

The Hindu, 1 September 2006

**Iran won't back down: Ahmadinejad**

DUBAI: Inspectors belonging to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have not found "any concrete proof" that Iran was developing nuclear weapons, notwithstanding a report by the agency that Tehran had not halted the enrichment of uranium. A senior official close to the IAEA told journalists on condition of anonymity that "inspectors have not uncovered any concrete proof that Iran's nuclear programme is of a military nature." The IAEA said in a report on Thursday that "Iran has not suspended its enrichment-related activities." The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1696 had urged Iran to halt all nuclear enrichment and reprocessing work by August 31. The IAEA had been asked to make an assessment of Iran's compliance to this resolution. In Tehran, the deputy chief of Iran's nuclear agency, Mohammad Saeedi, said the IAEA report was "not negative." In a public speech, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said: "Iran will not back down an inch in the face of intimidation, aggression and will not accept being deprived of its rights." Later in the day, the State-run radio quoted him as saying from the northern town of Mahabad that "Iran will never renounce peaceful nuclear energy and its absolute right" to it.

The Indian Express, 1 September 2006

**IAEA indicts Iran, Bush threatens consequences**

VIENNA, August 31:As the UN deadline expired for Iran, the US ambassador to the United Nations said unanimity among the Security Council was not needed to take action against Tehran. Key European nations will meet with Iran in September in a last-ditch effort to seek a negotiated solution to the standoff over Tehran's refusal to freeze uranium enrichment, a senior UN diplomat said. President Bush said "there must be consequences" for Iran, adding that the war between Tehran-backed Hizbollah militants and Israel demonstrated that "the world now faces a grave threat from the radical regime in Iran." The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said in its report that Iran shows no signs of freezing enrichment, and that it started work on a new batch on August 24. German Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier said an Iranian refusal to freeze enrichment would be 'very regrettable' and the international community would be unable to ignore it. "We have made Iran a very, very good offer," she during a visit to the Baltic Sea port of Warnemuende, alluding to a package of incentives aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear activities. If Iran does not accept, "we will not slam the door shut, but we cannot act as if nothing had happened," Merkel said.

The Times of India, 1 September 2006

**'5 years to Iran N-bomb'**

WASHINGTON: The US military is operating on the assumption that Tehran is five to eight years away from being able to build a nuclear bomb, the Washington Times reported in its Thursday edition. The five-year window provides the Bush administration time to decide whether to launch air strikes to cripple Tehran's atomic programme, the newspaper said, citing defence sources familiar with discussions inside the Pentagon. But the sources said that they suspect the projected time-frame underestimates Iran's determination to build a bomb as quickly as possible, the newspaper reported. Asked about the report, a Pentagon spokesman said the US military never comments on

contingency planning. "The United States government has been very clear about its approach to dealing with Iran. The president and the State Department are working diligently with the international community to include organizations like the IAEA and the United Nations to address diplomatically the troublesome activities of the Iranian government," Air Force Major Patrick Ryder, said. The UN Security Council has given Iran a Thursday deadline to stop enriching uranium, a process that can yield fuel for nuclear bombs or power plants, or face possible sanctions. Washington has called for a swift response if Iran does not meet the UN deadline.

Dawn, 1 September 2006

### **US drive for hegemony**

The Iranian nuclear issue could well prove to be a watershed in world politics. August 31 was the deadline set by the UN Security Council resolution 1696 for Iran to halt its uranium enrichment programme. As President Ahmadinejad has been making it known all along, Iran has not complied with the demand made by the Council. It is plain that President George Bush does not have the support of all the co-sponsors of the resolution for imposing sanctions on Iran, which has been the American goal since the crisis started. When the resolution was adopted in July, Russia and China managed to water down the draft because they are not inclined to back the US in its policy of confrontation with Iran. The resolution does not speak of sanctions in case of Iranian non-compliance by the stipulated date. The resolution only speaks of "appropriate measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations". It is also underlined that further decisions will be required should "such additional measures be necessary".

The Hindu, 1 September 2006

### **Feasibility of nuclear propulsion for spacecraft under study**

MUMBAI: Scientists are deliberating on the feasibility of nuclear propulsion for spacecraft. The scientists and engineers of the Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy are working on the concept, according to the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), G. Madhavan Nair. He indicated this in his address as the chief guest of the graduation function of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Training School here on Thursday. Later talking to media persons, Dr. Nair said that the conventional fuels used for launching spacecraft were safe and provided the required thrust level, but nuclear fuels could be used in lower orbit thrust for providing the force and drive required for long distance and long duration inter-planetary missions. "This is a cheap and quick way of doing it," he said. Scientists of both the establishments have started exchanging ideas. Another advantage seen is that the spacecraft would not be required to carry large amounts of conventional fuels if a nuclear reactor onboard provides the energy thrusts. Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar said, "what starts as a concept could be a reality."

The Hindu, 4 September 2006

### **Iran wants nuke talks without conditions: IAEA envoy**

Iran's envoy to the UN nuclear watchdog agency said today that a crisis over its nuclear programme could be settled by all sides returning to negotiations without any conditions. "In the civilized world, the language of threat, intimidation would not work. The policy

of carrot and a stick have also not been useful," Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency, told CNN's Late Edition. "We are ready to come to the negotiating table and remove any ambiguities about our nuclear activities and to assure the international community," he said...

Dawn, 4 September 2006

### **No N-work halt, says Iran**

resident Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday told UN chief Kofi Annan he was prepared to negotiate on Iran's nuclear programme but would not accept a suspension of uranium enrichment before talks, the secretary general said. "The president assured me ... Iran is prepared to negotiate and find a way out of this crisis," Annan said after talks with Ahmadinejad in Tehran. But he added Ahmadinejad had also said that "Iran does not accept a suspension (of uranium enrichment) before negotiations". ...

New York Times, 4 September 2006

### **Annan Says Iran's President Holds to Nuclear Program**

The United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan, said Sunday after meeting here with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran that the president was willing to enter into negotiations on his country's nuclear program but would not agree to suspending uranium enrichment beforehand, as demanded by the Security Council...

Washington Post, 4 September 2006

### **N.Korea may hold another missile test: media**

North Korea may be preparing for another missile test, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Sunday, but a government official in Seoul discounted the report. Yonhap also reported China is likely to invite North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to visit this week in an effort to restore their relationship strained after North Korea's missile tests in July...

CNN.com, 4 September 2006

### **EU says giving Iran two more weeks**

European Union foreign ministers agreed on Saturday to give Iran two more weeks to clarify its stance on halting sensitive nuclear work after Tehran ignored a U.N. deadline to suspend uranium enrichment. The United States said on Friday it was consulting European governments about possible sanctions against Iran for intransigence over its nuclear program, but the EU already signaled it wanted to see more dialogue with Tehran. The U.S. is the driving force behind possible sanctions, but Russia cast doubt on whether the Security Council could reach a quick consensus and said threatening Iran would lead to a "dead end."...

Dawn, 5 September 2006

### **Pakistan may sign N-power deal with China in November**

Pakistan may sign a deal with China in November for acquiring six nuclear power plants with an installed capacity of 300 MW each, diplomatic sources told Dawn. Top Chinese officials are expected to visit Pakistan in November to sign the deal, they added. Pakistan has a target of producing 8,000 MW of nuclear power by 2025. Pakistan had earlier

invited the United States to set up nuclear power plants in the country but Washington showed little interest. Instead, the US signed a deal with India to supply nuclear fuel and technology...

The Hindu, 5 September 2006

**India, France "not very far" from nuclear pact**

France and India are "not very far" from reaching a broad agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation as envisaged in their February declaration on "development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes," issued during President Jacques Chirac's visit to New Delhi. "We are moving in the last phase of this process," French Defence Ministry spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau told visiting Indian presspersons at the Ecole Militaire (military school) on Monday...

The Washington Post, 5 September 2006

**Iran to Meet With EU Official Over Nukes (GEORGE JAHN)**

The European Union's foreign policy chief and Iran's senior nuclear negotiator tentatively agreed to meet Wednesday in a last-ditch attempt to bridge differences over Tehran's atomic program, U.N. and European officials said...

The New York Times, 5 September 2006

**U.S. Nuclear Envoy to Visit Beijing**

The top U.S. nuclear envoy planned to visit Beijing on Tuesday amid a report that North Korea's reclusive leader may be prepared to enter China on a special train. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill was due to arrive after meeting with his Japanese counterpart Kenichiro Sasae on Monday in Tokyo. The two agreed to cooperate with China, Russia and South Korea to bring the North back to stalled six-nation talks aimed at persuading the reclusive regime to give up its nuclear ambitions...

International Herald Tribune, 6 September 2006

**Solana, Larijani tentatively agree to meet in Vienna over nuclear impasse**

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iran's senior nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani tentatively agreed to meet Wednesday in Vienna in a last-ditch attempt to try and bridge differences over Tehran's nuclear program, U.N. and European officials said.

New York Times, 6 September 2006

**Bush's nuclear legacy**

Unless something changes soon, by the end of President George W. Bush's second term North Korea will have produced enough plutonium for 10 or more nuclear weapons while Iran's scientists will be close to mastering the skills needed to build their own...

International Herald Tribune, 6 September 2006

**Iran tells Annan it won't halt atom work**

The United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan, said Sunday that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran, was willing to enter into negotiations on his country's nuclear program but would not agree to suspend uranium enrichment beforehand, as demanded by the UN Security Council powers...

AP, 6 September 2006

**Report: U.S., 2 Korean delegates meet**

South Korea - Delegates from the United States and the two Koreas were meeting Tuesday in Beijing, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Tuesday, possibly indicating a breakthrough in stalled talks on the North's nuclear weapons program...

Indian Express, 6 September 2006

**Albright Backs N-Deal**

Madeleine Albright, who served two terms as Secretary of State in the Clinton White House, today expressed support for the Indo-US nuclear deal saying it was a "very important" sign of the evolving bilateral relationship between the two countries...

ABC Australia, 7 September 2006

**US conducts subcritical nuclear test**

The Energy Department has confirmed the United States has carried out a subcritical nuclear experiment at an underground test site in Nevada on Thursday (local time). The test was aimed at gathering "scientific data that provides crucial information to maintain the safety and reliability of... nuclear weapons without having to conduct underground nuclear tests," the department said...

AP, 7 September 2006

**China, U.S. discuss N.Korea nuke program**

China and the United States discussed warning North Korea against conducting a nuclear test, a top American envoy said Wednesday. He also blamed Pyongyang for holding up international talks on the isolated regime's nuclear program...

The New York Times, 7 September 2006

**Fire Aboard Russian Nuclear Sub Kills Two**

A fire broke out aboard a Russian nuclear submarine, killing two crew members but causing no radiation threat, Russian news agencies reported Thursday. The fire occurred Wednesday night on the Daniil Moskovsky submarine of the Northern Fleet, which plies Russia's northern and Arctic waters, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported...

AFP, 7 September 2006

**Six world powers meet over nuclear defiant Iran**

The six world powers trying to get Iran to give up strategic nuclear fuel work meet in Berlin to figure out how to handle a defiant Tehran, with the United States pushing for UN sanctions. It is the first meeting of permanent UN Security Council members Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, plus Germany, since Iran failed on August 31 to honor a Council deadline to halt uranium enrichment, the process which makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material...

The Weekly Standard, 8 September 2006

**New Delhi's message to Washington: Drop Dead. (Henry Sokolski)**

SOME PEOPLE just can't take yes for an answer. A year ago, the White House proposed

giving India civilian nuclear help in hopes of improving relations with New Delhi. That India had used earlier U.S. nuclear assistance to test a bomb in 1974 and then proceeded to test more weapons in 1998 was forgiven. On Capitol Hill, lawmakers went through the tedious task (over the loud objections of nonproliferation critics) of changing 30 years of U.S. laws so the White House could export sensitive nuclear goods to India. How has all this been greeted in New Delhi? With imperious contempt...

The Hindu, 8 September 2006

**Reprocessing is a must: Kakodkar**

The "India-specific safeguards" the country expects to conclude with the International Atomic Energy Agency as part of the proposed civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States "can kick in only after the cooperation starts," Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, told The Hindu in an exclusive interview on Thursday...

International Herald Tribune, 8 September 2006

**Europe Envoy to Meet Iranian Negotiator**

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, will meet Saturday with Iran's top nuclear negotiator, he said Thursday, a day after their meeting in Vienna was postponed...

AFP, 8 September 2006

**Canada, Italy, Japan envoys in Berlin for Iran nuclear talks**

Canada, Italy and Japan have sent envoys to Berlin to meet with top powers on the Iran nuclear crisis, the State Department said...

The New York Times (JUDY DEMPSEY), 9 September 2006

**U.N. Is Moving to Punish Iran, U.S. Envoy Says**

The United States wants the major powers to begin talks next week on a draft United Nations resolution against Iran if it does not halt its enrichment of uranium, a senior American official said Friday...

The Washington Post, 9 September 2006

**China Names New Envoy to N. Korea**

China has appointed an outspoken career diplomat with extensive knowledge of the United States as its new ambassador to North Korea, the official New China News Agency said. Analysts said the appointment of Liu Xiaoming, 50, suggests officials in Beijing are reassessing their relationship with Pyongyang and trying to find a new way to press discussions among China, North Korea and the United States...

The New York Times, 9 September 2006

**Iran's Russia - Built Atomic Plant to Start Up Sept '07**

The atomic reactor Russia is building for Iran at Bushehr is scheduled to start up in September next year, Sergei Kiriyyenko, head of Russia's atomic energy agency, said on Friday...

International Herald Tribune, 9 September 2006

**5 ex-Soviet republics in Central Asia sign nuclear free zone treaty**

The five ex-Soviet republics in Central Asia signed a treaty on Friday to create a nuclear-free zone in the strategic energy-rich region north of Iran and Afghanistan. By signing the treaty, the five nations with a combined population of about 60 million and a territory of more than 3.8 million square kilometers (1.5 million square miles), commit themselves not to produce, buy or allow the deployment of nuclear weapons on their soil...

The New York Times, 11 September 2006

**U.S. Says N. Korea Trapped Itself**

North Korea has trapped itself diplomatically by defying international warnings with its missile launch in July and should find its own way out of the crisis, Washington's chief envoy for talks with Pyongyang said on Monday...

The Washington Post, 11 September 2006

**Iran text hints at flexibility**

Iran has indicated some flexibility in its formal reply to a major powers' incentive package for resolving the nuclear crisis but the response has many conditions, according to a text made public on Monday...

The New York Times, 11 September 2006

**U.S. Says Nuclear Double Standard Justified**

The United States acknowledged on Monday it was employing a double-standard in its divergent approaches to India and Iran's nuclear programs, but said its policies were justified by the behavior of the two countries...

The New York Times, 11 September 2006

**Official: U.S. Moves to Sanction N.Korea**

The United States is moving to impose sanctions on North Korea in accordance with a U.N. Security Council resolution adopted following the North's missile launches in July, a senior South Korean official said Tuesday...

AFP, 11 September 2006

**Seoul wants more flexibility to restart NKorean nuclear talks**

South Korea is pressing the United States to show greater flexibility in efforts to restart nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea, the unification ministry said Tuesday...

The New York Times, 12 September 2006

**Rice Indicates Slight Shift in Stance on Iran Sanctions**

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in an ever-so-slight softening of America's stance, on Monday left open the possibility that the United States might suspend efforts to impose sanctions against Iran if it suspended uranium enrichment for two months...

The Washington Post, 12 September 2006

**Brief Nuclear Halt May Lead to Talks**

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signaled yesterday that a temporary suspension of

Iran's nuclear programs might be enough to pave the way for the first direct negotiations involving the United States and Iran in more than a quarter-century...

AFP, 12 September 2006

**Negotiation still best option to settle Iran nuclear crisis: IAEA**

UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei has said that negotiation remains the best option to settle the Iranian nuclear crisis, but the United States warned it was still seeking sanctions against Tehran...

The Times of India, 13 September 2006

**Amendments to N-deal not a challenge: Expert**

WASHINGTON: The US will "not struggle very hard" to strip of provisions objected by New Delhi in the bill on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal and the amendments proposed in the Congress will not constitute a "serious challenge" to the July 2005 agreement, a senior strategic expert has said. Robert Einhorn, former Assistant Secretary of State for Non Proliferation in the Clinton administration and currently senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, also said the bill could be passed before the Congress adjourns if Bush administration and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist want to do it so. "The Senate is a less predictable place than the House. The Senate has all kinds of rules that protect minority prerogative and so you can have a small number of Senators standing up and raising problems... but if the administration really pushes, it will be done before this Congress adjourns," Einhorn said. "The House and the Senate attached various amendments. I don't think any of them constitute a serious challenge to the July 2005 agreement, but nonetheless attracted a lot of criticism and opposition in India. There is all kinds of stuff in there but we in Washington know how to read that."

The Hindu, 13 September 2006

**"Good ties with U.S. not at the cost of others"**

Brasilia: Spelling out the philosophy behind his foreign policy, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told the media on Tuesday on board the aircraft from Frankfurt to Brasilia that improved relations with a whole range of countries was essential for faster development. Asked how he proposed to play with so many pieces on the foreign policy board, he noted, "As have-nots of the world, we have to toss all the balls." To him, foreign policy was essentially a device to widen the nation's development options. The foremost task was to get rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease, and the country needed a strong economy. Whether it was improving relations with the United States or China or cooperating with other developing countries, the effort was to make use of all opportunities for expanding economic and other contacts. His current visit to Brazil for bilateral talks and for the trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa summit and then to Havana for the Non-aligned summit fitted into this overall picture.

Hindustan Times, 13 September 2006

**US Congress may not pass nuclear deal this year**

Washington: The Indo-US nuclear deal is facing new difficulties which may prevent it taking effect this year, US officials and experts said on Tuesday. Caught up with defence and homeland security issues, the US Congress may not give final approval to the

agreement before ending its legislative session, leaving the deal's fate to a new Congress that will take office in 2007, they said. Also, India has objected to key provisions, causing some US officials to question New Delhi's commitment. The deal would allow India to buy American atomic fuel and reactors for the first time in 30 years, even though it has not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. US Senate leaders plan to meet on Wednesday to discuss a possible timetable for action but the hurdles are considerable, sources said. "It's unlikely to get done. We have limited legislative days left and much to do," an aide said. Congress could adjourn as early as September 29, but there are plans for a "lame duck" session after the November election. A senior US official said the administration still hopes the Senate will act. "There is strong bipartisan support for the legislation but their calendar is complicated," he said.

