

**News Start date:** 01/02/2009 **News End Date :** 28/02/2009

[GO BACK](#)

**Japan pledges US\$17 billion package for Asia  
Taipei Times, 1 February 2009**

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso pledged ¥1.5 trillion (US\$17 billion) in development aid to other Asian countries yesterday for infrastructure projects that will help boost growth. The prime minister highlighted Japan's involvement in projects in the Mekong region and the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor and said overseas development assistance (ODA) would increase by 20 percent this year...

**Economy should improve this year: Ma  
Taipei Times, 1 February 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday promised to unveil more measures to deal with the financial crisis after the Lunar New Year holiday, adding that he expected the nation's economy to improve this year. "Taiwan cannot escape the global financial crisis because we depend largely on exports. However, the government will try to turn things around and improve the economy this year," Ma said during a visit to Taichung City...

**Senior official urges to safeguard social equity, stability  
People's Daily, 1 February 2009**

A senior official with Communist Party of China (CPC) has urged to ensure social equity and maintain social stability in promoting the country's economic growth. Zhou Yongkang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark in an article to be published in the journal Qiushi (Seeking Truth), run by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Feb. 1...

**China, Spain agree to boost economic, cultural links  
People's Daily, 1 February 2009**

China and Spain agreed Friday to forge closer economic ties to mitigate the impact of the financial crisis and vowed to enhance cultural exchanges for better understanding of each other. Relations between China and Spain are at their best with frequent high-level exchanges and close cooperation in a wide range of fields since the two countries set up a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2005, said a joint statement issued during a visit by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Spain...

**Violent unrest rocks China as crisis hits  
The Times of India, 1 February 2009**

London: The collapse of the export trade in China has left millions jobless and set off a wave of violent unrest in the country. Bankruptcies, unemployment and social unrest are spreading more widely in China than officially reported, according to an

independent research that paints an ominous picture for the world economy, The Sunday Times reported...

**Editorial: Can Ma swallow Lee's cure?**  
**Taipei Times, 2 February 2009**

On Lunar New Year's Day, President Ma Ying-jeou paid a courtesy call to former president Lee Teng-hui and took advantage of the occasion to consult with Lee on national policy. Over the years, Lee has made significant contributions to Taiwan's democracy, its relations with China and its international standing, and he has often spearheaded original approaches to key problems. Any advice he might offer should, therefore, be useful for Taiwan in this difficult period. ..

**China moves to tap rural market potential**  
**People's Daily, 2 February 2009**

China on Sunday extended its rural subsidy scheme for home appliance purchases nationwide in an effort to boost rural consumption, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council announced in the first joint document this year. The document said the government would provide a 13-percent subsidy to all rural buyers of home appliances, including color TVs, refrigerators, mobile phones, washing machines and freezers...

**Premier in London to boost ties**  
**People's Daily, 2 February 2009**

Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in the British capital on Saturday for an official visit aimed at enhancing bilateral financial cooperation. "Recent years have seen (an) enhanced China-Britain comprehensive strategic partnership and fruitful cooperation in all areas." Wen said in a statement upon arrival...

**CPC Central Military Commission calls for armed forces' obedience, unity**  
**People's Daily, 2 February 2009**

The Central Military Commission (CMC) of Communist Party of China (CPC) has called for all service personnel in the country's military forces to show absolute obedience to the Party. The call was made at a CMC meeting presided over by Hu Jintao, Chairman of CPC Central Military Commission...

**China's military told to obey party**  
**The Times of India, 2 February 2009**

Beijing: China has told its military to strictly obey the Communist Party, as the country faces economic unrest this year and a string of sensitive anniversaries. The demand was issued by the Central Military Commission at a meeting presided over by President Hu Jintao, who is also the commission's chairman. The meeting was held over the weekend and the notice was posted on the central government's Web site on Monday...

**White Paper, Red China**  
**The Indian Express, 2 February 2009**

released its defence white paper for 2008. This is the sixth such policy document from Beijing, the last one having come out in 2006, and an attempt by the Chinese government to assuage the concerns around the world about its rapidly growing military capabilities. And this time the Chinese Ministry of Even as the world was

riveted by Barack Obama's coronation and first days in office, the Chinese Government National Defence held a press conference about it...

**China spurs rural consumption**  
**The Hindu, 2 February 2009**

Beijing: For 10 years, the most valuable household appliance in herdsman Chaolu's home in north China's Inner Mongolia was a 14-inch TV set, purchased when he earned about 4,000 yuan (\$580) a year. "I could not bring myself to buy a new TV set, although the old one often failed to work properly. I had to support a family with very little money"...

**Editorial: The cost of 'constructive' ties**  
**Taipei Times, 3 February 2009**

With North Korea again raising the specter of war in the Korean Peninsula, Afghanistan slipping out of control, continued unrest in Pakistan, a defiant Iran and a deepening global financial crisis, it was not surprising that US President Barack Obama and his Chinese counterpart, President Hu Jintao, would strike an amiable tone during their first telephone conversation late last week...

**President says economy unlikely to improve soon**  
**Taipei Times, 3 February 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou said yesterday he hoped the economy would improve this year, but acknowledged that it would not be easy. "It will take a lot of effort and maybe some luck, because much of it cannot be changed by our efforts alone," Ma said while speaking at the Presidential Office's Lunar New Year greetings ceremony yesterday morning...

**"China's National Defense in 2008" marks maximum transparency**  
**People's Daily, 3 February 2009**

On January 20, a white paper entitled "China's National Defense in 2008" was released. "The white paper in 2008 disclosed for the first time China's national defense strategy goals. The transparency of strategic intent marks maximum transparency," said Dr. Chen Zhou, a research fellow at the Department of War Theory and Strategic Studies under the Academy of Military Science, and participated in the writing of the white papers as a member of the expert panel for many times...

**China, Britain issue joint statement on closer co-op amid int'l financial crisis**  
**People's Daily, 3 February 2009**

China and Britain on Monday issued a joint statement, agreeing to strengthen cooperation and actively deal with the international financial crisis. As two of the world's leading economies, China and Britain are crucial players in addressing the unstable economic climate, according to the joint statement issued after talks between visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown...

**Premier Wen says cooperation top priority to tackle financial crisis**  
**People's Daily, 3 February 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Monday that cooperation to tide over global financial difficulties is a "top priority" and urged people to "see China in the light of development." "To work together and tide over the difficulties has become our top priority," Wen said in his speech at the University of Cambridge, Britain, the last leg of his weeklong "trip of confidence" to Europe...

**Common plan to meet global challenges: Wen, Brown**  
**The Hindu, 3 February 2009**

London: Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao on Monday said the global economic crisis had highlighted the "dangers of a totally unregulated market" and called for tougher supervision. He was speaking after talks with his British counterpart Gordon Brown in Downing Street as he wound up his three-day visit to Britain...

