

The Washington Post, 1 March 2007

**Doubt Is Cast on N. Korean Program**

The Bush administration is backing away from its long-held assertions that North Korea has an active clandestine program to enrich uranium, leading some experts to believe that the original U.S. intelligence that started the crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions may have been flawed.

Daily Yomiuri, 1 March 2007

**Japan, Russia agree on N-cooperation talks**

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and visiting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov agreed Wednesday to start negotiations for concluding a nuclear cooperation agreement in which both countries promise to ensure nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, government officials said.

The Washington Post, 2 March 2007

**N. Korea Reasserts Pledge to Denuclearize**

SEOUL, March 2: North Korea's No. 2 leader reiterated Thursday his country's pledge to abandon its nuclear weapons, as the impoverished nation sought a resumption of aid in its first high-level talks with South Korea since conducting an atomic test.

Daily Yomiuri, 2 March 2007

**6 nations to raise DPRK uranium issue/ Parties likely to form group for discussions**

A special group likely will be established within a working group of the six parties to the talks on North Korea's nuclear program to discuss Pyongyang's suspected production of highly enriched uranium, according to U.S. sources familiar with North Korean affairs.

The Tribune, 2 March 2007

**Diplomacy gets a chance to resolve Iran issue**

Iran has agreed to attend this month's planned regional security conference on Iraq that will see its representatives sit down with US officials ' a new beginning between Tehran and Washington.

The New York Times, 2 March 2007

**Latest Reports on Iran and North Korea Show a Newfound Caution Among Analysts**

WASHINGTON, March 1: For more than three years, American intelligence officials have insisted that they learned from their mistakes in the months leading to the Iraq war, when murky information about Saddam Hussein's weapons programs was presented as fact and inconclusive judgments were hardened into statements of near certainty.

China Daily, 2 March 2007

**China masters 4th-generation nuclear reactor technology**

China's 10 mega-watt high-temperature gas-cooled reactor project was awarded first prize at the National Science and Technology Advancement Award ceremony at Tuesday's State Science and Technology Award Conference.

The Hindu, 3 March 2007

**Indo-US talks on 123 N-agreement likely this month**

New Delhi, March. 2: Three months after the US enacted a law to allow civil nuclear trade with India, the two countries will resume negotiations on an agreement for operationalising the cooperation later this month when Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns travels here.

The News, 3 March 2007

**Pakistan test- fires Hataf-II Abdali missile**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday successfully test-fired surface-to-surface Hataf-II Abdali missile. The missile have a range of 200 kilometers (125 miles) and capable of carrying all types of warheads.

The Indian Express, 3 March 2007

**US believes A Q Khan acted alone**

Washington: The US administration has said it takes President Pervez Musharraf at his word that scientist AQ Khan peddled nuclear technology without the knowledge of the leadership in Islamabad.

Daily Times, 3 March 2007

**AQ Khan sold 20 centrifuges to North Korea: US**

WASHINGTON: The State Department said on Thursday that Dr AQ Khan sold 20 centrifuges to North Korea.

The Washington Post, 3 March 2007

**S. Korea Refuses North's Request for Restored Aid**

SEOUL, March 2: South Korea on Friday added pressure on North Korea to comply with an international disarmament agreement, refusing the impoverished nation's demand to restore full aid shipments until after its main nuclear reactor is shut down.

Daily Yomiuri, 3 March 2007

**DPRK pariah status to be topic at talks**

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told The Yomiuri Shimbun on Thursday that the process of removing North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism will be an important item on the agenda in the meeting between the United States and North Korea to start on Monday.

The Washington Post, 3 March 2007

**U.S. Selects Design for New Nuclear Warhead**

The National Nuclear Security Administration has selected a design from Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national laboratories that could become the basis for the first new nuclear warhead produced by the United States in more than 20 years.

BBC News, 3 March 2007

**'No reward' for non-nuclear Libya**

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has said his country has not been given adequate

compensation for its decision to renounce nuclear weapons in 2003. Speaking to the BBC, Colonel Gaddafi said the failure by the West to reward Libya meant Iran and North Korea were reluctant to follow Tripoli's lead.

The Hindu, 4 March 2007

### **Seoul aid put off**

The inter-Korean Ministerial talks ended in Pyongyang on Friday, with the two sides saying nothing concrete about South Korea's aid to North Korea. Diplomats said the move reflected Seoul's "disarmament game plans". It is to link the aid to Pyongyang's promise of shutting down its nuclear facility at Yongbyon by April 14.

The Times of India, 4 March 2007

### **Iran nuclear issue continues to boil in UN**

WASHINGTON: The United States and five other world powers agreed to send the issue of Iran's disputed nuclear programme to their UN representatives, after failing to resolve differences, the US State Department said. Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns and political directors from China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany held new discussions by phone and "discussions will now move to New York where our United Nations permanent representatives will take up work on this issue," spokesman Kurtis Cooper said in a statement on Saturday.

The Times of India, 4 March 2007

### **UN meet to focus on Iran, North Korea**

VIENNA: Key members of the UN atomic watchdog agency will gather on Monday for a session on approving the suspension of dozens of technical aid programmes to Iran as part of Security Council sanctions meant to punish Tehran for its nuclear defiance. The main focus of the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board meeting will be Iran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment and other activities.

Hindustan Times, 5 March 2007

### **US official in South Korea for nuclear talks**

United States Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte arrived in South Korea on Monday for talks expected to focus on implementation of the North Korean nuclear agreement. During his three-day stay, Negroponte is scheduled to meet President Roh Moo-Hyun and other officials.

