

People's Daily, 1 July 2008

China prepares six-party chief negotiators' meeting

China said on Tuesday the six-party nuclear talks had achieved "significant progress," adding that China is preparing with other concerned parties for a chief negotiators' meeting. Hailing the recent progress in the Korean Peninsula denuclearization, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said that China appreciates the constructive efforts of relevant parties and believes they will make fresh headway in the six-party talks

People's Daily, 2 July 2008

China warns U.S. legislators away from China's internal affairs

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday warned two U.S. congressmen against doing anything to "intervene in China's internal affairs and thus undermine China-U.S. relations". "We suggest they stop their arrogance and prejudice and never do anything to intervene in China's internal affairs and thus undermine China-U.S. relations," Liu Jianchao said at a press conference

People's Daily, 2 July 2008

Chinese, Thai militaries vow to further co-op

China and Thailand pledged to increase exchanges between the two militaries in a meeting of Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie and Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej on Tuesday. Liang, also a state councilor, said the two armed forces had maintained frequent high-level exchanges, and the defense and security consultation mechanism had been improved in recent years

People's Daily, 2 July 2008

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People's Daily, 3 July 2008

1st weekend chartered flight with mainland tourists arrives in Taiwan

The first cross-Strait weekend chartered flight from China's mainland to Taiwan landed at Taipei Taoyuan airport early Friday morning. The historic flight, which took off at 6:31 a.m. from Guangzhou, capital city of China's southern Guangdong Province, arrived at about 8:10 a.m. after a 1,124-km journey. More than 100 mainland tourists aboard the Airbus A330 of China Southern Airlines (CSA) became the first group of people on a sight-seeing tour allowed to Taiwan amid warming cross-Strait ties

People's Daily, 3 July 2008

Chinese central government officials meet with Dalai Lama's private representatives

Du Qinglin, head of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with private representatives of the 14th Dalai Lama in Beijing recently, the department said on Thursday. Du, also the vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), told the two representatives, Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen, the central government's policy towards the Dalai Lama is consistent and explicit. The door for dialogue is always open

People's Daily, 3 July 2008

Chinese-Russian friendship committee discusses bilateral relations

Chinese and Russian officials in charge of the Chinese-Russian Committee of Friendship, Peace and Development met in Moscow Thursday to discuss ways to boost bilateral relations. Visiting Chinese chair of the committee Li Guixian and his Russian counterpart, Leonid Drachevsky, summarized the recent progress, and exchanged views on how to strengthen non-governmental exchanges between the two countries

Indian Express, 4 July 2008

China troop build-up, Tibet upgrade impact our security: Army chief

New Delhi, July 3: After pointing at the 'exponential pace of China's military space programme' last month, Army chief General Deepak Kapoor has drawn attention to the growing military buildup in Tibet and said that the 'improvement of infrastructure' by China in the region would have an impact on India's security in the coming years. Speaking on the changing global environment and its impact on the Indian Army at a function organised by a leading defence think tank, General Kapoor said that while there is constructive engagement between the countries, India needs to be cautious about the impact of China's military modernisation in Tibet

People's Daily, 4 July 2008

China says developed, developing countries need cooperation on global challenges

A senior Chinese diplomat on Thursday urged developed and developing countries to work on common policies and cooperation to address the global challenges such as climate change and food security. "China values dialogue between the Group of Eight (G8) and developing countries", Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi said at a briefing on President Hu Jintao's attendance at the Outreach Session of the G8 Summit

Taipei Times, 4 July 2008

EDITORIAL: Hello tourists, goodbye pipe dreams

Today the nation will receive the first cross-strait flights agreed upon last month. There is hope that tourists will spend enough money to significantly bolster the economy, but an increasing number of people are realizing that the benefits of cross-strait tourism amount to only so much and will benefit only a small section of the economy. The decision to welcome Chinese tourists is not new. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government also invited Chinese tourists, but Beijing declined to negotiate lest the DPP score political points at home that could win it another term in power. But when President Ma Ying-jeou offered to admit Chinese tourists starting this month and to launch weekend cross-strait flights, China came to the negotiating table, allowing Ma to deliver on his election promise. It also agreed to reopen cross-strait talks after a decade-long hiatus