**Foreign Ministry: China opposes U.S. sanctions on Chinese companies**  
**People's Daily, 4 February 2009**

China expressed opposition Tuesday to the United States' decision to impose sanctions on two Chinese companies that allegedly violated U.S. anti-proliferation laws. "China's stance on anti-proliferation is clear," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular news briefing...

**Editorial: China's economy**  
**The Asahi Shimbun, 4 February 2009**

Never has China's economic growth attracted so much global attention. The shock waves from the financial crisis that started in the United States have spread across the entire world, sending developed nations, including Japan and those of Europe, into serious recession. The world is now holding out hope that China, with its massive potential, will serve as the engine to stoke global economic growth...

**Editorial: Chinese media quiet after protester lobs shoe at Wen**  
**Taipei Times, 4 February 2009**

China's media, quick to report when a shoe was thrown at former US president George W. Bush last year, sidestepped any direct mention or images yesterday of a protester hurling his shoe at Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during a speech in Britain. Unlike the now-famous incident when an Iraqi reporter threw his shoes at Bush in December, covered widely not only in China but around the world, state-run newspapers and Web sites in China carried stories on Wen's speech but had no reference to the shoe-throwing...

**Chinese president to visit five Asian, African countries**  
**People's Daily, 4 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao will pay state visits to Saudi Arabia, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Mauritius from Feb. 10 to 17, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu announced Tuesday. Jiang told a regular press conference that Hu's visit is aimed at further consolidating China's friendship and cooperation with these countries, strengthening China's cooperation with the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and promoting the implementation of the measures announced at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation...

**China reiterates sovereignty over islands in South China Sea**  
**People's Daily, 4 February 2009**

China reiterated Tuesday its sovereignty over Huangyan Island and the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu, in response to Philippine territorial claims over the islands, said: "China possesses indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island, the Nansha Islands and adjacent waters"...

**Foreign Ministry: China opposes U.S. sanctions on Chinese companies**  
**People's Daily, 4 February 2009**

China expressed opposition Tuesday to the United States' decision to impose sanctions on two Chinese companies that allegedly violated U.S. anti-proliferation laws. "China's stance on anti-proliferation is clear," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular news briefing...

**China to be at Aero India for first time**  
**The Hindu, 4 February 2009**

New Delhi: For the first time in the brief history of the biennial premier air show Aero India, China will be among the 25 participating countries. The event opens in Bangalore on February 11. Nearly 600 exhibitors will take part and on display will be 30 aircraft led by frontline fighter aircraft such as American F-16 and F-18, Russian MiG-35D, Eurofighter, India's Light Combat Aircraft –Tejas, British Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk, besides transport and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Dhruv helicopters...

**Editorial: Balancing relations with China and the US**  
**Taipei Times, 5 February 2009**

In a call to Chinese President Hu Jintao 10 days after his inauguration, US President Barack Obama promised cooperation between the two powerhouses and expressed hopes of building more constructive relations. Only by maintaining a positive and balanced relationship with the US and China can our government ensure that Taiwan's best national interests are met...

**Editorial: Ma's impotence is the real problem**  
**Taipei Times, 5 February 2009**

Like the kingdom of the Fisher King in T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, Taiwan is suffering from a deep malaise. Its problem is that President Ma Ying-jeou is impotent: impotent as a leader and impotent in the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT). Because of this, he is impotent to make any long-term constructive contributions to the nation. He can only talk. Ma watchers sensed this long ago...

**What opportunities does the financial crisis bring to China?**  
**People's Daily, 5 February 2009**

What potential opportunities lie in the international financial crisis? Reporters recently interviewed Zhang Chenghui, Deputy Director General of the Research Institute of Finance under the Development Research Center of the State Council, on this topic...

**China urges Japan to immediately cease action on Diaoyu Islands**  
**People's Daily, 5 February 2009**

China urged Japan on Thursday to immediately cease action concerning the Diaoyu Islands issue, noting that the actions, aimed to strengthen control over the islands, are infringement to China's territorial sovereignty. The Diaoyu Islands and adjacent islets have been Chinese territories since ancient times, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in response to a question at a routine press conference...

**Editorial: What does future hold for China?  
Taipei Times, 6 February 2009**

There is a common perception among Asian and other developing nations that China is on the rise and the US is in decline. With the recent financial debacle on Wall Street and the deepening recession in the US, this perception has gained more credence. At the APEC summit in Sydney in September 2007, The Nation newspaper in Thailand editorialized: "One could easily spot who the real mover and shaker among them was. It used to be the US. That is no longer. The new mover and shaker is China"...

**Editorial: KMT rolling back media freedom  
Taipei Times, 6 February 2009**

It appears as if the National Communications Commission (NCC) has been added to the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government's armory in its battle to neuter the media and stifle criticism of the current administration's shortcomings. This became apparent after the NCC on Tuesday singled out SET TV's political chat show Da Hua News ("Talking Show") for censure...

**Rules for Hong Kong, Macao journalists announced  
People's Daily, 6 February 2009**

China announced Friday rules for Hong Kong and Macao journalists' reporting activities on the mainland, extending temporary regulations for the 2008 Olympics that had allowed greater freedom for journalists from outside the mainland. Reporters from Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions can travel to the mainland to interview anyone who consents, as long as the journalists hold press cards issued by the liaison offices of the Central Government or press cards for resident reporters, according to the regulation released by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the cabinet...

**Economists: China to see early recovery ahead of global economy  
People's Daily, 6 February 2009**

Most Chinese economists said China's economy would recover as early as this year, a survey has showed. China Economic Monitoring and Analysis Center, a survey organization of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a report on Thursday that 92 percent of the economists polled believed China's economy will recover from the global financial crisis in 2009, backed by the government's four-trillion-yuan stimulus plan...

**Editorial: West cannot sacrifice its ideals for PRC's face  
Taipei Times, 7 February 2009**

During the Lunar New Year holidays, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Europe, where he attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the EU

headquarters in Belgium as well as Germany, Spain and the UK. China's meticulous arrangement of the trip to the five countries surrounding France clearly showed its hostility toward France. It was an example of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) united front strategy to consolidate its strength and isolate its enemies as much as it possibly can...

**Chinese drought emergency status raised to top level  
Taipei Times, 7 February 2009**

China was struggling yesterday to get water to millions of people and save swathes of its wheat harvest, after raising its drought emergency status to the highest level for the first time. The decision to go to emergency level one was taken on Thursday at a meeting of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, Xinhua news agency reported...

**Senior official urges political advisory bodies to play more important roles  
People's Daily, 7 February 2009**

A senior Chinese official on Friday urged the country's political advisory bodies at all levels to play more important roles in serving economic and social constructions. Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), top political advisory body, made the remarks at a meeting here Friday...

