

The Korea Times, 1 November 2005

Japan's Cabinet Reshuffle Could Affect Nuke Talks (Park Song-wu)

A high-ranking diplomat in Seoul warned on Tuesday that Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Cabinet appointment of die-hard conservatives could affect the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear programs. "It could affect the denuclearization talks," Song Min-soon, vice foreign minister and South Korea's top delegate to the talks, said in a CBS radio interview. In the large-scale reshuffle on Monday, Koizumi, who plans to step down at the end of his term next September, named Shinzo Abe as his top government spokesman and Internal Affairs Minister Taro Aso as foreign minister.

Dawn, 1 November 2005

Getting Indo-US N-deal through Congress an 'uphill battle'

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration, which negotiated a nuclear deal with India this summer without consulting Congress, is beginning to concede that it may face an uphill battle when it tries to convince legislators that the deal does not undermine nonproliferation and is in the nation's interest. According to a report in the New York Times on Monday, India may find that it is the biggest loser in the debate over Iran's nuclear programme. The newspaper reasons that shortly after India voted in a September 24 meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in favour of referring Iran to the United Nations Security Council because of its suspect nuclear programme, Iranian officials announced that they would cancel a \$21 billion deal to build a natural-gas pipeline to India. The Iranians have backed away from that in part, but a senior Indian official said the Iranians had made it clear that they would cancel the deal if India voted against Iran again when the issue comes up for a second vote before the nuclear agency in late November.

Dawn, 2 November 2005

Straw rules out 'regime change' in Iran

LONDON, Nov 1: British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Tuesday ruled out a policy of regime change against Iran amid mounting Western concern about Tehran's development of nuclear weapons and its stance towards Israel. "I have to say to you that regime change in Iran is not part of the policy of Her Majesty's Government, nor do I think it would be wise," Mr Straw said during a question period in parliament. He had been asked whether London still ruled out discussions with groups opposed to the Iranian government, and was responding to claims that internal regime change 'could reduce the implied (nuclear) threat considerably'.

The News, 2 November 2005

EI Baradei sees progress with Iran nuclear probe

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday the investigation into Iran's nuclear program was making progress and asked for patience from the international community before taking action. Mohamed ElBaradei, the director-general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, urged Iran to provide the transparency to assure other nations that its nuclear program is peaceful and not intended for developing atomic weapons.

The News, 2 November 2005

N.Korea nuclear talks to resume next week: Seoul (Jack Kim)

SEOUL: South Korea expects six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programs to resume next week for a relatively short session to pave the way for more concerted discussions later, the foreign minister said on Wednesday. Ban Ki-moon gave no dates for the fifth round of six-country talks that also involve North Korea, the United States, Japan, Russia and China. But he said Beijing, as host

of the talks, would soon make a formal announcement.

The Times of India, 3 November 2005

Japan, N Korea open talks in Beijing

BEIJING: Japan and North Korea discussed abductions by North Korean agents and the North's demand for wartime compensation on Thursday in their first full-scale talks in more than a year, an official and news reports said. Japanese officials say they also want to discuss the North's nuclear weapons and missile programs in the talks, which Tokyo says have an open ended schedule. The two sides met for 2 1/2 hours in the Chinese capital on Thursday morning and were to meet again later, said a Japanese official who refused to be identified further in line with government practice. Japanese news reports quoted the chief North Korean diplomat as saying the two sides discussed the status of a Japanese woman who the North says died after being abducted by its agents.

The Indian Express, 3 November 2005

Iran to process fresh batch of uranium: diplomats (Reuters)

BERLIN, NOVEMBER 2: Iran will process a new batch of uranium at its Isfahan atomic plant beginning next week, despite pressure from the United States and European Union to halt all sensitive nuclear work, diplomats said on Wednesday. "Beginning next week, the Iranians will start a new phase of uranium conversion at Isfahan. They will begin feeding a new batch of uranium into the plant," a European diplomat familiar with the result of inspections by the UN nuclear watchdog said on condition of anonymity. A report issued by IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei on September 2 said Iran had produced 6.8 tonnes of uranium hexafluoride (UF6) at Isfahan by the end of August, which nuclear experts said could theoretically be processed into fuel for a single bomb. It is unclear how much more UF6 Tehran has produced since the report.

The Indian Express, 3 November 2005 (PTI)

Russia tests Topol-M warhead, report says

MOSCOW: Russia has for the sixth time successfully tested its RS-12 M1 'Topol-M' missile-which has a with a warhead capable of piercing the US missile shield-and could renew production of multiple warheads with independent re-entry banned by the now defunct Soviet-American Salt-2 treaty, Russian daily Kommersant reported on Wednesday.

The News, 3 November 2005

China says N.Korea six-party talks to start Wed

BEIJING : China confirmed on Thursday that the next round of six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear crisis will begin on Wednesday, November 9, as Pyongyang said that success in the discussions depended on Washington's stance. Beijing has an "open attitude" toward the length of the talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said. But he added that they might be held in stages because of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting in South Korea in mid-November.

The News, 3 October 2005

Bush officials oppose amending India nuclear deal (Carol Giacomo)

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration on Wednesday warned against efforts to impose new conditions on a controversial civilian nuclear power agreement with India saying such amendments would be "deal breakers." The landmark U.S.-India accord reached on July 18 would grant New Delhi access to nuclear technology it has been denied for more than two decades, but prominent critics

complain it undermines non-proliferation goals and should be tightened up. "We would urge both Congress and our international partners to avoid the temptation to renegotiate the deal," said Undersecretary of State Robert Joseph, the top U.S. non-proliferation official.

Daily Times, 3 November 2005

Iran allows UN to visit military site

VIENNA: Iran's hardline government has opened up a sensitive military site to United Nations nuclear inspectors and announced a shake-up of its diplomatic corps on Wednesday, sending out mixed signals to the West. "We are pleased that we can confirm that IAEA inspectors got access to buildings at the Parchin site as we had requested," said a spokesman for the UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at its Vienna base. Iran faces the risk of referral to the UN Security Council over its atomic programme, after the IAEA in September found it to be in "non-compliance" with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Daily Times, 3 November 2005

IAEA wants to peacefully engage Iran

CAMBRIDGE: The head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday the investigation into Iran's nuclear programme was making progress and asked for patience from the international community before taking action. Mohamed ElBaradei, the director-general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, urged Iran to provide the transparency to assure other nations that its nuclear program is peaceful and not intended for developing atomic weapons. Iran faces referral to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions after failing to allay international fears it is seeking to build nuclear warheads. "As long as we are making progress and as long as we don't see clear and present danger, let us continue at it ... before we take escalated measures," ElBaradei said at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government.

The Korea Times, 3 November 2005

Kyongju Nuclear Waste Dumpsite to Open in 2008 (Kim Yon-se)

Commerce-Industry-Energy Minister Lee Hee-beom said Thursday that the government will complete the construction of nuclear waste dumpsite in Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province, by 2008. After his announcement on the official designation of Kyongju City as the site for a radioactive repository, Lee told reporters, "By minimizing preparing procedures, the government will finish the building before the end of 2008." But he hinted at a possibility that the completion will be delayed by several months to early 2009, saying, "It will take at least one or two years for the government to begin construction."

The Daily Times, 4 November 2005

China says six-party talks on North Korea to start on 9th

BEIJING: China confirmed on Thursday that the next round of six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear crisis will begin on Wednesday, Nov 9, as Pyongyang said that success in the discussions depended on Washington's stance. Beijing has an "open attitude" toward the length of the talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said. But he added that they might be held in stages because of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting in South Korea in mid-November

The Korea Times, 4 October 2005

Roh, Putin to Discuss North Korean Nukes (Park Song-wu)

Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold a summit with President Roh Moo-hyun on Nov. 19, a day

after his arrival in South Korea, Chong Wa Dae said on Friday. The meeting will take place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which will be held for two days in Pusan (Busan) beginning Nov. 18. The summit could provide the two countries with an opportunity to magnify the "substantial" and "reciprocal" relationship, which was agreed on in September 2004 when Roh visited Moscow, presidential spokesman Kim Man-soo said. After holding the summit, the two leaders will give a joint news conference. Roh also plans to host a dinner for Putin. Putin's visit to South Korea is the second since February 2001. Roh visited Moscow last May and in September 2004. The Russian president will depart for Japan on Nov. 20.

The Hindu, 4 November 2005

U.S. raises the bar on nuclear deal (Siddharth Varadarajan)

New Delhi: In their clearest detailing to date of what the Indian Government must do to see the United States uphold its side of the July 18 nuclear agreement, Bush administration officials have stipulated that India sign a more restrictive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency than either the U.S. or any of the other four "recognised" nuclear weapon states has done. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert G. Joseph said a "voluntary offer" safeguards arrangement of the kind the U.S. has with the IAEA would not be acceptable for India. "We indicated at the recent G-8 and NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group) meetings that we would not view a voluntary offer arrangement as defensible from a non-proliferation standpoint or consistent with the [July 18] Joint Statement, and therefore do not believe that it would constitute an acceptable safeguards arrangement."

The Pioneer, 4 November 2005

Russia talks with Natwar on Iran (PTI)

Ahead of the crucial meeting of the IAEA on Iran's nuclear issue later this month, External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh on Friday discussed the matter telephonically with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov who said all efforts would be made to reach a consensus. Lavrov, who called up Singh, informed him that Russia was in touch with EU-3, China, the US and Iran on the issue, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said

The Hindu, 5 November 2005

India, Russia discuss Iran

New Delhi: India and Russia on Friday discussed the Iran nuclear issue ahead of the crucial meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) later this month. In a telephonic conversation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, assured his Indian counterpart Natwar Singh that all effort would be made to arrive at a consensus and India would be kept informed, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna said. Mr. Lavrov also told Mr. Singh that Russia was in touch with other countries, including China, the U.S. and Iran.

The Indian Express, 5 November 2005

China frowns on Indo-US nuke deal (PTI)

Beijing, November 4: Risking the hard-won forward movement in Indo-China relations, the Chinese official media has attacked the Indo-US nuclear energy cooperation agreement, insisting that the bilateral deal will inflict a "hard blow" to global non-proliferation regime and trigger a domino effect. "This would be a hard blow on America's leading role in the global proliferation prevention system as well as the system itself," the Renmin Ribao (people's daily), the mouthpiece of the ruling communist party of China said in an editorial against the Bush administration for being soft on India and

undercutting the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

The Indian Express, 6 November 2005

Iran cabinet okays resolution on foreign participation in N-programme

TEHRAN, Nov 5: Iran approved a resolution accepting foreign participation in its nuclear enrichment plant, the most controversial step in the country's atomic programme, state-run radio reported on Saturday. Under the resolution approved on Wednesday, Iran's atomic energy organisation is authorised to attract domestic and foreign investors in the Natanz enrichment facility in central Iran. The move follows the Iranian government's approval last month of an outline of a law on fixing the method of involvement by foreign countries and companies in its nuclear programme, which the United States suspects is a front for developing weapons. Iranian authorities will decide on the size of the stake any partner would take, the radio added without elaborating. Iran has said it won't restart uranium enrichment for now at Natanz, where the process was suspended in 2003 under a deal with Europeans. Tehran plans to run 50,000 centrifuges to enrich uranium in Natanz, which Iran says is designed to meet the fuel requirements of the Bushehr nuclear reactor built with Russian help.

The News, 7 November 2005

Iran for fresh nuclear talks with EU

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday formally requested fresh talks with the European Union on its controversial nuclear programme but was swiftly rebuffed for so long as it rejects a renewed freeze on fuel cycle work. Iranian news agencies reported that the country's top nuclear official, Ali Larijani, had sent a letter to foreign ministers from Britain, France and Germany "insisting on the necessity of negotiations". Talks between Iran and the so-called EU-3 broke off in August when Iran resumed uranium conversion activities in defiance of international calls to maintain a suspension. In the letter, Larijani said that Iran would "welcome negotiations that are constructive and based on logic", the first such approach since he took over the nuclear file from pragmatic cleric Hassan Rowhani after hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became president in June.

The News, 7 November 2005

Tehran issues fresh N-challenge

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday again defied the international community over its nuclear programme, announcing it would soon embark on fresh nuclear fuel work and was seeking investors for uranium enrichment activities. Officials said Tehran would be converting a fresh batch of uranium ore- the precursor step before enrichment- in a flagrant rejection of calls from Europe and the United States for Tehran to halt all such activities. The state press also said the government had given the country's atomic energy agency the go-ahead to look for foreign and domestic investors in uranium enrichment, even though this practice remains suspended. The decisions appear a fresh sign of Iran's determination to make full use of the nuclear fuel cycle, despite the international pressure to cease all enrichment-related activities as proof it is not seeking a nuclear bomb. They come three weeks ahead of a meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog, which could theoretically send Iran to the Security Council and amid mounting concerns about the direction of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government.

Daily Times, 7 November 2005

No Indian-style nuclear deal for Pakistan (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: The United States has no intention of offering Pakistan the kind of nuclear cooperation deal it signed with India in July this year, according to Nicholas Burns, under secretary of

state. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, Burns, who was in New Delhi two weeks ago, when asked if a similar deal may be demanded by Pakistan, replied, "We have an important relationship with Pakistan. We are not offering the same deal to Pakistan, for a variety of reasons. As said by Secretary (of State Condoleezza) Rice, it is necessary to dehyphenate our policy in South Asia. For a long term, it has been a zero sum nature of relationship in the region. It is time to have a full-blown relationship with Pakistan in counter-terrorism, but with India, we can have a separate relationship."

Daily Times, 7 November 2005

India could revise stance on Iran's nuclear programme: Natwar

NEW DELHI: India, which earlier this year voted in favour of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) motion against Iran's nuclear programme, could reverse its stand at an upcoming meeting if the resolution proposed stronger action, said Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh on Sunday. "If a resolution is placed at the IAEA which is more severe than the last one, which says that this matter must go to the UN Security Council, I can as foreign minister of India tell you that my recommendation to the government will be to revise our vote," said Natwar. The minister said New Delhi would vote at an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna on November 24 based on "our vital national interest." India was among 22 of the IAEA's 35 member countries that voted in September for a resolution creating the conditions for referring Iran to the UN Security Council over its nuclear programme.

Daily Times, 7 November 2005

Pakistan 'needed an atomic bomb'

AMSTERDAM: A Dutch businessman accused of improperly shipping sensitive nuclear technology to Pakistan believed the Islamic country "needed an atomic bomb" to preserve the balance of power in Asia, he said in an interview published on Sunday. Henk Slebos (62) is accused of shipping dual-use technology to Abdul Qadeer Khan. Lawyers for Slebos have argued he did nothing wrong and in the past he has declined to speak to reporters. The Dutch television programme Zembra published excerpts from the interview on its web site Sunday. In the interview, Slebos said he was "still best friends" with Khan, who was granted a presidential pardon in Pakistan. "I don't recognise the hegemony of the Western world," Zembra quoted Slebos saying. "Pakistan needed an atom bomb for stability. If you then say the country is too stupid to have the bomb, then you really make me angry."

The Korean Herald, 7 November 2005

Editorial: Tokyo-Pyongyang talks

Japanese and North Korean negotiators Friday ended two days of talks in Beijing, their first meetings in a year. Though the exchanges are believed to have been intense, no visible progress was made to resolve the many issues between the two countries. The two sides did agree to resume bilateral talks in the near future, thereby achieving what can be labeled as the very minimum goal of the meetings. It is again vexing to see no breakthrough on the abduction issue, one on which Japan attaches great importance. There were signs, however, that progress may be within reach. Tokyo proposed separate deliberations in three key areas--the abductions, the North's plans for nuclear weapons and missile development and other security issues, and normalizing bilateral relations, which could include compensation for Japan's past colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The North Korean side said it would consider that idea.

People's Daily, 7 November

Next round of six-party talks to last 3 days, resume by yearend

The next round of North Korean nuclear disarmament talks, scheduled to start Wednesday in Beijing, will last three days and convene again by year's end, a news report said Monday. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei announced the timeframe to Japanese reporters in Beijing, Kyodo News reported. China announced last week that the six nations involved in the negotiations would meet in the Chinese capital starting Wednesday to seek further progress in what have been two years of slow-moving talks. While it did not specify the length of the current round, China said it might recess so negotiators could attend the November 12-19 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Busan, South Korea. China has organized four rounds of negotiations since 2003 on the North Korean nuclear issue, leading to an agreement in September for the North to give up its atomic programs in exchange for energy aid, security guarantees and diplomatic recognition.

Taipei Times, 7 November 2005

US, North Korean nuclear deadlock likely to continue

WASHINGTON: The US is under pressure to give some concessions upfront for North Korea to fulfill a pledge to abandon its nuclear weapons program, as multilateral talks enter a crucial phase this week. At the last round of the talks, North Korea pledged to abandon its nuclear weapons arsenal in return for wide-ranging benefits, in the first-ever accord signed by the US, China, the two Koreas, Russia and Japan since six-way negotiations began in August two years ago. But an important question has cropped up ahead of the fifth round of talks in Beijing, set to begin on Wednesday: Who should make the first move under the so-called "commitment for commitment, action for action" principle they agreed upon? "I think the next round is unlikely to yield significant progress, because the two sides are very far apart on what each of them should do at the beginning," said Selig Harrison, director of the Asia program at the Washington-based Center for International Policy.

Daily Times, 7 November 2005

Al Qaeda woos recruits with N-bomb website

LAHORE: An Al Qaeda website containing detailed instructions in Arabic on how to make nuclear, "dirty" and biological bombs has attracted more than 57,000 hits and hundreds of readers' inquiries, reported British newspaper The Sunday Times. The newspaper said that terrorism experts were warning the site could be boosting the organisation's appeal to would-be assassins in Britain and abroad. The manual, posted on October 6 on a forum titled Al Firdaws, or Paradise, contains 80 pages of instructions and pictures of kitchen bomb-making techniques. It is divided into nine lessons under the overall heading The Nuclear Bomb of Jihad and the Way to Enrich Uranium, and is dedicated as a "gift to the commander of the jihad fighters, Sheikh Osama Bin Laden, for the purpose of jihad for the sake of God". As well as describing how to make a nuclear bomb from enriched uranium, impossible for the layman, the manual explains how to make simple bombs that can blow up anything from electrical generators to petrol stations.

