

China, France reviving ties after Tibet spat
The Asian Age, 1 April 2009

Beijing: China and France announced an agreement on Wednesday to restore high-level contacts and promote bilateral cooperation following a lengthy spat over Tibet. As part of the agreement, France has pledged not to support Tibetan independence in "any form," according to a news release posted on the Chinese foreign ministry's website. The French government released a similar statement. China suspended many contacts and called off a major summit with the European Union in rage over a December meeting in Poland between French President Nicholas Sarkozy and Tibet's exiled Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama.

Chinese Premier stresses innovation, upgrading to tackle economic slowdown
People's Daily, 1 April 2009

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has called for realizing healthy and rapid economic growth through technical innovation and industrial upgrading during a visit to the country's central regions. More government support should go to high technology industries such as electronic information, software service and bio-medicines, Wen said during a visit to enterprises in Hubei Province from Sunday to Tuesday. Wen emphasized importance of possessing intellectual property rights and encouraged companies to strengthen research and development and make breakthroughs in core technologies.

India's drill report 'surprises' Chinese govt
People's Daily, 1 April 2009

China expressed surprise about reports India had planned a secret military exercise targeting Beijing, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. India's Hindustan Times reported last week that the Indian army had on March 25 concluded a three-day military exercise codenamed Divine Matrix, based on the assumption a "nuclear-armed China will attack India before 2017". It said that before the exercise, the Indian military spent six months studying various hypothetical scenarios of war with Beijing and concluded: "China would rely on information warfare to bring India down on its knees before launching an offensive."

Chinese navy to send new escort ships to Somali waters
People's Daily, 1 April 2009

A second group of Chinese navy escort ships will set sail for the Gulf of Aden Thursday to replace a flotilla sent earlier to guard against pirates. The new task force will comprise the destroyer, Shenzhen, and frigate Huangshan, as well as the supply ship, Weishanhu, which served in the first escort mission. With two helicopters and total crew exceeding 800, including navy special forces, it is mainly tasked with ensuring the safety of Chinese vessels passing through the gulf and waters off Somalia and those of international organizations like the World Food Program shipping humanitarian goods.

Chinese President calls for joint efforts to tackle financial crisis
People's Daily, 1 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao has called for strengthened coordination among different nations on economic policies and joint efforts against trade and investment protectionism to help the world economy recover. The international community as a whole was severely challenged in the course of tackling the global financial crisis and resuming growth in the world economy, Hu told Xinhua on Tuesday ahead of the G20 summit scheduled to open in London on Thursday.

Beijing says reports of spy ring are 'lies'

The Asian Age, 1 April 2009

Beijing: China on Tuesday dismissed a research report outlining an extensive China-based computer spy ring as lies intended to stoke anxiety over Beijing's growing influence in world affairs. In the government's first reaction to the report by Canadian researchers, foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said the conclusions were symptoms of a "Cold War virus" that causes people overseas to "occasionally be overcome by China-threat seizures." The Information Warfare Monitor report said that a network, based mainly in China, hacked into classified documents from government and private organisations in 103 countries, including the computers of the Dalai Lama and his exiled Tibetan government.

Dalai: Special affinity for India

The Asian Age, 1 April 2009

New Delhi: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Tuesday said he felt a special affinity towards the Indian ethos of secularism and respect for all religions and would throughout his life try and uphold these values. Praising India for its non-sectarian spirit, he said, "We are the sons of India as Buddhism originated in India. The non-sectarian principles are the very essence of this country. Fifty years ago I came to India as a 24-year-old homeless refugee. I was welcomed by India and since then I have been greatly inspired by great leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru."

Editorial Comment - To Be a Great Power

The Times of India, 1 April 2009

Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's contention that his country is a "great power" is not loose talk. Wen's statement is backed by China's economic influence in the world and the growing belief that geopolitics has once more become a bipolar affair, with China and the US forming a crucially important 'G-2'. But Beijing's ham-handedness in dealing with the situation in Tibet reveals its weaknesses as much as its strengths. The evidence uncovered by Canadian researchers from the University of Toronto of a well-organised cyber attack against Tibetan exiles is a case in point.

China rejects computer spy claims

The Indian Express, 1 April 2009

Beijing: China on Tuesday rejected a report suggesting it may be involved in using computer networks to spy on exiled Tibetans and foreign governments, accusing its authors of being possessed by the ghost of the Cold War. China has been repeatedly accused of using the Internet to secretly enter computer networks abroad to carry out sabotage and gather intelligence, and it has repeatedly denied such claims.

Interview: 'We can clearly achieve a beneficial solution for both parties'

The Hindu, 1 April 2009

On March 31, 1959, the 14th Dalai Lama arrived in India following the failed Tibetan uprising of March 10. Three days earlier, the Chinese central government had dissolved the Tibetan local government and launched the "Democratic Reform" in Tibet. On the 50th anniversary of these events, the exiled Tibetan religious leader reveals in an interview with The Hindu his willingness to work with Beijing towards reconciliation to find a solution within the framework of the Chinese constitution, his acceptance of the Chinese socialist system, and his desire for "genuine autonomy," not separation.

"Dalai Lama engaging in political activity"

The Hindu, 1 April 2009

Lhasa: The political and religious leadership of the people of Tibet residing in the Tibet Autonomous Region in China have expressed a strong opinion that the activities of the 14th Dalai Lama are aimed at splitting the country rather than furthering autonomy. "We hope that during his lifetime he [the 14th Dalai Lama] will give up his dream of Tibetan independence and show real responsibility and not become an instrument of anti-China sentiments," Nema Tsering, Vice-Chairman of the People's Congress of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, told a group of visiting international correspondents here.

News Analysis: India and the East Asian maritime domain
The Hindu, 1 April 2009

United States President Barack Obama has so far signalled a good deal of continuity, rather than creativity, in his initial moves towards East Asia. Significantly, it is in this ambience that a planned U.S.-India naval exercise, in the ongoing Malabar series, might be held off Japan towards April-end. Japan and South Korea still host troops from the U.S. under its continuing policy of a "forward military presence" in East Asia.

Is the 'rush order' effect genuine?
Taipei Times, 2 April 2009

In these times of financial meltdown, China's economy is nearly unique in that it is still expected to grow. Beijing hopes to attain 8 percent economic growth this year, underpinned by a large-scale fiscal stimulus package. Although not comparable to the US package in terms of size, it is the largest from a GDP percentage standpoint. As China demonstrates its determination to sustain high growth via concerted efforts spanning all levels of the government, its stock markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen and the Taipei market have rallied in expectation of China's potential.

Chinese, Russian presidents meet on bilateral ties, economic crisis
People's Daily, 2 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao said at a meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in London on Wednesday that China and Russia should strengthen cooperation to jointly overcome the current difficulties under the complicated and grave conditions of the world economy. The two countries need to strengthen communication and consultation, coordinate their stands within the G20 framework in particular, and push forward reforms of the international financial system, Hu said.

Chinese, U.S. presidents meet in London on important issues
People's Daily, 2 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao and U.S. President Barack Obama met in London on Wednesday to discuss Sino-U.S. ties, the financial crisis and other major issues of common concern. "I am happy to meet President Obama, and this is my first time to hold face-to-face talks with you," Hu said at the beginning of the meeting. "Good relations with the U.S. is not only in the interests of the two peoples, but also beneficial to peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, and the world at large," Hu said.

