

Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

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CURBS ON NUCLEAR SCIENTIST LIFTED

BBC

August 28, 2009

"A court in Pakistan has lifted the final restrictions on controversial nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, allowing him total freedom of movement.

Dr Khan, whose work helped Pakistan become a nuclear state, spent years under house arrest after he admitted selling off nuclear weapons secrets.

In February 2009 most restrictions on him were lifted, but he still had to notify authorities of his movements.

He subsequently filed a petition arguing for further freedoms.

Dr Khan confessed to transferring nuclear weapons technology to Libya, North Korea and Iran in 2004 but was later pardoned by former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

He has since said that the charges against him were false and that his confession was "forced".

The full article can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8226124.stm
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'ARCTIC SEA' WAS CARRYING ILLEGAL ARMS, SAYS GENERAL

By Shaun Walker
The Telegraph (UK)
August 29, 2009

“A general close to the investigation into the mysterious voyage of the Arctic Sea has told a Russian newspaper that he suspected the ship was carrying a secret cargo of illegal weapons, as many conspiracy theorists have suggested.

The newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, interviewed what it described as a senior general in the Russian Navy who had been close to the investigation. The general said that he knew far more than he could say openly at this stage, but his testimony, if genuine, represents the first concrete information to come out of the investigation, which has been shrouded in mystery.”

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“The efforts which Russia put into recovering a ship that had a stated cargo worth less than £1m, has led many to suspect that there may have been a secret, embarrassing cargo.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/arctic-sea-was-carrying-illegal-arms-says-general-1778970.html>
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INDIA NUCLEAR TEST 'DID NOT WORK'

By Sanjoy Majumder
BBC
August 27, 2009

“A retired atomic scientist who was closely associated with India's 1998 nuclear tests has said they were not as successful as was claimed.

K Santhanam said one of the tests - on a hydrogen bomb - had not worked, and that India would have to carry out more tests for a credible nuclear deterrent.

His statement has been dismissed by the government and his former colleagues.”

The full article can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8225540.stm
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US NUCLEAR GURUS SEE SIGNS OF MORE INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTS

By Chidanand Rajghatta
The Times of India
August 28, 2009

“US nuclear pundits feel the Indian establishment -- political, scientific, or both in concert -- may be lining up to conduct more nuclear tests to validate and improve the country's arsenal before the Obama administration shuts the door on nuclear explosions.

"You bet he wants to test again," said Henry Sokolski, Executive Director of the Washington DC-based Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, when asked about the remarks from a key Indian nuclear scientist suggesting India's thermonuclear test was not up to mark. "Imagine you are a nuclear weapons designer who has corrected the mistakes and ironed out the wrinkles. You would be crazy not to want to test again."

"You have to look at the DNA of a weapons designer. They always want to make the weapons smaller, lighter, more powerful," Sokolski added. "If you blindfold them, tie their hands and leave them in the middle of a forest, they will still make their way to a test site."

While Sokolski addressed the Indian motivations largely from the technology validation standpoint, Washington has long believed that geo-political objectives rather than scientific or technical metrics drives New Delhi's nuclear weapons quest. The argument has gotten another boost following the remarks by a key Indian scientist, K.Santhanam, questioning the potency of India's thermonuclear bomb."

The full article can be found at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/US-nuclear-gurus-see-signs-of-more-Indian-nuclear-tests/articleshow/4943249.cms>

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IRAN SLOWS NUCLEAR PACE BUT BOMB SUSPICIONS GROW

By Mark Heinrich

Reuters

April 29, 2009

"Iran has slowed its expansion of uranium enrichment and met some demands for transparency but allegations it researched how to build atom bombs look credible and Tehran must address them, the U.N atomic watchdog said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency report will form the basis for six-power talks on September 2 to look into harsher U.N. sanctions against the Islamic Republic over a uranium enrichment campaign the West fears is a stealthy quest for nuclear weapons.

Russia and China, close trade partners of Tehran, may resist expected calls from Western powers to squeeze Iran's lifeblood oil sector by pointing to new Iranian gestures of cooperation with IAEA inspectors, cited in the agency report.

