the Indo-US nuclear deal is all about nuclear energy and not at all about non-proliferation.

Daily Times, 8 July 2006

### **Karzai must stop rapping US allies**

MULTAN: The United States ambassador to Pakistan on Friday applauded Pakistan's 'commendable' role in the war on terror, while warning Afghan President Hamid Karzai against criticising US allies committed to fighting extremism. Talking to journalists after formally signing into effect the English Access Microscholarship Programme, a project of the US State Department's Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), Ambassador Ryan C Crocker noted that many Pakistani troops, especially those stationed along the Pak-Afghan border, had sacrificed their lives to combat terrorism. Stressing that Islamabad's commitment to fighting extremism had never been in question, Crocker said that Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US were all allies in the war on terror. On democracy in Pakistan, the US ambassador said that Washington was committed to democracy promotion around the world, including Pakistan. He said the US appreciated that democracy was taking positive root in Pakistan, adding that it was up to the people of Pakistan to work hard to ensure its sustainability.

The Tribune, 9 July 2006

### **USA increases visas for Pak students**

Islamabad, July 8: Visas for Pakistani students interested in studying in the USA have increased by 20 per cent this year compared to the same period last year. "The issuance of student visas to Pakistanis are up by almost 20 per cent over the same period last year," US Ambassador to Pakistan Royan C. Crocker said. The increase was due to steps taken by the US Embassy, which included removal of the necessity for making appointments, issuance of visas within six weeks and promotional activities like education fairs, Mr Crocker said in a letter addressed to the Pakistani students, which was published in the media here today. "The bottom line is that serious students, who have done their homework on selecting a US university, and who follow the visa application procedures set out on our Embassy website, have every reason to expect that they will receive a visa," he said. In order to support Pakistanis studying in the US, both Pakistan and the USA increase funding for the Pakistan-US Student Fulbright Programme, giving it a budget of over \$ 30 million per year. "I want to reiterate that America's doors are open to Pakistani students," he said refuting perception that student visas were being restricted in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

The Tribune, 9 July 2006

### **Senator in fix over remark on Indian accent**

Washington: Barely a week after he endorsed a civilian nuclear deal with India, Senator Joseph Biden was fighting charges from some in the Indian American community that he is "insensitive." On Friday, the Delaware Democrat, who is the co-chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said his remark that "you cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent" was taken out of context. On a recent edition of the C-SPAN series "Road to the White House," Mr. Biden was shown in New Hampshire boasting about his "great relationship" with Indian-Americans. "In Delaware, the largest growth in population is Indian-Americans moving from India. You cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent. I'm not joking," he said. Some Indian American groups were quick to pounce on his remarks. Dr. Raghavendra Vijayanagar, chairman of the Indian American Republican Council, said the senator "has a history of making insensitive and inappropriate remarks." "But even for him, this recent gaffe is clearly over the top," he added.

Hindustan Times, 10 July 2006

### **US Congress to question Pakistan jet deal**

Washington, July: The Bush administration has pushed to conclude a landmark \$5 billion sale of F-16 jets to Pakistan before completing traditional consultations with the US Congress and fully answering security concerns, a congressman and other congressional sources say. The move is being seen by some lawmakers as the latest example of the administration's distaste for consulting Congress on security issues and they said the relevant committees would probe the deal further in the coming weeks. Among Congress' concerns about the deal are how Pakistan

intends to ensure that its long-time defense ally China will not have access to advanced US technology and whether there has been any diversion of such technology already in Pakistani hands, several sources said in recent interviews. "I have deep concerns about the process or the lack thereof, which the Bush Administration used to inform Congress about the pending sale of F-16s to Pakistan," said Democratic Rep. Joseph Crowley of New York, a member of the House International Relations Committee and a leading congressional supporter of India. "The administration has shown time and time again that they are not interested in congressional oversight on sensitive deals," he said in an e-mail to Reuters.

Daily Times, 10 July 2006

### **US Congress to investigate F-16s sale to Pakistan**

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The Hindu, 11 July 2006

### **No transfer of F-16 technology, says Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday sought to allay fears raised by some members of the United States Congress that it would transfer F-16 technology to a third country and said it was willing to give an appropriately-worded assurance on this. "We do not do that," said Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said. "Also a safety clause is inserted into such agreements. This issue can be addressed when we reach that stage [of signing the agreement]. We will be willing to consider what is being proposed, and of course, we can look at some appropriate language that we would not transfer F-16 technology to a third country." The Bush administration had notified the U.S Congress of its intention to sell F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. The spokeswoman was reacting to reports of some Congress members being opposed to the deal for fear that Pakistan would sell the technology to China. Ms. Aslam said this did not mean the Congress would block the sale to Pakistan. This was part of the procedure by which the Congress would get briefed by the Bush administration on the deal, she said.

The Times of India, 11 July 2006

### **Navy officer misused links in US: Report**

NEW DELHI: Former Navy commander Mukesh Saini, currently in police custody for his alleged involvement in the leakage in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), had developed liaison with the American intelligence while he was posted in New York as a RAW operative a few years ago, sources said. Saini used his links in the US to get a job for his wife, employed and settled there, while he himself was still working for RAW, sources added. He did not even take any clearance from the ministry of home affairs or the ministry of external affairs, which is mandatory in the service rules. The guidelines for intelligence operatives make it compulsory for them to inform superiors about all their links or that of their families and take clearance from the government in case they or their kin take up a job in a foreign country. What is raising questions is how was Saini cleared for his job in the NSCS, with such a taint on his CV. Mukesh Saini had allegedly travelled with the third secretary in the US embassy here, Rosanna Minchew, to Mumbai and Kolkata and passed on information. Sources said Saini will be taken to Kolkata after Mumbai to confront him with the documents he is said to have given to her, using the information network of NSCS in those cities.

The Times of India, 12 July 2006

### **US condemns Mumbai blasts, offer help**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has condemned the Mumbai commuter train blasts "in the strongest possible terms" and offered all help to India. "We have been touch with the Indian Government concerning these attacks and, of course, we will offer any assistance that they might request," state department spokesman Sean McCormack said, as stories and visuals of the blasts dominated TV headlines in the morning hour here. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters that the U.S would stand with India in the war on terrorism and the incident showed that "this kind of hideous attack can occur anywhere in the world." "There is no political cause that can justify the murder of innocent people. The United States stands with India in the war against terror. Those

responsible for these terrible acts should be swiftly brought to justice," Rice said in a statement that addressed the attack both in Srinagar and Mumbai. For the first time, reports here aligned the blasts to similar attacks on transport systems in Madrid and London, and linked it to worldwide terrorist activity, instead of ascribing it to local militant movements, as they tended to do in the past.

