

Nuclear Guide, 1 October 2004

Bush says North Korean leader wants to end six-nation nuclear talks

Florida, Sept 30: US President George W. Bush said Thursday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il wants to end six-nation talks on the Korean nuclear crisis and that the United States must not start bilateral negotiations. Bush and Kerry clashed over how to handle the Stalinist state and Iran -- both members of what Bush has called an "axis of evil" -- during a presidential election debate here. The Democratic challenger said the United States should open direct talks with North Korea and take a stronger role in countering Iran's nuclear programme. Bush said that talks involving North Korea, the United States, China, Russia, South Korea and Japan must be pursued and had been effective. "So now there are five voices speaking to Kim Jong-Il, not just one," said the president.

China Daily, 1 October 2004

China displays new nuclear reactor

China showed off its first new generation of reactor on Beijing's northern outskirts Thursday in an effort to demonstrate not only its safety and reliability but its progress in overcoming its chronic energy shortage. The high-temperature gas-cooled reactor, designed at prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing, was on display at a location near the Great Wall, roughly 40 km north of downtown Beijing. More than 60 atomic energy experts from over 30 countries watched the safety operation, in which the reactor successfully cooled down after the control stick was pulled out. The operation had been demonstrated before. Scientists have said the major safety issue regarding nuclear reactors lies in how to cool them efficiently, as they continue produce heat even after shutdown. Gas-cooled reactors are now widely considered the most secure. They don't need additional safety systems, as do water cooled reactor, and they discharge surplus heat, which could damage elements of the device.

The News, 1 October 2004

US, China back N Korea talks

London: The US and China have said they were confident North Korea will return to six-party talks to end the stand-off over Pyongyang's nuclear programmes. The talks were scheduled to be held by the end of September but Pyongyang refused to participate, blaming both US "hostile" policy and also secret nuclear experiment in South Korea.

Daily Times, 1 October 2004

Pakistan refuses to let IAEA interview Abdul Qadeer Khan

Vienna: Pakistan has refused to let the UN atomic agency directly interview disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's atomic bomb and ringleader of a smuggling network that supplied Iran, Libya and North Korea with sensitive nuclear technology, an agency spokesman said on Thursday. "The Pakistanis have made it clear that while they will provide the IAEA all information available to them, direct access to Mr Khan will not be possible," IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said. The IAEA has continuously asked Pakistan to help it investigate the international black market run by Khan, who confessed last February to passing on nuclear secrets. "From the beginning, we have made it clear to the Pakistani authorities that we would like the maximum amount of information on the Khan network, including access to any person with such knowledge," Gwozdecky said.

Daily Times, 1 October 2004

'Musharraf can't be let off the hook on AQ Khan' (Khalid Hasan)

Washington: A leading American newspaper has criticized the Bush administration for letting go Pakistan so easily over the AQ Khan affair. In an editorial on Thursday, the Chicago Tribune said President Bush did not try to persuade President Musharraf to allow US or IAEA officials to question Dr Khan. Wrote the paper, "Bush can't let Musharraf off the hook. International authorities need to know everything Khan knows. Without direct access to Khan, the world can have little confidence that his entire network is being rolled up, that black marketers across the world are being arrested and brought to justice. In many ways, that's as crucial to the war on terror as finding Bin Laden."

Daily Times, 1 October 2004

'UN fears Brazil shopped on nuke black market'

Vienna: The UN nuclear watchdog is concerned a Pakistani scientist who supplied Iran, Libya and North Korea with sensitive nuclear technology was also a supplier for Brazil, a nuclear analyst said on Thursday. Brazil dismissed the allegation as having "no coherence". "I know that they (the UN) are specifically worried about this," said Henry Sokolski, a former US Pentagon official and currently head of the Washington-based Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, a think-tank. "They are specifically worried about the Khan network being one of the sources of this programme," Sokolski told Reuters over the telephone. "I can't tell you how I know, but I know." Sokolski was referring to a nuclear black market run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, which supplied sensitive nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. Several diplomats on the IAEA board of governors, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, confirmed this view. IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said the full extent of the Khan market was still being investigated, but added that the agency had so far received no concrete "information that any other country shopped on the network".

Daily Times, 1 October 2004

Iran reassures Russia on nukes

Moscow: Iran's envoy to Russia assured Moscow on Thursday Tehran would work with the UN atomic agency to remove all concerns about its nuclear programme after Russia criticised Iran's stance on the issue. Russia's criticism of nuclear partner

Iran could lead to Moscow throwing its weight behind US efforts to take Iran to the UN Security Council for possible economic sanctions at a UN nuclear watchdog meeting in November, diplomats say. In a note sent to Reuters after talks between Iranian Ambassador Gholamreza Shafei and Russia's top nuclear official, Alexander Rumyantsev, Iran nevertheless stressed making nuclear fuel did not breach any UN nuclear rules. "During the conversation Iran stressed that the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme is fully peaceful," it said.

The Hindu, 1 October 2004

7 ISRO subsidiaries still on Entity List (Sridhar Krishnaswami)

Washington, Sept. 30: The United States Commerce Department — through its Bureau of Industry and Security — has announced that the seven subsidiaries of the Indian Space Research Organisation will stay on the Entity List, but there has been a change of status that will see the simplification of the licencing and export processes. The entities of ISRO under this category are: Telemetry Tracking and Command Network; ISRO Inertial System Unit at Thiruvananthapuram; Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre; Solid Propellant Space Booster Plant; Space Applications Centre at Ahmedabad; Sriharikota Space Centre and the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. The Bush administration has removed the export licence requirements for the items subject to the Export Administrative Regulations (EAR) having a classification of EAR99 or a classification where the third through the fifth digits of the Export Commodity Classification Number (ECCN) are "999" for the seven ISRO subsidiaries.

Khaleej times, 1 October 2004

Understanding the Bush doctrine (Noam Chomsky)

Perhaps the most threatening document of our time is the US National Security Strategy of September 2002. Its implementation in Iraq has already taken countless lives and shaken the international system to the core. In the fallout from the war on terror is a revived Cold War, with more nuclear players than ever, across even more dry-tinder landscapes around the world. As Colin Powell explained, the NSS declared that Washington has a "sovereign right to use force to defend ourselves" from nations that possess weapons of mass destruction and cooperate with terrorists, the official pretexts for invading Iraq. The obvious reason for invading Iraq is still conspicuously evaded: establishing the first secure US military bases in a client state at the heart of the world's major energy resources.

The Washington Post, 1 October 2004

S. Korea Vows Strong Alliance With U.S.

South Korea: President Roh Moo-hyun said in an Army Day speech Friday that South Korea will build a stronger defense, a key theme of his tenure now that Washington is planning a major reduction in U.S. troops on the Korean Peninsula. Roh also said the generation-old alliance between South Korea and the United States, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, will remain strong amid concern over North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons. Several rounds of multilateral talks on the North's nuclear activities have yielded little progress, though South Korea says dialogue is the only way to resolve the problem. Isaiah Faulk, 13, left, laughs with other area school baseball players at the announcement of a team for Washington.

Daily times, 2 October 2004

IAEA cannot request access to Dr AQ Khan

Pakistan's decision to refuse the International Atomic Energy Agency to have direct access to Dr AQ Khan is correct on both legal and political counts. There were reports that the IAEA was trying to prevail upon Islamabad to allow it to interview Dr Khan. Those reports have now been confirmed by the IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky who told the press on September 30 that Pakistan had made it clear to the Agency "that while they will provide the IAEA all information available to them, direct access to Mr Khan will not be possible". The statement of the IAEA spokesman should put paid to those elements who have been accusing General Pervez Musharraf of a "sell-out" on the nuclear issue. Clearly, nothing of the sort is on the cards. The legal aspect of Pakistan's refusal has two aspects. One is of course obvious: Pakistan is not a signatory to the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty; therefore the IAEA has no business to come knocking at its door. Similarly, because Pakistan is outside the NPT, the IAEA's Additional Protocol does not bind it to submit to any intrusion by the Agency.

Daily Times, 2 October 2004

India asks America to withdraw sanctions against two scientists

New Delhi: India said Friday it had asked the United States to withdraw sanctions it had imposed against two Indian scientists accused by Washington of selling technology for weapons of mass destruction to Iran. Foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters that the two had sold neither materials, equipment nor technology. "No transfer of sensitive technology has taken place," he said. "Our track record in this is well-known. The US government has been asked to review the issue and withdraw the sanctions." Earlier this week, US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told a press briefing in Washington that two Indian scientists were among "14 entities" against which the United States has imposed sanctions.

Daily Times, 2 October 2004

'UN plans visit to suspected Iranian nuclear site'

Vienna: Inspectors from the UN nuclear watchdog will soon visit the Parchin military complex in Iran, where the United States suspects Tehran has been conducting secret atomic weapons work, Western diplomats said on Friday. IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said last month there were no indications that Parchin was a nuclear weapons site, but US officials said ElBaradei was not qualified to make such a statement without having inspected the site. Last month, a prominent nuclear expert said analysis of recent satellite images showed that Parchin, 30 km southeast of Tehran, could be a site for research, testing and production of nuclear weapons and should be closely inspected. Iran dismissed the charge, insisting there were no nuclear

activities at Parchin. It also denied ignoring UN requests to visit the site, saying inspectors had never asked to go there. "They asked to go there and Iranians have told the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) that they can go to Parchin," a Western diplomat close to the IAEA told Reuters. It was unclear if the agency would be permitted to take environmental samples to test for traces of nuclear materials, though IAEA inspectors take samples at all important sites to verify that no undeclared atomic work has taken place.

The Hindu, 2 October 2004

U.S. urged to lift curbs against two scientists

New Delhi, Oct. 1: India today asked the United States to review and withdraw the sanctions imposed on two scientists, C. Surender and Y.S.R. Prasad, who had worked at the head of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India. On September 29, the U.S. State Department imposed the Iran-related penalty for "transfer of equipment and technology controlled under multilateral export control lists or otherwise having the potential to make a material contribution to the development of weapons of mass destruction or cruise or ballistic missile systems." The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the Government had conveyed to the U.S. that it did not share the U.S. assessment.

Daily Times, 3 October 2004

Brazil denies acquiring N-tech from Pakistan

Rio de Janeiro: The Brazilian government has denied allegations that it obtained its centrifugal plans for uranium enrichment from a clandestine nuclear network headed by Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. The Brazilian navy, which began the nuclear programme in the 1980s, denied "any type of link with Pakistan regarding the development of Brazilian centrifuges", in a statement on Friday. Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology said it objected "to news accounts linking decades of scientific development to international scandals based on anonymous sources without the support of any institution or country". Henry Sokolski, a former Pentagon official who now runs the Non-Proliferation Policy Education Centre in Washington, said the Brazilian centrifuges looked similar to a type sold by Khan's network to Iran, Libya and North Korea. On Thursday, the daily Estado de Sao Paulo reported that Sokolski said that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials suspected that the network was the source of Brazil's centrifuge technology. The enriched uranium from the centrifuges can be used as fuel for civilian reactors but also as explosive cores for atomic bombs.

Daily Times, 3 October 2004

North Korea says South has nuclear arms, rejects talks

Seoul: North Korea on Saturday dashed the South's hope of quickly resuming bilateral talks between the two old Cold War enemies, declaring there is no hope for progress unless South Korea's nuclear experiments are fully investigated. North Korea has already broken off slow-moving six-country talks aimed at ending its nuclear weapons programmes in return for compensation. It has also boycotted a series of scheduled talks with the South since July, when Seoul successfully airlifted more than 460 North Korean refugees from Vietnam, angering the North. "It will be impossible to expect any development of the inter-Korean relations unless the truth about South Korea's secret nuclear experiments is probed," the North's KCNA news agency quoted a spokesman for the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland as saying. The committee is North Korea's official channel of dealings with the South, the counterpart to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

Daily Times, 3 October 2004

El Baradei heads to South Korea, Japan

Vienna: The head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Mohamed El Baradei, flies to South Korea on Saturday to discuss revelations about Seoul's undeclared atomic research and to launch his campaign for a third term at the agency. After completing talks with South Korean officials, the 61-year-old head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) departs for Tokyo on Wednesday, an IAEA spokeswoman said. "He'll be in Tokyo when the Nobel Peace Prize is announced on Friday," IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said. Nominated jointly, El Baradei and the IAEA are one of the favourites for the prize. El Baradei will be discussing the IAEA's preliminary findings in Seoul. Agency inspectors, who were in South Korea last week to take environmental samples and interview scientists, will submit a report to the IAEA board of governors next month, after which South Korea hopes the case will be closed.

Daily Times, 3 October 2004

US official slams Germany over trade with Iran

Berlin: The top US official for arms control, John Bolton, sharply criticized Germany for trading with Iran, which Washington suspects of covertly developing nuclear weapons, in remarks published this weekend. "I can only speak from the American perspective. We do not trade with countries that seek to breach international nuclear agreements," Bolton, the US undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, wrote in a German-language piece in Sunday's edition of the Welt am Sonntag newspaper. A German delegation travelled to Iran on Thursday to discuss bilateral trade between the countries. Germany provided the bulk of direct foreign investment in Iran in 2003, worth 270 million dollars (218 million euros), according to the head of the German-Iranian chamber of commerce in Tehran, Michael Tockuss.

The New York Times, 3 October 2004

Allies Hope Conference on Future of Iraq Will Ease Tension between U.S. and Iran (Steven R. Weisman)

Washington, Oct. 2: After months of forceful American talk on Iran, the Bush administration's new openness to having Secretary of State Colin L. Powell attend a conference along with an envoy from Iran next month is spreading hope among European and Arab officials that such a meeting may reduce tensions in the region. State Department officials insist that Mr. Powell's newly expressed willingness to be in the same room with an Iranian representative at a conference on the future of Iraq does not portend a softening in other American grievances, including the demand that Iran abandon its suspected nuclear weapons program and support of terrorism. "We don't see this as an opening for a new dialogue," said a senior State

Department official. "It just shows we will talk to Iran on certain issues like Iraq when it is in our interest to do so."
Daily Times, 4 October 2004

US survey claims global stocks of N-bomb material growing

Vienna: The world's stockpiles of atomic bomb-useable plutonium and highly enriched uranium are growing, despite increasing fears about their security, US-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) said in a new report. "At the end of 2003, there were more than 3,700 metric tonnes of plutonium and highly enriched uranium in about 60 countries - enough for hundreds of thousands of nuclear weapons," Albright and Kimberly Kramer wrote in an article to be published in the next issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The largest store of weapons-useable material is in Russia, followed by the United States. In response to intelligence reports that terrorists were attempting to acquire nuclear weapons, the United States and Russia are working with the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to recover and secure all US and Russian bomb-grade material spread across the globe.

Daily Times, 4 October 2004

China, S Korea to skip Asia's first PSI drill

Tokyo: China and South Korea are likely to skip Asia's first multinational naval exercise aimed at seizing weapons of mass destruction, a report said on Sunday. Japan will this month host the first Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) drill to be held in Asia and has invited the two key neighbours to take part, Tokyo Shimbun newspaper said. Neither China nor South Korea have replied, the daily said. "Both the Chinese and South Korean governments are believed to have decided to forgo the event due to consideration for North Korea," which opposes the exercise, it said, citing government sources. North Korea slammed Japan in August for adopting a "double-faced" attitude towards it by leading the PSI exercise while engaging in talks to improve ties with the communist state.

Dawn, 4 October 2004

'A. Q. Khan's network put out of business'

New York, Oct 3: US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said on Sunday President Pervez Musharraf has made certain that former scientist A. Q. Khan's nuclear network was put out of business, and "people are being brought to justice". "I think we all know that A. Q. Khan was a particular kind of figure in Pakistani lore, a national hero, and Musharraf has dealt with what is a very difficult situation about A. Q. Khan, by making certain that he's out of business," Ms Rice told CNN on Sunday. When pressed that Pakistan has refused International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to interview A. Q. Khan and the people in his network, Ms Rice insisted, "They've both been rolled up, and they are being brought to justice." Ms Rice reiterated again and again "A. Q. Khan is out of business, and he is out of the business that he loved most, and if you don't think that his national humiliation is justice for what he did, I think it is. He's nationally humiliated."

Dawn, 4 October 2004

'Iran won't surrender N-fuel technology'

Tehran, Oct 3: Iran said on Sunday it had already acquired the sensitive technology to produce its own nuclear fuel and that it would be "irrational" to agree to surrender such a capability in exchange for supplies from overseas. Foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi was reacting to US Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, who has suggested providing Iran with nuclear fuel to generate electricity if the country agreed to give up its controversial work on the nuclear fuel cycle. "One should not put one's fate in the hands of others. It would be irrational," Mr Asefi said. "We have the technology and there is no need for us to beg from others. This suggestion is good for countries that do not have this technology, but we do not need their generosity and help," he added.

