

People's Daily, 2 May 2007

**China calls for political efforts in preventing nuclear proliferation**

China on Tuesday called for political efforts in honoring the principles of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), saying that the international community needs to address both the symptoms and root causes of the nuclear proliferation issue. Zhang Yan, director general of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Chinese Foreign Ministry made the call as Head of the Chinese Delegation at the General Debate in the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Zhang said that the risk of nuclear weapon proliferation poses severe threats to international peace and has become a prominent issue of international security. According to Zhang, in opposing proliferation of nuclear weapons, the international community firstly should follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other universally recognized norms of international laws, to create an international environment featuring peace, stability and common security...

People's Daily, 4 May 2007

**China to grant Iraq 50 mln yuan in aid this year: FM**

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi announced in Sharm El Sheikh on Thursday morning that the Chinese government will give a grant of 50 million yuan of RMB ( about 6.5 million U.S. dollars) to Iraq in 2007 and forgive all the debts owed by the Iraqi government. The sum will be used to provide assistance in Iraq's public health and education, Yang said at a ministerial meeting of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) opened in the day at this Egyptian Red Sea resort. "The Chinese government is ready to substantially reduce and forgive the debts owed by Iraq. In particular, it will forgive all the debts owed by the Iraqi government," he said. Yang, who was named as Chinese foreign minister on April 27, also said China is ready to resolve through continued friendly consultation with Iraq the issue regarding its request for debt reduction and forgiveness according to the arrangement of the Paris Club...

People's Daily, 5 May 2007

**Russian parliament ratifies accord on military drills with China**

The Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, has ratified an agreement on Russia-China joint military exercises, paving the way for a drill set in July, the Interfax news agency reported on Friday. The accord, inked in Beijing and Moscow in 2005, instituted border-crossing procedures for Chinese and Russian military units, and regulated issues related to logistics, compensation for any damages as well as protection and exchange of classified information. The accord formed the legal basis for developing bilateral ties in terms of "adequate responses by the parties to new challenges and threats to international security," Interfax quoted Federation Council Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Mikhail Margelov as saying. Chinese troops will enter Russian territory for the joint drill slated for July. Last year, the two militaries conducted such real-troops exercises in China.

People's Daily, 6 May 2007

**China closes down 3,176 polluting companies last year**

China closed down a total of 3,176 polluting enterprises amid a campaign in which

720,000 companies have been checked for their pollution discharges last year, according to the country's top environment watchdog. In the campaign, the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) and other departments investigated 28,000 cases violating related environmental laws and regulations and settled 13,000 of the total. Threats to the sources of drinking water, industrial parks densely distributed with polluting enterprises and construction projects likely to damage the environment were the major targets in the campaign, according to the administration...

People's Daily, 7 May 2007

### **Chinese lawmakers fret about food safety**

Food safety has become a major issue of concern for Chinese lawmakers, as 19 motions and 78 suggestions were proposed to improve food quality during the annual session of China's top legislature this March. An official with the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), or China's top legislature, said nearly a third of the 3,000 NPC deputies signed the motions and suggestions. China's food safety watchdog announced in November 2006 that it had nabbed seven companies that were producing salted red-yolk eggs contaminated with dangerous red Sudan dyes...

People's Daily, 8 May 2007

### **Wen calls for more efforts to save energy, cut pollution**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has urged more curbs on industries that consume more energy and release more pollutants in a bid to ensure a healthy and fast economic growth. Wen said that the economy could hardly be sustainable if China failed to adjust the economic structure, transform the (extensive) growth mode, and reduce energy consumption. "We are left with no choice but to develop in an economical, clean and safe way," the premier said in a speech addressed to the national working teleconference on energy saving and pollutants reduction late April. A copy of the full speech was made available to Xinhua Monday. Wen noted the nation will tighten land use and credit supply and set stricter market access and environmental standards for new projects amid efforts to rein in the rapid expansion of energy-gorging industries including power, steel, oil refinery, chemicals, construction materials, and metals...

