

People's Daily, 1 February 2007

Chinese oil company signs agreement with Sudan to help improve social facilities

The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) signed here on Wednesday a donation agreement with the Sudanese Ministry of Welfare and Social Development to help improve the country's social system. Under the agreement, the CNPC will offer the ministry 1 million U.S. dollars to help improve conditions of social institutions and facilities in Sudan. Speaking at the signing ceremony, CNPC President Jiang Jiemin said that the company observes the principle of mutual benefit and common development and will continue to contribute to the growth of the Sudanese economy and charity activities...

People's Daily, 1 February 2007

Time to reform China's household registration system, official

In 2006, the State Council sent 6 research teams comprised of staff from 14 departments to 12 provinces and municipalities to do an overall survey on the reform of the household registration system. They concluded that conditions are right for further reform in this area. The registration system, a legacy of the planned economy era in which the population was divided rigidly into rural and non-rural households, has too many administrative functions including the management of employment, social security, family planning, ex-servicemen welfare and civil servant enrollment, China Comment magazine quoted Huang Shuangquan, an official from the Ministry of Public Security, as saying...

People's Daily, 2 February 2007

Russian president praises Year of Russia, China

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised the Year of Russia and Year of China held in each other's country on Thursday, saying the events will serve to boost exchanges and contact between the two countries. The Year of Russia in China and the Year of China in Russia can strengthen direct contact and deepen the understanding of prospects for closer cooperation between the two countries in science, education and culture, Putin told a crowd of more than 1, 200 Russian and foreign journalists attending his annual press conference in the Kremlin...

People's Daily, 2 February 2007

PLA 'not involved in arms race'

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) will not engage in any arms race and its development poses no threat to any country. That was the firm reassurance from Lieutenant-General Zhang Qinsheng, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the PLA, who said the Chinese army is modernizing to increase its combat abilities in the information age. The PLA's modernization is open and based on cooperation, said Zhang in an interview with China Daily. "We do not conceal our intention to build a strong and modern national defense. But we also tell the world candidly that the Chinese defense policy is always defensive in nature'," said Zhang...

People's Daily, 5 February 2007

China launches first economic, trade cooperation zone in Africa

China launched an economic and trade cooperation zone in the Zambian capital of

Lusaka on Sunday, the first of its kind established ever by the country in Africa. Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Zambian counterpart, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, jointly inaugurated the Zambia-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. The zone's establishment is part of China's efforts to fulfill its earlier promises to boost its full-fledged cooperation with African nations. At the Beijing Summit of the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) last November, Hu announced eight measures to strengthen China-Africa cooperation, including the establishment of three to five trade and economic cooperation zones in Africa in the next three years...

People's Daily, 5 February 2007

Gov't move to ensure migrants get paid

China will make it mandatory for employers across the country to deposit money into a fund this year to guarantee that migrant workers get their wages. Speaking via an online forum on the central government's website on Friday, Vice-Minister of Labor and Social Security and Director of the State Council's Office of Migrant Workers Affairs Hu Xiaoyi said the system was aimed at preventing employers from delaying workers' payment or cheating them. Hu criticized some companies for disobeying the official minimum wage criterion and depriving the workers of their dues on some pretext or the other...

People's Daily, 5 February 2007

Hu's visit sets to boost China-South Africa strategic partnership

Strategic partnership between South Africa and China will be boosted by Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to South Africa early next week, representatives from both countries have said. They said South Africa and China, both key members of the developing world, are determined to strengthen economic and trade ties and were increasing political dialogue and coordination in key regional and global affairs. "President Hu's visit will enhance the China-South Africa practical cooperation in all fields and promote the comprehensive and in-depth growth of our strategic partnership featuring equality, mutual benefit and common development," Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on the eve of the visit scheduled for Feb. 6-8. Li said the visit, which comes merely three months after South African President Thabo Mbeki's visit to China, would inaugurate the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of China-South Africa diplomatic relations...

