

People's Daily, 1 January 2009

President Hu offers six proposals for peaceful development of cross-Strait relationship

President Hu Jintao offered six proposals to promote the peaceful development of the cross-Strait relationship in a speech to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the mainland's "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan" in Beijing on Wednesday. Hu said the mainland is willing to discuss with Taiwan proper and reasonable arrangement for Taiwan's participation in international organizations, as long as this does not create a scenario of "two Chinas" or "China and Taiwan."

People's Daily, 1 January 2009

China-U.S. relations on path towards greater progress

China-U.S. relations have been making steady progress amid twists and turns since the start of 1979 when the two nations officially established diplomatic ties, thanks to concerted efforts by both sides. The ever-improving relations between China and the United States have not only brought huge benefits to the two peoples but also made important contributions to world peace and development. Late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping paid his historic visit to the U.S. less than a month after the formal establishment of relations between the two countries

Taipei Times, 1 January 2009

DPP rejects Hu Jintao's 'olive branch'

Chinese President Hu Jintao, center, sits with Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, left, and Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, as they attend the 30th anniversary of a 'Message to Compatriots in Taiwan' at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, yesterday. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) yesterday rejected an offer from Chinese President Hu Jintao, after he appealed directly to the DPP for the first time to give up its stance on independence, offering an olive branch to Taiwanese seeking representation in international bodies. Hu, in a speech to mark the 30th anniversary of Beijing's 'open letter to Taiwanese compatriots,' yesterday called for a pragmatic approach to the political relationship to ease concerns over tensions across the Taiwan Strait

People's Daily, 2 January 2009

Free voices on Internet new path to democracy in China

Chinese netizens have made their voices heard more loudly and their presence better recognized in headline news events over the past year. When the Beijing Olympic torch relay overseas was disrupted in April, almost all the Chinese msn messenger users posted "I love China" beside their names, a move that looked "overwhelming" to Kevin, a French man who was living in Shanghai at the time

People's Daily, 3 January 2009

Chinese mainland to seize opportunity to promote cross-Straits peaceful development: official

A Chinese mainland official in charge of Taiwan affairs said on Thursday that the mainland would seize "current opportunities" to promote the peaceful development across the Taiwan Straits, firmly safeguard national sovereignty, territorial integrity and "fundamental interest of the Chinese nation." Wang Yi, director of the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, told a seminar that the mainland would spare no efforts to "create a framework for the cross-Strait peaceful development".

People's Daily, 3 January 2009

President Hu urges more efforts to achieve success in 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao urged the nation to carry on the great spirit shown by overcoming the earthquake, hosting the Beijing Olympics and launching the Shenzhou VII manned spacecraft. That spirit will help China gain new achievements in the new year, he said. "We must unite as one to overcome all difficulties," Hu said at a New Year tea party hosted by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, the country's top political advisory body, Thursday at the Great Hall of the People

Asian Age, 4 January 2009

Saffron parties embark on 1st visit to China

Jan. 3: A delegation of the saffron brigade comprising the BJP, RSS and Shiv Sena are embarking on a first ever visit to China on Sunday on an invitation from the ruling communist party there. While the saffron brigade is viewing the opportunity to consolidate its position internationally as a potential ruling party with Lok Sabha polls round the corner, the Left parties are apparently not too happy with the development. The five-member team of BJP, RSS and Shiv Sena is being led by senior leader Balasaheb Apte. "India and China are a force to reckon with and the world would be a better place if the two countries know each other better and the political class have a better understanding and co-ordination," Mr Balasaheb Apte said

People's Daily, 4 January 2009

Hu Jintao's speech on Taiwan draws positive comments

Chinese scholars and businessmen have hailed Hu Jintao's latest speech on Taiwan affairs, hoping that the mainland and Taiwan could have more communication and cooperation in 2009. On the new year's eve, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Hu Jintao made a speech at a ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the mainland's "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan", in which he made six proposals to promote the peaceful development of the cross-Straits relationship

People's Daily, 4 January 2009

Yunnan section of Sino-Vietnam border project completes

The Yunnan section of the Sino-Vietnam land boundary demarcation project has ended with 665 boundary tablets erected, an official with the foreign affairs office of southwest China's Yunnan Province said here on Saturday. During the past eight years, six Chinese teams cooperated with their Vietnamese counterparts and demarcated the borders of Jiangcheng, Jinping, Hekou, Maguan, Malipo and Funing

Taipei Times, 4 January 2009

MND unmoved by PRC missile report

The Ministry of National Defense (MND) said yesterday it would not cut back on the nation's defense despite a media report that said China could gradually decrease the number of missiles targeting Taiwan. China is believed to have deployed around 1,300 missiles across the Taiwan Strait, a figure that has steadily risen for years. The latest issue of the Chinese-language Yazhou Zhoukan, a Hong Kong-based magazine, reported that after Chinese President Hu Jintao's (???) suggestion last week that Taiwan and China discuss a military confidence-building mechanism, the Chinese government and military were mulling the option of gradually decreasing missiles aimed at Taiwan once military exchanges had begun

People's Daily, 5 January 2009

Hu Jintao urges China's armed police to strengthen capabilities

President Hu Jintao on Sunday urged the Chinese People's Armed Police Corps (PAPC) to step up military training and strengthen its ability to deal with its duties, as well as unexpected events and terrorism. The PAPC should take practical actions to safeguard national unity and security, social harmony and stability, and people's happiness, said Hu, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC)...

People's Daily, 5 January 2009

Chinese, U.S. presidents talk relations, international issues on phone

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Sunday spoke over telephone with his U.S. counterpart George W. Bush about bilateral relations and major international issues of common concern. The two leaders exchanged congratulations on achievements that have been made in the development of bilateral relations since the forging of diplomatic ties between China and the U.S. 30 years ago...