Times of India, 5 July 2008

Dalai Lama 'disappointed' by outcome of talks

DHARAMSALA: The Dalai Lama is "disappointed" by the outcome of the latest round of talks with China, the Tibetan spiritual leader's special envoys on Saturday said, accusing Beijing of lacking commitment towards the dialogue process. Special envoys Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltzen said that they have told Chinese officials during the two-day talks in Beijing that continuing the parleys on the Tibet issue will serve no purpose until the communist country takes "tangible" measures

People's Daily, 7 July 2008

Chinese official urges Dalai Lama to respond with sincerity after recent contact

It's the time for the Dalai Lama to respond with sincerity and prove it by deeds after the Chinese central government had communicated goodwill to him during the meeting with his private representatives, a spokesman of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee said on Sunday. During the meeting with Dalai Lama's representatives, Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltzen, Du Qinglin, head of the department told them the Dalai Lama should openly and explicitly promise and prove it in his actions not to support activities to disturb the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games, not to support plots to fan violent criminal activities, not to support and concretely curb the violent terrorist activities of the "Tibetan Youth Congress" and not to support any argument and activity to seek "Tibet independence" and split the region from the country

People's Daily, 7 July 2008

Chinese mainland tourists start sightseeing in Taiwan

The first group of 680 tourists from the Chinese mainland have started their sightseeing in Taiwan after taking historic cross-Strait weekend charter flights to arrive in the island Friday. Many of them first visited the Sun Moon Lake, a famous scenic spot on the island familiar to the mainland tourists, during the weekend. A couple in their 70s said they were excited to realize the dream of visiting the Sun Moon Lake, which they have seen on books only before

People's Daily, 8 July 2008

Chinese president arrives in Japan for G8 outreach session

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Sapporo, capital of Hokkaido, Monday for the Outreach Session of the Group of Eight (G8) Summit, slated for Wednesday in the northern Japanese resort of Toyako. In Sapporo, President Hu will attend a group meeting Tuesday with leaders from India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico. They are expected to exchange views on issues of common interest, according to Chinese diplomats

People's Daily, 9 July 2008

Chinese, Russian presidents meet on bilateral ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met in Toyako, northern Japan, Wednesday to discuss ways of furthering bilateral strategic and cooperative partnership. The two leaders met on the sidelines of the outreach session of the Group of Eight (G8) summit. G8 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States. President Hu was invited to the outreach session of the G8 summit

People's Daily, 10 July 2008

Chinese president meets Bush on bilateral ties, six-party talks, Taiwan

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his U.S. counterpart George W. Bush met in Toyako, Japan on Wednesday on bilateral ties and other issues of mutual concern. The two leaders met in the northern Japanese resort of Toyako on the sidelines of the Outreach Session of the Group of Eight (G8) summit

People's Daily, 10 July 2008

Bilateral meetings pave way for new six-party nuclear talks in Beijing

The parties involved in the Korean Peninsula nuclear talks held intense bilateral meetings to pave the way for the discussions between chief negotiators, which are

scheduled for Thursday afternoon. Kim Sook, chief negotiator of the Republic of Korea (ROK) delegation, met with his U.S. counterpart Christopher Hill and Chinese chief delegate Wu Dawei on Wednesday

The Hindu, 15 July 2008

Riots a setback to Tibet's social, economic uplift

Lhasa: The majestic Potala Palace, once the winter palace of the Dalai Lamas and now a tourism-cum-religious centre, presides over Lhasa like a reigning deity. Set in a valley watered by the sparkling Lhasa river, the city, with its broad-tree lined roads is a beautiful capital where large Soviet-style architecture and traditional Tibetan buildings co-exist, where prayer-wheel twirling Tibetans in traditional attire mingle on the busy streets and shopping areas with youngsters in branded fashion wear...

People's Daily, 15 July 2008

China says one-China principle unchangeable

The one-China principle is unchangeable no matter what changes happen in the Taiwan Straits situation, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Tuesday when commenting the planned visits of Taiwan leader Ma Ying-jeou to central and south America. It was reported that Ma would pass through the United States during the visits to Paraguay and Dominica in August...