Hindustan Times, 13 September 2006

### **US will honour civilian nuclear agreement: Mulford**

New Delhi: The US on Wednesday, said it will honour the agreement that has been reached between New Delhi and Washington on civilian nuclear cooperation and stressed that the goalposts with regard to the deal were not being moved. "The goalposts are not being moved. The civilian nuclear agreement when finally implemented will mark a new level of trust and cooperation in our partnership," US Ambassador David Mulford said in his address to the third Indo-US Economic Summit in. "We will honour the agreement that has been reached," Mulford said. Procedural moments and debates in American politics were often baffling to our friends around the world, he said referring to controversies sought to be generated during the ratification of the nuclear agreement by the US Congress.

People's Daily, 13 September 2006

### **U.S. to enhance detection of nuclear, radiological threats**

The U.S. government will step up detection of nuclear and radiological threats by scanning major roads, waterways and underground tunnels of major cities by the end of 2008, a senior official said Tuesday. Secretary of Homeland Defense Michael Chertoff revealed the plan in a testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, saying the threat of weapons of mass destruction such as a nuclear bomb remains the government's greatest fear. Chertoff said the scanning program -- called "Securing the Cities"-- will at least encompass New York and two other major cities but offered no other details. He also said hundreds of radiation monitors are to be deployed at most seaports and will be used to check 80 percent of cargo containers by the end of 2006. The monitors of this kind will also be deployed at all seaports and major land border crossings by the end of 2007, Chertoff added. Once in place, nearly all cargoes entering the nation will be scanned for radiation, he said. Moreover, his Homeland Security Department will spend 1.1 billion U.S. dollars over the next year to create the next generation of radiation screening technology, according to Chertoff.

The Indian Express, 13 September 2006

### **No agreement on Iran statement**

Halifax, September 12: The Six world powers abandoned attempts on Tuesday to issue a joint statement criticising Iran's nuclear defiance after China and Russia refused to

endorse US-backed tough language, diplomats said. The split, at a 35-nation meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board, reflected indecision on how to react to Tehran's weekend suggestion that it might temporarily suspend uranium enrichment?but only on its own terms. Russia and China have both signed off on UN sanctions as a way to punish Iran for its refusal to freeze uranium enrichment, which was first requested and then demanded by the UN Security Council. Russia and China are both permanent council members and part of the six-nation coalition trying to pressure Tehran to give up enrichment. Both, however, have resisted US-led efforts to move to sanctions quickly, despite the expiry of an August 31 deadline on Iran to freeze work on developing the technology, which can be used to help make nuclear arms. Instead, they favour continued negotiations with Tehran. Diplomats accredited to the IAEA, who demanded anonymity, said Iran's readiness to consider a temporary enrichment cessation appears to have exacerbated differences over UN sanctions.

The News, 13 September 2006

#### **IAEA likely to urge Iran for N-talks**

VIENNA: Most members of the UN nuclear watchdog's governing board, a barometer of world sentiment on Iran, are likely in a debate to champion last-gasp talks to defuse a stand-off over Iran's atomic work, diplomats say. Weekend talks in which diplomats said Tehran offered to consider temporarily halting uranium enrichment, and US hints of openness to such a compromise, have revived hopes of averting sanctions with the risk of economic and security repercussions. Most members of the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency board were expected to tread cautiously when they debate the Iran nuclear issue now poised between diplomatic progress and volatile confrontation. "Nobody wants to provoke anybody. Low-key statements are expected, calling on Iran to seize this negotiating opportunity, not much more," said a diplomat from one of the 'EU3' powers, Germany, France, Britain-at the forefront of Iran diplomacy. The debate was to be held later on Tuesday or Wednesday. The West believes Iran's pilot nuclear programme, which Tehran says is just to generate electricity, is a veiled attempt to produce atom bombs and has condemned its disregard of an Aug. 31 UN Security Council deadline to stop enriching uranium. While the IAEA debate was expected to urge diplomacy continues, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Tuesday Washington would move forward on possible sanctions if Iran kept refusing to shelve enrichment.

Daily Times, 13 September 2006

#### **Iran text hints at flexibility on nuclear incentives talks**

WASHINGTON: Iran has indicated some flexibility in its formal reply to a major powers' incentive package for resolving the nuclear crisis but the response has many conditions, according to a text made public on Monday. The 21-page document described the June 6 proposal by the United States, Britain, Russia, China, France and Germany as "containing useful foundations and capacities for comprehensive and long-term cooperation between the two sides." It also raised the possibility that Iran would discuss, during negotiations, suspending uranium enrichment as the major powers' have demanded and that it would allow expanded inspections of its nuclear programme by UN inspectors. But the document holds out little prospect Iran would agree to a permanent

enrichment freeze and sets out other "near-impenetrable" conditions, said David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector who published the document on his Institute for Science and International Security Web site. The six powers, in their proposal, offered economic and political incentives as a basis for negotiations aimed at persuading the Islamic republic to abandon nuclear activities which the West says are intended to produce nuclear weapons.

Daily Times, 13 September 2006

### **Politics of sanctions against Iran**

The US is likely to continue to press for a sanctions resolution that includes an embargo on the oil trade. Whether the major industrial powers will agree to such a proposal, within or outside the UN framework, is unclear. And what does the US want to achieve through a sanctions resolution? There never was much doubt in the West that the Persians are masters at dividing the opposition. And the little there was, was removed earlier this month when they succeeded in persuading Russia and China to deny support to a sanctions resolution following Iran's non-compliance with UNSC Resolution 1696 requiring it to suspend uranium enrichment. Russia argued that historically sanctions had proved ineffective; and that in any case the matter was not so pressing. China insisted that sanctions and threats were not the answer to the problem. Even France resisted the call for sanctions believing that they were likely to trigger a 'clash of civilisations' between the West and the Muslim world. How do we explain these countries' opposition to the US drive for sanctions given that none of them is favourably disposed towards the idea of Iran going nuclear?

The Tribune, 14 September 2006

### **Experts ask Senate to fix 'flaws' in Indo-US N-deal**

A group of 16 nuclear non-proliferation experts is urging the members of the US Senate to fix "serious flaws" in the US-India civilian nuclear deal. Asking senators to modify a Bill that seeks to enable civilian nuclear cooperation with India, the analysts have recommended the inclusion of a determination that US nuclear trade does not in any way assist or encourage India's nuclear weapons programme. They also called upon lawmakers to prohibit the US Government from continuing nuclear assistance or facilitating foreign nuclear exports to India if the Indian Government or Indian entities break existing non-proliferation commitments and practices. In their letter, the group said legislators should restrict full US nuclear trade until India joins the five original nuclear-weapon states in stopping the production of fissile material for weapons or subscribes to a multilateral fissile production cutoff agreement. "We believe these measures are necessary because India has neither joined the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty nor accepted safeguards on all of its nuclear facilities and India's non-proliferation policy is not fully consistent with the non-proliferation practices and responsibilities expected of the original nuclear-weapon states," wrote the experts.

The Indian Express, 14 September 2006

### **"India has set up 18 centres to deal with nuclear emergencies"**

BANGALORE, Sept 13: India has set up 18 radiation emergency response centres in different parts of the country to deal with any nuclear emergency which can occur due to

an act of terror, nuclear attacks, transportation of nuclear materials and accidents in nuclear facilities. The first of these centres - boasting of well-trained scientific manpower, advanced radiation measuring and monitoring instruments, software and other emergency material - was inaugurated at the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research here by Atomic Energy Commission chairman Anil Kakodkar. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's head of emergency response systems KS Pradeepkumar said the 18 centres set up by the Department of Atomic Energy will strengthen the country's emergency preparedness. "These centres will be in a position to give any advice and support to the civil administrators and first responders regarding rescue and rehabilitation following any suspected presence of radioactive material in the public domain," he said. Pradeepkumar said systems have been developed to prevent smuggling of radioactive sources to India as well as to prevent illegal trafficking of radioactive sources. "Systems like aerial gamma spectrometry systems installed in aircraft can search and detect orphan sources even if stored in some building," he said.

The Hindu, 14 September 2006

#### **U.S. curbs on nuclear issue a barrier to trade: Pranab**

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee declared on Wednesday that a "large body of restrictions" on the nuclear issue imposed by the United States formed an "invisible barrier" to trade and investment between India and the U.S. These restrictions impacted India in the areas of high-technology trade and cooperation, "so vital" to advancing the economies of the two countries, he said inaugurating an Indo-U.S. business meeting. Referring to the still-in-the-works civilian nuclear deal, Mr. Mukherjee felt that the passage of legislation in the American Congress would finally permit bilateral cooperation to "come into its own." Bilateral trade between the two countries, which stood at \$26.8 billion in 2005, was one-tenth of the trade between China and the U.S. "There is no reason why the levels of trade between our two countries should not rise to, and even surpass, those levels." Earlier, U.S. Ambassador David Mulford said Washington was committed to implementing the civilian nuclear understanding reached between the two countries in July 2005.

The Hindu, 14 September 2006

#### **Nuclear programme will continue: Kakodkar**

Bangalore: The Indian nuclear programme will continue whether or not the deal with the U.S. comes through, Anil Kakodkar, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman and Department of Atomic Energy Secretary, said on Wednesday. He was speaking to presspersons after inaugurating an Emergency Response Centre at the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research. Dr. Kakodkar said the two countries had held wide-ranging discussions on the modalities of the deal, including discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency. India's nuclear programme was linked to three factors - sustaining fossil fuel reserves, heavy pricing of hydrocarbons, and global climatic problems. There was global interest in its nuclear programme as India was an advanced nuclear technology country. Nuclear technology could contribute to world energy requirements, and India was known to be a safe and responsible nuclear player. "We have identified a separation plan, which has been discussed and agreed upon by the two countries. We are close to getting approval of the deal. However, the U.S. Congress will

have to amend its laws to pass a guideline with regard to nuclear fuel suppliers, so that nuclear cooperation between the two countries can begin," he said.

The Hindu, 14 September 2006

### **Signs of pause in reforms, says Mulford**

NEW DELHI: Hasty decisions taken to accelerate the process of economic reforms could have negative consequences, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here on Wednesday. "There could be minor hitches in the process of reforms, but as you know only too well, democracy is about checks and balances. Decisions can be taken only after debate and due consideration," he said at an Indo-U.S. business meeting here. His remarks came just after U.S. Ambassador David Mulford said there were signs of a "pause" in the economic reforms process. "Privatisations have stopped, and political reality suggests that reform of other key sectors and policies of central interest to investors will take longer than envisioned." According to Mr. Mulford, it was "important to bear in mind" that there were "economic costs" to any loss of momentum on the reform front. "The Prime Minister has expressed his hopes of even higher than eight per cent growth per annum for India. But he has also indicated that higher growth requires continued reforms."

The Hindu, 14 September 2006

### **"Amendments no serious challenge"**

Washington: The U.S. will "not struggle very hard" to strip of provisions objected by New Delhi in the Bill on the India-U.S. nuclear deal and the amendments proposed in the Congress will not constitute a "serious challenge", a strategic expert said. Robert Einhorn, senior advisor at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the Bill could be passed before the Congress adjourns if the Bush administration and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist want to do so. "The Senate has all kinds of rules that protect minority prerogative and so you can have a small number of Senators standing up and raising problems... but if the administration really pushes, it will be done before this Congress adjourns," he said.

Dawn, 14 September 2006

### **US group urges Bush not to help India's N-arms plan**

WASHINGTON, Sept 13: A US non-proliferation group has urged the Bush administration to ensure that its civil nuclear trade with India does not in any way assist or encourage the country's nuclear weapons programme. This and other suggestions by the Arms Control Association, an umbrella organisation representing influential non-proliferation lobbyists, are backed by 16 former US officials and experts. The Indo-US nuclear deal comes up for hearing at the US Senate later this month. The House of Representatives has already approved the deal. The ACA said that the suggestions, sent in a letter to the Senate on Tuesday, seek to remedy "serious flaws" in the US-India nuclear deal. The group is also seeking to "further offset the adverse effects of the arrangement on US non-proliferation and security objectives." India has already expressed reservations with both the enabling legislation passed by the House of Representatives and the draft bill approved by the Senate Foreign Relations committee. It is unlikely to accept further restrictions. But the experts who signed the ACA letter are

encouraging lawmakers to adopt and uphold measures that they say are essential for US security and non-proliferation.

The Times of India, 15 September 2006

### **S Africa, Brazil support Indo-US N-deal**

WASHINGTON: The US on Friday described as a "significant development" the endorsement of the Indo-US nuclear deal by South Africa and Brazil, key members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and said it is "actively" interacting with key members of the multinational grouping to explain the virtues of the agreement. "You saw a fairly significant development in that regard. The meeting between India, South Africa and Brazil where Brazil and South Africa, who are key members of NSG, stood up and said yes we support the Indian plan, we support the Indian effort, we think it is good for that to go through and be able to cooperate with India on civilian nuclear power," Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Richard Boucher said. At the IBSA summit in Brasilia, Brazil and South Africa had extended their support to India for opening up avenues for international civilian nuclear cooperation. Boucher also felt that the NSG would not be ready at the moment to decide on the Indo-US nuclear deal. "The United States has been talking to a lot of countries, to try and get to as many countries in the Nuclear Suppliers Group as possible and to try to answer their questions. We have been pretty active," he told students at the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University.

The Hindu, 15 September 2006

### **U.S. playing negative role, says Tehran**

DUBAI: Iran has expressed optimism about its talks with the European Union, but has accused the United States of playing a negative role. Ali Ashgar Soltanieh, senior official, said at a meeting of the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board that talks with the E.U. had been helpful "even though the U.S. poisoned the positive environment." He accused Washington of making "unfounded allegations" about Iran's nuclear programme. He pointed out that only "the continuation of dialogue and negotiations free from any kind of threat, pressure or any preconditions can pave the way" to a negotiated settlement. Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and the E.U.'s foreign policy representative Javier Solana have already held two rounds of talks in Vienna and could go in for another session soon. Mr. Soltanieh's remarks came ahead of talks between Iranian and E.U. officials later on Thursday. The five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany want Iran to suspend uranium enrichment as a precondition for a full-scale dialogue and possible incentives. E.U. diplomats earlier said that during talks between Mr. Larijani and Mr. Solana, the Iranian side had signalled some flexibility on the question of enrichment, such as embarking on a two-month freeze. However, it was not clear whether Iran would be ready to undertake a time-bound suspension before or after a full-fledged dialogue on its nuclear programme commenced.

The Times of India, 15 September 2006

### **China developing biological weapons: US**

WASHINGTON: The United States said it suspected China was developing "sophisticated" biological and chemical weapons and expressed concern over Beijing's

commitment towards non-proliferation. "We remain disappointed in the continuing proliferant behaviour of certain Chinese entities, and we remain deeply concerned about the Chinese government's commitment towards its nonproliferation obligations," said Paula DeSutter, the Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance and Implementation. Testifying before the US-China Economic Security Review Commission, a Congress-sanctioned panel, DeSutter said Chinese involvement in biological weapons went against international laws. China is a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. "We maintain reservations about China's current research activities and dual-use capabilities, which raise the possibility that sophisticated BW (biological weapons) and CW (chemical weapons) work could be underway," she said. Dual-use technology is regarded as those which has potential to be used for hostile or peaceful purposes or both.

The New York Times, 15 September 2006

### **North Korea Warns South Against Joining U.S. Sanctions**

SEOUL: North Korea warned the South on Friday against joining international moves to apply sanctions against Pyongyang and said ties would suffer and a war could break out if Seoul cooperated with the United States against it. The warning issued in the North's official media came after President Bush and South Korea's Roh Moo-hyun agreed to continue efforts to reopen dialogue with the North. Washington is widely believed to be looking to put more pressure on Pyongyang following the communist state's launch of a barrage of missiles in July and Pyongyang's refusal to return to six-country nuclear talks for almost a year. "South Korea, prodded by the outside forces, is joining in the racket to put international pressure upon the North and backing those forces in the sanctions against it, quite contrary to the interests of the Korean nation," the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary. A U.N. Security Council resolution passed in July after the North's missile launches called on member states to stop trade and financial transactions with the North that could help Pyongyang's missile and weapons of mass destruction programs.

The Indian Express, 16 September 2006

### **Boucher: IBSA's nod of Indo-US nuclear deal significant**

WASHINGTON, Sept 15: The US today described as a 'significant development' the endorsement of the Indo-US nuclear deal by South Africa and Brazil, key members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and said it is 'actively' interacting with key members of the multinational group to explain the virtues of the agreement. "You saw a fairly significant development in that regard. The meeting between India, South Africa and Brazil where Brazil and South Africa, who are key members of NSG, stood up and said yes we support the Indian plan, we support the Indian effort, we think it is good for that to go through and be able to cooperate with India on civilian nuclear power," Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Richard Boucher said. At the IBSA Summit in Brasilia, Brazil and South Africa had extended their support to India for opening up avenues for international civilian nuclear cooperation. Boucher also felt that the NSG would not be ready at the moment to decide on the Indo-US nuclear deal. "The United States has been talking to a lot of countries, to try and get to as many countries in the Nuclear Suppliers Group as possible and to try to answer their questions. We have been pretty active," he told

students at the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University.

The Tribune, 16 September 2006

### **Bush Admin expects 'strong bilateral vote' on N-deal**

The Bush Administration hopes to get a 'strong bilateral vote' from the Senate this month in support of a Bill that would enable civilian nuclear cooperation with India, a senior US official said on Thursday. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, however, admitted that the Senate had a 'very crowded calendar' for the few days left before its session ends. October 6 has been set as a target adjournment date for the chamber. According to congressional sources, no date has yet been finalised for the Senate to take up the nuclear cooperation Bill. This is unlikely to be a priority for the chamber in which Republicans are fighting to maintain their majority in the November elections. Lawmakers, mindful of the fact that foreign policy issues are not a priority for American voters, will likely focus on domestic issues in an attempt to win crucial support. The civil nuclear agreement is a big deal, Mr Boucher said at the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington. The effort to reach this agreement goes back to previous administrations in both India and the United States, he added.

The News, 16 September 2006

### **Iran ready to discuss enrichment suspension**

PARIS: Iran told the European Union's foreign policy chief Javier Solana last weekend that it is prepared to discuss suspending its uranium enrichment programme, a French foreign ministry spokesman confirmed on Friday. Solana met Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani in Vienna on Saturday and Sunday. A EU diplomat told Reuters after the meeting that Larijani offered a two-month suspension of the enrichment programme. Suspension of enrichment-related activities is a precondition set by France, Britain, Germany, Russia, the United States and China for talks with Teheran on a package of economic and other incentives in exchange for Iran scrapping the programme. "Iran ... has accepted to talk about the question of suspension. That for us is a positive development," spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei told a regular news briefing. Iran has so far ignored an Aug. 31 UN Security Council deadline to suspend its enrichment programme, which Teheran says will only be used for civilian purposes, not to make atomic weapons as many Western countries suspect. Meanwhile, European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, in his most upbeat comments so far, said on Friday he was 'really making progress' in talks with Iran on its nuclear programme.