**Chinese official calls for "increasing representation" of developing countries  
in UN security council  
People's Daily, 7 February 2009**

Developing countries should be given more say in efforts to reform the United Nations Security Council, a Chinese official said here Thursday. "More countries, including small and medium ones, should have more opportunities to take part in the decision-making of the security council," said, Liu Jieyi, assistant foreign minister when addressing a ministerial meeting on the reform of UN Security Council held Thursday in Rome of Italy...

**China for all-out efforts to combat drought  
The Hindu, 7 February 2009**

Beijing: China has raised its drought emergency alert from level two to level one — the highest alert — in response to the worst drought to hit northern China in half a century, according to a State Council meeting. President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao have ordered all-out efforts to combat the severe drought in the vast wheat-growing area to ensure a good summer harvest, according to the State Council meeting...

**China's worst drought in 50 yrs  
The Times of India, 7 February 2009**

Beijing: China was struggling on Friday to get water to millions of people and save

swathes of its wheat harvest, after raising its drought emergency to the highest level for the first time. The decision to go to emergency level one was taken on Thursday at a meeting of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, Xinhua news agency reported...

**India to ensure ban on Chinese toys  
The Hindu, 8 February 2009**

New Delhi: Brushing aside the threat by China of dragging India to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath on Friday plugged the loopholes in the rules that could allow manufacturers in China to dispatch toys into the market through a third country. Officials said here that the Ministry has informed and alerted the customs authorities to ensure that Chinese toys do not enter the Indian ports through a third country route...

**CPC calls for further pushing forward peaceful development of cross-straits relations  
People's Daily, 8 February 2009**

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has called for beefing up efforts to further push forward peaceful development of relations between the mainland and Taiwan. A meeting on Taiwan work, held from Friday through Saturday, pointed out that major breakthrough had been made in development of relations across the Taiwan Straits in 2008...

**China starts construction of second West-East gas pipeline eastern segment  
People's Daily, 8 February 2009**

China started construction of the eastern segment of the country's second West-East natural gas pipeline in Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province on Saturday. Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang attended the kick-off ceremony announced the start of the construction. The pipeline, the second after the first West-East natural gas transfer project, will cross 15 regions and carry 30 billion cubic meters of natural gas every year to Zhejiang, Shanghai, Guangdong and Hong Kong, among others...

**China to divert water from two longest rivers to ease drought  
People's Daily, 8 February 2009**

China will divert water from its two longest rivers to irrigate the drought-stricken farmland, a Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) official told media Saturday. Water in the country's longest river, the Yangtze River, will be diverted north to the northern areas of east China's Jiangsu Province as temperature rises and water demand grows, said Zhang Zhitong, deputy chief of the MWR's flood control and drought relief office...

**China defiant ahead of key UN panel on human rights**

### **Taipei Times, 8 February 2009**

Days before China's human rights record comes under scrutiny before a UN panel, the government's grip on dissent seems as firm as ever. Government critics have been rounded up and some imprisoned on vaguely defined state security charges. Corruption whistleblowers have been bundled away, while discussion of sensitive political and social topics on the Internet remains tightly policed...

### **Editorial: Facing the cruel economic truth Taipei Times, 8 February 2009**

Last week, a CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets report said Taiwan's economy would shrink 11 percent this year, which not only represents a substantial downward revision from the foreign brokerage's previous forecast of a 2.7 percent contraction, but would also make the nation the worst performer among major economies in Asia. Taiwan, like its rivals in the region, depends on a prosperous world market for information-technology products and other items that support its economy...

### **Editorial: Some Tibetan lessons for Taiwan Taipei Times, 8 February 2009**

Next month will mark the 50th anniversary of the "liberation" of Tibet by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). As Beijing — and purportedly all Tibetans — ready themselves to rejoice in the festivities surrounding "Serf Emancipation Day" on March 28, people in Taiwan would be well advised to turn to the history books. For starters, the so-called liberation of Tibet did not occur in 1959, but rather nine years earlier, when the PLA made its first incursion into Tibet...

### **Jobs, China's top challenge: experts The Hindu, 9 February 2009**

Beijing: A survey conducted by the China Economic Monitoring and Analysis Center predicted that rising unemployment would be the biggest challenge for China's economy this year. The survey showed more than 90 per cent of the 100 economists surveyed expressed their worries over the increasing unemployment rate, which had added woes to a world economic downturn...

### **China, Malaysia enter swap agreement The Times of India, 9 February 2009**

Beijing: The central banks of China and Malaysia have signed a currency swap agreement, the Chinese government said, as Asia's second-largest economy strengthens regional ties amid the global crisis. The People's Bank of China and Bank Negara Malaysia announced the three-year, \$11.7 billion agreement on Sunday, the Chinese central bank said in a statement on its website...

### **Somali pirates release Chinese fishing vessel People's Daily, 9 February 2009**

A Chinese fishing vessel held by pirates in Somali waters since last year was released Sunday, with 24 crew on board safe, the Foreign Ministry said here in a statement. The vessel Tianyu No. 8, owned by China's Tianjin Ocean Fishing Company, was safely released at around 5 p.m. Beijing time on Sunday, and was "under the protection" of the Chinese naval escort fleet patrolling the Gulf of Aden after it was released, said the ministry...

### **"Heavy fists" used to aid economic recovery**

**People's Daily, 9 February 2009**

Asian economy remains frail and weak this year, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed its average Domestic Product growth (GDP) for 2009 to 2.7 percent. Due to implications of the ongoing global economic recession, the economies of the Asian-Pacific nations encounter "cold waves"...

### **Editorial: Ma's tactics look increasingly flawed**

**Taipei Times, 9 February 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou and Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Chiang Pin-kung have started talking about the cross-strait economic relationship in terms of dependence. Ma says the Taiwanese and Chinese economies are interdependent. Chiang has reinforced this by saying that it would not necessarily be a bad thing for Taiwan's economy to be dependent upon China...

### **Editorial: Sino-US military ties in a standoff**

**Taipei Times, 9 February 2009**

Military exchanges between China and the US remain frozen despite a seemingly cordial telephone conversation between US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao and the forthcoming port call in Hong Kong of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. Said a US officer: "It's still a work in progress." Indeed, China underscored its displeasure with the US with not-so-subtle warnings last week...

### **Editorial: Retaining Taiwan's winning formula**

**Taipei Times, 9 February 2009**

Taiwan is a country, and it thirsts to become a normal and advanced democracy, regardless of what its national title may be. Such a national consciousness is the common aspiration of most people in Taiwan. Faced with the Chinese Communist Party's "one China" united front strategy, which is echoed by pro-unification forces within Taiwan, people may differ on how to achieve this aspiration, even to the extent of serious disputes and confrontation...

### **China's human rights achievements highlighted at UN review**

**People's Daily, 10 February 2009**

China has made substantial achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly since the start of its reform and opening up in 1978, a senior Chinese diplomat said here Monday. The Chinese people won national independence in 1949, and since then "a fundamental social and political system for the promotion and protection of human rights has been established," said Li Baodong, Chinese ambassador to the U.N. Office in Geneva...