Hindustan Times, 7 November 2005

A pretty good deal

China's reported opposition to the July 16 Indo-US nuclear agreement on the grounds that it is a sell-out to India is the best rejoinder that can be made to those domestic critics who claim it will harm the country. This is not to say that the stand, expressed in the Chinese Communist Party daily, Renmin Ribao, has any merit. It only shows that the deal is an advantageous one for India and the opposition

should instead be lauding the government for pulling it off. Its main pay-off is the lifting of an ever-tightening US-led embargo on India's nuclear power programme, that has succeeded in blocking the expansion of our nuclear power capacity. The lack of natural uranium will make it impossible for India to even reach the promised 20 gigawatt level by 2020. China has tied up uranium resources from Canada and Australia to ramp up its production of nuclear power to 32 gigawatt by then. The Chinese should be a bit modest when speaking of proliferation, for they have much to be modest about.

The Hindu, 7 November 2005

India, Russia calibrate stand on Iran (Vladimir Radyuhin)

MOSCOW: India and Russia have reiterated their objection to referring the issue of Iran's nuclear programme to the U.N. Security Council ahead of a U.N. nuclear watchdog meeting. "Both sides expressed the view that this complicated problem must be resolved through political and diplomatic means in the legal framework of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a press statement. The Iran problem was discussed during a telephone call External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh made on Friday to his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. The conversation indicates the intensity of Indo-Russian interactions on Iran, as the two ministers met in Moscow barely a week ago. During his visit to Russia earlier this month, Mr. Singh tried to put India-Iran relations strained by Delhi's September vote in IAEA back on track when he met Iran's First Deputy President Parviz Davoodi on the sidelines of a Shanghai group meeting.

Daily Times, 8 November 2005

Editorial: Watch India's hand at IAEA

The world's standoff with Iran on its alleged nuclear intentions is getting more interesting by the day. Last August Tehran rejected an offer by the Euro-3 - Britain, France and Germany - to scrap sensitive nuclear fuel-making activities in return for economic and political incentives. Shortly thereafter Iran broke UN seals at its uranium conversion plant in Isfahan and began processing uranium concentrate into a gas that can be used for nuclear fuel reactors as well as for making atomic bombs. The EU, along with the United States, hit back by passing through the International Atomic Energy Agency a resolution that declared Iran in non-compliance with its international obligations and required that it be reported to the UN Security Council, where it could face sanctions. Now, reports from Iran suggest that Iran's chief nuclear negotiator has written to EU-3 and called for the resumption of talks over its atomic programme.

The News, 8 November 2005

Iran in talks with S Africa on N-deal

TEHRAN: Iran is talking to South Africa about assistance with its nuclear programme in a bid to solve a prolonged international dispute over its atomic ambitions, a senior official said on Monday. "We are in the process of negotiating on the modalities of this participation," Javad Vaidi, an official from Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state television. He said that South Africa had suggested supplying Iran with uranium oxide concentrate-known as yellowcake-that the Islamic republic would then convert into uranium hexafluoride gas at its plant in the central city of Isfahan. Vaidi said South Africa had also proposed taking part in the enrichment process, which is currently suspended. Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani made an official visit to Pretoria, itself a former undeclared nuclear power under the old apartheid regime. Meanwhile Vaidi confirmed that Russia had also made a proposal to form a consortium to handle uranium ore conversion, the precursor step to enrichment, which Iran resumed in August.

Daily Times, 8 November 2005

EU decides to respond to Iran's N-talks offer

BRUSSELS: The European Union is studying a call by Iran to resume negotiations over the country's nuclear programme but still insists it must suspend uranium processing, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Monday. "We have looked at the letter (from chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani) very carefully. The Iranians are under an obligation to respond positively to the resolution of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency...and we look to them to do that," Straw told reporters before a meeting of EU foreign ministers. Separately, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana added: "We will respond. We don't want to go any further at this point." The Sept 24 IAEA resolution required that Iran be reported to the UN Security Council for non-compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and urged it to re-establish 'full and sustained suspension' of all activities linked to enrichment.

The News, 8 November 2005

Tehran must be more transparent, says ElBaradei

WASHINGTON: UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei on Monday called on Iran to be more transparent about its atomic energy programme to ease international fears that it is aiming to obtain a nuclear weapon. At an international non-governmental conference here marking the 60th anniversary of the first official non-proliferation proposal, ElBaradei said Tehran must come clean on its nuclear intentions. "Over the past two and half years, we have compiled a detailed picture of most aspects of Iran's past and current nuclear program," ElBaradei said, according to an advance transcript of his remarks. "But given that the program was concealed for nearly 20 years, and that a number of open questions remain, the responsibility rests with Iran to provide, if needed, additional transparency measures," ElBaradei said. Nevertheless, he said he was heartened by some recent moves toward greater openness by Tehran.

Reuters, 8 November 2005

S.Korean, Japanese Leaders to Meet Despite Rift: Roh

SEOUL: South Korea's president announced on Tuesday he would meet Japan's prime minister next week despite a visit by the Japanese leader to a war shrine that angered Seoul. Roh Moo-hyun also told foreign correspondents at the presidential Blue House it was unlikely North Koreans would attend next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the South Korean port city of Pusan. Roh said he would meet Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the APEC gathering that brings together the leaders of the 21 member economies from around the Pacific Rim. "I would like to point out that Prime Minister Koizumi is also a welcome guest," Roh said during a question-and-answer session after a lunch with the reporters. "Regardless of the issues, it would only be right for me to meet with him." Koizumi's visit last month to the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo, where war criminals are enshrined, infuriated China, South Korea, North Korea and others who were victims of Japanese militarism and see the visits as deeply offensive.

The New York Times, 8 November 2005

Agency Seeks Broad Standard for 'Dirty Bomb' Exposure

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7: The Homeland Security Department, preparing advice on responding to a "dirty bomb" attack, has concluded that cities and states should take into account the cost of abandoning or cleaning up contaminated areas when deciding how much exposure to radiation is

acceptable. The goal of writing "protective action guidelines" that do not set fixed numerical standards for acceptable radiation exposure is to "balance protection with other important factors," according to the advance text of the advice. In contrast, the federal government has established precise standards for radiation exposure involving workers in industrial settings and people who live near hazardous waste dumps or nuclear power plants, whether operating or decommissioned. A copy of the proposed text, which the department plans to publish in the next few weeks in The Federal Register, was first published by Inside EPA, a trade magazine. Government officials confirmed its central points on Monday.

UN News Centre, 9 November 2005

UN atomic agency chief lays out plan to deal with nuclear terrorism, trafficking

8 November 2005 - In a bid to thwart the smuggling of nuclear materials and the threat of terrorists' acquiring weapons of mass destruction, the head of the United Nations atomic watchdog agency has laid out a series of "yardsticks", including multilateral management of potential weapons-grade fuel and Security Council resolve to take action. "We are approaching a crossroads. After the end of the Cold War, we were hopeful that a new global security regime would emerge - inclusive, equitable, and no longer dependent on nuclear deterrence," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed ElBaradei told the 2005 Carnegie International Non-Proliferation Conference in Washington yesterday. "Regrettably, we have made little progress towards that goal," added Mr. ElBaradei, who together with the IAEA shared this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

The Statesman, 9 November 2005

N-deal to secure US interests: official

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8: Praising India's record in preventing proliferation of its nuclear technology, the Bush Administration has said the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal will not only strengthen the non-proliferation regimes but also secure American interests. "The administration's initiative only reflects the imperative to be 'creative' and 'adjust' the non-proliferation approaches as they exist rather than as we would wish them to be," the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Security, Mr Andrew Semmel, said before a sometimes skeptical audience at a nuclear non-proliferation conference. "Until now we've confined the world's second most populous country to a place outside the system in spite of its very good record in preventing the proliferation of its nuclear technology. This is not strategically wise," he said at the Carnegie International Non-Proliferation Conference.

The News, 9 November 2005

North Korea to be given new timeline

BEIJING: North Korea will be urged to adopt a step-by-step plan towards nuclear disarmament when the latest round of six-nation talks begins on Wednesday, Japan's chief negotiator said. However, with the first phase of the fifth round scheduled to last just three days before resuming later in the year, expectations were low that major progress will be made this week. "The main thing is to see how we take an agreement of principles and begin to see how the agreement of principles can be put into practice," said top US envoy Christopher Hill when he arrived in Beijing late on Tuesday. Hill stressed that much depended on Pyongyang's willingness to abide by the joint agreement reached during the last round of talks in September in which North Korea promised to scrap its nuclear programs in exchange for energy assistance and other benefits. "We need to see specifically how the undertakings of the DPRK (North Korea), in terms of denuclearisation, are going to unfold," Hill said.

Daily Times, 9 November 2005

Iran rebuffs EU call to freeze N-activities

TEHRAN: Iran rebuked the European Union on Tuesday for calling on it to freeze nuclear fuel activities, insisting it had a clear right to develop a full civilian nuclear energy programme. "The EU's statement was surprising. We suggest the Europeans change their behaviour toward Iran," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told state television. The European Union urged Iran on Monday to comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) September resolution calling on Tehran to halt uranium conversion at its Isfahan plant. Iran broke UN seals at the Isfahan plant in August and began converting tonnes of uranium into a gas that can be enriched to make nuclear reactor or bomb-grade fuel. Iran says it will never make atomic bombs and only wants to use nuclear technology for electricity generation. "Iran will never abandon its nuclear fuel cycle," Asefi said after a closed-door meeting of Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki with ambassadors from the European Union and from member states of the IAEA board of governors.

Daily Times, 9 November 2005

North Korea talks to draft 'roadmap' on scrapping nukes

TOKYO: Japan, the United States and South Korea will propose to North Korea at talks this week a "roadmap" of specific steps it can take to show it is giving up nuclear weapons and receive promised benefits, a Japanese newspaper said Tuesday. Amid US and Japanese concern that North Korea is untrustworthy, the roadmap would give a timeline for concrete ways for Pyongyang to verify it is giving up its nuclear program, the Asahi Shimbun said, citing unnamed South Korean diplomatic sources. The report came one day before the resumption of six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program. Host China said the talks will last three days. At the last round in September, North Korea agreed in principle to scrap its nuclear program in exchange for energy assistance and other benefits. The Asahi Shimbun said the roadmap would include a series of stages starting with North Korea confirming its nuclear programs are dismantled, freezing nuclear facilities and renouncing its nuclear program.

Dawn, 9 November 2005

Breaking the impasse

There are signs that the Iran-EU-3 impasse on the nuclear issue is to be broken. Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Mr Ali Larijani, has sent a letter to Britain, France and Germany calling for the resumption of their talks which were suspended in August. After assuming the presidency two months ago, the hardliner President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had resumed uranium enrichment-related activities that had provoked a strong reaction from the EU-3. Not only was the dialogue called off; the IAEA's board of governors also adopted a resolution requiring Iran to be reported to the UN Security Council for non-compliance with the NPT. In this situation, the persisting deadlock seemed to have made any compromise unattainable. Hence Iran's move to seek negotiations is like a bolt from the blue and will be widely welcomed. Equally significant is Iran's gesture to open its military base at Parchin to inspection by the IAEA's inspectors.

The Washington Post, 9 November 2005

North Korea Rushes To Finish Reactor (Glenn Kessler)

North Korea has said it plans to finish building a 50-megawatt nuclear reactor in as little as two years, allowing it to produce enough weapons-grade plutonium for 10 weapons annually, according to the first public report of an unofficial U.S. delegation that visited Pyongyang in August. The new reactor would

represent a tenfold leap in North Korea's ability to produce fuel for nuclear weapons, which could give it significant leverage in talks aimed at dismantling its nuclear programs. North Korea tentatively agreed in September to "abandon" its programs, but the talks -- which resume today in Beijing -- must still resolve how quickly Pyongyang gives up its weapons and what types of incentives it will receive. North Korea is "moving full speed ahead with its nuclear weapons programs," said Siegfried S. Hecker, a former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, during a presentation at a conference sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Reuters, 9 November 2005

US stands firm on N.Korea as nuclear talks open (Jack Kim and Teruaki Ueno)

BEIJING: The United States stood its ground on Wednesday as a new round of six-party talks on North Korea began, saying the reclusive country had to abandon its nuclear weapons program before it could win any energy aid. Washington and Pyongyang are sparring over when the North should open up to disarmament inspectors and whether in return it would receive rewards including a new light-water nuclear reactor for atomic energy. In Washington, U.S. President George W. Bush reaffirmed concerns about North Korea's human rights record, but urged patience at the talks and said the main goal was ending the North's nuclear weapons ambitions. Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill restated Washington's position on Wednesday in Beijing ahead of the opening session.

The Japan Times, 9 November 2005

The politics of assigning a nuclear carrier to Japan (Richard Halloran)

HONOLULU: The easy part of newly assigning a U.S. aircraft carrier to Japan, which was to persuade the Japanese to accept a nuclear-powered vessel, has been accomplished. Now comes the hard part: deciding which one of 10 carriers should be based in the port of Yokosuka. Deployments of the world's mightiest warships are not to be taken lightly. They are the most visible symbols of the ability of the United States to project sea power and to maintain a presence far from America's shores. In a crisis, often the first question from the White House is: "Where are the carriers?" Indeed, the decision of which carrier to base in Japan is so complicated that it may go all the way to President George W. Bush. The move must take into account Japanese attitudes, U.S. military strategy, and American politics and economics -- much of which will be difficult to reconcile.

China Daily, 9 November 2005

North Korean nuclear talks resume in Beijing

Six-nation talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program have resumed in Beijing with delegates aiming to draw-up a roadmap on implementing a disarmament deal brokered nearly two months ago. Delegates from China, North Korea, South Korea, the United States, Russia and Japan are scheduled to meet for three days in Beijing to put forward their strategies, then return to the Chinese capital in December for further talks. The talks began after the parties engaged in a series of bilateral meetings during which delegations from the two Koreas met face-to-face, as well as those from the United States and China. The six nations agreed at the last round of talks in September to verifiably scrap North Korea's nuclear programs in exchange for energy assistance and other benefits. But there have since been sharp differences on how to proceed towards the final goal of disarmament. North Korea insists the United States must first supply it with a light-water atomic reactor for energy.

The New York Times, 10 November 2005

Six-Nation Talks on North Korea Resume in China (Jim Yardley)

BEIJING, Nov. 9: Negotiations resumed Wednesday on the North Korean nuclear standoff, as envoys from six nations began jousting over the messy details of how to translate the broad principles agreed upon in September into a concrete disarmament agreement. The three-day session is not expected to generate a major breakthrough. Envoys from China, South Korea and Japan used the opening day to put forward proposals to provide a road map for talks on the core issues of how and when North Korea would eliminate its nuclear program and how and when the other countries would reward it for doing so. "I think we're going to talk about concepts of how to go forward," said Christopher R. Hill, the assistant secretary of state who is the top American in the talks. "We want to make progress, but we also want to be realistic about a three-day session."

The Korean Herald, 10 November 2005

APEC to discuss N.K.'s nukes: Ban (Lee Joo-hee)

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said there will be discussions on North Korea's nuclear standoff among the participants at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum next week although the issue will not be on the agenda. "There will be citations (in the final declaration) of the members' welcoming message to the Sept. 19 Joint Statement and their hope that North Korea's nuclear standoff will be solved with smooth negotiations," Ban said in a weekly news briefing. The APEC summit is opening in Busan next week from Friday to Saturday with leaders from 21 member economies joining along with some 800 international business leaders. The six-party talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia began yesterday and is expected to close for recess tomorrow ahead of the APEC forum.

China Daily, 10 November 2005

US tells North Korea to stop reactor now

North Korea must halt its nuclear weapons program now to show it is taking negotiations on disarmament seriously, the United States said on Thursday on the second day of six-party talks in Beijing. Negotiators said the three-day session would focus on the logistics of further bargaining after a framework for disarmament was agreed in September, but the perennial issue remains trust between the two main protagonists, Washington and Pyongyang. "You know how you build up trust? You live up to the agreement ... You can build up trust through actions," chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill told reporters. "The time to stop that reprocessing, the time to stop the reactor, is now," he said, referring to the North's nuclear plant at Yongbyon. U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Alexander Vershbow said on Wednesday the United States would be willing to open an office in Pyongyang as a gesture of goodwill, but Hill stressed that goodwill should be reciprocal.

China Daily, 10 November 2005

US rejects North Korea's disarmament idea

The United States brushed aside North Korea's fresh proposal to abandon its nuclear arms as six-nation disarmament talks resumed in Beijing with sharp differences remaining between the two. Chief US delegate Christopher Hill said North Korea put forward unspecified steps to rid itself of nuclear weapons and nuclear programs in exchange for energy aid, security guarantees and other benefits. Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill speaks to journalists before attending six-party nuclear talks in Beijing November 10, 2005. New talks to end North Korea's nuclear programme appear to have made modest progress but, going into their second day on Thursday, Washington and Pyongyang remained at odds over the timing and order of denuclearisation. "I think that the DPRK (North Korea) needs to understand that we need to move swiftly on denuclearization and the fact that denuclearization is the

first step in the agreement," Hill told reporters.