Daily Times, 5 October 2004

N-black market dismantled

Islamabad: Pakistan and India are exploring options for the peaceful resolution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute, said Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan on Monday. "For the first time, during their New York meeting, President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh crossed the barrier and talked about possible options on Jammu and Kashmir. There is work in progress and there is will on both sides to move toward a resolution of the issue," said Mr Khan at his weekly press briefing. The two leaders agreed to explore possible options for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the dispute, he said. Describing it as a step forward, he said the two countries would go into these options in due course. Mr Khan denied that Pakistan had abandoned its principled position on Jammu and Kashmir. He also emphasised that Pakistan has not changed its policy on the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Kashmir, which call for a resolution of the dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. However, he pointed out that Pakistan and India had been unable to make any headway on the Kashmir issue for the last 56 years. To make headway, he said, both sides had to go beyond their stated positions and demonstrate flexibility.

Daily Times, 5 October 2004

Dr Khan has taken his medicine, says Rice

Washington: Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan has been punished by being nationally humiliated, said Condoleezza Rice, the US national security counsellor, on Sunday. Rice told this to CNN to clarify President George W Bush's statement that "the AQ Khan network had been brought to justice" during a debate with Senator John Kerry on Thursday. Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, publicly confessed in February to leaking nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea. However, President Gen Pervez Musharraf insisted the proliferation was carried out by a handful of scientists without government involvement and gave Khan a conditional pardon. Pakistan officials have refused International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) agents access to interview Khan to discuss the international black market he ran.

Daily Times, 5 October 2004

Japan may acquire capability to carry out pre-emptive strikes

Tokyo: Japan should consider steps to alter its purely defensive security policy, including acquiring the capability to carry out pre-emptive strikes, but should not change its ban on the possession of nuclear arms, an advisory panel to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Monday. Recommendations by the panel of academics and business leaders will serve as a basis for a sweeping defence review that the government plans to complete by the end of the year. "Japan wants to build a defence structure that will respond dynamically and flexibly to various threats," Koizumi told the panel after receiving the report. The panel said Japan should study whether to develop the offensive capability to strike at missile bases when it has no other means to counter missile attacks — a position that is likely to anger neighbours North Korea and China in particular.

Daily Times, 5 October 2004

UN nuclear chief wins South Korean cooperation pledge

Seoul: Top international nuclear regulator Mohamed ElBaradei won a pledge from South Korea on Monday to cooperate with the UN watchdog in the run-up to a report that Seoul hopes will lift suspicions of clandestine atomic activities. ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), met Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, who explained the government's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy, said a foreign policy aide to Lee. South Korea revealed last month that its scientists conducted, without government approval or knowledge, tests to enrich uranium four years ago and to separate plutonium in 1982. A third group of IAEA inspectors is scheduled to visit South Korea later this month for additional work before the agency reports to its board of governors in November.

People's Daily, 5 October 2004

DPRK slams new US legislation

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) strongly condemned the US "North Korean Human Rights Act," saying the new legislation has made the six-party talks "meaningless," the official Rodong Sinmun newspaper reported Tuesday. "The act is full of poisonous anti-DPRK clauses," the paper quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying on Monday in the DPRK's first response to the legislation passed by the US Senate a week ago. The spokesman said the act, which reportedly provides 24 million US dollars a year to groups and individuals to promote democracy and improve human rights, is to help these people topple the DPRK system. "The act is one more declaration of the hostile Korea policy which fully reveals the US real intention to slander and insult the DPRK and topple the socialist system chosen by its people," the spokesman said. The spokesman stressed that the DPRK could only counter the US Bush administration with a corresponding force as the United States totally rejects the dignified Korean-style ideology and system and persistently works to impose its own values and way of living.

Nuclear Guide, 5 October 2004

What Iranian Nukes Would Mean for the Middle East (Dr. Faisal Sanai)

After more than a year of disquieting debate on whether or not Iran's nuclear program was meant for peaceful civilian use or for militaristic purpose, there seems to be increasing evidence that Iran favors the latter. More recent reports have largely highlighted the unrepressed tough-talk from Iran that indicates neither compromise nor surrender. In a path betraying an uncanny resemblance to the one North Korea has adopted in the previous two years, Tehran seems determined to call the world's bluff and persevere on its highly provocative course.

The New York Times, 5 October 2004

U.S. Nuclear Cargo Draws Protests in France (Elaine Sciolino)

Paris, Oct. 4: France is poised to take possession of 300 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium from the United States for reprocessing into fuel, an operation that its opponents contend creates a risk of nuclear terrorism. Two vessels carrying the volatile cargo from South Carolina were expected to dock secretly at a secure area of the French port of Cherbourg as early as Monday night. From there, the cargo - enough to make 20 nuclear bombs - is to be taken to a secure plant at nearby La Hague. It will then be loaded onto armored, unmarked trucks and escorted by French security forces to a factory 700 miles away at the southeastern town of Cadarache, where it will be turned into fuel for nuclear reactors. The project to turn weapons-grade plutonium into fuel was initiated by President Bill Clinton with an agreement with Russia in September 2000 to neutralize 34 tons of plutonium from American and Russian weapons dating from the cold war.

The New York Times, 5 October 2004

The Nuclear Bomb That Wasn't

If all the justifications that President Bush gave for invading Iraq, the most terrifying was that Saddam Hussein was on the brink of developing a nuclear bomb that he might use against the United States or give to terrorists. Ever since we learned that this was not true, the question has been whether Mr. Bush gave a good-faith account of the best available intelligence, or knowingly deceived the public. The more we learn about the way Mr. Bush paved the road to war, the more it becomes disturbingly clear that if he was not aware that he was feeding misinformation to the world, he was about the only one in his circle who had not been clued in. The foundation for the administration's claim that it acted on an honest assessment of intelligence analysis - and the president's frequent claim that Congress had the same information he had - has been steadily eroded by the reports from the Senate Intelligence Committee and the 9/11 commission. A lengthy report in The Times on Sunday removed any lingering doubts.

People's Daily, 6 October 2004

EI Baradei: no conclusion so far on S.Korean nuclear experiments

Mohamed ElBaradei, chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in Seoul Wednesday that he "don't want to jump to a conclusion" on the South Korean nuclear experiments now because the IAEA is still in the process of investigation. ElBaradei, who was attending a session of the Pugwash Conference in Seoul, told the press the IAEA will send one or two more inspection teams this month to South Korea, which has received two inspections by the UN nuclear watchdog. During his speech, the IAEA director-general also said the South Korean government has fully cooperated with IAEA inspections. The South Korean government admitted last month that scientists of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute made two experiments, in 1982 and 2000 respectively, to produce small amounts of plutonium and uranium, the two main types of fissile material used in nuclear weapons.

People's Daily, 6 October 2004

Powell urges Brazil to resolve differences with IAEA

Visiting US Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Brazil on Tuesday to resolve its differences with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over inspections of its nuclear facilities. "I am confident Brazil might be able to work out any problem with the IAEA when they come later this month," Powell said after talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and a brief meeting with Foreign Minister Celso Amorim. "I don't believe, whatever arrangement Brazil and the IAEA might come to, it will give North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) or Iran bargaining power with the IAEA," Powell said. Recently the IAEA accused Brazil of buying nuclear equipment from a Pakistani scientist. Brazil denied the charges, claiming that it has nothing illicit to hide. IAEA officials are scheduled to visit the nuclear plant in Rio de Janeiro later this month, but the Brazilian government has refused to grant them access to the facility.

Daily Times, 6 October 2004

'Brazil doesn't want to develop nuclear arms'

Brasilia: US Secretary of State Colin Powell, opening a two-day visit Tuesday, said he is confident that Brazil has no intention of becoming a nuclear weapons power, but he called on Brazil to work out differences with the UN nuclear watchdog agency over inspections. Powell made his comments shortly before arriving in Brasilia, the nation's capital, for meetings with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim. In Brasilia, Powell's met with 12 "young ambassadors," Brazilian participants in an exchange programme at the US Embassy.

Daily Times, 6 October 2004

No bargain on Iran's nukes: US

Brussels: The United States sees no reason to offer Iran incentives to ensure its nuclear programme remains peaceful, a US government official said on Tuesday. European states want the United States to make such proposals to Tehran after the Nov. 2 US presidential election to add weight to efforts by Britain, France and Germany to reach an accord with Iran and avoid a UN Security Council showdown. "At this point a grand bargain is not where we are heading," said the official, who requested unanimity. He was referring to suggestions that Washington offer Iran economic and political inducements to halt activities which Washington suspects are aimed at making the atom bomb. "We haven't seen any Iranian recognition that (a bargain) is in their interest," the official, in Brussels for talks with EU and Canadian officials on managing the challenge of Iran, told reporters.

The New York Times, 6 October 2004

Iran Readies Uranium for Enrichment; U.N. Watching

Vienna: Iran began processing uranium just more than a week ago to prepare it for enrichment -- a process that can be used to make nuclear weapons -- in defiance of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, a diplomat said Wednesday. Iran's president said separately that Tehran would not give in to foreign pressure aimed at stopping what he said was a peaceful nuclear energy program, but which Washington says is a covert scheme aimed at building bombs. A diplomat close to the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) told Reuters the uranium processing was "under the watchful eye" of the IAEA. The IAEA has installed monitoring cameras at the Isfahan uranium conversion facility in Iran to supervise the production of uranium hexafluoride, the feed material for centrifuges used in enrichment.

The News, 6 October 2004

Iran okays bill to resume uranium enrichment

Tehran: A committee of Iran's parliament Tuesday gave preliminary approval to a bill that would force the reformist government to resume uranium enrichment in defiance of the UN nuclear watchdog. State news agency IRNA said the bill was approved by the foreign affairs and national security committee. If eventually passed by a vote of the Majlis (parliament) and approved by legislative watchdogs, it would almost certainly prompt the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to refer Iran's case to the UN Security Council. On Monday, committee chairman Allaeddin Borujerdi said 238 deputies out of a total 290 were backing the move to resume enrichment. Many analysts have likened the parliament's move to posturing as a means of raising the stakes in the stand-off with the IAEA, and although the bill has been given preliminary approval, it was not prioritised for immediate debate in the assembly.

Dawn, 7 October 2004

Iran rejects IAEA demands, ready for talks or confrontation

Tehran, Oct 6: Iran said on Wednesday they will not cede to international demands for the Islamic republic to suspend its uranium enrichment activities, saying Tehran was ready for confrontation or negotiation. "We have said clearly that we will not apply the second part of the resolution concerning the total suspension of enrichment," Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani told state television. He was referring to a resolution passed on Sept 18 by the board of the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) calling on Iran to "immediately" widen a suspension of enrichment to include all uranium enrichment-related activities - such as making centrifuges, converting yellow cake into UF6 feed gas, and constructing a heavy water reactor.

Daily Times, 7 October 2004

Pakistan feared as source of nuclear terror (Khalid Hasan)

Washington: Pakistan and Russia have been called "nations of greatest concern" as potential sources of nuclear weapon or fissile material leaks to terrorists. A new report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) on nuclear terrorism said, "The fear regarding Pakistan is that some members of the armed forces might covertly give a weapon to terrorists or that, if President Musharraf were overthrown, an Islamic fundamentalist government or a state of chaos in Pakistan might enable terrorists to obtain a weapon." While, the report concedes, it would be difficult for terrorists to mount a nuclear attack on a US city, such an attack is plausible and would have catastrophic consequences, in one scenario killing over a half-million people and causing damage of over \$1 trillion. "Terrorists or rogue states might acquire a nuclear weapon in several ways. The nations of greatest concern as potential sources of weapons or fissile materials are widely thought to be Russia and Pakistan."

Daily Times, 7 October 2004

UN says world getting impatient with N Korea

Seoul: North Korea's two-year-old nuclear crisis has taxed the world's patience, the chief United Nations nuclear regulator said on Wednesday, urging communist Pyongyang to return to its disarmament treaty obligations. Mohamed El Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), also said there was no comparison between South Korea's recently reported atomic experiments and North Korea's full-fledged reprocessing programme and weapons assertions. "The six-party talks have been going on for quite a while and the international community is getting impatient to see quick results and to see North Korea turning back to the non-proliferation regime," El Baradei told reporters. North Korea has said it would not rejoin the six-party nuclear disarmament talks with South Korea, the United States, Japan, China and Russia until the South's recently disclosed atomic experiments had been fully dealt with.

The New York Times, 7 October 2004

Iran Says It Has Processed Tons of Uranium

Iran: Iran said Wednesday it has processed several tons of raw "yellowcake" uranium to prepare it for enrichment -- a key step in developing atomic weapons -- in defiance of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency. Converting raw uranium into hexafluoride gas does not violate any agreements Iran has made regarding its nuclear program and was done with the full knowledge of the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, it draws Iran and the United States -- which quickly voiced its disapproval -- closer to a showdown before the U.N. Security Council. The IAEA board of governors specifically demanded last month that Iran stop all enrichment-related activities, and cited the plans to convert raw uranium into hexafluoride gas as particularly alarming. Iran has refused to back down, and its parliament is studying a bill that would require the government to proceed with the enrichment process over any objections.

The Hindu, 7 October 2004

India-U.S. nuclear ties (M.R. Srinivasan)

For the U.S. to build a thriving high technology business with India that is mutually beneficial, it will have to erase the prevailing perception that it is an unreliable partner. Recent progress in the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) between India and the United States was discussed in The Hindu by R. Ramachandran on September 27, 2004 and there was a response from Matthew S. Borman of the U.S. Department of Commerce on October 2. As a person closely involved in cooperation in high technology between India and the U.S. for over four decades, I welcome the recent initiatives. It would be a pity if they turn out to be merely cosmetic after the substantial diplomatic investment in the negotiations. It is to be hoped that ISRO and its units can rely on U.S. sources to execute orders promptly so that their projects can be pursued speedily.

The Tribune, 7 October 2004

US knowhow policy discriminatory (G. Parthasarathy)

India must be on its own. Unlike in the Clinton Administration, the nuclear nonproliferation mandarins in the Bush Administration have never embarked on a crusade to "cap, roll back and eliminate" India's nuclear weapons programme. The "Next Steps in Strategic Partnership" Agreement signed by President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee outlined a shared commitment to build greater cooperation between India and the United States in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, space, high technology transfers and in missile defence. This was a landmark agreement symbolising an acknowledgement by the United States that it recognised the need to move away from a regime of sanctions, in the hitherto forbidden areas, to a new era of cooperation with India.

Daily Times, 8 October 2004

Israel a greater nuclear threat than Iran: Vanunu

Stockholm: Israel is a greater nuclear threat than Iran, Mordechai Vanunu, who was freed in April after 18 years in an Israeli prison for revealing the country's nuclear program, told Swedish Radio on Thursday. "We can say to Israel that if you're blaming Iran, let's go make Israel and Iran both open their facilities and be nuclear free zones. I think Iran (and) Iraq accept this but Israel is still not ready to accept this policy," Vanunu said in an interview on Swedish public radio. Iran has been faced with stinging criticism for its atomic program, which it claims is purely peaceful, but which the United States and Israel in particular fear conceals efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Israel, which now views Iran as its number one enemy after the

downfall of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, has been lobbying hard for greater pressure to be exerted on Tehran. Vanunu meanwhile called in the interview on Israel to dismantle its nuclear program, a program the Jewish state has never acknowledged, pointing out that "Israel is the one who became aggressive and who took Arab lands".

Daily Times, 8 October 2004

IAEA shares Japan's nuclear concerns about Koreans

Tokyo: The head of the UN nuclear watchdog agency said Thursday he shares Japan's concerns about nuclear programmes in the two Koreas and Iran, and called the North Korean nuclear crisis the biggest challenge for his agency. Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told Ichiro Aisawa, senior vice minister for foreign affairs, that the current regimes of nuclear nonproliferation are under threat, according to a diplomat at their meeting. "For the IAEA and nuclear non-proliferation regimes, North Korea is the biggest challenge. We share the feeling (with Japan)," ElBaradei was quoted by the Japanese diplomat as telling Aisawa. "We have no choice but to solve this problem through dialogue," ElBaradei said, according to the diplomat. ElBaradei said the IAEA was preparing to report on South Korea's shock revelations of past unauthorised nuclear experiments. "We are receiving good cooperation from the South Korean government," he was quoted as saying.

