

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

China to insist on reform, opening-up for harmonious society: Premier

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao stressed here Sunday the government's determination to advance reform and opening-up on the eve of the 58th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC), two weeks ahead of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). At a reception in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing marking the anniversary, Wen cited the upcoming CPC congress, which is proposed to convene on Oct. 15, as "a congress of great importance to be held at a time when China's reform and development have entered a crucial stage.

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

China's economy facing rare opportunities for development

China has been maintaining a good momentum for its stable but fast economic growth. Its economic growth, or the gross domestic product (GDP), rose 11.5 percent in the first half of 2007 after it grew 10 percent annually in the past four years. So it is foreseeable that the growth rate of its economy will retain at a relatively high rate for the entire period of the 11th "five-year" program (2006-2010). This situation is ascribed mainly to a rare opportunity for the growth of Chinese economy. China, a nation used to be short of funds, has greatly increased its capability of raising and amassing capital through financing, and its government departments, social institutions and individual residents now all have more capital to go around.

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

Major contribution improving inter-party relations

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has attached great importance to external inter-party activities; and made them an important component of overall diplomatic activities. After nearly 30 years of practical and theoretical exploration, since the conclusion of the Third Plenum of the 11th Party Congress, the CPC has successfully changed its status by gaining rich experience and having a wide impact on the international arena. The key to success is making important contributions to the world. The four principles proposed by the CPC have been recognized by more and more political parties. The four principles are: independence and autonomy, complete equality, mutual respect, and non-interference in internal affairs. These four principles compose a complete scientific system.

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

China appoints new ambassador to Japan

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Sunday appointed Cui Tiankai new ambassador to Japan to replace Wang Yi, who is now vice foreign minister. Cui, born in Zhejiang Province in October 1952, served as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs before the appointment. Wang, born in Beijing in October 1953, had once been a counselor with ministerial rank of the Chinese Embassy in Japan. He served as assistant foreign minister from 1998 to 2001 and vice foreign minister from 2001 to 2004 before being appointed ambassador to Japan.

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

Fight Taiwan secession, says premier

Premier Wen Jiabao yesterday called for the continued fight against "Taiwan independence" and efforts to advance the peaceful national reunification process. Speaking to an audience of 3,000 people including foreign diplomats in the Great Hall of the People on the eve of National Day, Wen said: "We will continue to work with all the Taiwan compatriots to oppose and repulse separatist activities for 'Taiwan independence' and advance the great cause of China's peaceful reunification."

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

China accelerating urbanization

According to the "Report on economic and social development between the 16th and 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China VII: Urban socio-economic development in harmony," issued by National Bureau of Statistics on September 26, there were a total of 661 cities in China in 2006. There is a gross urban population of 577 million people, accounting for 43.9% of the country's total population. Level of urbanization continuously improving. The urbanization ratio in eastern, central and western China was 54.6%, 40.4%, and 35.7%. With the accelerated pace of industrialization, China's level of urbanization also rose. In 2006, the gross urban population was 577.1 million people, accounting for 43.9% of country's total population.

The People's Daily, 1 October 2007

Can Fukuda foster happier China-Japan ties?

The outcome for the election of new Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president is certain since Yasuo Fukuda tipped to be the new LDP leader with an overwhelming majority of votes. Fukuda has long been known for his steady, assured style of work and temperate political attitude, and his election accords with wishes of the Party. So the formation of his line-up is at hand. With the Japanese emperor's confirmation of the new cabinet on Sept. 26, the political scene in Japan will open up a new page accordingly. The current replacement of LDP leader has apparent flavors of breaking away with its dilemma, restoring public trust through policy adjustment, and keeping the party "fit and strong". In an address during his race, Fukuda cited the "UN-centered diplomacy", the "Japan-U.S. alliance" and Japan being a member of Asia as the three principles of the keynote of his government's diplomacy.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

President Hu calls on early free trade deal with Iceland

Chinese President Hu Jintao told his Icelandic counterpart Olafur Ragnar Grimsson here Tuesday that negotiation work should be sped up to complete a free trade agreement at an early date, in a bid to create better conditions for bilateral trade. He suggested the two sides strengthen cooperation in fields of logistics, medicine, finance, product quality inspection, food processing and engineering, and meanwhile enhance cultural exchanges. "We are ready to learn from Iceland's advanced experience in research into volcano, earthquake and glacier, and utilization of geothermic and clean energy," he said. The Icelandic president is here to attend the opening ceremony of the 12th Special Olympics Summer Games, scheduled to open on Tuesday in Shanghai, China's economic hub.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

President Hu pledges more efforts to integrate the disabled into society

Chinese President Hu Jintao met with Chairman of Special Olympics International Timothy Shriver in Shanghai Tuesday, pledging more government effort to integrate the disabled into the society, and so that "they can share the fruit of China's economic and social development." Hailing the spirit of the Special Olympic Games which features the aspiration to win, President Hu said the Games encourages people with intellectual disabilities to challenge themselves and realize the value of their lives, and help them to share with others the achievements of human civilization. Since its foundation in 1968, the Games had become a comprehensive and large-scale sports event for the mentally challenged all over the world, Hu said.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

Philippine President starts visit to China

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo left Tuesday morning for a two-day visit to China and then a three-day visit to India. She was accompanied by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and a team of business experts, Philippine ABS-CBN TV reported. She will address the Philippine Business and Investment Forum organized by the Council for Promotion of International Trade and the Shanghai Overseas Chinese Chamber of Commerce and attend the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics hosted by China. From China, President Arroyo and her delegation will fly to India to meet heads of its government and business groups for three days.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

U.S. university to launch China-related MBA

Mount St. Mary's College (MSMC) announced on Monday it was launching a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program that includes a nine-day guided exploration of China. The California-based college, founded as a Catholic university catering primarily to women, will offer the 15-month MBA beginning this fall. The program will be offered on weekends and aims to immerse students in an international market by having them examine global competition in the exploration of China. The new graduate business program builds on the strengths of faculty in the business administration department, said College Provost Eleanor Siebert. MSMC was ranked by U.S. News and World Report among the top 20 regional universities with master's programs in the west for 2008.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

Harmonious world: China's ancient philosophy for new int'l order

China, together with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, staged a joint anti-terrorism exercise in mid-August this year, the fifth drill launched within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) since it was founded in June 2001. The drill, dubbed "Peace Mission 2007", was a practice run of anti-terrorism procedures, but its underlying aim was to strengthen military cooperation between China and central Asia. Despite the show of military force, like the joint military maneuvers China has participated in with other countries, including the United States, it served to promote mutual trust among the participants.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

Chinese mainland condemns "normal country" resolution by Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party

The Chinese mainland has made serious remarks about the "normal country resolution" approved on Sunday by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) of Taiwan. "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and has never been a country. This is an inalterable truth recognized by the international community," an official with the Taiwan Work Office of Communist Party of China Central Committee said Monday. The so-called claim that "Taiwan is sovereign state" is entirely a lie, and the "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, which violate the firm will of 1.3 billion Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, "are doomed to fail," the official said.

The People's Daily, 2 October 2007

Feature: China, Africa build new partnership on old ties

Many Chinese in their 40s, like Zhou Zhicheng, have an impression of Africa that comes from the Tanzania-Zambia Railway China helped build in the 1970s or Chinese volunteer doctors working in Africa since the 1960s. Zhou, aged 44, says for years he had imagined Africa as a land of deserts with the Third World economies, but the impression started to change in 2004 when he was appointed team leader in the project to design and build a satellite for Nigeria, the first four-frequency-band geo-stationary satellite for Africa. "I had the chance to visit Abuja to deliver the satellite to Nigeria after it was launched in China and tested in 2007," Zhou says. In Zhou's eyes, "Abuja is well planned and the people I met were professional and eager to learn. I was impressed with the country's vitality and ambition."

The People's Daily, 3 October 2007

Chinese Premier vows to curb desertification

China should make utmost efforts to control desertification and sandification and rebuild the ecological system, said Premier Wen Jiabao during his visit to Minqin County of northwest China's Gansu Province on Monday. Lying between the two deserts of Tengger and Badain Jaran, Minqin county is the only oasis in that area. "We should win 'the fight for Minqin' and by no means should we let it vanish from the map," Wen said. He urged local governments to protect glaciers on upstream Qilianshan Mountain, regulate the water use and plant trees.

The People's Daily, 3 October 2007

Hu holds reception for VIPs of Shanghai Special Olympics

Chinese President Hu Jintao held a reception in Shanghai on Tuesday noon for foreign distinguished guests attending the opening ceremony of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Icelandic President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Special Olympics International Chairman Timothy Shriver and Honorary Chairperson Eunice Kennedy Shriver attended the event. Extending a warm welcome to them, Hu said the Special Olympics conveys the ardent hope of people throughout the world for friendship, cooperation and peace. "I am confident that the Shanghai Games will greatly enhance the global cause of people with

disabilities and promote the mutual understanding and friendship among Special Olympics athletes and people of all countries," Hu said .

The People's Daily, 3 October 2007

China rejects U.S.-made bacteria-infected sardines

A Chinese coastal city has rejected 47 tons of frozen sardines infected with disease-inducing bacteria which were originally manufactured in the United States. The batch of sardines, imported from a Japanese trading company, was stopped on Saturday by the Entry-exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau of Rongcheng City, Shandong Province, according to the bureau. Sample detection shows that the sardines were infected with "listeria monocytogens," or a bacteria that can lead to various diseases, such as breath difficulty, vomiting, rash, meningitis, fever, coma and blood poisoning, or even death for human beings and animals, the bureau said. The sardines, valued at about 40,000 U.S. dollars, were found to be originally manufactured in the United States, it said.

The People's Daily, 3 October 2007

S. Korean president, DPRK top leader start summit

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Jong Il, started their summit meeting Wednesday morning to discuss peace mechanism, economic cooperation, denuclearization and reunification. The two opened their talks at around 9:30 a.m. (0030 GMT) and are expected to hold another round of talks in the afternoon. After the talks, the two leaders will watch a mass dance and musical spectacle, the Arirang, later Wednesday. The South Korean delegation will then hold a banquet in Pyongyang. Roh traveled some 200 km overland to Pyongyang Tuesday and was greeted by Kim at a festive ceremony upon arrival.

The People's Daily, 3 October 2007

China joins International Rice Commission

China has officially become a member of the International Rice Commission (IRC) after receiving a confirmation from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in September, according to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Sources from the academy said that in July this year, the Ministry of Agriculture submitted on behalf of the Chinese government an application to the FAO to join the IRC, which was welcomed by members of the IRC and was officially approved by the FAO in September. Founded in 1949, the IRC is a professional commission under the FAO, with more than 60 member countries and regions so far. The organization is devoted to promoting cooperation among members in rice production, storage, distribution and consumption.

The China Post, 3 October 2007

Probe ordered for Ministry of National Defense security breach

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Premier Chang Chun-hsiung ordered a "thoroughgoing" investigation of a security compromise involving an orderly at the office of Chief of the General Staff Gen. Ho Shou-yeh yesterday. Answering an interpellation at the Legislative Yuan, Chang said the Ministry of National Defense should find out if the top military secrets were leaked. The Apple Daily published an expose reporting an unnamed orderly sold to paper recycle dealers shredded documents that had been given top secret classification. Paper-

shredding machines at the office of General Ho did not totally shred the classified documents, the paper reported. One could easily piece together the shredded papers to learn top military secrets.

The China Post, 3 October 2007

Chen mum on doubling as Democratic Progressive Party chairman

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- President Chen Shui-bian kept mum yesterday on whether he would double as chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party. If he does, it will be the second time Chen has called the shots as the party's leader. Asked by an accompanying press corps at Tachia, in central Taichung, who would be the best choice as DPP chairman, Chen pointed to his vice president Annette Lu who was right beside him and said the best party chairman has to be "a volunteer worker." By pointing to Annette Lu, President Chen did not mean she was the best choice. Chen laid down three qualifications for an ideal DPP chairman. Aside from being "a volunteer worker," the president said, a good chairman of the ruling party has to be a "party worker" as well as a "long-term (bonded) worker." That means the new party leader has to work extremely hard without expecting any reward.

The People's Daily, 4 October 2007

President Hu raises a toast to friendship and peace

SHANGHAI: Raising a toast at a luncheon for foreign guests yesterday, President Hu Jintao said he is confident the Shanghai Games will greatly enhance the global cause of people with disabilities and promote the mutual understanding and friendship among Special Olympics athletes and people of all countries. Hu said the Special Olympic Games represents the ardent hope of people throughout the world for friendship, cooperation and peace. "China will work with governments and people in other countries to improve the well-being of people with disabilities and contribute to the building of a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity."

The People's Daily, 4 October 2007

From Guns to Greetings: Defrosting China's Borders

On the winding Heilongjiang River, China's northeast border with Russia, Chinese soldiers ride in blue patrol boats, passing Russian houses on the other bank so swiftly that they soon look like matchboxes. Patrolling the river is now routine, but it was unimaginable when relations between the two nations were strained. "The border was once marked with barbed wire and dotted with blockhouses. Cannons were positioned against each other. The Heilongjiang River was a forbidden zone, and any approaches could have seen a flare up in the bitter bilateral relations," says Colonel Jia Lun, of the People's Liberation Army regiment stationed in Mohe County on the southern bank.

The People's Daily, 4 October 2007

China grooms "new social stratum" for political arena

Wherever Zhang Lianqi goes, he's always sure to take two things with him -- a photo of his son and his laptop. "I am too busy to take care of or even meet my 15-year-old son, so I need to take his photo," says Zhang. As a partner of the Beijing-based China Rightson Certified Public Accountants Co., Ltd., which employs 1,000 professionals and has

several branches in different cities, Zhang loses count of the number of business trips he makes every year. Another important thing 43-year-old Zhang needs to do whenever he finds time is to "write suggestions in my laptop regarding solving thorny economic issues for the government and the Party," he says.

The People's Daily, 4 October 2007

Joint document of six-party nuke talks released

A joint document of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue was released Wednesday evening in Beijing. Head of the Chinese delegation to the talks Wu Dawei announced the joint statement after a two-day recess of the second phase of the sixth round of the talks, which involve China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan and Russia. According to the joint document, the DPRK agreed to disable all its existing nuclear facilities subject to abandonment under the September 2005 Joint Statement and the February 13 agreement this year.

The People's Daily, 4 October 2007

S. Korean president, DPRK top leader hold summit talks

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with Kim Jong Il, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), his spokesman said in Pyongyang on Wednesday. Cheon Ho-seon, the spokesman, also told reporters that the two sides were drafting a joint declaration which is going to be released before Kim's farewell luncheon for Roh around noon Thursday. "The agreement was reached during the two leaders' afternoon talks held from 2:45 p.m. (0545 GMT) to 4:25 p.m. (0725 GMT)," he said. According to South Korean officials, Kim Jong Il said after the summit meeting on Wednesday that his discussions with Roh had been adequate and the summit would end as planned.

The People's Daily, 4 October 2007

An illusion called 'greater Tibet area'

In the hall of the so-called "Tibetan government in exile" in Dharamsala, India, there is a large map of the supposed "greater Tibet area". The area covers the Tibet Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province, one-fifth of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, one-third of Gansu Province, two-thirds of Sichuan Province and one-fourth of Yunnan Province, spanning about 2.4 million sq km and nearly a quarter of China's territory. The Dalai Lama has advocated a "high degree of autonomy" for Tibet in such a geographic scope and made it a preliminary condition for any negotiation with the central government. But such an idea is totally absurd for three major reasons.

The China Post, 4 October 2007

Myanmar junta steps up propaganda machine; United Nations chief says envoy's trip was not a success

YANGON, Myanmar -- Myanmar's military government stepped up its propaganda machine Thursday, calling foreign critics of its crackdown "liars" and filling state-controlled media with positive spins of the junta's crushing blow to pro-democracy advocates. Soldiers maintained a visible presence on the streets of Yangon, Myanmar's

biggest city, where an eerie quiet has returned after last week's deadly crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. With Internet access blocked, state-controlled newspapers such as The New Light of Myanmar churned out the government's version of the country's crisis and printed full pages filled with propaganda slogans, such as, "We favor stability. We favor peace." And, "We oppose unrest and violence." Critics from the international community were dismissed as, "liars attempting to destroy the nation."

The China Post, 4 October 2007

House votes to continue arms sales to Taiwan

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a resolution declaring that the United States would continue to provide Taiwan weapons for its defense. The resolution, sponsored by prominent lawmakers from both U.S. political parties, mentioned the U.S. Defense Department's recent report on China's military. That report, according to the resolution, concluded that a greatly improved Chinese military "poses an increasing threat to Taiwan and ultimately to the United States military presence in Asia." China claims Taiwan as its own and has repeatedly threatened to attack should the island formalize its de facto independence. Washington encourages the sale of defensive weapons to Taiwan, and, in 2002, President George W. Bush pledged to "help Taiwan defend itself if provoked."

The People's Daily, 5 October 2007

China welcomes "positive results" of inter-Korean summit

China welcomes "positive results" yielded from an inter-Korean summit on promoting peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao in Beijing on Thursday. "China always supports two sides of the Korean Peninsula to improve bilateral relations and realize reconciliation and cooperation through dialogue," Liu said. "We welcomes the the positive results of inter-Korean summit and believes that it is conducive to the peaceful progress of the Korean Peninsula and to the peace and stability in the region," Liu said. President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Roh Moo-hyun traveled to Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on Tuesday for the inter-Korean summit, the second of its kind since the Korean Peninsula was divided more than half a century ago.