Taipei Times, 5 January 2009

PRC broke deal on disputed gas field, Tokyo says

China has violated an agreement with Japan by continuing to develop a gas field in a disputed area in the East China Sea, a press report said yesterday. The neighbors struck a deal in June last year to end a lingering spat over four Chinese undersea gas fields which, Japan said, extend or potentially extend into its exclusive economic zone...

Taipei Times, 5 January 2009

Editorial: China policy comes at high cost

Changes in the cross-strait relationship over the seven months since President Ma Ying-jeou took office include a cooling-off in the cross-strait political standoff, the resumption of talks between the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) and increased economic deregulation. However, Taiwan has had to pay a heavy political price for this relaxation.

Taipei Times, 5 January 2009

THE LIBERTY TIMES EDITORIAL: Cross-strait policy helps nothing

Since President Ma Ying-jeou and his government assumed office, many people have been dissatisfied with the China-leaning cross-strait policies that have damaged Taiwan's sovereignty, economy and diplomacy. A self-satisfied Ma, however, cannot see his failures and the resulting crises. Last Sunday, the Cabinet held a seminar for senior Cabinet officials on Chinese affairs...

The Hindu, 6 January 2009

China firmly with India on terror

New Delhi: India on Monday shared with China material about the involvement of elements in Pakistan in the Mumbai terror attacks and urged it to influence Islamabad to cooperate in bringing the culprits to book. Besides discussing bilateral issues, Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon provided dossiers on phone intercepts between the terrorists and their handlers, material recovered from the abandoned boat and the bodies of terrorists besides other details to visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei...

The Times of India, 6 January 2009

Editorial Comment: The China Syndrome

While there's a great deal of evidence about Chinese aid to Pakistani nuclear weapons projects dating back to at least the early 1980s, a recent book by Thomas Reed, a top US nuclear scientist, makes some startling disclosures about the extent to which such aid might have gone. According to Reed the Chinese actually tested a nuclear weapon for Pakistan in 1990...

People's Daily, 6 January 2009

Chinese FM, Rice talk over phone about Mideast crisis, bilateral ties

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday talked over phone about the flare-up of the Middle East crisis as well as the Sino-U.S. relations. Yang expressed China's deep concern about the latest escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the volatile situation in the Middle East, and the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip...

People's Daily, 6 January 2009

Chinese shipmen escape from pirates in Gulf of Aden

A Sierra Leone cargo ship with 32 Chinese onboard threw off the pursuit of four pirate boats in the Gulf of Aden on Monday, the China Maritime Search and Rescue Center said on Monday. The ship was carrying more than 10,000 tons of silicate and oil equipment from Singapore to the Republic of Djibouti in northeastern Africa when it met with the pirates, the center said in a statement...

Taipei Times, 6 January 2009

Editorial: China's 'missile reduction' is fantasy

It would be very easy to overstate the significance of the Chinese government's suggestion last week, following President Hu Jintao's speech from the throne, that it could remove some of the 1,300 missiles it aims at Taiwan once military confidence measures have been implemented. While this might appear to be a gesture of goodwill - Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator Lin Yu-fang could not refrain from using these words - the "removal" of missiles is little more than cosmetic, as history shows us...

Taipei Times, 6 January 2009

Editorial: China: Rising and responsible?

A Chinese naval fleet consisting of two destroyers and a supply ship departed on Dec. 26 on a mission to fight pirates in the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters. The mission is China's first outside the Pacific in modern times. Piracy off the Somali coast intensified last year with 20 percent of the 1,265 Chinese ships passing through the area coming under attack...

Taipei Times, 6 January 2009

Editorial: Hu's six points: proceed with care

On the last day of last year, Chinese President Hu Jintao made six proposals on cross-strait relations. Hu kept firmly to Beijing's "one China" stance as he outlined China's policies toward Taiwan for the next few years. Using economic benefits, international participation, peace and stability as lures, Hu echoed President Ma Ying-jeou's policies, using cross-strait talks as a lever to make the "one China" principle a reality and work toward Beijing's ultimate goal - peaceful unification...

The Hindu, 7 January 2009

News Analysis: Year of Olympic triumph and crises for China

2008 was a year tattooed on the material and metaphysical topography of China ever since it won the bid to host the summer Olympic Games. It was to be the year

that unveiled a resurgent, powerful and modern country to the world. In the end, notwithstanding the success of the Games, it was in fact a year of crises. Natural disasters, domestic dissent and an international financial meltdown coalesced to offer up twelve months of formidable challenges...

People's Daily, 7 January 2009

Vice premier: China's countryside holds key for boosting demand

China's rural areas have the biggest potential in boosting domestic demand, said Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan during visits to the countryside concluded on Tuesday. China should "especially place priority on tapping the rural market and developing the countryside" when spreading global financial crisis blunted the country's economic growth, said Wang...

People's Daily, 7 January 2009

Escort mission tests the Chinese navy

China sent its naval fleet on Dec. 26 2008 to join the international anti-piracy task force patrolling the waters off Somalia. The escort vessels had sailed from Sanya, a city in southern China's Hainan Province to Gulf of Aden, where they participated in the anti-piracy mission after the United Nations Security Council authorized nations to conduct land and air operations on pirate bases. The first escort duty of the Chinese navy has attracted world attention...

Taipei Times, 7 January 2009

Pentagon wary of PRC-Taiwan ties

Pentagon officials are worried that increasingly warm relations across the Taiwan Strait could give China new opportunities to spy on Taiwan's US-made weapons systems. "Quite properly and appropriately it's an issue that is raising a lot of red flags right now," said John Pike, head of the highly-respected Global Security military think tank in Washington...

