

The Hindu, 1 April 2008

Hu launches Olympic torch relay

Beijing: Chinese President Hu Jintao lit a cauldron in Beijing's Tiananmen Square with the Olympic torch on Monday, marking the official start of the round-the-world relay. The ceremony kicked off in the square in the heart of Beijing two hours after a special chartered Air China plane carrying the flame from Greece touched down. People dressed in colourful costumes performed acrobatics, danced and displayed their martial arts skills to mark the arrival of the torch, 130 days ahead of the Olympic Games...

The Hindu, 1 April 2008

CPI(M) for talks between China and the Dalai Lama

Coimbatore: Agreeing with the India's stand, which recognises Tibet as part of China as an autonomous region, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Monday favoured dialogue between China and representatives of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, for sorting out their differences on the issue. "We want discussions between China and representatives of the Dalai Lama, provided it does not go outside the framework of an united China," CPI (M) general secretary Prakash Karat told journalists on the third day of the 19th party Congress here...

The Indian Express, 1 April 2008

China say i?'s open to talks with Dalai Lama

Beijing: Facing mounting international flak for the crackdown on Lhasa, China on Monday gave first signs of softening its stand by asking the Dalai Lama to use his "influence" to stop violence in Tibet and said the "channels" for dialogue with him are "always open". "The channels for dialogue between the Chinese government and Dalai Lama are always open," Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said during a visit to Laos, as the Olympic flame arrived here on Monday under tight security arrangements to thwart Tibetan protests...

The Indian Express, 1 April 2008

Centre reviews security for Olympics torch

New Delhi: With little over a fortnight to go before the Beijing Olympics torch reaches New Delhi, the Centre on Monday initiated steps to put a foolproof security plan in place. A high-level review meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta discussed a variety of security measures. This is believed to include a suggestion to avoid a large public gathering - possibly even go in for a token ceremony - during the flame's passage in India to prevent demonstrations by Tibetan protestors...

The Asian Age, 1 April 2008

Dalai accused of abusing religion

Beijing: China has stepped up attacks on the Dalai Lama, blasting him for abusing religion, stirring protests in Tibet and preparing for independence as the Olympic flame arrived in Beijing on Monday under tight security. The scorn aimed at Tibet's exiled spiritual leader indicated that Beijing was digging in its heels in the face of mounting pressure from abroad to engage in dialogue with the Nobel Peace Prize winner. That pressure follows more than two weeks of protests and suppression in Tibetan-populated

areas of China...

The Asian Age, 1 April 2008

China: Evidence proves Dalai's role

Beijing: China has published an anonymous confession from a Tibetan protester as part of a dossier of "evidence" it says proves that the Dalai Lama and his allies were behind the recent deadly unrest in Tibet. The official Xinhua news agency released a nearly 2,000-word article it said proved that the Tibetan spiritual leader and his government-in-exile were behind the protests against China's rule of the Himalayan region. The first piece of evidence, released late on Sunday on Xinhua's English service, was "an insider's confession"...

People's Daily, 1 April 2008

Dalai Lama tells lies again

The 14th Dalai Lama has been quite busy recently, giving speeches everywhere with whatever words or remarks occurring to him and, of course, with a lot of sheer lies. "I guarantee to the Han Chinese countrymen that I definitely do not attempt to separate (secede) Tibet," he said. On April 8, 2007, however, the same Dalai told an India TV station that Tibet was a fait accompli independent state about half a century ago...

Taipei Times, 1 April 2008

Editorial: Beijing performs mass hypnotism

The global media's lack of understanding of the complexities involved in the Taiwan Strait, its carelessness with historical facts or, worse, its ideological, commercial and political beliefs, have often led wire agencies and the news organizations that depend on them to take a position that, wittingly or not, benefited China and belittled Taiwan. The instances of abuse are rife and repetitious, including -- but sadly not limited to -- the contention that Taiwan and China "split in 1949 after a civil war," that Taiwan is a "breakaway province" waiting to be "reunited with the mainland," that it is a "competitor" to China, or that President Chen Shui-bian and the Democratic Progressive Party are nothing but "troublemakers," "splittists," "extremists" or responsible for the "terrible" state of the economy in the past eight years...

Taipei Times, 1 April 2008

Editorial: A greater mandate for civil society

There is no denying the fact that Taiwan is a divided society and a fragile democracy. Although the presidential election ended peacefully, one would be hard pressed to see it as symbolic of a mature democratic system and culture. Since the turn of the millennium and possibly because of pressure from China, Taiwan has just barely been able to hold itself together with the help of "shared interests"...

Taipei Times, 1 April 2008

Editorial: Making Taiwan more competitive

Standards of living and economic issues were key to the presidential election victory of the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) Ma Ying-jeou and Vincent Siew. The new government's biggest commitment to the general public, Ma has said, will be

resuscitating the economy, solving unemployment and creating equal wealth distribution. Although Taiwan in recent years has experienced average economic growth of 4.8 percent, this growth has occurred mainly in the export-oriented electronics industry...

Taipei Times, 1 April 2008

Editorial: Time for the nationalists to repackage the ideology

There is no doubt that the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is a nationalist party. During the 1990s, the party had two roads to choose from: the social democratic one toward a welfare state, or Taiwanese nationalism. The DPP chose the latter and remains uncertain on the former. However, the DPP is not a full-fledged nationalist party. Taiwanese nationalism, which was an important factor behind the party's accession to power, is now one of its heaviest burdens...

The Hindu, 2 April 2008

India asks Dalai Lama to refrain from political activities

New Delhi: India has asked the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, not to engage in political activities that could hurt the country's ties with China, media reports said on Tuesday. "Dalai Lama is a religious leader. India will render all the hospitality to him as he is a respectable guest, he will have full freedom to preach religion in India but he can't conduct any political activity in this country that harms India-China ties," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in remarks broadcast on TV channels...

The Hindu, 2 April 2008

BJP's assurance to Chinese envoy

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party does not wish to mix politics and sports, and it will not pressure the United Progressive Alliance government to boycott the Olympics in Beijing. At the same time BJP president Rajnath Singh, at an hour-long meeting with Chinese ambassador Zhang Yan here on Tuesday, made it clear that his party was anguished by reports of violence in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet and was of the view that the problem could be resolved only through dialogue, not the use of force...

The Indian Express, 2 April 2008

Op-Ed: Dalai Lama's Han outreach

Although international support for the Tibetan cause might be welcome, the Dalai Lama knows he cannot win autonomy from Beijing without significant political support inside China. The Dalai Lama is not merely the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. He has considerable following among the many Chinese practitioners of Buddhism. Reaching out to the Chinese citizens in an open letter last week, the Dalai Lama said, "As a simple monk who strives to live his daily life according to Buddhist precepts, I assure you of the sincerity of my motivation"...

The Indian Express, 2 April 2008

Editorial: Bhutia strikes goal

Bhaichung Bhutia scored a goal for all freethinking Indians as he refused to carry the Olympic torch through Delhi, protesting against the Chinese treatment of Tibetans. This, he said, was his way of standing by the people of Tibet and their struggle, and his

abhorrence of violence in any form. Some may disagree with him, and in an open society they are absolutely entitled to. But Bhutia's action underlines a new phenomenon in India. An Indian public figure who speaks his mind is a rarity in our bland, inoffensive and ideologically blank celebrity culture...

The Asian Age, 2 April 2008

China fears 'suicide attacks' by tibetans

Beijing: China on Tuesday accused the Tibetan independence forces of planning to use suicide squads to trigger bloody attacks. The accusation is the latest in a series from the Chinese officials blaming the recent violence and unrest in Tibet on the followers of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. "To our knowledge, the next plan of the Tibetan independence forces is to organise suicide squads to launch violent attacks," Public Security Bureau spokesman Wu Heping said on Tuesday, adding, "They claimed that they fear neither bloodshed nor sacrifice"...

The Times of India, 2 April 2008

Editorial: Hurdles on the Way

The Olympic torch has just begun its worldwide run but it appears that it won't be a smooth one. There were protests in Ancient Olympia where pro-Tibet demonstrators breached security and disrupted the lighting of the flame, and it looks like there is more trouble around the bend. Pro-Tibet activists in London, Paris and San Francisco - to name a few - have made it clear that they will register their dissent when the torch runs through their cities. What started off as murmurs of protest is now gaining voice...

People's Daily, 2 April 2008

China publishes evidences of Dalai clique's masterminding of riots

China's Ministry of Public Security said on Tuesday that it had gathered sufficient evidence showing that March 14 riots in Lhasa was not isolated or accidental but was part of the "Tibetan People's Uprising Movement" plotted by the Dalai clique. Solid facts showed that the unrest in Lhasa, the capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, was organized, premeditated, masterminded and instigated by the Dalai clique and its "Tibet independence" forces, the ministry said...

Taipei Times, 2 April 2008

Editorial: Is Beijing playing the West - again?

As dozens of protesting monks interrupted a group of foreign journalists being escorted through Lhasa last Thursday, one thing was made amply clear: Despite what China says, the situation in Tibet is not under control. Once again, Beijing is devastating its own credibility a la "SARS 2003" by denying any legitimate causes for discontent and depicting Tibetan unrest as unprovoked "terrorist" attacks coordinated by the Dalai Lama...

Taipei Times, 2 April 2008

Editorial: Will localization take a back seat?

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou defeated the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Frank Hsieh by more than 2.2 million votes in the

March 22 election. This was a major setback for the DPP and could be a major blow to Taiwan's self-awareness movement. But does this mean that the localization movement will be demoralized? This is hard to determine in the short term and needs close monitoring. It will also depend on how the localization movement is perceived from an East Asian and a global perspective...

The Hindu, 3 April 2008

Opinion: How China sees the Dalai Lama and his cause

With tensions in Tibet continuing to bubble, pundits and politicians in both India and the West are increasingly calling for talks between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama. One argument supporting the utility of talks between the Chinese leadership and the pre-eminent Tibetan Buddhist leader reasons that contrary to the dominant belief in Beijing, the Dalai Lama is in fact China's best bet for a long-term and stable solution to the Tibet issue...

The Indian Express, 3 April 2008

After Tibet, Beijing troubled by Muslim unrest

Shanghai: Chinese officials said on Wednesday that they were grappling with ethnic unrest on a second front, in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where Uighur Muslims protested Chinese rule late last month even as Tibetans rioted in the southwest. One Uighur demonstration, which appears to have been quickly suppressed, took place in the town of Khotan on March 23, at the same time China was deploying thousands of security forces across a broad swath of its southwest to put down Tibetan unrest...

The Asian Age, 3 April 2008

Dalai appeals for end to 'crackdown'

New Delhi: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Wednesday appealed for international pressure on Beijing to halt what he alleged was a mounting Chinese military crackdown in his homeland. "Chinese authorities have deployed large contingents of troops in these traditional Tibetan regions and have not only started to crackdown heavily on the Tibetans allegedly involved in the unrest, but also sealed-off the areas where protests have taken place," he said in a statement...

The Times of India, 3 April 2008

China jails pro-Tibet rights activist

Beijing: A dissident critical of China's Tibet policy was jailed for three-and-a-half years on Thursday, a sentence that is likely to draw more international criticism of the country's political controls ahead of the Beijing Olympics. The Beijing Number One Intermediate People's Court found human rights activist Hu Jia, 34, guilty of "inciting subversion of state power" for criticising the ruling Communist Party, his lawyers said...

The Times of India, 3 April 2008

Pranab allays China's fears on Tibet

Beijing: For the second time in less than a week, China has briefed India on the Tibet issue and said New Delhi has assured it that it would not tolerate any political anti-Beijing activities by Tibetans on the Indian territory. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang

Jiechi spoke over phone to his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee and exchanged views on bilateral relations, explaining Beijing's "principled stand" on the Dalai Lama issue, the state media said...

People's Daily, 3 April 2008

Lhasa protests are planned violence, says Indian professor

Recent protests in Tibet were brilliantly timed to draw the international attention given that few months are left till the commencement of Beijing Olympics on 8th August, 2008, according to an article on the website of the Russian Strategic Culture Foundation. The article, entitled "Tibet in Turmoil", has been contributed by Arun Mohanty (India), a noted professor at the Russia and Asia Issue Study Center affiliated to elite Nehru University in India...

Taipei Times, 3 April 2008

Editorial: DPP: Down but not defeated

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has had almost two weeks to reflect on its showing in last month's presidential election and in that time there has been no shortage of people coming forward with explanations for the loss. From disappointment with the government's achievements, to corruption, to the nation's supposed "lackluster" economic performance, every angle seems to have been considered...

Taipei Times, 3 April 2008

Editorial: DPP shows a dignified response to poll defeat

During Taiwan's recent presidential election, a group of Chinese intellectuals gathered in a hotel in Guangzhou to watch the event on TV. That evening, a writer wrote an article describing the group's feelings. Entitled "Tonight, we are all Taiwanese," the article voiced their admiration and approval of Taiwan's democracy and highlighted two points. First, admiration for the democratic maturity of Taiwanese voters as a large number of ethnic Taiwanese voted for a Mainlander as president, evidence of a mature democratic understanding that doesn't discriminate between ethnicities; and second, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Frank Hsieh's immediate concession of defeat, which it described as "dignified," "unprecedented" and a signal "that Taiwan's democracy is maturing"...

Taipei Times, 3 April 2008

Editorial: Tibetan protests serve as warning to London

You can write much of the script for London 2012 already: the tube strikes, the cost overruns, the security computers that won't work and the Kazakh weightlifters lost in Heathrow Airport's Terminal Five. Factor in the helpings of familiar chaos. But the real problem for the Olympic games we thought we wanted to host is beginning to emerge from the smog over Beijing. Boycotts, boycotts everywhere, and never a pause to think. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has given in already. She won't be going to China this summer, like the Polish prime minister and Czech president...

The Hindu, 4 April 2008

Pranab: safe passage for Olympic torch

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has assured his Chinese counterpart that India will ensure the safe passage of the Olympic torch through the country and not permit any anti-China activity by Tibetans on Indian soil. In a telephonic conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Wednesday evening, Mr. Mukherjee reiterated India's stand that the Tibetan Autonomous Region was part of China and conveyed the view that New Delhi considered the Dalai Lama a religious and spiritual leader...

The Hindu, 4 April 2008

Opinion: From Tibet to China's Tibet: Is history an ally for Tibet?

The recent protests by Tibetans and China's predictable reaction to them have once again brought the question of Tibet into the international limelight. There are heated discussions on ethnic violence, human rights abuses, brutal state policies, China's moral authority to hold the Olympics, the Dalai Lama's authority, good Chinese/bad Tibetans (within China) or bad Chinese/good Tibetans (elsewhere). However, at the back of all these lies the essentially political question of what is Tibet's status vis-a-vis China...

The Indian Express, 4 April 2008

Beijing should be pleased, Delhi set to cut torch route to just 3 safe km

New Delhi: The last time the Olympic torch came to India, it traveled more than 32 km across Delhi. This time it's likely to cover less than one tenth of that distance, thanks to pressure from China which wants the Indian government to ensure there are no protests by Tibetan sympathizers along the relay route. So authorities are said to be strongly in favour of restricting the torch relay to just a three-km distance on the Rajpath, from the Central Gate of Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, a route that security forces will find convenient to sanitise and sequester...

The Asian Age, 4 April 2008

Official: Tibetans were fired at

Beijing: A Chinese official admitted on Thursday that the police had fired on and wounded Tibetan protesters during recent riots, but refused to confirm widespread overseas reports that rioters were shot dead. Xiao Youcai, the deputy-chief of Ngawa prefecture in southwest Sichuan province, told journalists that the police fired on protesters during a March 16 riot there, adding that the riot had been instigated by local Buddhist monks...

The Asian Age, 4 April 2008

China 'appreciates' India's steps

New Delhi: China appreciates the steps taken by India to ensure security of Chinese missions in India and is confident the passage of the Olympic torch through India would be smooth, Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi told minister of external affairs Pranab Mukherjee in a telephonic conversation on Wednesday. The call was at the request of the Chinese side. Mr Yang briefed Mr Mukherjee on the situation in Tibet and expressed his appreciation for India's position. He said, the bilateral relations were enjoying good momentum and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to China had been very successful...

