

The China Daily, 1 October 2005

China, Japan resume talks on disputed waters (Hu Xiao)

Japan will ask China to disclose information about its exploration of oil and gas fields in the East China Sea during the current round of talks, which began on Friday. "We call for information disclosure. Without it, we would call (on China) to cease unilaterally proceeding with (oil and gas field) development or production," the Kyodo News Agency quoted Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura as saying on Friday. China's chief delegate, Cui Tiankai, who heads the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Department, has said the sea "should not be an obstacle separating the two countries but a bond connecting them." The talks are aimed at easing tensions over the disputed waters. China's exploration of oil and gas is in waters China insists are in Chinese territory. The two countries will also discuss the possibility of joint development of gas fields in the disputed areas.

The People's Daily, 1 October 2005

Feature: China seeks to make friends with all world

In its modernization drive, China has pursued a foreign policy of peace and development and is making friends with countries all over the world. As the biggest developing country of the world, China has made it the cornerstone of its foreign policy to advance good relations with other developing countries. The foremost is a friendly neighborhood policy with its neighboring countries, which, stemmed from the traditional Chinese belief that "a good neighbor near is better than a relative afar," aims to "bring harmony, security and prosperity" to all. Wu Dawei, China's vice foreign minister, says a strategic partnership oriented toward peace and prosperity has been forged between China and ASEAN.

The China Daily, 2 October 2005

Hu, Bush hail opening of Festival of China

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his US counterpart George W. Bush hailed the opening of the Festival of China in Washington on Saturday, saying the event will further promote mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship between the two countries. The Chinese president said in his message that "It is a great pleasure for me to express, on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of China, my sincere congratulations on the Festival of China to be opened in October in Washington, D.C.." The Chinese president expressed his belief that the Festival of China, in a variety of artistic forms, is conducive to deepening the understanding of China by American audience, to promoting exchanges and cooperation between the two great nations of China and the United States.

The China Daily, 3 October 2005

India-China energy partnership favorable for Asia

Southeast Asia stands to gain if regional powerhouses India and China succeed in jointly securing long-term energy supplies to fuel their fast-growing economies, analysts said. The two former rivals are now key trading partners of Southeast Asia and if they can work together to ensure their energy needs are met, it will mean a continuation of the sizzling growth that has benefitted the region, they said. China and India plan to sign pacts in November aimed at teaming up to bid for oil and gas projects, the latest signal yet that ties are improving after 1962. The two neighbours had been vying for scarce energy resources around the world with Beijing winning the latest bout when China National Petroleum Corp. outbid India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp. for Kazakhstan's third-largest oil producer, PetroKazakhstan. Cooperation between the two Asian giants in securing energy supplies can only be favorable for

Southeast Asia, said Hugh White, a professor of strategic studies at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The China Daily, 4 October 2005

Chinese, Bangladeshi leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao exchanged congratulations with his Bangladeshi counterpart Iazuddin Ahmed Tuesday on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. In his message, Hu said the relationship between China and Bangladesh has registered all-round development in the three decades with both sides politically trusting each other and economically benefiting each other. It has turned into a model for nations with different social systems and cultural backgrounds to get along friendly.

The China Daily, 4 October 2005

Chinese minister calls for enhanced Sino-US cultural exchanges

China and the United States should enhance cultural exchanges to promote the heart-to-heart communication between the peoples of both countries, Chinese Culture Minister Sun Jiazheng said on Monday in Washington. In a keynote speech at the National Press Club in downtown Washington, Sun said there are many differences between China and the United States which will undoubtedly bring about some confrontations and friction, but it is these differences that have produced great curiosity and mutual appeal between the two countries. "Without such differences, the world might become more tranquil, but at the same time, to a large extent, it would lose its glories and fall into monotony," he said. Sun was in Washington to inaugurate the month-long Festival of China at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, which opened on Saturday.

The China Daily, 5 October 2005

Japan ready to resume talks with China

Japan has proposed to China that working-level talks on undersea oil and gas deposits in a disputed area of the East China Sea resume on Oct. 19, Japan's trade minister said Tuesday. Shoichi Nakagawa gave no other details of the proposed talks, which would be the fourth round between the two sides in the past year. A ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Japan had not yet received a reply from China. The last round of talks ended inconclusively last week. "Japan wishes to deal with the issue in a calm way," Nakagawa later told a parliamentary committee. The two countries have been feuding over claims to undersea oil and gas deposits in the area and the delineation of their exclusive economic zones there.

International Herald Tribune, 5 October 2005

U.S. visit to China will focus on yuan (Katrin Bennhold)

New York: A planned visit to China next week by Treasury Secretary John Snow and the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, the two most senior U.S. economic officials, may prove decisive for economic relations between the two countries. The talks in Beijing are expected to determine whether the Bush administration brands China a currency manipulator in a crucial report expected to be released in November, despite a decision by Beijing in July to decouple its money, the yuan, from a decade-long peg to the dollar. The move allowed the yuan to rise in value by 2.1 percent. Such a label could have negative consequences for trade relations at a time when the United States is seeking to strengthen its economic foothold in China, analysts said Tuesday. It would give ammunition to an increasingly belligerent Congress as lawmakers, concerned that American manufacturing jobs are

being lost to an undervalued yuan, threaten to impose tariffs on Chinese imports.

The China Daily, 6 October 2005

Country calls for healthy international arms control

UNITED NATIONS: The international community should strengthen co-operation to promote the healthy development of international arms control, disarmament and the non-proliferation process, says a top Chinese official. All three are at a crucial point, according to Hu Xiaodi, the Chinese ambassador on disarmament affairs. He was speaking at the general debate of the First Committee of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday. On the one hand, he said, international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation still play an important role in safeguarding world peace and stability. But multilateral arms control and the disarmament process are also facing difficulties and challenges, he added.

The China Daily, 6 October 2005

Second manned space flight set on Oct 13

HONG KONG - China will launch its second manned space flight at 11:00 am (0300 GMT) on October 13. "We expect (to launch the flight) on October 13 if weather permits," said Jiang Jingshan, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering who was involved in the first flight. The launch date for Shenzhou VI could change according to weather conditions, Jiang said on local radio. It is reported that Shenzhou VI spaceship was successfully connected to the Long March 2F rocket Tuesday afternoon at the Jiuquan satellite launch center. He said two astronauts have been selected to orbit Earth for five days, expanding on the 21-hour flight of Shenzhou V which circled Earth 14 times in 2003. Jiang did not disclose the names of the astronauts who are expected to conduct experiments in the flight module and an orbital vehicle that will remain in space for months after the astronauts return to earth.

The People's Daily, 7 October 2005

US caution urged on textile issue

A spokesman for China's Ministry of Commerce Thursday urged the US Government to take a cautious and appropriate manner in handling the Sino-US textile trade issues. The statement was given after the US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) announced Wednesday it had accepted petitions from the US textile industry to launch investigations into whether quotas should be imposed on 21 categories of clothing and textile imports from China. The spokesman said the move by the US side is against relevant rules of the World Trade Organization and expressed China's resolute opposition to it. CITA announced on Wednesday that it had accepted for review 13 textile and apparel safeguard petitions covering 21 categories. Nine of those petitions are reapplications for safeguards that previously have been implemented by the US Government, but are scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The other four petitions are new cases.

The China Daily, 8 October 2005

Hu to speak at G20 finance ministers meeting

Chinese President Hu Jintao will attend the opening ceremony of the Group of 20 (G20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting and make a keynote speech, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan announced Friday. G20 finance ministers and central bank governors will convene in China from October 15 to 16. It is the first time for China to host the G20 meeting, the spokesman said, noting that the theme of the meeting is "enhancing global cooperation and promoting

global economic development in balance and order".