Arms Control Today, 6 March 2007

### **Slow Start in 2007 for U.S.-Indian Nuclear Deal**

A top U.S. official predicted late last year that if the U.S. and Indian governments 'move real fast' in 2007 they would be able to clear India for global civil nuclear trade in six months. But New Delhi has proceeded at a more leisurely pace, waiting until late February to renew nuclear negotiations with Washington and stalling on necessary talks with the world's nuclear agency.

Indian Express, 6 March 2007

### **North Korea, US begin nuke talks**

US and North Korean negotiators will start talks on Monday aimed at normalising diplomatic ties as part of a complex agreement under which Pyongyang has pledged to scrap its nuclear arms programmes for aid. The talks at the US mission to the UN mark the highest-level meeting on American soil since communist North Korea's leader Kim Jong-Il sent a top envoy to Washington in 2000 in an abortive effort to improve relations.

The Indian Express, 6 March 2007

#### **IAEA chief calls for talks on Iran**

The chief UN nuclear inspector on Monday said his agency cannot be sure that Iran's nuclear activities are not a cover for a weapons programme, but stressed that negotiations remained the key to answering international concerns. Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke as board member nations of the IAEA gathered for a session on approving the suspension of dozens of technical aid programmes to Iran as part of Security Council sanctions meant to punish Tehran for its nuclear defiance.

Hindustan Times, 7 March 2007

#### **US industry's cautious welcome to India nuclear deal**

A group of American companies has backed US civil nuclear deals with India and Russia but cautioned that such agreements must not inadvertently undermine the resurrection of the American nuclear industry. "Cooperation with other nations is an essential part of our nuclear energy future," industry leaders representing the American Council on Global Nuclear Competitiveness told US Energy Secretary Samuel W Bodman at a meeting on Tuesday.

The Times of India, 7 March 2007

#### **Indo-US N-deal independent of ties with Russia: Pranab**

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday said its civil nuclear agreement with the United States is independent of the cooperation with Russia, which will help in building four more atomic plants in Tamil Nadu and some other places. Replying to questions in the Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, however, said that continued supply of fuel to such reactors would depend on Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) guidelines and efforts are being made to get these amended for this purpose.

The Hindu, 8 March 2007

#### **IAEA seeks 'timeout' on Iran**

New York, March 7: The United Nations' atomic watchdog has sought a "timeout" on the Iranian nuclear issue to allow for talks with Tehran on suspending uranium enrichment.....

The Hindu, 8 March 2007

#### **'Voluntary moratorium cannot become bilateral legality': Kakodkar**

CHENNAI: Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, has made it clear that India does not want to convert its unilateral, voluntary moratorium on nuclear tests into a bilateral legality with the United States.....

The Times of India, 8 March 2007

**Indo-US N-deal independent of ties with Russia: Pranab**

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday said its civil nuclear agreement with the United States is independent of the cooperation with Russia, which will help in building four more atomic plants in Tamil Nadu and some other places.....

The Times of India, 8 March 2007

**US asks N Korea to come 'clean' on N-activities**

NEW YORK: The first substantive United States-North Korea talks on ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapon ambitions have gone well but Washington would like Pyongyang to come.....

The Economic Times, 9 March 2007

**NPCIL to set up imported uranium-based plant**

NEW DELHI: Nuclear power is set to have a bigger share of the energy basket, that is if the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal finally goes through. Even before the 123 Agreement is finalised and passed by the US Congress, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) is working on a plan to set up 10,000MW of new capacity based on imported uranium.

Hindustan Times, 9 March 2007

**US says nuclear deal with India not to fuel arms race**

Allaying apprehensions, the US has said its civilian nuclear agreement with India provides no "incentives" to New Delhi's military programmes and will not in any way fuel an arms race in South Asia. "There have been a lot of studies and a lot of statements -- you heard them all during the debate -- about what this (nuclear deal) would do for India's military programmes, whether it would do anything at all. I still believe it wouldn't; I don't think the incentives are there," Assistant Secretary of South and Central Asia Richard Boucher told lawmakers at a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Hindu, 9 March 2007

**U.S. commercial nuclear team meets Kakodkar**

MUMBAI: The commercial nuclear delegation of the U.S.-India Business Council met here on Thursday Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar and Chairman and Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India S.K. Jain and discussed areas of nuclear supplies India could be interested in after the signing of the 123 Agreement. The Council Director for Policy Advocacy, Ted Jones, told reporters that the delegation was in India to explore the role the U.S. companies could play in India following the Agreement. Earlier, they had met several functionaries of the Union Government in New Delhi.

Tehran Times, 10 March 2007

**Arabs protest Israeli nuclear hint**

VIENNA (Reuters) - Arab nations have protested over Israel's first hint of a nuclear arsenal to the UN atomic watchdog, saying this flouts international commitments to a

nuclear arms-free zone in the Middle East, diplomats said. An Arab statement to the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors this week faulted the IAEA's provision of aid for nuclear energy in Israel even though the country had never joined a treaty banning development of atom bombs.

Financial Express, 10 March 2007

### **Civilian nuclear ties top the agenda of India-US talks**

NEW DELHI, MAR 9: Cooperation in civil nuclear energy will be on top of the agenda when US energy secretary Samuel Bodman meets energy officials in India this month. According to officials, a partnership with the US in the field of nuclear cooperation will help India - the fifth-largest oil-consuming nation in the world in 2006 - to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and transform itself into an emission-free nuclear power for electricity generation.