The Times of India, 4 April 2008

Leader Article: Stop Being Bullied

Beijing's provocations against India continue unabated. Arrogant authoritarianism blinds China to counterproductive actions. Surprisingly, India plays into Beijing's hands and compounds the indignities. Recent instances underscore the manner India is being belittled from within. What is discreditable is not that Beijing summoned the Indian ambassador post-midnight, but that the envoy - a distinguished woman diplomat - docilely turned up at the Chinese foreign office at 2 a.m. No host government can compel a foreign diplomat to appear before it at an odd hour, that too in peacetime...

The Times of India, 4 April 2008

Rebellion crushed? Over 1,000 Lhasa protesters in jail

Beijing: More than 1,000 people have either been caught by police or have turned themselves in after deadly unrest in the Tibetan capital Lhasa last month, state media said on Thursday. Lhasa police have seized over 800 "criminals" since the violent March 14 unrest in the city, the Tibet Commerce newspaper reported, citing the deputy chief of the Lhasa communist party, Wang Xiangming. This is nearly double a figure of 414 people caught by police reported by the state media earlier this week...

People's Daily, 4 April 2008

Tibet ready for tourists from May 1

Lhasa: Tibet will be reopened to domestic and foreign tourists from May 1, the region's tourism bureau announced yesterday. Zhanor, a deputy director of the bureau, said both organized tours and independent travelers would be welcome. The Lhasa riots might cast a shadow in the minds of tourists, but the spectacular natural scenery and unique cultural attractions of Tibet would lure an ever-increasing number of tourists from home and abroad, the official said...

People's Daily, 4 April 2008

Dalai Lama has 'never done anything good'

The facts show the Dalai Lama and his backers have been ruining Tibet in the name of religion and human rights, an article in yesterday's Guangming Daily newspaper claimed. Its Tibetan author, Basang Wangdui, is a researcher with the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences. The Dalai Lama and his supporters, representatives of the feudal serf owners of old Tibet, have never done anything good for the Tibetan people in the past 50 years, he said...

People's Daily, 4 April 2008

China urges U.S. to lift export restrictions, reduce trade barriers

China urged the United States here on Thursday to lift export restrictions that affect China and reduce trade and investment barriers to promote bilateral trade relations. "Cooperation in the economic and trade fields is an important basis for Sino-American relations", said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, according to a press release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, during a meeting with visiting U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson...

Taipei Times, 4 April 2008

Report points to surge in PRC missiles

The number of tactical ballistic missiles deployed by China against Taiwan reached more than 1,400 at the end of last year, said the National Security Council (NSC), which said in May 2006 that the figure would rise to more than 800 by the end of that year. An NSC report released on March 26 said that China had more than 190 cruise missiles targeting Taiwan at the end of last year, rising from more than 100 a year before...

Taipei Times, 4 April 2008

Chinese rights activist Hu Jia jailed ahead of Games

A Chinese dissident outspoken on Tibet and other sensitive topics was jailed for three-and-a-half years yesterday, a conviction likely to become a focus of rights campaigns ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Hu Jia, 34, was found guilty of "inciting subversion of state power" for criticizing the Chinese Communist Party, a verdict at which the US expressed dismay. "In this Olympic year, we urge China to seize the opportunity to put its best face forward and take steps to improve its record on human rights and religious freedom," the US embassy said in a statement...

Taipei Times, 4 April 2008

Kurt Campell on Taiwan: Change is hard in Taiwan and US

That the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) Ma Ying-jeou was elected to be the next president reflects a deep and profound interest in political change among the body politic. There is a palpable sense of fatigue and dissatisfaction with the policies of outgoing President Chen Shui-bian and a desire for a change in direction both in policies toward China on the one hand and the US on the other...

The Asahi Shimbun, 4 April 2008

Editorial: Fukuda must speak up

The torch relay for the Beijing Olympics got under way amid strict security. Its purpose is to remind the world that the festivities to celebrate peace are drawing near. But in actual fact, the world is casting an increasingly wary eye on China. The unrest that started in Lhasa in China's Tibet Autonomous Region last month has spread to surrounding areas. Even now, we hear reports of demonstrations and clashes. Hundreds of monks are said to have been detained. What is really happening?...

The Hindu, 5 April 2008

Opinion: Taiwan and the One-China principle

The internationally recognised One-China principle, under which non-sovereign Taiwan belongs to the People's Republic of China (PRC), does negate the legality of the March 22 referendum on the territory's political future. Significantly, however, the outcome of the referendum - an emphatic veto of two overlapping propositions that Taiwan seek re-entry into the United Nations - is a future-setting pointer...

The Indian Express, 5 April 2008

Opinion: Tibet and us

In different ways, Burma, Taslima Nasreen and now Tibet and the Dalai Lama. The apathy of the government of India and all the major Indian political parties to these crises has been most unnerving. Burma and Tibet are not just political crises. Both movements are led by individuals who represent the possibility of moral politics in our times. Aung San Su Kyi and the Dalai Lama represent the power of non-violence. They represent the increasing frayed hope that self-suffering can be transformative...

The Indian Express, 5 April 2008

Editorial: The 3 km leash

If the world needed proof that the Indian government is kept on a tight leash, we have gone and shown them exactly how tight it is. Indian authorities have considerably cut the Olympic torch route in Delhi by more than a tenth of what it was the last time, just in case China's big occasion is disrupted by a bunch of Tibetan agitators. Three kilometres will be the full length of the relay route, and it reveals the extent of the government's self-inflicted humiliation...

The Asian Age, 5 April 2008

Fresh violence erupts in China

Beijing: A fresh eruption of riots in a volatile Tibetan-inhabited region in southwest China has left at least one official seriously injured amid reports that the government would soon commence trials against people allegedly involved in the unrest last month. The new violence broke out last night in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Garze in southwest China's Sichuan province, which was last month also rocked by riots following the fiercest pro-independence protests in two decades in the Tibetan capital Lhasa...

The Asian Age, 5 April 2008

China vows strict punishment

Beijing: Tibetans accused of rioting and protesting against Chinese rule will face swift trials and harsh sentences, the state media said on Friday, vowing that Communist Party-run courts will back a campaign against the Dalai Lama. A Chinese online petition condemning Western reports on the unrest claimed to have attracted close to a million signatures. Tibet's regional capital Lhasa was last month hit by Buddhist monks' protests against Chinese rule that gave way to deadly rioting on March 14, and since then security forces have poured in to reimpose control there and in other restive Tibetan areas...

The Asian Age, 5 April 2008

Op-Ed: Tibet and Burma: Dissimilar Response

There are striking similarities between Tibet and Burma - both are strategically located, endowed with rich natural resources, suffering under long-standing repressive rule, resisting hard power with soft power, and facing an influx of Han settlers. Yet the international response to the brutal crackdown on monk-led protests in Tibet and Burma has been a study in contrast. When the Burmese crackdown on peaceful protesters in Rangoon last September left at least 31 people dead - according to a UN special rapporteur's report - it ignited international indignation and a new round of US-led sanctions....

The Times of India, 5 April 2008

Eight killed during Tibetan protests in China

Beijing: Eight people were killed in unrest at a monastery in southwestern China, the International Campaign for Tibet said, after a skirmish with police in which state media said one official was seriously wounded. Armed police fired on a crowd of locals and monks after some monks at the Tongkor monastery in Donggu township, an ethnically Tibetan area of western Sichuan province, were detained by police following a search for images of the Dalai Lama, the organisation said on its website...

People's Daily, 5 April 2008

CPC urges more loyalty among Party members in Tibetan regions

The Organization Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has urged Party members and officials in Tibetan-inhabited regions to play an active role in maintaining social stability with more loyalty. In a recently released circular to Party organs in the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan-inhabited prefectures and counties, the department asked those organs to learn from last month's riot in Lhasa and increase anti-secession education among Party members and officials at the grass roots level...

Taipei Times, 5 April 2008

Dalai Lama envoy urges PRC to drop Tibet in relay

An envoy of the Dalai Lama urged Beijing to cancel "provocative" plans to run the Olympic torch relay through Tibet, but China promptly dismissed his call yesterday as a bid to sabotage the Games. Meanwhile a report said China would begin putting people on trial this month over the unrest - the biggest challenge to Chinese rule in Tibet in decades - as Beijing has moved to ensure no repeat before the August Olympics...

Taipei Times, 5 April 2008

Editorial: A muzzled press and Beijing's antics

It is an indication of how desperate the Chinese government has become that it should blame the Western media for "distorted reports and coverage" on Tibet. The Associated Press quoted Kuang Weilin, deputy consul-general at the Chinese consulate in New York, as saying on Thursday that the Western media, and CNN and the BBC in particular, had produced "misleading reports and comments, distorted facts and wrong conclusions, wrong judgments"...

Taipei Times, 5 April 2008

Editorial: Ma, Hu, Bush head back to the past

Chinese National Party (KMT) candidate Ma Ying-jeou obtained more than 7 million votes in the presidential election, scoring a big win over Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Frank Hsieh. Having fallen short by 2 million votes, the DPP was, without a doubt, a big loser. Nevertheless, it will soon become clear the biggest winner was the US. Recently there has been a high level of activity from the White House and State Department. US President George W. Bush immediately sent a congratulatory note to Ma upon his victory...

The Hindu, 6 April 2008

Support Green Olympics initiative: Hu

Beijing: Chinese President Hu Jintao and senior leaders took part in a voluntary tree planting activity at the Olympic Forest Park here on Saturday. Top legislator Wu Bangguo, Premier Wen Jiabao, political adviser Jia Qinglin, Li Changchun, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, He Guoqiang, and Zhou Yongkang also planted trees at the park next to the national stadium, main venue of the Beijing Olympic Games. Covering some 680 hectares in the north of Beijing, the park is a major part of the 2008 Olympics infrastructure, which is expected to improve the city's environment and air quality...

The Indian Express, 6 April 2008

Olympic torch: China wants to send security team to India

New Delhi: Despite repeated assurances and a slew of measures from the Indian Government to protect the Olympic torch when it comes to New Delhi on April 17, China is keen on sending an advance security team to India over the next few days to coordinate with the efforts being made by New Delhi to make sure that the relay passes off without any incident. Sources said a team of security personnel from China would work with the Indian authorities and "advise on and oversee" the arrangements made for the security of the torch...

The Indian Express, 6 April 2008

Op-Ed: The world cannot be blind to Tibet's tears

One of the most pleasing sights in the bazaars of Indian cities and towns is that of Tibetans selling their wares, usually woollens or other creations of their honest and hard-working hands. Tibetans live quiet lives, proudly preserving their community identity, zealously adhering to their customs, and remaining deeply devoted to their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. They scrupulously respect the local social milieu in which they live - be it Manali in Himachal Pradesh or Mundagod in north Karnataka, where they have established a wonderful township - and are in turn respected by the locals...

The Asian Age, 6 April 2008

China warns of 're-education' plan

Beijing: China warned on Saturday that it would step up a controversial "re-education" campaign for Tibetans after a fresh protest showed a huge security crackdown had failed to extinguish nearly one month of unrest. The statement in the state-run Tibet Daily newspaper called for Buddhist monks to become Chinese patriots, but activist groups said, the heavy-handed techniques already employed in the campaign were inflaming tensions...

The Asian Age, 6 April 2008

Police firing in Tibetan area kills 8

Beijing: The police fired on hundreds of protesters in a Tibetan area of western China, killing eight people, an overseas activist group said. State media reported that one government official was seriously injured in what it called a riot. Two monks also committed suicide late last month because of government oppression, another Tibetan activist group said on Saturday. The reports indicate that unrest is continuing in China's

Tibetan areas despite a massive security presence in place since violent anti-government demonstrations broke out in mid-March in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, and neighbouring provinces...

The Times of India, 6 April 2008

China insists torch will go through Tibet

Beijing: China's top official in Tibet, rejecting a demand of activists around the world, has insisted that the Beijing Olympics torch relay will pass through the Himalayan region as planned. Zhang Qingli, the most senior Chinese Communist Party official in Tibet, told local leaders that Beijing was in no mood to listen to the demands of demonstrators calling for the route to be changed...

The Times of India, 6 April 2008

China using Sikkim to push Arunachal claim?

New Delhi: China continues to play cat and mouse game in the eastern Himalayas despite having implicitly accepted Sikkim to be a part of India as a quid pro quo for New Delhi's unequivocal recognition of Beijing's claim over Tibet. There have already been already as many as 40 "intrusions" by Chinese troops across the 206-km border between Sikkim and Tibet since January this year, say top sources...

People's Daily, 6 April 2008

Chinese ambassador: Attempts to sabotage Olympic torch relay doomed to failure

Attempts by anti-China elements to harass and disrupt the Olympic torch relay scheduled for next Wednesday in San Francisco are doomed to failure, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Zhou Wenzhong has said. In an exclusive interview with Virginia-based Christian Broadcasting Network on Wednesday, Ambassador Zhou said the Chinese people are earnestly looking forward to the Beijing Olympic Games and making their best efforts with confidence to ensure the success of the event...

Taipei Times, 6 April 2008

Editorial: Think before you leap, Ma

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou's last campaign ad prior to the presidential election used the slogan "We are ready!" The Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) was ready to win, but two weeks after that victory, Ma doesn't seem prepared for the responsibilities he will soon shoulder. To show his willingness to mend US-Taiwan relations, Ma said after his victory that he wanted to visit the US before his inauguration...

The Hindu, 7 April 2008

Protests contradict propaganda on Tibet: Dalai Lama

Dharamshala: Tibetan Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama, said on Sunday that protests in Tibet contradicted the Chinese "propaganda" about people there enjoying a prosperous and contented life and added that the issue "can no longer be neglected." "The Chinese authorities have been making false allegations against me and the Central Tibetan Administration for instigating and orchestrating the recent events in Tibet. These allegations are totally untrue," he said in a statement...

The Indian Express, 7 April 2008

China to launch first of 4 warships for Pak

Islamabad: China is preparing to launch the first of four warships it is building for longtime ally Pakistan, a military spokesman said on Sunday. The F-22 frigate will be launched on Monday at a ceremony in the Chinese port of Shanghai to undergo a series of trials before being commissioned into the Pakistani navy in 2009, navy spokesman Capt. Akbar Naqi said. Under a deal the two countries signed last year, China will provide four frigates to Pakistan...

The Times of India, 7 April 2008

Resolve Tibet unrest peacefully: IOC chief

Beijing: The head of the International Olympic Committee on Monday said he was "very concerned" about unrest in Tibet, but downplayed talk of a boycott of the Beijing Games. "I'm very concerned with the international situation and what's happening in Tibet," Jacques Rogge said on Monday in Beijing. "The torch relay has been targeted. The International Olympic Committee has expressed its serious concern and calls for a rapid peaceful resolution in Tibet," Rogge said in a brief speech at the meetings' opening ceremony...

People's Daily, 7 April 2008

Police: People announced dead by Dalai clique are still alive

At least five people on the death roll given by the Dalai Lama clique after riots in Lhasa and other ethnic Tibetan areas last month have been proven alive or non-existent, police said on Sunday after investigation. The Dalai clique on March 25 released the "names and details of 40 identified people" who "died" in the riots. However, the Lhasa police bureau found five persons on the list with detailed residences were still alive or did not exist at all...

People's Daily, 7 April 2008

China, New Zealand sign FTA pact

China and New Zealand signed a free trade agreement, the first such pact between China and a developed country, on Monday. The deal was inked by Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming and New Zealand Trade Minister Phil Goff. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his New Zealand counterpart Helen Clark attended the signing ceremony after over-one-hour bilateral talks...

Taipei Times, 7 April 2008

London police stop protesters as torch arrives

Pro-Tibet protesters clashed with police and tried to put out the Beijing Olympics flame as the torch was being taken around the British capital yesterday. Police jumped on demonstrators who tried to disrupt the relay in what appeared to be a well-orchestrated protest. Two protesters were arrested as they attempted to extinguish the torch and a third was pushed to the ground as he tried to seize the flame from a British TV presenter taking part in the relay...