Daily Times, 8 October 2004

Iran will improve Shahab-3 missiles

Tehran: Iran intends to further improve its Shahab-3 missiles, which already have a claimed range of 2,000 kilometres, a senior official was quoted as saying on Thursday. "The Shahab-3 missile has a range of 2,000 kilometres," Nasser Maleki, deputy director of Iran's aerospace industry organisation, was quoted as saying. "Very certainly we are going to improve our Shahab-3 missile and all of our other missiles." When asked if Iran intended to produce longer-range ballistic missiles - such as a Shahab-4 - a device that would involve a two-stage propulsion system and possibly bring European capitals within range - the official replied only that "we are at the level of the Shahab-3". Steady progress made by Iran on its ballistic missile programme is a major cause for concern for the international community, already alarmed over the country's nuclear activities. On August 11, Iran tested an upgraded version of its Shahab-3 missile, which is believed to be based on a North Korean design. Previous figures had put the missile's range at between 1,300 and 1,700 kilometres, already bringing archenemy Israel and US bases in the region well within range.

Daily Times, 8 October 2004

Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to visit Iran

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to visit Iran where Russia will continue to assist in development of a civilian nuclear programme, a senior Russian official said here Thursday. "We do not have a concrete date for a visit by the president to Iran, but there is a firm agreement with the Iranian side that this visit will take place in the foreseeable future," Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alekseyev said. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Tehran for two days starting Sunday for talks with Iranian official that could finalize details for a trip there by Putin, Alekseyev told reporters at a briefing.

The New York Times, 8 October 2004

ElBaradei: Iran Should Comply with IAEA by Nov. 25

Tokyo: Iran should freeze all its uranium enrichment-related activities by a Nov. 25 board of governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, said on Friday. But ElBaradei added that he was hopeful Iran would comply by then and even if it did not the matter would not automatically be referred to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions. "I'm still hoping that before the meeting of the board that Iran will come into full suspension" of its uranium enrichment-related activities, ElBaradei told a news conference. The IAEA board of governors passed a resolution last month demanding that Iran freeze all activities connected with uranium enrichment, including making feed material for centrifuges.

Reuters, 8 October 2004

N.Korea Says It Will Resume Talks if U.S. Ends Hostility

Seoul: North Korea wants bilateral nuclear talks with the United States but would rejoin stalled six-party immediately if Washington dropped what it called its "hostile policy" toward Pyongyang, the communist state said on Friday. "The six-party talks can be resumed right now if the U.S. rebuilds the groundwork of the talks with a willingness to make a switchover in its hostile policy toward the DPRK," said a statement by the North Korean Foreign Ministry. The statement -- which referred to North Korea by the initials of its official title, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea -- blamed the United States for a deadlock in six-way talks also involving South Korea, China, Japan and Russia. The statement did not carry a new offer to resolve the nuclear impasse, which began in October 2002 when U.S. officials said that the North Koreans, when confronted with evidence, admitted to pursuing a secret uranium enrichment program.

The Washington Post, 8 October 2004

South Korea's Nuclear Safeguards (Ban Ki Moon)

Seoul: Two cases of past scientific experiments involving nuclear materials in my country, the Republic of Korea, have recently received world attention. The matters are being dealt with by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with the full cooperation of my government. Meanwhile, regrettably, there seems to be widespread misunderstanding and speculation about the transparency of South Korea's peaceful nuclear activities. We need to look at these issues in perspective. The Republic of Korea has the sixth-largest civilian nuclear industry in the world, with 19 nuclear power plants in operation. Most

other countries with our level of demand for nuclear energy produce nuclear fuel for their own use by enriching uranium or reprocessing spent fuel. But despite the compelling economic need to reduce our dependence on imported nuclear fuel, South Korea has maintained a policy of voluntarily abstaining from enrichment and reprocessing. This reflects our firm commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

The Hindu, 8 October 2004

Circumstances not ripe for signing NPT: Manmohan (Amit Baruah)

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, said today that the circumstances were "not ripe" for India to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) "right now". Dr. Singh, however, said that India was voluntarily fulfilling the commitments that went along with being a responsible nuclear power acting with "due restraint". Answering a question at a joint press interaction with the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, Dr. Singh said: "We are a nuclear power, but we are a responsible nuclear power. We act with restraint. We have a no-first use doctrine in place. 'Our impeccable record' 'Also, we have an impeccable record of export controls so that any unauthorised use of sensitive nuclear materials can be effectively prevented." The Prime Minister was responding to a question on whether India might sign the NPT "one day". India has consistently taken the position that the NPT is unequal and discriminatory and that it will not sign the treaty. The pressure on New Delhi to sign it mounted after the May 1998 nuclear tests, but there has been no change in India's position on the issue.

Daily Times, 9 October 2004

Iran should comply with IAEA: EIBaradei

Tokyo: Iran should freeze all its uranium enrichment-related activities by a Nov 25 meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, said on Friday. But ElBaradei said he was hopeful Iran would comply by then, and even if it did not the matter would not automatically be referred to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. "That is the deadline where the board expects Iran to be in compliance with its requests," he told a news conference in Tokyo, referring to the meeting of the IAEA's board of governors. ElBaradei said it would be up to board members to decide whether to send the case to the UN Security Council if Iran did not suspend uranium enrichment-related activities by the deadline.

Dawn, 9 October 2004

South Korea's nuclear secrets (Eric S. Margolis)

Still red-faced over its failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the Bush Administration is now facing another huge nuclear embarrassment. The UN nuclear inspectors just caught close US ally South Korean enriching small amounts of plutonium and uranium to weapons grade. This revelation comes when the Bush Administration's pro-Israeli neo-conservative hawks are clamouring for war against Iran over its unproven nuclear weapons programme. These are same hawks who raised a hue and cry over Iraq's non-existent weapons of mass destruction. South Korea's six-year old programme was far ahead of Iran's. Seoul used various deceptions to conceal it from UN inspectors. North Korea, to nobody's surprise, has been crowing over this embarrassing revelation, claiming its nuclear programme has been justified.

The Tribune, 9 October 2004

Unequal NPT

India is right in not signing it. Dr Manmohan Singh's assertion that India will not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is consistent with the position held by the country all along. It had come under tremendous pressure following the nuclear blasts in May 1998 but did not budge from its principled stand that the NPT was unequal and discriminatory. Its prejudices have become all the more blatant of late. India has been put through the wringer despite the fact that it has been acting responsibly and fulfilling all commitments of the treaty. In sharp contrast, Pakistan's role in the proliferation of nuclear weapons is well documented and yet the US is wary of taking any action against it. Not only that, it has been rewarded handsomely for betraying its Taliban allies and joining the American ranks when it came to crunch. That is proof enough that the NPT is only a stick to beat those who do not fall in American line.

The News, 10 October 2004

Russia averse to referring Iran nuclear case to Security Council

Tehran: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here Sunday that Moscow was opposed to seeing Iran referred to the UN Security Council over its nuclear programme.

Hindustan Times, 10 October 2004

Kashmir nuclear flash point: New Zealand premier (Saurabh Shukla)

Wellington, Oct. 10: In a statement that may court controversy ahead of her first ever visit to India, Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark has described "Kashmir as a nuclear flash point". In an exclusive interview with Hindustan Times in her Wellington office Clark said that the dispute forced India and Pakistan to go nuclear and can now trigger a nuclear war. "There has been many a time during my tenure that there has been a danger of a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan but the the resolution of the nuclear issue lies in the resolution of the Kashmir issue, I think Kashmir is the flashpoint," she said. However when asked that India had rejected this theory and considered Kashmir as an internal issue and if can really lead to a nuclear conflict she replied, "Of course it a conflict driving point, and that has put pressures on India and Pakistan to go nuclear," she said. However, she also maintained that she is a friend of India and her visit to India is meant to send a signal that Wellington wanted to engage India but maintained that she will not budge from her principled stand on the nuclear issue.

The Associated Press, 10 October 2004

Iran, Russia Nearing Nuclear Fuel Deal

Iran: Iran and Russia said Sunday they were close to finalizing a long-delayed protocol on returning spent nuclear fuel to Russia, paving the way for the launch of a Russian-built nuclear power plant in southern Iran in 2006. Russia has said it will not ship nuclear fuel to Iran until both countries sign an agreement under which all spent fuel would be returned to Russia. The agreement is intended to prevent Iran from using spent fuel to make nuclear weapons. "The agreement on returning spent nuclear fuel is in the final stage," Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters in Tehran. "I think it will be signed soon." The signing has been delayed repeatedly by what both countries say are mainly financial details. Iran says it doesn't have facilities to store the spent fuel. Moscow wants to pay in order to take back the fuel to Russia. The fuel agreement will pave the way for the inauguration in 2006 of Iran's first light-water 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactor being built by Russia in Bushehr, southern Iran.

Reuters, 10 October 2004

Report: North Korea Missile Preparations Ending

Tokyo: Activity around North Korea's missile launch sites is tailing off, calming fears of a ballistic missile test, a Japanese newspaper reported on Monday, citing government sources. The Yomiuri Shimbun said the Defense Ministry had called back a ship equipped with Aegis radar tracking equipment that was sent when satellite monitoring picked up increased activity around missile and other military bases in North Korea last month. "The series of moves appear to have been North Korean military training," the Yomiuri quoted a government source as saying. The paper quoted him as adding that about 70 percent of the activity had ceased. Tokyo is building up its missile defense systems to counter any threat from the North, which in 1998 fired a missile over Japan and landed in the Pacific. North Korea, believed to have missiles capable of striking almost anywhere in Asia and parts of the United States, is also believed to have one and possibly many more nuclear weapons in addition to programs to make materials for nuclear warheads. Japan has decided to move forward to the development stage on a next-generation missile defense system it has been working on with the United States, Kyodo news agency said on Monday.

Daily Times, 11 October 2004

N Korea accuses US of inciting an arms race

Pyongyang: North Korea has accused the United States of triggering a regional arms race by deploying navy destroyers equipped with Aegis missile tracking systems in the sea off the communist state. A foreign ministry spokesman told the official Korean Central News Agency late Saturday that the US build-up targeted China and Russia as well as North Korea. US Navy Secretary Gordon England confirmed this month the deployment of Aegis-equipped destroyers in the Sea of Japan (East Sea) near North Korea, whose missile and nuclear programmes put it at the top of the US threat list. The new US reinforcement "is a very dangerous provocation upsetting stability and strategic balance in Northeast Asia and sparking off an arms race in the region," the Pyongyang spokesman said in an interview monitored here. "The adventurous missile defence system which the United States seeks to establish with Japan and South Korea involved is designed to contain China and Russia in the end." He said North Korea "has taken to steadily increase all its means for self-defence including the nuclear deterrent force" against the United States. The Aegis destroyers, a key part of the US missile defence system, are designed to track and intercept incoming enemy missiles after they have been detected by early warning radars.

The Times of India, 11 October 2004

High on Hype: Indo-US Tech Transfer Deal is Meaningless (P R Chari)

There is an air of expectation, if not euphoria, over Indo-US cooperation in the area of high technology transfers, dubbed 'next steps in strategic partnership' (NSSP). The debate highlights the extraordinary naivete of the Indian media and its willingness to be persuaded by shadowy off-stage figures and official spin-meisters that cooperation in sensitive areas reflects improvement in Indo-US relations on non-proliferation and defence issues. These 'next steps' envisage a liberal, predictable licensing regime for trade in civilian nuclear, space and high technology, and an expanded dialogue on missile defence which was agreed upon last year by prime minister Vajpayee and president Bush.

The Indian Express, 11 October 2004

Engaged, not estranged (Jasjit Singh)

Indo-US ties need convergence of mindsets on crucial concerns. US ambassador Dennis Kux, in the title of his book, *Estranged Democracies*, had encapsulated the nature of relations between the world's largest democracy and the most powerful, over the period which coincided with the Cold War — 1947-91. By the time history crossed the last chapter of the book, estrangement had started to move on to engagement. And like in all engagements, there are moments of euphoria, of great expectations often far above what is possible or probable, and worries about actions that look different from different perspectives half way across the world and from an asymmetrical power equation.

International Herald Tribune, 11 October 2004

Fearing China, Japan looks to its defenses (Philip Bowring)

The news that Japan is thinking about developing pre-emptive strike capability was an eerie early warning of possible things to come in Northeast Asia. But like South Korea's nuclear experiments, it should come as little surprise. Foreign critics, headed by China, will doubtless argue that herein lie the seeds of a new Japanese militarism. Others will remind the Japanese that Pearl Harbor, though ultimately a failure, was the model of a pre-emptive strike. But no amount of foreign criticism - least of all from China - is likely to halt the gradual shift in Japan's defense policy posture, and in the attitudes of the Japanese people

toward military preparedness. The recommendations of a security policy advisory panel set up by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi not only appear to mirror the prime minister's own views but are designed to break taboos and prepare Japanese and foreigners alike for a new era.

People's Daily, 11 October 2004

Japan to develop missile defense system with U.S.

Japan has decided to develop the components for interception missiles with the United States, moving forward the ongoing joint technological research on a missile defense system to a development stage amid U.S. pressure to advance the project, government sources said Sunday. Given that it requires exports of parts to the United States, the government will also have to pursue a politically sensitive review of the three-principle ban on exports of weapons, the sources said. The government will make its final decision at Cabinet and Security Council meetings within the current fiscal year after making final internal arrangements. Attention will shift to how the administration of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will justify the need to jointly develop the missile shield at the cost of watering down the export ban after wasting a huge budget on the prolonged research, including some failures, and deciding recently to spend an estimated 1 trillion yen to purchase a U.S.-made defense system.

Dawn, 11 October 2004

Russia to oppose taking Iran's N-issue to UN

Tehran, Oct 10: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said here on Sunday that Moscow was opposed to seeing Iran referred to the United Nations Security Council over its nuclear programme. "To start thinking of any scenario which is not constructive to our point of view is premature and could be counter-productive," Lavrov said at a joint news conference with his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharazi. He was responding to a question over whether Russia would use its veto power at the Security Council if Iran was referred to the body by the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Dawn, 11 October 2004

Sabotage an option against Iran's atomic plans: experts (Dan Williams)

Tel Aviv: Somewhere between sanctions and air strikes lurks a third option for those who seek to stop Iran's atomic programme in its tracks: sabotage. Politically deniable - unlike failed diplomacy - and much subtler than region-rattling military offensives, covert action of the kind used elsewhere by Israel and the United States could already be under way against the Islamic republic, experts say. "Iran has been trying to go nuclear since the 1970s and has not yet managed," said Gad Shimron, a veteran of Israel's Mossad spy service who now writes on defence issues. "Who's to say there has not been sabotage already, now proving its worth?" Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper in August quoted Bush administration officials as saying sabotage tactics were being considered for Tehran. The Jewish state has said "all options" are kosher for preventing its arch-foe getting the bomb.

The News, 12 October 2004

Pakistan successfully test fires Ghauri Hatif- V missile (Mazhar Tufail)

Islamabad: Pakistan successfully test fires medium range Ghauri Missile, Hatif V on Tuesday morning. Gauhri Missile with range of 1500 km can carry nuclear war heads.

Daily Times, 12 October 2004

'India, Pakistan, must work on N-restraint'

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Monday underlined the need for Pakistan and India to continue to develop confidence-building measures and work towards mutual nuclear restraint and a conventional arms balance. Speaking at a banquet in honour of Mauritian Prime Minister Paul Berenger and his delegation, Mr Aziz said Pakistan was committed to the sustainability and success of the ongoing Indian and Pakistan talks. "Meaningful progress towards the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiris, is essential to the sustainability and success of the talks," he said. The prime minister said the dividends of peace between India and Pakistan would be enormous and would open vast opportunities for progress and prosperity for the people of India and Pakistan. Mr Aziz said the world had made a great investment in peace, stability and reconstruction of Afghanistan. "Pakistan is committed to assisting Afghanistan in these spheres," he said. He said Pakistan was a frontline state in the fight against terrorism, even before the tragic events of 9/11.

Dawn, 12 October 2004

N-arms: 'Pakistan has 50-90, India 55-115' (Anwar Iqbal)

Washington, Oct 11: Pakistan possesses 50-90 nuclear weapons compared to India's 55-115, says a survey released in Washington on Monday. The survey by a Washington-based nuclear watchdog, the Institute for Science and International Security, also claims that Pakistan has 1,000-1,250 kilograms of highly enriched uranium or uranium 235 enriched to 20 per cent or more. India also is believed to possess this material, used for making weapon-grade nuclear fuel, but the survey does not reveal how much. India, however, has 300-470 kilograms of plutonium compared to 20-60kg of Pakistan. Pakistan mainly relies on uranium for making nuclear fuel while India relies on plutonium. The institute that conducted this survey is the same that published a report in 2003 that Dr A.Q. Khan was selling nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. Published a year before Dr Khan's confession, the report caused a sensation in the United States but was rejected by Pakistan as speculative. The new survey reports that military nuclear stocks in India, Pakistan, and Israel are continuing to grow and urges the international community to slap a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons to prevent further proliferation.