The People's Daily, 5 October 2007

China drafts counterplan for food safety emergency

China plans to set up a counterplan in response to emergencies caused by poor-quality products, including foods. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ) has issued a draft counterplan to solicit advice from the public, according to its official website. The administration will rate the incidents by four categories according to its impact, from normal to very serious, and send warnings labeled by four colors, blue, yellow, orange and red accordingly, said Wednesday's Beijing News. Organizations or individuals should report to the local administration or quality supervision department if discovering or causing an emergency involving poor-quality products that have harmed or might threaten public health or safety, the draft document said.

The People's Daily, 5 October 2007

News analysis: Inter-Korean summit to broaden cooperation, promote Peace

The agreement reached between the top leaders of South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at their summit in Pyongyang will increase cooperation between the two sides and add momentum to efforts to achieve peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, analysts said Thursday. Since the first inter-Korean summit seven years ago, economic and tourism projects have been launched, including an inter-Korean industrial complex in the DPRK's border city of Kaesong and tours of the scenic Mt. Kumgang. But the two Koreas, technically still in a state of conflict, need a permanent peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a truce. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, who traveled overland to Pyongyang for the three-day visit, and DPRK top leader Kim Jong Il reaffirmed their commitment to promoting peace on the peninsula and economic cooperation between the two sides.

The People's Daily, 5 October 2007

China applauds UN special envoy's Myanmar visit: FM spokesman

China on Thursday highly appraised the UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari's mediation efforts in Myanmar and welcomed the Myanmar government's cooperation with him. Gambari, special adviser of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who just ended a four-day mission to Myanmar, deeply exchanged views with Myanmar leaders on domestic situation and made widespread contacts with local people, which is a helpful step, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao. "China has made its efforts to support the mediation efforts of the UN Secretary General and his Special Envoy. We feel gratified for the results achieved by Gambari's visit," Liu said. Gambari came amid widespread mass demonstrations by Buddhist monks and people in several parts of Myanmar since Sept. 18 to look into the situation of the country and play the UN part in seeking for Myanmar's national reconciliation.

The People's Daily, 5 October 2007

Interview: Good China-ASEAN ties to facilitate integration of East Asia: Singapore scholar

Good relationship between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will facilitate the integration of East Asia and benefit the rest of the world, said a Singapore scholar in an exclusive interview with Xinhua recently. China-ASEAN relations, one of the highlights of China's foreign relations with neighboring countries, have also become the most vibrant and fruitful partnership between ASEAN and the dialogue partners, said Zhao Hong, visiting research fellow of the East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore (NUS). ASEAN, founded in 1967, groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Despite being close neighbors, China and ASEAN did not have official relations until 1991. Then in 1996, the two parties established all-around dialogue-partnership.

The China Post, 5 October 2007

Chen will not address National Day rally

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Military performances will mark the climax of the Oct. 10 National Day celebration activities next Wednesday. President Chen Shui-bian will review the troops, but will not address the crowds gathered outside his office. Legislative Yuan Speaker Wang Jin-pyng Wang, head of the organizing committee for National Day festivities, held a press conference to unveil the major programs. In his capacity as chief lawmaker elected to represent the people, Wang will preside over the celebration rally at the plaza outside the Presidential Office, starting at 9 a.m. After making opening remarks, Wang will then go to President Chen's office to invite him outside to join the people, review the troops, and accept their salute. This will mark the first time a national leader has not addressed the National Day rally.

The People's Daily, 6 October 2007

China says it's in midway of industrialization

China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said that over the past five years China's industrial economy has been developing in a healthy, fast and steady way amid structural adjustment, and the country is in the midway of industrialization. In its latest report, the NBS said that since the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2002, China's industrial economy has reinforced its leading position in national economy. In 2006, the industrial added value hit 9.04 trillion yuan (about 1.2 trillion U.S. dollars), up 57.9 percent from 2002 in constant terms. Between 2003-2006, the increase of China's industrial production fluctuated between 11.5 percent and 12.8 percent, featuring rapidly expanding scale, output and export. China tops the world in the output of steel, coal, cement, TV sets and cotton fabric, and ranks second in power generation, third in sugar output and fifth in crude oil output.

The People's Daily, 6 October 2007

China's oil giant to invest in refinery in Chad

China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), the country's largest oil producer, is to invest in a joint venture refinery in Chad. The CNPC Service and Engineering Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CNPC, has signed an agreement with the Chadian government to jointly invest in a refinery company to the north of N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, according to an announcement on the website of CNPC. The subsidiary will take charge of all engineering construction and will adopt Chinese design specifications, manufacturing standards and mechanical equipments, said the announcement. CNPC has not revealed how much it will invest or when the project will start. Chad began to produce oil in 2003 and has found 13 oil fields so far. It has no refineries in the country and has to import refined oil from overseas.

The People's Daily, 6 October 2007

Internet spreading in China's rural areas

The Internet has been extending fairly rapidly in China's rural areas, with the number of rural net users reaching 37.41 million by the end of June, approximately 5.1 percent of the total of rural population. Statistics from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) show that at the same time urban netizens had reached 125 million, or 21.6 percent of urban population. China's rural net users were 23.1 million at the end of 2006, indicating that in six months 14.3 million farmers newly got access to the

Internet. NDRC's report said the rapidly improving telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas has obviously facilitated the increase of net users. In its 11th Five-Year Program (2006-2010), the Ministry of Information Industry vowed to extend phone service to every village and enable every township to have access to Internet.

The People's Daily, 6 October 2007

UN chief urges Myanmar government, opposition to accelerate dialogue

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged here on Friday both the government and the opposition in Myanmar to accelerate national dialogue as soon as possible amid widespread violent protests in the country. Addressing the UN Security Council, Ban said "the national reconciliation process must be accelerated and be made as broad-based, inclusive and transparent as possible." He welcomed the announcement by the government of Myanmar of a possible meeting between Myanmar top leader Senior-General Than Shwe and Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, stressing "a window of opportunity has opened." Ban made the remarks at the opening meeting of the council when his Special Advisor on Myanmar Ibrahim Gambari briefed Council members on his recent four-day mission to Myanmar.

The China Post, 6 October 2007

Typhoon Krosa lashes Taiwan, halting air and sea traffic

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Typhoon Krosa lashed Taiwan with strong winds and heavy rains Saturday, whipping up high waves along the eastern coast and disrupting air and sea traffic. As of 8:30 a.m. (0030 GMT), Krosa was centered at sea about 210 kilometers (130 miles) southeast of Ilan in northeastern Taiwan, packing sustained winds of 184 kph (114 mph), the Central Weather Bureau said. The eye of the storm was expected to cross northern Taiwan as it moved toward southern China. Krosa was expected to bring strong winds and heavy rain throughout Saturday, the bureau said. Heavy rain caused a landslide along a major highway in eastern Taiwan on Friday, and fishermen took shelter in a northern port.

The China Post, 6 October 2007

Chen's appeal over documents rejected

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- The Taipei District Court yesterday rejected President Chen Shui-bian's attempt to retrieve what he described as "confidential" documents used in a corruption trial against his wife Wu Shu-chen. The court ruled that the materials presented to the trial were not "confidential documents" concerning national secrets, saying the president was trying to interfere with the trial by making an "illegal" attempt to get the items back. But the attorney for Wu said the defense would appeal. Wu and two former aides of Chen's stand accused of using false receipts to make claims from the presidential expense account. But the president insisted that the receipts and other items seized by prosecutors were related to secret diplomatic missions details of which he refused to reveal.

The People's Daily, 7 October 2007

Chinese mainland reports booming trade with HK, Macao and Taiwan

The Chinese mainland saw its trade with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan maintain a

strong momentum in the first eight months of the year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The mainland's exports to Hong Kong in the January-August period surged 23.1 percent from a year ago to 115.4 billion U.S. dollars, while imports rose 15.3 percent to 7.99 billion U.S. dollars. Hong Kong had invested an accumulative 293.9 billion U.S. dollars on the mainland by the end of August, taking a 40.4-percent share in the total investment the mainland had received from overseas since 1978. Trade across the Taiwan Straits rose 13 percent to 77.5 billion U.S. dollars in the first eight months, with the mainland's exports up 14.4 percent to 15.2 billion U.S. dollars and imports up 12.6 percent to 62.4 billion U.S. dollars.

The People's Daily, 7 October 2007

Chinese exporters adapt to the rising yuan

Looking at China's snowballing trade surplus since its exchange rate reform in July 2005, one might think the appreciation of the Chinese currency yuan, also known as Renminbi (RMB), had gone largely unnoticed by the country's exporters. Yin Mingshan, chairman of the Chongqing Lifan Group, China's largest private motorcycle manufacturer, noticed that pressure from the rising yuan never ceases to ease up. "The impact is tangible and costly," he says. The self-made entrepreneur who started from scratch 15 years ago earned 78 million yuan less from exports worth 318 million U.S. dollars after the RMB rose by 4 percent against the U.S. dollar at the end of last year. By August this year when the RMB had gained more than 9 percent accumulatively to reach 7.57 yuan to one U.S. dollar, five of the company's smaller Chinese rivals had folded. Lifan foresees motorcycle exports slowing from last year's 30 percent rise to 25.5 percent this year.

The People's Daily, 7 October 2007

The Second China-Europe Forum held in Europe

The Plenary Session of the 2nd China-Europe Forum kicked off on the morning of Oct 6, 2007 in Brussels. During the first stage of the Forum, held on Oct 4th and 5th in 22 cities in nine countries in Europe, about 1,000 participants, divided into 46 groups, held workshops on topics including science, technology, religion, arts, immigration, education, consumers, globalization, ethics, world governance, land policy, Internet, etc. The second phase, the plenary sessions, was held on Oct 6, and 7 in Brussels. The participants from China and Europe summed up the previous discussions and made further discussions on mechanism for China-Europe dialogue and divergence and vergence that China and Europe face. The Forum, sponsored by Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for the Progress of Humankind, the Free University of Brussels, Renmin University of China and Sun Yet-san University, aims at promoting mutual understanding and dialogues between China and Europe.

The People's Daily, 7 October 2007

Media center for 17th CPC National Congress to open on Oct. 8

The media center for the upcoming 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will start operation on Monday. The center, based in Beijing's Media Center Hotel, will handle credentials and applications of correspondents from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and foreign journalists for covering the congress. The center will also help arrange coverage of activities related to the congress and provide related services.

The telephone numbers of the reception office for journalists from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan are: (8610)68520600, 68520700; the fax numbers are: (8610)68583900, 68584300. The numbers of the reception office for foreign journalists are: (8610)68520200, 68520300, 68520500; the fax numbers are: (8610)68528700, 68529100.

The People's Daily, 7 October 2007

Ancient ideas could illuminate poverty fight

ANTWERP, Belgium: Insights from Confucianism and Taoism could inform the government's anti-poverty policies and help narrow the widening wealth gap between the haves and have-nots both in China and Europe. A group of scholars, lawmakers and representatives of non-governmental agencies from China and Europe reached this conclusion at a group discussion of wealth and poverty during the biennial China-Europe Forum. The forum, which ran from Thursday until Friday in 25 European cities, consisted of 46 workshops on major economic, social, environmental and political topics. More than 300 Chinese and 800 European delegates attended the workshops. This weekend, the delegates will gather in Brussels to attend plenary sessions.

The People's Daily, 8 October 2007

Chinese people proud of nation's development

When Liu Zhen arrived in Beijing at 5 am on Oct. 1st, the National Day of China, he lost no time to take a taxi to the Tian'anmen Square to watch the flag-raising ceremony. When he arrived, some 120,000 people had already been waiting there in slight rain. Liu, a farmer from the Yimeng Mountain in the eastern province of Shandong, owns a small wood processing plant and earns some 100,000 yuan (about 13,000 U.S. dollars) a year. While watching the national-flag rising into the sky, tears streamed from his eyes. "I just can't help myself; I am overwhelmed with joy," he said. Without the rapid development of the country, the life of the ordinary people could not improved so much and so quickly, Liu added. Like Liu, many Chinese have benefited from China's development which has kept at high speed for a dozen years.

The People's Daily, 8 October 2007

A Doomed Failure -- Beijing Review article on the Dalai Lama

The following is a Beijing Review article on the Dalai Lama titled "A Doomed Failure", to be published on Monday: As an increasing number of people visit Tibet, witness the region's changes and learn about its history and the thoughts of the local residents, many foreign media outlets have begun to reexamine the issue and question the Dalai Lama's motives. In a recent article, Yi Duo outlined those voices. The Dalai Lama can only represent a few Buddhists and it is therefore wrong to equate him to Buddhism, said some German media when he visited Germany as a religious leader in July. Welt am Sonntag and the online edition of Die Welt quoted sources from Deutsche Buddhistische Union as saying that though it is good to have the Dalai Lama speak for Buddhism, he is not expected to overshadow other Buddhist sects. The newspapers said most of the Buddhists across the world, including those in Germany, are not followers of Tibetan Buddhism.

The People's Daily, 8 October 2007

Great Hall of the People decked out for Party congress

The Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's top legislature in downtown Beijing, is being decorated for the upcoming national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) this month. A brand-new Party emblem with a diameter of more than five meters will be installed above the platform ahead of the opening of the 17th CPC National Congress, slated for Oct. 15, China News Service reports. Other facilities in the Hall would not undergo apparent change except that some of the existing bright red carpets will be replaced by brand-new ones, the news agency quoted an unidentified source as saying. The Hall, also the venue for annual plenary sessions of the country's top legislature and political advisory body, and where Chinese leaders meet foreign dignitaries, will close to the public from Oct. 8 through the end of the congress, according to the source of the Hall.

The People's Daily, 8 October 2007

Typhoon Krosa hits East China, one million evacuated

China has evacuated more than 1.41 million people from eastern provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang with no casualty reported after the powerful Typhoon Krosa landed the eastern coastal area on Sunday afternoon. In addition, around 75,000 vessels were recalled to harbor to avoid attack of Typhoon Krosa, the 16th this year, which landed at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday near the borders of Zhejiang's Cangnan County and Fujian's Fuding City and had weakened to a tropical storm at 5p.m. Fujian has allocated relief fund of 3.5 million yuan and it has also prepared 22,000 tents, 20,000 quilts, 150 tons of rice and 50,000 boxes of bottle water for people affected, according to the provincial civil affairs department. Krosa was located at Fuding City of Fujian Province at 8 p.m., packing winds of about 100 km per hour at its eye, the Zhejiang Provincial Flood Prevention and Drought Relief Headquarters said.

The People's Daily, 8 October 2007

China probes 500 big accidents, 3,900 officials punished

Chinese supervision authorities have investigated 571 big accidents with 3,931 officials punished in the past five years, according to the Ministry of Supervision (MOS). This was one of the several special actions the ministry launched since 2002, based on complaints received from the public, a press release of the MOS said. In 2005, the ministry started a campaign against government officials and managers of state-owned enterprises who have stake in private coal mines, jointly with the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of Communist Party of China (CPC). After a year of investigation, 148 officials were punished and stake worth of 709 million yuan (94 million U.S. dollars) was withdrawn, the press release said.

The China Post, 8 October 2007

Thousands rally for full democracy in Hong Kong

. HONG KONG -- Thousands of people took to the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in a mass rally to demand full democracy by 2012. Up to 7,000 democracy campaigners braved the blazing sun to march to the government headquarters, wielding banners and shouting "Support universal suffrage, support it until the end." Around 5,000 had earlier gathered in a city-centre park carrying umbrellas they opened to reveal the numbers

"2012," the year they want full democracy to be achieved in the territory. Although the turnout was lower than the 10,000 organizers forecast, they said it was encouraging given the sweltering heat. Currently, half of Hong Kong's 60 lawmakers are chosen directly, with the other half elected by business elites from various sectors. The chief executive is selected by a committee composed mostly of Beijing loyalists.

The People's Daily, 9 October 2007

China leads way of reducing poverty: UN and ADB joint report

China is leading the way of reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific region, and contributing to other regional efforts like reforestation and energy efficiency to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), said an international report released in Manila on Monday. In 1990 one person out of three in China lived in poverty, while today the number is below one in ten, said "The Millennium Development Goals: Progress in Asia and the Pacific 2007" (MDG 2007), a joint report by the United Nations and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The MDGs range from halving extreme poverty to reducing child mortality, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, providing universal primary education, and providing access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities by the target date of 2015. It formed a blueprint in 2000 which was agreed upon by all nations and international development institutions.

The People's Daily, 9 October 2007

Number of CPC members rises to 73 million

The number of Communist Party of China (CPC) members had reached 73.36 million by the end of June, an increase of 6.42 million over 2002, according to the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee. Since 2002, when the 16th National Congress of the CPC was held, the CPC has welcomed 13.16 million new members, according to the statistics. The CPC is expected to hold its 17th national congress this month. The statistics show nearly 4.2 million, or 31.9 percent of the new members, were women; 934,000, or 7.1 percent, were from ethnic minorities; 9.46 million, or 71.8 percent, were under 35, and nearly 6.5 million, or 49.3 percent, were grassroots people "working on the frontline" such as policemen, doctors or teachers, according to the department.