Taipei Times, 7 April 2008

Editorial: Taiwan's new leaders must tread carefully

Prior to Taiwan's second transfer of power on May 20, president-elect Ma Ying-jeou has promised to consider non-Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) members for the Judicial Yuan, Examination Yuan and the Control Yuan, and a native Taiwanese to head the Straits Exchange Foundation. This expression of goodwill is an attempt to heal the social rift following a fierce election battle, but That this is not what concerns the pan-green camp...

The Hindu, 8 April 2008

Protests mar torch relay

Paris: There was pandemonium in central Paris on Monday as pro-Tibet activists and members of the NGO Reporters Sans Frontiers launched repeated attacks on the Olympic flame as it made its way, carried by a relay of 80 runners, along the banks of the Seine, taking in landmarks such as the Arc de Triomphe, the Place de la Concorde and Notre Dame cathedral to the Charletty stadium on the southern edge of the city...

The Hindu, 8 April 2008

India Tourism Office opens in China

Beijing: One of central Beijing's iconic buildings, the lipstick-shaped LG Towers, acquired a new occupant on Monday: the first India Tourism Office in China. Inaugurated by Minister for Tourism and Culture Ambika Soni, the new office will attempt to lure an increasing percentage of the 40 million-plus Chinese who travel abroad every year. Last year, India attracted only 68,000 of these. Despite China being India's largest trade partner, Chinese visitors to India in fact make up less than 2 per cent of the total number of foreign visitors to the country...

The Hindu, 8 April 2008

All eyes on Musharraf's China visit

Islamabad: President Pervez Musharraf is beginning a six-day visit to China on April 10 that will include a significant stopover in Urumqi, capital of the restive, Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, which borders Pakistan. The visit is being watched closely at home for more than the bilateral ties between the "all weather" allies. The visit, though planned well in advance, comes at a sensitive time both for China and the Pakistan President....

The Indian Express, 8 April 2008

Autonomous Yashwant defies BJP line, calls for complete freedom for Tibet, Dalai Lama

New Delhi: In a reversal of the party's stand, senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha today demanded "complete freedom" for Tibet. Sinha was External Affairs Minister during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's landmark visit to China in 2003. It was during that visit when Beijing accepted Sikkim as part of India and Vajpayee assured the Chinese leadership that India will not be used by Tibetans for political purposes...

The Indian Express, 8 April 2008

In Tibet season, New Delhi goes to Beijing with a red carpet

Beijing: Setting aside renewed mutual suspicion and shadow-boxing that has dominated

the diplomatic discourse between India and China in recent months, New Delhi launched a cultural and culinary campaign in Beijing today as part of an attempt to woo Chinese tourists across the Himalayas. As Chinese invitees tucked into their murgh malai tikkas, machher jhol and chicken chettinad over Dragon Seal wines and Yanjing beer after an hour-long extravaganza of Indian classical dance and music, officials hoped the charm offensive would dilute traditional prejudices and strengthen the fragile bond between the neighbours...

The Indian Express, 8 April 2008

Column: Concert of continents

As India holds its first Africa summit this week, a juxtaposition with China has become inevitable. The comparative assessment of China and India is now a growth industry - their domestic as well as foreign policies and, more generally, their presumed "rise" in the international system. India's emphasis should be less on avoiding comparisons with China but on differentiating itself from Beijing's policies in Africa that have attracted widespread criticism...

The Asian Age, 8 April 2008

Tibet worries Arunachal

Tawang: The Arunachal Pradesh government is concerned over developments in Tibet and have urged the sizeable Buddhist population in the state to maintain calm. "We are concerned about what is happening in Tibet ... We have ensured that calm prevails in the state," chief minister Dorjee Khandu told a group of visiting reporters here on Sunday. Tawang, the picturesque monastery town surrounded by snow-clad Himalayan peaks, has a dominant Buddhist population known as Monpas, who regard the Dalai Lama as their spiritual head...

The Asian Age, 8 April 2008

300 Tibetans shave heads in protest

New Delhi: Over 300 Tibetans, including 10 women, shaved their heads in protest against the Chinese aggression in Tibet. Around 85 protesters also donated blood on the occasion, said Youdon Aukatsang, member of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile, who also volunteered for the mass tonsure saying, "This was our way of registering protest as we wanted to keep it peaceful." While the Tibetan protesters staged a relay hungerstrike at Jantar Mantar, around 16 members of the Himalayan Parivar, an Indian support group, were arrested by the police at India Gate in the evening when they wanted to take out a candlelight march...

The Asian Age, 8 April 2008

London stir faces ire of China, IOC chief worried

Beijing: China on Monday condemned demonstrations that disrupted the Olympic torch relay in London, and International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Jacques Rogge expressed concern at the protests but said, there was no momentum for a Games boycott. Protesters opposing a security drive in Tibet and demanding the mountain region's independence turned Sunday's London leg of the torch's journey into an obstacle course of angry disruptions, not what China wanted for its "journey of harmony"...

The Times of India, 8 April 2008

Olympic torch row: Govt allays security fears

New Delhi: India is capable and committed to ensuring the safety of the Olympic torch when it travels in New Delhi, minister of state for external affairs Anand Sharma said. He was responding to questions about the security of the Olympic torch relay after reports of protests in London and Paris. Against the backdrop of interruption of the torch relay by Tibetan protestors in London and Paris, India is pulling out all stops to ensure success of the event in New Delhi...

People's Daily, 8 April 2008

China publishes historical records that show Tibet an inalienable part of country

China's State Archives Administration on Monday published historical records that showed Tibet had been under jurisdiction of the central government for more than 700 years since the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). The archives, including 15 official documents about the conferring of titles upon Tibetan officials or about the central government setting up offices in Tibet over history, were published via a video on the administration's website (www.saac.gov.cn)...

People's Daily, 8 April 2008

Commentary: Prejudice cannot take the place of facts

As the truth about Lhasa riots has been brought to light and the violence by Tibet separatists came under condemnation of international community, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others have proposed a resolution, urging the Chinese government to "end its crackdown" in Tibet and "enter into a substantive dialogue" with Dalai Lama. This is a typical example of confusing right with wrong...

People's Daily, 8 April 2008

Chinese FM clarifies reports on Olympic torch relay in Paris

Foreign media reports saying the Olympic torch was forced to be extinguished during the relay in Paris were false, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said early Tuesday morning. The modes of the relay in Paris were temporarily changed to safeguard the security and dignity of the Olympic torch under the circumstances there, Jiang said in a statement released by the ministry...

Taipei Times, 8 April 2008

Editorial: Tibet: China's make-believe world

The amazing thing about the developments in Tibet is that Beijing feels wronged. It feels that the world is ignoring its side of the story. Beijing claims that the uprising in Tibet is the work of a Dalai Lama "clique" through some kind of "remote control" process. Indeed, China senses a conspiracy of sorts to derail the Beijing Olympics. Beijing's make-believe world is made up of multiple contradictions. They can be simultaneously arrogant, suffer from victimization and have a highly charged sense of moral outrage...

The Hindu, 9 April 2008

Rogge confirms move to discuss torch relay

Beijing: International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge confirmed Tuesday that IOC officials would this week discuss the Beijing Games torch relay after disruptive protests in London and Paris. "We are going to of course discuss the torch relay ... we will discuss this and we will see what we have to do now that we have had six or seven legs," Mr. Rogge told reporters...

The Indian Express, 9 April 2008

Meanwhile, on the streets of Beijing, the question: why do they hate us so?

Beijing: The newest attraction in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, overlooking the gates to the Forbidden City, stands a giant electronic clock, guarded by two PLA soldiers on the stately but barricaded stone stairs of the National Museum. Every few minutes, as many Chinese people - men, women, teenagers, and veterans - as tourists stop by to take a picture of the clock with their digital or mobile phone cameras while some prefer to pose with it in the background...

The Indian Express, 9 April 2008

Op-Ed: An unequal equation

The purpose of diplomacy for any country is to project its point of view and protect its national interest. National interest includes every aspect of a nation state, its economy, defence, territorial integrity and self-esteem. Any dialogue, which does not factor in all these issues, cannot reflect sound diplomacy. This point is being made in the context of our responses to China over the last three to four years. The pace at which we have been ceding strategic space to the Chinese ought to have caused alarm...

The Indian Express, 9 April 2008

Print Line: The Olympics and the Torch

Who says Sunday was a shambles? Who says the police were "humiliated"? A triumph, I call it. What are the Olympics about if not persistence, courage and goodwill towards foreigners (in this case Tibetans), and the expression of these qualities through the kind of doughty physical fitness that leaps over barriers and wrestles sinewy opponents? As for the police, they did their job and kept everyone concerned alive...

The Asian Age, 9 April 2008

Tibetans in Northeast protest crackdown

Guwahati: More than 500 Tibetans led by their parliamentarians in-exile Karma Yeshi and Dawa Tsering on Tuesday staged a sit-in hungerstrike against China's crackdown on Tibetan protesters. The Tibetan Solidarity Committee of Northeast which had also organised a protest march recently in Shillong said that the hungerstrike would be followed by a funeral procession to mourn China's massacre in Tibet on Wednesday and a skit show on the present situation in Tibet on Thursday. Besides candlelight vigils, the daily prayers shall be held...

The Times of India, 9 April 2008

No force can stop Olympic torch relay: China

Beijing: The Beijing Olympic organisers vowed on Tuesday that "no force" could stop the Games torch relay, after a wave of protests disrupted its early legs in London and

Paris. "The torch relay will continue its journey with the support of people all over the world," Beijing Olympic organising committee (BOCOG) spokesman Sun Weide told reporters. "No force can stop the torch relay of the Beijing Games" ...

The Times of India, 9 April 2008

'IOC should scrap global torch relays'

Beijing: The Olympic torch relay should be confined to the host country at future games, a senior International Olympic Committee member said on Tuesday, after the Beijing flame encountered serious disruptions in Europe. IOC press commission chief Kevan Gosper said it would be wrong to alter or stop the ongoing 137,000-km Beijing relay after violent protests in London and Paris, but added he believed the IOC should look at scrapping the international leg next time...

People's Daily, 9 April 2008

China FM: Tibet's development "better than ever"

China Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu on Tuesday introduced policies adopted by the central government on Tibet, saying the autonomous region's development was "better than ever". The central government practices a regional ethnic autonomy system in Tibet, and guarantees the democratic rights of Tibetans. As an ethnic minority, Tibetans also enjoy preferential treatment in laws and policies, Jiang told a regular press conference...

Taipei Times, 9 April 2008

Editorial: Beijing's other crackdowns

With the focus on unrest in Tibet, not much has been said about another disturbing development in China - government claims that it had stopped a terrorist attack on an airplane last month and arrested a terror ring that was allegedly planning attacks on the Beijing Olympics. While the news may soon die down - largely unnoticed in the shadow of the Free Tibet debate - the allegations have serious repercussions for the population of China's largest province, Xinjiang...

Taipei Times, 9 April 2008

Editorial: First China must keep its promises

The day after Ma Ying-jeou won the presidential election, he announced he would accept the "one China with each side having its own interpretation" framework. Three days later, the Xinhua news agency reported on the discussion between Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President George W. Bush on the so-called "1992 consensus." The English version of the report contained the phrase "one China, different interpretations," while the Chinese version only mentioned the "one China" principle...

Taipei Times, 9 April 2008

Editorial: KMT must make its government

Taiwan's first transition of power in 2000 was significant in two ways: First, voters were able to elect their own leader. Second, another lineup of people entered the government service. Because of power struggles between the two major political parties in the wake of the transition of power and the incitement of some sectors of the media, in the past

eight years the authority of the government has been challenged, and supervision of governmental powers has changed since the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) authoritarian era...

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 9 April 2008

Editorial: Dialogue the only cure for torch, Tibet unrest

The Olympic torch relay for this summer's Games has been marred by the actions of pro-Tibet demonstrators. Protests against the Chinese government's crackdown in Tibet look set to escalate as the torch continues on its path toward Beijing. To successfully carry out the Games - an event of peace - the Chinese government must restart talks with the exiled Tibet government...

The Asahi Shimbun, 9 April 2008

Point Of View/ Satoshi Hirano: Tibet Unrest Shows Limits Of China's National Integration

It has been nearly a month since demonstrations by Buddhist monks in Lhasa, the capital of China's Tibet Autonomous Region, developed into major unrest. Since then, China, which considers Tibet its "indivisible territory," has been trying to quell the situation claiming the demonstrations and riots were orchestrated by separatist elements. Why are Tibetans demonstrating against the overwhelming power of Chinese authorities at this juncture?...

The Hindu, 10 April 2008

Monks disrupt media tour in Chinese province

Beijing: A group of around 20 monks disrupted a Chinese government-organised media tour of an ethnic Tibetan region in western China's Gansu province on Wednesday, demanding the return of the Dalai Lama and claiming they had no human rights. This was the second such disruption of a state-sponsored media trip in the space of a few weeks. A similar incident had occurred in Lhasa towards the end of March...

The Hindu, 10 April 2008

IOC not to give up Olympic torch relay

Beijing: Ignoring anti-China protests in London and Paris, the International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday that it would go ahead with the Olympic torch relay, even as Beijing vowed to carry the flame to restive Tibet as well as to Mount Everest. IOC president Jacques Rogge said it was not planning to stop the global relay of the torch, which arrived in San Francisco ahead of the Beijing Olympics...

The Hindu, 10 April 2008

Opinion: Engaging China as a friendly neighbour

India's foreign policy since the early 1990s has begun careering in esoteric directions. Its external relations gave primacy to acquiring military technology, sustaining our neo-liberal economic policies and realising greater middle class consumerism. More and more, the nation got alienated from its foreign policy...

The Indian Express, 10 April 2008

Bush urges Beijing to open dialogue with Dalai Lama

Washington: US President George W Bush on Wednesday urged China to open a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, saying Beijing would find the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader to be a "fine man". His comments came as the Olympic torch was set to make its only relay in the United States, in San Francisco where large protests were expected. The torch relays have met with demonstrations protesting China's policies from its crackdown in Tibet to its human rights record...

The Indian Express, 10 April 2008

Editorial: Fortress for a day

There is something remarkable about the way governments around the world are coordinating security arrangements for the Olympic torch. Nonetheless, protests in London and Paris this month appear to have alarmed the International Olympic Committee enough to meet this week to discuss abandoning the torch relay altogether. China, for its part, is pulling in its formidable diplomatic leverage to ensure that the relay route remains sanitised of protesters...

The Asian Age, 10 April 2008

Tibetans in Northeast on a 'funeral march'

Guwahati: Hundreds of Tibetan of Northeastern states on Wednesday took out a funeral procession to mourn the "Chinese massacre" in Tibet and threatened to convert the slogan of autonomy into the fight for Independence. However, Tibetan parliament-in-exile, itself a divided house on the issue, mooted the idea of people's vote to decide the matter...

The Asian Age, 10 April 2008

Govt-in-exile wants proper legal process

New Delhi: The Central Tibetan Administration of the government-in-exile has appealed to the international community to ensure proper legal procedures to be followed in case of trial of those responsible for the recent violence in Tibet. The appeal comes following the statements of the Communist Party of China's secretary for the Tibetan region, Zhang Qingli who has said that all those involved in the recent "riots" in Tibet will be tried and sentenced with strictest measures by the end of April...

The Times of India, 10 April 2008

Editorial: Democracy Games

Even before the Olympic party has begun in Beijing, it has run into trouble. It started in Athens when pro-Tibet demonstrators tried to scuttle the ceremony to mark the lighting of the Olympic flame. And if Beijing had then hoped that the incident was a mere aberration, it has perhaps by now realised how mistaken it was. Protests in world cities like London, Paris and San Francisco - as the Olympic torch passed through them - have ensured that the Tibetan cause has finally caught the attention of the world on a scale that it never had before...