### **FM: China hopes Italy heeds concerns on Tibet issues**

**People's Daily, 10 February 2009**

China hopes that Italy will take China's concerns over Tibet-related issues into serious consideration, the Foreign Ministry said in Beijing Tuesday. Responding to a question on Italian lawmakers' meeting with the Dalai Lama, ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said the meeting had injured the feelings of the Chinese people, and China had expressed strong dissatisfaction with the meeting...

**China calls for France's efforts to get bilateral ties back on track  
People's Daily, 10 February 2009**

China called here on Tuesday for France to make concerted efforts to get soured bilateral relations back on track. "We hope the French can attach great importance to the core concerns of China", Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a routine press conference, urging France to make "effective" and "positive" measures to collaborate with China to get bilateral relations back on track at an early date...

**Editorial: Asia: Target of PRC's carrier plan  
Taipei Times, 10 February 2009**

Late in December, Huang Xueping, a spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense, confirmed that Beijing was seriously considering building aircraft carriers. For many in the West, the prospect of Chinese carriers conjures up images of World War II, with its titanic battles between Japanese and US carrier task forces...

**News Analysis: Who is afraid of Chinese toys?  
The Hindu, 11 February 2009**

The government's decision to impose a six-month ban on the import of toys from China creates a small window of opportunity to introspect. The Indian toy industry has never been in a state of good health, but the past two decades have been particularly bad. What little drive there was to invent and innovate got washed away by the flood of Chinese toys...

**Op-Ed: Circling Mauritius  
The Indian Express, 11 February 2009**

President Hu Jintao's four-nation African tour beginning this week will conclude in Mauritius, a geopolitically sensitive Indian Ocean island state that has strong political and security ties with New Delhi. That this is the second African tour for Hu in less than three years underlines the extraordinary amount of political capital that Beijing is investing in Africa...

**Chinese president meets Saudi Arabian king on ties  
People's Daily, 11 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao met Saudi Arabian King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz in Riyadh Tuesday on deepening the two countries' friendship and cooperation. Hu arrived earlier in the day at the start of his "journey of friendship and cooperation" to Saudi Arabia and four African countries. In a written statement issued upon his arrival, Hu said he would exchange views with the king on China-Saudi Arabia ties and global and regional issues of common concern, including ways of addressing the international financial crisis...

**CPI sign of economic 'recovery'  
People's Daily, 11 February 2009**

The consumer price index (CPI) in January rose only 1 percent year-on-year, the lowest in 30 months, and the other measure of inflation, the producer price index (PPI), dropped 3.3 percent. That prompted economists to say the economy may have bottomed out and could start growing again within a few months. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released the figures yesterday...

**Taiwan wins inclusion in UK's visa-waiver program  
Taipei Times, 11 February 2009**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday welcomed Taiwan's inclusion in the UK's six-

month visa-waiver program and said the government was considering reciprocating the offer. The UK is the 31st country to grant Taiwanese visa-free privilege. Other countries include some of Taiwan's allies and a few non-allies such as South Korea, Singapore and Japan...

**Editorial: The shift in China's Taiwan policy  
Taipei Times, 11 February 2009**

On January 20, China released its defense white paper for 2008, the sixth such policy report from the rising military power. Its previous five defense papers, released every even year since 1998, have given an overview of the country's military buildup — ranging from its security situation and defense policy to the development of the People's Liberation Army, military spending, international collaboration and arms control...

**WHA bid turns Taiwan into a beggar  
Taipei Times, 12 February 2009**

Since taking office in May, obtaining observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly (WHA) has been trumpeted by the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government as a top diplomatic task and a barometer of cross-strait relations. The nation's bid this year, if successful, would indicate "goodwill" from China, the KMT government has said, apparently hoping for a positive outcome at the WHA session this May amid ostensibly warming cross-strait relations...

**Chinese president's visit boosts ties with Saudi Arabia, GCC  
People's Daily, 12 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao continued his state visit to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday with a tour of a plant constructed by a Chinese company and a scheduled meeting with the chief of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). In the morning, Hu paid a visit to a plant of the Riyadh Cement Company, which was constructed by China's Sinoma International Engineering Co. Ltd...

**Tibetan areas closed to foreigners, says official  
The Times of India, 12 February 2009**

Beijing: China is tightening its grip on Tibetan areas in the western part of the country by banning foreigners from the region ahead of the politically sensitive 50th anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising. Large swathes of Gansu, Sichuan and Qinghai provinces — home to large ethnic Tibetan communities — are now off limits to foreign travelers, local officials confirmed on Thursday...

**Tibetan areas closed to visitors till late March  
The Asian Age, 13 February 2009**

Beijing: Swaths of western China that have large Tibetan populations have been declared off limits to foreign visitors, local officials confirmed on Thursday, ahead of

the politically sensitive 50th anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising. An official at the tourism office of north-western Gansu province's Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which is home to a major monastery and large Tibetan communities, said the region was again closed to foreigners and would not be open until late March...

### **Chinese, Malian presidents meet on bilateral ties**

**People's Daily, 13 February 2009**

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Malian counterpart Amadou Toumany Toure met in Bamako Thursday for talks on deepening bilateral ties. Chinese diplomats said Hu and Toure were expected to exchange views on strengthening the friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries...

### **China's grain security sound amid north China drought: official**

**People's Daily, 13 February 2009**

China's wheat supply and grain safety will not be influenced by the worst dry spell in 50 years that has parched more than 40 percent of the nation's total wheat land, an agricultural minister said Thursday. The country had enough grain reserves to regulate the market price, although the severe drought has increased the costs of wheat production, Vice Minister of Agriculture Wei Chao'an told a news conference...

### **Editorial: Taking up the peace challenge**

**Taipei Times, 13 February 2009**

Lately, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has been searching for a new socio-political direction. I would like to propose making "peace" one of its core values. Peace has always been a Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) slogan used to counter Taiwanese independence and, after regaining power, to promote nation-building. However, the peace that the KMT touts only pertains to the absence of war across the Taiwan Strait — it couldn't care less if other nations blow each other up...

### **THE LIBERTY TIMES EDITORIAL: Riding on PRC's failing fortunes**

**Taipei Times, 13 February 2009**

The "No. 1 Document" published by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on Feb. 1 describes how the spreading global financial crisis and economic slowdown is making its impact felt in the Chinese countryside. The document said that this year could be the toughest for the Chinese economy since the beginning of the new century — and even more so for agriculture...

### **Editorial: Ma's China strategy endangers Taiwan**

**Taipei Times, 13 February 2009**

Recent newspaper articles reported comments by President Ma Ying-jeou at a military promotion ceremony that while East Asian countries and the US are increasingly worried about the intensifying problems on the Korean Peninsula, Taiwan's allies are very impressed that cross-strait relations have remained stable. Based on this, Ma said that his policies have minimized China's threat toward Taiwan, while at the same time meeting the interests of the US and other countries friendly to Taiwan...