Op-Ed: London duet: Hu and Obama
The Indian Express, 2 April 2009

As the world's leaders gather in London to talk recovery and reform of the global economy, Communist China's new role as the saviour of Western capitalism is very much the political flavour of this week. While the Indian media will naturally focus on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's first meeting with Barack Obama, it is the bilateral engagement between the US and Chinese presidents that will get a lot more international attention. Although the idea of a 'Group of Two'— of a Sino-US joint leadership of the world economy — has gained much currency, Washington is deeply divided on its China policy.

China a great power: Obama
The Hindu, 2 April 2009

London: Chinese President Hu Jintao and his American counterpart Barack Obama held their first meeting here on Wednesday where they vowed to work together to deal with the global economic crisis. The two leaders, meeting ahead of Thursday's G20 summit, discussed issues of common interest with Mr. Obama praising China for its "constructive" role in international affairs. Mr. Hu declared that good relations with America were not only in the interests of the two countries but also "beneficial to peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, and the world at large".

Editorial: A storm is gathering in the Strait
Taipei Times, 3 April 2009

Given the increasingly dangerous and fluid situation in the Taiwan Strait, on the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) it is important to remind US President Barack Obama and Congress to reaffirm the spirit and letter of the TRA both in word and deed. On Dec. 15, 1978, then-US president Jimmy Carter announced his decision to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and de-recognize Taiwan. It was expected that Taiwan would then seek an accommodation with the PRC.

Obama, Hu meet on G20 sidelines
Taipei Times, 3 April 2009

US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao promised to work together to renew global growth and build a strategic partnership but did not discuss Beijing's unease about its holdings of US debt and other disputes in their first meeting at the London economic summit. Obama accepted an invitation to visit Beijing this year and the two leaders agreed to create a new US-China Strategic Economic Dialogue, said a senior US official who briefed reporters in London.

Chinese president addresses G20 summit, meets leaders of Australia, Japan, Brazil, Britain

People's Daily, 3 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao addressed the Group of 20 summit and met with leaders from Australia, Japan, Brazil and Britain on the sidelines of the meeting in London Thursday. The most pressing task in countering the global financial crisis is to restore global economic growth and prevent a serious recession, Hu said at the second G20 financial summit. The financial crisis is "still spreading and deepening," and its impact on the global real economy is "becoming more and more evident," he said.

Chinese president puts forward five-point proposal on China-Japan relations

People's Daily, 3 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao put forward a five-point proposal on China-Japan relations in London on Thursday to ensure the sound and stable development of bilateral ties. During a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso after the Group of 20 summit Thursday evening, Hu said that as a whole, the development of China-Japan relations maintains fine momentum at present.

China vows to strengthen military ties with Britain

People's Daily, 3 April 2009

The Chinese armed forces are ready to enhance the military exchanges and cooperation with Britain, Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie said in Beijing Friday. Liang, also a state councilor, made the remarks when meeting with visiting Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff of the British Armed Forces, Timothy John Granville-Chapman.

Chinese president meets Australian PM on bilateral ties, tackling global challenges

People's Daily, 3 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd Thursday agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade and the fight against the financial crisis and climate change. Hu and Rudd were meeting on the sidelines of a Group of 20 (G20) summit on the financial crisis in London. Hu said that in recent years the development of Sino-Australian relations has been gaining momentum in an all-around way.

China worried G20 will put Hong Kong and Macau in tax heaven black list

The Times of India, 3 April 2009

Beijing: At least one of the decisions taken at the meeting of G20 leaders has caused a lot of worry in China. Chinese leaders are worried that Hong Kong and Macau will be included among the list of tax heavens, which the G20 leaders have decided to curb. At stake is Hong Kong's position as a safe heaven for parking funds by the world's rich individuals and corporations. The Group of 20 developed and developing nations has asked the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to report back on tax haven cooperation by November when finance ministers of these countries meet in Scotland.

Opinion: Hindi-Chini ties rest on our Tibet stand

The Asian Age, 3 April 2009

On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama entered Indian territory, having sought and obtained refuge following a widespread and massive uprising against the Chinese in Tibet. Fifty years on, the prospects of his returning to Lhasa remain as bleak as ever. Speaking on the anniversary of the rebellion, he stated that because of China's repressive regime Tibetans had "experienced hell on earth". Yet the Dalai Lama also reiterated his commitment to non-violence and negotiations with the Chinese, and to his "middle way" of seeking Tibetan autonomy under Chinese rule.

Tibetans enjoy the comforts of progress

The Hindu, 3 April 2009

Lhasa: It has been more than half a century since the 14th Dalai Lama fled to India to set up his so-called government-in-exile; but for some religious, political and lay members of the community here, the absence of the spiritual leader means little. Interaction with some of the leaders in the capital city of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) gives the impression that the growth of the community — both economic and social — came in rapid strides during these five decades.

Analysis: At G20, China finds way to raise stature in world finance

People's Daily, 4 April 2009

After a mere four-and-a-half hours, world leaders at the G20 summit in London decided to devote about 1 trillion U.S. dollars to supporting world economic growth and trade, an outcome that surprised many analysts with its scale. But in that scant time, China had a chance to showcase its growing importance in the world economy. China said it would contribute 40 billion U.S. dollars to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) increased financing capacity.

French diplomat: westerners "must know Tibet reality"

People's Daily, 4 April 2009

Westerners need to know more about "the reality of Tibet" and the fact that it was a "slave society over 60 years ago," French Ambassador to China Herve Ladsous said in Beijing on Friday. He reiterated that France has never supported "Tibet independence" since Beijing

and Paris established diplomatic ties in 1964. "It has been consistent with our policy that there is only one China and Tibet is an integral part of the People's Republic (of China)," Ladsous told China Daily.

**Sino-U.S. strategic and economic dialogues to merge
People's Daily, 4 April 2009**

Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Qishan and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner met in London on Thursday after the conclusion of the G20 summit to further confirm the establishment of a "double-track" Strategic and Economic Dialogue mechanism (SAED) between China and the US, following up on an announcement made when Chinese President Hu Jintao met US President Barack Obama on Wednesday, prior to the G20 summit.

**FM: Hu's proposals play important, constructive role at G20 summit
People's Daily, 4 April 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao made concrete proposals on tackling the global financial crisis at the G20 London summit, playing an important and constructive role for the summit to gain pragmatic results, the Chinese foreign minister said on Friday. "The summit produced measures of high value in fighting the financial crisis and built up confidence for the world to tide over the crisis and renew economic growth," Yang Jiechi said, adding that Hu's proposals contributed to the result.

**Editorial: What really matters in exchanges with China
Taipei Times, 5 April 2009**

In the last few weeks, Amway tourist groups from China flaunted their wealth as if they were the saviors of the Taiwanese economy; the Taiwan Hakka Forum Association threw its support behind a cross-strait economic cooperation framework agreement; and the World Buddhist Forum allowed a politically inclined monk to defame the Dalai Lama and promote unification of Taiwan, Tibet and the People's Republic of China (PRC) and distort the tone of the forum.

**India, China have strategic ties: Ambassador Zhang Yan
The Hindu, 5 April 2009**

Chennai: The relationship between China and India has been growing very fast. It has come to a point where a strategic relationship has been established between the two countries, Chinese Ambassador to India Zhang Yan said on Saturday. Talking to reporters after meeting Janata Party president Subramanian Swamy at his residence here, Mr. Zhang, who is on a four-day visit to Tamil Nadu, said that in recent years there had been frequent high-level visits between the two countries.