China Daily, 9 May 2007

### **Japan 'should respect' neighbors' sentiments (Hu Xuan)**

China urged on Tuesday Japan to strictly abide by the consensus reached between the two countries on overcoming political barriers in bilateral relations. Responding to a question at a press briefing on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's offering to the Yasukuni Shrine, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said Japan should respect its neighbors' sentiments. Abe didn't visit the shrine, which honors 14 Class-A World War II criminals and other Japanese, in person but sent a masakaki plant for the annual spring festival in late April under the name of prime minister, Kyodo News Agency said. This is his first direct show of respect at Yasukuni since taking office last year. Abe has adopted a strategy of staying ambiguous on paying respects to the Japan's war dead since September, when he took over office from Junichiro Koizumi whose repeated visits to the shrine soured China-Japan ties and angered the Republic of Korea (ROK)...

People's Daily, 9 May 2007

**Chinese Premier to address African Development Bank meeting in Shanghai**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will address the the annual board meeting of the African Development Bank (ADB) in Shanghai next week, according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman. "Premier Wen will attend the ADB board meeting to be held in Shanghai from May 16 to 17 and deliver a speech," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular briefing. It will be the first time the annual board meeting of the ADB has been held in Asia, and the second time outside Africa. In 2001, the bank's annual board meeting was held in Spain...

People's Daily, 10 May 2007

**British FM to visit China**

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office Margaret Beckett will pay an official visit to China from May 16 to 21 as guest of Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. It was announced by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu at the regular briefing on Thursday. When asked about China-Britain relations, the spokeswoman said the bilateral ties maintain good momentum of development in recent years with establishment of a mechanism on top-level exchanges and all-round cooperation...

People's Daily, 10 May 2007

**War damages appeals by Chinese rejected by Japanese supreme court**

Two damages appeals filed by Chinese, one seeking compensation over germ warfare during World War II and the other over the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, were both dismissed by the Japanese Supreme Court on Wednesday. The final judgments upheld earlier decisions by the Tokyo District Court and the Tokyo High Court, which acknowledged the suffering of the total of 198 plaintiffs or their bereaved family members, however rejected their demand for war reparations from Japan. The plaintiffs and their bereaved family members had been seeking a total of 1.9 billion yen (about 16 million U.S. dollars) in compensation from the Japanese government...

People's Daily, 10 May 2007

**Chinese, U.S. presidents talk on phone bilateral relations, international issues**

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his U.S. counterpart George W. Bush Thursday exchanged views in a telephone conversation on bilateral relations and the upcoming second round of strategic economic dialogue between the two countries. On bilateral relations, both Hu and Bush considered that China-U.S. relations have been kept in a momentum of favorable development and that the two sides should beef up dialogue and cooperation, to promote healthy and stable progress of the constructive and cooperative relations between the two countries. President Hu appreciated the U.S. government's active attitude toward the development of China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation. He stressed that the successful holding of the first round of China-U.S. strategic economic dialogue, which was launched in Beijing last September, shows that under the backdrop of rapid development of economic globalization, China and the U.S. can enhance mutual understanding and trust through frank and sincere dialogue, properly settle problems arising from bilateral economic and trade cooperation, promote steady

development of bilateral economic and trade relations, and play active roles in global economic development and prosperity...

People's Daily, 11 May 2007

### **China approves five-year space development plan**

China's State Council, or the cabinet, in principle, approved the country's 11th five-year plan on space development at a conference on Thursday. Addressing the conference, Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan stressed that the 11th five-year period (2006-2010) is key to China's space development. China should give priority to a manned space flight, lunar exploration, new launch vehicle, high-resolution earth observation, he said. Zeng said that China should promote industrialization of space technologies and attach great importance to the development of telecommunication, navigation and remote sensing satellites. Space technologies should support and push China's economy and provide stable, continuous and high-quality services for telecommunication, weather forecasting and maritime investigation, among others, he said. Zeng stressed that China should also encourage non-governmental investment in the space sector.

People's Daily, 11 May 2007

### **Chinese frigate leaves for multilateral exercise in Singapore**

Chinese naval frigate "Xiangfan" left Sanya Port, in the southern Hainan Province, on Friday for Singapore to take part in a multilateral naval exercise from May 15 to 20. The Xiangfan will also feature in a maritime defense exhibition sponsored by the host country. Fifteen warships from China, the United States, France, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore are expected to join the exercise in waters near Singapore. The Xiangfan will take part in four drills -- defence against smaller vessels, crossing mined areas, rescue, and target shooting, according to sources of the Chinese Navy. The exercise, under the framework of the Western Pacific Naval Forum, of which China is a founding member, is aimed to increase cooperation among naval forces. During the exhibition, the Xiangfan will be open to visitors from other participating vessels, the naval sources said...

