

China Daily, 1 July 2006

China proposes unofficial 6-party talks in July

China is sounding out other parties of the six-country talks on North Korea's nuclear programs about holding an unofficial meeting in July in Shenyang, negotiation sources said Friday. China, which chairs the six-party talks, has apparently judged that an early resumption of the multilateral talks, stalled since last November, is necessary amid signs Pyongyang is preparing to launch a Taepodong-2 long-range ballistic missile, the sources said. But whether the proposed meeting of chief delegates to the talks materializes remains uncertain as the positions of North Korea and the United States remain apart, they said. In an attempt to help break the impasse, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, who chairs the talks, discussed the proposal Wednesday, inviting diplomats in Beijing from the other parties to his ministry, the sources said..

People's Daily, 1 July 2006

China opens Qinghai-Tibet Railway with first trains travelling across "roof of the world"

China on Saturday opened the world's most elevated railway with the first pair of passenger trains travelling across the "roof of the world". Two trains set off at Golmud and Lhasa, the two start-up points of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway that is dubbed an "engineering marvel" and has linked Tibet with the rest of China for the first time. A passenger train coded "Qing 1" pulled out from the Golmud station at 11:05 a.m. and passed the tunnel of the Kunlun Mountains, a legendary range that was widely seen as unsurmountable, at around 12:43 p.m., breaking American train traveler Paul Theroux's prophecy that the Kunlun Range was "a guarantee that the railway will never get to Lhasa"...

People's Daily, 2 July 2006

China-ROK scholars discuss further developing bilateral cooperation

China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) should further strengthen cooperation in various fields, so as to promote the development of bilateral relations, scholars and officials from the two countries said. In the 11th meeting of the Sino-Rok Forum for Future held in Wuxi of East China's Jiangsu Province, more than 40 scholars, diplomats and governmental officials from China and ROK call for the two countries to strengthen cooperation in such areas as politics, economy and culture, noting the smooth development of bilateral relations will also help the development in Northeastern Asia...

People's Daily, 3 July 2006

Support for Africa 'not a temporary measure'

China "values the opinions, supports the stances and maintains the reasonable demands of African nations be respected." A Foreign Ministry official in charge of African affairs said: "China's firm support for Africa is not a temporary measure." In an interview with the Xinhua News Agency, the official said China's presence as an observer at the seventh African Union (AU) summit, held in the Gambian capital of Banjul, was part of a series of strategic actions this year, following visits to Africa by President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao in April and June. A summit meeting of the China-Africa Co-operation Forum is slated to be held in Beijing in November. "These frequent high-level exchanges signify a new level of strategic cooperation, which is increasingly demonstrated in international and regional issues," analysts said...

People's Daily, 4 July 2006

China, India launch regular parliamentary exchange mechanism

Chinese and Indian top lawmakers signed a document in Beijing Monday, officially launching regular exchanges between the two parliaments. Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), and Somnath Chatterjee, speaker of India's House of the People, signed a memorandum of understanding after an hour-long talk. The two parliaments have agreed to hold official consultations once a year to discuss issues concerning parliamentary exchanges, according to the memorandum. Sources with NPC Standing Committee said that China has similar arrangements with the United States, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and the European parliament...

People's Daily, 4 July 2006

China now 4th largest economy, says WB

China has overtaken Britain by the tiniest of margins to become the world's fourth-largest economy, according to the World Bank's latest calculations. The World Bank said that by its official measure China produced US\$2.263825 trillion in output in 2005, just US\$94 million, or 0.004 per cent, more than Britain. China

comfortably overtook Britain last year based on each country's gross domestic product converted into US dollars at current exchange rates. But the World Bank's widely watched ranking measures gross national income converted into dollars using the "Atlas" method of currency conversion, which smoothes out exchange rate fluctuations by using a three-year average...

People's Daily, 4 July 2006

China calls on Japan to take "concrete actions" to amend soured relations

China called on Japan to work with China and take "concrete action" to repair their relations. "I hope Japan will join hands with China and take concrete action to steer China-Japan relations back to a normal track of healthy and stable development", said Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan in his meeting with Ichiro Ozawa, leader of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), the country's largest opposition party. Tang said China attaches great importance to the China-Japan relations. He stressed that the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations will not only tally with the fundamental interests of the two nations and the two peoples, but also facilitate the maintenance of peace in Asia and the world, and promote common prosperity...