China Post, 10 March 2007

### **China warns distrust tests North Korea nuclear talks**

Deep distrust is challenging progress towards ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program, China's envoy to six-party disarmament talks said on Friday, following discussions with North Korea on a nascent deal. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, ring-master in the talks on Pyongyang's nuclear future, said he had hopes of progress in implementing a Feb. 13 agreement offering North Korea aid and improved security in return for first steps to dismantling its atomic facilities within 60 days.

Asia Times, 10 March 2007

### **India, US at the business end of nuclear deal**

NEW DELHI: It is one year since US President George W Bush visited India. To mark the occasion, a high-powered US business group is in India to take forward what will be a major milestone of Bush's tenure as commander-in-chief: the US-India civilian energy nuclear deal.

The Hindu, 11 March 2007

### **Payment row over Bushehr nuclear plant**

MOSCOW: Russia warned of delays in starting up the Bushehr nuclear power station in Iran as talks here failed to resolve a payment dispute between the two sides. Atomstroieksport, Russian company building the plant, has accused Iran of falling behind on its payments for construction work. Iran is to pay \$25 million every month, but the last payment was received in January, Atomstroieksport said.

The Hindu, 11 March 2007

### **Threatens 'partial action'**

SINGAPORE: North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator Kim Kye-gwan on Saturday hinted at a backlash against failure by the U.S. to lift financial sanctions on his country.

Hindustan Times, 12 March 2007

### **It's all very kosher**

It's tough to negotiate with the nuclear numero uno, even when you're a nice nuclear

rogue. India's tortuous talks with the United States to end 30 years of atomic exile are not exceptional. Few holds are barred when the points earned or lost are radioactive. A perfect example is the story of how the US stopped worrying and came to love the Israeli nuclear bomb.

The Times of India, 12 March 2007

**India, US look to tone up 123 language**

NEW DELHI: India is looking for a March date to begin negotiations on the 123 Agreement with the US to formalise the nuclear deal. The government is currently engaged in finalising three things - the bottomline Indian position on the negotiations, who will lead the Indian team and when the two sides can begin the discussions.

Deccan Herald, 13 March 2007

**NSG stands in way of India-US nuclear deal**

The early finalisation of the proposed Indo-US bilateral agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation - referred to commonly as the 123 agreement - may run into problems on account of the seeming lack of progress in relaxing the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) guidelines...

The Washington Post, 13 March 2007

**Policy Successes -- or U-Turns**

If all goes according to plan, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will sit down next month with the foreign ministers of Iran and North Korea -- two "axis of evil" nations that the Bush administration has long shunned. And after criticizing her predecessors for pointless diplomatic shuttling in the Middle East, Rice now makes near-monthly negotiating trips there.

Dawn, 13 March 2007

**Khatami against confrontation: Nuclear plan**

TEHRAN, March 12: Iran's former president Mohammad Khatami made a rare intervention to urge his hard-line successor to compromise and prevent a crisis with world powers over its nuclear programme, reports said on Monday.

People's Daily, 13 March 2007

**U.S. to help build nuclear power plant for Libya: report**

Libya's official news agency Jana reported Monday the country will soon sign a deal with the United States which will help Tripoli develop a nuclear power plant.

The Japan Times, 13 March 2007

**'98 reactor emergency in Miyagi covered up**

SENDAI: Tohoku Electric Power Co. apparently covered up an emergency reactor shutdown in 1998 at the Onagawa nuclear power plant in Miyagi Prefecture, sources at the utility said Monday.

The Times of India, 14 March 2007

**Signs of N-shutdown in N Korea: US**

WASHINGTON: The US has seen signs in recent days that North Korea is preparing to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear complex as called for under a six-country agreement, a US official said on Monday, but other officials were more cautious.

The New York Times, 14 March 2007

**IAEA Head Will Not Meet N.Korea Nuclear Envoy**

BEIJING: The chief of the U.N. nuclear watchdog could not meet North Korea's top nuclear negotiator, Kim Kye-gwan, in Pyongyang on Wednesday and a meeting with the diplomat was "unlikely," a spokeswoman for the agency said.

The New York Times, 14 March 2007

**N.Korea Reactor in Spotlight as Diplomacy Heats Up**

BEIJING: South Korea said on Wednesday it saw no signs that North Korea has begun shutting the reactor at the heart of its nuclear weapons ambitions, as diplomats headed to Beijing to push forward a nascent disarmament deal.

The New York Times, 14 March 2007

**Britain to Renew Nuclear Arsenal Despite Revolt**

LONDON: Britain's parliament is expected to approve a new nuclear arsenal on Wednesday but British Prime Minister Tony Blair may have to rely on opposition votes to push his plans through.

The New York Times, 14 March 2007

**Iran Sanctions Talks at U.N. Said to Enter Last Phase**

UNITED NATIONS: Six major powers hope on Wednesday to put finishing touches on a draft text imposing sanctions against Iran for refusing to suspend uranium enrichment, which can be used in a bomb or for peaceful ends.

Daily Times, 14 March 2007

**Iran ready to offer nuclear guarantees**

GENEVA: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Tuesday said Iran was prepared to offer "necessary" guarantees on its nuclear programme if the issue is withdrawn from the UN Security Council.

The New York Times, 14 March 2007

**Nations Seek to Complete Iran Sanctions**

UNITED NATIONS: The major powers sought to overcome final differences on a proposed new package of sanctions against Iran on Tuesday amid optimism that they were moving closer to agreement on measures to pressure Iran to suspend uranium enrichment.

The Hindu, 14 March 2007

**Russia steps up pressure on Iran**

MOSCOW: Russia has stepped up pressure on Iran to comply with U.N. Security Council demands to suspend uranium enrichment.