The Nation, 12 July 2006

### **Mission to Washington**

There is a lot of merit in Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri's idea that instead of washing dirty linen in public, Kabul and Islamabad should come up with "concrete suggestions" to address their complaints against each other. Talking to news reporters after he had met Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington, he said he had put forward some concrete proposals to her about the repeated Afghan allegations of 'infiltration' from the Pakistani side of the border, and that she had agreed to his view that the two countries should not discuss their differences in public. He did not disclose his 'concrete proposals' though, perhaps, he might be referring to Pakistan's suggestion of erecting a barbed wire across the Durand Line. Interestingly, State Department spokesman McCormack felt, "These are ministers in their own right, they are going to speak their minds publicly," adding, however, that the US would encourage them to work out their differences before they became a matter of public discussion. It is unfortunate that both President Karzai and Foreign Minister Spanta have repeatedly vented their spleen against Pakistan, accusing it of helping insurgency in Afghanistan flourish, but despite Pakistan's pleas have failed to provide any evidence in support. In response to Mr Spanta's recent call during a visit to Washington urging Pakistan and the US to 'do more', a vague and sickeningly hackneyed expression, Mr Kasuri aptly remarked that there should be concrete suggestions; otherwise, 'do more would lead us nowhere'.

Daily Times, 12 July 2006

### **Kasuri hopes US will reconsider civil N-energy to Pakistan**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Tuesday that Pakistan has 'genuine' energy needs and hoped the United States would 'revisit the situation'. "I have a feeling that in due course of time, since United States and Pakistan are very close friends, the US will revisit the situation," Kasuri said in a live interview. "If the US and other countries don't offer us civil nuclear energy cooperation, our power generation will proceed at a slower pace and would be less cost-effective. We feel that, as our friend, the US should look at this again."

The Tribune, 13 July 2006

### **For durable ties with US**

Understanding the perceptions of those who influence US foreign policy provides an insight into the factors that shape the directions that global developments will take. It was, therefore, interesting to meet key strategic thinkers in the U.S last month at a location close to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, which adorns the lawns opposite the Indian Embassy in Washington DC. Those who participated in this CII-Aspen Strategic Dialogue in Washington ranged from Dr Henry Kissinger and Gen Brent Scowcroft, from the Republican Party to influential Democratic Party personalities like Sandy Berger, Strobe Talbot and Joseph Nye. These exchanges and subsequent meetings at the State Department, Pentagon, the Departments of Energy and Commerce and with senior members of the House of Representatives and the Senate gave a clearer perception of the challenges the United States and India face in fashioning a more productive and mature relationship. American perceptions about India have changed dramatically in recent years. India's accelerating economic growth and capabilities in areas like industrial research and development and information technology have persuaded Americans and American corporations that the skills and talents of 'the intelligent Indians' can be leveraged to make American industry and business more competitive.

Daily Times, 14 July 2006

### **US House panel defers hearing on F-16 deal**

WASHINGTON: A key panel of the US House of Representatives has postponed a hearing to review the \$5.1 billion arms package, including F-16 aircraft and weapons systems, offered to Pakistan by America, Online reported on Thursday. The House Committee on International Relations headed by Republican Chairman Henry Hyde was due to hear John Hillen, the State Department's assistant secretary for political-military affairs, on Thursday. Unless stopped by the Congress within 30 days, Pakistan will get F-16s.

The Indian Express, 15 July 2006

### **US Congress resolutions condemn blasts**

New York: The US Congress - Senate and the House of Representatives - has condemned the Mumbai bomb blasts

that killed some 200 people. It said now it was all the more important to enhance "strategic cooperation" between the two nations to combat the global menace of terrorism. In Senate, the bi-partisan resolution was co-sponsored by chairman Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar, ranking minority member Joseph Biden and wife of former US President Bill Clinton and presidential aspirant Hillary Clinton among others. Expressing solidarity with the people of India, the resolution said India had been a victim of terrorist activities for a long time now. It listed some of the major such incidents, including the twin bomb blasts in Varanasi in March, series of bomb blasts in Delhi on the Diwali eve last year, attack on Akshardham temple in Gujarat and the attack on Parliament in December 2001. The other similar resolution was passed by the House of Representatives. The House resolution was co-sponsored by two best friends of India in Congress - Joe Crowley and Joe Wilson.

The Times of India, 15 July 2006

### **US to review F-16 Pak deal next week**

WASHINGTON: Foreign relations panels of both houses of the US Congress have scheduled hearings next week to review the proposed sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan as part of a \$5.1-billion arms package, after the Bush administration expressed readiness to address any Congressional concerns. "If staff members or members of Congress have concerns about the sale, we are certainly ready to provide more briefings on that have more discussions with it. They have a say in this," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told a regular news briefing. But while the House committee chairman Henry Hyde, who had indefinitely postponed an open hearing on Thursday, rescheduled it for July 20, his counterpart on the Senate panel, Richard Lugar, announced a "closed briefing" for members only on July 18. The 18-member Senate Foreign Relations Committee has called Robert Joseph, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, and Air Force Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Kohler, head of the Defence Security Cooperation Agency as witnesses. The 50-member House Committee on International Relations will hear Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs John Hillen on the deal notified by the Pentagon on June 28.

The Times of India, 15 July 2006

### **Pak F-16s run into US hot air pocket**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration intends to press ahead with its move to sell F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan by addressing Congressional concerns after lawmakers held up the process this week because of proliferation concerns. "If staff members or members of Congress have concerns about the sale, we are certainly ready to provide more briefings on that, have more discussions with it. They have a say in this," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, after senior lawmakers deferred a Congressional hearing scheduled for Thursday that would normally have ratified the administration's proposal to sell \$ 5 billion worth of arms to Pakistan. The hearing was rescheduled for next week after Tom Lantos, a Democratic lawmaker from California, and others expressed concerns about Pakistan allowing China access to the latest technology the jets are expected to have. Some lawmakers are also peeved that the State Department did not give adequate notice to the Congress about the sale. Typically, the administration provides Congress an informal "pre-notification" period of 20 days before the formal 30-day notification to consult on the deal. Unless the Congress objects, the deal goes through.

Dawn, 15 July 2006

### **India-Pakistan cooperation important: US**

WASHINGTON, July 14: The United States on Friday declined to comment on the Indian decision to postpone upcoming secretary-level talks with Pakistan but indicated that Washington considers the dialogue important for long-term peace in the region. In a statement issued here, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher offered no direct comments on the Indian decision but said: 'India-Pakistan cooperation over the long-term is very important.'