Taipei Times, 15 July 2008

Ministry denies Cabinet halted fighter upgrades

The Ministry of National Defense yesterday dismissed media reports that it had halted plans to upgrade the Taiwan-made Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) warplanes at the request of the Cabinet to avoid undermining closer ties with Beijing. Vice Minister of National Defense Lin Yu-paoaid at the legislature that both arms procurement from the US and the Hsiang Chan Project would proceed as scheduled...

Taipei Times, 15 July 2008

Editorial: Consider life under communism

In the less than two months since President Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated as the chief executive of Taiwan, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government has implemented or proposed to adopt numerous measures designed to tie Taiwan's future to that of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Regular weekend direct flights between five cities in China and eight airports in Taiwan have already commenced. The eight airports under the plan include Hualien, Taitung and a few other dual use (military and civilian) airports, despite objections by the military authorities about the weakening of Taiwan's national security...

The Hindu, 16 July 2008

Opinion: A green gift to smog-choked Beijing

Beijing's notoriously smog-choked environs are soon to be gifted an oasis of respite, courtesy of the Olympic Games. The largest public green space in the country, a 680-hectare Olympic Forest Park will soon open its oxygen-laden doors to the public. The park is being billed by the authorities as a green lung for what is one of the world's most polluted cities. Built at the cost of 7.7 billion yuan (\$1.12b) over a three-year period, the Forest Park is located at the northern end of the south-north axis around which the Olympic village is constructed...

The Indian Express, 16 July 2008

CITES permits China to import ivory, Indian tuskers at risk

New Delhi: In a move that potentially puts India's elephants at risk, China was on

Tuesday approved as trading partner for stockpiles of ivory from Africa by the 57th Standing Committee meeting of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in Geneva. A decision was taken to allow 108 tonnes of ivory, from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe to be sold to China as a possible partner; before this, Japan was approved as a trading partner, which means an auction will be held to decide which country purchases the ivory...

The Indian Express, 16 July 2008

Over million pushed to poverty after China quake

Beijing: The recent devastating earthquake in southwest China has pushed back 1.4 million farmers into absolute poverty, an official said. The May 12 quake of magnitude 8, the deadliest disaster which struck the country in last three decades, has ravaged vast areas and flattened homes in Sichuan province and some other regions, leaving a gigantic task of rehabilitation. "The damage is so massive and many farmers have reversed into poverty again," Fan Xiaojian, Director of the State Council and the cabinets leading group office of poverty-alleviation and development, said...

Taipei Times, 16 July 2008

Ma eases cross-strait economic rules

President Ma Ying-jeou has given the go-ahead to further relax cross-strait economic policies, agreeing to loosen the 40 percent ceiling on China-bound investment or to scrap it altogether if a company keeps its headquarters in Taiwan. Presidential Office Spokesman Wang Yu-chi said the measure had been proposed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) in response to requests by the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei and European Chamber of Commerce Taipei. The scheme, Wang said, was aimed at encouraging more Taiwanese businesspeople to invest in Taiwan...

The Hindu, 17 July 2008

Three 'defence lines' for Games

Beijing: Beijing's authorities have launched three "defence lines" to strengthen safety for the Olympic Games. The three lines surrounding Beijing comprise hundreds of checkpoints, said a spokesman. The first line includes checkpoints on the expressways, national highways and town or village roads that link Beijing with other provinces or cities. The patrol posts on the second line are stationed on the major suburban roads leading to the downtown area. The third line covers all major roads in the downtown districts...

The Times of India, 17 July 2008

China police breaks 12 terror cells

Beijing: Chinese police have broken up 12 terrorist cells in the predominantly Muslim western region of Xinjiang in a pre-Olympic security blitz this year, state-controlled press said on Wednesday. The groups were dismantled by police in the remote oasis city of Kashgar and were all linked to international terrorist groups, the Beijing News reported, quoting a local official. The announcement by Huang Sanping, the city's deputy Communist Party chief, was the latest in a series of recent revelations by China aimed at highlighting an alleged Muslim terror threat to next month's Beijing Olympics...