The People's Daily, 8 October 2005

CPC session opens with focus on income gap

The fifth plenary session of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is scheduled to open in Beijing on Saturday. The four-day event, which will have discussions on national economic and social developments in the next five years, is expected to focus on narrowing the income gap between the rich and the poor, observers say. The event is being billed as a crucial moment as China tries to produce a harmonious society and tries to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, the city and the countryside, Tang Min, chief economist of the Asian Development Bank's China Office was quoted by Xinhua as saying on Friday. While maintaining rapid economic growth, China is concerned about balanced development and social fairness and equality to avoid the growing income gap between the rich and the poor, analysts say.

The People's Daily, 9 October 2005

DPRK premier meets Chinese vice premier on relations

Pak Bong-ju, premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on Saturday met with Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi, head of a visiting Chinese government delegation. During the meeting at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang, Wu said the two countries should make joint efforts to promote trade and economic cooperation under the principle of friendship, mutual benefit and common development. China would like to play a role in the DPRK's natural resources exploration and infrastructure construction, Wu said. Pak said the DPRK has always attached great importance to the friendly cooperative relationship with China and appreciated China's longtime support and assistance in every aspect.

The China Daily, 10 October 2005

China sends aid team, supplies to Pakistan (Jiao Xiaoyang)

China flew a 49-member rescue team and tons of materials to Pakistan yesterday as a first batch of relief to its quake-hit neighbour. The rescue team, composed of 49 rescuers, medical staff and seismological experts, took a chartered flight yesterday for the earthquake-stricken regions of Pakistan, an official with the China Seismological Bureau (CSB) told China Daily. The team, headed by CSB Deputy Director Zhao Heping, also carried six search dogs, 8 tons of search equipment and nine tons of relief materials. China's relief effort represents the first emergency humanitarian aid China has offered to Pakistan.

BBC News, 10 October 2005

China activist is attacked by mob

A Chinese political activist is missing after having been severely beaten as he tried to enter a village at the centre of a corruption dispute. A reporter for the UK newspaper, The Guardian, witnessed the incident and said Lu Banglie was dragged from a car by a crowd of several dozen men. Mr Lu was repeatedly beaten and kicked even after he had lost consciousness. The reporter said he was forced to leave the scene and had not been able to trace Mr Lu. Mr Lu is a delegate to one of China's provincial legislatures. He has been attempting to persuade local people to remove the elected chief of the village of Taishi, in southern Guangdong province. The chief is accused of embezzling public funds in a deal involving the sale of a large tract of village land.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2005

Hu pledges continued effort to promote friendly cooperation with DPRK

The Communist Party of China (CPC) will make continued efforts to promote the friendly relations and cooperation between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to a new high, Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee said on Monday. In a congratulatory message to Kim Jong-il, Hu's DPRK counterpart, on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK), Hu said that to carry forward and further develop the traditional China-DPRK friendship embodies the common will of and serves the fundamental interests of the two parties, two countries and two peoples and is also conducive to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The People's Daily, 11 October 2005

China's second batch of relief goods arrive in Islamabad

The second batch of relief goods provided by the Chinese government arrived in Islamabad Monday evening. Chinese Ambassador Zhang Chunxiang, Economic and Commercial Counselor Ma Changlin and Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary of Pakistani Cabinet Division, attended a brief handover ceremony at the Islamabad International Airport and signed the receipt of the relief items. The relief goods, which were carried by a special cargo plane, include 840 tents, 7350 cotton padded mattresses, 1670 blankets and 8980 towel quilts.

The People's Daily, 11 October 2005

Kim Yong-nam meets Chinese vice premier

Kim Yong-nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) met with Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi at Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on Monday. Kim said the DPRK-China traditional friendship has a strong vitality and the bilateral relationship between the two countries is developing in an all-round way under the guidance of the important consensus reached between top leaders of the two countries. It is the DPRK's unwavering resolve to make continued efforts to consolidate and strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, Kim said. Wu said China is happy to see the sound development of bilateral ties in the new century and will seek new areas and modalities in trade and economic cooperation with the DPRK under the new circumstances.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2005

Feature: China's 2nd manned spacecraft blasts off in eye of all nation

As the countdown for the blastoff of China's second manned spacecraft Shenzhou-6 continued steadily in the satellite launch center here in Jiuquan in northwest China, all the nation held breath. This was the 46th successful launch since October 1996, the Jiuquan and Beijing command and control centers were soaked in hails and hugs. Amid the jubilation, the Shenzhou-6 had flired 2,000 km, covering five provincial areas.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2005

China to continue friendly policy towards Japan: vice president

Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong said in Beijing Tuesday that China will continue to follow its good-neighborly friendly policy towards Japan to boost bilateral ties. In a meeting with Hiromu Nonaka, an honorary advisor of the Japan-China Friendship Association, Zeng urged the two countries to handle the bilateral ties from a strategic and historical level to start a new phase for the China-Japan relations. He expressed the hope that the two countries will embrace the spirit of learning from history and looking forward to the future and strictly abide by the three political documents which laid the foundation of the China-Japan ties.

The China Daily, 13 October 2005

China rejects U.S. rights report as meddling

China has rejected a U.S. report criticizing the country's human and religious rights as a distorted attack and meddling in its internal affairs. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan expressed China's "resolute opposition" to the report by the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China released on Tuesday. Kong said the report to the U.S. Congress and the president distorted facts, continued to attack China on human rights, religion, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and women's rights, and disregarded the country's achievements. "The report wantonly interferes in China's internal affairs and we express resolute opposition to it," Kong said in a statement on the Foreign Ministry Web site.

The China Daily, 13 October 2005

Kazakhstan warns of "collision" over PetroKaz sale

Oil-rich Kazakhstan moved nearer blocking Chinese CNPC's \$4.18 billion takeover of PetroKazakhstan on Wednesday and warned shareholders in the Canadian-listed firm against approving the deal. "If our law has been adopted there's going to be a legal collision and we will be able to say 'sorry guys you have concluded your deal without our consent'," Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Vladimir Shkolnik told deputies. He was addressing parliament's lower house shortly after the upper chamber, the Senate, passed a complex bill that aims to give Kazakhstan the right to intervene in the sale of foreign-held stakes in oil firms. It also seeks to limit property rights over "strategic resources" like oil and gas. The bill, which only needs President Nursultan Nazarbayev's signature to come into law, could derail CNPC's bid for PetroKazakhstan, a Canadian-listed firm with almost its entire operations in the former Soviet state of Kazakhstan.

The Hindu, 13 October 2005

China for socialist rural approach

BEIJING: The 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has concluded its fifth plenary session with a call for a scientific approach to the development of economy "Putting people first and adopting a scientific approach to development is the essence of the proposal for the 11th Five-Year Plan approved by the plenary session," said Chang Xiuze, an economic researcher working with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). The proposal put forward six "key" principles which are to maintain stable and fast economic growth, speed up changes to the mode of economic development, enhance the capacity for independent innovation, reinforce the building of a harmonious society and ensure further reform and opening up. One of the most vital issues on the road to modernisation is rural development.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2005

China, Japan hold 3rd round of talks

China and Japan hold a third round of strategic talks in Beijing today, the latest step in improving strained bilateral ties. Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shotaro Yachi head the talks. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said yesterday that the three-day talks would cover a wide range of topics. Regional issues of major concern to both countries, such as the development of Northeast Asia, are believed to be on the agenda. Kong said relations between China and Japan have made considerable progress in recent years but difficulties remain, requiring the two sides to approach talks in a serious manner.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2005

Chinese, Iranian FMs hold talks

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki Thursday that China will continue to play a "constructive" role in properly settling Iran's nuclear issue. In their talks on Thursday afternoon, Li spoke positively of Sino-Iranian relations. He said he believes bilateral friendly cooperative ties will continue to move forward through joint efforts. Li said China always holds that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled through diplomatic means within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "We support Iran and the European Union (EU) to continue negotiations to seek a long-term solution, and hope the negotiation will resume as early as possible," he said.