Hindustan Times, 16 July 2006

### **Canada needs to tap Indian potential: Envoy**

Vancouver, July 15: Canadian businesses lack a spirit of entrepreneurial adventure, believes Indian High Commissioner in Vancouver Shyamala B Cowsik. Her message to the Canadian business community is simple and blunt: You're missing out on opportunities that others have already grabbed or are exploring. Canadian investment in India is not up to the mark and Cowsik notes that more than Canada, India -- a capital-poor country -- is investing in the capital-rich country. In an extensive interview with Rattan Mall, Cowsik gives a lowdown on how India and Canada can take advantage of each other's expertise and resources. The envoy notes: "Indian high-tech capabilities should be used by Canadian companies to increase their own global competitive edge. That is what all

other Western companies doing - Canadian companies should go and look for partners in areas that are of interest to Canada - environmental technologies, financial services, information technology and telecommunications, agri-processing, even animation." Today, everyone is manufacturing in India - Ford, General Motors, BMW, Mercedes, all the Japanese auto companies, Hyundai, you name it.

Reuters, 16 July 2006

### **China Military Official Visits US**

BEIJING: A vice-chairman of China's Central Military Commission has left for the United States on the highest ranking military visit since a Chinese fighter jet collided with a U.S. surveillance plane in 2001. Guo Boxiong, who ranks second only to President Hu Jintao in the commission, China's top military body, left on Sunday for Washington, at the invitation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the official Xinhua news agency said. The visit was "the most important Chinese military exchange with another country this year," Xinhua quoted Qian Lihua, at the Foreign Affairs Office of China's Defense Ministry, as saying. Guo's trip is the latest sign of improving military relations between Beijing and Washington, cut off after the spy plane crash over the South China Sea, sparking a diplomatic feud. It also comes as China and the United States seek a common strategy to lure North Korea back to six-party talks aimed at dismantling its nuclear programs, a task made more urgent since the North test-fired several missiles earlier this month.

China Daily, 17 July 2006

### **Hu, Bush discuss Iran and DPRK nuke issues**

ST. PETERSBURG: The presidents of China and the United States yesterday agreed to work together for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. They also agreed to make joint efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Iranian nuclear standoff. The two leaders said they would look at and deal with Sino-US relations in a strategic and long-term manner, expanding benefits for both nations. The consensus was reached when President Hu Jintao and his US counterpart George W. Bush met on the sidelines of the ongoing Group of Eight (G8) Summit in St. Petersburg, former capital of Russia. "President Bush and I agreed in the talks that the two nations will commit to promoting the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula through political dialogue," Hu told reporters at a joint briefing with Bush after their 30-minute closed-door meeting. "We also reached a consensus on joint efforts to promote the peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue," said Hu. At the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Hu arrived in St. Petersburg yesterday for the outreach session of the annual summit of the world's leading economic powers, which involves the US, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Russia.

Hindustan Times, 18 July 2006

### **Trick and treat**

On its first anniversary, the Indo-US nuclear deal appears more of a curse than a boon, threatening to undermine India's strategic autonomy and exacting mounting costs. The US, while continuing to peddle superstardom dreams to India, is unrelentingly building up Pakistan's offensive capabilities against this country. Goodies to terrorist-haven Pakistan and ego massaging the long-suffering India have become the quintessence of the present US policy. To be sure, a US-India partnership can help shape a new, more stable global order. But such a partnership cannot be built if the US continues to ride roughshod over India's legitimate security concerns. It ill behoves a supposed strategic partner to push actions adverse to Indian interests by taking advantage of India's troubled political situation, epitomised by a weak Prime Minister unable to have his say or stand up for the country. All pretensions about a mutually beneficial nuclear deal have faded away, with US lawmakers, working in tandem with the administration, rewriting the terms of the July 18, 2005, accord. With the US legislative process far from complete and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) yet to consider the deal, the conditions on India are going to become even more onerous and degrading. The deal now stands exposed for what it always was -- the use of the energy bait to gain a handle on India's main strategic asset, its nuclear weapons programme.

The News, 18 July 2006

### **US Senate committee to discuss arms package for Pakistan today**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Policy Committee of US Senate will meet today to discuss selling of arms package worth five billions to Pakistan. To be headed by Senator Richard Lugar in a closed-door session, the 18-member committee will record the statements of US Under-secretary for Arms Control Robert Joseph and Lt Gen Geoffrey Koehler of US Air Force; while the House of Representatives' foreign committee will meet on July 20 in which US Assistant Secretary for Political & Defence Affairs John Helen is likely to take part. The Bush administration has already informed the Congress about its decision of selling 62 F-16 jets and ballistic missiles to Pakistan; if no

opposition is made within 30 days the decision will be considered as granted in accordance with the US laws.

The Hindu, 19 July 2006

### **U.S. for India, Pakistan continuing cooperation**

Washington: The United States hopes that India and Pakistan will maintain the progress achieved in their relationship despite strains after the Mumbai blasts. Terming the Mumbai blasts as a "horrible tragedy" with those responsible being "obviously well prepared" with the "evil intent", the Bush administration said under the present circumstances the focus must be on the "evidence" of who or what groups may have been behind the blasts. "We certainly hope that the progress in India-Pakistan relations is not lost, and that they find opportunities to cooperate, to cooperate against terrorist groups, to cooperate in stabilising the region. And that's something we'll continue to encourage. It is up to them to decide how to proceed," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher told reporters. "We realise that they felt it was not possible to have the Foreign Secretaries meeting this week. But I think our outlook remains that India-Pakistan cooperation is important for the region and we hope they will find ways to continue it in the future." Mr. Boucher said the historic civilian nuclear deal between the U.S. and India was on track and the "unique" agreement could receive the final approval by this year-end if everything moved in tandem. "The agreement is on track...the legislation is moving quickly...Our Congress has been very supportive."

The Times of India, 19 July 2006

### **US friendly fire scalds India**

WASHINGTON: A key Bush administration official on Monday advised India to rely on hard evidence before drawing conclusions on the Mumbai terror attacks, while obliquely criticising New Delhi for implicating Islamabad in the blasts and calling off talks. "I know there's a lot of speculation out there now. That happens in these cases. But I think we need to be led by the evidence before we start trying to draw conclusions and make policy pronouncements on it," US assistant secretary of state Richard Boucher said on Monday. "So that will be our attitude, and I think that should be the attitude of others as well," Boucher, a mid-level functionary of the Bush administration recommended, even as the G-8 summit of leaders issued a policy statement condemning state sponsorship of terrorism specifically linked to the Mumbai blasts. Boucher hoped that progress in India-Pakistan relations is not lost because of developments relating to the blasts, "and that they find opportunities to cooperate... against terrorist groups, to cooperate in stabilising the region." "It's up to them to decide how to proceed. We realise that they felt it wasn't possible to have the foreign secretaries meetings," Boucher conceded, before launching into more homilies that disregarded New Delhi's diplomatic response to the Mumbai terror attack.

