

People's Daily, 1 November 2006

Beijing Summit opportune for Sino-African cooperation

The Sino-African cooperation forum will hold its summit and ministerial conference in Beijing between Nov. 3-5 with the theme "Friendship, peace, cooperation and development." During the opportune meeting, Chinese and African leaders are expected to review the past 50-year friendly cooperation, and the achievements made since the setting up of the Sino-African cooperation forum. The two sides will also decide to forge a new strategic partnership with political equality and mutual trust, economic cooperation and collective benefit, and cultural exchanges. It is firmly believed that the meeting would open up new paths, add new content and infuse new vigor in the cooperation between China and Africa.

People's Daily, 2 November 2006

China says nuclear-free peninsula remains goal

China pledged yesterday to stick to the goal of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and push for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks at an early date. Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said all participants to the talks share the objective of achieving denuclearization as well as permanent peace and stability on the peninsula. "China will work with other sides to move closer to that goal step by step and finally realize it," he told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting at the Great Hall of the People. Li's remarks were China's first official comments following an announcement late on Tuesday by the Foreign Ministry that Beijing, Washington and Pyongyang agreed to resume the six-way talks in the near future. But there are some worries whether the talks would lead to the goal of denuclearizing the peninsula after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a nuclear test on October 9...

The Indian Express, 2 November 2006

Talk border before Hu visit, India tells China (Shishir Gupta)

New Delhi, November 1: Placing boundary talks on the front burner, New Delhi has suggested to Beijing that the designated Special Representatives (SRs) meet on the "package settlement" before Chinese President Hu Jintao starts his India visit this month. Government sources said that New Delhi has offered November 9-10 as possible dates for the meeting between National Security Advisor M K Narayanan and Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo to set the tone for Hu Jintao's four-day visit, starting November 20. New Delhi now waits for word from Beijing on the dates. The SRs have already held eight rounds of talks and crucial political parameters for boundary settlement were agreed to during Chinese PM Wen Jiabao's visit last April. Though Beijing signalled to a visiting CPM delegation that a boundary solution could take time and it wanted to focus on bilateral trade for now, New Delhi is keen to push the political settlement on the agreed parameters...

Xinhua, 2 November 2006

Gerhard Schroeder: EU should lift arms embargo on China

BERLIN, Nov. 1 (Xinhua) -- Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Wednesday said the European Union should lift its arms embargo on China imposed 15 years ago. Schroeder, who was defeated by current Chancellor Angela Merkel in last

year's election, made the remarks when meeting foreign press in Berlin. When asked about the German-Chinese relations, Schroeder said he never changed his mind on the issue of EU arms embargo on China, believing that the EU should put an end to it. China holds that the embargo, a product of the Cold War, is outdated and does not match the established Sino-EU overall strategic partnership. "I think there is no substantial change in the policy of the new German government towards China," Schroeder told reporters, adding that the two countries enjoy a good relationship...

People's Daily, 3 November 2006

China says it wants six-party talks to resume as early as possible

China wants to resume the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue as early as possible, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Thursday. "China is working with other parties to fix a time convenient to all sides," Liu said, adding that topics and negotiation methods could not be decided by any single party. "If all parties have fully prepared, we want the six-party talks to resume as early as possible," Liu said. At the invitation of China, the heads of delegations to the talks from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States had an informal meeting in Beijing Tuesday. The three heads had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on continuing efforts to advance the process of the talks, and agreed the talks be held soon at a time convenient to the six parties...

People's Daily, 3 November 2006

Ministerial meeting of China-Africa Cooperation Forum opens in Beijing

Ministers and representatives from China and 48 African countries started a ministerial meeting here Friday to make final preparations for the high-profile Beijing summit due to open Saturday. Participants will discuss a draft declaration, which is expected to be submitted to and passed at the summit, and an action plan, which lays out cooperative programs between China and Africa from 2007 to 2009 under the framework of the Forum on China- Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The two documents will give guiding principles for the development of China-Africa relations and their future cooperation, sources with China's Foreign Ministry said. "The FOCAC, which was set up in 2000, is a key strategic move by China and Africa to face up to the challenges in the new century, promote traditional friendship and enhance reciprocal cooperation," Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi said at the opening ceremony of the meeting...

People's Daily, 4 November 2006

Hu: China to strengthen cooperation with Africa in five fields

To enhance new type of strategic partnership, China will strengthen cooperation with Africa in five fields, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Saturday when addressing the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Firstly, China will deepen political relation of equality and mutual trust with Africa, he said. Secondly, China will broaden win-win economic cooperation with Africa, he said. Thirdly, China will expand exchange for cultural enrichment with Africa, he said. Fourth, China will promote balanced and harmonious global development together with Africa, he said. Fifth, China and Africa will strengthen cooperation and mutual support in international affairs, he said...

People's Daily, 4 November 2006

Beijing warns Taiwan leader against pushing forward "constitutional reform"

A Chinese mainland official on Friday lashed out at Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's latest plan for so-called "constitutional reform" and warned that the move would cause instability in the region. In a reported interview, Chen said he would propose a "freezing" of Taiwan's existing "constitution" and apply a new one that suited Taiwan's current situation. "It is another dangerous move of Chen to serve his own interests. His words will stir up opposition on the island and cause trouble on developing the relationship across the Taiwan Strait," said a spokesman of the Taiwan Affairs Office of China's State Council. "If Chen is allowed to audaciously push forward the reform, it will threaten China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the development of cross-Strait relations, and the peace and stability of the Strait or even the Asia-Pacific region at large," the spokesman said. The Chinese government firmly opposes Chen's plot to achieve Taiwan's "de jure independence" through "constitutional reform", he said...

People's Daily, 5 November 2006

UN chief hails China's decision to double aid to Africa

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed on Saturday the announcement of the Chinese government to double its aid to Africa by 2009. In a statement released by his spokesman, Annan sent his warm congratulations to all participants in the Third Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. He believed that "as Africans demonstrate renewed resolve to address the challenges confronting their continent, they can benefit greatly from the experience of their friends in China, who have had such success in sustaining growth and reducing poverty." Annan noted that China and Africa have always spoken with one voice for common aims of development and economic progress. "This Summit is a historic opportunity for China and Africa to build on these shared ideals, and to advance South-South cooperation," he concluded...

The Hindu, 6 November 2006

Progress made in boundary talks: China

Beijing: Ahead of Chinese President Hu Jintao's maiden visit to India, Beijing has expressed satisfaction over its upgraded strategic ties with New Delhi and said there has been "progress" on the boundary issue. "Boundary negotiations have made progress and border areas have remained peaceful and tranquil," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in its latest issue of 'China's Foreign Affairs 2006.' The annual report of the Ministry did not elaborate on the nature of "progress" made during talks between special representatives since New Delhi and Beijing signed the agreement on the 'Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question' in 2005. However, it noted that the signing of the agreement during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India last year marked the "successful conclusion" of the first phase of negotiations on the framework for settling the boundary question. The unsettled boundary question will be one of the major topics for discussion when the Indian leadership holds talks with Mr. Hu, also general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), when he visits India from November 20...