Taipei Times, 7 January 2009

Editorial: Taiwan: Falling into China's orbit?

For most people outside this small corner of Asia, Taiwan isn't even on the radar. At best, it is seen as a satellite of China, a satellite that merely obfuscates their view of that great celestial body; a rogue moon that must be brought into permanent orbit, like Hong Kong and Macau. Or, in Beijing's view, it is like Tibet. Sure, Taiwan is a high-tech powerhouse, an economic tiger (on its good days) and a beacon of democracy in Asia...

The Hindu, 8 January 2009

Chinese economists predict hard times

Beijing: Unemployment driven by the global financial crisis could cause social unrest in China, although the economy looks set to reach its annual growth target of 8 per cent, according to a survey of leading Chinese economists. Han Kang, vice-president of the National School of Administration in Beijing, warned that rising unemployment, particularly among university graduates and migrant rural workers could lead to unrest unless it was tackled urgently...

The Times of India, 8 January 2009

China faces wave of unrest in 2009

Beijing: China faces surging protests and riots in 2009 as rising unemployment stokes discontent, a state-run magazine said in a blunt warning of the hazards to Communist Party control from a sharp economic downturn. The unusually stark

report issued by the official Xinhua news agency said faltering growth could spark anger among millions of migrant workers and university graduates left jobless...

People's Daily, 8 January 2009

Hu Jintao's 'bu zheteng' baffles foreign media

During the conference held on December 18 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the reform and opening-up policy, after putting forward two major goals for the future, President Hu Jintao said that, "As long as we don't waver, don't slack off and don't 'zheteng' (get sidetracked), and as long as we firmly push forward reform and opening-up... we are certain to be able to successfully realize this grand blueprint and achieve the goals we are striving for"...

People's Daily, 8 January 2009

China hopes to ensure healthy, stable relations with U.S.

China hopes to work with the United States to maintain a healthy and stable relationship which benefits the people of both countries and the world, said Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo on Wednesday. "Sino-U.S. relations are at a crucial point linking the past to the future," Dai told the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte, who was here to honor the 30th anniversary of Sino-U.S. relations...

Taipei Times, 8 January 2009

Taiwan's imports, exports at record low

Amid the global economic downturn, Taiwan's export-dependent economy is suffering, with exports sinking a record 41.9 percent year-on-year last month while imports took a historic dive of 44.6 percent, the Ministry of Finance said yesterday. The bleak showing prompted the central bank to cut key interest rates by 50 basis points for the sixth time in four months to help stem the decline and boost consumption...

Taipei Times, 8 January 2009

Editorial: Good intentions and empty words

While the public struggles under the weight of the economic slowdown, President Ma Ying-jeou and his administration seem to be living in a world of their own. Most Taiwanese have felt the pain of the global economic crunch, with an increasing number struggling to make ends meet. More than 10,000 enterprises were shuttered last year, and last month saw the unemployment rate surge to a five-year high of 4.64 percent...

Taipei Times, 9 January 2009

Editorial: Closer ties bring significant risks

The Chinese economy is in a tailspin, and it would be wise for Taiwan to wake up to that fact. Recent indicators show that in November, China's exports fell for the first time in seven years - decreasing 2.2 percent - while imports plunged an astonishing 17.9 percent. In the meantime, direct foreign investment decreased 36.5 percent from a year earlier, while the producer price index dropped from 10 percent in August to only 2 percent in November...

Taipei Times, 9 January 2009

Editorial: Hu's speech just more of the same

On Dec. 31, Chinese President Hu Jintao gave a speech in Beijing to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan." The basic spirit of the speech was the same as 30 years ago and was aimed at getting Taiwan to surrender to China. What was the "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan" about?...

People's Daily, 10 January 2009

Chinese, Iranian FMs discuss relations, international issues on phone

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki exchanged views over the phone Friday on promoting further development of bilateral relations in 2009 and international and regional issues of common concern. On the situation in the Gaza Strip, Yang said China is seriously concerned and deeply worried about the grave humanitarian crisis caused by the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict...

Taipei Times, 10 January 2009

Editorial: The thickening end of the wedge

When global experts in a given field come to Taiwan to see what is actually taking place under the watch of President Ma Ying-jeou and his Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) overseers, a pall quickly settles over the cliché of Taiwanese vibrancy and openness. The devil in the detail offers instant sobriety for anyone willing to look...

People's Daily, 11 January 2009

Tibet opens annual parliament session to foreign journalists

Four media organizations from China's neighboring countries will be invited for the first time to cover the annual session of the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region to be held on Jan. 14. The plenary session of the Regional Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference to be held on Jan. 12 will also be open to foreign press...

People's Daily, 11 January 2009

China's economy to rebound in 2010, chief economist

China's economy will not recover until 2010, as it needs time for government stimulus policies to take effect, a senior economist said Saturday. Fan Jianping, chief economist of the State Information Center, a top government think-tank, made the remarks at a forum in Changchun, capital of the Northeastern Jilin Province...

Taipei Times, 11 January 2009

Steel doors closing on Taiwan's democracy

In January last year, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) scored a resounding victory over the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in the legislative elections, winning more than 50 percent of the total vote and just below three-quarters of all legislative seats. Two months later, KMT candidate Ma Ying-jeou was elected president, garnering more than 55 percent of the total vote...

The Asian Age, 12 January 2009

China trying to wean away Nepal Army?