China Daily, 6 February 2007

Delicate balance needed when East meets West (Zhou Bajun)

A string of events took place at the turn of the year, touching off discussion on the relationship between maintaining a nation's own cultural identity and accepting elements from other cultures. On December 18, 2006, a total of 10 scholars from China's prestigious universities, including Peking University and Tsinghua University, posted a proposal on the Internet calling the Chinese to take a cautious attitude toward Christmas. They did this to "wake up the Chinese to resist the expansion of Western culture". On January 12, a China Central Television (CCTV) host appealed on his blog for Starbucks coffee shop to be removed from the Forbidden City. He argued that the operation of the coffee shop in the imperial palace is insulting to Chinese culture...

People's Daily, 7 February 2007

China's gas exploration in East China Sea "indisputable", says FM spokesperson

China said on Tuesday it has an indisputable right to conduct gas exploration in the East China Sea. "It is a legitimate act for China to conduct exploration in its offshore continental shelves and the exploration is undisputable," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu. Jiang made the remarks at a regular press conference in response to questioning on a report carried in a Hong Kong newspaper. The Tai Kung Pao reported in its online edition that the Chunxiao gas field was in operation and natural gas was being supplied to Ningbo in east China's Zhejiang Province...

People's Daily, 7 February 2007

Six-party talks to explore initial steps in implementing joint statement: FM spokesperson

China said Tuesday the renewed six-party talks will explore initial steps needed to implement the joint statement. "The new phase of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuke issue will officially start on Thursday afternoon," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told the regular briefing. The last phase of talks recessed in December last year after five days of negotiations which produced no breakthrough. Launched in 2003, the talks involve China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Russia...

China Daily, 7 February 2007

Hu, Mbeki pledge to boost cooperation

PRETORIA/WINDHOEK: Visiting President Hu Jintao and his South African counterpart Thabo Mbeki yesterday held talks on closer bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues. In a written statement issued upon his arrival earlier in the day, Hu said that he would have an in-depth exchange of views with Mbeki and other South African leaders. "I am visiting South Africa to build on our past success to further deepen our cooperation and grow our bilateral relations in all areas," he said. The Chinese leader said his visit would contribute to "further advancing the China-South Africa strategic partnership"...

People's Daily, 8 February 2007

Nuke talks reopen amid upbeat signs

The Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula will resume this afternoon amid hopes for concrete progress toward persuading Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear program. Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, the top Chinese negotiator to the talks, held a series of discussions with his counterparts from the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan and Russia after they arrived in Beijing yesterday, according to diplomatic sources. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s chief delegate Kim Kye-gwan is expected to arrive today...

China Daily, 8 February 2007

President Hu: We are forces for peace

PRETORIA: Visiting President Hu Jintao said yesterday China will consolidate its traditional friendship and expand practical cooperation with Africa. Hu, who is on an

eight-nation African tour, made the statement in a speech at South Africa's prestigious University of Pretoria. Both China and Africa are important forces for peace and development and to deepen their friendship is the shared desire of both peoples, Hu said. "China is the biggest developing country and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries," he said. To deepen China-Africa traditional friendship and develop a new all-around strategic partnership is also a calling of the times, he said...

People's Daily, 9 February 2007

Space test 'did not break any rules'

The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that China's recent outer space test was not in violation of any international rules. "The experiment was not directed at any country nor did it pose any threat to any country," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu. She reiterated that China is opposed to the weaponization of outer space or an arms race. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Wednesday expressed concern again over China's recent outer space test, calling it "a troubling symptom of military activities that are outsized for Beijing's interests"...

People's Daily, 9 February 2007

Prior notification mechanism on ocean survey aims to enhance mutual trust between China, Japan, says FM spokesperson

China on Thursday said that the prior notification mechanism set up by China and Japan for ocean surveying was aimed at enhancing mutual trust and should not affect their respective stances on issues concerning the laws of the sea. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Jiang Yu made the remarks in a regular briefing when asked to comment on China's recent scientific surveying activity in the waters adjacent to the Diaoyu Islands. Jiang said China was just exercising its legitimate right for sovereignty when its vessel conducted a marine survey...