The Times of India, 10 April 2008

'No change in Tibet torch rally route'

Beijing: The Communist government of Tibet said on Wednesday that it expected

"trouble" during the Olympic torch relay through the Himalayan region, but nevertheless vowed a safe and peaceful event. The torch relay is a "once-in-a-century" opportunity for activists advocating Tibetan independence to attract publicity that they would not miss, the region's chairman Qiangba Puncog, told reporters in Beijing...

People's Daily, 10 April 2008

Official: more than 2,200 people surrender to police after Gannan riots

A total of 2,204 people, including 519 monks, have surrendered to police in connection with riots in an ethnic Tibetan area of northwestern China last month, an official said on Wednesday. Police had released 1,870 of those people, including 413 monks, who were guilty of minor offenses, said Mao Shengwu, acting chief of the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province...

People's Daily, 10 April 2008

Chinese premier meets IOC President Rogge

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge in Beijing on Wednesday. Wen expressed gratitude to the IOC and Rogge for their valuable support to the preparations of the Beijing Olympic Games and admiration for the contribution he had made to the development of the Olympic Movement and the enhancement of mutual understanding and peace among people from different countries and regions...

Taipei Times, 10 April 2008

Editorial: Taming the KMT dragon

What a difference a few weeks makes. Just over a month ago president-elect Ma Ying-jeou was castigating the Chinese government over its brutal crackdown on Tibetan protesters and then savaged Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao for comparing Taiwan to Tibet. One could reasonably believe that this party of pro-China ideologues that lost power in 2000 had turned over a new leaf. But that was before the election...

Taipei Times, 10 April 2008

Editorial: Will we see 'last of the Tibetans'?

Are the Tibetans doomed to go the way of the American Indians? Will they be reduced to nothing more than a tourist attraction, peddling cheap mementos of what was once a great culture? That sad fate is looking more and more likely and the Olympic year has already been soured by the Chinese government's efforts to suppress resistance. The Chinese have much to answer for, but the fate of Tibet is not just a matter of semi-colonial oppression...

The Asahi Shimbun, 10 April 2008

Editorial: Olympic torch in trouble

When a country hosts the Olympic Games, its true self is exposed to the world and tested. What comes to mind is whether the nation in question is ready to receive athletes and millions of tourists from the world. Will it be able to organize the Games smoothly without disrupting traffic and the everyday life of its citizens? The world will even cast its eyes on such matters as how the host country's cities have been built and how its

society works. Naturally, that includes human rights and problems with ethnic minorities...

The Hindu, 11 April 2008

We fully support China on Tibet: Hugo Chavez

Caracas (Venezuela): Venezuela President Hugo Chavez on Wednesday came out solidly in support of China on the Tibet issue and ridiculed attempts to disrupt the Beijing Olympic Games. He said his country and people were strongly behind Beijing on the issue and considered Tibet an integral part of China...

The Hindu, 11 April 2008

Will work with India: China

Beijing: China on Thursday said it was hoping to cooperate with India to ensure that the New Delhi leg of the Olympic torch relay goes off smoothly. The remarks came soon after International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge confirmed that the torch relay would not be called off or shortened despite the recent disruptions...

The Hindu, 11 April 2008

Royal asks China to engage Tibet in talks

Puducherry: President of Poitou-Charentes Region in France and French Socialist candidate in the 2007 presidential election Segolene Royal on Thursday urged the Chinese government to resolve the Tibetan issue through dialogue. Replying to questions on reports relating to France's threat to boycott the opening ceremony of Beijing Olympics, Ms. Royal said she had already expressed her opinion on the issue...

The Indian Express, 11 April 2008

CPM govt bans Tibet rally in Kolkata, China envoy says absolutely right move

Kolkata: Trust the comrades in this city to champion dissent and then clamp down on it - to please Beijing. Two weeks after it allowed Tibetan activists to hold a candlelight vigil, the CPM-led West Bengal Government has denied them permission to hold a three-day anti-China public rally scheduled to begin today forcing them to go indoors...

The Indian Express, 11 April 2008

Chinese team discusses security measures for torch run

New Delhi: As apprehensions about disruptions by Tibetan protestors continues, a Chinese team on Thursday held talks with security agencies on the measures that will be put in place for the Olympic torch run on April 17. The issues believed to have been reviewed were the security cordons along the torch route, crowd and access control...

The Asian Age, 11 April 2008

Dalai to China: I'm not a demon

Narita (Japan): The Dalai Lama said on Thursday that he is willing to support China's hosting of the Olympic Games this summer, but said Beijing cannot suppress protests in Tibet with violence or tell those calling for more freedom in his homeland "to shut up". The Tibetan spiritual leader, on a stopover in Japan on his way to the United States, strongly denied Chinese allegations that he and his followers have used the run-up to the

Olympics to foment unrest...

The Times of India, 11 April 2008

China reverses plan to reopen Tibet to tourism

Beijing: Chinese authorities, jittery on protests during the Mount Everest leg of the Olympic torch relay, have abruptly reversed a decision to reopen Tibet to foreign tourists. Foreigners have not received permits to visit the Himalayan region since deadly anti-government riots broke out in the capital, Lhasa. Tourism authorities announced last week that foreign tour groups would be allowed in on May 1, the start of a three-day national holiday...

The Times of India, 11 April 2008

Plot to kidnap Olympic athletes foiled: China

Beijing: The International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge on Thursday said the Olympic movement had reached a moment of "crisis" owing to the protests over the torch rally, but it was not the worst of situations as there have been worse situations in the history of the Games. Within a few hours of Rogge's statement, the Chinese Public Security Ministry announced it had unearthed a plot by a 45-member terrorist group, which wanted to attack or abduct journalists, tourists and athletes during the Olympic Games...

People's Daily, 11 April 2008

FM: China indignant, opposed to U.S. House resolution on Tibet

China expressed early Friday morning strong indignation and opposition over a resolution on Tibet adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives. The resolution proposed by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "flagrantly distorted the history and reality of Tibet", said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu in a statement...

Taipei Times, 11 April 2008

China arrests East Turkestan 'terror' suspects

Chinese authorities have detained 45 East Turkestan "terrorist" suspects and foiled plots to carry out suicide bomb attacks and kidnap athletes to disrupt the Beijing Olympics, a police spokesman said yesterday. Beijing claims Uighur militants have been agitating to establish an independent East Turkestan in China's predominantly Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang bordering Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia...

The Hindu, 12 April 2008

China's new bullet train is ready

Beijing: China's first domestically made train, capable of reaching a speed of 350 km an hour, rolled off the production line on Friday. The train, the latest model in the China Railway high-speed series, was produced by the China Northern Locomotive and Rolling Stock Industry Corporation in Tangshan. After a 2-km test run, Minister of Railways Liu Zhijun said it marked "a new, significant achievement in China's railway equipment modernisation"...

The Hindu, 12 April 2008

Prison term for ex-Shanghai Communist party chief

Beijing: The former Communist Party chief of China's commercial capital, Shanghai, Chen Liangyu, was sentenced to an 18-year prison term on Friday for his involvement in a multi-million dollar pension fund scandal. Chen, 62, who was also a member of the exclusive 24-seat politburo of China's ruling party was sacked from his post and expelled from the party in 2006. He was the highest ranking government official to be dismissed in a decade...

The Hindu, 12 April 2008

Hu for closer ties with Pakistan

Sanya (Hainan): Chinese President Hu Jintao made a five-point proposal on Friday for further promoting the China-Pakistan strategic partnership. The proposals were made during talks with visiting Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in Sanya, a scenic city in Hainan province...

The Indian Express, 12 April 2008

Can't ban Tibetan protests: India to China

New Delhi: Even as the Government allayed Chinese concerns on the security of the Olympic torch for the umpteenth time, India on Friday made it clear that a West Bengal-like ban on protests by Tibetans was not possible across the country. China was told on Friday, through diplomatic channels, that India being a democratic country, could not ban protests unless it sought to break law or create a law and order problem, official sources said...

The Indian Express, 12 April 2008

Editorial: Torching freedom

"China's chairman is our chairman," was the preponderant Naxalite graffiti in Kolkata in the '60s - '70s. The CPM was then battling Naxalites. China's Olympics are our Olympics, the CPM seems to be saying now and, of course, after 30 years of institution-capturing that Chairman Mao would have been envious of, there is no one left in Kolkata to battle the CPM. So Tibetans who have protested all over India and all over the world have been banned from the streets of the city that hosts more rallies than road signs and more bandhs than BPOs...

The Asian Age, 12 April 2008

MEA: Tibet stand is unique

New Delhi: New Delhi has said the unrest in Tibet does not change India's basic position that Tibet is an autonomous region of China and that the Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader of the Tibetans. A source tracking India's engagement of China said the situation in Tibet demonstrates a "lot of resentment" among the Tibetan population but New Delhi does not see in the unrest a "great political opportunity", adding, India is conscious of her responsibilities to protect the Chinese embassy and consulates and to ensure safe passage of the Olympic torch relay...

The Times of India, 12 April 2008

China holds mock terror drill in Muslim area

Beijing: Authorities in China's heavily Muslim northwest held an emergency drill on Friday based on a mock terrorist attack, a day after they said they had cracked two terrorist groups in the area, state media reported. The exercise was held in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and focused on an emergency medical response to an attack, Xinhua news agency said...

People's Daily, 12 April 2008

Perspective on a Tibet with freedom, harmony and prosperity

Hua Junxiong, President of the China Peaceful Unification Promotion Association based in New York, U.S., recently accepted an exclusive interview with Xinhua News agency. He elaborated on the fundamental changes he witnessed over the past two decades in the Tibet Autonomous Region, where he made two journeys in 1985 and 2006 respectively...

Taipei Times, 12 April 2008

Editorial: The IOC gets what it asked for

The reality of dealing with the Chinese government must have hit International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Jacques Rogge hard on Thursday when, after saying that the Olympics were in crisis and human rights were a serious concern, he was effectively told by the Chinese Foreign Ministry to mind his own business...

The Hindu, 13 April 2008

Hu: barrier is on Dalai Lama's side

Beijing: In a tough stand, Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday said China's conflict with the Dalai Lama related to national unification was not an ethnic, religious or human rights problem and insisted that the barrier to talks was on the Tibetan leader's side. Mr. Hu said: "Our conflict with the Dalai clique is not an ethnic problem, not a religious problem, nor a human rights problem... "It is a problem either to safeguard national unification or to split the motherland"...

The Hindu, 13 April 2008

Dalai Lama not for Olympics boycott

New York: Tibetan leader Dalai Lama does not advocate a boycott of the Beijing Olympics over the Chinese crackdown in Tibet, but says it is for the individual leaders to decide whether to attend the Games. "I wish, basically, their (China's) world event, game event should take place smoothly. But whether you see individual leader, go down or not, that's up to them. That's individual right," he told NBC television in an interview...

The Indian Express, 13 April 2008

Op-Ed: Why China's Reds fear religious freedom

The anti-religious and dictatorial communist officials who have been badmouthing the Dalai Lama, one of the greatest living spiritual gurus in the world, cannot be expected to know about Asra Nomani, the celebrated author of *Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam*. But if anyone in China wants to know why His Holiness is revered by Indians and those in the rest of the world who do not equate religion with "the opium of the people", should turn to this book by the Bombay-born Indian-American journalist (formerly with *The Wall Street Journal*). This is how

Nomani begins her fascinating account of self-discovery...

The Asian Age, 13 April 2008

China slams EU resolution

Beijing: Voicing its strong indignation over the European Parliament's resolution on Tibet, China on Saturday said it "rudely" interfered in its internal affairs and asked the EU body to give up "provocation and antagonism" and stop adopting double standards on human rights issues. "China is resolutely opposed to and strongly indignant over the resolution," foreign ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said in a sharp attack on the resolution that urged EU leaders to boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics unless China resumed talks with the Dalai Lama on the Tibet issue...

The Asian Age, 13 April 2008

Dalai envoy: Talks agenda hijacked

New Delhi: Accusing China of politicising the Olympic torch relay, the Dalai Lama's special envoy in Washington, Lodi Gyari said that the Communist Party of China has hijacked the dialogue agenda. "The Olympic torch does not belong to the Chinese government. It belongs to the whole world. But the Chinese government is behaving as if the torch belongs to it. China should not play politics over the Olympic Games and try to hijack the agenda of the dialogue," Mr Gyari, head of Tibetan delegation of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue, told this newspaper...

The Times of India, 13 April 2008

China, Taiwan leaders hold historic talks

Boao (China): Chinese president Hu Jintao met with Taiwan's vice president-elect on Saturday on improving economic relations, the highest-level political contact between the sides in more than half a century. Separated amid civil war in 1949, China and Taiwan have had almost no direct contact between their governments. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and threatens to invade if the self-governing island tries to make its de-facto independent status formal...

The Times of India, 13 April 2008

Unity at stake over Tibet, says Hu

Beijing: Chinese president Hu Jintao on Saturday broke his silence on the Tibet issue since the riots in Lhasa to convey his displeasure over statements made by Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd on the issue of human rights in China. He told Rudd that the Tibet problem was an "internal matter" of China indicating that foreign politicians have no business to comment on it. Hu explained that China was still ready to negotiate with the Dalai Lama and it was the Tibetan leader who was creating barriers to talks...

People's Daily, 13 April 2008

President Hu makes five-point proposal for Asian countries' co-op

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday made a five-point proposal for Asian countries to increase cooperation. Addressing the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) annual conference, Hu said Asia remains one of the world's most dynamic regions while it also faces some challenges. To realize lasting peace and common prosperity in

Asia is a long-term and arduous task, he said...

People's Daily, 13 April 2008

Hu calls for further mainland-Taiwan cooperation

The economic and trade exchanges and cooperation between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan was facing a historical opportunity and needed joint efforts from both sides for further progress, Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said on Saturday. Hu made the remarks while meeting with Vincent C. Siew, chairman of the Taiwan-based Cross-Straits Common Market Foundation at the Boao Forum for Asia...

Taipei Times, 13 April 2008

Hu says Tibetan unrest threatens PRC sovereign

Chinese President Hu Jintao took a hard line yesterday on recent unrest in Tibet, saying problems in the region are a purely internal affair that directly threatens Chinese sovereignty. Hu's comments to visiting Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd marked his first public utterances on anti-government protests that broke out in Tibet last month...

Taipei Times, 13 April 2008

Editorial: Is Ma's Cabinet already old hat?

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou has invited Liu Chao-hsuan to serve as premier in his Cabinet, the members of which will be formally announced later this month. The media have already named several people tipped as Cabinet members - mostly familiar faces, giving the impression that the same old Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) is back in town. An atmosphere of freshness and change is conspicuously lacking...

The Hindu, 14 April 2008

Hu for fillip to ties with Taiwan

Boao (Hainan): Chinese President Hu Jintao has said the economic and trade exchanges and cooperation with Taiwan are facing a historic opportunity and needed joint efforts for progress. Mr. Hu made the remarks at a meeting with Vincent C. Siew, Vice-President-elect of Taiwan at the Boao Forum for Asia. He said economic and cultural exchanges would be promoted...

The Hindu, 14 April 2008

Opinion: Tourism in India and China, a striking study in contrast

It takes only seven hours to fly from New Delhi's international airport to the Beijing airport's new Terminal 3. It is, however, seven hours that separate a surrealist nightmare from a traveller's paradise. In Delhi the dystopia begins before one even manages to enter the airport terminal. Snaking, jostling, queues make the entry line into the building an obstacle course that is usually survived only at the cost of bruised baggage or body...

The Asian Age, 14 April 2008

'Martial law-type situation in Tibet'

New Delhi: The Tibetan leaders have expressed fears over the well-being of the monks and the commoners arrested as well as of those holed up in Tibet monasteries following a

siege by the Chinese military since the crackdown on March 10. "There is a martial law type situation in Tibet. There is no food and water access to the monks who can't go out as the monasteries are surrounded by the Chinese forces...

The Asian Age, 14 April 2008

China media criticises Dalai

Beijing: Chinese media denounced the Dalai Lama and his supporters as "anti-human rights", and criticised top US politician Nancy Pelosi as "the least popular person in China" for her stance on Tibet, in editorials on Sunday. The belligerent commentaries by the official Xinhua news agency came the day after Beijing announced the arrest of nine Buddhist monks for bombing a government building in Tibet...