New Delhi: Is China making efforts to gain influence in Nepal's Army by taking advantage of Maoists being in power? Worries in this regard have been triggered following a flurry of visits by senior Chinese military officials to Kathmandu during the last few months. Senior Chinese military officials and diplomats have been visiting Nepal through the Tibet-Nepal Highway frequently in the recent times, sources said here...

People's Daily, 12 January 2009

U.S. envoys to China optimistic about bilateral ties in Obama era

Four U.S. ambassadors in Beijing on Sunday eyed a continued China policy under the Obama administration. "I am optimistic that U.S-China ties will continue to improve

and remain steady in the years ahead. In fact, they are getting better," former U.S. ambassador to China James Sasser told reporters on the sidelines of a reception marking the 30th anniversary of China-U.S. diplomatic relations...

People's Daily, 12 January 2009

Nation can be first to 'recover'

The country could be the first to recover from the global financial crisis, and will introduce more measures in the next two months to bolster the economy, Premier Wen Jiabao has said. "Our aim is to be the first to recover from the financial crisis. We must have faith and determination," Wen said on a tour of export powerhouse Jiangsu province over the weekend...

Taipei Times, 12 January 2009

Editorial: Any slower and we'd grind to a halt

In recent weeks the government dragged its feet on a number of issues, including allegations that former Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislator Diane Lee lied about her US citizenship, toxic pollution in Chaoliao Village and uncertainty over the implementation of International Accounting Standards Statement No. 10...

People's Daily, 13 January 2009

Hu, Carter mark 30 years of diplomatic ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter as the two nations marked the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties. "As old friends of the Chinese people, you played an important role in establishing China-U.S. diplomatic ties and witnessed that historic decision," Hu told the Carter-led U.S. delegation, which came here for commemorative events...

People's Daily, 13 January 2009

China, U.S. agree bilateral relations as "most important"

China and the United States on Monday agreed that Sino-U.S. relations had become one of the most dynamic and important bilateral relations in the world. Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and visiting former U.S. President Jimmy Carter made the consensus when addressing a reception in the Great Hall of the People to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries...

People's Daily, 13 January 2009

Sino-US cooperation to promote world peace

Sino-US relations has scored substantial, fruitful outcome and made noticeable progress ever since the two nations forged their diplomatic ties three full decades ago. This bilateral relationship not only benefits China and the U.S. and their people, and but helps to promote forcefully the world peace, stability and development...

Taipei Times, 13 January 2009

Editorial: Hu and Ma must hear voice of the Taiwanese

The six proposals on Taiwan put forward by Chinese President Hu Jintao on Dec. 31 clearly excluded any US participation in relations between China and Taiwan. "The Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait have the ability and the wisdom to hold the future of cross-strait relations in their own hands," Hu said...

Taipei Times, 13 January 2009

Editorial: Crises give democracies the edge

With rising unemployment and a sharp drop in exports, China and Taiwan are both facing economic recessions. But which government is better equipped to deal with

the downturn? Past experience has shown that the true test of governing systems is not when the economy is chugging along smoothly, but rather when it hits a bump in the road or comes to a screeching halt...

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 13 January 2009

Aso, Lee in tune over DPRK / Leaders agree to work closely with U.S. on North Korea

Seoul: Prime Minister Taro Aso and South Korean President Lee Myung Bak agreed Monday to cooperate over the North Korean nuclear issue with the incoming administration of U.S. President-elect Barack Obama. At summit talks that continued for about an hour at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, Aso said Japan, South Korea and the United States must work closely on North Korean issues, including the nuclear problem...

People's Daily, 14 January 2009

China to enhance reform during financial crisis, says CPPCC chairman

China will resolutely advance its reform and opening-up despite the global financial crisis, said Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Wednesday. "We will make full use of the favorable international and domestic conditions to ensure stable and rapid economic growth and social harmony," Jia told visiting Ukrainian Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov...

Taipei Times, 14 January 2009

Editorial: Skepticism: our most valuable asset

With disturbing reports emerging in recent months of government meddling in the media and judiciary, it may be that our greatest protection against eroding freedoms and justice is public indignation. When checks and balances within the government fail to prevent unconstitutional interference, perhaps only embarrassment will convince the government to keep its hands to itself...

Taipei Times, 14 January 2009

Editorial: Media toss out journalistic ethics

Ma Ying-jeou's inauguration as president on May 20 marked the return to power of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) after eight years of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) rule and a watershed for media in Taiwan. Over the past few months, the media have been transformed from tools to weapons. The media arena has become a new battlefield of political struggle...

People's Daily, 15 January 2009

Carter: Formalizing U.S.-China ties my 'crowning achievement'

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said here Thursday that the crowning achievement of his life was the formal establishment of Sino-U.S. relations by his administration 30 years ago. Carter made the comment while visiting central China's Hubei Province. The former U.S. president is in China for activities to mark the forging of diplomatic ties between China and the United States...

Taipei Times, 15 January 2009

Editorial: A closer look at Hu's 'six proposals'

On Dec. 31, Chinese President Hu Jintao made six proposals on cross-strait relations. Hu kept firmly to Beijing's "one China" policy, but for the first time raised the prospect of security and military talks with Taiwan. Hu stressed that China would

pursue a "peaceful development" policy.

The Hindu, 16 January 2009

China, world's 3rd largest economy

China has overtaken Germany to become the world's third-largest economy earlier than expected, after estimates for the country's gross domestic product were revised higher. The National Bureau of Statistics of China reported this on Thursday. It now believes the Chinese economy grew by 13 per cent in 2007, up from an earlier estimate of 11.9 per cent and China's highest annual growth rate since 1993...

