

People's Daily, 2 April 2007

China, Pakistan vow to consolidate strategic, cooperative partnership: officials

China and Pakistan will work to further consolidate good neighborly friendship and strengthen the strategic and cooperative partnership between the two countries, officials said in Islamabad Sunday. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri were addressing a joint press conference following the talks held between them Sunday afternoon. At the invitation of Kasuri, Li embarked upon a two-day official visit to Pakistan on April 1-2. Along with Pakistan, China is willing to further consolidate good neighborly friendship and cooperation for the mutual beneficial of the two peoples and for the development of the region, Li said. "We want to work with Pakistan to take the strategic and cooperative partnership to a new height," he said...

The Indian Express, 2 April 2007

China reaching out to world shows its changing economy: report

New Delhi, April 1: First the world came to China. Now, China is reaching out to the world. This and the accompanying economic, strategic and political implications, is the conclusion of a report by The Economist. Released yesterday, "Reaching for a Renaissance", focuses on China's domestic transformation and its impact on the Asia-Pacific region. The report notes that China's fast-growing outward foreign direct investment (FDI) has grown more than five times to \$11.3 billion in the first five years of this decade. In 2004, it overtook Japan to become the third largest exporter, after the US and Germany. Exports are expected to top \$1 trillion by next year. Adds Zeigler, "The growing strength of China's export prowess has led to the growth of its neighbouring countries as well as they form a part of the pan Asian production network." And this has led to rise in trade within East Asia...

The Hindu, 2 April 2007

China for boosting SAARC ties (Nirupama Subramanian)

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing reiterated on Sunday that Beijing wants to use its observer status at SAARC to contribute to "the development and prosperity" of South Asia. In Pakistan on an official visit en route to the April 2-3 New Delhi SAARC summit where China would participate for the first time as an observer, the Minister said his country attached importance to South Asia and was committed to developing "long-term, stable and friendly relations" with the countries in the region. China welcomed the progress in South Asia, made individually by each country and through the regional grouping and hoped that all the countries in the region would enjoy political stability and economic prosperity, Mr. Li said at a joint press conference with Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri...

People's Daily, 3 April 2007

China makes first visit to SAARC

Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing today attends the 14th Summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in New Delhi. His attendance marks the first time a Chinese diplomat has attended the summit since China became an observer to SAARC in 2005. "The fundamental objective of China's policy towards South Asia is stability,

development and good neighbourly relations," Li said at a joint press conference with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri in Islamabad, before he headed to New Delhi. Li said he hoped all South Asian nations would enjoy political stability, economic prosperity and harmonious relations with each other. China has long hoped of expanding cooperation with South Asian countries, but the lack of a multilateral platform has been an obstacle to closer ties, said Lan Jianxue of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences...

People's Daily, 3 April 2007

Pakistani President, PM meet with visiting Chinese FM

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Monday met separately with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on bilateral ties and regional and international issues of mutual concern. During the meetings, Pakistani leaders said the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and China in political, economic, diplomatic and security fields is successful and has achieved results of significance in many mega projects. Considering China as a trusted global partner, Pakistan is looking forward to consolidating the existing good relations and further deepening the cooperation in fields including economy, finance, science and technology, agriculture and education, Pakistani leaders said. During the meeting, Li reiterated that China and Pakistan are good neighbors, good friends, good partners, and good brothers...

People's Daily, 4 April 2007

China puts forward five proposals for cooperation with SAARC

China has put forward five proposals for cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing announced Tuesday. "The Chinese government supports the objectives and priority areas of SAARC," Li said at the 14th SAARC summit opening ceremony. "China respects the position of SAARC countries and the principles of equality, mutual trust and win-win cooperation, and is ready to carry out exchanges and expand practical cooperation with SAARC to contribute to the cooperation process of SAARC and peace and development in South Asia," he said. China's proposals include discussing with SAARC about establishing a cooperation mechanism for poverty alleviation and carrying out comparative study on models of poverty alleviation, exploring with SAARC the possibility of establishing a China-SAARC regular meeting mechanism for cooperation on disaster relief and mitigation to share experience and information...

People's Daily, 4 April 2007

China confirms Wen to deliver speech at Japan's Diet

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang confirmed Tuesday that Premier Wen Jiabao is expected to deliver a speech at the Diet of Japan during the upcoming visit. "The premier will take the chance to expound China's stance on the improvement and development of Sino-Japanese relations and cooperation between the two countries," Qin told a regular press conference. He also confirmed that Wen would visit Kyoto besides Tokyo during his tour. "China hopes the visit would establish the content of the mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests, improve the trade cooperation mechanism, educational and cultural exchanges, as well as the youth contact in the long run," Qin said. He said China and Japan had already reached consensus on

overcoming the political obstacle in the bilateral ties. "Properly handling the historical issue is the key factor to improve Sino-Japanese ties," he said. He hoped the two sides would stick to the path of "peaceful co-existence, friendship for generations, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development," value the current momentum of improvement and strengthen the friendly cooperation between the two countries...