The Indian Express, 15 March 2007

**India wants space to be weapon-free**

NEW DELHI:: The Indian Government believes that a continuation of tests like the one carried out by China on January 11 - when it destroyed one of its own satellites with a ballistic missile - or the deployment of weapons can undermine international consensus on peaceful use of outer space.

Dawn, 15 March 2007

**What next in Iran'**

As the world debates the prospects of an American invasion of Iran, there comes an olive branch from the Iranian foreign minister to defuse the mounting crisis. Mr Manouchehr Mottaki has hinted that his government is prepared to offer guarantees on its nuclear programme if the issue is withdrawn from the UN Security Council.

Dawn, 15 March 2007

**Iran-US nuclear stand-off**

With the US and Iran not budging an inch from their respective positions on the nuclear issue, the threat of a US attack on Iran's nuclear installations appears imminent.

The Washington Post, 15 March 2007

**U.S. Ends Bank Probe; Possible Step Toward N. Korean Reactor Closure**

The Treasury Department said yesterday that it has ended its investigation of a Macau bank that it accused of facilitating money laundering and counterfeiting by North Korea, removing a possible roadblock to a six-nation agreement to shut down the reclusive nation's nuclear reactor.

The Hindu, 16 March 2007

**New Trident system approved**

London: Despite facing the biggest revolt in his party, British Prime Minister Tony Blair won a parliamentary vote for replacement of Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent with the support of Opposition Conservatives. Ninety-five Labour MPs, including former Ministers Michael Meacher, Gavin Strang and Frank Dobson, voted against the Government on a rebel motion calling for the decision on Trident to be delayed.

The Washington Post, 16 March 2007

**6 Powers Agree on Sanctions For Iran**

UNITED NATIONS, March 15: The U.N. Security Council's five major powers and Germany have agreed in principle to ban all Iranian arms exports and freeze the financial assets of 28 Iranian officials and institutions, including several commanders of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Dawn, 16 March 2007

**Moscow's move a precautionary step: Refusal to give N-fuel to Tehran**

MOSCOW: Fears of a Western military strike on Iran and frustrations in talks with the country's leadership have halted Russia's plans to complete a nuclear power plant there, analysts said.

Daily Yomiuri, 16 March 2007

**Hokurikuden hid accident at N-plant/Criticality in '99 continued for 15 minutes**

Hokuriku Electric Power Co., known as Hokurikuden, failed to report a criticality accident in 1999 at its nuclear power plant in Shikamachi, Ishikawa Prefecture, in which there was an uncontrollable chain reaction for 15 minutes, the government and the power company said Thursday.

China Daily, 16 March 2007

**Law 'needed for weapon research'**

A legislator has proposed enacting a defense production law to create a legal framework facilitating research and development of weaponry.

The Times of India, 17 March 2007

**Full circle: India exports heavy water to US**

MUMBAI: As India and US struggle to hammer out a civilian nuclear agreement, some heavy water is quietly flowing between the two countries.

The Times of India, 17 March 2007

**US energy secretary visits India next week**

WASHINGTON: The India-US civil nuclear deal will figure in US Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman's talks with Indian leaders next week when he visits New Delhi to discuss energy cooperation between the two countries.

Daily Times, 17 March 2007

**UK nuclear plans 'serious setback' to NPT: Iran**

LONDON: Iran, under fire from the big powers over its atomic programme, on Friday criticised Britain's plans to renew its nuclear arsenal as a 'serious setback' to international disarmament efforts.

The New York Times, 17 March 2007

**Bush Adviser Sets Aside Tough Nuke Talk**

WASHINGTON: As an academic, Victor Cha was skeptical about nuclear talks with North Korea. He considered the real value of U.S. engagement as a way to "expose the North's true, malevolent intentions."

The New York Times, 17 March 2007

**N.Korea Insists U.S. Unfreeze \$25M**

BEIJING: North Korea will not stop its nuclear activity unless \$25 million of its funds held in a Macau bank are fully released, the regime's top nuclear envoy said Saturday.

The New York Times, 17 March 2007

**Iran's President Vows to Keep Nuclear Project**

TEHRAN, March 16: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed Friday that Iran would never dismantle its nuclear program, even in the face of toughened sanctions from the United Nations Security Council.

People's Daily, 17 March 2007

**Korean Peninsula denuclearization working group begins first meeting in Beijing**

The six-party talks working group on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula began its first meeting Saturday morning in Beijing, focusing on specific measures of the denuclearization.

People's Daily, 17 March 2007

**DPRK nuclear issue: from words to action**

On Wednesday, Chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mohamed ElBaradei wrapped up his two-day visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Indian Express, 18 March 2007

**Last lap in nuclear deal gets slippery; India, US will hardtalk in ten days**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 17: The final stretch in the long journey towards the landmark India-US nuclear deal is turning out to be the most tricky one with Washington indicating it cannot let India get 'permanent rights' for reprocessing spent fuel.

The Washington Post, 18 March 2007

**N. Korea Again Links Assets to Nuclear Deal**

BEIJING, March 17: North Korea will not stop its nuclear activity until all of its money frozen in a Macau bank has been released, the lead North Korean negotiator said as he arrived in Beijing for disarmament talks.

Newindpress, 19 March 2007

**Our concerns on N-deal need to be explicitly addressed: India**

MUMBAI: Ahead of the talks on an agreement to operationalise the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, new Delhi has said the Hyde Act "significantly deviates" from the July 18, 2005 understanding and emphasised that it wants its concerns explicitly addressed.