Daily Yomiuri, 10 November 2005

Bush: No reactor until North Korea disarms (Aya Igarashi)

U.S. President George W. Bush said Tuesday the United States would discuss the provision of a light water reactor to North Korea at an appropriate time after seeing tangible results of North Korea's effort to dismantle its nuclear program. Bush made the remarks in an interview with reporters from Japan, China and South Korea prior to his trip to the three countries beginning next week. Regarding North Korea's nuclear program, Bush said, "We want to see tangible results in the dismantling of a program, and at the appropriate time, we'll discuss the light water reactor." Bush also said the six-ways talks on North Korea's nuclear program that began Wednesday in Beijing will last three days this time, but a longer negotiation period will be held next month.

Teheran Times, 10 November 2005

Iran seeks nuclear talks in spirit of cooperation

TEHRAN: Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) spokesman Hossein Entezami said here on Wednesday that Iran seeks to resume nuclear talks with the European Union in a spirit of constructive cooperation and understanding. "The Iranian nation wants to make complete use of nuclear energy, and in particular seeks to master the nuclear fuel cycle," he said during a visit to the offices of the Tehran Times and the Mehr News Agency. "Today, acquiring nuclear technology and becoming a member of the nuclear club are demands linked to Iran's national and scientific reputation," Entezami noted. In response to a question on the potential participation of other countries in Iran's uranium enrichment activities, he said that having powerful foreign partners and allowing them to take part in various projects in the country are signs of national strength and build security.

The New York Times, 10 November 2005

U.S. and Europe to Give Iranians New Atom Offer (David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9: The Bush administration and three European allies have approved a new offer to be made to Iran in a last-ditch effort to head off a confrontation over its suspected nuclear weapons program. The proposal would permit Iran to conduct very limited nuclear activities on its own soil, but would move the process of enriching all of its uranium to Russia, American and European officials said. The proposal was discussed at length on Tuesday during a meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear monitoring agency, said officials who described their conversation. Dr. ElBaradei, who won the Nobel Peace Prize this year, will take the proposal to Iran on behalf of Britain, Germany, France and the United States, the officials said. But one senior official deeply involved in developing the proposal said, "Our expectations are low that the Iranians will accept."

The Indian Express, 11 November 2005

New nuke 'deal' on the table can save Iran's face, give India room (C. Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI, Nov 10: The United States, Europe and Russia are offering a face-saving nuclear deal to Tehran that could end the current divisive international debate on Iranian nuclear proliferation and take some political heat off the Manmohan Singh government. Under the proposed compromise, first reported in The New York Times today, US and Europe have given up their demand that Iran stop converting natural uranium into gas that could be used to enrich uranium. Depending on the level of enrichment, the gas could either be made into fuel for reactors or material for atomic bombs. As per

the deal, the paper reported, Iran will be allowed to convert raw uranium ore into industrial gas but must ship it to Russia for enrichment into power reactor fuel. To assure Tehran of uninterrupted fuel supplies, Iran would be offered a financial stake in the Russian enrichment plant.

The News, 11 November 2005

US, EU ready to let Iran carry out N- fuel work

VIENNA: The United States and the European Union are ready to let Iran carry out the first stage of making nuclear fuel, but need wide international backing in order to present the compromise to Tehran, diplomats told AFP on Thursday. UN atomic watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei is holding off on travelling to Iran to present for what will be a last-ditch proposal to resolve the crisis over a civilian Iranian nuclear program which the United States claims hides covert weapons development. "It depends if this proposal gets buy-in from Russia and China, and also some non-aligned countries," a Western diplomat told AFP Thursday. The proposal would let Iran convert uranium ore into the uranium hexafluoride gas that is the feedstock for making enriched uranium, which can be fuel for nuclear power reactors but also the explosive core of atom bombs.

Daily Times, 11 November 2005

Iranian nuclear crisis: Deal likely within days: IAEA

VIENNA: UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei hopes a deal aimed at defusing a standoff over Iran's nuclear programme will be reached within days, his International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Thursday. "He hopes that in the coming days the international community will be able to coalesce around a solution that is acceptable to all parties, including Iran," the IAEA said in a statement. It was unclear, however, whether ElBaradei was simply expressing his hope or signalling that an agreement was close to being reached. Washington accuses Tehran of trying to build nuclear weapons under the cover of its atomic power programme, a charge Tehran vehemently denies. Talks between top EU powers and Iran collapsed in August after Iran resumed uranium processing, ending a suspension of sensitive nuclear work that had been at the centre of a 2004 deal known as the Paris Agreement.

Boston.com News, 11 November 2005

N.Korea talks end in China, to meet again

BEIJING: Six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program ended in Beijing on Friday with a statement from host China saying they planned to meet again as soon as possible. "The parties agreed to hold the second session of the fifth round of six-party talks at the earliest possible date," the Chinese statement said. "The parties reaffirmed that they would fully implement the joint statement in line with the principle -- commitment for commitment, action for action."

The New York Times, 11 November 2005

Rice Denies U.S. Is Leading Nuclear Talks With Tehran (Steven R. Weisman)

Ireland, Nov. 10: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice distanced the Bush administration on Thursday from a new proposal to resolve the Iranian nuclear dispute, describing the United States as intently interested in the problem but not an author of the proposed solution. Responding to an article on Thursday in The New York Times that reported that the United States and three European allies had approved a new offer to be made to Iran, Ms. Rice emphasized that any such proposal did not come from Washington but from its European partners, to whom the United States has deferred in the negotiations. "We are not parties to these negotiations," she said, although she added that the United

States was in "constant contact" on the issue with Britain, France and Germany.

The Tribune, 12 November 2005

New nuclear power plants 'essential' (Steve Connor)

Britain must consider building new nuclear power stations urgently if it is to meet its international commitments on cutting greenhouse gases as well as plugging a looming "energy gap", a study by more than 150 experts has found. It concluded that renewable sources of green energy would be unable to generate enough electricity to meet the expected shortfall resulting from the closure of existing nuclear power plants. Power stations would be unable to supply 20 per cent of peak demand in 10 years' time. John Loughhead, executive director of the UK Energy Research Centre and lead author of the study, said that cutting emissions of greenhouse gases from gas and coal-fired power stations was driving the need for fresh sources of energy. "If the UK is to continue on its path of reducing atmospheric emissions, then it will need probably to maintain some nuclear capability," Dr Loughhead said.

The Hindu, 12 November 2005

"Involve nuclear experts in policy decisions" (T.S. Subramanian)

M.R. Srinivasan, former Chairman and now member of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), takes exception to U.S. official Nicholas Burns making it a "pre-condition" that India should first separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities before the American Congress is asked to relax its rules. In an interview on November 9, Dr. Srinivasan says Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran "has confused the picture."

Daily Times, 12 November 2005

Should the US sell nuclear technology to India? -Robert Einhorn

A problem with the India-only exception is that it accentuates concerns that the US is acting selectively and self-servingly on the basis of its own foreign policy calculations rather than on the basis of objective factors related to nonproliferation performance. There is a growing concern in the US Congress over the nuclear deal reached this past summer during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington, and with good reason. It is not that building a strategic relationship with India is unimportant. But it should not be pursued in a way that undermines a US national interest of equal and arguably greater importance - preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This is precisely what the Bush Administration has done.

The News, 12 November 2005

Iran 'open to offers' on nuclear work

TEHRAN: Iran wants to conduct sensitive nuclear work on its territory but is open to the possibility of uranium being enriched abroad for its needs, nuclear chief Ali Larijani said on Friday. "What is important for Iran is to enrich (uranium) on its soil," Larijani was quoted as saying by local news agencies, but added that if there was a formal proposal for enrichment abroad "we will discuss it." Under a proposal reportedly being floated, Iran would be allowed to carry out an initial step in making nuclear fuel, converting uranium ore into the uranium hexafluoride gas that is the feedstock for making enriched uranium. But enrichment itself could be carried out in Russia under an offer reportedly being considered by the European Union and the United States. Russia has staunchly backed Iran's right to a civilian nuclear energy programme, but the United States has alleged the Tehran's effort is a cover to develop weapons. Meanwhile Moscow expects a swift response from Tehran on a proposal by which

Russia would enrich uranium for Iran on Russian territory, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Friday.

Dawn, 12 November 2005

Film shows US used chemical weapons: Falluja fighting (Rick Kelly)

The Italian state television network, RAI, has broadcast a documentary that contains footage and testimony proving that the American military has used chemical weapons in Iraq, including in civilian areas, according to a report on the World Socialist Website. The film, titled Falluja: the hidden massacre, specifically examined the use of white phosphorous, an incendiary and corrosive chemical agent, during the US assault on Falluja in Nov 2004. Former US soldiers, Iraqi doctors and international journalists were interviewed, and graphic images were shown of Iraqi civilians killed by chemical weapons. The filmmakers spoke with former army specialist Jeff Englehart, who participated in the Falluja offensive. He was asked if US forces had used chemical weapons. "From the US military, yeah, absolutely," Englehart replied. "White phosphorus, possibly napalm may or may not have been used, I don't know. I do know that white phosphorus was used, which is definitely, without a shadow of a doubt, a chemical weapon."

International Herald Tribune, 12 November 2005

U.S. rejects temporary North Korean arms freeze

BEIJING: The United States has rejected North Korea's demand for aid in exchange for merely suspending nuclear weapons development, insisting that such efforts must be abandoned, the U.S. envoy said as negotiations ended Friday with no word of progress or a firm date to meet again. The North's negotiating partners agreed that its demand to be given a civilian nuclear reactor should not be discussed until it has dismantled its arms programs, said Christopher Hill, U.S. assistant secretary of state. "We're not prepared to make a separate agreement for them to freeze programs," Hill told reporters. "We don't want to get into a situation where they stop the programs - in short, freeze the programs, and then expect us to compensate them for a freeze." The six-party talks ended amid rancor, with the United States pressing the North to stop work at a plutonium-producing reactor and the North demanding that Washington lift sanctions imposed on eight North Korean companies accused of weapons proliferation.

International Herald Tribune, 12 November 2005

Washington rejects North Korea's demands in talks

BEIJING: North Korea's partners in six-nation disarmament talks agree the North's demand for a civilian nuclear reactor shouldn't be granted until its other atomic programs are dismantled, and Washington won't give aid for a temporary freeze, the U.S. envoy said Friday. The U.S. envoy, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, said the three days of talks this week, which recessed Friday, were too short a period to produce a concrete plan for stripping North Korea of its nuclear programs. North Korea has demanded a light-water civilian nuclear reactor for power generation before it agrees to disarm. "All five countries have been very clear on the view that there will be no discussion of the light-water reactor until the appropriate time. That appropriate time is not now," Hill said, referring to the United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia.

The Asahi Shimbun, 12 November 2005

Ryoichi Kabaya: Yokosuka hopes nuclear neighbor will ship out

The U.S. Navy has decided to decommission the conventional aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, which is

virtually home-ported in Yokosuka, and replace it with a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in 2008. The Japanese government accepted the decision. But, I am the mayor of Yokosuka and I know the anxieties of local citizens, so I find the plan unacceptable. How would people feel if a nuclear power plant stood just a bit farther than 1 kilometer from their home? That is the actual distance between the No. 12 berth where the aircraft carrier is usually anchored in the Yokosuka U.S. naval base and the nearest house. Nuclear reactors on a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier are said to be as powerful as a small nuclear power plant. If the new warship is home-ported in Yokosuka and uses the naval base as often as Kitty Hawk does, it would be in Yokosuka for more than 200 days a year. No matter how much the United States says it is safe, Yokosuka citizens will not be completely at ease.

The News, 13 November 2005

Iran insists to enrich its own uranium

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday insisted upon its right to enrich its own uranium, rebuffing a proposal that Russia should perform the sensitive atomic fuel work to allay fears Tehran is seeking atomic arms. Iran is facing referral to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions after failing to convince the international community its atomic ambitions are entirely peaceful. "Iran's nuclear fuel must be produced inside the country," Iranian nuclear chief Gholamreza Aghazadeh told reporters in Tehran after meeting Igor Ivanov, Secretary of Russia's Security Council. Britain, France and Germany have drafted a proposal offering Iran the chance to transfer its uranium enrichment activities to Russia, an EU diplomat told Reuters on Friday. EU diplomats say Iran could soothe international fears its uranium is intended for use in warheads by handing over the enrichment process to Russia.

Daily Times, 13 November 2005

'No question of uranium enrichment in Russia'

TEHRAN: The head of Iran's nuclear agency ruled out a compromise proposal that uranium enrichment for his country's controversial nuclear programme be carried out in Russia, saying on Saturday that enrichment must be done in Iran. European negotiators and the United States were reportedly willing to accept the arrangement as a compromise to allow Iran to move ahead with its nuclear program while ensuring it does not produce nuclear weapons. Enrichment can produce material either for a bomb or for nuclear reactor fuel. Vice President Gholamreza Aghazadeh, who heads the country's nuclear agency, said Iran was open to other proposals, pointing to an earlier Iranian idea that other countries participate in the enrichment process on Iranian soil as a guarantee that the programme is used only for peaceful purposes.

Daily Times, 13 November 2005

North Korea insists US end sanctions

BEIJING: North Korea insisted Saturday that the United States lift sanctions against eight companies controlled by the Stalinist regime as South Korea voiced optimism the row would not sidetrack six-way nuclear talks. "The lifting of sanctions is not something needed to keep negotiations alive, but something that should be implemented as promised," said Kim Gye-Gwan, North Korea's chief delegate to the talks. Kim was speaking to reporters as he prepared to leave Beijing after three days of talks on his country's nuclear ambitions that also involving China, South Korea, the United States, Japan and Russia. After the talks ended Friday, Kim said it would be impossible to make progress in negotiations on dismantling its nuclear programme unless Washington lifted financial sanctions against the North Korean companies.

Dawn, 13 November 2005

Nuclear help to India

American Congress is understandably upset that nearly four months after the Bush administration reversed long-standing policy and announced that it would provide nuclear assistance to India, the State Department has given lawmakers little information on the deal. In this case, the silence is golden; if the proposal falls through, so much the better. Rep. Henry J. Hyde, who chairs the House International Relations Committee, said recently that India knows more about the proposal than Congress. He said leaders of both houses had asked Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to change that. Despite India's nuclear weapons tests in 1998 and its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, President Bush agreed with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in July that the United States would supply India with nuclear fuel, technology and equipment. In exchange, India must strengthen nuclear safeguards, separate its civilian and military nuclear programmes and allow international inspections of the civilian part.

The New York Times, 13 November 2005

Relying on Computer, U.S. Seeks to Prove Iran's Nuclear Aims (William J. Broad and David E. Sanger)

In mid-July, senior American intelligence officials called the leaders of the international atomic inspection agency to the top of a skyscraper overlooking the Danube in Vienna and unveiled the contents of what they said was a stolen Iranian laptop computer. The Americans flashed on a screen and spread over a conference table selections from more than a thousand pages of Iranian computer simulations and accounts of experiments, saying they showed a long effort to design a nuclear warhead, according to a half-dozen European and American participants in the meeting. The documents, the Americans acknowledged from the start, do not prove that Iran has an atomic bomb. They presented them as the strongest evidence yet that, despite Iran's insistence that its nuclear program is peaceful, the country is trying to develop a compact warhead to fit atop its Shahab missile, which can reach Israel and other countries in the Middle East.

Daily Times, 13 November 2005

Tehran claims Ivanov made no atomic offer

TEHRAN: Russia's security chief Igor Ivanov met Iranian nuclear officials on Saturday, but dismissed speculation he had brought an EU proposal intended to solve a dispute over whether Iran is seeking atomic arms. Iran is facing referral to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions after failing to convince the world its nuclear ambitions are entirely peaceful. Britain, France and Germany have drafted a proposal offering Iran the chance to transfer its uranium enrichment activities to Russia, an EU diplomat told Reuters on Friday. EU diplomats say Iran could allay international fears its uranium is intended for use in warheads by handing over the enrichment process to Russia. But Ivanov, Secretary of Russia's Security Council, told Iran's official IRNA news agency he had not presented any proposal at a meeting in Tehran with Ali Larijani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator.

The Telegraph, 14 November 2005

None to Fight With (Gwynne Dyer)

You can see why North Korea might feel safer with nuclear weapons: Russia to the north, China to the west and the US Seventh Fleet to the east and south all bristle with nukes. You can see why Iran might want nuclear weapons, too: Russia to the north, US bases and ships to the south, and Israel to the west all have nuclear missiles, and they probably all have the coordinates of Iranian targets in their

guidance systems. It's obvious why India and Pakistan developed nuclear weapons. But Britain? Who on earth is Britain trying to deter? When Tony Blair announced that a decision will be taken to replace Britain's existing nuclear deterrent (four submarines carrying Trident missiles) within the life of the present parliament, an MP from his own party, Paul Flynn, pointed out the yawning gap in the prime minister's logic: "To have a nuclear deterrent now - where these Trident submarines wander the oceans with missiles aimed at nothing - is a meaningless proposition." And they really are aimed at nothing.

Daily Times, 14 November 2005

Japan proposes new format for North Korea talks

TOKYO: Japan, involved in a long and bitter row with North Korea over Pyongyang's abductions of Japanese nationals decades ago, has proposed formally restarting talks aimed at normalising diplomatic relations, Kyodo news agency said on Sunday. Japan and North Korea held two days of talks in Beijing this month, but failed to make visible progress in long-standing disputes that have blocked them from forging diplomatic ties. In a bid to prevent bilateral negotiations from stagnating, Kyodo said Japan presented a new proposal calling for a three-pronged approach to negotiations during those Beijing talks, Kyodo said. Under the Japanese proposal separate talks would be held on matters of concern such as the abduction issue, security issues such as North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, and for establishing diplomatic relations, it said. The normalisation talks would take up issues including the possibility of reparations for Japan's often-brutal colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945 and possible economic assistance, Kyodo said.

