

Daily Times, 1 May 2006

### **Qaeda claims US consulate blast in Karachi**

Paris, April 30: Al Qaeda late on Saturday claimed responsibility for the March 2 suicide bomb attack in Karachi that killed five, including an American diplomat and a US consulate employee. In an Internet-posted statement, the authenticity of which could not be immediately verified, the organization promised a "summer of hell" for US troops in Afghanistan. "Dozens of suicide operations have been carried out in Pakistan and Afghanistan within the large Al Qaeda campaign against Zionists and crusaders, including the attack against the US consulate in Karachi a day before the arrival of the biggest crusader [US President George W Bush]," the organization said. The statement, signed "Al Qaeda, of the Afghanistan Jihad" vowed that 2006 "would be decisive and that this summer would be hell for crusader soldiers and their agents among the renegades".

Hindustan Times, 1 May 2006

### **Musharraf among Times' most influential people**

New York, April 30: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Iranian President Mohmoud Ahmadinejad, Microsoft's Bill Gates and Melinda Gates are among the 100 most influential people chosen by Time magazine as shapers of the world. The list includes 79 men and 25 women who hail from 29 different countries including Bhutan, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine, South Africa, Seoul, United Arab Emirates, United States, and Venezuela. NRI Vikram Akula's name, founder of SKS Microfinance, who uses smart cards to make venture capital available to more than 800 million people living on less than two dollars in India, also figures in the list. Musharraf, who stands between order and cataclysm in Pakistan, Ahmadinejad, who is challenging the most powerful nations on the nuclear issue and Microsoft Chairman Gates are there in the list...

Daily Times, 2 May 2006

### **US IT firms flock to Kolkata**

Washington, May 1: In the last five years, American and other information technology firms including IBM and Wipro Ltd have flocked to Kolkata, India's third largest software services exporter, according to a report here. Kolkata is said to be witnessing a retail and building boom which has seen new glass-covered IT campuses, shopping malls and swank apartment complexes springing up. "For years, the communist party depended on rural support but they have learned they cannot showcase rural West Bengal to the world," Kolkata-based economist Sugato Marjit told a Reuters correspondent...

Dawn, 2 May 2006

### **DCG to meet this week**

Islamabad, May 1: The Pakistan-US Defense Consultative Group (DCG) is meeting in Washington this week to review and bolster bilateral military cooperation, particularly in the war against terrorism. The DCG is the primary forum for dialogue on security issues and coordinating policies regarding the war on terrorism. The five-day meeting will be co-chaired by Pakistan's Defense Secretary Lt-Gen (ret'd) Tariq Wasim Ghazi and US Under-Secretary of State of Defense Eric Edleman. The wide-ranging talks at the Pentagon would cover matters of security support arrangements, procurement of military equipment and military training, it is learnt...

The Frontier Post, 2 May 2006

### **FM: US attitude on civil nuclear technology issue inappropriate**

Islamabad, May 1: Foreign minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri Sunday said United States attitude towards Pakistan over the civil nuclear technology issue is inappropriate adding that a US attack on Iran will not just shock moderate forces but will also give an impetus and strength to the extremist forces. Addressing a 2-day South Asia General Conference here at a local hotel organized under the auspices of South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) and South Asia Policy Analysis Network (SAPNA) the Foreign minister said we have been reiterating our stance to persuade US. American decision is principally wrong and if we will not be able to persuade her we will talk to other countries, he said...

Nepal News, 2 May 2006

### **Asst. Secy. Boucher arriving today**

Katmandu, May 1: US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard Boucher, is arriving in Kathmandu today to gauge the latest developments in Nepal. Report quoted a source close to US embassy saying that Boucher will meet King Gyanendra, Prime Minister GP Koirala and other key political leaders and civil society representatives and leave Nepal tomorrow. This is Boucher's first visit to Nepal after his

appointment as Assistant Secretary of State. Boucher is scheduled to address a press conference in Kathmandu on Wednesday morning...

The Hindu, 3 May 2006

### **Pakistan not to follow U.S. on Jamaat ban**

Islamabad, May 2: Pakistan on Tuesday said it would not follow the example of the U.S. and proscribe Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JUD), the renamed outfit of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). On Friday, the U.S. designated as global terrorist organisations the Jamaat and the Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq (IKK), two renamed outfits of the banned LeT. The two groups were added to the Specially Designated Global Terrorist list of the State Department. An announcement from Washington said after the two countries banned the LeT, it had renamed itself as the Jamaat to evade sanctions. It also pointed out that the IKK was established as a public welfare organisation which it uses inter alia to collect funds...

Hindustan Times, 3 May 2006

### **Be ready for changes, US tells India**

Washington, May 2: The US administration has said New Delhi must be prepared to accept "amendments" to the agreement which are within the "spirit" of the July 2005 accord signed between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W Bush. This was conveyed to a delegation of visiting Indian Parliamentarians by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a 30-minute meeting at the state department here...The Member of Parliament said it was generally recognised that time was of essence and that the civilian nuclear energy agreement should be formalised at the earliest...

Daily Times, 3 May 2006

### **Pak-Afghan-US exercises today**

Peshawar, May 2: Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States will start their first-ever joint military exercises today. Army spokesman Shaukat Sultan said the first phase of the exercises would start today (Wednesday) and 500 troops from all three countries would take part in the 10-day exercises.

Nepal News, 3 May 2006

### **US renews commitment to assist Nepal**

Katmandu, May 2: The visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard A. Boucher, has said his country is looking forward to provide extend political, economic and security assistance to Nepal by consulting the new democratic government led by Mr. G P Koirala. Addressing a press meet organized in the capital on Wednesday morning at the conclusion of his nearly 20-hour-long visit to Nepal, Mr. Boucher said he had arrived Kathmandu to the exciting developments in Nepal that have attracted the world's attention...

Daily Times, 3 May 2006

### **'US-India N-deal violates non-proliferation laws'**

Islamabad, May 2: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee said on Tuesday that the Indo-US nuclear agreement was a violation of international law as well as the United States' own laws and the Non-Proliferation Act...He said that Holland, as a leading member of European community, could play a meaningful role in ensuring a peaceful environment in the world, a press release issued here said. Regarding Iran's nuclear programme, Mushahid said that under no circumstances was the use of force against Iran justified. He said that use or threat of force against Iran would send a negative signal to the Muslim world. He also warned of the repercussions that would follow if a military option was pursued against Iran. He complemented Dutch scholars for their role in fostering interfaith harmony and hoped that European countries would continue to play a pro-active role in defusing the situation...