People's Daily, 16 January 2009

China, U.S. to create new, win-win space

Sino-US bilateral economic and trade ties have been growing rapidly since the two nations resumed their diplomatic ties three decades ago. The mutually-beneficial and win-win economic and trade ties have not only brought substantial economic interests to both nations but provided a vital basis or given a powerful impetus to the development of bilateral relations...

People's Daily, 16 January 2009

Premier Wen: Global financial crisis a national test

The global financial crisis is an austere test of the nation and the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), and every Party member and official should work for economic growth, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Thursday. Wen, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, said at a Party conference of the central and state agencies, "The world is experiencing the sort of financial crisis that has rarely been seen before, which has seriously affected our economy"...

Taipei Times, 16 January 2009

Editorial: Hu determined to break 'two noes'

The nine-month cross-strait honeymoon following President Ma Ying-jeou's inauguration came to an end when Chinese President Hu Jintao gave a speech in Beijing on Dec. 31 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan." In his speech, Hu talked about "peaceful unification" and "one country, two systems" and made it clear that the "one China" principle and economic cooperation were China's political and material foundations for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations...

Taipei Times, 16 January 2009

Editorial: Ma's spending won't stop the rot

Talk about a "February crisis" began in China. Since the Lunar New Year falls in late January this year and because of the large number of companies that have closed or are closing as a result of the economic crisis, next month may begin with a wave of unemployment sweeping across China causing social instability...

The Asian Age, 17 January 2009

Bush hails strategic ties with India, China

Washington: President George W. Bush counts opening "a new historic and strategic partnership with India" and strengthening ties with China among major foreign policy achievements of his eight year rule. Urging Americans "to continue to engage the world with confidence in the transformative power of freedom and liberty," he told US foreign service officials on Thursday, "These are the ideals that gave birth to our own nation, these universal ideals gave birth to America"...

The Times of India, 17 January 2009

Editorial Comment: Enter The Dragon

In 1978, Deng Xiaoping inaugurated China's transition from Mao to market. Since then, tens of millions of Chinese have emerged from poverty. Now, even as the world economy sinks further into recession, the Asian giant is well on its way up the global economic pecking order. According to its revised growth figures, China overtook Germany in 2007 to become the world's third largest economy, behind the US and Japan. China's GDP grew 13 per cent from a year earlier...

People's Daily, 17 January 2009

China key to easing global recession

The United Nations is counting on China as Asia's "locomotive" for global economic growth, it said in a high-level report released on Friday. In the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009, UN experts forecast China will achieve between 7 and 8.9 percent growth this year, with the most likely figure being 8.4 percent. In contrast, the global economy is forecast to grow by just 1 percent, down from 2.5 percent last year...

People's Daily, 17 January 2009

MOC: China urges World Bank to clarify ban on Chinese firms

China's government urged Friday the World Bank to pass over details of an investigation into Chinese construction firms accused of tender rigging. The World Bank on Thursday said it found evidence of collusion among four Chinese and three local construction firms in the bidding for a Philippine road project...

Taipei Times, 17 January 2009

Editorial: President's 'one China' policy is illogical

Although I knew about the government's suppression of public demonstrations against the visit by Chinese envoy Chen Yunlin, I was still startled when I saw the documentary Red Caution. The protesters were indeed as brave as the theme song of the documentary said: "I want to reach out and test how hot the flames are." It is never easy to protect freedom and rights...

The Hindu, 18 January 2009

Take the lead in spreading compassion: Dalai Lama

New Delhi: Emphasising the need to inculcate the spirit of tolerance and compassion from childhood, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Saturday suggested such lessons would not only create a better world but also a human being at peace with oneself...

The Hindu, 18 January 2009

China says no threat from its military development

Beijing: The People's Liberation Army (PLA) will not engage in any arms race and its development does not pose a threat to any country, China Daily quotes a senior military official as saying. Huang Xueping, Deputy Director-General of the Information Office of the Ministry of National Defence, said this in an interview with the newspaper...

The Asian Age, 18 January 2009

Op-Ed: Beijing leaving nothing to chance to beat fiscal gloom

At a recent exhibition in Beijing, "China - Portrait of a country," creative works of "red color news soldiers" (read propaganda photographers) celebrated the country's semi-official history of 60 years. The photographs were striking, not so much for

their adulation of Chairman Mao as for the images of a young man sipping Coke in the Forbidden City in the 1980s, migrant workers at giant manufacturing plants and the grand spectacle of Beijing Olympics...

People's Daily, 18 January 2009

Chinese FM: China attaches importance to cooperation with Africa

Strengthening friendly relations and cooperation with Africa is an important foundation of China's foreign policy, and remarkable development has been achieved in China-Africa ties in the past year, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said here Saturday. Yang, who was wrapping up a visit to Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi and South Africa, said China and Africa maintained high-level exchanges, and deepened their strategic mutual trust in 2008...

People's Daily, 18 January 2009

U.S. signs memorandum with China on limiting import of archeological items

China and the United States had signed a memorandum of understanding restricting the U.S. import of archeological items originating in China, a Chinese official said Saturday. The memorandum was signed in Washington on Thursday by Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs Goli Ameri, said Dong Baohua, deputy director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), at a press conference...

Taipei Times, 18 January 2009

US removes Taiwan from IPR 'watch list'

The US has taken Taiwan off its special "watch list" in recognition of the progress it has made in protecting intellectual property rights (IPR). "Taiwan has come a long way on this issue over the last eight years," said Sean Spicer, a spokesman for the US Trade Representative's office in Washington...

The Asian Age, 19 January 2009

Dalai: Give meaningful autonomy

New Delhi: In an apparent climbdown from the stated position of getting Tibet freed from Chinese control, the Dalai Lama on Sunday said that he would be satisfied if "meaningful functional autonomy" is given to his people...