### **A new page in Sino-Africa cooperation**

**People's Daily, 13 February 2009**

Following the "trip of friendship" and "trip of cooperation" two years ago, Chinese president Hu Jintao is on another trip to the African continent. He is paying State visit

to Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Mauritius from February 10 to February 17, a trip to cement friendship and seek further cooperation. Addressing the Third Ministerial Conference and the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), President Hu announced eight policy measures aimed at strengthening the pragmatic cooperation with Africa and at supporting the development of Africa countries...

**Grain security despite droughts, says China**  
**The Hindu, 14 February 2009**

Beijing: China's wheat supply and grain security would not be influenced by the worst dry spell in 50 years that had parched more than 40 per cent of the nation's wheat land, said an Agricultural Minister. The country had enough grain reserves to regulate the market price, though the severe drought had increased the cost of production, Vice-Minister of Agriculture Wei Chao'an told a news conference...

**'China, India to be power centres'**  
**The Asian Age, 14 February 2009**

Washington: As China and India restore their 18th century positions, a rising Asia is poised to become power centre of a world beset with terrorism and proliferation threats across an "arc of instability," according to US intelligence agencies. "China and India are restoring the positions they held in the eighteenth century when China produced approximately 30 per cent and India 15 percent of the world's wealth," the director of national intelligence (DNI), Admiral Dennis Blair, told US Congress on Thursday...

**China to create local journalists' blacklist**  
**The Asian Age, 14 February 2009**

Beijing: China plans to create a blacklist of journalists who break its reporting rules, state media reported on Friday, adding to an array of controls used to restrict its domestic media. According to a report in the China Press and Publishing Journal, the agency that exercises control over the state-owned Chinese media plans to "establish a database of media professionals with a bad record." It said reporters who violate the rules or laws will have their press cards taken away...

**Chinese, Senegalese leaders meet on bilateral ties**  
**People's Daily, 14 February 2009**

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with his Senegalese counterpart Abdoulaye Wade in Dakar on Friday to discuss promotion of friendly and cooperative ties between China and the West African nation. Hu said the bilateral relations have made progress in various fields since the resumption of diplomatic ties in 2005, and facts have proved that the China-Senegal friendship is in the fundamental interests of both nations and will have a promising future...

**New press rule could help China improve civil rights protection**  
**People's Daily, 14 February 2009**

A new entry in government-issued press cards, to be added later this month, might help many Chinese reporters persuade tight-lipped officials to talk. The entry will say: "The governments at all levels should facilitate the reporting of journalists who hold this card and provide necessary assistance"...

**China "values trade unions," says top legislator  
People's Daily, 14 February 2009**

China's top legislator said Friday the country values the role of its trade unions and supports their efforts to increase cooperation with their foreign counterparts. "This would help better safeguard workers' rights and interests," Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, told foreign trade union leaders...

**Editorial: A 'status quo' boost for Taiwan  
Taipei Times, 14 February 2009**

"Taiwan should not be so defenseless that it feels it has to do everything that China says ... China cannot be so overwhelming that it can bully Taiwan." These words, uttered by US National Intelligence Director Admiral Dennis Blair at a US Senate committee hearing on Thursday, are intriguing. This is partly because of Blair's cautiousness at the expense of coherence: There cannot be degrees of defenselessness, nor degrees of overwhelming power...

**Editorial: What course will US-PRC relations now take?  
Taipei Times, 14 February 2009**

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's first overseas trip since assuming office will be to Japan, Indonesia South Korea and China. She had originally decided to visit only Japan, with the other destinations added later. This shows that the US sees Japan as a top priority in Asia for its global strategy. After all, the US signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security with Japan in 1960...

**China ups ante with new flattops  
The Asahi Shimbun, 14 February 2009**

Beijing: In a move likely to stoke concerns in Tokyo, Washington and throughout Asia, China plans to greatly expand the reach and firepower of its navy by building at least two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. Analysts believe China is expanding its naval power as part of a push toward strategic dominance over the western Pacific, including the waters that surround Japan...

**China, US to resume military talks: Report  
The Times of India, 15 February 2009**

Beijing: China and the United States will resume military consultations this month that were postponed last year when Washington announced a planned weapons sale to Taiwan, state press said Sunday. The defence consultations will be held in Beijing on February 27-28, the People's Daily reported on its website, citing an unnamed official with the US department of defence. "We want to continue exchanges with China and are seeking positive cooperative ties," the official was quoted as saying...

**China increases missiles pointed at Taiwan to 1,500**

### **Taipei Times, 15 February 2009**

China has increased the number of short-range missiles aimed at Taiwan to about 1,500, officials and experts said yesterday, a sign of continued distrust between the two sides despite a recent warming of ties. China expanded its arsenal last year even as tensions eased after the election of President Ma Ying-jeou, Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Chairwoman Lai Shin-yuan said...

### **Rights groups urge Clinton to take stand on Beijing Taipei Times, 15 February 2009**

Seven leading human rights groups urged in a joint statement US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton to make human rights a prominent topic in her upcoming trip to Beijing. Clinton will leave today for her first overseas trip in her capacity as Washington's top diplomat. She is to visit Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and China on her week-long tour.

### **China uneasy with new US regime Taipei Times, 15 February 2009**

Last month when some former US political heavyweights attended a two-day conference in Beijing to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the normalization of relations between the US and China on Jan. 1, 1979, it was more like an exercise in nostalgia. Jimmy Carter, who was the US president at the time, said: "There is no more important diplomatic relationship in the world than the one that has grown between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America"...

### **Rajiv's China tour was preceded by Haksar's visit: Natwar The Hindu, 16 February 2009**

New Delhi: It was after hints were dropped by the Chinese leadership that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi earnestly started preparing the ground for his historic visit to Beijing in 1988 and sent P.N. Haksar as his special envoy on a "secret mission" to make sure Beijing was keen to welcome him. Mr. Haksar, a seasoned political strategist who served as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, had extensive talks with top Chinese leaders in May 1987 and on his return told Mr. Gandhi that there was "genuine interest" among the Chinese leadership for him to visit Beijing...

### **China, US to resume military consultations Taipei Times, 16 February 2009**

China and the US will resume military consultations this month that were postponed last year when Washington announced a planned weapons sale to Taiwan, state media said yesterday. The defense consultations will be held in Beijing on Feb. 27 and Feb. 28, the People's Daily reported on its Web site, citing an unnamed official with the US Department of Defense...

**Editorial: Taiwanese are not Chinese sheep  
Taipei Times, 16 February 2009**

International pundits chomping at the bit for something provokingly sensational to declare in past years have said that the 21st century would be China's century. Power-hungry Chinese searching for the wish fulfillment of their dreams will champion this slogan. And even average Chinese long-suffering from their own self-inflicted humiliations will hopefully proclaim that yes, this is their century...