The News, 14 November 2005

US-N Korea mistrust seen as biggest hurdle to nuke talks

SEOUL: Mistrust between the United States and North Korea was the biggest hurdle in the latest nuclear disarmament talks and no quick settlement is in sight, analysts say. Three days of six-nation talks ended in stalemate in Beijing on Friday as the two main protagonists indicated their deep-rooted suspicion of each other. "Mistrust is very, very high," said Peter Beck, director of the Northeast Asia Project at the International Crisis Group. The problem is agreeing a sequence of actions to implement a September 19 agreement under which the communist state committed to disarm in return for energy aid and other benefits from the United States and other countries. "One statement is not going to overcome years of, you could even argue, decades of, mistrust," Beck said. The two countries battled each other in the 1950-53 war and have been Cold War adversaries since then.

The Korean Herald, 14 November 2005

Editorial: Message to North Korea

It is hardly surprising but still disappointing that the latest round of the six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear development program has made no progress. The major stumbling block turned out to be a standoff between Washington and Pyongyang not only on the nuclear dispute but also on U.S. financial sanctions on the communist country. The fact that the delegates, after three days of talks in Beijing, failed to set the dates for the next round and that North Korea unexpectedly raised the U.S. economic sanctions confirmed again that there is a long, bumpy road to a full resolution of the nuclear problem. It is true that few anticipated major progress in the latest session because it had been scheduled to last only for three days to allow diplomats from all but North Korea of the participating countries to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conferences in Busan. One can share the view of the U.S. chief delegate, Christopher Hill, who said three days was too soon and too short a

time to work out a complete implementation of the joint statement the six parties signed in September.

China Daily, 14 November 2005

North Korea proposed five-step plan to disarm at latest talks

North Korea proposed a five-step plan to abandon its nuclear weapons programs at the latest round of disarmament talks that ended inconclusively last week, South Korea's top official on relations with the nation said Monday. Under the plan, North Korea said it would first halt plans for any nuclear tests, and agree not to transfer any nuclear technology or materials to other nations, Unification Minister Chung Dong-young told journalists in Seoul. The North would agree to not produce more weapons, then suspend and later dismantle its nuclear program, subject to verification, Chung said. Finally, the North would rejoin the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and safeguards under the International Atomic Energy Agency, Chung said. Chung praised the last round of disarmament talks in Beijing as "meaningful in that North Korea presented its roadmap on nuclear dismantlement."

Daily Times, 14 November 2005

Iran rejects fresh US claim on atomic weapons work

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday dismissed fresh US allegations about its atomic ambitions in a bid to blight a crucial meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog later this month. US officials said new evidence suggested Iran had made significant progress in what they call its secret pursuit of nuclear weapons, and that this strengthened the case for more international pressure on Tehran to end the programme. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi rejected the allegations as an attempt to ratchet up pressure on Tehran. "The Americans are trying to pressure Iran by such a scenario, which has no value," he told a weekly news conference. "It is another fuss ahead of the IAEA board meeting to poison the board's atmosphere," he told a news conference. The International Atomic Energy Agency board meets on Nov 24 to decide whether to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions after failing to convince world powers that its atomic ambitions are entirely peaceful.

The Hindu, 15 November 2005

Britain's nuclear dilemma

The British Defence Secretary John Reid's recent assertion before the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence that his country will retain the nuclear deterrent as long as there was the threat of a potential enemy possessing such weapons reinforces the inherent arbitrariness in the global nuclear bargain, a recipe for the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). His remarks appear against the backdrop of the sharply polarised debate over the replacement of the Trident D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles due by 2020. The Ministry of Defence has rejected requests for details of the proposal under the right to information law on grounds of national security and public interest. The Trident is said to possess 300 times firepower than the atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima that instantly killed thousands and inflicted radiation-related disease and suffering on subsequent generations.

Dawn, 15 November 2005

Sydney N-plant was militants' target: police

SYDNEY, Nov 14: Police indicated on Monday that Australia's only nuclear reactor may have been a target of Muslim militants arrested last week on charges of plotting a major terrorist bombing. A police fact sheet submitted to court here said three of 18 Muslims arrested in Sydney and Melbourne had previously been stopped by police acting suspiciously near the Lucas Heights research reactor in

suburban Sydney. At the time of the incident in December 2004, police also found that a lock on a gate leading into the Lucas Heights facility had been cut, it said. The 20-page document, tendered in court on Friday but not released to the public until Monday, also alleged that members of the group underwent 'jihad training' at rural areas west of Sydney. And it revealed that police found 165 detonators along with large quantities of chemicals used to make explosives at some of the suspects' homes. Australian police and security agents detained the 18 men in the pre-dawn hours of November 8 in the country's biggest counter-terrorism operation.

Dawn, 15 November 2005

Congress urged to support US-India deal

WASHINGTON, Nov 14: The Federation of Indian Associations in the United States has asked the International Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives to back the Bush administration's decision of transferring civilian nuclear technology to India. In a letter addressed to the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Republican Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois, Mr Parikh said that Indian and US interests had converged and overlapped in recent years. Mr Parikh said that India had not allowed proliferation despite having an advanced nuclear energy programme for decades and should be given its due. "On the other hand, India's neighbours - Pakistan and China - have been the main source of proliferation of nuclear and missile technology to countries like Iran, Libya and North Korea," he said.

The Indian Express, 15 November 2005

US clarifies on India's next step in N-deal

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: Clearing the air on the sequencing of steps as part of the Indo-US nuclear deal, US Ambassador to India David Mulford said today that India needs to draw up a "credible" blueprint for separation of civilian and military nuclear facilities. This will be sufficient for the Bush Administration to move the Congress while the actual separation can follow. This separation plan, once prepared by New Delhi, will be reviewed and studied by US experts. Mulford said it cannot be a "token separation." "The US will review the separation plan and if we find it credible, then we will support and take the legislation forward before the plan is actually implemented," said Mulford, who is leaving for the US tomorrow and will meet members of the Congress to explain issues related to the deal. He described as "inaccurate" remarks that India will have to first fully separate its civilian and military nuclear facilities for the Congress to act on the legislation. The plan, Mulford added, can be implemented after the legislation is in place.

The Statesman, 16 November 2005

PM wants growth in N-energy

Mumbai, Nov. 15: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today said India was keen on establishing an environment that was conducive to international cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy without compromising the country's national policy of maintaining the strategic requirement. Addressing nuclear scientists at the 16th annual conference of the Indian Nuclear Society here at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Barc), Singh said India must create the space for a quantum jump in nuclear energy production in the coming years. However, this will be done without constraining strategic and R&D related aspects of the country's nuclear programme. "The future energy programme will be carried out in a manner that is consistent with our national policy of maintaining the integrity of our three-stage nuclear energy programme without constraining strategic and R&D related aspects of the programme," Singh said.

The Statesman, 16 November 2005

Indo-US nuke pact will work

In the second of a two-part article on the Indo-US nuclear agreement, Ashley J Tellis argues that the deal will serve both countries' security interests and the goal of nuclear non-proliferation...The Indo-US bilateral agreement providing New Delhi access to the long-denied civilian nuclear technology has emerged as a contentious issue in the Congress. But it need not be because the deal is good for both countries' national security interests as well as for preventing nuclear proliferation. The 18 July agreement, many critics assert, would undermine the global nonproliferation regime and ultimately American security. At the first hearing on this subject on 8 September, Congressman Henry J Hyde correctly noted that among the critical questions surrounding this agreement was whether its "net impact on our nonproliferation policy is positive or negative."

Hindustan Times, 16 November 2005

Pentagon hints at big defence deal with India (S. Rajagopalan)

Washington: The Pentagon has approved the lease of two P-3C reconnaissance aircraft for India and notified the US Congress of a \$133 million military sale to provide logistics support for the deal that includes training devices, test equipment and spare parts. Announcing the deal, the Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said the proposed sale would help "improve the security of an important ally and strengthen US-India strategic partnership". The P-3C aircraft, built by Lockheed Martin, will replace the Navy's Soviet IL-38 May aircraft that are "quickly reaching the end of their fatigue and operational service life". This modernisation would enhance the capabilities of the Navy, support its regional influence and meet its legitimate needs of self-defence, said the DSCA, which is the US Defence Department's nodal agency for foreign military sales. It said India needed the advanced aircraft for land-based maritime patrol and reconnaissance to protect its economic exclusion zone and to guard against submarines and surface warfare ships.

The News, 16 November 2005

Iran warns IAEA

TEHRAN: Iran's top nuclear negotiator issued a blunt warning to the UN atomic watchdog on Tuesday, saying more pressure on the Tehran over its controversial nuclear activities would have "consequences". The International Atomic Energy Agency is to meet from November 24, with Iran running the risk of being sent to the UN Security Council amid suspicions it is using a nuclear energy drive as a cover for weapons development. But Larijani, quoted by the ISNA news agency, said a Security Council referral "would have consequences on Iran's cooperation, and would not be good for Iran's cooperation". "If they put too much pressure on Iran, Iran will be forced to work differently," he said in the latest of a string of warnings to the IAEA and its 35-nation board of governors. Iran, which maintains it only wants to make electricity, has already threatened that if its case is sent to New York it would limit access to IAEA inspectors and abandon a freeze on uranium enrichment.

Khaleej Times, 16 November 2005

Talking sense in Teheran

Iran's former president Mohammed Khatami may not have accomplished much during his two tenures as the leader of the Islamic republic. But there is eminent sense in his critique of the country's current leadership. In a candid and blistering comment on the direction in which new Iran is headed, Khatami has rightly argued that the hardliners are providing the country's 'enemies with the best excuse to attack Islam and Iran.' The former president criticised those who "think that belief in democracy, freedom and progress tarnishes the revolutionary image of our country in the Islamic world and try to

compete with the Taliban by advocating violence and committing extremist acts, which are at odds with the religion". It doesn't demand exceptional intelligence to see who is the target of Khatami's offensive. But the former president is not the first to take on his successor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The new leader sparked international outrage last month with his call to 'wipe out' Israel.

The News, 16 November 2005

US faulted on handling N-threat

WASHINGTON: The US government is not doing enough to protect nuclear weapons from terrorists and its handling of terrorism suspects is undermining America's image in the Muslim world, members of a commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks said on Monday. Although President George W. Bush calls arms proliferation the country's biggest threat and al-Qaeda has sought nuclear weapons for a decade, the former commission's chairman Thomas Kean said, "the most striking thing to us is that the size of the problem still totally dwarfs the policy response." "In short, we still do not have a maximum effort against the most urgent threat to the American people," he told a news conference, noting that half the nuclear materials in Russia still have no security upgrade. The bipartisan commission was established by the US Congress to investigate the Sept 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network that killed nearly 3,000 people.

The News, 16 November 2005

No compromise on military N-plan: Singh

BOMBAY: The India's prime minister said on Tuesday that he was committed to a landmark agreement with the US to buy civilian nuclear technology, but vowed to ensure the deal does not hamper the country's military nuclear programme. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told a gathering of nuclear scientists that international cooperation was crucial to resolving India's growing energy needs that can no longer be met with hydroelectric and thermal power alone. "We must create the space for a quantum jump in nuclear energy production ... without constraining strategic and R&D related aspects of our nuclear programme," he said, in reference to India's defence programme that already has advanced atomic bomb capability. "We have an interest in the establishment of an enabling environment conducive to international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy," Singh told hundreds of nuclear scientists and physicists at the country's top nuclear facility, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Manmohan said international cooperation was unavoidable in large-scale scientific projects, and he urged scientists to help India in its development goals by increasing power production.

The Hindu, 17 November 2005

Russia to help build nuclear submarine (Vladimir Radyuhin)

MOSCOW: Russia has agreed to help India build the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) and the air defence vessel. Speaking after a two-day session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) for military-technical cooperation on Wednesday, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the Russian side had assured him that it would share the technology for building the ATV and air defence vessels and would go in for co-production in some areas of their construction. ATV is an indigenous project for the development of nuclear submarines. The Russian Defence Ministry had also agreed to a request from the Department of Space to give India access to civilian and military applications of Russia's Glonass space navigation system, Mr. Mukherjee said. This will enable the Indian Armed Forces to target missiles with high precision. Under a bilateral accord signed last year, India and Russia will jointly launch navigational satellites to make Glonass fully operational by

2007.

Daily Times, 17 November 2005

'India should stop producing fissile material' (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: Congressman Gary Ackerman has suggested that India should be required to declare a moratorium on further production of fissile material in exchange for Washington's support for a permanent seat for New Delhi on the UN Security Council. The congressman made the suggestion at yet another hearing on Wednesday on the Indo-US nuclear agreement signed between the two countries during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington in July this year. The agreement that would require a change in existing US law has run into heavy opposition from the nonproliferation lobby and several important senators and congressmen. Congress is irritated because the White House did not consult it before signing the agreement, which is seen as having serious implications not only for the United States but other countries including Pakistan and China.

The News, 17 November 2005

No unauthorised person can acquire chemicals: FO (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday sent out a loud and clear message to the world capitals that no unauthorised person could acquire any kind of chemicals in the country that could be used for manufacturing illegal chemical weapons. It has also emphasised that it wishes to see the world free of chemical weapons. "Pakistan has set up the National Authority which is based at the Foreign Office and we have been given a clean chit by those concerned," spokesperson at the Foreign Office told 'The News' while commenting on the ongoing visit of Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) chief. Pakistan is a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). "We need certain chemicals for manufacturing in textile goods and in agriculture and we have to make sure that no unauthorised person gets hand on these chemicals as they can be used for weapons," the spokesperson added.

The Washington Post, 17 November 2005

Iran Ignores Pleas to Halt Uranium Work (Dafna Linzer)

Iran began converting a new batch of uranium at a key nuclear facility yesterday, rejecting international pleas to suspend such work and dismissing a new offer -- sponsored by Russia -- that was designed to ease tensions over the country's nuclear ambitions, U.S. and European officials said. The work at the facility in the town of Isfahan does not bring Iran significantly closer to nuclear capability. But the decision to convert additional uranium -- a key ingredient for fueling nuclear energy or weapons programs -- was seen as a provocative move just days after Iranian officials reacted coolly to the Russian offer. Coming at a sensitive time, the Iranian moves threatened to derail efforts to set up a meeting next week between European and Iranian officials that was meant to reinvigorate negotiations on hold since the summer, diplomats said. Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is leading an investigation of Iran's nuclear program, also canceled a planned trip to Tehran, said officials in Vienna, where the agency is based.

The Times of India, 17 November 2005

N-energy not the best option (Suchitra J Y)

In response to Manpreet Sethi's article 'Go For Nuclear Power' (Oct 24), I raise the following issues contesting the author's position that nuclear power is the most obvious and viable source of energy for India. First, there is a need to be realistic. The various goals that the Department of Atomic Energy

(DAE) has set for itself with or without external assistance, have never been met since the inception of the civilian nuclear programme. In 1954, the Atomic Energy Corporation predicted 8,000 MW of installed nuclear power by 1980; in 1962, Homi Bhabha, the first head of the DAE, predicted 20,000 to 25,000 MW by 1987. His successor, Vikram Sarabhai, predicted that by 2000 there would be 43,500 MW of nuclear power. None of these materialised. Installed nuclear capacity in 1980 was 600 MW, 950 MW in 1987, and 2,720 MW in 2000. Currently, the total installed nuclear capacity is 3,310 MW, about 3 per cent of the total installed electricity generation capacity of over 112,000 MW in the country.

The Korean Herald, 17 November 2005

Roh, Hu urge flexibility on N.K. nukes (Lee Joo-hee and Kim Jung-min)

President Roh Moo-hyun and Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday called for more flexibility in dealing with North Korea's nuclear weapons drive. Roh also announced that South Korea would grant China a market economy status, as part of efforts to cultivate a "comprehensive and cooperative partnership" between the two neighbors. "Participants in the six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons ambition must continue to show sincerity and flexibility in order for the negotiation process to continue progressing by faithfully implementing the statement of principles agreed in the fourth round of six-party talks," said a joint statement read by the two leaders after the summit talks at Cheong Wa Dae, Seoul. Hu arrived in Seoul yesterday in a formal visit to participate in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the southern port city of Busan. Hu welcomed the progress being made in inter-Korean cooperation and said he supports a peaceful reunification in the long run.

People's Daily, 17 November 2005

China, S. Korea voice support for six-party statement

China and South Korea voiced their support in Seoul Thursday for a joint statement issued during the fourth round of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue, and expressed readiness to jointly promote regional peace and integration. The two countries viewed the six-party statement as an important document containing the goals and principles agreed upon for the talks, saying the statement has laid an important foundation for the endeavor to make the Korean Peninsular nuclear-free, according to a joint communique issued by China and South Korea. It said all parties -- the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), China, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Russia -- should show sincerity and flexibility in carrying out the joint statement adopted at their fourth round of talks in Beijing in September. Thursday's Sino-South Korean joint communique was issued during a state visit here by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The New York Times, 17 November 2005

U.S. and Seoul Share a Goal but Not a Strategy on North Korea (David E. Sanger)

KYONGJU: President Bush and President Roh Moo Hyun of South Korea tried Thursday to reconcile their differing approaches to dealing with North Korea, with Mr. Roh repeating his vow that a nuclear armed North would "not be tolerated," even while defending his efforts to take a softer approach toward the country. In a brief news conference after they met here, Mr. Bush quickly and curtly turned aside a question about whether he was willing to provide any significant aid to the North before it disarmed. He said "the right moment to consider" helping the North build a light-water nuclear reactor was after it gave up all of its weapons programs. Mr. Roh, whose government has been trying to entice the North to open up, was silent on the issue. In their public comments, both men hailed the strength of their alliance, and Mr. Bush said he would "see a peninsula one day that is united and at peace." But they steered clear of the differences in tactics that aides said formed the subtext of their daylong

conversation here.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2005

Nuclear Power: China races ahead of India (C. Raja Mohan)

While argumentative India continues to look at the gift horse - the civilian nuclear deal with the U.S.- in the mouth, Beijing is racing ahead with its atomic energy plans with American inputs and leaving Delhi far behind. India started working on nuclear electric power generation in 1963, more than a decade and a half before China. The current Indian nuclear capacity is a little below 3,000 MW, while China's stands at nearly 6500 MW. But the nuclear gap between the two is likely to rapidly expand in the coming years. Thanks to the fact that China conducted its first nuclear weapons test before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was drafted in 1968, it has had the luxury of international cooperation. India, a late arrival on the weapons scene, has found itself progressively isolated since the first test of 1974. As a result India's ambitious plans to build 10,000 MW of nuclear capacity by 2000 could not be met. Beijing announced last year that it would build more than 30 nuclear plants in the next fifteen years.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2005

India pressing Russia over BrahMos induction (Dadan Upadhyay)

MOSCOW, Nov 17: India is pressing Russia to speed up the process of inducting the BrahMos anti-ship cruise missile, in its Armed Forces, before launching its marketing in third countries. "Some countries have shown interest in the BrahMos missiles. But before their marketing is launched, they should be inducted in the countries of their production," Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters after his visit to the NPOM Mashinosctroenia, outside Moscow, on Thursday. "There is no problem from our side, in their induction. But Russian laws require to be amended for their induction into the armed forces," Mukherjee said. Mukherjee would not reveal the names of the countries, interested in the BrahMos "There are many competitors in this field and if I mention any particular country, others will approach them to buy the systems from them," he said. Meanwhile, an Itar Tass report quoted a Russian Defence Ministry official as saying that over 200 projects worth \$19 billion were included in the Indo-Russian military and technical cooperation programme until 2010.