Xinhua, 6 November 2006

China mulls free trade area talks with India

BEIJING - China is considering the possibility of establishing a free trade area (FTA) with India, a senior official with the Ministry of Commerce has said. "Following the reopening of the trade post on the Indian-Chinese border, our government is considering FTA talks with India," assistant minister of commerce Fu Ziyang said at the weekend at the 2007 China Industrial Development Forum in Beijing. "We have to follow economic globalization trends and push for the liberalization and facilitation of trade," he said. China is currently holding FTA talks with Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)...

People's Daily, 7 November 2006

3rd US-China Dialogue to start

The third round of the US-China Senior Dialogue a forum agreed by President Hu Jintao and US President George W. Bush at the 2004 APEC summit meeting will be held in Beijing this week, the Foreign Ministry said. US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns will represent the United States in the Dialogue, inaugurated in 2005 by Executive Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and former US Deputy Secretary Robert Zoellick. The dialogue reflects the importance and depth of the China-US relationship, providing a venue to consider the strategic implications of policies in a variety of areas. The goal is to better guide co-operation and manage differences between the two countries. Robert Joseph, US under secretary of state for international security issues, will also be in Beijing to hold talks with senior Chinese officials together with Burns...

People's Daily, 7 November 2006

China extends police presence in countryside as 'mass participation' incidents decline

China is sending more policemen to its rural regions following a government call to build a peaceful countryside, a senior public official said on Monday in Beijing. More than 30,000 police stations have been built in rural regions as the government streamlines its larger police stations and redeploys more police officers to "frontier grass roots" rural regions, said Public Security Vice-Minister Liu Jinguo. Police have been researching the public security situation in villages, safeguarding social order and taking preventive measures against possible security incidents, he said at a meeting of the Central Committee for Comprehensive Management of Public Security. The Ministry of Public Security claimed that 17,900 incidents involving mass participation were handled nationwide in the first nine months of the year, down 22.1 percent from the same period last year...

International Herald Tribune, 7 November 2006

EU warns China on trade

The top European Union trade official warned China on Tuesday that failure to open its economy more widely to foreign imports and competition risks harming broader EU-China relations. While calling for greater cooperation with China in trade, security and other spheres, the EU trade commissioner, Peter Mandelson, also said that the EU would

not hesitate to take China before the WTO in future trade disputes. "Europe will defend itself against unfair trade, just as China does all the time, and just as we are entitled to do under WTO rules," Mandelson told an audience at a Beijing university. Mandelson has been increasingly outspoken throughout the year and the European Commission issued a new policy paper late last month vowing to take action against China if necessary...

International Herald Tribune, 7 November 2006

In China, a pipeline spurs ethnic conflict (Jehangir S. Pocha)

Oil and natural gas - lots of it - have been discovered beneath the sands near this industrial town in the center of isolated Xinjiang, an autonomous region in northwestern China. As in Iran and Saudi Arabia at the turn of the last century, the energy boom in the region's Tarim Basin and Taklimakan Desert is focusing global attention on an area rich in history but forgotten by the modern world. To satisfy the energy demands of its fast-growing coastal cities, China is building a 4,200-kilometer, or 2,600-mile, pipeline from here that will traverse the craggy steppes and sparsely populated villages of the old Silk Road, and run directly to Shanghai and possibly to Beijing. But the manner and terms under which the government is extracting resources from Xinjiang angers many of the region's 7.5 million ethnic-Uighur Muslims. Many Uighurs want independence from China, and they accuse Beijing of using the energy resources to tighten its grip on Xinjiang. They also say the region receives little benefit from its own energy reserves because energy production is controlled by China's state-owned companies, consumed by China's coastal cities and taxed in a way that the central government gets most of the revenues...

The Hindu, 8 November 2006

Hu's visit a chance to "enhance political trust" (Pallavi Aiyar)

Beijing: Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to India from November 20-23 will be an opportunity to "enhance political trust" and to "show the world that the common development of both countries is not only important bilaterally but also significant for world peace, development and prosperity," said Cui Tiankui, China's Assistant Foreign Minister, at a press briefing here on Tuesday. He said Mr. Hu's visit was particularly momentous in that it was the first such trip to India by a Chinese President in a decade. Mr. Cui added that Beijing hoped the visit would serve to take forward the strategic and cooperative partnership established following Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to New Delhi in April 2005. He said "active progress" was taking place in solving the boundary dispute and that following the announcement of the political parameters and guiding principles for resolution of the border issue, "exploration has started on the details of a framework agreement."...

The Indian Express, 8 November 2006

Opinion: China's economic growth is not just 'economic growth' (Arun Shourie)

It is a grave error to be mesmerised by China's economic growth as if it were just 'economic growth'. To begin with, much of 'economic growth' consists of things that add military muscle. When China produces modern weapons-systems - apart from many other systems, it has made major advances in cruise and ballistic missiles, space technologies including technologies to disable enemy satellites, electronic warfare capabilities; when it

lays out 'infrastructure' in Tibet- that is all 'economic growth'. But it has direct military implications for India. The train that traverses heights of 16,000 feet to reach Lhasa can carry tourists, no doubt; but also men and materials of the PLA. When - as satellite imagery shows and ground information confirms - China builds 39 transport routes from its interior to the borders with India, and upgrades 15 of them for heavy vehicular traffic, including a four-lane highway right up to the border of Sikkim, all that too is 'economic growth'; but that 'growth' should awaken us to what it implies for our security...

The Hindu, 8 November 2006

Technical aids may replace soldiers at posts along the LAC (Sandeep Dikshit)

BUM-LA (Line of Actual Control): With reduction of tension along the border with China, technical aids could replace soldiers at posts set up in hostile weather conditions, according to senior Army officials responsible for border management. The Army and the Indian Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) man the observation posts and carry out patrols in high winds and temperatures up to minus 40 degrees centigrade. Asked whether in the rarefied air that leads to memory loss, border management was possible through electronic aids, commanding officer of the "Korea Brigade" Brig. Sanjay Kulkarni said: ``All this [border post meeting] is towards that end. Once peace and tranquillity prevail, what you are saying might become true."...

People's Daily, 8 November 2006

China, U.S. hold third strategic dialogue

China and the United States on Wednesday held their third round of strategic dialogue at the Chinese Foreign Ministry. "Hopefully the dialogue will produce positive results," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in the opening address. "The United States and China have very important relationship," the U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said. "The relationship focuses on bilateral issues that motivate us from day to day, and we also have other issues..(Because) together we have responsibility for global peace and global security," Burns said...

People's Daily, 8 November 2006

China, ASEAN discuss maritime affairs in Shanghai

Officials from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday met in Shanghai to discuss how to step up maritime cooperation. The three-day meeting reviewed the cooperation between China and the ASEAN in maritime affairs in 2006. The officials will also discuss the issues relating to sailing safety, maritime emergency response and others. The meeting was the second of its kind under the mechanism of China-ASEAN maritime affairs consultation, initiated in October 2003. The first meeting was held in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province...