People's Daily, 11 May 2007

### **US hopes to enhance military exchanges with China, says commander**

The United States hopes to enhance military exchanges with China to promote mutual trust and understanding, said Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command Timothy Keating Friday. The military exchanges between the two countries have been strengthening in recent years, Keating said in a meeting with Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of China. The United States will carry out military exchanges and cooperation with China on various level and in various fields, Keating said. Guo said both China and the United States shoulder responsibilities of safeguarding world peace and stability and promoting common development. The two countries are both stake holders and constructive partners who share strategic interests, and China attaches great importance to China-U.S. relations, Guo said...

People's Daily, 13 May 2007

### **Interview: Rwandan President Kagame's China visit to focus on trade, investment**

Rwandan President Paul Kagame will on Sunday kick off his six-day China visit which will focus on trade and investment ties with the world's largest emerging economy. "We are looking at issues of trade and investment, which are key areas of bilateral relations," said Kagame during an exclusive interview with China's official Xinhua News Agency on the eve of his state visit. Last year, the two countries recorded a total trade volume of more than 34 million U.S. dollars, according to the Chinese embassy in Rwanda. "China has different know-how in different sectors, but can be used by our own country for its own development through these relationship and cooperation that has already been established," said Kagame, who will lead a 45-member business delegation to seek cooperation opportunities from China....

People's Daily, 13 May 2007

### **China eyes greater role in African affairs with appointment of special representative**

China announced on Thursday the appointment of a special representative for African affairs, a measure that analysts say shows China is trying to exert more influence in the region. "China-Africa relations have developed rapidly since the Beijing summit which gathered leaders and officials from over 40 African countries last November," said Liu Naiya, an expert with the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS). Chinese President Hu Jintao's eight-nation Africa tour in February also attracted international attention. "It is quite necessary to create this position of special representative as it shows that China plans to play a more active and constructive role in African issues," said Liu. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday welcomed China's decision to appoint the special representative, calling it "very helpful" and saying that she expected to see "a stronger Chinese role" in the region. Liu Guijin, a 61-year-old veteran diplomat, was appointed to the post. Former ambassador to Zimbabwe and South Africa, he has been engaged in African affairs for more than 25 years...

People's Daily, 14 May 2007

### **China's policies in Africa's best interest: newspaper**

The policies China is pursuing in Africa are in the continent's best interest, Monday's The Herald commented in a reader's letter. The newspaper said what Africa requires is proper development. China offered things such as the building of dams, selling of tractors, and fertilizers paid for by China's imports from Africa. While China is forging real economic development in Africa by investing in the building of infrastructure necessary for economic development, Western countries prefer to send four-wheel drive Landcruisers for aid agencies or non-government organizations for various activities, the newspaper stressed. Besides bringing in their Landcruisers, aid agencies are not known for engaging in real economic development. They source their handouts from Western countries but do not encourage the local population to be self-sufficient in food production by providing tractors, fertilizers and seeds, it said.

People's Daily, 15 May 2007

### **Hu holds talks with Rwandan president, pledging to strengthen all-round exchanges**

Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with visiting Rwandan President Paul Kagame on Monday, in which they vowed to pursue opportunities created by the China-Africa summit and boost bilateral ties. During their talks in the Great Hall of the People, the two

state leaders spoke highly of achievements in bilateral ties. Hu said the two countries enjoy even closer contacts since Kagame came to power, and cooperate in many areas. Kagame singled out bilateral cooperation in trade, agriculture and infrastructure construction for special mention, adding his country is ready to cement cooperation with China in areas such as investment and communication....

People's Daily, 15 May 2007

### **Negotiator named Taiwan's 'premier'**

Taiwan named its top mainland negotiator as its new "premier" yesterday after the shock resignation of Su Tseng-chang. "President" Chen Shui-bian announced the appointment of Chang Chun-hsiung, considered friendly to both Chen and next year's ruling party "presidential" nominee Frank Hsieh, as his sixth "premier" in seven years. Chang, who was a "premier" before under the Chen administration, is chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, a semi-official organisation dealing with relations with the mainland. Su lost to Hsieh in the party's primary last week, and political analysts said he had to step down so as not to use his office to steal the limelight from Hsieh. A "cabinet" spokeswoman said the handover would take place tomorrow at the earliest. Chen's "presidency" will end in 2008...

