

Indian Express, 1 November 2005

### **Bush names conservative Alito as next Court pick**

US President George W. Bush nominated conservative judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court on Monday in a move likely to set off battle with the Democrats as he tries to right his struggling presidency. Bush acted quickly to find a nominee to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for the lifetime post after loyalist Harriet Miers withdrew from consideration on Thursday. Alito is a former Justice Department official and federal prosecutor and has been an appeals court judge for 15 years. Bush said he was confident that the Senate will be impressed by Judge Alito's distinguished record, his measured judicial temperament, and his tremendous personal integrity.

The Dawn, 1 November 2005

### **Pakistan receives first of six C-130s**

First of the six C-130 military cargo planes that Pakistan is buying from the US left for Islamabad on Monday with relief goods for earthquake survivors, officials said. This is the first of the six but we do not have a schedule for other deliveries, Pakistan's defence attach in Washington Brig Khawar Hanif told Dawn. Right now, our top priority is the earthquake and the PAF is heavily involved in relief operations. Pakistan may also delay a deal to buy F-16 fighter jets from the United States because of the devastating earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

New York Times, 2 November 2005

### **In Cheney's New Chief, a Bureaucratic Master**

Shortly after he became defense secretary in 1989, Dick Cheney installed in the office next door to his own suite a young special assistant named David S. Addington. That move displaced a uniformed officer and rankled the military, but it did not slow Mr. Addington's path to power. Smart, secretive and direct, Mr. Addington is a man very much in Mr. Cheney's image. Now, at 48, he is at Mr. Cheney's right hand again, succeeding I. Lewis Libby Jr. as the vice president's chief of staff. But while Mr. Addington has spent much of his career in proximity to Mr. Cheney, his admirers and detractors alike say his success is rooted in his mastery of the skills of bureaucratic combat.

Washington Post, 2 November 2005

### **Bush Outlines \$7.1 Billion in Flu Preparations**

President Bush yesterday asked Congress for \$7.1 billion to help prepare the country for a global epidemic of influenza, telling a high-powered gathering of scientists and public officials at the National Institutes of Health that "our country has been given fair warning of this danger to our homeland." The request -- the latest addition to a burgeoning investment in public health preparedness since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks -- would go toward vaccine development, drug and vaccine stockpiling, disease surveillance, and local health departments' manpower needs.

Guardian, 3 November 2005

### **Arrested Syrian may be key al-Qaida suspect**

A Syrian man believed to be a key figure in Osama bin Laden's terrorist network in Europe may have been captured by Pakistani security agencies, officials said today. Authorities were investigating whether one of two arrested al-Qaida suspects was Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, alleged to have had a key role in the Madrid train bombings and to be linked with the July 7 London bombings, a senior government official said.

Indian Express, 3 November 2005

### **Central to war on terror, a covert, CIA-maintained, global prison network**

The CIA has been hiding and interrogating some of its most important Al-Qaeda captives at a compound in Eastern Europe, according to officials familiar with the arrangement. The secret facility is part of a covert prison system set up by the CIA nearly four years ago that has included sites in eight countries, including Thailand, Afghanistan and several democracies in Eastern Europe, as well as a centre at Guantanamo Bay, according to intelligence officials and diplomats.

WashingtonPost, 3 November 2005

### **China sets bird flu fund**

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countries involved in the covert programme be withheld.

Indian Express, 4 November 2005

**India-US air force drill faces Left protests**

India said on Friday it would step up security at an air base after Left parties threatened that thousands of activists would protest against exercises between the Indian and US air forces. Leftist parties who shore up the UPA coalition have opposed the 12-day exercises to be held in the communist-ruled eastern state of West Bengal saying it is part of a larger American strategy to set up military bases in the region.