The Times of India, 14 April 2008

China says firearms found in Tibetan temple

Beijing: Chinese forces found firearms hidden throughout a Tibetan temple in an ethnic Tibetan area of southwestern China which has been the scene of anti-Chinese riots in recent weeks, state television said. Police, responding to what they said was a tip-off from the public, found 30 firearms in the monastery in the Aba prefecture of Sichuan province last month, state television said in a report...

The Times of India, 14 April 2008

Editorial: Avoid Past Mistakes

For centuries, India's heartland, on the basins of the Indus and Ganges rivers has faced invasions from across its north-western frontiers. The Himalayas were, however, regarded as an impregnable barrier to security threats from India's north-east. Thus, when China's People's Liberation Army marched into Tibet in 1950 and overcame the monastic order led by the Dalai Lama, which had ruled Tibet since the 17th century and had proclaimed its total independence from China in 1911, Indian policymakers did not know how to react to the presence of a strong and assertive power on the country's doorstep...

People's Daily, 14 April 2008

Tell you a true Tibet - Ownership of Tibet

Tibet is located in southwest China. The ancestors of the Tibetan race who lived there struck up links with the Han in the Central Plains long before the Christian era. Later, over a long period of years, the numerous tribes scattered on the Tibet Plateau became unified to form the present Tibetan race. By the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the Tibetans and Hans had, through marriage between royal families and meetings leading to alliances, cemented political and kinship ties of unity and political friendship and formed close economic and cultural relations, laying a solid foundation for the ultimate founding of a unified nation...

People's Daily, 14 April 2008

China, Pakistan to expand strategic co-op

The strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan has developed rapidly, which is safeguarding the common interests of the two sides, promote regional peace and stability,

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Sunday. During a meeting with visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Wen said China will actively participate in the infrastructure construction in Pakistan and encourage Chinese business to invest in the country in order to realize the sustainable development of cooperation...

People's Daily, 14 April 2008

China, Chile sign free trade service trade pact

China and Chile on Sunday signed a service trade pact supplementary to their free trade agreement (FTA), the first of its kind with a Latin American country. According to the pact, the two nations will further open their service sectors to each other's market on the basis of their commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on its website on Sunday...

Taipei Times, 14 April 2008

Media 'demonizes' China, Beijing's UK envoy says

China's ambassador to Britain said yesterday that the protests against the Olympic torch relay illustrated a growing gulf in understanding between China and the West. Fu Ying, writing in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper, hit out at the "violent" British demonstrators who tried to grab the torch on its chaotic passage through London this month and accused the Western media of "demonizing" her country...

Taipei Times, 14 April 2008

Editorial: Tibet action sees China adopt ironic global role

Although China has brought Tibet under control since the recent unrest in Lhasa, the situation has nevertheless led to a flood of criticism from the international community on China's behavior. Recently, the Washington Times reported that in order to ensure the smooth operations of the Beijing Olympics, the Chinese government would not hesitate to resort to violent measures against so-called "hostile forces"...

Taipei Times, 14 April 2008

Editorial: The hubris of China's torch relay backfires

Come on, confess: You have not enjoyed a story so much in years. A round-the-world marathon with all-in wrestling, kick boxing, rugby tackling and sanctimonious steeplechasing, staged free of charge in the streets of London, Paris and San Francisco by the International Olympics Committee (IOC) - and before the Beijing Games have even started. To add to the joy, nobody gets hurt except politicians...

The Hindu, 15 April 2008

I will quit: Dalai Lama

Silicon Valley (California): The Dalai Lama has ruled out any more "concessions" to China on Tibet and threatened to resign as leader of Tibet's exiled government if violence in Tibet went "out of control." "If violence becomes out of control then my only option is to resign," the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader told reporters on the sidelines of a five-day conference on compassion in Seattle...

The Indian Express, 15 April 2008

Op-Ed: Why Tibet matters

Is Tibet a nuisance for India, and when it negotiates with China on the border issue, should India unhesitatingly sacrifice Tibetan interests to secure our own? While there has been much talk about the burden of hosting the Dalai Lama and 1,85,000 Tibetan refugees for 50 years, few have acknowledged India's debt to them and why repaying that debt is not only a moral imperative but a strategically self-interested one...

The Asian Age, 15 April 2008

Tibetans in Delhi to run parallel torch relay

New Delhi: As the Beijing Olympics torch relay takes place in the capital on Thursday, protesting Tibetans will run a parallel torch relay for a "free Tibet" on the other side of the city at the same time. To be run from Rajghat, Mahatma Gandhi's memorial, to the Jantar Mantar observatory, a major tourist landmark in the heart of Delhi, the Tibetan torch relay will have an estimated participation of nearly 5,000 people, its organisers claim...

The Asian Age, 15 April 2008

India must back Tibet, says RSS

New Delhi: Expressing solidarity with the Tibetan protesters, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) leader K. Govindacharya said it is in India's interest to back the Tibetan cause. Stating that India and Tibet had over 2,000 years of spiritual connection, the RSS ideologue said, "We share our history with Tibet which has a long cultural tradition." Praising the Tibetans for their courage in carrying the upsurge so far, Mr Govindacharya said he supported the protesters. "I am with you," he told the gathering at Jantar Mantar...

The Times of India, 15 April 2008

Guns found in Tibet temple, says Beijing

Beijing: Chinese forces found firearms hidden throughout a Tibetan temple in an ethnic Tibetan area of southwestern China which has been the scene of anti-Chinese riots in recent weeks, state television said. And Chinese police detained five air passengers, possibly Tibetans, whose "suspicious remarks" prompted the return of their flight half an hour after take-off from the the city of Shenzhen, a newspaper said...

People's Daily, 15 April 2008

Opinion: Chinese Ambassador to the UK: Where is the "gentlemanship"?

Fu Ying, Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom, wrote an article titled "Reflections on the Torch Relay" on Apr 13, in which she shared her experiences in the torch relay in London and her concerns about mutual perceptions between the people of China and the West. Below is Fu Ying's article: In the morning of April 6th, looking at the snow flakes falling outside the window, I could not but wonder: what the torch relay would be like?...

People's Daily, 15 April 2008

China, Sweden agree to deepen mutually beneficial co-op

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt here Monday. Both agreed to deepen cooperation. During their talks, Wen said as the first

western country to establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China 58 years ago, Sweden and China have continued to increase mutual trust and understanding, as well as expand cooperation in all areas...

Taipei Times, 15 April 2008

Editorial: How deep are Hu's 'deep' thoughts?

Vice president-elect Vincent Siew had not even returned from his meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao over the weekend in Hainan before it was hailed as a watershed event and a clear sign of rapprochement between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. Playing the limelight game to perfection, Hu said he had been moved to think "deep" thoughts about Taiwan and in the same stroke managed, yet again, to portray President Chen Shui-bian as the one responsible for the diplomatic freeze of the past eight years...

Taipei Times, 15 April 2008

Editorial: Taiwan can provide a voice for the Tibetans

Taiwan is a Han-language society that has frequent exchanges with China. Aside from sharing a common language, Taiwan is also the Han-speaking society with the largest concentration of Tibetan Buddhists outside China. Taiwanese Buddhists and Tibetan monks have been closely connected for decades. This gives Taiwan the opportunity to play a key role as an emissary of peace between Tibetans and the Han...

Taipei Times, 15 April 2008

Editorial: Will pressure over the Olympics change anything in China?

As the Dalai Lama begins a contentious two-week visit to the US and the Olympic torch continues its tortuous journey across six continents toward Beijing, the 2008 Games, already tarnished, have become a political as well as an athletic spectacle, with vying theories of human rights and how best to promote them...

The Hindu, 16 April 2008

27 Tibetan protesters arrested in New Delhi

New Delhi: Even as security forces were conducting a full-scale drill for the April 17 Olympic torch relay on Rajpath here, Tibetan activists tried to force their way into the heavily guarded venue of the event on Tuesday. The police arrested 27 of them, including nine women, on Mansingh Road. Carrying a torch, the protesters, under the aegis of the Tibetan Youth Congress, tried to take out a "Tibet Independence Torch Relay" on the Vijay Chowk-India Gate stretch...

The Indian Express, 16 April 2008

Next door to China, CM Dorjee wants Dalai Lama to open Tawang hospital

Itanagar: Arunachal Pra-desh Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu is not concerned whether China likes it or not, but he is firm on his Government's decision to invite Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to inaugurate a super-specialty hospital at Tawang. Stating this here on Tuesday, Khandu added that he and the people of Tawang have the highest regard for the Dalai Lama...

The Indian Express, 16 April 2008

Op-Ed: Chinese Take Away: Angry Nationalism

The Chinese Communist Party did not have to work hard at mobilising nationalist resentment against Tibetan attempts to disrupt the Olympic torch relay across the continents. For most Chinese, hosting the Olympics was to be a proud moment of national glory. They are seething with anger against the Tibetans for spoiling the occasion and the international media for being so critical of Beijing...

The Asian Age, 16 April 2008

'Cultural genocide by China in Tibet'

Washington: Renewing his call for "meaningful" autonomy for Tibet, the Dalai Lama has charged Beijing with carrying out "cultural genocide" in his Himalayan homeland. The Tibetan spiritual leader, in an interview with US' National Public Radio, also said that he hoped to return to Tibet one day. "Since we have our own unique cultural heritage, including our language, our script, these matters should be in the hands of Tibetans who know about our culture, about our religion," the Dalai Lama, now on his first visit to the US after the eruption of anti-China riots in Tibet, said...

The Asian Age, 16 April 2008

Tibetan leaders in hiding

New Delhi: A day ahead of the Olympic torch arriving in India, some of the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), leaders have gone underground fearing arrests by the police. Under pressure of providing fool-proof security to the torch, the police has been "visiting" the TYC protesters "reminding" them not to do anything to disrupt the torch on Thursday. A case in point is the detention of around 33 members of the TYC by the police on Tuesday when they staged a symbolic Independent Tibet torch relay at the India Gate...

The Times of India, 16 April 2008

Tibetans make a point, take out their own torch

New Delhi: The government was on Tuesday claiming to have made adequate security arrangements to ensure that the Olympic torch relay in the Capital on April 17 was not disrupted, but Tibetan protesters took the security personnel by surprise by taking out their own "protest torch relay" on Rajpath. They landed at the heavily-guarded Rajpath around 2.30 pm, around the same time that over 500 personnel from Delhi Police and paramilitary forces were being briefed about the security arrangements...

The Times of India, 16 April 2008

Beijing quiet on Musharraf moves on gas pipeline

Beijing: The Chinese foreign ministry on Tuesday steered clear of the new issues thrown up by Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf, who invited China to join the Iran-India-Pakistan gas pipeline project. Musharraf also suggested that China can play an important role in defusing the Afghanistan crisis through the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The foreign ministry expressed confidence that India would ensure safe passage of the Olympic torch in New Delhi on April 17...

People's Daily, 16 April 2008

FM: China strongly denounces CNN host's insulting words

China is shocked by and strongly condemns CNN host Jack Cafferty's remarks, which maliciously attacked the Chinese people, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday. Cafferty said in a TV show on April 9 that the Chinese products are "junk" and the Chinese people "basically the same bunch of goons and thugs they've been for the last 50 years". "Cafferty used the microphone in his hands to slander China and the Chinese people, seriously violated professional ethics of journalism and human conscience", said Jiang...

People's Daily, 16 April 2008

China, UK conclude first economic, financial dialogue with broad consensus

China and the United Kingdom (UK) convened their first-ever economic and financial dialogue in Beijing Tuesday, in which they reached consensus on facilitating bilateral investment and cementing joint efforts to solve international problems including climate change. Wang Qishan, Chinese vice premier and special representative of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, and Alistair Darling, British Chancellor of the Exchequer and special representative of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, co-chaired the deputy-prime-minister level dialogue...

Taipei Times, 16 April 2008

China is No. 1 in executions, Amnesty says

China executed more people than any other country in the world last year by putting at least 470 people to death, but the number of executions in the country actually fell compared with the year before, Amnesty International said. In its annual report on worldwide executions, the human-rights group said yesterday that Iran remains the country with the second-highest number of executions, and that the number had nearly doubled from the year before. The 377 inmates included a man stoned to death for committing adultery...

Taipei Times, 16 April 2008

Europeans see China as main threat to global stability: poll

Europeans see China as a bigger threat to global stability than the US, Iran or North Korea, a poll published yesterday said. The Harris survey for the Financial Times showed that an average of 35 percent of voters in Britain, France, Germany, Spain and Italy saw China as the biggest threat to global stability, compared with 29 percent who thought the same of the US. In Italy, 47 percent of voters named China as the biggest threat, up from 26 percent last year...

Taipei Times, 16 April 2008

Editorial: A new matrix of Taiwan relations

Ma Ying-jeou promised during his presidential campaign that he would liberalize existing regulations on "economic" links between Taiwan and China, starting with direct charter flights, allowing more tourists from China, welcoming Chinese capital to be invested in Taiwan's real estate market and lifting the existing cap on Taiwan's firms that prevents them from investing more than 40 percent of their assets in China...

Taipei Times, 16 April 2008

Editorial: Taiwan is missing its chance on Tibet issue

After the head of the European Parliament invited the Dalai Lama to address the body on events in Tibet, parliament members passed a resolution urging China to resume talks with the Dalai Lama and called on EU leaders to boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics in August. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced last Wednesday that he would not attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics, even though he had previously said he would attend...

The Indian Express, 17 April 2008

Govt taking no Tibet chance, seals torch route for 5 hrs

New Delhi: The Olympic torch landed in Delhi late tonight for the India leg of the relay tomorrow. Hours earlier, the Union Home Ministry issued strict security guidelines which includes sealing all government buildings overlooking the Rajpath. The Ministry issued instructions stating that "all windows and doors" of these buildings should be closed from 1 pm to 6 pm tomorrow, and visitors barred...

The Indian Express, 17 April 2008

Column: No way to carry the torch

When bids open in 2011 (having passed 2016, for which, Rio is the likely candidate), India will bid for 2020 summer Olympics. There's potential competition from South Africa, Thailand, Nigeria, South Korea, Malaysia, Turkey, UAE, Hungary, Denmark, Germany, Scotland, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Italy, Russia, US, Mexico, Canada, Argentina and Australia, not all of which are equally serious...

The Indian Express, 17 April 2008

Editorial: Long live King's Way

In 2004, the Olympic torch relay extended from the Qutub Minar to the National Stadium, and the torch travelled more than 30 km. Today, not only will the torch's route be just 3 km but there will also be an element of momentous irony in the stretch it is designed to cover - from Vijay Chowk to the India Gate along the Rajpath. India, too afraid to dishonour the neo-imperial pretensions of China, must be thankful for this great colonial legacy of a purer kind...

The Asian Age, 17 April 2008

Editorial: Democratic dissent

M.S. Gill's call to restrict participation in the Olympics torch relay in India to only sportspersons and deny that privilege to actors, politicians and others runs counter to the very spirit of the games. Mr Gill has displayed total insensitivity to the virtues of a global phenomenon which unites people the world over - and particularly the youth - in a cooperative competition in excellence...

The Asian Age, 17 April 2008

Op-Ed: The Torch Of Tibet

As you read this, the Olympic torch will be hidden away somewhere in New Delhi. And for a very short while, it will go out for a public run, rushing through Rajghat concealed

by several protective rings of Indian and Chinese security personnel. Thankfully, it won't take long - it's only a 2 km journey. Then it can be stowed away in some heavily guarded safehouse till it flies off in its special Chinese plane. And we can breathe again...

The Times of India, 17 April 2008

China will hold on to Tibet: US security think tank

New Delhi: China has a fundamental national interest in retaining Tibet as it is the Communist giant's "anchor" in the Himalayas, a leading US security think tank has said. "The Chinese see Tibet as a matter of fundamental national security, and they view pro-Tibetan agitation in the West as an attempt to strike at the heart of Chinese national security," the Stratfor said...

People's Daily, 17 April 2008

Tell you a true Tibet - How Does the 1959 Armed Rebellion Occur?