The People's Daily, 9 October 2007

Overseas media get closer view

Overseas media will enjoy greater access to cover the upcoming 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) as well as more convenient media services. New services include more group interviews for overseas reporters apart from the three open press conferences during the session. Overseas media can apply through the official website www.cpcnews.cn for interview requests, said Cong Wu, an official with the media center, which officially opened yesterday morning in the Media Center Hotel in central Beijing. More delegations will also throw their door open this year for media coverage, said Zhu Shoucheng, deputy director of the center. Fifteen of the 38 delegations were open to interviews during the 16th National Congress of the CPC in 2002.

The People's Daily, 9 October 2007

Euro ministers fall short of pressing dollar, target RMB

Finance ministers from the 13- nation bloc sharing euro failed Monday to seek a tougher stance against the appreciation of their single currency versus the US dollar, taking China's RMB as an easy target. "We affirm that exchange rate should reflect economic fundamentals and that excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates are undesirable for economic growth," the eurozone finance ministers said in a statement after a meeting here on Monday, which only repeated their previous words. The ministers were attempting to find a common line for the euro zone in the upcoming meeting of the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrialized countries in Washington next week. Ahead of the meeting, Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who heads the eurogroup of finance ministers, said the eurozone would "without a doubt" step up pressure on finance chiefs from the G7 partners as the euro hovered around its all- time high against the U.S. dollar recently.

The People's Daily, 9 October 2007

EU commissioner says EU-China partnership "strong"

Danuta Huebner, EU's Commissioner for Regional Policy, said in Brussels on Monday that the partnership between China and the European Union (EU) "is strong and growing." "Now we are ready to launch a comprehensive research activity on regional policy within the framework of our dialogue," she said while addressing a EU-China seminar on regional policy. "Already today many European regions directly cooperate with their Chinese counterparts. This is the best basis for our partnership which enhances the pool of experience and knowledge available to our regions and cities," Huebner noted. The commissioner also listed some key common challenges "which may underpin this cooperation." "Both China and the EU are confronted with large social, economic and territorial disparities," she said.

The China Post, 9 October 2007

'Red shirts' to join National Day fanfare

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Shih Ming-teh's March of One Million 'Red shirts' will join in the Double Ten National Day celebration, Legislative Yuan president Wang Jin-pyng said yesterday. Wang, who doubles as head of the organizing committee for the Double Ten celebration, said he had reached an agreement with 'Red shirts' leaders about their participation on the condition that they abide by his rules. Under the Wang rules, participants in the celebration in the Presidential Plaza tomorrow should not carry large backpacks, clubs, knives, megaphones, balloons, zoom lens cameras, umbrellas, or placards, flyers and banners unrelated to the Double Ten celebration. These items are banned because they were used by the 'Red shirts' who, led by Shih, a former Democratic Progressive Party chairman, laid siege to the Presidential Plaza on last year's National Day to demand that Chen Shui-bian resign as president to take responsibility for a spate of scandals involving himself, his wife and close associates.

The China Post, 9 October 2007

Japan Cabinet approves extension of sanctions on North Korea for 6 more months

TOKYO -- Japan's Cabinet approved Tuesday plans to extend the nation's economic

sanctions on North Korea for six more months over Pyongyang's nuclear tests last year, the Foreign Ministry said. The sanctions - first imposed in October 2006 after North Korea's nuclear test and extended in April for six months - were to expire in mid-October. Tuesday's extension marks the one-year anniversary of Pyongyang's Oct. 9 atomic test. The sanctions include closing its ports to North Korean ships and banning the import of North Korean goods. The Cabinet decided on the extension despite North Korea's agreement last week to disable its main nuclear complex by year's end, because Pyongyang has yet to take concrete steps to disable its nuclear programs, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on customary condition of anonymity. Japanese officials have also complained of little progress made in the issue of its citizens allegedly abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and '80s, the issue that has been a main sticking point for the two countries without diplomatic ties.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

China "resolutely opposes" sanctions against Myanmar

China on Tuesday said it "resolutely opposed" sanctions against Myanmar as they would not help resolve the country's problems. "Any move by the United Nations Security Council should be prudent and responsible and be conducive to the mediation efforts of the UN secretary-general, and conducive to achieving stability, reconciliation, democracy and the development of Myanmar," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao. He told a regular press conference that China had noticed the situation in Myanmar was returning to calm and attributed it to the common efforts of the international community and all sides. He said China hoped the situation would move in a positive direction.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

Key Party meet begins before congress

The Communist Party of China (CPC) yesterday started a key meeting in Beijing as a prelude to the 17th National Congress of the CPC. The Seventh Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee is attended by 350-odd decision-makers, who are making final preparations for the congress, held once in five years. According to schedules made public in previous meetings by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the full and alternate central committee members will discuss a draft report to be submitted to the 17th congress by the 16th CPC Central Committee, which will outline the Party's priorities for the next five years. The plenum will also endorse a draft amendment to the Party constitution, along with a report on the Party's anti-graft work by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

All-round, vigorous development in CPC's ideological, theoretical building

Central authorities of the Communist Party of China (CPC) decided to launch a project of studying and building Marxist Theory in early 2004, which made substantial progress in the past three-plus years. The implementation of this project represents a vital measure of the CPC Central Committee with Hu Jintao as its general secretary to step up the Party's ideological, theoretical building. On this issue, People's Daily reporter Yu Jianbin interviewed a leading official of the office of the project at the request of readers on the eve of the imminent 17th CPC National Congress. The project has scored substantial

progress since the launch of the project over three years ago with joint efforts of experts and scholars and various departments under the direct leadership of the CPC Central Committee. Its progress is manifested in the ensuing aspects. First, new progress has been made in the study and interpretation of the latest outcome in sinifying Marxism.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

China leads in poverty reduction

China is leading the way in reducing poverty in the Asia-Pacific region, and contributing to other regional efforts like reforestation and energy efficiency, according to an international report. In 1990, one person in three lived in poverty in China, while today the number is less than one in 10, said the report, jointly drafted by the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank, titled "The Millennium Development Goals: Progress in Asia and the Pacific 2007", released in Manila on Monday. The millennium goals range from halving extreme poverty to reducing child mortality, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, providing universal primary education, and providing access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities by the target year of 2015. They formed a blueprint in 2000 which was agreed upon by all nations and international development institutions.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

Work on Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway set to start

The Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway has got the green light from the central government and construction on the long-awaited project is expected to start soon. According to a notice posted yesterday on the website of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the top economic planner, the State Council accepted the feasibility study last month. No more details were given, except for the railway's length of 1,318 km. A source with the Ministry of Railways told China Daily yesterday that work on the project will "surely begin before the end of this year", without specifying a date. Earlier reports said the project would use high-speed wheel track technology instead of magnetic levitation. With a speed of up to 350 km per hour, the railway will shorten travel time between Beijing and Shanghai from the current 10 hours to less than five.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

China to play major role in Korean peace

China will certainly play an "important and constructive" role in the international peace negotiations aimed at putting a formal end to the Korean War, according to the Foreign Ministry. "Being an influential nation in Northeast Asia and a key signatory to the ceasefire on the Korean Peninsula, China will certainly play an important and constructive role in the issues concerning the peninsula and Northeast Asian relations," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao yesterday. He told a regular press briefing that the establishment of a peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula was conducive to the interest of its people as well as regional peace, stability and development. "And China will play an active role in such a process," he pledged.

The People's Daily, 10 October 2007

Carrying forward Buddhism or fueling evil cults?

The world has seen rapid development in the scientific civilization of mankind, but the malignant tumor of evil cults is still rampant, plunging innocent people into the depths of suffering. Evil cults such as the Solar Temple Cult of the United States, the Falun Gong of China and the Movement of the Restoration of God's Ten Commandments of Uganda wantonly preach the fallacy of "the End of the World", destroy social stability and jeopardize the lives and property of the public. Such perverse acts have aroused strong indignation of the people and governments of various countries. Many countries have staged a fight against evil cults by enacting legislation and setting up special agencies. Buddhist doctrine advocates good deeds and extrication from the earthly weal and woe. It has also long been viewing evil cults as the "feud of Buddha" and maintaining that "Buddha and demons do not coexist with each other". The 14th Dalai Lama, who boasts to be a "follower of Buddhism" and "human rights fighter", however not only has no hatred toward evil cults but instead shows a great deal of compassion for them.

The China Post, 10 October 2007

Taiwan demonstrates military prowess at National Day parade for the first time in 16 years

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Taiwan's president decried China's government as totalitarian Wednesday as residents gathered for the island's first National Day parade of military hardware since halting such displays in 1991 to ease tensions with Beijing. In an address to officials before the parade, President Chen Shui-bian renewed a pledge to continue seeking membership in the United Nations, saying the self-ruled island has the right to rejoin the world body despite objections of rival China. "Taiwan and China are two separate states that don't belong to each other, and this is a historical fact as well as the reality," Chen said in front of the ornate presidential office. "The problem in the Taiwan Strait today does not rest with Taiwan but with China's totalitarianism, authoritarianism and dictatorship," he said.

The People's Daily, 11 October 2007

Why does the CPC Congress garner the world's attention?

The Press Center for the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) opened on Monday, October 8 for reception services. Foreign journalists and those coming from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan to cover the event, can apply for press cards and make interview arrangements here. A rapidly moving China has in recent years attracted the attention of the global media, and many of them increased the staffing at their Beijing offices on the eve of this year's big event. Why has this National Congress of the CPC drawn the eyes of so many? It is expected that the 17th Congress, at which the General Secretary will deliver an important report, will produce a new central leadership and a revised Party Constitution. Foreign journalists are also interested in China's economic development, the people's livelihood, environmental protection, anti-corruption efforts and foreign policy. Behind these hot topics are the overseas media's observation and judgment of China's future directions what will the tone of the CPC be for China's development? What strategic thoughts and patterns will develop from this? And what will be the impact?

The People's Daily, 11 October 2007

China's role in Korean issue cannot be neglected

As a country of important influence in Northeast Asia, and an important signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement, China naturally plays an important and constructive role in questions concerning the peace regimes of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, according to a statement from a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. After their second meeting, on October 4, parties attending the inter-Korean summit issued the Declaration on the Advancement of South-North Korean Relations, Peace and Prosperity, in which both sides called for "a permanent peace regime" to "end the current armistice regime" on the Korean Peninsula. "The South and the North have also agreed to work together to bring together the leaders of the three or four parties directly concerned, to convene on the Peninsula and declare an end to the war," the declaration announced. The accurate meaning of "three or four parties" aroused controversy within international opinion; hence the Chinese spokesman's remark.

The People's Daily, 11 October 2007

Major Xinjiang gasfield found

PetroChina has discovered another major gasfield in western Xinjiang, a source from the company's Tarim unit confirmed yesterday. "The gasfield, known as Dabei III, boasts an estimated reserve of as much as 130 billion cubic meters, and will serve as an important backup supply source for the west-east gas pipelines," he said on condition of anonymity. PetroChina's Beijing office declined to comment but Xinhua quoted officials in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region as saying the Hong Kong and New York-listed giant had discovered 130 billion cu m of natural gas. The discovery has the potential to be the third largest gas field in Xinjiang, after Kela II and Dina II Gas fields, said Dai Jinxin, a researcher with the Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development affiliated with PetroChina, the country's largest oil and gas producer. "Gas fields with reserves of more than 100 billion cu m are considered giant gas fields even globally," Dai said.

The People's Daily, 11 October 2007

China, U.S. to hold 18th JCCT meeting in December

The 18th U.S.- China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) will be held on December 11, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Karan Bhatia told the press at the U.S. embassy on Wednesday. And the third U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) may be held right after the JCCT on Dec. 12 and 13, he said. Bhatia and U.S. Acting Under Secretary of Commerce Christopher Padilla were on a visit to China for making preparations for the upcoming JCCT meeting and the third SED between the two countries. During their visit from Oct. 8 to 10, they met with China's Vice Commerce Minister Ma Xiuhong and discussed issues on China's industrial policies, product safety and market access for services, medical equipment and agricultural sectors. Bhatia said the U.S. business community is excited and optimistic about the opportunities that China has presented. The United States hopes to make joint efforts with China to solve problems such as trade protectionism, intellectual property rights protection and product safety.

The China Post, 11 October 2007

Taiwan president to take over as ruling party chairman

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian said Thursday he would become chairman of Taiwan's ruling party, a move likely to ensure continued strained ties with rival China. Chen, who steps down in May after eight years as president, told a news conference he had accepted an offer to become the Democratic Progressive Party's next chairman. Chen favors formal independence and rejects calls for direct trade and transportation links with the mainland, because he fears they could lead to eventual political integration between the sides. His pro-independence stance has antagonized China and his role as DPP chairman could add an element of uncertainty to the party's China policy ahead of major elections next year. "My responsibility will be to win the legislative elections (in January) and the presidential election," Chen said.

The China Post, 11 October 2007

Chen calls for slower progress with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian yesterday reiterated the government's cautious approach to China ties, contradicting calls by the presidential candidates from both parties to fast-track the opening of three links across the Taiwan Strait. Chen said that unless Taiwan were to completely ignore national security and surrender to China, the three links must only be opened gradually. "The three links... cannot be allowed in one stride, or have a set timetable for their opening," President Chen announced in his National Day address yesterday. He said if Beijing is sincere in promoting the three links, it must accelerate negotiations with Taipei for charter cargo flights across the strait. The three links refer to direct mail, trade and transport links between Taiwan and China. Recent discussions regarding the three links have focused on transport links, especially direct commercial flights between Taiwan and China. Special chartered flights on certain holidays notwithstanding, travelers en route to China from Taiwan's main island must first disembark in Hong Kong, Macau, or a foreign country before entering the mainland.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2007

China, Japan to hold top-level economic dialogue

Japanese and Chinese government officials Friday agreed in Tokyo to hold top-level economic dialogues between the two countries as early as possible in Beijing, diplomats said. The two delegations, led by Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce Chen Jian and Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Masaharu Kohno respectively, agreed that the top-level dialogues will upgrade economic cooperation between the two neighbors and further promote the construction of strategic, mutually beneficial economic ties. At the economic partnership meeting held in Tokyo, the two sides exchanged ideas on the time and theme of the top-level economic dialogues and also discussed over macro-economic policies, energy-saving, trade and investment. Chinese and Japanese leaders announced in April the launch of top-level economic dialogue mechanism between the two countries.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2007

Landlocked China province opens sea cargo route through Russian port

China has officially opened a sea route linking its landlocked northeastern province of

Heilongjiang with its eastern coastal hub of Shanghai after it reached an agreement with Russia to use its port of Vladivostok. The route through the Sea of Japan has been in trial operation since March and received final approval from China Customs. The first shipment - 261 tons of paper - has reached Shanghai after starting from China's border city of Suifenhe in Heilongjiang and being transported via Vladivostok. The shipment cost was ten percent less than it would have cost to transport it by land, said Zhang Yonglin, an official with the Suifenhe Port Commission. China is also involved in discussions with Russia and Japan to establish a cargo route between Heilongjiang and Japan's port of Niigata, which would halve the distance and shipment time.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2007

China says Myanmar issue should be resolved by Myanmar itself

China on Friday responded to a UN Security Council presidential statement on Myanmar and said the Myanmar issue should be resolved with the efforts of Myanmar's government and people, and through consultation. "The Myanmar issue should be fundamentally and properly resolved with the efforts of Myanmar's government and people themselves and through consultation," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao when responding to press. "China is ready to continue to actively promote the proper settlement of the Myanmar issue together with the international community," Liu added. He said the UN Security Council's adoption of the presidential statement was aimed at supporting the mediation efforts of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his special adviser Ibrahim Gambari, providing constructive help to all concerned parties of Myanmar to realize reconciliation, and promoting democracy and development in Myanmar through dialogue.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2007

China, Japan agree to hold next round of talks on East China Sea issue in early Nov.

The 10th round of talks between China and Japan on the East China Sea issue concluded here on Thursday night, with the two sides agreeing to hold the next round of talks in Beijing in early November. During the one-day talks, China and Japan had conducted frank and in-depth exchanges of views on joint development, and the bilateral consultations were "pragmatic and beneficial", according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Director of Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of Asian Affairs Hu Zhengyue attended the talks as top Chinese negotiator. The Japanese delegation is represented by Kenichiro Sasae, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2007

Tibet's delegates to Party congress arrive in Beijing

The Tibet autonomous regional delegation of delegates to the 17th national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), arrived in Beijing Friday morning to attend the congress to be opened next Monday. The delegation, with minority people making up about 70 percent, was the first delegation outside Beijing to have arrived in the national capital. The delegates, most in their own ethnic costumes, wearing hada, a ceremonial silk scarf regarded as a token of respect, had been elected from more than 160,000 CPC members in this southwest autonomous region.

The People's Daily, 12 October 2007

China opposed to medal for Dalai Lama

The government yesterday expressed its strong opposition to a US decision to award the Dalai Lama a congressional gold medal, urging the US to adhere to the correct position on Tibet. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said China has made solemn representations to the United States and clearly stated its position against the gold medal for the Dalai Lama. "We are firmly against any country or people using this issue to interfere in China's internal affairs," Liu told a regular press briefing. "The US government is quite clear about this position," he added. He reiterated that the Tibet Autonomous Region is an inalienable part of China and the use of the Dalai Lama to interfere in the country's internal affairs do not conform to the long-term development of bilateral relationships.