The Dawn, 4 November 2005

**ICRC seeks access to all US-held suspects** The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called on Thursday for access to all foreign terrorism suspects held by the United States after a report of a covert CIA prison system for Al Qaeda captives. The Washington Post said on Wednesday the CIA had been hiding and interrogating inmates at a secret facility in Eastern Europe, among so-called black sites in eight countries under a global network set up after the Sept 11, 2001, attacks.

WashingtonPost, 4 November 2005

**Bush's Popularity Reaches New Low**

For the first time in his presidency a majority of Americans question the integrity of President Bush, and growing doubts about his leadership have left him with record negative ratings on the economy, Iraq and even the war on terrorism, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows.

The Indian Express, 5 November 2005

**US warns Nepal parties against Maoist deal**

Warning Nepal's major political parties against a possible alliance with Maoists, the US on Friday said the rebels have done nothing to indicate that they were ready to abandon violence and sought unity among legitimate political forces to prevent a Maoist takeover. The US notes with alarm recent reports in the Nepal media on the potential for an alliance between one or more of the major political parties and the Maoists guerillas, the American embassy here said in a statement.

International Herald Tribune, 5 November 2005

**Troubles follow Bush to Argentine summit**

President George W. Bush's foreign and domestic troubles followed him to the opening day of an international summit meeting here on Friday as thousands protested in the streets and Bush deflected more questions about his chief political aide, Karl Rove, who remains under investigation in the CIA leak inquiry.

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."

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

International Herald Tribune, 9 November 2005

**U.S. and China sign pact on textile quotas** (James Kanter and Keith Bradsher)

LONDON Moving to control surging imports of clothes from Asia, the United States signed an agreement with China here on Tuesday placing quotas on items including cheap shirts and trousers over the next three years. The deal slightly raised the volumes of clothing that the United States would accept from China over the next three years when compared with previous arrangements, but it placed limits on those volumes and included a wider range of products than those already subject to restrictions. The U.S. trade representative, Rob Portman, said that the deal was "fair to our retailers and our consumers" and that it pointed the way for resolving future trade disputes with China. The accord also solved a major point of contention between the countries less than two weeks before President George W. Bush travels to China. The Chinese commerce minister, Bo Xilai, hailed the deal as a success after five months of negotiations and seven rounds of talks.

International Herald Tribune, 9 November 2005

**UN renews mandate for U.S.-led Iraq force** (Warren Hoge)

UNITED NATIONS, New York The Security Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted a one-year renewal of the United Nations mandate for the U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq. The resolution, sponsored by Britain, Denmark, Japan, Romania and the United States, extends the mandate until Dec. 31, 2006, but calls for a review of the decision by June 15, 2006, and allows for the termination of the mandate at any point if Iraq requests it. The review clause was added as a compromise with the demands of France and Russia, which initially asked that the term be extended only six months, rather than a year. The drawing-up of the measure was remarkably free of disputes on an issue that two years ago deeply divided the Security Council and threw relations between the United Nations and United States into turmoil.

The Hindu, 10 November 2005

**India, US push for wider trade ties**

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday gave an assurance to the United States that it would make all-out efforts to curb money laundering and stamp out financing of terrorist activities while it laid down a roadmap for major reforms in the financial sector. At a joint press conference with the U.S. Treasury Secretary, John Snow, at the conclusion of the Indo-U.S. Financial and Economic Forum meeting here, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said: "I have told Secretary [John Snow] that we are fully committed to checking money laundering as well as stamping out financing of terrorist activities. "An anti-money laundering legislation is in place. There has to be an inspection and a report, which will happen shortly," he said while reiterating the intention of the two countries to implement the recommendation of Financial Action Task Force. The panel was set up to prevent abuse of the financial system and both the U.S. and India agreed to work together to identify and freeze the assets of terrorist groups.