People's Daily, 8 November 2006

China, ASEAN discuss maritime affairs in Shanghai

Officials from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday met in Shanghai to discuss how to step up maritime cooperation. The three-day meeting reviewed the cooperation between China and the ASEAN in maritime affairs in 2006. The officials will also discuss the issues relating to sailing safety, maritime

emergency response and others. The meeting was the second of its kind under the mechanism of China-ASEAN maritime affairs consultation, initiated in October 2003. The first meeting was held in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province...

People's Daily, 8 November 2006

Chinese President to make proposals on Asia-Pacific cooperation on APEC meeting

Chinese President Hu Jintao will make proposals on deepening cooperation of the Asia-Pacific region at the 14th APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Economic Leaders' Informal Meeting to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from Nov. 17 to 19. Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai made the remark Tuesday at a news briefing on Hu's coming state visits to Vietnam, Laos, India and Pakistan from Nov. 15 to 26 during which Hu will also attend the APEC meeting from Nov. 17 to 19. Cui said Hu will layout China's policies on deepening regional cooperation and the key points and prospects of Asia Pacific economic cooperation, and make proposals on further promoting economic and technological cooperation within APEC...

People's Daily, 8 November 2006

China, Egypt agree on nuke co-operation

China and Egypt agreed to strengthen co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, according to a joint communique released yesterday in Beijing. The document does not give any details, but earlier reports said that Cairo in late September announced it was relaunching its civil nuclear programme after a suspension of 20 years following the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit reportedly said that Egypt talked about the possible help China would give to Egypt over its civilian nuclear programme...

People's Daily, 9 November 2006

China says Japan's concern over China's offshore gas exploitation "unnecessary"

China on Thursday said Japan's concerns over China's exploitation of gas fields in the East China Sea were "unnecessary". Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said China's oil and gas exploitation activities were legitimate. It was reported on Wednesday that a Japanese official expressed concern over exploitation activities at a Chinese drilling platform in the East China Sea's Pinghu gas field. "We believe the concerns and misgivings expressed by Japan are unnecessary," Jiang said.

People's Daily, 9 November 2006

Japan-China Year starts in Tokyo

A year of cultural and social exchange activities between Japan and China starts, with the official opening of "Japan-China Year, 2007" on Wednesday in Tokyo. Japan-China Year, with a theme on "HE", or peace and harmony, is aimed at promoting exchanges between peoples -- Japanese and Chinese, and people from difference countries, Huang Yaoting, chairman of Japan-China Year organization committee and chief of Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Japan said at the opening ceremony. A commemorative concert on Thursday will be the first event in Japan-China Year, followed by sakura-appreciation tours, exhibitions, performances and art shows in the first half of 2007, Huang said. In September 2007, the Ninth World Chinese Entrepreneur Convention and a

beauty contest among domestic and overseas Chinese will be held as part of the events...

People's Daily, 9 November 2006

China to continue beefing up military exchanges with U.S.

China will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and U.S. armed forces, said Jiang Yu, spokeswoman of Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing Thursday. In response to a question on U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation, Jiang said China will continue to strengthen the military exchanges and cooperation with the United States so as to enhance mutual understanding and trust and properly handle each other's concern. The U.S. President George W. Bush announced Wednesday that Rumsfeld was stepping down, and would be replaced by former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Robert Gates.

People's Daily, 9 November 2006

China to continue beefing up military exchanges with U.S.

China will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and U.S. armed forces, said Jiang Yu, spokeswoman of Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing Thursday. In response to a question on U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation, Jiang said China will continue to strengthen the military exchanges and cooperation with the United States so as to enhance mutual understanding and trust and properly handle each other's concern. The U.S. President George W. Bush announced Wednesday that Rumsfeld was stepping down, and would be replaced by former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Robert Gates.

People's Daily, 10 November 2006

1st round of China-Germany vice ministerial strategic dialogue held in Beijing

The first round of China-Germany strategic dialogue, co-chaired by Chinese Vice Foreign Ministry Zhang Yesui and State Secretary of the German Federal Foreign Office Silberberg, was held in Beijing Thursday. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with Silberberg before the strategic talks, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry. Both sides exchanged views on China's relations with Germany and Europe as well as major international and regional issues of common concern. They also agreed to develop bilateral ties from strategic and long-term perspective and enrich the China-Germany partnership with global responsibility. Hailing the first round of talks as fruitful, the two sides agreed to continue the mechanism of strategic talks...

People's Daily, 10 November 2006

Sino-Russian energy ties set to surge

China plans to significantly increase the import of electricity from Russia, a move that both countries consider important to raise bilateral co-operation in the energy sector. The agreement between State Grid Corporation of China and Russia's electricity monopoly Unified Energy Systems was one of the 13 key deals the two countries inked yesterday in Beijing in the presence of Premier Wen Jiabao and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov. Under the new agreement, Russian media reported, the country would supply up to 60 billion kWh of electricity to China per year, starting with 4.3 billion kWh. China's current consumption is about 2.2 trillion kWh. The other documents include

protection and encouragement of investment, exports of Russian machinery and technical products and a framework agreement on strategic co-operation between oil companies. Before the agreement-signing ceremony, Fradkov, on a two-day visit to China, had two hours of talks with Wen at the 11th regular meeting of the heads of governments. Both highlighted energy and the peaceful use of nuclear power as the key areas to boost partnership...

People's Daily, 10 November 2006

China's Margaret Chan confirmed as new WHO chief

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday formally approved China's Dr. Margaret Chan as its new chief, to succeed Dr. Lee Jong-wook of South Korea who died suddenly in May. The WHO's top decision-making World Health Assembly, composed of all 193 member states, agreed by voting that Dr. Chan will be the next director-general, confirming a nomination a day earlier by the 34-nation governing Executive Board. At a special session of the Assembly, 150 member countries voted in favor of Chan, with 2 against and 2 abstentions. Other member countries did not vote for various reasons, diplomatic sources said. A new director-general nominee needs a two-thirds majority of real votes to get the Assembly approval for the post. Chan, 59, will take office in January 2007 for a five-year term. The UN agency has been led by Acting Director-General Dr. Anders Nordstrom of Sweden since May...

People's Daily, 10 November 2006

China, Russia vow to upgrade strategic and cooperative partnership

China and Russia vowed to upgrade strategic cooperation in all fields, according to a press statement issued on Friday. The statement said China and Russia agreed that the strategic and cooperative partnership had developed rapidly, and mutual trust had reached an unprecedented height. Cooperation in all fields benefits the two peoples and contributes to world peace and stability, it said. It said the establishment of the sub-committees on environmental protection and aviation ensured regular meetings between the prime ministers of China and Russia...

China Daily, 11 November 2006

Trade surplus set to reach US\$150 billion (Jiang Wei)

China's trade surplus is expected to total US\$150 billion this year, another big increase from last year's record of US\$109.8 billion, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) revealed on Friday. Meanwhile, the country's foreign trade is estimated to grow 24.5 per cent year-on-year this year to US\$1.77 trillion, according to a report on China's autumn foreign trade, jointly drafted by the MOC and the Chinese Academy of International Trade & Economic Co-operation. Total exports this year are estimated at US\$960 billion, a rise of 26 per cent year-on-year, while imports are expected to surge 22 per cent to reach US\$810 billion. Dramatic increases were seen in the exports of machinery and electric products and high-tech products during the past months. Imports of primary products grew quickly this year as a result of robust domestic demand and high prices in the international markets...