**EU Ambassador: Wen's visit re-establishes confidence on partnership  
People's Daily, 16 February 2009**

China and the European Union have sent a clear message to each other and to the rest of the world stating that their strategic partnership will continue and grow, said Mr. Serge Abou, EU Ambassador to China. He also stressed that he has not seen "any basic issue" that would prevent the development of the partnership. Mr. Abou made those comments in an exclusive interview with People's Daily Online on Feb. 10 about Chinese Premier Wen's "trip of confidence" to Europe from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2...

**Tibetan official calls on Buddhist circles to firmly safeguard national, ethnic unity**

**People's Daily, 16 February 2009**

A high-ranking official in Tibet Monday called on the Buddhist circles in the region to firmly safeguard national unity and ethnic unity. Losang Gyaltzen, head of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Tibet Regional Committee, made the remarks about a month ahead of the one year anniversary of the March 14 riot in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region...

**News Analysis: A case of mistaken identity  
The Hindu, 17 February 2009**

Is the current financial meltdown poetic justice for all those pundits who prophesied the "coming collapse of China?" Ever since China began to experience spectacular growth in the last three decades, some business scholars have been on a mission to declare this growth a sham. The logic is that all those jazzy buildings, airports, and roads were built on debt from state-owned enterprises with little transparency and accountability...

**China, US militaries will resume dialogue**

**The Asian Age, 17 February 2009**

Beijing: Suspended contacts between the US and Chinese militaries will resume later this month shortly after a visit by newly appointed US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, Chinese state media reported on Monday. US officials say China suspended most military dialogue with Washington after the Bush administration approved a \$6.5 billion arms package to Taiwan last October that included guided missiles and attack helicopters...

**Chinese president vows to enhance ties with Africa  
People's Daily, 17 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday called on China and Africa to enhance mutual trust and political, economic and trade ties. China is ready to have closer high-level

exchanges with African countries and strengthen strategic dialogue through various consultation mechanisms, Hu said in a key-note speech at a welcoming rally attended by people from various sectors...

**Chinese VP predicts beautiful future of China-Colombia co-op  
People's Daily, 17 February 2009**

Visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping proposed a beautiful future of China-Colombia mutually beneficial cooperation at a breakfast meeting in Bogota on Monday morning. Xi said at the breakfast meeting with entrepreneurs from both sides that efforts should be made together as to elevate the bilateral ties of economy and commerce towards new altitude...

**Editorial: Ma's 'truce' is working — for Beijing  
Taipei Times, 17 February 2009**

The truce is working. President Ma Ying-jeou's water-under-the-bridge approach to relations with Beijing is paying dividends. Cross-strait tensions are easing. Repeat these things often enough, add a dose of wishful thinking, and they may start to have a ring of truth to them. The problem, however, is that Ma's strategy is failing. Deplorably. So far the only indication that rapprochement may be paying dividends is the possibility that Beijing could allow Taiwan to obtain observer status at the World Health Assembly...

**Editorial: Taiwan's democratic test continues  
Taipei Times, 17 February 2009**

Since shedding authoritarian rule two decades ago, Taiwan has achieved commendable progress in democracy. On a recent visit, however, it was clear that while democracy continues to flourish, a number of serious concerns have arisen that threaten to shake public confidence in the country's democratic institutions...

**China gets ready for military dialogue with US  
The Asian Age, 18 February 2009**

Beijing: The China-United States military dialogue, which earlier suffered a setback due to the India-US nuclear deal and Washington's decision to sell arms to Taiwan, is set to begin again. The resumption of military talks by the Barack Obama administration has wide ranging implications for India and other countries in the region...

**Chinese president says African visit produces new consensus  
People's Daily, 18 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Sunday said he reached new consensus with African leaders during his ongoing visit to the continent. "During my African visit, I had in-depth discussions with leaders of related countries on bilateral relations and issues of common concern, and we reached a number of new and important consensus," Hu said while giving an interview to Tanzanian State Television and Hong Kong-based

Phoenix TV...

**Editorial Comment: Calling On China**  
**The Times of India, 18 February 2009**

It isn't destination Europe for US secretary of state Hillary Clinton on her first overseas trip. Bypassing tradition, she touches base in Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and China. Clinton recently said Asia and America must work together on issues ranging from terrorism and food security to the current economic crisis. Asia is on America's foreign policy radar as much for geoeconomic as for geopolitical reasons...

**Former ambassador to France: Tibet issue is not the core of China-France problems**

**People's Daily, 18 February 2009**

Recently China-France relations have dropped to a low point, and China is not to blame. However, in reality, the "honeymoon period" between the two countries was not that long ago. Wu Jianmin, currently a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University and the honorary president of the International Exhibitions Bureau, and the Chinese ambassador to France during the honeymoon period, has much to say with regards to issues including China-France relations...

**China, Russia ink agreements to boost energy co-op**

**People's Daily, 18 February 2009**

China and Russia on Tuesday signed seven agreements on a package cooperation program for energy resources. The agreements include a pipeline construction project, a long-term crude oil trading deal and a financing scheme between the China Development Bank and the Russia Oil Pipeline Transport Company, according to a source with the Chinese Foreign Ministry...

**Chinese vice president arrives in Venezuela for official visit**

**People's Daily, 18 February 2009**

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping arrived midday on Tuesday in Caracas for an official visit to Venezuela. In a written speech issued at Simon Bolivar International Airport, Xi said that he came to strengthen friendship, amplify consensus, deepen cooperation and to promote development. He said that with his visit the China-Venezuela strategic partnership for common development is expected to obtain further advance...

**Chinese president's Africa tour gives fresh impetus to traditional friendship**

**People's Daily, 18 February 2009**

After a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning Feb. 10, Chinese President Hu Jintao started an Africa tour aimed at enhancing China's friendship with developing countries in the region. The trip, which took Hu to Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Mauritius from Feb. 12 to 17, has given new impetus to the traditional friendship between China and Africa...

**China innovates on job front**

**The Hindu, 19 February 2009**

Beijing: China is finding new ways to provide jobs for the country's millions of college graduates, even as vacancies are getting slashed under the current financial crisis. New measures include encouraging graduates to work in rural areas and in smaller firms and giving financial support to start their own businesses, according to a circular issued by the general office of the State Council...

**Hu's Mauritius?**

### **The Indian Express, 19 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao wrapped up his African tour by breezing in and out of the Indian Ocean island state, Mauritius, this week. Given the reputation of Mauritius as Asia's financial gateway to Africa, Hu's visit would seem a routine one. The Chinese president's sojourn in Mauritius, however, is anything but ordinary. It underlines Beijing's relentless thrust to secure a permanent naval foothold in the western Indian Ocean...