The China Daily, 14 October 2005

China, US fail to break impasse in textile talks (Dai Yan)

China and the United States yesterday failed to solve the long-simmering textile dispute, an impasse described by industry experts as a "loss-loss" result which could see more categories of Chinese textiles facing restrictions. The first sign of disagreement came when the two-day sixth round of talks in Beijing ended before noon previous rounds of talks continued till late into the night or were prolonged by a day. An official from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said the talks had failed, and that a statement which was not available till late last night was being drafted.

The Washington Post, 15 October 2005

Rumsfeld to Make Official Visit to Beijing (Ann Scott Tyson)

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld will make his first official trip to Beijing next week to hold a "straightforward exchange" on strategic concerns -- including China's military buildup -- and make an unprecedented visit to the headquarters of China's nuclear forces, senior defense officials said yesterday. While underscoring Washington's suspicions about China's aggressive military modernization, the officials said Rumsfeld's trip marks an opportunity for improving U.S.-China military ties four years after they ruptured over the collision off China's coast of a U.S. Navy spy plane and Chinese fighter jet. "We have serious strategic interests which don't always coincide but . . . Secretary Rumsfeld goes there with the intention of having some positive outcome," said one senior defense official briefing reporters about the trip, which begins Monday. He spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The China Daily, 15 October 2005

Tibet rail construction completed (Cao Desheng)

A ceremony is planned on Saturday in Lhasa, capital of Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, to celebrate the completion of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway after four years of construction. The railway, which connects Tibet with the rest of China, is the most elevated track in the world. The gigantic project, which involves an investment of 33 billion yuan (US\$ 4.7 billion), is part of the nation's efforts to build up the underdeveloped western regions. The railway, linking Lhasa with Golmud in Qinghai, extends 1,142 kilometres on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. It boasts the world's highest railway station, at Tanggula, located 5,068 metres above sea level. With an average altitude of 4,500 metres, the line has 960 kilometres at 4,000 metres above sea level. About 550 kilometres of the railway runs on frozen earth that is vulnerable to climate change, which posed a major challenge to construction.

International Herald Tribune, 16 October 2005

Rumsfeld is heading for Beijing

WASHINGTON Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is to depart for Beijing on Monday as the Pentagon balances two views of China: on the one hand, that the Asian giant is engaged in an

unwarranted military buildup and, on the other, that it can serve as a security partner in ending North Korea's nuclear program. The visit, the first by Rumsfeld in his current job, could contribute to improving a military-to-military relationship that fractured in April 2001 with the midair collision of a Chinese fighter and an American surveillance plane in international airspace. Ship visits and officer exchanges have resumed since then, but slowly. The agenda for Rumsfeld's meetings with President Hu Jintao and Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan may also include proposals for a military hot line to help avoid misunderstanding and confrontation - as well as American desires for more transparency in Chinese military spending, according to senior Pentagon officials.

BBC News, 16 October 2005

US and China starting trade talks

US and Chinese finance officials have started two days of talks in China, with America likely to renew its call that China revalues the yuan. As Chinese exports have boomed in recent years, the US accuses the Chinese of unfairly benefiting from a vastly undervalued currency. The US has long called for Beijing to increase the yuan, or better still, allow it to trade freely. America says the undervalued yuan helps make Chinese exports unfairly cheap, resulting in them flooding into the US and other leading nations. The two days of negotiations in Beijing are being led by Chinese Finance Minister Jin Renqing and US Treasury Secretary John Snow. America has also called for China to introduce measures to boost domestic consumption as a further means to cool Chinese exports.

The Hindu, 17 October 2005

India has to learn from China's growth: Chidambaram

Xianghe (China), Oct. 17): India, which trails China in attracting foreign direct investment and economic development, has a lot to learn from the "remarkable" growth path adopted by the communist giant, Finance Minister P Chidambaram said here on Sunday. "What they have done is remarkable," Chidambaram told PTI in an interview on the sidelines of the Seventh G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting which concluded in this picturesque northern Chinese city. "Within the system they have adopted, they have allowed the flourishing of the private industry stimulate competition in the economy and attract huge doses of foreign direct investment (FDI)," Chidambaram, who is visiting China after a long interval, said on China's ability to woo some 60 billion US dollars worth of FDI compared to India's single-digit FDI receipts.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2005

Shenzhou-6 a milestone in China's space program: Chinese top legislator

Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo said in Beijing Monday that Shenzhou-6's successful space flight indicated a landmark progress of China's space technology and great achievement of China's space experiments tended by human. Wu, chairman of the Standing committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), said the success "is of great significance for elevating China's prestige in the world and promoting China's economic, scientific and national defense capabilities, and its national cohesiveness." Wu and other Chinese leaders, including Jia Qinglin, Huang Ju and Wu Guanzheng, watched the successful landing of Shenzhou-6 at the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Center. Wu then read a congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the State Council, and the Central Military Commission.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2005

China no threat to world, Wolfowitz

It seems to be a very popular, convenient approach these days to compare China's rise to the

emergence of Germany and Japan after the 1860s. Those who like to make analogy between now and the dark days leading up to two world wars say that powers rarely emerge without sparking war and reshaping the international system. The conclusion: there is a big chance that China's rise will lead to, at best, troubles, or, at worst, bloodshed. However, Paul Wolfowitz, the World Bank's new president, would not subscribe to this argument. Paul Wolfowitz, 61, was known as a key neo-conservative hawk in the US Government and a key architect of the controversial war in Iraq. Since taking office, however, Wolfowitz has worked to establish his image as a strong advocate of the World Bank's anti-poverty mission, rather than a tool for US values.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2005

China to issue white paper on political democracy

The Information Office of China's State Council will issue a white paper on the country's political democracy Wednesday. This will be the first time for the Chinese government to issue a white paper on the political democracy, an official with the office told Xinhua here Tuesday. "The white paper, titled Building of Political Democracy in China, will give a detailed account of the inception, development, contents and principles of the country's political democracy," the official said. It will also mention the problems the country has to be overcome in its building of political democracy and major steps to be taken to reform its political system, he said. The document is divided into 12 parts, including the people's congress system, the system of ethnic regional autonomy, grassroots democracy in the urban and rural areas, respecting and safeguarding human rights, according to the official.

The China Daily, 18 October 2005

Bush to visit China in November

US President George W. Bush will visit China and Japan in November as part of a trip to a region of increasing economic significance and strategic concern to the United States. The White House said that before attending the November 18-19 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea, Bush would visit Kyoto, Japan, on November 15 and meet with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on November 16. After the APEC meetings, Bush will go to Beijing on November 19, followed by Mongolia on November 21. Bush, who previously visited Beijing in 2001 and 2002, is going to China at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, who has worked with the United States, South Korea, Japan and Russia to persuade North Korea to halt its nuclear weapons programs. The trip coincides with simmering US concern over the rise of China on the global diplomatic stage and China's growing economic and military clout.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2005

Chinese premier: Sino-US trade issues can be settled

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said in Beijing Monday that Sino-US economic and trade ties are generally good and existing issues can be settled. Wen made the remarks at a meeting with visiting US Treasury Secretary John Snow who started a China tour last Tuesday. Wen said the right principles for solving bilateral economic and trade disputes should be that the two sides, while taking into consideration the general situation and long-term interests, should respect each other, conduct consultations on an equal footing, enhance understandings and consensus through more dialogues and exchanges, and seek more common ground while shelving trivial differences.

BBC News, 19 October 2005

Rumsfeld urges Chinese openness

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has urged China to be more open about military spending to

avoid suspicion in other countries about its intentions. Mr Rumsfeld said on a visit to Beijing that China's future prosperity and attitudes towards it may depend on what he called internal political events. He said greater openness in the military was in the end linked to greater political openness.