People's Daily, 17 July 2008

CPC issues new rules to promote Party's internal democracy

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) published a new

regulation on Wednesday, in a bid to promote the Party's internal democracy by bringing the role of Party deputies into full play. It is aimed to "maintain the advanced nature of the Party", says the new ordinance, known as The Provisional Statute on the Tenure for Deputies to National and Local Congresses of the Communist Party of China...

The Hindu, 18 July 2008

China's GDP up 10.4% in first half

Beijing: China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 10.4 per cent to 13.06 trillion yuan (\$1.9 trillion) in the first half over the same period last year, said the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Thursday. The growth rate was 1.8 percentage points lower than the first half last year, or 0.2 percentage points lower than the first quarter of this year...

The Indian Express, 18 July 2008

Won't object to n-deal, China signals

Beijing: On the eve of India presenting its case on the Indo-US nuclear deal before the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), China on Thursday indicated for the first time it may not be a stumbling block when the safeguards accord comes up before the global nuclear watchdog for approval. "I believe countries could under the presentation of fulfilling international obligations carry out peaceful cooperation in peaceful (use of) nuclear energy and I hope the relevant issues can be resolved through negotiations between relevant parties," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told reporters in Beijing...

Taipei Times, 18 July 2008

US admiral confirms arms sales freeze

The US' "preeminence" in East Asia and its confidence that it could defeat any hostile Chinese military maneuver against Taiwan make it less urgent for Washington to approve a batch of arms sales to Taiwan that the administration has frozen, the commander of the US forces in the Pacific region said in Washington on Wednesday. Admiral Timothy Keating confirmed the decision of the administration of US President George W. Bush to freeze the processing of some US\$12 billion in arms sales to Taiwan - at least temporarily...

People's Daily, 19 July 2008

China's Communist Party vows to further supervise top officials at all levels

A Communist Party of China (CPC) senior official has pledged to further improve the Party's inspection system and innovate the inspection methods, so as to strengthen supervision over leading officials at all levels. It aimed to efficiently ensure the Party Central Committee's policies and orders be implemented smoothly, promote the implementation of a scientific concept of development, and step up efforts to develop a clean Party style and governance...

Taipei Times, 19 July 2008

Wu to skip Games if team name changed

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung will boycott the Beijing Olympics should the title of the Taiwanese Olympic team be changed to Zhongguo Taipei (or Taipei, China), which implies that Taiwan is part of China, a high-ranking KMT official said yesterday. KMT Secretary-General Wu Den-yih said Wu Poh-hsiung would travel to Beijing to attend the opening of the 2008 Olympic Games on Aug. 8 and the Taiwanese baseball team's first match against the Netherlands on Aug. 13 if the Chinese authorities respect Olympic protocol and refer to the Taiwanese team as

Zhonghua Taipei (Chinese Taipei) rather than Zhongguo Taipei...

The Hindu, 20 July 2008

Olympic energy sweeps China

Beijing: There is a passion sweeping China - a passion generated by the popular enthusiasm for the forthcoming Beijing Olympics. The journey of the Olympic torch as it criss-crosses this vast country is greeted everywhere by happy and cheering crowds, and it appears to have knit the country behind the Olympic slogan of "One world, one dream." Olympic insignia adorn the villages, towns and cities. In Beijing, where this is particularly marked, flags, pennants, hoardings, installations and statues of the Olympic slogan, emblems, mascots, torch, and sportspersons are up all over the city, although in strict accordance with city planning regulations and aesthetic appeal...

The Times of India, 20 July 2008

Beijing begins massive Olympics shutdown

Beijing: Beijing's Olympic shutdown begins on Sunday, a drastic plan to lift the Chinese capitals gray shroud of pollution just three weeks ahead of the games. Half of Beijing's 3.3 million vehicles will be pulled off the roads and many polluting factories will be shut. Chemical plants, power stations and foundries left open have to cut emissions by 30% - and dust-spewing construction in the capital will be halted...