The Hindu, 4 May 2006

### **U.S. for "amendments" to nuclear deal**

Washington, May 3: The Bush administration said on Wednesday that New Delhi must be prepared to accept "amendments" to the nuclear deal which are within the "spirit" of the July 2005 accord.

Daily Times, 4 May 2006

### **US wants direct access to AQ Khan**

Lahore, May 3: The United States wants direct access to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and President Bush, in his recent

visit to Pakistan, told President Pervez Musharraf that US experts want to question the detained scientist, said BBC security correspondent. Speaking at a television programme on Wednesday, BBC security correspondent Gordon Corrao was commenting on a Pakistan Foreign Office statement, which said that the Dr AQ Khan case had been closed and that there would be no further investigation into the matter. He said that such a statement by the Pakistani Foreign Office was an attempt to sweep things under the rug...

Hindustan Times, 4 May 2006

### **US not to remove Nepal Maoists from terror list**

Katmandu, May 3: The United States on Wednesday said it would not remove Nepal's Maoist rebels from its list of terrorist organisations unless they lay down arms and join peaceful political process. The Maoists can also participate in the political process if they lay down arms and abandon violence, he said adding, the US government can do everything it can to support political leaders and people of Nepal in building the country. Boucher said as during the process for restoration of democracy, the US would continue to work in close coordination with India to build peaceful and prosperous Nepal...

Nepal News, 4 May 2006

### **US renews commitment to assist Nepal**

Katmandu, May 3: The visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard A Boucher, has said his country is looking forward to provide extend political, economic and security assistance to Nepal by consulting the new democratic government led by Prime Minister GP Koirala. Addressing a press meet organized in the capital on Wednesday morning at the conclusion of his nearly 20-hour-long visit to Nepal, Mr. Boucher said, Maoists must renounce violence and join the political process for the peace and stability in Nepal, adding, "If they are sincere, they have good opportunity to do so." Responding to a query whether the US supports or opposes the (possible) Maoist takeover of Nepal, Mr. Boucher said, "We oppose it because we oppose any kind of takeover of Nepal. Getting the people of Nepal to choose their govt. is what we want"...

Daily Star, 4 May 2006

### **Bangladesh on US watch list**

Washington, May 3: A US government commission warned on Wednesday of rising religious persecution in Iraq and Afghanistan, two countries invaded by the United States in the past five years to free their people from tyranny and abuse. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, in its annual report to Congress and President George W. Bush's administration, also harshly criticized three key US allies -- Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt -- for their poor performance on religious rights. The commission designated 11 countries as being "of particular concern" because of extreme religious persecution: Burma, North Korea, Eritrea, Iran, Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Another seven states were placed on a watch list because of serious violations: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia and Nigeria...

Daily Times, 5 May 2006

### **'It's a rocky relationship, but US still needs Islamabad'**

Washington, May 4: The relationship between Pakistan and the United States has suffered since their alliance after 9/11, but Washington still needs Islamabad and is likely to continue to support President Gen Pervez Musharraf, writes Simon Tisdall in the Guardian. Tisdall writes that Gen Musharraf "adapted faster than most" after 9/11 to side with the US, "but Washington memories are short and, five years on, the relationship grows rocky". US officials have complained that Pakistan hasn't done enough to stop Taliban militants crossing the border and to catch Al Qaeda renegades. The allies have also developed differences over Iran and a gas pipeline venture with Tehran...

Daily Times, 5 May 2006

### **India rules out amendments to US nuclear deal**

New Delhi, May 4: India said on Thursday that it would not accept any "amendments" to the civil nuclear agreement signed with the US, rejecting suggestions among some in Washington that the deal would inevitably be subject to change. Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Navtej Sarna, on US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice telling an Indian parliamentary delegation in Washington that New Delhi had to be prepared to accept "amendments" to the agreement, said: "The Government of India's position remains that our commitments are to those that are outlined in the joint statement of July 18, 2005."...

The New York Times, 5 May 2006

### **U.S. Eases Curbs on Resettling Burmese Refugees**

Washington, May 4: After months of deliberation, the Bush administration has agreed to move forward with the resettlement of thousands of Burmese refugees, a State Department official said Thursday. The refugees' indirect support for armed rebels opposed to their repressive government had put them in technical violation of an American antiterrorism law. The decision was welcomed by officials at the United Nations and refugee resettlement agencies who had criticized the administration for delaying the processing of the Burmese refugees because of a provision in the USA Patriot Act. But United Nations officials and others warned that the antiterrorism provision would still sharply limit the number of Burmese eligible for resettlement, despite the administration's decision, and would continue to block the admission of other vulnerable refugees...

Hindustan Times, 5 May 2006

### **India's nuclear protection system 'excellent', says US**

Colombo, May 4: The protection system put in place by India for its nuclear and strategic assets is "excellent" says the US State Department in its latest report on Global Patterns of Terrorism. "The Indian Government has an excellent record of protecting its nuclear assets from terrorists and is taking steps to improve further the security of its strategic systems," the report for 2005 released in late April said. Addressing the other major concern of the US, namely, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems, the report said that India had passed a law in May 2005 designed to prevent the transfer of WMD, their delivery systems and associated technologies to state and non-state actors, including terrorists. The report said that though terrorists had struck in many places and sometimes spectacularly, India had scored "major successes" in combating the menace. Civilian fatalities from terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir continued a five-year decline in the first nine months of 2005. And the earthquake in Pakistan had "reportedly killed many Kashmir-based terrorists"...

Daily Times, 6 May 2006

### **Pakistan and US to enhance trade, economic relations**

Islamabad, May 5: The United States has appreciated Pakistan's trade and investment policies as liberal and attractive and has suggested to the government of Pakistan to arrange a meeting with all US companies working in Pakistan at a proper forum to know their concerns about making investment in Pakistan and subsequently devise a mechanism to address their concerns as it would go a long way in attracting foreign investment in Pakistan. Similarly, the government of Pakistan should identify and negotiate with major US companies that are now not working in Pakistan and try to address their investment-related concerns so that they also can invest in Pakistan. United States Under Secretary of State for Trade and Commerce Franklin L Lavin who called on Minister for Commerce Humayun Akhtar Khan on Friday suggested measures for enhancing US investment in Pakistan...

Daily Times, 6 May 2006

### **Pakistan not a failed state, says US official**

Islamabad, May 5: US Under Secretary for International Trade Franklin Lavin dismissed notions that Pakistan was a failed state on Friday, saying the country had enormous potential for investment by US commercial concerns. Lavin told reporters that Pakistan's economy had been performing well and had attained one of the highest growth rates in the world. He said the purpose of his visit was to discuss and line-up issues with Pakistani ministries. "Bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United States is increasing," he said, adding that he would meet Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz today (Saturday).