The China Daily, 19 October 2005

China issues 1st white paper on democracy

The Information Office of China's State Council issued Wednesday a white paper on China's political democracy (full text) , vowing to actively push forward the reforms of its political system although, it said, tremendous achievements had been scored in this regard. The white paper, issued by the Information Office of China's State Council, or the cabinet, is the first of its kind in China, giving a detailed account of the inception, development and contents of the socialist political democracy and the principles the country will abide by. The document, titled Building of Political Democracy in China, also points out the problems the country has to overcome and major steps to be taken in the reforms of its political system. The socialist political democracy "is the apt choice suited to China's conditions and meeting the requirement of social progress," said the white paper.

The China Daily, 19 October 2005

PetroKazakhstan shareholders OK CNPC bid

CALGARY, Alberta - PetroKazakhstan shareholders have overwhelmingly approved an offer by China's CNPC to buy the Canadian company for \$4.2 billion, setting the stage for the deal to be completed after weeks of political wrangling and uncertainty. At a meeting in Calgary on Tuesday, 99.04 percent of PetroKazakhstan shareholders voted in favor of China National Petroleum Corp.'s \$55 a share bid for the Calgary-based company, which produces and refines oil solely in Kazakhstan. The offer still requires approval by an Alberta judge, who is slated to make a ruling later on Tuesday. Investors enthusiastically backed the deal with the Chinese state oil firm after tough talk and a series of legislative moves in Kazakhstan that looked set to scuttle it -- until this week.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2005

China firmly opposes all US-Taiwan military exchanges

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said in Beijing Tuesday that China is firmly opposed to all kinds of military exchanges between the United State and Taiwan. The Chinese government is also firmly opposed to any form of US-Taiwan military cooperation including US arms sales to Taiwan, Kong said. Replying to questions concerning the visit of US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Kong said that the Taiwan issue is the core in the overall Sino-US relations. China has expressed on many occasions that proper handling of relations with Taiwan by the United States is the most important basis for the healthy, stable and sustained development of Sino-US relations, the spokesman said.

The People's Daily, 20 October 2005

President Hu meets US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld

Chinese President Hu Jintao met with visiting US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Wednesday in Beijing, calling for the two sides to make a concerted effort to further promote the relations between the two nations and two armies. Hu, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, said that China-US relations have seen good growth on the whole, and that the leaders of the two nations maintain close connections and communication. Hu described bilateral cooperation in economy and trade, anti-terrorism, nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and United Nations reform as "fruitful".

BBC News, 20 October 2005

China reaffirms 'no first strike'

A senior Chinese general has assured US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of Beijing's "no first use" of nuclear weapons policy, reports say. US officials said Gen Zing Zhiyuan made the remarks when Mr Rumsfeld paid an unprecedented visit to the headquarters of China's nuclear arsenal. There have been concerns that China might use nuclear weapons if the US intervened in a conflict with Taiwan. Meanwhile Chinese President Hu Jintao urged better military ties with the US. In a meeting with Mr Rumsfeld, Mr Hu said although the military relationship had improved in recent years there was still room to expand, US defence officials said.

China Daily, 21 October 2005

China offers nuclear assurance to Rumsfeld

The commander of China's nuclear missile forces told Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Wednesday that in an armed conflict China would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. Gen. Jing Zhiyuan, commander of the Second Artillery, which operates the country's arsenal of nuclear missiles, offered the assurance while hosting Rumsfeld as the first foreigner to visit his headquarters, according to two U.S. officials who participated in the meeting. The officials briefed reporters afterward only on condition of anonymity because of the visit's sensitivity. They said Jing told Rumsfeld no foreigner had entered the command headquarters in its 39-year history. Rumsfeld signed a large, new and otherwise empty guest book. The Chinese rejected a Rumsfeld request to visit their national military command center in the Western Hills. Jing disavowed a recent public suggestion by another Chinese general that the United States could be targeted for a nuclear strike if it intervened in a conflict over Taiwan.

China Daily, 21 October 2005

Nation's GDP up 9.4% on back of spending (Su Bei)

Rising consumer spending coupled with strong fixed-asset investment helped China's economy grow by a sizzling 9.4 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday. The gross domestic product, which stood at 10.6 trillion yuan (US\$1.3 trillion) during the period, continued to maintain steady and rapid growth, NBS spokesman Zheng Jingping said. The third quarter's figure follows similar stellar growth of 9.5 per cent in the second quarter and 9.4 per cent in the first. Retail sales, an important indicator of consumption, rose 13 per cent year-on-year to 4.5 trillion yuan (US\$554.8 billion) during the first three quarters of this year, as people increased spending on goods such as cars and mobile phones and services such as air travel.

Taipei Times, 21 October 2005

Lee warns US of Chinese assault (Charles Snyder)

Former president Lee Teng-hui warned senior US congressional leaders that a Chinese military attack on Taiwan could take place within "a couple of years," congressional sources told the Taipei Times. Lee made his comments in a meeting with the top two congressmen on the House International Relations Committee, chairman and Republican Representative Henry Hyde, and Democratic Representative Tom Lantos, during a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, the sources said. Lee's comments were part of a lengthy presentation to the two leaders outlining his views on the strategic challenges that are facing Taiwan, and the need for the US to recommit itself to maintaining Taiwan's security, two major themes of his four-day visit to Washington which began on Monday. Lee told Hyde and Lantos, both strong supporters of Taiwan, that he was concerned about the threat of a Chinese attack in the medium term. It was not immediately clear how the two congressmen reacted to

his warning.

The Hindu, 21 October 2005

Indian, Chinese teams meet

JAMMU: In continuation of the confidence building measures between India and China, an Indian military delegation met a Chinese team at Chushul in eastern Ladakh on Thursday. Border personnel meetings are held four times a year to build trust between troops at the local level and also to ensure peace and tranquillity as per an agreement signed. Officials of the Leh-based 14 Corps told The Hindu that at the meeting, held in an atmosphere of mutual trust and camaraderie, both sides agreed to join hands in contributing to the peace, stability and development of the region in consonance with the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement.

People's Daily, 21 October 2005

China issues white paper on political democracy

The Information Office of China's State Council issued Wednesday a white paper on China's political democracy, vowing to actively push forward the reforms of its political system although, it said, tremendous achievements had been scored in this regard. The white paper, issued by the Information Office of China's State Council, or the cabinet, is the first of its kind in China, giving a detailed account of the inception, development and contents of the socialist political democracy and the principles the country will abide by. The document, titled Building of Political Democracy in China, also points out that the problems the country has to overcome and major steps to be taken in the reforms of its political system. The socialist political democracy "is the apt choice suited to China's conditions and meeting the requirement of social progress," said the white paper. Such democracy has enabled the Chinese people, who account for one fifth of the world's population, "to become masters of their own country and society, and enjoy extensive democratic rights," the white paper says.

People's Daily, 21 October 2005

China steps up efforts in bird flu fight

As fears of a global pandemic rise, China is stepping up efforts to increase surveillance and improve responses to animal and human infections of bird flu. It is also pondering measures such as stockpiling emergency materials, including anti-flu drug Tamiflu, in case the bird-flu virus mutates into a strain which is transmitted from human to human. The latest alarm was in North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, where about 2,600 birds died following a recent outbreak caused by the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. At a State Council meeting, Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu called for intensified efforts to prevent, monitor and control the spread of bird flu.

China Daily, 22 October 2005

New law to strengthen energy security (Fu Jing)

China expects to draft a law within two years that will ensure its energy security, a senior energy official said. The efforts were regarded as a major step to strengthen the country's energy-related legislative foundation and help sustain growth in the years to come. "We need a general law to ensure our energy security and we are buried in the efforts," said Xu Dingming, energy bureau head under the National Development and Reform Commission. Xu said "the meat of the law" is likely to include principles of energy saving, cleaner utilization and security, which have been repeatedly emphasized by China's highest leadership in drafting the country's blueprint for the next five years. A team of experts and officials from the National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature, and the State

Council have already assembled twice to discuss preparations for legislation, said Xu, who is also the deputy office director of the State Council Energy Leading Group, headed by Premier Wen Jiabao.