The Hindu, 4 April 2007

Nepal favours inclusion of China

New Delhi: Nepal on Tuesday made a strong pitch for inclusion of China as a member of the eight-nation SAARC. Prime Minister G.P. Koirala underpinned the importance of expansion of SAARC with China's inclusion, during an interaction of SAARC leaders with President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at Rashtrapati Bhavan. China along with South Korea, Japan, the United States and the European Union has been invited for the first time as an observer to the two-day summit which commenced on Tuesday.

China Daily, 5 April 2007

National body planned for migrants (Wang Zhuoqiong)

The State Council is considering setting up a centralized department to oversee China's large migrant population. The department would serve as the main authority to coordinate the flow of millions of migrants across China. "To have an authority working on migration issues has been on the government's agenda for a long time," said Pang Chenmin, deputy director of the disaster relief department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Pang said the timetable had not been set. The idea of creating a State-level government organization for migrant affairs was raised in the 1990s. Currently, various ministries and industries handle such issues. Pang said a State-level department would enhance the government's efforts to control migrant flows. Given the large migrant population, the deputy-director said a centralized department would be crucial in mapping out policies and laws...

People's Daily, 5 April 2007

Premier expects to "melt ice" during Japan tour, warns against shrine visits

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday said he expected his Japan visit next week to be a success, but said that he hoped there would be no further visits to the Yasukuni shrine by Japanese leaders. "I hope to make the visit a success, and really 'melt the ice' in China-Japan relations," Wen said in a joint interview with journalists from 16 Japanese news organizations. The interview came ahead of Wen's Japan tour slated for April 11-13, the first to Japan by a Chinese premier in seven years. The premier, however, warned against Japanese leaders' visits to Yasukuni shrine, which has been a key source of tension between China and Japan...

People's Daily, 8 April 2007

S. Korea to boost cooperation with China: PM

South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo has hailed the development of Sino-South Korean relations, saying he believes the partnership will grow ever closer. In an exclusive interview with Xinhua, Han said he believes a visit from Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on April 10-11 will inject new impetus to Sino-South Korean relations, which have rapidly

developed since the two countries established diplomatic ties 15 years ago. The prime minister highlighted the complimentary cooperation between the two countries, saying such cooperation is beneficial to both sides and will continue. Citing China's strength in some advanced scientific areas such as space flight and South Korea's relative edge in technology-concentrated industries, the prime minister said he believed bilateral economic and trade relations in the future will be both competitive and cooperative, but stressed cooperation will be of greater importance...

People's Daily, 8 April 2007

New KMT chairman promises to promote cross-Straits peace, development

Wu Poh-hsiung, chairman-elect of the Chinese Kuomintang Party (KMT) in Taiwan, promised on Sunday he would work to promote peace and development across the Taiwan Straits. "After I take up the post of KMT chairman, I will follow the five-point consensus outlined in the joint press communique signed by our two parties on April 29, 2005, and continue to work for peace and development across the Taiwan Straits," Wu said. Wu made the remarks in a return message to Hu Jintao, General Secretary the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), who had earlier sent him a congratulatory message. The said communique was signed during a landmark visit to the mainland by the then KMT chairman Lien Chan, after his meeting with Hu Jintao in Beijing...

China Daily, 9 April 2007

Japan, China to agree on farm, environment

TOKYO - Japan will help China curb greenhouse gas and Beijing will agree to resume importing Japanese rice when Premier Wen Jiabao pays a landmark visit here this week, Japanese reports said Sunday. Premier Wen is due here Wednesday in the first visit by a Chinese leader to Japan since 2000, as the Asian powers try to repair chilled relations. But there have been no indications the two nations can strike a deal on a protracted dispute over gas fields in the East China Sea. Japanese officials had earlier hoped for an agreement during Wen's visit. A joint statement during Wen's summit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will feature about 10 items including Japan's agreement to transfer energy-saving technology to China, the Nikkei business daily said, without citing sources...

China Daily, 9 April 2007

China enlists NGO help in poverty fight

Zhang Fengjiao might not be a development expert, but she knows what she needs to improve her lot -- a proper road to her village so she can take her products to market with relative ease. Her wish is on its way to being granted under a pilot project that is exploring the potential for the Chinese government to work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in tackling poverty in the world's most populous country. "If that road can be finished, it'll make a big difference," said the 37-year-old mother of two, her neighbors huddling around out of curiosity. Zhang currently has to trudge about 2-km (1.6 miles) along a muddy, red-dirt path just to get from her home to the main part of Jinzhu, a remote village in a mountainous part of Jiangxi province in China's southern interior...

People's Daily, 10 April 2007

Chinese Premier arrives in Seoul for official visit

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived here on Tuesday for an official visit to South Korea, the first by a Chinese premier in seven years. In a written statement issued upon his arrival, the Chinese premier said that his visit to South Korea is aimed at enhancing the strategic communication, reciprocal cooperation, and common interest. He stressed that strengthening the overall and cooperative partnership with South Korea would be China's consistent guideline. Wen voiced his hope that his visit would push forward the relationship between China and South Korea...