People's Daily, 19 January 2009

Tibet endorses 'Serfs Emancipation Day'

The Tibetan legislature decided Monday to commemorate the end of feudal serfdom in the autonomous on March 28. A session of the regional legislature endorsed a proposal for setting up "Serfs Emancipation Day", which was submitted last Friday. The 382 legislators attending the session unanimously voted for the proposal, said Legqog, director of the Standing Committee of the Tibetan Autonomous Regional People's Congress...

People's Daily, 19 January 2009

Churches, mosques to be restored in Beijing

The government plans to rebuild or restore 12 churches, mosques and temples in the capital, Yang Xiaodong, a Beijing Religion Bureau official, said Sunday. The move is aimed at giving Christians - Catholics and Protestants both - Muslims, Buddhists and Daoists better access to places of worship...

People's Daily, 19 January 2009

Commentary: A day to remember, for Tibetans and all

Tibet's regional legislature decided on Monday to commemorate the end of feudal serfdom every year on March 28 - the day the Chinese central government dissolved the aristocratic local government of Tibet and freed more than 1 million serfs...

Taipei Times, 19 January 2009

Editorial: A wake-up call on Chinese espionage

Any Taiwanese more than 30 years old will be familiar with the slogans "keep secrets and watch out for spies" and "communist spies are right beside you." Such watchwords could once be seen in school textbooks and painted on walls everywhere, reminding Taiwanese to be on their guard against the Chinese communist threat...

Taipei Times, 19 January 2009

Editorial: Only fools wouldn't see a developing pattern

Not once, not twice, but on three occasions calendars meant for distribution by government offices across the country included Chinese holidays such as Reunification Day and Mao Zedong's birthday, or substituted the Republic of China (ROC) flag with that of the blood-drenched People's Republic of China (PRC)...

People's Daily, 20 January 2009

Chinese premier urges steps to reverse economic slowdown trend

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday called for more steps in the first quarter this year to reverse the trend of economic slowdown as soon as possible and realize a good start for the whole of 2009. Wen made the remarks during the second plenary meeting of the State Council, or the Cabinet. The meeting was held here Monday...

People's Daily, 20 January 2009

White paper: China would never seek hegemony

China would never seek hegemony or engage in military expansion now or in the future, no matter how developed it becomes, says a white paper on China's National Defense in 2008 issued Tuesday. It is China's sixth white paper on National Defense since the first one was issued by the Information Office of the State Council in 1998...

People's Daily, 20 January 2009

China's eight-measure economic policy on Africa well implemented, says Chinese minister

China's eight-measure policy designed to strengthen economic and trade cooperation with Africa has been effectively carried out with remarkable achievements in the past two years, Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming said Monday...

Taipei Times, 20 January 2009

Editorial: Taiwan can still avoid China's trap

The benefits of economic security and prosperity touted by the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou through Taiwan's increasing integration into China are nonexistent. On the other hand, China's economic growth is slowing down to a point where it is facing a danger of social instability...

The Times of India, 21 January 2009

China censors Obama's reference to communism

Beijing: Websites in China censored US President Barack Obama's references to communism and dissent in his inauguration speech and state television abruptly turned away from the broadcast once communism was mentioned...

People's Daily, 21 January 2009

Premier: Talented foreigners welcome to start and develop careers in China

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao welcomed foreigners with talent to start and develop their careers in China on Jan. 20. Wen said China will sincerely work with foreign experts to overcome the current difficulties and address the global financial crisis. Wen made the remarks at a meeting with 19 representatives of foreign experts who have helped the reform and opening up of China for a long time...

People's Daily, 21 January 2009

Chinese premier to visit Europe, attend World Economic Forum

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will make official visits to Switzerland, Germany, the EU headquarters, Spain and Britain between Jan. 27 to Feb. 2. He will also attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu made the announcement at a press conference here Tuesday...

Taipei Times, 21 January 2009

PRC calls for better ties with US, cites Taiwan as a threat

Hours before Barack Obama's inauguration as president, China called for stronger military ties with the US and said the key threats facing its national security were Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. Ministry of Defense Spokesman Colonel Hu Changming said there were "difficulties" in military relations between the two countries and expressed hope the situation would improve...

Taipei Times, 21 January 2009

Editorial: Ma bailout plans ripe for political corruption

After being a buzzword for almost 30 years, economic globalization has become a target for criticism following the global economic downturn. Neoliberal economic laissez-faire and free market dogma are being widely questioned. The era of small government is over and suddenly we rely on the government to save the economy, hoping that big and capable government will intervene...

The Hindu, 22 January 2009

Will never seek hegemony, says China

Beijing: China has issued a white paper on national defence, in which it committed itself to peaceful development and military modernisation. The paper - for the first time - unveiled China's ambition to "basically accomplish mechanisation [of the military] and make major progress" in information technology by 2020 and "realising modernisation by mid-21st century"...

The Times of India, 22 January 2009

Chinese court to sentence 21 in milk scandal

Shijiazhuang (China): The former boss of the dairy company at the centre of China's contaminated milk scandal and 20 other people awaited sentencing today for the production and sale of melamine-tainted products. Tian Wenhua, who was general manager and chairwoman of Sanlu Group Co., has pleaded guilty to charges of producing and selling fake or substandard products after infant formula tainted with the chemical melamine was blamed in the deaths of at least six babies and the illnesses of nearly 300,000 others...

People's Daily, 22 January 2009

China's economy grows 9% in 2008

China's gross domestic product (GDP) reached 30.0670 trillion yuan (4.4216 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2008, up 9 percent year on year, said the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Thursday. The growth was the slowest since 2001, when an annual rate of 8.3 percent was recorded, and the first time below a double-digit level since 2003...