The People's Daily, 13 October 2007

16th CPC Central Committee holds 7th plenum, issues communiqué

The Seventh Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held from Oct. 9 to 12 in Beijing. It was decided at the plenum that the 17th CPC National Congress be convened from Oct. 15 in Beijing, according to a communique of the plenum issued on Friday. A total of 190 members and 152 alternate members of the CPC Central Committee attended the four-day plenum, with members of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and leading officials of relevant departments attending as non-voting members. The plenum was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered an important speech. Hu, entrusted by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made a work report which was discussed and approved at the plenum. The plenum also discussed and approved a report, which will be presented by the 16th CPC Central Committee to the 17th Party Congress, as well as an amendment to the Constitution of the CPC.

The People's Daily, 13 October 2007

Amendment to Party constitution passed at key plenum

An amendment to the Constitution of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was passed at the Seventh Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee that closed Friday in Beijing. Wu Bangguo, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, elaborated the draft amendment at the meeting, according to the communique released after the plenum. But the document did not release the details of the amendment. The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee worked out the draft amendment to the Party Constitution on Sept. 17, saying that it will reflect the major strategic thoughts the present CPC Central Committee has set forth since 2002, such as the scientific concept of development. The plenum also approved a report to be submitted to the upcoming 17th Party Congress by the 16th CPC Central Committee.

The People's Daily, 13 October 2007

China propels global growth

China contributed to 13.8 percent of the world economic growth during the 2003-05

period, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday. The country is the second-largest contributor following the US, according to an NBS calculation based on World Bank statistics. The US contributed to 29.8 percent of world growth in the same period. This shows China's increasing role in global economic growth as it has become a major engine of the world economy, the report said. The Chinese economy has grown fast and improved people's living standards since the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2002, the report said. Its gross domestic product (GDP) grew by an average of 10.4 percent during the 2003-06 period, much higher than the world average of 4.9 percent. In 2006, China ranked 11th among all the 180 economies in terms of economic growth rate, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The People's Daily, 13 October 2007

China's State Council appoints new vice ministers

The State Council, China's cabinet, announced the appointments of four senior officials in Beijing Thursday. Yao Zengke was appointed as Vice Minister of Supervision and Liu Qian as Vice Minister of Health, according to a press release. Zhou Xisheng and Zhou Shuchun were appointed vice presidents of the Xinhua News Agency, the statement said. Those who vacated their posts were Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council Lou Jiwei, Vice Minister of Finance Zhang Hongli, Vice Ministers of Health Wang Longde and Jiang Zuojun, Vice President of Xinhua News Agency Ma Shengrong, Vice Chairman of the National Council for Social Securities Fund Gao Xiqing, the statement said.

The People's Daily, 13 October 2007

Russia-China arms trade to continue

Russia will not sell aircraft carriers to China because it has stopped producing them, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alexeyev told Chinese netizens in an online dialogue this week. "Now China has its own advanced weapons manufacturing technology there's no need to buy outdated military equipment," said Alexeyev. But he added that Russia will continue selling up-to-date arms to China. "It is unfortunate that various threats in the world against us (Russia and China) have not decreased," said the deputy foreign minister, indicating that maintaining a high-level defense capability is in line with the common interests of the two countries. The arms deals between Russia and China "will not become a threat to any third country, and will not endanger the stability and security of the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole," he added.

The China Post, 13 October 2007

Hong Kong's Tsang warns extreme democracy could bring chaos

HONG KONG -- Extreme moves toward full democracy in Hong Kong could lead to chaos on the scale of China's 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution, the city's Beijing-backed leader Donald Tsang said on Friday. Speaking on Hong Kong's RTHK radio, Tsang warned that democratic reforms, if taken to the extreme, could compromise social stability and the government's ability to govern. "If we go to the extreme, you have the cultural revolution for instance in China, where people take everything into their hands, then you cannot govern the place," Tsang said. The chaotic Cultural Revolution instigated by China's late paramount leader Mao Zedong, mobilized radical youth in

political campaigns marked by purges, jailings, killings and suicides. Hong Kong's pro-democratic camp has agitated for direct elections by 2012, but recent signs have suggested Beijing is cold on such swift progress, preferring 2017 at the earliest.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Chinese people expect Party congress to benefit daily life

Having finished her National Day shift, Jiang Guilan, who works at a neighborhood committee in Changping District of Beijing, arrived early at the Tian'anmen Square to enjoy the flower decoration. Though the National Day holiday was over, the square in the center of the Chinese capital is still decorated with 400,000 pots containing 130 different species of flowers, which are expected to be there during the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), due to begin on Monday. Talking about the congress which would design a blueprint for China's further development, Jiang said her first concern is the price of food products. "For the past few months I've kept going to the market to buy vegetables after I finish a day's work at 5 p.m. because the prices are lower at that time though vegetables are not as fresh as in the morning," Jiang said. Food prices in supermarkets are surging too much, so she has to buy cheap vegetables from stall-keepers along the streets, Jiang said. "The quality there is surely not as good as that in supermarkets, but I have no other choice."

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Agenda for CPC National Congress decided

The agenda of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has been decided Sunday afternoon at a preparatory meeting of the congress, spokesman Li Dongsheng said Sunday in Beijing. He said the main items of the agenda are as follows: - to hear and examine the report submitted by the 16th CPC Central Committee; -- to examine the report on the work of Central Commission for Discipline Inspection; -- to deliberate and adopt the amendment to the Party Constitution; -- to elect the Party's 17th Central Committee and Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Jiang Zemin, Li Peng and Zhu Rongji to attend CPC national congress

Jiang Zemin, Li Peng and Zhu Rongji are going to attend the upcoming 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) as specially invited delegates, congress spokesman Li Dongsheng said Sunday in Beijing. Li told reporters at a press briefing that a total of 57 specially invited delegates will attend the congress, enjoying the same rights with 2,213 delegates.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Spokesman: China's Communist Party to have new central leadership

The upcoming 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will elect a new Central Committee and a new Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, congress spokesman Li Dongsheng said Sunday at a press briefing. He said that a proposed list of candidates had been discussed and prepared by the Political Bureau of the 16th CPC Central Committee and would be submitted to the Presidium of the 17th Congress for deliberation and approval. The list was made on the basis of the work of a

special working group, which operated under the leadership of the Political Bureau and took charge of democratic recommendation, organizational scrutiny, assessment and nomination of candidates for the new Central Committee and the new Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, he said. Li announced that the preparations for the congress had been completed. The congress is to open on Monday morning and will last seven days.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Premier Wen sends condolences over death of Myanmar PM

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao sent condolences Saturday to Thein Sein, Myanmar's acting prime minister and first secretary of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), over the death of Prime Minister Soe Win. General Soe Win died at 5:30 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) on Friday at the Mingaladon Military Hospital-2 in Yangon, the state-run Radio Myanmar reported. Soe Win, 58, had reportedly suffered from leukemia. He was brought back to Yangon from Singapore where he had undergone medical treatment since March this year.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Migrant workers enjoy special bank card service in 14 Chinese provincial regions

The People's Bank of China has provided special bank card service tailored to migrant workers in 14 provincial areas, with the recent launching of the service in the central Anhui Province, according to the central bank. "The special bank card service enables migrant workers in the current 14 provincial regions to withdraw money at rural co-operatives near home after they deposit it at a bank in the city where they work and is a key way to improve financial service in rural areas," said the central bank's deputy governor Su Ning. China has more than 120 million rural migrant workers who bring back hundreds of billions of yuan (1 U.S. dollar equals 7.5114 yuan) to their homes every year. "In Anhui last year, 10.4 million migrant workers from the province brought back home a total income of nearly 120 billion yuan (15.98 billion U.S. dollars)," said Huang Haisong, vice governor of Anhui.

The People's Daily, 14 October 2007

Amendment to CPC Constitution to embody "scientific outlook on development"

The 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), slated to open here on Monday, will deliberate and adopt an amendment to the CPC Constitution to embody the "scientific outlook on development" and other major strategic thoughts advanced since 2002, a spokesman for the congress said on Sunday. The amendment had been approved at the Seventh Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee that closed on Friday. Incorporation of the new achievements in the Party's theoretical innovation and progress in practice into the Constitution will help the whole Party achieve better results in studying and complying with the Constitution and implementing the Party's theories, lines, principles and policies, spokesman Li Dongsheng told a press conference on Sunday. The Party congress would also include in the CPC Constitution the major theoretical viewpoints, strategic thoughts and work arrangements defined in the political report to be submitted to the once-every-five-years political event, "so that the amended Constitution fully reflects the latest achievements in adapting Marxism to Chinese

conditions and meets the new requirements arising from the new situation and tasks for improving the Party's work and strengthening Party building," Li said.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

Hu Jintao: No tolerance to corruption

The Communist Party of China (CPC) bears zero tolerance to corruption and the crackdown on it must be effectively strengthened, Hu Jintao said on Monday in his report to the 17th CPC National Congress. "The CPC never tolerates corruption or any other negative phenomena," said Hu on behalf of the 16th CPC Central Committee, stressing that "resolutely punishing and effectively preventing corruption is crucial to the popular support for the Party and its survival. Pointing out that fighting corruption will be a protracted, complicated and arduous battle, Hu called upon Party members to carry out the campaign in a comprehensive way, addressing both its symptoms and root cause and combining punishment with prevention. Resolutely cracking down on corruption, the Party should work harder to remove its root cause and take preventive measures through improving relevant institutions, Hu said.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

Hu: China to modernize army for self-defense, world peace

With the completion of reducing 200,000 troops, China is to speed up the pace of modernizing its armed forces in the next five years and more, for self-defense and maintaining world peace. Hu Jintao made the remarks on behalf of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in a keynote speech at the 17th CPC National Congress on Monday. Hu said, "We must implement the military strategy for the new period, accelerate the revolution in military affairs with Chinese characteristics, ensure military preparedness, and enhance the military's capability to respond to various security threats and accomplish diverse military tasks. "We are determined to safeguard China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and make contributions to maintaining world peace," Hu pledged.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

Hu Jintao appeals for "peace agreement" with Taiwan

With secessionist activities stepped up in Taiwan island and cross-Straits relations in jeopardy at present, Hu Jintao on Monday called for discussion with the Taiwan side on a formal end to the state of hostility and to reach a peace agreement under the condition of one-China principle. "Here we would like to make a solemn appeal: On the basis of the one-China principle, let us discuss a formal end to the state of hostility between the two sides, reach a peace agreement, construct a framework for peaceful development of cross-Straits relations, and thus usher in a new phase of peaceful development," Hu said in a report to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. "At present, the forces for 'Taiwan independence' are stepping up their secessionist activities, seriously jeopardizing the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations," Hu told more than 2,000 delegates to the congress that opened Monday morning.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

Political reform 'will be pursued'

The nation will continue to push for the reform of its political system but will not copy Western models, a Party spokesman said yesterday. Li Dongsheng, spokesman for the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) - which begins today in Beijing - said the meeting will set out a blueprint for reforming political institutions. "We will continue to forge ahead with political reform in line with the guidelines to be spelt out," he told a press conference on the eve of the five-yearly congress. Based on the experience of reform and opening-up over the past 29 years, "we have come to a deep understanding that the reform of the political system matters not only for the success of all-round reform but also affects the basic interests of the broad mass of the public," Li said. He, however, stressed that China will reform its political system only on the basis of its national conditions; it will draw from other political systems but by no means will it copy Western political models.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

China strongly urges the U.S. to cancel arrangement on gold medal award to Dalai Lama

China strongly opposed a so-called Congressional gold medal to Dalai Lama from the U.S. Congress and the presence of President George W. Bush to the awarding ceremony, and strongly urged the U.S. side to cancel such arrangement. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Sunday night that the awarding to Dalai Lama and the presence of the U.S. leaders have severely trampled on the norms of international relations, hurt the feelings of the Chinese people, and are wild interference in China's domestic affairs. "China is strongly resentful of and resolutely opposes this and has made solemn represent to the U.S. side. We seriously urged the U.S. side to correct such wrong doing and cancel relevant arrangement, and stop interfering in China's domestic affairs in any forms," Liu said. He said Tibet is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory, and the Tibet issue is purely China's internal affairs. China resolutely opposes any country or any people to make use of the Dalai Lama issue to interfere in its domestic affairs.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

Hu says China experiences "extraordinary" five years of achievements, difficulties

China has experienced an extraordinary period over the past five years, when the Party guided the people to overcome hardships and attained achievements, Hu Jintao said in his report to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Monday morning. "The five years since the 16th Congress was an extraordinary period," Hu said on behalf of the 16th CPC Central Committee. In order to accomplish the arduous tasks of reform and development in a complicated and volatile international situation, he said, the Party led the people of all ethnic groups overcome difficulties and risks under the guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory and the thought of Three Represents, creating a new situation in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and attaining a new realm in adapting Marxism to conditions in China. Hu reviewed that China's economic strength increased substantially, with the GDP expanding by an annual average rate of over 10 percent in the past five years.

The People's Daily, 15 October 2007

Hu Jintao stresses socialism with Chinese characteristics

Hu Jintao called on the 73 million members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese people on Monday to hold high the "great banner of socialism with Chinese Characteristics" in their strive for building "a moderately prosperous society in all respects." Hu made the call in a keynote speech at the 17th CPC National Congress Monday on behalf of the 16th CPC Central Committee. The theme of the congress is "to hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, follow the guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents, thoroughly apply the Scientific Outlook on Development, continue to emancipate the mind, persist in reform and opening up, pursue development in a scientific way, promote social harmony, and strive for new victories in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects," Hu said. Building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is a goal for the Party and the state to reach by 2020, and represents the fundamental interests of the people of all ethnic groups, he said.

The People's Daily, 16 October 2007

Hu Jintao proposes scientific therapy to unleash vitality of socialism

Chinese leader Hu Jintao on Monday proposed a scientific therapy to unleash the vitality of socialism which underscores gradually broadened and deepened reforms to ensure parallel economic prosperity and social harmony. Charting out the country's development contour in the next few years, Hu called in a keynote speech to delegates of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to thoroughly implement the scientific outlook on development to accomplish the ruling party's mission of building a moderately prosperous society. Hu told more than 2,200 delegates to the 17th CPC National Congress that as part of the theories of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the scientific outlook on development stands along with Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thoughts of "Three Represents" raised by former Party and state leader Jiang Zemin, two banners the CPC holds high in its course of reform and opening.

The People's Daily, 16 October 2007

Hu Jintao charts roadmap for China: sustainable growth, greater democracy

China will continue to power the engine of economic growth by quadrupling the per capita gross domestic production (GDP) of 2000 by the year 2020. And the rapid growth will be under the condition of reduced consumption of resources and greater efforts in environmental protection. China will also manage to narrow the yawning income gap, expand democracy for its 1.3 billion people, modernize its 2.3 million armed forces, enhance the soft power of its culture, and work to sign a cross-Straits peace agreement on the basis of one-China principle. Hu Jintao, general secretary of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), outlined the country's ambitious goals for economic, political and social developments, as well as the nation's position on the world stage, at the 17th CPC National Congress on Monday.

The People's Daily, 16 October 2007

Hu: Well-off society is top goal

The Communist Party of China (CPC) will lead the Chinese people in building a well-off society that ensures balanced economic growth, improvement of people's well-being and social justice by 2020, Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee,

pledged yesterday. "In keeping with the changes in domestic and international situations and in light of the expectations of people of all ethnic groups for a better life, we must set new and higher requirements for China's development based on the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects set at the 16th Party congress," Hu said in his report to the 17th CPC National Congress which opened in Beijing yesterday. To this end, he added, China will continue to power the engine of economic growth by quadrupling the per capita value of the 2000 gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020. But the rapid growth will be subject to the proviso of reduced consumption of resources and greater efforts in environment protection, Hu said, proposing that a conservation culture be promoted while moving to build a well-off society.

The People's Daily, 16 October 2007

Democracy -- outstanding catchphrase in Hu's keynote report to CPC congress

Hu Jintao vowed here Monday morning at his report to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to deepen political restructuring, mentioning the word of democracy at least 60 times. Hu told more than 70 million Party members nationwide in his live televised speech that the CPC, an 86-years-old political party ruling New China for over 58 years, will "expand people's democracy and ensure that they are masters of the country." Although being faced with widening wealth gap, unwise use of natural resources and regional imbalance of economic and social development, China has achieved rarely-seen miracle in economic and social development. China's economy, once on the verge of collapse, has grown to rank as the fourth largest in the world, and its import and export volume, the third biggest. The impoverished population in rural areas has dropped from more than 250 million to just over 20 million.