People's Daily, 20 July 2008

China calls for enhanced diplomatic efforts for Iran's nuclear issue

Related parties should enhance diplomatic efforts and show flexibility in order to find a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, a senior Chinese diplomat said here on Saturday. "Currently there is a rare opportunity for promoting the resumption of negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue," said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi, who represented China at a meeting here with Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili...

People's Daily, 20 July 2008

China to enhance foreign investments management, regulate forex inflow

China will further strengthen management of foreign investment projects and check foreign exchange inflow in a bid to better control it, according to the country's top economic regulator. The move will also safeguard the country's economic safety, protect ecological environment, optimize develop and reform mechanism, and prevent industrial monopolization, said the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in a circular on Friday...

People's Daily, 20 July 2008

China's Long March 2F rocket ready for trip to launch center

The Long March 2F rocket designed to carry China's third manned spacecraft into space will be sent to Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest Gansu province in a few days, officials with the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT) said on Saturday. The rocket was coated in red, a color to show that it was ready to fulfill its mission, said Jing Muchun, chief designer of the spacecraft, adding that further testing will be conducted to ensure 100 percent safety after the rocket arrives at Jiuquan...

Taipei Times, 20 July 2008

Editorial: Door on arms sales not closed yet

Reports HAVE indicated that the US is planning to halt arms sales to Taiwan, and it is meaningless to discuss responsibility at this stage of the game. Perhaps the government should start brainstorming and try to come up with some ways to coax the White House to change it's mind. President Ma Ying-jeou and key national security officials have been more active recently in talks with the US about arms sales. They know that if US President George W. Bush's administration freezes arms sales to Taiwan, they will face even greater difficulty restarting sales after the election of either Republican presidential candidate John McCain or Democrat rival Barack Obama...

The Times of India, 21 July 2008

China settles border dispute with Russia; pointer for India

Beijing: China has finally settled its border dispute with Russia with Moscow promising to return 174 sq km of territory on the northeast border to China. The two countries are set to sign an agreement on the issue ending 40 years of negotiations during the two-day visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that began in Beijing on Monday...

People's Daily, 21 July 2008

China to withdraw military forces in quake affected areas

Hu Jintao, chairman of China's Central Military Commission, has ordered the withdrawal of troops and armed police in different batches from quake-hit areas. The rescue work in Sichuan and other quake-affected areas were almost finished and the main tasks now were reconstruction work. The first batch of about 40,000 soldiers would leave on July 21, according to the order signed by Hu...

People's Daily, 21 July 2008

Russia set to return Chinese land after 40 years of talks

Russia will soon return 174 sq km of territory on the northeast border to China, ending more than 40 years of negotiations. The two countries will sign an agreement to this effect during Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's two-day visit to Beijing that starts today. According to the agreement to be signed, Russia will return Yinlong Island (Tarabarov Island) and half of Heixiazi Island (Bolshoi Ussuriysky Island). The islands are at the confluence of the Heilongjiang and the Wusulijiang rivers that serve as the natural border between the two countries...

Taipei Times, 21 July 2008

Editorial: Rethinking the moves to be closer to Beijing

Would voters in Taiwan vote the same way today as they did on March 22? Some, especially in the business sector, are still hopeful. Others are "still not clear." But already, surely, there are a considerable number of people who would vote differently. In the news one sees government plans that were expected, many of which are not yet agreed to by China, and others that are not clear. Many more are about what is wrong for Taiwan or what should be done, but that has not had an impact on what the government does. And little political opposition is heard...

Taipei Times, 21 July 2008

Editorial: Taiwan cannot play off China, US

Admiral Timothy Keating, the commander of the US Pacific Command, said in Washington that "it is very, very, very unlikely that there will be conflict across the Strait" in light of the current cross-strait situation. This explains why there have been no significant arms sales from the US to Taiwan recently. The reconciliation between Taiwan and China after President Ma Ying-jeou's government came to power has not

only affected the relations between Taiwan, China and the US, but has also made the strategic intentions of Beijing and Washington much clearer...

The Times of India, 22 July 2008

Editorial: Taking No Chances

With less than three weeks to go before the Olympic Games begin, questions are already being raised on how China is going to handle political protests during the Olympics. There are fears that television crews and journalists are going to face the most restrictive environment in any Olympics in recent times. When the Games were awarded to Beijing it was on the understanding that broadcasters would receive the same freedoms that they enjoyed at earlier Olympics. But this no longer seems to be the case. Journalists have already been hit with strict visa rules and lengthy application processes...

