

China Daily, 1 November 2005

Booming economic ties bind Japan to China

The ever closer economic relations between Japan and China is offering a counterweight to their cool political ties. Japanese investment in China has amounted to \$31.5 billion, and is enabling China to learn the industrial skills of its neighbor, the *New York Times* reported. At a call center in Dalian, Liaoning, in northeast China, young workers speaking fluent Japanese answer customer service calls for a Japanese insurance company. And in western Japan, a new commercial Chinatown is rising in Kobe. At a time of rising political tensions, heightened by growing nationalism, Japan and China are more intertwined economically than they have ever been. In their breadth and intensity, the ties have begun to surpass those between the United States and Japan, whose economic relationship has often been called the most important in the world, said the *New York Times*.

China Daily, 1 November 2005

Hu's visit to Vietnam takes ties to new high

HANOI: China and Viet Nam agreed to speed up the survey of borderlines and push economic exchanges to a new high after talks between top leaders yesterday. In discussions with Communist Party of Viet Nam General Secretary Nong Duc Manh and Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong, visiting President Hu Jintao proposed to complete the survey of land borderlines between the two countries and promote marine cooperation.

Taipei Times, 1 November 2005

President hosts emergency meeting about avian flu

Taiwan should do its best to have itself included in operational global networks aimed at preventing an outbreak of the deadly bird flu, which might seriously jeopardize the health of not only the 23 million people of Taiwan but also its birds, President Chen Shui-bian said yesterday. Chen yesterday held an emergency meeting to discuss effective prevention measures against the possible spread of bird flu in Taiwan. In addition to high-ranking officials representing government agencies dealing with the control and prevention of diseases, the former director-general of the Department of Health, Lee Ming-liang, who has experience combating the spread of SARS in Taiwan in 2003, received a special invitation.

Xinhuanet, 1 November 2005

President Hu sends condolences to India on terror attacks

BEIJING: Chinese President Hu Jintao sent a message of condolences on Sunday to his Indian counterpart, Abdul Kalam, on the heavy casualties caused by explosions in the Indian capital of New Delhi. Hu, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and in his own name, offered condolences to the Indian government and people and the victims' families and the injured, and expressed deep grief over those who were killed in the explosions.

Taipei Times, 1 November 2005

Taiwan to start pushing Roche

Taiwan plans to take steps to force the Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche to let the country produce the anti-bird flu drug Tamiflu, the health minister said yesterday. The move is part of a "two-track" approach for obtaining a Tamiflu license so Taiwan can combat a possible bird-flu outbreak, Department of Health Minister Hou Sheng-mou said. Hou said his ministry has asked the bureau in charge of intellectual property rights to request a "coercive authorization" for the drug's production, citing a national emergency clause.

The China Daily, 2 November 2005

FM: Shrine visit a serious political issue (Qin Jize)

China will continue to improve Sino-Japanese relations in the spirit of learning from history and facing the future, despite the recent cabinet reshuffle by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a regular press conference yesterday that China always advocates improving and developing Sino-Japanese ties in the principle of the three political documents the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Peace and Friendship Treaty and the Sino-Japanese Joint Declaration and following the spirit of learning from history and facing the future. In a cabinet reshuffle on Monday, Koizumi appointed to key posts two politicians known to support his annual visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. Kong also repeated Beijing's "strong opposition" to Japanese leaders visiting the shrine, saying they were in violation of Japan's commitments to show remorse over its wartime atrocities.

The People's Daily, 2 November 2005

Another 103 tons of relief goods shipped to Pakistan from Beijing: FM spokesman

China has offered another batch of 600 tents and 24,000 quilts and padded mattresses to Pakistan for earthquake

victims, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said in Beijing Tuesday. The relief goods were shipped from Beijing on Monday, Kong said. So far, China's relief aid to Pakistan has amounted to 20.5 million US dollars since the October 8 quake struck the south Asian country. In addition, another Chinese searching and rescuing team arrived in Pakistan's disaster-struck areas on Sunday from Beijing and started operation, Kong said. "Chinese people are deeply concerned about the current difficulties in Pakistan caused by the earthquake," he said.

The People's Daily, 2 November 2005

China, Vietnam pledge to enhance mutual trust, common development

China and Vietnam, as well as the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), pledged on Wednesday to boost mutual trust and step up cooperation, said a joint statement issued during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit. "The two sides agreed that it serves the fundamental interests of both China and Vietnam to enhance mutual trust, strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation and promote common development," said the statement. China and Vietnam have agreed to carry forward the tradition of exchanging high-level visits and to make efforts to boost cooperation in such areas as politics, economy, foreign affairs, defense, security, culture and education, it said.

The China Daily, 3 November 2005

China: North Korea nuclear talks resume Nov 9

Talks on disarming North Korea's nuclear weapons program will resume Nov. 9 in Beijing, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. North Korea agreed to give up its nuclear weapons on Sept. 19 in a deal brokered by China in Beijing. The joint statement, also signed by the U.S., South Korea, Japan and Russia, declare that North Korea will give up its nuclear weapons program in exchange for food, development aid and full diplomatic ties with the others. The next day, the North Korean government issued a statement through its official news agency saying it wouldn't give up its nuclear weapons until the U.S. provided a light- water reactor to produce power, casting doubt on its commitment to abide by the agreement.

The China Daily, 3 November 2005

China, India to extend tariff cuts (Li Yanping)

China, India, South Korea and three other Asian countries agreed to extend and deepen tariff cuts starting on July 1 as part of an expanded free trade agreement. Trade ministers from the nations, including Bangladesh, Laos and Sri Lanka, agreed to reduce tariffs by an average of 30 percent, from 22 percent previously, and extend the agreement to 4,800 products, from 1,800, according to documents shown to reporters at a press conference in Beijing Thursday. The countries will consider implementing non-tariff treatment on services, investment and intellectual products trade, said Kim Hak-su, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The China Daily, 4 November 2005

China plans moon landing around 2017

China, which launched its first manned space mission just two years ago, plans to put a man on the moon around 2017 and investigate what may be the perfect source of fuel, a newspaper reported on Friday. Two Chinese astronauts orbited Earth for five days last month in the Shenzhou VI and China was now developing new craft up to the Shenzhou X, eyeing a permanent space station and an eventual moon mission, domestic media said this week. "China will make a manned moon landing at a proper time, around 2017," leading scientist Ouyang Ziyuan was quoted by the Southern Metropolis News as saying. The project also includes setting up a moon-based astronomical telescope, measuring the thickness of the moon's soil and the amount of helium-3 on the moon -- an element some researchers say is a perfect, non-polluting fuel source.

The People's Daily, 4 November 2005

Russia-China oil pipeline project under way, Russian PM

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Yefimovich Fradkov said Thursday in Beijing that the consultations on the Russia-China oil pipeline project are under way, stating Russia will "honor its commitment". Companies from Russia and China are working hard over the project and negotiating to find possible solutions satisfying both sides, said Fradkov after talks with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Fradkov said the oil cooperation between the two countries has not stopped. In 2004, Russia exported 5.8 million tons of oil to China by rail and its oil export to China this year is expected to reach 8 million tons. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in September that a planned Siberian pipeline will first reach China and then the Pacific coast.

The China Daily, 5 November 2005

China, Australia discuss free trade agreement (Jiang Wei)

China and Australia have concluded the third round of talks on a free trade agreement (FTA), ending the first

phase of bilateral negotiations. Meetings took place in Beijing on Friday. Ric Wells, chief negotiator for Australia, said that the two sides exchanged information about their trade systems and answered detailed questions about trade and investment. "The information exchanges provided a base for the next phase of negotiations," he said. "We have achieved what we expected (in this round of talks)," said Zhang Xiangchen, director with the World Trade Organization Department of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), who headed the Chinese negotiating delegation. The officials said they had not yet put forward their views on some essential issues such as the opening up of the agricultural market, as they have not yet entered the substantial negotiating phase.