Before peaceful liberation in 1951, Tibet was under a feudal serfdom characterized by the dictatorship of upper-class monks and nobles. The broad masses of serfs in Tibet eagerly wanted to break the shackles of serfdom. After the peaceful liberation, many enlightened people of the upper and middle classes also realized that if the old system was not reformed, the Tibetan people would never attain prosperity...

People's Daily, 17 April 2008

German politician warns against "new Cold War" against China

A German politician has accused Western countries of waging a "new Cold War" against China while a prominent China expert in Germany also deplored the West's demonization of the country. "Every generation seems to need its own war before it is capable and wise enough to draw lessons from that, be it the hot war or the cold war," said Antje Vollmer, a former vice president of the German parliament, in an article published in the German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Tuesday...

People's Daily, 17 April 2008

China strongly condemns CNN for insulting Chinese people

The Chinese Foreign Ministry lodged a solemn representation with the Beijing office of Cable News Network (CNN) here on Wednesday evening, condemning the network as "without any professional reputation". Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao, who is also the Director-General of the Ministry's Information Department, said that a statement issued by CNN on Tuesday failed to apologize for its host Jack Cafferty's remarks, which maliciously attacked the Chinese people and seriously violated the professional ethics of journalism...

Taipei Times, 17 April 2008

Editorial: Leadership is key to DPP's return

Following its bruising defeat in the March 22 presidential election, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has behaved like a chicken with its head cut off, making lots of noise but without resolute voice, leaving its supporters shaking their heads and wondering what will happen to the party. At a time of feeble faith and wounded leadership, the DPP is well advised to look to a statement once made by former US

president John F. Kennedy in a speech he delivered in April 1959...

Taipei Times, 17 April 2008

Editorial: Ma needs to be ready for changes

All Taiwanese are hoping that Taiwan will once again flourish on the global market, that its economy and trade will be invigorated and that improvement in living standards will be sped up. It is unrealistic for Taiwan to close itself off from the Chinese market. Taiwan's China-led marginalization will not come to an end if the country shuts itself off from the realignment of international political and economic decision-making and only passively reacts to global climate change and the increasingly heated competition for global resources...

The Hindu, 18 April 2008

Delhi hosts Olympic torch relay

New Delhi: The much-awaited Olympic Torch relay had a dramatic twist in the end as the country's best bet for a medal in the Beijing Games, tennis stars Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi were given the honour of carrying the flame together on the final stretch and light the cauldron at India Gate here on Thursday...

The Indian Express, 18 April 2008

'Little Lhasa' witnesses largest-ever Tibetan protest

McLeodganj: If New Delhi witnessed protests during the Olympic torch relay on Thursday, "Little Lhasa", the residence of Tibetans' spiritual leader and temporal head, the Dalai Lama, was also not quiet. Tibetans here held perhaps the largest ever demonstration witnessed by the hill town. Monks organised special prayers in the main temple for world peace and in remembrance of those killed in Tibet during the "Chinese crackdown" against the March 10 uprising...

The Hindu, 18 April 2008

China has appreciated India's role: Pranab

New Delhi: China had called Indian ambassador to Beijing Nirupama Rao to express "appreciation" over the "prompt action" in apprehending some Tibetan refugees who had forcibly entered the Chinese embassy here on March 21, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question on Thursday...

The Indian Express, 18 April 2008

Editorial: Torching the lines

A day after the might of the Indian Republic was applied to ensure the safe passage of the Olympic torch through New Delhi, it is time for sober reflection. There is no contesting the responsibility that the government bore to ensure the safety of the torch. The flame is an emblem of the Olympics - the games of all the nations - and it falls upon each host to see to its security as it goes around the world. But the security bandobast that was put together did more than that these past few weeks...

The Asian Age, 18 April 2008

Dalai not sincere on talks: China

Beijing: China on Thursday accused the Dalai Lama of never having shown a "positive response" on the Tibet issue despite Beijing displaying "maximum patience and sincerity" and keeping the doors for the talks open. "The Dalai Lama should show his sincerity for the dialogue and contact and translate it into actions," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman, Jiang Yu told reporters here responding to reports about the "back channels" of communication with the Tibetan leader...

The Times of India, 18 April 2008

'Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai' at relay amid Tibetan rage

New Delhi: With tight security in place since early Thursday afternoon for the Olympic torch relay and all roads leading to India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhavan barricaded by 2pm, gathered media personnel and a handful of schoolchildren sweated it out in the stands for hours before the event. The runners were followed by a cavalcade of buses and cars, with members of the Chinese delegation handling the show...

People's Daily, 18 April 2008

Beijing Olympic torch relay in New Delhi a success

The President of the Indian Olympic Association, Suresh Kalmadi, said Thursday's Olympic torch relay in the capital New Delhi was a success. "The spirit of the Olympics is universal and should be upheld by the whole world," said Kalmadi, who ran the first leg of the relay between Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential palace, and India Gate...

People's Daily, 18 April 2008

Tell you a true Tibet - How Does the Dalai Clique Carry Out His Separatist Activities?

Starting from the point of maintaining the unification of the motherland and national unity, the central government adopted an attitude of patient waiting towards the Dalai Lama after he fled abroad. His position as a vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee was preserved until 1964. However, surrounded by foreign anti-China forces and Tibetan separatists, the Dalai Lama completely renounced the patriotic stand which he once expressed and engaged in numerous activities to split the motherland...

Taipei Times, 18 April 2008

Beijing to force out foreign students

China plans to order most foreign students to leave Beijing before the Olympic Games in August, strictly regulate the issuing of business and tourist visas, and deport refugees, sources said yesterday. "Even if you have to continue your studies in September, you need to leave Beijing in July and August," a spokeswoman for Beijing University said. The university is one of China's most prestigious colleges and enrolls hundreds of foreign students annually on Chinese-language and other courses...

Taipei Times, 18 April 2008

Editorial: India's glaring silence on Tibet

As the world reacts to China's crackdown in Tibet, one country is conspicuous both because of its centrality in the drama and its reticence: India, the land of asylum for the Dalai Lama and the angry young hotheads of the Tibetan Youth Congress, finds itself on

the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, India is a democracy with a long tradition of allowing peaceful protest, including against foreign countries during state visits by their leaders...

Taipei Times, 18 April 2008

Editorial: Tibet's supporters use publicity coup to fight oppression

Soon after China was awarded the Olympic Games seven years ago, a series of public relations (PR) strategy sessions were held. But it wasn't the Chinese government conducting the sessions: It was grassroots Tibet support groups in the US and abroad. The protesters quickly established a communications plan, focused their message and ran camps where they taught members interview skills and even rappelling - as they showed off last week in hanging banners on San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge...

Taipei Times, 18 April 2008

Editorial: Beijing touts its history, yet ignores the past

There is never any shortage of public relations advisers willing to take on unpromising clients, especially those with deep pockets. Reports that the Chinese government has called for bids from foreign public relations companies indicate that Beijing, at some level, understands that its own attempts to mold world opinion have tanked. But if the exercise is to have any success, the client does, occasionally, need to take the advice. It would not be an easy account to manage...

The Indian Express, 19 April 2008

Tawang MLA slams ban on anti-China protests in Arunachal

Itanagar: Senior Congress MLA T G Rimpoche, who represents Lumla Assembly segment in Tawang bordering China, has termed ridiculous the Arunachal Pradesh Government's decision restricting anti-China demonstrations in the state...

People's Daily, 19 April 2008

Japanese PM, Chinese FM agree to ensure success of Chinese president's visit

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi agreed on Friday to ensure the success of Chinese President Hu Jintao's upcoming state visit to Japan. At the beginning of their meeting in Tokyo, Yang delivered personally-written letter to Fukuda. In the letter, Hu expressed his willingness to deepen and boost the Sino-Japan mutually beneficial relations based on common strategic interests and push forward the bilateral ties into the track of long-term healthy and stable development through the visit...

The Asian Age, 19 April 2008

Tibetan protest in China district

Beijing: Tibetan monks staged a protest in northwest China that led to arrests and heightened security, two activist groups and a local hotel receptionist said on Friday, in the latest sign of unrest. More than 140 Tibetans, including monks, were arrested on Thursday by the Chinese security forces for protesting in Tongren County in Qinghai province, according to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD)...

The Asian Age, 19 April 2008

Leaders vow to continue their fight

New Delhi: With the post-Olympic torch relay phase staring them in the face, the Tibetan leaders have vowed to carry on with their protest against the Chinese atrocities in Tibet. "We are working on the strategy in the post-Olympic torch phase. We know it would be difficult to sustain the immense media hype generated ahead of the torch relay. But we will not give up," said Dorjee, a member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile...

The Times of India, 19 April 2008

Thank you: China to India a day after torch relay

Beijing: The Chinese foreign ministry on Friday expressed its appreciation for the 'great efforts' put in by the Indian government for making a success of the Olympic torch relay. India watchers in Chinese think tanks said New Delhi's efforts on the relay will definitely have a positive effect in the evolving relationship between the two countries. "China expresses its thanks for the warm support and participation of Indian people to make the torch relay a success," a ministry spokesman said...

The Times of India, 19 April 2008

China to reopen Tibet to foreign tourists soon: Report

Beijing: China will reopen the restive mountainous region of Tibet to foreign tourists "soon", a state newspaper said on Saturday, after being closed off in the wake of pro-independence protests last month. "The Tibet tourism bureau is doing its utmost to prepare for the reopening of all tourist spots," the official China Daily cited a government statement as saying, though it did not provide an exact date...

People's Daily, 19 April 2008

Police say 88 suspects in Lhasa violence still at large

Police are still searching for 88 suspects who were heavily involved in the March 14 riot in downtown Lhasa, a public security official said here on Friday. "We have sufficient evidence against 170 people, 82 of whom have been formally arrested, but the remaining 88 are still at large," the vice director of Lhasa's public security bureau, Jiang Zaiping, said at a press conference...

The New York Times, 19 April 2008

China Said to Arrest 100 Protesting Monks

Beijing: As many as 100 Tibetans were arrested in northwest China on Thursday after they demonstrated against the earlier detention of monks from a nearby monastery, witnesses and a Tibetan human rights group said Friday. Local residents reached by telephone on Friday said that the police beat and arrested people at an open-air market in Tongren, a town in Qinghai, a western province bordering Tibet, after they refused orders to leave...

The Hindu, 20 April 2008

Anti-French protests in China

Beijing: Protests against "Tibet independence" supporters in some western countries erupted in a few Chinese cities including Beijing on Saturday. Protesters gathered in front

of shops of the French supermarket Carrefour, raising slogans like "boycott Carrefour" and "oppose Tibet independence" and others. They also handed out leaflets to passengers...

The Asian Age, 20 April 2008

Tibetan stir in Orissa over rights

Bhubaneswar: Tibetan refugees on Saturday took out candlelight processions at their settlement camps in Orissa in protest against human rights violation by China in Tibet. The Tibetan settlers, including women and children, participated in the silent processions. The rallies were organised by the Regional Solidarity Committee, formed by the Tibetan government-in-exile at Dharamsala...

The Times of India, 20 April 2008

Article: Olympic Torch

For an Olympic torch relay lasting 30 minutes over 2.3 kilometres, Delhi was brought to a grinding halt on Thursday. Some 21,000 security personnel were pressed into service and several roads kept out of bounds to ensure that Tibetan protesters did not disrupt the relay. The Tibetans, too, conducted a parallel torch run from Rajghat and organised protests in different parts of the city...

People's Daily, 20 April 2008

Chinese journalists group urges CNN to apologize for "insulting" remarks

The All-China Journalists Association (ACJA) on Saturday asked U.S.-based news network CNN and its commentator Jack Cafferty to apologize for his remarks regarding China. In an interview with Chinese media including Xinhua News Agency, a senior official with the ACJA strongly condemned Cafferty for his "insulting" words in a TV show on April 9 and asked him and CNN to make a formal apology to all Chinese as soon as possible...

People's Daily, 20 April 2008

Overseas Chinese in Britain rally in protest against Western media distortion

Chinese expatriates and students in Britain staged a silence demonstration at a square opposite to the British Parliament building on Saturday, in protest against distorted reports by some Western media including BBC on the March 14 Tibet riots. More than 3,000 people joined the demonstration, the first ever staged by the Chinese community in Britain...

Taipei Times, 20 April 2008

Washington may post Marines at its office in Taiwan

The US may be preparing to post Marines at its representative office in Taipei - a small but symbolically significant change in its delicate political relationship with Taiwan. A US State Department advertisement that ran in the Taipei Times and the China Post yesterday and today called for contractors to build quarters for Marine security guards at a new US compound in Taipei...

Taipei Times, 20 April 2008

Editorial: Where the DPP went wrong on localization

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) may have lost both the legislative and presidential elections, but the path it chose for itself - localization - remains the right one. The problem lies in the fact that the value of localization has been narrowed down by politicians to mere political discourse, while its economic aspect has been largely ignored...

The Hindu, 21 April 2008

Opinion: Avalanche of criticism unites the Chinese

The avalanche of international criticism being heaped on China in the run up to the Olympic Games has many in the country lashing out against perceived bias, fuelling a strong streak of nationalism that could end up having the opposite effect to that desired by Beijing's critics. Rather than helping the Tibetan cause, the sustained attacks against the government in China, including attempts to disrupt the Olympic torch relay and calls for a boycott of the Games, are causing many Chinese to rally around the flag, united in their feelings of victimisation by a West they perceive as inherently anti-Chinese in outlook...

The Indian Express, 21 April 2008

CPM cites Kashmir to defend China on Tibet, forgets Beijing's illegal occupation of J&K tract

New Delhi: In trying to put up a strong defence on behalf of its ideological allies in China, the CPM has needlessly sought to drag the Kashmir issue into the debate over Tibetan protests. The latest effort comes from Nilotpal Basu, a key party central committee member, who feels that China is today a "victim of western moralising" just like India was on the issue of Kashmir...

The Indian Express, 21 April 2008

Nepal authorises soldiers to shoot to stop Olympic torch protests

Kathmandu: Nepalese soldiers and police guarding the slopes of Mount Everest are authorised to shoot to stop any protests during China's Olympic torch run to the summit, an official said on Sunday. Chinese climbers plan to take the torch to the summit of Everest - the world's highest peak on the border between Nepal and Tibet - in the first few days of May. During that time, other climbers will be banned from the mountain's higher elevations...

The Indian Express, 21 April 2008

The Tawang test

Beijing has of late become strikingly covetous of Arunachal Pradesh, and has shown itself to be so in diverse ways. Just ahead of Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to India in late 2006, the Chinese envoy in New Delhi controversially laid claim to the state. Some time later, Beijing refused to give an Indian official a Chinese visa, saying he came from a territory that was part of China...

The Asian Age, 21 April 2008

Menon in China for G-5 talks

Beijing: Foreign secretary Shivshankar Menon arrived here on Sunday to attend a meeting of G-8 "outreach countries", becoming the first top Indian diplomat to visit China since the outbreak of Tibet unrest. At the two-day meeting from Monday, the countries would discuss their approach at the upcoming annual summit of leaders of G-8 grouping in Japan in July...

The Asian Age, 21 April 2008

China urges 'calm' in wake of protests

Beijing: China urged its citizens to be "calm" and "rational" as nationalistic protests against French supermarket Carrefour spread on Sunday to more cities across the country. The official Xinhua News agency reported that demonstrators gathered on Sunday morning in the northeastern city of Harbin and the eastern city of Jinan. Protesters also rallied for a second day in the tourist city of Xi'an...

The Times of India, 21 April 2008

Anti-west protests spread in China

Beijing: Protests spread across 14 cities in China as thousands of people thronged in front of buildings housing the French supermarket chain, Carrefour, to demonstrate against the disruption of the Olympic torch in Paris. The theme of protests has further broadened to include other issues, turning the demonstrations into anti-westerner agitation as a wave of Olympic-related patriotism rapidly spreads across China...

People's Daily, 21 April 2008

China publishes draft regulation on food safety to solicit public opinion

China's new draft food safety law, which lays out penalties from fines to life in prison for makers of substandard food, was published on the national legislature website on Sunday for public discussion. Members of the public are being invited to make recommendations and submissions on the draft published at the National People's Congress (NPC) website, www.npc.gov.cn ...