The Tribune, 19 March 2007

**N-fuel: India firm on reprocessing**

Mumbai, March 18: Ahead of the talks on an agreement to operationalise the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, New Delhi has said the Hyde Act 'significantly deviates' from the July 18, 2005, understanding and emphasised that it wants its concerns explicitly addressed.

The Times of India, 19 March 2007

**N-submarine may be operational by 2012**

NEW DELHI: After a series of technical hiccups, India's long-running project to build nuclear submarines is finally gaining momentum. As per the revised target, the Navy is likely to get the first such operational submarine by 2012.

The Indian Express, 19 March 2007

**North Korea denuclearisation on track, says US**

BEIJING, March 18 : North Korea was on track to fulfill its side of a breakthrough

disarmament accord by shutting down its main atomic facility next month, the US envoy to talks on the North's nuclear programme said on Sunday.

The Washington Post, 19 March 2007

**Deal on Funds Removes Hurdle To N. Korea Talks**

BEIJING, March 19: The United States has agreed to release \$25 million in North Korean funds frozen in a Macau bank, removing an obstacle that had threatened to again stall disarmament negotiations with North Korea that began Monday.

The Hindu, 19 March 2007

**Heading towards a new full-scale arms race'**

Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, Russia and the United States stand on the brink of a new full-scale missile race as Washington pushes to tip the strategic weapons balance in its favour and roll back Russia's resurgence by drawing it into a crippling new arms race.

The News, 19 March 2007

**Russia warns US not to use N-issue to change Iran**

MOSCOW: Russia's security chief issued a veiled warning to Washington on Sunday not to use the Iranian nuclear issue to try to change Tehran's political course. "We oppose this question being used as an instrument of pressure, being used to interfere in Iran's internal affairs," said Igor Ivanov, the head of Russia's Security Council, Interfax news agency reported.

The New York Times, 19 March 2007

**Vietnam, U.S. Sign Nuclear Conversion Agreement**

HANOI: Vietnam has agreed to work with the United States to begin converting a nuclear research reactor to using low-enriched uranium fuel from highly-enriched uranium, state media said on Tuesday.

People's Daily, 19 March 2007

**Six-party talks move into practical phase**

The 6th round of the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue will be held in Beijing on March 19. There has been much frustrated intent since the talks began in August 2003, but recent successes have been applauded by the international community.

Hindustan Times, 20 March 2007

**N Korean nuclear reactor still operating: report**

Seoul, March 19: The nuclear facility used by North Korea to produce atomic bombs is still in operation, a senior intelligence official was reported as saying on Monday.

The Washington Post, 20 March 2007

**Japan and N. Korea Clash as 6-Party Nuclear Talks Resume**

BEIJING, March 19: Delegates to the latest round of six-party talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear program completed their first day of official discussions in Beijing on Monday, with an important money dispute apparently settled but another disagreement

involving Japan and North Korea raising its head.

The Hindu, 21 March 2007

**"Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal a major opportunity"**

NEW DELHI: U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman on Tuesday described the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear agreement as "a major opportunity" in synergising India's scientific talent and creativity and the U.S. advancement in technology, safety and security in the development and use of nuclear energy.

The Indian Express, 21 March 2007

**Russia 'pulling out' of Iran n-project**

VIENNA, March 20: Russia is pulling out its experts from the Iranian nuclear reactor site they were helping build, US and European officials said Tuesday.

The New York Times, 21 March 2007

**Russia, Iran and the Bottom Line**

Let's hear it for the profit motive. Russia has apparently decided that it can do even better financially if it starts pressuring its longtime client Iran to curtail its nuclear appetites.

The Washington Post, 21 March 2007

**Japan and N. Korea Clash as 6-Party Nuclear Talks Resume**

BEIJING, March 19: Delegates to the latest round of six-party talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear program completed their first day of official discussions in Beijing on Monday, with an important money dispute apparently settled but another disagreement involving Japan and North Korea raising its head.

People's Daily, 21 March 2007

**Roundup: Six-party talks stick to DPRK's frozen funds issue**

The six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue on Tuesday remained stalled as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea(DPRK) refused to attend the talks until its frozen funds at a Macao bank are fully released.

The Tribune, 22 March 2007

**N-reactor miniaturised for submarine**

Mumbai, March 21: Indian nuclear scientists from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have successfully miniaturised a reactor for fitting on board the Indian nuclear submarine.

The Indian Express, 22 March 2007

**Pipeline will help Iran in its nuclear push, so drop plan: US to India**

NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, MARCH 21: The US has told the Indian government that it is opposed to plans to build a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India through Pakistan, US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said in New Delhi today.

The Indian Express, 22 March 2007

**Russia firm denies pulling out of Bushehr**

Moscow, March 21: Russia's international builder company Atomstroieexport on

Wednesday denied Western press reports that its specialists were pulling out from the site of Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran.

Daily Times, 22 March 2007

**Russia will not support 'excessive' Iran sanctions**

MOSCOW: Russia will not support 'excessive' sanctions against its economic partner Iran, the foreign minister said Wednesday, as the UN Security Council considered imposing harsher measures intended to push Tehran to freeze its nuclear program.

The Indian Express, 22 March 2007

**N Korea talks stalled over frozen funds**

BEIJING, March 21: Envoys to six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear programme extended their meeting on Wednesday in an effort to overcome a financial dispute that sidetracked negotiations and focus on implementing a landmark disarmament pact.

The Washington Post, 22 March 2007

**N. Korea Agrees To Extension of Six-Party Talks**

BEIJING, March 21: After two days of holding up six-nation talks aimed at dismantling the nuclear program of North Korea, the communist state's delegation agreed to a request by China to stay another day for "substantive discussions," diplomats said Wednesday night.