International Herald Tribune, 10 November 2005

**US, Europe to offer Iran nuclear option -report**

WASHINGTON: The United States and European allies would allow Iran to pursue limited nuclear activities under a proposal they hope will head off a confrontation over Tehran's suspected nuclear weapons program, The New York Times reported in its Thursday edition. Under the proposal, Iran would be permitted to conduct limited nuclear activities on its own soil, but would move the process of enriching all of its uranium to Russia, the newspaper said, citing U.S. and European officials. The capacity to enrich uranium is considered a key step in the ability to produce nuclear weapons. Mohammed ElBaradei, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, will take the offer to Iran on behalf of the United States, Britain, Germany and France, the newspaper said. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and ElBaradei discussed the proposal at a meeting on Tuesday, the newspaper said. It cited officials who declined to be identified.

International Herald Tribune, 10 November 2005

**US lacking China strategy: report** (Carol Giacomo)

Nov 9: The commission reaffirmed its skeptical view of Beijing, concluding that over the past year "the trends in

the U.S.-China relationship have negative implications for our long-term national economic and security interests." In its annual report, it urged Congress to impose an "immediate across-the-board tariff" on Chinese imports to force Beijing to strengthen significantly the value of its currency. The U.S.-China Commission was established by Congress in 2000 to examine the national security consequences of America's economic ties with China. Its views are controversial and generally more hard-line than the official U.S. position, which recently has focused on how Beijing can work with Washington as a responsible member of the international system. The report, based on 14 hearings involving 150 witnesses and other research, said the combination of a U.S. policy of "strategic ambiguity" and Taiwan's hesitation in responding to China's aggressive military buildup "sends a signal of ambivalence and weakness" to Beijing.

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-way 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.

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

**Just flex it** (Ila Patnaik)

After five months of negotiations, the US has signed an agreement with China under which certain Chinese textile

exports to the US will be allowed to grow at 10 to 16 per cent for the next three years. The deal came after protests by American textile producers and labour unions about the high growth of Chinese imports. The surge of Chinese textiles into the US is part of a larger trade and macro-economic story. High growth of Chinese exports to the US has resulted in rising current account surpluses for China and deficits for US. By 2004, China's current account surplus had risen to 4.2 per cent of GDP. In the face of a high and rising current account deficit, at more than 6 per cent of GDP, the US would like the dollar to depreciate, but this is being inhibited by trading in the currency market by Asian central banks, particularly the People's Bank of China (PBC). The PBC ran a fixed rate at 8.277 renminbi per USD from August 8, 1997 to July 21, 2005.

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 Hindu, 11 November 2005

**American occupation and the rise of Al-Qaeda** (Atul Aneja)

By all accounts, American forces battling a determined uprising have been bogged down in Iraq. After a brief lull, violence in and around Iraq has surged dramatically. A day after American forces called off their assault on Husaybiah, a town along the Iraq-Syria border they said was an Al-Qaeda stronghold, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a restaurant in Baghdad. At least 30 persons were killed and 19 wounded in the strike on Thursday. Iraqi police forces have been known to frequent the restaurant. Witnesses said the explosion in the city centre was so powerful it could be heard several kilometres away. The attack came after the Iraqi wing of Al-Qaeda claimed in an online statement that it would avenge the attack by the United States on Husaybiah.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Dawn, 12 November 2005

**Rice urges unity amid violence in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, Nov 11: The United States will stay committed to what it hopes will be an inclusive Iraq, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Friday, but violence flared even as she touched down in the Iraqi capital. Rice made an unannounced visit, her second to Iraq this year, during which she said she wanted help ease the sectarian tensions that have dominated the campaign for a parliamentary election on Dec. 15. Three Iraqi policemen on patrol were wounded when a car bomb exploded in a central area of Baghdad within minutes of Rice's touching down in a military helicopter in the capital's heavily fortified Green Zone. Rice flew in from Bahrain to the northern city of Mosul, scene of violence between Sunni Arabs and Kurds, and said her goal was to urge Iraqis to bridge sectarian and ethnic divisions and create a single country where all felt fully protected.

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.