People's Daily, 10 April 2007

Study raises questions about hukou

As Beijing's migrant population continues to grow, some experts believe the decades-old hukou system is outmoded and broken. The policy requires migrants to get temporary permits, or the much harder to obtain hukou, once they move to the city. These days, a growing number of those who relocate to find better jobs in Beijing tend to stay longer or even resettle with their entire families, according to a study by the Renmin University of China. The investigation revealed that this "floating population" in Beijing, currently at 3.57 million, stays an average of 4.8 years in the city...

People's Daily, 10 April 2007

U.S. files two new trade cases against China

The U.S. government on Monday filed two trade cases against China in the World Trade Organization (WTO) over copyright piracy and restrictions on the sale of American books, music, videos and movies. The two new cases represent the latest effort by the Bush administration to increase pressure on China in the trade area despite Beijing's active efforts in cracking down on piracy. "We acknowledge that China's leadership has made the protection of intellectual property rights a priority and has taken active steps to improve IPR protection and enforcement," said U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab in a statement...

People's Daily, 10 April 2007

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People's Daily, 11 April 2007

China's monthly trade surplus plummets to US\$6.9 bln in March

China's trade surplus plunged to 6.87 billion U.S. dollars in March, to less than a third of

what it was in February, figures released by the General Administration of Customs showed on Tuesday. The growth rate of exports in March compared to the same period last year was 6.9 percent, a five-year low. "We don't need to be panic over the sharp decline since China is stepping up efforts to reduce trade surplus," said Zhang Yansheng, an economist with the National Development and Reform Commission...

China Daily, 11 April 2007

China, ROK leaders vow to strive for FTA (Le Tian)

SEOUL: China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) yesterday agreed to expand their comprehensive partnership with the signing of four pacts after talks between visiting Premier Wen Jiabao and ROK President Roh Moo-hyun. The agreements cover exchanges among young people, labor exports, migratory bird protection and marine search and rescue. They also vowed to continue efforts to make the Korean Peninsula nuclear free and safeguard peace and stability in Northeast Asia...

China Daily, 12 April 2007

Wen Jiabao: China, Japan must improve relations

Beijing and Tokyo must work together to build better relations for their offsprings, while trying to learn from a tragic past, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said in a speech to Japan's parliament on Thursday. "History shows us that peace and prosperity between us is very important to the people of both nations," Wen said in his 40-minute speech. "We must cherish our long history of friendship, of more than 2,000 years, to ensure long-term mutual prosperity." Wen, 64, said China will cooperate to resolve a dispute with Japan over the development of natural gas in the East China Sea. China understands Japan's desire to play a bigger role in international affairs, he said...

China Daily, 12 April 2007

China weighs US plea for dialogue (Jiang Wei)

China is studying the US request for consultations over intellectual property rights at the World Trade Organization (WTO), said the Ministry of Commerce. The US government filed two complaints with the WTO on Monday against China over copyright piracy and restrictions on the sale of American movies, music and books. China's delegation to the WTO has received the formal request from the United States, ministry spokesman Wang Xinpei said yesterday. Under WTO rules, the two parties have up to 60 days to hold consultations. If they still fail to solve the problem, the appealing side could request a WTO panel to judge the case. Wang said the Chinese government has made massive efforts to strengthen IPR protection and made remarkable progress...

People's Daily, 13 April 2007

Optimism deserts Hill as he touches down in Beijing

Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill was not in an upbeat mood about the six-party talks when he stepped off the plane in the Chinese capital, saying he was "not hoping for anything". "I'm not hoping for anything, but I will consult with the Chinese", Hill said at the airport on his arrival in Beijing Friday afternoon. According to a source with the U.S. embassy in Beijing, Hill is expected to meet his DPRK counterpart Kim Kye-Gwan and top Chinese negotiator, Vice Foreign minister Wu Dawei, on Saturday. The six-party

talks, grouping China, the DPRK, the United States, the ROK, Japan and Russia, have been in recess since March 22 due to difficulties in resolving the issue concerning the transfer of the allegedly illicit funds of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) frozen in a Macao-based bank...

People's Daily, 13 April 2007

China wants to enhance cooperation with Japan on energy: FM spokesman

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday that China would like to learn from Japan and work more closely with Japan in the energy sector. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said this at a regular press conference, held a day after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed a joint press communique calling for stronger cooperation on energy and environmental protection. Noting China and Japan are both big energy consumers, Qin said Japan boasts advanced technology in the energy sector, particularly in clean energy and renewable energy...

People's Daily, 13 April 2007

China-DPRK ties benefits regional peace, stability: official

The development of the relations between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in recent years has played an important role in safeguarding regional peace and stability, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said Thursday in Beijing. He Yong, a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and deputy secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, made the remarks at a reception held by the DPRK embassy to celebrate the 95th birthday of the country's late leader Kim Il Sung. To cement and promote the China-DPRK friendly relations of cooperation meets the common aspiration and ultimate interests of both parties, nations and peoples, He said. Choe Jin Su, the DPRK Ambassador to China, said the DPRK-China friendly ties is "a treasure left behind by founding fathers of both nations" and should be "carefully cultivated"...