People's Daily,, 10 February 2007

Sri Lanka will always stand together with China: PM

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka said on Thursday night that Sri Lanka is China's friend and the two countries "will always stand by each other." Addressing a reception of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka, Wickramanayaka said the relationship of the two countries has grown from strength to strength in the last five decades. "The relationship between our two countries which began many centuries ago is based on a secure foundation, the principles of Panchasila (the five principles of peaceful co-existence between nations)," said Wickramanayaka. He stressed that Sri Lanka has remained steadfast and unequivocal in respect of its "one China policy."...

China Daily, 10 February 2007

Central bank to rein in money flow (Xin Zhiming)

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said it will use multiple tools, including the interest rate, to improve monetary control and rein in excess liquidity. "(We will) use the interest rate in a flexible way and ... gradually bring out the important role of prices in monetary regulation," according to its monetary policy for the fourth quarter of

2006 posted on its website on Friday. The People's Bank of China said in the report the inflationary pressure was "on the rise", compared with its outlook for the third quarter that inflationary pressure "remained". It warned that pressure from rising prices was increasing. Analysts said the central bank may raise the interest rate as the consumer price index (CPI) continues to rise. The annual CPI growth for 2006 was 1.5 percent on the previous year, but it was 2.8 percent for December, raising concern that the central bank may take measures in the coming months...

People's Daily, 13 February 2007

China, Japan pledge to strengthen defense exchanges

Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan met here Monday with visiting former Japanese director-general of Defence Agency Nukaga Fukushiro, vowing to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation. "China has always kept an active attitude towards developing relations between the two defense departments," said Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and State Councilor. He said the Chinese side is ready to strengthen security dialogue and exchanges with Japan, in accordance with the consensus reached between the leaders of both countries, to enhance mutual trust and further promote bilateral defense cooperation. Cao also briefed Nukaga on China's defense policy and position on the Taiwan issue, saying China's defense policy is defensive in nature...

People's Daily, 13 February 2007

Sri Lanka President to visit China

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse will pay a state visit to China from February 26 to March 4, a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman announced on Tuesday. Mahinda Rajapakse will be here at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, according to spokeswoman Jiang Yu.

China Daily, 14 February 2007

Six-Party nuclear talks yield breakthrough (Qin Jize)

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday agreed to shut down and seal its nuclear facility in Yongbyon within 60 days in exchange for energy a process widely seen as a major breakthrough. Under the deal reached at the Six-Party Talks to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang will as the first step also accept monitoring from, and verification by, the International Atomic Energy Agency within the timeframe. In return, it will receive an initial 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil or equivalent of economic and humanitarian aid, Wu Dawei, the chief Chinese negotiator, said in Beijing yesterday. The DPRK will subsequently take complete measures to irreversibly "disable" its nuclear programs and receive 950,000 tons of fuel oil, or the equivalent in the form of economic or humanitarian aid, from China, the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Russia...

People's Daily, 14 February 2007

Chinese, Indian FMs meet for deepening strategic partnership

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi Tuesday on implementing plans to deepen strategic partnership between the

two countries. During the meeting, Li said the Sino-India relations have maintained a favorable momentum of comprehensive development with the successful visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao last November and the recent meeting between Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the East Asian Summit in the Philippines. The two countries have reached the mutual understanding on how to deepen the Sino-India strategic partnership and improve the bilateral ties in the future, he said...

People's Daily, 14 February 2007

Chinese FM's Japan tour to pave way for premier's April visit: spokeswoman

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing's Japan visit will pave the way for Premier Wen Jiabao's official visit in April, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday. "Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing's visit is aimed at promoting the improvement and progress of China-Japan relations and paving the way for Premier Wen Jiabao's Japan visit," spokeswoman Jiang Yu told regular news conference on Tuesday. Li will visit Japan from Feb. 15, which will be the first of its kind since 2004. China-Japan relations have improved since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China in October last year. Abe's landmark visit was widely seen as a "turning point" in China-Japan relations...