The People's Daily, 16 October 2007

Word by word, CPC touches up "Xiao Kang" blueprint

The China of 2020 envisioned by China's Communist leaders was first introduced to the world as a "well-off society" in a Party report in 2002 and changed to a "moderately prosperous society" in an annual government work report two years later. This quiet change in the translation of "Xiao Kang", an ideal society originally conceived during the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) and borrowed by the Communist Party of China to inspire a national drive toward Socialism, could just be a correction of a previously inaccurate translation. But the self-rectification by those at the helm of the world's most populous nation is constant. The connotations of the political catchphrase "building a Xiao Kang society in all round way" put forward in 2002 at the Party's 16th National Congress has been fleshed out by constant policy recalibrating, says Zhou Tianyong, deputy director of the Research Office of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

The China Post, 16 October 2007

Taiwan urges China to drop preconditions for talks on peace accord

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Taiwan urged Chinese leaders Tuesday to dismantle hundreds of missiles and recognize the self-ruled island's separate identity before the two rivals negotiate an end to the nearly six decades of hostility between them. Beijing's insistence that Taiwan is a part of China has been the main "political obstacle" hampering a

dialogue between the sides, said Chen Ming-tong, chairman of the Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council. Chen's comments came one day after Chinese President Hu Jintao called for a formal peace accord to be discussed under Beijing's "one-China principle," meaning that Taiwan must recognize that it is part of China. "If China was sincere in pushing for peace, we urge them to recognize the fact that the two sides don't have jurisdiction over each other ... to dismantle military deployment targeted at Taiwan ... and hold talks with our popularly elected government without setting any preconditions," said Chen, who implements the island's mainland policy.

The China Post, 16 October 2007

Taiwan rejects Hu's offer

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Taiwan on Monday categorically rejected Chinese President Hu Jintao's call for a peace agreement to be forged on the basis of Beijing's "one-China principle," which says the island is part of the mainland. "What Hu said -- that the 'one-China' principle is the political basis of the peace development between the two sides -- is far away from reality," Taiwan's Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council said in a statement. "Instead, we insist that democracy is the basis of peaceful development across the Strait." "Taiwan's sovereignty is owned by the 23 million in Taiwan and its future should be decided by themselves," the council added.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2007

Don't meet Dalai Lama, Bush urged

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi yesterday urged US President George W. Bush to cancel a planned meeting with the Dalai Lama, warning it can have "an extremely serious impact" on bilateral relations. Bush and the Dalai Lama - viewed by China as a political exile who has long engaged in separatist activities - were scheduled to meet at the White House yesterday on the eve of a public ceremony to award him the US Congressional Gold Medal. "We express our extreme dissatisfaction and strong opposition. We solemnly demand that the US side cancel the extremely wrong arrangement," Yang told reporters on the sidelines of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The meeting will be a gross violation of the norms of international relations and it severely hurts the feelings of the Chinese people, said Yang, who is also a delegate to the Party congress. "The Chinese side has made solemn representations on this many times."

The People's Daily, 17 October 2007

Red China picks up "green" line

Chunshuyuan, in downtown Beijing, is a "green community" boasting not only trees and meadows but also eco-friendly facilities. The latest community action is "Green Commute Day". Residents are urged to leave their private cars at home and go to work by foot, bike, bus or subway on the 30th of every month. "It is the duty of a citizen to do something to make the air cleaner in Beijing," said Li Xiumei, an active participant in the community's green programs. About three kilometers away from Chunshuyuan, the Great Hall of People is red with flags and ribbons, the classic color of the Party Congress, and leaders of Red China are doing lots of "green" talking like Li. "(We will) promote a conservation culture by basically forming an energy and resource-efficient and environment-friendly structure of industries, pattern of growth and mode of

consumption," Hu Jintao said in his keynote speech on Monday at the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the five-yearly political event.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2007

Top PLA generals accentuate military preparedness curbing threats to sovereignty

Three top generals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China accentuated on Tuesday to increase military preparedness against threats to national sovereignty. The PLA should firmly push forward military preparedness, increase competence to safeguard national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, said Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), when joining a discussion on Hu Jintao's report to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). "We determinedly oppose 'Taiwan independence' activities, and will never allow any one sever Taiwan from China in any name or by any means," Guo told the PLA delegation to the congress that opened Monday morning. In pushing forward the Chinese-style revolution in military affairs, Guo asked the PLA to build digitized armed forces and try all out to win a war in the information age.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2007

Flexibility of China's currency expands

China's currency the RMB has grown more flexible with its central parity rate having gained 10.19 percent accumulatively against U.S. dollar as of Sept. 30, statistics released Tuesday by a delegation from the central financial sector to the ongoing 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. China scrapped its decade-long peg to U.S. dollar in July 2005 and linked it to a basket of currencies. Currently, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall 0.5 percent a day compared with a daily fixing rate against the dollar. The central parity rate on Tuesday is 7.5136 yuan against one U.S. dollar, up slightly from Monday. China insisted that the revaluation of the RMB must be gradual so as to secure the country's stability in terms of economic growth. In a keynote speech to the Party congress on Monday, Hu Jintao said China would improve the RMB exchange rate system and gradually make the yuan convertible under the capital account. But he didn't give a timetable. The RMB is only convertible for now under the current account for trade in goods and services.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2007

China hopes to join Int'l Space Station project

China hopes to become the 17th nation joining the International Space Station (ISS) project, Vice Minister of Science and Technology Li Xueyong said on Tuesday. "China sincerely wants to cooperate with the United States in space exploration and join the International Space Station project that has already involved 16 nations," said Li, a delegate to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on the sidelines of the event. The Chinese government has been pursuing a policy of peaceful use of airspace, Li said. The International Space Station is a joint project of 16 nations including the United States, Russia, Japan, Canada, Brazil and 11 countries from the European Space Agency. The station's first segment, the Zarya control module, was brought to orbit by a Russian Proton rocket in November 1998 to provide the infant station's battery power and fuel storage.

The People's Daily, 17 October 2007

China welcomes visit by UN Myanmar envoy

China on Tuesday expressed its welcome to the United Nations' special advisor on Myanmar and said it hoped he would visit China soon. "We welcome him to visit China as soon as possible and we are consulting with the UN on relevant arrangements," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao at a regular press conference. Ibrahim Gambari, special advisor on Myanmar, began his Asian tour in Thailand on Sunday. He will also visit Malaysia, Indonesia, India, China and Japan. Liu said China had noticed Gambari's Asian tour during which he exchanged views with relevant nations on the Myanmar issue. Gambari paid a visit to Myanmar two weeks ago. His current Asian tour is aimed at facilitating a second visit to Myanmar.

The China Post, 17 October 2007

United States welcomes China offer of talks with Taiwan

WASHINGTON -- The White House on Monday welcomed China's offer of talks with Taiwan, calling it a step in the right direction for renewed dialogue between Beijing and the self-ruled island that China claims as its own. Chinese President Hu Jintao, in an address to the opening of the Communist Party's 17th Congress, offered to enter into negotiations with Taiwan to reach a peace agreement. He also warned Taiwan against formally declaring independence, but did not threaten force in response to such a move, as predecessors have in the past. "The United States notes the moderate tone of President Hu's statement made today on the issue of cross-Taiwan Strait relations," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. "We believe that President Hu's remarks were a step in the right direction on seeking to reinvigorate a cross-strait dialogue."

The China Post, 17 October 2007

Hsieh favorably mulls Hu's peace suggestion

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Frank Hsieh, the Democratic Progressive Party standard bearer, seems to be considering favorably Chinese President Hu Jintao's suggestions on peace across the Taiwan Strait. In a surprising deviation from the ruling party's strict anti-Chinese line, Hsieh said yesterday he believes any suggestion for peace by the Chinese communist leader may work. But Hsieh couches it on whether Taiwan can maintain its "subjectivity" and dignity, although his subjectivity may be interpreted by some as something like sovereignty. Hsieh told a seminar at National Sun Yat-sen University in Kaohsiung that peace across the Taiwan Strait is "the aim all of us are striving to achieve." "Each and every suggestion for peace may be practicable," Hsieh pointed out, without naming Hu Jintao as the one who suggested it, "so long as Taiwan can maintain its subjectivity -- and the dignity it has always had at the same time."

The People's Daily, 18 October 2007

Party National Congress turns increasingly open

Seven departments of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee have instituted their regular spokespeople system, a media website of the CPC opened into use, and a namelist of delegates to the CPC National Congress released before the congress started; a vital policy decision of "boosting Party affairs into the open step by step" was

made for the first time in the CPC history at the Fourth Plenum of the Party's 16th Central Committee, and the practice of "boosting party affairs into the open" was proposed in the report to the ongoing 17th CPC National Congress. With all its trying efforts, the CPC has represents itself to the world with a posture of more openness and greater confidence for itself. The direct broadcasting room of the People's Daily (PD) online office set up in the Great Hall of the People was amid a bustling scene early Monday morning. When the first batch of pictures on the scene began transmitting online at 8:30 a.m., the live language broadcast started simultaneously and, at 9:00 a.m., the Congress opened with the playing of China's national anthem in the magnificent hall.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2007

Election procedures set for CPC national congress personnel reshuffle

The 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will first hold a primary election before a final ballot to choose members of a new CPC central committee and its discipline commission, the presidium of the congress decided Wednesday in Beijing. The 237-member presidium to oversee the congress held its second meeting at the Great Hall of the People Wednesday afternoon, and adopted the electoral procedure that has been in practice since the 13th party congress in 1987, Xinhua was informed. The presidium meeting, presided over by Hu Jintao, endorsed a proposed name-list of nominees for the candidates of members and alternate members of the central committee, and members of the central discipline commission. The name-list will be submitted to all delegations to the congress for consideration.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2007

Holding high great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics

"The whole Party must, by unswervingly holding high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, leading people in proceeding from the new historical starting point and seizing and capitalizing on the crucial good opportune time, be realistic and determined to make progress, continue to build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, speed up socialist modernization and fulfill the noble mission the age has entrusted China," Comrade Hu Jintao said in his political report to the 17th National Congress. Delegates to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) have during their panel discussions spoke highly of the report Hu Jintao delivered at the ongoing Party Congress on behalf of the 16th CPC Central Committee. The common consensus is that the report has enunciated in an in-depth way the extreme importance of the adherence to and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics to the development of the cause of the CPC and voiced the Party's firm will and faith in leading the people nationwide in their continuous advance along the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2007

China resents 'gross interference'

China lashed out at US President George Bush's meeting with the Dalai Lama, calling the meeting a "gross interference" in its internal affairs. "China is strongly resentful of this and resolutely opposes it, and has made repeated solemn representations to the US side," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said yesterday. He again urged the US side to

correct its wrongdoings and stop interfering in China's internal affairs in any form. Liu said such a meeting "seriously violated" the norms of international relations and gravely hurt the feelings of the Chinese people. "It is a gross interference in China's internal affairs," Liu added. Liu's remarks were the latest response in a string of Chinese protests about the decision to award the Dalai Lama the US Congressional Gold Medal in a public ceremony earlier yesterday. Despite stern warnings from Beijing, Bush met with the Dalai Lama in the White House on Tuesday.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2007

PLA generals support absolute Party leadership

Six high-ranking generals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) have pledged to support the absolute leadership of the Communist Party of China in the armed forces. The generals, all members of the Central Military Commission, made the remark while discussing Hu Jintao's political report, which was delivered at the start of the Party congress, together with delegates of the armed forces. Liang Guanglie said the PLA will always obey orders from the Party central leadership, and firmly stick to the principle and mechanism of the absolute leadership of the CPC in the armed forces. Li Ji'nai said Hu's report gives the PLA new missions and requirements, which clearly guide and direct national defense construction and PLA modernization. Liao Xilong said the PLA will always strive for equipping officers and soldiers with the latest theoretical fruits, loyally fulfill the historic mission of the PLA at modern times, and conscientiously get prepared for any possible warfare.

The People's Daily, 18 October 2007

World organizations praise Hu's vision

General Secretary Hu Jintao's emphasis on scientific methods, sustainable development and "putting people first" has won wide support and praise from international organizations. Khalid Malik, United Nations resident coordinator in China and UNDP resident representative, hailed the discussions under way at the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which opened on Monday. "You have a feeling there are very committed efforts to make certain policies to follow an objective analysis of the country's situation," he commented on the political report delivered by Hu. The UN resident coordinator said he was delighted the Chinese leadership's desire to build a xiaokang and harmonious society is very similar to the UN's Millennium Development Goals for human development. Malik said the report's emphasis on bringing both rural and urban parts of the country under the coverage of one common system of social security, health and education represents a big step forward.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2007

Chinese Communist elite foresees challenges ahead

China has ushered in its best period of time over the past century marked by robust economic growth and expanding global clout, but on everyone's lips at the ongoing national congress of the governing Communist Party of China (CPC) is "vigilance in peaceful time". The sentiment of preparing for eventualities doesn't come out of thin air. As Chinese leader Hu Jintao pointed out Monday at the meeting where more than 2,000 Communist elite gathered to mull over the strategy for future, China has come to "a high

starting point of our times" while the world gets much more complex. Sustaining economy has been viewed as the top challenge during the open discussions over the following three days because excess expansion has taken heavy toll on the country's ecology, constantly throwing the government into emergency incidents that sparked a sudden explosion of public complaints over unsafe and deteriorating environment.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2007

China attaches great importance to ties with Pacific: official

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui has said China attaches great importance to its relationship with Pacific island countries. The ultimate goal of China's Pacific island policy is the maintenance of the regional stability and the promotion of common development, he said. He was addressing a meeting between the 16-member Pacific Islands Forum, the major inter-governmental organization to promote cooperation in the region, and its dialogue partners on Thursday. He praised the progress PIF has made in regional cooperation and pursuit of common development. He also briefed the Forum members on China's stand on conservation of resources, climate change, energy security and sustainable development. Zhang said the Chinese government will continue to carry out a series of preferential policies in support of a more rapid development of island countries, which were announced by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum in Fiji, in April, 2006.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2007

Taipei mayor rejects regime's UN "referendum" campaign

Taiwan authorities' plan to stage a long distance relay run as part of a push for a "referendum" on the island's bid to enter into the United Nations has been criticized by Taipei mayor Hau Long-bin, Taiwan media reported Friday. Hau said the plan was a political campaign rather than a sports activity and the municipal government so far had not received any application for permission from the Chen Shui-bian authorities. The mayor said staging such an activity during rush hour on main streets would cause inconveniences to Taipei people and seriously affect their rights and interests. If Taiwan authorities insist on hosting the campaign, the Taipei government would handle it according to law, Hau said. Disregarding Taiwan people's call for peace and strong opposition from the international community, Chen Shui-bian authorities had been obstinately promoting the "referendum" on the island's UN entry bid.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2007

China condemns bomb attack in Pakistan

China on Friday condemns the bomb attacks on a convoy of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the southern port city of Karachi. "China sternly condemned the explosion. We hope Pakistan will maintain social stability," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao. Up to 110 people were killed and over 200 others were injured in two suicide blasts near Benazir Bhutto's vehicle in Karachi early Friday morning, according to Pakistani media reports.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2007

Do not politicize Olympic Games, warns BOCOG official

Liu Jingmin, executive vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG), said Friday political issues should not be associated with the Olympic Games. "All the political issues that have nothing to do with the Olympics shall not be associated with the Beijing Games. The attempt to boycott the Beijing Games for such excuses is improper and unpopular," said Liu. Liu made the remarks when answering a question on the boycott attempt by some people at a press conference on the sidelines of the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

The People's Daily, 19 October 2007

Strong protest lodged over US Congress award to Dalai Lama

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi yesterday summoned US Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt to lodge a strong protest against the US awarding the Dalai Lama with a "Congressional Gold Medal". "The move is a blatant interference in China's internal affairs. It has hurt the feelings of the Chinese people and gravely undermined bilateral relations," ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a regular news briefing yesterday. He urged Washington to immediately take effective measures to remove "the terrible effects of its erroneous act and stop conniving with, and supporting, 'Tibet independence' secessionist forces". The US Congress awarded the medal to the Dalai Lama at a Capital Rotunda ceremony on Wednesday in the presence of US President George W. Bush. The event marked the first time a sitting US president has appeared in public with the Dalai Lama, who also held talks with Bush at the White House on Tuesday.

The People's Daily, 20 October 2007

China brings three opportunities to the world

Over recent years, there has been international clamor around the China threat. However, when looking at China's development objectively, we cannot deny one basic fact: China's development did not bring any threat to the world; instead, it brought opportunities in at least three aspects. With the reform and opening up, China has become an engine for the world's economy. According to recent data from the World Bank, from 2003 to 2005, the average contribution rate of China's economic growth to global GDP growth was as high as 13.8% - only second to the United States and second in the world. Today, China has become the world's third largest trading partner. High-quality and inexpensive Chinese goods have been sent to the rest of the world; and have increased the actual income level of importing countries and promoted consumption. At the same time, the scale of China's imports has expanded rapidly. From 2003 to 2006, the average growth rate reached 28.3%. China offers a broad market for other countries and has created many employment opportunities.

The People's Daily, 20 October 2007

Continue to push forward reform and opening up

Twenty-nine years of reform and opening up is not a long time in the history of the Chinese nation; but the impact on the Chinese people's historical destiny has been profound. In the report of the 17th CPC National Congress, Comrade Hu Jintao pointed out: "Facts prove incontrovertibly that the reform and opening up of China is a key decision that has determined the fate of China; and is the only way to develop socialism with Chinese characteristics and to rejuvenate the Chinese nation. Only socialism can

save China and only reform and opening up can promote the development of China, socialism, and Marxism." Reform leads to change. A series of reforms, such as abolishing the agricultural tax; waiving tuition and fees in rural compulsory education; and establishing a new rural cooperative medical system have brought benefits to the Chinese people and demonstrated new progress in China's reform and opening up.