Daily Times, 6 May 2006

### **US lauds Pakistan**

Washington, May 5: The United States on Wednesday commended Pakistan's efforts to go after terrorists along the Pak-Afghan border region, saying "we will continue to work with Pakistan to help in those efforts". "Pakistan is an ally in the war on terrorism," White House Spokesman Scott McClellan said at the daily press briefing.

Daily Times, 7 May 2006

### **Pakistan not doing much on terror: US**

Kabul, May 6: Pakistan is not doing enough to help root out Taliban and Al Qaeda leaders who have found safe haven in its lawless tribal lands along the Afghan border, a senior US security official said on Saturday. Most Al Qaeda and Taliban leaders are in Pakistan, and while the United States did not know where Osama bin Laden was hiding, he was probably on the Pakistan side of the border, said Henry Crumpton, State Department coordinator for

counter-terrorism. Pakistan, a vital US security ally, has arrested hundreds of Al Qaeda members and lost hundreds of its troops battling militants. But Afghan officials have complained insurgents were able to gather support and launch raids from the safety of Pakistani territory. Violence has intensified in parts of Afghanistan in recent months to its worst level since US and Afghan opposition forces ousted the Taliban in 2001...

Hindustan Times, 7 May 2006

### **Bush asks US youth to gear up to face Indian competitors**

Washington, May 6: Citing the rise of "competitors" like India, President George W Bush asked American youngsters to enhance education and help foster technological advances needed by the US to compete with the world's economic powers... Bush urged the youth not to become isolationists but to help enhance education and foster technological advances the US needs to compete with the world's economic powers...

Daily Times, 7 May 2006

### **US, Pakistan hold successful defense, security talks**

Washington, May 6: Pakistan and the United States ended five days of talks here on Friday designed to strengthen the security of the two countries, winning the global war on terrorism and enhancing stability in South Asia. The Pakistan delegation was led by Defense Secretary Lt Gen (r) Tariq Waseem Ghazi, while the American side was led by Under Secretary of Defense Eric S Edelman. A joint statement issued at the end of the meetings said that the Defense Consultative Group (DCG) serves as a primary forum for exchanging ideas and coordinating defense policy discussions with a view to deepen cooperation in diverse areas of the bilateral defense relationship...

Dawn, 7 May 2006

### **Comments of US official criticized: Pakistan's role in war on terror**

Islamabad, May 6: Director-General of ISPR Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan on Saturday dismissed US ambassador in-charge of counterterrorism Henry Crumpton's assertion that Pakistan was not doing enough in the war on terror as totally absurd. Mr Crumpton had told reporters at the US Embassy in Kabul after talks with Afghan officials on Saturday that parts of Pakistan were a "safe haven" for militants and that Osama bin Laden was more likely to be hiding there than in Afghanistan...Mr. Crumpton lauded Pakistan for arresting "hundreds and hundreds" of Al Qaeda figures but said it needed to do more...Mr. Crumpton said US officials continued to believe that Al Qaeda leader Osama was somewhere along the Afghan-Pakistani border, and more likely on the Pakistani side. A senior security official in Islamabad said Mr Crumpton, during meetings with Pakistani intelligence and government officials this week, had praised Pakistan for its efforts to hunt down militants...

The Hindu, 8 May 2006

### **U.S. official's remarks irresponsible: Pakistan**

Islamabad: Pakistan on Sunday described as "highly irresponsible" the remarks of U.S. State Department Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism Henry Crumpton that Pakistan was not doing enough to curb terrorism. Mr. Crumpton, currently on a trip to Afghanistan, was quoted in the media as saying that most of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda leadership had found a safe haven in Pakistan's tribal belt that borders Afghanistan. He has been quoted as saying that while the United States did not know where Osama bin Laden was hiding, the Al-Qaeda leader was probably on the Pakistan side of the Afghan border...

Daily Times, 8 May 2006

### **'US will give Pakistan weapons, defence system'**

Islamabad: The Pak-US Defence Advisory Group has announced that the United States will provide latest weapons and defence system to Pakistan. The US and Pakistan will hold joint military exercises in 2007, ARYONE TV channel quoted Defence Secretary Lt Gen (r) Tariq Waseem Ghazi, who is on a visit to the US, as saying on Sunday. The defence secretary said that the US had agreed to provide conventional weapons to Pakistan and enhance its defence capability. Ghazi said that an advisory group meeting discussed Pakistan's defence needs and the US agreed to upgrade Pakistan's weapons. He said the US agreed to sell conventional and sophisticated weapons to Pakistan to help it fight terrorism effectively...

Dawn, 8 May 2006

### **US told N-deal should not disturb balance**

Washington, May 7: Pakistan has told the United States that the Indo-US nuclear deal should not be allowed to disturb the existing balance of power in South Asia. 'We believe that everybody will suffer if this balance is

disturbed," Defence Secretary Lt-Gen (Rtd) Tariq Waseem Ghazi told a briefing in Washington. Gen Ghazi, who was here for the 17th annual meeting of the US-Pakistan defence consultative group, said that Pakistan had 'some reservations' about the Indo-US nuclear deal and these reservations were raised during the five-day talks...

Nepal News, 9 May 2006

### **"Who is Richard Boucher?" Maoist supremo asks**

Katmandu, May 8: The top leader of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dahal has alleged that a serious conspiracy is being hatched against Nepal internationally. In an exclusive telephonic interview with Nepal magazine published on Sunday, the Maoist supremo called upon all patriotic Nepalis "to become aware towards such conspiracies."...During his brief visit to Kathmandu last month, Boucher had advised the Nepal government not to include Maoists in the interim government unless they give up arms. He had also expressed doubts over their intention to return to peaceful competitive politics...

Daily Times, 9 May 2006

### **US airstrike injures 3 in Waziristan**

Islamabad, May 8: United States helicopter gun-ships wounded at least three Pakistani labourers in a missile strike against suspected Taliban fighters in South Waziristan on Monday, according to security officials. The three were brought to the border town of Angoor Adda from a nearby mountain where they had been mining for minerals, but another eight men were unaccounted for, said the officials, who requested anonymity. However, the US military later said that the air strike killed four suspected Taliban or Al Qaeda fighters. US ground troops later found the guerrillas dead and captured a fifth, Lt-Col Paul Fitzpatrick said at the US military base at Bagram outside Kabul. The attack was launched after US and Afghan forces spotted a group of suspected militants loading a truck with rockets stored in a cave in the Bermel, Paktika...