Daily Times, 23 March 2007

**Hatf-VII tested**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable cruise missile 'Babur (Hatf-VII)'.

The Hindu, 23 March 2007

**India for keeping future test out of `123 agreement'**

NEW DELHI: India does not want a reference to any future nuclear test in the text of the still-under-negotiation bilateral civilian nuclear agreement with the United States, official sources said on Thursday.

The Washington Post, 23 March 2007

**Six-Party Talks Break Down As N. Korea Balks on Funds**

BEIJING, March 22: The six-nation talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear program broke down in Beijing on Thursday as top envoys from Russia and North Korea flew home and the Chinese hosts called a recess.

The New York Times, 23 March 2007

**6 Powers Agree on Minor Iran Amendments**

UNITED NATIONS: Six major powers agreed on minor amendments Thursday to a new resolution to step up pressure on Iran to suspend uranium enrichment but rejected a proposed 90-day "time out" on all sanctions sought by South Africa.

The Hindu, 23 March 2007

### **A nuclear plant and a diplomatic game**

The fate of the Russia-built nuclear power plant in Bushehr in Iran has become the focal point of a complicated diplomatic game. The matter has almost overshadowed the tougher sanctions against Iran that are under discussion in the U.N. Security Council.

The News, 23 March 2007

#### **Iran's choices**

Iran's continued defiance of the pressure being put on it by the United Nations Security Council, with Ayatollah Khamenei warning on Wednesday that Iran would do whatever it takes to defend itself, is a sign that the aggressive path currently being pursued by the western powers in their hypocritical attempt to neutralise Tehran's nuclear ambitions is perhaps not the best way out of the current crisis.

Deccan Herald, 24 March 2007

#### **NPT flawed, says India**

Tokyo: While seeking Japanese support for the historic Indo-US civilian nuclear energy deal, India, on Friday, dismissed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a 'flawed' one.

The Tribune, 24 March 2007

#### **Pranab wants Japan to back Indo-US nuke deal**

New Delhi, March 23: India today made a strong pitch for Indo-US nuclear deal with Japan and asked Tokyo to be discerning to see that New Delhi's primary quest in the nuke deal was securing stable energy supplies.

The Hindu, 24 March 2007

#### **No place to hide as nuclear deal enters last lap**

The '123 agreement' is important not in order to facilitate nuclear imports from the U.S. but because it will form the template for changes to the Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines. In the final lap, India cannot afford to abandon its core concerns.

The Times of India, 24 March 2007

#### **N-deal: US sure of sorting technical issues**

WASHINGTON: The United States is confident that a "whole lot" of the technical aspects of the implementation of Indo-US civilian nuclear deal can be "settled" during the next round of talks on the issue.

The Indian Express, 24 March 2007

#### **'It is not possible to compare Iran with India. India has never signed the NPT, while Iran has. So, it is not double standards in terms of internation**

Days before India and the US start negotiations on the 123 bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement, German Ambassador to India Bernd Muetzelburg told The Indian Express that Berlin will not come in the way of India getting approval from the Nuclear Suppliers Group for peaceful nuclear cooperation.

The Hindu, 24 March 2007

**Iran not for making nuclear arms: Khatami**

NEW DELHI: The former Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami, told Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday that Tehran was not interested in building a nuclear weapon, but wanted to use civilian nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Daily Times, 24 March 2007

**Iran's N-ties with Pakistan no threat to India: Khatami**

TEHRAN: Iran's 'nuclear cooperation with Pakistan' will 'never ever' be a threat to India, former president Mohammad Khatami said on Friday.

Daily Yomiuri, 24 March 2007

**NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT/Reinforcing alliance with U.S. helps bolster nuclear deterrence**

If possessing its own nuclear weapons is not the prudent option for Japan now, what kind of deterrence should the nation seek to maintain'

The Asahi Shimbun, 24 March 2007

**Halted six-party talks**

The six-party talks over North Korea's nuclear program have recessed without producing any results. Pyongyang insisted it would not continue to sit at the table until it confirmed the transfer of \$25 million at Banco Delta Asia in Macao, which the United States promised to release.

The Japan Times, 24 March 2007

**North Korea will only hurt itself**

There was optimism in the air when the six-party talks on the denuclearization of North Korea resumed Monday in Beijing. That same day, the United States had announced that \$ 25 million in North Korea-linked funds frozen in a Macau bank would be released. The funds had been frozen because of their suspected connection with illicit North Korean activities.

The Times of India, 25 March 2007

**123...India, US get going on nuclear agreement**

NEW DELHI: India is readying for some tough negotiations with the US when the two begin a crucial round of talks on Monday on finalising the contours of the bilateral civil nuclear agreement that will govern future nuclear trade between the two countries.

The Times of India, 25 March 2007

**Saran to visit Australia, New Zealand to seek N-support**

NEW DELHI: Aiming to muster the support of all members of the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) for its civil nuclear aspirations, India will seek next week to persuade Australia and New Zealand to shun their reservations on the issue.

The Hindu, 25 March 2007

**India seeks Japan's support for access to nuclear know-how**

SINGAPORE: India has sought the "support" of Japan for gaining access to high-tech

know-how and equipment for the peaceful use of atomic energy. Indicating this, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Friday told The Hindu over telephone from Tokyo that discussions on this issue "are [still] taking place."