People's Daily, 15 February 2007

Russian, Chinese, Indian FMs uphold multilateral diplomacy, cooperation

Russian, Chinese and Indian foreign ministers on Wednesday stressed their countries' commitment to multilateral diplomacy, support for dialogue among civilizations and religions, and condemnation on terrorism. In a joint communique issued at the end of their trilateral meeting here, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Indian and Russian counterparts Pranab Mukherjee and Sergei Lavrov reaffirmed that "trilateral cooperation is not directed against the interests of any other country," but "to promote international harmony and understanding and find common ground amid divergent interests." The three ministers emphasized the need to preserve the cultural and civilizational diversity and to promote dialogue among civilizations and religions. Acknowledging UN's role in promoting and attaining a multi-polar world, Li and Lavrov reiterated that their countries understand and support India's aspirations to play a greater role in the UN...

The Hindu, 15 February 2007

India, Russia, China agree cooperation holds the key (Amit Baruah)

NEW DELHI: Cooperation, rather than confrontation, should govern the approaches to regional and global affairs, the Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia, Pranab Mukherjee, Li Zhaoxing and Sergei Lavrov, agreed at a meeting here on Wednesday. "The Ministers agreed that India, Russia and China, as countries with growing international influence, can make positive contribution to global peace, security and stability. In this context, they exchanged views on various regional and international issues of concern," said a joint communiqué issued after the sixth trilateral meeting. Though the joint statement did not make any reference to specific issues, Mr. Lavrov told presspersons at Hyderabad House that West Asia, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq came up for discussion...

People's Daily, 15 February 2007

China, India kick off Year of Friendship through Tourism

China and India kicked off the Year of Friendship through Tourism in New Delhi Wednesday with the presence of visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee. The tourism departments of the two countries released a joint logo for the China-India Year of Friendship through Tourism at the opening ceremony, which is made up of Chinese landmark the Great Wall and India's Taj Mahal as well as the two national flags. China and India agreed to launch this campaign as one of the key efforts to deepen the strategic and cooperative partnership, said Li Zhaoxing when addressing the ceremony...

China Daily, 16 February 2007

China, Japan seek to promote relations

TOKYO - Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing expressed hope on Friday that a rapprochement in ties with Tokyo would stay on course, but also mentioned the wartime past that haunts relations. Li arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for talks aimed at smoothing the way for an April visit by Premier Wen Jiabao that would be the first by Chinese prime minister since 2000. That visit, during which Wen may address parliament, would symbolise a thaw that began when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took part in an ice-breaking summit in Beijing in October. "The prime minister said that he is eagerly looking forward to Premier Wen's visit," Li told reporters after paying a courtesy call on Abe. Speaking to a gathering of Japan-China friendship groups earlier in the day, Li noted that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Marco Polo Bridge incident -- a spark for the Sino-Japanese War -- as well as the 35th anniversary of normalising diplomatic ties...

People's Daily, 17 February 2007

China tightens export control on nuclear goods, technology

China's State Council on Friday promulgated amendments to its regulations regarding the export of nuclear goods and technologies for both civil and military use, requiring the importers to fulfill more obligations to ward off acts of nuclear terrorism. The State Council Decree No. 484, signed by Premier Wen Jiabao, forbids the importer from reproducing nuclear goods or technologies provided by China to carry out nuclear explosions or for any other purpose which is not agreed before purchase. The recipient of the goods must also guarantee that they would not reproduce the materials for nuclear fuel cycling unless it is under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency or it has signed agreements with the agency. Importers are also forbidden from transferring a reproduction of nuclear goods and technologies to any third party which has not been identified as the final user. Previous regulations enacted by China in June 1998 failed to address the issue of reproduction of nuclear goods...