Hindustan Times, 9 May 2006

### **Bush game for India, China competition**

Washington, May 8: President George W Bush wants Americans to welcome competition from rising powers like India and China, instead of hitting the panic button. Bringing up the subject while addressing the graduates of Oklahoma State University, Bush said: "We're seeing the rise of new competitors like China and India, and this competition creates uncertainty. Some look at the changes taking place all around us and they worry about the future. Their reaction is to wall America off from the world, and to retreat into protectionism." "This," Bush warned, "is a sure path to stagnation and decline. I ask you to reject this kind of pessimism. We should welcome competition, because it makes our country stronger and more prosperous."

Hindustan Times, 9 May 2006

### **US to give latest defense systems to Pakistan**

Islamabad, May 8: The United States has agreed to provide Pakistan's military with latest conventional weapons systems besides the already promised F-16s to fight terrorism. The commitment to provide the weapons was made by the US after examining the list of defense requirements provided by Pakistan at the just concluded US-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group (DCG) meeting in Washington, Pakistan's Defense Secretary Tariq Waseem Ghazi said. "The US has agreed to sell conventional weapons and latest weapon system to Pakistan so that the fight against terrorism can effectively move forward," he was quoted as saying by Pakistan TV ARY One. The meeting also decided that American and Pakistan forces would hold joint military exercises in 2007, he said. The United States has already agreed to provide F-16s to Pakistan.

Hindustan Times, 10 May 2006

### **Myanmar hits out at US, Britain on NLD training**

Yangon, May 9: Myanmar has accused the US and British embassies of violating diplomatic protocol by conducting free training courses for members of Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party, a state newspaper said on Tuesday. The New Light of Myanmar said junior leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD) had studied English, computers and international relations at the embassies since last year. It said the training was illegal because the \$1,000 fees normally charged to the public had been waived for the NLD members...

Hindustan Times, 10 May 2006

### **US issues harsh rebuke to Nepal's King**

Washington, May 9: The United States issued a sharp rebuke on Tuesday to Nepal's king for his handling of recent

violent protests and said the decision to impose direct palace rule 14 months ago had failed "in every regard." In a toughly worded statement, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said demonstrations, deaths, arrests, and Maoist attacks in the past few days showed there was more insecurity, not less, since King Gyanendra took over...

The Daily Star, 10 May 2006

### **Top US anti-terror financing official due next week**

Katmandu, May 9: A top US official in charge of curbing terrorist financing is due to visit Bangladesh next week to take stock of what Bangladesh has done so far in setting an effective mechanism in motion to detect and switch off sources of terrorist financing. Patrick M O'Brien, assistant secretary for Terrorist Financing at the US Treasury Department, arrives in Dhaka on May 16 on a three-day official visit, when he is expected to meet high officials of the ministries of home, law, and finance, and the Bangladesh Bank (BB). He will learn about the progress in amending the Anti-Money Laundering Act to make it a more powerful tool against terrorist financing and the country's current mechanism for tracking financing sources of terrorist and militant activities, sources said...

Dawn, 10 May 2006

### **US backs power import from C. Asia**

Islamabad, May 9: The United States on Tuesday supported a proposed accord under which Pakistan will buy 4,000 megawatts of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, using the Kabul route for the \$500-800 million transmission line. Officials of the USAID and the US embassy in Islamabad said the US State Department had already allocated funds and staff to promote electricity sales from the central Asian states to Pakistan and Afghanistan because the project would generate jobs and investment opportunities for people and companies and promote peace and stability in the region...

Daily Times, 10 May 2006

### **US terror label an Indian plot: Saeed**

Islamabad, May 9: The founder of one of the most feared militant groups fighting in Kashmir accused the United States on Tuesday of pandering to India and being anti-Islam by branding the charity he now runs as a terrorist organisation...Pakistan banned Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2002 after the United Nations put it on a list of groups associated with Al Qaeda. Saeed resigned from Lashkar and became head of Jamaat. The US says Jamaat is just a front. Action would have been taken far sooner, according to Western sources, but establishing a legally watertight paper trail between Jamaat and Lashkar was painstaking work...

Hindustan Times, 11 May 2006

### **Pakistan charity says US terror label an Indian plot**

Islamabad, May 10: The founder of one of the most feared terrorist groups fighting in Jammu and Kashmir accused the United States on Tuesday of pandering to India and being anti-Islam by branding the charity he now runs as a terrorist organization...The United States and India have seen ties warm over the past four years and Saeed said the US ban was a goodwill gesture to India. New Delhi accuses Pakistan of arming terrorists fighting its rule over nearly half of Kashmir...

Hindustan Times, 11 May 2006

### **US co to supply 5,00000 female condoms to India**

Chicago, May 10: US health products major Female Health Company (FHC) has received an initial order for the supply of 500,100 FC female condoms for India's state-run National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)...The order was placed through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). NACO estimated the number of HIV infected individuals in India in 2004 to be 5.1 million, the second largest HIV affected population after South Africa...

Daily Times, 11 May 2006

### **Sino-Pak cooperation provoking US, India**

Lahore, May 10: The United States and India view the joint venture between Pakistan and China for the development of the Gwadar Port as "a serious provocation". Analyst Susanne Koelbl writes on the German web portal 'Spiegel Online' that New Delhi and Washington view the new port in Balochistan as detrimental to their interests in the region. "Gwadar is already seen as strategically important today," Koelbl writes. "The Pakistanis are building a port which, unlike Karachi, would hardly be vulnerable to a naval blockade by archenemy India. The Chinese, for their part, want to use Gwadar as a base from which to keep an eye on the Americans in the Persian

Gulf and the Indians in the Arabian Sea and, of course, to monitor both countries' movements in the Indian Ocean...

Daily Times, 11 May 2006

### **War against terrorism: Afghanistan, US believe Pakistan not doing enough: experts**

Lahore, May 10: Afghan and US officials believe that Pakistan is not fully cooperating in the war on terror, and want Pakistan to 'do more' to capture Osama Bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahri and Mullah Muhammad Umar, experts and analysts said in Geo television's Foreign Affairs programme on Wednesday. Rahimullah Yousafzai, a senior journalist, said that Afghan officials and the US administration wanted to build pressure on Pakistan to force it to do something extraordinary. He said that the US attacked Afghanistan either to capture or kill Osama, Zawahri and Mullah Umar, but it could not achieve this objective...

The Hindu, 12 May 2006

### **ONGC ties up with Halliburton**

New Delhi, May 11: The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have entered into an agreement with Halliburton of the U.S. in a bid to raise output from Assam oilfields by as much as 50 per cent within three years. According to ONGC chairman Subir Raha, the production in these fields is expected to rise to as much as 1.9 million tonnes annually as a result of the tie-up with this global oilfield service provider. Under the terms of agreement, Halliburton will help to improve output from the ONGC's Lakwa, Lakhmani and Geleki fields...