People's Daily, 11 November 2006

China aims to match domestic, international gas prices, official

China is mulling over new policies that will match its domestic gas prices with the international levels, according to sources with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). "After studying the natural gas pricing system, the government considers that the price of natural gas should be raised step by step to reach the international level," said Wang Jing, deputy chief of oil and natural gas department of NDRC. But Wang did not reveal a timetable for the plan. NDRC initiated the reform of the natural gas price system last year by raising the factory gate price of natural gas. NDRC said factory price of natural gas should be regulated according to the price movement of alternative energy such as crude oil with price adjusted by no more than 8 percent than that of the previous year. Currently the natural gas price is mainly set by the government, not market, industry analysts agree...

People's Daily, 11 November 2006

China, New Zealand vow to quicken FTA negotiation

China and New Zealand on Friday vowed to quicken the pace of negotiation on their free trade agreement (FTA). Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu met with Minister of Trade Phil Goff in Zhongnanhai, in Beijing on Friday. Hui said China-New Zealand trade and economic cooperation have expanded since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in 1972. "China and New Zealand should work together to push the FTA negotiation," Hui said. New Zealand is the first developed country to start FTA negotiations with China. "Our goal of the FTA negotiation is not a head-to-head competition, but a partnership to bring our economic cooperation closer," Goff said. New Zealand wants to conclude the FTA negotiation at an early date, Goff said, calling for a "high-quality agreement." New Zealand is also the first western country to recognize China as a market economy.

People's Daily, 12 November 2006

China-Vietnam friendly ties on fast-growing pace

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPCCC) and Chinese President Hu Jintao will pay a state visit to Vietnam on Nov. 15-17 to further enhance the friendship ties between the two Asian nations. Hu's visit, at the invitation of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC) Nong Duc Manh and Vietnamese State President Nguyen Minh Triet, will be another important political event for the two countries following the reciprocal visits by the heads of the two states in 2005, and the visit to China by Manh in August. The upcoming visit will be of great significance and exert far-reaching influences on pushing ahead relations between the two neighboring countries, said Cui Tiankai, Chinese assistant foreign minister, last Tuesday at a news conference on Hu's visit...

The Hindustan Times, 13 November 2006

Close to Hu visit, China claims Arunachal (Nilova Roy Chaudhury)

A week before President Hu Jintao arrives in India on November 20 for a four-day visit, China struck a discordant note on Monday by claiming that the whole of Arunachal Pradesh was "Chinese territory". In an interview to CNN-IBN, Sun Yuxi, China's ambassador to India, said: "In our position, the whole of the state of Arunachal Pradesh is

Chinese territory. And Tawang is only one of the places in it. We are claiming all of that. That is our position." Stressing the need to be realistic, Sun said in the interview that there was no time frame within which India and China had to resolve the long-standing border dispute. When contacted, the Chinese embassy confirmed that 'the interview took place'. Sun had earlier told the Hindustan Times that prior to Hu's visit, the special representatives of India and China - MK Narayanan and Dai Bingguo - would meet in New Delhi to finalise a 'framework' within which talks on the boundary issue would be carried forward. But according to officials at the Ministry of External Affairs, no such talks were fixed, although India had indicated November 9 and 10 as possible dates...

The Times of India, 14 November 2006

Arunachal is ours, not China's: Pranab

New Delhi: India on Tuesday rejected China's claim that Arunachal Pradesh was Chinese territory. "Arunachal is an integral part of India," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, while briefing reporters in the Capital. Mukherjee's statement comes a day after Chinese Ambassador Sun Yuxi claimed that Arunachal Pradesh was "Chinese territory"...

People's Daily, 14 November 2006

Chinese, US navies set to conduct joint rescue drill

The Chinese and US navies will conduct a major search-and-rescue exercise this coming weekend to improve co-ordination in maritime disaster relief. It will be the second phase of a two-part operation agreed to by the two sides in 1998's Military Maritime Consultative Agreement. US Admiral Gary Roughead, commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, arrived in Beijing late on Sunday to start a week-long visit to China. He said the exercise will take place off South China's island province of Hainan and will involve about 700 personnel. "Such exercises contribute to improved working relationship and act as a foundation for increasing disaster responsiveness and promoting regional security," he said yesterday...

People's Daily, 14 November 2006

Nation to sign trade agreements with Pakistan, India

China will sign agreements with Pakistan and India to push forward economic and trade ties during President Hu Jintao's official visits to the two countries next week. The Ministry of Commerce announced yesterday in Beijing that China and Pakistan have agreed on market access and "basically wrapped up" negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA). The agreement is expected to be signed during President Hu's state visit to Islamabad on November 24. China and Pakistan have conducted five rounds of negotiations since last April, with the latest round concluding in Beijing on Friday. Before visiting Pakistan, Hu will leave Beijing for Viet Nam tomorrow for a state visit. In Hanoi he will also attend the leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) from November 18-19...

People's Daily, 14 November 2006

China, US vow to strengthen co-operation on IPR issues

Senior officials from China and the United States have vowed to strengthen co-operation

on intellectual property protection. China attaches great importance to the United States' experiences in intellectual property protection and would like to learn from its advanced technological management measures on combating internet piracy, said Liu Binjie, deputy director of the State Press and Publication Administration. Liu yesterday had a closed-door meeting with Jon Dudas, under secretary of the US Department of Commerce for Intellectual Property...

People's Daily, 15 November 2006

China urges Japan to abide by non-nuclear principles

China urges Japan to strictly abide by its "three non-nuclear principles" and to adopt a responsible attitude in safeguarding regional peace and stability, the spokesman's office of Chinese Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. According to Kyodo News Agency, Japan's new government said Tuesday it is "legally permitted" to possess nuclear arms as long as they remain at a "necessary minimum" level for self-defense. China hopes Japan, as a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), will seriously carry out its obligations, according to the office. "We hope the Japanese side will stick to its 'three non-nuclear principles' and adopt a responsible attitude in safeguarding regional peace and stability," said a source with the office...

People's Daily, 15 November 2006

China confirms arrest of two Taiwan spy suspects

China has arrested two Taiwanese businessmen suspected of spying for Taiwan, a government spokesman said on Wednesday. Replying to a question from a Taiwan journalist, following a report in Taiwan media, Li Weiyi, spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, confirmed the arrest. The Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait has informed the suspects' families, Li said. Taiwan's United Daily News said on Nov. 11 that the two had been arrested in central China's Hunan Province and in southern Guangdong Province respectively...

People's Daily, 15 November 2006

APEC leaders to talk trade, security

China is seeking to work closely with members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to push forward liberalization of trade and investment and tackle security concerns, according to officials and experts. Leaders of the 21 economies of APEC members will gather in Hanoi, Viet Nam this weekend to discuss ways of reviving the stalled Doha round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks. Talks collapsed in July amid disagreements over subsidies and tariffs for agricultural goods. President Hu Jintao will attend the forum along with US President George W. Bush, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Leaders are also expected to look for ways to combat pirated goods at the meeting, according to Vietnamese sources. "APEC can lead the way for all members of the WTO to reignite negotiations and conclude the Doha Development Agenda next year," Le Cong Phung, deputy foreign minister of Viet Nam, was quoted as saying. "If APEC can identify a way forward, this path will most likely be suitable to the broader WTO membership," he noted...