People's Daily, 22 January 2009

Chinese president visits army officers ahead of Lunar New Year

Chinese President Hu Jintao paid visits to the Beijing Military Area Command and a local communication station of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Wednesday, just days ahead of the traditional Lunar New Year. Hu, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, first conveyed New Year greetings to the soldiers on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the Central Military Commission...

Taipei Times, 22 January 2009

Editorial: Leaks show blurry line in the Strait

Various newspapers in Taiwan have taken different approaches to the case in which Wang Ren-bing, a senior specialist at the Presidential Office's Department of Special Affairs, and Chen Pin-jen, a former assistant to Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislator Liao Kuo-tung, are accused of having colluded to leak secrets from the Office of the President...

Taipei Times, 22 January 2009

Editorial: Democracy doesn't end after the elections

The strong cold front that swept across Taiwan last week was not enough to stop people from attending a forum organized by the Taiwan Thinktank. As for so many other Taiwanese, the cold weather was of little importance compared with their worries about whether Taiwan's democracy will make it through its severe winter...

The Hindu, 23 January 2009

China's GDP records seven-year low

Beijing: China's economy cooled to its slowest pace in seven years in 2008, 9 per cent year-on-year as the widening global financial crisis continued to affect the world's fastest-growing economy, official data showed on Thursday. The Gross domestic product (GDP) reached 30.067 trillion yuan (\$4.4216 trillion) in 2008, Ma Jiantang, director of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), told a press conference...

The Hindu, 23 January 2009

Pakistan gives 'blank cheque' to China

Islamabad: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan had given a "blank cheque" to China authorising it to negotiate with India on its behalf to deal with the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Speaking at a reception at the Chinese embassy here on Wednesday night, Mr. Qureshi said he had told Chinese special envoy He Yafei to "go to Delhi and you have a blank cheque from us"...

The Indian Express, 23 January 2009

The year of living dissidently

The months ahead will be busy for Chinese dissidents. A string of sensitive anniversaries will evoke numerous petitions calling for political change. In December more than 300 of the country's most prominent activists issued a wide-ranging

appeal for democratic reform. On January 12th a group of them were at it again, no less quixotically, with a demand for a boycott of national state-owned television...

The Indian Express, 23 January 2009

Three get death in China milk scandal

Beijing: A Group of high-ranking dairy company executives and middlemen were sentenced by a Chinese court on Thursday to long jail terms, life in prison and, for three individuals, the death penalty for endangering public safety last year by selling and producing tainted milk products, according to the state-run news media...

People's Daily, 23 January 2009

Chinese President Hu calls for nationwide efforts to maintain economic stability

Chinese President called on members of all political parties, social organizations and ethnic groups to make concerted efforts to help China maintain steady economic growth in 2009. Hu made the remarks when meeting leaders of non-communist parties, All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and public figures without party affiliation on Thursday afternoon...

People's Daily, 23 January 2009

Democratic Reform a historic stride for social system in Tibet: scholar

Xinhua News Agency published an article by Hao Shiyuan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), on Thursday, to hail that the Democratic Reform is historic stride for social system in Tibet. Hao, who is also director of the CASS center for the study of Tibetan history and culture, has contributed the article to the Beijing-based Guangming Daily as part of the newspaper's serial articles to mark the establishment of the "Serfs Emancipation Day" by the Tibetan legislature on Monday...

People's Daily, 23 January 2009

Wen's European visits to be 'trip of confidence', says Chinese official

Premier Wen Jiabao's upcoming European visit would show China's confidence to work with European nations and organizations to push forward the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership and deepen the bilateral cooperation, said a Foreign Ministry official here on Thursday...

The Hindu, 24 January 2009

No scope for China mediation: Congress

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday criticised Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's statement that his country had authorised China to negotiate with India on its behalf to deal with the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks. Congress spokesman Manish Tewari said India-Pakistan issues had to be addressed within the parameters of the Shimla Agreement, the Lahore Declaration and the composite dialogue mechanism...

People's Daily, 24 January 2009

CPC Political Bureau urges applying scientific outlook on development

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting Friday to study the application of the scientific outlook on development. The meeting was chaired by the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Hu Jintao who is also Chinese President...

People's Daily, 24 January 2009

China's national defense, open & self-confident

A white paper titled "China's National Defense in 2008", which was issued on January 21, gives an overall picture of the new achievements, new progress and new ideas China has so far made in its realm of national defense and army modernization. This white paper is the sixth of its kind the Chinese government issued every other year since 1998...

People's Daily, 24 January 2009

China welcomes British strategy document on bilateral relations

China on Friday said it welcomed the British strategy document detailing an approach for bilateral relations. "The document fully indicates the importance attached by Britain to its relationship with China, and also shows the great potential in bilateral cooperation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in response to a question...

People's Daily, 24 January 2009

Currency manipulation claim fans Sino-U.S. trade fears

The China currency manipulation comment by the U.S. Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner has sparked worries that China would face increasing pressure from U.S. trade protectionism, Chinese economists said. "This is the first comment made by the Obama administration on Sino-U.S. economic ties," said Cao Honghui, a researcher with the Institute of Finance under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)...

Taipei Times, 24 January 2009

Editorial: How Obama matters to Taiwan

If there were one thing the election of US President Barack Obama might do for American society, it would be to corrode the utility of the expression "token black." Obama's ethnic background has turned out to be a boon for the local and global reputation of the US political system, but his rise to the presidency at no time could afford to crudely trade on his black identity, because most voters would not have tolerated it...