People's Daily, 14 April 2007

Wen's visit to S.Korea, Japan success in strengthening mutual political trust: Chinese FM

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's official visit to South Korea and Japan is a great success in strengthening mutual political trust and promoting the healthy and steady development of bilateral relations, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Friday. Wen paid official visit to South Korea and Japan from April 10 to 13. This is the first time a Chinese premier has visited the two countries in seven years. Li said Wen's visit further deepened the all-round partnership of cooperation between China and South Korea. Over the past 15 years, Sino-South Korean political trust has been deepened, exchanges and cooperation have been expanded and coordination in dealing with regional and international affairs has been strengthened...

People's Daily, 15 April 2007

SCO nations hold talks on anti-terrorism military exercise

Military experts from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member nations have finished their third-round talks on this year's anti-terrorism military exercise, a

spokesman with China's Ministry of National Defense said in Beijing Saturday. The talks, held in the Russian city Chelyabinsk from April 12 to 14, mainly focused on agendas such as the purpose, the size of troops and the detailed planning of the military exercise, the spokesman said. Experts from SCO member nations have reached consensus on issues concerning logistics plan and scheme of the real-troop exercise. Gen. Yury Baluyevsky, Chief of the Russian General Staff Army and Zhang Qinsheng, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army attended the meeting. Chinese Assistant Foreign minister Li Hui said last month that a joint anti-terrorism military exercise within the framework of SCO will be held in Russia this year, but he didn't reveal the exact schedule. The next round of the talks is scheduled to be held in northwest China's Urumqi city in mid-May.

People's Daily, 16 April 2007

Opinion: Is trade war between US and China looming?

The United States has formally lodged its WTO complaint against copyright piracy in China. According to sources, the US trade delegation in Geneva had handed the documents detailing the complaint to the World Trade Organization, activating the WTO's dispute settlement process. The US has also filed a case accusing China of restricting distribution of foreign music, films and books. The WTO cases mark the latest in a series of trade disputes between the two economic giants. Last month, the Bush administration said it would impose tariffs on imports of glossy paper from China to combat Chinese government subsidies. And in February, the administration announced a WTO case charging China with providing illegal incentives to Chinese manufacturers to export their products...

People's Daily, 16 April 2007

Taiwan not eligible to join WHO, FM spokesman says

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang blasted Taiwan leader's attempt to gain membership in World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday, saying the island is simply "not eligible" to join the UN agency. Qin was responding to a question concerning Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's application for Taiwan's membership in WHO. Chen sent a letter to WHO chief recently, requesting the island be admitted as WHO member under the name of Taiwan. "WHO is a UN specialized agency, whose membership is only open to sovereign states," Qin said, adding Taiwan is simply not qualified to join it or apply for its membership...

People's Daily, 17 April 2007

Pakistani PM arrives in Beijing for China visit

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz arrived in Beijing on Monday night, kicking off an official visit to China from April 16 to 20 at the invitation of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. During Aziz's stay in Beijing, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Vice Premier Wu Yi will meet him. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will hold talks with him. Apart from the Chinese capital, Aziz will also pay a visit to Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, where he will attend the inaugural ceremony of a Pakistani consulate general. From April 20 to 21, Aziz will attend the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) to be held in China's southernmost Hainan Province. The BFA annual

conference brings together senior government officials, business executives as well as leading academics whose activities affect Asia...

China Daily, 17 April 2007

Cai stresses peaceful development

A top Chinese information official Monday emphasized the importance of peace and development to the world's most populous country during a trip to London. "Peace is the prerequisite for development, and development is the key to solving all problems. Peace and development are the inevitable choices of China's modernization effort," said Cai Wu, Minister of the State Council Information Office at a welcoming banquet of Sino-British Media Forum. China sticks to peaceful development, which means to develop itself while safeguarding world peace, and boost the world peace through self-development, the minister pointed out. On development, China aimed to build a relatively well-off society during the first two decades of this century, noted Cai, adding that "We plan to quadruple China's year-2000 GDP to about \$4 trillion by 2020, with the per capita GDP reaching about \$3,000."...

People's Daily, 18 April 2007

China and Pakistan sign 13 agreements on cooperation

China and Pakistan on Tuesday signed 13 agreements on cooperation in fields such as space, telecommunications, education and legal assistance, vowing to raise the strategic partnership "to a new level." The agreements were signed after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. According to a source with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the two sides reached four points of consensus after the talks. The source provided no further information of the 13 agreements. The two sides agreed to actively implement the China-Pakistan free trade agreement and a five-year plan for economic and trade cooperation, pledging to accelerate negotiations on service trade cooperation and encourage the mutual investment from the two business communities...