The Hindu, 16 November 2006

China calls for "compromises" on Arunachal Pradesh

New Delhi: As India prepares to receive President Hu Jintao next week, China said on Wednesday that the two countries must make "mutual compromises" on the "disputed" issue of Arunachal Pradesh, and that it was ready to do so. The two countries, through "friendly consultations," can arrive at a "mutually-acceptable and mutually-satisfactory" solution to the issue "left over from history," Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Yuxi told PTI in an interview here. Insisting that Arunachal was a "disputed area," Mr. Sun said there needed to be discussions on it. "We must make mutual compromises. We are ready to make compromises on that," he said, five days ahead of Mr. Hu's maiden four-day visit here. Asked about External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's remark on Tuesday that Arunachal is an integral part of India, the Chinese envoy said, "If you want to know that, you can compare the maps of the two countries. There are differences. So that is why we call it disputed area, and [that] needs some discussions." There should be "some give and take" on the issue, and it was for the negotiators of the two countries to ascertain where to make compromises...

People's Daily, 16 November 2006

Japanese PM pledges to further promote ties with China

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged on Wednesday to vigorously promote Sino-Japanese ties and strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields. "The relations between Japan and China are bilateral relations of great importance, and the maintenance and further development of the friendly relations are critical for peace and development of the region and even the whole world," Abe said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua. During his recent visit to China, he said, he had expressed the willingness to improve the bilateral relationship to a strategically and mutually beneficial one -- a future-oriented and mutually beneficial strategic relationship...

China Daily, 16 November 2006

China to open renminbi business to foreign banks

Foreign banks operating in China will have to incorporate within the country to offer bank cards and mass-market banking services in yuan, less than a month before the industry fully opens, according to new rules issued by Chinese regulators on Wednesday. The rules will take effect on December 11. Overseas lenders that don't incorporate locally must set aside two times as much capital, or 200 million yuan (US\$25.4 million), as those that do, according to rules released November 15 on the Chinese central government's Web site. They also can't issue bank cards and can take only large deposits, limiting their ability to amass funds and grow through lending...

China Daily, 16 November 2006

China to open renminbi business to foreign banks

Foreign banks operating in China will have to incorporate within the country to offer bank cards and mass-market banking services in yuan, less than a month before the industry fully opens, according to new rules issued by Chinese regulators on Wednesday. The rules will take effect on December 11. Overseas lenders that don't incorporate locally must set aside two times as much capital, or 200 million yuan (US\$25.4 million), as those

that do, according to rules released November 15 on the Chinese central government's Web site. They also can't issue bank cards and can take only large deposits, limiting their ability to amass funds and grow through lending...

The Indian Express, 17 November 2006

China planning ambitious n-power tie-up with Pakistan

BEIJING, November 16 : Chinese President Hu Jintao is poised to unveil an ambitious expansion of nuclear power cooperation with Pakistan when he visits next week, testing China's balance between Pakistan and India. On the first trip to Pakistan by a Chinese president in a decade, Hu is likely to announce that China will help the South Asian nation construct several nuclear plants in coming decades, said analysts and diplomatic sources. 'The political intent is quite certain. The specifics are less certain, but this will be a political gesture above all,' said one diplomatic observer in Beijing on condition of anonymity. There has been no official word of any nuclear agreement during Hu's visit and Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said no new deal was imminent. 'Pakistan and China have long-standing cooperation in the civilian nuclear field and this is continuing. There are no specific agreements at the moment to be signed,' she said...

China Daily, 17 November 2006

Hu: China to pursue peace, prosperity (Sun Shangwu)

HANOI -- Visiting President Hu Jintao on Friday called for increasing official aid to developing countries to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor and promised to make China remain a staunch force in upholding world peace. He made the remarks when addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) CEO Summit, which is held under the theme of "Towards One Community: Creating New Opportunities for Shared Development." "We should increase official development assistance with no strings attached to developing countries, intensify economic and technical co-operation in various forms and help them in human resources development, thus helping to foster an enabling external environment for their development," said Hu. The deepening of economic globalization and region integration has brought countries closer, but imbalance in development remains a major problem...

People's Daily, 17 November 2006

China, Japan to jointly study history

China and Japan agreed yesterday to jointly research history, a move that is expected to reduce future disputes on historical issues. The announcement was made after a meeting between Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) meeting. Historical disputes, especially issues concerning Japanese invasions of Asian countries including China during World War II, have periodically blocked advancement of bilateral relations. The joint research will be conducted according to the principles of the three political documents signed by the two countries, including the China-Japan Joint Statement, as well as with the spirit of "facing the future", according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The purpose is to "deepen the objective understanding of history and increase mutual understanding." The joint research will cover more than 2,000 years of bilateral

exchanges, modern history including the Japanese invasion of China and other Asian countries, and the development of bilateral relations in the 60 years since the end of World War II. A total of 20 scholars, 10 from each side, will establish a special committee to conduct the research, and there will be two groups in charge of ancient and modern history respectively...

People's Daily, 18 November 2006

Chinese president meets Japanese PM

Chinese President Hu Jintao met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi to exchange views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern. The Chinese and Japanese leaders met on the sidelines of the 14th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. The meeting between Hu and Abe is their second since Abe took office in September this year. Their first meeting was in early October when Abe visited China.

People's Daily, 19 November 2006

Chinese and U.S. presidents discuss bilateral ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao and U.S. President George W. Bush met in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi on Sunday to exchange views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern. The two presidents met on the sidelines of the 14th Economic Leaders' Meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which will end Sunday.

People's Daily, 19 November 2006

Chinese president vows to push forward Sino-Russian strategic partnership

Chinese President Hu Jintao met Saturday in Hanoi with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and expressed his willingness to work together with Russia to push forward the Sino-Russian strategic partnership. "The relations between China and Russia have made historic progress since they forged a strategic partnership of coordination 10 years ago," Hu said when meeting with Putin on the sidelines of the two-day Economic Leaders' Informal Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which began on Saturday. Both sides have enhanced mutual political trust, achieved noticeable results in their pragmatic cooperation and deepened their strategic coordination, he said, adding that the Sino-Russian friendship has contributed to peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole...

People's Daily, 20 November 2006

Feature: China-India relations: best yet to come

China and India, old neighbors divided by the world's highest mountains, are welcoming a historic moment in their relations with Chinese President Hu Jintao's upcoming visit on Monday. "President Hu's visit is a landmark in China-India relations. The most important task of this tour is to enrich the strategic partnership between China and India," said Sun Yuxi, Chinese ambassador to India. The two countries decided to establish strategic cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited India in April last year. During Hu's visit, the two countries will discuss how to

fully push forward the bilateral ties and sign a series of agreements on their cooperation in such fields as politics, energy, trade, investment, tourism and culture, Sun said...