The Indian Express, 18 November 2005

US lawmakers against imposing more conditions on India nuke deal (Shridhar Krishnaswami)

WASHINGTON, Nov 17: Pointing out that there are already many "serious and difficult" conditions imposed on India in the nuclear cooperation deal, American lawmakers have warned the US Congress that maintaining a "defiant" stand could prove counter-productive and damage bilateral ties. Speaking of the July 18 joint Indo-US agreement before the House International Relations Committee, Democrat Gary Ackerman said on Wednesday, "If we add additional conditions that the government of India had previously rejected during the negotiations, the result will be not only scuttling the agreement itself, but significant, and I think lasting damage to the US-India relationship. Ackerman, who is also co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and a senior member of the House international relations panel, was addressing the panel's hearing on 'The US-India Global Partnership: How Significant for American Interests'.

Hindustan Times, 18 November 2005

China, N Korea, Iran pose threat to US: Poll

Washington: China, North Korea and Iran are seen by American opinion leaders as posing the

"greatest danger" to the United States, a survey showed on Thursday. There was no consensus as to which country represented the biggest danger, marking a change from a poll taken in the summer of 2001, when China was singled out, according to the Pew Research Centre's quadrennial survey of US foreign policy attitudes. "The Iraq war and continuing threat of terrorism have dramatically affected the way opinion leaders and the public look at potential threats from other countries," said a report by the independent opinion research group. Four years ago, prior to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on the United States, "there was broad concurrence, if not a consensus," that China represented the greatest danger to the United States, it noted.

The Hindu, 18 November 2005

India, Russia to renew defence programme (Vladimir Radyuhin)

MOSCOW: India and Russia will renew defence cooperation programme when the current 10-year programme expires in 2010, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here. "After 2010 we will review the progress and have another 10-year programme," he said on Thursday on completion of his three-day visit to Russia. "Our defence cooperation with Russia is a continuous process and some projects will overlap the 2010 threshold." Speaking of the prospect of selling "BrahMos" to third countries, Mr. Mukherjee said India has already inducted the supersonic missile but Russian legislation did not allow the induction of weapons co-produced with another country. "I suggested to the Russian side that they amend their legislation to induct the missile before we start marketing it," Mr. Mukherjee said. The Russian Government has drafted the necessary amendments and sent them to Parliament. The Minister said he had asked the MiG company to make a presentation on the fifth generation plane that Russia wanted to build jointly with India.

Dawn, 18 November 2005

EU rejects Russian offer to host talks with Iran

VIENNA, Nov 17: EU negotiators Britain, Germany and France have turned down a Russian offer to host an EU-Iran meeting in Moscow next week over Iran's disputed nuclear program, diplomats told AFP Thursday. Russia had proposed the meeting for the European Union and Iran to "talk about getting back to talks," a diplomat said, referring to negotiations on winning guarantees Tehran will not make nuclear weapons. The talks collapsed last August when Iran resumed nuclear fuel work that it had earlier suspended in order to make the negotiations possible. Iran on Wednesday began to convert a new batch of uranium ore into the gas that is the feedstock for enriching uranium into what can be reactor fuel or atom bomb material, defying international requests not to do so. The UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency had urged Iran in September not to resume uranium conversion, and is to meet on the matter next Thursday in Vienna.

The New York Times, 18 November 2005

Iran Is Reported to Continue Nuclear Activity (Richard Bernstein)

BERLIN, Nov. 17: Iran has resumed converting uranium despite European requests that it abstain from such work pending a new round of negotiations on its nuclear activities, a diplomat close to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna said Thursday. The reported resumption of activity, at a nuclear plant in Isfahan, comes days after Iran appeared to rebuff a European proposal that would allow Iran do some converting of uranium into a natural gas at the plant provided the product made there would be sent outside the country, presumably to Russia, for the final processing that would allow it to be used to generate power. On Saturday, Iran's nuclear chief, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, said in Tehran that "Iran's nuclear fuel must be produced inside the country," according to news agency

reports. The Europeans, who have been trying to ensure that Iran does not produce nuclear weapons, had asked the Iranians to cease conversion work until negotiations about the offer had taken place.

The Korean Herald, 18 November 2005

Roh, Bush press North Korea for prompt nuke dismantlement (Lee Joo-hee)

GYEONGJU: Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday reasserted that a nuclear-armed North Korea will not be tolerated and North Korea should eliminate its nuclear weapons programs "promptly and verifiably." Underlining their "strong alliance," the two presidents acknowledged the "steady development of the ROK-U.S. relationship into a comprehensive, dynamic and mutually-beneficial alliance." Speaking before the press after about an hour-long summit discussion, Roh and Bush said they also agreed to launch a dialogue called Strategic Consultation for Allied Partnership at the ministerial-level to consult on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two leaders agreed to have the first strategic dialogue at the beginning of 2006. "Through the discussion, I felt like the ties between the two countries have never been better," Bush said in his speech, adding that any relations come with complexities but the important point is the will to solve the complexities.

The Indian Express, 19 November 2005

Iran's A Q Khan link up on Vienna radar (David E Sanger)

NEW YORK, Nov 18: US President George Bush told President Vladimir V. Putin today that the United States was willing to accept a nuclear compromise-rejected by Tehran in recent days-that would move all of Iran's enrichment of uranium to Russia. "The Iranians, probably not surprisingly, initially have said no...We hope that over time Iran will see the virtue of this approach, and it may provide a way out," said Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, after the two leaders met. Just hours later, the International Atomic Energy Agency issued a new report about Iran to its board, detailing new documents the country has turned over that give details, for the first time, about technology that Iran was offered in 1987 by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani head of the world's largest black-market nuclear network.

The News, 19 November 2005

Iran hands over suspected atom bomb blueprint to IAEA

VIENNA: Iran has handed over a document which describes how to make what could be the explosive core of an atom bomb, the UN atomic agency said in a report on Friday, adding that its inspectors were being blocked from crucial military sites. The document, which Iran said came from a black market offer in 1987 that it never acted upon, gives "procedural requirements for ... the casting and machining of enriched, natural and depleted uranium metal into hemispherical forms," the International Atomic Energy Agency report said. Its disclosure raised concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, which Tehran says is a peaceful drive to produce electricity but the United States and Europe fears could be hiding the development of atomic weapons.

The Korean Herald, 19 November 2005

Editorial: Unity on North Korea

It is reassuring that the leaders of South Korea, the United States and Japan have agreed on a unified stand on North Korea's nuclear development programs. The key element of their agreement was that their governments would make sure the North gives up its nuclear programs and that they would do so through peaceful and diplomatic means. In line with the agreement, the leaders, whose governments

are key players in the six-party talks aimed at resolving the nuclear issue, endorsed the accord the North signed on Sept. 19, which calls for Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programs in return for energy aid and security guarantee. The series of summit talks among the leaders, which will be capped by President Roh's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today, followed the latest round of the six-way talks in Beijing last week. The leaders' unflinching commitment to the six-party talks is welcome all the more because the latest session did not produce any tangible progress because of the confrontation between Washington and Pyongyang.

The Indian Express, 20 November 2005

NSA in London for key Iran meeting as Govt welcomes diplomacy, says focus on A Q Khan

(Shishir Gupta)

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: National Security Advisor M K Narayanan has quietly attended yesterday's informal London meeting on the Iranian nuclear programme that is being seen as a key precursor to the International Atomic Energy Agency's meeting in Vienna next Thursday. Narayanan flew to London on November 17 to discuss the Iranian issue with top officials from EU-3 (Britain, Germany and France), Russia and the US. Washington was represented by its Under Secretary (Political Affairs) Nicholas Burns. While there is no official word, sources said Narayanan is carrying Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's brief that New Delhi is all for consensus but its stance on November 24 depends on the wording of the resolution moved in the IAEA. That assumes great significance given New Delhi's welcome today of the IAEA's latest report in which the nuclear watchdog got access to documents from Iran.

The Hindu, 20 November 2005

Iran: it's A.Q. Khan network, says IAEA (Atul Aneja)

DUBAI: As the countdown begins for the crucial meeting in Vienna next week, which will discuss Iran's nuclear programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a report that raises questions about Teheran's atomic programme. The report released in Vienna on Friday says Iran received nuclear designs from the nuclear smuggling network run by Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan. It suggests that the information was about building the explosive core of a nuclear bomb. Iran has passed on this data to IAEA inspectors, after stressing that it neither requested nor used this information. Iran has maintained that it is not seeking nuclear weapons, and its atomic programme was meant for augmenting its energy resources. Analysts point out that the IAEA report could play its part in influencing board members against Iran, increasing pressure on Teheran to adopt a more conciliatory approach in order to avoid a referral to the U.N. Security Council.

The Tribune, 20 November 2005

India supportive of Russian initiative on Iran (Rajeev Sharma)

New Delhi, Nov 19: As the crucial November 24 full-board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear programme draws near, National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan has reached London to discuss with his British counterpart the international community's strategies on the subject. Key sources in the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs told The Tribune today that apart from having regular consultations with his British counterpart, Mr Narayanan's brief is to explore possibilities of a situation wherein a voting on an IAEA resolution for reporting Iran to the United Nation's Security Council is avoided. Prime Minister's Media Adviser Sanjaya Baru told this correspondent that India's vote at the November 24 Vienna meet of IAEA would depend on how the resolution is drafted and he quickly added that there was no draft resolution yet.

Hindustan Times, 20 November 2005

China, US sign agreement on preventing illegal nuke trade

Beijing: China, which is often accused of shipping nuclear and sensitive technology to countries like Iran and Pakistan, has inked an agreement with the United States to prevent illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material. Representatives from China's General Administration of Customs and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the US Department of Energy signed the MoU on Saturday. The MoU aims at further promoting the cooperation in the fields of anti-terrorism and non-proliferation between the two nations, Chinese Foreign Ministry sources said. In the past, US State Department has slapped sanctions on many Chinese companies for "transferring" sensitive technology and material to countries like Iran and Pakistan. However, Beijing terms the sanctions as "groundless," citing the country's adherence to its international commitments.

Hindustan Times, 20 November 2005

Pakistan's nuke facilities suffered damage by recent quake

New Delhi: Pakistani nuclear facilities and storage sites in the Northern Areas have suffered "15 to 20 per cent damage" in the recent mega quake and the local populace faces the risk of contamination, a report said. Claiming that these sites and facilities had suffered serious damage, the European website Newsinsight reported that "the local population faces the risk of contamination, but a curfew has been imposed and they are being actively prevented by the authorities to leave the area". "There is 15 to 20 per cent damage to Pakistani nuclear facilities and storage sites in the Northern Areas, especially in Skardu and Chitral," it said, adding, "While Western sources did not say that reactors had been damaged in the October 8 earthquake, they confirmed that missile silos had developed cracks and storage facilities had taken a hit".

The News, 20 November 2005

India warns Iran on IAEA vote (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: India issued a couched warning to Iran on Saturday that Tehran must comply with the latest demands by the IAEA director-general to avoid getting New Delhi to vote against it on November 24. An Indian foreign ministry spokesman also said that New Delhi was concerned over possible involvement of what it called the A.Q. Khan network in helping Iran's nuclear programme. "We trust that Iran will continue to extend necessary cooperation to the IAEA to enable the agency to resolve outstanding issues. This will contribute to the success of ongoing diplomatic efforts and India believes it is important for all concerned to avoid actions that may undermine these efforts." The IAEA's latest report notes that it has been able to interview individuals involved in procurement, who have not been previously made available. It refers to additional documents being made available to the agency in a variety of areas and appreciates access being given to sites of interest.

The News, 20 November 2005

Iran denounces UN resolution

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday denounced as politically motivated a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly expressing "serious concern" about human rights violations in Iran. "It is politically motivated and this selfish attitude threatens human rights in the world," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi was quoted as saying by the state news agency IRNA. "This resolution is part of an attempt to divert public opinion and its content has nothing to do with the real situation in Iran," he said. "The

West uses human rights for promoting its goals and maintaining its interests," Asefi said, adding that "Iran will never give in to political pressures." In Friday's non-binding resolution, the assembly voiced "serious concern at the continuing use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" of detainees in Iran. It further denounced "public executions, violations of the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities and intimidation and persecution of human rights defenders."

Daily Times, 20 November 2005

VIEW: US-India nuclear agreement will strengthen NPT (Ashley J Tellis)

There is a fear that the US-Indian agreement will open the door to other nuclear suppliers engaging in reckless transfers of nuclear technology to their own preferred partners. This is possible, but not inevitable. A great deal depends on whether the international community will join the United States in viewing India as the only country worthy of special treatment. The Indo-US bilateral agreement providing New Delhi access to the long-denied civilian nuclear technology has emerged as a contentious issue in the US Congress. But it need not be because the deal is good for both countries' national security interests as well as for preventing nuclear proliferation. The July 18, 2005 agreement, many critics assert, would undermine the global non-proliferation regime and ultimately American security.

Dawn, 20 November 2005

Apec pledges to stop spread of WMDs: N. Korea urged to give up N-arms

BUSAN, Nov 19: Asia-Pacific leaders on Saturday pledged to break up terrorist groups and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Wrapping up a two-day summit, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum also challenged the European Union to make deeper cuts in farm subsidies, vowed action against bird flu and urged North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. But efforts to rescue the Dec 13-18 World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong, which aims to finalize an ambitious accord on breaking down trade barriers, dominated the gathering in the South Korean city of Busan. The 21 Apec leaders, whose economies account for nearly 50 percent of world trade, issued a statement calling for compromise on agriculture to keep the so-called Doha round of WTO talks alive. The statement did not mention the EU by name, but it rejected the EU's position that it has made enough compromises on agriculture and followed growing irritation in Brussels with Apec pressure.

Reuters, 20 November 2005

Iran Says No Case for Referral to UN Council

TEHRAN: Iran said on Sunday any decision to refer its nuclear case to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions would be purely political and not based on evidence Tehran was trying to build a nuclear weapon. "There is no legal or logical reason for Iran's case to be referred. But if something does happen in the next few days based on political motives that is a different matter," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told a news briefing. The U.N. nuclear watchdog meets in Vienna on Thursday to discuss International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director Mohamed ElBaradei's latest report on Iran and consider again whether to send Iran's case to the Security Council. Iran faces possible sanctions after failing to convince the world that its nuclear program is designed to meet its energy needs and not to build an atomic weapon.

The Associated Press, 20 November 2005

Zimbabwe to Process Newly Found Uranium

HARARE: President Robert Mugabe has said Zimbabwe will process recently discovered uranium deposits in order to resolve its chronic electrical power shortage, state radio said Sunday. Mugabe, who has close ties with two countries with controversial nuclear programs, Iran and North Korea, made the announcement Saturday, the radio station reported. It was not clear how Mugabe intended to use any uranium deposits since the country does not have a nuclear power plant. The president announced plans in the 1990s to acquire a reactor from Argentina, but nothing else was ever heard about the proposal. "Zimbabwe will develop power by processing uranium, which has recently been found in the country," the radio quoted Mugabe as saying. "The discovery of uranium will go a long way in further enhancing the government rural electrification program," he was quoted as saying.

The Tribune, 21 November 2005

A.Q. Khan's nuclear escapades: CIA helped him get visa (K. Subrahmanyam)

The latest report from Vienna talks of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) informing its Board of Governors that Iran had turned over to the IAEA fresh documents that give details, for the first time, about technology that Iran was offered in 1987 by Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the proliferator from Pakistan. According to this report, included in the engineering drawings and other technology offered to the Iranians were diagrams about how to form uranium metal into "hemispherical spheres", a description that would suggest the basic steps toward creating bomb cores. Such spheres are needed for the Hiroshima type of atomic bombs. It is to be noted that this cooperation from Iran has come about after the September 24 IAEA resolution. In the previous 30 months of investigation and inspection by the IAEA, Iran did not produce similar evidence. The new documentation will reveal that Dr Khan's proliferation started as far back as 1987.

Hindustan Times, 21 November 2005

Iran and our foreign policy

The latest International Atomic Energy Agency report on Iran has brought out clearly why it was necessary to threaten Iran with a referral to the UN Security Council on the subject of its nuclear cheating. Because of the September 24 vote, supported by India over the protests of the Left and its fellow travellers, Iran has turned over documents detailing data it had received from the A.Q. Khan network on fabricating nuclear weapons. Iran claims that it did not solicit the data - relating to casting and machining uranium metal into cores for nuclear weapons - nor has it used it. Given the gravity of the situation, and the record of Teheran's past deceptions, we cannot simply take Iran at its word. It must tell us why it chose to keep this critical information secret all this time. Further, the revelation has brought up the patent need for Pakistan and A.Q. Khan to provide a complete accounting of its incredibly irresponsible behaviour on nuclear proliferation.