Daily Times, 16 September 2006

### **'Indo-US nuclear deal will improve Indian economy'**

Washington: The Indo-US nuclear agreement will signify "an enormous increase in generating capacity that will help India meet its growing demand for electricity without relying on dirty, carbon-emitting coal, improving India's economy and the lives of all Indians", says David C Mulford, the American ambassador to India. Outlining the United States' economic goals to delegates at the third Indo-US Economic Summit in New Delhi this week, Mulford said that nuclear cooperation also would add to the expanding

bilateral business transactions. "The US is the largest foreign direct investor in India, a considered bet on this country's future. US investment here continues to grow, and we want to accelerate it," Mulford said, adding that the goal was "doubling Indo-US trade in three years". The US and India are building 'a historic partnership', and the US policy "is premised on the belief that no other relationship will be more important in shaping the world of the 21st century", the ambassador said.

Daily Times, 16 September 2006

### **Muslims should have nukes: Mahathir**

ISLAMABAD: Muslim nations in the Middle East should arm themselves with nuclear weapons to deter Western enemies from attacking them, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Friday. "They should have tanks, warplanes, warships, guns and missiles," Mahathir said. "Yes, they need to have nuclear weapons too, because only with the possession of such would their enemies be deterred from attacking them." Mahathir, 81, who retired as prime minister in 2003, remains highly respected and influential throughout the Muslim world. He is currently on a lecture tour of Central and South Asia, and was addressing a conference on religious tolerance in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. When asked whether Muslim nations in the Middle East should acquire nuclear weapons, Mahathir replied, "Well, if you allow Israel to have them, why should the others not have them too" Israel - which has neither confirmed nor denied reports that it possesses nuclear arms - is generally believed to have the world's sixth-largest stockpile of such weapons, including hundreds of warheads. Mahathir, a frequent critic of the Jewish state and its nuclear arsenal, stressed that he believed in a world free of nuclear weapons.

People's Daily, 16 September 2006

### **Roundup: China refutes U.S. officials' criticism on nonproliferation**

China on Friday refuted criticism from U.S. officials on China's nonproliferation commitment, saying the claim is "groundless and irresponsible". The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their carriers," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a statement. Qin said China also banned the proliferation of biological and chemical weapons. Qin's comments followed reports that some U.S. officials said China was helping some countries develop ballistic missile technology. China was also blasted for developing biological and chemical weapons, a violation of international convention. "No Chinese company or individual is allowed to engage in WMD proliferation," Qin said. China has done a lot of work in nonproliferation legislation and law enforcement, educating companies and improving international cooperation, Qin said, adding that the work has yielded remarkable achievements. The Associated Press quoted Peter Rodman, U.S. assistant defense secretary, as saying that "Chinese companies have helped Iran as it tries to establish a self-sufficient ballistic missile production program."

The Hindu, 17 September 2006

### **'Uranium' seized**

Berhampur: Eight persons were arrested and about one kg of material, which they claimed to be uranium, was seized from their possession in Orissa's Ganjam district, a

senior police officer said on Saturday.

The Tribune, 17 September 2006

### **Senators urged to pass law on N-deal**

Washington, September 16: With the Senate likely to take up legislation regarding the Indo-US nuclear deal this month, business organisations and foreign policy experts here have written a letter to Senators urging them to pass the measure so as to achieve a "greater partnership" with India. The letter has as its signatories five leading business organisations, 28 leading American companies, nine Indian American organisations and more than 20 leading foreign policy experts and have been sent to each of the Senators. "For over 50 years, the USA and India have sought to deepen their political, economic and strategic relationships. The Senate will soon consider, hopefully this month, the United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act. This legislation will clear a key hurdle to greater US-Indian relations and will help create major trade opportunities for US companies. We urge you to support this historic legislation, S.3709, which would put in place the framework necessary for the US and India to broker a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement that will finally bring India's civilian nuclear programme under international safeguards," the signatories have told lawmakers.

The New York Times, 17 September 2006

### **China Asserts Iran's Right to Civilian Nuclear Use**

BEIJING: Iran has the right to harness nuclear energy for civilian use but should abide by its international commitments on the issue, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in comments published on Sunday. Yang's remarks come a day after state media carried comments by Premier Wen Jiabao urging Iran to show more flexibility on its nuclear program. "Iran has the right to use nuclear energy peacefully," the official Xinhua news agency cited Yang as saying on Saturday at a summit of Non-Aligned Movement nations in Havana, which China attended as an observer. Echoing Wen's comments, Yang said that the Iranian nuclear issue was at a critical stage, but that there was still hope for a negotiated settlement to the standoff. "All parties concerned should take constructive steps and show flexibility to resume dialogue and negotiation at an early date," Xinhua quoted Yang as saying. Tehran ignored an August 31 U.N. Security Council deadline to halt uranium enrichment, which Iran says is for civilian energy use but which Western powers fear will be used for making weapons. European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana has been negotiating with Iran on behalf of the world's major powers, but Washington is pushing for a move toward sanctions if there is no breakthrough soon.

Daily Times, 17 September 2006

### **China urges Iran to be flexible on nuclear issue**

BEIJING: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has urged Iran to show more flexibility on its nuclear programme but said there was still hope for a negotiated settlement to the standoff, state media reported on Saturday. Wen made the comments in a Friday meeting with Iranian Vice-President Ali Saidlu on the sidelines of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a regional security forum, in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. Iran is an observer to the SCO. "The Chinese premier said Iran's flexibility will help

create conditions for an early resumption of the talks and the final settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue," the official Xinhua news agency reported. "He said the Iranian nuclear issue is in a critical period," the agency reported. European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana has been negotiating with Iran on behalf of the world's major powers but Washington is pushing for a move toward sanctions if there is no breakthrough soon. China, which wields veto power on the Security Council, is wary of sanctions and has long urged a diplomatic solution. During the meeting with Wen, Saidlu said Iran's nuclear activity was transparent and for peaceful purposes.

The Tribune, 17 September 2006

### **'US is a real N-threat'**

Havana, September 16: Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has claimed the USA is the real nuclear threat and reiterated his stand that Teheran's nuclear atomic programme had peaceful aims. "Why should people live under the nuclear threat of the United States?" he asked yesterday at a summit of the 118-strong Non Aligned Movement in Havana. "What is the UN Security Council waiting for to react to those threats?" He urged his counterparts to help "counter attempts to prevent Iran from developing its peaceful nuclear activity." The USA is pushing for sanctions against Iran to force Teheran to stop producing enriched uranium.

Dawn, 17 September 2006

### **N-issues in spotlight at NAM summit**

HAVANA, Sept 16: Developing countries broached sensitive nuclear issues in Havana on Saturday as North Korea blamed the United States for prodding it to have deterrent arms. At the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, North Korea charged that the United States left it no option but to secure deterrent nuclear weapons, and pledged that as long as it was hit by US sanctions it would not be back in six-party talks. "Our country will never return to the talks under US sanctions," Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, told NAM leaders and delegates. "The United States, far from complying with the six-party commission's agreements, has continued to impose unilateral sanctions sending the talks to a standstill and dragging the situation into an unpredictable point," he charged. Complaining that Washington was threatening Pyongyang with all sorts of manoeuvres, he said: "(North) Korea has had no other option than to have nuclear arms as a deterrent weapon, since Korea does not need nuclear arms." "(North) Korea has nuclear arms as a deterrent to firmly guarantee the peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region." NAM heads of state and government from more than 55 countries and delegates from a total of 118 were due to adopt a voluminous final declaration backing Iran's right to nuclear energy; urging UN reform to achieve greater weight for poor countries; and opposing what they see as US interventionism.

Dawn, 17 September 2006

### **Big powers plan another meeting with Iran: US to be excluded**

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: Major powers are considering a joint meeting with Iran next week that excludes the United States as a way of bridging a divide over its nuclear program, US and European diplomats said on Saturday. They described the planning as

extremely fluid and unlikely to result in any firm decisions until key officials confer in New York on Sunday and Monday on the fringes of the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. Concerns about Iran's nuclear program are expected to be a focus of this year's General Assembly and multiple meetings and speeches on the subject are likely. The question is "whether there could be a meeting - not necessarily with the United States - that would allow the Iranians to say there was a process of negotiations that had started and as result of this, they decided to resume the suspension of uranium enrichment", one diplomat said. "The pressure is mounting for it to happen next week. That's an obvious opportunity," he added. US officials have said an idea for such a meeting, possibly at the level of foreign ministers, had been raised but they were cautious about whether it might occur and produce results. "I'm not really sure" if it will take place, a senior U.S. official said of the proposed meeting.

The Tribune, 18 September 2006

#### **NAM endorses India's stand on terror**

Havana, September 17: In a strong endorsement of India's position, the 118-nation Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) today expressed its total opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and asked countries to combat the menace, including by prosecuting and extraditing its perpetrators. It resolved to oppose and condemn the categorisation of countries as 'good or evil' based on unilateral and unjustified criteria and the adoption of a doctrine of pre-emptive attack, including by nuclear weapons. The summit reaffirmed the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It noted with concern that undue restrictions on export to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist. The proliferation concerns must be addressed through a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreement.

The News, 18 September 2006

#### **False claims on Iran**

There have been two telling revelations this month - one about the false case made against the Iranian nuclear programme in a US House committee report and the other about the untrue claims by President Bush in the run-up to his invasion of Iraq that there was a link between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. Both the disclosures are virtually incontestable. In a recent letter addressed to the chairman of the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a top official of the International Atomic Energy Agency described the committee's claim that the Iranians were trying to acquire nuclear-weapons capability as 'outrageous and dishonest.' The letter reported in the US media last week complained to Rep. Peter Hoekstra that the report by his committee had given 'incorrect and misleading' information to the IAEA to try to mislead it. Signed by Vilmos Cserveny, a senior director of the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog, the letter cited the following falsehood contained in the report: that IAEA director general Mohamed ElBaradei removed a senior inspector 'for concluding that the purpose of Iran's nuclear programme is to construct weapons'; in reality, Mr Cserveny pointed out, it was Iran, not Mr ElBaradei, who had asked for the inspector to be replaced, under a right Tehran enjoys under agreements governing countries' relationships with the IAEA.

The Washington Post, 18 September 2006

### **Treasury Warns G-7 About Iran**

SINGAPORE, Sept. 16: U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. used his first meeting of world finance chiefs on Saturday as a venue to press the Bush administration's mission to isolate Iran and choke its nuclear aspirations. Emerging from a meeting of finance ministers representing the Group of Seven industrialized nations, Paulson said he urged his counterparts to intensify efforts to prevent banks and private companies in their countries from being used as unwitting conduits for financing and materials aiding Iran's ambitions. He said scores of seemingly legitimate businesses are fronts in what the United States contends is a broad Iranian campaign to gain weapons of mass destruction and support terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas. "There's a broad network of front companies, and these are not front companies that say 'Nuclear Acquisition Corp.' or 'Weapons Production Corp.," Paulson said at a news conference after the meeting. "These are mundane-sounding companies that do many legitimate activities, but in addition, do some of these untoward and illicit activities."

Dawn, 18 September 2006

### **Allies stand aloof as US wages financial offensive on Iran**

SINGAPORE: The United States is taking the financial fight to Iran as it steps up pressure on its allies to get tough over the Islamic Republic's nuclear ambitions. But are its partners listening? Washington, perhaps coincidentally, has intensified financial action against Iran in the fortnight since the Islamic Republic ignored a UN deadline to suspend its uranium enrichment. On Sept 8, the Treasury Department froze Bank Saderat, one of Iran's largest lenders with some 3,400 branches, from doing any business with US-owned banks on what it called its support to terrorism. Treasury officials accused Saderat and Iran's central bank of channelling 'hundreds of millions of dollars' through unwitting Western banks to what it called extremist groups and to the country's missile programme. They said the outfits include the Lebanese Shia group Hezbollah, and Palestinian groups Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. On the margins of International Monetary Fund meetings here, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson was on Sunday holding no fewer than three private sessions with European nations, Gulf states and banks to discuss Iran.

Dawn, 18 September 2006

### **What is Mr Bush up to?**

The crisis on Iran's nuclear programme has an air of deja vu about it. An unclassified American Congressional Committee report has alleged that the IAEA has discovered that Iran has already enriched uranium to weapons grade level. This is a false allegation as the world has been told by the IAEA which has described the report as 'outrageous and dishonest'. Why is the Bush administration trying to whip up panic about Iran? Obviously because it now finds that it cannot bank on its allies any more. A fortnight after the expiry of the deadline set by the UN Security Council resolution for Iran to halt its uranium enrichment activity, the nuclear powers are still not clear what line of action to adopt vis-a-vis Tehran. Mercifully, the sense of urgency that had caused Iran to be making headlines a few weeks ago as the next potential flashpoint in international politics has

dissipated. The major factor that has taken the heat out of the controversy on Iran's nuclear programme is the split in the attitude of the various governments which constitute the 5+1 that are trying to wean Iran away from uranium enrichment by offering it a package of incentives.

The Asahi Shimbun, 18 September 2006

### **3 banks follow U.S. in sanctions on Iran**

Three of Japan's major banks have halted all dollar transactions with Bank Saderat, a large state-operated bank in Iran, in line with U.S. sanctions imposed earlier as an anti-terror step. Japan imports more than 10 percent of its oil from Iran. If the sanctions are broadened, Japanese companies could find it more difficult to pay for their oil purchases. The three banks are the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd. Because U.S. financial institutions play a role in the dollar-based transactions, the Japanese banks had no option but to follow the U.S. lead. Iran is the third-largest exporter of oil to Japan, after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Last year, Iran supplied about 14 percent of the 4.22 million barrels Japan imports daily. Obstacles to making oil payments will unavoidably disrupt Japanese companies' purchasing plans. But with something of a surplus in global oil supplies at the moment, the immediate impact on Japan is likely to be minimal for the time being.

Daily Times, 18 September 2006

### **N Korea renews demand for lifting US sanctions**

SEOUL: North Korea has renewed demands for a lifting of US financial sanctions on the communist country, refuting Washington's claims that it is counterfeiting the US currency. The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) claimed in a dispatch that the world's biggest US dollar counterfeiter was the United States itself, not the communist state. "The US should immediately give up its anachronistic hostile policy toward the DPRK (North Korea) and lift its unreasonable financial sanction on it," it said, while rejecting US charges against North Korea. "It is known to the world that the US itself tops the list of those countries of counterfeit," the KCNA said, citing 46.5 million fake US dollars and some 500 counterfeiting places detected in the United States in 2004. "The US is now raising a hue and cry over someone's 'counterfeit' like a thief crying 'stop the thief!'," it wrote. "Our country will never return to the talks under US sanctions," North Korea's number two Kim Yong Nam told the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Havana, Cuba, on Saturday.

Dawn, 18 September 2006

### **Enrichment under UN monitoring proposed**

BERLIN, Sept 17: Germany has proposed the creation of shared, UN-monitored uranium enrichment facilities as an alternative to individual countries acquiring their own enrichment technology, which could be misused for bomb-making. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told the Handelsblatt newspaper that such facilities could be supervised by the United Nation's nuclear monitoring organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Countries such as Iran could then source fuel rods to be used in nuclear power stations from a shared enrichment facility located outside their borders and operated under strict monitoring by the UN's non-proliferation

watchdog. "A third-party state could make an extraterritorial area available for an enrichment facility - that would have a similar status to the UN in New York," Steinmeier was quoted as saying in comments from an interview released ahead of publication on Monday. "The facility could be financed by states, who would in return have the right to take delivery of atomic fuel." IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei had been informed of the suggestions this weekend, the newspaper said, adding that the legal framework already existed for the IAEA to create such 'extraterritorial' facilities.

The Korean Herald, 18 September 2006

### **'No talks' while facing U.S. sanctions: N.K.**

North Korea has charged that the United States left it no option but to secure nuclear arms as a deterrent, and pledged that as long as it was subject to U.S. sanctions it would not return to talks. "Our country will never return to the talks under U.S. sanctions," Kim Yong-nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, told the Nonaligned Movement summit in Havana on Saturday. "The United States, far from complying with the six-party commission's agreements, has continued to impose unilateral sanctions sending the talks to a standstill and dragging the situation to an unpredictable point," he charged. Kim is the first senior Pyongyang official to make public comments since President Roh Moo-hyun and U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington on Thursday committed themselves to six-party talks aimed at defusing the North Korean nuclear crisis, and called on the North to return to dialogue. Roh returned home Saturday

The Japan Times, 18 September 2006

### **N. Korea seen as Japan's 'biggest threat'**

Japan should give priority to dealing with North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile development as they are the "biggest threat" facing the nation, a former top negotiator with North Korea said prior to the anniversary of a landmark bilateral summit in 2002. As part of efforts to resolve the North Korean problem, Japan should work to mend its strained ties with China because Beijing's influence on Pyongyang is as important as that of the United States, Katsunari Suzuki said during a recent interview. "North Korea's nuclear weapons and its development of (ballistic) missiles (to deliver them) have been the biggest threat to Japan," he said. "We should deal with these issues as a priority matter." Suzuki, 68, said it is "reasonable" for Japan to impose sanctions on North Korea and consider tightening them in reaction to the launch of seven missiles including a long-range Taepodong-2 on July 5. "But Kim Jong Il's administration has yet to starve (owing to economic assistance by China and South Korea). That explains why North Korea doesn't show up at the six-party talks," Suzuki said.

The Tribune, 19 September 2006

### **N-deal will sail through, says Talbott**

New Delhi, September 18: Brookings Institution President and former Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott has said categorically that the Indo-US nuclear deal will go through smoothly. "We are going to get the nuclear deal and we have to work with it," he said during a talk on US foreign policy at the Observer Research Foundation here today. He said the deal was also discussed with the previous NDA government but could not get

to the four benchmarks of the CTBT, strategic restraint, fissile material and Indo-Pakistan peace process. Mr Talbott said Indo-US relations were on a solid footing and received bipartisan support. While there were serious political obstacles in India for the deal, he believed that the killer amendments would not infringe on India. He said the essence of the nuclear deal was that it was making an exception with regard to the NPT. Even as India deserved the exception, arguments would be raised as to why such an exception not be made in respect of other countries. To that extent, the deal might be viewed as a precarious one, he said.