People's Daily, 20 November 2006

China, Japan vow to keep ties progressing

China and Japan agreed to expand bilateral relations by maintaining high-level contacts and increasing co-operation in energy, economy and trade. President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reached the agreement on Saturday in a meeting on the sidelines of the 14th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation. The meeting between Hu and Abe is their second since Abe took office in September. Abe visited Beijing in early October. Hu said that the meeting reflects the "common will of the two countries to improve bilateral relations." The two countries agreed to build a "strategic relationship of mutual interests" and foreign affairs departments will work on details of such a relationship...

People's Daily, 20 November 2006

China, US hold joint sea rescue exercise

The navies of China and the United States held a search-and-rescue exercise on the South China Sea yesterday morning. The exercise involved China's guided missile destroyer Zhanjiang, the fuel tanker Dongting Lake, the USS Juneau and the USS missile destroyer Fitzgerald. The two navies conducted communications, fleet-formation change and search-and-rescue exercises. The exercise called for the Chinese and US navies to jointly locate a ship in danger and salvage it. The two sides each commanded different stages of the exercise. The Chinese side took charge of the communications and search stage, while the US side commanded the two countries' vessels in the rescue...

China Daily, 21 November 2006

Hu promotes mutual trust in India (Li Xing)

New Delhi: President Hu Jintao arrived here Monday evening to start his State visit to India. In a written statement delivered upon arrival at the airport, Hu said China and India are close neighbours, and friendly exchanges between the two peoples dated back to ancient times. He noted that bilateral relations had maintained sound momentum in recent years and the two sides had enjoyed good co-ordination in international and regional affairs. As the first Chinese president to visit the country in a decade, Hu is expected to work with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, to "fill in the specifics" in the strategic partnership, according to Sun Yuxi, Chinese ambassador to India...

The Hindu, 21 November 2006

China for fair solution to boundary issue

Beijing: There was peace and tranquillity on the India-China border, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said here on Monday. "Our position on the boundary issue is clear and consistent. Our position is to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through friendly consultations," she said. "Through the visit of President Hu Jintao, China hopes to enhance the political mutual trust and lay the foundation for a strategic cooperative partnership," Ms. Jiang said. "We also hope to promote comprehensive mutually beneficially cooperation, and add more content to the

bilateral strategic cooperative partnership." The countries were willing to work together for lasting friendship and joint development, she said. "We are ready to commit ourselves for the promotion of peace and development of Asia and the world at large."...

The Hindu, 21 November 2006

China promises "responsible attitude" at NSG

Beijing: China on Monday sought "more information and explanations" from India to address concerns of "some countries" on the India-U.S. civilian nuclear deal but promised to take a "responsible attitude" at the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) when the issue comes up. "We hope that the Indian side can attach importance to these opinions and provide more information and explanations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told PTI here. Ms.Jiang's comment is the most explicit comment from Beijing on the nuclear agreement...

The Indian Express, 21 November 2006

India, China aim for \$40 bn trade

New Delhi, November 21: India and China will work to raise their bilateral trade to \$40 billion by 2010, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Tuesday after talks with visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao. The Asian giants are keen to develop a relationship dogged by mistrust since a brutal border war of 1962 and still overshadowed by disputes over their frontier but which is now marked by burgeoning two-way trade as they liberalise their economies. Bilateral trade has climbed from just \$260 million in 1990 to a projected \$20 billion in 2006/07, and is expected to continue growing. But there are still concerns on both sides. India fears that opening its doors even wider to low-cost Chinese manufacturers would undermine its own industries, and wants Beijing to be more transparent about hidden subsidies. Chinese firms have complained that potential investment in India in areas such as ports and telecommunications has been blocked by Indian officials who cite national security concerns, denying Chinese firms big business deals in the public sector...

China Daily, 22 November 2006

Hu: China not seeking selfish gains

NEW DELHI - Chinese President Hu Jintao said on Wednesday Beijing was not seeking "selfish gains" in South Asia and was willing to work with New Delhi to push for an early settlement to a decades-old border dispute. China was keen to enhance mutual political trust between the neighbours, consolidate business links and establish a strategic partnership to help make the 21st century an Asian century, the Chinese leader said. Hu is the first Chinese president to visit India in a decade and the second ever. "China does not seek any selfish gains in South Asia and is ready to play a constructive role in promoting peace and development in the subcontinent," Hu said in a speech to business leaders, diplomats and politicians...

China Daily, 22 November 2006

Opinion : Milestone in relations - What will happen when China and India come together'

The two emerging countries are much talked about in the media. Among developing

countries, China absorbs the largest volume of foreign direct investment while India is the first destination for IT outsourcing. In the past few years, the two economies with the world's largest populations have been modernizing fast at an eye-catching rate. Giant as they are, the two are not necessarily rivals. Chinese-made toys, toasters and televisions have proliferated across the Indian marketplace. India exports raw materials for China's booming construction industry. While President Hu Jintao tours India, the two countries have mapped out a new drive to promise a new era of peace and prosperity. The visit will steer the bilateral ties in a more vibrant and forward-looking direction...

China Daily, 22 November 2006

Nuclear talks 'could restart next month' (Qin Jize and Chen Jialu)

Six-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue could resume next month, the top US negotiator to the disarmament negotiations said Tuesday. "I believe we will have Six-Party Talks probably by the middle of December. What is important for us is that they be well planned and that's why I came," US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said at the airport after he wound up his one-day visit to Beijing. He met Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, also head of China's delegation to talks, on Monday evening and the two agreed to work together to restart negotiations. Hill visited Beijing three weeks ago to meet his Chinese and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) counterparts. The three sides agreed to discuss and resolve the issue of Washington's financial sanctions against Pyongyang through negotiations within the framework of the Six-Party Talks...

The Indian Express, 22 November 2006

India, China vow to 'grow together'

New Delhi, November 22: India and China agreed to boost trade and renew efforts to solve their border dispute, adding there was enough room for the Asian giants to grow together, while remaining sensitive to the other's concerns. The new resolve by the neighbours, whose ties remain hostage to mistrust sparked by a 1962 border war, came after talks between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Hu arrived in New Delhi on Monday for a four-day visit, the first by a Chinese president in a decade and only the second ever. "President Hu and I are in agreement that the prospects are bright for the simultaneous development of India and China," Singh said during a joint address to the media. "There is enough space for the two countries to develop together in a mutually supportive manner while remaining sensitive to each other's concerns and aspirations as befits good neighbours and partners for mutual benefit," he said...

The Hindu, 22 November 2006

India, China to cooperate on nuclear energy (Amit Baruah)

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese President Hu Jintao have agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the "basic interests" of the two countries, and it should be pursued as a "strategic objective." The Special Representatives dealing with the boundary issue "shall complete at an early date" finalising an "appropriate framework" for a "final package settlement," Dr. Singh and Mr. Hu said. A joint declaration was issued at the end of three-and-half hours of talks

between the two leaders in "restricted" and delegation-level formats at Hyderabad House here on Tuesday. Thirteen agreements on a wide swathe of subjects were signed...