People's Daily, 5 July 2006

Vice-premier will visit Pyongyang amid tension

Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu will visit Pyongyang next Monday to celebrate a friendship treaty's anniversary, amid continuing tension on the Korean Peninsula. But despite the visit, on the 45th anniversary of the treaty of friendship between Pyongyang and Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu did not confirm yesterday whether Hui will discuss the stalled Six-Party Talks during his six-day stay in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Jiang said China was "making assiduous efforts" in pushing for a resumption of the talks, which aim to resolve the Korean Peninsula's nuclear standoff. She neither confirmed nor denied reports that China has proposed to hold informal talks in the week of July 17, to break the current stalemate...

People's Daily, 5 July 2006

China, India are partners rather than competitors: Chinese premier

China and India are partners rather than competitors, linked by cooperation rather than competition, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told an Indian parliamentary delegation on Tuesday. As neighbors and both major developing countries, China and India shared broad common interests, Wen told the delegation headed by Somnath Chatterjee, speaker of the House of the People. The friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and India served the interests of both and would preserve peace and prosperity in Asia and world, Wen said. He hailed the strategic cooperative partnership established between the two countries, saying China would work with India to seek common development. "China sincerely hopes for India's development and growing strong. Only if we two countries become strong, can we talk about the era of Asia and can we contribute more to human progress," he said...

People's Daily, 5 July 2006

Sust dry port to boost Pak-China commerce: Musharraf

Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday the Sust dry port near Pakistan- China border would bolster bilateral commerce to new levels, the state-run APP news agency reported. "This landmark project is poised to impart further depth and strength to Pakistan-China economic and political ties as well as help expand Pakistan's commerce linkages with the regional countries including Central Asia states," Musharraf was quoted as saying while inaugurating the facility. The port, jointly built by Pakistan and China in the northern Pakistani border city Sust, is situated about 3,300 meters above the sea level. The dry port has the capacity to handle 40 Chinese containers a day and this would be increased to 400 containers per day in the future, according to the APP report...

China Daily, 6 July 2006

China, India reopen border trade (Xing Zhigang)

China and India are today set to reopen a historic trading route through a Himalayan pass that has been closed for 44 years a sign of warming relations between the two most populous nations. The reopening of the Nathula pass demonstrates the two countries' determination to strengthen economic and political exchanges, Chinese officials and researchers said yesterday. The 4,545-metre-high pass, which runs between India's state of Sikkim and Yadong County of the Tibet Autonomous Region, was once part of an ancient trade route and used to account for 80 per cent of Sino-Indian border trade. The pass, which was closed after China and India fought a brief border war in 1962, is 460 kilometres from the Tibetan capital Lhasa and 550 kilometres from Calcutta, India's second largest

city...

People's Daily, 6 July 2006

Joint team begins chemical weapon disposal

A joint team from Japan and China yesterday started work excavating and destroying a batch of chemical weapons in Ning'an, Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, which were left by Japanese forces during their invasion of China in World War II. Experts are using metal detectors to locate more than 100 bombs near the No 1 Middle School in Ning'an. In 2004 cannon shells were discovered in the area, some of which contained toxic chemicals. The local government appealed to the Japanese Government to dispose of them quickly and find any other objects that could cause damage to nearby residential areas...

People's Daily, 7 July 2006

China says new UN secretary-general should be an Asian

China on Thursday said it wants the next UN Secretary-General to be Asian. "China firmly believes that next UN Secretary-General should come from Asia and Asian countries will keep solidarity and coordinate the selection of a competent, prestigious Secretary-General, who is widely accepted by Asian countries," China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a news briefing. French Ambassador to the United Nations, Jean-Marc de La Sabliere, said Wednesday that the first "straw polls" for a new UN Secretary-General are due to be held in the UN Security Council by the middle of July. Jiang said the straw polls are unofficial consultations and are aimed at testing Security Council members' general reactions to different candidates.

People's Daily, 7 July 2006

Income distribution reform targets equality

National advisors yesterday agreed to put reforming and standardizing China's income distribution system at the top of their priorities. Reforming the system is very important to China as the country's economic reforms are at critical juncture, participants at a symposium, which included non-Communist parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, agreed. President Hu Jintao, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), presided over the Beijing symposium where different bodies gave their opinions on the upcoming reform of the income distribution system...