People's Daily, 17 February 2007

Japanese PM, Chinese FM meet on bilateral ties

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Friday to discuss bilateral ties and the planned visit to Japan by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Li conveyed greetings from Chinese leaders to Abe and said China

appreciates Abe's decision and efforts for mending ties with China, according to diplomatic sources. A stable Chinese-Japanese relationship, which benefits not only both countries, but also Asia and the world, is broadly welcomed by the international community, Li said. Li said his tour is to pave the way for Wen's upcoming visit in April, adding that the premier's visit provides an important opportunity for the two countries to enhance mutual trust, to maintain the momentum for bilateral ties' improvement and development and to build a strategic and mutually beneficial relationship...

People's Daily, 19 February 2007

Beijing in urgent need of digital networks: vice premier

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan said on Sunday that the development of digital networks to handle emergencies was an urgent requirement for Beijing to become a modern metropolis. Zeng made the call when visiting workers at the Urban Management Bureau of Beijing. "The new project is not only in the interests of the 15 million Beijing residents, it will also aid the nation's overall urbanization process," Zeng said...

People's Daily, 19 February 2007

Earthquake strikes sea off south of Taiwan

An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale was detected in the sea area south of Taiwan at 5:04 a.m. Monday. The China earthquake observation network recorded the epicenter at 120.2 degrees east longitude and 22 degrees north latitude, according to the China Seismological Bureau. The epicenter was about 320 km off the nearest coastline of the Chinese mainland and about 40 km from the coastline of Taiwan. Mainland areas have not been affected by the earthquake, said the seismological bureau, reporting no casualties in Taiwan...

People's Daily, 20 February 2007

President visits residents, workers and farmers in west China

In the first three days of the Spring Festival, China's Lunar New Year, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited local residents, workers who stuck to their posts in the week-long holidays and needy families in northwestern Gansu Province. On the morning of Feb. 18, Hu and other officials visited the "small West Lake" park in the provincial capital Lanzhou City. The park was bustling with people performing the lion dance and yangge dance -- popular rural folk dances, playing endemic opera and displaying traditional home-made handicrafts...

People's Daily, 20 February 2007

Emergency case prompts another direct flight from Chinese mainland

A chartered aircraft carrying a patient in a critical condition flew directly from Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, to Taiwan in the small hours of Monday for medical treatment. This is the sixth humanitarian chartered flight since authorities on both sides of the Taiwan Strait announced they would allow chartered flights between the mainland and Taiwan in emergencies in June last year. The patient, a Taiwanese man surnamed Liao, was diagnosed with kidney failure complicated by uremia at the hospital attached to Zhongshan University in Guangzhou...

People's Daily, 21 February 2007

China rebuilding rural cooperative medicare system

The old lady might still be hesitating if she should have her liver disease treated, if not for the cooperative medical care. Pang Chunxiang, 61, from the Beizhai Village of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, was glad to receive more than 9,000 yuan reimbursement for her surgery that cost her 23,814 yuan (about 3,072 U.S. dollars), roughly tenfold of the poor farmer's annual earning. Pang is only among millions of beneficiaries of the rural cooperative medicare scheme, launched nationwide after the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in 2003. Under the system, a farmer who is willing to take part in the program is to hand in 10 yuan a year out of his own pocket, while the state, provincial, municipal and county governments jointly put in another 40 yuan for the farmer...

China Daily, 23 February 2007

Nuclear accord helps relations with China: Hill

WASHINGTON -- The breakthrough nuclear agreement with North Korea could pay wide-ranging dividends for all sides, especially in the area of already improving US relations with China and America's traditional allies, says chief US negotiator Christopher Hill. Other side benefits might include a peace treaty that would put a formal end to the war on the Korean peninsula after more than a half-century; another reduction in the force of 25,000 US troops in South Korea; a better life for impoverished North Koreans and the State Department's declassifying of the North as a sponsor of terror, Hill said in remarks at the Brookings Institution, a liberal-oriented think tank.