The Hindu, 14 November 2005

### **U.S. not to put curbs on Indian textile imports**

New Delhi: The United States has assured India that it would not impose restrictions on Indian textile imports on the line of curbs on the Chinese textile imports since the WTO agreement on lifting of quota had provided the U.S. safeguards only against China. "It will rather help countries like India," U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman said here. The U.S. and China have signed a comprehensive bilateral textile agreement that will ensure "stability and predictability" for American retailers and producers. The agreement, signed on November 8 last after months of intensive negotiations, covers more than 30 individual products and contains quotas that will begin at low levels in January 2006 but will increase gradually by about three per cent each year over a period of three years. Indian trade and industry felt that the U.S. agreement with China ran contrary to the spirit of WTO that is meant to ensure restriction-free trade in textile under the Agreement on Textile and Clothing which came into effect from January 2005.

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

### **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.

Hindustan Times, 17 November 2005

**Americans fear China, the superpower** (S. Rajagopalan)

Washington: China, and not India, will be a superpower in 10 years. That is the view of an overwhelming majority of American adults, according to a Harris Interactive poll released on Tuesday. But then, more Americans feel it will be in the US's best interest to encourage India's growth and prosperity instead of China's. What they dread is China's military might, rather than its economic clout, once it is anointed as the superpower. As many as 70 per cent of those surveyed felt China will emerge as a superpower by 2015. Only 20 per cent believe India will attain that status by then. In the survey, 41 per cent opted for Japan, 31 per cent for European Union, 25 per cent for UK and 15 per cent for Russia. Quite a few (29 per cent) think that China is already an economic superpower. This compares with 67 per cent who say the US is the only one in the big league. Only 2 per cent regard India as a superpower. The poll conducted across the US in mid-October covered 1,833 adults.

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 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

**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 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 Nation, 19 November 2005

### **US-India military ties**

What US Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi told an Indian news agency is bound to raise hackles in the region. Talking about the possibility of the US-India joint military exercises being a harbinger of their common action against a third country, he reportedly said, "this is possible but it will be a decision at the national level." What is more it is likely to create domestic problems for the Congress led ruling alliance, as indicated by demonstrations in India against the joint exercises. There is a perception that since the fall of the Shah of Iran, the US has been constantly on the look out for a militarily strong agent to look after its imperialist interests in the region. Foremost among these are to continue to maintain a firm grip on the Middle East and its oil resources.

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.

Xinhua, 20 November 2005

### **US, China to cooperate more on terrorism**

BEIJING, Nov. 20: The United States and China hope to strengthen shared efforts to fight terrorism and "pirate" copying of goods, Washington's top justice official said on Saturday. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told a news conference in Beijing he had discussed expanding cooperation with Chinese justice and police officials in talks before President George W. Bush arrives in Beijing later on Saturday for a three-day visit. China says its biggest terrorist threat comes from separatist forces in its far-western region of Xinjiang. Asked about the U.S. stance on China's efforts to combat terrorism in Xinjiang, Gonzales said: "We committed to try to be as helpful as we can, and cooperative as we can, with the Chinese government." Gonzales said the United States and China had established "liaison groups" to cooperate on counter-terrorism, and the two countries were also considering forming more such teams. He declined to be more specific.

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.

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, 22 November 2005

**President Bush in China**

With an average annual growth of 9.5 per cent for almost three decades, China has not only managed to lift a large section of its population out of poverty. It has also emerged as an economic, political and military force to reckon with. It is therefore nothing extraordinary that President George W. Bush should have included a visit to Beijing in his Asia-Pacific itinerary. This was the American president's third visit to China since 2001 when he assumed office. As is generally the case, there were no major tangible developments that made the visit a landmark occasion. The symbolic significance of the visit was, however, tremendous since the issues taken up indicated the major concerns that characterize relations between China and the United States.