People's Daily, 22 July 2008

Chinese vice president calls for high-level Beijing Olympics

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping called for a high-level Beijing Olympics by providing a secure environment, good media services and strict anti-doping work for the Games. The preparatory work for next month's Olympics were effective, and the preparation for security, media services and doping inspection had achieved a first-class level worldwide, Xi said here on Monday when touring the Games' command center and several of the venues...

Taipei Times, 22 July 2008

Editorial: Be careful with secrets, Mr Ma

Citing press reports, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) News Network reported on Thursday that KMT Legislator Chang Hsien-yao, a deputy caucus whip, asked President Ma Ying-jeou's administration how it would handle the question of the "downgrading" or "declassification" of documents related to the "state affairs fund," which has hovered over former president Chen Shui-bian and his close circle for more than a year...

Taipei Times, 22 July 2008

Editorial: Building a new DPP on strength and unity

Taiwanese politics change quickly and yesterday's political stars become today's political losers. President Ma Ying-jeou's administration knows this well, and so does the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Who would have imagined that after only 50 days in power, Ma's public approval would drop from 58 percent at the time of the presidential election to about 30 percent now?...

The Chosun Ilbo, 22 July 2008

China Grapples With Security Threat as Olympics Loom

With less than 20 days remaining until the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, a series of bombings suspected to be the work of separatist groups have happened in China. In Kunming, Yunnan Province two local buses exploded on Monday morning, killing two and injuring 14. One of the wounded is in serious condition, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The first explosion happened while the bus no. 54 was about to stop at Renminxilu Street in downtown Kunming at around 7:05 a.m. The second explosion took place an hour later at 8:10 a.m., again on the no. 54, when it was passing the intersection of the Renminxilu and Changyuanlu streets...

The Hindu, 23 July 2008

East Asia Summit explores free trade area prospects

Singapore: The East Asia Summit (EAS), a "leaders-driven forum" with India, as also China and Japan in its fold, "is studying the feasibility of a free trade area among its 16 countries." This was indicated by an official spokesman for the Summit after the Foreign Ministers of the member-countries met in Singapore on Tuesday under the auspices of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma...

The Times of India, 23 July 2008

Beijing in 'bunker mode' for Olympics

Beijing: Its ancient city walls were demolished decades ago, but with the Olympic Games fast approaching Beijing is raising a new defence that is echoing those long-gone fortifications. The capital has gone into fortress mode for next month's Games, with police checkpoints choking road traffic into Beijing, tightened security across the city, and even surface-to-air missiles set up near Olympic venues...

The Times of India, 23 July 2008

China denies killing of monks by police

Beijing: Taking strong exception to a media report that two monks of a temple in a Tibetan-inhabited region were shot dead by police during a recent clash, China on Wednesday said they died in a blast at a monastery where an explosive material for Buddhist rituals was stored. Investigations showed that there was no clash between monks and the armed police on July 12 in temples throughout the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Garze, an official of southwest China's Sichuan province said...

People's Daily, 23 July 2008

ASEAN, China agree to enhance cooperation to tackle new challenges

ASEAN and China agreed in Singapore on Wednesday to intensify their cooperation in order to meet serious challenges posed by rising oil and food prices, the slowdown of world economy, the depreciation of U.S. dollar, rising trade protectionism and natural disasters, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said. During the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said that China is willing to conduct high-level dialogue with ASEAN member countries and exchange views on bilateral and major international issues, adding that China has decided to send an ambassador to ASEAN...

People's Daily, 23 July 2008

China gears up security efforts ahead of Olympics

From anti-terrorism drills to halt of flights during the opening ceremony, Beijing is taking every possible measure to ward off terrorism and ensure security for next month's Olympic Games. China Civil Aviation Administration announced on Tuesday a new move for Olympic security that no planes would be allowed to take off or land at Beijing Capital International Airport from 7 p.m. to midnight on Aug. 8, the night of the Games' opening ceremony...