The People's Daily, 5 November 2005

China, Russia issue joint communique

China and Russia issued a joint communique Friday in Beijing, pledging to further deepen cooperation of mutual benefit in various fields. The communique was signed at the 10th regular meeting between Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Yefimovich Fradkov amid Fradkov's official visit to China from Nov. 2 to 4. During Fradkov's stay in China, Wen held talks with him, and Chinese President Hu Jintao and top legislator Wu Bangguo met with him separately. During the meeting between Hu and Fradkov, both sides had an in-depth exchange of views on deepening of Sino-Russian strategic cooperation, strengthening of cooperation in politics, economy, trade, energy, science, technology and culture, bilateral relations and other international and regional issues of common concern, according to the communique.

BBC News, 5 November 2005

US holds four China spy suspects

FBI agents in Los Angeles have arrested four people for allegedly trying to smuggle US military secrets to China. An FBI affidavit said they were charged with theft of government property, conspiracy and transportation of stolen goods, Reuters news agency reported. The affidavit said one suspect worked for a California defence contractor. Those arrested - two married couples - are all ethnic Chinese. Two of them are naturalised US citizens, while the other two are legal US residents. Chi Mak and his wife Rebecca Laiwah Chiu along with Mr Chi's brother, Tai Wang Mak and his wife Fuk Heung Li, were held last week at Los Angeles airport as they prepared to board a flight to China. It said Mr Chi was a lead engineer on a research project that involves Quiet Electric Drive technology for US Navy ships. Along with the three others, he is suspected of trying to smuggle sensitive information about the project.

The People's Daily, 6 November 2005

International seminar on rural development launched in NW China

An international seminar on "one brand name for one village" program, a rural economy development project, opened in Xi'an, capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Saturday. Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong attended the opening ceremony of the seminar jointly sponsored by Chinese Agriculture Ministry, Shaanxi provincial government, State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs and the promotion association of the program. The program is advocated by Morihiro Hiramatsu, former governor of Japan's Oita-Ken Prefecture. So far the rural development program has been carried out in China, Thailand and the Republic of Korea.

The People's Daily, 6 November 2005

Taiwan New Party delegation concludes visit of mainland's NE province

An investment-oriented delegation, headed by Taiwan's New Party Chairman Yok Mu-ming, ended the visit to northeast China's Liaoning Province and left for Taiwan Sunday morning. During their stay in the province, the 26 members of the delegation visited Shenyang, capital of the province, the harbor city of Dalian and the country's iron and steel production base of Anshan. It was the second time Yok visited Liaoning this year. In July, he led a delegation and set about the "journey of the Chinese nation" to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the victory over the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. They visited Guangzhou, Nanjing, Beijing and Dalian.

The China Daily, 7 November 2005

US, China said to reach textile deal

The United States and China have reached a tentative agreement to limit imports of Chinese clothing and textile products into the United States, U.S. industry officials said Saturday. These officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not yet been announced, said it could be signed as early as Tuesday when U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and Chinese officials will be in Geneva. They said that the tentative deal was reached during the fifth round of discussions, which took place over the past week in Washington. Both sides agreed on the major issues, they said, and discussions were continuing on details. The deal would be similar to an agreement China reached with the 25-nation European Union earlier this year. However, in a victory for U.S. manufacturers, the deal would last through 2008, one year longer than the EU agreement.

The People's Daily, 7 November 2005

Bilateral ties more important than pickle dispute: ROK envoy

The bilateral relationship between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and China is far more important than the ongoing pickle dispute, said Kim Ha Joong, ROK ambassador to China, in Zhengzhou on Sunday. But it's good that the two countries are paying more attention to food safety as a result of the pickle row, and both sides should take a calm attitude toward the issue, Kim added. The ROK diplomat made the remarks at a press conference after the inaugural ceremony of the Henan-ROK Friendship Week, being held from Nov.3 to 7 in this capital of central China's Henan Province. The ambassador advised the news media not to further fuel the pickle dispute with excessive reporting.

The China Daily, 8 November 2005

Abandoned US-made weapons unearthed (He Na)

CHANGCHUN: More than 250 American artillery shells left over from World War II have been unearthed on a building site in Changchun. Bomb disposal experts were called in to deal with the shells, some of which workers feared could explode at any moment. The first 107 shells were discovered on October 20, by a construction team working on Fanrong Road in Changchun, capital of Northeast China's Jilin Province. However, at almost the same time as the bombs were being destroyed this weekend, construction workers unearthed a further 150 shells at the same site. Surprisingly well preserved after more than 50 years underground, experts said some of the second batch posed a real threat as their firing mechanisms were still in working order.

The China Daily, 8 November 2005

Nuke talks to start; breakthrough unlikely

This week's talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program will last three days and are unlikely to reach a breakthrough, although negotiations will resume by the end of the year, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei said. Wu downplayed expectations of progress in the six-nation talks starting Wednesday, noting there was still a gap between the United States and North Korea. "It will be for three days," Wu, speaking to Japanese media in Beijing, said of the upcoming talks. "It is premature to expect some kind of major achievement. We are at the stage where a new process is starting," Wu was quoted as saying by Kyodo News. "We want to set up another opportunity for further discussions. It will be resumed within the year," he said, according to the online edition of the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper. Wu suggested setting up a panel of experts to carry out the statement reached in September under which North Korea agreed in principle to scrap its nuclear programs in exchange for energy assistance and other benefits.

The China Daily, 9 November 2005

Bush: US-China ties 'important' and 'good'

US President George W. Bush said on Tuesday that the relationship between China and the United States is "important" and "good," and that he is looking forward to visiting China once again. "We've got an important relationship, and it's a good relationship," Bush told Xinhua in a round-table interview with Asian reporters at the White House before his trip to Asia. He said the United States and China "do have good cooperation" on trade, and can also work together in the war on terror, on advancing the Doha Round multilateral trade talks and in the areas of energy and fighting avian flu. "There is a variety of ways that we can continue to advance an agenda that is based upon peace," Bush added. The US president also said that while the two countries have got increasing trade and dialogue and cooperation, there is still work to be done on intellectual property rights, currency and market access.

The Hindu, 9 November 2005

China seeks terror data from Pakistan

Islamabad: China has asked Pakistan to investigate and share information on a recent threat of terrorist attacks on tourist spots in Chinese-administered Hong Kong and Midland China. In an official request through its embassy in Islamabad, the Chinese Government said it had information that an Islamist terrorism network in China was planning coordinated attacks on hotels and other tourist spots in Hong Kong and Midland China with the help and backing of some U.S. financiers and asked Pakistan to investigate, Daily Times quoted Pakistan officials as saying. The request received on October 30 detailed the name of a person who was allegedly planning and coordinating the attacks, it said adding the fax message did not mention how the attack could take place.

The Indian Express, 10 November 2005

Russia might not invite China, India to G8 meet (Sujata Rao and Darya Korsunskaya)

LONDON/MOSCOW, November 9: Russia will probably not invite emerging economic powerhouses such as China and India to next year's meetings of the Group of Eight nations, a senior aide to President Vladimir Putin has said. Russia in 2006 will assume the rotating presidency of the eight member elite forum, which has,

however, invited some developing nations as observers at recent summits. Igor Shuvalov, the key official responsible for organising next year's summit, said Russia believed it would be more useful to invite heads of multilateral organisations such as UN agencies, simply because of the issues on the agenda.

The People's Daily, 10 November 2005

Chinese President calls for closer ties with EU, Britain

China always supports European integration and hopes to see an important role of the European Union (EU) in regional and international affairs, Chinese President Hu Jintao said Wednesday in London. "China and the EU have established a comprehensive strategic partnership, and our cooperation in such areas as science, technology, culture, education, environmental protection and social development has proved to be very productive," Hu said in a speech delivered at a dinner hosted by Alderman Michael Savory, the Lord Mayor of the City of London. China is the largest developing country in the world, and the EU is the largest group of developed countries, he noted. "As such, both of us have the heavy responsibility for safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, and we should therefore forge an even closer partnership," Hu stressed.