**Editorial: Will the world lose its patience with Pyongyang?
Taipei Times, 8 April 2009**

It happens that desperadoes hold groups of people hostage — for instance in planes or banks. Sometimes the police or military take some quick action or try some ruse to remove the danger. Sometimes they refrain from moving an inch for fear that hostages will be killed or some disastrous explosion set off. They may seek to talk the desperado out of his corner, perhaps offer to fly a plane hijacker to another destination after releasing his hostage. In many cases, they simply wait.

**Editorial: A breakthrough in human rights
Taipei Times, 8 April 2009**

On March 31, the legislature debated and ratified two international conventions. Such an event would be big news in more enlightened countries, but only one of Taiwan's Chinese-

language newspapers reported on it, and that report was rather short. In writing this article, I want to compensate for this puzzling omission. The two conventions that the legislature approved are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are the three most important global human rights agreements.

**Editorial: A threat to the US and our values
Taipei Times, 8 April 2009**

Memorials and discussions have been held lately to mark the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) on Friday. The Chinese government did all it could do to stop the US Congress passing a resolution offering support for the TRA and democracy in Taiwan. China's United Front strategy did cause some problems, but in the end a resolution was passed that included the word "cornerstone" in describing the importance of the TRA to US-Taiwan relations.

**Editorial: An unwanted parallel in Hong Kong
Taipei Times, 8 April 2009**

The government can't be blamed for wanting to avoid parallels being drawn between Taiwan and Hong Kong in relation to China, which is presumably one reason why it renamed its proposed comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) as an economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA). The Hong Kong version of CECA simply had too much bad press. But evidence of backtracking on human rights in Hong Kong suggests that economics is not the only parallel that Taiwan may be forced to heed.

**Navy 'keen to protect Taiwan ships from piracy'
People's Daily, 8 April 2009**

Mainland warships will rescue a Taiwan fishing vessel hijacked by Somali pirates if conditions allow, a military source said yesterday. No political issues will hinder the decision if the People's Liberation Army (PLA) navy can save the ship, a naval officer said on condition of anonymity. The 700-ton long-line fishing vessel Win Far 161 was seized early Monday near an island in the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean and has been driven some 1,500 km from land.

**Russian pipeline to reach China soon
People's Daily, 8 April 2009**

A long-awaited oil pipeline from Russia is expected to reach China within weeks, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Monday. He told lawmakers that Russian state oil pipe builder Transneft will soon finish laying the pipes. There was no word on when oil would start to flow. Media have reported the 67-km pipeline link - the first between the two countries - will deliver 300 million tons of oil to China between 2010 and 2030.

**Editorial: Freedom of the press threatened from within
Taipei Times, 9 April 2009**

Although 20 years have passed, people should still remember the institutions that restricted press freedom back in the Martial Law era: The Taiwan Garrison Command, the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) Cultural Affairs Department, the Government Information Office and the entire authoritarian regime that those institutions represented. Taiwan has seen a major leap forward in freedom of speech and freedom of the press in the past 20 years. Several institutions from the authoritarian era are gone and regulations restricting freedom of expression have been amended.

Editorial: Tibet will be free when China is

Taipei Times, 9 April 2009

Last month saw the 50th anniversary of what Tibetan activists like to call Tibetan National Uprising Day, the day in 1959 when Tibetans in Lhasa revolted against Chinese Communist Party rule. The rebellion was crushed, the Dalai Lama fled to India and for at least a decade things became a lot worse. Many Tibetans — possibly more than a million — starved to death during Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward campaign, temples and monasteries were smashed, sometimes by Tibetan Red Guards, and a large number of people died in the violence. Chinese officials are noticeably jumpy in this year of anniversaries (it is also 20 years since the Tiananmen Square massacre).

**Chinese premier says "supervision" key for gov't work
People's Daily, 9 April 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has stressed that "supervision" is one of the key missions in 2009 for government organizations to tackle corruption amid the economic crisis, according to Wen's speech script released Wednesday by the State Council. "The impact of the global economic crisis was still amplifying. Companies' profits shrinking, financial income reducing, job situation worsening... Under such circumstances, it's of great importance for government organizations to reform and tackle any kind of corruption," Wen said.

**News Analysis: India-China relations in one of the best periods in history
The Hindu, 9 April 2009**

Starting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's three-day visit to China in January 2008, India-China relations made steady, all-round progress over the past year. In this article, Zhang Yan, China's Ambassador to India, raises and answers key questions that figure in the public mind about bilateral relations and on Tibet. How do you assess the development of China-India relations over the last year? The year 2008 witnessed the comprehensive expanding and deepening of China-India relations.

**China is new power centre: Chavez
The Hindu, 9 April 2009**

Beijing: The world's centre of gravity has moved to Beijing, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez told his Chinese counterpart on Wednesday during a visit focused on boosting Chinese oil purchases. "No one can be ignorant that the centre of gravity of the world has moved to Beijing," Mr. Chavez told China's President Hu Jintao. "During the financial crisis, China's actions have been highly positive for the world. Currently, China is the biggest motor driving the world amidst this crisis of international capitalism," said Mr. Chavez in preliminary remarks before reporters were ushered from the meeting room at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

**Joint India-Japan-US wargames April-end
The Asian Age, 9 April 2009**

New Delhi: Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta will leave shortly on a visit to China, even as the Indian Navy is gearing up for the Malabar naval exercises with the US and Japan to be held at the end of this month. The Malabar exercises — which will be trilateral this year — will be held off the Japanese coast, defence sources confirmed. In another development, Admiral Mehta also met visiting US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen in New Delhi on Wednesday.

**THE LIBERTY TIMES EDITORIAL: ECFA: an economic masquerade
Taipei Times, 13 April 2009**

Despite strong public opposition, the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou is undeterred in its plan to sign an economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA) with

China. Several ministries have been aggressively promoting the pact. Besides meeting various industrial groups, Minister of Economic Affairs Yiin Chii-ming has compared himself to a stock market commentator, claiming that he would be able to recite the contents of an ECFA verbatim.

**Taiwan Strait needs farsighted leaders, former US ambassador to China says
Taipei Times, 13 April 2009**

A former US ambassador to China said yesterday in Taipei that one of the looming problems in the Taiwan Strait is security and that it would require strong and farsighted leaders on both sides to benefit, not beggar, their neighbor. "One can hope that increasing economic ties, bilateral dialogue and general momentum will lead to progress," said Winston Lord, who served as US ambassador to China from 1985 to 1989 and was assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs between 1993 and 1997. "So far the picture is not encouraging."

**US campaigning to get Taiwan WHA seat
Taipei Times, 13 April 2009**

The US has launched a major campaign to help Taiwan win observer status at the World Health Assembly (WHA), the supreme governing body of the WHO. Taiwan has fought for observer status every year from 1997 to 2006, and again last year, but has never been able to overcome strong opposition from China. But sources in Washington said that a compromise is now being worked out with Beijing, and while it is still not certain, there is a good chance that observer status will be granted when the WHA meets for its 62nd session next month.