The Hindu, 19 September 2006

**Talbott: BJP had a lot to do with groundwork for deal**

NEW DELHI: The former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott on Monday said the Bharatiya Janata Party's position on the civilian nuclear deal between New Delhi and Washington was dictated by "politics." In public comments, Mr. Talbott, who held 13 rounds of talks with the former External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh when the BJP was in power, said the party had a "lot to do" with laying the groundwork for the civilian nuclear understanding. Suggesting that the nuclear deal would "sail" through the Congressional process, Mr. Talbott, who now heads the Brookings think tank in the U.S, said the changes, facilitating civilian nuclear cooperation, could be signed into law by President George W. Bush by the year-end. The former diplomat said the Bush administration did not drive a hard bargain on the issue of India agreeing to a fissile material cut-off as part of the deal. However, he was hopeful that after having achieved what it wanted, India would see both an opportunity and obligation to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. He was "guessing" that China would raise the issue why India alone was being exempted from the Nuclear Suppliers Group's guidelines.

The Tribune, 19 September 2006

**Saran leaves for US to hold talks on N-deal**

New Delhi, September 18: Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran left for the United States late tonight for talks with his American counterpart, Nicholas Burns, on the Indo-US nuclear deal which is expected to be voted upon by the Senate some days later. Mr Saran discussed the issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan shortly before his departure for the USA. The Prime Minister had returned home late this evening from his nine-day two nation-tour of Brazil and Cuba. Dr S. Jaishanker, a pivotal figure in the Indo-US nuclear deal negotiations, who is heading the Americas Division of the Ministry of External Affairs here, has already reached Washington to do groundwork. Mr Saran's visit to the US assumes significance in view of the fact that the Senate vote is the last hurdle in the implementation of the deal as the House of Representatives - the other part of the two-House US Congress - has already overwhelmingly voted in favour of the legislation. It is understood that the draft resolution to be put up before the Senate has been prepared and Saran-Burns talks are expected to focus on this document.

The Hindu, 19 September 2006

**No shift in India's stand: Manmohan**

Frankfurt: There has been no shift in India's stand on terrorism, Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh told journalists on board Air India 1 taking him from Havana to Frankfurt en route to Delhi. He was replying to a question if there had been a shift in New Delhi's stand that until now had been critical of Pakistan's role in promoting terrorism. India was worried about cross-border terrorism but there was no use merely condemning that. Whenever an opportunity presented itself, it had to be seized. "We have to toss all the balls to save lives," he said. Asked if a future terrorist attack in India would result in a setback to the talks, he said one could not anticipate things. There had been an advance, and it had to be given a try.

The Indian Express, 19 September 2006

### **Enrichment suspension idea misunderstood: Iran**

TEHRAN, September 18:: Iran said on Monday the idea it was prepared to shelve uranium enrichment for a limited time had been misunderstood by the West. Iran's acceptance of limited suspension is a misunderstanding. We have not reached any conclusion over the issue yet, government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham told a weekly news conference. European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana has been in talks with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on behalf of the world's major powers to resolve Tehran's nuclear dispute with the West. France said that during talks this month in Vienna, Larijani had told Solana that Tehran was ready to discuss freezing its uranium enrichment work. An EU diplomat also said Larijani had offered to consider a roughly 2-month suspension. Elham reiterated that Iran would not accept any preconditions for talks on its nuclear programme. Talks must be without preconditions...No result can be achieved under threats and conditions, he said. Meanwhile, the head of the UN nuclear monitoring agency today urged Iran and six world powers to start talks on easing world concerns that Tehran could be seeking to make an atomic bomb.

The New York Times, 19 September 2006

### **Iran's Freeze on Enrichment Could Wait, France Suggests**

PARIS, Sept. 18: In an effort to jump-start formal negotiations between six world powers and Iran over its nuclear program, President Jacques Chirac of France suggested Monday that Iran would not have to freeze major nuclear activities until the talks began. President Jacques Chirac said Iran should cease enrichment during negotiations, a variation on previous demands that it cease beforehand. Over the years, Mr. Chirac has consistently taken an extremely hard line against Iran both in public and private. But his remarks in a radio interview could be interpreted as a concession to Iran, whose officials have said they will not suspend their production of enriched uranium as demanded by the United Nations Security Council. "Iran and the six countries together, we must first find an agenda for negotiations, then start a negotiation," Mr. Chirac told Europe 1 radio. "During this negotiation I propose that on the one hand, the six refrain from referring the issue to the Security Council, and that Iran refrain from uranium enrichment during the duration of the negotiation."

The Nation, 19 September 2006

### **Proliferation: new signs**

Iran's latest bid to come to an understanding with opponents of its uranium enrichment

programme by proposing to suspend it for a month or two might suggest a positive movement towards resolution of the dispute. But that concession could bear fruit only if Washington were also to show flexibility. The US is the main force behind the campaign to deny Tehran its right to develop nuclear energy for civilian purposes on the ground that it suspects the enrichment technology it has developed might be used to make atomic weapons, which would strike a blow to its non-proliferation drive. The world, weary of one nerve-wracking crisis after another especially since 9/11, would very much like the US to probe Iran's proposal of temporary suspension further to better understand its intentions and try to find a peaceful solution. Iran's hint at halting enrichment, first dropped by former President Khatami while on a tour of the US and reiterated by its top nuclear negotiator Ali Laranjani at Vienna last week as he met EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, by no means reveals its willingness to drop the enrichment activity on a permanent basis.

The News, 19 September 2006

#### **US to pursue sanctions unless Iran stops enrichment: Bolton**

UNITED NATIONS: The United States will pursue efforts to impose UN sanctions on Iran unless Tehran halts its uranium enrichment activities, the US Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton here said. He told journalists that European Union efforts to maintain dialogue with Iran seemed to have faltered, with the failure thus far of Iranian negotiator Ali Larijani to show up at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. "The discussions with Iran appear to have come to a stop in the sense that Mr Larijani, whom we expected in New York, is not here," Bolton told reporters. "Our position remains that unless there's a full and verifiable suspension of uranium enrichment activities by Iran we will seek sanctions in the Security Council," he said. He added that Washington was also pursuing other routes to persuade Tehran to halt its uranium enrichment. French President Jacques Chirac said that the international community should pursue talks with Iran without threatening sanctions, but Bolton said he did not see the comments as representing a change in France's position.

The Hindu, 19 September 2006

#### **Chirac prefers talks to sanctions on Iran**

Paris: French President Jacques Chirac on Monday called for an extension of the dialogue process with Iran and urged the suspension of both U.N. sanctions and Iran's uranium enrichment programme while negotiations were underway. He was speaking in a radio interview prior to his departure for New York to attend the U.N.'s annual General Assembly. Mr. Chirac argued that more negotiations should take place with Iran, free of the threat of sanctions. "During that negotiation, I propose that on the one hand the six refrain from referring the issue to the Security Council and that Iran renounce during the negotiation the enrichment of uranium," he told Europe 1 radio. The six nations holding talks with Tehran are the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany. Mr. Chirac's remarks could start another Franco-U.S. spat given the fact U.S. President George Bush has been pressing hard for sanctions against Iran. This is the first time that an European leader has clearly distanced himself from the oft-repeated U.S. position that the suspension of uranium enrichment is a "precondition" for opening talks on the nuclear dossier.

The New York Times, 19 September 2006

### **Japan Tightens Sanctions Squeeze on North Korea**

TOKYO: Japan's cabinet approved new financial sanctions against North Korea on Tuesday, cranking up pressure on the reclusive communist state to return to six-country talks on ending its nuclear program. Government officials said the step effectively freezes remittances and the transfer of funds from Japan by groups suspected of links to North Korea's weapons of mass destruction or missile programs. The clampdown is in line with a United Nations resolution passed after North Korea, defying international warnings, test-fired seven missiles into the sea in July. "This shows the resolve of the international community and Japan," Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe told a news conference. Abe, known for his hard line on North Korea, is expected to be elected president of Japan's ruling party on Wednesday, ensuring that he succeeds Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi when parliament convenes on September 26. The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously in July for the resolution demanding North Korea halt its ballistic missile program and requiring nations to prevent Pyongyang from acquiring dangerous weapons. Pyongyang agreed a year ago to forego its nuclear ambitions in return for aid, security assurances and diplomatic ties.

Deccan Herald, 20 September 2006

### **Major powers meet in New York over Iranian nuclear standoff**

New York: The six major powers confronting Iran over its suspect nuclear program met here amid fresh European efforts to avoid taking the US-backed path of imposing sanctions against Tehran. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hosted the meeting last night that grouped the foreign ministers of the four other permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France and Russia -- as well as Germany and Italy. The ministers bantered amicably during a brief photo opportunity at the start of their dinner in a private salon of a grand New York hotel, but declined any comment to reporters. The five permanent Security Council members and Germany, the so-called P5+1 group, have been leading efforts to convince Iran to abandon a uranium enrichment program they suspect could be a cover for developing nuclear weapons. The six earlier this year offered Tehran a wide-ranging set of economic and diplomatic incentives to give up the enrichment. In parallel, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution requiring Iran to suspend the enrichment program by August 31 or face sanctions.

The Hindu, 20 September 2006

### **Kakodkar meets Russian counterpart in Vienna**

MOSCOW: The ongoing construction of the Koodankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu and India's interest in building six more reactor units came up for discussion between Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Anil Kakodkar and his Russian counterpart Sergei Kiriyenko in Vienna. Mr. Kakodkar and Mr. Kiriyenko met in Vienna on Monday on the sidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) session, according to a release by the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency. "The sides noted positive dynamics of the Koodankulam construction project. The Russian delegation affirmed the Indian interest in building another six power units and reactors of the same type."

Deccan Herald, 20 September 2006

### **Iranian President launches scathing attack on US**

United Nations: Launching a scathing attack on the United States, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said the US and its western allies were "abusing" the United Nations to deny Tehran its right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly last night, Ahmadinejad questioned the United States' right to criticize his country's "peaceful nuclear" programme while itself maintaining its nuclear arsenal and with its "bleak record" of using them. That is the double standard, he said from the same rostrum from which American President George W Bush a few hours earlier had accused the Iranian leadership of squandering resources on the nuclear pursuit, which Washington and its allies maintain is aimed at making nuclear weapons and hence must be curbed. His address held out no hope for Iran suspending its uranium enrichment programme which the Security Council wants it to abandon on the pain of unspecified threat with the United States pressing for sanctions to force it to do so. "The abuse of the Security Council, as an instrument of threat and coercion, is indeed a source of grave concern," Ahmadinejad said in his presentation which comes even as the Council is expected to hold a high-level meeting sometime this week to consider what action should be taken in view of its refusal to comply with the demand.

The Tribune, 20 September 2006

### **Gains from N-deal**

The Indo-US nuclear energy deal - an agreement to promote civilian nuclear energy cooperation, not nuclear weapons or military nuclear technology - has generated much public debate in India and the United States. In both countries the debate has lately veered towards domestic politics, obscuring the real strategic gains. The truth is that the landmark deal, the centre-piece of an emerging strategic relationship, benefits both sides when finally approved by the US Congress as originally intended. For India, energy security is strategic security and nuclear energy is the key to its future, no matter how defined. India is the world's fifth largest energy consumer. Its annual consumption of energy in all forms except biomass is projected to rise by nearly 50 per cent in 2012 and over 600 per cent by 2032. Neither domestic sources nor imported oil nor renewable energy can possibly meet the growing energy deficit fast enough, even if hydrocarbon resources and finances were made available or the requisite transport infrastructure put in place. Substantial coal production aside, India has to meet 70 per cent of its oil needs through imports, mostly from the politically turbulent Persian Gulf region.

The Washington Post, 20 September 2006

### **In U.N. Speech, Bush Softens Tone on Iran**

UNITED NATIONS: President Bush sought to assure the Iranian people that he wants a diplomatic solution to the impasse over their country's nuclear activities but warned that their leaders are obstructing progress by funding terrorism and pursuing nuclear weapons. Striking a more conciliatory tone than in previous addresses on the subject, Bush said Tuesday that the United States has no objections to Iran achieving a "truly peaceful nuclear power program" and told the Iranians that he looks forward "to the day when you can live in freedom, and America and Iran can be good friends and close partners in the

cause of peace." The comments on Iran were only a small part of the president's 20-minute address to the U.N. General Assembly, which was devoted to urging the world to support the forces of moderation and reform in the greater Middle East. Bush said he wanted to speak directly to people in the region, assuring Iraqis, Lebanese and Afghans of continued U.S. support for their efforts to build new democracies while telling Syrians that their government's support of Hamas and Hezbollah is "turning your country into a tool of Iran."

The New York Times, 20 September 2006

**AP: Hill Vows to Push on for Nuke Talks**

NEW YORK: The American envoy to deadlocked nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea said Tuesday that he was pushing for a meeting with the United States' other partners despite the North's refusal to participate. "To be hopeful at this point would be a triumph of hope over recent experience," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told The Associated Press. "But what I can assure you is that we will continue to try as hard as we can because the stakes are pretty high." Hill said he was working to set up a meeting with South Korea, Japan, China and Russia on the sidelines of this week's U.N. General Assembly meeting to discuss how to restart six-nation negotiations that North Korea has boycotted since November. Getting the talks restarted has gained urgency amid recent reports the North may be preparing for a nuclear bomb test. North Korea also defied international warnings and test-launched seven missiles in July. Some have suggested that mixed messages from Washington and its negotiating partners on how to solve the crisis have allowed Pyongyang to augment its nuclear arsenal as the country falls into deeper isolation.

The New York Times, 20 September 2006

**Bush, Ahmadinejad Clash Over Nuclear Rights**

UNITED NATIONS: President Bush and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad clashed over Iran's nuclear ambitions in addresses to the United Nations on Tuesday, but Washington agreed to allow more time for talks with Tehran. Bush accused Iran's rulers of squandering their nation's wealth to fund terrorists and nuclear arms research. With international support uncertain, however, he said he was willing to pursue diplomacy further before resorting to sanctions. "Iran must abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions," the U.S. leader declared in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly. Foreign ministers of the major powers -- the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany -- agreed to give European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana more time to explore a possible deal with Iranian negotiator Ali Larijani. But the ministers reaffirmed their support for sanctions if Tehran did not suspend its most sensitive nuclear work, Nicholas Burns, the U.S. undersecretary of state, told reporters. Bush defended his muscular promotion of democracy in the Middle East and assailed the leaders of Iran and Syria while appealing to their peoples over their heads. "Your rulers have chosen to deny you liberty and to use your nation's resources to fund terrorism and fuel extremism and pursue nuclear weapons," Bush told Iranians.

The New York Times, 20 September 2006

### **U.S. Tries to Save Its Iran Plan**

NEW YORK: The United States tried Tuesday to salvage its plan to punish Iran with sanctions if it won't back down in a nuclear standoff with the West, even as President Bush told Iranians he hopes that one day "America and Iran can be good friends." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice convened nations that have offered Iran a bargain to head off what the United States and others fear is a drive to build a bomb. The United States had hoped to use the gathering to move decisively toward political and economic sanctions on Iran now that it has missed a U.N. deadline to shelve disputed nuclear activities, but cold feet among allies this month made that impossible. The dinner meeting produced little consensus about the next step, and no announced deadline for when world powers expect further word from Iran. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said the diplomatic effort to counter Iran was in "extra innings." Earlier, Rice warned that the world will have a credibility problem if it does not act. She also acknowledged that talks are already under way between the European Union and Tehran without conditions. That is a concession for the United States, which has led a drive to force Iran to choose between looming U.N. sanctions or talks that could reward it for scaling back its nuclear program.

The New York Times, 20 September 2006

### **Mubarak's Son Urges Nuclear Development**

CAIRO: The son of Egypt's president urged the nation to consider developing nuclear energy, a proposal that could help establish his own credentials as a serious politician and publicly distance him from the United States. Gamal Mubarak made the suggestion in an address to delegates of the country's ruling party Tuesday as the impasse between the international community and Iran continued over Tehran's defiance of a U.N. demand that it halt uranium enrichment. "We will continue using our natural energy resources, but we should conserve these resources for our future generations. The whole world is looking at alternative energy -- so should Egypt -- including nuclear," Mubarak told the gathering in Cairo. Since 2002, when Mubarak took up a high-profile position in his father's party, rumors have abounded that he was being groomed to replace his father. Frequent appearances at official functions in Egypt and several trips to the United States, which have included meetings with top officials, have fed that speculation.

The Tribune, 20 September 2006

### **Chirac defies Bush over Iranian sanctions**

As world leaders converged on the United Nations on Monday, French president Jacques Chirac dealt a significant blow to the Bush administration's effort to slow Iran's nuclear development, saying his government would join Russia and China in resisting the U.S. push for sanctions against Tehran. "I am never in favor of sanctions," Chirac told Europe 1 radio in an interview on the eve of the General Assembly's annual debate. "I have never observed that sanctions were very effective." Chirac proposed a compromise in which the Security Council would suspend the threat of sanctions while Iran, in turn, would suspend enrichment of uranium while the two sides talk. As a last resort, after diplomacy has been exhausted, France might consider penalties, he said, but only 'moderate and adapted' sanctions. The divisions over sanctions seem likely not only to complicate policy toward

Iran, but also to affect the administration's efforts to win international help on a range of other issues, diplomats and analysts say. Bush plans to make Iran a centerpiece of his address to the General Assembly on Tuesday, explaining why he considers Tehran's regime to be a grave threat and insisting that sanctions be imposed if talks fail.

Hindustan Times, 20 September 2006

### **US commerce chamber asks Senate to pass India N-bill**

Washington: The US Chamber of Commerce has urged the Senate to clear the India-US nuclear deal as it would cement a long-term strategic partnership with one of the world's most important emerging powers and open up investment opportunities worth over \$ 170 billion. By ending India's isolation in civilian nuclear power, the enabling legislation before the Senate will lay the foundation for major trade and investment opportunities for US companies, the chamber said in a letter to all senators. India's energy requirements through 2012 will involve investments of more than \$170 billion giving US businesses an enormous opportunity to provide equipment, services and technology to assist India in meeting its energy security needs, wrote Bruce Josten, chamber executive vice president for government affairs. Expressing the strong support of "the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organisations of every size, sector, and region," Josten said the bill will also promote US non-proliferation objectives. The US chamber letter follows a similar appeal last week from US-India Business Council and the Coalition for Partnership with India together representing the largest US companies investing in India, academic institutions, associations, think-tanks, and others supporting a deeper strategic partnership with India.

The News, 20 September 2006

### **Iran tells U.N. nuclear program peaceful**

UNITED NATIONS: Iran's nuclear activities are "transparent, peaceful and under the watchful eye" of United Nations inspectors, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said. Taking the world stage at the U.N. General Assembly hours after President Bush, he also blamed some permanent members of the Security Council - an apparent reference to the United States - of using the powerful body as a tool of "threat and coercion." He reiterated his nation's commitment to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as it faces accusations that it is seeking to develop atomic weapons. His speech was sharply critical of the United States and Britain, and focused in large part on what he said was their abuse of the Security Council, on which they are both permanent members with veto power. "The question needs to be asked: if the governments of the United States or the United Kingdom, who are permanent members of the Security Council, commit aggression, occupation and violation of international law, which of the U.N. organs can take them into account," he said.