People's Daily, 8 July 2006

China, Russia call for diplomatic resolution

China and Russia on Friday called for diplomatic resolution regarding Pyongyang's missile launch crisis amid Japan's push for sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). China believes that instead of seeking sanctions against Pyongyang, the UN Security Council can best make a unanimous and firm response to DPRK's missile launch "through a presidential statement with strong messages", said Wang Guangya, Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations...

People's Daily, 9 July 2006

Chinese, Russian FMs talk over phone on UN response to DPRK missile tests

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov discussed the United Nations' response to the missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) via telephone on Saturday, according to the Foreign Ministry. The two sides also conferred on promoting China-Russia strategic cooperation, the Foreign Ministry says. The UN Security Council met Wednesday for an emergency meeting to discuss the DPRK's missile tests, which launched seven missiles on Wednesday morning. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said earlier that China hopes the UN response to the DPRK's missile tests will be helpful in promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

People's Daily, 9 July 2006

China, Japan end sixth round of East China Sea talks

China and Japan agreed in principle to set up a communication mechanism to cope with accidents on the East China Sea, a press release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here Sunday. China and Japan ended the two-day sixth round of East China Sea talks Sunday, but great differences still remain, according to the press release. The talks ended Sunday noon at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. Director of Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of Asian Affairs Hu Zhengyue and head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau Kenichiro Sasae attended the talks as top negotiators.

People's Daily, 10 July 2006

ADB finances water management project in China

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide a 100 million U.S. dollar loan to China to help improve urban environment, public health, and quality of life of residents and businesses in central China's Wuhan city through better management of its water resources, said the ADB on Monday. Rapid economic growth and urbanization over the last 25 years have resulted in inadequate urban infrastructure and placed pressure on overloaded facilities in Wuhan, said the ADB in a news release. The project comprises nine activities covering municipal wastewater management, stormwater management, and development of utilities. It will construct new and upgrade existing wastewater treatment facilities, extend and rehabilitate collection networks, and add larger-capacity stormwater pumping stations...

People's Daily, 10 July 2006

Chinese vice premier arrives in Pyongyang

Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu, who heads a Chinese good-will delegation, arrived in Pyongyang on Monday for a six-day visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Hui, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, will attend activities marking the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between China and the DPRK. Hui's visit came at the invitation of the DPRK government.

China Daily, 11 July 2006

China tests next-generation rocket engine

China has successfully test a rocket engine for the proposed new-generation carrier rocket to power future moon landings and manned space flights, Xinhua News Agency reported. Tests of the liquid hydrogen- and kerosene-fueled engine were a "complete success", a spokesperson from the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation was quoted as saying. With maximum propulsion of 120 tons, the new engine is three times more powerful than those currently used by China's Long March rockets. The engine will propel a new-generation rocket able to sling heavy satellites and moon exploration equipment into orbit, experts told Xinhua...

People's Daily, 11 July 2006

China circulates draft presidential statement on DPRK

China introduced a draft UN Security Council presidential statement Monday on Pyongyang's missile launch, calling for an early resumption of the six-party talks. The missile launches by the DPRK "caused negative implications to the regional peace and stability," said the draft. A presidential statement issued by the Security Council is non-binding and does not carry as much weight as an ordinary resolution. The draft statement urged the DPRK as well as other countries in the region "to show restraint and refrain from any action that might aggravate tension, and continue to work on the resolution of non-proliferation concern through political and diplomatic efforts."...

People's Daily, 11 July 2006

Chinese, Japanese experts end excavation of abandoned chemical weapons

Experts from China and Japan concluded on Monday a six-day joint excavation of abandoned wartime chemical weapons in Ning'an city, Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. A total of 689 shells and bombs were unearthed, of which 210 were confirmed to be Japanese chemical weapons abandoned after World War II. The identified weapons have been confirmed to be filled with mustard gas, lewisite, phosgene and other toxins. The weapons had been sealed and placed in temporary storage, awaiting final destruction, according to the office in charge of abandoned weapons at China's Foreign Ministry...

People's Daily, 12 July 2006

President Hu opposes moves that raise tension

President Hu Jintao said yesterday that China opposes any action that may aggravate tension on the Korean Peninsula after Pyongyang's missile tests and urged for a dialogue to solve the crisis. He made the remarks when meeting Yang Hyong-sop, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), who is in Beijing for a five-day visit marking the 45th anniversary of a friendship treaty. Hu said China, as a close neighbour of the DPRK, is seriously concerned over its test-firing of a barrage of missiles last week, which he described as "new complicated factors" on the peninsula...