**China's economy shows positive changes, premier Wen
People's Daily, 13 April 2009**

Chinese economy is showing signs of positive change from the ongoing global economic downturn, premier Wen Jiabao said in Thailand on April 11 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit which has been cancelled due to security concerns. Wen said that China had initiated an unprecedented 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package to battle the global economic recession late last year. Thanks to the huge stimulus package, the economy showed better-than-expected signs of improvement in the first quarter this year.

**China rolls out assistance blueprint for ASEAN
People's Daily, 13 April 2009**

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Sunday unveiled a multi-billion-dollar package of aid and credit to enhance China-ASEAN cooperation. Yang met with envoys of the 10 ASEAN countries in Beijing Sunday, fresh from his return from Thailand late Saturday where scheduled Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings were postponed due to Thailand's domestic unrest. "As always, China firmly backs ASEAN integration and community building, and firmly supports ASEAN playing a leading role in regional cooperation," said Yang, adding China's policy toward cooperation with the ASEAN was unchanged despite the postponement of the meetings.

**China publishes national human rights action plan
People's Daily, 13 April 2009**

That China is left holding 32 million more male than female babies reflecting the country's lopsided gender ratio is a warning signal that ought to be taken serious note of by other countries in the region that share a history of sexism. China's problem is huge considering that one out of every five persons in the world is a resident of China. And as is the case in India, China's lopsided gender ratio reflects the traditional societal view of women as a liability rather than an asset.

Editorial Comment: The XX Factor
The Times of India, 13 April 2009

That China is left holding 32 million more male than female babies reflecting the country's lopsided gender ratio is a warning signal that ought to be taken serious note of by other countries in the region that share a history of sexism. China's problem is huge considering that one out of every five persons in the world is a resident of China. And as is the case in India, China's lopsided gender ratio reflects the traditional societal view of women as a liability rather than an asset.

Positive changes in economy, Wen
The Hindu, 13 April 2009

Pattaya (Thailand): Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has said the Chinese economy showed signs of better than expected positive changes in the first quarter, as a result of stimulation by a series of policy measures adopted. Firstly, the domestic demand rose on a sustainable basis. Meanwhile, investment in fixed assets increased rapidly and consumer demand grew steadily and relatively rapidly. Though lower than the same period of last year, imports and exports grew on a month-on-month basis in the three-month period, said Mr. Wen in an interview with Hong Kong and Macao reporters here on Saturday.

Editorial: Cooperation in East Asia
The Asahi Shimbun, 14 April 2009

The challenge of how to cure ailing Asian economies, now facing their worst downturn since the region's currency crisis in 1997, was to dominate the agenda for the disrupted East Asian summit meeting. The leaders of 16 countries, including the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with Japan, China and South Korea, gathered in Thailand over the weekend to address the wrenching economic crisis as well as regional issues.

Editorial: TRA faces challenges under Ma government
Taipei Times, 14 April 2009

April 10 marked 30 years since the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) came into law. The TRA is an important US law that regulates US relations with Taiwan. For a long time, it has also been an important part of US cross-strait policy. However, President Ma Ying-jeou's accession to power has brought changes to cross-strait relations that pose a challenge to the TRA.

Editorial: Deal on WHA would hurt Taiwan
Taipei Times, 14 April 2009

President Ma Ying-jeou and his administration have pinned almost everything that affects the nation's future — military security, the economy and participation in international organizations — on China. Yet the number of Chinese visitors, the benefits of direct cross-strait transportation and exports to China have all fallen short of public expectations.

Editorial: A participant, not a beggar
Taipei Times, 14 April 2009

Based on a US State Department report leaked to this newspaper over the weekend and a report in the China Times yesterday, Taiwan may be on the brink of obtaining observer status at the World Health Assembly (WHA), the decision-making body of the WHO. After many years of unsuccessful attempts to join either the WHO or at least the WHA, the US' charm offensive on Taipei's behalf, combined with Beijing's ostensible flexibility of late, is cause for satisfaction, as Taiwan may finally have a voice at and benefit from the global health body, thereby filling a senseless gap in the global health network.

China disapproves of new UN sanction and opposes new resolution on DPRK, says FM

People's Daily, 14 April 2009

China has said it disapproves of the United Nations adopting any new resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) rocket launch, and is opposed to any new sanction against the DPRK, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in Beijing on Tuesday. China maintains that the reaction from the Security Council should be conducive to safeguarding peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, and conducive to the six-party talks and also to the process of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, and it should also be conducive to safeguarding the international non-proliferation regime, Jiang said.

Russian government approves pact with China on oil pipeline, supplies

People's Daily, 14 April 2009

The Russian government on Monday approved an agreement with China on building a branch of the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean (ESPO) oil pipeline toward China and long-term Russian oil supplies. After a cabinet meeting that discussed the agreement, which was signed in February, Regional Development Minister Viktor Basargin told reporters: "The decision has been made." With an expected annual throughput of 15 million tons of crude oil, the branch pipeline will connect Skovorodino in Russia and China's Mohe station, according to the Itar-Tass news agency.

At ADB, Beijing blocks India's \$60-m project for Arunachal

The Indian Express, 14 April 2009

New Delhi: Days after it objected to President Pratibha Patil's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Beijing has stunned New Delhi at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by blocking India's development plan because it contained a \$60 million project for Arunachal Pradesh. China is learnt to have held back its approval at the ADB Board saying it could not clear a plan containing a programme in a "disputed territory". Thus, Beijing has, for the first time, escalated the bilateral Arunachal Pradesh issue to a level involving multilateral institutions.

China: Domestic arms world-class

The Asian Age, 14 April 2009

Beijing: A government-backed science group says many of China's homemade weapons systems are world-class, reflecting the defence industry's new confidence and underscoring its ambitions of becoming a major arms exporter. Steady advances have produced a solid foundation for Chinese-made armoured fighting vehicles, missile systems and other weaponry, according to a report by the government's China Association for Science and Technology.

China helps Pak to build 2 N-plants

The Asian Age, 14 April 2009

Islamabad: Pakistan has given a go-ahead for construction of two more nuclear power plants of 340 MW each with the Chinese help at the Chashma complex at a cost of \$2.37 billion, a media report said on Monday. The two plants, to be supplied by China, will involve a foreign exchange component of \$1.75 billion, the Business Recorder newspaper quoted its sources as saying. The government has approved the proposal, but it was not made part of the formal agenda of a recent meeting of the executive committee of the National Economic Council and was distributed among members of the panel and provincial officials at the end of the meeting without necessary details, the sources were quoted as saying.

Editorial: Chinese whispers
The Asian Age, 15 April 2009

One of the great narratives of the international financial crisis is supposed to be the rise of the great emerging powers traditionally excluded from international decision-making. Brazil's president Lula da Silva was an eloquent spokesman at the recently concluded G-20 meeting; India has thrown its weight behind an expansion of multilateral power, including greater voting rights for China and India, among others, at the IMF.

Op-Ed: Party is state
The Asian Age, 15 April 2009

As Beijing revisits an old debate on who should control the gun — the Chinese Communist Party or the state — no one is betting on new answers. The greatest significance of this debate is that it is taking place at all. In most modern states the armed forces owe their loyalty to the government and not to a particular party or leader. India is blessed with two special neighbours who are exceptions to this rule. In Pakistan, the army owns the state. In China, the People's Liberation Army takes orders only from the CCP.

Ma meets Wu, both silent on chairmanship
Taipei Times, 15 April 2009

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday met Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung amid speculation that Ma intends to take over as party chairman. Ma said a final decision would not be made until June. However, he did not deny the possibility that he would run in the election for party chairman, scheduled to be held in July. "I reached a consensus with Chairman Wu in September last year that we would not discuss the matter until June," Ma said at KMT headquarters yesterday.