Dawn, 12 October 2004

South Asian journalists call for declaring Kashmir nuclear-free zone (Raja Asghar)

New Delhi, Oct 11: A conference of South Asian journalists urged India and Pakistan on Monday to address interests and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, consult their representatives and declare the disputed Himalayan region a nuclear-free zone. A declaration issued after a two-day regional conference on 'Inter-state conflicts in South' held in New Delhi on Oct 9-10 by the South Asian Free Media Association (Safma), a non-governmental organisation, also called for flexibility and innovation in approaching outstanding issues, especially Kashmir. It said South Asia had lagged behind the rest of the world in resolving regional disputes which threatened its peace and economic integration as envisaged by the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

Daily Times, 12 October 2004

'Nuclear CBMs necessary for peace'

Islamabad: Experts from across the world on Monday called upon Pakistan and India to continue working on nuclear confidence building measures (CBM) and give maximum thrust to this issue. Speaking at a two-day seminar organised by FRIENDS in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (of Germany), these experts emphasised the need for progress on nuclear CBMs because of the changed realities in South Asia after the May 1998 nuclear detonations by both countries. They also urged both sides to remain engaged despite limited progress on a particular issue. They said both sides should assess how to encourage success in other areas. Former Indian Foreign Secretary, Salman Haider, while speaking on Indo-Pak Peace Process-Future Prospects, said that nuclear CBMs should have thrust in the Pak-India composite dialogue process. "If the process of the on-going composite dialogue fails on other issues, the process on nuclear CBMs should remain persistent," he said. Mr Haider is the co-author of the Pak-India Joint Statement issued in June 1997 on an eight-point agenda of items for dialogue between the two countries.

Daily Times, 12 October 2004

US asked to demand Pakistan's nuclear accounting (Khalid Hasan)

Washington: "If the United States is serious about keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the world's most dangerous terrorists, it must demand a full accounting of Pakistan's nuclear proliferation activities," says a report in the Chicago-Sun Times on Monday. The newspaper says the shifting of the entire blame on Dr AQ Khan "strains credulity, given Musharraf's tight control over the Pakistani military." It points out that given the fact that al-Qaida has sympathisers in Pakistan's military, intelligence, nuclear and political establishments, the Bush administration should have demanded that Pakistan unravel the full details of its proliferation network. Instead, it supported Gen Musharraf's assertion that the proliferation network was Pakistan's "internal matter." Because of the lack of US pressure, Gen. Musharraf has refused to cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency investigations into the network.

Daily Times, 12 October 2004

U.S. in Talks with Europeans on a Nuclear Deal With Iran (Steven R. Weisman)

Washington, Oct. 11: The Bush administration is holding talks with its European allies on a possible package of economic incentives for Iran, including access to imported nuclear fuel, in return for suspension of uranium enrichment activities that are suspected to be part of a nuclear arms program, European and American diplomats said Monday. The diplomats said that while the administration had not endorsed any incentives for Iran, it was not discouraging Britain, France and Germany from assembling a package that the administration would consider after the American presidential election on Nov. 2, for likely presentation to Tehran later in the month. Any support of a package of incentives, even if it is to be offered only by the Europeans, would indicate a significant shift in the Bush administration policy of demanding penalties, but not offering inducements, to get Iran to halt activities that are suspected to be for a nuclear arms program.

The Associated Press, 12 October 2004

Plan to Explode Nuclear Facility Is Dropped

Boulder, Oct. 11: Officials have abandoned a plan to blow up a plutonium processing building at the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, saying it cannot be scoured clean enough to make detonation safe. The building will have to be demolished manually, said the Kaiser-Hill Company, which is in charge of a \$7 billion project to clean up the plant. Rocky Flats made plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons from the 1950's to 1989, when it was shut down because of safety problems and the end of the cold war. The site is eventually to become a wildlife refuge. Kaiser-Hill had state and federal approval to detonate the building and use the rubble to fill in its 65-foot-deep basement, but only if the above-ground portion could be cleaned to "free-release" level: clean enough to be used in someone's backyard. A Kaiser-Hill spokesman, John Corsi, said a vault where plutonium was processed and later stored could not be brought to that standard.

Nuclear Guide, 12 October 2004

N. Korea Believed to Have Two to Nine Nuclear Weapons: Report

Seoul, Oct. 12: North Korea is thought to possess up to nine nuclear weapons and enough plutonium to make several more, a U.S. nongovernmental group claimed Tuesday. Classifying the North as a "de facto nuclear weapon state," the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) said in a report that the communist state is estimated to have two to nine nuclear weapons and 15 to 38 kilograms of plutonium.

Nuclear Guide, 12 October 2004

North Korea Claims Legitimacy of Missile Development

Seoul, Oct. 12: North Korea vowed Tuesday to continue to develop and make missiles, saying that the program is for self-defense against increasing U.S. military threats. The North's communist regime, through its media outlets, said it is being forced to strengthen its missile and other counter-measures against a possible U.S. preemptive military attack.

Daily Times, 13 October 2004

United States and Europe consider incentives for Iran

New York: The Bush administration is holding talks with European allies on a possible package of economic incentives for Iran as part of efforts to persuade Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment, the New York Times reported on Tuesday. Citing unnamed US and European diplomats, the Times reported that offers to Iran could include access to imported nuclear fuel. Last year, Britain, France and Germany reached an agreement with Tehran under which the Islamic republic promised to suspend nuclear fuel enrichment, a process that can be used to make fuel for power reactors or for bombs. While it has yet to enrich any uranium, Iran never entirely froze the programme and recently resumed key parts of it. Diplomats told the Times that while the Bush administration had not endorsed any incentives for Iran, it was not discouraging the three European powers from assembling a package that the administration would consider after the US presidential election on Nov 2, for likely presentation to Tehran later in the month.

Daily Times, 13 October 2004

N Korea making a mistake in refusing to talk: Armitage

Tokyo: North Korea is making a mistake by refusing to resume six-way talks on its nuclear arms programmes before the US presidential election next month, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said on Tuesday. China has hosted three rounds of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear programmes. At the last round in June, China, the United States, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas agreed to meet in September, but the meeting never took place. "Unfortunately, I don't have a good crystal ball regarding North Korea. But it appears that since we've only got 22 days I think until our election, that the North Koreans don't have much interest in holding talks before then," Armitage told reporters. "I think this is a miscalculation on their part," said Armitage, in Tokyo on a two-day visit to meet Japanese officials and attend an international donors' conference on Iraq. Armitage earlier met officials such as Vice Foreign Minister Yukio Takeuchi, and the two sides agreed to continue to urge North Korea to take part in six-way talks without preconditions, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Dawn, 13 October 2004

Govt not involved with Khan network: report (Anwar Iqbal)

Washington, Oct 12: A prestigious American nuclear watchdog has concluded that the government of Pakistan was not involved with the network of nuclear proliferators who supplied nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. In a recent report - "Uncovering the Nuclear Black Market" - the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security observes: "The Pakistani government was not directing this network. It was essentially a criminal operation." But the report also says the fact that a group of individuals were able to run such a network for so long without being noticed by the international community was "more disturbing and dangerous" than if it had been a secret government-controlled effort. The report, however, warns that investigators have not yet been able to determine the exact involvement of Pakistani government officials in the network and the extent of their awareness of the activities of Dr A. Q. Khan and his associates. The report says that although the group involved in selling nuclear technology is commonly called the Khan network, it's relatively non-hierarchical.

Dawn, 13 October 2004

Iran seeks more talks with EU, but firm on enrichment

Tehran, Oct 12: Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi called Tuesday on the EU to help find a solution to the stand-off between Tehran and the UN's nuclear watchdog, but repeated a refusal to give up sensitive fuel cycle work. His comments followed a report that Washington was holding talks with its European allies on a possible deal to grant Tehran access to imported nuclear fuel and other incentives in return for a suspension of uranium enrichment activities. "It is time that they took a step and presented proposals that respect our legitimate right to use civilian nuclear technology and that provide the necessary assurances that that we will not seek to build an atomic bomb," Kharazi said, quoted by the student news agency ISNA. But he cautioned that it was "wrong to think that (the Europeans) can, through negotiations, oblige Iran to give up its right to uranium enrichment". The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), based in Vienna, has told Iran to suspend its fuel cycle work related to uranium enrichment pending the completion of a probe of the Islamic republic's nuclear activities.

Khaleej Times, 13 October 2004

'US considering rewards for Iran, if it gives up uranium enrichment'

Austria: Broadening its strategy beyond threatening Iran, the United States is now exploring European plans to reward Teheran if it abandons technology that can make nuclear arms, diplomats said. The diplomats, who spoke to The Associated Press from Vienna and another European capital, said Tuesday that senior European negotiators directly answerable to their foreign ministers planned to go to Washington this week for discussions on a common Iran strategy with top US State Department officials. "Discussions are ongoing between the Americans and the Europeans on how to address the nuclear question in Iran," said one of the diplomats. The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, emphasized that the talks were still at an initial stage. They also said the United States was holding on to its option of pushing for US Security Council action against Iran if it is found in defiance of international demands to stop all activities related to uranium enrichment.

Khaleej Times, 13 October 2004

Engaging Iran

Iran is in focus yet again. A high profile team from the International Atomic Energy Agency landed in Teheran yesterday as part of the UN watchdog's new initiative to resolve the row involving Iran's nuclear ambitions. The visit is a sign that things have not thankfully reached a no-return point in the international community's dealing with Iran's nuclear programme. This is an opportunity for the Islamic republic to come clean on its nuclear programme ahead of the crucial November meeting of the IAEA. That fresh efforts are being initiated to break the nuclear deadlock became apparent when The New York Times reported that the US is in talks with its European allies on a possible deal with Iran that would give Teheran access to imported nuclear fuel in return for suspension of uranium enrichment. The Times report appears credible as Europe's Big Three — Germany, France and Britain — had earlier this year offered to help Iran by providing fuel for its power stations provided the country stopped the uranium enrichment process.

The Indian Express, 13 October 2004

A Q Khan 'aide' held in Germany (Craig Whitlock and Shannon Smiley)

Berlin, Oct. 12: German prosecutors have arrested an engineer on suspicion that he helped Libya in its efforts to build a nuclear weapons program. Eight months ago Urs Tinner, 39, was named by authorities in Malaysia as a key figure in Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan's network that spread nuclear secrets around the world. The man was arrested last week in the central German state of Hesse, according to the German federal prosecutor's office. Officials said Tinner was the member of a Swiss engineering family that has drawn scrutiny from European authorities and nonproliferation experts for more than two decades. In February, Malaysian officials identified Tinner as a middleman in Khan's network that supplied Libya with gas centrifuge parts that could be used in the enrichment of uranium. German prosecutors said in a statement that they were preparing to charge Tinner, a Swiss citizen, with conspiracy to commit treason.

The New York Times, 14 October 2004

Taiwan May Have Experimented With Atomic Bomb Ingredient (Craig S. Smith)

Paris, Oct. 13: Taiwan may have carried out plutonium separation experiments in the mid-1980's, taking its nuclear program a step further than previously disclosed, The Associated Press reported Wednesday from Vienna. That program has since been abandoned, but the news agency said the International Atomic Energy Agency had found evidence that experiments were carried out during the island's brief revival of a nuclear weapons program in the 1980's under President Chiang Ching-kuo. The atomic energy agency declined to comment about the report, which The A.P. based on the comments of unidentified diplomats. Nuclear experts have long suspected that Taiwan carried out such experiments, in which small amounts of plutonium are separated from spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors. Plutonium can be used to make atomic bombs, like the one dropped on Nagasaki in World War II. The disclosure comes at a time when several countries are under international scrutiny for undisclosed nuclear activity.

Daily Times, 14 October 2004

US not seeking sanctions on Iran, says Armitage

Tokyo: Iran should be "brought to account" on its nuclear programme, but Washington is open to ideas other than taking it to the UN Security Council for sanctions, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said on Wednesday. Diplomats have said that the European Union had agreed on Monday to prepare a package of "carrots and sticks" to get Iran to comply with demands by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to suspend its uranium enrichment activities — a process that can be used to make material for atomic bombs. Washington is working with the EU on the plan in a final effort to get Iran to cooperate with the IAEA, but has been said unlikely to offer new incentives of its own. "The Iranians ... have made a decision apparently to hide, to continue to hide their programme and indeed, in addition to that, they have made some very scurrilous statements publicly," Armitage told a news conference in Tokyo. "We hold the view that Iran needs to be brought to account and we would like to move to the UN Security Council after the November (IAEA) board of governors' meeting," Armitage said.

Dawn, 14 October 2004

'Khan network supplied N-parts made in Europe, Southeast Asia' (Anwar Iqbal)

Washington, Oct 13: A large number of sensitive nuclear components sold to Iran and Libya for building uranium enrichment plants were made at workshops in Europe and Southeast Asia, says a Washington-based nuclear monitoring agency. In a recent report on the nuclear black market, the Institute for Science and International Security confirms Pakistan's claim that the network might have been headed by a Pakistani, Dr A.Q. Khan, but it was a gang of international proliferators and smugglers that had bases and workshops at many places across the globe. The ISIS report says that the centrifuges the network sold to Iran and Libya are formally called Pakistan 1 and Pakistan 2 but are better known by their acronyms, P1 and P2. They are used for uranium enrichment and were deployed in large numbers by Pakistan's gas centrifuge programme. The P1 centrifuge uses an aluminium rotor, and the P2 centrifuge uses a steel rotor. The components for roughly 500 P1 centrifuges that went to Iran in the mid-90s were from centrifuges that Pakistan had retired from its main centrifuge programme. Members of the network were able to remove them in secret and sell them to Iran.

The Hindu, 14 October 2004

Russia building nuclear submarines for India (Vladimir Radyuhin)

Moscow, Oct. 13: Russia is building two nuclear submarines for the Indian Navy, a leading business daily here reported. The construction of two unfinished nuclear submarines of Project 971 resumed this month at the Amur Shipyards in Komsomolsk-on-the-Amur, the Kommersant newspaper said. The building of the submarines was suspended several years ago due to lack

of funds. Under an agreement with Russia, India will lease the two submarines and will provide money to enable the Amur Shipyards to complete their construction. According to the report, India has already made an advance payment of \$100 million on the contract worth \$1.6 billion to \$1.7 billion. Even though there are no international restrictions on the sale of nuclear submarines to India, the Defence Ministers emphatically denied they had as much as discussed the deal during their meeting in Delhi in January.

The Indian Express, 14 October 2004

This may not be about nukes at all (R. P. Subramanian)

As suggested by your editorial 'We need the truth' (IE, October 4), US sanctions against two retired Indian N-scientists appear to be based less on facts, and more on the same old cussed doctrine of "parity with Pakistan". Yet the Bush administration may have its reasons for picking on Indian N-scientists now even as it fights two losing battles, one in Iraq and the other one at home. During his recent TV debate with Democrat contender John Kerry, Bush was hard put to explain why he was focusing so hard on Iran's alleged N-programme, when his administration had done nothing about Pakistan's A.Q. Khan and his known proliferation of N-weapons technology to Iran. Bush refuted the charge, saying: "We have brought A.Q. Khan to justice!" This extraordinary statement was no maladroitness Bush-ism. The Daily Show promptly seized upon it and pointed out that far from being brought to justice, not only is A.Q. Khan a free man in Pakistan today, but President Musharraf has actually "pardoned" Khan for his activities which included sending plans as well as military payloads of hi-tech equipment to Iran for uranium enrichment facilities.

Asahi Shimbun, 14 October 2004

Malaysia tie in nuke probe

Seemingly innocuous but high-tech precision instruments that found their way to a nuclear facility in Libya were rerouted after being shipped directly from a manufacturer in Japan to a company in Malaysia, sources said. The devices included precision instruments for three-dimensional measurements, which can be used to develop nuclear weapons. The instruments were discovered during inspections from late last year to earlier this year by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Inspectors also found other measuring instruments produced by the manufacturer, based in Kanagawa Prefecture. According to the sources, three types of measuring instruments were shipped between December 2001 and August 2002 to a factory in Malaysia operated by Scomi Precision Engineering, known as SCOPE. SCOPE, according to other sources, is known to have links to the underground trade in nuclear materials, an area in which renegade Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan played a crucial role. Police are trying to determine the connection between SCOPE and the manufacturer in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Southasianmedia.net, 14 October 2004

US, G8 to talk Iran penalties Friday

Washington: The Bush administration will take up strategy for U.N. sanctions against Iran at a meeting Friday of senior officials from eight nations. All G-8 countries, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada and Russia, will have senior officials at the State Department session, Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday. They will consider a proposed package of incentives designed by Britain, France and Germany, to induce Iran to halt enrichment of uranium, a key ingredient in a nuclear weapons program. "We're going to hear from the Europeans on the work they've been doing on how to get the Iranians to comply," Boucher said. But, he said, "we are going to discuss with them further what to do in the Security Council if there's agreement in November to refer it there." Short of votes, the administration has been stymied in trying to punish Iran in the council. The strategy now is to move against Iran if it does not stop its program before the International Atomic Energy Agency meets in Vienna, Austria, in late November.