The China Daily, 10 November 2005

Wen: Situation in bird flu control 'serious'

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has called on the nation to intensify efforts to fight bird flu as the country is facing a "very serious situation" in controlling the epidemic. Bird flu has not been totally controlled in China and the danger of its spread still exists in some areas, the premier said during an inspection tour of the bird flu-hit Heishan County in northeast China's Liaoning Province on Tuesday. He urged the local governments to pay great attention to the epidemic and focus on the prevention of the disease from jumping to humans, a task he said is "arduous."

The People's Daily, 11 November 2005

China, India to revive Himalayan trade route

Both China and India are keen to revive a centuries-old Himalayan trade route between the two Asian giants by setting up infrastructure on both sides of the border, Indo-Asian News Service reported. Trade via the 15,000-foot-high Shipki La pass in the tribal district of Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh in north India was opened in 1993 but trade has hardly picked up for want of infrastructure, raising concerns on both sides. Although a few Indian traders have been visiting the Chinese side, even fewer have entered India from China, say Indian officials. Indian Officials say the biggest need was a 10-km motorable road between Hobsang and Chuppan so that the Indian side market became accessible. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has been requested to carry out the road construction. The value of border export and import in this area was below 1 million US dollars every year, said Himachal Chief Secretary Surjit Singh Parmar.

The China Daily, 11 November 2005

Bush to seek China economic concessions

In the face of a widening U.S. trade deficit with China, US President George W. Bush will pressure China to make good on a pledge of economic concessions on an Asia tour that will also focus on fighting bird flu and North Korea's nuclear program, a top aide said on Thursday. Bush, facing political turmoil at home over the Iraq war, soaring gasoline prices and a CIA leak probe, leaves on Monday for a week-long trip to Japan, South Korea, China and Mongolia. White House National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said Bush would try to advance cooperation on top priorities but did not expect to come home with specific agreements. Struggling to contain a U.S. trade deficit with China that is running at an annual rate approaching \$200 billion, Bush wants Chinese President Hu Jintao to liberalize China's currency system and let the yuan rise in value.

The People's Daily, 11 November 2005

China rejects US condemnation of China's religious situation

China firmly rejects, with strong displeasure, accusations from US State Department of its national religion policy, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao Thursday in Beijing. The US State Department recently once again criticized China's religious policies in its 2005 annual International Religious Freedom Report. When asked to comment on this report, Liu told a regular press conference that the report posed unreasonable criticism of China's religious policies, trampled the norms of international relations and interfered in China's internal affairs. Liu said China protects its citizens' religious rights in accordance with its law, and all ethnic groups and people across the country enjoy religious freedom. "Chinese people have a say in this matter," Liu noted.

The People's Daily, 11 November 2005

Security Council expansion should address Africa's concerns: Chinese envoy

The Security Council expansion should give priority to increasing the representation of developing countries in the United Nations' most powerful organ, particularly African nations, Chinese Ambassador to the UN Wang Guangya

stressed on Thursday. Addressing the UN General Assembly, Wang reaffirmed China's support for necessary and rational reform of the council, including its expansion and the improvement of its working methods, in order to maintain its authority, increase its efficiency and strengthen its role. He pointed out that the council expansion should be in line with the democratization trend of international relations and give priority to enhancing the representation of developing countries.

The China Daily, 12 November 2005

Hu meets German leaders on expanding ties (Xinhua)

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Berlin Friday that China stands ready to join hands with Germany to deepen bilateral cooperation based upon the already-good relations. During his meeting with Germany's outgoing chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at the chancellor's office, Hu said that Schroeder has, over the past seven years in office, made significant contributions to the friendly relations between China and Germany. Schroeder said he has deep affection for China and President Hu is the last head of state he has met as the German chancellor, adding this fully shows that the two nations and their leaders enjoy a close relationship. Speaking about bilateral relations, Hu said that fruitful cooperation between China and Germany has brought concrete benefits to the two peoples, and also promoted world peace, stability and prosperity. Germany is China's largest trading partner in Europe and China is Germany's largest in Asia. Germany is also the first developed country to have signed law exchange and cooperation agreements with China and jointly built science-promotion centers with China.

The China Daily, 14 November 2005

Hu to take 'peaceful rise' diplomacy to APEC

Chinese President Hu Jintao will be aiming to portray China's growing regional and global strength as a "peaceful rise" at the upcoming APEC summit, officials and analysts said. During the two-day Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' forum in South Korea starting on Friday, Hu will pledge China's constructive contribution on issues such as trade, North Korea and fighting terrorism, they said. But he will likely snub a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. "President Hu will exchange ideas about further promoting balanced, stable and sustained growth of the global economy and China's priorities for APEC," China's Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told journalists.

The People's Daily, 14 November 2005

Pakistani PM welcomes China to be associated with SAARC

Former Chairperson of SAARC and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Azia Saturday welcomed China to be associated with the South Asian Forum. Addressing the inaugural session of the 13th SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in Dhaka, Shaukat Azia said that as outgoing chairperson of SAARC, "We received a request from China expressing interest in association with SAARC either as dialogue partner, or as observer." "We welcome the interest of our friend and neighbor China to be associated with our organization," he added. The Pakistani prime minister said that SAARC also received a request from Afghanistan for membership of the regional forum. "Inclusion of Afghanistan will undoubtedly enrich our organization and add to its strength," he said. The Standing Committee and Council of Ministers of SAARC will consider both the requests and make a final decision as early as possible, said Shaukat Azia.

The China Daily, 15 November 2005

FM: Japan needs to learn from Germany

BUSAN, South Korea - Chinese foreign minister once again condemned Japanese leaders for worshipping war criminals and urged Tokyo to learn from Germany's rejection of Adolf Hitler and stop upsetting its Asian neighbours, the AFP has reported. Raising the stakes in the row over Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to the notorious Yasukuni war shrine, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in Busan Tuesday that Japan must show more remorse for wartime atrocities. "If a German leader went and worshipped Hitler, worshipped the Nazis, how would the European people look at this? Would this hurt their feelings? You should think about this carefully," Li told reporters. "Yet Japanese leaders are worshipping these war criminals that harmed so many Chinese people. What are they thinking? Are they even thinking that they are hurting the feelings of so many people of Asia?" Li was speaking after talks at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum with South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon during which both countries condemned the shrine visits.

The People's Daily, 15 November 2005

Roundup: China, ROK deepen all-round cooperative partnership

Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to Republic of Korea (ROK) Wednesday is hoped to further deepen all-round cooperative partnership between the two neighboring countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in August 1992, Sino-ROK ties have made rapid development in various aspects. China is the biggest

trade partner of ROK and the No. 1 destination of investment made by ROK's enterprises. Meanwhile, ROK is the fourth largest trade partner of China and third largest import source. The trade volume between the two countries reached 5.03 billion US dollars in 1992 and surged to 90 billion dollars in 2004. The goal, set by Hu and Roh to increase bilateral trade volume up to 100 billion dollars by 2007, is expected to be realized in advance by the end of this year. Civic exchanges between the two countries also developed rapidly.

The Indian Express, 16 November 2005

Chinese checkers - Lesson from Dhaka summit: India must lead SAARC or get pushed aside by its northern neighbour

After the 13th SAARC summit in Dhaka over the weekend, the political geography of India's neighbourhood will not be the same again. India has long chafed at the term 'South Asia' as too limiting. It preferred 'Southern Asia' to describe the larger sphere of its primacy. At the very moment India seemed to succeed in breaking the narrow geographic construct of SAARC to include Afghanistan, its neighbours have successfully pushed through a decision to include China as an observer. Delhi, of course, has never relished the thought of letting Beijing into the SAARC tent. It had limited the potential damage from the unsettling Chinese entry as an observer by insisting on a similar status for Japan as well. The surprising vehemence with which Nepal's King Gyanendra played the China card, and the overwhelming support of our neighbours for the Chinese association with SAARC, are huge warning signals for India. The lesson from the Dhaka summit is this: either India leads SAARC or gets pushed aside by China.