Editorial: Changes in Taiwan, China, US ties
Taipei Times, 15 April 2009

The US and Taiwan marked the 30th year of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) on April 10. The legislation provides an institutional framework and legal basis for US relations with Taiwan, including a promise of continued support for Taiwan's self-defense. Through the years, the TRA has helped maintain the "status quo" in relations between Taiwan and China, as well as the US' relationship to both. However, it has done little to advance the cause of Taiwanese or their fight for a place in the world community.

DPRK to restart nuclear reactor
People's Daily, 15 April 2009

China called for calm Tuesday as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) vowed to restart its nuclear reactor and boycott the Six-Party Talks for good in retaliation for the UN Security Council's condemnation of its rocket launch. "We hope the relevant parties proceed from the overall interest, and exercise calm and restraint to safeguard the process of the Six-Party Talks," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a press conference. "This accords with the common interests of the countries in the region and the international community."

Premier: China's economy doing "better than expected" thanks to stimulus
People's Daily, 16 April 2009

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Thursday that government stimulus moves had begun to produce results and the economy was now in "better-than-expected" shape. Wen's remarks at a cabinet meeting came after the government said there had been positive economic changes, even though the economy grew just 6.1 percent in the first quarter, the slowest pace in a decade. The premier cited pick-ups in investment, consumption and industrial output, abundant liquidity in the banking system, and improved market

expectations as signs of those "positive changes."

Navy chief lists key objective
People's Daily, 16 April 2009

The navy plans to develop a new generation of warships and aircraft as part of the country's effort to upgrade the maritime security defense system, the service's commander-in-chief said on Wednesday. Admiral Wu Shengli outlined key missions, present and future, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Chinese navy next Thursday. Such an interview with a high-ranking military officer is rare, military sources said on Wednesday, adding that the message conveyed by the navy chief reflects key thinking on the navy's strategy.

Q1 data shows Chinese economy recovering from 10-year low
People's Daily, 16 April 2009

China released a range of first-quarter economic data Thursday that showed economic growth at a 10-year low but also provided evidence of possible turnaround sparked by the 4 trillion yuan (586 billion U.S. dollars) stimulus package drafted last year. Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.1 percent year on year in the first quarter, official data showed Thursday. The quarterly growth rate was the lowest in 10 years, as the global downturn held back the world's fastest-growing economy.

Editorial: Constructing Asia's missing links
Taipei Times, 16 April 2009

Beijing has just announced that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will be the main speaker at this year's Boao Forum for Asia, where the roster of leaders expected to participate is a virtual Who's Who of the continent: Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe, Mongolian Prime Minister S. Bayar, Burmese Prime Minister Thein Sein, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Kopsak Saphawasu.

Editorial: US appears fearful of Taiwan's democracy
Taipei Times, 16 April 2009

On the eve of the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), former American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) director Richard Bush published an article in the China Times on April 9 saying that the US' commitment to Taiwan's security is based on the premise of a shared strategic view held between the two countries. Bush also said Taiwan's democratization and China's rise are the two key factors interfering with the maintenance of a common Taiwan-US view of strategy.

Editorial: East Asian cooperation
JoongAng Ilbo, 16 April 2009

The fourth annual Korea-China-Japan Forum produced constructive and valuable suggestions for enhancing regional cooperation and combating economic challenges. The two-day forum, which wrapped up in Busan on Monday, was sponsored by the JoongAng Ilbo, Xinhua News Agency of China and Nihon Keizai Shimbun of Japan. Participating members concluded that the three major Asian economies should take the initiative to set up a regional monetary fund and challenge protectionist trade practices.

China unfolds massive naval expansion plan
The Asian Age, 17 April 2009

Beijing: China on Thursday unfolded a massive naval expansion plan to give its warships longer reach capabilities, announcing that it will build new generation of seacraft including stealth submarines, supersonic cruise aircrafts and longer range missiles. Proclaiming that

sophisticated weapons were key to winning battles, the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Navy, Admiral Wu Shengly said Beijing wanted to build futuristic weapon systems and platforms to give it capability to operate far from its shores.

**Editorial Comment: The China Tantrum
The Times of India, 17 April 2009**

Coming on the heels of the G-20 summit in London with global economic cooperation as its leitmotif, China's withholding approval of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan to India strikes a discordant note. Despite the lack of an official line from Beijing, there can be little doubt that the decision hinged on projects in Arunachal Pradesh forming a component of the plan. Seen in the light of Beijing's protest against President Pratibha Patil's visit to the state just a few days ago and against Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit in 2008 it seems the latest step is a continuing policy to raise the stakes over the simmering border dispute. Given the current international climate, this is regrettable.

**China, Kazakhstan vow to boost ties by signing new agreements
People's Daily, 17 April 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev held talks in Beijing Thursday afternoon. The heads of states agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in all fields and join hands to tackle the challenge of international financial crisis. After the talks, Hu and Nazarbayev signed a joint declaration and witnessed the signing of 10 agreements on cooperation in the fields of transport, education, agriculture and telecommunications.

**China's Taiwan affairs chief meets U.S. foreign policy think tank
People's Daily, 17 April 2009**

The Taiwan issue concerns China's core interests, and mutual respect for each other's core interests is conducive to the healthy development of Sino-U.S. relations, a senior Chinese official said in Beijing Thursday. State Council Taiwan Affairs Office Director Wang Yi made the remarks while meeting with George Schwab, president of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Wang briefed Schwab on the progress in the mainland-Taiwan relations.

**China's economy grows 6.1 percent
Taipei Times, 17 April 2009**

China's economy grew at its slowest pace in at least a decade in the first quarter, but stronger industrial activity added to tentative signs the slump might be bottoming out amid huge stimulus spending. The world's third-largest economy grew by 6.1 percent from a year earlier as the global crisis battered trade, down from 6.8 percent in the previous quarter, the government reported yesterday. Overall growth "is below expectations but positive signs are emerging that the economy possibly is bottoming out," Credit Suisse economist Dong Tao said.

**Editorial: Ma ignoring ECFA consequences
Taipei Times, 17 April 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou has repeatedly declared that cross-strait economic exchanges will bring many benefits. Is this really true? Can the Taiwanese agricultural sector afford an economic cooperative framework agreement (ECFA) with China? Has the Ma administration properly assessed the possible impact of signing an economic pact with China on the nation? The launch of direct air and sea transport links with China has not contributed to the incomes of Taiwanese farmers and fishermen.

China inks 'loan-for-oil' deal with Kazakhstan

The Times of India, 18 April 2009

Beijing: Energy hungry China has signed a "loan for oil" deal with neighbouring Kazakhstan, which will get \$10 billion for financing oil and other projects. This is the fourth deal signed by China since February offering loans and investments totalling \$46 billion to four countries in exchange for oil. The latest deal involves a \$5 billion loan to be given by the state-owned China National Petroleum Corp to Kazakhstan's KazMunaiGaz EP for the joint purchase of MangistauMunaiGaz, which owns oil and gas fields. China, which has been wooing Kazakhstan at the political level for the past few years, will invest another \$5 billion in other projects in the country.

