

3 May 2010

## Chem-Bio News

- 1. U.S. IS EXPECTED TO REVEAL SIZE OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILE:** *"The Obama administration is likely to reveal a closely guarded secret -- the size of the U.S. nuclear stockpile -- during a critical meeting starting Monday at which Washington will try to strengthen the global treaty that curbs the spread of nuclear weapons, several officials said."*
- 2. HELIUM-3 SHORTAGE COULD MEAN NUKE DETECTION 'DISASTER':** *"Stopping nuclear smuggling is already tough. But it's about to get a lot harder. Helium-3, a crucial ingredient in neutron-particle-detection technology, is in extremely short supply."*
- 3. [IN] COBALT-60 TRAIL TAKES EXPERTS TO REWARI:** *"Meanwhile, the Delhi Police said they would start an inquiry into the claim made a chemistry professor at DU, Ramesh Chandra, about the possibility of uranium being buried on the varsity campus."*
- 4. ILLNESSES AT AFGHAN GIRLS' SCHOOLS PROMPT POISONING FEARS:** *"Forty-seven schoolgirls either fell unconscious or complained of nausea and dizziness that day at Khadijatul Kubra High School in Konduz."*
- 5. 'CBS ALWAYS ON' DIGITAL NEWSSTAND NETWORK TO CONDUCT FIRST STREET-LEVEL EMERGENCY ALERT TEST WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH -- 10AM - 2PM:** *"An emergency test tone and message will appear on the newsstands' news ticker and High Definition TV screens for 30 seconds at the top of each hour that day. The emergency test is being conducted in conjunction with a Homeland Security exercise called Liberty RadEx taking place in Philadelphia April 26th through 30th. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Philadelphia Emergency Management Office and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are leading the exercise which will test the City's capability to clean up and recover from a terrorist attack such as a dirty bomb."*

## CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### U.S. IS EXPECTED TO REVEAL SIZE OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILE

By Mary Beth Sheridan and Walter Pincus

Washington Post

May 1, 2010

"The Obama administration is likely to reveal a closely guarded secret -- the size of the U.S. nuclear stockpile -- during a critical meeting starting Monday at which Washington will try to strengthen the global treaty that curbs the spread of nuclear weapons, several officials said.

Various factions in the administration have debated for months whether to declassify the numbers, and they were left out of President Obama's recent Nuclear Posture Review because of objections from intelligence officials. Now, the administration is seeking a

dramatic announcement that will further enhance its nuclear credentials as it tries to shore up the fraying nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The numbers could be released as soon as Monday, when Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is to address the NPT Review Conference in New York, officials said. She will speak after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is likely to repeat his demands for more global controls over the stockpiles of the nuclear nations.

U.S. officials fear he could hijack the conference with such demands, diverting attention from his own nuclear program, which is widely seen as violating the nonproliferation treaty.

Arms-control groups estimate the U.S. arsenal contains 9,000 weapons, with roughly 5,000 of them active and the rest in line for dismantlement. "

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/30/AR2010043002950.html?hpid=topnews>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **HELIUM-3 SHORTAGE COULD MEAN NUKE DETECTION 'DISASTER'**

By admin

Wired.com

April 29, 2010

"Stopping nuclear smuggling is already tough. But it's about to get a lot harder. Helium-3, a crucial ingredient in neutron-particle-detection technology, is in extremely short supply.

Rep. Brad Miller (D-North Carolina), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, chided the Departments of Energy and Homeland Security at a hearing on the issue late last week, suggesting that they created a preventable "disaster." The Energy Department is the sole American supplier of helium-3, and DHS is supposed to take the lead in spotting and stopping illicit nuclear material.

The helium-3 isotope represents less than 0.0002 percent of all helium. Of that, about 80 percent of helium-3 usage is devoted to security purposes, because the gas is extremely sensitive to neutrons, like those emitted spontaneously by plutonium."

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"Projected demand for the nonradioactive gas in 2010 is said to be more than 76,000 liters per year, while U.S. production is a mere 8,000 liters annually, and U.S. total supply rests at less than 48,000 liters. This shortage wasn't identified until a workshop put on by the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Physics in August 2008.

Between 2004 and 2008, about 25,000 liters of helium-3 annually was entering the U.S. from Russia, according to the testimony of Dr. William F. Brinkman, director of the Office of Science at DOE. Right around the time of the August workshop, Russia decided it was

“reserving its supplies for domestic use.”

Helium-3 neutron-detector systems were incorporated into many nuclear reactors designed and built General Electric, to measure power levels and initiate protective measures. Thomas R. Anderson, a representative from GE Energy, said his company has supplied more than 35,000 detectors around the world to monitor nuclear smuggling.