The People's Daily, 20 October 2007

Promoting the better, faster growth of national economy

Comrade Hu Jintao explicitly sets forth the task of pushing forward the better and faster development of national economy in his report at the opening of the ongoing 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). CPC Delegates to the Congress unanimously hold that advancing the better and faster growth of national economy represents an essential demand of the scientific outlook on development, the continuing, in-depth increase of the Party's knowledge on the law governing the economic growth and China's firm choice in the march toward modernization along the road of development. Development has always been the theme in the past 29 years of reform and opening to the outside world, and high-speed development represents a most obvious achievement of the new era. With an average annual growth rate of 7.9 percent since the launch of the economic reform and opening-up 29 years ago, China has bid farewell to a short-supply economy, and stepped into a new era of fast development with industrialization, informationization, urbanization and internationalization.

The People's Daily, 20 October 2007

Ambassador hails Sino-French ties

Sino-French cooperation has resulted in remarkable achievements over the past decade, particularly in the legal and commercial fields, said French Ambassador to China Herve Ladsous. "The two countries have continental law systems and share similar ideologies, such as social harmony and economic security," Ladsous said on the sidelines of a two-day France-China legal seminar held in Beijing, which concluded on Friday. Experts from both sides discussed areas for cooperation at the seminar, including courts, procuratorates, notaries and universities. Wang Gongyi, deputy director of the research office at the Ministry of Justice, said China's Civil Law and Notarization Law had both been influenced by France. "President Hu Jintao included many of these legal concepts in his keynote speech to the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on Monday," Wang said.

The People's Daily, 20 October 2007

New Zealand warship visits south China harbor

A New Zealand frigate arrived at Zhanjiang military harbor in south China's Guangdong Province on Friday on a three-day visit. Headed by Commodore David Anson, the frigate Te Kaha of the New Zealand navy has 28 officers and 148 soldiers and is on its first visit to the port. During their stay, the crew and officers will participate in soccer and basketball games with their Chinese counterparts. The two sides will hold meetings and visit each other's warships as well. The Te Kaha missile frigate belongs to Anzac class which was made in Australia. It has been in service since 1997 with a load displacement of 3,600 tons and a highest sailing speed of 27 knots.

The China Post, 20 October 2007

President vows to kick off torch relay

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- President Chen Shui-bian yesterday vowed to kick off Wednesday's torch relay rally in Taipei to rally support for Taiwan's U.N. bid, as the central and city governments argued over the legality of the event. "I will definitely attend the 'U.N. for Taiwan' torch relay," said Chen, who has been arranged to start the first leg of the event in front of the Presidential Office. "If they want to arrest me, so be it. I'm undaunted," vowed Chen. But Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin from the opposition Kuomintang maintained that the central government had yet to submit an application for what he called a "political" event, and without a permit the run through the city would be illegal. It was also reported that Taichung City, governed by KMT Mayor Jason Hu, also decided to ban the relay.

The People's Daily, 21 October 2007

China, Russia wind up second river test since 2005 chemical spill

Chinese and Russian environmental researchers have winded up the second national-level joint test this year on water quality of the border rivers. Researchers extracted samples at nine sites along the Ergun, Heilongjiang, Wusuli and Suifen rivers and the Xingkai Lake, and have finished lab analysis based on each country's standards, sources with the State Environment Protection Administration (SEPA) said. Data were gathered on chemical oxygen demand (COD), contents of heavy metals, pesticides, riverbed mud to determine water quality in the cross-border water bodies. The two sides have also exchanged statistics and will meet again in the near future to discuss specifics on what work needs to be done on which sections of the rivers. It is second joint operation this year since China and Russia signed the Joint Monitoring Plan on Border Rivers in 2006, after an explosion at a Chinese chemicals plant sent nitrobenzene and other chemicals into the Songhua River that flows into the Heilongjiang in 2005.

The People's Daily, 21 October 2007

Backgrounder: Major previous amendments to CPC Constitution

The 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has examined and adopted an amendment to the Party's Constitution proposed by the 16th CPC Central Committee, to reflect the Scientific Outlook on Development and other major theoretical developments. The following are major amendments to the Constitution adopted at the previous CPC congresses. 16th CPC National Congress, November 2002: inclusion of the important thought of "Three Represents", which means the CPC represents the development trend of China's advanced productive forces, the orientation of China's advanced culture and the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people; 15th CPC National Congress, September 1997: establishment of Deng Xiaoping theory as the CPC's guiding ideology alongside Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought; 14th CPC National Congress, October 1992: inclusion of Deng Xiaoping's theory of "building socialism with Chinese characteristics" and "one center, two basic points";

The People's Daily, 21 October 2007

CPC congress closes, opening new chapter for scientific development

The Communist Party of China (CPC) closed its 17th National Congress on Sunday, endorsing the incorporation of the scientific outlook on development into the Party Constitution and installing a new 371-member Central Committee and a 127-member Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. At the closing session presided over by Hu Jintao, 2,235 delegates and specially invited guests selected 204 members and 167 alternate members of the 17th CPC Central Committee. Zeng Qinghong, Wu Guanzheng and Luo Gan, members of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the 16th CPC Central Committee, were not on the central committee, while Hu Jintao, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin and Li Changchun have secured seats. As is customary, the new central committee will hold its first plenary session the following day of the conclusion of the Party congress. According to the CPC Constitution, the plenum elects the central committee's general secretary, members and alternate members of its political bureau, and members of the political bureau standing committee. The general secretary shall be chosen from political bureau standing committee members.

The People's Daily, 21 October 2007

CPC Constitution mentions "religion" for first time

For the first time in its history, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has mentioned the word "religion" in an amendment to its Constitution adopted on Sunday at the closing session of the 17th CPC National Congress. To incorporate into its Constitution the principles and policies the Party has formulated for guiding efforts to strengthen the work related to ethnic and religious affairs, among others, is conducive to their full implementation and getting better results in the Party's work in this area, said a resolution on the amendment to the Constitution. It said the insertion has been made in light of the new circumstances and tasks. The CPC is atheistic but allows freedom of religious beliefs. China is home to 100 million religious faithful, largely Buddhists, Taoists, Christians, Catholics and Islamites

The People's Daily, 21 October 2007

Communist leadership urge local bureaucrats to implement scientific development

The Communist Party of China on Sunday wrote the "scientific outlook of development" into its amended Constitution to make it the keynote of the country's overall development in years to come, but observers say the implementation of the policy is not an easy job. Possible challenges to the central government's authority might come from some local governments and enterprises which have their own interests, the observers warn. Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Central Committee of CPC, has called at the Party's 17th National Congress on cadres and people across the nation to change their minds to meet the scientific development, and the new perception of development should be spread in every corner of the country. The congress, which concluded Sunday, urged that major problems that hinder the implementation of the scientific outlook of development should be solved.

The People's Daily, 21 October 2007

China calls for efforts to analyze financial turmoil, safeguard global financial stability

A senior Chinese official urged the international community on Saturday in Washington to analyze the root causes of the recent financial turmoil and to make efforts to safeguard global financial stability. "Activities in the major advanced economies slowed in the second quarter of 2007, posing significant downside risks to global growth," Wu Xiaoling, deputy governor of People's Bank of China said at the 16th meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee. Credit market retrenchment in the United States may further dampen the housing market, suppressing consumption and investment, giving rise to potential risks of recession with a spillover effect on other countries, she warned. "It is all the more urgent a priority to strengthen surveillance of the systematically important advanced economies in order to safeguard global financial stability and economic prosperity," said the Chinese official. "This round of adjustment has not yet come to an end," Wu said. "Despite the major central banks' liquidity injection, credit conditions are unlikely to be restored within a short period of time."

The People's Daily, 22 October 2007

Four new members enter China's top leadership

Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, He Guoqiang and Zhou Yongkang entered the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Party's top leadership, on Monday. The four new members were elected at the first plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee. Xi, 54, and Li, 52, serve as Party chiefs in Shanghai and Liaoning respectively. Xi was a member of the 16th CPC Central Committee and alternate member of the 15th CPC Central Committee. Li was a member of the 16th and 15th CPC central committees. He Guoqiang, 63, is head of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, and Zhou, 64, is minister of public security. Both He and Zhou were members of the Political Bureau of the 16th CPC Central Committee since 2002. Hu Jintao and four other members of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the 16th CPC Central Committee have been reelected into the nine-member top echelon.

The People's Daily, 22 October 2007

Full text of resolution on CPC Central Committee report

The Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has approved the report made by Comrade Hu Jintao on behalf of its Sixteenth Central Committee. Following the guidance of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents and thoroughly applying the Scientific Outlook on Development, the report provides scientific answers to major questions for the Party at a crucial stage of China's reform and development, such as what banner it should hold, what path it should take, and in what morale and toward what objectives of development it should continue to march forward. The report contains overall arrangements for advancing reform, opening up and socialist modernization and attaining the ambitious goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and has definite requirements for comprehensively carrying forward the great new undertaking to build the Party in a spirit of reform and innovation.

The People's Daily, 22 October 2007

Full text of resolution on amendment to CPC Constitution

The Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has examined and unanimously adopted the amended Constitution of the CPC proposed by the Sixteenth CPC Central Committee and decided that it shall come into force as of the date of its adoption. The congress notes that since the Sixteenth Congress, the Central Committee has followed the guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents and, by pooling the wisdom of the whole Party to meet new requirements of development, formulated the Scientific Outlook on Development, which puts people first and calls for comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development. The outlook is a continuation and development of the important thoughts on development advanced by the three generations of the Party's central collective leadership and a concentrated expression of the Marxist world outlook and methodology with regard to development. It is a scientific theory that is in the same line as Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents and keeps up with the times.

The People's Daily, 22 October 2007

Commentary: Democracy is an attitude

Is China able to pursue democracy? Can the Communist Party of China (CPC) broaden democracy under the system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC? Is democracy something solely defined by the West? No political institution around the world could label itself perfect. Although the least defective mechanism in human history, democracy in every country is in process. Therefore, democracy is rather an attitude and something out of self perception. Unlike the world's most modern democracies, the Chinese people were suppressed several times by outsiders with surpassingly sophisticated gunboats and cannons. The inward-inclined Chinese at that time, long feeling insecure and victimized, were understandably wary of any dose that Western countries attempted to feed us. Good idea and sincere behavior from outside may not always be seen as they are.

The China Post, 22 October 2007

United States may review policy, if referendum adopted: Chen

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Washington would review its China policy, if a referendum on Taiwan's joining the United Nations in its name were adopted, President Chen Shui-bian predicted yesterday. In a 40-minute aside, Chen broached his four predictions at a Taiwan Heart Association rally marking its sixth founding anniversary, one of them assuring his Democratic Progressive Party of its victory in the 2008 presidential race. He was expected to report on the progress of his campaign to call the referendum, strongly opposed by the United States and China. Deviating from the prepared text, President Chen said he is certain the United States must needs review policies vis-a-vis Taiwan after the referendum is passed. "I am certain," President Chen said, "the United States would review its 'one-China' policy (after the adoption of the referendum). Washington is likely to consider (seriously) dual recognition (of Taipei and Beijing.)" President Jimmy Carter, in signing a joint communique to normalize relations between Washington and Beijing in 1979, agreed that the People's Republic of China represents the whole of China, of which Taiwan is a part.

The People's Daily, 23 October 2007

Hu Jintao meets Army delegates of Party Congress

Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, state president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, had a meeting with military delegates of the just-ended 17th Party Congress on Monday evening. Guo Boxiong, Cao Gangchuan and Xu Caihou were present at the meeting, at Beijing's Jingxi Hotel, along with other former and newly-elected senior military officials Yang Baibing, Zhang Wannian, Chi Haotian, Zhao Nanqi, Liang Guanglie, Chen Bingde, Li Jinai, Liao Xilong, Chang Wanquan, Qiao Qingchen, Jing Zhiyuan, Wu Shengli and Xu Qiliang. Hu and the others were greeted with warm applause and they shook hands and had pictures taken with the Army delegates. The military delegates represent the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP). According to law, the Chinese armed forces are definitely under the leadership of the CPC.

The People's Daily, 23 October 2007

Hu Jintao, Jiang Zemin meet delegates of Party Congress

Communist Party of China (CPC) leader Hu Jintao and his predecessor Jiang Zemin had a meeting with delegates, special delegates and observers to the recently concluded 17th National Congress of the CPC on Monday afternoon. On Monday's First Plenary Session of the newly formed 17th Central Committee of the CPC, Hu, who is also Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the country, was re-elected General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC). Also present at the meeting were Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Zeng Qinghong, Li Changchun, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, He Guoqiang, and Zhou Yongkang. The meeting took place in the Great Hall of the People, in central Beijing, where Hu and Jiang greeted the delegates and received applause and greetings. Hu and Jiang had pictures taken with the delegates, special delegates and observers.

The People's Daily, 23 October 2007

Hu Jintao heads Politburo Standing Committee, with four new faces joining in

Hu Jintao remains head of the nine-member Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Party's top leadership. Hu, 64, was reelected on Monday as a member of the nine-member Political Bureau Standing Committee at the first plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee. He succeeded Jiang Zemin as Party leader at the 16th CPC National Congress in November 2002. Hu was elected a member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee in 1992, at the age of 49. Four other members of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the 16th CPC Central Committee, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin and Li Changchun, were reelected into the top echelon on Monday. Wu, 66, has been chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress since 2003. Wen, 65, serves as Chinese Premier. Jia, 67, is chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The China Post, 23 October 2007

South Korea has longer range missile

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea possesses at least one surface-to-surface cruise missile capable of reaching all of North Korea and even as far as the Chinese capital, a media report said Tuesday. Quoting an unnamed military source, Yonhap news agency said the South Korean army's guided missile command "possess a cruise missile with a range of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles)" though it's not known whether the rocket has already been deployed. It was unclear from the report how many such missiles exist. The weapon, equipped with a terrain contour matching navigation system, is an upgraded version of the domestically built missile "Hyunmu" which has a range of up to 300 kilometers (186 miles), Yonhap said. Hyunmu is the name of a mythic animal with the characteristics of a turtle and snake. South Korea's army flatly denied the Yonhap report, saying it doesn't have such a missile. "No, that is not true," said an army official on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of issue.

The China Post, 23 October 2007

President Chen to run in torch relay marathon

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- President Chen Shui-bian is all set to run in a torch relay marathon to rally support for Taiwan's admission to the United Nations, as Hau Lung-bin, mayor of Taipei, backed down from their brief confrontation and let his police chief handle the "hot potato" yesterday. He will run in the first leg of the 1,200 kilometer marathon around Taiwan tomorrow morning to highlight his campaign to call a referendum on his U.N. bid, scheduled for March 22 next year. Carrying the torch from the Office of the President to the Ching-fu-men, or the East Gate, Chen will run an estimated 300 meters, accompanied by an entourage of top officials and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) leaders, including Frank Hsieh and Su Tseng-chang. Premier Chang Chun-hsiung, who excused himself for his lack of fitness, will be conspicuously absent. "I've had two operations in the past 15 years for my old leg injuries," he said.