Times of India, 21 November 2005

No need to quiz AQ Khan on Iran: US

WASHINGTON: Giving yet another clean chit to Pakistan, the US has said it does not need to question nuclear scientist AQ Khan in light of reports that the father of Pakistan's atomic programme helped Iran in enriching Uranium. When asked if in the context of the latest statements of Tehran on Uranium conversion, it was necessary to get back to Khan and question him afresh, state department acting spokesperson Adam Ereli said, "I wouldn't make that connection." "...Obviously we continue to...tie up loose ends on the AQ Khan issue but we've... pretty much gotten to the bottom of it, although obviously it's an issue that continues to be of interest to us," he said. "And what we need to see with regard to Iran, which is different from the AQ Khan investigation, is a complete and transparent

accounting from Iran about its nuclear programme which we haven't gotten....," he said.

Dawn, 21 November 2005

Iran adopts bill against IAEA inspections

TEHRAN: Iran's parliament approved a bill on Sunday that requires the government to block inspections of the country's facilities if the International Atomic Energy Agency refers the Iranian programme to the UN Security Council. Of 197 lawmakers present, 183 voted in favour of the bill. The session was broadcast live on state-run radio, four days in advance of an IAEA board meeting to consider referring Tehran to the council for possible sanctions. When the bill becomes law, it will strengthen the government's hand in resisting international pressure to abandon uranium enrichment. The bill will go to the Guardian Council, a hard-line constitutional watchdog, for ratification. The council was widely expected to approve the measure.

Dawn, 21 November 2005

Iran's nuclear crisis

On the eve of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors' meeting on Thursday, the Iranian nuclear crisis has hotted up again. Iran has informed the IAEA that it has started enriching a new batch of uranium. Meanwhile, Iranian negotiator Ali Larijani has sent out letters to the EU-3 calling for resumption of dialogue. This amounts to blowing hot and cold on the issue that can take any turn in the coming weeks. At the heart of the crisis is Iran's demand that its right to uranium enrichment be conceded and the IAEA's demand that Iran should be transparent in its dealings with the agency's inspectors. So far the EU-3 has failed to find a compromise solution to the problem and the talks have been deadlocked mainly because of lack of confidence. If the two sides fail to find a via media, the IAEA's board of governors might refer the case to the UN Security Council for sanctions.

Dawn, 21 November 2005

Iran threatens enrichment

TEHRAN, Nov 20: Iranian lawmakers voted on Sunday to resume uranium enrichment and end snap UN checks of its nuclear sites if Tehran is referred to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. In the vote, broadcast live on state radio, 183 out of 197 lawmakers present favoured the bill. The legislation must now be approved by Iran's constitutional watchdog, the conservative 12-man Guardian Council. Iran faces referral to the world body for possible sanctions after failing to convince the world that its atomic scientists are focusing on power stations rather than warheads. The board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meets in Vienna on Thursday to decide what steps to take with Iran's case. The bill is intended to give leverage to Iran's negotiators. Lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of parliament's foreign policy and security commission, urged opposition parliamentarians from the reformist camp to show a united front in the national interest.

The News, 22 November 2005

US exaggerated claims on WMD

WASHINGTON: Top German intelligence officials have charged that the US exaggerated claims made by an informant on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction during the run-up to the war, a US newspaper reported. Five senior German Federal Intelligence Service officials responsible for an Iraqi defector code-named Curveball told the Los Angeles Times that they warned their US counterparts that the source never claimed to produce germ weapons and never saw anyone else do so. The allegation was published in Sunday's edition of the daily. The German officials said US President

George W Bush mischaracterized information provided by Curveball when he warned before the war that Iraq had at least seven mobile biological weapon factories, the Times said. The Germans were also shocked to hear then Secretary of State Colin Powell misstate Curveball's claims during his presentation to the United Nations in February 2003, the report said.

Dawn, 22 November 2005

Protesters halt N-convoy

DANNENBERG, Nov 21: Anti-nuclear protesters repeatedly halted a controversial shipment of highly radioactive nuclear waste from France on Monday bound for a temporary storage facility in northern Germany. The activists said the train with 12 containers carrying more than 170 tonnes of treated nuclear power plant waste was stopped in the city of Goettingen for about 30 minutes and then later in the village of Bienenbuettel en route to the Gorleben site. Eighteen demonstrators were briefly detained in Goettingen.

The Guardian, 22 November 2005

Thatcher 'threatened to nuke Argentina' (Jon Henley)

Paris: Margaret Thatcher forced François Mitterrand to give her the codes to disable Argentina's deadly French-made missiles during the Falklands war by threatening to launch a nuclear warhead against Buenos Aires, according to a book. Rendez-vous - the psychoanalysis of François Mitterrand, by Ali Magoudi, who met the late French president up to twice a week in secrecy at his Paris practice from 1982 to 1984, also reveals that Mr Mitterrand believed he would get his "revenge" by building a tunnel under the Channel which would forever destroy Britain's island status. The book, to be published on Friday, is one of several on France's first Socialist president to mark the 10th anniversary of his death on January 8 1996. Despite a now tarnished reputation, he remains a source of fascination for the French in general and the left in particular.

The Times of India, 23 November 2005

Go Beyond The US (P R Chari)

The Indo-US relationship has proceeded at a furious pace over these past few months. A review of the relationship would, therefore, not be out of place. It started with Condoleezza Rice's visit to New Delhi in March this year when she expressed the US desire to help India achieve major world power status and stressed the need for an energy dialogue. This was followed by the new framework for the US-India defence relationship agreement signed on June 28, completion of the next steps in strategic partnership, and finalisation of the George Bush-Manmohan Singh joint agreement on July 18. The joint pact includes their nuclear deal that is the focus of controversy in both countries. This was followed by India's surprise vote in the IAEA on September 24 along with the western nations; it envisages that Iran would be referred to the Security Council if it did not satisfactorily account for its suspect nuclear activities.

The Indian Express, 23 November 2005

US defence firms guilty of tech sale to boost Agni, rules court (Sridhar Krishnaswami)

WASHINGTON, Nov 22: A US federal court has found two defence companies in New England guilty of violating export control laws by selling technology that "helped" India improve its Agni nuclear missile. Imposing a \$250,000 fine on Fiber Materials Inc., the court also sentenced company executives Walter Lachman and Maurice Subillia Jr to three years probation. Fiber Materials Inc of Maine and its subsidiary Materials International were found guilty of conspiring to export a control

panel from the US to India's Defence Research Development Laboratory (drdl) in April 1988. The control panel required a special export license from the US Department of Commerce-no such license was obtained. At the time DRDL was developing India's principal nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni, according to the casesheet. The contract under which equipment was supplied was between the defendants and drdl and was signed by the Agni project director, it said.

The Tribune, 23 November 2005

Danger signals from US (T.P. Sreenivasan)

For those of us who walked the corridors of the Capitol in May 1998 in a bid to "sell" Pokhran II to the US Congress, the danger signals from there on the nuclear deal come as no surprise. Congressman after Congressman, Senator after Senator, lectured us on the evils of the atom and shed tears over India taking the forbidden path. Even the acknowledged friends of India in the "India Caucus" minced no words. Some of them quoted Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru to us. Some said that if the Congress party was in power in India, the tests would not have occurred. Many of them still hold positions of power and influence there, with their spots intact. Any semblance of reward for Pokhran II is anathema to them. The votaries of non-proliferation lined up before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by one among them, Senator Luger, and the House International Relations Committee to testify that full nuclear co-operation with India would sound the death knell of the NPT and the non-proliferation regime.

Daily Times, 23 November 2005

North Korea threatens to build up deterrent

SEOUL: North Korea's foreign ministry has threatened to multiply its deterrent force a thousand times in an angry response to a UN vote expressing serious concern about Pyongyang's human rights record. The ministry dismissed the UN General Assembly vote as an "absurd attempt" by Washington to topple the Stalinist regime. The UN resolution adopted Thursday expressed concern about reports on torture, public executions, and the imposition of the death penalty for political reasons and the extensive use of forced labour in communist North Korea. "If one is to protect human rights one should have state power among other things and powerful deterrent to defend its state power," said the ministry statement carried late Monday by the official Korean Central News Agency. North Korea uses the term deterrent to refer to nuclear weapons it says it has developed. "The Korean people will ... defend the precious socialist system and bolster up the deterrent for self-defence a thousand times under any circumstance and situation."

Dawn, 23 November 2005

Tehran likely to get off the hook on nuclear issue (Praful Bidwai)

NEW DELHI: As the fraught question of Iran's nuclear activities comes up before the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday, there are indications of a softening up of the stands of a number of countries on the issue. If present trends continue, Iran may not immediately face the threat of being referred by the IAEA to the United Nations Security Council for sanctions, according to analysts in this nuclear-armed country, which signed a deal with the United States, in July, for the transfer of civilian nuclear technology. India had voted along with the US, and the EU-3 (Britain, France and Germany), against Iran in September at a meeting of the IAEA's board of governors, preparing the ground for Tehran's possible referral to the Security Council. But India has just announced that it will keep the Iran issue within the IAEA's jurisdiction and not send it to the UN.

Timesonline, 23 November 2005

Opinion: Who says nuclear power is clean? (Magnus Linklater)

There is something heart-sinkingly familiar about the following sentence: "Mr Blair believes that all the arguments point to nuclear power, and has effectively made up his mind, according to authoritative sources." We have become all too familiar with Mr Blair's made-up mind - it spells nothing but trouble. As Sir Christopher Meyer observed in his memoirs, when it comes to the big issues Mr Blair finds the details "uncongenial". Yet it is on the detail that the nuclear case stands or falls. This time we need to know whether he has understood the arguments rather than simply bought them. Three massive claims are being made for Britain building a new generation of nuclear stations: first, it is the only way that Britain can meet its ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions; secondly, it is the only reliable option available if we are to fill the "energy gap" left by declining sources of fossil fuels; thirdly, it is the best way of ensuring that our energy comes from "secure" sources, rather than unstable oil-rich oligarchies.

Hindustan Times, 23 November 2005

Split the atomic (R. Rajaraman)

22 Nov: It is now clear that the road to formalising and implementing the recent Indo-US agreement will be long and bumpy. In the US Congress, several members have expressed grave concern about the agreement. Their fears were also echoed by non-proliferation experts in a testimony before the US House International Relations Committee. The US government, in turn, has pushed back its timetable for seeking congressional support by several months. In India, apart from the initial burst of statements in July, there has not been much public discussion among our political parties. But in the barrage of seminars, discussions and editorials on the subject, opinion on the agreement has been strongly divided. Its detractors argue that it asks too much of India, threatening our nuclear programme and national security. The emergence of these objections should come as no surprise given the major departure in nuclear policy that the agreement represents, for both India and the US. Nevertheless both countries should persist in their efforts to make the agreement work, by shedding some of their traditional (and often unwarranted) fears.

The Tribune, 24 November 2005

Iran vote at IAEA: India to act on merits of case (Sridhar Krishnaswami)

Washington, Nov 23: Hoping that Iran will live up to its obligations and commitments on the nuclear issue, India has said it will act on the merits of the case if the issue comes up for vote at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this week. India's Ambassador to the United States Ronen Sen also rejected the notion in some quarters that his country's stance on Iran was a "deviation" from the non-aligned position. Expressing hope that the Iran issue will not come up for vote at the IAEA this Thursday, Mr Sen told "...The path of negotiation which is currently on will hopefully lead to a general dialogue and that Iran will live up to its obligations and commitments...but if we find that this vote becomes inevitable, we will act on the merits of the case and in terms of our interests".

The Hindu, 24 November 2005

Iran and the IAEA (R. Ramachandran)

In a report dated November 18 on the Iran nuclear issue, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, has said: "Since [the time of the September 2005 Report], Iran has been more forthcoming in providing access to additional documentation related to the 1987 offer [of centrifuge components] and permitting interviews with individuals who had been involved

in discussions with the procurement network." This report will be placed at the November 24 meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors. According to the report, among the documents that Iran voluntarily submitted to the IAEA relating to the 1987 offer "was one related to the procedural requirements for the reduction of UF₆ (uranium hexafluoride) to metal in small quantities, and on the casting and machining of enriched, natural and depleted uranium metal into hemispherical forms... "

The News, 24 November 2005

China may support US, EU on Iran N-plan

VIENNA: Washington and its European allies, in a diplomatic coup, are gradually enlisting Chinese support on how to deal with Iran and its suspicious nuclear activities, diplomats and officials said on Wednesday. Beijing's backing before a key meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday adds additional clout to an ambitious international Iran strategy that has recently seen Russia join the Americans and Europeans in pressuring Iran to give up technology that could make nuclear arms. For months, Iran has relied on Beijing and Moscow to fend off a US-backed push to have it hauled before the UN Security Council. While the Americans and Europeans have opted not to lobby for referral at Thursday's meeting of the IAEA board, they could resume their efforts at a later board session if they judge that the Russians, Chinese and other key nations will not stand in their way.

Daily Times, 24 November 2005

Russia faces high risks, rewards in Iran's N-crisis (Christopher Boian)

'Iran is the last serious international problem where Russia can play a real role and help its Western partners resolve an issue of major importance' RUSSIA is in a position to make a decisive difference in resolving the prolonged crisis over Iran's nuclear programme and will reap substantial strategic gains if it does but will face uniquely heavy losses if its approach with Tehran fails, experts said Wednesday. Although it is nearing completion of Iran's first atomic power station, Russia has so far had only limited influence in shaping international diplomacy surrounding the Islamic state's nuclear programme, which the West fears is a cover for Tehran to develop nuclear weapons. But after failing to make lasting progress with Iran on the issue, the United States and three European Union countries have now handed Moscow the lead role in negotiations aimed at persuading Tehran to abandon its insistence on controlling all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Daily Times, 24 November 2005

India sends out signals to US Congress: Additional obligations can undermine nuclear deal

WASHINGTON: Any moves by the US Congress to alter a landmark US-India nuclear agreement could undermine the "finely balanced" deal, according to Indian ambassador to Washington Ronen Sen. The agreement would grant India access to nuclear technology it has been denied for more than two decades because it developed nuclear weapons and tested them. But prominent American critics complain it undermines nonproliferation and should be tightened up. The deal has also come under fire in India. "It there's any loading on of what are seen to be additional obligations or changes, it could cause a sort of imbalance, which would undermine the very basis of the agreement (which is) finely balanced in terms of reciprocal obligations and benefits," he said in an interview with Reuters late on Monday. Sen indicated that New Delhi had not progressed very far in its centerpiece commitment under the July 18 agreement - separation of India's military and civilian nuclear facilities to ensure that US nuclear cooperation with the civilian energy sector does not also benefit India's weapons programme.

Dawn, 24 November 2005

IAEA may not refer Iran to Security Council

VIENNA, Nov 23: The UN nuclear watchdog is expected on Thursday to forgo hauling Iran before the UN Security Council as the United States and Europe want to give Russia time to press Tehran to compromise on its atomic programme. "The action is elsewhere," a diplomat said, referring to plans by Russia and the European Union negotiators - Britain, France and Germany - to meet with Iran on December 6, probably in Vienna, to break the deadlock. Meanwhile in Tehran Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki vowed to continue standing up to pressure from the West to abandon sensitive nuclear technology, saying he considered "the circumstances of the next IAEA meeting to be more constructive and positive than the previous one." In September, the board of governors of the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found Iran in non-compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), paving the way for the Islamic republic to be referred to the Security Council for possible sanctions.

Dawn, 24 November 2005

Support claimed in US for Pakistan's case on N-power plants (Ihtasham ul Haque)

ISLAMABAD, Nov 23: Official circles here are pressing Pakistan's case that the United States should treat India and Pakistan on a par in helping them meet their growing energy needs. And it is being claimed here that several US think-tanks and nuclear-related bodies are stressing the need for addressing Pakistan's grievances in this respect. Informed sources told Dawn here on Wednesday that there was a growing realization in the Bush administration as well that Pakistan needed to be offered the much sought after nuclear cooperation to help it generate 8,800 MW of electricity by 2030 by accepting its "safeguards and non-proliferation assurances". This view has been bolstered by the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has already been extending such cooperation to Pakistan after satisfying itself that the country meets its safeguard requirement. Pakistan has conveyed to the US and European countries that the public perception of IAEA as just being a 'nuclear watchdog' needed to be corrected and its increasing role in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology needed to be re-emphasized.

International Herald Tribune, 24 November 2005

Starve WMD proliferators of financing (Stuart Levey)

WASHINGTON, Nov 23: The greatest threat to the national security of the United States and other nations lies in the potential union of terrorists and weapons of mass destruction. This danger is made all too real by our knowledge of the now unraveled proliferation network of the Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan, the nuclear programs run by terrorist-sponsoring regimes in North Korea and Iran, and Al Qaeda's stated desire to acquire and use unconventional weapons. There are concrete actions we can take to avert this frightening scenario. Our success will depend, however, upon a commitment by all responsible nations to use every tool at their disposal to identify and disrupt proliferation networks. One approach that has shown promise is to financially isolate proliferators of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems. Freezing the assets of proliferators and prohibiting transactions with them provide important complements to ongoing defensive efforts. These measures are flexible in that they can be applied quickly and pre-emptively to avert potentially dangerous transactions by proliferators who might otherwise be beyond our reach.

International Herald Tribune, 24 November 2005

And the dirty bomb?