People's Daily, 15 May 2007

### **WHO assembly rejects proposal on Taiwan membership**

The 60th World Health Assembly (WHA) announced Monday that a proposal on making Taiwan a "member state" of the World Health Organization (WHO) will not be included in the conference's provisional agenda. The announcement was made by Jane Halton, president of the Assembly and secretary of the Department of Health and Aging of Australia, following a recommendation from the 25-member General Committee and then a roll call vote by member states at the plenary session. The result of the vote showed that an overwhelming majority of WHO member states are opposed to including the Taiwan-related proposal in the agenda. This is the 11th time in as many years that a Taiwan-related proposal was rejected in the assembly. In the following interventions, many states also stressed that they support the one-China policy, and Taiwan, as a province of China, is not eligible for WHO membership. The WHA is the supreme decision-making body of the WHO. It meets in Geneva in May each year, attended by delegations from all 193 member states...

People's Daily, 15 May 2007

### **Shanghai Party gathering to appoint delegates to 17th CPC congress**

Shanghai will appoint delegates to the 17th National Congress of Communist Party of China (CPC) at the upcoming ninth Shanghai Party congress in 10 days, Shanghai Party chief Xi Jinping said. He called on people from all walks of life to work for unity and stability and maintain Shanghai's economic growth momentum ahead of the ninth Party congress of Shanghai. The congress had been scheduled for May 24, the eighth CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee decided at its 12th session over the weekend. The congress was to appoint Shanghai's delegates to the 17th CPC National Congress, set to open in Beijing in the second half of this year, said Xi. He did not reveal how many delegates Shanghai was to appoint...

People's Daily, 17 May 2007

**Oilfield may have 'more reserves' than estimated**

Latest explorations indicate Jidong Nanpu Oilfield in Bohai Bay may have more reserves than previously estimated, PetroChina President Jiang Jiemin said yesterday. "The Jidong Nanpu Oilfield has huge and quality reserves of up to 5 million tons per square km. The 1-billion-ton reserve announced earlier is not the final figure. As our explorations deepen, we expect to discover more reserves," Jiang said. Corroborating Jiang, Zhai Guangming, a renowned geologist with the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Jidong Oilfield's first general manager, said that even half of Bohai Bay's resource has not been tapped. Earlier, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), PetroChina's parent company, had said the newly found oilfield had a reserve of 1 billion tons, or about 7.35 billion barrels of oil, the largest discovery in the country in the past four decades..

People's Daily, 17 May 2007

**Du Qinglin elected Party chief of Sichuan province**

Du Qinglin was elected secretary of the Sichuan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Wednesday. Du, 60, was elected to the post at the first plenary session of the 9th CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee held in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. A native of Panshi county, in northeast China's Jilin province, Du joined the CPC in 1966. He graduated from Northeast Normal University in 1984...

People's Daily, 18 May 2007

**China, Vietnam vow to properly handle border issues**

China and Vietnam on Thursday vowed to properly handle border issues, and maintain peace and stability in border areas. Meeting with Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet, Chinese President Hu Jintao urged the two sides to properly handle the border issues so as to create good conditions for both countries' reform and development. Triet said that Vietnam was keen to develop relations between the border provinces, so as to create peace, friendship and common development in the frontier area. He pledged to deal with the land demarcation in a timely way and increase bilateral cooperation in the Beibu Bay area. As for bilateral relations, Hu said China-Vietnam relations have maintained a good momentum in recent years with frequent high-level visits and fast-growing economic and trade cooperation. The two sides also coordinate in international and regional affairs...

People's Daily, 18 May 2007

**'Right to be silent' may be granted**

"You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law..." These words, familiar to many from Hollywood movies or cops-and-robbers TV shows, could be uttered by Chinese police if an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law, scheduled for October, is approved. "There's little debate over whether to include the stipulation that suspects shall not be forced to admit guilt," Chen Ruihua, a law professor at Peking University involved in the amendment of the law, said. "If approved, it means that suspects will have the right to keep silent in interrogations."...