The Times of India, 19 July 2006

### **Amid dissent, Senate nuke vote next week**

WASHINGTON: The full chambers of the US Congress and Senate will vote on the Indo-US nuclear deal next week, perhaps as early as Monday, a key Bush administration official said on Tuesday, amid continuing efforts to reconcile differences between the two sides even at this late stage. The final vote in the House and Senate won't be the end of the matter. Because there are two different Bills in the two chambers, and they vary in details, delegates from the two chambers will meet in a 'conference' to iron out the wrinkles, possibly keeping in mind New Delhi's exhortation that conditions outside the July 18 agreement are not acceptable to it. Such a 'conference' - a unique American process where the devils, details, and deals are worked on with lobbyists and interested parties hovering outside in the corridors - will be held only after lawmakers return from their August recess, US assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, Richard Boucher, told foreign correspondents on Monday. So it will only be in September before the final legislation is signed, sealed and delivered. Both the House and Senate will go into recess after July 28 and will be out of commission in August before returning to session briefly in September and then retiring for the election in November.

Dawn, 19 July 2006

### **US rejects objections to nuclear, F-16 deals**

WASHINGTON, July 18: President George Bush's concept of 'de-hyphenation' plays a pivotal role in the new US approach towards South Asia. The Bush administration defines this 'de-hyphenation' as separating its relations with India from its ties with Pakistan and dealing with each country individually. At a recent briefing on US policies for South and Central Asian regions, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher explained this 'de-hyphenation' with practical examples. He strongly rejected India's objections to a \$5 billion arms package the United States is offering to Pakistan and Islamabad's objections to a nuclear deal Washington is offering to New Delhi, making it clear that it will not allow one to influence its relations with the other. 'Our sale is based on what we think are legitimate needs

of Pakistan, defensive purposes,' said Mr Boucher when asked to comment on India's objections to the F-16 offer. 'And we proceed on that basis, not on the basis of what other people think or don't think about it,' he added. Mr Boucher was equally forthright in rejecting the suggestion that Pakistan should get a similar nuclear deal that Washington is offering to New Delhi.

Daily Times, 19 July 2006

### **China did not ask for N-deal with Pakistan: US**

WASHINGTON: A senior State Department official has denied that China asked for a US deal for Pakistan, similar to the nuclear cooperation deal with India. Richard Boucher, assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, addressing correspondents at the Foreign Press Centre on Monday, did not endorse a claim by an Indian correspondent that the Chinese ambassador had asked him in Vienna recently that the US should sign a nuclear deal with Pakistan similar to the one it has signed with India. Boucher said, "I have not seen any proposal by any government to make a similar sale to another country along the lines of the one with India. We certainly believe that the situation with India is unique. That's the way we've approached this agreement, that's the way we've pursued it, and I think that remains the view of many other members of the international community. So I haven't seen anybody make a proposal for anyone else along those lines." He added that India had changed its attitude towards certain international organisations and is 'joining the international non-proliferation effort because they (the Indians) understand the importance of that effort to India's future stability, security and safety."

China Daily, 19 July 2006

### **New stage for China-US military ties**

The current visit to the US by Guo Boxiong, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, indicates that Sino-US military relations have entered a new stage, analysts and army officers have said. General Guo arrived in Los Angeles on Sunday. During the one-week visit, Guo is expected to visit the Pentagon and military institutions. Guo is paying a return visit after US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited Beijing last October. Guo is the highest-ranking Chinese military officer to visit the United States since 2001, when the two countries cut their military ties after a Chinese fighter jet was hit by a US spy plane over the South China Sea, sending bilateral ties to a low point, noted Zhu Chenghu, a professor with the National Defence University. "The visit shows Beijing is willing to improve military relations with Washington, which serves the fundamental interests of both sides," he told China Daily yesterday. Guo's visit comes at a time when the international community is trying to bring Pyongyang back to nuclear disarmament talks. Zhu said Guo is expected to discuss security issues in Northeast Asia with his US counterparts, especially the missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea two weeks ago.

The Hindu, 20 July 2006

### **Pakistan failed to fight terror: Pallone**

Washington: Coming down heavily on Pakistan in the wake of the Mumbai serial blasts, a top U.S. lawmaker has said Islamabad's failure to live up to its promise to rein in terror outfits is threatening the peace process with India. Frank Pallone, a Democrat, told the House of Representatives that Pakistan still lacked appropriate laws to deter terrorist cells from "looming and growing within their borders." "Pakistan's failure to rein in terrorist organisations operating within its borders is threatening the peace process. Despite having vowed in 2004 not to allow any part of the territory under its control be used by groups such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba [LeT], Pakistan has simply watched while terrorist attacks took place in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country," said Mr. Pallone, founder of the Caucus on India and Indian-Americans.

Hindustan Times, 21 July 2006

### **Boucher argues for F-16 deal with Pak**

Washington: Noting that the US cannot ignore Pakistan's basic national security concerns, a senior Bush administration official has said they were asking Islamabad to "do difficult things to protect Americans" and in return some concern must be shown for that country's security. "The F-16 sale provides a clear and concrete signal to all Pakistanis that Pakistan's security is important to the United States. A confident Pakistan that feels secure is more likely to pursue peace and cooperation with its neighbours," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher said. "Conversely, a Pakistan that feels vulnerable is more likely to rely on nuclear weapons and non-conventional tactics to ensure its security. I am sure we all agree that this is not the direction in which we want Pakistan to go. Calling Pakistan a "key country and strategic partner" in South Asia, Boucher said in his prepared remarks to the House International Relations Committee, "I believe it is in our national interest to proceed with this sale."

The Hindu, 21 July 2006

### **Bid to cause economic terror in India: U.S.**

WASHINGTON: Terming the July 11 Mumbai train blasts "heinous" and "unjustified," the U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a unanimous resolution asking the international community to rout terrorists, defeating their ideology and networks. The House on Wednesday adopted the resolution (425-0) to express its "deepest" condolences to the victims' families. The resolution, sponsored by Congressmen Joseph Crowley and Joseph Wilson, said the attack on India's financial hub was part of the terrorists' "determination" to cause "economic terror" in the country and called upon the international community to renew efforts to combat social evils that caused terrorism. The statement recalled the historic July 18, 2005 agreement between the two countries on sharing nuclear energy and expressed the resolve to "transform the relationship between the countries and establish a global partnership."