Hindustan Times, 12 May 2006

### **Fate of Indo-US nuclear deal hangs in balance**

Washington, May 11: Growing differences between the Bush administration and the Congress appear to have created an uncertainty over the fate of the landmark Indo-US civilian nuclear deal. Surprisingly, the opposition to the deal is being spearheaded by Democrats who were generally seen to be friendly to India. At a hearing of the House International Relations Committee on Thursday, the fifth in a series, the views of the Democrats have become clearer. Congressional sources say that some Democrats, who have raised objections to the deal, favour stronger relations between India and the United States, but are reluctant to hand President George Bush a foreign policy coup so close to the November elections...

Daily Times, 13 May 2006

### **FO announces new Pakistani envoy to US**

Islamabad, May 12: The Foreign Office announced the appointment of Maj Gen (r) Mahmud Ali Durrani as Pakistan's ambassador to the United States. He will replace General (r) Jehangir Karamat after the expiry of Karamat's two-year stint in Washington. Durrani graduated from the Pakistan Military Academy in 1961 and served in various command, staff and instructional capacities during his army career. He attended a mid-career Armour course in US in 1973 and the Basic Airborne Course in Fort Benning in 1982. He served as Pakistan's defence and military attache to Washington from 1977 to 1982. He also served as chairman and chief executive of Pakistan Ordnance Factories Board from 1992-1998. Following his retirement, Durrani became actively involved in the Indo-Pak peace process in an unofficial capacity...

Daily Times, 13 May 2006

### **Pakistan is gaining strength in economy: US**

Islamabad, May 12: The fundamental strength of Pakistan's economic recovery was demonstrated this past year when it became clear that October's devastating earthquake had not derailed Pakistan's robust economic growth trends. This was said by the representative of United States delegation in a written statement at the concluding remarks at Pakistan Development Forum Friday. He said the United States government thanks the government of Pakistan for organizing this sixth Pakistan Development Forum...

Dawn, 13 May 2006

### **Bodies of six US attack victims found**

Wana, May 12: Six more bodies were found in the Khwaja Khizar mountains in the South Waziristan Agency on Friday, taking death toll in an attack on Angoor Adda to 10, officials said. US planes intruded in Pakistani territory on May 8 and fired at least three missiles on Khwaja Khizar mountain near Angoor Adda when miners were excavating chromite. The local tribes recovered four bodies from the site, while six bodies were found on Friday. Three workers were wounded.

Hindustan Times, 13 May 2006

### **US condemns LTTE attack on Lankan navy vessels**

Washington, May 12: The United States has strongly condemned the attack by the LTTE on Sri Lankan navy vessels that killed two Navy officers and injured several more calling it a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement and asked Colombo to "show restraint". "We strongly condemn the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam attack on the Sri Lankan naval vessels which killed two navy officers and 15 sailors...This attack is a clear violation of the Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers," Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher said in a statement...Washington has also asked Colombo to "show restraint" in the face of these provocations.

The Hindu, 13 May 2006

### **U.S. nod for Mittal**

Washington, May 12: Mittal Steel, the world's biggest steel manufacturer, which made a \$ 28.7 -billion bid for acquiring Luxembourg-based Arcelor, on Friday said it had received U.S. antitrust clearance for the said bid.

Hindustan Times, 13 May 2006

### **Indo-US N-deal to open trade: Congressman**

Washington, May 12: Asking Congress to support the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, a Republican lawmaker has said it would open trade and investment between both countries in the nuclear energy sector and also give India the opportunity to create alternatives to "oil dependency"... He also pointed out that the agreement, on which Congress will legislate, would give India the opportunity to create "alternatives to oil dependency". He said the US must help India become "fully independent of all foreign assistance, achieve self sufficiency and join US as a donor nation" and called the agreement an "important opportunity" to achieve it...

The Hindu, 14 May 2006

### **U.S. lifts travel curbs**

Katmandu, May 13: The United States has lifted travel warning issued to non-essential staff and their family members at its Nepal mission. The State Department has permitted all non-essential mission personnel and their families to return to Nepal, a notice issued by the U.S. embassy here. Concerned about their safety, the Department on April 24 had ordered all non-essential mission personnel and families to leave Nepal amidst the pro-democracy uprising...

Daily Times, 15 May 2006

### **Myanmar junta wonders about US invasion**

Mone, May 14: Myanmar's military junta said on Sunday it wondered whether the US exemption of the Karen refugees from immigration laws presaged an invasion of the Southeast Asian country. Information Minister Brigadier General Kyaw Hsan said the last time Washington allowed an exemption from laws aimed at keeping terrorists and their supporters out was before the "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba after the communist victory there...

Washington Post, 16 May 2006

### **U.S. Aims to Improve Military Ties with China**

Shenyang, China, May 15: Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, flashed what aides described as a broad grin as he sat in the cockpit of a twin-engine FB-7 fighter-bomber, China's most advanced domestically produced warplane. "They had to drag me out of there," recalled Fallon, a veteran carrier pilot, as he described the first such close look by a U.S. official of the modern two-seater, which is scheduled to become a key part of China's air defenses. Fallon's visit to China's 28th Air Division, based near the eastern city of Hangzhou, and his pilot's inspection of the newly deployed FB-7 were high points in a week-long tour of Chinese military installations and meetings with senior officers, including Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan...

Daily Times, 16 May 2006

### **No MFN status to India under SAFTA: official**

Islamabad, May 15: Syed Asif Shah, Secretary Commerce, has said there is no provision in the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement that binds Pakistan to grant Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to India. Promotion of bilateral trade is linked with positive outcome of the Comprehensive Pakistan-India Composite Dialogue and a

level playing field in trade for Pakistan by India. Pakistan is pursuing a policy of promoting regional trade through multilateral and bilateral trading agreements and will continue its efforts. He was speaking at the launching ceremony of a report "The Challenges and Potential of Pakistan-India Trade" prepared by World Bank's Zareen F Naqvi and Philip Schuler here on Monday...

Daily Times, 16 May 2006

### **US invites China to watch military exercise**

Shenyang: A top American admiral said Monday he invited Chinese commanders to observe a US military exercise as part of efforts to build ties between the two forces, but said the process won't succeed without similar gestures by Beijing. Adm. William Fallon, commander of US Pacific forces, said that during a weeklong visit he urged Chinese military leaders to help open direct communications and build confidence between the two militaries, which have only sporadic contacts. Fallon said Chinese officials expressed interest in closer ties but didn't immediately respond to the invitation to attend the exercises next month in Guam. And he said they expressed dismay at a Pentagon report that called Beijing a potential threat...