Nov 23: Almost three and a half years ago, the Bush administration announced that it had arrested a Chicago-born man named Jose Padilla while he was entering the United States to explode a "dirty bomb" and blow up apartment buildings. The attorney general, John Ashcroft, said Padilla was a Qaeda-trained terrorist so dangerous that he was being tossed into a Navy brig and the key was being thrown away. The administration hotly defended its right to hold Padilla without legal process because he was declared an unlawful enemy combatant, one of the new powers that President George W. Bush granted himself after 9/11. The administration fought the case up to the Supreme Court. Padilla's plot was thwarted, the Justice Department claimed, only because of the government's ability to hold suspected terrorists in secretive prisons where they were sweated, to put it mildly, for information. The "dirty bomb" plot supposedly was divulged by a top Qaeda member who had been interrogated 100 times at one such location.

China Daily, 24 November 2005

China closer to supporting US on Iran - diplomat

Washington and its European allies, in a diplomatic coup, are gradually enlisting Chinese support on how to deal with Iran and its suspicious nuclear activities, diplomats and officials said Wednesday. Beijing's backing before a key meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday adds additional clout to an ambitious international Iran strategy that has recently seen Russia join the Americans and Europeans in pressuring Iran to give up technology that could make nuclear arms. For months, Iran has relied on Beijing and Moscow to fend off a U.S.-backed push to have it hauled before the U.N. Security Council. While the Americans and Europeans have opted not to lobby for referral at the meeting of the 35-nation IAEA board, they could resume their efforts at a later session if they judge that the Russians, Chinese and other key nations will not stand in their way.

The Indian Express, 25 November 2005

Russian N-plan for Iran unites IAEA (Mark Heinrich & Louis Charbonneau)

VIENNA, Nov 24 : Governors of the UN nuclear watchdog broadly agree it is better to explore a Russian compromise over Iran's nuclear activities than to report Tehran to the Security Council, Western board members said on Thursday. A draft statement incorporating this position was submitted by the European Union's three biggest powers --France, Britain and Germany, or "EU3"-to the chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board as it began a two-day meeting. "There is a broad consensus not to allow Iran in the present circumstances conducting (sic) enrichment-related activities on its soil," said the draft of a statement to be read by the IAEA board chairman at the end of the meeting. The EU draft text made no mention of previous threats to refer Tehran to the Security Council for possible sanctions, a move the US and EU had been seeking for months.

The Indian Express, 25 November 2005

Iran: A-bomb data available on Net

Vienna, Nov 25: Iran attempted to play down the importance of information it received from the black market on making the core of a nuclear weapon and said on Thursday the material was freely available on the Internet. Last week the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report that Iran had handed over several pages related to the production of key components of a nuclear weapon. The United States and European Union said the pages showed Iran's atomic ambitions may include a nuclear arsenal but Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Mohammad Mehdi Akhuzadeh, denied this. "The information contained in one-and-a-half pages is simple and non-sophisticated information which could be found in (public) literature and on the Internet," Akhuzadeh told a meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation

board of governors. He said the documents were "incomplete" and argued that handing the documents to the IAEA was in itself "a clear indication of Iran's full transparency with the IAEA."

The Hindu, 25 November 2005

A thermonuclear future (Tatiana Sinitsyna)

The International Thermonuclear Energy Reactor (ITER), an international project involving countries conducting research on controlled thermonuclear fusion, could provide mankind with an unlimited source of energy. Some people compare it to an artificial sun, whose internal temperature can reach 150 million degrees C. However, the sun that shines for all of us has a temperature of only 20 million degrees C. "Mankind is lucky to have accomplished this objective," one of the project's organisers, Yevgeny Velikhov, said. Physicists have long dreamed of harnessing thermonuclear fusion, which is much safer than nuclear energy. Thermonuclear reactors cannot explode the way the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's No. 4 reactor blew up on April 26, 1986. They will not spew radiation because deuterium-tritium fusion is their basic principle of operation. Existing nuclear reactors utilise the nuclear-fission concept. This planet has an unlimited amount of hydrogen isotopes to power thermonuclear reactors.

The Tribune, 25 November 2005

Pak N-case gets push in USA (Ihtasham ul Haque)

Islamabad, Nov 24: Official circles here are pressing Pakistan's case that the US should treat India and Pakistan on a par in helping them meet their growing energy needs. And it is being claimed here that several US think-tanks and nuclear-related bodies are stressing the need for addressing Pakistan's grievances in this respect. Informed sources told Dawn here on Wednesday that there was a growing realisation in the Bush Administration as well that Pakistan needed to be offered the much sought after nuclear cooperation to help it generate 8,800 MW of electricity by 2030 by accepting its "safeguards and non-proliferation assurances". This view has been bolstered by the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has already been extending such cooperation to Pakistan after satisfying itself that the country meets its safeguard requirement.

The Statesman, 25 November 2005

UPA relief follows IAEA move on Iran

NEW DELHI, Nov. 24: Reeling under attacks by its Left allies on the Iran nuclear issue, the Congress-led UPA government today heaved a sigh of relief after a crucial meeting of the IAEA's board of governors in Vienna decided not to go for a vote while agreeing to allow more time for talks and diplomacy with Teheran over a Russian compromise proposal. The Russian proposal would allow Iran to conduct nuclear enrichment in Russia, instead of doing it at home. Iran has so far not reacted positively to the proposal - perceived to be a sort of a middle ground between the tough stands taken by Teheran and Washington - but discussions are expected to start in the first week of December on this. From the UPA's point of view, it was a reprieve for the Manmohan Singh government, given the Left's opposition to the US-led position against Teheran. In the event of a vote on the issue leading to a referral of Iran to the United Nations Security Council for sanctions, the UPA government would have faced a tough task of balancing its foreign policy with its domestic compulsions.

The Statesman, 25 November 2005

Let's talk about Britain's nukes (Jonathan Power)

On its submarines Britain has 48 nuclear warheads, each one eight times as powerful as the nuclear

bomb that obliterated Hiroshima. In other words, Prime Minister Tony Blair, theoretically, could order the almost instant incineration of 384 large cities around the world. Barely anyone in Parliament has mentioned it, much less debated it in the eight and a half years Blair has been in office. But recently, all of a relative sudden, Blair has promised a discussion sometime "in the life of the present Parliament" because the USA, the supplier of the Trident missiles (but not the warheads which are homemade), has made it clear that it will soon be taking a decision on replacing its own Tridents and the UK must decide in tandem what to do with its. As Blair slides gently, but not particularly gracefully, to the end of his term in office it looks as if the Prime Minister has decided to kick this ball down the field for his successor to deal with.

Daily Times, 25 November 2005

China opposes referring Iran to UNSC

BEIJING: China stuck to its long-held position Thursday that Iran's nuclear question should be resolved through negotiations and not be brought before the UN Security Council. "We have a consistent position on the Iranian nuclear issue," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao at a routine briefing. "For the current stage, we should seek a proper solution within the framework of the IAEA," Liu said. "We don't think it is appropriate now to refer this question to the UN Security Council." At issue is Iran's refusal to give up its right to enrich uranium, which can be used to generate power but also to make weapons-grade material for nuclear warheads. Iran says it wants only to make fuel, but international concern is growing that the program could be misused. For months, Iran has relied on Beijing and Moscow to fend off a US-backed push to have it hauled before the UN Security Council. Currently, Iran's enrichment program is frozen.

The New York Times, 25 November 2005

U.S. to Shut Base in Italy That Aids Nuclear Subs (Brian Wingfield)

ROME, Nov. 24: The United States intends to close one of its two foreign naval bases that service nuclear submarines, a Navy spokesman confirmed Thursday. The 33-year-old naval base at La Maddalena, off the coast of Sardinia, will close because of "military reshuffling," said the spokesman, Cmdr. Mark McDonald of the Sixth Fleet. "We're adjusting our forces to meet our current and future security needs," he said. Italy's Defense Ministry announced the base closing earlier this week, after the defense minister, Antonio Martino, met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in Washington. An report from the Defense Ministry on Tuesday said only nuclear submarines would leave the base. But on Wednesday, the announcement was revised to say that the entire base "will be transferred to another country." The decision has rippled through Italy, which is home to several American military bases. Sardinian politicians say the base at La Maddalena hurts tourism. Environmental groups contend that it poses the risk of contaminating the water with radiation, especially after a nuclear submarine touched ground there in 2003.

The Associated Press, 25 November 2005

Nixon Was Torn by Prospect of Nuclear War, Papers Show

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24: Widely considered a military hawk, President Richard M. Nixon fretted privately over the notion of any no-holds-barred nuclear war, newly released documents from his time at the White House reveal. The recently declassified papers, from the first days of the Nixon presidency in 1969 until the end of 1974, show that Nixon wanted an alternative to the option of full-scale nuclear war - a plan for a gentler war, one that could ultimately vanquish the Soviet Union while avoiding the worst-case situation. The papers provided a glimpse behind the scenes at efforts to find

choices other than "the horror option," as the national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, called the worst-case scripts for all-out nuclear war that were then in place. Qualms about causing so much death were hardly the only motivation. American officials worried that their nuclear threat lacked credibility because it was so awful that adversaries questioned whether the United States would ever use it.

Daily Times, 25 November 2005

IAEA puts off referring Iran to UNSC

VIENNA: International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday put off taking Iran to the UN Security Council to give time for new Russian diplomacy but the United States warned that referral would happen soon if Tehran did not meet its non-proliferation obligations. The European Union, the lead nuclear negotiator with Iran, agreed to give Iran more time for talks, Peter Jenkins, British ambassador to the IAEA, told reporters. Talks on a Russian proposal to allow Iran to conduct uranium enrichment - but in Russia and not in Iran in order to keep Tehran from obtaining nuclear technology crucial in making nuclear weapons - will now take centre stage. The IAEA's 35-nation board of governors was meeting in Vienna to review progress since September 24, when it found Iran in non-compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a finding that requires eventual referral to the Security Council for possible international sanctions.

Daily Times, 25 November 2005

German found guilty of supplying nuclear technology to Pakistan

MUNICH: A German businessman was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison on Thursday for illegally supplying Pakistan with equipment to build nuclear weapons. Rainer V, 61, was found guilty by a Munich court on a range of charges, including providing false information to the German authorities in order to obtain the necessary authorisation to supply "dual use" equipment to Pakistani companies. Prosecutors said that between 1999 and 2004, Rainer V's Munich-based company, Vacom GmbH, bought pumps, special ventilators and other equipment to be used for enriching uranium and shipped it to Pakistan in violation of German laws governing foreign trade and weapons restrictions. Experts told the court that the equipment, worth around 400,000 euros (470,000 dollars), could have been used to produce nuclear weapons. Judge Wolf-Stefan Wiegand told the accused that he had acted dangerously because "while Pakistan currently has a relatively moderate leadership, who knows what will come next".

The Hindu, 26 November 2005

``No compulsion for India to separate civil and nuclear facilities''

NEW DELHI: India will be under "no compulsion" to separate its civil and nuclear facilities if it finds the process too complicated and expensive, official sources said here on Friday. "We don't have to go ahead with this," the sources said about India's commitments under the July 18 civilian nuclear deal with the United States. But in case India took the view that separation was not viable, the other "benefits" that were to flow to New Delhi as per the accord would not be available. It is for the first time since the nuclear deal was clinched that an official indication from the Manmohan Singh Government has suggested that India reserves the right not to go ahead with the agreement if the hurdles to identifying the civilian nuclear facilities are too great.

The Hindu, 26 November 2005

No plan given to India: U.S.

WASHINGTON: The United States on Friday said it had not given India any plan on how to go about separating its civilian and military nuclear facilities to help implement the landmark bilateral nuclear deal. "We haven't given a plan on how India should separate its civilian and military [nuclear] facilities," a State Department official told PTI in response to reports that Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns in September presented Indian officials a blueprint on how the Americans might go about in the exercise. New Delhi is said to have given back the blueprint saying it was capable of going about on its own. "But we recognise that this is something that is necessary as Burns said in his [Congressional] testimony - that the arrangement between India and the U.S. involves a plan being devised by India on how they would be separating the civilian and military aspects of the nuclear programme which would then make it possible for us to work much more closely on the civilian side," the official said.

Hindustan Times, 26 November 2005

US denies giving plan to separate nuclear facilities

Washington, Nov 25: The US on Friday said it has not given India any plan on how to go about separating its civilian and military nuclear facilities to help implement the landmark bilateral nuclear deal. "We haven't given a plan on how India should separate its civilian and military (nuclear) facilities," a State Department official said in response to reports that Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns had in September presented Indian officials with a blueprint on how the Americans might go about in the exercise. New Delhi is said to have given back the blueprint saying it was capable of going about on its own. "But we recognise that this is something that is necessary as Burns said in his (Congressional) testimony-- that the arrangement between India and the US involves a plan being devised by India on how they would be separating the civilian and military aspects of the nuclear programme which would then make it possible for us to work much more closely on the civilian side," the official said.

The Indian Express, 26 November 2005

US certain Iran working to build nuclear arms

WASHINGTON: US intelligence agencies are convinced on the basis of a confidential IAEA report that Iran is working to build nuclear weapons secretly The Washington Times has reported. Intelligence has supposedly shown that between 2001 and 2003, Iran was working to configure the 620-mile-range Shahab-3 missile to deliver a warhead that has all the physical characteristics of a nuclear warhead. "In terms of Iran's pattern of behaviour, it's a very clear picture that they are hiding and deceiving the world about their nuclear-arms programme by claiming it is for peaceful purposes," one official said. "They have clearly lied, and they keep getting caught in one lie after another."

The Indian Express, 26 November 2005

At IAEA, India points to Khan club

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: While India heaved a sigh of relief that there was no vote at the IAEA board meeting in Vienna, it took the opportunity to underline the need for investigating clandestine proliferation links emerging from the additional documents provided by Iran-the focus being on Pakistan-based A Q Khan network. "This domain (foreign intermediaries and the AQ Khan network) needs to be scrupulously scrutinised. Greater clarity and transparency in this area will serve the interest and objectives of non-proliferation to which we are all committed," India said in a statement at the IAEA. The IAEA director-general's report states that recent documents made available by Iran show that the "procurement network" delivered detailed drawings of centrifuge components and assemblies, technical specifications for this purpose and "schematic drawings".

Daily Times, 26 November 2005

Editorial: Iran at the IAEA: the good the bad and the ugly

In a development that can only be hailed, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has postponed referring Iran to the UN Security Council. The IAEA was supposed to have a vote on November 24 but the chairman of the 35-nation board of governors, Japanese ambassador to the IAEA, Yukia Amano, informed the press that the agency had postponed the issue after an inconclusive debate. The IAEA statement said that "Calls were made for Iran to resume the negotiating process with the EU-3 (Britain, Germany and France) and support was expressed for the EU-3 effort to broaden the basis for an international consensus through additional elements in the negotiating process such as the recent Russian proposal." The Russian proposal allows Iran to prepare uranium in the form of gas but the rest of the process - enrichment of uranium into reactor fuel and reprocessing of fuel rods - would be done in Russia.

Dawn, 26 November 2005

Call for Iran N-files resented

VIENNA, Nov 25: Non-aligned countries protested a call by Britain to hand over key Iranian nuclear documents to the world's five main atomic powers for analysis, as the UN nuclear watchdog wrapped up a week-long meeting on Friday. Diplomats said some non-aligned countries opposed handing over the document to the nuclear weapons states on the UN Security Council for analysis, which Iran submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The paper is a blueprint for making the explosive core of a nuclear bomb. The IAEA's 35-nation board of governors on Thursday put off taking Iran to the Security Council to give time for new Russian diplomacy to resolve the crisis over Iran's nuclear program, but the United States warned that referral would happen soon if Tehran did not meet its non-proliferation obligations.

The News, 26 November 2005

'Iran going for nuclear enrichment'

VIENNA: Iran is pushing ahead with plans to enrich uranium in defiance of international pressure to give up sensitive nuclear technology to allay fears that it is seeking a nuclear bomb, diplomats and intelligence sources say. Such plans could jeopardise a Russian attempt to head off a confrontation over Iran, through a compromise proposal under which Tehran would maintain a civilian nuclear programme but transfer enrichment to Russia under a joint venture. Enrichment is the most sensitive stage of the nuclear fuel cycle. It can be used to make fuel for bombs or power plants. "I think they want to do it soon," a European diplomat told Reuters. "The million-dollar question is when." Diplomats and intelligence officials, speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this week, said Iran was preparing to start enrichment at its underground plant in Natanz.

Daily Times, 26 November 2005

Iran weighs timing of uranium restart

VIENNA: Iran is weighing when to restart its uranium enrichment programme, in a move that would escalate international fears that it wants to make nuclear arms, according to an intelligence report cited by diplomats on Friday. The diplomats, who demanded anonymity in exchange for discussing confidential information, cited a report being circulated among the 35-board members of the International Atomic Energy Agency citing an Iranian government source on his country's plans for

enrichment - a possible pathway to nuclear weapons. The four-page report cited the Iranian foreign ministry source as saying chief Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani met with members of the country's nuclear negotiating team in October to discuss the timing of resuming the enrichment programme, one of the diplomats told the news agency.

Asahi Shimbun, 26 November 2005

Tons of rebar said buried under N-plant

A whistle-blower told the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency that 8,500 tons of structural reinforcement steel unused during the construction of Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s nuclear power plant in Satsuma-Sendai, Kagoshima Prefecture, had been buried to hide it, The Yomiuri Shimbun has learned. The Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry agency calculated the earthquake-resistance of the facilities and the ground, and concluded that although such a large quantity of reinforcing steel had not been used, the facility was perfectly safe. Investigations into the unused reinforcing steel continue and the focus of attention now is on who buried it and how. The plant has two 890,000-kilowatt pressurized-water reactors. Construction on Reactor No. 1 began in January 1979, and on Reactor No. 2 in May 1981.