Dawn, 21 July 2006

### **Pro-India lobby wants F-16 deal reviewed**

WASHINGTON, July 20: Pro-Indian US lawmakers have urged the Bush administration to reconsider its decision to sell F-16 jets to Pakistan, vowing to resist the proposed \$5.1 billion arms package at congressional hearings which were scheduled to begin on Thursday afternoon. "This material is not being used against Al Qaeda. The potential is that it would be used in a war against India," said Congressman Frank Pallone, founder of the Congressional caucus on India and Indian-Americans. "We don't need to reward Pakistan for being our friend in the war on terrorism by giving them advanced weapons systems that are not likely to be used in that effort," said the New Jersey Democrat. Congresswoman Diane Watson, a California Democrat, praised Pakistan for helping the US in the war against terror but, she said, Pakistan had done nothing to stop its "moral, if not material, support for like-minded extremist groups." Congressman Tom Lantos said he backed the arms package, "but my support is contingent on providing the US with total security with respect to the non-leaking of any of our high-tech capabilities to any other party." Rep Lantos, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives' International Relations Committee, which would review the deal, said that after speaking recently to State Department officials, he believed those concerns could be resolved.

China Daily, 21 July 2006

### **Bush supports military ties with China**

WASHINGTON: U.S. President George W. Bush met Guo Boxiong, China's top general, at the White House on Thursday and the two exchanged views on international and regional security as well as relations between the two nations and the two armed forces. During the meeting, Guo, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC), conveyed best wishes to Bush from Chinese President Hu Jintao. Guo said the purpose of his visit to the United States was to implement the consensus reached by Bush and Hu on increasing exchanges and cooperation between the two armed forces during Hu's visit to the United States in April. He said that the relationship between the two armed forces will be deepened by enhancing mutual understanding and trust, fostering friendship and increasing cooperation. Gaining attentions and momentums directly from the presidents of the two nations, the current relationship between the two armed forces is the best in recent years, and the prospect will be brighter with joint efforts from both sides, he noted. Guo also reaffirmed China's position on the Taiwan issue.

The Tribune, 22 July 2006

### **US Congress slams administration on F16s for Pakistan**

Washington: THE US lawmakers on Thursday criticised the Bush administration for rushing the sale of F-16s to Pakistan and accused it of compromising congressional oversight on arms sales and putting national security at risk. "What we can say for the public record is that a sequence of actions and inactions by the State Department recently resulted in a host of serious national security and compliance issues," Republican Congressman Henry Hyde said at a hearing on the proposed sale of F-16s and weapons systems to Pakistan. The chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. Hyde said the State Department "cannot persuasively justify its position even now." "The notification was made precipitously and without explanation," he said. On June 28, the Bush administration formally notified Congress of plans to sell Pakistan up to 36 F-16C/D Block 50/52 Falcon fighters built by Lockheed Martin Corp. Congressman Tom Lantos, the Democrat co-chairman of the committee, accused mid-level State Department bureaucrats of convincing their bosses "to ignore 30 years of precedent and cut this committee, and this Congress, out of consideration of U.S. arms sales."

Hindustan Times, 22 July 2006

### **Boucher argues for F-16 deal with Pak**

Washington, July 21: Noting that the US cannot ignore Pakistan's basic national security concerns, a senior Bush administration official has said they were asking Islamabad to "do difficult things to protect Americans" and in return some concern must be shown for that country's security. "The F-16 sale provides a clear and concrete signal to all Pakistanis that Pakistan's security is important to the United States. A confident Pakistan that feels secure is more likely to pursue peace and cooperation with its neighbours," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher said. "Conversely, a Pakistan that feels vulnerable is more likely to rely on nuclear weapons and non-conventional tactics to ensure its security. I am sure we all agree that this is not the direction in which we want Pakistan to go. Calling Pakistan a "key country and strategic partner" in South Asia, Boucher said in his prepared remarks to the House International Relations Committee, "I believe it is in our national interest to proceed with this sale." Boucher was not a listed witness in the Congressional hearing; no questions were directed at him during the course of the session and neither did he intervene when his colleague from the Political Military Affairs John Hillen was being hammered by irate law makers highly critical of how the administration has gone about this F-16s package to Pakistan, especially as it pertained to the role of Congress.

Dawn, 22 July 2006

### **US official defends F-16 deal**

WASHINGTON, July 21: Pakistan is likely to get congressional approval for the proposed \$5.1 billion arms package, including F-16 aircraft, despite the battering it received at a panel hearing on the deal. The 18-member House of Representatives International Relations Committee also mauled the Bush administration for failing to give Congress enough time to review the proposal. But the administration's strategy, coupled with a strong defence of its decision to sell the aircraft to Pakistan, worked. "Your job is to...make sure that nothing that comes from Congress affects this deal in any way and you've done it spectacularly well," acknowledged Democratic Congressman Brad Sherman. John Hillen, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-military Affairs, defended the proposed sale to Pakistan, saying the fighter jets would help shore up America's ties with its key ally in the war on terror. "The sale will send a very clear signal of our commitment to a long-term relationship with Pakistan ... and it will strengthen the hand of President Musharraf and his government in supporting us in the war on terror and in continuing to make other politically difficult, yet strategic choices," Mr Hillen said.

People's Daily, 22 July 2006

### **China lodges representations on U.S. agreement to sell fighter planes to Taiwan**

China has lodged serious representations on the U.S. agreement to sell fighter planes to Taiwan, according to a foreign ministry spokesman. It has been reported that the United States has agreed to sell 66 F-16 fighter planes to Taiwan. "The Chinese side has taken note of the report and lodged serious representations to the United States," foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said. "We urge the United States to abide by the three joint communiques between China and the United States, particularly the Aug. 17 Communique," Liu said. Liu urged the United States not to sell the Taiwan authorities the fighter planes and refrain from causing serious damage to the peace and stability of the Taiwan Straits and to the China-U.S. relations. Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, is currently on an official visit to the United States. During Guo's meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush on Thursday, Bush said the U.S. position on the Taiwan issue is very clear and the U.S. government will continue to adhere to the three joint communiques between the United States and China and is opposed to any attempts to change the status quo across the Taiwan Straits.

China Daily, 22 July 2006

### **Stop selling jets to Taiwan, US urged**

Beijing has lodged a solemn objection with Washington on its agreement to sell 66 advanced fighter jets to Taiwan, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing on Friday. "We urged the US side to abide by the three joint communiques between China and the United States ... and not sell arms to the island to avoid damaging peace and stability across the Straits as well as Sino-US relations," Liu said in a statement. A Taiwanese delegation proposed the procurement of the F-16C/D fighters during an annual military meeting with Washington earlier this month, the Taiwan-based China Times reported. "The United States has given its nod to the sale of 66 F-16C/D Block 52s," the paper said, without naming a source. It will be the biggest arms deal Washington has offered Taiwan since 2001, when US President George W. Bush agreed to provide the island with eight diesel-powered submarines, 12 P-3C submarine-hunting aircraft and an improved version of Patriot missiles, the paper said.