The China Daily, 16 November 2005

Bush: US supports 'one-China' policy

KYOTO, Japan - US President George W. Bush reiterated on Wednesday that Washington supported a "one-China policy" and said that Beijing and Taipei should settle their differences peacefully. Bush is on a week-long, four-nation Asian tour that will also take him to China, South Korea and Mongolia. He made the remarks at a joint news conference with his close ally, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, following talks with the Japanese leader. Bush urged China on Wednesday to act to bring more flexibility to its currency system and to rein in the yawning US-China trade imbalance. He said that China's access to American markets had played an important role in its development as an economic power and he noted that the United States had supported China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

The People's Daily, 16 November 2005

Chinese, Japanese leaders will not meet during APEC meeting, says FM spokesman

Leaders of China and Japan will not have any contact during the imminent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a routine news conference in Beijing Tuesday. Liu ascribed it to the reason that the atmosphere and conditions are not available for the meeting of leaders of the two countries at present. Chinese President Hu Jintao will attend the 13th APEC Economic Leaders Informal Meeting to be held in Busan of the Republic of Korea from Nov. 18 to 19.

Dawn, 16 November 2005

Chinese camp in Gwadar attacked

QUETTA, Nov 15: Many vehicles were damaged when a rocket hit the camp site of a Chinese construction company in the Tallar area of Gwadar district on Tuesday evening. Chinese engineers and other staff remained unhurt in the attack, official sources said while confirming the incident. Sources said that unidentified armed men had fired five rockets from the Dahram mountain range at the company's camp site. Two rockets landed and exploded in the parking area of the camp damaging a number of vehicles. Three other rockets landed in an open space close to the camp that rocked the entire area. However, no casualty was reported in the attack.

The China Daily, 17 November 2005

Vaccine team prepared if virus mutates (Zhang Feng)

The scientist who led the team which produced China's first vaccine for human infections of bird flu has said his company is ready even if the virus mutates. "The vaccine we have now is specifically against H5N1 bird flu. But we are also capable of producing vaccines against other types of influenza if the virus develops into other forms," said Yin Weidong, managing director of Beijing-based Sinovac Biotech Co Ltd. Yin, the leader of the expert group that began to develop the vaccine on March 17, 2004, told China Daily in an exclusive interview that his company is awaiting official approval for testing on humans. His enterprise has set up all facilities for production, quality control and vaccine storage, Yin said.

The China Daily, 17 November 2005

Massive arms dump found in Changchun (He Na)

CHANGCHUN: More than 3,000 US made artillery shells left over from World War II have been unearthed at a building site in Changchun. Many of the shells are still live and could explode at any time, experts said. According to Changchun Public Security Bureau, it is the largest munitions cache ever found in the city. Half the munitions, including hand grenades, mortars and flares, have been safely disposed of, while around 1,500 are still stored on the building site, awaiting destruction. According to a survey, which checked to a depth of two metres, there are no more weapons buried on the site. However, making safe the excavated weapons has been hampered by the high cost of transporting them and hiring a safe place where they can be detonated, said Zhu Yu, deputy chief of the security management department of Changchun Public Security Bureau.

The Indian Express, 17 November 2005

China backed his Feb 1 takeover, so King rooted for Beijing in Dhaka (Yubaraj Ghimire)

Kathmandu, Nov 16 King Gyanendra's crucial role in securing observer status for China in the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) may have been inspired by Nepal's northern neighbour's unflagging support to the royal takeover of February 1. However, the manner in which Nepal pushed the China case-clubbing it with the question of Afghanistan's entry into SAARC as a full-fledged member-shows the king has been doing some wider-range thinking, particularly on the question of how to diminish India's monopoly influence in the regional grouping. Predictably, King Gyanendra's move found echo and encouragement with Pakistan, with its foreign minister Khurshid Kasuri saying that his country would lobby for China's full SAARC membership.

The People's Daily, 17 November 2005

Chinese, Japanese senior legislators vow to improve bilateral ties

Chinese and Japanese senior legislators said in Beijing Wednesday that the two countries' legislative bodies will enhance exchanges and cooperation in a bid to improve the current Sino-Japanese political relations. Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, calls for legislative cooperation while meeting with Tsunoda Giichi, vice-president of the House of Councilors of the Diet of Japan. "Sino-Japanese relationship has witnessed great progress since we normalized our relations. It is hard-won and should be treasured," Wu said. However, Sino-Japanese relations have been in trouble in recent years. Wu attributed that to Japanese leaders' repeated visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, which honors 14 World War II Class A Criminals. China will abide by the political documents issued by the two countries and promote extensive exchanges and cooperation with Japan in the spirit of "learning from the history and facing the future", he said.

The China Daily, 18 November 2005

China: Bush visit helpful to relations (Qin Jize)

China expressed hope that US President George W. Bush's three-day visit to Beijing which starts tomorrow will enhance mutual trust, expand exchanges and co-operation between the two countries. Bush made a speech in Kyoto, Japan on Wednesday, touching upon Sino-US relations, human rights and religion. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao also reiterated in a regular news briefing yesterday that the nation is seeking a peaceful path to achieve development. "We expect that Bush's visit will increase consensus, step up mutual trust, expand exchange and co-operation, and promote Sino-US constructive and co-operative relations in the 21st century in a comprehensive way," Liu said. Liu also revealed that US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, at the invitation of Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang, started a three-day visit to China yesterday.

The China Daily, 18 November 2005

WHO: China measures 'almost textbook'

China reported two new bird flu outbreaks Thursday as WHO's China head Henk Bakedam praised the Chinese government's containment measures as "almost textbook". The Ministry of Agriculture reported on Thursday two new outbreaks of bird flu, one in Xinjiang in the far northwest and the other in the central province of Hubei. The deadly H5N1 strain of the virus is believed to have killed 662 birds in poultry farms at Xiaonan District, Xiaogan City of Hubei Province on November 5, and 32 chickens in Hotan of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on November 10, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement Thursday night. The WHO, which sent an investigation team to the family's village, confirmed the findings and said more human cases were likely in China, although not a huge number.

The People's Daily, 18 November 2005

Roundup: Hu Jintao expounds China's stance on win-win cooperation

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday expounded China's stance on win-win cooperation by urging the APEC member economies to increase mutual understanding through communications and to strengthen cooperation while seeking greater mutual understanding. Delivering a speech entitled "An Open Mind for Win-Win Cooperation" at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in South Korea's southeastern port city of Busan, the Chinese president said that building a harmonious world with an open mind is a basic

prerequisite to win-win cooperation. Hu arrived on Thursday in Busan, the second largest city in South Korea, to attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting scheduled on Friday and Saturday with the main theme of this year-"Toward One Community: Meet the Challenge, Make the Change."

The People's Daily, 19 November 2005

US president to kick off China visit to promote bilateral ties

US President George W. Bush will kick off his three-day visit to China on Saturday evening aimed at easing differences and promoting Sino-US relations. This is Bush's third visit to China since 2001. During the visit, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao are expected to hold talks and meet with Bush, discussing a wide range of issues. "The two sides will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-US relations and major regional and international issues," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao Thursday. "We expect that Bush's visit, slated for Nov. 19 to 21, will increase consensus, step up mutual trust, expand exchanges and cooperation and promote Sino-US constructive and cooperative relations in the 21st century in an all-round way," Liu told a regular news briefing.

The People's Daily, 19 November 2005

China, European space agency sign agreement on space cooperation

The Chinese government and the European Space Agency signed cooperation agreement Friday in Beijing on space cooperation for peaceful purposes. Chinese State Councilor Chen Zhili met Jean-Jacques Dordain, director general of the European Space Agency (ESA), and attended the signing ceremony. Chen said space cooperation between China and the ESA is of great significance, and the two sides have carried out quite a number of cooperation programs for peaceful purposes. "The signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the European Space Agency Concerning Space Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes would raise the bilateral space cooperation to a new level," Chen noted.