Economy better than expected: China premier The Times of India, 18 April 2009

Boao, China: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said today the country's stimulus package is working and the economy is "better than expected," but he cautioned that complete recovery will take much more time because the global financial crisis continues to spread. Wen, also China's top economic official, pledged to pull the country out of its slump by expanding domestic demand, building major infrastructure projects, finding jobs for college students and improving the social safety net. Wen spoke at the Boao Forum, an annual gathering of government and business leaders on the tropical southern island province of Hainan.

Premier: China's stimulus package plan paying off People's Daily, 18 April 2009

China's economic stimulus package plan is already paying off, and positive changes have taken place in the economy, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Saturday. "The situation is better than expected," Wen said at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference 2009. The "swift" and "decisive" measures taken by China to deal with the crisis has proved essential for easing major problems in the economy, shoring up confidence and stabilizing expectations, said the premier.

Mainland official: Mainland, Taiwan should join hands to face financial crisis People's Daily, 18 April 2009

State Council Taiwan Affairs Office Director Wang Yi hosted a welcoming cocktail party Friday for the Taiwan delegation to attend the Boao Forum for Asia. The Boao Forum for Asia provides an important platform for economists on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to exchange of views and explore further cooperation, he told a Taiwan delegation led by Fredrick Chien, chief advisor of Taiwan's Cross-Straits Common Market Foundation. Wang expressed the hope that economists on both sides, give a strong signal to the world, through the forum, that the two sides will join hands to cope with the financial crisis and show their firm confidence in achieving common development and prosperity.

Editorial: Ideology and the real political world Taipei Times, 18 April 2009

In maintaining Taiwan's security, the dominant consideration of analysts is military capability and the aptitude of military leadership. Much ink has been spilled on whether Taiwan has enough arms — and the right arms — to resist China's desire to annex it. But there is little of value in these things if there is not a popular commitment to a cause — the kind of commitment that would influence individual behavior in a time of crisis, such as during an attempted invasion or an outbreak of civil conflict.

Air power for BSF: 3 planes and 8 choppers more in its kitty The Times of India, 19 April 2009

New Delhi: Border Security Force (BSF) will soon get a boost with induction of eight

helicopters and three aircraft for patrolling the borders and to transport men and material in case of emergency. The eight Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters will be procured from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited while one large transport plane and two small aircraft will be procured from abroad within this fiscal. "We will receive the first helicopter within the next two months and all of them will arrive by March 2010," Director General of Border Security Force M L Kumawat told PTI in an interview.

China extends help to Hong Kong during economic crisis
The Times of India, 19 April 2009

Hong Kong: China will issue more yuan-dominated bonds in Hong Kong and make it easier for firms there to borrow money and sell goods on the mainland, the Hong Kong government said, to help it fight off the economic crisis. Hong Kong is badly hit by the global financial crisis and its government forecasts that the economy will shrink 3 percent this year, its first full year decline since 1998 at the height of the Asian financial crisis.

Premier Wen meets Taiwan's Fredrick Chien, calling for discarding enmity
People's Daily, 19 April 2009

Premier Wen Jiabao Saturday called on the Chinese mainland and Taiwan to "discard past enmity and face the future" to tackle the financial crisis and seek common prosperity. Wen made the remarks when meeting with Fredrick Chien, chief advisor of Taiwan's Cross-Straits Common Market Foundation, in the southern province of Hainan on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia.

France hopes to promote co-op with China in all fields
People's Daily, 19 April 2009

France hopes to improve its all-round cooperation with China and consolidate bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, speaker of the French National Assembly told Xinhua in a recent interview. Bernard Accoyer is scheduled to visit China on April 19-26 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China. This will be the first time since 1982 that a speaker of the National Assembly makes an official visit to China.

Details finalized for cross-strait talks
Taipei Times, 19 April 2009

The third round of cross-strait talks between the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) will be held from April 25 to April 29 in Nanjing, China, a preparatory meeting for the talks determined yesterday. The delegation and representatives of the SEF will arrive in Nanjing on April 25. SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and his counterpart, ARATS Chairman Chen Yun-lin, will hold the formal negotiations on April 26, SEF Secretary-General Kao Koong-lian told a press conference after the preparatory meeting at Taipei Grand Hyatt Hotel yesterday.

Editorial: Taiwanese right to determine jurisdiction
Taipei Times, 19 April 2009

The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) passed by the US Congress in 1979 refers to "relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan." The TRA's starting point is neither territory nor sovereignty, but "people." The wording of the 1972 US-China Shanghai Communique is different, referring to the "Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait." While the "people on Taiwan" include some of the "Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait," the "Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait" cannot conversely be interpreted as including the "people on Taiwan," otherwise the TRA would protect the interests of the "Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait."

No hand in NKorea N-facilities: China
The Times of India, 20 April 2009

Beijing: China on Sunday said it had no hand in the development of the controversial nuclear facilities in neighboring North Korea. It also announced acquisition of third generation nuclear plants along with its technology from the Westinghouse Electric Company. Military strategists have for years speculated how the backward Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea, came to acquire nuclear technology. There has been speculation that parts of the technology came from Pakistan and Iran while China may also have assisted North Korea in other ways.

Stimulus package doing its job: Wen
People's Daily, 20 April 2009

China's economy is showing signs of doing better than expected thanks to its stimulus package, said Premier Wen Jiabao, adding that Asian economies should enhance cooperation to battle the financial crisis. "China's stimulus package is starting to pay off and positive changes have taken place in the economy," Wen said at the Boao Forum for Asia in South China's Hainan province over the weekend. "The situation is better than expected." His comments came after the nation's annualized gross domestic product growth sank to 6.1 percent in the first quarter, the weakest in a decade.

China starts building 3rd-generation nuclear power reactors using Westinghouse technologies

People's Daily, 20 April 2009

China on Sunday started the construction of its first third-generation pressurized water reactors using AP 1000 technologies developed by U.S.-based Westinghouse. The reactors, located in Sanmen of east China's Zhejiang Province, will also be the first in the world using such technologies. The Sanmen Nuclear Power Plant will be built in three phases, with an investment of more than 40 billion yuan (5.88 billion U.S. dollars) injected in the first phase. The first phase project will include two units each with a generating capacity of 1.25 million kw.

Chinese tourist quota may rise

Taipei Times, 20 April 2009

The Executive Yuan said it was considering raising the quota on Chinese tourists allowed to travel to Taiwan after 37 tourists from Shenyang, Liaoning Province, were sent back on Saturday because they did not have entry permits. Premier Liu Chao-shiuan said in Nantou on Friday that the adjustment was necessary because the number of Chinese traveling to Taiwan could hit 7,000 people per day by next month, adding that the number of tourists had exceeded 4,000 people per day over the past two days.

Editorial: Straddling the point of no return

Taipei Times, 20 April 2009

The speed at which cross-strait exchanges have developed since President Ma Ying-jeou took office has surprised many in Taiwan and around the world. A year ago, former president Chen Shui-bian was still in office and cross-strait relations were tense. Now, Taiwan is sending a delegation to the Boao Forum in China's Hainan Province, where it will meet with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, while another group is holding a meeting in Taiwan to prepare for the third meeting between representatives from Taiwan and China.

India joins China's naval parade

The Hindu, 21 April 2009

Qingdao: China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) kicked off a grand ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of its Navy on Monday off the coast of the eastern city of Qingdao. PLA

Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli announced the start of the four-day festivities. It would include seminars, a sampan race and a fleet parade. A total of 21 naval vessels from 14 countries including India and delegations from 29 countries will join the parade.