People's Daily, 12 July 2006

China's economy may expand up to 10.4%

Two government think-tanks yesterday predicted China's economy would expand by 10.2 to 10.4 per cent in 2006, advising further interest rate hikes to prevent overheating. Gross domestic product (GDP) may grow at 10.5 per cent in the first half of the year and 10.4 per cent for the whole year, according to a report from the State Information Centre. The consumer price index (CPI), the major inflation barometer in China, may grow by 1.3 per cent in the first half of the year and 1.5 per cent or more in 2006. But CPI growth should be controlled under 2 per cent this year, despite signs of faster growth in the second half of the year, according to Wang Yuanhong, co-author of the report and a senior researcher with the centre, an influential government think-tank in Beijing. The economy as a whole will continue to be robust investment and the trade surplus are both expanding rapidly and consumption is strong too, Wang said...

People's Daily, 13 July 2006

Japan 'is pouring oil on fire with strike threat'

China yesterday criticized Japan for its remarks that it is considering a pre-emptive strike against missile bases in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), saying such a threat is "extremely irresponsible and incomprehensible." "As the international community is going all out to seek a peaceful and diplomatic solution (to the DPRK missile crisis), some Japanese politicians are talking about a pre-emptive strike. This is like pouring oil on fire," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a statement yesterday...

People's Daily, 13 July 2006

China, Russia introduce draft resolution on DPRK missile launches

China and Russia introduced a draft UN Security Council resolution Wednesday, calling for the early resumption of the six-party talks on Korean Peninsular nuclear issue. Compared to the Japanese draft, the joint Chinese-Russian one does not make the proposed sanctions mandatory and does not invoke Chapter Seven of the UN charter, which can authorize sanctions or even military action. The draft strongly deplores the multiple launches of missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and calls for a suspension of such kind of tests. It also calls on all member states to exercise vigilance in preventing supply of items, materials, goods and technologies from the DPRK...

People's Daily, 14 July 2006

DPRK top legislator meets Chinese vice premier on bilateral ties

Kim Yong-nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), met with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu on Thursday to discuss bilateral relations. Kim spoke highly of the traditional friendship between the two nations, saying his country was willing to work with China to further deepen bilateral relations and maintain regional peace and stability. Hui said China was happy to see the sound development of bilateral ties in the new century and was willing to push it to a higher level...

People's Daily, 14 July 2006

China, Japan agree to expand aviation market access to each other

China and Japan agreed on Thursday to expand mutual access to their aviation markets, allowing a 20-percent increase in passenger flights and a doubling of cargo flights volume. China's General Administration of Civil Aviation announced the news after its director, Yang Yuanyuan, signed a negotiation summary with Japan's Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Kitagawa Kazuo. The increase means China and Japan will be able to expand the two-way air traffic by an equivalent of 92 B767-300 passenger flights and 76 B767F cargo flights every week. In addition, the summary allows both countries to add two locations for departure and two for arrival...

People's Daily, 17 July 2006

Experts say China-G8 ties promote int'l stability

China's co-operation with the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations will help promote international stability and economic development, experts said. As the world's largest developing country, China has established close relations with G8 members, many of which are major trade partners. Shen Jiru, a researcher with the Institute of World Economics and Politics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said China's increasing contact with the group over the past few years has helped enhance mutual understanding and eased contradictions and disputes...

People's Daily, 17 July 2006

Bush reiterates one-China policy

U.S. President George W. Bush reiterated on Sunday in St. Petersburg that the United States adheres to the one-China policy, warning on any unilateral action that might lead to "Taiwan independence." Bush made the remarks when he met with Chinese President Hu Jintao on Sunday on the sidelines of the G8 St. Petersburg summit. According to Chinese officials, during the meeting Bush reiterated that the U.S. side adheres to the one-China policy, and it is opposed to any unilateral action that might lead to "Taiwan independence." Hu, on his part, stressed that the Chinese side appreciates the U.S. adherence to the one-China policy and opposition to any unilateral action that might lead to "Taiwan independence."...

People's Daily, 17 July 2006

Chinese president calls for early resumption of six-party talks

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Sunday in St. Petersburg called for early resumption of the six-party talks to resolve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. Hu, who arrived at St. Petersburg on Sunday to attend the outreach session of the G8 summit, made the call when he met U.S. President George W. Bush. During the talks, Hu said the key to resolving the issue is to resume the six-party talks as soon as possible. Hu said that China would continue to commit itself to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, continue to push forward the process of the six-party talks, and exert efforts to realize the goal of making the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons through dialogues and negotiations...