The shortage is so severe, explained Dr. William K. Hagan, acting director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at DHS, that even handheld and backpack detectors used by the U. S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and Transportation Security Administration would be affected. According to the hearing’s charter, U.S. exports of the precious gas have ceased, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has been informed that it must diversify its helium-3 sources used for their nuclear-nonproliferation work.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/04/helium-3-shortage-could-mean-nuke-detection-disaster/>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **[IN] COBALT-60 TRAIL TAKES EXPERTS TO REWARI**

By Rahul Tripathi

The Times of India

May 3, 2010

“The mystery of the missing cobalt-60 pencils further deepened with investigators claiming that the lead cover of the gamma irradiator -- in which the radioactive metal was kept -- was melted at a furnace at Rewari in Haryana by one of the scrap dealers.

This shocking revelation has led to a team of experts from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Atomic Energy Regulation Board rushing to Rewari, where a combing operation was carried out on Saturday for radiation sources”

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“Since the lead was melted and sold to various people, experts did not rule out the possibility of the cobalt-60 being distributed across a wide area.

Police said, after buying the irradiator in an auction from Delhi University, Harcharan Singh Bhola sold the lead cover which contained cobalt-60 to another dealer, Giriraj Gupta. Gupta further sold it to Manish Jindal, a trader in Lahori Gate. Jindal took the scrap to his furnace in Rewari where the lead was melted.”

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***“Meanwhile, the Delhi Police said they would start an inquiry into the claim made a chemistry professor at DU, Ramesh Chandra, about the possibility of uranium being buried on the varsity campus. [emphasis added] DCP (north) Sagarpreet Hooda***

said, "We are seeking the help of AERB and have written to them for an inquiry into the possible presence of uranium in DU. The help of the radiology safety department has been sought."

The cops have also asked the varsity to make available records of any uranium containing machines or substance bought by them.

On Saturday, AERB said that had categorized the Mayapuri radiation fiasco as level four on the International Nuclear and Radiation Event Scale, denoting high radiation exposure to more than one person."

The full article can be found at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/City/Delhi/Cobalt-60-trail-takes-experts-to-Rewari/articleshow/5884364.cms>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **ILLNESSES AT AFGHAN GIRLS' SCHOOLS PROMPT POISONING FEARS**

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

May 03, 2010

"Forty-seven schoolgirls either fell unconscious or complained of nausea and dizziness that day at Khadijatul Kubra High School in Konduz.

The illnesses are the latest in a series of suspected poisoning incidents at girls' schools in the northeastern Afghan city.

On April 21, 23 girls at Fatimatul Zohra High School mysteriously fell ill. On April 25, another 13 at the Sahe Darra Middle School for Girls became sick.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the outbreaks, and local authorities are still investigating their exact cause. But the Taliban's well-known opposition to girls' education has prompted many to accuse the group of waging a poisoning campaign."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Illnesses\\_At\\_Afghan\\_Girls\\_Schools\\_Prompt\\_Poisoning\\_Fears/2024984.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Illnesses_At_Afghan_Girls_Schools_Prompt_Poisoning_Fears/2024984.html)

[Return to Top](#)

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## **'CBS ALWAYS ON' DIGITAL NEWSSTAND NETWORK TO CONDUCT FIRST STREET-LEVEL EMERGENCY ALERT TEST WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH -- 10AM - 2PM**

Marketwire.com

April 27, 2010

"An emergency test tone and message will appear on the newsstands' news ticker and High Definition TV screens for 30 seconds at the top of each hour that day. The emergency test is

being conducted in conjunction with a Homeland Security exercise called Liberty RadEx taking place in Philadelphia April 26th through 30th. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Philadelphia Emergency Management Office and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are leading the exercise which will test the City's capability to clean up and recover from a terrorist attack such as a dirty bomb.

In the event of a city-wide emergency, center city residents and the workforce would be able to get up-to-the-minute details and information through the CBS Always On network. The system has already been used since its installation -- to alert people to move their cars from snow emergency routes during this past winter's record snow storm.

The network of 39 newsstands in Philadelphia was launched in November 2009 by the Newsstand Association of Philadelphia, Center City Direct and the seven CBS stations in the Philadelphia market -- CBS 3 (KYW-TV), The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV), KYW Newsradio 1060, 98.1 WOGL, 94 WYSP, SportsRadio 610 WIP and The Big Talker 1210AM WPHT. The system is expected to be expanded to additional locations throughout the year."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/CBS-Always-On-Digital-Newsstand-Network-Conduct-First-Street-Level-Emergency-Alert-Test-1154377.htm>

ANALYST NOTE: No follow-up reporting as of 030700 May 10.

[Return to Top](#)

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