Hindustan Times, 21 September 2006

### **China will not play spoiler in NSG: Strobe Talbott**

New Delhi, September 20: Neither China nor any other country will play a spoiler in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) when the India-US civil nuclear deal comes up for final consideration in the 45-nation nuclear club, says Strobe Talbott, former US President Bill Clinton's pointsman on nuclear dialogue with India. "It will move through the NSG

without damage being done. China will not put a spoke in the wheel," Talbott, former US deputy secretary of state, told in an interview in New Delhi. "China may ask difficult questions about India being excepted from the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) regime and why such an exception should be country-specific. But China is not in the business of being a spoiler any more," said Talbott, president of The Brookings Institution, an influential US think tank. The reason why China, despite being a close friend of Pakistan that has been stridently demanding an India-like nuclear deal from the US, will not oppose India in the NSG was because of Beijing's changed foreign policy orientation, Talbott explained.

The Indian Express, 21 September 2006

### **Iran Leader Uses U.N. to Improve Image**

UNITED NATIONS: Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad seems to be enjoying the spotlight at this year's U.N. General Assembly, easing his way into the international arena and trying to improve his image amid the controversy over his nuclear program and remarks about Israel and the Holocaust. When an Israeli reporter challenged him into answering a question at a news conference Thursday, Ahmadinejad at first stalled, whispered in Farsi to an adviser to skip the reporter, but then reluctantly gave his response. He showed no such courtesy to an Israeli reporter during a news briefing here last year, his first appearance at the annual ministerial meetings after he was elected in June 2005. On Thursday, he explained that when he called for the destruction of Israel and dismissed the Holocaust as a myth, his issue was not with the Jewish people but with Zionists, "who are not Jews." "We love everyone in the world - Jews, Christians, Muslims, non-Muslims, non-Jews, non-Christians," he said, adding "we are against ugly acts." "Everyone is respected. But I repeat, we are against aggression, occupation, killings. ... We declare this in a loud voice," he said.

The Indian Express, 21 September 2006

### **"Don't let safeguards curb development of N-energy"**

New Delhi, September 20: Even as India negotiates its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and hopes the US Senate to pass the Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation agreement, Anil Kakodkar, chair of the Atomic Energy Commission, has sent a subtle but firm message to the world community that an over emphasis on atomic safeguards may be counter-productive to the enhanced deployment of atomic energy. He reminded the world that India sought 'energy independence' through an effective utilisation of its vast domestic thorium reserves. Speaking at the ongoing 50th General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna, Kakodkar said "cost-effective safeguards are essential so that the safeguard system does not itself become an hindrance to the development of nuclear power". He said "even with the very slow growth of nuclear power, IAEA safeguards had constituted a large fraction of resources available to the agency" emphasising that out of the current fleet of 443 nuclear power reactors operating in the world, less than half are under IAEA safeguards.

The Indian Express, 21 September 2006

### **Talbott says nuclear deal will sail through**

Mumbai: When former US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott arrived at New

Delhi airport on Saturday, the woman perusing his passport asked: "You're American? So, what's going to happen to the nuclear deal?" Clearly, the nuclear deal was dominating Indo-US relations, Talbott said on Wednesday, but added he would like to see the two nations' relations mature and grow beyond one issue. "The nuclear issue has become too much of a centrepiece. It's time for the two countries to start on a host of other issues," he said. He cautioned "excessive expectations" from the deal. However, about anxiety on the deal in the last stages, he said: "It will go through." Talbott was in the city to release a book on urban renewal in Mumbai, the result of an 18-month research project of the Observer Research Foundation.

The Indian Express, 21 September 2006

**PM's message: N-ties will boost our efforts**

NEW DELHI: In his message to the ongoing general conference of the IAEA, read out by Dr Anil Kakodkar, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said, India, home to one-sixth of the world's population and having embarked on a rapid economic growth path, had a strong interest in utilising the full potential of atomic energy for national development. "We have developed advanced technological capability based on our own self-reliant efforts while having maintained an unblemished record of responsible behaviour. I am glad that the emerging possibility for expanding civil nuclear cooperation between India and the international community would supplement and complement our domestic efforts to meet the developmental aspirations of our people through additional nuclear energy inputs. We look forward to cooperating with international partners in realising this possibility," he said. With issues related to energy resource sustainability assuming increasing salience and global climate change looming large as arguably the most serious challenge of our time, atomic energy with its immense energy potential and readily available and deployable technologies has become an inevitable and indispensable part of the solution, said Singh.

The Tribune, 21 September 2006

**US policy on Iran evolves toward diplomacy**

Before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, U.S. officials confidently predicted that the toppling of Saddam Hussein would lead to renewed momentum on the Israeli-Palestinian peace track. "The road to Jerusalem leads through Baghdad" was a common refrain. President Bush's speech Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly showed how much that diplomatic calculation has changed in Bush's second term. With the United States ensnarled in an increasingly difficult campaign in Iraq, war is no longer a viable option. Instead, the administration is struggling with the difficult and messy business of diplomacy. That often means accommodating the interests and demands of other countries, even backtracking on what had been firm positions. Slowly but surely, the White House has muddied what were once clear lines in pursuit of diplomacy. As recently as a month ago the administration firmly demanded that Iran must first suspend its nuclear activities before the United States would join negotiations on the nuclear programs, but now U.S. officials have quietly acquiesced in a European-led effort to find a face-saving way for the talks to begin.

Dawn, 21 September 2006

### **Non-discriminatory approach on N-energy urged**

NEW YORK, Sept 20: Pakistan will push for a criteria-based approach on the civilian nuclear technology issue at the meeting of the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group in Vienna next month. Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri told journalists during a briefing here on Tuesday that he had raised the issue with many of his European counterparts and members of the NSG. "Our pitch is: Please adopt a criteria-based approach in Vienna and not a discriminatory approach," Mr Kasuri said. Rejecting concerns that Pakistan might misuse technology if given the green light, he said that it was already a declared nuclear power and had been cooperating with the IAEA and other leading countries of the world. Referring to the structure of Pakistan's nuclear programme, he said: "We have 65,000 people working (on the nuclear programme) and 7,000 of them are physicists and engineers." The foreign minister was evasive when asked if Pakistan so far had received an encouraging response from any member of the NSG. On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session on Tuesday, Mr Kasuri said he had held meetings with foreign ministers of seven countries, including China, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Australia, Oman, Mexico and the secretary-general of Nato. In almost all meetings, the focus remained on the current situation in Lebanon, the Middle East crisis, Afghanistan, UN reforms and the issue of the Security Council's expansion.

Daily Times, 21 September 2006

### **'Pakistan will get civil N-tech at any cost'**

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said on Wednesday that Pakistan, a recognised nuclear power, would get civil nuclear technology at any cost, and developed nations' hesitation in transferring the technology to the country was incomprehensible. At a press conference in New York, Kasuri said that Pakistan should not be treated with "discrimination" at the Nuclear Supplier Group's foreign ministers' meeting in Vienna. He said that Pakistan had the resources and the infrastructure required for the technology. He said that Pakistan was a declared nuclear power, and the country could acquire civil nuclear technology from 'anywhere'. Pakistan needed the technology and it would not be used to manufacture nuclear weapons, he said, adding that Pakistan would not allow the technology to 'fall into the wrong hands'. Kasuri said that 65,000 engineers, scientists and technicians were working on Pakistan's nuclear programme. He said that President Gen Pervez Musharraf's meetings with heads of other states were aimed at telling them about Pakistan's economic growth, and the challenges it was facing.

The Washington Post, 22 September 2006

### **With N. Korea Talks Stalled, U.S. Tries New Approach**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 21 -- With North Korea refusing to return to the six-nation disarmament talks, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday convened a meeting of a new group of nations that will focus on Northeast Asian security concerns. Diplomats have dubbed the group "Five Plus Five" to refer to the 10 countries involved, but North Korea declined an invitation and China and Russia did not send representatives. "It turned out to be the Six Minus One Plus Two Plus Three Minus Two," quipped Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill, the administration's point

man on North Korea. Few issues have proven as vexing as the impasse over North Korea's nuclear ambitions. In some ways, the gathering is the diplomatic equivalent of throwing spaghetti against the wall -- an effort to try something just to see what sticks. "We had the three-party talks, the four-party and the six-party, and now the 10-party," said Kongdan Oh, an expert on the North Korean nuclear program at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria. "As the number of parties has gone up, the speed of the failure has gone faster."

The Washington Post, 22 September 2006

### **Iran Open To a Break In Nuclear Program**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 22: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday that his government is prepared to consider suspending its controversial uranium-enrichment program if Western governments meet unspecified conditions. The Iranian leader did not spell out Tehran's demands. But his remarks indicated that he is prepared to move ahead with preliminary discussions with European powers aimed at heading off a confrontation with the West. "Our position on suspension is very clear," he told reporters at U.N. headquarters, where he is attending the United Nations' annual meeting of world leaders. "We have said that under fair conditions and just conditions, we will negotiate about it -- under fair and just conditions, I repeat." The statement comes two days after the United States and five other key powers authorized the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, to continue sessions with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani. The two negotiators have been seeking to set the terms of formal talks on Iran's nuclear program that would place the United States and Iran at the same negotiating table. The Iranian leader denied U.S. claims that he is pursuing a covert nuclear weapons program, saying that Iran's spiritual leader has issued a decree prohibiting such a development. He said Iran is simply exercising its rights, under the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty, to develop nuclear power to meet the country's growing energy needs.

Dawn, 22 September 2006

### **Iran ready to negotiate suspension: president: Uranium enrichment**

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 21: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday that Iran was ready to consider a suspension of uranium enrichment if it received "certain guarantees" in talks with the big powers. He told a news conference at the UN headquarters in New York that talks with the European Union were on the right track and he hoped nobody would try to torpedo them, an allusion to the United States. He did not reply to a question that at what stage in the negotiations with the European Union would Iran suspend its enrichment programme, but said Tehran was seeking a mechanism which would guarantee that the agreement was implemented. President Ahmadinejad declared that Iran did not need a nuclear bomb and was not trying to make one. In reply to a question about Iran's nuclear programme, Mr Ahmadinejad said: "The bottom line is, we do not need a bomb, not like what others think." Later he added: "We are not seeking a nuclear bomb, let me make that clear." Mr Ahmadinejad accused the West of renegeing on its commitment to provide help to Iran in science and technology.

Daily Times, 22 September 2006

### **US nuclear help to India bothering Pakistan: PM**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Thursday that India could produce more fissile material for nuclear warheads through its civilian nuclear cooperation deal with the United States. "The Indo-US agreement on nuclear cooperation causes concerns for Pakistan as there is a possibility that this activity will allow India to produce more fissile material to produce more nuclear warheads," Mr Aziz said in a speech at the inaugural session of the two-day International Conference on the Emerging Political Map of Asia, organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS) in collaboration with Germany's Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF). The prime minister said that Pakistan was a responsible nuclear power. It had developed a nuclear capability after India, because the latter's programme posed a threat to the security of Pakistan. He said Pakistan did not want an arms race, but would not compromise on its security. He said Pakistan had proposed a strategic restraint regime in South Asia to build trust with India.

Hindustan Times, 22 September 2006

### **Pranab meets Rice, discusses nuke deal**

New York: Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held discussions on the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal that comes up in the Senate in the next few days. During their half-an-hour meeting on Thursday night, the two leaders also exchanged views on several regional and international issues of mutual concern. Officials briefing reporters did not give any more details, but said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Hindustan Times, 22 September 2006

### **India N-deal gets a diplomatic push**

Washington: A day of hectic diplomatic activity in Washington by Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran raised hopes that Indo-US nuclear deal may well be taken up by the US senate before it breaks for the November Congressional elections. Saran met key Congressional leaders, including Senate Majority Leader William Frist and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, in Washington on Friday before flying back to New York to join Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee in a meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. In Washington, Saran also met Henry Hyde, Republican chairman of the House International Relations Committee, its Ranking Democrat Tom Lantos, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert Joseph and Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Relations, David McCormick. Earlier, Saran had met Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns and Counsellor in the State Department Philip Zelikow, in New York on Thursday. There was no official word on Saran's talks beyond what the Indian embassy described as "wide ranging discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations, including the civil nuclear understanding."

The Hindu, 22 September 2006

### **Hurdles in tabling n-deal in Senate removed**

Washington: In a positive development towards tabling of the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal in

the Senate, law makers who had placed a "hold" on the legislation have relented, paving the way for it to be debated in the House. Sources told PTI that a small group of Senators, who put an "anonymous" hold on the Senate bill objecting to Title Two of the legislation that dealt with an additional protocol between the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency, have "found accommodation" with the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Richard Lugar. Title Two of S 3709 has nothing to do with the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement and is related to arrangements between the U.S. and the IAEA. Hectic efforts have been under way in the last few days to try and bring the Senate version of the civilian nuclear agreement to a debate and vote prior to the Senate adjourning on September 29. Even now, sources point out, it is not entirely clear whether the agreement reached on the "hold" means that the entire Title Two would be stripped out of the legislation or "acceptable" language has been found so that the legislation as a whole could move forward.

The Indian Express, 22 September 2006

### **US & Iran needn't be us & them**

The crucial distinction is in separating the Tehran regime from the people when drawing up the list of sanctions, says the noted dissident in this "Letter to America" My brief journey to your beautiful and amazing country began in New York City with a symbolic hunger strike in front of UN headquarters. Its purpose was to bring to the world's attention the plight of political prisoners in my country, Iran. We demand that all political prisoners in Iran be freed. I am certain that you appreciate our desire for freedom; it was, after all, the main principle upon which your country was founded. My American journey commenced shortly after I was released from prison in Iran. I came here bearing a message from a movement whose members are hard at work promoting the values of democracy, human rights, social justice and civil liberties. We want our country to play a positive role in promoting peace, security and cooperation in the region. To achieve our goals, we need the support of the entire world, particularly your vast and powerful country. To end the tensions between our countries, we appeal to your natural sense of independence, liberty and fairness, your belief that the pursuit of happiness is not just the prerogative of some classes or nations. The sense of physical pain as well as injury to our sense of human dignity and self-esteem are common to us all. No less common is our shared sense of peace, security, joy and laughter.

The Asian Age, 22 September 2006

### **What PM told us on the N-deal**

On August 26, 2006 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met with seven senior nuclear scientists for a discussion on the Indo-US nuclear cooperation deal. The group of scientists comprised three former chairmen of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), one former chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), one former director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), one former CMD of the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) and a former Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR). Along with the PM, the national security adviser, the principal secretary to the PM, the chairman of the AEC, the principal scientific adviser to the PM, the minister of state in the PMO, and a few other senior officials were also present. The meeting involved a very cordial and useful exchange among all present, and it lasted for

about 90 minutes. In the end, the scientists expressed their thanks to the PM for inviting them to meet him and for allowing each of them sufficient time for a very candid expression of views. The PM, at the outset, assured us that he would not, as Prime Minister, take any action which would weaken the nation's strength or harm its indigenous R&D pursuits.

The Indian Express, 23 September 2006

### **Proof of A Q Khan network left Musharraf embarrassed**

NEW YORK, September 22: President Pervez Musharraf has revealed that his "most embarrassing moment" was when a US official placed in front of him concrete evidence of Pakistan's top scientist A Q Khan leaking nuclear secrets to Iran and North Korea. Musharraf claims he only suspected that Khan was passing secrets to Iran and North Korea until the then CIA director George Tenet confronted him with proof at the United Nations in 2003. "(Tenet) passed me some papers. It was a centrifuge design with all its numbers and signatures of Pakistan. It was the most embarrassing moment," he admitted in an interview to CBS news. Musharraf learned then, he said, not only were blueprints being given to Iran and North Korea, but the centrifuges themselves - the crucial technology needed to enrich uranium to weapons grade - were being passed to them. "(Khan) gave them centrifuge designs. He gave them centrifuge parts. He gave them centrifuges," he said.

The Indian Express, 23 September 2006

### **Senate vote on nuclear deal likely next week**

NEW YORK, Sept 22: The Indo-US civilian nuclear bill might not come up for voting on Friday in the Senate as expected. The Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah falls on that day due to which a large number of Senators are likely to be absent. The Senate, however, will begin discussions late in the evening on that day. Voting is likely to take place next week. Earlier in the day, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee met US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in an effort to clear last-minute glitches over the nuclear deal that has been with the Senate for more than two months now. Accompanied by Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, Mukherjee met Rice for about half an hour. Though details of the meetings were not available, a State Department official said the two leaders had a "good, constructive" meeting, indicating that any hurdle to the crucial nuke issue seemed to have been sorted out. "They covered a range of topics including US-India civil nuclear initiative, World Trade Organisation negotiation, the situation in Nepal and UN issues," the State Department official said.

The Hindu, 23 September 2006

### **Pranab, Condoleezza Rice discuss nuclear deal**

KEY MEETING: Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday. New York: Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee met the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, on Thursday night and held discussions with her on the civilian nuclear deal. During their half-an-hour meeting, they also discussed several regional and international issues of mutual concern. Officials said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. Mr. Mukherjee also met a number of key foreign officials including Sheikha

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, president of the current 61st UN General Assembly session. The Minister, scheduled to make a speech to the General Assembly on September 27, also met Foreign Ministers of Benin, Jordan and Eritrea. Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran met some Congressmen and officials in Washington and is understood to have discussed the nuclear agreement that is expected to come soon on the Senate floor. The House of Representatives, lower house of Congress, has already passed the Bill.

The Hindu, 23 September 2006

### **Mulford hopeful of Senate nod for bill**

JAIPUR: The United States Ambassador, David C. Mulford, on Friday termed the civilian nuclear agreement between his country and India the most important diplomatic initiative in the past 50 years. The accord, once ratified by the Senate, would end India's isolation among the nuclear nations and signal a new beginning in cooperation between New Delhi and Washington, he said. Participating in a 'Meet the Press' at the Pink City Press Club here on Friday, Mr. Mulford was hopeful that the Senate would pass the pending amendment bill on the agreement by this year end. "The Senate has to pass it before the House adjourns for mid-term elections. There is a short session of Congress either in late November or early December. In January we will have a new House." The House of Representatives had passed it. "The U.S. is going to make a special exception for India, a very important country in the world in the 21st century; A major world power," he said. To a question, he said a similar gesture would not be made in the case of Pakistan. "India is a leading country in terms of nuclear technology. The law being changed in the U.S. is for India only."