Hindustan Times, 17 May 2006

### **US has asked EU to ban LTTE**

Colombo, May 16: The United States has suggested to the European Union that it list the LTTE as a terrorist group. "We have encouraged the EU to list the LTTE," said Donald Camp, US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, in an interview to the state-owned Sri Lankan TV network Rupavahini. "We think the LTTE is very deserving of that label. We think it will help cut off financial supplies and weapons procurement and the like," Camp said. The visiting US official described the LTTE as a "terrorist group of the first order." But he added that, while the LTTE had to be curbed, the government too had certain responsibilities to fulfill...

Hindustan Times, 17 May 2006

### **Saran, Burns to meet in London to rescue N-deal**

Washington, May 16: Senior Indian and US officials plan to meet in London next week to try and rescue the nuclear deal that would give India access to US nuclear energy technology for the first time in three decades. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said that he and Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran agreed on the talks in a phone call on Tuesday...He did not specify a day. The nuclear agreement has run into serious trouble in Washington and New Delhi, where critics on both sides complain that their side got too little and the other side got too much. In the United States, Congress must approve the deal, which was first agreed in principle by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W Bush on July 18...

The Times of India, 17 May 2006

### **Security beefed up at Delhi US embassy**

New Delhi, May 16: In a late development on Tuesday, the Delhi Police sounded an alert in and around the US embassy after a tip-off from Intelligence Bureau (IB) that American diplomats are likely to be targeted by an Islamic group based in Ramallah, West Bank. The agency has asked the police to sensitise all staff responsible for the security of other US establishments in the city. The agency also said that a "very important" US citizen based in Delhi is the likely target and that this attack is likely to take place either at the airport or at the embassy itself...

The Hindu, 18 May 2006

### **Pakistan denies media reports**

Islamabad, May 17: Pakistan on Wednesday denied reports in a section of the media that it had petitioned the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) against the India-U.S. nuclear deal on civilian nuclear energy...However she conceded that Islamabad was in touch with members of the NSG on implications of the India-U.S. deal as well as Pakistan's own nuclear power requirements. Ms. Aslam said Pakistan had taken a clear position on the recently concluded civil nuclear cooperation between New Delhi and Washington...

Hindustan Times, 18 May 2006

### **US concerned over Iran gas pipeline project**

Washington, May 17: Citing Tehran's "unpredictability" as the reason for its concern over the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project, the United States has said it was making efforts to help New Delhi with its energy needs... Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher said. Boucher said US was ready to help

India with its energy needs...So we're helping India in a great many areas to try to meet its energy needs in the future, the senior administration official maintained.

Hindustan Times, 18 May 2006

### **US says Lanka perilously close to civil war**

Washington, May 17: Warning that Sri Lanka was "perilously" close to a civil war, the United States has said the government and the people of the island nations must get rid of the "pernicious" influence of the LTTE. "The government of Sri Lanka and the people of Sri Lanka are finding themselves perilously close to the outbreak of a civil war...We((the US) support the people of Sri Lanka," US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said during his speech on United States-India Relations at the Carnegie Endowment on Tuesday...

Dawn, 18 May 2006

### **Bid to save US-India N-deal next week**

Washington, May 17: Senior US and Indian officials plan to meet in London next week to try and rescue a nuclear deal that would give India access to US nuclear energy technology for the first time in three decades. US Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said that he and Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran agreed on the talks in a telephone call on Tuesday...Before his departure for London, Mr. Burns will also consult a leading Democratic congressman who last week proposed a compromise to win over a congressional endorsement for the troubled deal...

The Daily Star, 18 May 2006

### **US govt official apologises to Bangladesh ambassador**

Dhaka, May 17: The US government and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) have apologised for mistakenly barring Biman's New York-bound flight from entering American airspace on Sunday, as Biman Bangladesh Airlines is considering legal options to seek compensation from the FAA. Robert Sturgell, deputy administrator of the FAA, called Shamsur M Chowdhury, Bangladesh ambassador in Washington, over telephone on Tuesday and apologised on behalf of the FAA administrator and the US government for the mistake, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday...

Hindustan Times, 19 May 2006

### **Bush extends 9-year-old sanctions against Myanmar**

Washington, May 19: Large-scale repression of political opponents by the ruling junta in Myanmar remains a threat to the security of the United States, President George W Bush has said in renewing wide-ranging financial and other sanctions against that country. The extension comes with extension of a state of emergency regarding Myanmar, also known as Burma that would have expired on Saturday. It has been in place since 1997. Bush announced the extension on Thursday in Yuma, Arizona, a border area where he was visiting immigration facilities to press his request for tougher policies against illegal aliens...

The Hindu, 19 May 2006

### **India to join U.S.-backed gas pipeline project**

New Delhi: India on Thursday decided to join the U.S.-backed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. This comes in the backdrop of the difficulties over the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. Not only has Iran been asking for a high price for the gas it would sell to India, the project also runs the risk of being blacklisted for participation by U.S. and European financiers and companies...

Hindustan Times, 19 May 2006

### **US optimistic about Senate vote on nuke deal**

Washington, May 18: An "optimistic" United States has denied that the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal was in "serious trouble" as it faces a crucial vote in the Senate and said it was hopeful that Capitol Hill will clear the deal. Washington also said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was devoting "enormous time" by talking to lawmakers, who have raised some "hard questions", as the Bush administration "still have work to do with the Hill" on the issue...

Dawn, 19 May 2006

### **US calls for free polls in 2007**

Washington, May 18: The US believes it is important for Pakistan to ensure the 2007 elections are credible, free and fair, says Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher. Mr Boucher told a congressional hearing that when he met Pakistan's new chief election commissioner during his visit to Islamabad last month, he spoke with him about 'his independence, his ability to impose the law and ensure a fair election.' The senior US diplomat, who looks after the South and Central Asian regions for the State Department, said the United States had also taken practical steps to help the chief election commissioner...

Daily Times, 19 May 2006

### **US backs Musharraf on democracy plan**

Washington, May 19: The US State Department expressed support for President Musharraf's chosen method of putting Pakistan on the road to democracy. Testifying before the House International Relations Committee, Richard Boucher asserted that Musharraf had set a direction for the nation and set in motion an effort to "build up the moderate centre - to have what he calls enlightened moderation."... The US official said that that neither India nor Pakistan was looking to expand their weapon production beyond what each country had already planned. He ruled out the likelihood of an arms race in South Asia because of the projected finalisation of the Indo-US nuclear cooperation treaty...

Daily Times, 19 May 2006

### **US wary of Nepal Maoists despite truce**

Washington, May 18: The United States remains skeptical about the commitment of Maoist rebels in Nepal to a cease-fire after a decade of brutal insurgency, the top US diplomat for South Asia told Congress on Wednesday. Richard Boucher, assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian Affairs, said the Maoists must renounce violence and lay down their weapons and said Washington was willing to help Nepal's security forces if the government requested it...