People's Daily, 18 July 2006

China, Russia, India hold trilateral summit

ST. PETERSBERG: Leaders of China, Russia and India held their maiden trilateral summit yesterday in the former Russian capital to strengthen their strategic ties. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh were among leaders of six developing countries that attended the outreach session of the three-day Group of Eight (G8) summit at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the meeting, Hu said the three nations should work together for further communication and co-ordination in major international and regional issues and promote the solution of disputes and differences through dialogue...

People's Daily, 18 July 2006

China says economy surges 10.9% in first half year, despite austerity measures

China's economy surged a year-on-year 10.9 percent in the first half of 2006, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed Tuesday, roaring ahead despite a slew of measures imposed by the government to ease investment growth. Total gross domestic product between January and June reached 9.14trillion yuan (1.14 trillion U.S. dollars), NBS spokesman Zheng Jingping told a press conference in Beijing Tuesday morning. China's macro-economy presents "obvious overheating of investment" in the first half of this year, Wang Xiaoguang, a macroeconomics professor at the economic research institute of the National Development and Reform Commission, told Xinhua..

China Daily, 18 July 2006

US said to sell Taiwan 66 fighter jets

The United States has agreed to sell Taiwan 66 advanced fighter jets for some 100 billion Taiwan dollars, it was reported. A Taiwan delegation proposed the procurement of the fleet of F-16C/D fighters during an annual military meeting with Washington early this month, the China Times said. "The United States has given its nod over the sales of 66 F-16C/D Block 52s for at least 100 billion Taiwan dollars (US\$3.1 billion)," the paper said, without naming a source. If the report is confirmed, it would be the biggest arms deal Washington has offered Taiwan since 2001 when US President George W. Bush agreed to provide the island with eight diesel-powered submarines, 12 P-3C submarine-hunting aircraft and an improved version of Patriot missiles, the paper said...

People's Daily, 21 July 2006

'Defence modernization aims to shield peaceful rise'

China's defence modernization is aimed at safeguarding its peaceful development and the country will never seek hegemony, China's top military officer said on Wednesday. General Guo Boxiong, vice-chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks during a speech delivered at the US National Defence University. Guo said China's efforts in advancing defence modernization are a necessity, as peaceful development cannot be shielded without security safeguards. He said China's defence modernization not only meets the needs of

protecting its peaceful development and interests, but also helps maintain peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole...

People's Daily, 21 July 2006

China, Japan hold 10th security talks

China and Japan started their 10th security talks Friday afternoon at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, expecting to improve bilateral relations via the talks. China's Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei and Japan's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Nishida Tsuneo attended the talks as chief negotiators. Chinese and Japanese diplomats and military officers were involved in the close-door talks in the Chinese capital. "We hope to enhance mutual-understanding, consolidate and develop the friendly cooperation between China and Japan via the talks," Wu said in his opening remarks, noting such talks will help each or both of the two countries make contributions to the world peace and development...

People's Daily, 22 July 2006

Rice says China-U.S. relations good, complex

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Xinhua on Friday that China-U.S. relations are "really quite good" but complex and high-level visits between the two countries will help promote better bilateral relations. "We are having a lot of high-level visits. They will help promote better, stronger relations," Rice told Xinhua in a roundtable interview that included journalists from China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam at the State Department. The United States and China do not agree on everything and that is not surprising as it shows how complex and big the bilateral relationship is, Rice said...

People's Daily, 22 July 2006

China lodges representations on U.S. agreement to sell fighter planes to Taiwan

China has lodged serious representations on the U.S. agreement to sell fighter planes to Taiwan, according to a foreign ministry spokesman. It has been reported that the United States has agreed to sell 66 F-16 fighter planes to Taiwan." The Chinese side has taken note of the report and lodged serious representations to the United States," foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said. "We urge the United States to abide by the three joint communiques between China and the United States, particularly the Aug. 17 Communique," Liu said...