Daily Times, 23 September 2006

### **US will give nuclear and defence help**

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri said on Friday that the US will give military, defence and nuclear aid to Pakistan. The president's talks with Rumsfeld focused on the provision of F-16 fighter jets and other related defence issues, he said, adding that Musharraf had briefed Rumsfeld on Pakistan's defence requirements. The US energy minister had told Musharraf that President Bush had directed him to hold talks with Pakistan on alternative means of energy, he said.

The New York Times, 23 September 2006

### **N.Korea Seeks More Plutonium for Nuclear Arms - Scholar**

BEIJING: A North Korean official said his country will soon unload fuel rods from a nuclear reactor to make plutonium for weapons, seeking to pressure Washington into direct talks, a visiting U.S. scholar said on Saturday. Selig Harrison, back from a visit to North Korea, told a Beijing news conference he had met Kim Kye-gwan, Pyongyang's top negotiator at stalled six-party talks on its nuclear ambitions. "He did make clear that the purpose of unloading the fuel was to obtain more plutonium for nuclear weapons," Harrison said, noting the material could make "enough plutonium for 3 to 6 nuclear weapons." The U.S. State Department warned North Korea against provocative actions and urged it to return to the talks. "Our position remains the same. They need to return to six-party talks and refrain from provocative actions which serve only to isolate them further from the international community," spokesman Sean McCormack said. Harrison,

director of the Asia Program at the Center for International Policy in Washington, said North Korea planned to unload the rods from its Yongbyon reactor "beginning during this fall, not later than the end of the year" -- over half a year earlier than the reactor's fuel cycle technically requires.

The New York Times, 23 September 2006

### **Nuclear Talks with Iran May Start Without U.S.**

BERLIN: France, Britain and Germany would be willing to begin talks with Iran even if it has not suspended its nuclear enrichment program first, but Washington would not take part, a German magazine reported on Saturday. So far Iran has refused to suspend its uranium enrichment program, which could refine uranium for atom bombs, saying its nuclear fuel ambitions are limited to fuelling power stations. Western countries suspect Tehran wants to produce weapons. Citing unnamed German diplomatic sources, weekly Der Spiegel said the goal of this new strategy would be to lure Tehran to the negotiating table to discuss a package of incentives offered by six world powers in June in exchange for a suspension of Iran's uranium enrichment program. The six powers that made the offer to Iran -- the United States, France, Russia, China, Britain and Germany -- said the package was negotiable but conditioned any negotiations on a suspension of enrichment, a process of purifying uranium for use as fuel in nuclear power plants or atomic weapons.

The Hindu, 24 September 2006

### **Europe, U.S. divided on Iran sanctions**

London: A debate is on in leading European Union nations about the strategy to adopt in the controversy over Iran's nuclear programme. While Germany, France and Italy favour taking a "pragmatic approach" and pursuing trade relations with Iran, the U.S. wants sanctions imposed on the Islamic republic. Imposition of sanctions on Iran is likely to hurt the economic interests of the three European countries. China would be the major beneficiary in such a scenario. The country exported \$3.2 billion worth of goods and services to Iran in 2005. The "trade with Iran" debate has intensified after estimates revealed that imposing sanctions on Iran would cost Germany 10,000 jobs. Iran's clout is that it has the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia. So, it is not surprising that, Iranian businessmen are busy consolidating trade ties with European Union countries.

The New York Times, 24 September 2006

### **Top Chinese Nuke Envoy to Visit S.Korea**

SEOUL: China's top nuclear envoy plans to visit South Korea as early as Thursday to discuss ways to jump-start stalled talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program, South Korean officials said. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei is scheduled to visit Seoul to consult on the nuclear issue with South Korean officials, and to discuss the agenda of a Beijing summit next month between South Korean and Chinese leaders, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. The meeting comes amid new concerns that North Korea could harvest more weapons-grade plutonium by removing fuel rods at its Yongbyon reactor within the next three months. North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan has said that his country would unload the rods "beginning this fall, and

no later than the end of the year," according to Selig Harrison, an American scholar who recently met Kim in Pyongyang. North Korea last removed fuel rods at the facility in June 2005 and was not due to do so again until June 2007, Harrison said Saturday.

The Hindu, 25 September 2006

**India, responsible nuclear power: Mukherjee**

New York, Sept. 25: Expressing confidence that the Indo-US nuclear deal would be cleared by the American senate, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee has said the international community is prepared to cooperate with New Delhi in civilian nuclear programme as India has behaved very responsibly in this regard. "There has been not a single case of outward proliferation though India was the first Asian nation to build indigenous atomic reactor and establish full fuel cycle," Mukherjee said while addressing leaders of the Indian-American community here on Sunday. "The international community is prepared to cooperate with New Delhi in the civil nuclear programme because India has behaved very responsibly," he said. The Defence Minister expressed confidence that the Indo-US civilian deal would go through but pointed out that the relations between the two countries are not dependent on one issue and are spread across a spectrum of several areas. India has used the sensitive technologies with great care and caution and it was in recognition of that the civilian nuclear cooperation agreement was signed, he said. He expressed hope that legislative and other procedures would be completed soon so that implementation process begins. Mukherjee said the nuclear agreement would not affect the country's strategic programmes, including research and development, in the nuclear field.

Hindustan Times, 25 September 2006

**India awaits N-deal's completion: Mukherjee**

New York: India is looking forward to the completion of the legislative and other processes relating to its "emblematic" civil nuclear deal with the United States to get it going, said visiting Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee in New York. "The India-US civil nuclear agreement is emblematic of the new relationship...and we look forward to the completion of the legislative and other processes to permit the commencement of civil nuclear cooperation," he said in an address to the Indian-American community at a reception hosted by Indian Ambassador Ronen Sen in New York on Sunday. The agreement pertains solely to civilian power generation, said Mukherjee, and will not in any way affect India's strategic programme or its indigenous research and development programme. India has been a responsible member of the international community, he said, noting that despite being the first Asian country to have built a nuclear reactor indigenously and then developing full nuclear fuel cycle activities, it had always used these sensitive technologies with great caution and care. "There has not been even one case of outward nuclear proliferation from India to any country. This is the premise on which the international community today is prepared to cooperate with us in developing civil nuclear technology," Mukherjee said.

The Hindu, 25 September 2006

### **Koodankulam to have 8 nuclear reactors**

KOODANKULAM: The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), which had actually planned to set up 6 X 1,000 MWe light water reactors at Koodankulam, has now decided to increase the number to eight. "Though the 1,065 hectares close to the sea was initially selected for the construction of six nuclear reactors and building of the first two units was started with Russian assistance, the NPCIL now has proposed to have two more reactors in this site. Ultimately, we intend to generate 8,000 MWe power from the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Project site [KKNPP]. We are now scouting for amiable partners with superior technical know-how in the field of nuclear reactor construction," the Director (Projects), NPCIL, S.K. Agrawal, told The Hindu at Koodankulam on Saturday. Since the NPCIL had drawn extensive plans to utilise the already acquired land in the best possible way for the construction of all the eight reactors, no villager would be dislocated, he promised. He also allayed fears that the radiation level in this region would increase due to the construction of more reactors. "The level of radiation should not be linked to the number [of reactors]. You can even call them 'Roadside Reactors' as they are very safe."

The New York Times, 25 September 2006

### **Congress Is Winding Down, but Much Is Left Undone**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24: A Congress derided as do-nothing has a week to do something, and the prospects are cloudy. Republican leaders, including Senators John McCain, left, and Bill Frist, have been laboring to work through differences with party members. Procrastination, power struggles and partisanship have left Congress with substantial work to finish before breaking for the elections. The fast-approaching recess and the Republican focus on national security legislation make it inevitable that much of the remainder will fall by the wayside. At best, it appears that just 2 of the 11 required spending bills will pass, and not one has been approved so far, forcing a stopgap measure to keep the federal government open. No budget was enacted. A popular package of business and education tax credits is teetering. A lobbying overhaul, once a top priority in view of corruption scandals, is dead. The drive for broad immigration changes has derailed. An offshore oil drilling bill painted as an answer to high gas prices is stalled. Plans to cut the estate tax and raise the minimum wage have floundered, and an important nuclear pact with India sought by the White House is not on track to clear Congress. New problems surfaced over the weekend for the annual military authorization bill. And numerous other initiatives await a planned lame-duck session in mid-November or a future Congress.

Hindustan Times, 25 September 2006

### **Australia again rejects India's uranium request**

Sydney: Australia has once again rejected India's request for uranium to boost its nuclear power programme. Australian Prime Minister John Howard has said that nothing has happened to alter the debate on the issue, according to reports. "I don't think there's anything that's happened to justify the re-emphasis on the issue, except that India has repeated her interest in buying Australian uranium," he said. The Australian government

is however reportedly thinking of changing its policy of not selling uranium to India. Howard is reportedly in favour of changing the existing policy, but it is believed that Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer is opposed to the idea. "But as time goes by, if India were to meet safeguard obligations, some Australians would see it as anomalous that we would sell uranium to China, but not India," Howard said. India first approached the Australian government in March to get uranium after it signed a historic civilian nuclear deal with the US. Australia's current regulations prohibit selling of uranium to countries that are not signatories to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Hindu, 25 September 2006

### **An incomplete account of a "most embarrassing moment"**

By his own admission, Pervez Musharraf is seldom embarrassed or at a loss for words. But in 2003, as he describes in his memoirs, *In the Line of Fire*, clinching evidence of Pakistan having illicitly sold nuclear blueprints and equipment to North Korea and Libya left the General quite literally speechless. In what is likely to be one of the book's most closely read chapters, the Pakistani President undertakes to tackle head on the subject of 'Nuclear Proliferation.' His account of the gradual unravelling of the A.Q. Khan network inside and outside Pakistan is riveting, though most readers will find it incomplete and also, in the final analysis, unconvincing. The General describes meeting President Bush during the United Nations General Assembly summit in September 2003. "[H]e drew me aside and asked me if I could spare some time the next morning for CIA Director George Tenet. 'It is extremely serious and very important from your point of view,' he said." What followed was "one of my most embarrassing moments." The next morning, Mr. Tenet arrived at General Musharraf's hotel room bearing blueprints of Pakistan's P-1 centrifuge that had been recovered from a third country.

The New York Times, 25 September 2006

### **North Korea to Challenge U.S. on Nuclear Fuel**

BEIJING, Sept. 24: North Korea plans to step up production of fuel for nuclear weapons unless the United States drops financial sanctions and returns to negotiations over its nuclear program, an American scholar with ties to North Korean leaders said Sunday. The scholar, Selig S. Harrison, a longtime Korea specialist based in Washington, said top North Korean officials whom he met with last week told him they intended to unload fuel rods at their Yongbyong reactor and extract plutonium for nuclear bombs earlier than had been expected. "It is a significant new development because it underlines that North Korea is enhancing its weapons capability," Mr. Harrison said in Beijing after returning from Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. He quoted Kim Kye-gwan, the vice foreign minister of North Korea, who is overseeing its participation in the stalled six-nation negotiations, as saying that the fuel rods would be unloaded this fall. Mr. Harrison, who cultivates ties to the reclusive officials who run North Korea, said that he did not interpret the statement of intention to expedite nuclear fuel production as a threat and that the political and military leaders he had met seemed eager to resume negotiations with the outside world.

Daily Times, 25 September 2006

**Russia warns against Iraq-style "proof" in Iran nuclear standoff**

ATHENS: The United Nations must not rely on the kind of evidence used to justify slapping sanctions on Iraq ahead of the 2003 US-led invasion when considering Iran's nuclear programme, Russia said Saturday. In an interview published in Saturday's edition of Greek newspaper Kathimerini, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said the UN should only consider sanctions if presented with "concrete and incontrovertible evidence that Iran is attempting to build nuclear weapons and clear evidence that it is supporting international terrorism." Ivanov added that it would be "unacceptable to repeat the scenario of Iraq which had sanctions applied against it without complete evidence," he said. One of the reasons the United States and Britain gave for supporting sanctions against Iraq and invading was that Baghdad under former dictator Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). Over three years after the invasion no serious evidence of WMDs has been found in the country.

Dawn, 25 September 2006

**Tehran has weeks, not months, says Paris**

PARIS, Sept 24: France said on Sunday that EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iran had weeks rather than months to agree an agenda for talks about Tehran's nuclear programme. Asked by LCI television how much time Mr Solana had to reach such a deal with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said: "In the coming weeks," and added, "That is not months." He said Mr Solana had met Mr Larijani a few days ago. "Mr Solana considered that this discussion was constructive and for the first time the question of suspension was raised." It was unclear whether Douste-Blazy was referring to a meeting between Solana and Larijani in Vienna two weeks ago, which Solana described as "productive". The two men were due to meet again on Sept 14 but their meeting was postponed. French President Jacques Chirac said on Saturday he was somewhat optimistic a negotiated solution could be found to the standoff over Iran's plans for nuclear development. "We should do everything to find a solution via dialogue, which is always the best way to resolve problems," he said. "I am relatively optimistic, because it's in my nature, on the result of the discussions that are taking place between the six and Iran." The United States, France, Russia, China, Britain and Germany offered Iran a package of incentives in June in exchange for a suspension of uranium enrichment programme.

The Hindu, 26 September 2006

**Our technology is indigenous: DAE**

MUMBAI: Responding to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's charge that India's uranium enrichment technology "could be a copy" of Pakistani centrifuge design, the Department of Atomic Energy on Monday night said India's entire technology had been developed indigenously. "All we have to say is that our entire nuclear technology has been developed through our indigenous research and development programme and we have always conducted ourselves in the most responsible manner," said a spokesman of the DAE.

The Times of India, 26 September 2006

**India filched Pak N-design, claims Musharraf**

WASHINGTON: It might require extraordinary Ramazan-inspired forbearance on part of President Bush to welcome Pakistan's military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf back to the White House for iftar on Wednesday or for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to continue the dialogue after reading a memoir in which he blames just about everyone for Pakistan's travails except the country's own choices. Among other things, he makes the breath-taking claim that India may have filched Pakistan's centrifuge designs through spies planted in the A Q Khan network. "In early 1999, I started seeing the first signs of some suspicious activities by A Q Khan," he writes. "Our investigations revealed that Khan had started his activities as far back as 1987, primarily with Iran. In 1994-95, A Q Khan had ordered the manufacture of 200 P-1 centrifuges that had been discarded by Pakistan in the mid-80s."

The Hindu, 26 September 2006

**Prospects of US Senate taking up nuke deal appear dim**

Washington, Sept. 26: The U.S. Senate is unlikely to consider a nuclear cooperation deal with India before lawmakers leave for a long break at the end of this week, putting aside one of President George W. Bush's top foreign policy initiatives until at least November, according to congressional staffers and analysts. The Indian proposal, which would reverse decades of U.S. anti-proliferation policy, has strong supporters in both political parties and was overwhelmingly endorsed by the U.S. House of Representatives in July. But several high-profile bills probably will distract lawmakers as they scramble to finish work before they break for election campaigning. "For this week, the Indian deal is number 58 on the top 10 list," said Henry Sokolski, director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center and a former Pentagon official. Sokolski and other analysts said lawmakers could take up the accord when Congress reconvenes after the Nov. 7 elections.

The Tribune, 26 September 2006

**India, Pak centrifuge design same, claims Pervez**

Washington: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf claims India's uranium enrichment programme could have its roots in disgraced metallurgist Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear black-market. In his autobiography, 'In the Line of Fire,' General Musharraf says, "Ironically (Dr Khan's) network based in Dubai had employed several Indians, some of whom have since vanished." "There is a strong probability that the Indian uranium enrichment programme may also have its roots in the Dubai-based network and could be a copy of the Pakistani centrifuge design," he adds. The Pakistani President provides no other evidence of the alleged Indian involvement in the rogue scientist's nuclear black-market. In his memoir he notes that one of his most embarrassing moments came in 2003 when the Director of the CIA approached him with evidence of proliferation of nuclear secrets from Pakistan. General Musharraf says when he met US President George W. Bush at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September of 2003, Mr Bush drew him aside and asked him to meet George Tenet, then Director of the CIA, the next morning.

Hindustan Times, 26 September 2006

### **AEC wrests a say in nuke deal**

Bangalore, September 25: The Atomic Energy Commission will scrutinise the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement once it is approved by the US Senate and Congress. The AEC's exercise is meant to safeguard India's interests in pursuing indigenous programme and to address the concerns raised by political parties and nuclear scientists. CNR Rao, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and a member of the AEC, told HT: "We will not allow anyone to take India for a ride. The AEC will go over what Senate and Congress say, word by word. It is not as if they can force whatever they want on us. I have told the prime minister and he has agreed." Rao's statement on the AEC's role in analysing the legislation follows the apprehension expressed by nuclear scientists that US lawmakers could modify the civilian nuclear agreement signed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W Bush on July 18. While Rao said the nuclear deal with the US was essential to end India's status as a "nuclear apartheid nation", he emphasised the development of indigenous nuclear-energy programme. He said fast-breeder reactors using plutonium and depleted uranium as fuel would be "our trump card and everyone would follow our example".

Dawn, 26 September 2006

### **'Dr Khan asked daughter to leak N-secrets'**

WASHINGTON, Sept 25: Dr A.Q. Khan had advised his daughter, who lives in London, to disclose Pakistan's nuclear secrets to the British media, claims President Pervez Musharraf in his book In The Line Of Fire. The president says that when in November 2003 the government started investigations into Dr Khan's proliferation activities, Pakistani intelligence agencies intercepted two letters written by him. The first, carried by a courier, advised some of Dr Khan's friends in Iran not to mention his name under any circumstances to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He also advised them to name dead people during investigations, just as he was doing in Pakistan. "Naively, he also suggested that the Iranians should put the blame for the contamination found in Iran on IAEA inspectors, 'who could have spread it surreptitiously.' He recommended that Iran renounce the NPT and finally promised more assistance after this event had passed." The second letter, addressed to his daughter, "contained detailed instructions for her to go public on Pakistan's nuclear secrets through certain British journalists," the president writes.

The Nation, 26 September 2006

### **Weaponising India**

After the decision of the Bush administration to supply nuclear technology to India and signing of the "Indo-US Agreement on Nuclear Co-operation", US defence industry is trying to secure defence contracts worth billions of dollars with the Indian armed forces. There is a realisation that America has the best high technology weapons, especially fighter aircraft and air defence equipment, which could enable India to establish hegemony in South Asia and primacy in the region. All US defence manufacturers have a strategy for gaining a foothold in the Indian armed forces. One of the biggest deals under way involves India's plans to buy 126 new multi-role jet fighters for the Indian Air Force, valued at around ten billion US dollars. Lockheed Martin the biggest aircraft

manufacturing company in the world has made the offer to sell 126 Block 50-52 F-16 fighters jets, with technology transfer to assemble/manufacture F-16 Falcons in India. Boeing Co the biggest manufacturer of passenger jetliners has offered F/AE/F Super Hornet fighters at comparable price. France's Dassault who make Mirage-2000 fighters already with the Indian Air Force, has offered its latest Rafale fighter. Russia which is currently supplying 190 multi-role Su-31/31 Mk fighters, has offered to sell top of the line Mig-29s, already on IAF inventory. And Saab the Swedish aircraft manufacturer has offered to sell the Saab fighter to India.