The Indian Express, 26 November 2005

German convicted in Pak N-tech supply case

MUNICH: A German businessman was sentenced on Thursday to seven years and three months in prison for illegally supplying Pakistan with equipment to build nuclear weapons. Rainer V. (61) was found guilty by a Munich court on a range of charges, including providing false information to obtain authorisation to supply dual use equipment to Pakistani companies. Prosecutors said that from 1999 to 2004, Rainer V.'s Munich-based company, Vacom GmbH, bought and shipped equipment worth around 400,000 euros to Pakistan, in violation of German laws governing foreign trade and weapons restrictions. Reports in the German press say the equipment was sent to disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan 's research laboratories.

Deccan Herald, 26 November 2005

Missile plan

India's decision to test-fire the Agni-3 intermediate range ballistic missile, which is nuclear capable and can hit targets between 4000 to 6000 km, by December 2005, suggests a pro-active politico-military posture. It will add to the country's arsenal of missiles. The proposed Agni-3 test would validate several parameters pertaining to control, guidance, re-entry, multi-staging and communication interface. Invariably it would require more time to perfect the missile. Thereafter, it would take a while to integrate it with the armed forces for operational use. Considering that deterrence and diplomacy go hand in hand, Agni-3 would strengthen India's national security and foreign policy aims and positions in relation to countries in the neighbourhood and major powers like China. Clearly Agni-3 is expected to provide the country with a credible nuclear deterrence.

The Statesman, 27 November 2005

Bush and N Korea (Harsh V Pant)

Finally, the Bush Administration's diplomacy has something to cheer about. After months of protracted negotiations, that came on the verge of collapsing a number of times, North Korea finally agreed to end its nuclear weapons programme in return for security guarantees and economic and energy benefits. The agreement was signed by North Korea, the USA, and the remaining four participants in the six-

party nuclear disarmament talks that were started more than two years back. Fulfilment by North Korea of its commitment would mean an extraordinary breakthrough after more than a decade of failed efforts by the USA to contain one of the world's most serious proliferation threats. The drama began in 2002 when the USA accused North Korea of violating a previous accord, the Agreed Framework, negotiated by the Clinton Administration in 1994 to end North Korea's nuclear programme.

The Hindu, 27 November 2005

Poland reveals Warsaw Pact nuclear attack map (Nicholas Watt)

Warsaw: Poland's new Rightwing Government has risked a damaging confrontation with Russia when it published a Warsaw Pact map showing detailed plans for Soviet nuclear strikes against western Europe. Poland threw open the doors of its military archives to show how most of Europe would have been laid to waste in a nuclear conflagration between East and West. Dating from 1979, when U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and his Soviet Union counterpart Leonid Brezhnev were discussing detente, the map showed how Warsaw Pact forces would have responded to an attack by the NATO alliance. A series of red mushroom clouds over western Europe show that Soviet nuclear weapons strikes would have been launched at Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium if NATO struck first. Red clouds are drawn over the then German capital, Bonn, and other key German cities such as the financial centre of Frankfurt, Cologne, Stuttgart, Munich and the strategically important northern port of Hamburg.

Daily Times, 27 November 2005

'Iran offered N Korea oil for weapons help'

BERLIN: Iran has offered North Korea oil and natural gas as payment for help in developing nuclear missiles, German weekly magazine Der Spiegel reported on Saturday, citing unidentified western intelligence sources. A senior Iranian official travelled to the North Korean capital Pyongyang during the second week of October to make the offer, the magazine quoted the sources as saying. It was unclear what North Korea's response was, it added. Diplomats and intelligence sources say Iran is pushing ahead with plans to enrich uranium in defiance of international pressure to stop developing sensitive nuclear technology to calm fears it is seeking nuclear weapons. Iran insists its nuclear ambitions are entirely peaceful. Iran's Shahab-3 missiles are based on North Korea's Nodong rockets and Pyongyang is Tehran's most important partner in developing missile technology, Der Spiegel said.

Daily Times, 27 November 2005

EU diplomacy fails to dent Iran's nuclear ambition

LONDON: Despite the world's worries about its intentions, Iran is doggedly pursuing its nuclear programme and US-backed European Union diplomacy has failed to stop it. Faced with an Iranian blend of brinkmanship, bluster and negotiation, western powers have blinked, tacitly recognising that they lack the support of China, Russia and other nations for any immediate punitive action against Tehran, analysts say. But with international suspicions growing that Iran seeks nuclear weapons, not just power stations as it asserts, defter diplomacy is needed to find a face-saving way out of a high-stakes dispute in a region already roiled by the Iraq war. "It was a mistake to use threats without credibility," said Paul Ingram, senior analyst at the British American Security Information Council, referring to US-EU warnings that Iran would be hauled before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions unless it abandoned dual-purpose nuclear activities.

Daily Times, 27 November 2005

Ahmadinejad defiant on N-programme

TEHRAN: Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defiantly brushed off western concerns about its nuclear programme in a feisty speech on Saturday marking the 25th anniversary of a revolutionary militia. In remarks aimed at countries 'which are suspicious of Iran's nuclear activities,' Ahmadinejad demanded: "Who has given you the right to prevent Iran from acquiring the nuclear technology?" Ahmadinejad was speaking to thousands of the voluntary Basij militia on the 25th anniversary of the corps. "You have no rights to ask questions" about Iran's nuclear activities, he thundered. In his speech, Ahmadinejad also pointed an accusing finger at "the ones in Iran who ask us to compromise and make concessions". "The Iranian nation has crushed them under their feet and will defend its nuclear rights with wisdom, power and unity," he said.

Daily Yomiuri, 27 November 2005

U.S.-India nuclear accord a win-win outcome for all (Ramesh Thakur)

The bilateral agreement between India and the United States on civilian nuclear cooperation, signed during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington on July 18, remains contentious. Yet it serves the strategic goals of both countries while also advancing the global nonproliferation agenda more realistically than any conceivable alternative. To single issue activists--those dismissed as "nonproliferation ayatollahs" by Indian diplomats--the agreement is a sellout that will only make it more difficult to secure nuclear nonproliferation treaty compliance from other proliferators. They are lobbying the U.S. Congress to block the deal, or at least to seek much more substantial concessions from Delhi. India voted once with Washington in the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iranian noncompliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. But where is the guarantee that it will do so again? In the meantime, Tehran is already pointing to the sweetheart deal with Delhi as yet another example of double standards whereby Washington discriminates against Muslim countries.

The New York Times, 27 November 2005

Venezuela's Leader Covets a Nuclear Energy Program (Larry Rohter and Juan Forero)

BRASÍLIA: With his country sitting on top of some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, and with his constant talk of socialist revolution and criticism of the Bush administration, President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela has acquired a certain notoriety in Washington and with some of his Latin American neighbors. But he has seldom sent eyebrows so high as when he recently announced plans to start a nuclear energy program with the help of Brazil and Argentina. Coupled with his talk of a spending binge on weapons like rifles, ships and combat aircraft, and his support of Iran's right to develop a nuclear program, his moves have set off a debate about his motives. Mr. Chávez and his government dismiss the concerns, saying the world should worry less about what is happening in Caracas than in Washington. "It cannot be that the countries that have developed nuclear energy prohibit those of the third world from developing it," Mr. Chávez argued recently. "We are not the ones developing atomic bombs, it's others who do that," he added in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper.

The Tribune, 28 November 2005

N-deal with the US (Gen V. P. Malik (retd) and Brig Gurmeet Kanwal (retd))

The hurdles in implementation. On July 18, 2005, India and the US signed a landmark strategic agreement having far reaching consequences. There were two important facets of this agreement. First, a belated acceptance of India as a "responsible state with advanced nuclear technology" amounting to tacit US recognition of India's status as a de facto nuclear weapons power outside the NPT. Second, the US offer to cooperate with India on civilian nuclear energy issues. As per the

agreement, the US will work to achieve full civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India as it realises India's goals of promoting nuclear power and achieving energy security. It will seek agreement from the Congress to adjust US laws and policies. The US will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civilian nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur.

The Indian Express, 28 November 2005

Nuke fuel: Iran seeks Europe's guarantee

TEHRAN, NOVEMBER 27: Iran today said a proposed meeting with European negotiators from December 6 should include guarantees that its nuclear fuel cycle will not be moved out of the country, seemingly rejecting a compromise whereby the process would be moved to Russia as a guarantee against production of weapons grade uranium. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said talks with Europe should be logical, in the framework of international regulations and without any discrimination against Iran. "The agenda of the negotiations should be clear. It should contain a guarantee for realising the nuclear fuel cycle inside Iran," Asefi said. He said Iran had not received an official proposal for European negotiations, nor had it heard from Russia about the enrichment plan. "If Europe sets the date for negotiations with the above specifications then it will begin," Asefi said.

The Hindu, 27 November 2005

India should let nuclear agreement lapse: analyst

NEW DELHI: The civilian nuclear deal between India and the United States should be "allowed to lapse" because of the "onerous new conditions" the Americans were trying to impose on the July 18 agreement. Strategic analyst, Matin Zuberi, however, argued that India and the U.S. should continue cooperation in other areas of mutual benefit. In a paper written for the Observer Research Foundation, Prof. Zuberi raised several questions about the nuclear deal. Would India's declaration to be filed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) only contain a list of civilian nuclear facilities? Or would it also include the amount of nuclear material produced in them? If, the latter were included, then India would be going in for full-scope safeguards, he argued. "According to American sources, Indian purchase of natural uranium would be under IAEA safeguards.

The Guardian, 27 November 2005

Nuclear power? Don't dismiss it (Henry Porter)

We cannot afford to dither any longer about the impending energy crisis. All governments must act now. The great game of the 21st century is being played out before our eyes, but few seem to notice. Last week, Tony Blair hinted that he was prepared to go ahead with a new generation of nuclear reactors at an as yet unknown cost. In Iraq, an American-inspired deal to hand over development of oil reserves, the third largest in the world, to US and British companies is being rushed through by the oil minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Chalabi before next month's election. In Russia, President Putin has ruthlessly constructed a monopoly of oil and gas production which controls some 90 per cent of the country's reserves. On the way, he imprisoned Mikhail Khodorkovsky, stripping his oil giant, Yukos, of its assets and, in a separate deal, paid off Khodorkovsky's fellow oligarch, Roman Abramovich, with US \$13 billion for his stake in the oil producer Sibneft.

Timesonline, 28 November 2005

It's clean, it's cheap - warming to the appeal of nuclear power (Graham Searjeant)

Our correspondent assesses the options available for those planning Britain's future energy needs. Generating electricity from nuclear reactors is as effective at combating global warming as any known form of renewable energy and is likely to remain so indefinitely. Nearly all studies of the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released by different power sources show that atomic power stations rival hydroelectric dams and wind turbines in lifetime emissions per unit of electricity. Comparisons of emissions over a full life cycle count the energy cost of construction, extracting and delivering fuel, and the gas given off while generating power. Excess CO₂ is accused of being the greenhouse gas most to blame for global warming. Tony Blair, for long a sceptic over nuclear power, has been convinced by business groups that it is the only energy source low in CO₂ that is reliable and comparable in cost to power from fossil fuels such as gas and coal. A study delivered last month by EEF, the manufacturers' association, claimed that atomic power could compete on cost with efficient gas-fired plants, if the costs of carbon permits that must be bought from the European Union emissions market are high.

Dawn, 29 November 2005

US Congressmen meet Kashmiris: Closed-door talks (Jawed Naqvi)

NEW DELHI, Nov 28: Senior US Congressmen held a rare closed-door meeting with Kashmiri representatives and high-ranking Indian government officials on Monday and promised to urge Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to allow a greater involvement of Kashmiris in the peace process with Pakistan. Informed sources told Dawn that the meeting which was led by Republican Congressman Dan Burton was being kept low profile. In fact there was no information till late in the night about a meeting the Congressmen were to have with Dr Singh later on Monday. According to the sources, the Kashmiri representatives at the meeting included pro-India leader Omar Abdullah and the head of Hurriyat Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. Indian officials included Mr Wajahat Habibullah, seen as a strong advocate of transparency and human rights in Kashmir. He is also considered to be influential with India's ruling United Progressive Alliance.

Dawn, 29 November 2005

US assures full support in relief

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 28: The US has assured full support to Pakistan in the rehabilitation plans for earthquake victims. The assurance was held out by a three-member team of US Congressmen led by Jim Kolbe, which called on Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz here Monday. Mr Kolbe appreciated efforts made by the government of Pakistan for the rehabilitation of quake-affected areas and said the US would stay firmly behind Pakistan in this difficult time. US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker informed Mr Aziz about various USAID programmes to help earthquake victims. The members of the delegation included Mr Mark Kirk and Mr Fred Upton, members of the US Congress. Mr Aziz acknowledged the financial, technical and moral support provided by the people and government of the US to Pakistan in this difficult time. He appreciated the provision of medical support, helicopters, engineers and US assistance.

Hindustan Times, 28 November 2005

India, US partners in non-proliferation: Saran

New Delhi: India and the US on Monday repeated their resolve to be partners in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and agreed to join hands to promote a more stable Asia. "India is a partner in global non-proliferation efforts rather than a target of these efforts," India's Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran told the India Economic Summit organised in New Delhi by the World Economic Forum and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). US Undersecretary of Commerce

David H McCormick, to co-chair a meeting of the High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG), said the US-India civil nuclear energy pact "represented a significant step by confirming our joint commitment to playing a leading role internationally to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction". The two-day HTCG meeting, to be co-chaired by Saran, will be held from November 30 to December 1.

The Telegraph, 30 November 2005

What Russia did not do with regard to Iran's nuclear programme (K.P. Nayar)

The Kremlin's intervention in the Iranian nuclear stalemate, which took one difficult problem off Manmohan Singh's table last week, must open the eyes of those Indians who have lately found it fashionable to run down Russian diplomacy and jumped onto the bandwagon which favours downgrading strategic ties between New Delhi and Moscow. The way the Russians went about defusing a potentially fractious meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna last week must count among Russian diplomacy's finest moments since Vladimir Putin determined that the Kremlin must once again be counted in delicate international negotiations after several disastrous years for its foreign policy under his inglorious predecessor, Boris Yeltsin.

Hindustan Times, 30 November 2005

Stand at ease (Manoj Joshi)

When we say that something needs to be done to reform and restructure India's armed forces, you could well ask, why? Our two potential adversaries have nuclear weapons and so, the chances of an open war are remote. And when confrontation does arise, as in 2002, we find we do not have the capacity to act. So why bother? The answer lies in the Rs 800,000 crore or so we spend annually to maintain our military machine. Surely, there is need to use this vast amount of money effectively. In 2002, the army was ready to launch an attack on Pakistan and would have executed their plans with their customary bravery. But given the force ratios, and the limits imposed by the nuclear dimension, it is doubtful whether our army could have achieved any significant physical or psychological objectives.

China Daily, 30 November 2005

South Korean nuclear negotiator to visit China this week

South Korea's chief negotiator at international talks on North Korea's nuclear programs will visit China this week for consultations on how to advance the negotiations, Seoul's foreign minister said Wednesday. Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon will visit Beijing on Friday and Saturday for talks with his Chinese counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said. The two will "assess the current situation" and discuss "ways to move the negotiations forward," Ban told a news briefing. The nuclear talks _ launched in 2003 _ involve China, the United States, the two Koreas, Japan and Russia. Their fifth and latest session took a recess earlier this month with no signs of progress on how the North would disarm and what it would get in return.

China Daily, 30 November 2005

New US envoy to Seoul not encouraged by N.Korea tactics

The new U.S. ambassador to South Korea said on Wednesday he was not encouraged by the way North Korea was approaching an agreement to dismantle its nuclear programmes. In his first major address since taking the post, Alexander Vershbow also said Washington was concerned by friction between Seoul and Tokyo over the Japanese prime minister's visits to a war shrine. Vershbow took over from Christopher Hill, who became the chief U.S. negotiator to six-party talks aimed at ending

North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes. In September, the six parties reached a deal where North Korea agreed to scrap its nuclear plans in exchange for economic aid, security assurances and greater diplomatic recognition.

The News, 30 November 2005

India test-fires supersonic cruise missile

BHUBANESWAR: India on Wednesday successfully test-fired an army version of its supersonic BrahMos cruise missile that was jointly developed with Russia, a defence official said. The missile was tested from India's Chandipur-on-sea site, 200 kilometres (125 miles) northeast of Bhubaneswar, the capital of the southeastern state of Orissa, the officer said. "The flight trial met all the mission objectives, officer said. The missile has a range of 290 kilometers (181 miles) and can carry a 300-kilogram (660 pounds) conventional warhead and can be launched from land, ships, submarines and aircraft, the officer said. The eight-meter (26-foot) missile weighs about three metric tons. The missile, first tested in June 2001.

The New York Times, 30 November 2005

British Review of Energy to Include Atomic Power (Alan Cowell)

LONDON, Nov. 29: Prime Minister Tony Blair announced Tuesday that Britain may reverse its current reluctance to build new nuclear power plants, despite opposition from environmental groups. Mr. Blair's announcement reflected a nascent European debate that could presage a significant shift in energy policies. Finland in particular has already broken ranks with the opposition to nuclear power that has seized much of the Continent since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. And while France derives around 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power, countries like Germany and Britain may be poised to re-evaluate their previous pledges to phase out nuclear power by the early 2020's. Mr. Blair said Britain would make its decision by next summer.

The News, 30 November 2005

Pakistan urges resolution of Iranian N-issue through talks (Muhammad Saleh Zaafir)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has urged resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue under the framework of IAEA through negotiations. Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said this while talking to Dr Kim Howells, British minister of state for foreign affairs and Commonwealth office, who called on him at the former's office here on Tuesday. British High Commissioner to Pakistan Mark Lyall Grant was also present on the occasion. Kasuri also urged the need for solution of Kashmir issue to ensure durable peace in the region. The discussions focused on the whole gamut of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual interest including progress in the composite dialogue process between Pakistan and India, Iranian nuclear issue and Afghanistan.