The Daily Star, 19 May 2006

### **BD seeks US help to track militants' cash**

Dhaka, May 19: Bangladesh sought help from the United States on Thursday to track the financing of militant groups following a spate of bomb attacks, a senior official said...After the bombings, banks have to report all deals above 500,000-taka or face action. Intelligence officials say the country's two outlawed Islamist groups, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, have channeled funding from the Middle East through IBBL and other local banks...

The Daily Star, 19 May 2006

### **US wants fast enactment of law against terror finance**

Dhaka, May 19: A visiting US high official yesterday urged the government to frame and enact an effective anti-money laundering law and take steps to curb financial crimes as part of the Bush administration's global drive against militancy. Patrick M O'Brien, assistant secretary for terrorist financing at the US Treasury Department, recommended the actions at a number of meetings with the central bank governor and high officials of home and foreign ministries during his two-day official visit here from Wednesday...

Hindustan Times, 20 May 2006

### **Bush extends 9-year-old sanctions against Myanmar**

Washington, May 19: Large-scale repression of political opponents by the ruling junta in Myanmar remains a threat to the security of the United States, President George W Bush has said in renewing wide-ranging financial and other sanctions against that country. The extension comes with extension of a state of emergency regarding Myanmar, also known as Burma that would have expired on Saturday. It has been in place since 1997. Bush announced the extension on Thursday in Yuma, Arizona, a border area where he was visiting immigration facilities to press his request for tougher policies against illegal aliens...

Hindustan Times, 20 May 2006

### **US Senate calls for UNSC action on Myanmar**

Washington, May 19: The US Senate has adopted a resolution calling on Washington to spearhead a campaign for a UN Security Council resolution compelling Myanmar's military junta to work with the world body on a plan for national reconciliation. Adopted late on Thursday, the resolution also condemned the military rulers of the Southeast Asian nation for its current "campaign of terror" against ethnic minorities, reportedly the most serious in

a decade...

The Hindu, 20 May 2006

### **U.S.-based agency to fund desalination plant**

Chennai, May 19: Washington-based International Finance Corporation (IFC) has agreed in principle to fund part of the investment required for the mega seawater desalination plant proposed for Chennai if the project is cleared by the Environment Ministry. The 100 million litres per day (mld) plant is estimated to cost about Rs. 470 crore. Of this, the IFC, a World Bank member, is likely to provide Rs. 112 crore. Three national banks have also agreed to advance credit if the project takes off. Canara Bank has offered the highest loan, Rs. 178 crore, while United Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank will provide Rs. 100 crore each...

Daily Times, 20 May 2006

### **'US committed to Pakistan's development'**

Rawalpindi, May 19: The United States has made a long-term commitment to help in Pakistan's socio-economic development and will assist the country in developing its human resource. This was stated by USAID administrator Randall Tobias during a meeting with President General Pervez Musharraf on Friday. Tobias, who is also the director of US Foreign Assistance, said that America greatly valued its multi-faceted relationship with Pakistan and will extend cooperation in the development of a number of sectors including health and education...

Hindustan Times, 25 May 2006

### **US urge Myanmar to release political prisoners**

Bangkok, May 24: A top US diplomat said on Tuesday that Washington is ready to improve relations with Myanmar if the ruling military junta makes a move toward the release of political prisoners, including pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who was in Bangkok for a regional meeting, reiterated Washington's stance days after a top United Nations official visited the military state, meeting with government leaders and Suu Kyi...

Hindustan Times, 25 May 2006

### **US to pass N-law before IAEA deal: Sources**

New Delhi, May 24: When Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran meets US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns on Wednesday in London, India is likely to put across that it expects the US Congress to clear the civilian nuclear deal before it finalises a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). However, New Delhi will stay engaged with the IAEA and NSG to work out safeguards agreement...

Dawn, 25 May 2006

### **Al Qaeda 'strategist' handed over to US**

Islamabad, May 24: A leading Al Qaeda member, who had a \$5 million bounty on his head and is wanted in Spain for possible links to the 2004 bombings, has been handed over to US agents, Pakistani intelligence officers said on Wednesday. Ideologue and strategist Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, also known as Abu Musab al-Suri, a Syrian holding a Spanish passport, was handed over to US agents at least two months ago after being caught in Pakistan last year, they said. Washington has not confirmed Nasar is in US custody. Nasar's arrest has never been officially confirmed by the Pakistani government. But Pakistani intelligence officials said Nasar was caught in the southwest city of Quetta on Oct. 31 after a gunbattle...

The Hindu, 26 May 2006

### **Bush administration rules out new conditions on Indo-US deal**

Washington, May 25: Dismissing suggestions that the Indo-US civilian nuclear accord was in serious trouble, the Bush administration has said that though it was ready to show some flexibility to accommodate the views of Congress members, it was not prepared to impose conditions or introduce legislations at this point that can "break" the deal...

The Hindu, 26 May 2006

### **India-U.S. deal a 'win-win' agreement: ElBaradei**

Washington, May 25: Hailing the India-U.S. civilian nuclear energy deal as a "win-win" proposition, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohammad ElBaradei, has expressed the hope that members of the Congress, which is yet to approve it, will also see it that way...

Hindustan Times, 26 May 2006

**Aziz says nothing evil in Indo-US nuclear cooperation**

Islamabad, May 25: Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said he saw "no evil" in India's nuclear cooperation with the US and emerging defence deals between them, claiming that the states "disturbed" by China's emergence as a "great power" were re-aligning themselves. "There is nothing evil in that," Aziz said replying to questions after inaugurating a seminar in Islamabad on Tuesday to mark 55 years of Pakistan-China relations at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS)...

Hindustan Times, 26 May 2006

**Blake appointed new US envoy to Colombo**

Colombo, May 25: Robert O Blake, presently Deputy Chief of Mission in the US Embassy in New Delhi, is to be the new US Ambassador in Sri Lanka. An US embassy release said that President George W Bush announced this on Wednesday.

The Hindu, 26 May 2006

**Religare forms JV with U.S. firm**

Mumbai, May 25: Religare, a Ranbaxy promoter group company, along with Evercore Partners, a U.S.-based leading advisory and investment firm, have formed a joint venture to launch a new private equity fund, ER Capital India Fund, and aim to raise \$150 million. The Fund will start with a capital commitment of \$20m from Evercore. It would target investors from Southeast Asia, Europe and the Gulf region.