China Daily, 22 October 2005

Military opens material procurement website (Ma Chenguang)

The People's Liberation Army (PLA), now with a force of about 2.3 million, has opened a website to publicize its military material procurement work and ensure its transparency, China National Radio reported on Thursday on its website. The PLA procurement network, which can be reached at <http://www.plap.cn> and is said to be the only website of its type, aims to provide a platform between military material suppliers and buyers with the aim of "integrity, fairness and openness," the report says. China's total defence expenditure for this year, according to Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan on Wednesday, is US\$30.2 billion. Military material buying accounts for a considerable share of the budget, Chen Bin, a PLA Second Artillery Force headquarters staff, said on Friday in a telephone interview. He added that the PLA General Armament Department will continue to handle the military's armament affairs.

Taipei Times, 22 October 2005

Lee calls pan-blue camp 'collaborators'

Former president Lee Teng-hui on Thursday lashed out at the pan-blue alliance, calling its members collaborators with China in a plan to reverse Taiwan's democratization, and he repeated his call for the name "Taiwan" to be changed to the "Republic of Taiwan." Speaking to a standing-room-only audience of nearly 200 people at a press conference at the National Press Club, Lee said that the main problem facing Taiwan today is the need for heightened national identity, and that a name change is the only way Taiwan can expect to gain recognition from the nations of the world. He said he was not in Washington to promote Taiwan's independence, because "Taiwan is already independent," and that a new name and constitution are needed to codify that.

People's Daily, 22 October 2005

Rumsfeld says China's military development "understandable"

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld left China Thursday with certain understanding of China's efforts to develop national defense, said a Chinese Defense Ministry official. The US defense secretary has drawn a clear idea in his three-day China visit that it is "natural" for China to develop its armed forces, improve armaments and carry out military modernization, said Zhang Bangdong, director of the ministry's Foreign Affairs Office. Zhang also quoted Rumsfeld as saying he hoped the Chinese armed forces would "increase transparency". During the visit, the first since Rumsfeld became defense secretary, Chinese President Hu Jintao, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission Guo Boxiong and Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan met or held talks with him. Both sides agreed that the two militaries should seek common ground while reserving differences, and promote exchanges in the forms of academy education, personnel exchanges and fleet visits.

People's Daily, 22 October 2005

China, Nepal pledge further military exchanges

Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan said Friday in Beijing that China will promote military cooperation with Nepal. In a meeting with Pyar Jung Thapa, chief of staff of the Nepalese armed forces, Cao said that since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 50 years ago, bilateral relations have witnessed smooth progress on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The two

countries trust each other politically, cooperate economically and support each other in major international affairs, said Cao, who is also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councilor. Cao hoped the two countries and militaries expand visits and exchanges in the future. Thapa affirmed the strengthened military cooperation between Nepal and China, hoping the neighborly partnership between the two countries can move forward. Also on Friday, Liang Guanglie, chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, held talks with Thapa.

China Daily, 23 October 2005

Six-party talks may resume in early November

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has promised to return to the fifth round of six-party nuclear talks in early November unconditionally, Bill Richardson, US governor of the New Mexico State said on Saturday in Seoul. Richardson, a former US ambassador to the United Nations, led a 10-member delegation to the DPRK for a four-day trip earlier this week and met with several senior DPRK officials. "The trip was successful and the most important success was the unconditional return commitment the North Koreans gave me, to return to the six-party talks in early November," he was quoted by South Korean Yonhap News Agency as saying at a press conference held earlier in the day. "North Koreans assured me that they will return probably in the latter part of the first week of November," he said. While, the DPRK side denied the existence of any uranium enrichment program and facilities, said Richardson, adding "They said they use natural uranium for fuel rods."

China Daily, 23 October 2005

China to ratify UN pact against corruption

The Chinese government on Saturday tabled the international document with its legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, for ratification in less than two years after subscribing to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The convention "is conducive to the repatriation of corrupt criminals fled abroad and the recovery of Chinese assets illegally transferred to foreign lands," Premier Wen Jiabao said in a bill submitted to the legislature. China has been increasingly plagued by government officials and executives of state-owned companies who abscond with a large sum of public money and flee overseas to escape from prosecution and punishment.

People's Daily, 23 October 2005

China mulls law to ensure safety of farm products

China's top legislature, the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), deliberates on the draft law on quality safety of agricultural produce for the first time during a six-day session commencing in Beijing Saturday. Quality safety of agricultural products is closely related to public health, safety and the growth of agriculture and rural economy in China, says Minister of Agriculture Du Qinglin, when explaining the draft to the NPC Standing Committee. Xu Xiaojun, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), said, of the total 381 major food-poisoning incidents reported by Ministry of Health in 2004, 140 were caused by poisonous animals and plants. The absence of law caused great difficulties in preventing these incidents from happening again. Du said quite a number of policies and measures have been taken in recent years to ensure safety of farm products, including building better bases of agricultural products and improving daily food provisions for the public.

People's Daily, 23 October 2005

More rural senior couples to be awarded for practicing family planning policy

A new family planning reward policy is to be introduced in 23 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions across the country this year. According to the new policy, rural couples with only one child or two daughters will be eligible for a cash reward of no less than 600 yuan (72 dollars) each year when they are 60 years old. The reward will last for the rest of their lives. In east China's Anhui Province, which began practicing the new policy recently, approximately 50,000 rural seniors are eligible for the cash reward this year, according to the Anhui Provincial Committee for Family Planning. The province also stipulates that those who have only one daughter or whose only child died can get 240 yuan (29 US dollars) more.

Xinhuanet, 23 October 2004

Session highlights people's basic interests

BEIJING: China's monthly personal income tax cutoff point is expected to double, as the draft amendment to the personal income tax law is hopefully approved by the top legislature. The new threshold, 1,600 yuan (close to 200 US dollars), lifted from the current 800 yuan, is higher than the originally proposed 1,500 yuan, which was put at the first-ever legislature hearing held last month. The draft amendment is due to be voted for adoption at the ongoing 18th session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), which began Saturday morning. He Yongjian, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission under the NPC Standing Committee, said the adjustment of the tax deduction point should fully consider not only public opinions, but China's financial capability, and the present national conditions.

Taipei Times, 23 October 2005

Lee denounces China as 'slave state'

Former president Lee Teng-hui on Friday accused China of running a "slave state" that uses the false promise of its booming economy to dupe the free world into appeasing its tyranny. In an explosive speech in Los Angeles on the last leg of a 13-day US tour that has infuriated Beijing, Lee called for capitalist nations to shun investment in China, which he likened to the 1930s appeasement policy towards German dictator Adolf Hitler and later Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. "As long as the capital from free countries continues to pour into China, China's already oppressive practices will become more entrenched and the ensuing and ever-expanding militarism will make the likelihood of transition to a peaceful country ever more unlikely," he said. He said the US and the world community can influence whether China chooses to pursue regional domination or embrace democracy, and should unite to promote freedom in the world's most populous country.

China Daily, 24 October 2005

Beijing steps up efforts to fight bird flu

The Chinese capital has stepped up its efforts to fight bird flu by sending inspectors to farms, homes and migratory bird sanctuaries to enforce disease prevention controls. The World Health Organization (WHO) said that although China has a strong political determination to tackle the problem and had stepped up monitoring efforts, more needed to be done at the local level. The stepped-up veterinary checks came after the Ministry of Health warned last week that a "danger of the fatal disease spreading to human beings exists." The country's top leaders also warned that the country faces a "grave" threat from avian influenza, as both Asia and Europe try to contain the deadly virus. Officials in Beijing have begun checking chickens, ducks, and geese and even carrier pigeons being raised as pets in the city to make sure they are properly vaccinated or isolated, the Beijing Youth Daily reported.