### **China warns Tibet clergy against demonstrations The Times of India, 19 February 2009**

Beijing: A Communist Party official in Tibet has warned Buddhist clergy against political activity in the run-up to the first anniversary of last year's massive anti-government protests. The warning from Lobsang Gyaincain, published in the official Tibet Daily on Thursday, followed a reported crackdown earlier this week on Tibetan protesters in Lihang, a volatile traditionally Tibetan region of Sichuan province...

### **India says China ties Nepal internal matter The Asian Age, 19 February 2009**

Kathmandu: Describing Nepal's growing closeness with China as the "internal affair" of the Himalayan state, India on Wednesday said it wanted to deepen its "constructive" ties with Kathmandu as the two sides shared "strong common interest" for peace and stability in the region. Wrapping up his two-day surprise visit to Nepal, foreign secretary Shivshankar Menon said that issues relating to security were not the major focus of his trip here...

### **Czech Ambassador: our long ties help EU policy making on China People's Daily, 19 February 2009**

As a member of European Union taking the EU presidency for the first time, the Czech Republic has "much to offer" on formulating EU policy towards China due to the two countries long relationship, said Dr. Vitezslav Grepl, Czech Ambassador in Beijing in a recent interview with People's Daily. The Czech Republic holds the EU presidency for the first half of the year...

### **Ma reassures on plans for China cooperation pact Taipei Times, 19 February 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday promised to make good on his campaign promises, stressing that if a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement were signed between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, there would be no influx of Chinese workers, imports of agricultural products from China would not increase and Chinese students would not be permitted to obtain professional licenses in Taiwan...

### **Op-Ed: All that glitters is not sold The Indian Express, 20 February 2009**

Those who lived through the brief but brutal border war with China in the high Himalayas in 1962 still remember the trauma it caused. But most of them seem to have forgotten a very significant but, alas, aborted offshoot of it. What appeared on the Indian scene like the wind and disappeared like the whirlwind was the Gold Control Order through which the Nehru Government unsuccessfully tried to weaken — no one could dream of eliminating it — this country's age-old addiction to the yellow metal...

### **'United States, China consider naval pact' The Asian Age, 20 February 2009**

Hong Kong: The US commander in the Pacific said China and the United States have

started work on an agreement designed to avoid an accidental confrontation at sea, according to a report on Thursday. Admiral Timothy Cheating], asked about a potential accord with China similar to a Cold War agreement between Washington and Moscow, told reporters in Hong Kong there were "nascent initiatives" already underway to "address that very issue"...

**Op-Ed: Let's prepare to meet the Chinese in India's ocean**  
**The Asian Age, 20 February 2009**

While Vasco da Gama's journey to Calicut in 1498 is well-known, few are aware of the legendary Chinese Admiral Zheng He who was accorded a sea-burial off Calicut in 1433, on his seventh and final voyage to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Admiral Zheng He opened the "sea silk route" from China to Europe when he made seven voyages — from 1405 to 1433, along with 27,000 merchants and sailors, in 317 heavily-armed sailing ships laden with goods — to the East African coast, via Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Malacca Straits (where he destroyed 5,000 pirates), Sri Lanka, India (Calicut), Iran and Aden...

**Chinese vice president meets with Venezuelan president**  
**People's Daily, 20 February 2009**

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez agreed to boost bilateral cooperation during a meeting on Wednesday. During talks with Chavez, Xi said that this year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Venezuela. He called 2009 a great chance to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation between the two countries...

**China lodges urgent representation again to Russia on cargo ship sinking**  
**People's Daily, 20 February 2009**

China on Thursday again lodged urgent representations to the Russian Minister Counsellor to China in regards to the sinking of a Chinese cargo ship in Russian waters. The Sierra Leone-flagged vessel named "New Star" sank off the waters near Russia's far-eastern port of Vladivostok on Sunday. Seven Chinese crew members were still missing...

**Editorial: Eliminate conflicts of interest in China talks**  
**Taipei Times, 20 February 2009**

Last month, Taiwan's exports dropped by 44.1 percent compared with the same period last year. This included a 58.6 percent decrease in exports to China and Hong Kong, twice the drop in exports to the US. This is the result of being overly reliant on China economically and vindicates former president Lee Teng-hui's "no haste, be patient" policy...

**Editorial: Clinton can usher in real change**  
**Taipei Times, 20 February 2009**

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is off to China. Her decision to make her first overseas trip to Asia, particularly China, was a smart one and, if done with aplomb, could yield enormous returns for the administration of US President Barack Obama as it attempts to re-establish world leadership. That Clinton chose to go to Asia now, when the US State Department remains unsettled — with no ambassador in Beijing,

many old officials having departed or leaving, and many new appointees still unseated — attests to her determination to stake out Asia as her own area...

**Chinese VP proposes efforts to boost cooperation with Brazil**  
**People's Daily, 20 February 2009**

Visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping Thursday lauded his country's ties with Brazil and proposed efforts to expand cooperation with the South American nation. Brazil was the first developing nation to establish a strategic partnership with China, Xi said during talks with Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, special envoy of ailing Vice President Jose Alencar Gomes da Silva...

**Hillary Clinton vows to expand cooperation with China**  
**The Times of India, 21 February 2009**

Beijing: US secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday met Chinese leader for talks that were expected to focus on the global economy, climate change and other international issues...

**Zardari on 4-day trip to China**  
**The Asian Age, 21 February 2009**

Islamabad: Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari left on Friday on a four-day official visit to China with a compact delegation aimed at enhancing ties in trade, agriculture and energy sectors, officials said, reports our Pakistan correspondent. This will be President Zardari's second visit to China in four months and is expected to ink agreements and memorandum of understandings to boost cooperation in these vital sectors...

**China says Russia's attitude on cargo ship incident "unacceptable"**  
**People's Daily, 21 February 2009**

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official on Friday said that Russia's attitude on the sinking of a Chinese cargo ship in Russian waters is unacceptable. Zhang Xiyun, director-general of the Department of European-Central Asian Affairs of the ministry, lodged representations Friday afternoon to Russian Minister Counselor to China Morgulov Igor in regards to the incident...

**Feature: The danger in national abnormality**  
**Taipei Times, 21 February 2009**

Modus vivendi remains the unwavering strategy of President Ma Ying-jeou's administration on cross-strait issues — to the point of brushing aside the diplomatic reality. In an exclusive interview with the Taipei Times on Wednesday, Ma dismissed the idea that Taiwan should be considered anything but a normal country...

**Liu apologizes over economy**  
**Taipei Times, 21 February 2009**

Premier Liu Chao-shiuan's administrative report at the opening of the new legislative session was delayed until late yesterday afternoon after Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) legislators surrounded him and demanded he apologize to the public for the nation's poor economic performance. Liu later agreed to apologize...