People's Daily, 18 April 2007

China hopes for early settlement of DPRK issue

China hopes the dispute over the frozen funds of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) would be resolved soon to promote the process of denuclearizing on the Korean Peninsula. The foreign ministry yesterday said the views of related countries on the technical issue of the DPRK funds are "coming closer". But there are still some specifics that need to be clarified further. At a regular press briefing, ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said: "We hope such a process is reached soon." Liu's remarks came two days after Pyongyang missed a deadline to shut down its nuclear reactor. In a statement issued on Friday, the DPRK said it was waiting to confirm that its \$25-million fund had been released from a Macao bank before making a move, although Washington and the Macao authorities had said last week that the amount was free to be withdrawn...

China Daily, 19 April 2007

Nation to build uranium reserve

China plans to set up a strategic reserve of natural uranium to ensure that the emphasis on

nuclear power development is backed by a "stable and reliable" fuel supply. The reserve will be built by "sparing no effort" in identifying and exploiting domestic uranium deposits, while seeking international collaboration at the same time, according to the latest national nuclear industry development plan for years up to 2010. Slightly more than 1 percent of China's total electricity needs are met by nuclear power plants but this is set to surge to 4 percent by 2020, as the country seeks to reduce its reliance on coal-fired, polluting plants, according to official sources. "Now that China is determined to substantially expand the share of nuclear power in energy consumption, we need to improve our production capacity and technology regarding the nuclear fuel cycle," an official with the China Atomic Energy Authority said yesterday...

People's Daily, 19 April 2007

Senior CPC official stresses expansion of democracy inside CPC

A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has called for faster reform of the appointment system for mid-level and senior cadres and for greater democracy inside the Party. He Guoqiang, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said on Wednesday at a national training program for newly-elected department heads in charge of CPC personnel affairs. He, also head of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, urged officials to advance with the times and to innovate working methods to gradually promote the openness of party work. He required the officials to work according to the demands of the CPC central committee both in theory and practice. He urged the officials to remember the people first, and to respect and care for CPC members, cadres and intellectuals...

People's Daily, 19 April 2007

China, Pakistan to boost two-way trade, investment

China and Pakistan had cooperated fruitfully in economic and trade fields, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi told Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who is on an official visit to China. During Chinese President Hu Jintao's trip to Pakistan in November last year, the two countries signed a free trade agreement (FTA), which is projected to triple their current bilateral trade to 15 billion U.S. dollars within five years. "Some of the agreed projects had been implemented, and key projects, including construction of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Area and rebuilding of the Karakorum Highway, first built in the 1970s, were progressing smoothly," Wu said. Both countries would push forward trade and investment, Wu said, voicing the hope that Pakistan could create a favorable environment for Chinese companies operating there. Aziz emphasized the importance of China as a cooperative partner, saying stronger cooperation in trade and economy would benefit both countries...

People's Daily, 19 April 2007

China hopes Pakistan, India improve ties through dialogue

China hopes that Pakistan and India would improve their ties through dialogue, Chinese President Hu Jintao said on Wednesday. China sincerely hopes that Pakistan and India will maintain the momentum of dialogue and jointly improve bilateral ties in a bid to promote peace, stability and development in the South Asian region, said Hu. Hu made the remarks while meeting with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who

pays an official visit to China from April 16 to 20. Aziz pledged Pakistan will continue to work with India to solve their unsettled problems through dialogue and negotiations. President Hu highlighted China-Pakistan relations, saying bilateral strategic cooperative partnership has entered a new development stage. China is ready to make joint efforts with Pakistan to earnestly implement the agreements the two sides have inked and enhance cooperation in such areas like trade, science and technology, culture to lift all-weathered friendship to a new level, said Hu...

People's Daily, 19 April 2007

Chinese, German defense ministers hold talks in Beijing

Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan held talks with his German counterpart Franz Josef Jung here on Wednesday, agreeing to further develop relations between the two armed forces. "The relationship has continuously deepened with the smooth development of relations between the two countries," said Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councilor. Cao said the two armed forces maintained high-level exchanges, and exchange and dialogue mechanisms are functioning well. Jung said he thought it was important to develop relations between the two armed forces and Germany was willing to work with China to promote exchanges and cooperation. Jung said Germany supported the one-China policy and hoped to see a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue...

People's Daily, 20 April 2007

China seeks neither military expansion nor hegemony: Chinese defense expert

China will firmly abide by its defensive national defense policy and will seek neither military expansion nor hegemony, Chinese International Strategy Institute President Xiong Guangkai said in Tokyo on Friday. Xiong made the remarks during a speech at the Asian Security and Defense Institute of Japan, where he expounded China's guidelines on security and defense as well as military exchanges. About China's defensive nuclear strategy, Xiong reiterated that China has been and will be coherently adhering to its policy of not resorting to nuclear at a first place at any time and in any circumstances, and will keep its unconditional promise of not using and not threatening to use nuclear weapons on any country or region free of nuclear...