**Opinion - News Analysis: Great shift in global power hits high gear
The Hindu, 21 April 2009**

We have entered one of those rare historical periods that is characterised by a shift in global hegemony from one great power to another. The last such was between 1931 and 1945, and marked the end of Britain's financial ascendancy and its replacement by that of the United States. It might be argued that the cold war represented a similar period, but that is a fallacy: the cold war was an ideological struggle between two powers that were always hopelessly ill-matched.

**China wants to join Navy initiative on Indian Ocean, MEA says no need
The Indian Express, 21 April 2009**

New Delhi: Pushing for a greater say in the Indian Ocean region, China has sounded out the Indian Navy that it wants to be inducted in some form into the 33-member Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) initiative started by India last year. But the Ministry of External Affairs has turned down the request. It's learnt that the Navy conveyed the Chinese interest to the MEA which promptly rebuffed the move, saying there was no justification to involve China in the Indian Ocean.

**China to show new submarines, says no threat to region
The Times of India, 21 April 2009**

Beijing: China plans to display its nuclear submarines this week in the first known public appearance of some of its most potent warships, a sign of growing confidence in its rapid upgrade to new vessels and weapons systems. The vessels will appear at Thursday's international fleet review in the northern port city of Qingdao, deputy navy commander Ding Yiping was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday. He did not give the specific types of vessels to be displayed.

**Editorial: Taiwan's status has yet to be determined
Taipei Times, 21 April 2009**

During the recent 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), pro-independence political commentators raised some important questions and opinions. However, at a reenactment of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty or the Treaty of Taipei at the Taipei Guest House in 1952, Academia Historica President Lin Man-houng said the Treaty of Taipei could be used to benefit Taiwan and as a basis to establish that the sovereignty of Taiwan and Penghu belongs to the Republic of China (ROC).

**Editorial: Corruption stains the KMT's history
Taipei Times, 21 April 2009**

Is history like a clear mirror, or is it no more than a conjuror's trick and a means for politicians to deny guilt, promote their views and fool the public? Consider the murky history of China's feudal dynasties, stretching out over thousands of years. When you take away the family chronicles of emperors and generals, the plots and power struggles, the floods and famines, and the perpetual suffering of the common people, what are you left with?

**China will unveil new N-subs, denies threat
The Asian Age, 22 April 2009**

Qingdao, China: China plans to show off its nuclear submarines at a major international naval gathering this week, state media reported on Tuesday, the first known public

appearance of some its most potent seaborne weaponry. Vice Adm. Ding Yiping, the Navy's deputy commander, said the submarines would appear at Thursday's international fleet review in the northern port city of Qingdao, but did not specify the types of vessels.

**PRC visitors have a right to know
Taipei Times, 22 April 2009**

Much has been said of the potential for Taiwan's democracy to have an impact on China as exchanges between the two countries increase. The experience that Chinese visitors take home from Taiwan after observing its open society and freedoms has been touted as part of the nation's soft power. With the recent boost in cross-strait tourism, the potential for a gradual transfer of values is increasing.

**Editorial: Two treaties with real impact for Taiwanese
Taipei Times, 22 April 2009**

On March 31, the legislature passed the Act Governing Execution of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This gave the two international covenants legally binding force in Taiwan. It was reported that Taiwan's Instrument of Accession to the two UN human rights treaties would be deposited at the UN Secretariat.

**China for global steps for safe seas
The Hindu, 23 April 2009**

Qingdao: The world's navies must work together to meet threats such as terrorism and piracy, said China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli. Admiral Wu said at a meeting of international naval officials that terrorism, separatism, extremism, piracy and trans-national crimes such as smuggling posed serious challenges to the maritime peace and safety.

**China parades naval might
The Times of India, 23 April 2009**

Beijing: China paraded its warships and nuclear submarines on Thursday in an unprecedented display of maritime might attended by 14 other nations to mark the 60th anniversary of its navy. Fifty-six Chinese subs, destroyers, frigates, missile boats and planes were displayed off the eastern port city of Qingdao just weeks after tensions flared following a naval stand-off with the United States in the South China Sea.

**China holds landmark naval parade to mark PLA Navy 60th anniversary
People's Daily, 23 April 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao, aboard the Chinese Navy destroyer Shijiazhuang, reviewed Thursday afternoon warships and aircraft in a landmark naval parade off the coast of Qingdao marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy. Hu, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, was accompanied by PLA Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli aboard the destroyer Shijiazhuang.

**Justifiable and reasonable for China to have its own aircraft carriers
People's Daily, 23 April 2009**

The discussion on China's construction of its own aircraft carrier has again become lively with the upcoming activities marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy. For a long time, the aircraft carrier was like a god in people's hearts. It is said whenever there was a crisis, the US President would ask, where are our aircraft carriers? For the Chinese people, a more distant memory can be traced back to the Amethyst incident before 1949 (the founding of People's Republic of China).

Editorial: China's rise is America's decline
Taipei Times, 23 April 2009

We have entered one of those rare historical periods that is characterized by a shift in global hegemony from one great power to another.. The last such was between 1931 and 1945, and marked the end of Britain's financial ascendancy and its replacement by that of the US. It might be argued that the Cold War represented a similar period, but that is a fallacy. The Cold War was an ideological struggle between two powers that were always hopelessly ill-matched.

Editorial: So much for legislative supervision
Taipei Times, 23 April 2009

Dismissing Legislative Speaker Wang Jin-pyng's proposal for an interparty legislative task force to monitor the government's performance on cross-strait matters, President Ma Ying-jeou reiterated in an interview published yesterday that the legislature's committees already fulfill the function of keeping the government in check. "Don't amend the system, because it isn't flawed. Letting it run as usual will do," Ma was quoted as saying in the interview with the Chinese-language China Times.

Hu presides over review as China showcases navy
Taipei Times, 23 April 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao presided yesterday over an international naval review in the northern port of Qingdao that highlights Beijing's ambitions of becoming a major sea power. Ships and naval aircraft from China and 14 other countries took part in the display in the East China Sea, the first-ever hosted by the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) in honor of its 60th anniversary.

PLA Navy will safeguard world peace: Hu
The Hindu, 24 April 2009

Qingdao: China will never be a threat to other nations and its armed forces will be an important force in safeguarding world peace and development, Chinese President Hu Jintao has said. Mr. Hu told the heads of 29 foreign navy delegations that China would neither seek hegemony nor turn to military expansion or arms races. The delegations are here to participate in the 60th anniversary celebrations of the People's Liberation Army Navy. Mr. Hu said China would stick to the road of peaceful development, which demanded China adhere to its national defence policy which was defensive in nature.

China wants Obama to not meet Dalai
The Asian Age, 24 April 2009

Beijing: China said on Thursday that US President Barack Obama should not meet the Dalai Lama when he visits the United States in October. Although a meeting has not been confirmed, every President since George H.W. Bush has met the Dalai Lama, raising the ire of China, which says the Nobel Peace Laureate is bent on splitting Tibet from China. "We firmly oppose the Dalai's engagement in separatist activities in any country under whatever capacity and under whatever name," foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said when asked to comment on a possible meeting.