China Daily, 24 October 2005

Celebrations mark liberation of Taiwan

Activities on the Chinese mainland to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Taiwan from Japan have improved relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, according to a visiting scholar from Taiwan. Many events have been held to commemorate the victory of China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1937-45). Taiwan was ceded to Japan under the "Treaty of Shimonoseki," signed by the Qing Dynasty government after it was defeated in the Sino-Japanese war (1894-95). Only on October 25, 1945, after World War II had ended, did Taiwan formally reclaim its Chinese identity. Six decades later, Chinese officials will join the public at a big celebration ceremony in Beijing tomorrow.

China Daily, 24 October 2005

Income-tax threshold likely to double to 1,600 yuan

The threshold for monthly personal income tax is set to double to 1,600 yuan (US\$198) a move experts hail as creating a more equitable society. If, as expected, the amendment to the personal income tax law is approved by the current session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), Chinese earning less than 1,600 yuan (US\$198) a month will not pay any income tax. "It will ease the burden on low- and middle-income people, mainly wage-earners such as migrant workers and employees at enterprises," said Han Baojiang, economics professor of the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China. The central authorities have started to use taxation as a tool to achieve the goal of building a "harmonious society," said Han yesterday in an interview with China Daily. This is only the first step, he said, more measures will follow, such as the adoption of an inheritance tax.

Xinhuanet, 24 October 2005

New rules issued for overseas investment

BEIJING: China's foreign exchange regulator has announced a new regulation relating to local citizens' overseas fundraising and return investment. The new regulation, which comes into effect next month, will replace controversial rules promulgated early this year. They were believed by many to have created administrative obstacles for the use of venture capital by many Chinese private companies, particularly small and medium-sized ones. The new regulation was announced by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) yesterday. It allows domestic citizens, by using domestic assets, to set up overseas special purpose vehicles (SPVs) for fundraising purposes and make a return investment in China. It specifies the procedures and requirements.

Taipei Times, 24 October 2005

Lee says China causing a new 'cold war'

Former president Lee Teng-hui warned that a new global showdown could be emerging because of China's expansionist ambitions, and said that democratic Taiwan was on the frontlines of that conflict. "Although the Cold War has come to an end, a new cold war may arise," Lee said. Lee, who is travelling in the US, made the remarks to hundreds of Taiwanese expatriates at a forum held by the Taiwan Advocates in a conference center in Pasadena, California. "China's attempt to annex Taiwan remains unchanged," Lee said. "What's worse, the anti-democratic forces within the nation are now allying themselves with Beijing to undermine the democratic achievements of [Taiwan]."

China Daily, 25 October 2005

President Hu to visit North Korea this week

Chinese leaders have a hectic diplomatic itinerary until the end of the year, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said in Beijing yesterday. President Hu Jintao will pay official goodwill visits to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Viet Nam between Friday and next Wednesday. Tang said Hu would also visit some European countries and attend international meetings. It is reported that US President George W. Bush will visit Beijing after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum in Busan, the APEC host city in Republic of Korea in mid-November. It is believed that leaders of the APEC members would have frequent exchanges on the sidelines of the forum. A well-placed source said Premier Wen Jiabao plans to visit Eastern European countries before the end of the year. Tang said China will continue to pursue multi-faceted diplomacy and contribute more to world peace and common development. Tang made the remarks at the opening ceremony of a symposium on "China and the United Nations" to mark the UN's 60th anniversary.

China Daily, 25 October 2005

Bird flu: Beijing demands rapid response

Three hours. That's the maximum it should take for a bird-flu outbreak anywhere in the country to be reported to Beijing. The exacting timeline is part of a contingency plan hammered out by the Ministry of Agriculture to counter possible outbreaks of the potentially-fatal influenza this autumn and winter. According to the plan made available to China Daily yesterday, an outbreak in any county or city must be reported to provincial authorities within 2 hours; and after confirmation, the provincial veterinary bureau must report to the ministry within an hour. Any one can report an outbreak to a veterinary bureau, and inform authorities about any misconduct by a department or person in disease prevention, the document said. It added that drills should be conducted for emergency operation teams consisting of veterinary and health workers and servicemen and volunteers mobilized if necessary.

People's Daily, 25 October 2005

China continues to pursue 'multi-faceted' diplomacy: State Councilor

Chinese leaders have a hectic diplomatic itinerary until the end of the year, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said in Beijing yesterday. President Hu Jintao will pay official goodwill visits to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Viet Nam between Friday and next Wednesday. Tang said Hu would also visit some European countries and attend international meetings. It is reported that US President George W. Bush will visit Beijing after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum in Busan, the APEC host city in Republic of Korea in mid-November. It is believed that leaders of the APEC members would have frequent exchanges on the sidelines of the forum. A well-placed source said Premier Wen Jiabao plans to visit Eastern European countries before the end of the year. Tang said China will continue to pursue multi-faceted diplomacy and contribute more to world peace and common development.

Xinhuanet, 25 October 2005

China warns HIV cases may hit 10m by 2010: Report

BEIJING: China could have as many as 10 million HIV carriers in five years if no effective preventive measures are taken, a health official said, echoing a grim UN warning, Reuters reported. China says 840,000 HIV-AIDS cases have been reported among its 1.3 billion population, but experts say at least a million poor farmers were infected in botched blood-selling schemes in the central province of Henan alone. "If the preventive measures are slack, the number of people infected by HIV could reach 10 million by 2010," Dai Zhicheng, director of the Health Ministry's Committee of AIDS Experts, was

quoted by the Xinhua Daily Telegraph as saying. Dai said the number could be kept under 1.5 million if the right steps are taken and there are sufficient funds. The United Nations has also said the number could rise to 10 million by the end of this decade if the epidemic is not treated seriously.

Xinhuanet, 25 October 2005

China to blacklist polluting cities

BEIJING: China will blacklist cities that fail to reach the national air quality standard, a senior official of the country's environmental agency said here Monday. "The list will be announced regularly to warn cities of deteriorating air quality," said Zhang Lijun, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), at an international symposium on improving regional air quality. He said that as a penalty, SEPA will issue risk warnings to investors who consider investing in the cities that have been blacklisted for several consecutive years. Meanwhile, SEPA will strictly control construction in such cities of any projects that could add new air pollution, he said. Official statistics indicate that one-third of Chinese cities are experiencing severe air pollution.

Taipei Times, 25 October 2005

Nation's oil firms drop gas prices

The nation's two oil refiners, Formosa Petrochemical Corp and Chinese Petroleum Corp (CPC), matched each other's moves yesterday, cutting wholesale gasoline prices twice, down to the same level. Following the two price reductions, Formosa Petrochemical, which took the lead in reducing rates, slashed gasoline prices by NT\$1.4 a liter. The state-owned CPC lowered prices by NT\$0.8 a liter, or an average of 3.48 percent. "Our moves are aimed at reflecting international market trends, as crude oil prices have now dropped to around US\$60 a barrel, giving us room for price cuts," a Formosa Petrochemical official who refused to be named said yesterday. Crude oil futures in New York have declined 15 percent since reaching a record US\$70.85 a barrel on Aug. 30.

People's Daily, 26 October 2005

Hu Jintao calls for fostering "new-type" military talents

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Tuesday called for fostering new-type military talents and innovating military theory so as to provide more talented people to the armed forces. Hu, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a meeting with the deputies attending the fourth CPC congress of the Chinese PLA University of National Defense. He urged the university to map out and promote its reform and development by upholding Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents", seriously studying and implementing the essence of the Fifth Session of the Sixteenth CPC Central Committee, and put up and implement a scientific concept of development.