People's Daily, 21 April 2008

Overseas Chinese rally in support of Beijing Olympics, against Western media's biased coverage

Many Chinese expatriates and students in the United States, Japan and Europe rallied on Saturday to express their support to the upcoming Beijing Olympics, and their anger at some Western media's biased coverage of the recent Lhasa riots. Thousands of Chinese Americans and overseas Chinese rallied outside the Cable News Network (CNN)'s studios in downtown Los Angeles to protest anti-Chinese remarks by Jack Cafferty, one of the network's commentators...

Taipei Times, 21 April 2008

Editorial: Clash of hypocrisy, incompetence

"Do not mix sports and politics!" That defiant response from China's rulers to the threat of a boycott of this summer's Beijing Olympic Games does not stand the test of reality. Sport and politics have always been closely linked. Obvious examples abound. The 1936 Berlin Olympics were dominated as much by Nazi propaganda as by the athletic events.

During the Cold War, "ping pong diplomacy" helped revive official relations between China and the US. In 1990, Germany fielded a single Olympic team before the country reunified...

Taipei Times, 21 April 2008

Torch relay goes from victory lap to PR crisis

Two days of vigorous anti-Chinese protests by Tibetans and their Indian sympathizers culminated on Thursday in New Delhi when 17,000 policemen and soldiers allowed Olympic torchbearers to run in lonely splendor through nearly deserted streets. The India Express newspaper said the capital had been turned into a "security citadel." The Hindustan Times said members of parliament accused the government of setting up a "police camp." A headline in the Times of India asserted: "Cops kill spirit to keep torch burning"...

The Hindu, 22 April 2008

Sarkozy bid to assuage Chinese feelings

Shanghai: Visiting French Senate President Christian Poncelet met Chinese torch bearer Jin Jing in Shanghai on Monday. Mr. Poncelet conveyed President Nicolas Sarkozy's sympathy to Ms. Jin, a wheelchair-bound fencer who was attacked during the Olympics torch relay in Paris. "I would like to express to you my deep feeling towards the way you were shoved in Paris on April 7 when you were holding the Olympic flame. You showed an outstanding courage, which honours you, and [through you] all your country," Mr. Sarkozy was quoted as saying in the letter...

The Asian Age, 22 April 2008

US urges dialogue between China, Dalai

Washington: A top US official on Monday reiterated a US appeal for dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama saying that it was "the only viable way forward" to resolve the issue of Tibet. Under-secretary of state, Paula Dobriansky was scheduled to meet later in the day with the Tibetan spiritual leader, who has been travelling in the western United States this month...

The Asian Age, 22 April 2008

'India, China to play key role in global warming'

Washington, April 21: US President George W. Bush has said that any international agreement on climate change can not be effective without full participation of major economic powers like India and China. "How can you possibly have an international agreement that's effective unless countries like China and India are not (sic) full participants," Mr Bush said...

People's Daily, 22 April 2008

Unveil internal structure of "Tibetan independence" clique

The Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), along with other associates of the Dalai clique, has all along echoed the "Tibetan government in-exile" on the international stage: one playing the villain, the other playing the hero, and turned out a two-act show. Behind a series of violent activities ranging from the March 14 Lhasa riots and attacks on China's

missions and institutions functioning abroad, to the on-going disturbance of the Olympic torch relay, it was the Dalai clique who orchestrated and incited the unrest and bloodshed...

Taipei Times, 22 April 2008

Beijing starts new 'patriotic' education campaign in Tibet

China has launched a campaign in Tibet to denounce the Dalai Lama and to strengthen ties between the public and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the Tibet Daily reported yesterday. The two-month "patriotic education" will cover the capital Lhasa and surrounding rural areas and will focus on strengthening relations between Tibetans and local CCP officials, the newspaper said...

Taipei Times, 22 April 2008

Editorial: Are they sending the Marines?

It remains to be seen whether the advertisement placed by the US State Department in the classifieds section of this newspaper over the weekend will prompt a reaction from Beijing, but some academics in Taiwan have already interpreted it as a presage of a shift in diplomatic relations between Taiwan and the US. The ad requested solicitations for contractors to build, among other things, a Marine Security Guard Quarters (MSGQ) at the future American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) building...

The Hindu, 23 April 2008

Tibet's development spells progress in human rights: N. Ram

Beijing: Tibet's all-round development over some years has raised the living standards of its people, which by itself constituted progress in human rights, N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu, said here on Tuesday. People's welfare and quality of life are indices to measure human rights too, he said in a lecture at the Beijing Forum on Human Rights...

The Hindu, 23 April 2008

China's concern over Tibet situation

Beijing: China on Tuesday raised its concern over the Tibet situation with the visiting Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon. A range of bilateral issues was also discussed during his meetings with State Councillor Dai Bingguo, Assistant Foreign Minister Ha Yafei and Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Mr. Menon's is the first high-level visit of a diplomat to China from India since riots broke out in Lhasa, capital of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, last month...

The Asian Age, 23 April 2008

'Chinese cross India border regularly'

New Delhi: The Chinese Army has been indulging in regular cross-border activities along the Sino-India border during the last three years, the ministry of home affairs said on Tuesday. "Reports about cross-border activities on the India-China border are received regularly," minister of state for home affairs Radhika V. Selvi informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday...

The Asian Age, 23 April 2008

Dalai seeks US help for Tibet

Washington: The Dalai Lama has sought the US "help" in resolving the vexed Tibet issue as the Bush administration pressed China to open dialogue with the exiled spiritual leader. "At this moment, we need your help," the 72-year-old saffron-robed spiritual leader told US special envoy on Tibet Paula Dobriansky as they met in Michigan, adding that the issue of Tibet was "very significant"...

People's Daily, 23 April 2008

China's top legislature outlines priorities of work in 2008

The Standing Committee of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) will discuss the amendment or adoption of 18 laws, hear seven work reports and conduct reviews on the implementation of five laws in 2008. The numbers were disclosed in a work agenda approved after a recent meeting of the chairman and vice chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee, presided over by top legislator Wu Bangguo...

Taipei Times, 23 April 2008

No plans to put Marines in Taipei: Washington

The US said on Monday that there was a "possibility" that a barracks for US Marine security forces at the planned new American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) headquarters in Neihu, Taipei City, may be built, but there are no current plans to station Marines at the complex. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said that a procurement announcement in English-language newspapers in Taiwan last week should not be construed as a change in US policy toward the stationing of US military personnel in Taiwan...

Taipei Times, 23 April 2008

Editorial: It's 'not politics,' but mind your P's

The selection of China for the Olympics was not "political"; it was just done to legitimize the claim that - despite the Tiananmen Square massacre and despite a dismal human rights record - China is on a "peaceful rise." After all, Tiananmen Square is ages past, and China has changed, so China deserves the Olympics because China has been begging to prove it is a legitimate world player...

The Hindu, 24 April 2008

Efforts to achieve Green Olympics

Beijing: Wang Gang, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has said Beijing has made great efforts in improving its natural environment conditions over the past six years. Mr. Wang, also vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks in Beijing during an inspection of environment conditions...

The Indian Express, 24 April 2008

'Sarkozy to consult EU on Olympic ceremony boycott'

Paris: French President Nicolas Sarkozy will consult with EU partners on whether to boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, a former prime minister and Sarkozy ally was quoted as saying on Wednesday. Sarkozy's suggestion that he could

boycott the Olympic opening over the situation in Tibet helped fan anti-French sentiment in China in recent days, largely prompted by pro-Tibet protests during the Olympic torch relay in Paris...

The Asian Age, 24 April 2008

Dalai: We don't want separation

Washington: The Dalai Lama has denied the Chinese claim that he supports separation of Tibet, saying he only wanted autonomy to preserve its unique culture and traditions which under Beijing's rule remains only "on paper". "The whole world knows we are not seeking separation," the Dalai Lama said stressing that what is being sought is only genuine and complete autonomy for Tibet as provided for in the Chinese Constitution but has remained "on paper" only...

The Asian Age, 24 April 2008

China FTA not priority: Centre

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday said a free trade agreement (FTA) with China was not a "priority" for India due to "deep divisions" within the government and opposition from the industry. "This is an issue (FTA with China) in which there are deep divisions both within the government as well as within the Indian industry," minister of state for commerce and industry Jairam Ramesh said in the Rajya Sabha...

People's Daily, 24 April 2008

In retrospection of the Dalai clique's "grief cards"

Dalai Lama and his followers look gloomy, grieved and even in low spirits whenever they go, as they say that they have been wronged and "repressed" at the meetings they hold to tell of their bitterness or grievances. Such kind of grief is depicted in detail in "petitions" and "statements" they have issued to show they are in anxiety and in grief so they deserve "sympathy," whereas the Chinese government resorts to "arrests", "tortures", "assaults" and even "crackdown" as they label against it...

People's Daily, 24 April 2008

Stay out of Tibet issue, diplomats and experts urge

Diplomats and human rights experts from China and abroad on Wednesday urged foreign countries to stay out of China's Tibet issue. The Tibet issue is China's internal affair, "so nobody should go and intervene in it," Lovelia Cabrera Laping, special assistant to the undersecretary of the Philippines Foreign Ministry, told Xinhua...

Taipei Times, 24 April 2008

France seeks to ease tension with PRC after relay

China and France sought yesterday to cool tempers over Tibet and the Olympics, with a former French prime minister heading to Beijing for top-level talks criticizing a decision to honor the Dalai Lama. Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who arrives today bearing a message from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, said the Paris city council had contradicted official policy by conferring honorary citizenship on the Tibetan spiritual leader...

Taipei Times, 24 April 2008

Editorial: Small steps, big headache

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou plans to boost the number of Chinese tourists entering the nation from 1,000 per day to 3,000 per day at the beginning of July. Ma has called this proposal - along with cross-strait flights - a small step that will boost the economy and improve relations with China in the short term, while paving the way for bigger steps such as implementing a bilateral cross-strait common market later. But we have to ask: Are these proposals well thought out?...

The Indian Express, 25 April 2008

Olympics: China sets rules for foreigners

Beijing: Even as Beijing is promising to welcome 1.5 million visitors to the Olympic Games, public security officials are tightening controls over daily life and introducing visa restrictions that are causing anxiety among the 250,000 foreigners who have settled here in recent years. The visa rules, which were introduced last week with little explanation, restrict many visitors to 30-day stays, replacing flexible, multiple-entry visas that had allowed people to remain for up to a year...

The Times of India, 25 April 2008

Interpol warns of terror attack during Beijing Olympics

Beijing: The head of Interpol said on Friday that there is a "real possibility" that the Beijing Olympics will be targeted by terrorists or that anti-China groups could attack athletes. China, whose Communist rulers value stability above all else, have come down hard on anyone they fear could upset the Games, from people protesting against the demolition of their houses for venues to the country's sometimes restless ethnic minorities...

The Times of India, 25 April 2008

China offers to resume talks with Dalai Lama envoy

Beijing: Chinese officials will reopen talks with a representative of the Dalai Lama, state Xinhua news agency reported on Friday. The surprise revelation, amid intense international pressure for dialogue less than four months before Beijing hosts the Olympic Games, was immediately welcomed by a spokesman of the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader...

The Asian Age, 25 April 2008

'India, China need to build bilateral trade'

London: India and China need to set aside their border disputes and focus on building bilateral trade and cultural ties, according to Indian-born Harvard Business School professor Dr Tarun Khanna. Despite the no-so cordial relationship between the two countries in the last four-odd decades, Dr Khanna said the period has been an aberration in the bilateral ties. The two nations have had a close relationship earlier and should work to achieve that...

The Asian Age, 25 April 2008

Editorial: Doublespeak by Marxists

The better part of the world has condemned China's violation of human rights and

deprivation of democracy for the Tibetans. In every country that enjoys freedom of expression, local people have joined Tibetans to protest against the Beijing Olympics as a way of bringing to international notice the cause of Tibet. So widespread and deep is the condemnation of China and sympathy for the Dalai Lama and his supporters that the Olympic torch had to avoid public exposure in places like San Francisco, London and Paris. In New Delhi the torch procession was a sham...

People's Daily, 25 April 2008

Why has "demonization of China" staged a comeback?

In an uproar some Western media have whipped up by capitalizing on the Olympic torch relay, the "demonization of China", which had once been rampant, is making a comeback again, and some Westerners of insight have also become aware of this current. Hysteria and demonization of China were how Thomas Heberer, a leading China expert in Germany, described the overwhelmingly native Western media coverage in this regard...

People's Daily, 25 April 2008

Beijing Olympic flame arrives in Tokyo

The chartered plane carrying the Beijing Olympic sacred flame landed at Tokyo's Haneda Airport 6:05 a.m. local time Friday morning from Canberra for its 16th leg of torch relay scheduled for Saturday in the central Japanese city of Nagano. The flame was carried off the plane in a lantern at 6:10 a.m. local time by Li Binghua, vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee of Olympic Games (BOCOG)...

People's Daily, 25 April 2008

Beijing Olympic opening ceremony boycott a "chicanery" in public relations

U.S.- China relations are vital to the American interests, says a signed article in the "New Republic" Weekly of the United States. The article notes that the boycott of the upcoming Beijing Olympic opening ceremony poses only a "chicanery", which is futile and runs counter to what one desires...

Taipei Times, 25 April 2008

Beijing blocks media from Everest

Beijing abruptly shut the door yesterday on most foreign media seeking to cover the Olympic torch's ascent of Everest after journalists objected to last-minute changes to travel and reporting plans. China plans to take a special high-altitude Olympic torch to the summit of the world's tallest peak next month and had invited world media to cover the event as a triumphant symbol of Beijing's hosting of the Olympics...

Taipei Times, 25 April 2008

Editorial: Nationalism is Beijing's brainchild

Chinese nationalism needs to get hysterical every once in a while. Recently it went off again over issues related to Tibet and the Beijing Olympics. The timing of when it vents is entirely decided by the Chinese Communist Party because in China any parades or assemblies must first receive its approval. The online tirades of the country's angry youth are also controlled by the party...

The Hindu, 26 April 2008

China to meet Dalai Lama's envoy soon

Beijing: The Chinese government will meet an envoy of the Dalai Lama within the next few days, according to Xinhua, China's state-owned news agency. Quoting "official sources," the report said this decision was taken "in view of the requests repeatedly made by the Dalai side for resuming talks"...

The Asian Age, 26 April 2008

China urged to free Panchen

Dharamsala: Exiled Tibetans in India on Friday urged China to free their second highest spiritual leader who has been missing for more than 12 years as they observed his 19th birthday. Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was six when he was identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's second highest spiritual leader after the Dalai Lama...

The Times of India, 26 April 2008

China to supply anti-terror equipment to Pak

Islamabad: China will supply anti-terror paraphernalia to Pakistan to help it fight terrorism, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said. "In our discussion China has supported Pakistan's decision to buy the equipment. We will further co-operate to firmly deal with terrorism," the Daily Times quoted Qureshi as saying at a joint press conference with the visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. However, the minister did not specify the type of equipment to be bought from China...

People's Daily, 26 April 2008

China's decision to meet Dalai's representative receives positive responses

China received positive responses Friday after announcing that the central government will meet with the Dalai Lama's private representative in the coming days. Xinhua learned from official sources Friday that "the relevant department of the central government" will meet with the Dalai's private representative...

People's Daily, 26 April 2008

Former French PM: France wants to be China's best friend in Europe

Former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said Friday his country wanted to be the best friend of China in Europe and hoped to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations. "We hope to enhance exchanges with China within the framework of the Europe-China all-round strategic partnership," Raffarin said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua...

People's Daily, 26 April 2008

China blasts off first data relay satellite

China launched the country's first data relay satellite "Tianlian I" Friday night. The satellite was launched on a Long March-3C carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 11:35 p.m. (Beijing Time). The satellite will not go into function though until the Shenzhou VII mission scheduled for the second half of 2008...