Daily Times, 15 October 2004

PNRA awards first licence to Chashma plant

Islamabad: Pakistan awarded its first operating licence to Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) for the Chinese built Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (CHASNUPP) unit-1. The first Chashma Nuclear Plant fuel load took place in Nov 1999, after which limited operations began. Regulatory requirements and testing took a whole year before the plant reached full power in August 2000. However, the award of the regulatory license was merely a formality to initiate regulation of nuclear plants in the country.

Daily Times, 15 October 2004

'Accidental Indo-Pak nuclear war possible' (Khalid Hasan)

Washington: The possibility of an "accidental" nuclear war between India and Pakistan cannot be ruled out, according to a new study. The study was carried out by Maj Gen Mahmud Ali Durrani, a retired Pakistani army officer, on Pakistan's nuclear thinking and the role of nuclear weapons for a company working under contract with the US Department of Energy. It was presented by the author at a South Asia roundtable organised by the Brookings Institution this week. Gen Durrani argues that possessing nuclear weapons systems places serious demands on a nation and its government, the foremost being the need for internal political stability and strong institutions. He suggests that while efforts are needed to address important issues such as proliferation, safety, security and stability, avoidance of nuclear war by miscalculation needs immediate attention, adding that US support and advice in this context is essential. His study is based on extensive interviews with US and Pakistani officials and scholars, former civil and military officers and those now responsible for the security and safety of the programme.

Daily Times, 15 October 2004

'US govt to prioritise reducing nuclear risk in South Asia' (Shaukat Piracha)

Islamabad: Dr Gary Samore, director of studies for the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, observed on Thursday that the next US government would focus on reducing the risk of nuclear use in South Asia by encouraging the Pakistan-India peace process and with various confidence building measures. He was speaking at an international seminar titled Emerging Security Challenges and Opportunities jointly organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad. "There will be very little significant difference between the governments of George Bush and John Kerry on the non-proliferation issues. No US administration is likely to expend serious resources in efforts to persuade India and Pakistan to abandon or even significantly limit nuclear and missile programmes," he said. Seminar speakers discussed various emerging challenges, including nuclear proliferation, conventional threats and threats posed by terrorism. They also highlighted Pakistan-India security issues during their discourse on security challenges.

Daily times, 15 October 2004

Iran threatens to bar IAEA inspectors

Moscow: A top Iranian lawmaker said here Thursday that Iran would bar international nuclear inspections in its country if debate on its nuclear program is taken up in the UN Security Council. If the issue goes to the Security Council "there will be no place for any kind of inspections, no continuation of our openness" with IAEA inspectors, Aladdin Broujerdi, chairman of the Iranian parliament's committee on national security and foreign affairs said at a news conference. The United States has pushed for examination of Iran's nuclear program to be taken up in the Security Council, while Russia reiterated Wednesday that it opposed such a move. Broujerdi met with a host of top officials in Moscow ahead of a visit by Alexander Rumyantsev, head of Russia's atomic energy agency, to the Bushehr nuclear power station in Iran that Russia is building and that Iran wants to have online by next year.

The News, 15 October 2004

US unlikely to accept India, Pakistan as nuclear powers: expert

Islamabad: It is unlikely that the next US administration would make efforts to amend the US law or change the international regime to accommodate India and Pakistan as formal nuclear weapon states. Dr Gary Samore, director studies at the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London, stated this while speaking at a seminar on 'Emerging Security Challenges and Opportunities' jointly organised by the Institute of Regional Studies and IISS here on Thursday. He said that India and Pakistan were "likely to remain in limbo between de facto and de jure nuclear powers for the time being." Dr Samore said the US would instead focus on reducing the risk of nuclear war in South Asia by encouraging the Indo-Pak peace process and agreement on various CBMs and working with the both to implement strong export controls and security over nuclear weapons and materials.

The News, 15 October 2004

Firing of Hatf-V

Pakistan on Tuesday successfully test fired the indigenously produced intermediate-range ballistic missile Hatf-V (Ghauri). Having a range of 1500 km, the missile is capable of carrying nuclear warheads. President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz have congratulated the scientists on the success of the test. Pakistan had informed the neighbouring countries of the experiment. Be it atomic weapons race or test firing of missiles in the subcontinent, Pakistan has never taken the lead in these. It is only with the carrying out of nuclear tests and firing of missiles by India that Pakistan as per the demands of its national security and defence made successful strides in these fields. In the field of acquisition of nuclear technology and production of missiles, Pakistan is not financially or technically dependent on any other country. All of these achievements have been made due to the technical expertise of its scientists and financial resources of its own.

Dawn, 15 October 2004

Vienna capable of detecting N-tests anywhere in the world (Julia Damianova)

Vienna: Whether big or small, high in the sky or deep in the ground, if you test a nuclear bomb, someone in the Austrian capital will find out. Austria is one of Europe's most anti-nuclear countries. So it makes sense that two organizations charged with keeping the world free of atomic weapons are based here - the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). Both have their headquarters in the fortress-like Vienna International Centre that overlooks the peaceful Danube river. "We would be able to detect (any nuclear test) with possibly a 98 per cent guarantee," CTBTO spokeswoman Daniela Rozgonova told journalists during an agency field exercise in Slovakia. The test-ban treaty was opened for signing in 1996. Since then, the CTBTO has been working furiously to cover the planet with monitoring stations so that by the time the treaty comes into force, the entire world will be under its gaze.

The Associated Press, 15 October 2004

Construction Work at Nuke Reactor Finished

Moscow: Russia has finished construction work at the Bushehr nuclear reactor in Iran and hopes to sign agreements on shipping nuclear fuel in November, officials said Friday. "All the external work has been finished and the main equipment shipped," Vitaly Nasonov, spokesman for Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press. Nasonov said Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev is scheduled to travel to Iran next month to sign agreements on shipping nuclear fuel to Iran and returning the spent fuel back to Russia. The agreements have been delayed repeatedly. The United States fears that that \$800 million Bushehr deal could help Tehran build nuclear weapons. Russia says that having Iran ship spent nuclear fuel back to Russia will make any such projects impossible. Nasonov said that if all goes as planned, the reactor should be launched in 2005 and connected to the country's energy system in 2006.

Daily Times, 15 October 2004

'Next US govt to focus nukes in South Asia'

Islamabad: Dr Gary Samore, director of studies for the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, observed on Thursday that the next US government would focus on reducing the risk of nuclear use in South Asia by encouraging the Pakistan-India peace process and with various confidence building measures. He was speaking at an international seminar titled Emerging Security Challenges and Opportunities jointly organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad. "There will be very little significant difference between the governments of George Bush and John Kerry on the non-proliferation issues. No US administration is likely to expend serious resources in efforts to persuade India and Pakistan to abandon or even significantly limit nuclear and missile programmes," he said. Seminar speakers discussed various emerging challenges, including nuclear proliferation, conventional threats and threats posed by terrorism. They also highlighted Pakistan-India security issues during their discourse on security challenges.

Daily Times, 16 October 2004

EU to present Iran N-incentives next week: US

Washington: Britain, France and Germany have told the United States they will present to Iran next week a package of incentives aimed at convincing Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment activities that could be used to make nuclear weapons, the State Department said on Friday. "The EU Three have indicated they will be presenting their ideas to Iran next week," said Tom Casey, a department spokesman, after a three-hour meeting on the topic between senior diplomats from the United States and the other members of the Group of Eight industrialized nations. "The United States listened carefully to the EU Three explanations of their approach and the EU Three agreed to inform us of the results of their efforts," Casey said, adding however that Washington did not necessarily endorse the European proposals. Diplomatic sources say the European package would give Iran access to imported nuclear fuel in return for a total suspension of its own work on the nuclear fuel cycle.

Daily Times, 16 October 2004

US and G-8 meet to discuss Iran nukes

Washington: The US administration sought to lower any expectations of a breakthrough as the G-8 nations met Friday to consider ways to induce Iran to halt a suspect nuclear weapons programme. At the center of the discussions was a European proposal to dangle offers of trade and fuel supplies to Tehran to stop enriching uranium, a key step toward producing nuclear weapons. The package of incentives was designed by Britain, France and Germany, who have taken the lead in talking to Iran about its nuclear intentions. But the administration stressed, instead, the shared goal of stopping the program and taking the issue to the UN Security Council for possible economic penalties if Iran did not comply before the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency meets in Vienna, Austria, in late November. A senior US official said it was not a "decision meeting" but rather a chance to share ideas on Iran. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave no indication a breakthrough was imminent at the State Department session or that the talks would go on more than the three hours scheduled.

Dawn, 16 October 2004

Iran's nuclear dilemma (Afzaal Mahmood)

Two senior Indian scientists have been accused by the United States of helping Iran in its nuclear programme. The names of Y.S.R. Prasad and C. Surender, former heads of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, appeared last week on a list that included companies from Spain, Ukraine, Russia, China and North Korea, and who stand accused of assisting Iran in building either missiles or weapons of mass destruction. The irony is that the accusation about the Indian scientists' involvement in Iran's "illegal weapons programme" came soon after Washington had lifted restrictions on cooperation with New Delhi in space technology and civilian nuclear power. Of course, both Indian scientists deny any wrongdoing. Mr Surender says he never visited Iran. Mr Prasad admits having helped Iran, after his retirement in 2000, with safety advice at the Bushehr nuclear power plant being built with Russian help.

The News, 16 October 2004

Russia completes work on Bushehr N-reactor

Moscow: Russia has completed construction work at the Bushehr nuclear reactor in Iran and hopes to sign agreements on shipping nuclear fuel in November, officials said on Friday. "All the external (construction) work has been finished and the main equipment shipped," Vitaly Nasonov, spokesman for Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press. Nasonov said Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev is scheduled to travel to Iran next month to sign agreements on shipping nuclear fuel to Iran and returning the spent fuel back to Russia. The agreements have been delayed repeatedly. The United States fears that the \$800 million Bushehr deal could help Tehran build nuclear weapons. Russia says that having Iran ship spent nuclear fuel back to Russia will make any such projects impossible. Nasonov said that if all goes as planned, the reactor should be launched in 2005 and connected to the country's energy system in 2006. The ITAR-Tass news agency said that the reactor's control and security equipment still had to be mounted. Most is being provided by Russian enterprises but Iran will buy some from other countries, the news agency said.

Khaleej Times, 16 October 2004

Iran might drop nuclear plan if guaranteed no regime change

Vienna: Iran might be willing to give up its uranium enrichment capabilities but it wants many things in return - above all a guarantee that no one will try to topple the Islamic regime, diplomats and analysts say. The US and European allies held inconclusive strategy talks in Washington yesterday on how to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons. The three-hour

session at the State Department ended without a communiqué and without plans for a follow-up meeting. A European diplomat who participated called the talks useful but said no decision was made on a proposed European package of incentives for Iran to stop its suspect programme. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Watch said Iran's arrest of an Internet writer is part of a larger crackdown on Press freedoms in the Islamic state.

People's Daily, 17 October 2004

G8: "carrots and sticks" for Iran's nuke issue

The Group Eight diplomats have agreed on a proposal by France, Germany and Britain to present a package of "carrots and sticks" at pressing Iran to halt uranium enrichment. The G8's Friday meeting in Washington agreed the EU trio to hold talks with Iran next week and demanded an immediately stop of Iran's fuel cycle otherwise it would receive new UN sanction, China Radio International reported Sunday. The proposal from France, Germany and Britain also requires Iran to accept nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. It also urges Iran to participate in negotiations on security and economy to help normalize its relationship with the international community. Meanwhile, a senior Iran official has told the state television on Saturday that Iran will reject any proposal to halt uranium enrichment and reserve its legitimate right to a fuel cycle.

Daily Times, 17 October 2004

Powell to visit Japan, China, S Korea to discuss Korean issue

Washington: US Secretary of State Colin Powell will visit Japan, China and South Korea beginning next week for talks on the stalled effort to end the impasse over North Korea's nuclear program, Iraq, terrorism and other matters, the State Department said Saturday. Powell will "hold discussions with senior officials in the three countries on bilateral matters, regional security and stability, and issues such as the global war on terrorism, Iraq, North Korea and the six-party talks," it said. Powell is to leave Washington for the three-nation tour on Friday, a week after senior US and Chinese diplomats failed here to make headway to get those talks on the nuclear crisis back on track, the department said in a statement.

Daily Times, 17 October 2004

Iran rejects any deal to end enrichment

Tehran: Iran said on Saturday it would reject any proposal to halt uranium enrichment, a step European Union diplomats are proposing to end a row over whether Iran is seeking atomic weapons. EU diplomats have said they are seeking US and Russian support for a deal that would ask Iran to give up uranium enrichment in return for technical and economic assistance. "Any proposal which deprives Iran of its legitimate right to a fuel cycle is not acceptable," Hossein Mousavian, Iran's head of foreign policy on the Supreme National Security Council, told state television. However, he said he was not responding to a specific offer. "We have not yet received the text of the proposal and have to see what it contains to assess it," he said.

Associated Press, 17 October 2004

IAEA Inspectors Expected in Brazil

Brazil: Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency were expected in Brazil this week to view parts of its equipment to enrich uranium, the country's leading weekly newsmagazine reported Sunday, citing government officials. The announcement of the visit comes after diplomats said Brazil tentatively agreed to the inspection on Oct. 6 in a deal aimed at ending months of squabbling over technology that can be used in a nuclear weapons program. Brazil had earlier refused to give IAEA inspectors full visual access to its centrifuges at its plant in Resende, about 60 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro, asserting that the advanced technology could be stolen by other countries if outsiders get a glimpse of it. The magazine Veja, citing two unidentified Brazilian government officials, reaffirmed that Brazil had approved the inspection and said the inspectors were scheduled to visit the plant on Tuesday.

Associated Press, 17 October 2004

Powell Likely to Emphasize Nuke Issue

Washington: Secretary of State Colin Powell will visit Japan, China and South Korea next weekend, the State Department said Saturday, in what probably is an effort to restart six-nation talks about North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The department said Powell would leave Friday and his discussions would deal with bilateral matters, regional security, stability and issues such as the global war on terrorism, Iraq, North Korea and the six-party talks." In Tokyo, the Japanese Kyodo news agency said Powell would be in Japan for two days, starting Saturday, and would discuss with Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura not only North Korea but also the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. The agency quoted Japanese government sources. Powell's trip will take him to Beijing only days after a visit there by North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Yong Nam, head of the Presidium of North Korea's parliament. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue, in announcing Kim's visit, would not discuss what he will talk about.

Reuters, 17 October 2004

Report: Blair Agrees to Put U.S. Missiles in Britain

London: Prime Minister Tony Blair has secretly agreed to allow Washington to station U.S. missiles on British soil as part of President Bush's missile defense program, the Independent Sunday newspaper reported. The paper said Blair's Downing Street office had given an "agreement in principle" to the Defense Department that the weapons -- so-called interceptor missiles -- could be sited at a Royal Air Force base in Fylingdales in northern Britain. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense denied the reports, saying no approach had been made by the U.S. government over the deployment of interceptors in Britain, and there was no deal. "No agreement has been reached," he said. Although the British government has said it will allow Washington to use early warning radar at the Fylingdales base for the missile defense program, it has said nothing publicly

about whether missiles would be sited there.

Daily Times, 18 October 2004

'Korean nukes made with Pakistani help'

Tokyo: North Korea has already completed the development of plutonium-based nuclear weapons with the help of Pakistan, a senior Japanese official is reported to have said in comments published on Sunday. The remarks by Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda are the first time a Japanese official has confirmed North Korea's claim to have manufactured nuclear weapons, the Sankei Shimbun said. "North Korea is near finalising development of nuclear weapons," Hosoda told a ruling party meeting in the western town of Shimane on Saturday, the Sankei said. Pyongyang has not finished developing uranium-based nuclear weapons, but has completed the development of a plutonium bomb similar to the one dropped by the United States on Nagasaki at the end of World War II, Hosoda said. "It is urgent to make North Korea abandon them," Hosoda said, without giving any evidence to back up his claims. Hosoda said North Korea and Pakistan had cooperated in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. "It is disgraceful," he said. Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan publicly confessed in February to leaking nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea. A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said last month the Stalinist state would never dismantle its nuclear weapons unless the United States drops its "hostile policy" towards the country.

Daily Times, 18 October 2004

We will continue testing ballistic missiles: Rashid

Rawalpindi: Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Sunday that Pakistan was not ignorant to its defence and would continue testing ballistic missiles every month, as the situation around the country was not stable. Addressing a public meeting, he said Pakistan would not allow anybody to inspect its nuclear sites and meet its nuclear scientists. He said Pakistan had played an effective role after September 11, 2001 and had averted a crisis due to President Pervez Musharraf's wise policies. Denying that Mulla Omar had been arrested, Sheikh Rashid said Pakistan had no information about his whereabouts, but had arrested senior terrorists involved in terrorism. He also rejected that Pakistan was acting against Islam or jihad. Sheikh Rashid said terrorist activities and bomb blasts gave bad name to Pakistan.