Asahi Shimbun, 22 November 2005

**Editorial: U.S.-China relations**

During his tour of Asian countries, U.S. President George W. Bush, met with his Chinese counterpart, President Hu Jintao. After the summit, Hu told reporters that the two countries were working toward mutual benefits and interests. Bush also said his visit to China would strengthen relations between the two countries. The United States and China, which hold the key to stability in Asia, have apparently benefited from each other in practical terms while avoiding the ultimate confrontation. The two countries also agreed that Hu would pay a visit to the United States early next year. Such an agreement is in stark contrast to relations between Japan and China, whose leaders cannot build trustful ties because of the problems concerning Yasukuni Shrine. Referring to the strained ties between Japan and China, Bush said good-neighborly relations are important. Although the president had China in mind when he made the remark, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi must have felt uncomfortable to hear those words from his ally.

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.

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.

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.

Hindustan Times, 24 November 2005

**India, US to strengthen defence co-operation**

Washington: India and the United States agreed to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and emphasised the importance of service-to-service ties at the meeting of the Defence Policy Group (DPG) which concluded in Washington on Thursday. The three-day meeting of the DPG, held in an "extremely frank, friendly and co-operative atmosphere," was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Shekhar Dutt and Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Eric Edelman. The two sides exchanged views on the international strategic and security situation and on the further development of bilateral defence cooperation as envisaged under the Indo-US Defence Framework agreement, inked in June this year. "Both countries view their bilateral defence cooperation as an important facet of the India-US global partnership, reflected in the India-US Joint Statement of July 18, 2005," a statement issued at the end of the seventh round of talks said.

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 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.

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 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.

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 Tribune, 28 November 2005

**N-deal with the US** (Gen V. P. Malik (ret'd) and Brig Gurmeet Kanwal (ret'd))

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 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.

BBC News, 29 November 2005

**Blair to unveil 'nuclear option'**

Tony Blair is likely to use a speech to business leaders at the CBI to launch a review of UK energy policy which could lead to new nuclear power stations. Mr Blair is believed to view nuclear power as a way to improve the security of the UK's energy supply and also help the UK meet its greenhouse gas targets. He has also said ministers must make "difficult and controversial" choices. The energy review will be headed by the Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks and report by the middle of next year. Business leaders want a decision made quickly, while green groups want clean and safe alternatives to fossil fuels. The prime minister is expected to announce the terms of reference for the energy review during his speech to the Confederation of British Industry annual conference in London. The government's energy review must show that nuclear power is unnecessary, as well as unsafe and uneconomic

Khaleej Times, 29 November 2005

**EU accepts Iran's call for new N-talks**

TEHERAN: Britain, France and Germany agreed on Sunday to hold talks with Iran on resuming negotiations on the country's disputed nuclear programme, which broke down in August, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said. "A letter has been conveyed to Iran this afternoon ... from the three countries and myself. We offered Iran to have conversations, dialogue to see if we have enough common basis to start negotiations," Solana told reporters at a Euro-Mediterranean summit in Barcelona. An EU official said the letter omitted the previous European condition that negotiations on long-term cooperation could only restart if Iran resumed a full suspension of activities related to uranium enrichment, which could help it produce weapons. Solana said the letter set no date but Iran's official Irna news agency said ambassadors of the so-called EU3 countries accepted a resumption of the talks in December, quoting a statement issued by Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

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 Hindu, 30 November 2005

**U.S. resists pressure** (David Adam)

London: Crucial talks aimed at combating the threat of global warming opened with the U.S. Government signalling that it would resist attempts to be drawn into a new international process to cut emissions. Delegates at the United Nations climate conference - the first since the Kyoto protocol came into force in February - will discuss what action to take to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases when the Kyoto agreement expires in 2012. The U.S. has refused to sign up to Kyoto and sent a clear message that it was in no mood to rethink its opposition to binding international agreements. U.S. chief negotiator Harlan Watson said he would strongly resist Canadian plans to combine the U.S., other developed nations and the developing countries in a joint commitment to action.