**CPC warns of "austere and complicated" year**  
**The Hindu, 24 February 2009**

Beijing: The ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) said on Monday the country would launch a comprehensive economic package to tackle an "austere and complicated" year ahead. "We will increase large-scale government investment, implement and readjust a plan to revive industries, make great efforts to boost innovations, and greatly enhance the level of social security," said a press release issued after a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

**Hillary avoids Tibet on 1st China visit**  
**The Asian Age, 24 February 2009**

Chicago: Wanting China to continue to fund US debt, secretary of state Hillary Clinton avoided any public assertion over of Tibet and human rights during her first two-day visit to China which ended on Sunday. At a time when the US economy is at breaking point, stepping on the toes of the largest holder of US government debt is so obviously counter-productive that Ms Clinton had no choice but to sidestep the two issues.

**Communist Party leadership warns of "austere" year for China**  
**People's Daily, 24 February 2009**

The ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) said Monday the country will launch a comprehensive economic package to tackle an "austere and complicated" year ahead. "We will increase large-scale government investment, implement and readjust a plan to revive industries, make great efforts to boost innovations, and greatly enhance the level of social security," said a press release issued after a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

**Multinational corporations still confident to invest in China's economy**  
**People's Daily, 24 February 2009**

Due to the global financial crisis, many multinational corporations (MNC) are suffering from sharp contraction, with some of the enterprises these MNCs established in China encountering certain challenges. On February 21, the Vice Premier of China's State Council presided with a symposium for foreign-funded enterprises held by the State Council in Shenzhen.

**Sound, stable growth forecast**  
**People's Daily, 24 February 2009**

The central bank said yesterday that China's economic growth would likely remain "sound and stable" despite projections the global economy would continue weakening. In the short term, however, the country faces deflation risks and continued downward pressure on economic growth, the People's Bank of China's monetary policy report said. Covering the fourth quarter of last year, the report was published on the bank's website yesterday.

**Editorial: Ma ignores the fears of millions**  
**Taipei Times, 24 February 2009**

President Ma Ying-jeou is a man on a mission. Or rather, the unelected powers behind

the throne are on a mission, and anything that stands in their way is either ignored or dispensed with. Proof of this mindset came from the horse's mouth last Wednesday when, asked whether the government should hold a referendum on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with China, he said: "We simply cannot hold a referendum because some people are against a government initiative."

**Editorial: Dependency theory with a new twist in Taiwan  
Taipei Times, 24 February 2009**

Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Chiang Pin-kung said recently that dependence on China is not a bad thing and what should really worry us is that China might not allow Taiwan to depend on it. As irritating as this statement may be, it exposes the focus of the government's policies: a determination to depend on China in the hope of gaining economic benefits. In the past, dependency theory was used by the political left to describe how imperialism relied on a core-periphery relationship of exploitation and economic colonization.

**Hu: Hardships and opportunities amid global financial crisis  
People's Daily, 25 February 2009**

Chinese President Hu Jintao has called for greater awareness of both hardships and opportunities presented by the global financial crisis in order to offset the impacts of the crisis. In a speech to the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau on Tuesday, Hu said China must be prepared for the most difficult and complicated situations in the world economy and meanwhile make good use of or create development opportunities amid the transformation of international and domestic conditions.

**Exhibition on Democratic Reform in Tibet opens in Beijing  
People's Daily, 25 February 2009**

An exhibition titled "Democratic Reform in the Tibet Autonomous Region" opened in Beijing Tuesday. Liu Yunshan, member of both of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said at the opening that the exhibition showed Tibet is an inseparable part of China.

**Chinese business delegation arrives in Berlin on European procurement tour  
People's Daily, 25 February 2009**

A business delegation of about 200 Chinese entrepreneurs arrived in Berlin Tuesday night, starting their four-state procurement tour in Europe. The delegation, led by Commerce Minister Chen Deming and composed of state-owned, joint venture and private companies from various industries, are expected to sign deals of purchasing automobiles, machinery, aircraft engines, railway equipment and components with companies from Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Britain.

**China opposes U.S. commitment to Taiwan Relations Act  
People's Daily, 25 February 2009**

China voiced strong dissatisfaction and lodged solemn representations to the United States regarding a resolution by some U.S. Congress members who called for marking the 30th anniversary of the so-called Taiwan Relations Act. "Despite China's clear opposition, a handful of representatives from the U.S. Congress insisted on proposing a resolution to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu in a press release Wednesday.

**Foreign minister heads to China to discuss North's 'missile issue'**

**The Chosun Ilbo, 25 February 2009**

South Korea's foreign minister was set to discuss North Korea with his Chinese counterpart yesterday, as Pyongyang raised fears of a new missile test by saying it was about to launch a satellite. Yu Myung-hwan flew to Beijing for talks on North Korea's "nuclear and missile issues" with officials including Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, he said.

**Pretend you're a Westerner****The Indian Express, 26 February 2009**

Those living in the countryside have been hit hardest by China's economic slowdown. Yet the media show pictures of gleeful farmers buying televisions and fridges. Since February 1st all China's more than 200m rural households have been eligible for a government-financed discount on such purchases. From next month they will be entitled to subsidised cars as well. Unfortunately, glee is very confined. The Government has expressed great hopes for rural spenders as a new engine of economic growth.

**Opinion: US cozies up to China, Taliban, isolates India****The Asian Age, 26 February 2009**

No one doubts that the centrepiece of Hillary Clinton's swing through Asia — her first as secretary of state in the Obama administration — was China. True, Japan was her first port of call to assure it of the abiding nature of America's traditional alliance, Indonesia was thrown in for its symbolism and the South Korean stop was to try to get to grips with the North Korean stalemate.

**China, Germany sign procurement deals worth around 11 bln euros****People's Daily, 26 February 2009**

A Chinese business delegation, led by Commerce Minister Chen Deming, signed here on Wednesday a total of 37 procurement deals worth around 11 billion euros (14 billion U.S. dollars) with German companies. According to Chen, the 37 deals are composed of two parts -- purchasing contracts, and cooperation agreements which need further negotiations. A Chinese business delegation, led by Commerce Minister Chen Deming, signed here on Wednesday a total of 37 procurement deals worth around 11 billion euros (14 billion U.S. dollars) with German companies. According to Chen, the 37 deals are composed of two parts -- purchasing contracts, and cooperation agreements which need further negotiations.

**Editorial: A CECA needs thorough debate****Taipei Times, 26 February 2009**

The government's proposed comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) with China continues to make headlines as opposition parties and activists condemn the plan and vow to take to the streets or try to recall the president if the government presses ahead with signing it. Amid all the furor, however, government officials have done little to provide the public with information about the proposal. In fact, they have often contradicted one another.

**Editorial: Taiwan may be left out in the cold****Taipei Times, 26 February 2009**

The conflict between the government and the opposition over the signing of a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) with China may soon reach a

point when it is necessary to lay all cards on the table. President Ma Ying-jeou has not offered a complete policy evaluation and plan for the CECA since proposing it during the presidential campaign. The lack of a consensus between the government and the opposition has allowed some government officials to explain the concept as they see fit, which has both clouded the debate and increased its emotional intensity.