But diplomats said a summary of an IAEA probe into alleged military dimensions to Iran's nuclear activity was unusually blunt, giving credence to intelligence material, and would stiffen Western resolve to seek tougher sanctions.

"This latest IAEA report catalogues a litany of Iranian obfuscation and obstruction. It makes clear that Iran continues willfully to fail to meet its legally binding international obligations," Philip Parham, Britain's deputy ambassador to the United Nations in New York, told Reuters.

The IAEA said Iran was enriching uranium with about 300 fewer centrifuges than the almost 5,000 operating at the time of the last IAEA report, the first such scaleback in around three years. The report did not venture possible reasons.

But an informed senior diplomat told Reuters earlier a batch of machines had been taken down for maintenance or repairs.

However, the confidential U.N. watchdog report, obtained by Reuters, said Iran had raised the total number of installed, though not all enriching, machines by some 1,000 to 8,308."

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“Iran's reported stockpile of low-enriched uranium had increased to 1,508 kg, almost 200 more than in May. Nuclear analysts said the production rate, around 50 percent capacity, appeared the same, albeit with fewer centrifuges on stream.” “The number of newly installed centrifuges is also disturbing. Iran has been eager to install as many as possible, so that if it goes into negotiations that require a freeze on the number, it will start off from a much higher position.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE57P1O520090829>
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IRANIAN NUCLEAR THREAT TARGETS U.S., ISRAEL

By Chris Wessing
Newsmax.com
August 30, 2009

“Concerns about Iran's nuclear capabilities – and their potential devastating impact on America – are mounting, a special report from Newsmax.TV reveals.”

“The Islamic republic has test-fired missiles capable of reaching Israel, southeastern Europe and U.S. bases in the Mideast, and published reports say Iran is within a year of developing its own nuclear bomb.

And security experts warn that even one nuclear device in the hands of a rogue nation could be used against the United States in a devastating electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack.”

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“Although Iran is thousands of miles from America's shores, its belligerent actions could have far-reaching repercussions. A regional war or nuclear attack could cause an already shaky U.S. economy to collapse.

Even scarier, say policy analysts, is the growing threat of an EMP, an intense burst of energy from an exploding nuclear warhead high above the Earth. Experts believe such an attack could destroy all electronic devices over a massive area, from cell phones to computers to America's electrical grid.

“Within a year of that attack nine out of 10 Americans would be dead, because we can't support a population of the present size in urban centers and the like without electricity,” said Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy. “That would be a world without America, as a practical matter. And that is exactly what I believe the Iranians are working towards.”

President Barack Obama has committed the U.S. government to a diplomatic approach for resolving the high-stakes nuclear dispute, but Iran has so far rebuffed Obama's overtures. Meanwhile, Congress is working on legislation to grant Obama the power to impose crippling sanctions on Iran if the talk-first approach doesn't work.”

The full article can be found at:
http://www.newsmax.com/headlines/iran_nuclear_threat/2009/08/30/254223.html
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WHITE HOUSE, SCIENTISTS DISCUSS BIOLOGICAL THREATS

By Martin Matishak
Global Security Newswire
August 28, 2009

“The Obama administration recently convened the first in what could be a series of meeting with dozens of biological scientists and research analysts in an effort to bolster the White House's evolving strategy on bioterrorism, Global Security Newswire has learned...”

“The Aug. 13 meeting at the White House Conference Center brought together roughly 40 participants to discuss "policies to prevent intentional biothreats," according to one international analyst who attended the session and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The discussion was led by Laura Holgate, the National Security Council's senior director for WMD terrorism and threat reduction, and James Petro, a top official in the office, one expert told GSN early last week.

Participants said the discussion focused on three broad themes: biological threats to the nation, existing international initiatives used to combat bioterrorism, and the role nongovernment organizations could play in the administration's strategy.

The conversation also addressed ways the White House could approach the Biological Weapons Convention and its 2011 review conference, including reaffirming adherence to the principles of the treaty or finding pragmatic alternatives to the compact.”

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/ts_20090828_3718.php

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