The Times of India, 25 January 2009

Taiwan's Chen suspected of hiding funds in Australia: Report

Taipei: Taiwanese prosecutors investigating alleged corruption by former president Chen Shui-bian are looking into accusations he kept huge amounts of money in Australia, a report said Saturday. The Taipei-based China Times cited unnamed overseas sources as saying that the Chen family has transferred "huge funds" to Australia, calling it "enough for the use of three generations"...

People's Daily, 25 January 2009

Chinese President underscores stable agricultural, rural economic development

Chinese President Hu Jintao urged the promotion of stable agricultural and rural economic development and said issues concerning agriculture, countryside and farmers should continue to be the top priority of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Hu, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks during a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Friday...

People's Daily, 25 January 2009

Leading newspaper praises Tibet's development, slashing Dalai Lama

A leading Chinese newspaper said Tibet is economically prosperous today and the

Dalai Lama and his supporters had tried to spoil the good situation. Guangming Daily published over the weekend another piece of the serial on setting of the March 28 the Serfs Emancipation Day, saying that in the past decades, Tibet has witnessed the deepest social changes and the fastest social progress...

Taipei Times, 25 January 2009

'Handle ties with care,' China warns US

China's central bank said yesterday US accusations that it was manipulating the yuan were misleading, a day after Beijing cautioned US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to handle their diplomatic ties with care. The remarks from Su Ning, a vice governor of the People's Bank of China, were the bank's first public reaction to comments from US Treasury secretary-designate Timothy Geithner, who said this week that Beijing was manipulating its currency exchange policies to gain an unfair trade advantage...

Taipei Times, 25 January 2009

Editorial: Finding a solution to the KMT's party-state

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) are planning a Taiwan Civil National Affairs Conference this year and have already held a preparatory meeting in southern Taiwan. The meeting is to be non-governmental, because it aims to gather opinions on political and economical developments from all sectors of society to provide important advice for dealing with the crisis that has been created since the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) return to power...

The Hindu, 26 January 2009

Chinese pin hopes on revamped healthcare system

Beijing: China's multi-billion yuan health reform plan has aroused people's hope for changes in its creaking medical system, a key source of public discontent. The plan, passed by the State Council, promises to spend 850 billion yuan (\$123 billion) by 2011 to provide universal primary medical service to the country's 1.3 billion people...

People's Daily, 26 January 2009

Hu visits communist revolutionary base before Lunar New Year

Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the eastern province of Jiangxi on Saturday and Sunday, calling on revolutionary veterans and model workers ahead of the Lunar New Year, China's most important holiday for family gatherings. It was the sixth year in a row that the president spent the holiday outside Beijing with ordinary citizens...

Taipei Times, 26 January 2009

President promises better times ahead

President Ma Ying-jeou vowed yesterday to lead the country through the global economic recession, saying he was confident the joint efforts of the government and people would eventually succeed. "I am here to guarantee you that the administration will do its best to create better economic conditions," he said. "The bitter winter will pass and the spring will come. I promise I will not let you down"...

The Hindu, 27 January 2009

Republic Day fervour in China, Israel

Beijing: Unfurling of the national tricolour, cultural programmes and festivities marked the 60th Republic Day celebrations in China. At a ceremony at the Indian embassy here, Ambassador Nirupama Rao hoisted the national flag and read out President Pratibha Patil's address to the nation. Children from the local cultural group 'Gurukul' rendered patriotic songs...

The Hindu, 27 January 2009

China bank refutes currency charge

Beijing: The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, has refuted the allegations by a U.S. Treasury official that China is manipulating the exchange rates of its currency, saying the statement is untrue and misleading. Su Ning, vice governor of the central bank, said the allegation could sidetrack the effort to trace the real cause of the financial crisis...

The Hindu, 27 January 2009

Earliest man-made cave houses in China

Xi'an: Archaeologists in China have unearthed the earliest man-made cave houses and privately-owned pottery workshops which date back 5,500 years. After four years of excavation, a row of 17 cave houses were found on a cliff along the Jinghe river in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Wang Weilin, deputy director of the Shaanxi Archaeology Institute and chief archaeologist of the excavation, told Xinhua...

The Asian Age, 27 January 2009

Opinion: Is India ready for Sino-Pak threat?

On the eve of India's 59th Republic Day, while reports of terror threats come in, few have read the Chinese media articles of "teaching India a lesson" on Arunachal Pradesh. In India doubts remain about control of India's "nuclear button," while the PM recuperates post-surgery at a time when the future of Pakistan and the safety of its nuclear weapons is under global debate. Terrorism, "nukes" and the Chinese threat make a deadly cocktail...

People's Daily, 27 January 2009

Chinese President Hu spends first day of Lunar New Year with ordinary people

Chinese President Hu Jintao visited railway staff and police officers on duty and ordinary people in eastern Jiangxi Province on the first day of the Lunar New Year to extend his festival greetings. At the Nanchang Railway Station Monday morning, Hu talked with passengers and ticket sales staff to check whether travelers had difficulty in buying tickets...

People's Daily, 27 January 2009

Chinese premier's Europe tour underscores China's confidence

Chinese premier Wen Jiabao's Europe tour will showcase the country's confidence in maintaining stable but relatively fast economic growth and in its efforts to overcome the global financial crisis together with the international community. Wen's visit, which begins later in the day, will also demonstrate China's confidence in developing its comprehensive strategic partnership with European countries...

Taipei Times, 27 January 2009

Lee meets Ma, Siew, warns of over-reliance on China

Former president Lee Teng-hui yesterday urged the government to focus on increasing the nation's exports to boost the economy. Lee made the comments during a visit by President Ma Ying-jeou, with the two discussing numerous topics during the one-hour meeting, said a presidential aide who wished to remain anonymous...