Daily Times, 26 September 2006

### **Israel could lift its nuclear veil in Iran stand-off**

Israeli policy is likely to change, in order to demonstrate that the country has continued strategic superiority. In October 1973, with its forces battling to repel invasions by Egypt and Syria, Israel did what had previously been unthinkable: It briefly wheeled its nuclear-capable Jericho-1 missiles out of their secret silos. That, historians believe, was picked up by US spy satellites and stirred up fears in Washington of a catastrophic flare-up between the Jewish state and the Soviet-backed Arabs. Message received, an urgent American shipment of conventional arms to Israel was quick to follow, and helped turn the war. With Israel's current arch-foe Iran seen gaining the ability to produce nuclear weapons within a few years, and preventive military options limited, some experts now anticipate another 'lifting of the veil' on the assumed Israeli atomic arsenal. Were that to happen, experts say, the objective would be to establish a more open military deterrence vis-a-vis Iran and perhaps win Israel's nuclear option formal legitimacy abroad. "No one should simply assume that Israel would stay where it is now with its ambiguous capability if Iran becomes a nuclear power," said Professor Gerald Steinberg, head of the Conflict Management Programme at Bar-Ilan University near Tel Aviv.

The Indian Express, 26 September 2006

### **Iran Minister: Nuclear Talks 'On Track'**

UNITED NATIONS: Iran's foreign minister said Monday that talks between top Iranian and European negotiators on his country's disputed nuclear program are "on track" and could pave the way for a negotiated solution to the standoff. But Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told The Associated Press in an interview that Iran still believes there should be no conditions on the resumption of negotiations, implicitly rejecting demands that Tehran first suspend uranium enrichment. European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani have held two rounds of preliminary talks to discuss Iranian questions about a package of incentives put forward by six key nations if Tehran agrees to suspend its enrichment program and return to full-scale negotiations. Mottaki said Solana and Larijani will hold their third meeting "very soon," probably in Europe, though he did not have an exact date or location. They had been expected to meet in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly ministerial meeting that began last week, but Mottaki said it was not possible because Larijani's deputy and members of his delegation were not given U.S. visas.

The Indian Express, 26 September 2006

**General admits: Pak Army fought Kargil, AQ Khan helped Iran**

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: On A Q Khan, Musharraf claims that the scientist, now discredited for running a nuclear black market, was in his suspect list ever since he started to be kept in the loop on Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Musharraf records a couple of incidents like the information that North Korean nuclear scientists were visiting Khan Research Laboratories. They had come to Pakistan in the garb of missile experts. He records how Khan wanted a flight from a "third country" carrying artillery ammunition to Pakistan be allowed to make refuelling stops in Zahedan and another Iranian city. Musharraf, then Army Chief, refused permission and the entire flight was cancelled. "Then came another bombshell. In the middle of 2003 during inspections in Iran by International Atomic Energy Agency, signs of nuclear proliferation surfaced when nuclear contamination at high levels was detected in the premises of Iranian facilities. In our minds, this immediately gave rise to the possibility of a link with A Q. In my gut, I was getting more and more suspicious of him. I was convinced that we needed to get to the bottom of this, even if it implied formal investigations."

The News, 26 September 2006

**Iran urges Russia to speed up work on nuclear plant**

MOSCOW: Iran pressed Russia Monday to speed up work on a nuclear power station it is building near the Gulf port of Bushehr, warning that the Islamic republic was ready to complete the work itself if necessary. "In the event that the Russian contractor proves incapable of completing the Bushehr project, Iran is ready to finish it itself," the head of Iran's nuclear energy organization Gholamreza Aghazadeh told Iranian journalists after Moscow talks. "From our point of view, we can complete the power station within six months," Aghazadeh told the semi-official Mehr news agency, denying reports of an agreement with Russia for a November 2007 completion date. The Iranian envoy launched a strong attack on the competence of Russian contractor Atomstroyexport which is building the power plant but said Iran would continue to work with it for the time being. Before the Moscow talks began, Iranian officials said that the meetings were aimed at finalizing plans for the delivery of nuclear fuel and the start-up of the Bushehr plant.

The New York Times, 26 September 2006

**N.Korea May Look Past Bush for Nuclear Deal: Armitage**

SEOUL: North Korea may wait for the Bush administration to go before implementing a deal to end its atomic ambitions, despite the hardship the wait would bring the impoverished country, a top former U.S. diplomat said on Tuesday. North Korea ignored international warnings by test-launching missiles in July and has refused for almost a year to return to six-country talks on ending its nuclear weapons program in exchange for aid and pledges not to attack it. "I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that (North Korean leader) Kim Jong-il is going to try muddle through, notwithstanding the horror it brings to his own people," Richard Armitage said in an interview with a small group of reporters. "I think they are likely to wait it out until the next administration," said Armitage, an Asia expert who left his post last year as U.S. deputy secretary of state. "I

think the North Koreans are of the opinion that we are mired down in Iraq and Afghanistan and Iran, that we can't be very innovative and flexible with them."Speaking earlier during his visit to Seoul, he speculated that as part of the North's process of escalating tensions it may test a nuclear weapon before the end of the year.

The New York Times, 26 September 2006

### **U.S. Open to New Approaches on N. Korea**

SEOUL: The United States is prepared to pursue new approaches to resolve a standoff over North Korea's nuclear program, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea said Tuesday, urging the communist state to return to stalled disarmament talks. Alexander Vershbow didn't elaborate on what those approaches could be, but said the U.S. can meet bilaterally with North Korea if Pyongyang promises to resume the six-nation nuclear talks. Washington's long-standing position is that it is prepared to hold direct talks with Pyongyang within the framework of the nuclear forum. U.S. officials have made a recent series of conciliatory gestures in apparent efforts to lure the North back to the talks. Vershbow said last week that the main U.S. nuclear envoy, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, could even visit Pyongyang if the North expresses its willingness to return to the dialogue table. "We're open to new approaches," Vershbow said in a forum with South Korean lawmakers. North Korea has boycotted the six-party talks, which involve China, Japan, the Koreas, Russia and the U.S., insisting it will not return unless Washington drops financial restrictions imposed for the regime's alleged complicity in counterfeiting and money laundering. The U.S. has said the North shouldn't link the financial issue to the nuclear talks.

The New York Times, 26 September 2006

### **EU, Iran Close to Deal for Iran Nuclear Talks**

WASHINGTON: Iran is close to a deal that would include a temporary suspension of uranium enrichment and clear the way for nuclear talks but Tehran wants to keep the agreement secret, The Washington Times reported on Tuesday. The deal could be completed either Tuesday or Wednesday when EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iranian negotiator Ali Larijani are set to meet in Europe, the report said, citing Bush administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Washington Times said under the agreement Iran would halt uranium enrichment for 90 days so additional talks could be held with several European nations. Solana and Larijani had been expected to meet before but two meetings scheduled this month were postponed. Asked about Iran's secrecy demand, State Department spokesman Tom Casey told the newspaper: "The terms laid out by the Security Council are clear. Iran needs to suspend its uranium enrichment activities and it needs to do so in a verifiable way. "If it does, we can start negotiations. If it doesn't, we move to sanctions," Casey said.

The New York Times, 26 September 2006

### **In Book, Musharraf Expands on North Korean Nuclear Link**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25: President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan wrote in a memoir published Monday that he now believes that the equipment sent to North Korea several years ago by Pakistan's nuclear chief included some of Pakistan's most technologically advanced nuclear centrifuges. The assertion deepened the mystery about how much

progress North Korea has made in what is often called its second, and very secret, nuclear program. Mr. Musharraf has been promoting the new book, "In the Line of Fire" (Free Press), everywhere from the East Room of the White House to appearances on the morning talk shows. In it, he says for the first time that his suspicions about the activities of Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani nuclear engineer who built an illicit nuclear network that also supplied Iran and Libya, dated from 1999. "I received a report suggesting that some North Korean nuclear experts, under the guise of missile engineers, had arrived" at Pakistan's nuclear laboratories "and were being given secret briefings," the book says.

The Hindu, 27 September 2006

### **Senate likely to take up nuclear deal in November**

Washington: The U.S. Senate is unlikely to consider the nuclear cooperation deal with India before lawmakers leave for a long break at the end of this week, putting aside one of President George W. Bush's top foreign policy initiatives until at least November, according to congressional staffers and analysts. The Indian proposal, which would reverse decades of U.S. anti-proliferation policy, has strong supporters in both political parties and was overwhelmingly endorsed by the U.S. House of Representatives in July. But several high-profile bills probably will distract lawmakers as they scramble to finish work before they break for election campaigning. "For this week, the Indian deal is number 58 on the top 10 list," said Henry Sokolski, director of the Non proliferation Policy Education Centre and a former Pentagon official. Mr. Sokolski and other analysts said lawmakers could take up the accord when Congress reconvenes after the November 7 elections. Timing is important, because congressional passage is only one of several hurdles that must be cleared before the U.S. could begin shipping civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India. While a late push could occur to consider the bill this week, time is running out and the legislative agenda is full.

The Hindu, 27 September 2006

### **Australia mulling civilian nuclear deal with India**

CANBERRA: Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on Tuesday said the Australian Government was considering entering into a deal with India similar to the United States-India civilian nuclear agreement. Mr. Downer hinted Australia might be willing to consider matching a U.S.-India agreement under which, the U.S. provide India with civil nuclear technology and nuclear fuel on condition that India separates its civil nuclear programs from military ones. "We'd have to see all of that [U.S.-India deal] in operation to work out whether this was really going to be a satisfactory solution," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio. "It sounds like, on balance, quite a good idea," he said. "But whether it would be such a good idea that we would sell uranium to India, I don't know," he added. Mr. Downer's comments came a day after Australian Prime Minister John Howard said his Government is considering the possibility of selling uranium to India if the South Asian nation can guarantee its use for peaceful purposes. Australia's current policy prohibits the sale of uranium to countries who have not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. India has made it plain that Australia should follow the U.S. to change its policy.

The New York Times, 27 September 2006

**N. Korea: U.S. Torpedoing Nuclear Talks**

UNITED NATIONS: North Korea accused the United States of torpedoing six-party talks on its nuclear program and then took aim at Japan's new government, saying conservatives were attempting to turn Japanese society to the right and rearm the country. North Korea's harsh denunciation of Japan at the U.N. General Assembly's ministerial meeting came hours after Shinzo Abe's election Tuesday as Japan's youngest postwar prime minister. A nationalist and proponent of a robust alliance with the United States, Abe has called for a more assertive military and an overhaul of Japan's pacifist constitution. There was no mention of the elections in the formal speeches to the assembly by North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Choe Su Hon and Japan's U.N. Ambassador Kenzo Oshima. But at the end of the session, diplomats from both countries exercised their right of reply and traded fresh accusations. While never mentioning the election, or Abe's victory, the North Korea diplomat said Japan's conservative authorities "are attempting to turn the whole society of Japan into the right, expedite the militarization and legitimize its ... aggression by amending the constitution." The diplomat, who was not named, claimed Japan's criticism of North Korea was an attempt to cover up its ambition to attack the country again.

Daily Times, 27 September 2006

**Pakistan opposed to 'use of power' against Iran: Kasuri**

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said that Pakistan is opposed to the 'use of power' against Iran's nuclear programme. At a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Manocher Mottaki on Tuesday, Kasuri hoped for a diplomatic solution to the issue. The Pakistani foreign minister and Mottaki discussed developments in various regional issues, including Afghanistan, and underscored the good relationship between Iran and Pakistan. Kasuri accepted an invitation by Mottaki to visit Iran. At another meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, the Pakistani foreign minister discussed ways of promoting cooperation between the two countries. The Russian foreign minister said that he would visit Pakistan in the coming months when Kasuri invited him to visit the country. Talking to Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Muhammad Al-Zebari, Kasuri said that Pakistan wanted an early end to the violence in Iraq. He said that Pakistan wanted help the people of Iraq reconstruct their country. Kasuri also met Polish Foreign Minister Anna Fotyga, South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki Moon and Arab League Secretary General Amre Moussa.

The Hindu, 27 September 2006

**Russian nuclear fuel for Iran**

MOSCOW: Russia has reaffirmed its commitment to complete the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station in Iran and to supply fuel for the plant next year. Under an agreement the two sides signed on Tuesday, Russia will deliver 80 tons of low-enriched uranium for a light-water reactor it is building in Iran in March next. The 1000-MW reactor will be launched in September and start generating electricity in November. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of a visit by Iranian Vice-President and head of the Atomic Energy Organisation Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. Earlier Iranian officials complained about repeated delays in the construction of the power station, which

originally was to go into operation this year. Ahead of his talks in Moscow, Mr. Aqazadeh said Iran could complete the construction itself if Russia fails to do the job. Russia's Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov assured the Iranian delegation on Tuesday that Russia "will strictly honour our obligations." He reiterated Russia's position in favour of a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear problem. "We are firmly convinced of the need to resolve the question of the Iranian nuclear programme through the negotiating process, at the negotiating table," Mr. Ivanov told the Iranian Vice-President.

The News, 27 September 2006

### **In the line of fire and Dr A Q Khan**

In his book, *In the line of fire*, President Musharraf makes some very serious allegations regarding Dr A Q Khan's network. He says that Dr Khan had advised his daughter, who lives in the UK, to disclose the country's nuclear secrets to the British media. This, he said, was contained in a letter that Dr Khan had sent to his daughter but which was intercepted by Pakistani intelligence agencies. The president claims further that another intercepted letter that Dr Khan had sent to Iran contained advice that Tehran should not under any circumstance mention his (Dr Khan's) name to the International Atomic Energy Agency adding that he had advised that if at all, names of dead people should be given. The president also claims that Dr Khan told Iran to renounce the NPT after which he would provide more assistance to it. The president also mentions in some detail what led his government to begin an investigation into the alleged nuclear-proliferation network. In rather dramatic fashion worthy of perhaps a spy thriller, he writes, in 2003 during a visit to the UN general assembly, CIA director George Tenet met him in his hotel room to provide him direct evidence in the form of detailed drawings of Pakistan's P-1 centrifuges -- documents that normally should never have been in the hands of a foreign intelligence service. On the issue of Dr Khan's personality, the president makes some telling but harsh remarks.

The Washington Post, 27 September 2006

### **Bush Brings Afghanistan, Pakistan to the Table**

President Bush met yesterday with Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and last Friday with Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Tonight, joined by Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, he will bring both men into the old family dining room of the White House for a private chat. "It will be interesting for me to watch the body language of these two leaders to determine how tense things are," Bush told reporters. Bush said he was "kind of teasing" about watching the body language, but the intimate dinner has all the earmarks of a peace conference. Karzai and Musharraf have been sniping at each other from long-distance for months, and Rice was dispatched to Kabul and Islamabad last June to try to ease tensions. The meeting comes as chaos is increasing in southern Afghanistan, as the Taliban grows bolder and the Afghan government's grip on power weakens. Meanwhile, Musharraf recently signed a deal with tribal chiefs that many experts believe turned over much of the area along Afghanistan's border to the control of Pakistani-based Taliban forces. "Our interests coincide," Bush said yesterday, saying both Karzai and Musharraf want Osama bin Laden captured.

The New York Times, 27 September 2006

### **EU, Iran to Meet on Wednesday on Nuclear Plans**

BERLIN: European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Iran's chief nuclear negotiator are due to meet in Berlin on Wednesday for talks aimed at resolving the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, Iran and the EU said. Solana's office and the German foreign ministry said the meeting would be at around 1500 GMT. An official at the Iranian embassy in Berlin confirmed Larijani's imminent arrival. Larijani was originally scheduled to meet Solana on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York last week but never showed up. The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China have offered Tehran economic and political incentives if it suspends uranium enrichment, which the West believes is part of a nuclear weapons program. Tehran says its nuclear enrichment activities are aimed solely at generating electricity and has refused to halt them. The Washington Times reported earlier this week that Iran was close to a deal that would include a temporary, 90-day suspension of uranium enrichment and clear the way for negotiations on the details of the package. Iran, however, dismissed this report as propaganda.

Hindustan Times, 28 September 2006

### **N-deal down to the wire**

Washington/New Delhi: The good news: There is overwhelming support for the Indo-US civil nuclear deal in the US Senate. The bad news: This is why individual senators are tying their pet bills to the Senate vote on the nuclear deal. Two such pet bills now lie between the nuclear deal being put to vote before the Senate goes into recess this weekend. One bill requires the US to allow more IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. The other bill requires that no Indian nuclear waste must be put in a depository in Nevada. Partisan squabbling over both these bills has made it impossible to get the "unanimous consent proposal" that would allow the nuclear deal to get through this week. Under such a proposal, the senators would limit debate and the number of amendments to the nuclear deal to ensure a speedy vote. The first pet bill is an old problem that has resurfaced. The original nuclear deal legislation had come with an unrelated bill on US compliance with the IAEA's Additional Protocol attached. Rightwing Republican opposition to the language of the attached bill had held up the Senate vote for much of the past month. A compromise reached a fortnight ago was reported to have broken down with Democratic Senator Joe Biden objecting to one of the clauses in the compromise language. Last minute negotiations were on for yet another compromise, said diplomatic sources.

The Tribune, 28 September 2006

### **Senators play blame game on US-India Bill**

Washington: Democrats and Republicans in the Senate on Tuesday accused each other of delaying a crucial vote on the US-India civilian nuclear cooperation Bill. In similarly worded statements, Republican Senator Bill Frist, Senate Majority Leader, and Democratic Senator Harry Reid, chamber's minority leader, said the other was to blame for blocking a 'unanimous consent agreement'. They said the agreement would have guaranteed Senate consideration of and a final vote on the US-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Bill before the Congress adjourned at the end of this week for the November

mid-term elections. The Senate could take up the Bill when it returned after the elections for a 'lame duck' session, but that delay would push future action on the Bill to 2007. Saying he had offered the 'unanimous consent agreement' on Monday night, Mr Reid said, "Unfortunately, the Republican leader objected to the proposal." Mr Frist said it was the Democrats who blocked his offer of a unanimous consent agreement. "Senate Democrats have been strong supporters of the Bill since the [Bush] administration announced the proposal in March and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved it in June," Mr Reid said.