People's Daily, 18 May 2007

**'Beware' of Dalai Lama's designs**

China has urged some governments and parties to be wary of the Dalai Lama's words and actions and not to support his separatist moves. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu yesterday said the Dalai Lama was reportedly to visit Australia's capital of Canberra from June 6 to 16, his first to the country in five years, and that Prime Minister John Howard was considering meeting with him. The Dalai Lama's words and actions clearly show he is not a purely religious figure, but a leader of a certain separatist group under the pretext of religion, Jiang said at a regular news conference. The Dalai Lama represents a political force advocating Tibet's "independence", which is resolutely opposed by the central government and people, Jiang said...

People's Daily, 19 May 2007

**Iran, China agree on North Pars gas field development: report**

Iran and China have finalized the negotiations and came up with an agreement on the development of the North Pars gas field in the Gulf, local daily Tehran Times reported on Saturday. Iran's Pars Oil and Gas Company's (POGC) and China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) will ink the contract by August 31, 2007, the daily quoted POGC managing director Akbar Torkan as saying on Friday. CNOOC has already signed a memorandum of understanding with National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) on upstream and downstream development of the gas field which has been defined in four phases, the daily reported. According to the negotiations, the phases are to produce 20 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per year, Torkan said. The North Pars gas field is located 85 km north of the giant South Pars gas field in the Gulf and has an estimated 80 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, according to the report.

People's Daily, 19 May 2007

**Wang Min elected Party Chief of northeast China's Jilin Province**

Wang Min was elected secretary of the Jilin Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Friday. Wang was elected to the post at the first plenary session of the 9th CPC Jilin Provincial Committee held in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province. Wang, born in March 1950, is a native of Anhui Province. With a doctorate in machinery manufacturing, Wang took on jobs as a farmer, worker and college teacher before becoming deputy president of Nanjing Aeronautics and Astronautics University. He was made deputy governor of Jiangsu Province, east China, in December 1996. Wang became deputy secretary of Jilin Provincial Committee of the CPC in October 2004, and was elected governor of Jilin in January 2005. In December 2006, he was promoted to be secretary of the CPC Jilin Provincial Committee.

People's Daily, 20 May 2007

**Chinese, Japanese, ROK officials converge for foreign affairs consultation**

Senior foreign affairs officials of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) held a first-ever consultation in Beijing on May 19. The three sides reviewed the trilateral cooperation on economy and trade, energy, environment, science and technology and discussed the future development of cooperation among them. They also exchanged views on the security of northeast Asia, east Asia cooperation and other regional and

international issues of common concern. Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Cui Tiankai, Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mitoji Yabunaka and Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of ROK Shim Yoon-jo attended the consultation. The consultation is part of a consensus reached last January at the seventh trilateral leaders' meeting of China, Japan and ROK when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and leaders from Japan and ROK agreed to establish a mechanism of regular consultations among senior foreign affairs officials of the three countries.

People's Daily, 21 May 2007

**Chinese Vice Premier leaves for Washington to attend China-U.S. strategic economic dialogue**

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi left Beijing on Monday, heading for Washington to attend the second round of the China-U.S. Strategic Economic Dialogue on May 22 and 23 as special envoy of Chinese President Hu Jintao. Wu and U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson will co-chair the dialogue. China and the United States held their first strategic economic dialogue last December. The dialogue mechanism has already become an important platform for the two nations to discuss long-term strategic and economic issues.

People's Daily, 21 May 2007

**Border issue won't affect trade, friendship**

Chinese and Vietnamese enterprises signed a series of agreements with a contract value of more than \$1 billion on Friday. The agreements, ratified during Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet's official four-day visit to China, range from port development, telecommunications to the electricity industry. China has been Vietnam's largest trade partner for three consecutive years, and the bilateral trade is expected to reach \$15 billion by 2010. Vietnam is willing to serve as a "bridgehead" linking China and ASEAN members while developing traditional friendship and cooperative relations with China, Triet said in an interview with Chinese media on Friday...

People's Daily, 22 May 2007

**China's development model beneficial to Africa: DRC's finance minister**

Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) can draw lessons from China's development model, DRC's finance minister Athanase Matenda Kyelu has said. Speaking Sunday during a press briefing after his return from the 42nd annual assembly of the African Development Bank (ADB), which was held from May 16 to May 18 in the Chinese city of Shanghai, the minister said there were many development models in the world and the Chinese model is one of them. The DRC can learn from certain elements within this model, those which can be harnessed to create a development partnership, with a view to responding better to our needs, particularly with regard to improving growth and reducing poverty, the minister said, adding that China, just like all the Asian countries, has enjoyed continued economic growth...