Taipei Times, 26 April 2008

Editorial: Damage control: China offers a bone

Pre-Olympics pressure on the Chinese government is beginning to pay off, with reports that Beijing is willing to meet representatives of the Dalai Lama. It may be churlish to say, but it is also true: The Chinese are not floating talks because they feel regret over recent events in Tibet, nor because they are willing to entertain the suggestions of the Tibetan government-in-exile. They are doing so because it throws a bone to other governments growing restless at Beijing's intransigence and boorishness...

The Asahi Shimbun, 26 April 2008

Editorial: Olympic torch relay

The Japan leg of the torch relay leading up to this summer's Beijing Olympic Games will be run Saturday in Nagano, site of the 1998 Winter Games. It is said that the sacred flame will be guarded by a contingent of more than 100 police officers. In fact, a grand total of 3,000 police personnel will be deployed on this occasion, six times more than originally planned...

The Hindu, 27 April 2008

Dhaka, Beijing to strengthen nuclear ties

Dhaka: China and Bangladesh have decided to cooperate in peaceful nuclear power sector with the China-Pakistan model as the template. Ending what was seen as a "highly productive" two-day visit, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi left for Pakistan on Friday. Apart from broadening economic ties, Beijing also wanted to get involved in Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear power plant...

The Hindu, 27 April 2008

EU, U.K. hail China's decision to talk with Dalai Lama

Beijing: The EU, Britain, and Australia have welcomed China's decision to meet the Dalai Lama's private representative. Xinhua learned from official sources on Friday that "the relevant department of the central government will have contact and consultation with the Dalai's private representative in the coming days." The 27-member EU said on Friday in a statement that it welcomed the move, which would contribute "to the successful preparation and staging of the Olympic Games in Beijing"...

The Asian Age, 27 April 2008

China keen to join IPI project

Islamabad: China has expressed its keenness to become part of the \$7.5-billion Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project. "We are seriously studying Pakistan's proposal to participate in the IPI gas pipeline project," Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi told reporters at a joint news conference with his Pakistani counterpart, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, here on Friday evening...

The Asian Age, 27 April 2008

China offer: Dalai guarded

New Delhi: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Saturday guardedly welcomed

China's offer for dialogue, suggesting that the talks will have meaning if these are "serious". "It depends on what kind of talk. If they are serious talks they are most welcome," he told reporters here when asked whether he was happy with China's offer on Friday of talks with his envoys. "Just mere seeing face to face is not (enough)," said the Tibetan leader soon after he arrived here from the US...

The Asian Age, 27 April 2008

Opinion: Election issues: Some food for thought

The Olympic torch came and left India peacefully following the deployment of 15,000 security personnel. While New Delhi was in chaos and commuters suffered, the decision was politically correct given the fiasco witnessed during the torch relays in the US, France and the UK where a handful of protesters staged revolts manufactured as "media" events. No surprise then that many Western leaders have declared their intention to boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics in support of the Tibetan refugees...

The Times of India, 27 April 2008

Interpol to help China during Games

Beijing: Interpol has agreed to help China ensure that mischief-makers do not enter the country before and during the Olympic Games. The agency has agreed to give Chinese authorities access to its database on suspected terrorists and criminals. The details include names, fingerprints, photographs, DNA profiles and description of modus operandi of thousands of criminals across the world. As part of the move, a hotline between the head of the Olympic security department and head of Interpol will become operational during the games...

People's Daily, 27 April 2008

Chinese vice premier urges further opening-up in central regions

Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan on Saturday called for further reform and opening-up in the central regions. The central regions needs to boost awareness of reform, innovation, opening-up, market, and the rule of law, Wang said when he addressed the opening of the Third Central China Investment and Trade Expo in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province...

The Hindu, 28 April 2008

Price decline soon: report

Beijing: The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) has predicted a 10.7 per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008, though it said the speed would be slower compared with the previous year. The added value of the agricultural sector would increase by 3.2 per cent, and that of the industrial and the service industries 12.2 per cent and 10.9 per cent respectively, according to a report released by CASS...

The Indian Express, 28 April 2008

China says Dalai Lama 'playing with words'

Beijing: Within days of making an offer for talks to the Dalai Lama's envoy, China fired a fresh salvo at the Tibetan leader on Sunday, accusing him of "playing with words" to

drum up support for "Tibetan independence". In the face of intense international pressure, China announced on Friday that it would hold a meeting with a "private representative" of the Dalai Lama, whom it has accused of inciting riots in Lhasa and elsewhere during the strongest-ever anti-government protests in two decades...

The Indian Express, 28 April 2008

The Olympic torch: Ignited by Nazis, passed on to Chinese

If you want to know how the Olympic torch really began its "Journey of Harmony," as China calls its current relay, if you want to see why the torch has had to pass through a human obstacle course composed of protesters, SWAT teams and police officers in San Francisco, Paris and London, then do not look to Tibet's grievances against China. Look to the opening of Leni Riefenstahl's 1938 film, Olympia. In that homage to Berlin's 1936 Olympic Games, the origins of this ritual are revealed...

The Asian Age, 28 April 2008

Op-Ed: Nehru didn't have any illusions about China

China poses a serious political, military, territorial and economic threat to India almost as serious as it did before the 1962 war. But misconceptions exist on the history of our relations. Balbir Punj, for one, wrote that Jawaharlal Nehru had a "thesis" that China "having thrown off colonialism, would not have territorial ambitions." That assessment is most unfair to Nehru. I can say this on the basis of Nehru's final instructions on March 18, 1958, to my father G. Parthasarathi, who was leaving for Beijing (then Peking) the next day as India's ambassador to China...

People's Daily, 28 April 2008

China, France reach consensus on maintaining strategic ties

China and France agreed to "cherish and maintain" bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership after series of unhappy incidents in France and recent visits paid by high-level French officials. Chinese foreign ministry revealed the five-point consensus reached by Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo and Jean-David Levitte, a diplomatic adviser of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, during their Saturday talks...

People's Daily, 28 April 2008

People's Daily says Dalai Clique is "playing with words"

The People's Daily, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of China, posted a commentary on Sunday saying that the Dalai Lama clique was "playing with words" to drum for the so-called "Tibet issue." Under the title "Attempts to split the motherland are doomed to failure", the commentary says the only key word of various definitions put forward by the Dalai Lama clique, including the so-called "middle-way" and "high autonomy," was nothing but "Tibetan independence"...

Taipei Times, 28 April 2008

Editorial: More questions about 'consensus'

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou claimed that the so-called "1992 consensus" will serve as the basis of future negotiations between Taiwan and China. Subsequently, Chinese President Hu Jintao, during a recent phone conversation with US President George W.

Bush, indicated his willingness to reopen cross-strait talks on the basis of the "1992 consensus." During his meeting with Ma on April 1, however, President Chen Shiu-bian again denied the existence of such a consensus...

Taipei Times, 28 April 2008

Editorial: China's well-organized campaign

The Chinese video addressed "all you bashers" who criticized China's crackdown on Tibetan protesters and their sympathizers, asserting "Tibet WAS, IS and ALWAYS WILL BE a part of China." The producers said that the disturbances in Tibet were not riots but outbursts of terror. There followed scene after scene with belligerent commentary laced with sarcasm and personal attacks, peppered with a sprinkling of foul words not fit for a family newspaper, including liberal use of the "F" word...

The Asahi Shimbun, 28 April 2008

Point of View/ Makoto Teranaka: Beijing Must Clean Up Its Act Before Olympics

While the Beijing Summer Olympics are approaching, the human rights situation in China is deteriorating. The situation in Tibet is not the only problem. In bidding for the Games, the Chinese government promised to improve human rights conditions, but that promise has not been kept. On April 1, Amnesty International published a report titled "China: The Olympics Countdown"...

The Hindu, 29 April 2008

70 die in China train crash

Jinan (China): A high-speed passenger train jumped the track in Shandong province early on Monday, smashing another train and leaving 70 dead and 416 injured, railway authorities confirmed. Preliminary investigations suggested the accident was caused by human error. Authorities have ruled out the possibility of terrorism. The casualties were from both trains, one of which was en route from Beijing to Qingdao, a famous summer resort in Shandong and venue of the Olympic sailing competition. The other was travelling from Yantai in Shandong to Xuzhou in Jiangsu province...

The Asian Age, 29 April 2008

No room for complacency on China, says Antony

New Delhi: Defence minister A.K. Antony, in a clear reference to China, on Monday said India would have to constantly upgrade its military and economic capabilities and leave no room for "complacency." "We continue to abide by the confidence building measures mutually agreed upon between the two nations... we have to constantly upgrade our military and economic capabilities. There is no room for complacency," Mr Antony said while inaugurating the biannual six-day Army's Commander Conference here...

The Times of India, 29 April 2008

China slams Dalai Lama despite talks offer

Beijing: China launched a fresh attack on Monday on Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, just days after agreeing to meet his envoys. Last Friday, the Chinese government said it would meet "in the coming days" with one of the Dalai Lama's envoys, drawing praise internationally amid hope talks could lead to a solution to recent

Tibetan unrest...

People's Daily, 29 April 2008

President, premier urge all-out efforts in train wreck

President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday issued directives that all-out efforts be made in rescuing and treating the injured from the early morning train collision in east China. The top leaders also requested relevant offices to properly handle the aftermath, discover the cause of the accident and resume rail operations at the earliest time possible...

Taipei Times, 29 April 2008

Liu names major Cabinet posts

Premier-designate Liu Chao-shiuan revealed most of the rest of his Cabinet lineup yesterday, with many pan-blues raising an eyebrow at his nomination of a pan-green camp member to head the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC). At a press conference, Liu said former Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) legislator Lai Shin-yuan would be MAC chairwoman, adding that Lai "completely agrees with president-elect Ma Ying-jeou's cross-strait platform"...

Taipei Times, 29 April 2008

Editorial: Taiwan doesn't need Palestine model

At the rate that the meetings between Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and Beijing leaders are being announced, a few more weeks and we'll be seeing the region's equivalent of the Camp David meetings. With the administration of President Chen Shui-bian coming to an end in less than a month, Taiwan and China seem poised to enter the age of "peace talks"...

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 29 April 2008

Chemical arms leave toxic legacy / Disposing of weapons abandoned in China has created new problems

The latest scandal over alleged misappropriation of funds for a government-commissioned chemical weapons disposal project in China has shown that the undertaking is a lucrative business that involves vested rights and interests acquired by some Japanese corporations. The case raises some fundamental questions about the method and purposes of the project to dismantle chemical weapons discarded in China by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II...

The Hindu, 30 April 2008

Beijing confirms talks with Dalai Lama's envoy

Beijing: China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday confirmed the government's decision to reopen a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, although details of the timing and format of the talks remained unclear. "The relevant authorities agreed to have contact with the Dalai Lama," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told reporters at a press conference...

The Indian Express, 30 April 2008

Hong Kong 'autonomy' on test as Olympic torch nears

Hong Kong: The Olympic torch relay coming here on Friday, the first on Chinese soil, is turning into a broader struggle over Hong Kong's evolving role as an autonomous territory of China. This past Saturday, the Hong Kong Government denied entry to three Danish human rights advocates who had hoped to protest at the torch relay, detaining them for six hours and then putting them against their will on a flight to London...

The Indian Express, 30 April 2008

China jails 30 for Tibet riots, monk gets life term

Beijing: A Chinese court jailed 30 people for terms ranging from three years to life on Tuesday for their roles in Tibet's deadly riots, which triggered anti-China protests across the globe ahead of the Beijing Olympics. China has blamed Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and his government-in-exile for plotting the riots, in which at least 18 "innocent civilians", according to Beijing, were killed by a Tibetan mob in the regional capital, Lhasa, last month...

The Indian Express, 30 April 2008

Op-Ed: Talks about talks

With China offering talks on Tibet, and the Dalai Lama welcoming the proposal, it would seem a welcome breakthrough is at hand. Not so fast. Beijing and the Tibetan Government - in exile in Dharamsala - both need the talks, but may find it difficult to start them. Without some credible mutual reassurances, the "talks about talks" may go nowhere. Beijing has sensed that failure to show political flexibility now could well ruin the Beijing Olympics...

The Times of India, 30 April 2008

Police killed Tibetan during gunbattle in China: State media

Beijing: Police shot dead an alleged Tibetan insurgent in northwest China in a gunbattle, state press said on Wednesday in the first official admission that authorities killed anyone during recent unrest. A policeman was also killed in the gunbattle on Monday in a Tibetan populated area of Qinghai province, Xinhua news agency reported...

The Times of India, 30 April 2008

Chinese trials of Tibetans were not open: Rights watchdog

New York: The trials of 30 Tibetans, which led to their conviction for alleged role in worst anti-Beijing protests since 1989, were "not open" and "public" as claimed by the China, a leading rights watchdog alleged on Wednesday. While the reports from the official Xinhua news agency termed the proceedings as an "open court session", the actual trials had been conducted covertly on undisclosed dates earlier in April, Human Rights Watch said...

The Times of India, 30 April 2008

Activists denied entry as torch reaches Hong Kong

Hong Kong: The Olympic torch arrives in Hong Kong on Wednesday with authorities under fire for barring at least half a dozen activists from entering the city. Three Tibetan activists from the groups Free Tibet and Students for a Free Tibet were denied entry by Hong Kong authorities on Tuesday, while three Danish human rights activists including

sculptor Jens Galschiot were barred over the weekend...

People's Daily, 30 April 2008

Beijing on track 100 days before Games

With 100 days to go from Wednesday before the curtain rises on the 2008 Olympic Games, the organizers are busy fine-tuning for perfect staging of the world's sporting spectacle. Construction of venues, easing the city's traffic congestion and efforts to clean up the air are all on target for the Aug. 8-24 event, and International Olympic Committee officials have repeatedly voiced confidence that the athletes were going to experience a top class Games here this summer...

People's Daily, 30 April 2008

President to visit Japan next week

President Hu Jintao will start a five-day visit to Japan next Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday - signaling a further warming of relations. The visit will be the first by a Chinese president in 10 years and "we hope we can enhance mutual political trust and pragmatic cooperation through the trip," spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular briefing...

People's Daily, 30 April 2008

Hu Jintao calls for mutual trust, consensus with Taiwan

Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Tuesday urged Taiwan to work together with the mainland based on four principles: "Building mutual trust, laying aside disputes, seeking consensus and shelving differences, and creating a win-win situation"...

People's Daily, 30 April 2008

"Tibet issue" is definitely not human rights issue

Dalai clique has worked to promote the "Tibetan Human Rights issues" on its tours of Europe and the United States since the 50s and 60s of the 20th century. So, the human rights have been solemnly turned into a trump card in their hands as well as the weaponry they exploit to call the attention of the international community to the so-called "Tibet issue". Then, is the "Tibet issue" an issue of human rights?...

Taipei Times, 30 April 2008

Exiled government says Tibetan unrest claimed 203 lives

The number of people killed in a Chinese crackdown on protests and unrest in Tibet has risen by around 50 to 203, the Tibetan government-in-exile said yesterday, as Chinese media reported that 17 people had been sent to prison for their role in last month's unrest. Around 1,000 people had been hurt and 5,715 arrested since the demonstrations began on March 10, according to figures that the government based in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala said had been extensively cross-checked...

Taipei Times, 30 April 2008

Editorial: Give Taiwan credit for democracy

While protests over China's crackdown in Tibet and the debate about Kosovo's unilateral

declaration of independence continue to fester, the injustice of Taiwan's ongoing international isolation has barely stirred a flicker of interest despite Taiwan's recent presidential election and referendums on UN membership. This neglect is not only shortsighted, but may also prove dangerous...

Taipei Times, 30 April 2008

Editorial: Middle road a betrayal of the DPP's principles

Following the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) loss in the presidential election, a strong voice has emerged attributing the loss to the "deep green" faction hijacking the DPP and urging the party to take the "middle road." What is this middle road? The political reality is the "pan-blue camp" represents China, whereas the "pan-green camp" represents Taiwan. In choosing between these two definitions of national identity, asking the DPP to take the middle road is tantamount to asking it to rally around the Chinese nationalism represented by the pan-blue camp...