US may launch Taiwan Policy Review
Taipei Times, 24 April 2009

Washington may soon launch a new Taiwan Policy Review that could have an enormous impact on bilateral relations. While there have been no official announcements and foreign policy advisers close to both US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and US President Barack Obama refuse to discuss the subject, there are increasing rumors and speculation. The Taipei Times has been told by senior congressional sources that a formal review is being

considered by the Obama administration but that no decision has been made.

**Tsai slams Ma for praise of Hu's 'six points' speech
Taipei Times, 24 April 2009**

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Chairperson Tsai Ing-wen yesterday criticized President Ma Ying-jeou's praising on Wednesday night of Chinese President Hu Jintao's "six points." "Hu's six points, wrapped up in the one China frame, are extremely unfavorable to Taiwan's sovereignty," Tsai told a press conference yesterday. "President Ma's public affirmation of Hu's six points has unquestionably belittled Taiwan's sovereignty," she said. The "six points" derive from a speech by Hu on Dec. 31 to mark the 30th anniversary of the "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan."

**Ma wants ECFA in cross-strait talks
Taipei Times, 25 April 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday instructed the head of the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) to discuss the government's proposed economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA) with China during cross-strait negotiations. Ma met SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and his delegation yesterday ahead of the third round of cross-strait negotiations between Chiang and his counterpart, Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin, in Nanjing starting tomorrow.

**Editorial: ECFA: An instrument of betrayal
Taipei Times, 25 April 2009**

In a videoconference with a US think tank a few days ago, President Ma Ying-jeou referred to a poll by the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) that claimed 70 percent of people support an economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA) with China. He said this was because the public realizes that none of the six agreements China and Taiwan have reached over the past 10 months sacrificed Taiwan's sovereignty, and that the government retained the public's trust.

**Editorial: A world free of nukes
The Asahi Shimbun, 25 April 2009**

Since North Korea fired a missile on April 5, Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers have hotly debated whether Japan should possess the capability to attack North Korean missile launching sites on its own. Although the exchange of views was not as heated as it was three years ago, when North Korea conducted a nuclear test, one senior LDP member said, "We must make a threat that Japan, too, would possess nuclear weapons." The same day in Prague, U.S. President Barack Obama delivered a speech on nuclear disarmament. The reaction in Japan to the speech was cool.

**Prachanda cancels China visit amid crisis
The Indian Express, 26 April 2009**

Kathmandu: With the 10-month-old Maoist Government in Nepal facing its worst ever crisis, Prime Minister Prachanda on Saturday called off his China visit which was scheduled for the first week of May. Prachanda informed the Chinese Ambassador to Nepal that the domestic situation was not favourable for his visit, but would do so as soon as he got the opportunity. The Prime Minister's press advisor, O M Sharma, said the date for the visit has not yet been rescheduled, but it "should not take that long".

**Chiang in Nanjing for cross-strait talks
Taipei Times, 26 April 2009**

Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung, the nation's chief negotiator with China, arrived in Nanjing, China, yesterday morning on a mission to seal three

agreements and one joint statement with China. The highlight of Chiang's visit will be a meeting today with his Chinese counterpart, Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin. The two sides are expected to sign three agreements on the launch of regular cross-strait passenger flights, financial cooperation and mutual judicial assistance and cross-strait cooperation to fight crime.

**Editorial: A way out of the Tibetan morass
Taipei Times, 26 April 2009**

China survived the 50th anniversary of the failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule in 1959 without major protests. But, to keep Tibetans off the streets, China's government had to saturate the entire Tibetan plateau with troops and secretly detain hundreds of people in unmarked jails for "legal education." Those moves suggest that Tibet has become an increasingly serious concern for China's rulers, one that they are still unable to handle without damaging their standing in Tibet and around the world.

**Redouble efforts for growth: Hu
The Hindu, 27 April 2009**

Jinan: Chinese President Hu Jintao has called for redoubled efforts at the local level to promote economic growth and improve living standards and social stability. Mr. Hu made the remarks while visiting Shandong Province in eastern China, where he inspected businesses, ports and communities in the cities of Jinan and Qingdao and told local governments to rise to the challenge and tap their potential. "Those who can make it through the crisis can expect more future development," said Mr. Hu while visiting Shengmei'er Light Industry Products Company, an export-oriented garment producer in Qingdao.

**Border tourism opens between China and Pakistan across Khunjerab Pass
The Times of India, 27 April 2009**

Beijing: The Khunjerab Pass connecting China and Pakistan has so far been used for joint security drills and a small amount of trade between the two countries. For the first time, the historical pass is being opened up for tourism as the two nations intensify their people to people contacts. The first batch of Chinese tourists will leave for a trip of northern Pakistan as soon as the long and flat Pass is opened up after remaining closed for winter from November 30. The itinerary of tourists will be limited to six days and they will be asked to restrict their travels to specific areas in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan.

**Pacts deepen economic ties, add flights
Taipei Times, 27 April 2009**

Taipei and Beijing inked three agreements yesterday during the third round of cross-strait negotiations in China, agreeing to launch additional regular cross-strait passenger flights, establish a financial cooperation mechanism and join forces to combat crime. Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and his Chinese counterpart, Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin also signed a joint statement on opening Taiwan to Chinese investment after their meeting in Nanjing yesterday.

**Editorial: Taiwanese hold the key to deciding on statehood
Taipei Times, 27 April 2009**

Following a claim by Academia Historica president Lin Man-houng that she "discovered" in the Treaty of Taipei that Japan handed sovereignty over Taiwan to the Republic of China (ROC) in 1952, the "status" of Taiwan is again a topic of hot debate. Many have pointed out the errors in Lin's claim and I will not repeat their arguments here. The US stands by

its position on Taiwan's status as "undecided" based on the San Francisco Peace Treaty. Many Taiwanese follow this reasoning and agree that Taiwan's status is "undecided."

Editorial: Where will the ARATS deals lead?

Taipei Times, 27 April 2009

The third round of talks between the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) concluded in Nanjing, China, yesterday. SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and ARATS Chairman Chen Yunlin signed three agreements on judicial matters and fighting crime, financial cooperation and scheduled passenger flights across the Taiwan Strait. While the government celebrates the deals, however, it should be borne in mind that the agreements reached at the previous two rounds of talks have not produced the promised benefits.

Editorial: Equal rights apply to Chinese, too

Taipei Times, 27 April 2009

On April 23, the legislature's Internal Administration Committee reviewed draft amendments to the Act Governing Relations Between the Peoples of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area. It was preliminarily decided that all Chinese nationals married to Taiwanese should be granted work permits and that a NT\$2 million (US\$59,000) cap on the inheritance they could receive from their Taiwanese spouses should be scrapped. In addition, the waiting time for Chinese spouses to apply for citizenship is expected to be shortened from eight years to six or four years.

Nuclear strategy completely transparent: China

The Times of India, 28 April 2009

Beijing: China said on Tuesday that it is completely transparent about its nuclear arsenal and dismissed a call by Japan for more information ahead of a visit by the Japanese prime minister. China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told reporters China supports international nuclear disarmament efforts and had made "unremitting efforts" for a ban of nuclear weapons.

China calls for new development for Sino-French relations

People's Daily, 28 April 2009

China Tuesday called for new initiatives to boost the China-France comprehensive strategic partnership. The call was made during a meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and former French President Jacques Chirac, who is in Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. Hu praised Chirac, on his ninth visit to China, as an old friend of the Chinese people for his contribution to the China-France friendship. "The Chinese people will never forget this," Hu was quote as saying by a press release from Chinese Foreign Ministry.