People's Daily, 23 July 2006

Religions 'can play big role in harmonious society'

China's religions, as an important part of the social force, may play an active role in helping build a harmonious society if they are properly guided, a top official who is in charge of the country's religious affairs said on Friday in Beijing. Ye Xiaowen, director of the State Administration of Religious Affairs, made the remarks in an exclusive interview with the Xinhua News Agency, the first since Ye took office a decade ago in a country with more than 100 million people of faith. "Religions are one of the social forces that are worth much attention in the country's social and economic construction," he said. "They can play an active yet unique role in many aspects." Ye said the Chinese Government would enhance their supervision to help the religions restrain their negative elements and promote their positive ones in accordance with the law and the established practice of running religious affairs in an independent and self-supportive way...

People's Daily, 23 July 2006

President Hu calls for restraint on Korean issue

President Hu Jintao on Friday called on all parties to be patient and restrained and to push forward the Six-Party Talks aimed at making the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free. He made the appeal when talking with his Republic of Korea (ROK) counterpart Roh Moo-hyun by phone. Hu urged the parties to follow the principle of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. Hu said he hoped all parties would handle the peninsula issues in a discreet and responsible way and avoid any actions that may further complicate the situation. Hu urged all parties to do more to promote dialogue, enhance mutual trust and ease the tense situation in order to strive for an early resumption of the six-nation talks...

People's Daily, 24 July 2006

Landslide blocks Nepal's highway linking China

A landslide blocked the central Arniko Highway, the only highway that links Nepali capital Kathmandu with China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on Sunday, local government office said. "A landslide triggered by heavy

rainfall from Saturday evening blocked the highway at Halhale area of Sindhupalchok district, some 100 km northeast of Kathmandu," Mohan Wagle, a local administrative official, said in a press statement. No one was hurt by the landslide, the statement noted, adding, "However, several buses and trucks were stranded on the mountainous route."

China Daily, 24 July 2006

First 'seed satellite' set to blast off in September

The country's first satellite specially designed for seed breeding in space will be launched into orbit in early September, it was announced over the weekend. The satellite will be in orbit for two weeks before returning to Earth, space officials said at a conference in Beijing on Saturday. Shijian-8 is expected to carry at least 2,000 varieties of plant seeds in nine categories, including grains, cash crops and forage plants, as well as seeds of fungi and molecular biomaterials that have been sequenced. Sun Laiyan, chief of the China National Space Administration, said the "seed satellite" will enable scientists to try and cultivate high-yield and high-quality plant varieties...

People's Daily, 25 July 2006

Pledge made on stable, peaceful cross-Straits ties

The Chinese mainland is determined to maintain the peaceful and stable development of the cross-Straits ties with Taiwan, despite the complexity of the political situation in the island, which is part of China, a Chinese official said in Los Angeles Sunday. Li Bingcai, executive deputy director of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), told a gathering of overseas Chinese here that the Chinese Government is always determined to promote economic exchanges and co-operation across the Taiwan Straits and to seek common prosperity of the two sides...

People's Daily, 26 July 2006

Chinese, Japanese FMs to meet at forum

Foreign ministers of China and Japan will meet on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Regional Forum in Malaysia, Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday. Li Zhaoxing of China will hold bilateral consultations with Japanese counterpart Taro Aso tomorrow in Kuala Lumpur, where both will attend the two-day foreign ministers' meeting among the ASEAN members and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) starting today, according to the Foreign Ministry spokesman's office...

China Daily, 26 July 2006

What is Dalai Lama's 'Middle Way'

The Dalai Lama has, in recent years, been telling the world he has stopped seeking "Tibetan independence" and turned towards a "middle way"...What the Dalai Lama says sounds reasonable at first glance; and he has given up the "independence of Tibet" and turns to work for the interest of the Tibetans. However, if one takes a closer look at the background of what the Dalai Lama has put forth regarding this "middle way", its major contents and the Dalai Lama's explanation, and then compares this with the PRC Constitution, one will instantly find nothing new, only old wine in a new bottle...

People's Daily, 26 July 2006

China favours Asian candidate

China firmly supports electing an Asian as the next United Nations (UN) secretary-general, believing the countries will maintain their solidarity to select a competent, prestigious and widely accepted leader of the world body. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao made the remarks yesterday after the UN Security Council held its first straw poll on candidates in New York...

People's Daily, 27 July 2006

China, France to strengthen military relations

Guo Boxiong, the visiting vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China, on Wednesday in Paris held talks with French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie. The two sides vowed to push forward the development of the military ties between the two countries. Guo said as an important part of bilateral relations, military ties between China and France had developed rapidly in recent years, citing the frequent exchanges of high-level military visits, the mechanism of strategic dialogues, and the progress in personnel training. He added China was willing to work jointly with France to strengthen mutual understanding and trust,

promote cooperation, and further develop bilateral military ties...