China Daily, 22 July 2006

### **China, US jointly deal with illegal immigrants**

Police from China and the United States co-operated for the first time to extradite 119 illegal Chinese immigrants by chartered flight on June 28, the Ministry of Public Security disclosed on Friday. In early April, US officials submitted a 288-person list of illegal immigrants, asking Chinese police to confirm their IDs, just ahead of the visit of Michael Chertoff, the newly appointed secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the ministry said on its website. A consensus was then reached on the repatriation of the stowaways during the meeting between the ministry official and the US official, it said. On June 26, a six-person panel, consisting of a Chinese police liaison officer and diplomats from the Chinese Embassy and General Consulate in Houston, Texas reached El Paso, Texas to check preparation and safety measures as well to minister to the stowaways and confirm their identities. On the morning of June 28, the chartered plane took off from the United States, bounding for Changle International Airport in East China's Fujian Province, the home of the stowaways, the report said.

Dawn, 23 July 2006

### **US Congress to okay F-16 deal soon: Boucher**

WASHINGTON, July 22: The proposed \$5.1 billion US arms package for Pakistan, which also includes 36 F-16 aircraft, will get congressional approval soon. US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Richard Boucher told reporters. Talking to journalists after a congressional hearing on the proposed deal, Mr Boucher said he had no doubts that the lawmakers would approve the deal despite the objections they expressed during the meeting. In a written testimony submitted to the House International Relations Committee, Mr Boucher said the deal would send 'a clear and concrete signal' to all Pakistanis that Pakistan's security was 'important to the United States.' He said Pakistan was 'a key country' and 'a strategic partner' in South Asia "- a region of critical importance to the US and 'one of our highest priorities' in the war on terror."

Dawn, 23 July 2006

### **Resolution introduced against F-16 sale**

WASHINGTON, July 22: Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India has introduced a joint resolution in the House of Representatives disapproving the proposed sale of F-16 fighter jets and other weapons to Pakistan in a \$5.1 billion arms deal. The resolution, introduced on Friday, has been referred to the House Committee on International Relations which on Thursday upbraided the Bush administration. Although the proposed sale was severely criticised at a committee hearing on Thursday, the administration is confident the deal will get congressional approval by July 28. Congressman Gary Ackerman introduced the resolution despite assurances from Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs John Hillen that members' concerns about leakage of technology from Pakistan were being addressed by 'an extraordinary security plan' imposed on the planes and components, and accepted by the Pakistan Air Force.

China Daily, 23 July 2006

### **Rice says China-U.S. relations good, complex**

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Xinhua on Friday that China-U.S. relations are "really quite good" but complex and high-level visits between the two countries will help promote better bilateral relations. In addition to Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to the United States in April and the ongoing U.S. visit by General Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, Rice said that President Hu Jintao and U.S. President George W. Bush also met during the Group of Eight Summit just concluded in St. Petersburg, Russia earlier this month. "We are having a lot of high-level visits. They will help promote better, stronger relations," Rice told Xinhua in a roundtable interview that included journalists from China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam at the State Department. The United States and China do not agree on everything and that is not surprising as it shows how complex and big the bilateral relationship is, Rice said.

The Times of India, 24 July 2006

### **India thinks Tunda is in US custody**

NEW DELHI: Kenya may have informally told India that the man arrested on the Kenya-Tanzania border last week was a West African national, and not terrorist Abdul Karim Tunda, but the security establishment here is not buying this. It is almost convinced that Tunda was indeed arrested by the Kenyans and "rendered" up to the Americans, perhaps within hours. Senior MEA and CBI sources said on Sunday that India was yet to receive any official word from Kenya, though it is possible that communications might have been delayed because of the weekend. They also said that it is impossible to mistake a West African for an Indian, a fact that has not escaped the security

establishment. But the "rendition" theory is gaining ground because Tunda is wanted by the US on several high-profile terrorism cases, particularly the Nairobi and Dar-e-Salaam blasts in 1998. Indian agencies are not unhappy with the idea that Tunda could be in US custody, albeit lodged in a third country.

The Tribune, 24 July 2006

### **US to train Pak forces**

Islamabad, July 23: The US Government will train Pakistani security personnel to provide security cover for President Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other VVIPs. As the first step towards this new training programme, Washington is posting a federal prosecution officer to the US Embassy here whose primary duty would be to act as a liaison officer for the training programme. The US State Department wants better security for Pakistani officials it consider important in the war on terror, specially President Musharraf and Prime Minister Aziz, both of whom have been targeted by suicide bombers in the past. President Musharraf escaped three bids on his life, including one by suicide bombers, while Mr Aziz escaped one attempt. Security for the two leaders is currently provided by special forces drawn from the Army. Pakistan's Interior Ministry officials said the US made the offer of training to Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao when he recently visited Washington for a security cooperation meeting, Daily Times reported.

The Hindu, 25 July 2006

### **China welcomes initiative**

Beijing: China will carefully study the new U.S.-Russian initiative to combat nuclear terrorism, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday. "We welcome all efforts helpful to deepen international cooperation and enhance the coordinated drive to deal with nuclear terror," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao when asked to comment on the new Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The initiative was announced by the Presidents of the United States and Russia in St. Petersburg on July 15. It called on countries to improve accounting, control and physical protection of nuclear material and prevent acts of nuclear terrorism. "Preventing nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious challenges the international community faces in protecting world peace and security," Mr. Liu said.

Dawn, 26 July 2006

### **Reactor not to affect arms deals: US official**

WASHINGTON, July 25: The reported construction of a nuclear reactor in Khushab will not affect the \$5.1 billion arms deal the Bush administration has offered to Pakistan despite demands from lawmakers to cancel the same, a US government official told Dawn. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he was aware of the demands but did not see the reported construction of a nuclear reactor affecting the arms deal that also features F-16 fighter jets. He said the report about the construction of a new nuclear reactor' in Pakistan would also have no impact on the Indo-US nuclear deal initialed in March. 'The deal with India is about civilian nuclear power and this is a nuclear reactor. They are completely different issues,' he said. Describing the timing of the release of report on reactor as 'significant', diplomatic observers here noted that it raises fresh concerns about an arms race in South Asia.