China Daily, 23 February 2007

New 25,000 km of oil and gas pipelines by 2010

China plans to build another 25,000 kilometers of oil and gas pipelines by 2010 to support economic development, said the China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (CPPLB). The length of the country's oil and gas pipelines totals 40,000 kilometers at present, said Su Shifeng, director of the CPPLB, which is a leading enterprise in the country's oil and gas pipeline transportation industry. The CPPLB recorded 420 million yuan (52.5 million U.S. dollars) of profits last year, 82.6 percent up from 2005, according to the company. It raked in 8.4 billion yuan of revenues and turned in 395 million yuan of taxes last year. The CPPLB undertakes the construction of more than 80 percent of China's oil and gas pipelines and over 75 percent of the country's crude oil storage tanks...

People's Daily, 24 February 2007

Chinese, Iranian FM's discuss Iran nuclear issue

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Friday spoke by telephone with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki about the nuclear issue of Iran. Li reiterated China's principled stance to peacefully resolve nuclear issue of Iran through diplomatic efforts. The two also exchanged ideas on international issues of mutual concern. An IAEA report released on Thursday said that Iran had refused to suspend uranium enrichment activities by Feb. 21 as demanded by the U.N. Security Council.

People's Daily, 24 February 2007

China to support development of ethnic areas

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) plans to earmark 1 billion yuan (131.6 million U.S. dollars) to help build infrastructure in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities during China's 11th "Five-Year" Plan period. The Ministry of Finance will also allocate more than 1 billion yuan to improve the living conditions of ethnic groups and increase their incomes over the 2006-2010 period, according to the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC) on Friday. The commission allocated 200 million yuan (about 25.4 million dollars), while the ministry allocated 162 million yuan (21.3 million dollars) supporting ethnic areas in 2006, said a SEAC official. During the 10th "Five-Year" Plan (2001-2005) period, the NDRC invested 4.8 billion yuan (600 million US dollars) to help 1 million needy ethnic people move from remote and backward areas to new homes.

People's Daily, 25 February 2007

Sri Lankans consider China's development as theirs: president

"We consider that the development of the Chinese people as our own development. Similarly, we look forward to the Chinese people considering the development of Sri Lanka as the development of China, due to the friendship between our countries," said Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa. In an exclusive interview with Xinhua made on Friday prior to his state visit to China, Rajapaksa said the relationship between China and Sri Lanka is built on a solid foundation. "Our relationship is very old. In the ancient times, the famous Chinese monk Fa Hsien came to Sri Lanka. We have a strong relationship from that time," said Rajapaksa. Visiting to China as the two countries completed 50 years of diplomatic relations, the president said he hoped that his forthcoming visit will further strengthen economic and social ties between the two countries...

People's Daily, 25 February 2007

State Councilor leaves Beijing for Myanmar, Thailand visit

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan left here Sunday morning for a working visit to Myanmar and Thailand in Southeast Asia. Tang is visiting Myanmar and Thailand respectively at the invitation of Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar and the Thai government. According to Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu, Tang will exchange views with leaders of the two countries on strengthening good-neighborly friendly relationship of cooperation, as well as other issues of common concern.

People's Daily, 26 February 2007

China's top legislature adopts 15 laws

The Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC) deliberated 24 draft laws and law-related resolutions and adopted 15 of them since March 2006. On Aug. 27, 2006, the NPC Standing Committee passed the the country's Supervision Law to help lawmakers supervise the government. Under the Supervision Law, the standing committees of people's congresses at and above the county level are authorized to repeal any inappropriate decisions or orders issued by governments at the same level. The law

also allows standing committees to summon government officials to explain their work and policies. The NPC Standing Committee also passed the Corporate Bankruptcy Law last August, to provide protection to both creditors and workers of insolvent companies...