People's Daily, 22 May 2007

**Roundup: "One Country, Two Systems" works in HK: British official**

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said in Hong Kong Monday Hong Kong had

scored great success since it returned to the Chinese mainland in 1997, meaning "One Country, Two Systems" had worked. "Hong Kong today is a fast growing, extremely active international center; a key pillar in a 24 hour global economy with New York and London," she said at a British Chamber of Commerce Lunch. Beckett first came to Hong Kong shortly after the handover in 1997 as Trade and Industry Secretary, and she was also the first British minister in the newly elected Labor government to come either to Hong Kong or the Chinese mainland. "And whilst there was a little nervousness in the air, I was confident then as I am today that the people of Hong Kong would make sure that this city remained one of the great cities of the world," she told the audience...

People's Daily, 23 May 2007

### **China, U.S. kick off second meeting of Strategic Economic Dialogue**

China and the United States began a key economic dialogue on Tuesday in Washington, aiming to address outstanding issues in bilateral economic and trade relations. In remarks prepared for the opening of U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said that an open, honest economic relationship between the two countries is "pivotal to the future of the global economy." "The SED is a forum to manage that relationship on a long-term strategic basis, for our mutual benefit, and to work towards near-term agreements that build confidence on both sides," said Paulson, also as special envoy of U.S. President George W. Bush. He said the U.S. was supportive of a stable and prosperous China and was not afraid of Chinese competition despite trade disputes with the Asian country. "The purpose of this on-going dialogue is to have candid discussions and find ways to ease, rather than increase, these tensions," said the Treasury chief...

People's Daily, 23 May 2007

### **State nuclear power firm set up**

A nuclear-power company which will mainly be in charge of using advanced foreign technology and indigenous development was officially launched yesterday. State Nuclear Power Technology Corp Ltd (SNPTC) - the preparation for whose establishment began more than two years ago - is close to completing a deal with US-based Westinghouse Electric Co to build third-generation nuclear power generators, said Wang Binghua, president of the company. "We expect to sign an agreement with Westinghouse next month," he said. SNPTC and Westinghouse signed a framework agreement on March 1 under which China will use the AP1000 technology of Westinghouse for four third-generation nuclear reactors, two in Sanmen of Zhejiang Province; and two in Haiyang of Shandong Province...

People's Daily, 24 May 2007

### **China, Japan to hold 8th round of East China Sea talks**

China and Japan will hold the eighth round of talks on the East China Sea issues in Beijing on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular press conference on Thursday. "The state leaders of the two countries have achieved important consensus on the East China Sea issue, and China is willing to make joint efforts with Japan to promote the process of consultation based on the consensus so as to seek a joint

exploration plan accepted by both countries," she said. The last round of consultation was convened in Tokyo in March.

People's Daily, 24 May 2007

### **Hukou system set for change**

China's hukou, or household registration system is to be gradually reformed. New policies are under study allowing freer migration between cities and rural areas, the Ministry of Public Security said. Sources with the ministry confirmed that "legal and fixed residences" will become a fundamental condition to empower citizens to change their household registration. The sources said in the household registration reform proposal to the State Council, it will make it easier for married couples from different places to change their registered residence, Beijing Evening News reported yesterday...

People's Daily, 24 May 2007

### **NATO hopes for direct military contacts with Chinese army: Henault**

NATO wants to establish direct "military-to-military" relations with Chinese armed forces, the bloc's Military Committee Chairman Gen. Ray Henault told Xinhua on Wednesday. Henault made the remarks at USS Roosevelt missile destroyer after a NATO naval force conducted an anti-terrorist demonstration in the Mediterranean Sea close to the southern Italian city of Taranto. In an exclusive interview with Xinhua, the general said NATO wants to shake off the embassy-bombing shadow and is open to develop relations with China. The general referred to the U.S.-led NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade eight years ago, when three Chinese journalists were killed in the air strike...

People's Daily, 26 May 2007

### **China, Japan tackle East China Sea issue**

China and Japan opened talks on Friday on their dispute over gas exploration rights in the East China Sea in a bid to achieve a resolution. The Foreign Ministry said in a press statement the two sides expressed ideas to resolve the issue in a formal and informal way. Further negotiations will be held next month. Hu Zhengyue, director of the Asian Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry, and Kenichiro Sasae, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, chaired the meeting on behalf of their teams. Both sides stressed the importance of the talks as it was the first to be held following Premier Wen Jiabao's ice-thawing visit to Japan last month during which the East China Sea issue was brought up...