Daily Times, 18 October 2004

Moscow urges Iran to sign NPT protocol, halt enrichment

Moscow: Russia called on Iran on Sunday to ease world concerns about its nuclear ambitions by ratifying the additional protocol of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and halting all uranium enrichment, the Ria-Novosti news agency reported. "The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would like to seek more steps to strengthen trust in Iran's nuclear programme, and Iran must take such steps," Foreign Minister Serguei Lavrov was quoted as saying in the Tajik capital Dushanbe. Lavrov urged the Iranian parliament to ratify the additional protocol of the NPT, which Tehran signed in December 2003 and which steps up international controls on the nuclear activities of signatory states. He also called on Tehran to immediately freeze all uranium enrichment activities, another key demand of the international community, Ria-Novosti reported.

Daily Times, 18 October 2004

Iran sticks by its 'right' to possess nuclear fuel cycle

Tehran: Iran repeated on Sunday it had a "right" to master the sensitive nuclear fuel cycle, ahead of an expected proposal from Europe calling for Tehran to abandon such work in exchange for diplomatic and trade incentives. "So far we have not yet received the European proposals. But they will be acceptable if they respect our national interests and recognise our legitimate right to the civil nuclear technology, especially the nuclear fuel cycle," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters. "Our right is not negotiable, but we will obtain our right through negotiation and dialogue," he added, saying that "good discussions" has been held with the Europeans and would continue. Britain, France and Germany — which have been spearheading negotiations with Iran — are expected to offer Iran incentives in the coming days to persuade it to halt its controversial fuel cycle work surrounding the enrichment of uranium.

Daily Yomiuri, 18 October 2004

Govt says N. Korean missile threat abated

Defense Agency Director General Yoshinori Ono says the increased activity noted since last month around North Korean ballistic missile bases and facilities had basically ended, indicating that the threat of a missile launch had abated. According to the government's analysis of the situation, the movements observed around the bases were part of a comprehensive military exercise conducted by North Korea's armed forces. However, the missile scare has taught the government that it needs to develop its ability to detect signs of a missile launch and learn how to cooperate with other countries when it comes to gathering and sharing intelligence. In early September, intelligence headquarters at the Defense Agency got wind that something strange was happening on the Korean Peninsula. The alarm was raised when analysis of intelligence on North Korea, gathered through such means as military radio traffic intercepted by the agency's communications facility in Miho, Tottori Prefecture, and satellite photographs taken by a Japanese spy satellite and a commercial U.S. satellite indicated increased activity around the bases.

People's Daily, 19 October 2004

Chinese top legislator gives four-point proposal on Sino-DPRK relations

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo Monday put forward a four-point proposal to further the relationship between China and the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The proposal includes: mutual respect and equality based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, maintaining high-level contacts for timely exchange of views on major issues, promoting cooperation for the benefit of the two countries and peoples, and enhancing coordination in international and regional affairs to create a peaceful environmental. China is willing work with the DPRK to further the friendly relations, Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said during talks with Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, who arrived in Beijing Monday morning for an official goodwill visit to China.

Daily Times, 19 October 2004

Inspectors arrive in Brazil to examine nuclear plant

Rio de Janeiro: Three UN nuclear experts on Monday discussed terms with Brazilian officials for the inspection of a nuclear facility to which Brazil has refused access for fear of revealing trade secrets. The inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), already locked in a battle with Iran over its nuclear ambitions, arrived at the Rio de Janeiro office of the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) early on Monday. They are to visit the Resende nuclear plant in Rio state where Brazil wants to enrich uranium. Brazil, which has one of the world's largest uranium reserves, denied IAEA inspectors access to the facility in February and March.

The News, 19 October 2004

Nuclear weapons would leave Taiwan isolated: experts

Taipei: Any attempt by Taiwan to acquire nuclear weapons would leave it isolated in its standoff with China and spark a dangerous arms race, analysts said. Such a move would risk losing the support of the United States, which is treaty-bound to help Taiwan defend itself against any invasion by China, which views the island as a renegade province. "I really don't think Taiwan would benefit from operating nuclear bombs," said Homes Liao, a researcher of the Taiwan Research Institute private think-tank. "It would not help enhance Taiwan's military strategic profile in dealing with China." Liao's comments followed denials last week by Taiwan's government that it was trying to develop nuclear weapons. It also dismissed reports from Austria that the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had uncovered evidence that the former Kuomintang government carried out plutonium separation experiments in the 1980s.

Khaleej Times, 19 October 2004

Iran ready for talks with EU on N-issue

Teheran: Iran said yesterday it was willing to negotiate with European nations the length of its uranium enrichment suspension. However, it said that it will never renounce its right to carry out the process, which can be used to make atom bombs. "If they (the EU trio) want to negotiate about tactics such as how long Iran will suspend uranium enrichment for, then these are negotiable," Hassan Rohani, secretary-general of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state television. "But if the issue is to stop Iran from pursuing its right, our representatives are not even allowed to have talks about these issues with anyone," Rohani said.

The Indian Express, 19 October 2004

There's a new in our nuclear (C. Raja Mohan)

As a responsible nuclear power, India is ready to work with like-minded countries in strengthening the global non-proliferation system. That was the clear message from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his recent joint press conference with the visiting German chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder. Manmohan Singh's innovative approach, which opens up very interesting possibilities for our nuclear diplomacy, has been long overdue. For far too long India had marginalised itself in the global nuclear debate. The burden of its righteous but tiresome song was simple: it's opposed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 1970 (NPT), which decreed only five nations can legally possess nuclear weapons. India had little else to offer except a broad slogan on global nuclear disarmament. Demonstrating a new national confidence, the PM is now declaring that India is prepared to engage in developing a more credible non-proliferation system. It is no longer carping at the world nuclear order; it wants to help manage it.

The News, 20 October 2004

Iran insists on enriching uranium for fuel

Tehran: A top Iranian nuclear official reiterated on Tuesday his government's assertion that it wants to enrich uranium to provide fuel for its future nuclear power plants. "We are not saying we are refusing Westerners offers to provide us with nuclear fuel, but we want also to produce our own nuclear fuel... as well as buying what we lack from the West," Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation (IAEO) chief Gholamreza Aghazadeh said on state television. He also denounced the "politicising" of the Iranian nuclear case, declaring that Iran did not have "any non-peaceful nuclear activities." His comments came as the foreign ministers of Britain and Germany issued a joint warning to Iran to address international worries about its nuclear programme, serving notice that Tehran must take action immediately.

The Washington Post, 20 October 2004

Nuclear Nightmare (Robert Samuelson)

The world now has about 20,000 nuclear weapons; there were once 65,000. It must be counted as a major miracle of the modern age that in the 59 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki none of them has been used in anger. With hindsight, history may conclude that the major threat facing the United States -- and the world -- in 2004 was not the war in Iraq or the immediate danger of terrorism. It was the impending breakdown of the global system that for six decades kept nuclear holocaust at bay. Put differently: Despite this campaign's focus on Iraq and terrorism, the next president's major foreign policy

problem may involve what can be done about Iran and North Korea. North Korea already claims to have nuclear weapons; estimates are from six to eight, though the claims and estimates could be wrong. Iran denies pursuing nuclear weapons, but its denials are doubted by outside experts and undermined by Iran's incomplete compliance with nuclear inspections.

The New York Times, 20 October 2004

Brazil Agrees to Inspection of Nuclear Site (Larry Rohter)

Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 19: In a step toward resolving a longstanding impasse with the United Nations nuclear monitoring agency, the Brazilian government has agreed to grant inspectors access to a plant Brazil has built to produce nuclear fuel for both domestic use and eventual sale abroad. Whether the limited access allowed to the three inspectors, who arrived here this week, will be enough to satisfy the agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is not yet clear. Although the I.A.E.A. has withheld any public judgment, Brazilian officials are already talking of a breakthrough. "What has changed now is the attitude of trying to seek a solution that at the same time guarantees the preservation of our technology and permits the agency to be certain that there is no diversion of material within the factory," Odair Gonçalves, president of Brazil's national nuclear commission, said at a news conference here on Monday.

Khaleej Times, 20 October 2004

Europe nuke deal offers Iran reactor aid: officials

Washington: European powers will offer this week to support Iranian construction of a light-water nuclear reactor, as part of a deal to persuade the Islamic republic to stop enriching uranium, US and European officials said on Tuesday. Driven by US concerns that Iran is developing a secret nuclear arms program, the UN nuclear watchdog has demanded Tehran freeze its enrichment activities - procedures that could produce fuel for atomic weapons. Britain, Germany and France will present a package of "carrots and sticks" on Thursday giving Iran a final chance to meet the demands or face possible sanctions. The Europeans outlined their proposal for ending Iran's uranium enrichment activities at a closed-door meeting of the Group of Eight major powers hosted by Washington last Friday, but the key incentive of support for a light-water reactor did not emerge until Tuesday.

Nuclear Guide, 20 October 2004

Britain, Germany confirm Iran nuclear meeting

London: Britain and Germany confirmed on Tuesday senior officials would meet Iranian counterparts on Thursday to discuss Tehran's uranium enrichment plans. "This Thursday, there will be a meeting of our political directors," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told a news conference with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. "We hope very much this matter can be resolved finally within the board of governors (of the International Atomic Energy Agency) and not referred to the UN but only time will tell," he said. Earlier, diplomats said officials from France, Britain and Germany would meet Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rowhani, in Vienna to offer Tehran a final chance to halt uranium enrichment plans or face possible United Nations sanctions. Rowhani is the secretary-general of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Reuters, 20 October 2004

Powell: U.S. Open to Discuss All N.Korea Issues

Hong Kong: Secretary of State Colin Powell has rejected the notion that divisions in the Bush administration had hindered Washington's ability to roll back North Korea's nuclear program. In an interview with the Far Eastern Economic Review ahead of an Asian visit just days before the American presidential election, Powell also repeated U.S. opposition to any move by Taiwan toward independence. "It takes time," Powell said, referring to resolution of North Korea's nuclear crisis. "But what we have achieved is, all six parties, to include the North Koreans saying that our goal is a de-nuclearized peninsula." A copy of the interview with Powell, who is to visit Japan, China and South Korea from Oct. 23, was given to Reuters on Wednesday, a day before the magazine's edition hits the stands. "What we have said is we can talk about all of that and we can provide answers for all of these issues and questions, but there has to be a complete de-nuclearization in a verifiable way that makes this problem go away, once and for all," Powell said.

Reuters, 20 October 2004

Dialogue only way to solve nuke issue, says Khatami

Tehran, Oct 20: Talks and negotiations are the only way to resolve Iran's nuclear standoff with the West, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said on Wednesday. "We are ready to assure the world that we are not pursuing nuclear weapons and I believe the only way is through talks and reaching an understanding," Khatami told reporters. Iranian officials are due to meet with senior diplomats from Britain Germany and France in Vienna on Thursday to receive a proposal giving Tehran a final chance to halt uranium enrichment plans or face possible UN sanctions. Iranian officials say they are open to talks but will never give up uranium enrichment -- a process which can be used to make fuel for nuclear reactors or material for atom bombs. "I don't know what the (EU trio's) proposal is but we are ready for talks," Khatami said.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

China to enhance international cooperation in nuclear safety

China will expand international nuclear safety cooperation and improve supervision to guarantee safe operations of its nuclear installations, the nation's top environmental official said in Beijing on October 20. "China will sincerely implement the Convention on Nuclear Safety and draw on advanced technology and experience of other countries to ensure its nuclear safety meets international standards," said Xie Zhenhua, director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA). Xie made the remarks at a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of the National Nuclear Safety

Administration (NNSA) of China. The ceremony saw the presence of Tomihiro Taniguchi, deputy director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and officials of nuclear safety authorities from more than 40 countries.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

China may import nuclear reactors from US

China may import the third generation of nuclear reactors AP-1000 from the United States to develop its new nuclear power plants for growing energy demand. China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said China welcomed the US to cooperate on its nuclear plant projects but the purchase will depend on the actual needs of the Chinese enterprises, reported China Radio International. Nils Diaz, chairman of US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC said the commission will soon vote on the export of AP-1000 reactor to China. Diaz also suggests US imposes no restriction on the export of this reactors and he is optimistic about the prospect of nuclear technology cooperation between the US and China. Earlier this September, China launched a international bid for its two fresh nuclear plants in east and south China's Zhejiang and Guangdong Provinces.

Dawn, 21 October 2004

Iran tests missile of 2000km range

Tehran, Oct 20: Iran carried out a new test on Wednesday of its upgraded Shahab-3 ballistic missile, which it says has a range of at least 2,000 kilometres, Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani said. "A few minutes ago we carried out a new test of the Shahab-3 missile in the presence of observers," he said. Steady progress made by Iran on its ballistic missile programme is a cause for concern for the international community, already alarmed over the country's nuclear activities. "We tested the range, the destructive capacity, the guidance system and its capacity to hit a defined target," the defence minister said, quoted by the student news agency ISNA.

Daily Times, 21 October 2004

Japan's PSI drills may upset North Korea

Tokyo: Japan is set to host multinational sea exercises next week as part of a US-led initiative to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, but the move could hurt talks with North Korea, an unspoken target of the drill. The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) drill, to be held in the waters off Tokyo, comes as China steps up its efforts to hold fresh six-country talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Pyongyang's number-two leader, Kim Yong-nam, is in Beijing this week and US Secretary of State Colin Powell will tour the region from Saturday, seeking to restart the North Korean talks after plans for a fourth round of discussions fell through.

The Times of India, 21 October 2004

Israeli link to Indo-Iran N talks (Indrani Bagchi)

New Delhi, Oct. 20: Although India has assiduously avoided mention of Iran's nuclear ambitions, the two-day talks between national security adviser JN Dixit and Iran's top nuclear negotiator and Hassan Rouhani in Iran was not without nuclear content. Rouhani tried to reassure India "on its efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy". Dixit's visit to Iran is interesting as it comes on the eve of Mr Rouhani's meeting with an EU team in Vienna to find a way out of Iran's present nuclear dilemma, and perhaps avoid UN sanctions. Iran's leadership has declared that Iran was determined to press ahead with its atomic plans and would not give up its right to enrich uranium, but without pursuing nuclear weapons. It's not something that the rest of the world believes and Iran is presently facing UN sanctions for its nuclear programme. India is uniquely placed because while it is on the right side of the nuclear debate, it is also one of the few countries to enjoy excellent relations with Iran. The India-Iran relationship has attracted significant attention, particularly from the US. This has been heightened as India presses for more sensitive technology from the US. It is in this context that the US' recent penalties on two Indian scientists for "collaboration" with Iran has assumed interesting proportions.

The News, 21 October 2004

Iran offers compromise plan to Europe to end nuclear standoff

Tehran: Iran has offered Europe a compromise plan to resolve a standoff over its nuclear program, a senior official said on Wednesday, as the president vowed to continue developing Iranian nuclear technology. Vice-President Gholamreza Aghazadeh would not provide any detail about the Iranian offer, which he disclosed a day before Iranian diplomats are to meet representatives of Britain, Germany and France in Vienna, Austria. The Europeans have been working on a package of economic incentives in the hope of persuading Tehran to permanently give up uranium enrichment, a technology that can be used to produce nuclear reactor fuel or weapons. "We have submitted proposals to the Europeans. Now we are waiting for their reaction to our plan," Aghazadeh told reporters after a Cabinet meeting. He said the plan would not compromise Iran's right to enrich uranium.

The News, 21 October 2004

Powell denies split in US govt hobbled N Korea nuclear talks

Hong Kong: US Secretary of State Colin Powell denied that a rift between hawks and doves in Washington made it more difficult to tackle North Korea's nuclear program, in an interview published on Wednesday. Powell, who will leave on Friday to visit Japan, China and South Korea, told the Far Eastern Economic Review that US President George W Bush was intent on solving the problem diplomatically and he was the "only one I'd listen to". His Asian tour is partly aimed at restarting stalled six-nation talks on the nuclear crisis. Pyongyang refused to attend a fourth round of the Beijing-hosted talks, which were due to be held last month. Powell addressed the speculation about different viewpoints in the Bush administration, describing them as:

"Those who want to put more pressure, those who want to put less pressure, those who want to negotiate, those who don't want to negotiate within the six-party framework." But he said in the interview at the State Department in Washington: "All I know is what the president has decided and he's the only one I'd listen to. He's decided repeatedly over the last year that we would try to solve this diplomatically." Bush's administration has refused one-on-one talks with North Korea and rejected the regime's demands to be rewarded economically for giving up its nuclear ambitions.