Taipei Times, 23 July 2008

Editorial: A creeping loss of sovereign spirit

After the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) fictional "1992 consensus" - with Taipei and Beijing purportedly agreeing on "one China, with each side having its own interpretation" - comes another attempt to undermine Taiwan's sovereignty. Beijing, as the host of the Summer Olympics, has been maneuvering to change Taiwan's title at the Games from "Chinese Taipei" or Zhonghua Taibei to "Taipei, China" or Zhongguo Taibei...

Taipei Times, 23 July 2008

Editorial: Olympic boycott not the answer

China lobbied long and hard to host this summer's Olympics, and thousands of Chinese literally danced in the streets when the decision was made to award Beijing the Games. This was to be a chance for Chinese to show the world just how far they and their country had come. But as the saying goes: One should be careful what one wishes for. China is getting a great deal of international attention, but not the sort it bargained for. It is finding itself under intense international scrutiny for everything from its policy toward Tibet, human rights and product safety to the level of its currency, its policy in Sudan and global climate change. What was meant to be a moment of celebration has turned into one of criticism...

The Indian Express, 24 July 2008

'How can we let them capture our base'?

The short question is - does India want to end the nuclear isolation that we find ourselves in since 1974, more so since 1998? In this connection, I want to share with this House what China is doing. China's electricity today is produced, 80 per cent from coal and 18 per cent from hydro power. Two per cent of China's electricity comes from nuclear power. Mainland China has 11 nuclear power reactors in commercial operation. Six are under construction and several more are about to start construction...

The Times of India, 24 July 2008

China tells Tibet officials to call back children from Dalai Lama schools

Beijing: In a fresh crackdown on supporters of the Dalai Lama, China has given two months' time to cadres and officials in Tibet to call back their children from overseas schools and monasteries run by the Buddhist leader. Failure to comply with the notice issued on July 14 will invite expulsion from the party and sacking from their posts under a regulation drawn up by the regional party and government disciplinary inspection commissions, state-run China Daily said...

The Asian Age, 24 July 2008

IB eye on China, NE outfits 'link'

New Delhi: If there were reports of China creating certain tremors for the Indian government in Arunachal Pradesh, the country's intelligence agencies, particularly the Intelligence Bureau (IB), are looking at the possibility of Chinese intelligence's alleged nexus with some insurgents outfits in the northeast. The finger of suspicion points towards outfits like Ulfa, Bodo outfits like NDFB (National Democratic front of Bodoland) terrorist group of Assam, among others. Mr A.K. Doval, former director IB, expressing his concern said, "China's movements both covert and overt is a matter of security concern for India. Its implications need to be analysed and responses formulated"...

People's Daily, 24 July 2008

China to intensify co-op with S. Korea, U.S., Australia, says Chinese FM

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Wednesday met here separately with South Korea's Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith on bilateral cooperation and regional issues of common concern at the sidelines of the 15th ASEAN Regional Forum. In the meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Yang said China and South Korea have established strategic partnership and the two sides should keep high-level exchanges and deepen understanding and cooperation on strategic regional and international

issues while strengthening bilateral trade and economic ties...

People's Daily, 24 July 2008

China-ASEAN trade prospects promising

On July 22, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attended the China-ASEAN (10 +1) foreign ministers conference held in Singapore for a discussion on major issues such as the relations between China and ASEAN. There is no question that the 10 ASEAN countries are China's good neighbors, friends and partners. Since China and the ASEAN initiated formal dialogue in 1991, the two sides have continued to cooperate in political, economic, social, cultural, and other matters. Looking ahead at the next 10 years to come, as the regional organization of developing countries, ASEAN is very likely to supersede Japan and the United States as China's more important trade partner and significantly alter China's foreign trade pattern...

The Asahi Shimbun, 24 July 2008

Editorial: Challenges facing China

Bomb explosions on public buses Monday in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province in southwestern China, killed two passengers. Chinese authorities have determined the blasts were "deliberate acts of sabotage," but that is about all they have been able to conclude. With the Beijing Olympics set to kick off Aug. 8, one cannot completely dismiss the possibility that the acts were intended to disrupt the Games. We hope investigators will find the answer soon...