People's Daily, 21 April 2007

Five key trends in Chinese economy: Merrill Lynch

Merrill Lynch International has identified five key trends in China's economy in the 2007-2010 period, in a research report published as part of the proceedings of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) 2007 annual conference, to be held April 20 to 22. The five trends are: First, a boom in consumption. Income growth has been accelerating slowly but steadily, providing solid support for retail sales growth in China. Consumer credit will become popular. Second, a continuing infrastructure boom. China will invest big money in railways, subways, airports, highways, energy and environment related infrastructure, as well as rural infrastructure...

People's Daily, 21 April 2007

No shift in stance over UN reform

China yesterday reiterated its stance on a possible reform of the UN Security Council, saying a consensus is necessary before any resolution is made. "China opposes pushing forward any reform plan with major disagreements," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao. Japan has been seeking China's support in its bid to get a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. In a joint press statement during Premier Wen Jiabao's "ice-thawing" visit to Japan last week, Beijing and Tokyo agreed to enhance dialogue and communication to reach a consensus on a possible reform in the Security Council...

People's Daily, 22 April 2007

Pakistan PM: joint investment company will enhance Pakistan-China ties

The Pakistan-China Joint Investment Company will help cement ties between the two countries, Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said here at the ongoing annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA). The company, which will focus on investment in shares, industry and infrastructure, is expected to provide convenience for Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan, said Aziz at the BFA Annual Conference 2007 in south China's Hainan Province. He said the company will aid Chinese investors in exploring opportunities in Pakistan and provide financial support for projects that Chinese firms have bid in the country. Aziz said Chinese entrepreneurs are competitive, efficient and adept at business operations, and have succeeded in the bids for 75 to 80 percent of major projects in Pakistan. The figure shows exciting development of cooperation and exchanges between the two countries, he said...

People's Daily, 22 April 2007

Senior CPC official meets with Castro

Senior official of the Chinese Communist Party Wu Guanzheng on Friday met in Havana with First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and Cuban President Fidel Castro. Wu, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) who arrived here Thursday for a four-day goodwill visit, met with Castro in a hospital in Havana and handed him a letter signed by CPC General Secretary and Chinese President Hu Jintao. Castro expressed his thanks for the letter and read it aloud during the meeting. In the letter, Hu said the party-to-party and state-to-state relations between China and Cuba are developing with close high-level contacts and frequent exchanges of visits at various levels, and a fresh headway has been made in bilateral cooperation of mutual benefit...

People's Daily, 22 April 2007

British Deputy PM arrives in Beijing

British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott arrived here Saturday evening to continue his week-long official visit to China. During Prescott's stay in Beijing, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is expected to meet with him, and State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan will hold talks with him. Prescott arrived in Shanghai Thursday to start his China tour at the invitation of Tang.

People's Daily, 22 April 2007

China's growth, stability vital for all nations, Paulson says

China is already a world economic leader and deserves to be recognized as a leader, U.S.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said on Friday in New York, while emphasizing China's growth and stability as "a vital issue for all nations." Addressing the 16th annual conference of the Committee of 100, a non-profit, non-partisan organization of distinguished Chinese Americans in the United States, Paulson said: "China is transitioning from a planned economy into a market-driven economy and there is no doubt that this process will continue for a number of years." Noting that China's growth and integration into the world economy "benefits the Chinese people and people of the world," the secretary stressed that because of its size and its role in the world market, "China is already a world economic leader and deserves to be recognized as a leader."...

People's Daily, 23 April 2007

Oil stock boost for emergency

BOAO: China's future energy demands will rely more heavily on clean power such as wind and solar, but more oil would be stockpiled in case of emergencies, a top official has said. China aims to boost its oil reserves to amounts equivalent to 30 days worth of imports by 2010, Chen Mingde, vice-chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, said during the two-day annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia, which closed yesterday. Oil reserve sites should be located at places where transport infrastructure was advanced, ideally next to refineries, Chen said during a panel discussion. It was the first time that an official from the commission revealed details about the oil reserve plan. Chen said the country does not plan to increase its reserves to the levels of many developed countries - oil imports up to 90 days...

People's Daily, 24 April 2007

China-India border talks to resolve dispute

China and India are taking tangible steps to thrash out a reasonable solution to their decades-old border dispute. Special representatives for the two sides - Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Indian National Security Advisor MK Narayanan held the 10th round of their boundary talks in India on Friday. "The whole world is watching the developments in China and India and we must cooperate for the common benefit of our people," Dai told reporters on Sunday after talks with Narayanan. The meeting aims at pinning down a framework agreement for demarcating the 2,000-kilometer frontier as a prelude to a final package deal to resolve this contentious issue. This continues the full implementation of an 11-point road map agreed between leaders of both nations when Premier Wen Jiabao visited India in 2005...

The Hindu, 24 April 2007

'Talks held in open, friendly atmosphere'

NEW DELHI: The next round of boundary talks between the Indian and the Chinese Special Representatives, M.K. Narayanan and Dai Bingguo, will be held in China, a press statement issued after the 10th round of talks said on Monday. The latest round, held in New Delhi and Coonoor, from April 20-22, saw a continuation of discussions on a framework for a possible boundary settlement based on the April 2005 agreement on political parameters and guiding principles. "The talks were held in an open, friendly, cooperative and constructive atmosphere," a three-paragraph press statement from the Indian side said. "Both sides agreed to hold the next round of talks between the Special

Representatives in China at a mutually convenient time, which will be decided through diplomatic channels," the statement added...