The China Post, 23 October 2007

China plans lunar probe launch this week

BEIJING -- China will launch its first lunar probe this week in a key step toward building the basis for future space exploration, an official said Monday. The launch window for the Chang'e 1 orbiter has been set for Oct. 24-26, with the prime time being Wednesday at 6 p.m. (1000 GMT), said Li Guoping, a spokesman for the China National Space Administration. "The orbiting of the moon is a high-tech project of self-innovation," Li told reporters. "It will set the technological foundation for the development of China's space exploration." The move comes weeks after regional rival Japan said that its probe was in high orbit over the moon and all was going well as it began a yearlong project to map and study the lunar surface -- a big leap forward in Asia's undeclared space race. The rivalry is likely to be joined soon by India, which plans to send its own lunar probe into space in April.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

Leaders of foreign countries, parties congratulate Hu on re-election as CPC party chief

Leaders of more foreign countries and parties have sent congratulatory messages to Hu Jintao on his re-election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist

Party of China (CPC). In a congratulatory message, Omar Bongo Ondimba, president of the Gabonese Democratic Party and president of Gabon, wished Hu success in fulfilling his important and noble mission as CPC general secretary. Ondimba said Hu's historic visit to Gabon in 2004 and his numerous visits to China embody the friendly cooperative ties between the two peoples. He said he is convinced the relations between the two parties would be further consolidated, bringing more benefits to the two peoples. Levy Mwanawasa, president of Zambia's Movement for Multi-party Democracy and president of Zambia, expressed his heartfelt congratulations on Hu's re-election as the CPC general secretary.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

New CPC Politburo holds first plenary session

The Political Bureau of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held its first plenary session on Tuesday to arrange the implementation of the Party's policies established in the 17th CPC National Congress. The meeting underlined that the the most important task for the Party after the congress is to publicize and implement spirit of the 17th CPC National Congress. Presided over by Hu Jintao who remains head of the CPC Central Committee, the meeting called for all party members to be fully engaged in realizing Party's objectives established in the congress. The meeting urged Party organs at all levels and all circles to earnestly study Hu Jintao's report delivered at the opening ceremony of the congress and the newly revised Party Constitution. The Politburo asked Party members to profoundly understand and continue to promote the scientific outlook on development on the basis of social harmony, environmental protection and energy conservation in addition to economic expansion.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

China blocks US request

China has blocked a US request to establish a World Trade Organization (WTO) expert panel to investigate Chinese imports of films, DVDs, music and other publications. The United States is expected to renew its request at the next Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) meeting on November 19, when it will be automatically adopted. Under WTO rules, an expert panel request can be blocked only once. The United States filed a complaint to the WTO DSB claiming that China's legal structure prevents Chinese companies from importing books, music, videos and other protected goods from the US. Washington said China agreed to free up these trading rights for non-Chinese companies when it joined the WTO. China expressed regret over the US request at the DSB meeting on Monday. "We respect the rights of the United States ... However, it is regretful this request has been made to establish a panel on this case," the Chinese delegation to the WTO said in a statement.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

Sino-Italian relations now stronger: Ambassador

Chinese and Italian relations are getting much stronger "in every aspect", Italian Ambassador to China Riccardo Sessa said yesterday. In the past, trade between the two countries was not big, cultural exchanges not that active, and there were not many Italians living in China. These issues had perplexed the embassy for a long time, Sessa said in an

exclusive interview with China Daily. "Thanks to the promotional work by the two countries, the situation is changing," he said. According to Sessa, there are at least 700 Italian-invested companies in Chinese mainland. On the issue of bilateral trade, Sessa said the import and export of goods between the two countries have been increasing at a healthy rate in recent years. The overall bilateral trade between China and Italy was \$24.5 billion last year, up 32 percent from the previous year. Exports to China were valued at \$8.6 billion, 24 percent higher than 2005. Sessa is happy to see the growth of trade, however, he said Chinese trade surplus with Italy still exists.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

China's special envoy for Darfur arrives in Sudan

China's special envoy on Darfur issue Liu Guijin arrived in Khartoum on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Sudan. During his visit, the Chinese envoy will hold talks with Sudanese officials on the situation in Darfur as well as other issues of common concerns. This is Liu's third visit to Sudan since he was appointed to the present post in May. After the visit in Sudan, the Chinese envoy will fly to Libya to attend the inaugural session of the peace negotiations between the Sudanese government and anti-government movements in Darfur. The Darfur peace talks, which have been deadlocked since a peace agreement was signed between the Sudanese government and a main anti-government group in May 2006, will be resumed in Libya on Oct.27, under the co-sponsorship of the United Nations and the African Union.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

China ready to learn agricultural experiences from Netherlands, says vice premier

Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu said on Tuesday that China is ready to learn agricultural development techniques from the Netherlands. At a meeting with Dutch Minister of Agriculture Gerda Verburg, Hui spoke highly of Sino-Dutch relations and bilateral agricultural cooperation. He said the Chinese government attaches great importance to agricultural development, and it has always been committed to raising farm output and efficiency at the lowest possible consumption of resources. Both sides agreed to further bilateral scientific and technological cooperation in agriculture while giving full play to the bilateral agricultural working group as an official cooperation channel between the two governments. Hui visited the Netherlands in April this year, during which the two sides signed a joint declaration on agricultural cooperation that aims to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture and rural development.

The People's Daily, 24 October 2007

Neighbors forge pragmatic cooperation

The foreign ministers of China, India and Russia will meet today in the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin to explore ways to enhance pragmatic trilateral cooperation. They will exchange views on major international and regional issues and boost substantive economic cooperation in the various fields including agriculture, disaster relief and information technology. The one-day discussion is expected to be wrapped up with a joint communique, as was the case in the last two talks. This is the third stand-alone meeting among the three foreign ministers, who met earlier in New Delhi in February this year and in the Russian city Vladivostok in June 2005. The three foreign ministers first

met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2002. Since then, they have met six times. The top leaders of China, India, Russia met for the first time in July 2006 in St Petersburg on the sidelines of G8 summit.

The People's Daily, 25 October 2007

Chinese, Costa Rican presidents agree to build long, deep bilateral ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Costa Rican counterpart Oscar Arias Sanchez on Wednesday agreed to develop a lasting, steady, healthy and deep bilateral relationship of friendship and cooperation. The two presidents reached "broad consensus" on developing such a relationship during their hour-long talk at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Hu spoke highly of Arias's "important contribution" to the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Costa Rica, which took place on June 1 this year, saying the establishment of such ties had "opened a new chapter for bilateral relations. Hu expressed his appreciation for Costa Rica's adherence to the one-China policy.

The People's Daily, 25 October 2007

CPC briefs non-communist parties, business leaders on Congress

A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has informed leaders of non-communist parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) of the recent 17th National Congress of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and its first plenary session. Liu Yandong, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, called the CPC Congress an important one in the crucial stage of the ongoing reform and opening-up drive, when she briefed the non-communist party leaders on Tuesday. Liu, head of the United Front Department of the CPC Central Committee, called for seriously studying the essence of the CPC Congress, making it a primary political task for the United Front. The United Front is one of the main components of the CPC's general line and policy, Liu said, noting that it enjoys an important position in the whole work of the CPC and the State and it should play a positive role in implementing the essence of the 17th CPC Congress.

The People's Daily, 25 October 2007

China to help resolve Darfur issue

China will continue to play a constructive role in efforts to resolve the Darfur issue, special envoy Liu Guijin said in the Sudanese capital after arriving on Tuesday for a three-day visit. Liu will hold talks with Sudanese officials on the situation in Darfur as well as other issues of common concerns. This is Liu's third visit to the country since he was appointed to the present post in May and will later fly to Libya to attend the inaugural session of peace negotiations between the Sudanese government and anti-government movements in Darfur. The Darfur peace talks, which have been deadlocked since a peace agreement was signed between the Sudanese government and a leading anti-government group in May 2006, will resume in Libya on Saturday under the co-sponsorship of the United Nations and the African Union. Also on Tuesday, Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Li Chengwen delivered an aid shipment to the local government of the western Sudanese region of Darfur. The package, which included electric generators, pumps and medical equipment, would help development in the conflict-torn region.

The People's Daily, 25 October 2007

China flies its dream and ambition to moon

China successfully launched its first circumlunar satellite Chang'e-1 on Wednesday, another step towards its ambition to become a major power in the outer space. With a total investment of 1.4 billion yuan (about 180 million U.S. dollars), the lunar orbiter, first made by a developing country, is one of the cheapest in history. It is named after the Chinese goddess who, according to legend, flew to the moon to live a happier life there. "The lunar probe is an important stimulus for China's scientific development, a significant demonstration of China's overall national capacity and a promotion of its national prestige on the international stage," said Luan Enjie, chief commander of the country's lunar orbiter project. As the most sophisticated satellite Chinese experts have ever handled, Chang'e 1 will be maneuvered at least 10 times over the next fortnight, covering more than one million kilometers before it finally arrives in the moon's orbit on Nov. 5 after entering earth-moon transfer orbit on Oct. 31.

The People's Daily, 25 October 2007

Trilateral meeting focuses on co-op

The foreign ministers of China, Russia and India yesterday reached broad consensus on "practical cooperation" among the three countries - and reaffirmed that the trilateral partnership is not targeted at any other country or organization. The ministers agreed the development of their countries is a major contribution to peace and development in the region and the world, and is beneficial to the process of global multi-polarity, according to a joint communique. The document was released after Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi held two hours of talks with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee in the capital city of Heilongjiang Province. It emphasized that "multilateralism and collective action should be promoted in addressing urgent issues and meeting new challenges and threats". The ministers said their countries attach great importance to the issue of climate change and reiterated the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, including the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities".

The China Post, 25 October 2007

Chen leads first leg of nationwide relay

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- President Chen Shui-bian joined yesterday in the first leg of a nationwide torch relay marathon, which he said was aimed at guarding Taiwan against being belittled by Mainland China during the 2008 Summer Olympics. According to the Sports Affairs Council, the torch will travel for a 1,200-km round-Taiwan relay event in support of the country's membership in the United Nations, before returning to Taipei 11 days later. "Taiwan has never been a province of China," Chen said, noting that Taiwan and China are two countries on either side of the Taiwan Strait. He added that the torch symbolizes the classical Olympic values of peace, reason and continuity. "The reason why U.N. membership was processed under the name of Taiwan is that the country's 23 million people want to enter the international community in a peaceful and reasonable way," he said. Local government officials announced last month that the Olympic torch would not stop in Taiwan en route to the 2008 Beijing Games because talks with China

had broken down over the use of flags, emblems and songs for the duration of the official "Olympic events."

The China Post, 25 October 2007

American Institute in Taiwan reiterates United States opposition to Taiwan's bid
TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Director Stephen Young of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) yesterday reiterated that the U.S. won't support Taiwan's bid to join the United Nations. Young said that it's neither necessary nor conducive for Taiwan to promote the U.N. bid. Young made the remarks when asked by reporters to comment on the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP's) "Torch relay by all to advance to the United Nations" that kicked off yesterday morning. The AIT head told reporters that he won't join the running activity because of his poor knees, adding that it would be better for him to attend the Taipei 101 climbing competition instead. In response, Lee Nan-yang, spokesman of the Presidential Office, said joining the United Nations under the name of Taiwan is in the mainstream of public opinion, and a national referendum on the subject will bring out the true voices of Taiwan's 23 million people. Lee said that the government will continue to communicate with the U.S. through various channels to make the U.S. better understand Taiwan's U.N. bid.

The People's Daily, 26 October 2007

CPC discipline watchdog vows to intensify inspection, education of Party members
The discipline watchdog of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Friday vowed to intensify inspection and education of all Party members to root out "room or loopholes allowing the presence of corruption." However, graft fighting is a "long, complicated and arduous" process, says a report of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The CCDI on Friday published the full text of its report submitted to the 17th CPC National Congress, which closed on Oct. 21. "An effective corruption prevention and crackdown is in line with public feeling and the life of the Party, and is a significant political task the Party should be always alert to," says the report. The report acknowledges that corruption cannot be eliminated "in a short term" as the country is still in a "primary stage of socialism" with the economic system, social structure and people's thoughts all "undergoing profound changes."

The People's Daily, 26 October 2007

China says U.S. sanction against Iran to make things complicated
China said on Friday the new sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran can only make the Iranian nuclear issue complicated. "When the international community and Iran are devoted to resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogues, it can only make the issue complicated to impose new sanctions on Iran," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao in response to a journalist's question. The United States announced on Thursday that it is imposing new sanctions on Iran on the charges that Tehran supports terrorism in the Middle East, exports missiles and is engaged in a nuclear buildup. The sanctions are believed to be the toughest Washington has levied against Iran since the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The People's Daily, 26 October 2007

Turkmen president: Construction of gas pipeline between Turkmenistan, China will promote regional development

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov said in the capital city Ashgabat Thursday that the construction of a Turkmenistan-China natural gas pipeline would be an important factor in regional stability and development, Turkmen media reported Friday. The president expressed satisfaction over the development of bilateral relations with China, saying that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's upcoming visit to Turkmenistan would be an important step for promoting bilateral cooperation. According to Berdymukhamedov, bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields including energy, textiles, transportation and communications would be high on the agenda during Wen's visit. China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) signed a production sharing contract and a gas sales and purchase agreement with Turkmenistan in July to import 30 billion cubic meters of gas annually through the planned Central Asia Gas Pipeline for 30 years.

The People's Daily, 26 October 2007

Chinese, Singaporean FMs meet on Myanmar issue

China supports the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to play a constructive role on the Myanmar issue, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in Beijing on Friday. Yang made the remarks in a meeting with his Singaporean counterpart George Yeo Yong Boon, during which the two sides exchanged views on the Myanmar issue. They both pledged to support the mediation efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his special envoy Ibrahim Gambari. Yeo expressed his appreciation of China's positive role on the issue.

The People's Daily, 26 October 2007

China calls for greater efforts towards progress in East China Sea talks

A senior Chinese official Friday called for greater efforts from both sides to push forward consultations between China and Japan over the East China Sea issue. "We hope both sides would proceed from the general prospect of maintaining stability of bilateral relations, continue to work in an active and pragmatic manner, seek common ground while reserving differences, stride toward each other and exert greater efforts to achieve substantial progress in relevant consultations as soon as possible," State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan said. Tang made the remarks when meeting with former Secretary General of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Hidenao Nakagawa in Beijing on Friday morning. China and Japan have conducted 10 rounds of East China Sea talks over joint exploration.

The People's Daily, 26 October 2007

Border talks with India 'positive'

China will firmly support the joint efforts with India to finalize a framework to resolve the lingering border dispute if it is "fair, rational, and acceptable to both sides", Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said yesterday. Yang's promise came during a 50-minute meeting with his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee in the capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. "China will make joint efforts with India under relevant political guiding principles and hopes the two countries understand each other, make mutual

concessions and adjustments to strive for an early agreement" on the framework, Yang said. The two countries have set up a working group to formulate a framework to resolve the boundary issue, Mukherjee told reporters. "Let us wait for the recommendations of the working group."

The People's Daily, 27 October 2007

China, India voice commitment to step up partnership

China and India voiced their commitment to handle bilateral relations at a strategic level and step up the partnership to a higher level. The consensus was reached during the visiting Indian Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi's meetings with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao here on Friday. The Chinese President said that China-India relations have developed in depth and enjoyed good momentum in recent years, noting that long-term friendship, cooperation with mutual benefits and common development between the two nations will change Asia and the world "in a profound way". Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that the CPC and Chinese government always handle the bilateral relations at a strategic level and in a global perspective and would like to join hands with the Indian side to enhance the ties.

The People's Daily, 27 October 2007

China's first lunar probe completes first orbital transfer

China's first lunar probe Chang'e-1 completed its first orbital transfer Thursday afternoon, another key move in its 380,000-km journey to the moon. The orbital transfer began at 5:55 p.m. and succeeded after 130 seconds. The probe was transferred to an orbit with a perigee of about 600 km, up from the former 200-km perigee, according to the Beijing Aerospace Control Center (BACC). Chang'e-1, named after a mythical Chinese goddess who, according to legend, flew to the moon, blasted off on a Long March3A carrier rocket at 6:05 p.m. Wednesday from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan. The circumlunar satellite will experience another three accelerations, which will further shorten its distance to the moon orbit, Zhou said. The probe will complete its second orbital transfer on Friday, in which it will enter a 24-hour trajectory and orbit the earth along the new trajectory for three days.

The People's Daily, 27 October 2007

CPC publishes key policy changes in party constitution

The Communist Party of China (CPC) published on Thursday its newly amended party constitution, revealing for the first time many landmark changes in its major political, economic and social guidelines and policies. Scientific Outlook on Development, a new theoretical development of the Party in the past five years, as well as policies to boost democracy at intra-Party and government sphere and expand democracy, are enshrined in the constitution adopted by the CPC national congress on Oct. 21. The amendment is designed to reflect the latest achievement of the localization of Marxism and latest experience of the Party, and meet "objective needs" in strengthening Party building and "adapting the Party to new trends and tasks", a spokesman of the Secretariat of the once-in-five-years congress said in an interview with Xinhua. The amendment, guided by "the Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important

thought of the Three Represents", embodied a series of major strategic thoughts put forward by the CPC Central Committee.

The People's Daily, 27 October 2007

Senior political advisors study essence of CPC Congress

The Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) held a session on Friday to study the essence of the recent 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Jia Qinglin, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, presided over the meeting. It is a primary political task for the whole Party and the whole of the Chinese people, at present and for a period of time, to carefully study and implement the essence of the Party Congress and work hard for realizing the goals and tasks set by the Party Congress, Jia said. He urged the senior CPPCC members to seriously study the documents of the CPC Congress and precisely comprehend its essence. Liu Yunshan, member of both the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, attended the meeting to inform the senior political consultants of the Party Congress.

The China Post, 27 October 2007

Report: SKorea to apologize to Japan over 1973 kidnapping in Tokyo of opposition leader

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea will apologize to Japan for sending agents to Tokyo in 1973 and kidnapping Kim Dae-jung, then a leading dissident who later became the country's president and a Nobel peace laureate, a news report said Saturday. It was the first time that Seoul has officially acknowledged its involvement in the abduction, though many South Koreans believed the authoritarian regime was behind it. Seoul's Ambassador to Tokyo, Yu Myung-hwan, plans to convey a "thought of regret" in a meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura in the coming days, South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported, citing an unidentified Foreign Ministry official. Ministry officials were not immediately available to confirm the report.

The China Post, 27 October 2007

The European Union official concerned about Taiwan's United Nations bid

BRUSSELS -- EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana voiced concern Thursday at Taiwan's plans to hold a referendum on applying for United Nations membership. Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian on Wednesday launched an 11-day torch relay to promote the planned referendum on U.N. membership -- a move sure to spark outrage in China. The independence-minded Chen wants the vote to be held alongside presidential elections in March next year despite warnings from ally Washington and arch-rival Beijing, which considers Taiwan to be part of its territory. The EU foreign policy head's comments were measured but the message was clear. "We have concerns about the current policy of Taiwan's authorities to pursue a referendum on the question of U.N. membership in the name of Taiwan," he said.