People's Daily, 23 November 2006

Chinese president makes five-point proposal for promoting Sino-India ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday made a five-point proposal for further developing Sino-India relations, focusing on increasing political trust, business cooperation, cultural and social exchanges, boundary issues and multilateral cooperation. Hu made the proposal in a keynote address dubbed "Working Together to Expand Cooperation and Create a Bright Future" at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi during his state visit to India. "China is ready to work with India to ensure that the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership grows in both depth and width," Hu said...

People's Daily, 23 November 2006

Nepal never to allow anti-China activities on its territory: PM

Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Wednesday reaffirmed Nepal's stance that Taiwan and Tibet are inalienable parts of China, and Nepal will never allow external forces to engage in anti-China activities on Nepal's territory. Koirala made the remarks while meeting here with a visiting Chinese delegation headed by Liu Hongcai, deputy head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. The Chinese delegation was invited by Vice Chairman of the Nepali Congress party Shushil Koirala on behalf of Nepal's ruling Seven Party Alliance. Koirala said China has long been providing aid to Nepal's development and positively contributed to Nepal's peace progress, expressing hope that the Nepal-China friendship will be passed on to the younger generations by stepping up their exchanges. The prime minister noted that the Nepali Congress party attaches importance to the relationship with CPC, and the party was in favor of learning CPC's experience in governing a country, especially in developing economy...

China Daily, 24 November 2006

Hu in Pakistan to expand bilateral trade, friendship

President Hu Jintao will seek to deepen China's decades-old friendship with Pakistan on Friday when the two neighbors are due to sign a broad range of economic agreements, including a free trade pact. Hu arrived in Pakistan on Thursday on the first visit by a Chinese president in a decade. His visit also marks the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations which analysts describe as Pakistan's most stable. The agreements to be signed will include the fields of industry, agriculture, energy, as well as the trade deal, a senior Pakistani government official said...

The Indian Express, 24 November 2006

India, China to take on West at WTO (Dev Chatterjee)

Mumbai, November 23: If size matters, then it's time for developed nations to take notice. India and China, two of world's fastest growing economies, have decided to jointly take on the rich nations in the WTO negotiations, to protect interests of their farmers. "We're going to take a joint stand at the WTO talks in future," Commerce Minister Kamal Nath said here today standing next to his Chinese counterpart, Bo Xilai. The WTO talks-

aimed to boost world trade and reduce poverty- are currently facing an impasse over developed countries' stand to give high subsidies to their farmers and over lack of market access for Western companies in the poor countries. "The impasse must be broken as there is lot at stake for developing nations like India and China," Nath said. In the WTO talks, it is countries like India and Brazil which have led the developing nations in various groupings so that their interests are protected. China, on the other hand, has been a silent spectator. The WTO is a forum where 150-member countries are negotiating how to bring down trade barriers and boost their economies...

The Washington Post, 24 November 2006

China Filling Void Left by West in U.N. Peacekeeping (Colum Lynch)

UNITED NATIONS -- When African nations began urging the deployment of peacekeepers to Somalia in June to prop up its embattled government, an unlikely nation stepped forward to support their call for action: China, which had long been wary of such interventions by the United Nations. China's emergence as an economic superpower has forced the government to rethink some of its foreign policy priorities, and it is quietly extending its influence on the world stage through the support of international peacekeeping operations. China is now the 13th-largest contributor of U.N. peacekeepers, providing 1,648 troops, police and military observers to 10 nations, mostly in African countries, including Congo, Liberia and southern Sudan. But its activities reach well beyond Africa. Chinese riot police have been sent to Haiti to quell unrest. Earlier this month, Beijing offered to send 1,000 peacekeepers to southern Lebanon to help enforce a cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah. The United Nations accepted less than half. Wang Guangya, China's U.N. ambassador, said that China is filling a vacuum left by the West. "The major powers are withdrawing from the peacekeeping role," he said. "That role is being played more by small countries. China felt it is the right time for us to fill this vacuum. We want to play our role."...

People's Daily, 25 November 2006

Chinese president proposes five steps to strengthen Sino-Pakistan ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Friday proposed five steps to further promote Sino-Pakistan relations, covering strategic cooperation, win-win business ties, cultural and social exchanges, cooperation in international affairs and exchanges among civilization. Hu made the proposal in a keynote speech titled "Carrying on traditional friendship and deepening all-round cooperation" at Islamabad Convention Center during his state visit to Pakistan. "Ever since our diplomatic relations began in 1951, we have enjoyed mutual understanding, respect, trust and support, and our friendship and cooperation have flourished," Hu said...

People's Daily, 25 November 2006

China, Pakistan sign free trade agreement

China and Pakistan signed a free trade agreement (FTA) on Friday, which is projected to triple their current bilateral trade to 15 billion U.S. dollars within five years. Under the agreement, China and Pakistan will begin to reduce or eliminate tariffs on all products in two phases from July 1, 2007. During Phase I, both sides will reduce the tariffs on 85 percent of the products based on different extents of tariff reduction within five years of

the agreement entering into force, and 36 percent of the products will be tariff free within three years. During this phase, China will mainly reduce tariffs on livestock, aquatic products, vegetables, mineral products and textiles, while Pakistan will mainly reduce tariffs on beef and mutton, chemicals and machinery products. Phase II starts from the sixth year of the entry into force of the agreement. Both sides will further reduce tariffs on the products on the basis of a review of the implementation of the agreement...

The Hindu, 26 November 2006

Hu Jintao's visit reassures Pakistan (Nirupama Subramanian)

ISLAMABAD: The visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to Pakistan has served to reinforce a long-standing friendship and to convey that Beijing's new alliances are not at the expense of ties with Islamabad, analysts said. During his visit, Mr. Hu said China would continue to view Pakistan from a "strategic and long-term perspective" and expressed readiness to "raise the strategic partnership" between the two countries to "new levels." He also spoke about continuing co-operation in nuclear energy. "What President Hu Jintao has managed to convey is that unlike the United States, in the restructuring and realignment of Asian geopolitics, China will not exclude Pakistan," said Ayesha Siddiqua, who writes on defence and strategic issues...

The Hindu, 26 November 2006

Terror: China and Pakistan reaffirm resolve (Nirupama Subramanian)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to fight terrorism, separatism and extremism. A joint statement on the third day of President Hu Jintao's visit said: "The two sides shared the view that terrorism, separatism and extremism pose great threats to regional peace, stability and security and reaffirmed their commitment to substantive cooperation under bilateral and multilateral frameworks to jointly combat the 'three forces' and maintain regional peace, stability and security." China is concerned about Uighyur separatists using Pakistani territory to launch attacks in the Xinjiang province on its western border...

The Indian Express, 26 November 2006

India, China to jointly explore oil

Energy-hungry India and China, often fierce rivals in the race for global oil and gas supplies, have agreed to form a joint venture company for acquisition of hydrocarbon assets in Africa and Latin America. While the November 20-23 visit to India by Chinese President Hu Jintao produced plenty of economic commitments, the concept of increased collaboration on securing energy assets was clearly missing from the official agenda. But this did not deter Petroleum Minister Murli Deora from using his old friend Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai to get a midnight audience with Ma Kai, the all powerful chairman of National Development and Reform Commission, China's top planning agency...