The People's Daily, 19 November 2005

Roundup: Hu Jintao expounds China's stance on APEC cooperation

Chinese President Hu Jintao expounded China's stance on APEC cooperation at the 13th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting which kicked off in South Korea's southeastern port city of Busan on Friday. The economic leaders from the 21 APEC members attended the two-day meeting with the main theme of Toward One Community: Meet the Challenge, Make the Change. On top of its agenda are economic and trade cooperation, terrorism and avian influenza. At the invitation of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, Hu delivered a speech entitled "Working Together in Closer Asia-Pacific Cooperation Toward a Harmonious Future," presenting proposals and views on enhancing APEC cooperation. The Chinese president urged APEC to contribute to the steady growth of world and regional economy by giving full play to its own strength and implement policy measures.

The China Daily, 19 November 2005

Hu, Putin hail Russia-China strategic partnership

Russia said that President Vladimir Putin would visit China twice next year as he and Chinese President Hu Jintao hailed their countries' burgeoning partnership and said they were determined to expand it. Speaking in front of reporters as he and Putin sat down for talks on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Pusan, South Korea, Hu noted that Sino-Russian relations had seen strong development and "major successes" in the past year alone. "We held our first joint military exercises and launched a mechanism for consolidation on issues of strategic importance" to the two countries, Hu said, pointing to other advances in political, trade and economic bonds between Russia and China. "All of these steps bring us to greater mutual trust and a level of strategic partnership.

Hindustan Times, 20 November 2005

China, US sign agreement on preventing illegal nuke trade

Beijing: China, which is often accused of shipping nuclear and sensitive technology to countries like Iran and Pakistan, has inked an agreement with the United States to prevent illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material. Representatives from China's General Administration of Customs and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the US Department of Energy signed the MoU on Saturday. The MoU aims at further promoting the cooperation in the fields of anti-terrorism and non-proliferation between the two nations, Chinese Foreign Ministry sources said. In the past, US State Department has slapped sanctions on many Chinese companies for "transferring" sensitive technology and material to countries like Iran and Pakistan. However, Beijing terms the sanctions as "groundless," citing the country's adherence to its international commitments.

Xinhua, 20 November 2005

US, China to cooperate more on terrorism

BEIJING, Nov. 20: The United States and China hope to strengthen shared efforts to fight terrorism and "pirate" copying of goods, Washington's top justice official said on Saturday. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told a news conference in Beijing he had discussed expanding cooperation with Chinese justice and police officials in talks before President George W. Bush arrives in Beijing later on Saturday for a three-day visit. China says its biggest terrorist threat comes from separatist forces in its far-western region of Xinjiang. Asked about the U.S. stance on China's efforts to combat terrorism in Xinjiang, Gonzales said: "We committed to try to be as helpful as we can, and cooperative as we can, with the Chinese government." Gonzales said the United States and China had established "liaison groups" to cooperate on counter-terrorism, and the two countries were also considering forming more such teams. He declined to be more specific.

The Hindu, 21 November 2005

China will adopt its own path to democracy, Hu tells Bush

BEIJING: Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Sunday that it is in the common interest of both China and the United States to oppose and check secessionist activities of the "Taiwan independence" forces and safeguard peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits. Mr. Hu was speaking to reporters after his talks with the visiting U.S. President George W. Bush. The U.S. side has reiterated, on many occasions, that it will stick to the one-China policy, abide by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués and oppose "Taiwan independence", Mr. Hu said. "The Chinese side highly appreciates this." Reacting to Mr. Bush's appeal to China to expand religious, political and social freedom, Mr. Hu said, "China will continue to build up democracy with its own characteristics and improve its people's human rights based on the actual situation and the aspirations of the people". On Saturday, China inked an agreement with the U.S. to prevent illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material.

The Tribune, 21 November 2005

China signs 70-plane deal with Boeing

Beijing: China today displayed its growing economic might by ordering 70 aircraft from American giant Boeing during US President George W. Bush's visit, marking the biggest purchase agreement in the country's aviation history. The China Aviation Supplies Import and Export Group Corporation (CASGC) signed a general purchase agreement with the Seattle-based Boeing Co. to buy 70-B 737-700/800 aircraft worth \$ 4 billion. Boeing will deliver the planes between 2006 and 2008. Both sides signed an agreement on the mega sale here ahead of Chinese President Hu Jintao's talks with Bush. The deal is also expected to ease domestic pressure on Bush on the trade front. Aircraft exports by the USA could help offset a ballooning trade deficit with China, which could top \$ 200 billion this year, analysts said. The signing in Beijing is part of a broader deal to supply 150 Boeing 737 aircraft. Eighty planes will be delivered only after 2008 and the deal yet to take a final shape, company officials said.

The Tribune, 21 November 2005

China not to ape West: Hu tells Bush (Anil K. Joseph)

Beijing: US President George W Bush's appeal to China today to expand religious, political and social freedom was met by his counterpart Hu Jintao's firm assertion that Beijing would not ape western-style political system and will improve human rights according to "the actual situation." Hu also said that China will not allow "independence" of Taiwan while agreeing to crack down on intellectual piracy, gradually balance trade currently favouring Beijing and make currency reforms. "China will continue to build up democracy with its own characteristics and improve its people's human rights based on the actual situation and the aspirations of the people," Hu said after a 90-minute meeting with Bush at the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square. Bush, who earlier kicked off his third visit to China by attending a solemn service at Gangwashi Church, one of five officially recognised Protestant churches here, used the opportunity to call for more religious freedom in the Communist nation.

The Hindu, 22 November 2005

China confirms 21 bird flu cases

BEIJING: China has by now confirmed 21 birdflu outbreaks in nine provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, Yin Chengjie, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, said in a news conference here on Monday. The bird flu outbreaks killed 144,624 poultry while a further 21,184,200 were culled, Mr. Yin said, warning the H5N1 situation in the country was "severe". All poultry within a three-kilometre radius of the affected spots are ordered to be culled, a measure taken by the Chinese Government to curb further outbreaks. Migratory and wild birds are suffering seriously from the bird flu virus, with the number of the virus-afflicted dead birds hitting a record high this year, Mr. Yin said. Analysts said that the bird flu outbreaks in China are closely related to the migratory and wild

birds, he added.

Daily Times, 22 November 2005

Analysts say all is not well in Sino-US ties (Peter Harmsen)

There is a sort of stalemate in Sino-US ties because the major issues were not really confronted in the recent meeting between Bush and Hu. US President George W Bush's 40-hour Beijing trip produced few tangible results, suggesting all is not well in the way the United States and China manage their ties, analysts said on Monday. "US-China relations may have taken, if not a step backwards, then at least a step sideways," said Russell Leigh Moses, an American scholar teaching future diplomats at the People's University in Beijing. "The Chinese are trying to spin this as if Sino-US relations have moved into a new era, but I just think in fact there's a sort of stalemate, because the major issues have really not been confronted." On the festering trade issue, China merely promised Bush it would seek to reduce its bulging surplus with the United States, without announcing real steps, echoing earlier pledges of a similar nature that have not led very far.

Dawn, 22 November 2005

China's welfare push (Kevin Yao)

BEIJING: Slowly but surely, China is executing a shift in tax and spending policies to help meet its goal of rebalancing growth from investment to consumption. Worried by a widening rich-poor gap that could undermine stability, Beijing has already stepped up spending on social security and scrapped agricultural taxes. It is also lifting the threshold on personal income tax and plans to make compulsory school education free in rural areas. "These are encouraging signs, since government spending on public services has been inadequate for a long time," said Min Tang, the Asian Development Bank's chief economist in Beijing. A quarter of a century of economic reforms has fuelled breakneck growth, but it has also ended cradle-to-grave welfare as Beijing subjected health care and education to market forces. Reduced subsidies have forced hospitals to raise charges that are beyond the reach of most of China's 800 million peasants. Schools and universities have raised tuition fees.

Dawn, 22 November 2005

President Bush in China

With an average annual growth of 9.5 per cent for almost three decades, China has not only managed to lift a large section of its population out of poverty. It has also emerged as an economic, political and military force to reckon with. It is therefore nothing extraordinary that President George W. Bush should have included a visit to Beijing in his Asia-Pacific itinerary. This was the American president's third visit to China since 2001 when he assumed office. As is generally the case, there were no major tangible developments that made the visit a landmark occasion. The symbolic significance of the visit was, however, tremendous since the issues taken up indicated the major concerns that characterize relations between China and the United States.