Daily Times, 26 July 2006

### **United States wants 21 most wanted Pakistanis extradited**

ISLAMABAD: The US government has handed over a fresh list of 21 most wanted persons to Pakistan and has asked the federal interior ministry bosses to arrange for their extradition immediately so that they can be put on trial for their crimes against the United States of America and its citizens. The USA has also offered to help Islamabad sensitise Pakistani judges by arranging seminars in Pakistan to facilitate early extradition of these wanted men as delayed judicial proceedings have resulted in delayed justice. Top level sources confirmed to Daily Times that out of 21, 14 cases of extradition relate to drug barons wanted in the USA. However, sources said the interior ministry is keeping these names secret to avoid any adverse fallout in Pakistan. Sources told Daily Times that this list was given to members of the Pakistan delegation that visited Washington recently to attend a Joint Working Group meeting on Terrorism and Narcotics. The interior minister, Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, headed the delegation comprising the additional secretary, Qamar Zaman, National Crisis Management Cell director general, Brig Javed Cheema, Brig Sikandar Ali, Anti Narcotics Force DG, Deputy Secretary Amna Imran Khan and others.

The Indian Express, 27 July 2006

### **US conditions? Look what Pak has had to swallow for its F-16 supplies**

NEW DELHI, JULY 27: Exactly a week ago, when the CPM and the BJP began raising, in concert, the bogey of an 'Indian sellout' on the nuclear deal, they may have overlooked another hearing on Capitol Hill: the imposition of unprecedented conditions on Pakistan for the sale of F-16s. These include a sweeping set of terms from US presence in F-16 bases to mandatory permission from the US before F-16s are used in operations involving another country and disabling technology that helps offensive action. In stark contrast, the Indo-US nuclear cooperation Bill that was passed with a handsome bipartisan majority in the US House of Representatives today brings no additional burden on New Delhi than what was agreed on July 18 last year. The reporting requirements are all an affair between the Executive and the Legislature in Washington.

Hindustan Times, 27 July 2006

### **US Senator for trade curbs on India**

Washington: The head of the powerful Senate Finance Committee has said the United States should not extend preferential trade treatment to India and Brazil, which he accused of blocking a move to liberalise the World Trade Organisation. Republican Senator Charles Grassley told reporters, "Countries that don't want to give us access to their markets in the WTO negotiations, why should we continue to give them preferential treatment?" He said he was sure upcoming US preferences were "not going to involve Brazil and India." Brazil and India receive large benefits from a US Trade preference programme that allows dozens of developing countries to export thousands of products duty-free to the United States. The preference programme expires at the end of the year. Congress must act on its renewal, and Grassley's committee would play a pivotal role in shaping the legislation.

The Tribune, 28 July 2006

### **Congressman to block sale of F- 16s to Pak**

Washington: A close friend of India and the Indian American community, Congressman Gary Ackerman, has introduced a legislation in Congress to block the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. The New York Democrat and co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, appealed to colleagues in the Congress to back his effort. In a "Dear Colleague" letter he circulated on Monday, Mr Ackerman referred to a report in the Washington Post that Pakistan is dramatically expanding its nuclear weapons programme. "At any time this news would be unwelcome. However, in the context of a pending sale by the United States of F-16 fighter-bombers, the import of the story is truly alarming," Mr Ackerman said. He was worried that despite assurances by the Bush Administration that these aircraft will not be misused, or their technology transferred to other countries like China, once these planes have been delivered to Pakistan, there is, in fact, "absolutely nothing we can do to prevent misuse." "Based on history and strategic analysis, there is every reason to believe the contrary, that these F-16s will be drafted for use as nuclear weapons delivery vehicles, and they will be picked apart by potential adversaries to answer questions about our aviation capabilities," Mr Ackerman said.

The Hindu, 28 July 2006

### **Left condemns Mulford statement**

NEW DELHI: The Left parties strongly condemned the statement by United States Ambassador David Mulford on the India-U.S. nuclear deal and linking it to India's vote on Iran. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) demanded a statement that India would not "countenance" a reference to the United Nations Security Council on the Iran nuclear issue. The CPI (M) Polit Bureau, in its statement, termed it "a serious affront to India and its sovereignty," the threat issued by Mr. Mulford that unless India voted against Iran in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the nuclear cooperation deal would not be approved by the U.S. Congress. Referring to the interview, it said the U.S. Ambassador has warned that the fallout of a vote against the U.S. stand on Iran would be "devastating" and the nuclear cooperation proposal "will die" in the Congress. "These remarks confirm that the Indian Government was pressurised on September 24, 2005 to vote against Iran in the IAEA. It also raises serious apprehensions regarding the nuclear cooperation deal being negotiated with the U.S.," the party said.

The Tribune, 28 July 2006

### **Moving ahead**

The Indo-US civilian nuclear deal is moving towards becoming a reality. It has crossed another hurdle with the US House of Representatives giving its seal of approval after an intense debate lasting nearly five hours. The draft legislation was earlier cleared by the House International Relations Committee with a comfortable majority. The rejection of the amendments by the House shows that the opponents of the nuclear cooperation agreement had no case to take along with them the US House. The vote is truly 'an expression of trust on matters relating to nuclear technology', highlighting India's track record as a credible and responsible nuclear power like the recognised

members of the nuclear club. The focus has now shifted to the US Senate, which is expected to take up the draft Bill concerning the nuclear deal after a few weeks. India's case to get exemption from the US restrictions is so strong that the Senate, too, hopefully will go along with the House of Representatives. India has already presented to the US a separation plan for its civilian and military nuclear facilities and is in the process of negotiating an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency as required under the July 18, 2005, agreement. Besides these, India has to adhere to the Nuclear Supplier Group's guidelines regulating nuclear trade.

The Tribune, 28 July 2006

### **Goalposts in nuclear accord intact: PM**

New Delhi, July 27: Asserting that the goalposts will be there and not shifted, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told the Rajya Sabha today that if the end product of the American legislation was inconsistent with the July 18, 2005, agreement on the Indo-US nuclear deal then that would be determining factor on what India would do. Emphasising that he cannot influence the US legislative process, Dr Manmohan Singh said 'it is for Washington to come to a conclusion while we perform our part of the bargain'. Making these observations during question hour, the Prime Minister explained that the US legislative process on the nuclear deal with India was on and any apprehension right now was baseless. Assuring the Upper House that whatever is taking place on the nuclear deal will be within the parameters of the July 18, 2005 agreement, Dr Manmohan Singh said if it was not in tandem with the country's needs then it would be detrimental. Counselling for patience and to await the legislative process to be completed in the US, the Prime Minister said "the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved the nuclear deal and there is a Senate Bill. When there are differences between the two Bills, there will a conference".