People's Daily, 27 July 2006

Chinese vice foreign minister arrives in Kathmandu

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, leading a 10-member high-level Chinese delegation, arrived here Thursday for a three-day visit to Nepal. The Chinese delegation is scheduled to hold separate meetings with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat on various issues of bilateral interest and mutual concern, according to the Foreign Ministry of Nepal...

People's Daily, 28 July 2006

Chinese, Japanese foreign ministers meet in Kuala Lumpur

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in Kuala Lumpur Thursday to promote the improvement and development of the China-Japan relations and push forward the bilateral exchange and cooperation in various fields is the common objective of China and Japan. Li made the remarks when meeting with Japanese foreign Minister Taro Aso as a sideline of his participation of ASEAN's Post Ministerial Conference. Li said under the current international and regional situation, the importance of the China-Japan relations has exceeded the spectrum of bilateral relations, and the two countries are facing many common challenges and problems in safeguarding regional peace, stability and development...

People's Daily, 29 July 2006

China hopes US-India nuclear cooperation abides by non-proliferation rules

The United States and India should work under the international non-proliferation mechanism in their nuclear cooperation, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Saturday. Liu made the remarks in response to a question on the U.S.-India nuclear deal that was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives this week. According to the deal, the United States will provide India with civil nuclear technology and nuclear fuel on condition that India separates its civil nuclear programs from military ones. China believes international nuclear cooperation can be carried out on a basis of peaceful use and concerned countries should fulfill their international obligations, Liu said...

People's Daily, 29 July 2006

Peaceful solution to Iran nuclear issue is best option: Chinese FM

Peaceful solution through negotiations is the best choice to solve the Iran nuclear issue, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Friday. Li made this remark when he met with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki in this capital city of Malaysia, where they were attending the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Li said that all sides concerned should continue to make unceasing efforts to this end and create conditions for an early resumption of the negotiations on the Iran nuclear issue. The Chinese side is willing to work together with all parties concerned to play a constructive role in a peaceful solution of the Iran nuclear issue, he said...

People's Daily, 29 July 2006

Chinese FM says healthy development of regional security forum should be achieved at measured pace

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said Friday in Kuala Lumpur that the healthy development of the ARF should be based on recognition and respect of diversity in the Asia-Pacific region, and achieved at a measured pace through hard work. In his address at the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Li said confidence building should be the underlying theme for the whole development process of the ARF, an official forum for conducting multilateral security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Li said multilateral mechanism for security dialogue and cooperation represented by the ARF have played an active role in increasing trust among countries, preparing the countries in the region to meet new security challenges and maintaining regional peace and stability...

People's Daily, 29 July 2006

Chinese FM meets with U.S. secretary of state

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, saying that China and the United States should strengthen dialogue and cooperation. China and the United States should grasp their common interests and strengthen dialogue and cooperation to promote steady and healthy growth of their relations, said Li, who was attending the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) here.

China and the United States have a wide range of important common interests and the development of China-US relations is of great significance for maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and even in the whole world, he said...

People's Daily, 30 July 2006

Pipeline carries Kazakh oil to China

PetroChina has announced that a first batch of crude oil has been successfully piped from Kazakhstan to its oil tank field in northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via the China-Kazakhstan Pipeline. The oil reached the refinery at 5 p.m. Saturday. The arrival of the first crude oil imports signals full commercial operation for China's first cross-country crude oil pipeline, said a circular released by PetroChina. The transnational section of the crude oil pipeline linking China to Kazakhstan is 962 km long. It joins a 246 km domestic section, making a total length of more than 1200 kilometers. The pipeline, which can carry 10 million tons of crude oil per year, starts at Atasu in west Kazakhstan. It enters China at Alashankou port on the Sino-Kazakhstan border before reaching its destination at PetroChina Dushanzi Petrochemical Company...

People's Daily, 31 July 2006

Bangladesh, China and Myanmar agree on road connectivity

China, Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to construct a highway from Chinese city Kunming to Bangladesh's south-east city Chittagong through Myanmar's city Mandalay. Bangladeshi Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan who had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from China, Myanmar, Malaysia and South Korea on the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting in Kuala Lumpur stated this at a press briefing in Dhaka Sunday. Khan said he had meetings with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Myanmar Foreign Minister U Nyan Win discussing the road connectivity...