Asahi Shimbun, 22 November 2005

Editorial: U.S.-China relations

During his tour of Asian countries, U.S. President George W. Bush, met with his Chinese counterpart, President Hu Jintao. After the summit, Hu told reporters that the two countries were working toward mutual benefits and interests. Bush also said his visit to China would strengthen relations between the two countries. The United States and China, which hold the key to stability in Asia, have apparently benefited from each other in practical terms while avoiding the ultimate confrontation. The two countries also agreed that Hu would pay a visit to the United States early next year. Such an agreement is in stark contrast to relations between Japan and China, whose leaders cannot build trustful ties because of the problems concerning Yasukuni Shrine. Referring to the strained ties between Japan and China, Bush said good-neighborly relations are important. Although the president had China in mind when he made the remark, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi must have felt uncomfortable to hear those words from his ally.

The Tribune, 23 November 2005

China rejects Bush's advice

Beijing, Nov 22: Chinese President Hu Jintao has rebuffed his US counterpart George W. Bush's suggestion to invite the Dalai Lama to hear his views on Tibet by telling the American leader about Beijing's position on the issue. "The two sides touched upon the Tibet issue and the Chinese leader stated China's position on the Tibet question and on the Dalai Lama," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in a terse remark, when asked about Bush's comment that he had raised the issue of Tibet with the Chinese leadership during his talks on Sunday.

Dawn, 23 November 2005

Bush's China visit fails to narrow differences (Chris Buckley)

BEIJING: President George W. Bush's visit to Beijing, which ended on Monday, had the trappings of a whistle-stop campaign appearance intended to sell his message that the United States wants China to free up its politics and economy before the two countries can move closer. But the closely scripted encounter between Bush and his Chinese hosts seemed to retrace, not narrow, the differences, analysts said. "Both sides are paying more attention to the relationship and trying to define and shape it," said Jin Canrong, an expert on Chinese-US relations at the People's University of China in Beijing. "But without any urgent issues demanding attention, this visit was always going to be exploratory, not defining." Bush visited a state-controlled church on Sunday, where he renewed a call for religious freedom in China.

The Guardian, 23 November 2005

Two-timing the Chinese (Simon Tisdall)

Vladimir Putin makes an unlikely swinger. Until now, Russia's president has been assiduously courting China. He sells Beijing oil and weaponry. Bilateral trade will be worth about £15bn this year. Cold war border disputes have been settled. The two countries recently held unprecedented joint military exercises. And they often act together at the UN on issues such as Iran and Sudan. Yet risking accusations of infidelity from Beijing, Mr Putin has spent the past three days in Japan, China's old enemy and regional rival and a country with which Russia is technically still at war. He promised to build a pipeline linking Japan to Siberia's oil. He encouraged further investment in Russia. And he was conciliatory over the hot-button issue of the Kurile islands, known in Japan as the Northern Territories, seized by the Soviet Union in 1945 and which Tokyo wants returned. "We will be doing everything possible to solve this problem," Mr Putin said. "We are fully determined to work to solve all the issues we face." He even listened with apparent equanimity as Junichiro Koizumi, Japan's prime minister, urged Russia to handle weapons exports to China "in a careful manner".

The Tribune, 24 November 2005

China, USA differ over pace of economic reforms (Vijay Sanghvi)

Hong Kong: The differences between the USA and China during their recent talks was not of the direction of economic reforms but of the pace of it. The US is demanding a push at a faster pace while China prefers to go slow to maintain economic stability, according to Andrew Yang Nien-dzu of the Taipei based Chinese Council for Advanced Studies. Yang felt that Washington remained at odds over the issue of mainland currency and their differences were not as big as some analysts believed. The summit clearly indicated that they were moving closer. Another expert, Sun Zhe of Fundan University's Centre for American Studies, felt that China would make some compromises on trade issues even though they might not have been spelt out clearly at the summit between the US President George W Bush and the Chinese President Hu Jintao. But China would not take immediate steps. He pointed out that the Chinese way of diplomacy was to avert an impression that it was acting under foreign pressure, especially from Washington. Hence China would present the compromises as its own decisions.

The News, 24 November 2005

China may support US, EU on Iran N-plan

VIENNA: Washington and its European allies, in a diplomatic coup, are gradually enlisting Chinese support on how to deal with Iran and its suspicious nuclear activities, diplomats and officials said on Wednesday. Beijing's backing before a key meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Thursday adds additional clout to an ambitious international Iran strategy that has recently seen Russia join the Americans and Europeans in pressuring Iran to give up technology that could make nuclear arms. For months, Iran has relied on Beijing and Moscow to fend off a US-backed push to have it hauled before the UN Security Council. While the Americans and Europeans have opted not to lobby for referral at Thursday's meeting of the IAEA board, they could resume their efforts at a later board session if they judge that the Russians, Chinese and other key nations will not stand in their way.

China Daily, 24 November 2005

Writethru: China confirms new human case of bird flu

China's Ministry of Health on Wednesday confirmed another human case of H5N1 bird flu in east China's Anhui Province. This is the third confirmed human case of bird flu reported in China. A 35-year-old woman farmer surnamed Xu in Xiuning County of Anhui developed fever and pneumonia-like symptoms on Nov. 11 after contacts with sick and dead poultry. She died on Nov. 22. Tests of the woman was H5N1 positive, said China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The ministry has reported the new confirmed case to the World Health Organization (WHO), according to the WHO Beijing Office. It has also informed Hong Kong, Macao and some other countries. China on Nov. 16 confirmed first two human cases and one suspected case of H5N1 bird

flu. The two confirmed cases involve a nine-year-old boy in Xiangtan County of Hunan Province, central China, and a 24-year-old woman farmer in Zongyang County of Anhui Province in the east.

People's Daily, 24 November 2005

US denies new containment policy against China

US State Department's deputy spokesman Adam Ereli announced on Nov. 21 at a press conference that the editorial carried on New York Times on Nov. 19, which says the Bush administration adopts a new containment policy against China, misinterprets Washington's China policy. While answering questions from Xinhua, Ereli said that the United States acknowledge China's status as a rising power and it is better to regard China as a partner in many fields than as a rival. The United States welcomes China to enter the international system, playing an active and constructive role in maintaining world security and prosperity. Ereli noted that the speech President Bush delivered in Kyoto, Japan and that by Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick in front of the National Committee on United States-China Relations in New York could help further understand US China policy.

The Hindu, 24 November 2005

Chinese town resumes water supply

HARBIN: Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, provisionally resumed tap water supply on Wednesday, after confirming the exact time of arrival of chemical pollutants from its water source of Songhua River. The supply was cut off to over 3 million people early Wednesday following fears of contamination. The provincial government announced that the river would carry poisonous substances caused by the blast of a chemical plant located in the upper reaches in the Jilin Province to Harbin on Thursday. Currently, normal daily supply is being ensured. "As the exact time of the pollutants flowing to the city's drinking water intake spot has been confirmed, we hoped that citizens could take time to hoard as much water as possible ahead of the water cut-off," said an official. He said that the company would wait for the Government's order for the final cut-off of water supply.

The Hindu, 25 November 2005

Polluted water reaches Harbin

HARBIN: The front of the polluted water of Songhua river in northeast China reached Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province, early on Thursday morning, local environment authorities said. The toxic benzene-contaminated water, flowing down from the upper reaches of Songhua, arrived at the local water supply inlet at about 5 a.m., and has now entered river sections across the city's urban areas, according to the Heilongjiang provincial environment protection bureau. Since the river was contaminated in a chemical plant explosion in the neighbouring Jilin Province on November 13, the benzene and nitrobenzene density in the water is declining gradually after days of sedimentation and adsorption, and the Harbin city government has added a large amount of active carbon powders into the river to help clean up the water. Harbin, home to nine million population including 3.8 million in the urban districts, has cut off water supply in the urban areas since early on Wednesday, an emergency action taken to ensure public safety.