The News, 21 October

Seoul wants US law on N Korea not to interfere with talks

Seoul: South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon said on Wednesday he wants a new US law on promoting North Korean human rights not to interfere with talks aimed at ending the Stalinist regime's nuclear program. US President George W Bush signed the law into effect Monday to provide humanitarian aid to North Korean citizens and refugees. "We will closely cooperate with the US government so that the law, which has gone into effect, should not negatively affect cooperation between the two Koreas and six-way talks," involving China, the United States, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas, Ban told a weekly briefing. Ban's remarks reflected Seoul's cautious approach towards North Korea's alleged human rights violations as Pyongyang claims the US law aims to topple the communist regime. Ban said Seoul "is deeply interested in human rights situations in North Korea" but fell short of demanding they should improve.

Khaleej Times, 21 October

Europe's big three gives Iran last chance to come clean on nuclear program

Vienna: Europe's three main states were Thursday to give Iran a last chance to reassure the world it is not secretly developing atomic weapons, offering valuable nuclear technology as a carrot and possible UN sanctions as the stick. Britain, France and Germany are ready to promise Iran nuclear technology, including supplying a light-water nuclear reactor, if Teheran takes steps to show it is not secretly trying to make atomic weapons, according to a confidential document obtained by AFP and confirmed in Vienna by diplomats. Political directors from the foreign ministries of the three European states are to meet in Vienna with Iranian foreign ministry international political affairs director Amir Hossein Zamani-Nia, officials said in Teheran.

The Dawn, 22 October 2004

India to get N-powered submarine from Russia

Moscow, 21 October: Russia will lease to India a nuclear-powered submarine capable of firing nuclear and conventional missiles, Russian news agencies reported on Thursday. "Moscow and New Delhi have signed a contract under which the Indian navy will get a multi-purpose submarine Project 971 on a 10-year lease," Interfax news agency quoted an unnamed senior Russian military industry source as saying. The official said the contract was signed earlier this year, but gave no further details. Interfax said the submarine will be ready by 2007. But according to Russian media reports the submarine leased to India will be armed with nuclear-capable missiles of shorter range not exceeding several hundred kilometres. India has been developing nuclear weapons and missiles since it carried out nuclear explosions in May 1998 and declared it a N-weapons state.

The Daily Times, 22 October 2004

EU gives Iran 'last chance' on nuclear plans

Vienna: Senior officials from France, Britain and Germany met Iranian counterparts on Thursday to offer them a last chance to abandon uranium enrichment in return for other concessions - or face UN sanctions. Diplomats said the European Union's "Big Three" had the reluctant blessing of the United States in making the offer, despite a US belief that Iran was using talks with the EU to buy time to acquire the capability to build a nuclear bomb. "At this point Iranian compliance doesn't seem likely ... based on Iran's history and their current expressions and the things that they're saying and doing right now," US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Wednesday. The head of Iran's delegation, Amir Zamaninia, declined to comment to reporters as he arrived for the meeting. The Iranian delegation was due to present a counter-proposal, though details were unclear. "We'll see what they have in mind," said a Western diplomat close to the talks.

The Daily Times, 22 October 2004

'Iran has mastered uranium enrichment'

Washington: Iran has made significant progress towards producing nuclear fuel and could make significant quantities of enriched uranium in less than a year, The Los Angeles Times reported on Thursday. Citing unnamed diplomats, scientists and intelligence officials, the newspaper said that mastering enrichment will move Tehran a big step closer to being able to build an atomic bomb. Iran has refused to renounce producing enriched uranium, which is the process used to make fuel for civilian reactors but also the explosive core of nuclear weapons. Iran insists its nuclear programme is strictly peaceful, but the United States has alleged that Tehran is secretly trying to develop a nuclear bomb. The paper quotes diplomats as saying Iran have moved much faster than expected in manufacturing and assembling these centrifuges.

People's Daily, 23 October 2004

DPRK urges US to consider its demands for resuming six-party talks

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) blamed the United States Friday for delaying the six-party talks, urging the US to fully consider DPRK's demands to resume the talks. A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman rebutted a US claim that the present deadlock of six-party talks is due to the DPRK's failure to respond saying that "the six-party talks could not be resumed because its groundwork was destroyed by the US and because South Korea's nuclear issue surfaced," said the spokesman. "The US is talking about the resumption of the talks but is paying no heed to the call of the DPRK for restoring

that groundwork," the spokesman added. "The DPRK is approaching the talks strictly in its own interests..." he added.

The Dawn, 23 October 2004

Russia denies submarine deal with India (Jawed Naqvi)

Moscow, 22 October: Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov on Friday denied reports of a nuclear submarine deal with India, Press Trust of India said from Moscow. "I can assure you that the information about the submarine is not true," Mr Ivanov was quoted as saying by the ITAR-TASS news agency which on Thursday reported the deal. "We really had discussed very serious contracts in military-technical co-operation, in particular, a major contract for the supply of 'Admiral Gorshkov' aircraft carrier was signed. But there were no talks about submarines or their leasing," he said. ITAR-TASS and private Interfax news agencies, quoting 'defence industry sources', on Thursday reported the signing of the submarine deal earlier this year with India. According to the Thursday report Russia was to lease Akula-II class multi-role nuclear submarine 'Nerpa', currently under construction at a shipyard in Komsomolsk-on-Amur in the Far East.

The Daily Times, 23 October 2004

Review board takes up nuclear scientist's detention today (Mohammad Kamran)

Islamabad: The Federal Review Board is likely to review the detention of Dr Farooq, a senior official of the Kahuta Research Laboratories (KRL), today (Saturday). Dr Farooq has been facing incarceration for the past months for allegedly abetting nuclear proliferation. The state is bound to consult the review board if it wants any further extensions in the detention period of Dr Farooq. The government said that Dr Farooq was being interrogated for jeopardising national security, Pakistan's nuclear programme and violating the Security of Pakistan Act 1952, they added. Four nuclear scientists and officials — Major (r) Islamul Haq, principal staff officer to Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, Dr Farooq, Dr Nazir and Brigadier (r) Sajawal, directors of Kahuta Research Laboratories (KRL), had been arrested along with some other nuclear scientists many months ago.

The Daily Times, 23 October 2004

EU and Iran meet again next week on nuclear offer

Vienna: French, British and German officials meet Iranian negotiators on Wednesday to discuss a European offer of nuclear technology if Tehran ends its uranium enrichment programme, diplomats said on Friday. "The meeting is planned for Wednesday in Vienna," a senior diplomat close to the talks told Reuters. Senior officials from the four countries met on Thursday to discuss the European proposal, which Iranian officials said they would be studying closely. Both sides briefed IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei about Thursday's meeting. He said talks were "moving in the right direction", an agency spokeswoman said. If Iran rejects the EU offer, diplomats say most European nations will back US demands that Tehran be reported to the UN Security Council for possible economic sanctions when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meets on Nov. 25. No breakthroughs are expected at next week's talks and Western diplomats said they did not expect Iran was ready to accept the offer.

The Daily Times, 24 October 2004

Nuclear scientist's detention extended (Mohammad Imran)

Islamabad: The Federal Review Board on Saturday extended the detention period of Dr Farooq, director general of the Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), by 90 days. Farooq is in state custody on charges of nuclear proliferation. The review board consisting of two judges of the Supreme Court, Justice Hamid Ali Mirza and Justice Falak Sher, and one judge of the Sindh High Court, Justice Sabeehuddin, reviewed the detention of Mr Farooq, sources said. The state authorities maintained before the board that an extension in the detention period was essential as further investigation was required," sources said. The government said that Dr Farooq was being interrogated for jeopardising national security and violating the Security of Pakistan Act, 1952, sources added.

The Daily Times, 24 October 2004

India will not pass on nuclear technology, says Singh

New Delhi: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Saturday his nuclear-armed nation would not pass on sensitive technologies, weeks after the United States imposed sanctions on two Indian nuclear scientists. "India will not be the source of proliferation of sensitive technologies," Singh was quoted on state television as saying in Kalpakkam in southern Tamil Nadu state, which houses a nuclear power station and a research facility. "We will also ensure the safeguarding of those technologies that we already possess," Singh said at a function to celebrate the golden jubilee of India's Department of Atomic Energy. The Indian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday the curbs were based on "faulty evidence and must be revoked". US officials have said Washington was considering imposing curbs on one to three additional Indian 'entities' for aiding Iran's weapons programme. "Constraining those who are responsible amounts, in fact, to rewarding those who are irresponsible," Singh said.

The Daily Times, 24 October 2004

US on the 'march' to refer Iran to UNSC

Tokyo: The United States has seen no sign Iran will comply with international demands on its suspect nuclear programme and will push next month for the matter to be sent to the UN Security Council unless Tehran reverses its course, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Saturday. Powell said Washington believed it could get support from the International Atomic Energy Agency to refer Iran to the Security Council in the event it fails to comply with its IAEA obligations and commitments to European nations. The IAEA's governing board last met in September and called on Iran by its November 25 meeting to halt uranium enrichment activities that could be used to produce nuclear weapons and disprove fully US accusations that it is

secretly developing such arms. "We're approaching November and...we should continue to march toward action by the IAEA...that would refer it to the Security Council..." he (Powell) said.

The Korea Times, 24 October 2004

Powell to Discuss NK Nuke Issue in Seoul (Ryu Jin)

U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell will come to Seoul Monday to discuss North Korean issues, including the nuclear standoff and human rights conditions, as well as pending bilateral issues between South Korea and the United States, officials said. During the top diplomats' meeting, the two countries are expected to discuss a wide range of topics from the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear arms programs and the North Korean Human Rights Act to Seoul-Washington alliance and an early conclusion of a free trade agreement (FTA). "Resuming the stalled six-party talks on the nuclear standoff will be high on the agenda," said an official at South Korea's Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry. With the U.S. presidential race just around the corner... But some officials and experts still expect his visits will play an important role in resolving the 24-month-long nuclear impasse as he comes from Beijing after meeting top Chinese officials, who have recently met North Korea's number two man, Kim Yong-nam.

People's Daily, 25 October 2004

Iran says European nuclear proposal unacceptable

Iran on Sunday has refused to accept a European nuclear proposal, terming it as "unbalanced." An Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday that the proposal asking Iran to stop uranium enrichment activities in return for nuclear technology was "unbalanced" and "unacceptable." "...Iran will reject the request that its uranium enrichment activity be suspended completely and unlimitedly," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said at the weekly news briefing. "However, the European proposal is just at the preliminary stage and is not final at all," Asefi added. Meanwhile, the spokesman stressed the importance to solve the nuclear issue through negotiation, saying "the decision to solve the issue through negotiation is a right choice for both sides and we are on the right way."

The Daily Times, 25 October 2004

'We still have time to resolve Korean crisis'

Tokyo: US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Sunday there was still time to resolve a nuclear crisis with North Korea through six-party talks despite Pyongyang's refusal to resume the negotiations. Powell, in the region to prod negotiating partners to exert pressure on the reclusive state, pledged to deal urgently with what many analysts believe could be the world's worst proliferation challenge in the next few years. "We are not out of time," Powell said at a news conference with Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura. "We are all pressing hard. There is a sense of urgency." ...Powell...promised North Korea the hope of aid from some of the negotiating countries but ruled out meeting North Korea's conditions for a new round ...North Korea demanded the United States drop what it sees as a confrontational policy aimed at ousting its leadership and cited a US-led naval exercise to be held on Monday off Japan as evidence of its intentions. Powell's chances of luring North Korea back to talks are limited by the uncertain outcome of the Nov 2 US election.

The Daily Times, 25 October 2004

India unaware of US plans for more N-curbs

New Delhi: India said it was unaware of any US plans to slap sanctions on additional Indian persons, companies or institutions which Washington says are aiding Iran's nuclear programme. The Bush administration has already imposed curbs on two Indian scientists — former heads of India's Nuclear Power Corporation — late last month for alleged nuclear cooperation with Iran, which Washington says is developing nuclear weapons. Any plans for further sanctions, if any, should be discussed at the India-United States forum for high-technology trade, termed as the "Next Steps in Strategic Partnership", the statement added. New Delhi has already asked Washington to lift curbs on its scientists saying they were based on "faulty evidence". The Bush administration said last week it may reconsider the curbs provided India offered "convincing" proof they were not involved. The sanctions bar the scientists from doing business with Washington.

The Korea Times, 25 October 2004

Ruling Party Chief in Japan Over NK Nukes (Seo Dong-shin)

Ruling Uri Party chairman Lee Bu-young arrived in Japan Monday afternoon on a four-day visit to the country. Lee will meet with high-ranking government officials as well as leading politicians there, including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Foreign Affairs Minister Nobutaka Machimura and ruling Liberal Democratic Party secretary general Tsutomu Takebe. On the agenda will be the stalled six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear programs, along with ongoing discussions on a free trade agreement between Japan and South Korea. "We're expecting an improved mood for dialogue on the Korean peninsula after the U.S. presidential election," Lee said before his departure.

The Khaleej Times, 26 October 2004

'Weapons' seized in Japanese waters in 19-nation drill enraging N. Korea

Sagami Bay: Nineteen countries practiced how to capture smuggled weapons on Tuesday in the waters near Tokyo, in an exercise the United States called a signal to North Korea and other alleged proliferators. Ships and a total of nearly 900 troops from the United States, France, Australia and host Japan and observers from 15 other countries were taking part in the drill, the first of its kind held in Asia. "We are sending a signal to everybody who wants to traffic weapons of mass destruction that we have zero tolerance for that," said John Bolton, the visiting US undersecretary of state for arms control and international security. US President George W. Bush launched the drill, known as the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), in May 2003 to

improve global coordination to intercept weapons shipments by rogue states and terrorist groups. The United States has said the drills helped persuade Libya to give up its program to develop weapons of mass destruction and provided intelligence leads that broke up the network of Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb accused of providing sensitive technology to North Korea, Iran and Libya.

eTaiwan News, 26 October 2004

Taipower denies daily's report of missing nuclear fuel rods

State-run Taiwan Power Company (Taipower) denied yesterday a media report of missing nuclear fuel rods at its nuclear power plants, calling the story a far cry from the truth. According to a Taipower spokesman, no fuel rods at its three nuclear power plants are missing ... The spokesman ... stressed that the three nuclear power plants are constantly under strict scrutiny by the Taiwan and U. S. authorities and the International Atomic Energy Agency, although Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations. Uranium and plutonium are the main substances contained in a nuclear fuel rod, which is the source of nuclear energy in a reactor.

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

Iran to consider EU proposal on enrichment suspension: official

A top Iranian nuclear official said Monday that Iran will consider the European proposal on an unlimited suspension of uranium enrichment and cooperate with the international community, the state television reported. "...if it does not run counter to our principles," Hassan Rowhani, Secretary of Supreme National Security Council and chief nuclear negotiator, was quoted as saying. According to the proposal (of Thursday), Iran will get access to imported nuclear fuel and other offers, including a light-water reactor, in return for a downright suspension of its fuel cycle work related to uranium enrichment. However, Rowhani stressed that Iran does not equate "unlimited suspension as being forced to carry out a permanent halt." "It was also mentioned in last week's EU proposals that Iran's right to have an atomic power plant, just like other countries, was completely valid and accepted," he said. One week ago, Rowhani said that Iran was ready to discuss a "short suspension" of uranium enrichment, but will never give in on its work on nuclear fuel cycle. On Sunday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said that the EU proposal was "unacceptable" and "unbalanced."

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

China, US agree on six-party talks, Taiwan issue

China and the United States reached agreements on Monday that the six-party talks framework should be continued and one-China policy be followed ... Colin Powell made clear in Beijing the US stances on the two issues in meetings and talks with Chinese leaders. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao met with Powell respectively, and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing held talks with him during Powell's stay in China. "What we agreed on today is the need for the six-party framework to continue," Powell told a press conference after his meeting with Hu. "We wish the US side would go further to adopt a flexible and practical attitude on the issue," said Li Zhaoxing in talks with Powell.

eTaiwan News, 26 October 2004

Powell, Japan work toward resolving North Korea issue

Official reiterates that United States has no plan of attacking, invading Pyongyang. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell sought Japan's input on resolving the North Korean nuclear impasse here yesterday after rejecting Pyongyang's demands to resume stalled talks on resolving the deadlock. Powell met Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura and other officials as North Korea insists on rewards for returning to the table and threatened to double its nuclear arsenal if Washington does not drop its "hostile policy." Powell met Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi for talks likely to include the situation in Iraq as well as the redeployment of U.S. troops in Japan.