Daily Times, 25 March 2007

**Pakistan's atomic, missile technology better than India's, says Mubarakmand**

ISLAMABAD: National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM) Chairman Dr Samar Mubarakmand said on Saturday that Pakistani scientists were achieving 'milestones', and the country's atomic and missile technology was now better than India's.

The Hindu, 25 March 2007

**Khatami questions India's counsel to Iran**

NEW DELHI: India, which was not a member of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, had chosen to advise Tehran to respect the NPT, former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said during an address at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on Saturday.

Daily Times, 25 March 2007

**Handling Iran**

The Six should stop digging a deeper hole. Instead of formulating new sanctions for the UN Security Council, they should use the next few months to explore confidentially what level of restrictions combined with verification Iran would consider in exchange for undisputed enrichment.

The Indian Express, 26 March 2007

**As simple as 1, 2, 3**

What is the '123 Agreement'? The agreement is an outcome of stringent US laws on trade of sensitive nuclear material and equipments. The US Atomic Energy Act allows the US administration to enter into agreements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy with countries that are signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The scope of the agreement and the various conditions attached to it are laid out in Section 123 of the Act, hence the name "123 Agreement".

The Times of India, 26 March 2007

**123, and India, US get talking**

NEW DELHI: India and the US on Monday began talks on an agreement to operationalise the civil nuclear deal amid New Delhi's firm insistence that it will accept no deviation from the understanding reached between the two sides last year.

The Telegraph, 26 March 2007

**N-talks amid rift within & without**

New Delhi, March 25: The next round of talks on the agreement to facilitate Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation begins tomorrow in a context that does not seem very propitious. They also come in the wake of the US showing complete insensitivity to Indian concerns about not linking 'extraneous' issues to the deal.

The Indian Express, 26 March 2007

**Spent political fuel'**

Neither India nor US should make good the enemy of perfect while negotiating the nuclear deal.

Hindustan Times, 26 March 2007

**Indo-US agreement likely by year end**

New Delhi: Officials are upbeat after day 1 of the first round of official 'technical level' talks on the 123 Agreement, and are even hopeful the agreement can be firmed up by the end of the year.

The Hindu, 26 March 2007

**Iran asserts its "rights"**

DUBAI: Iran has denounced the United Nations Security Council resolution, which imposes fresh sanctions on Tehran.

Deccan Herald, 26 March 2007

**Iran to restrict cooperation with IAEA**

Tehran: Iran has decided to restrict cooperation with IAEA in retaliation for UNSC sanctions. Iran is to restrict its cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog in retaliation for the Security Council sanctions over its disputed atomic programme, a government spokesman has announced.

The Washington Post, 26 March 2007

**Iran Partly Suspends Nuclear Pledges**

TEHRAN, March 25: The Iranian government announced Sunday that it was partially suspending cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, citing the "illegal" sanctions the Security Council imposed on the country Saturday for its refusal to stop enriching uranium.

The Washington Post, 26 March 2007

**Iran Feels Pinch As Major Banks Curtail Business**

More than 40 major international banks and financial institutions have either cut off or cut back business with the Iranian government or private sector as a result of a quiet campaign launched by the Treasury and State departments last September, according to Treasury and State officials.

Dawn, 26 March 2007

**Iran again offers talks - without pre-conditions**

NEW YORK, March 25: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Sunday his country will consider opening talks with the United States, European nations, Russia and China over their concern about its nuclear programme which it considers its 'right'.

Daily Yomiuri, 26 March 2007

**NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT / SDF's strike capability--time to pick up the pike as well as the shield'**

The following is the fifth and final installment of the third series of articles on the threats posed by North Korea's nuclear ambitions that takes a close look at deterrents Japan can utilize.

The Indian Express, 27 March 2007

**N-deal: India says no deviation from previous agreement**

New Delhi, March 26 : A two-day talk to operationalise the civil nuclear deal between India and the US began today, with New Delhi insisting that it will accept no deviation from the understanding reached between the two sides last year.

The Telegraph, 27 March 2007

**Nuke talks amid negotiator drama**

Washington, March 26: At the end of two days of negotiations with the Americans in New Delhi on the nuclear deal, the Indian delegation was bogged down in 'housekeeping' issues, making it unlikely that the so-called 123 agreement to take the deal forward would be finalised by the end of the talks tomorrow.

The New York Times, 27 March 2007

**EU Renews Offer to Iran on Nuke Talks**

VIENNA: A top European envoy on Monday renewed an offer from six world powers to talk with Tehran over its nuclear ambitions, and a senior Iranian negotiator agreed to stay in contact in an effort to find common ground.

The New York Times, 27 March 2007

**Pentagon Chief Warns Against "Illusions" on Iran**

WASHINGTON: Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday said the United States was open to high-level talks with Tehran, but warned against "illusions" about Iran's government and its intentions.

The New York Times, 27 March 2007

**CIA Says North Korea Nuclear Test a Failure: Report**

SEOUL: North Korea's nuclear test last October was a failure and gives no credence to Pyongyang's claim to being a nuclear weapons state, U.S. CIA Director Michael Hayden was quoted as saying by a South Korean newspaper on Wednesday.

The Hindu, 28 March 2007

**Fissile treaty is India's next challenge**

NEW DELHI: With a proposal to kick-start work on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons rapidly gathering traction, India is bracing itself for the earlier-than-expected opening of a new front in the struggle to conclude its nuclear agreement with the United States.

Dawn, 28 March 2007

**UK threatens to raise stakes in Iran standoff**

LONDON, March 27: British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned Iran on Tuesday that a row over 15 detained sailors could enter a 'different phase' if they were not freed soon,

remarks which Tehran condemned as provocative.