China Daily, 26 October 2005

Singapore PM: China's growth 'good for Asia'

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he believes that China's development is a major plus for Asia, that world would benefit not just economically but also in international affairs. He said China's growth would shift the centre of gravity of the global economy towards Asia, and "create a favourable environment for other Asian countries to grow, and enable the continent to play a significant and constructive role in world affairs." Lee, who is on a seven-day visit to China, made the point to some 700 students at the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee yesterday in Beijing. This is his first official visit to Chinese mainland since becoming prime minister in August last

year. He spoke for about 40 minutes in Chinese before taking questions. Though it was not the first time he made a public speech in Chinese, sources from the Singaporean Embassy in Beijing said the prime minister prepared diligently for quite some time. Lee said ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members welcome closer ties with China; and that the latter was actively engaged with the regional bloc on matters such as a free trade agreement.

China Daily, 26 October 2005

Koizumi still hopes for summit with China

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, amid criticism from China about his visit to a shrine that honors war criminals, expressed a wish Tuesday to hold summit talks with China on the sidelines of upcoming international meetings. Koizumi's visit to the Yasukuni shrine Oct. 17, his fifth since taking office in April 2001, prompted China to cancel some official contacts with Japan, including a scheduled visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura to discuss relations between the two trading partners.

People's Daily, 26 October 2005

Chinese premier leaves for SCO meeting in Moscow

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao left Beijing Wednesday morning to attend the Fourth Meeting of Prime Ministers of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Moscow from Oct. 26 to 27. Wen pays the visit at the invitation of Mikhail Fradkov, prime minister of the Russian Federation government. Wen's entourage includes Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Civil Affairs Li Xueju, Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai, Vice-Minister of Public Security Meng Hongwei, Director of the Premier's Office Qiu Xiaoxiong, and Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui.

Taipei Times, 26 October 2005

Pan-blue version of NCC bill passes

After nine rounds of cross-party negotiations, the pan-blue dominated legislature yesterday passed the long-anticipated organic bill of the national communications commission (NCC), paving the way for the abolition of the Government Information Office (GIO). The law states that the NCC will be established under the Executive Yuan as an independent entity. It will be the sole supervisory body of the nation's telecommunications and media industries. Currently, the media industry is regulated by the GIO, while the telecommunications industry falls under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Upset by the outcome, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) caucus said it would not rule out requesting a constitutional interpretation from the Council of Grand Justices.

Taipei Times, 26 October 2005

Chen: Retrocession Day about self-rule

The invitations issued to opposition party leaders and retired generals to attend China's "Taiwan Retrocession Day" were the latest part of China's "united front" strategy and a blatant attempt to swallow up Taiwan, President Chen Shui-bian said yesterday. The president made the remarks while receiving foreign guests who are participating in talks hosted by the Taiwan Thinktank on US-Japan-Taiwan relations. Chen told his guests that the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) attempt to equate the "retrocession" of Taiwan after World War II with its return to China was nonsensical.

Taipei Times, 26 October 2005

Major cities on high alert of bird flu

BEIJING: The recent H5N1 bird flu outbreak in Liangying Village of east China's Anhui Province has been brought under control. A total of 550 poultry died in the outbreak. Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture have been sent to help disease control in the village. So far, the affected area has been sterilized. No human infections or no new poultry bird flu deaths were reported in the province. The provincial animal disease control center has taken a series of measures to demand mandatory immunity in all poultry farms. Major Chinese cities are straining every nerve against a possible bird flu pandemic outbreak. All epidemic monitoring networks and pre-schemes for emergency have been activated.

People's Daily, 27 October 2005

Chinese premier optimistic about cooperation among SCO members

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Wednesday that China is full of confidence in future cooperation among members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). "The goals set by the organization will surely be realized as long as member states work together and endeavor to implement (agreements)," Wen told a press conference at the conclusion of the fourth conference of the Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) prime ministers. He described the gathering as a full success. Wen said the SCO, whose tenets are maintaining world peace, enhancing regional stability and development, is an open organization not targeting any third parties but willing to have close relations with other international organizations.

People's Daily, 27 October 2005

China, Singapore seeking better political ties through PM Lee's visit

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's high-profile visit to China demonstrates the two countries are seeking political ties commensurate with their close economic relationship. In his first official visit to China since taking office, Lee has met with four Chinese leaders since his arrival in Beijing Monday, including President Hu Jintao, top lawmaker Wu Bangguo, Premier Wen Jiabao and top political advisor Jia Qinglin. "Lee's visit can be regarded as a tour for deeper political ties," Zhai Kun, a scholar with the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said. Relations between China and Singapore chilled after Lee's visit to Taiwan as deputy prime minister in July, 2004. But over the past few months, China-Singapore ties have been gradually repaired with Singapore's repeated promise of adhering to the one-China policy and high-level visits between the two countries.

Xinhuanet, 27 October 2005

CNPC completes acquisition of PetroKazakhstan

BEIJING: China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) announced Thursday morning it has successfully acquired Canada-based PetroKazakhstan Inc. (PK) through its wholly-owned subsidiary CNPCI. Wednesday morning, Canadian time, the China's largest oil producer saw its planned acquisition of PK through CNPCI was granted "unconditional" final order by the Queen's Bench Court, Calgary, Canada. CNPC's bid for PK is 55 US dollars per share, totaling 4.18 billion US dollars, the largest overseas takeover transaction ever made by a Chinese company. Lukoil of Russia, one of CNPC's major rival in the deal made no appeal, indicating the completion of all legal procedures of the transaction. To date, the transaction has been completed, announced CNPC.

Taipei Times, 27 October 2005

'Cheated' foreign minister offers to quit

Offering his resignation, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mark Chen yesterday said Taiwan had been

cheated by Senegal for resuming diplomatic ties with China, but his ministry would watch closely for signs of other West African nations following suit. Chen said he felt "cheated" over the development given that Senegal had "repeatedly promised" that China's economic activity in the country would not affect its diplomatic relations with Taiwan. "For some time we've seen a significant number of Chinese people active in Senegal, yet Senegal repeatedly promised that economics and politics were separate issues and that it would not sever ties with Taiwan. They kept on making these promises. This time, we've really been cheated," he said. The minister was speaking at yesterday's legislative Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee, where the focus of the discussion was on the diplomatic setback.

Hindustan Times, 27 October 2005

China, India to mark 2006 Year of Friendship

China and India will celebrate 2006 as the Year of Friendship, the first such venture that will mark a major leap in their steadily blossoming ties. Chinese President Hu Jintao will visit India in 2006 but it was not yet decided if he would come at the start of the year to open the festivities or for the closing of the year-long celebrations, Chinese Ambassador Sun Yuxi said here. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who heads the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA), is to visit Beijing. The Indian president and the prime minister have also been invited but those trips will be linked to Hu's visit. The two countries will organise a string of events throughout the year, exchanging high-level visits and holding cultural events, and also explore ways of making "substantial progress" in the resolution of their border dispute.

People's Daily, 28 October 2005

Hu Jintao arrives in Pyongyang for visit

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Pyongyang on Friday an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Hu, who is also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), is paying the visit at the invitation of Kim Jong-il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the National Defense Commission. He is expected to stay in the DPRK from Friday to Sunday. During his visit, Hu and DPRK party and state leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views over the development of relations between the two countries, and the two parties, said Kong Quan, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a press conference Tuesday.

People's Daily, 28 October 2005

Sino-Russian PMs meeting to sum up cooperative results, FM spokesman

The Chinese and Russian prime ministers will summarize the achievements of the regular Sino-Russian Prime Ministers' Meeting in the past decade, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said in Beijing Thursday. Kong told a regular press conference that the Chinese and Russian ministers will make a special review of the progress of the agreement achieved in the 9th regular Sino-Russian Prime Ministers' Meeting and the Sino-Russian Good-Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation Economic and trade affairs top the meeting's agenda as enhancing cooperation of mutual benefits is a major part of the China-Russia strategic partnership, Kong said, adding that bilateral trade volume of 2004 exceeded 20 billion US dollars for the first time.