The Hindu, 25 April 2007

Boundary talks candid, frank: China

Beijing: China on Tuesday described the latest round of Sino-Indian boundary talks as "candid and frank," with the two sides committed to make joint efforts for resolution of the border issue. "The two sides held candid, frank talks in a friendly atmosphere on the framework for a solution to the boundary issue," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on the 10th round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China. "They had an in-depth exchange of views and the two sides are committed to make joint efforts to promote the process," he said on the talks held between National Security Adviser, M.K. Narayanan and Chinese Vice- Foreign Minister, Dai Bingguo in New Delhi and Coonoor from April 20-22...

People's Daily, 25 April 2007

Urban-rural income gap to widen

China's urban-rural income gap is expected to widen this year to a level where an urban resident will earn 3.3 times a farmer's income, according to research by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Last year, the ratio was 3.28, up from 3.22 in 2005, according to the CASS Green Book on China's Rural Economy, which was released yesterday. Last year saw China's farmers earn 3,587 yuan (\$464.6) on average, up by 7.4 percent after taking into account the inflation factor. It was the first year since 1997 that the real growth rate of farmers' income exceeded 7 percent. Meanwhile, the urban resident earned 11,759 yuan (\$1,523), up by 10.4 percent, 3 percentage points higher than farmers' income growth...

People's Daily, 25 April 2007

Gunmen kill nine Chinese workers in Ethiopia

The Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia yesterday confirmed that a group of unidentified gunmen attacked a Chinese oil company's premises early in the morning in Ethiopia's Somali state, causing heavy casualties. The embassy has formed an emergency team, maintaining close contact with the Ethiopian government and military, according to the Chinese Charge d'Affaires ad interim Zhang Yuebang...

China Daily, 25 April 2007

Oil exports nosedive; imports up (Wang Yu)

China witnessed an astonishing 83.2-percent year-on-year slump in crude exports in March, according to the General Administration of Customs. Crude oil imports last month, on the other hand, reached 13.9 million tons, up 8.8 percent year-on-year. The trade pattern is set to continue for the rest of the year, said Han Xuegong, a senior consultant with China National Petroleum Company (CNPC)...

People's Daily, 26 April 2007

DPRK funds issue not resolved yet: Chinese FM

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday the issue of the transfer of

funds belonging to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has not yet been resolved. Liu Jianchao told a regular press conference that problems with the transfer of the funds, which were frozen at a Macao-based bank, are yet to be completely solved. The six parties are working hard to resolve the problems. Liu did not specify exactly what the problems are. "The parties concerned have maintained contacts and are striving for an early settlement of the issue," said Liu, adding "China will pursue its efforts." DPRK Friday reiterated its commitment to implement the Feb. 13 agreement, saying it would invite the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation to the country once it recovers the 25 million U.S. dollars frozen in Macao's Banco Delta Asia (BDA)...

People's Daily, 26 April 2007

Premier Wen to head top energy-saving team

China yesterday set up a top team headed by Premier Wen Jiabao in a major effort to fulfil its energy conservation and pollution cutting task. The establishment of the special team was announced at an executive meeting of the State Council yesterday. Wen said the move is aimed at achieving the target of cutting energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by 20 percent and pollution emissions by 10 percent by 2010 from the 2005 level. Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan is the deputy director of the team. Also yesterday, the country's top environmental watchdog released the Regulation on Open Environmental Information for Trial Implementation in Beijing, which will be put into effect on May 1, 2008...

People's Daily, 27 April 2007

Pakistani military official in China for promoting friendly ties

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Ehsan Ul Haq is on a six-day visit to China to push forward friendly relations between Pakistan and China. In his meeting with Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong Friday in Beijing, Ehsan said the all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time, and people from the two countries are sincere and friendly to each other. To develop friendly relations with China is an important part of Pakistan's foreign policy and Pakistan will keep closer cooperation with China and enhance mutual trust so as to further deepen bilateral ties, Ehsan said. Pakistan firmly supports China's reunification cause, he added. Zeng said China appreciates Pakistan's support in the issues of Taiwan, Tibet and human rights, and China will make joint efforts with Pakistan to push ahead China-Pakistan strategic cooperative partnership...

People's Daily, 27 April 2007

Yang Jiechi appointed China's new foreign minister

China's top legislature on Friday approved the cabinet nomination of Yang Jiechi, former ambassador to the United States, as the country's new foreign minister. Yang, 57, replaces Li Zhaoxing, 66, who has served as China's top diplomat since 2003. China's cabinet ministers usually retire at the age of 65. Li, who has been dubbed the "poetic foreign minister" by the Chinese media because of his fondness for poetry, was very popular. He is already a year past the customary retirement age. A veteran diplomat, Yang served in the Chinese embassy in the United States for nearly 13 years over different periods in the 1980s, 1990s and the beginning of this century. He started his

diplomatic career in 1975 in the Foreign Ministry and was appointed vice foreign minister in 1998. In December 2000, he succeeded Li as ambassador to the United States, a post Li had held since 1998...