The People's Daily, 28 October 2007

Chinese vice premier: Construction of key projects to benefits Chinese, ASEAN

peoples

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan on Sunday calls for implementation of key projects that China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries have agreed to carry out to benefit their peoples. In a key note speech delivered at the opening of the Fourth China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in the southern China city of Nanning, Zeng said China and ASEAN countries, with a combined population of 1.8 billion, have a bright future for cooperation as both economies are highly complementary and develop rapidly. "We should seize the hard-won historic opportunities to expand the field of cooperation and lift the level of cooperation," said the Chinese vice premier. China and the ASEAN have listed agriculture, information and telecommunications, human resources development, two-way investment, development of the Mekong River basin, traffic, energy, culture, tourism and public health as the ten key fields for cooperation.

The People's Daily, 28 October 2007

Chinese vice premier urges early ending of talks on China-ASEAN FTA investment pact

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan on Sunday pushed for an early conclusion of talks on a China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) free trade area investment agreement in a bid to expand mutual investment. "The two sides should continue stepping up dialog on investment policies and work for an early conclusion of talks on a China-ASEAN free trade area investment agreement," Zeng said in his keynote speech delivered at the opening of the Fourth China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in the southern China city of Nanning. He also urged related institutions to strengthen communication and consultation to improve the environment for investment and build a service platform to support enterprises of both sides, especially small and mid-sized enterprises, in investment and cooperation. "The Chinese side will increase investment in ASEAN countries which are the major target areas for Chinese enterprises to carry out overseas business operations," said Zeng.

The People's Daily, 28 October 2007

Senior CPC official meets Indian Congress Party President Sonia

Liu Qi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said Saturday China hopes to enrich the contents of the strategic partnership of cooperation between China and India. Liu, also secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Indian Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi. He said China and India have a deep friendship and the two countries share broad space for cooperation. "We hope to continuously deepen and expand the friendly cooperation between the two countries and enrich the contents of the China-India strategic partnership of cooperation," said Liu. As President of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games, Liu also briefed Sonia Gandhi on the preparation of the Olympic Games, which is set to open in August, 2008, and the development of Beijing.

The People's Daily, 28 October 2007

Yu Zhengsheng replaces Xi Jinping as Party head in Shanghai

Xi Jinping no longer serves concurrently as the Party secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The post is now held by Yu Zhengsheng, according to the CPC Central Committee. Xi Jinping has been elected a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Yu Zhengsheng, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, no longer acts concurrently as Party secretary of the Hubei Provincial Committee of the CPC, according to a decision of the CPC Central Committee. Born in April 1945, Yu was a native of Shaoxing in east China's Zhejiang Province. Yu, who graduated from the Department of Missile Engineering, Harbin Military Engineering Institute majoring in automatic control of ballistic missiles, joined the CPC in 1964.

The People's Daily, 28 October 2007

Anniversary of CPC-led armed revolution base marked

The Communist Party of China (CPC) marked on Saturday the 80th anniversary of the founding in 1927 of its first revolutionary base in Jinggangshan (Mount Jinggang) in east China's Jiangxi Province. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, speaking at a grandeur memorial gathering in Jinggangshan City, called for inheriting and displaying glorious revolutionary traditions of the Jinggangshan Spirit and opening up a new situation of socialism with China's own characteristics. In his speech, Li looked back the hard experience of the founding of the Jinggangshan Base by old-generation leaders including Mao Zedong and Zhu De 80 years ago, and he spoke highly of its importance for the Chinese Revolution and China's development and progress.

The People's Daily, 28 October 2007

China, ASEAN vow to strengthen ties

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan met with leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Saturday, and vowed to strengthen the China-ASEAN relationship. When meeting with Brunei's Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Zeng spoke highly of the bilateral relations between China and ASEAN countries. Zeng hailed frequent high-level contacts, expanding trade cooperation, deepening local exchanges, more active cultural exchanges and closer coordination in international affairs between China and ASEAN countries. China is willing to work with all ASEAN nations to promote their bilateral relations to benefit the people in the region, Zeng said.

The People's Daily, 29 October 2007

Suspension of peace talks 'not cause for pessimism'

The likely suspension of Darfur peace negotiations will allow for more constructive talks later, the Chinese special envoy to Africa said yesterday. "The adjournment is not a sign of failure. It's a preparation for other steps," Liu Guijin said. Jan Eliasson, the chief UN envoy of a UN-African Union mediation team, would not say when the talks, which opened on Saturday in Sirte, a coastal Libyan city, would adjourn but stressed the step was necessary to allow for full-fledged negotiations. "Only after that period... of approximately three weeks, will we get into substantial negotiations," Eliasson said. No

major Darfur rebel chief was present for the opening of the talks on Saturday, dashing hopes that a quick peace agreement could be reached to end the four-year conflict.

The People's Daily, 29 October 2007

China's top legislature approves minister nomination, adopts four law bills

China's top legislature closed its five-day bimonthly session on Sunday, approving a nomination of the country's new minister of public security and adopting four law bills. Lawmakers voted to approve the nomination of Meng Jianzhu, former Party chief of east China's Jiangxi Province, as the country's new minister of Public Security. Meng, born in 1947, replaces Zhou Yongkang, who was elected Politburo Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee at the first plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee early this week. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress also adopted a draft amendment to the country's 10-year-old Law on Lawyers which will make it easier for lawyers to meet criminal suspects and obtain evidence. The amendment says lawyers, provided they have the requisite papers such as their legal practitioner certificate, are entitled to meet criminal suspects or defendants in person once judicial organs have finished their initial interrogation or taken mandatory measures.

The People's Daily, 29 October 2007

China's total trade volume may exceed \$2.1 tln this year

China's total volume of foreign trade is expected to exceed 2.1 trillion U.S. dollars, up 20 percent over last year, according to a report issued by the Ministry of Commerce during the ongoing 102nd China Import and Export Commodities Fair. The export volume will reach 1.2 trillion U.S. dollars and the import volume will be 950 billion U.S. dollars, with a trade surplus of 250 billion. "Continued global economic growth and the robust demand of the international market have contributed to China's increasing foreign trade," said Liu Haiquan, the Deputy Director of the General Department with the ministry. The ever increasing amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) has also played an important role, said the official, citing China's actual FDI, which rose 10.9 percent year-on-year to 47.2 billion U.S. dollars in the first three quarters. "China will continuously endeavor to improve its trade pattern to prevent the surplus from growing too fast," said Li Yushi, vice president of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the commerce ministry.

The People's Daily, 29 October 2007

Investment pact urged with bloc

NANNING: Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan yesterday pushed for an early conclusion of talks on a China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) free trade area investment agreement to expand mutual investment. "The two sides should continue stepping up dialogue on investment policies and work for an early conclusion of talks on an FTA investment agreement," Zeng said in his keynote speech delivered at the opening of the Fourth China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in the capital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. He also urged the building of a service platform to support enterprises of both sides, especially small- and medium-sized firms. "The Chinese side will increase investment in ASEAN countries, which are the major target areas for enterprises to conduct overseas operations," said Zeng.

The China Post, 29 October 2007

Chen: Father's urn proves Ma doesn't love Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Kuomintang standard bearer Ma Ying-jeou doesn't love Taiwan, President Chen Shui-bian charged yesterday. At a campaign rally in Yangmei for a Democratic Progressive Party candidate for the Legislative Yuan, President Chen quoted Ma as saying on Saturday Taiwan is his homeland and declared "That's a lie." "If not," the president claimed in his logic, then "why didn't Ma get the word Taiwan in an epitaph inscribed on his father's urn." Ma Ho-ling, the father of the mainlander Kuomintang candidate for president, died in 2005. He was cremated on Nov. 5. The ashes of the elder Ma and his mother were buried in suburban Taipei.

The China Post, 29 October 2007

Working-level six-party talks open to discuss energy aid to North Korea

PANMUNJOM, Korea -- Working-level negotiators from the United States, North Korea and their regional partners began talks on promised energy aid to the North, as a European lawmaker said Pyongyang is ready to fulfill its disarmament promises. The two-day meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom on the border bisecting the Koreas was being held under the auspice of the six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program, which also include South Korea, China, Russia and Japan. This week's talks will focus on oil aid, energy-related equipment and materials to be delivered to the North and methods of their supply, South Korean officials said. "The road ahead of us could be bumpy and might have more ups and downs than the road we have gone through so far, primarily because we'll be discussing extremely technical issues," Lim Sung-nam, chief South Korean delegate to the working-level meeting, said in his opening remarks.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2007

Chinese FM official: Wen's coming foreign trips "a major diplomatic action"

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's upcoming visits to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Belarus and Russia will be China's major diplomatic move in the Eurasian region, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui said here Monday. Wen will attend the sixth Meeting of Prime Ministers of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent from Nov. 2 to 6, and pay official visits to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Belarus and Russia. Li said Wen's visits will be significant for implementing consensus and agreements reached at the SCO summit held in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, last August. The visits will also play an important role in building up political trust between China and the above four countries and contributing to the region's peace and stability, Li told reporters at a press conference on Wen's coming foreign trips.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2007

Why is there "strong smell of gunpowder" around poles of earth?

A few Western scholars once predicted at the end of the Cold War that the globe we live will turn increasingly more orderly because of economic globalization. The reality today, nevertheless, has reminded us that the "ship of globalization" has taken us to the still more indefinite, unknown "sea area". In this maritime space, the "old turbulent waves",

which have not yet subsided, are now merging swiftly with new, surging tide. Some recent occurrences around the North and South Poles are just a case in point. Since August this year, repeated news of wrangles and disputes from both poles of the earth have been imbued with a "strong smell of gunpowder," instead of common stories merely about explorations and adventures. Russia held a massive military exercise at the North Pole area, which was followed by another military drill of a full scale by Canada "designed to assert its sovereignty in the north".

The People's Daily, 30 October 2007

10 pacts to be inked with Russia: Envoy

China and Russia will conclude more than 10 cooperative agreements next week, including those on energy, finance, high-tech and partnership between reciprocal small- and medium-sized enterprises, Russia's ambassador to China Sergey Razov said yesterday. Speaking at a news conference on China-Russia ties before Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Moscow next week, Razov said: "Everything has convinced us that the cooperation between China and Russia in the energy field is smooth." Wen will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and hold talks with Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov at the 12th Sino-Russian prime ministers' regular meeting, he said. The two prime ministers will talk about cooperation between the two countries in major international and regional issues, the increase of Russian exports of mechanical and electrical products to China, Razov said. Coordination in Russia's development strategy for the Far East and eastern Siberia and China's program on revitalizing the old industrial base of the northeast are also on the agenda.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2007

Ties with Israel to be boosted

China and Israel yesterday vowed to deepen cooperation in building human capacity and talent exchange as part of joint efforts to boost bilateral relations. Yesterday was the 15th anniversary of their talent exchange program - carried out between Israeli Foreign Ministry's MASHAV and China's State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA). MASHAV was set up as a division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry in 1958 to share Israel's expertise in various fields with other countries. About 2,000 Chinese professionals from areas such as irrigation, dairy, anti-desertification and livestock farming have taken part in workshops or on-the-spot courses since the MASHAV program began in China in 1992, SAFEA Director-General Ji Yunshi said. About 600 Chinese managerial staff and technicians have attended the training program in Israel, and more than 20 Israeli experts have been invited to work in China.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2007

China, ASEAN ink food safety deal

NANNING: China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) yesterday released the Nanning Joint Statement to strengthen collaboration on food safety. The statement was issued at the end of the two-day China-ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine in the southwestern city. Food safety and product quality are among the main focuses at the ongoing 4th China-ASEAN Expo and 4th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit. "Quality is a key factor to ensure

healthy and rapid economic development, especially in export-oriented economies," Li Changjiang, director of China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), said. According to the joint statement, ministers and representatives from China and ASEAN countries as well as the ASEAN Secretariat had extensive exchanges on food safety laws and regulations, and administrative systems.

The People's Daily, 30 October 2007

DPRK, Chinese senior party officials meet on ties

Choe Thae Bok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), met here Monday with Liu Yunshan, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on bilateral ties and cooperation. Choe spoke highly of the traditional friendship between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), saying his country is willing to work with China to further bilateral relations. Choe congratulated the CPC once again on convening its 17th national congress and expressed sincere gratitude to the new central leadership of the CPC for thinking highly of the DPRK-China relations. The cooperation and exchanges between the DPRK and China are developing in an all-round way thanks to the joint efforts made by the leaders of the two countries, said Liu, who is also a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The China Post, 30 October 2007

Jordan's king urges stronger role for China in Middle East peace process

BEIJING -- King Abdullah II of Jordan urged China on Tuesday to take a more active role in helping broker peace in the Middle East. China's growing influence could speed a resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict and other lingering regional tensions, Abdullah said in a speech to students at Peking University. As a permanent veto-holding member of the U.N. Security Council, and a "country that has good relations with all parties in our region, China's role is destined to increase in the future," Abdullah said. "We are looking for a stronger role for China," he said. Jordan's ruler, whose visit marked the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries, said Jordanians regarded China as an "honest broker" in dealing with the nations of the Middle East.

The People's Daily, 31 October 2007

President Hu: China will continue to play constructive role in Middle East

Chinese President Hu Jintao said on Tuesday that China will continue to play a constructive role in the realization of lasting peace in the Middle East. "China is ready to work together with the international community including Jordan, to continue to play a constructive role in easing tension in the Middle East and realizing comprehensive, equitable and lasting peace in the region," said Hu when holding talks with Jordanian King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein. Hu said China supports the international efforts on promoting peace in the Middle East, including the Arab Peace Initiative, and hopes relevant parties would, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the principle of "land for peace," properly resolve conflict through dialogues and negotiation and realize peaceful coexistence.

The People's Daily, 31 October 2007

Kim Jong Il meets senior CPC official

Kim Jong Il, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, met in Pyongyang on Tuesday with Liu Yunshan, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. Liu conveyed a message to Kim from Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, in which Hu says the new CPC leadership would continue to attach great importance to and cherish the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK. China is willing to work with the DPRK to implement the significant understandings reached by the two sides in recent years, further deepen the friendly cooperative relations between China and the DPRK and make greater contribution to realizing sustained peace and common prosperity in the region, said Hu in the message.

The People's Daily, 31 October 2007

Cooperation pacts with Jordan inked

China and Jordan yesterday signed a series of agreements on cooperation, including partnership in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and increasing bilateral investment. President Hu Jintao and Jordanian King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein officiated at the signing of the agreements in Beijing, and agreed to work together to promote the peace process in the Middle East. China is ready to back the international community, including Jordan, and play a positive role in easing tensions in the Middle East to promote all-round, equitable and lasting peace, Hu said. "China supports international efforts, including the Arab Peace Initiative, for peace in the Middle East," Hu said. "We hope the parties involved handle their disputes properly through dialogues and consultations in line with related UN resolutions and the principle of 'land for peace' to seek peaceful coexistence." A US-proposed international conference on the Middle East will be held next month in Annapolis, the US, to find ways to restore peace in the region.

The People's Daily, 31 October 2007

Canada told to stop aiding Dalai Lama

China yesterday asked Canada to stop supporting and shielding Tibetan secessionists' activities to prevent further damage to bilateral relations. Canada's actions are "seriously detrimental to China-Canada relations", Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a regular press conference. He was asked about the impact on bilateral ties of the public meetings of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor-General Michaëlle Jean with the Dalai Lama on Monday. "The Canadian side violated the basic international norm and blatantly interfered in China's internal affairs," he said. "The words and deeds of the Dalai Lama during the past decades show he is a political exile who engages in secessionist activities and undermines the unity of ethnic groups in the name of religion," he said.

The China Post, 31 October 2007

Gov't bans job bias against foreigners

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- The Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) has decided to rectify its unfair treatment to laborers from outside Taiwan by banning job discrimination based on race and place of birth. CLA officials said all legitimate immigrants and hired foreign workers

will be given the "national treatment" which is one of the major principles stipulated in the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Taiwan is a WTO member and has pledged to abide by the regulations of the international body. The Legislative Yuan ratified the Employment Service Law 14 years ago with rules prohibiting discriminations concerning gender, age, physical height, birth place, and other differences like race, religion, thoughts, and political parties at the workplace. But when enforcing the regulations, the CLA in 1999 excluded workers from foreign nations or other overseas areas like Hong Kong, Macau, and China from the rules that guarantee equal treatment.

The China Post, 31 October 2007

Gov't expected to shelve oil price hike

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- The soaring domestic gasoline and diesel prices could be put on a temporary halt after President Chen Shui-bian and presidential candidate Frank Hsieh of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) decided to intervene and defuse the public outcry. Hsieh, a former premier, said he had contacted incumbent Premier Chang Chun-hsiung for a meeting after the Executive Yuan (Cabinet) decided on Monday to let oil prices increase again to reflect international crude oil prices despite protest from consumers and opposition lawmakers. He said in the afternoon that the matter will be discussed between him and Premier Chang at a meeting today. President Chen said in the evening that there is a need to review and modify the government's floating oil pricing system. Chen stressed that while he respects the price-adjustment mechanism, the public opinions must also be respected. Chen added that he will call on both Hsieh and Chang to exchange views on the issue at the DPP's weekly Central Standing Committee meeting today. The president has recently retaken the position as DPP chairman.