The Times of India, 25 November 2005

View: China can't be the only non-South Asian member (Praveen Dass)

SAARC is premised on the idea that South Asia is a definite geographic and civilisational zone, bounded by the Himalayas to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south. Afghanistan can be fitted into this scheme, and its admission at the latest SAARC summit is welcome. But China, which is definitively north of the Himalayas, doesn't fit into South Asia at all. India, for example, doesn't have membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a regional forum of states north of the Himalayas. If natural barriers cease to matter in an era of globalisation, why open up to China exclusively? Why not bring in Myanmar and other ASEAN countries, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand? In fact, it may be a good idea to set up an overarching Asian free trade zone, a grouping capable of taking on the EU and NAFTA in trade negotiations.

The Times of India, 25 November 2005

Counter View: Reaching out to the dragon will benefit SAARC (Praveen Dass)

Given India's unflattering record in SAARC - no paragon of successful multilateral association itself - the country's reported opposition to the inclusion of China would appear more counter-productive than beneficial to its own cause. The move to bring in China as an observer is being viewed in some quarters as a gambit by Pakistan and Nepal to limit India's influence in the region. This suspicion is not wholly unfounded. Yet, if a booming New India wishes to take a place at the high table of nations, why must it not start by taking a bold first step in its own backyard? It would be foolhardy of India to oppose such expansion on geographical grounds. While it is important for India to assert its self-perceived superiority - or hegemony as some uncharitably term it - in the region,

potential economic growth must remain its guiding imperative.

Daily Times, 25 November 2005

China opposes referring Iran to UNSC

BEIJING: China stuck to its long-held position Thursday that Iran's nuclear question should be resolved through negotiations and not be brought before the UN Security Council. "We have a consistent position on the Iranian nuclear issue," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao at a routine briefing. "For the current stage, we should seek a proper solution within the framework of the IAEA," Liu said. "We don't think it is appropriate now to refer this question to the UN Security Council." At issue is Iran's refusal to give up its right to enrich uranium, which can be used to generate power but also to make weapons-grade material for nuclear warheads. Iran says it wants only to make fuel, but international concern is growing that the program could be misused. For months, Iran has relied on Beijing and Moscow to fend off a US-backed push to have it hauled before the UN Security Council.

The Washington Post, 25 November 2005

Toxic Slick Contaminates Water Supply Of Chinese City (Philip P. Pan and Edward Cody)

HARBIN, China, Nov. 25 -- A 50-mile-long slick of toxic river water moved slowly through this industrial city in China's frigid northeast on Friday, as government officials fended off questions about their slow and secretive response to a chemical spill and millions struggled with the third day of an emergency shutoff of the municipal water supply. Harbin's mayor, Shi Zhongxin, vowed on the front page of the local newspapers that the city would resume pumping water by Monday at the latest, though he warned that the supply could be intermittent and unsafe for drinking for several more days. He said the government was strengthening its filtering system and drilling 100 deep wells to keep minimal amounts of safe water flowing to schools, hospitals and the water-based heating systems that keep most people warm here. Officials trucked in more drinking water in plastic bottles and froze prices at 12 cents a liter to avoid gouging.

Daily Yomiuri, 25 November 2005

Japan, China clash over E. Asia summit

With less than three weeks to go before the inaugural East Asia Summit takes place, efforts to draft a joint declaration by the participating leaders are proving difficult largely because of the conflict between Japan and China over the form of a future East Asian community that some expect to resemble the European Union, according to officials involved in the preparatory process. The East Asia Summit is scheduled for Dec. 14 in Malaysia. Leaders of Japan, Australia, China, India, New Zealand, South Korea and 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are invited. During preparatory working level talks for the summit in Malaysia on Nov. 10-11, China said that the form of an East Asian community should be discussed within the framework of the so-called ASEAN Plus Three (Japan, China and South Korea), rather than at the Dec. 14 summit, which includes more countries.

Hindustan Times, 26 November 2005

India says no, China sends arms to Nepal (Yubaraj Ghimire)

KATHMANDU, NOV 25: With an Indian embargo on arms supply in place, King Gyanendra's government has begun turning to China for weapons. At least 18 trucks of unspecified arms and ammunition from China arrived in Nepal this week. Eyewitness accounts said a huge force of the Royal Nepal Army escorted 18 trucks-12 were spotted on Tuesday and another six on Wednesday-as they entered the kingdom via the Kodari Highway, the only road-link with China. RNA Brig Gen Deepak Gurung declined comment, neither confirming nor denying the reports. The King's government has made it clear to India-it has been the RNA's traditional supplier-that Nepal will turn to other countries for weapons if the arms embargo, enforced after the King's takeover, is not lifted.

People's Daily, 26 November 2005

WHO refutes reports of China hiding bird flu cases

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday refuted rumors that China was hiding human cases of bird flu. Dick Thompson, an official of WHO, told reporters that concerning some news reports in German newspapers, he wanted to say that WHO did not believe that China was hiding any human cases of bird flu. WHO believed that China was notifying the organization as rapidly as it could and it was being as transparent as possible in this outbreak, he said. German newspapers cited a Japanese virologist saying that bird flu has killed 300 people in China, including seven cases caused by human-to-human transmission. China's Ministry of Health has confirmed from the WHO Beijing office that there was no Japanese expert in WHO's mission in Hunan Province early this month.

The Washington Post, 26 November 2005

Chinese Officials Sought to Hide Toxic Spill (Philip P. Pan)

HARBIN, China, Nov. 26 -- It was dusk on Friday when the trucks finally made it to Chengxiang Road, first a big orange tanker carrying clean water for the local heating plant, then a smaller blue one with more for household use. As word spread through the grimy apartment buildings, residents in heavy coats poured onto the street with plastic buckets, porcelain basins and steel pots. Zhang Hongdi, 42, a farmer hired to bring water into this Chinese city from a well in the rural suburbs, sat atop the blue tanker, urging the crowd to form a line and be patient. "There's enough for everyone!" he shouted, as residents peppered him with questions: Where is the water from? How much can we take? When will you come back?

Daily Yomiuri, 27 November 2005

Panel to study readiness to fight H5N1 bird flu

The Council for Science and Technology Policy has agreed to study the nation's ability and capacity to produce vaccines to protect against a mutation of the bird flu virus that infects humans. The National Institute for Infectious Diseases and Tokyo University's Institute of Medical Science will cooperate with four vaccine producers, including the Chemo-Sero-Therapeutic Research Institute, to improve the country's vaccine producing capacity, officials of the government panel said. They are going to base their study on the development of a new vaccine to fight the H5N1 strain of avian flu, a potentially fatal mutation of the virus that infects humans.

Daily Yomiuri, 27 November 2005

Japan, U.S. eye joint U.N. reform plan

The government has entered into discussions with U.S. officials on a joint draft plan to reform the U.N. Secretariat, government sources said Saturday. In the draft reform plan to rationalize U.N. projects and to streamline its budget, the two governments will name divisions of the U.N. Secretariat to be abolished and push for an early retirement system for staff. By cooperating with the United States, which is eager to revamp the Secretariat, the government hopes to obtain support from Washington for Japan's attempt to reform the U.N. Security Council, the sources said. The two governments hope to make the plan public by late next month to reflect changes in the U.N. budget in and after 2006. Yukio Takasu, Japan's ambassador in charge of U.N. reform, has been in the United States since Nov. 20 to discuss the plan's details with U.S. officials, including Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton. Foreign Minister Taro Aso is scheduled to visit the United States in early December to exchange opinions on the issue with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the sources said.

BBC News, 27 November 2005

China city water supply to resume

The water supply to the city of Harbin in China's north-east is to be restored - five days after it was turned off following a chemical plant explosion. Running water is due to resume after 1100 local time (1500 GMT) after tests showed the level of chemicals in the Songhua river was below safety levels. The 80km (50-mile) toxic leak has passed Harbin and is set to reach Russian rivers within two weeks. China has apologised to its Russian neighbour for the spill. Beijing has begun an inquiry into the spill caused by an explosion at a petrochemical factory on 13 November. For the last five days, Harbin's 3.8 million residents have been relying on bottled water and water delivered by lorries. To quicken the clean-up, water was discharged into the Songhua from nearby reservoirs to dilute the spill while the army installed new filters at Harbin's water plants. Tests showed levels of nitrobenzene in the river, Harbin's main source of water, had dropped below the official safety limit.