People's Daily, 28 May 2007

### **US report 'interfering' in China's internal affairs - FM**

China hit back at a Pentagon report on its rising military might on Monday, saying it was exaggerated and an interference in Chinese domestic affairs. "The Pentagon report exaggerates China's military strength and expenditure with ulterior motives," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted in its Web site ([www.fmprc.gov.cn](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn)). "It continues spreading the 'China threat' theory, seriously violates the norms of international relations and is a gross interference in China's internal affairs," it added. "The Chinese side expresses strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition to this." The U.S. Defense

Department report released on Friday said that while Beijing remained focused on the Taiwan Strait as a potential flashpoint, it also appeared to be looking to project its growing military strength elsewhere. Not so, China's foreign ministry said. "China is a peace-loving country which sticks to a path of peaceful development and adopts a defensive national defense policy," it said. "The international community has a fair judgment that China is an important force in promoting peace in the Asia-Pacific and in the world."...

People's Daily, 28 May 2007

### **Large-scale gas field discovered**

A major gas field has been discovered in Southwest China's Sichuan Province, it was announced over the weekend - which experts said would add to energy security and boost the development of the western region. A total of 3.8 trillion cubic meters of natural gas deposits have been found in the western part of the Sichuan Basin, said officials in Dazhou, where the reserve is located. They include proven exploitable reserves of newly-discovered 244 billion cubic meters - around four years of current production - and the already-announced 356 billion cubic meters in Puguang gas field. Till the latest discovery, amounting to a total of 600 billion cubic meters of exploitable reserves, the largest gas field was in Sulige, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Discovered last year, it has exploitable reserves of 533.6 billion cubic meters. Last Wednesday, a large gas field with reserves of nearly 30 billion cubic meters was discovered in Karamay, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region...

People's Daily, 29 May 2007

### **Pranab, Yang Jiechi meet in Hamburg on boundary issue**

New Delhi: India and China on Monday reviewed the progress of Special Representative talks on the boundary question as External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee met his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi in Hamburg in Germany on the sidelines of the Asia Europe Meeting. During Mukherjee's meeting with the new Chinese Foreign Minister, the two sides also decided to convene an early meeting on the recently-established Defence Dialogue Mechanism and continue high-level contacts. "The discussion touched upon the boundary question and it was agreed that the Special Representatives will continue with their work with encouragement and guidance of the political leadership," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said after the 40-minute meeting...

People's Daily, 29 May 2007

### **China, Thailand sign deals to enhance strategic cooperation**

China and Thailand on Monday signed two agreements to promote bilateral strategic cooperation. The Joint Action Plan on China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation and the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education were signed after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with visiting Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont. Wen said the action plan would set detailed goals for future cooperation and have a positive effect on China's relations with other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Surayud said the agreements showed the common will of the two countries to enhance comprehensive strategic cooperation, which was in the interests of the two peoples...

People's Daily, 30 May 2007

**US urged to constrain Taiwan**

China has urged the United States to take substantive and effective measures to constrain Taiwan "president" Chen Shui-bian's secessionist activities. During a meeting with George Schwab, president of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, on Monday, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan urged the United States to abide by the one-China policy in a serious way. He stressed that opposing and containing "Taiwan independence" and protecting the peace and stability of the Taiwan Straits conformed with the common strategic interests of the two countries. He asked Washington to "support China's efforts to improve and develop cross-Straits relations and adopt substantive and effective measures to halt Chen Shui-bian's various 'Taiwan independence' provocations and dangerous ventures"...

People's Daily, 30 May 2007

**Closer Asia-EU ties 'must' for energy security**

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi yesterday called for closer partnership between Asia and the European Union (EU) to ensure energy security. Speaking at the eighth Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM) of foreign ministers, which concluded in the German city of Hamburg yesterday, Yang said international cooperation is one of the most important ways of ensuring energy security. Yang submitted a four-point proposal to enhance Asia-EU partnership: Promote multilateralism and strengthen political dialogue and mutual trust; Intensify pragmatic cooperation and promote a balanced development of the global economy; Intensify partnership to ensure energy security and deal with climate change; Respect diversity of civilizations and increase dialogue among countries with diverse cultures...