People's Daily, 27 November 2006

China, Pakistan sign wide-ranging joint statement

China and Pakistan signed a wide-ranging joint statement Saturday in Islamabad on bilateral relations, international and regional situation, economic and trade cooperation,

military cooperation and anti-terrorism. The joint statement was signed during Chinese President Hu Jintao's current state visit to Pakistan. The statement hailed Hu's current visit in Pakistan as being highly successful and recalled the history of development of friendly relations and cooperation between China and Pakistan, particularly highlighting the importance of relations and cooperation between the two countries. It is in the fundamental interests of the two peoples and conducive to regional peace and development to strengthen good-neighborliness and friendship, conduct mutually-beneficial cooperation and enhance the strategic partnership between the two countries, said the statement...

China Daily, 27 November 2006

FM: Hu's visit a diplomatic milestone

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Sunday hailed President Hu Jintao's Asian tour as a new milestone in efforts to foster friendly relations with neighboring countries, saying remarkable successes had been achieved during the visit. President Hu's four-nation tour has deepened the friendship with these countries, enhanced their mutual trust, expanded mutually beneficial cooperation and helped chart the course for further development of the relationships between them, Li told Chinese reporters accompanying Hu on his way back home from the 12-day trip. During the tour, the Chinese president attended the 14th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, and then paid state visits to Vietnam, Laos, India and Pakistan...

People's Daily, 27 November 2006

Envoys try to set date for restart of six-party talks

US envoy Christopher Hill is expected to arrive in Beijing this afternoon for meetings with relevant parties aimed at jump-starting the stalled Six-Party Talks on Pyongyang's nuclear issue. This is Hill's second visit to the Chinese capital in a week's time following Japanese chief negotiator Kenichiro Sasae's arrival yesterday. The visits come as members of the Six-Party Talks prepare for negotiations slated for next month. According to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Sasae's three-day visit to China will focus on Sino-Japanese relations and the situation on the Korean Peninsula...

People's Daily, 28 November 2006

Chinese, U.S. presidents confer on issues of common concern

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his U.S. counterpart, George W. Bush, on Monday exchanged views on Sino-U.S. relations and other issues of common concern in a telephone conversation, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. In the phone call, which had been arranged earlier, Hu again talked about the consensus that he had reached with Bush on a lot of issues, when the two met earlier, on the sidelines of the 14th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi. China is willing to work with the United States to implement these consensus and promote the sustained, stable and sound development of the constructive and cooperative Sino-U.S. relations, Hu said. Bush spoke highly of his meeting with Hu in Hanoi, saying the two sides held sincere and useful discussions on important issues of common concern...

People's Daily, 28 November 2006

Hill arrives in Beijing for resumption of Korean Peninsular nuclear talks

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill arrived in Beijing on Monday afternoon to continue efforts on resuming the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue. "The issue for us is to make sure that we are extremely planned and ready for the six-party talks," Hill told reporters at the Beijing Capital International Airport. Hill was the third of negotiators involved in the nuclear talks to arrive in Beijing, following the arrivals of chief negotiators of Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK) on Sunday and Monday, respectively...

People's Daily, 28 November 2006

Pakistan to open consulate general in SW China

Pakistan has been given the green-light from the Chinese government to open the consulate office in Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, an official said in Chengdu on Monday. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf visited Sichuan in February and expressed his hope to further develop economic exchanges with the province, said Cui Zhiwei, director of the foreign affairs office of the province. Pakistan and the Sichuan have cooperated on thermal and hydro power, environmental protection, locomotives and others ventures, according to the official. Pakistan will be the seventh country to open a consulate in Chengdu after the United States, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, France and Singapore...

People's Daily, 29 November 2006

U.S., China, DPRK negotiators meet in Beijing, spokesman says

The United States said its chief nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill and his counterpart of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Kye-Gwan will have second round of talks Wednesday after their meeting in Beijing, China on Tuesday. "That's the way it worked today -- there was a meeting with the Chinese, North Koreans and us and then a meeting with the North Koreans. I think the idea is that we replicate that tomorrow," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said. The meetings will "provide information on how we might be able to define what is an effective round of the six-party talks that produces concrete results," McCormack said...

People's Daily, 29 November 2006

Chinese Premier says mutual benefit a major feature of China-U.S. trade

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday said the mutual benefit of China's important trade partnership with the United States far outweighed existing trade disputes. Wen made the remark in a meeting with a delegation of the U.S.-based U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC). The two sides should resolve trade issues through dialogue and consultation based on the principles of development, equality and mutual benefit, Wen said. He also expressed appreciation to the USCBC for its efforts to promote China-US relations, calling for Chinese and U.S. trade organizations and businesses to cement communication and cooperation. Wen said long-term, stable and healthy relations served the two countries' fundamental interests and were a common aspiration of the two peoples...

People's Daily, 30 November 2006

Coal mine bosses get jail terms

XI'AN: Seven mine bosses responsible for two fatal coal mine gas explosions that killed 249 miners in Northwest China's Shaanxi Province and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region were sentenced to prison yesterday. The court rulings coincided with another coal mine gas blast in Northwest China's Gansu Province that claimed at least 11 lives. More than 100 miners have been killed in accidents in various parts of China during the past five days, according to reports. Liu Shuangming, former director of the Chenjiashan Coal Mine in Tongchuan, Shaanxi, was sentenced to five years and six months and Wang Youjun, former deputy director and chief engineer of the mine, received five years over a gas explosion in 2004 with 166 deaths. Yaozhou District People's Court of Tongchuan heard that Liu and Wang had asked the miners to work despite being aware of the risks to their lives...

People's Daily, 30 November 2006

Sino-Arab Friendship Conference ends with decision of holding regular meetings

The Conference of Sino-Arab Friendship concluded on Wednesday in Khartoum with a decision of holding regular meetings on the Chinese-Arab relations every two years, the final communique of the conference said. The communique also announced the establishment of the permanent secretariat of the Sino-Arab Friendship Conference in Khartoum under the sponsorship of the Arab League. Ahammed Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Sudanese Association of World Peoples' Friendship, hailed the conference's decision of selecting Khartoum as the location of its permanent secretariat, describing the decision as "the pride of Sudan". This year's conference also called for exchanging visits, holding exhibitions, conducting dialogue between China and the Arab countries and establishing sister twinship between the Chinese and Arab cities, universities and regions. The next Sino-Arab Friendship Conference will be held in Syria, according to the communique.

China Daily, 30 November 2006

Beijing seeks better cross-Straits travel (Li Fangchao)

Beijing Wednesday urged Taipei to loosen its control over cross-Straits tourism and financial exchanges, while pledging more efforts to push for closer co-operation in the two sectors. Li Weiyi, spokesman of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said the mainland has always held an "active and practical attitude" to achieving free travel across the Straits. However, there are still some "technical problems" that need further negotiations between non-governmental tourism associations of the two sides, he told a regular press conference. Li did not give a timetable for allowing mainland tourists to visit Taiwan, which has yet to lift its ban on inbound travel by mainland residents...