The Tribune , 28 July 2006

### **India in wait and watch mode over N-deal**

New Delhi, July 27: India today chose to be in a wait-and watch mode and held back its reaction to the historic passage of a Bill regarding Indo-US civilian nuclear deal in the 435-member House of Representatives by a massive margin (359 votes for and 68 against). A key Government of India official said the passage of the Bill in the House went on the expected lines but the real test lay ahead when the 100-member Senate votes for it, possibly not before September. After this the scene will shift to the plenary meeting of the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group in October, as without the nod of this body the implementation of the Indo-US nuclear deal would not be possible. The Ministry of External Affairs today came out with a restrained and cautious reaction. It maintained that the passage of the Bill authorising the US Administration to engage in full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India demonstrated the broad political consensus in the USA in the promotion of Indo-US relations in all fields.

The Tribune, 28 July 2006

### **Left may not side with NDA on N-deal**

New Delhi, July 27: Left parties are veering around the idea of not pressing on a resolution on the Indo-US nuclear deal to avoid an embarrassment being seen as siding with Opposition BJP-led NDA. The alliance has announced to bring a resolution in Parliament opposing the deal in the present form, terming it against the national interest. Though the Left parties also had strong reservation about the nuke deal as they also have criticised the government for alleged surrender of national interest, the Opposition's announcement to bring in a resolution had put them in a bind. General Secretary of the CPM Prakash Karat, without giving clear assurance on the issue of resolution, said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's suo motu statement on the deal was 'not acceptable' to them, and wanted that clear 'parameters' needed to be laid down by Parliament to make the government bound by them.

The Times of India, 28 July 2006

### **End product key to India's N-deal future: PM**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday made it clear that if the "end product" of the American legislation on Indo-US nuclear deal was not consistent with last year's agreement, then that would be the "determining factor" on what India will do. Speaking in Rajya Sabha hours after the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the last year's deal, Singh also said "let it (legislative process) be completed. Once it is completed we will then determine whether there are elements which go beyond what we have committed in July 18 (agreement) last year." He said the US legislative process was still on. "The House of Representatives has taken up the bill and there is a Senate bill and when there is difference between the two bills there will be a conference. "I cannot say that I can predict what the US legislative process be. All I can say is if US legislative process leads to an end product which is not consistent with what we have committed that would be the determining factor of what we can do," he said. He was replying to supplementary to a question on the deal in the House.

The Tribune, 29 July 2006

### **Will try to retain spirit of July pact, says Bush**

Washington The Bush administration shares India's concerns about attempts to shift goalposts in the civilian nuclear deal and will work with senators to ensure the legislation does not depart from the spirit of the July 18 agreement, a senior administration official said on Thursday. Speaking to reporters at the State Department, Richard Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, said the Bush administration would make an exception in US law for nuclear cooperation with India. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns called Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran on Thursday morning to discuss the convincing approval of the Bill in the House the previous night. "We have an ongoing dialogue with them. We are friends. We speak frankly to each other," Mr Boucher said of the ongoing discussions with New Delhi. Both India and the Bush administration are concerned about the legislation to be debated and taken up for a vote in the Senate. Senate Foreign Relations Committee co-chairmen, Senator Richard Lugar, Indiana Republican, and Senator Joseph Biden Jr, Delaware Democrat, crafted the bill. A Senate debate is expected in September, after Congress returns from its month-long August recess.

Dawn, 30 July 2006

### **F-16 deal emerges unscathed**

WASHINGTON, July 29: The Bush administration's plan to sell 36 F-16 jets and other equipment to Pakistan has emerged unscathed from a congressional review period. The \$5.1 billion package, officially notified to Congress on June 28, is considered the largest US arms sale to the country. The lawmakers had 30 days to reject the offer. The deadline expired on Friday. Without a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate to kill the sale, it is automatically approved under the laws governing international arms sales. "We've worked closely with Congress and we think we've smoothed out a few of the difficulties that we've faced there on procedures that we use," said US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher. "We're moving ahead with the sale which we think is very important to our ties and to Pakistan's needs."

Dawn, 30 July 2006

### **Democrats seek probe over delayed report: US-India nuclear deal**

WASHINGTON, July 29: Democratic lawmakers on Friday requested an investigation into why the State Department delayed word of sanctions on two Indian companies for Iran-related dealings until after the US House of Representatives approved a nuclear agreement with New Delhi. In a letter, Rep. Ellen Tauscher of California and two colleagues asked the State Department's inspector general - who is authorized to conduct independent reviews of department activities and personnel - to determine if a report detailing the sanctions was intentionally withheld. "Not only did the State Department have a legal responsibility to deliver this report to Congress, they have a responsibility to the American people not to play games when it comes to national security," Tauscher said in a statement released by her office. "We must get to the bottom of this issue and see whether or not the State Department manipulated a crucial national security measure before the United States Congress," she added.

China Daily, 30 July 2006

### **China, U.S. pledge more cooperation on law enforcement**

China and the United States pledged on Saturday to further strengthen law enforcement cooperation between the two countries. In a joint statement issued during the four-day visit to the United States by Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhou Yongkang, the two sides said that "law enforcement cooperation between China and the United States is an important component of and a positive factor in strengthening bilateral relations." During the visit, the Chinese minister, who began his U.S. tour on July 26, held an official meeting with U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. During the meeting, the two sides had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on further strengthening law enforcement cooperation as well as on a variety of other issues of common concern. The two sides agreed that enhanced China-U.S. cooperation in security and law enforcement not only serves the common interest of the two countries, but also benefits peace, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

Hindustan Times, 31 July 2006

### **Debate Indo-US N-deal in current session: CPI(M)**

New Delhi, July 30: The CPI(M) on Sunday demanded a discussion on Indo-US nuclear deal in the current session of Parliament and asked the government to consult the main opposition BJP on an issue of vital national importance. Parliament should take up the nuclear agreement for debate in the ongoing monsoon session itself as it

would be no use discussing the matter after the US Congress adopts the relevant law, CPI(M) General Secretary Prakash Karat told reporters at the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the party Polit Bureau in New Delhi. Parliament has the sovereign right to discuss the agreement if the US Congress can do so clause by clause, he said. As to how the 'sense of the House' would be expressed on the deal, Karat said "we are in touch with the government representatives in the Parliament and working on how this can be done. We are talking to the government as well as the Congress party". Asked whether they would consult the main Opposition BJP, Karat said it has to be done by the government which should agree on a procedure to consult all parties, including the main Opposition, as "this is not a matter of a single party but of vital national importance". "Though we were totally opposed to the BJP's pro-US policies when they were in office, we had then spoken to the BJP leadership on having a resolution in Parliament against sending troops to Iraq", Karat said.