Daily Times, 26 October 2004

Iran doing all it can to get N-arms: Israel

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accused Iran on Monday of doing everything it could to obtain nuclear weapons, further ratcheting up the pressure on its arch-foe. "Iran is making every effort to arm itself with nuclear weapons, with ballistic means of delivery, and it is preparing an enormous terrorist network with Syria and Lebanon," he told parliament, opening debate on his plan to withdraw from Gaza. Sharon, striving to blunt resistance to his plan from Israel's nationalist right, referred to Iran as he emphasised Israel faced various dangers and this was not time for disunity over his policies. "We are powerful enough to defend this country and hit our enemy hard," he said amid heckling from rightist deputies. Israel...has recently increased pressure on Iran by saying it has obtained weapons that could target the Islamic Republic's underground uranium enrichment facilities.

The Dawn, 26 October 2004

380 tons of explosives missing in Iraq

Vienna, 25 October: Nearly 400 tons of powerful explosives that could be used in conventional or nuclear missiles disappeared from an unguarded military installation in Iraq, the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Monday. The Iraqi ministry of science and technology informed the IAEA of the disappearance of 380 tons of mainly HMX and RDX explosive materiel on Oct 10, agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming told AFP, confirming a report in The New York Times. "It can be used in a nuclear explosion device, for the explosion," she said, adding: "That's why it was under IAEA verification and monitoring" before the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003. The NYT said the materiel could produce bombs strong enough to shatter aeroplanes or tear the buildings apart.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

Iran, EU endeavor to avoid retreat in nuclear talks

An European proposal raised at nuclear talks on Oct. 21 and its consequent developments have indicated that the gap between Europe and Iran on their baselines remains as wide as before, but the two sides, especially Tehran, are still devoted to avoiding a retreat in the prolonging and effort-racking nuclear talks. Under the proposal, the European trio of France, Germany and Britain offered to supply Iran with necessary nuclear technology and equipments, including a light-water reactor, in return for Tehran's "unlimited" suspension of uranium enrichment. The proposal significantly leaked out about one week ahead of the negotiation, which endowed Iran with enough time to calculate for the right decision. However, the request of permanent suspension is too harsh for Tehran to accept. Tehran has repeatedly stated that permanent suspension was out of concern and that any proposal should recognize Iran's right to get access to peaceful nuclear technology. Many top Iranian officials, including President Mohammad Khatami, reiterated the precondition with enthusiasm, hoping for some softening adjustments in the proposal. Since the deadline set by the IAEA is approaching, the EU's stance is crucial.

The Daily Times, 27 October 2004

China voices 'reservations' about US-backed non-proliferation initiative

Beijing: China on Tuesday voiced "reservations" about a US-backed initiative to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arguing that was the reason it had not joined. China was unhappy about measures in the "proliferation security initiative" (PSI) to beef up interception of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons on the high seas or in international airspace, the foreign ministry said. "The activities may entail military interception, so we have reservations about PSI," foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue told a regular briefing. "She did not elaborate but said China was willing to cooperate in curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction under "the relevant international law. "Observers have said China's reluctance to join the PSI may be due to concerns it is largely aimed at containing its close ally North Korea. Zhang made the remarks as the region's first exercise conducted under the PSI took place in Japanese waters.

The Daily Times, 27 October 2004

US seeks Seoul's help on Korea talks

Seoul: US Secretary of State Colin Powell joined South Korea on Tuesday in seeking to restart talks on North Korea's nuclear ambitions right after US elections, but Pyongyang said this was impossible. On the final leg of a trip to North Asia to revive six-party negotiations on scrapping North Korea's arms programmes, Powell found himself under pressure from China and Seoul to give more to entice the reclusive state back to nuclear arms talks. "Let's get going. We hope that in the very near future the North Koreans will see it is in their interest to have the talks start again," Powell told a news conference after meeting South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and other senior officials.

The Daily Times, 27 October 2004

Iran MPs propose bill to resume enrichment

Tehran: Hardline lawmakers, who control a majority in Iran's parliament, on Tuesday introduced a bill which would force the government to resume uranium enrichment and halt snap UN inspections of nuclear facilities. The official IRNA news agency said lawmakers want to give the bill a "double urgency" status, meaning it could be discussed in parliament in the next few days. If approved, the bill would bring Tehran into direct conflict with the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, which has given Iran until late November to halt all uranium enrichment activities or face being reported to the UN Security Council. Government officials have said they would have no choice but to obey such a bill if approved by parliament. But diplomats believe Iran is using parliament as a bargaining tool ahead of key negotiations on its nuclear programme this week.

The Daily Times, 27 October 2004

Europe, Iran meet again today

Vienna: Europe's three key states are to meet again with Iran in Vienna today to hear Tehran's response to their offer for it to avoid possible UN sanctions and receive nuclear technology by indefinitely suspending uranium enrichment. Iran had on Monday said it was ready to consider the British-French-German request, in what could be a major breakthrough towards ending a standoff over its nuclear programme, which the United States claims hides secret weapons development. The surprise comments by Iranian officials marked a softening in Tehran's tone. "The European proposal for an unlimited suspension of uranium enrichment can be implemented, provided it does not contradict the Islamic republic's criteria," chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani said, quoted by state television. Rowhani said suspending uranium enrichment indefinitely was not the same as imposing a permanent halt, an abandoning of enrichment, which Iran will never accept.

The Dawn, 27 October 2004

US informed Pakistan about Khan network in early 2001: report (Anwar Iqbal)

Washington, 26 October: The Bush administration launched its campaign to persuade President Pervez Musharraf to remove Dr A. Q. Khan from Pakistan's nuclear establishment as early as 2001, months before the Sept 11, terrorist attacks, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday. The front-page, 5,000-word report details how this low-key but persistent effort by President George Bush and his closest ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, led first to Dr Khan's removal from Pakistan's nuclear establishment and then to his home arrest in February this year. The Bush administration's concerns about Pakistan's nuclear programme increased after Sept 11 when they learned that two Pakistani nuclear scientists, Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood and Chaudhary Abdul Majid, had met Osama bin Laden a month before the terrorist attacks.

Xinhuanet, 28 October 2004

Trio agree to resume six-party talks before year end

Seoul, 27 October: Chief delegates of South Korea, the United States and Russia to the six-party nuclear talks agreed here on Wednesday the multilateral negotiation must be resumed before the end of the year at the latest. South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Soo-hyuck said he also shared the view with US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alekseyev that whatever format a six-nation meeting takes, it must take place. "It would be problematic if (the nuclear talks) miss the end of this year," Lee told reporters. Powell wrapped up his visit here and left for Washington Tuesday afternoon, but Kelly stayed behind for meetings with his Russian counterpart as well as South Korean officials.

Daily Times, 28 October 2004

North Korea may be preparing missile launch: report

Seoul: The United States, Japan and South Korea are closely monitoring a missile base in North Korea after military intelligence indicated that the communist nation might be preparing to test missiles, a South Korean newspaper reported Wednesday. The move would be the latest provocation from North Korea, which has denounced this week's multinational naval exercise in Japanese waters as a US-led 'ultimate war action' against the isolated country. "We are monitoring the movements to see whether this was part of their training or they actually intend to launch a missile." South Korea's Defense Ministry "neither confirms nor denies" the report, said a ministry spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "At this point, the Japanese government is not aware of any specific indication of such a movement," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuko Hosoda told a regular press conference.

Daily Times, 28 October 2004

North Korea, Iran and Syria are proliferation concern: US

Tokyo: The top US envoy for arms control on Wednesday named North Korea, Iran and Syria among the worst proliferators of weapons of mass destruction and called for shipments to the countries to be monitored more closely. "North Korea, Iran and Syria, among others, are clearly states of proliferation concern," US Undersecretary of State John Bolton said in a speech at The American Centre in Tokyo. Bolton is visiting Japan to observe multinational exercises, held under US President George W Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), aimed at training troops to intercept weapons of mass destruction at sea. He said countries involved in the exercises "should be ready to scrutinise shipments going to or from such states or terrorist groups. The manoeuvres, the first in East Asia, have been criticised by North Korea as a "provocation". Bolton also called China a country that "engages in outward proliferation," and said Washington is working to persuade Beijing to join the counter-proliferation network. "China says it still has questions about PSI," he said.

Daily Times, 28 October 2004

EU and Iran fail to reach nuclear deal

Vienna: France, Britain and Germany failed to reach a deal with Iran on Wednesday under which Tehran would scrap its uranium enrichment programme in exchange for nuclear power technology, but the two sides agreed to meet again. Talks in Vienna on the European proposal ended without agreement, but Britain and Iran said the talks had been constructive. "Some progress was made towards identifying the elements of a common approach to the issues and the two sides agreed to meet again shortly," a British Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters in London after Wednesday's talks. If Iran rejects the offer, diplomats say most European nations will back US demands that Tehran be reported to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions when the UN's nuclear watchdog meets in November (25). Sirus Naseri, a member of Iran's delegation in Vienna, said there was no breakthrough but it would have been premature to expect one at this point. "We are at the bottom of the first inning. We are at the beginning (of the negotiation process)," he told Reuters.

Daily Times, 28 October 2004

Iran's heavy water nuclear plant almost complete

Tehran: An Iranian nuclear plant that atomic experts say could give the Islamic state access to weapons-grade material is nearing completion, a senior Iranian nuclear official said on Wednesday. The Arak heavy water production facility in central Iran is one of several plants the European Union is hoping to persuade Tehran to close down. "Two of the three main units are now operational," said Manouchehr Madadi, head of research and development at Arak. "We hope that the third unit will become operational by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2005) so that we can reach full production capacity," he told state television. Iranian officials were due to meet negotiators from Britain, Germany and France in Vienna on Wednesday to discuss an EU proposal that would avert Security Council referral provided Tehran freezes key activities that could be used to produce weapons-grade material.

Xinhuanet, 29 October 2004

Anti-terror measures at Russian nuclear facilities insufficient: prosecutor

MOSCOW, 28 October: A Russian prosecutor pointed out Thursday that some of Russia's nuclear power plants and petrochemical enterprises do not have sufficient safeguards against terrorist attacks, the Interfax news agency reported. Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kolesnikov said a series of checks have revealed shortcomings in the security systems of a number of vital facilities including nuclear and petrochemical plants. He named three nuclear power plants of Kola, Novovoronezh and Smolensk, which are located in regions bordering Finland, Ukraine and Belarus. Kolesnikov added that some of the country's oil transporting networks are not protected properly either. The prosecutor said that there have been explosions on various oil pipelines and the terrorist forces are possibly growing.

The Daily Times, 29 October 2004

Iran-EU talks to resume on November 5

VIENNA: Nuclear talks between the EU and Iran will resume in Paris on November 5 with Tehran facing a looming deadline to agree to freeze uranium enrichment or risk referral to the UN Security Council, diplomats said on Thursday. The Paris talks follow a second round of discussions between Iranian, British, German and French officials in Vienna on Wednesday described as positive and constructive by both sides. "The EU has a positive feeling about the meeting yesterday. The talks were substantive," said an EU diplomat. "The next round will be in Paris on November 5," said a diplomat from one of the EU's three biggest countries.

The Daily Times, 29 October 2004

IAEA says it warned US about vulnerability of explosive

VIENNA: The UN nuclear agency said on Thursday it warned the United States about the vulnerability of explosives stored at Iraq's Al-Qaqaa military installation after the country's main nuclear complex was looted in April 2003. Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the International Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press that US officials were cautioned directly about what was stored at Al-Qaqaa, where 377 tons of high explosives have gone missing. "It is also important to note that this was the main high explosives storage facility in Iraq, and it was well-known through IAEA reports to the Security Council," Fleming said.

The Chosun Ilbo, 29 October 2004

U.S. Election Will Not Greatly Affect U.S. Posture in Korea: Ambassador

28 October: Korean Ambassador to the U.S. Han Seung-joo said Wednesday ... In regard to the resumption of the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program ... considering the North is waiting for the U.S. presidential election result to come out and it has not completely discarded the dialogue option, it was possible that the six-party talks could be restarted within this year if Bush is reelected. Even if Kerry is elected, the six-party talks could be resumed soon a ... that even if Kerry holds bilateral talks with the North, he would endorse the two-party talks within the framework of the existing six-party talks and report the results of the bilateral talks to the multilateral meeting and seek consent and cooperation from other participants.

Daily Times, 30 October 2004

UN offers to guarantee nuclear fuel for Iran

VIENNA: Iran sees small chance of UN economic sanctions. Rafsanjani says Iran will continue talks but rejects threats. The UN nuclear watchdog has offered to guarantee Iran a supply of fuel for its nuclear power plants so that Tehran would not need to enrich its own uranium, Western diplomats said on Friday. Diplomats said that the head of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, made this offer to help France, Britain and Germany in their talks with Iran aimed at persuading the Islamic republic to abandon its controversial uranium enrichment programme. So, this IAEA offer could help break the deadlock. Iran believes there is only a 10 percent chance the UN Security Council will impose economic sanctions on it if Washington succeeds in sending its nuclear case there, a senior security official said on Friday. Hossein Mousavian, foreign policy committee secretary at the Supreme National Security Council, said Iran's past cooperation with UN inspectors and support from key non-Western states such as Russia and China would spare Iran.

The Chosun Ilbo, 30 October 2004

NK Protests U.S. Proliferation Security Initiative

29 October: North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Park Gil-yon sent a letter on Tuesday to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, protesting the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). In the letter, the ambassador said that the PSI exercise constitutes a breach of the UN Charter and international law and that it is a move to pose a threat to global security and a preparation for a preemptive attack against North Korea. He also claimed that the fact that some of the countries participating in the six-way talks have joined the exercise would be an obstacle to the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. The ambassador demanded that, considering the gravity of the matter, Kofi Annan take immediate measures to deal with it. Eight nations, including the U.S., Australia and France, held a "Team Samurai" drill in waters off Japan on Tuesday to intercept illegal exports of weapons of mass destruction, with 18 observing countries, such as Britain and Russia, participating.

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

Nuclear storm will not go alone, Comment

US Secretary of State Colin Powell's recent visit to Japan, China and South Korea aims at stabilizing the relations with the three countries for the upcoming presidential election in the US; another mission is to coordinate each other's stand on the North Korean nuclear issue in an aim to resume the talks on the North Korean nuclear issue as early as possible. In the Middle East, Iran is haggling with the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on uranium enrichment. Why the Iranian nuclear issue is also called troubled waters is because the US and the Western alliance apply a policy of "Big rob plus carrot" alternatively against Teheran and drive Iran to agree to their terms. In southern Asia they say the Indian nuclear experts have offered uranium enrichment technology to Iran, which is strongly rejected by India. Meanwhile some countries with nuclear capability are taking quiet action to approach nuclear club. The indication is that the nuclear storms come in succession.

Daily Times, 30 October 2004

Pope urges Iran to accept N-controls

VATICAN CITY: Pope John Paul on Friday told Iran it had a duty to comply with international controls on nuclear proliferation. The 84-year-old Pope made his views known as Tehran faces an ultimatum to freeze its uranium enrichment programme - which Washington says is a front for making nuclear weapons - or face United Nations sanctions. The Pope told Iran's new ambassador in a welcoming address the construction of a peaceful world "presupposes reciprocal trust in order to accept the other side not as a threat but as an interlocutor." This entailed all sides accepting "conditions and mechanisms of control" of multinational agreements, including those on "the commerce of weapons and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons," he said.

The Dawn, 30 October 2004

'Time running out' for Iran, says US

WASHINGTON, Oct 29: The United States said on Friday that "time is running out" for Iran to avoid being hauled before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions by complying with international demands to halt uranium enrichment activities and come clean on its suspect nuclear program. The State Department noted that next month's meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors was fast approaching.

The Japan Times, 30 October 2004

Nuclear panel hears from Fukui residents (ERIC JOHNSTON)

OSAKA: Residents living near nuclear power plants in Fukui Prefecture expressed concern Friday over plans to recycle nuclear fuel, while supporters of the Monju fast-breeder reactor urged the central government not to abandon the project during a public hearing here. The Atomic Energy Commission was listening to public comments as part of discussions on the next five-year nuclear power plan, which will be finalized next year. Despite a recent report from the Federation of Electric Power Companies that found it is cheaper to bury fuel than to recycle it, little of Friday's discussion centered on the report. Instead, concern was raised about storing nuclear waste. "There is a tendency to think that low-level waste is not dangerous, but that is a mistake," warned Junji Ishiguro, who lives in Fukui Prefecture.

Daily Times, 30 October 2004

Swiss hand out tablets to guard against nuclear radiation

Some 1.2 million people living near nuclear power stations in Switzerland will receive new potassium iodide tablets to guard against radioactive contamination after a nuclear accident, Swiss authorities said on Friday. The fresh batch will be sent to people living within 20 kilometres of the country's five nuclear power stations, instead of the previous five kilometre radius, the national drugs agency Swissmedic said in a statement. Local residents will also receive two of the six-tablet boxes instead of one to allow them to help out family, friends and passers-by in an emergency. About 90,000 companies, hospitals and public offices in the area will also receive free stocks over the next two months. Potassium iodide helps to stop the thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine fallout.