Organizer, 28 March 2007

**Manmohan stealthily works India's nuclear surrender**

Fortunately for their name in posterity, the country's official nuclear establishment has explicitly raised serious technical objections and efforts by Manmohan Singh and Montek Ahluwalia to crush on behalf of Sonia Maino have thus far failed.

The New York Times, 28 March 2007

**World Disarmament Body Faces Moment of Truth**

GENEVA: The world's only disarmament forum faces a key decision on Thursday over whether to launch its first arms negotiations in a decade.

The New York Times, 28 March 2007

**Richardson: 'Nuclear 9 - 11' Is Possible**

WASHINGTON: Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson said the United States needs to do more to prevent a "nuclear 9-11," a threat that he argues has been neglected because the Bush administration has been consumed with Iraq.

Hindustan Times, 29 March 2007

**Work in progress on 123 accord**

New Delhi, March 28: India and the United States are keeping the details of the '123 Agreement' confidential for the time being. Officials familiar with the negotiations that will get the Indo-US civil nuclear cooperation going said that this was because the document is at "a very preliminary" stage.

Hindustan Times, 29 March 2007

**Russia assails US global policy, warns against attacking Iran**

Moscow, March 28: Russia's Foreign Ministry has sharply criticised the United States for what it called over-reliance on force and warned Washington against military action against Iran.

The Indian Express, 29 March 2007

**Nuclear surrender**

In an 'exclusive' article headlined "Manmohan stealthily works India's nuclear surrender", Organiser's foreign policy expert M.D. Nalapat accuses the UPA government of capitulating to American pressure on the Indo-US nuclear deal.

Dawn, 29 March 2007

**Two N-power plants planned near Karachi**

KARACHI, March 28: The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is in the process of setting up two nuclear power plants on the outskirts of the city. 'A piece of land measuring over 585 acres is being acquired next to the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp).

The Asahi Shimbun, 29 March 2007

**POINT OF VIEW/ Zia Mian, M.V. Ramana, Frank von Hippel: Feeding potential for South Asia's nuclear fire**

The United States and India have agreed to the terms of a deal to exempt India from U.S. laws and international rules that for almost three decades have sought to prevent states that are not parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty from using commercial imports of nuclear technology and fuel to aid their nuclear weapons ambitions.

The Asian Age, 29 March 2007

**Fissile pact: US forces India hand**

New Delhi, March 28: The US-India civilian nuclear energy agreement signed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W. Bush has put India in yet another strait jacket, whereby it has been left with no option but to support the United States draft Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) even though this does not meet the Indian condition of being "internationally verifiable".

The Hindu, 30 March 2007

**123 pact: India, U.S. resolve some differences**

New Delhi: India and the U.S. have resolved differences on some of the contentious issues during the two-day talks on an agreement to operationalise the civil nuclear deal. "There was progress in the talks," an official said referring to the official-level discussions on the bilateral agreement, called 123 Agreement, held on March 26-27.

Hindustan Times, 30 March 2007

**Australia ready to back India at NSG**

Melbourne, March 29: In a significant development, Australia on Thursday indicated its readiness to back India's case at the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and hinted at changing its own policies to have civil nuclear trade with New Delhi.

The New York Times, 30 March 2007

**U.S. Says It's Not Out to Provoke Iran**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration on Thursday said two aircraft carrier groups were in the Persian Gulf to reassure friendly governments in the area and not to provoke Iran.

The New York Times, 30 March 2007

**Iran Faces Challenge on Nuclear Issue**

VIENNA: The United States and key allies are pressing the U.N. nuclear monitoring agency to find Iran in violation of its commitments to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty over Tehran's refusal to allow remote monitoring of its underground uranium enrichment plant, diplomats said Thursday.

The New York Times, 30 March 2007

**Congress Cool to Nuclear Warhead Plan**

WASHINGTON: An administration proposal to build a new generation of more reliable nuclear warheads to replace the current stockpile was met with skepticism Thursday from key lawmakers who will decide how much money to give the program.

The Hindu, 31 March 2007

**Dhanush missile test-fired**

HYDERABAD: Dhanush, the ship-based surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads and having a range of 350 km, was successfully test-fired off the coast of Paradip in the Bay of Bengal on Friday.

The News, 31 March 2007

**Pakistan test fires Hataf-II Abdali missile**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan successfully test-fired surface-to-surface Hataf-II Abdali missile on Saturday. The surface-to-surface Abdali ballistic missile having a range of 200 kilometers (125 miles) can carry all types of warheads.

Hindustan Times, 31 March 2007

**Burns to take up nuclear deal at political level**

Washington: The key US negotiator on the India-US nuclear deal, Nicholas Burns, plans to take the path forward with the Indians at the political level after an in-house assessment of the just concluded Delhi round of talks.

The Indian Express, 31 March 2007

**FBI arrests 2 of Indian origin, accuses 2 Indian govt officials in sale of missile tech**

New Delhi, New York, MARCH 30: The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has arrested two persons of Indian origin running an electronics company in South Carolina and referred to two unnamed Indian government officials as 'co-conspirators' in the alleged export of sensitive dual-use items from the US to three Indian entities: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) for possible use in production of missiles and missile-launch vehicles, Aeronautical Development Establishment for use in the development of the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft and Bharat Dynamics Limited for a defence project.

The Indian Express, 31 March 2007

**Iran: Attack Fears Spurred Nuclear Block**

VIENNA: Iran, in a confidential letter posted Friday on an internal Web site of the U.N. nuclear monitor, said its fear of attack from the U.S. and Israel prompted its decision to withhold information from the agency.