The Hindu, 27 November 2005

Earthquake claims 14 lives in east China

BEIJING: Fourteen persons have so far been killed and 20 others seriously injured in an earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale on Saturday in a region between Jiujiang and Ruichang in east China's Jiangxi Province. Information from the State Seismic Bureau said five of the death toll occurred in Ruichang City, and seven in Jiujiang, where 20 persons were also seriously injured, and two more in Wuxue, a city facing Jiujiang across the Yangtze River in central China's Hubei Province. The quake was also felt in northern Jiangxi Province, eastern Hubei Province, southern Anhui Province, north-western Zhejiang Province and north-eastern Hunan Province. China National Seismic Observation Network monitored a quake that jolted northern Jiangxi around 8:49 a.m. local time on Saturday, with the epicentre being located at 29.7 degree north latitude, 115.7 degree east longitude.

The People's Daily, 28 November 2005

China aims to send man on moon in 15 years Fresh from its second manned space mission, China's space

program wants to be able to put a man on the moon and build a space station in 15 years, an official said Sunday. "I think in about 10 to 15 years, we will have the ability to build our own space station and to carry out a manned moon landing," said Hu Shixiang, deputy commander of China's manned space flight program. But the goal is subject to getting enough funds from the government, Hu said, explaining that the space program must fit in the larger scheme of the country's overall development. Hu was in Hong Kong with the two astronauts who conducted China's second successful manned space mission in October. He spoke during a televised question-and-answer session with executives from various television stations and newspapers.

The Indian Express, 28 November 2005

Chinese Naval ships to reach Kochi today

NEW DELHI: In a sign of growing relations between the armed forces of India and China, two Chinese warships, including a destroyer, will berth at Kochi port on Monday. The Luhai-class destroyer and the Weishanhu auxiliary tanker will bring Rear Admiral Han Linzhi, deputy commander of the South Sea Fleet (SSF), along with senior officers of the People's Liberation Army. Sun Yuxi, Chinese ambassador to India, will receive the two ships. The Shenzhen, commanded by Captain Zhu Jianda, is a 154-metre-long destroyer with a crew of 544 and is equipped with surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles and carries a Harbin Z9C helicopter on deck. During the ships' stay, there will be exchange of visits between Indian and Chinese Navy personnel to the ships and training schools.

The People's Daily, 28 November 2005

Coal mine blast kills 40, traps 138 in Heilongjiang

A coal mine explosion Sunday night in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province has killed 40 workers, and 138 miners are still reported missing, according to a China News Service report. Forty-two miners have managed to escape, the report said. The blast occurred at around 9:40 pm at Dongfeng Coal Mine run by Qitaihe branch of Heilongjiang Longmei Mining (Group) Co Ltd, the provincial coal mine safety administration said. At the time when the accident happened, 221 miners were working underground. Rescue work is going on, and rescuers have gone into the mine pit to search and save the workers trapped underground. The first batch of 126 rescuers are working at the site, and pit ventilation system has been restored. Preliminary investigation found that the explosion was caused by smut blasts. Major leaders of the province, including Governor Zhang Zuojin, have rushed to the coal mine to direct the rescue efforts.

The People's Daily, 29 November 2005

US government says China not manipulating currency

The US government said on Monday that it has determined that China was not manipulating its currency to gain economic advantages. The determination is made in a currency report by the US Treasury Department which is required to submit to the US Congress every six months. US Treasury Secretary John Snow said in a statement accompanying the report that China's decision to allow a small revaluation of its currency last July had been a factor in deciding not to brand China a currency manipulator.

The People's Daily, 29 November 2005

China, Russia discuss cross-border river pollution

The China State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) Vice Director Zhang Lijun held talks Monday night with the Russian Delegation of Khabarovsk Environmental Protection Bureau on dealing with the pollution of the cross-border Songhua River. The talks focus on the impact that the polluted Songhua River will have on the Heilongjiang River, the border of the two nations, and the cooperation that China and Russia will make to monitor and test the quality of their border river. Zhang, once again, expressed apologies on behalf of the Chinese government for the bad influence that the polluted Songhua River will bring to Russia. The official also reported in detail to the delegation the related information of the river pollution, including the sorts of pollutants, the density and the location of the pollution belt.

The People's Daily, 29 November 2005

Chinese naval fleet begins three-day visit to India

A Chinese naval fleet which is formed by the Shenzhen missile destroyer and Weishanhu depot ship, arrived in Cochin Monday morning for a three-day friendship visit to India. The Chinese fleet, when it leaves here on Dec. 1, will hold a joint military exercise in the respect of marine search and rescue with the Indian Navy. It will be the first time for the Chinese navy to conduct joint military exercise with Indian navy in sea area under Indian jurisdiction. The exercise is aimed at ensuring the safety of maritime trade and improving search and rescue coordination at sea. In 2003, the navies of China and India held a naval exercise also in safety of maritime trade and improving search and rescue coordination off Shanghai, China. Three Indian warships as well as aircraft and helicopters joined in the five-hour operation.

The People's Daily, 29 November 2005

34 confirmed dead in Heilongjiang coal mine blast

As of 8:00 p.m. Monday, 134 miners were confirmed dead in the northeast China coalmine blast, with 15 others still missing, the rescuers said. Altogether 221 miners were working underground when the blast went off at 9:40 p.m. Sunday at Dongfeng Coal Mine run by the Qitaihe branch of the Longmei Mining (Group) Co., Ltd. in Heilongjiang province, said Zhang Chengxiang, director of the provincial coal mine safety bureau. A 380-member rescue team has been going all-out to search for the miners trapped beneath the coal mine shaft after the blast. Li Yizhong, head of the National Bureau of Production Safety Supervision Administration, and the major senior officials of the province are organizing the rescue operation at the accident site. Investigators said the tragedy was caused by coal-dust explosion, which knocked out all ventilation systems in the pit. The main ventilation system resumed operation Monday morning.

The People's Daily, 30 November 2005

China, US to hold second strategic dialogue in Washington

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and US Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick will hold the Second China-US Strategic Dialogue in Washington from Dec. 7 to 8, the Foreign Ministry said in a press release on Tuesday. On the basis of the First China-US Strategic Dialogue held in August this year, the two sides will make more in-depth exchanges of views on major issues concerning Sino-US relations, the press release said.

The China Daily, 30 November 2005

Russia set to get help on slick

HARBIN: China will send equipment by Friday to test water for benzene to Russian authorities as the contaminated slick in the Songhua River approaches the international border, Chinese officials said yesterday. The heavily polluted stretch of water is approaching the Heilong River (called the Amur in Russia), a border river of the two countries, at a speed of 2 kilometres per hour. It is expected to reach the Russian city of Khabarovsk in 13 days. A seven-person Russian delegation from the Khabarovsk Environmental Protection Bureau met yesterday with directors of Heilongjiang Environmental Protection Bureau, the Harbin Water Supply Company and the Harbin Heat Supply Company in the capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. Li Ping, a spokesman with the provincial environmental protection bureau who announced the agreement, also said the bureau would send experienced personnel to help install the equipment and train Russian personnel.

The People's Daily, 30 November 2005

Business leaders to gather in Shanghai for UN Global Compact summit

Nearly 800 international business leaders and representatives of government and civil society will assemble in Shanghai, China, on Wednesday for the summit of the UN-backed Global Compact initiative. At the two-day summit business leaders from around the world will demonstrate how they are implementing the Global Compact's 10 universal principles in the areas of the environment, labor standards, human rights and anti-corruption, the UN office for the initiative said in a statement. Business executives will be joined by leaders of international civil society and labor organizations who are also participating in the Global Compact -- a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative that includes more than 2,400 companies from over 80 countries.