Xinhuanet, 28 October 2005

China ratifies UN convention against corruption

BEIJING: To curb out-flowing of corruption officials who abscond with public funds abroad for evasion

of punishment, China's top legislature Thursday ratified the United Nation's Convention Against Corruption in a unanimous vote. "The unanimous vote demonstrates the strong determination of the top lawmaking body to stamp out the prevailing corruption in collaboration with the international community," said Li Mingyu, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. With the approval vote by 157 member of the Standing Committee, China will become one of the first group of more than 30 countries to enforce the international law, which will go into effect on December 14 this year. The convention "is conducive to the repatriation of corrupt criminals fleeing abroad and the recovery of Chinese assets illegally transferred to foreign lands," Premier Wen Jiabao said in a bill submitted to the legislature on Saturday.

Xinhuanet, 28 October 2005

US to base nuclear-powered carrier in Japan

WASHINGTON: The United States will base a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Japan starting in 2008, the first time that a nuclear powered carrier to be based in the Asian country, the US Navy said on Thursday. The conventionally powered USS Kitty Hawk is currently based in Japan in order to keep a non-nuclear-powered carrier there, but it is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2008, said an official who asked not to be identified. "We wanted to put our best and most capable platform forward deployed to keep the peace and security in the Asia Pacific region," the official said.

China Daily, 29 October 2005

DPRK promises to attend Six-Party Talks

PYONGYANG: President Hu Jintao received assurance on Friday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will return to the Korean Peninsula denuclearization negotiation table early next month. "The DPRK believes the common statement issued by the fourth round of Six-Party Talks was hard-won and of positive significance," said Kim Jong-il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the National Defence Commission, during his talks with Hu. "The DPRK will honour its commitment and attend the fifth round of talks as scheduled," Kim said. The top DPRK leader stressed that his country will insist on its stance of maintaining a nuclear-free peninsula, as well as resolving the nuclear issue through peaceful means and talks.

China Daily, 29 October 2005

Mainland top tourism officials visit Taiwan

TAIPEI: Chinese mainland's top official in charge of tourism began a 10-day visit to Taiwan on Friday, fuelling hopes the trip could open the floodgates for mainland tourists to visit the island. Shao Qiwei, head of National Tourism Administration, led a 66-member delegation to see tourist spots around the island, including the tranquil Sun Moon Lake, the misty Alishan mountain range and the steep Taroko Gorge. "I am here for sight-seeing and to feel the environment, experience the history, culture and religions," said Shao, who was greeted at the airport by hosts from the island's tourism industry. "I hope to bring high-quality tourists to Taiwan."

China Daily, 29 October 2005

Xinjiang coal mine blast kills 10, six trapped

The death toll in a coal mine blast on Thursday in Usu, a city in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, rose to 10 on Friday morning, Xinhua News Agency has reported. Rescuers are still searching for another six miners who are still trapped underground. The accident occurred at 6:10 pm on Thursday at Dianzhangou Zhongxing Coal Mine, about 50 kilometres to the south of Usu. The

coal mine, a private operation, opened in 1998 and produces 10,000 tons of coal annually. Its production licence was due to expire at the end of this year, Xinhua said.

People's Daily, 29 October 2005

China ready to further ties with Austria: Chinese top lawmaker

Chinese top lawmaker Wu Bangguo said in Beijing Thursday that China attaches great importance to its relations with Austria and is ready to take the relationship to a new level. Wu told Andreas Khol, president of the National Council of Austria, that China appreciated Austria's adherence to the one-China policy and hopes that Austria would support China's efforts in realizing national reunification. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), hailed China-Austria ties, saying that the two enjoyed deep political trust, close economic cooperation and vibrant cultural exchanges. He said he hoped Khol's visit to China would further the friendly exchanges between the NPC and the Austrian parliament to enrich the content of China-Austria relations.

Taipei Times, 29 October 2005

Japan admits nuclear-powered vessel

The basing of a US nuclear-powered warship in Japanese waters for the first time will boost stability in East Asia, Japan's government said yesterday, hailing an agreement even as it drew protests from the community that will host the aircraft carrier. The US Navy on Thursday announced the deal, under which Japan dropped its longtime opposition to hosting a nuclear-powered warship in its territory. "Japan believes that the continued presence of the US Navy will contribute to safety and stability in Japan, the Far East and the world," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said yesterday. He said the agreement would not threaten the safety of Japanese residents, who have long been wary of a US nuclear presence because of fears of radiation leaks.

Taipei Times, 29 October 2005

Chen vows to be 'crusader' for constitutional reform

President Chen Shui-bian said yesterday he has no position regarding a new constitution, saying he would support one that is backed by the majority of the Taiwanese people. Chen has vowed to carry out more constitutional reforms during the remainder of his presidency -- despite the fact that the opposition parties, which control the legislature, said they will not support further reforms. He made the statement at the opening of a two day conference on constitutional re-engineering, which was sponsored by the Presidential Office's Constitutional Reform Promotion Panel.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2005

Date of new round of six-party talks yet to be decided, Chinese vice FM says

The date of the upcoming round of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is yet to be decided, said Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei in Beijing Sunday. The fifth round of negotiation was originally set for early November, yet all the parties concerned are still discussing about the specific date, said the Chinese chief negotiator. "All the parties will hold consultations on the implementation of all principles and agreements stated in the Joint Statement reached at the fourth round of the talks," said Wu. "The Chinese side has kept close contacts with the five other parties," he told the press on the sidelines of the Joint Study Convention on East Asia Cooperation, which opened here Sunday morning.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2005

Chinese president back in Beijing from Pyongyang

Chinese President Hu Jintao returned to Beijing Sunday morning after an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the DPRK's National Defense Commission, was at the Pyongyang airport to attend a see-off ceremony for Hu. Hu, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, started the visit on Friday at the invitation of Kim. Hu and Kim held talks on Friday afternoon and had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral ties and international and regional issues of common concern.

China Daily, 31 October 2005

President Hu ends fruitful visit to Pyongyang

President Hu Jintao sealed a double victory when he wrapped up his three-day visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday. He successfully persuaded Pyongyang to return to the scheduled Six-Party Talks early next month, and he took advantage of the official goodwill trip to strengthen relations with China's close neighbour. President Hu's visit to Pyongyang was "successful" and "fruitful," a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said in Beijing yesterday.

China Daily, 31 October 2005

Roche in talks for Tamiflu production in China: Reports

Swiss drug company Roche is in talks with China about jointly producing its antiviral medication Tamiflu, a move that could boost its global production amid fears supplies will fall short of what is needed in case of a flu pandemic, reports said Monday. "We are talking with a number of Chinese authorities to see what is the best way to address the issue at this point," the Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post quoted Roche's chairman and chief executive officer Franz Humer as saying at a weekend conference of business and city leaders in Shanghai. "We are certainly in discussions," Humer said.

People's Daily, 31 October 2005

Myanmar top leader praises relations with China

Myanmar top leader Senior-General Than Shwe on Monday highly evaluated the country's friendly and cooperative ties with China, saying the relations will be further consolidated and developed. Than Shwe, chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, made the remarks when receiving credential presented by new Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Guan Mu, who arrived last Wednesday to take up his post. Linked by mountains and rivers, Myanmar and China are friendly neighbors enjoying a traditional "paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship, Than Shwe said, expressing belief that with the far-sightedness of leaders of the two countries, the bilateral friendly ties will see continuous consolidation and development.

Taipei Times, 31 October 2005

Kidd-class warships set sail for Taiwan

Two decommissioned Kidd-class US destroyers purchased by the government have departed for Taiwan and will arrive in December, a television station reported yesterday. A 600-member Taiwanese crew set sail on Saturday with the warships, which were christened *Keelung* and *Suao*, from Port Charleston, South Carolina, CTI Cable Station reported. A launch ceremony was held at the port on Saturday, and some US representatives and South Carolina's Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer attended the elaborate event. This type of event has been rare since Taiwan ended its formal

diplomatic relations with the US in 1979.