Daily Times, 28 May 2006

**Pak-US economic ties reach 'new level': State Department**

Washington, May 27: The State Department has described the just-concluded visit of a senior US official to Pakistan as having helped move US-Pakistan economic partnership to a "new level." US Under Secretary of State Josette Sheeran Shiner, who is in charge of economic, business and agriculture affairs, visited Pakistan from 22 to 25 May, where she met Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, engaged in a strategic economic dialogue with leading Pakistani economic officials, visited a US earthquake relief project in a mountain village in the Siran Valley, Azad Kashmir, and participated in a meeting of the High Level Panel on UN reform co-chaired by the Pakistani prime minister...

Daily Times, 28 May 2006

**US diplomat urges India to reduce troops in Kashmir**

Washington, May 27: A veteran US diplomat has called upon New Delhi to cut troops in Indian-held Kashmir to send a "strong signal" to Islamabad for the peaceful resolution of the longstanding dispute... McDonald, 99, who served the State Department for 40 years, pointed to New Delhi when an Indian journalist asked him what was the impediment to the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He revealed that two army generals - one each from Pakistan and India - approached him in 1995 to help resolve the Kashmir dispute. He did not name the two generals who requested IMTD's involvement...

The Hindu, 28 May 2006

**Support in U.S. Congress for nuclear deal**

Washington, May 27: India's efforts to convince Capitol Hill about the merits of the India-United States nuclear deal got a shot in the arm, with a prominent India-basher joining hands with traditional supporters to back the agreement. Congressman Dan Burton, along with Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans Gary Ackerman and the former Co-Chairs, Joe Crowley and Joe Wilson, wrote a letter addressed to all members of the House of Representatives, countering the erroneous assertions made by detractors of the deal.

Hindustan Times, 28 May 2006

**US, India of same mind on Nepal: State Dept**

Washington, May 27: The Bush Administration has said that the United States and India are of the "same mind" on several issues pertaining to Nepal whether it has to do with political process and democracy in the Himalayan kingdom or in the role of the Maoists in that country. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters that the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns talked about Nepal with India's Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran in their latest round of meeting in London...

Hindustan Times, 28 May 2006

### **US condemns continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi**

Washington, May 27: The United States on Saturday condemned the Myanmar government's continued detention of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and called on the military regime to release all political prisoners...Myanmar's military rulers on Saturday extended by another year the house arrest of the opposition leader, defying an international outcry demanding her freedom. Aung San Suu Kyi, 60, who has spent 10 of the past 17 years in detention, is being confined to her rambling lakeside residence in central Yangon...

Hindustan Times, 29 May 2006

### **Is Musharraf under US pressure?**

Islamabad, May 28: Reports that US has not closed Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan's case and that Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden has been sighted in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) are seen as indicators that President Pervez Musharraf is coming under renewed American pressure. The twin reports come at a time when Pakistan is having a regular spat with Afghanistan, with the latter alleging that Taliban fugitives are operating with impunity from Pakistani territory...

Daily News, 29 May 2006

### **US engaged in active dialogue with India on Sri Lanka: Boucher**

United States: The US has said it was engaged in an 'active dialogue' with India on the developments in Sri Lanka, where the stepped up attacks by the LTTE were particularly 'very troublesome', but stressed that it was up to New Delhi to decide the kind of role it wanted to play. The violence in Sri Lanka was 'very, very disturbing' and the stepped up LTTE attacks showed that the rebels were proceeding towards war rather than keeping the focus on peace talks with the Colombo government, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Richard Boucher said in an interview to PTI at the State Department here...

The Hindu, 30 May 2006

### **U.S. wants trade barriers reduced**

New Delhi, May 29: The U.S. has asked India to reduce barriers to bilateral trade while looking forward to movement in negotiations under the Doha round of the World Trade Organization (WTO). According to visiting Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Karan Bhatia, India is an important partner in the WTO and the two countries are working together on the issue. Speaking to reporters after meeting Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath here on Monday, he said there was hope for convergence. His comments came even as the Doha round appeared stalled owing to differences over agricultural subsidies and industrial tariffs between the European Union and the U.S. and the developing countries led by the Group of 20...

Daily Times, 30 May 2006

### **Seminar on Kashmir: 'US, European intervention not positive'**

Lahore, May 29: US and European intervention for the resolution of the Kashmir issue would not be "positive" because these countries were themselves guilty of human rights violations, speakers at a seminar on Kashmir said on Monday. The seminar – 'The Kashmir Issue and Composite Dialogue' – was arranged by the Punjab University (PU) Centre for South Asian Studies and was chaired by PU Vice Chancellor Lt Gen (r) Arshad Mehmood. Hamid Nasir Chattha, the chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayyed and former foreign secretary Shamshad Ahmad were the main speakers on the occasion...

Hindustan Times, 30 May 2006

### **After Hawk AJTs for Air Force, will it be Goshawk for Navy?**

New Delhi, May 29: The US is offering to the Indian Navy the latest version of its T-45C Goshawk trainer aircraft, the naval version of the British BAe Hawk that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is purchasing. Boeing, which manufactures the Goshawk in collaboration with BAe Systems, sent a high-level team to India last week to formally offer this aircraft, in addition to the F-18 Super Hornet that it wants to sell to the IAF to meet its multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) requirement of 126 jets...

Daily News, 30 May 2006

### **Co-Chairs meet today**

Colombo, May 29: The Co-Chair group, Norway, US, EU and Japan, will meet in Tokyo today to take stock of the

current situation and to do a 'soul searching' of achievements and failures up to date. The group which will meet at a crucial juncture is expected to discuss mainly the situation in the North and East and the next round of talks to which the Government had been trying hard to get the LTTE's consent to participate, for the past few months. Since the groundbreaking Tokyo Donor Conference in June 2003 where the international community pledged Rs. 4.5 billion as development assistance for the entire country, the Co-Chairs meet from time to time to review the progress of the peace process...

The Hindu, 31 May 2006

**U.S. threat forced change in China's economic strategy**

Beijing, May 30: A newly-published book has said that a clandestine plan by the United States to make an air raid on China's first nuclear weapon facilities 42 years ago forced Chinese leaders to alter the nation's economic development strategy. The sudden change of the development strategy, which governed all the national economic plans from 1966 to 1970, was revealed in an academic book titled "The Research Report on China's Ten Five-Year Plans," issued by China's top think-tank, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) here on Tuesday...

Daily Times, 31 May 2006

**Musharraf highlights increasing Pak-US ties**

Islamabad, May 30: President General Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday underlined the importance of expanding bilateral trade and economic ties, saying he was satisfied with the growing cooperation between Pakistan and the United States in various fields. The president was speaking to a six-member US Congressional delegation led by Congressman Robin Hayes at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Musharraf reaffirmed the government's resolve to fight extremism and terrorism to build a moderate, economically strong and progressive Islamic state...