People's Daily, 27 April 2007

Vietnam to act as bridge for promoting China-ASEAN ties: Vietnamese president

Vietnam will actively develop friendly and cooperative relations with China, and act as a bridge for fostering China-ASEAN relations, said Vietnamese State President Nguyen Minh Triet. Triet made the remarks when meeting with a Chinese delegation of radio and television reporters on April 25, and answering their questions about such issues as the China-Vietnam relations and the China-ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) ties. Regarding the Vietnam-China ties, Triet said that he was very glad to see that over the past few years, their parties and states have ceaselessly visited each other, and their friendly relations have been reinforced and developed. Triet stated that the development of the bilateral relations, especially the development of political ties is in accordance with the aspiration of leaders of the two parties and states as well as the two peoples...

People's Daily, 28 April 2007

Hu Jintao calls for closer exchanges to maintain peace across Taiwan Strait

China's top leader Hu Jintao Saturday called for closer personnel, economic and cultural exchanges between the mainland and Taiwan to curb Taiwan secessionist activities and maintain peace across the Taiwan Strait. Hu, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), made the remark in meeting with participants attending the third cross-Strait economic, trade and cultural forum at the Great Hall of the People. Hu said mainland's robust economic growth has offered more opportunities, stronger impetus and better conditions for cross-Strait economic exchanges and cooperation. "To promote economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation, improve the well-being of the people across the Strait and boost the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation are the common will of the people and the prevailing trend," Hu said...

People's Daily, 28 April 2007

China eyes strategic cooperation with Malaysia

China and Malaysia should quicken steps to map out an action plan for strategic cooperation, China's top legislator Wu Bangguo said on Saturday. "China-Malaysia relations have entered a new development stage. At present, the two sides should pick up paces to frame an action plan for strategic cooperation," said Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Wu made the remarks while meeting with Ramli Ngah Talib, speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives, lower house of the Malaysian parliament. Ramli arrived in Beijing Friday for a five-day visit at the invitation of Wu...

People's Daily, 29 April 2007

High-level visits to bolster China-Japan ties: State Councilor

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan on Saturday said China and Japan should make high-level visits a priority. Tang made the statement in a meeting with a Japanese

delegation headed by Kato Koichi, with Yamazaki Taku acting as a consultant. Both are veteran lawmakers of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. China and Japan should step up the pace on the consensus reached during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's recent visit to Japan, Tang said. Wen paid a three-day official visit to Japan from April 11 to 13, an "ice-melting" tour in Sino-Japanese relations following the "ice-breaking" trip by his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe to China last October. During his tour, Wen invited Abe to visit China later this year. "The two countries should focus on developing visits between leaders, safeguarding the political basis of bilateral ties, and stepping up cultural and people exchanges," Tang said...

China Daily, 30 April 2007

New policies to boost cross-Straits ties (Wu Jiao)

Beijing Sunday unveiled a new package of policies to facilitate Taiwan people's wider access to the mainland in education, employment and investment sectors. Addressing the closing ceremony of the third Cross-Straits Economic, Trade and Cultural Forum, Vice-Minister of Education Yuan Guiren announced that universities in Taiwan are encouraged to recruit students from the mainland. About 2,300 Taiwan students studied in mainland universities last year, and a quarter of them enjoyed scholarships. But restricted by the present policies on the island, mainland students are only allowed to study in Taiwan universities for no longer than four months. "We will help the students go to Taiwan for study, and continue to facilitate personnel exchanges," Yuan said...

People's Daily, 30 April 2007

China strictly implements Chemical Weapons Convention: official

China has undergone more than 130 on-the-spot inspections by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), said Zhang Guobao, vice minister of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), on Sunday. "The Chinese government gave active cooperation and assistance to these inspections. The results show that China has strictly implemented the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention", said Zhang in a statement on the NDRC website. "China is resolute in opposing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. It attaches great importance to the role of the convention in preventing the proliferation of chemical weapons and their raw materials", said Zhang. "In recent years China has continuously strengthened its anti-proliferation capacity and strictly censored its chemical imports and exports according to the law"...

People's Daily, 30 April 2007

China, Japan eye intensified parliamentary exchanges

Senior Chinese legislator Sheng Huaren met with a Japanese parliamentary delegation here on Sunday, both pledging to promote further improvement of China-Japan ties following Premier Wen Jiabao's "ice-melting" trip. The delegation, led by President Komura Masahiko of the Japanese Association of Dietmen League for Japan-China Friendship, is visiting China with an aim to facilitate bilateral parliamentary exchanges. China's National People's Congress (NPC) has launched regular exchange mechanism with both Japanese House of Councillors and the House of Representatives. The third

regular meeting between NPC and the Japanese House of Representatives will be held in Beijing in coming July...