The Chosun Ilbo, 26 February 2007

Korea, U.S. Agree on Troop Control ?Transition? by 2012

The transition of full operational control of Korean forces from the United States to Korea will be complete by April 17, 2012, the two countries' defense ministers agreed Friday. Combined Forces Command, which has overseen the two countries' military forces since 1978, will be dissolved. It will be 62 years since control of Korean troops was handed over to the U.S., right after the outbreak of the Korean War. President Syngman Rhee on July 14, 1950 wrote to UN forces commander gen. Douglas MacArthur assigning him control of South Korean troops. The date for the handover carries symbolic meaning since 4.17., in U.S. parlance, inverts the date -- 7.14. - when Rhee sent the letter to MacArthur. The agreement to effect the transition by the 2012 deadline came in a Friday meeting between Kim Jang-so and Robert Gates in Washington...

People's Daily, 27 February 2007

Chinese military delegation heads for Australia for defense strategic talks

A Chinese military delegation on Monday left Beijing for Australia for a defense strategic consultation, said the Ministry of National Defense. The delegation, headed by Xu Qiliang, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), will attend the 10th defense strategic consultation with the Australia military. The delegation also includes PLA officers from the Foreign Affairs Office of the Defense Ministry.

China Daily, 27 February 2007

Country sets renewable energy target (Sun Xiaohua)

China has set a target of increasing renewable energy use from the present 10 percent to 20 percent of the total energy consumption by 2020 to meet the increasing demand and reduce the greenhouse effect. "Wind power has the greatest potential in renewable energy, and biomass will help in fuel consumption," said Wind Energy Association Vice-Chairman Shi Pengfei. But renewable energy has its problems such as high costs and poor research and development, he said. According to Li Junfeng, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission's Energy Research Institute, by the end of October 2006, the total installed capacity of wind and solar power in the country was 2.3 million kilowatts and 300 megawatts, respectively, a rise of 85 and 100 percent over 2005...

China Daily, 28 February 2007

Stocks see biggest fall in 10 years

China's stock market plummeted from record highs Tuesday as investors took profits when concerns arose that the Chinese government may try to temper its ballooning economy by raising interest rates again or reducing more of the money available for lending. "Corrections usually happen because of a catalyst, and this may be it," said Ed

Peters, chief investment officer at PanAgora Asset Management. "The move in China was a surprise, and when a major market has a shock it ripples through the rest of the market. With all the trade that goes on with China, there tends to be a knee-jerk reaction with that kind of drop." The Shanghai Composite Index tumbled 8.8 percent to close at 2,771.79, its biggest decline since it fell 8.9 percent on Feb. 18, 1997. Since Chinese share prices doubled last year as investors poured money into the market after the completion of shareholding reforms, trading in Shanghai has been very volatile...

People's Daily, 28 February 2007

China, Sri Lanka ink eight deals for closer ties

China and Sri Lanka on Tuesday signed a series of deals when Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse is visiting Beijing to mark the 50th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties. The eight agreements on economy, investment, movies, agriculture and eye corneas donation were signed after President Hu Jintao held one-hour talks with Rajapakse. In recent years, China and Sri Lanka have witnessed frequent high-level exchanges and increasing trade cooperation, said Hu, adding that the two countries have shared mutual understanding and support in international and regional affairs. "Facts prove that China and Sri Lanka are close and friendly neighbors, reliable friends and cooperative partners," Hu said...

People's Daily, 28 February 2007

China hopes DPRK, U.S. solve pending issues

China on Tuesday said it hoped the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea could solve pending issues so as to march towards a normalization of bilateral ties. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang made the remarks at a regular press conference. He confirmed Kim Kye-Gwan, top DPRK negotiator to the six-party talks, arrived in Beijing earlier Tuesday, where Kim will make a stopover before leaving for the United States. But Qin denied any arrangements for bilateral meeting between Kim and his Chinese counterpart. Qin said he hoped the future DPRK-U.S. meetings could be an important step towards the initial actions which were designed for a full implementation of the September 19 statement and finally towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula...