

The People's Daily, 1 July 2005

China expects further US-DPRK contacts amid stalled six-party talks

China expects the United States and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to maintain contacts so as to create conditions for the resumption of the stalled six-party talks on the Korean nuclear issue. "China expects the United States and the DPRK to move on and create favorable conditions and atmosphere for the resumption of the talks," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Thursday. The two sides have recently held a series of contacts and set forth some positive propositions towards the resumption of the six-party talks, said Liu when asked to comment on a possible US-DPRK dialogue at a symposium to be held in New York.

The China Daily, 1 July 2005

China to build thermonuclear fusion reactor (Yu Zheng)

A leading Chinese plasma physicist said Thursday China might build its own thermonuclear experimental reactor, which would be expected to supply sustained electricity for the world's most populous country. While building their own sophisticated devices in thermonuclear reaction, Chinese scientists have already participated in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a testing step between today's plasma physics studies and tomorrow's electricity-producing fusion power plants. The scientist, who has access to the ITER, said to Xinhua on condition of anonymity, "The ultimate goal of the Chinese scientists is to build thermonuclear experimental reactors with their own efforts."

The China Daily, 1 July 2005

Japan-Taiwan fishing talks opposed (Qin Jize)

China is looking forward to better relations between Washington and Pyongyang, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said yesterday in Beijing. The spokesman also expressed China's strong opposition to talks between Japan and Taiwan on fishing issues. The Chinese Government is responsible for the protection of the legal rights of fishermen from both the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, he said. Liu said there is already a fishing agreement between China and Japan, and Taiwan is part of China, so China and Japan should act in accordance with this agreement. If there were talks between Japan and Taiwan, Liu said, "It would violate the one-China principle and would not be in accordance with the rules of Sino-Japanese fishing industry agreements."

The People's Daily, 1 July 2005

Chinese, Russian presidents meet in Moscow

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday hoped his ongoing tour further enhance political mutual trust, expand economic and trade cooperation, promote humanities exchanges and strengthen strategic coordination between Russia and China. This will help give a new impetus to the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and serve the interests of the two peoples, Hu said at a home dinner Thursday evening given by his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Hu said he is very pleased to visit Russia again. He noted that recent years have seen a good momentum of development in bilateral strategic partnership of coordination, while bilateral cooperation has been continuously expanded in the political, economic, trade, energy resources, investment, cultural, educational and military sectors, with satisfactory achievements.

The People's Daily, 1 July 2005

China, EU to expand aviation cooperation

About 200 Chinese and European Union top air traffic officials and CEOs on June 30 gathered at the Beijing Hotel to negotiate for more flights between them. "Our aviation relations are becoming increasingly strategic: Growth forecasts suggest that EU-China air traffic will increase by around 7 percent per year over the next 15 years," said Jacques Barrot, vice president of the European Commission. Barrot, also director-general for energy and transportation in the EU, told a EU-China Aviation Summit that the EU will discuss with China an aviation agreement which considers safety, security, environmental issues and the application of competition law besides opening-up markets and technological and industrial cooperation.

The People's Daily, 1 July 2005

EU launches anti-dumping probe into Chinese, Indian safety shoes

The European Commission (EC), the executive body of the European Union (EU), announced on June 30 that it started to launch an investigation into the alleged dumping of Chinese and Indian safety footwear on the bloc's market. "The investigation will determine whether the product concerned originating from the People's Republic of China and India is being dumped and whether this dumping has caused injury," said a notice in the EU's official journal. "If, as a result of the investigation started today, it is demonstrated that predatory prices are practiced, then action will be considered," said commission spokeswoman on trade Claude Veron- Reville.

The People's Daily, 1 July 2005

ASEAN-China FTA to significantly benefit intra-regional economy: official

The ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) to be implemented on July 1 will significantly benefit the intra-regional trade and economy and establish a milestone for the future of ASEAN-China economic ties, ASEAN Secretary General said in Jakarta on June 30. The establishment of ACFTA will create an economic region with 1.7 billion consumers, a regional GDP of about 2 trillion US dollars and total annual trade volume estimated at 1.23 trillion US dollars, Secretary General Ong Keng Yong said in a statement exclusively for Xinhua. Under the ACFTA, the ASEAN and China will start making some 7,000 kinds of commodities exempt from tax on July 1 and manage to give duty-free status to all commodities in bilateral trade by 2010.

The People's Daily, 1 July 2005

China, Bangladesh exchange views to further partnership

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia met in Dhaka on June 30 with visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei and the two sides expressed hopes to further friendly bilateral relations and cooperation. The prime minister said that the establishment of Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation between the two countries during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Bangladesh in April, is of great significance to the development of bilateral relations in the new age.

The People's Daily, 2 July 2005

China, Russia call for establishment of new security framework

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin signed in Moscow Friday a joint statement, calling for a new security framework and the promotion of regional integration. The joint statement calls on the international community to establish a new security framework on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation. The framework should have the universally recognized norms of international relations as its political foundation, and mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity as its economic foundation, says the joint statement. The establishment of this framework should be based on the equal security rights of all nations while dialogue, consultation and negotiation on an equal footing should be the means for settling conflicts and maintaining peace, the joint statement says.

The Hindu, 2 July 2005

Russia, China vow to build a multi-polar world (Vladimir Radyuhin)

MOSCOW: Russia and China have unveiled a joint agenda for building a multi-polar world in the 21st century that is singularly anti-U.S. in spirit, if not in letter. "All countries of the world must strictly abide by the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs of each other, equality and mutual benefit (and) peaceful coexistence," the two countries said in a Declaration on the World Order in the 21st Century signed on Friday in the Kremlin by the Presidents of Russia and China, Vladimir Putin and Hu Jintao.

International Herald Tribune, 2 July 2005

Rallies mark Hong Kong anniversary (Alyssa Lau)

HONG KONG Lingered divisions in Hong Kong over how strongly to press for greater political freedoms were evident Friday as pro-democracy and pro-Beijing demonstrations each drew tens of thousands of people into the streets. A pro-Beijing parade in the morning drew 30,000 people, according to organizers, while organizers of the pro-democracy march in the afternoon put their event's turnout at 45,000. The police said 20,000 participants attended the pro-Beijing event and 17,000 people arrived at the end of the pro-democracy march, a local radio station reported. Friday was the eighth anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China. Protest marches on the two previous anniversaries had each drawn more than a half million people demanding greater democracy and the resignation of Tung Chee-hwa, the chief executive then, who was widely blamed for the city's years of economic problems and poor governance.

International Herald Tribune, 2 July 2005

Mao's long march lingers even as dark side emerges (Howard W. French)

YENAN: China Horribly outnumbered, poorly armed and constantly under attack, about 80,000 Communist fighters set out on foot from a base in China's southeastern Jiangxi Province in October 1934 hoping above all to avoid getting wiped out by their Nationalist enemies. One year and more than 8,000 kilometers, or 5,000 miles, later, after countless acts of extraordinary courage along the way, about 6,000 survivors of the Long March, led by Mao Zedong, limped into this dusty town in the arid yellow hills of northern Shaanxi Province. Chinese historians, like their counterparts abroad, have steadily chipped away at Mao's myth, and the falling chunks have inevitably included many details about Yen'an. Far from the idyll celebrated here, the historians say, Mao waged a campaign of political terror against youthful dissenters, perfecting methods of purging real and imagined foes that would be used on a vast scale later on. He sold opium to raise money for his army, and it was here that he created his

suffocating cult of personality. For ordinary Chinese, history textbooks emphasize the devotion to the common man and heroism of the early Communists, even teaching that Mao's armies defeated the Japanese invaders during World War II. The entertainment industry, meanwhile, has cranked out hundreds of movies reinforcing the Mao legend. Writing that strongly challenges the chairman or his place in history simply cannot be published in China.

The China Daily, 4 July 2005

Japanese toxic gas plant discovered (Li Fangchao)

HARBIN: Scientists believe they have located the site of a toxic gas experiment plant probably the largest in the world built by the occupying Japanese army in Inner Mongolia. It has long been recognized that the Japanese used Chinese people as human guinea pigs to develop poison gas in preparation for a planned invasion of the Soviet Union in the early stages of WWII. Now Chinese scientists say they have found one of the test sites. Deep in the heart of the grasslands around Bayanhan, Hulun Buir city, the site covers an area of more than 100 square kilometres, according to Xu Zhanjiang, a researcher on the history of Japanese germ warfare with the Harbin Municipal Academy of Social Sciences in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

The People's Daily, 4 July 2005

Pakistan, China enjoy strategic relations: PM

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said in Islamabad on June 2 Pakistan and China enjoy strategic relations and share common positions on various regional and international issues. During a meeting with visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, Aziz said Pakistan will continue to lend its unequivocal support to China on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet and noted that China has always stood by Pakistan, according to a statement issued by Pakistani Foreign Ministry. Aziz said Pakistan's relations with China are growing with the passage of time and have been further strengthened by the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan in April.

The Hindu, 4 July 2005

India to participate in Shanghai summit

NEW DELHI: India will be represented at a summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for the first time this year, with External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh set to join the deliberations of the six-nation grouping in Kazakhstan on Tuesday as a "guest." The SCO, which is meeting this year in Astana, the Kazakh capital, links China and Russia with Central Asian republics except Turkmenistan. Along with India, Pakistan and Iran will also participate in the summit as guests. All three countries will formally be designated as Observers at the end of the summit, which will bring China President Hu Jintao and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin together for the second time in as many weeks.

The China Daily, 4 July 2005

China-Russian communique released

NOVOSIBIRSK, Russia: China and Russia issued a joint communique yesterday, standing shoulder to shoulder on terrorism, UN reform and the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue. The communique, issued at the end of President Hu Jintao's four-day visit to Russia, recognized the profound changes the world has undergone. Although globalization and regional cooperation have brought new opportunities, traditional security problems, as well as new challenges, pose a severe threat to world peace and stability, it said. Hailing the role of the China-Russia strategic partnership in the establishment of a new world order, the communique said the two countries are determined to work with other countries for global harmony and development.

The People's Daily, 4 July 2005

UK to strengthen China-EU partnership in its EU presidency

British Ambassador to China Sir Christopher Hum promised to "strengthen the partnership between the European Union and China" "to the best of" their abilities when he raised the EU flag in the British Embassy in Beijing on July 1, the day when the UK took the EU presidency. The overall themes for the UK Presidency of the EU will be security, stability and sustainable prosperity and opportunity. The UK has also identified the priorities on promoting the EU-China relations in the second half of 2005. It expects to reach agreement with China on the launch of a new EU-China Framework Agreement and EU-China partnership on energy and climate security at the EU-China summit in September this year.

The China Daily, 5 July 2005

Chinese president meets Indian FM on cooperation

China hopes the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will serve as a new platform for strengthening bilateral cooperation with India, Chinese President Hu Jintao said on July 4, as he met with Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh in the Kazakh capital. Hu, who is here on a state visit to Kazakhstan and will also attend

the fifth SCO summit on Tuesday, said China is ready to work closely with India, which will soon become a SCO observer, and make joint efforts to strengthen the SCO and promote regional cooperation. Relations between China and India are facing a historic opportunity for development and the two countries should seize the opportunity to increase mutually beneficial cooperation, further promote good-neighborly relations and friendship, and continue to enrich the contents of the bilateral strategic partnership.

The China Daily, 5 July 2005

Japan's white paper adds chill to China ties

Two white papers from Japan have added a chill to the current low in China-Japan relations. A summary of the country's 2005 white paper on national defence, published by Yomiuri Shimbun on Sunday, devotes more detail to China than previous such documents. The white paper is saying Japan needs to respond to China's increased defence budget. The abstract of the paper, which is to be officially announced in early August, said Japan should be alert to the continuous increase in China's military budget, indicative of a military modernization drive, to which Japan must adopt an active defensive military strategy. The document also reminds the Japanese Government to be attentive to the movement of China's naval vessels. These words such as "alert" and "attentive" are eye-catching in the defence white paper. Glaringly absent are references to communication between the two neighbours.

The China Daily, 5 July 2005

Army to contract nonmilitary personnel

Chinese army will employ nonmilitary personnel on contract basis, seen as a major reform in the army personnel system, according to regulation adopted late last month. The Regulation on Nonmilitary Personnel in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was endorsed by Premier Wen Jiabao and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Hu Jintao on June 23. According to the regulation, nonmilitary personnel are employed to work at special technical posts in institutions above the army level or non-battle corps stationed in remote areas. They will also work at non-special technical posts such as administration affairs and logistics service.

The People's Daily, 5 July 2005

China, ASEAN discuss regional trade opportunities

About 200 businesspeople and trade officials from China and member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) convened at China-ASEAN Business Forum Monday at Beihai, a port city in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. They discussed the opportunities brought about by the Trade in Goods Agreement, which will take effect on July 20. The Trade in Goods Agreement, the core part of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA), will bring about duties reduction for about 7,000 categories of goods. China and ASEAN countries will start reducing duties this July. China and six ASEAN members, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, will start zero tariffs on most normal products by 2010. China and the other four ASEAN members will do the same by 2015.

The People's Daily, 5 July 2005

Chinese, French officials discuss IPR, textile trade issues

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi said in Beijing Monday that China hopes France will play a positive role in promoting the steady development of Sino-EU textile trade. Wu told visiting French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade Christine Lagarde that textile trade is an important part of Sino-EU trade and it has been proved that problems in textile trade can be solved through exchanges and consultation. China and the European Union signed a textile trade memorandum in June which prevented textile trade friction between the two major economies from escalating into a trade war. Wu said that China attaches importance to its comprehensive strategic partnership with France and appreciates France's adherence to the one-China policy and opposition to "Taiwan independence."

The People's Daily, 5 July 2005

China supports international efforts to reinforce protection of nuclear facilities

China supports efforts to reinforce the protection of nuclear facilities and opposes using force to threaten countries which own nuclear facilities for peaceful purposes, a Chinese representative said on Monday in Vienna. About 350 delegates from 91 signatory countries to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material began a five-day meeting here Monday on the revamping of the treaty, which they said fails to go far enough to safeguard nuclear power plants from terrorism. Wu Hailong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told reporters that China, a signatory to the treaty, has submitted to the meeting its proposed amendment. The Chinese government always attaches importance to the protection of nuclear material and supports the active role of the IAEA in this regard, said Wu.

The People's Daily, 5 July 2005

China to be "true, good" partner of neighboring countries: premier

China commits itself to cementing partnership with neighboring countries and remaining their "true and good neighbor, partner and friend," said Premier Wen Jiabao in Kunming on July 5, 2005. "This is a solemn pledge and unwavering long-term policy of the Chinese Government," Wen said at the opening ceremony of the Second Summit of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), featuring the theme of "A Stronger Partnership for Common Prosperity." The GMS cooperation program involves six countries, namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, which share the Lancang-Mekong River.

The People's Daily, 6 July 2005

FM spokesman: no timetable for restarting six-party talks

No timetable is expected for restarting six-party talks, but all relevant parties are still working for resuming the peace talks, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a press conference on July 5. Liu said China welcomes the recent contact by the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in New York when the two parties attended an academic conference on northeast Asian security. "The contact is helpful to promote understanding between the United States and DPRK," Liu said.

The Hindu, 6 July 2005

Do not impose vote on draft U.N. proposal, SCO tells G-4 (Siddharth Varadarajan)

ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN): The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which India has just joined as an observer, ended its summit here on Tuesday with a call for United Nations reform to follow the "principle of the broadest possible agreement." In a blunt reference to the G-4 draft framework resolution for expanding the U.N. Security Council, the SCO - which links China and Russia with Central Asia - said it opposed all attempts to "try to set a deadline for U.N. reform or to impose voting on draft proposals on which major differences exist."

The Guardian, 6 July 2005

Call for US date to leave central Asia (Tom Parfitt)

A regional security alliance dominated by Russia and China yesterday demanded the US and its allies in the "war on terror" name a date for the removal of their military bases from central Asia. In a sign of growing tension after the massacre in Andijan, Uzbekistan, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) issued a terse request for Washington to name a deadline for withdrawal of troops and hardware at a meeting in the Kazakh capital, Astana, yesterday. Ties with the central Asian regimes have soured since troops in eastern Uzbekistan fired on a protest in May, apparently killing hundreds of civilians. Despite outrage from Nato, the EU and the US, Moscow and Beijing backed the Uzbek president, Islam Karimov, who claimed only Islamic militants and police were killed.

The People's Daily, 6 July 2005

Chinese president: SCO future hinges on action

The future of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) depends on whether members could translate consensus into action and render plans into reality, Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Astana, Kazakhstan on July 5. "As long as we take implementation as the central piece of our future work and untiringly do concrete things and seek concrete results in deepening and expanding pragmatic cooperation and solidly advance the realization of various set targets, the SCO would surely be full of vitality and continuously bear abundant fruits," Hu told an SCO summit in the Kazakh capital. Hu urged contacts and cooperation between the SCO and international financial institutions to facilitate deeper economic cooperation.

The People's Daily, 7 July 2005

China, India may join future G8 summits, Blair

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in Gleneagles on July 6 that China and India may be invited to join future Group of Eight (G8) annual summits. "If you go around the table at the last three or four G8s, China and India have been present. I can't really imagine that they're not going to be present next year," Blair told reporters as leaders from the world's richest countries arrived for the summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, the Bloomberg press reported. In Blair's view, it is essential to include the world's emerging economies like China, India, as well as the United States in any agreement on climate change at the summit in the next two days. Britain will push for a consensus on tackling global warming after the Kyoto Protocol limiting carbon-dioxide emissions runs out in 2012.

The People's Daily, 7 July 2005

Chinese, Pakistani leaders speak highly of bilateral ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Astana Wednesday that China and Pakistan have set an example for countries with different social systems, different religions and different cultural backgrounds to live in harmony and carry out sincere cooperation. Their harmonious relationship is also an important factor for promoting regional

peace and stability, Hu made the remarks while meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in the Kazakh capital. Hu congratulated Aziz on Pakistan's gaining of the observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), saying this is not only conducive to better cooperation between Pakistan and SCO members in efforts to boost stability and development in the region, but also offers a new platform for the Sino-Pakistani cooperation.

The China Daily, 7 July 2005

China berates U.S. over Unocal vote

China criticized the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday for demanding a review of an attempted takeover of California-based oil producer Unocal Corp. by China's CNOOC Ltd. "We demand that the U.S. Congress correct its mistaken ways of politicizing economic and trade issues and stop interfering in the normal commercial exchanges between enterprises of two countries," the Foreign Ministry said in a faxed statement. The House last Thursday voted 333-92 in favor of a measure to block the Bush administration from approving CNOOC's \$18.5 billion bid. It also passed, with an overwhelming majority, a nonbinding resolution calling on the Bush administration to immediately conduct a review of the possible takeover, noting that it could threaten U.S. national security.

Xinhuanet, 7 July 2005

Countries join hands in maritime exercise in E.China sea

BEIJING, July 7 -- A bulk freighter is at risk of exploding after colliding with a container ship and immediate emergency action needs to be taken that is the scenario of a maritime drill being held at the Yangshan Port in Shanghai today, the largest exercise of its kind ever held in China during peacetime. Under the command of the state maritime safety authority, Shanghai maritime search and rescue centre will launch an emergency plan to organize local rescue forces - encompassing professional rescue workers, merchant vessels and military ships - and help the freighter out of trouble.

The China Daily, 7 July 2005

Rice to visit nation at weekend, says FM (Jiang Zhuqing)

With one eye on the current nuclear situation on the Korean Peninsula, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will begin her second visit to Asia in four months when she arrives in China this weekend. China is the first stop on Rice's four-nation trip, which will also take her to Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Japan, spokesman for the US Department of State Sean McCormack said in a press statement. The nuclear issue concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), co-operation in fighting terrorism and trans-national crimes, and tsunami recovery and reconstruction efforts are all on Rice's agenda.

The China Daily, 8 July 2005

China, US discussing textile tensions (Jiang Wei)

China and the United States are scheduled to hold a new round of talks Friday as textile frictions between the two sides continue to flare as hot as Beijing's weather, a China's Ministry of Commerce official said. "This round, which still concentrates on the technical level, is expected to pave the way for further talks in the Sino-US Joint Commission for Commerce and Trade to be held next Monday in Beijing," the source said. Some insiders are wondering whether discussions between the two governments will be able to rescue two sides from their current imbroglio.

The People's Daily, 8 July 2005

Leaders from China, Brazil, India, S.Africa, Mexico discuss common development

Leaders from China, Brazil, India, South Africa and Mexico pledged in Scottish resort of Gleneagles on Thursday to strengthen cooperation and seek common development in the developing countries. Chinese President Hu Jintao, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, South Africa's president Thabo Mbeki and Mexican President Vicente Fox discussed issues of mutual concern at a meeting held before they met with leaders of the Group of Eight (G8). In his address to the meeting, President Hu said it is a top priority for the developing countries to eliminate poverty, seek development and improve people's standards of living.

The China Daily, 9 July 2005

Rice to kick off 20-hour China visit

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to arrive in Beijing Saturday evening for a whirlwind visit as guest of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing. China is the first leg of Rice's four-nation Asian tour aimed primarily at finding ways to resume stalled six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. During her stay, Rice is expected to confer with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, and State Councilor Tang

Jiaxuan and hold talks with Li Zhaoxing, on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern, according to sources with the Foreign Ministry.

The People's Daily, 9 July 2005

China, US hold annual meeting on military maritime safety

China and the United States Friday ended the two-day Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) meeting in east China's Qingdao city. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on issues of military safety at sea, according to sources with the Chinese Ministry of National Defense. Under the MMCA mechanism launched in 1998, China and the United States have held four annual meetings and nine working group meetings, in addition to consultations and discussions on three specific topics, which helped enhance mutual understanding and cooperation in maritime military safety, the sources said.

The Hindu, 9 July 2005

China, Japan offer help to fight terror (P. S. Suryanarayana)

SINGAPORE: China, Japan, Malaysia and Australia led the way in the wider East Asian region by offering Britain various forms of assistance to fight global terrorism in the aftermath of Thursday's deadly blasts across the London transport network. Countries across East Asia, including Singapore, host to the ongoing meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which was attended by several world leaders, have stepped up security alerts and arrangements. Expressing shock over the attacks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on Thursday night that the global fight against terrorism "remains an arduous task". Emphasising that "the international community still has a long way to go" in this campaign, Mr. Liu said: "China will continue to enhance cooperation with the international community in this field". Reaffirming China's opposition to terrorism in any form, he said "anyone who launches terrorist attacks and causes casualties of civilians should be resolutely condemned, regardless of his or her purpose".

The People's Daily, 10 July 2005

Top leaders to meet Rice, focusing on bilateral ties, DPRK nuke issue

Chinese leaders and senior officials are scheduled to meet or hold talks with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday. Sino-US relations and the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue are expected to be major topics. Rice arrived in Beijing Saturday evening for her second China visit in four months since she took office in January. Both sides would discuss China-US relations, the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and other issues of common concern. China is the first leg of Rice's four-nation Asian tour, aimed primarily at finding ways to resume the stalled six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

The People's Daily, 10 July 2005

Rice says to make progress in 6-party talks "real issue"

Visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Beijing Sunday that to restart the six-party talks is only the "first step" and the "real issue" now is to make progress in the nuclear talks. She meanwhile thanked China for its efforts to resume the six-party talks. The United States and the DPRK agreed to open the fourth round of the six-party talks in the week which begins on July 25, 2005, the Korean Central News Agency said Saturday. Bilateral relations, including economic and human rights issues, and the visits by the leaders of the two countries will be also on the agenda of her talks with Chinese leaders, Rice said.

The People's Daily, 10 July 2005

Chinese FM holds talks with Rice on advancing China-US relations

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held talks in Beijing Sunday on advancing bilateral relations. Li said that since the beginning of this year, both China and the United States have made active efforts to implement the consensus reached by Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President George W. Bush in Santiago last year, in a bid to push for a steady progress of the constructive and cooperative relationship between the two countries. A few days ago, the two leaders had a friendly meeting in Scotland, he said. "We hope to carry out more dialogues, strengthen mutual trust and cooperation with the United States, but expel interference at the same time, so as to safeguard the common interests of both countries and make new progress in the Sino-US constructive and cooperative relationship," Li said.

The People's Daily, 11 July 2005

China to push for results of six-party talks: Chinese state councillor

China will work with other parties concerned to push for results at the international talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula, Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said Sunday in Beijing. In a meeting with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Sunday afternoon, Tang said China is glad to see that the process of six-party talks will be resumed late in this month due to the joint efforts of all parties concerned. "We will work with

all parties concerned to push forward the fourth round of six-party talks to achieve results," Tang said.

The China Post, 11 July 2005

Rice tells Beijing to talk to Taiwan, Dalai Lama (Alexa Olesen)

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday rejected a call for Washington to pull its forces out of Central Asia and urged Beijing to talk directly to rival Taiwan's government and the Dalai Lama. Rice also appealed to Beijing to have contacts with the government of Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian following visits to China by Chen's political opponents. Hu told Rice that Beijing has "the sincerity and determination to improve and expand relations across the Taiwan Straits" and wants to see the "peaceful reunification of the motherland," the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Rice also said that in meetings with Hu and others, asked "that China reach out to, in particular, the Dalai Lama, a man who is for Tibet, a man of considerable authority, considerable moral authority, but really is no threat to China."

The China Daily, 11 July 2005

Rice: US-China relations positive

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice left Beijing calling US-Sino relations positive and reiterating Washington's view that China is not a threat. Despite rows over Chinese textile exports, the surging US trade deficit with China and the Chinese currency's inflexibility, Rice, who is on a four-nation Asian tour that takes her next to Thailand, said relations were "complex" but good. "There are many extremely positive elements. I still think that this relationship has a great momentum. It still has more positives than negatives," Rice told a news briefing after meeting Chinese leaders. At the same time, Rice said she raised concerns over over China's military development. "(But) this does not mean that we view China as a threat," she said Sunday.

The China Daily, 11 July 2005

New Party delegation arrives in Beijing (Xing Zhigang)

A senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC) yesterday called for cross-Straits unity and an early peaceful reunification between the mainland and Taiwan. "People across the Straits should stay united to fight 'Taiwan independence' secessionist activities and push for peaceful and stable relations in the Straits," said Jia Qinglin, a Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee. "We should join our efforts to realize peaceful reunification at an early date and create a bright future for the Chinese nation." Jia, also chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, made the remarks at a meeting with Taiwan's opposition New Party Chairman Yok Mu-ming yesterday afternoon. Yok and his 30-member delegation arrived in Beijing yesterday morning on the last stop of their eight-day mainland trip. He described his visit to Beijing as "the most important leg that will make the finishing point of our trip."

The People's Daily, 12 July 2005

Chinese state councillor leaves for DPRK

Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, as a special representative of Chinese President Hu Jintao, left here Tuesday morning on an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). This visit is just more than one week ahead of the expected resumption of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice ended her 20-hour Beijing visit on Sunday.

The People's Daily, 12 July 2005

Taiwan secessionism 'the common enemy of all Chinese'

A senior mainland official Monday urged Taiwan people to fight "Taiwan independence" activities as hard as they fought the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. According to Wang Zaixi, vice-minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, pro-independence forces are the common enemy of people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. He made the call Monday afternoon at a forum held by the Beijing-based Cross-Straits Relations Research Centre and visiting New Party delegation from Taiwan.

The People's Daily, 12 July 2005

China opposes EU anti-dumping investigation on shoes

China on Monday opposed EU's anti-dumping investigation on Chinese shoes, saying "It lacks a legal basis and factual proof." The EU's investigation is expected to involve more than 1,200 Chinese enterprises with 670 million US dollars in value, according to the website of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC). MOC spokesman Chong Quan said the Chinese government attaches great importance to the case. Shoes are one of China's major export items. The shoe-making industry concerns a large portion of its workforce. The EU's investigation is not helpful to the long-term and steady Sino-EU economic and trade development. China hopes the EU would "properly" handle the case, Chong said.

The People's Daily, 13 July 2005

DPRK PM meets Chinese presidential envoy

Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Pak Bong Ju on Tuesday held talks with visiting Chinese presidential envoy Tang Jiaxuan on Sino-DPRK relations and other important issues of common concern. Tang said ties between the two countries have been developing well in the new century and China and the DPRK should make joint efforts to further boost their relations. As far as the current circumstances are concerned, Tang noted that the two neighboring countries should enhance the quality and standard of their cooperation in various fields, and work together to safeguard regional peace, stability, safety and prosperity.

The People's Daily, 13 July 2005

Hu Jintao meets with New Party delegation

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Hu Jintao called on people on both the mainland and Taiwan to firmly oppose "Taiwan independence" and jointly promote the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation during his meeting with visiting New Party delegation from Taiwan Tuesday afternoon.

The China Daily, 13 July 2005

Nakayama condemned for 'comfort women' remarks

China expressed indignation and strongly condemned the act of a Japanese cabinet member who once again made utterly shameless comments on the "comfort women" issue, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing on July 12. Liu made the remarks when answering a question about the Chinese government's response to the comments made by Japanese Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister Nariaki Nakayama. Nakayama said in a recent public address in Fukuoka that he is very moved and excited by the E-mail message from a female Japanese studying in Canada. The E-mail says "the victimized women in Asia should be proud of being comfort women." He said the message is a rare and "encouraging" comment to him.

The Hindu, 13 July 2005

WTO: India, China oppose bid to divide developing countries (P.S. Suryanarayana)

SINGAPORE: India and China have expressed resolve to resist attempts at dividing the developing countries during the ongoing negotiations under the framework of the World Trade Organisation Doha Round. An accord on this and other related issues was reached by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai ahead of a two-day informal ministerial meeting of the WTO, dubbed the "mini-ministerial," which began at Dalian in China on Tuesday. Mr. Bo described the tactics of the developed bloc an attempt at creating a "sub-classification of developing countries." Mr. Kamal Nath suggested that "development issues must be addressed upfront" during talks on the Doha agenda which, he said, should be seen essentially as "a development round and not just a market-access round."

The Hindu, 14 July 2005

China supports India's U.N. bid

DALIAN: The Chinese leadership on Wednesday assured Beijing's support to India's bid for permanent membership in the U.N. Security Council but said the expansion of the Council needed wider consultation. The Chinese stand was conveyed by Wu Guanzheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of China, to the visiting CPI(M) general secretary, Prakash Karat. "The Chinese leadership has reiterated its stand that China supports India's UNSC membership but they have reservations in backing the G-4 resolution," Mr. Karat said.

The People's Daily, 14 July 2005

Kim Jong-Il meets Chinese presidential envoy

Kim Jong-Il, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on Wednesday held talks with visiting Chinese presidential envoy Tang Jiaxuan on Sino-DPRK relations and issues related to the six-party talks. Tang conveyed a message from Chinese President Hu Jintao to Kim, saying that the Chinese Communist Party and government highly respect the long-standing friendship between China and the DPRK, and that China is ready to make joint efforts with the DPRK to further boost relations. On the forthcoming fourth round of the six-party talks slated for late this month, Hu expressed hope that the talks could achieve substantial progress through close exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. For his part, Kim said the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the DPRK's goal. He hoped that the mechanism of the six-party talks could become an important platform for the realization of this objective.

The People's Daily, 15 July 2005

China concerned about Japan's plan to grant drilling rights to private companies in East China Sea

China on July 14 voiced its "serious concerns" about the Japanese government's plan to grant private oil companies test-drilling rights in a gas field in the East China Sea. "It is an objective reality that China and Japan have disputes over the demarcation of East China Sea, but this issue should be solved properly by negotiation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a regular news conference. Liu strongly urged Japan not to take any action that will impair the stability in the East China Sea and Sino-Japanese relations.

The People's Daily, 15 July 2005

FM spokesman: DPRK's return to six-party talks no linking with China's aid

The decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to return to the six-party talks should not be linked with the aid given by China, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a regular press conference in Beijing on July 14. China and DPRK maintain a normal nation-to-nation relation with regular economic and trade exchanges, said Liu, and China has offered aid to DPRK for the nation and its people to tide over difficulties and develop its economy and society. "However, I do not think such aid should be linked with DPRK's decision to return to new round of six-party talks," he said.

The New York Times, 15 July 2005

Chinese General Threatens Use of A-Bombs if U.S. Intrudes (Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING, Friday, July 15 - China should use nuclear weapons against the United States if the American military intervenes in any conflict over Taiwan, a senior Chinese military official said Thursday. "If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition on to the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," the official, Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu, said at an official briefing. General Zhu, considered a hawk, stressed that his comments reflected his personal views and not official policy. Beijing has long insisted that it will not initiate the use of nuclear weapons in any conflict. But in extensive comments to a visiting delegation of correspondents based in Hong Kong, General Zhu said he believed that the Chinese government was under internal pressure to change its "no first use" policy and to make clear that it would employ the most powerful weapons at its disposal to defend its claim over Taiwan.

The China Daily, 15 July 2005

US House rejects bill on China arms sales

WASHINGTON - The US House of Representatives rejected a measure that would have imposed stiff penalties on European firms selling weapons technology to China. By a vote of 215 to 203, the "East Asia Security Act" failed to garner the two-thirds majority needed for passage after US business groups reportedly expressed concerns that they would be hurt by the measure. Congressional officials said after the vote that the legislation's author, Republican Henry Hyde, will make a second attempt to pass the bill next week by inserting it in State Department funding legislation, where it has better odds of passage. The bill welcomed deferral of an EU decision to terminate an arms embargo to China, but expressed concern that sales could proceed indirectly via various loopholes.

The China Daily, 15 July 2005

PLA on course to cut 200,000 personnel (Guo Nei)

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is on course to cut 200,000 military personnel by the end of the year, the PLA Daily, mouthpiece of China's armed forces, reported yesterday. The military is currently carrying out extensive restructuring reform, adding new battle units and cutting outdated ones in an effort to create combat effectiveness and intensify the force's combat command capability, the report said. The total number of officers at headquarters and functional branches at different command levels will be cut to a new low, and some grassroots posts previously held by officers will be transferred to soldiers or civil servants. "The readjustment and reform programme is now proceeding smoothly," Zang Guoqing, head of the army affairs department with the PLA's Headquarters of the General Staff, was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The People's Daily, 16 July 2005

China ready to promote Sino-EU strategic partnership: Hu

China is ready to promote a China-European Union comprehensive and strategic partnership, said Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing on July 15 in a meeting with EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. Hu said China will work with the EU to continuously advance bilateral friendly exchanges and reciprocal cooperation in various fields. He praised the overall development of Sino-EU relations, which had scored remarkable results in the past three decades of bilateral diplomatic ties. He said Sino-EU relations have become all-dimensional and wide-ranging at various levels, and China appreciates the EU's one-China policy, attention to developing bilateral partnership and efforts for expanding exchanges and cooperation in such fields as politics and economy.

The People's Daily, 16 July 2005

Closer ties with China meet Russian geopolitical goals: official

Closer relations with China meet Russia's geopolitical goals and will contribute to strengthening the country's position in the world, a Russian presidential representative said on July 15. "Russia is not very popular in the European Union; they are doing everything they can to reduce our participation in or influence on European issues. So it is very important that here in the east, in Asia, we have a friendly nation, China," Konstantin Pulikovsky, presidential representative to the Far East federal district, told the Itar-Tass news agency. Growing ties with China "meet Russian geopolitical aims and strengthen the positions of our country in the world," Pulikovsky said.

The People's Daily, 16 July 2005

Japan's move in East China Sea makes conflict "inevitable": report

Japan is stamping on China's maritime rights by granting Japanese firm Teikoku Oil Co the right to test drill for gas and oil in a part of the East China Sea disputed by the two countries and muddying the waters of the East China Sea, the China Daily said in an editorial Saturday. Japan's move could lead to confrontation with China, it warned, citing that the Chinese government's calls to solve the dispute through negotiation have fallen on deaf ears in Japan. Giving Teikoku the go-ahead to test drill is a move which makes conflict between the two nations inevitable, though what form this clash will take is hard to tell, the daily said.

The People's Daily, 17 July 2005

EU Commission President regards China's rise as opportunity rather than threat

Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the European Union Commission, said Saturday in Shanghai that China's development and growth should be regarded as an opportunity rather than a threat. Delivering a speech at a business school in Shanghai, Barroso said the whole world is increasingly aware of China's influence with its rapid economic growth over the past two decades. But China's rise is "an opportunity" rather than "a threat" to other countries, he said.

The Hindu, 17 July 2005

China starts strategic talks with major powers

BEIJING: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has told the visiting President of the European Union Commission Jose Manuel Barroso that Beijing was keen on forging a strategic dialogue mechanism with the Union. Shen Jiru, research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Social Science, said that the strategic dialogue mechanism is a new type of high-level exchange, which helps Presidents, Prime Ministers and senior officials of different countries to discuss important issues in the fields of politics, economy, defence, finance and environmental protection. China has established dialogue mechanisms with major powers such as France, Russia and the United States and other countries including India, Pakistan, Japan, Australia and the Republic of Korea, according to Fu Mengzi, director of the Institute of American Studies under the Chinese Academy of Contemporary International Relations.

The China Daily, 17 July 2005

Ma elected KMT new leader; Hu congratulates him

Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Sunday extended congratulations to Ma Ying-jeou, who was elected new chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) party in Taiwan. In the congratulatory message, Hu expressed his hope that the CPC and KMT and the people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits will join hands and continue to promote the peaceful and stable development of cross-strait relations, and work together to build a bright future of the Chinese nation.

The People's Daily, 18 July 2005

Taiwan's Ma promises to promote exchanges with CPC

Ma Ying-jeou, newly elected chairman of Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT) party, promised on Sunday he would work to promote exchanges between the KMT and the Communist Party of China (CPC) for peace, prosperity and development across the Taiwan Straits. "I hope that both the KMT and CPC would work together for the benefits of compatriots on both sides of the Straits, based on the consensus reached between Lien Chan and Hu Jintao on April 29," Ma said. Ma made the remarks in a message to General Secretary Hu Jintao of the CPC Central Committee Sunday afternoon to thank Hu for his congratulations on his victory in the just-ended election of the KMT chairman.

The People's Daily, 19 July 2005

Chinese military gets transparent shopping list

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Monday claimed to have saved 1.8 billion yuan (US\$218 million) in the past three and a half years as increased transparency granted outsiders a rare glimpse of the workings of the Chinese military. PLA General Logistics Department sources said the army had spent more than 12 billion yuan (US\$1.46

billion) on basic supplies last year, a 64 per cent increase over 2003. Reform started in November 2001, with procurement transparency aimed at making the army run more efficiently, the PLA Daily, the mouthpiece of the Chinese army, reported yesterday. Rules to better regulate material procurement have also been introduced, the report quoted an unidentified officer from the Quartermaster, Materials and Petro-Oil and Lubricants Department of the General Logistics Department as saying. The rules also cover the public bidding process for procurement. The money saved over the past three and a half years has relieved financial strain on the PLA and transparency in the work can help stop corruption in the army, the officer said. According to him, the PLA is now working with the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, to draft a military procurement law.

The People's Daily, 18 July 2005

Chinese defense minister meets ROK air force chief

Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan met in Beijing on July 18 with Lee Han Ho, chief of staffs of the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF). Cao, also vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission and state councilor, accentuated the traditional friendly relations between China and the ROK during the meeting, especially since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1992. Meanwhile, Cao praised the military ties between the two countries, saying that they have developed a "good momentum." "China is willing to make joint efforts with the ROK to continue enhancing exchanges and cooperation in every field and making the friendly relations headway," Cao said. While stressing that the ROK and China share a common interest in keeping peace, stability and prosperity in the region, Lee said he hoped the two countries, the two armies, especially the two air forces, can further deepen exchanges and cooperation. Lee is here at the invitation of Qiao Qingchen, commander of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Air Force.

The China Daily, 20 July 2005

Pentagon: China's military strengthening

WASHINGTON - China is steadily strengthening and modernizing its military, with an aim to deterring Taiwan from declaring independence, the Pentagon said Tuesday in a new report on Chinese military power and strategy. The report even claims that over the longer term, an increasingly modern Chinese military could pose a threat to U.S. and other forces in the Asia-Pacific region. Among a number of such developments, it noted improvements in Chinese intercontinental-range missiles "capable of striking targets across the globe, including the United States." Air and naval force improvements also appear to be geared for operations beyond the geography around Taiwan, it added. Fueled by a booming economy and foreign arms purchases, China's military is developing new capabilities in line with Beijing's strategy of deterring Taiwan from declaring independence and countering a potential U.S. military intervention, according to the 45-page report, an annual assessment required by Congress. The short-term focus of China's military is preparing for potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait, the report said.

The Washington Post, 20 July 2005

Chinese Buildup Seen as Threat to Region (Ann Scott Tyson)

China's military buildup is broadening the reach of its forces in Asia and poses a long-term threat not only to Taiwan but to the U.S. military in the Pacific and to regional powers such as India and Japan, according to an assessment released yesterday by the Pentagon. The Beijing government is also improving and expanding its nuclear arsenal, fielding more advanced nuclear missiles capable of striking India, Russia and "virtually all of the United States," said the annual China military power report, based on U.S. intelligence and mandated by Congress. The report, however, said China's ability to project its conventional military power remains limited. China's defense spending could grow to \$90 billion in 2005 -- three times the Chinese government's official figure -- making the country's military budget the world's third-largest, after the United States and Russia, and the biggest in Asia.

The People's Daily, 20 July 2005

Japan high court rejects damages for Chinese germ warfare victims

The Tokyo High Court on Tuesday dismissed an appeal by a group of 180 Chinese nationals seeking compensation from the Japanese government for injuries and deaths stemming from a germ warfare campaign during Japan's aggression war on China, upholding a lower court ruling. In handing down the ruling, Presiding Judge Yukio Ota acknowledged the fact that the Imperial Japanese Army waged germ warfare, carried out by Unit 731 in China before and during the war, resulting in the deaths of many Chinese people from pest and cholera. Referring to an international treaty that banned germ warfare at that time, Ota said, "Japan is held responsible for using germ weapons in violation of a treaty." The judge, however, rejected the compensation demand saying that there were "no rules that allow individuals to directly demand damages from perpetrating countries."

The People's Daily, 20 July 2005

China opposes US intention of imposing limits on Chinese curtains

China strongly opposes the intention of the United States for imposing limits on the categories of the imported Chinese curtains, said Chong Quan, press spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, in Beijing Tuesday. The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA), an inter-agency committee overseen by the US Commerce Department, accepted the application made by some US textile industry communities on imposing limits on imported Chinese curtains on July 14. This is another new application accepted by the CITA this year following its imposing limits on Chinese cotton and knitting shirts, said Chong. "There is obviously not sufficient evidence for the the US textile communities to apply for imposing limits on Chinese textile, and the US government's acceptance of the application is against the relevant rules of the World Trade Organization," he said.

The People's Daily, 20 July 2005

China, Vietnam agree to promote South China Sea joint exploitation

China and Vietnam has agreed to join hands to promote the joint exploitation on the South China Sea during Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong's ongoing China tour. Chinese President Hu Jintao held a two-hour long official talks with Luong on Monday, during which he proposed that China, Vietnam and the Philippines actively fulfill their cooperation agreements and relevant consensus, in a bid to make concrete progress on the joint exploitation at an early date. In response, Luong said Vietnam will be committed to pushing forward the joint exploitation on the South China Sea. The exploitation of the disputed areas on the South China Sea has been a focus of home and overseas attention for a long period.

The Indian Express, 20 July 2005

China delivers on old deal under new Nepal regime

NEW DELHI, JULY 19: As the political process in Nepal gathers steam with the political parties putting up a united front, there are signs of Beijing trying to strengthen its engagement with Kathmandu. While no military order has so far been placed with Beijing after King Gyanendra assumed power in February, China has recently supplied five armoured personnel carriers (APC) to Nepal. Earlier, Nepal had asked India for APCs. This, sources say, was part of an old contract signed two years ago according to which China is to supply 14 wheeled APCs to Nepal. Seven of them were delivered last year while five more have been given now. The carriers, all painted white, have been kept at the UN Training School in Kathmandu. It's learnt that this flows from an understanding to assist Nepalese forces going for UN peacekeeping assignments. These forces are trained at this school ahead of any such international commitment. However, South Block officials felt this cannot be seen as an effort by China to broaden the scope of its military supplies to Nepal as no fresh orders have been placed after February 1. But there is a sense that China is inclined to engage Nepal on the issue of military supplies, given the difficulties it is facing with India, US and the UK.

The People's Daily, 21 July 2005

Pentagon report reflects "cold war mentality" toward China's rise: experts

Chinese military experts said Pentagon's annual report on Chinese military power is full of "guesswork and prejudices" and it reflects the animus and ambivalence of certain forces in the United States toward China's peaceful rise. Although some people in the United States wantonly plays up "Chinese military threats" in the report, it won't have any obvious influence on Sino-US relations and China's military modernization won't slow down for it, says the experts. "The report issued by the Pentagon on July 19 shows some forces in the US military sector still view China's peaceful rise with cold war mentality," said Shi Yan, a research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Military Science.

The China Daily, 21 July 2005

White House: China not considered a threat

WASHINGTON - The United States does not consider China a threat, the White House said after China protested about a Defense Department report which expressed concern about its military buildup. "We're committed to peace and stability in the region, but that should not be viewed as us viewing China as a threat," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters. "We're looking to move forward in a constructive and cooperative way with China, and we certainly have a very open and candid discussion with China on many issues," added the spokesman. "We do have concerns about the size and pace of China's military modernization, and it's important for us to pay close attention to it."

The New York Times, 21 July 2005

Calling In Envoy, Beijing Assails Pentagon Report (Chris Buckley)

BEIJING, July 20 - China's Foreign Ministry called in a senior American diplomat in Beijing on Wednesday to denounce a Pentagon report on China's military strength. The United States report, released Tuesday, was "groundless" and based on "reckless accusations," the vice foreign minister, Yang Jiechi, told David Sedney, the

deputy chief of mission at the United States Embassy in Beijing. "This report ignores the facts and tries its utmost to spread the notion of a China threat," the state-run New China News Agency quoted Mr. Yang as saying. "It's a crude meddling in Chinese internal affairs, and it tries to sow discord between China and other countries." Mr. Sedney was representing the ambassador, Clark T. Randt Jr., who was away from Beijing on official business, a spokeswoman at the American Embassy said. The annual Department of Defense report on China's military muscle said the nation's real military spending may be two to three times higher than the officially reported figure, which China said was \$26 billion last year.

The People's Daily, 21 July 2005

Chinese plaintiff group submits appeal to supreme court of Japan

Chinese plaintiff group submitted appeal to the Supreme Court of Japan on July 20, and the appeal was accepted by the court, said Louxian, a member of the group. The Tokyo High Court ignored Chinese plaintiffs' second appeal concerning germ war Tuesday. "We will persevere our demand for justice and dignity and hold on the lawsuits," said Wang Xuan, the plaintiff group leader. The Chinese plaintiffs have lost all their lawsuits in various levels of Japan's courts from this March to April including the appeals concerning the comfort women, the compensation to Chinese warfare victims and the human experiments of the notorious Unit 731.

International Herald Tribune, 22 July 2005

China eases peg of yuan to dollar (David Barboza, Joseph Kahn)

SHANGHAI After months of refusing to revalue its currency despite intense political pressure from its biggest trading partners, China said late Thursday that it had revalued the yuan and would no longer peg it strictly to the dollar. The change in the value of the Chinese currency was minor, an increase in value against the dollar of about 2 percent, or about one-quarter of 1 U.S. cent, valuing the dollar at 8.110 yuan, down from 8.277 yuan. But it broke a more-than-decade-old policy of tying China's currency to the U.S. dollar in favor of a more flexible trading band using a "basket of currencies," and set the stage for further changes toward a more market-oriented system. The revaluation comes at a time of heightened political and trade tensions between China and much of the rest of the world, particularly the United States and Europe. Several foreign policy experts and analysts said the revaluation of the yuan reflected China's determination to keep relations with the United States stable and to resist hawkish calls for a more combative stance on both sides.

The People's Daily, 22 July 2005

China's stance on "no first use" of nuclear weapons remains unchanged, FM

China will not first use nuclear weapons at any time and under any condition, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in Beijing on July 21. China has consistently observed the commitment since its first nuclear test in 1964 and such a stance "will not be changed in the future," Li told scholars from China, the United States and Japan. On the recent remarks by a researcher from the Chinese military on China's nuclear weapon policy, Li said what the researcher said was only his personal view and not represented the stance of the Chinese government. Li also reaffirmed the Chinese government's stance on the Taiwan issue, stressing China adheres to the principle of "peaceful reunification, and one country, two systems" to resolve the Taiwan problem.

The Hindu, 22 July 2005

China to work for progress in talks

BEIJING: China will work closely with the other parties and try to make the upcoming new round of six-party talks proceed smoothly and achieve substantive progress, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here on Thursday. Spokesman Kong Quan told Xinhua that as a member of the six-party talks and the host nation, China will take a "serious and responsible attitude" and work closely with the other parties in the talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula. "We hope the new round of talks would proceed smoothly and achieve progress, and this is also the common aspiration of all parties concerned and the international community," Mr. Kong said.

The People's Daily, 23 July 2005

Head of ROK delegation arrives in Beijing for six-party talks

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Song Min-soon, head of the ROK delegation, arrived in Beijing Saturday morning to attend the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue scheduled to open next Tuesday. "During the upcoming talks, we will make every effort to lay a foundation for solving the nuclear issue," Song Min-soon said at the Capital Airport in Beijing. Song came here in the accompany of some ROK delegation members. Other members of the delegation are expected to arrive in Beijing Sunday. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Beijing Friday afternoon. It is reported that the ROK promised to play an active role in the new round of talks and closely cooperate with other participants to seek substantial progress.

The China Daily, 24 July 2005

China protests new US textile restrictions

Beijing protested new US restrictions on textile imports from China a day after it revalued its yuan currency in a move likely to make Chinese exports more expensive. "The Chinese government is firmly opposed and strongly dissatisfied" with the US government decision to limit imports of Chinese woollen trousers, Ministry of Commerce spokesman Chong Quan said in a statement on its website. Chong said that a decision Friday by the US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements to impose the new restrictions broke free trade rules and threatened to raise the matter with the World Trade Organization. The US was granted special safeguard measures in China's 2001 WTO accession protocol to protect the US market from a fresh rise of Chinese textile imports. "The US decision lacks sufficient facts and goes against the principle and orientation of the WTO agreement on textile and garments, as well as the spirit of free trade that the WTO advocates," Chong said.

The China Daily, 24 July 2005

Soong pledges to promote cross-Strait peace

James CY Soong, newly re-elected chairman of the Taiwan based People First Party (PFP), promises on Sunday that he would go on leading the PFP to promote both the peaceful and steady development across the Taiwan Strait and actively advance the exchange and cooperation between the PFP and the Communist Party of China (CPC). "I myself will lead the PFP to continue to devote every effort to promote the peaceful and steady development across the Strait and actively push forward the exchange and cooperation between the two parties so as to better the life of the people across the Strait and create a bright future for the Chinese nation," said Soong.

The People's Daily, 25 July 2005

Taiwanese trips to mainland made easier

Beijing simplified the exit and entry rules for Taiwan residents over the weekend and urged the Taiwan authorities to adopt more tangible measures to facilitate its fruit exports to the mainland. As of today, Taiwan residents can be granted multiple entry and exit permits, valid for one to five years, thereby foregoing the need to obtain separate residence permits, China Central Television cited the Public Security Ministry as saying. Li Shuilin, chairman with the Cross-Straits Association for Economic and Trade Exchanges, said at the weekend: "We hope that for the sake of the fruit farmers in Taiwan, the Taiwan agencies in charge will not put artificial obstacles into place [in its fruit trade with the mainland]."

The People's Daily, 25 July 2005

Diplomats gather in Beijing for Korean nuclear talks

Diplomats are gathering in the Chinese capital Beijing Sunday for an imminent nuclear talks, which was expected to realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. The United States is "very much committed" to the fourth round of six-party talks, which was due to open in Beijing on Tuesday, said Christopher Hill, head of the US delegation here Sunday afternoon. "We would like to make measurable progress.... I wouldn't expect this to be the last set of negotiation," Hill said upon his arrival at the Beijing International Club for residence. The new round of the talks, which involves China, DPRK, the United States, Russia, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, will begin Tuesday morning at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in downtown Beijing, the venue for the previous three rounds of the six-party talks.

The People's Daily, 26 July 2005

China, DPRK, US wish substantive results for 4th round of six-party talks

Delegations of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States to the fourth round of six-party talks all wished the talks would achieve "substantive results", said Alexander Alexeyev, head of the Russian delegation and deputy Russian foreign minister. Informed sources here disclosed that Alexander Alexeyev gave this remark after his delegation held bilateral meetings with the DPRK, Chinese and US delegations on July 25.

The China Daily, 26 July 2005

US, China may not reach textile deal

WASHINGTON - It is unclear whether China and the United States will reach a comprehensive textile trade deal like the one China struck with the European Union, said Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. Whether (the consultation) leads to a so-called comprehensive agreement or not is something we'll see. We are in the talks right now and I don't want to commit to any outcome," Gutierrez said in an interview with Reuters on Friday. The United States restricted imports of some pants, underwear and other clothing from China in May in response to a surge in shipments following the end of a global quota system on Jan. 1. Washington acted under a special provision of Beijing's 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization, which allows member countries to impose

emergency curbs on China's textile and clothing shipments if imports shoot up. That measure expires at the end of 2008. The recent EU-China agreement governs bilateral textile trade through the end of 2007. The EU also promised "restraint" in imposing import curbs in 2008. Gutierrez refused to say if a similarly structured deal would be acceptable to the United States.

The China Daily, 26 July 2005

Six-Party Talks restart amid high expectations (Qin Jize and Hu Xiao)

Representatives from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan will meet in Beijing today to discuss the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. The six nations are gathering for the first time in 13 months after Pyongyang earlier this month called off a boycott of the talks. China, Japan, the United States and the ROK will be represented at the negotiating table by new faces at today's fourth round of discussion. It is hoped the talks today with new personnel encourage all sides to strive to reach a deal under which progress can be made.

The People's Daily, 27 July 2005

China, US to hold first strategic dialogue

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick will hold first China-US strategic dialogue in Beijing on August 1, source with the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The dialogue is a result of the consensus reached between heads of state of the two countries during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Chile last year, said the source, adding that the two sides will exchange views on the China-US relations and other important international and regional issues of common concern in the dialogue.

The People's Daily, 27 July 2005

Japan speaks highly of China's efforts for hosting six-party talks

Japan on July 26 spoke highly of China's efforts for hosting the six-party talks on Korean Peninsular nuclear issue. A Japanese official, who declined to disclose his name, said at a news briefing that China plays double roles of being a host and participant country at every round of the talks, which is "not easy". Japan highly appreciates China's tremendous role in realizing this round of talks, the official said, expressing the hope that all the concerned parties, including Japan, would work closely with China to promote the talks to make concrete results

The People's Daily, 28 July 2005

Second-day six-party talks see little progress

The six nations concluded their second-day talks aimed to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula Wednesday with no evident progress in narrowing their differences. China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan, held a plenary session in the morning, followed by bilateral meetings. No result was achieved in the six-party talks on Wednesday, the second day of the event, said Russian delegation head Alexander Alexeyev. "There are still substantial and even conceptual differences between the DPRK and the United States," Alexeyev, also deputy foreign minister of Russia, was quoted by the Interfax as saying. "One of the issues talked about was the issue of highly enrichment of Uranium," said the US official. "We did not achieve an agreement with them. But we did agree to keep talking about that." The US official said there are still fundamental differences among the parties.

The China Daily, 28 July 2005

Drinking water worry tops environmental concerns

Clean drinking water is the public's No 1 environmental concern according to a State survey released yesterday. The investigation was carried out by the All-China Environmental Federation (ACEF) and supervised by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), in April and May. More than 4 million people from 31 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities or special administrative regions took part in the survey, airing their opinions on China's environmental issues through the Internet, mobile phones and mailed-in questionnaires. "It is an unprecedentedly wide survey of environmental issues among the Chinese," said Wang Dongqing, vice-secretary of ACEF. "The results will be sent to related departments as an important reference for drafting of the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-10) on the country's environment." More than 96 per cent of the people surveyed said China is challenged by a water shortage crisis and that building a water-saving society is the most effective way to solve the problem. The public also called for the Yellow River to be the focus of water pollution prevention efforts.

The People's Daily, 28 July 2005

Tang Jiaxuan meets US secretary of state

Tang Jiaxuan, China's State Councilor, said Wednesday that the international situation in the new century and the

development of Sino-US relations have proved that the common interests between the China and the United States have increased continuously and the two countries enjoy a new opportunity of development. Tang, who arrived in Washington on Tuesday for a visit, made the remarks in a meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, according to a Chinese diplomatic source. He said that cooperation is the mainstream though the two countries face some challenges that need to be handled properly. Speaking highly of the progress made over the past years in the bilateral ties, Tang said that the constructive relationship of cooperation between China and the United States will continue to grow as long as the two sides actively implement the consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries, through increasing dialogue, building mutual trust, promoting cooperation and handling differences properly.

The Hindu, 28 July 2005

India invited to first East Asia summit (P.S. Suryanarayana)

SINGAPORE: India is among the three countries invited to attend the first-ever East Asia Summit - which the Association of South East Asian Nations and three of its dialogue-partners, China, Japan and South Korea - will convene in Kuala Lumpur on December 14. This was announced in Vientiane, Laos, on Wednesday following the annual meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN+3 countries. Besides India, Australia and New Zealand would join the ASEAN+3 at the Summit, slated to begin the process for the formation of a regional community for cooperation on economic and strategic issues.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

Chinese silence fails to unnerve India (C Raja Mohan)

NEW DELHI, July 28: On the brink of regaining access to the international nuclear energy market, India hopes support from Russia, France and Britain will help the Bush administration change international non-proliferation rules. While the three European nuclear powers have broadly welcomed the Indo-US nuclear pact, the official Chinese silence has not gone unnoticed here. The government, however, is not overly concerned about potential opposition from Beijing to altering the global rules of nuclear commerce. Analysts here underline the possibility that China might either oppose the Indo-US nuclear deal or demand that similar privileges be extended to Pakistan as well. While India will wait to assess the attitudes of different nations on the issue, it is betting that there will be enough political support in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for the Bush proposals. China will have an opportunity to react at the NSG, where it has recently become a member, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) where it sits on the board of governors. But there is confidence here that if the three nuclear powers-Russia, France and Britain-translate their verbal welcome of the pact into strong political support at the NSG, the inevitable opposition from some quarters to India being treated as a "nuclear exception" could be managed.

The Indian Express, 29 July 2005

Thimphu-Beijing border talks has Delhi worried (Pranab Dhal Samanta)

NEW DELHI, JULY 28 Taken aback by Thimphu's announcement that it had agreed to "change the claim line" in boundary talks with Beijing, New Delhi is now waiting to hear it from the Bhutan King, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, who arrives here next Monday. Given that India too is involved in negotiations with China on settling the boundary dispute, it came as a complete surprise when Bhutan's Secretary for International Boundaries Dasho Pema Wangchuk, who sat with his Chinese counterparts on July 13-14, said that both sides had "agreed to change the claim line". With little input on what had happened and apprehensive that Thimphu was willing to cede some territory, India rushed its Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Madan Gopal to Bhutan last week to explain the importance of the territory north of Bhutan which forms part of the disputed boundary. The military delegation also met the Bhutan King and explained to him the importance of the area bordering the Chumbi valley which falls in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The People's Daily, 29 July 2005

Bilateral talks to prevail fourth day of six-party talks

Delegates of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States have arrived at the venue for their fourth one-on-one meeting here Friday, the fourth day of the Koran Peninsula nuclear talks. One-on-one meetings between delegations would prevail on the fourth day of the six-party talks in search of ways to resolve the nuclear issue, diplomatic sources said here Friday. After their three-hour third meeting Thursday morning, which was longer than the previous two meetings, the two delegations agreed "to continue consultations," said Qin Gang, spokesman for the Chinese delegation, Thursday afternoon. Qin also disclosed that the heads of the Japanese and DPRK delegations might meet at an appropriate time.

The China Daily, 30 July 2005

China to forge security co-op in Asia-Pacific region

VIENTIANE, Laos: Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing has urged Asia-Pacific countries to hold steadfast to the goal of common security. The Chinese foreign minister said nations should enhance mutual trust by respecting each other, safeguard security through dialogue and consultation, and achieve lasting peace by co-operating in good faith. In a speech read out on Friday by his representative Liu Yongxing, Chinese Ambassador to Laos, at the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting in the Laotian capital, Li said the past year had seen overall stability of the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region. Li said China hopes to see co-operation within the forum further substantiated. More co-operation should be conducted in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational crimes, with increased involvement of national defence officials. Li emphasized that against the backdrop of economic globalization, China must work to forge friendship and deepen mutually beneficial co-operation with its neighbours and the rest of the world to create a favourable external environment for its own development.

The Hindu, 31 July 2005

India, China armies to step up border contacts

CHOSUL SECTOR (LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL): In what is seen as fostering of new equations between India and China, their armies have decided to increase border contacts to enhance mutual trust in the rugged and poorly connected eastern Ladakh region. A special border personnel meeting was held here on July 15 between the Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army of China to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries, which led to the signing of the Panchsheel agreement. The Indian delegation was represented by Brigadier Manvendra Singh and the Chinese team was led by Senior Colonel Zhang Jiang Shen. This was the first border personnel exchange in this strategic sector after the recent visit of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jia Bao and Chief of People Liberation Army General Liang Guang Liew, which paved way for greater interaction.