The Indian Express, 28 September 2006

**Way out on nuke Bill for Senate: Six-hour debate, 5 amendments**

NEW DELHI, Sept 27: Senate Majority leader Bill Frist has drawn the contours of a unanimous consent on the Bill enabling full Indo-US civilian nuclear cooperation in the Senate by suggesting a six-hour debate that will take up not more than five amendments for discussion. However, differences between Republicans and Democrats over Title II of the Bill dealing with US Additional Protocol are still to be ironed out causing the delay in slotting the vote. The consent formula was worked out when Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran met Frist during his recent visit. Given the bipartisan support to the deal, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also called up Senate Minority leader Harry Reid on Monday. While supporting the deal, Reid's problem first revolved around his amendment on not allowing spent fuel to be routed back to Yucca Mountains in Nevada. Senator Larry Craig placed a counter amendment asking spent fuel to be brought back so that reprocessing is not possible in India. Frist had included both in his list of five amendments, but Reid wanted Craig's amendment excluded. This, however, seems to be resolved as the issue can be left open and be later addressed in the bilateral agreement. The main issue now is the difference on the US Additional Protocol, which has got tagged with the India Bill. This has got nothing to do with the nuclear deal but is a matter of domestic debate. Here again, the Republicans and Democrats have reached an understanding in-principle.

The New York Times, 28 September 2006

**Mr. Buffett's Excellent Idea**

At the center of the current showdown with Iran is one chilling technical fact: The same technology that can make fuel for a nuclear reactor can also make the core of a nuclear bomb. Add to that the legal fact that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty guarantees all members in good standing the right to make their own reactor fuel and you have a pretty good idea why the United States and Europe are having such a tough time blocking Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Enter Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor and philanthropist. He is pledging \$50 million for a fuel bank - run by the International Atomic Energy Agency - to be a supplier of last resort for any country that chooses not to get into the risky reactor fuel business and gets the I.A.E.A. seal of approval. Right now countries can argue - sincerely or not - that without their own fuel plants they can be easily blackmailed by foreign suppliers with whom they have political disagreements. Iran has been caught lying about its nuclear program too often to believe that all it wants is reactor fuel. But its talk of nuclear cartels still gets a sympathetic hearing from many of the nuclear have-nots.

The New York Times, 28 September 2006

**Iranian and Europe Envoy Open Talks on Uranium Enrichment**

BERLIN, Sept. 27: The European Union's foreign policy chief and Iran's senior nuclear negotiator met Wednesday night in an effort to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program. The talks, at a government villa just outside Berlin, were arranged Tuesday after the Iranian representative, Ali Larijani, had twice postponed meetings with Javier Solana, the European foreign policy official. The meeting was first to have been held in Brussels and then last week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York. The talks adjourned late Wednesday evening and were to resume Thursday morning. "These talks in Berlin are very important," said a European Union diplomat who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks are in process. "At stake is how both sides might agree to restart formal negotiations in return for Iran suspending its uranium enrichment program." Iran has repeatedly declared that its enrichment programs are for civilian use and that it has a right to develop such a nuclear capacity. But the United States and Europe fear that the enrichment activity is part of a nuclear weapons program. The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China - and Germany have been negotiating with Iran over its nuclear program.

The Korean Herald, 28 September 2006

**U.S. gives 6-party talks 'one last push'**

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday she will visit Asia to see whether "one last push" can be made on North Korea, giving the reclusive state an ultimatum to return to six-party talks immediately. "We are in discussions now with South Korea, Japan, and I suspect I'll go to Asia sometime in the next month to six weeks ... to take stock and see whether or not one last push to get the six-party talks back on can be made," Rice said in an interview with the Wall Street Journal, the transcript of which was released by the State Department. But South Korea downplayed the significance of the phrase "last push," saying it is not an ultimatum. "We see it as an emphasis to return to an early resumption of the six-party talks in fear that we may be further losing momentum," said Second Vice Foreign Minister Lee Kyu-hyung in a regular press briefing. North Korea is boycotting six-party talks over its nuclear ambitions in protest against financial sanctions by the United States. Despite ongoing efforts by South Korea and others to restart the stalled talks, North Korea is determined to see Washington budge first.

The Indian Express, 29 September 2006

**N-deal vote unlikely this week**

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28: With the Republicans and the Democrats still 'struggling' to meet a common ground on the nature of debate on Senate floor, the Indo-US Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Bill is now unlikely to be taken up for voting before they leave Capitol Hill this weekend for the November 7 elections. Confidential Congressional sources told The Indian Express that their 'understanding' is that the Indo-US nuclear Bill, which is now pending before Senate for the past couple of months would be taken up for debate and voting 'only after' November 13, when the Senators would reconvene for the Lame Duck Session. At present concentration of both the Republican

and the Democratic leadership is on 'reaching an agreement' on the nature of debate in the Senate over the nuclear deal issue in terms of how many hours can be devoted for discussion and how many amendments could be considered. It is believed that the agreement in this regard would be reached before they leave this weekend. While the Majority Republicans favour the Bill be given six hours for debate with only first-degree amendments, the minority Democrats differ and seek an entire day, besides a debate on the second-degree amendments.

The Tribune, 29 September 2006

### **Victory on N-deal 'not in doubt'**

New Delhi, September 28: India is not worried on whether the India-US Civilian Nuclear Cooperation Bill will be passed by the Senate or not, but its immediate concern is when will the voting take place. The buzz word in South Block is that 'Miracles can happen'. Miracles have indeed happened in Indo-US relations of late, the biggest example being the July 18, 2005 Indo-US Joint Statement which declared the two countries intent to sign the nuclear deal -- something which no two countries in the world have ever done before. This correspondent understands that as of this evening, technically there were only two possibilities: either the Senate voting takes place in the next 48 hours or it gets deferred to the second week of November when the Senate meets on November 13 after the elections. "Our victory is not in doubt. The only point of worry is that it involves time slippage if the voting does not take place in the next 48 hours," a pivotal official in nuclear deal negotiations told this correspondent. There is reason for this optimism. The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Bill when it passed it 359-68, meaning approval of the 75 per cent of the 435-member House. Though the Senate normally does not sit on Saturdays, it may meet on Saturday if decks are prepared. So far, the Bill has not been procedurally cleared because of lack of unanimity in the 100-member Senate.

Hindustan Times, 29 September 2006

### **Time running out for EU-Iran talks: US**

Washington, September 28: The United States warned on Thursday that time was running out for European negotiators to convince Iran to suspend its suspect nuclear activities, after another round of talks ended inconclusively. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Iran had not agreed to suspend its uranium enrichment programme in the discussions between its top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Berlin. And he reaffirmed that a new deadline for Iranian compliance that was agreed last week among the permanent five UN Security Council members and Germany - the so-called P-5-plus-1 nations - was looming and would not be changed. "The timeline that was agreed in New York stays, and we are getting short now in terms of that time," he said, referring to the moment when the six nations would seek UN sanctions against Tehran. The deadline has not been officially revealed by the six nations, which also include Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, but European diplomats involved in the negotiations said it was sometime next week. "The ball is in their court," McCormack said today of the Iranians.

People's Daily, 29 September 2006

### **First test of China's new thermonuclear fusion reactor succeeds**

Chinese scientists on Thursday successfully conducted their first test of an experimental thermonuclear fusion reactor, which replicates the energy generating process of the sun. The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) fusion reactor, nicknamed "artificial sun", was tested at the Institute of Plasma Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Hefei, capital city of east China's Anhui Province. During the experiment, deuterium and tritium atoms were forced together at a temperature of 100 million Celsius. "At that temperature, the super heated plasma, which is neither a gas, a liquid nor a solid, should begin to give off its own energy," scientists explained. The first tests lasted nearly three seconds, and generated an electrical current of 200 kiloamperes, Wan Yuanxi, general manager of EAST, told Xinhua. The experiments were continuing, he said. The device is planned to eventually create a plasma lasting 1,000 consecutive seconds, the longest a fusion reactor has ever run. Wan said the deuterium extracted from one liter of seawater could produce energy equivalent to that generated by burning 300 liters of gasoline thanks to the fusion technology. If the thermonuclear fusion technology is commercialized, it may provide energy to mankind for more than 100 million years, Wan said.

The New York Times, 29 September 2006

### **China, South Korea Discuss North's Nuclear Plans**

SEOUL: A top Chinese nuclear envoy arrived in South Korea on Friday to help spur stalled talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, with Washington growing weary of Pyongyang's refusal to return to the table. Wu Dawei, China's vice foreign minister and chief diplomat in charge of negotiations with North Korea, will be in Seoul until Sunday for meetings with South Korea's foreign minister and chief envoy to the six-country nuclear talks. The meeting between China and South Korea -- the North's two biggest benefactors -- comes with the United States saying it hopes North Korea responds in the next six weeks to efforts to revive the talks which have been on ice for almost a year. On Wednesday, chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill said those efforts are in a "crucial phase." North Korea rattled regional security concerns by defying international warnings and test-firing seven missiles in July. The secretive state has also reportedly been preparing for its first nuclear weapons test. North Korea has said it would be unthinkable for it to return to the talks among the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States until Washington ends a crackdown on firms it suspects of aiding Pyongyang in illicit activities.

The Kashmir Herald, 29 September 2006

### **Indo-US Strategic Partnership**

The sound of the words 'Indo-US Strategic Partnership' is being sought to be imparted a resonance as that in a cathedral but the fact that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice set the ball rolling on the basis of a decision to resume F-16 supplies to Pakistan is familiar treacherous ground. If the 'strategic partnership' is not to be anything more than an opening of a new market for the US military-industrial complex under the guise of 'making India a world power in the 21st century' it will have to break out of the 20th

century mould of being 'Pakistan-hyphenated'. Of course there is tremendous potential for Indo-US strategic connectivity. The military component must be a part of it. Old India mindset should not obtrude on the relationship. To begin with, however, India will have to first break out of the nuclear syndrome which is threatening to undo a groundwork based on reciprocity and a step-by-step approach. US sanctions, imposed after the 1998 Pokharan tests, appear to have become captive to a US waiver. Insisting on India signing on the dotted line of full scope safeguards (of the International Atomic Energy Agency), as the Americans appear to do now, would be putting the cart before the horse.

Hindustan Times, 30 September 2006

### **Democrat leader pledges to ensure passage of N-deal bill**

Washington, September 29: Pledging to ensure the passage of an enabling legislation on Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, the Democrat leader in the Senate on Friday said he would work with Republicans to put the bill in "automatic pilot" so that it would be taken up as "the first order of business" when Congress returns after the November 7 elections. Responding to comments made by Majority leader Bill Frist at the closing of Senate session yesterday, Minority leader Harry Reid also said it was important that the two work on a "package" on the bill before going on recess as it "means a lot" to the "vital" ties between India and the US. "I would hope we could take a limited number of amendments, very short-time agreements on these and have it set up so that, when we get back when the elections are over, this (bill) be the first order of business we move to. We could set it up so we could finish it in a very long day but we can do it in one day," he said.

The Indian Express, 30 September 2006

### **US Senate to take up N-Bill after Nov 13**

New York, September 29: Now that it is certain the Indo-US civilian nuclear co-operation agreement would be taken up by the Senate 'only after' the recess for the November 7 Congressional elections, senior Democrat and Republican leaders are hoping to reach an agreement before they leave for polls this weekend. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Minority Leader Henry Reid clashed today for the second time this week blaming each other's party for the non-passage of the nuclear Bill this session. The pro-bill lobby now hopes the Bill will be taken up for vote as soon as the Senate reconvenes on November 13. Reid in his speech at the Senate floor on Friday morning charged the Republicans with bringing in the Bill so late that there was no time for discussion. Reiterating his full support to the Bill, and terming it as one of the milestones for relationship between the two countries, Reid said: "I hope we take a limited number of amendments and have it set up so that when we get back this could be the first order of business we move to."

The Times of India, 30 September 2006

### **Bush renews sanctions threat against Iran**

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration on Saturday again threatened Iran with UN punishment unless it responds positively to demands it cease work on processing uranium. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice plans to confer by telephone this weekend with senior European diplomat Javier Solana and the foreign ministers of Britain, France,

Germany, China and Russia. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns will have parallel talks with his counterparts, as well. Solana has been holding talks with Ali Larijani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator. There have been vague reports of some progress, but Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday again rejected demands Iran suspend enrichment. The Bush administration is convinced Iran is on the way to making nuclear weapons, but Iran insists its nuclear programs have as a goal only more energy. Rice talked to Solana on Thursday. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said. "What's going to happen now is that at the ministerial level there is going to be a conversation about exactly what Mr. Solana heard," McCormack said.

The Indian Express, 30 September 2006

### **Iran sees no logic in halting enrichment**

TEHRAN, SEPTEMBER 29: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Friday there was no 'reason or logic' to suspending Iran's nuclear work and talks were the only way to resolve a standoff with the West, according to state TV. Mottaki also said Iran would not use oil as a weapon, a threat officials have sometimes suggested the world's fourth largest oil exporter could resort to if the row escalated. Iranian and European Union negotiators ended two days of talks on the dispute in Berlin on Thursday without a deal. But both sides suggested there had been some progress without giving details. "There is no reason or logic to suspending nuclear activities. The foreigners have experienced that using threats and referring (Iran) to the UNSC is ineffective and there is now no option but to hold talks," Mottaki was quoted by state television as saying.

The Hindu, 30 September 2006

### **Iran rejects terms for nuclear talks**

DUBAI: Iran has affirmed that it would not accept suspension of uranium enrichment, even for a short duration, as a precondition for starting talks with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany. "Iran does not see any reason to suspend nuclear activities," Iran State television quoted Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki as saying on Friday. Earlier on Thursday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad said Western countries wanted to draw political mileage by coaxing Iran into accepting suspension, even if it was carried out for a single day. The President's remarks were made in the backdrop of Thursday's meeting on Iran's nuclear programme in Berlin between the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Larijani, and the European Union's foreign policy representative, Javier Solana. "They want to launch a propaganda war and convey to the world that they have forced Iran to accept suspension of its nuclear activities.

The Hindu, 30 September 2006

### **No secret agenda to cap India's strategic programme: Mulford**

Chennai: "This negotiation was always about a civilian nuclear programme and that is the agreement. It is not a negotiation over India's strategic programme. There was no secret agenda to find a way indirectly to cap India's strategic programme," United States Ambassador David C. Mulford said in an interview to The Hindu here on Thursday. Mr. Mulford declared that the U.S. administration was committed to getting the deal done whether or not the Senate passed the legislation immediately. He said it would be

possible to address India's concerns arising out of the fact that both the Bill adopted by the House of Representatives and the draft Senate bill deviated significantly from the agreements reached in July 2005 and March 2006. "We have judged that it is not the best tactic to change the amendments on the floor of the Senate. That it is better to make that effort in the conference between the two Houses." Alternatively, Mr. Mulford said, the issue could be tackled when the 123 agreement was submitted for approval. India was denied full access to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) because it refused to place one of its fast breeder reactors under safeguards, Mr. Mulford said: "In the negotiations, it was very clear that for India to have full access to the GNEP group, it would need to place one of its fast breeders under safeguards. India decided that it would not do that. So, India decided not to become a full-fledged member of that group."

The Hindu, 30 September 2006

**"The goalposts haven't been shifted and they will not be shifted"**

With the congressional elections scheduled to take place in November 2006, time appears to be running out for the passage of the legislation that will give effect to the nuclear co-operation deal between India and the United States. What are the chances that the U.S. Congress will enact the enabling law before its current term comes to an end? U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford provides answers to this and related questions in an interview in Chennai. Mr. Ambassador, you said in Jaipur that the United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act is likely to be passed before the U.S. Congress finishes its term. What if it isn't and one of the Houses is captured by the Democrats? We have few days left for the Congressional session before they recess for election. An effort is being made to obtain a floor vote in the Senate. The House has already voted. This is looking less likely because there has been some wrangling over procedural matters even when both the sides, the Republicans and the Democrats, are bending backwards to emphasise their support for the Bill on the Indo-U.S. [nuclear] relationship. There are some differences of opinion on possible amendments and how to proceed through the Senate, which is a complicated parliamentary format to work in. It may still be that we get a floor vote.

The Hindu, 30 September 2006

**India should not join race for biological weapons**

As Indians celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday this October 2, it is worth interpreting his message of peace and non-violence in today's context, especially in the area of biological weapons. The Biological Weapons Convention, signed by 147 countries, including the United States and India, went into force in 1975. Regarded as one of the major achievements in the history of arms control, it is meant to "exclude completely the possibility of bacteriological agents and toxins being used as weapons" by prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, and retention of such weapons. However, in biodefence research, there is little difference between research, development, testing and evaluation for defensive reasons and for developing weapons. This dual use dilemma may be addressed by enabling multiparty inspection of biodefence research facilities, but in 2001 the U.S. Administration derailed efforts to create a Protocol for enforcement and verification of biological weapons, a decision that upset many countries.

Hindustan Times, 30 September 2006

**'Uranium from lean sources still a challenge'**

Mumbai, September 29: For an efficient utilisation of natural uranium and thorium resources with minimum impact on environment, Indian nuclear scientists have to evolve improved flow sheets for the recovery of uranium from 'lean' sources, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar said on Friday. Although Indian nuclear power programme is successfully competing in the energy market and making lots of money, "the challenge to recover uranium from 'lean' primary ore still continues and we need to evolve improved flow sheets to get maximum," he said while addressing the three-day symposium on 'Emerging trends in separation science and technology', which began on Friday at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai. The improved flow sheets are also to be enhanced for qualitative recovery of Plutonium from a variety of spent fuels emanating from research and power reactors and quantitative recovery of U-233 (an isotope of uranium) from irradiated thorium, Kakodkar said. "Spent fuel solution is a very complex chemical mixture and the recovery of valuables from this mixture is a challenge to the Radio chemists and nuclear technologists," he said.

The New York Times, 30 September 2006

**Senate Votes to Extend Iran Sanctions**

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Congress agreed on Saturday to extend sanctions on Iran set to expire this weekend that are aimed at choking off funds that could aid Iran in developing nuclear weapons. With Congress scrambling to finish business before heading out to campaign for November 7 elections, the Senate approved a bill that matched one the House of Representatives approved on Thursday to keep the sanctions from expiring. The bill would renew for five more years economic sanctions -- known as the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act or ILSA -- to discourage companies from investing in Iran's energy sector. Libya, which now has warming relations with the United States, was dropped from the sanctions. The United States and other major powers are trying to get Iran to curb its nuclear program, which they suspect is aimed at developing nuclear weapons. Tehran maintains it is for civilian energy needs. The bill also establishes mandatory economic sanctions on companies that provide Iran any goods, services or technologies that can be used in programs for nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.