The Indian Express, 25 July 2008

Beijing sets up protest zones

Beijing: Beijing will permit public protests inside three designated city parks during next month's Olympic Games, but demonstrators must first obtain permits from local police and also abide by Chinese laws that usually make it nearly impossible to legally picket over politically charged issues, the authorities announced on Wednesday. The arrangement marks a break from normal practice in China's authoritarian political system and seems loosely modeled on the protest zones created at previous Olympic Games and at many recent international political gatherings...

Taipei Times, 25 July 2008

Taiwan's Olympic title fuels controversy

Saying that Beijing had already made a concession in referring to Taiwan's Olympic team as Zhonghua Taipei ("Chinese Taipei") within the arena of Olympic activities, the Presidential Office yesterday argued that it was not worth protesting or condemning Chinese state media for using an alternative title, Zhongguo Taipei ("Taipei, China"). China's Taiwan Affairs Office said on Wednesday that the Beijing Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games would abide by the 1989 agreement signed in Hong Kong that Taiwan would be referred to as Zhonghua Taipei within the context of the Olympics, while the media would continue to call Taiwan Zhongguo Taipei...

Taipei Times, 25 July 2008

Editorial: Revamping relations with Japan

The appointment of a new representative to Japan has been troubling President Ma Ying-jeou's government and prompted pundits worldwide to wonder if the new government lacks experts on Japan. "Japan experts" refers to individuals who are fully acquainted with the country and its people. However, the term has been distorted and to some may now mean "Japan sympathizers," leading to the

misconception that Taiwan's representative to Japan needs to have three qualifications...

The Hindu, 26 July 2008

Notable changes in media coverage in China

Beijing: The biggest media village in Olympic Games history officially opened in northern Beijing on Friday. "Despite the differences of colours, languages and nationalities between us, we share the fascination and joy of the Olympic Games with each other," said Zhao Jinfang, who is supervising the North Star which together with Huiyuan comprises the two residential compounds of the village. The Village opened for 21,600 domestic and foreign registered reporters, amid some foreign media's concerns about free reporting in China...

The Times of India, 26 July 2008

Terror group threatens attack on Olympics

Washington: A group calling itself the Turkistan Islamic Party released a video threatening the Beijing Olympic Games and claiming responsibility for recent deadly explosions on two Chinese buses, a terrorism monitoring firm has said. IntelCenter, a US-based terrorism monitoring firm, said the group had released a video entitled "Our Blessed Jihad in Yunnan," featuring a statement by the group's leader, Commander Seyfullah, threatening next month's Olympics...

People's Daily, 26 July 2008

Beijing in "microscope" of global media

Never before has Beijing accommodated so many overseas journalists. Global media, by sending the largest number of journalists ever to an Olympiad, displayed their passion and curiosity to scrutinize this ancient metropolis. The New York Times launched a blog named "Rings" that specialized on the Games, aiming to offer a platform for free discussions concerning various aspects of China. The well-respected daily was reported to have sent over 30 reporters to cover next month's Olympics...

The Indian Express, 27 July 2008

Uighur group warns of attacks during China Olympics

Washington: A Uighur separatist group has taken credit for a deadly bus bombing in Shanghai in May and warned of new attacks in China during the Olympics, a group monitoring threats by extremists on the Internet said. In a video statement, Commander Seyfullah of the Turkestan Islamic Party claimed credit for several attacks, including the May 5 Shanghai bus bombing which killed three; another Shanghai attack; an attack on police in Wenzhou on July 17 using an explosive-laden tractor; a bombing of a Guangzhou plastic factory on July 17; and bombings of three buses in Yunnan province on July 21...

People's Daily, 27 July 2008

China's trade deficit with ASEAN members continues to go down in 1st 5 months

China's trade with ASEAN members amounted to 95.55 billion U.S. dollars in the first five months of this year, a growth of 26.9 percent over the same period of last year, the General Administration of Customs said on Sunday. The total included 50.27 billion U.S. dollars in import value, up 22.3 percent, and 45.28 billion dollars in export value, up 32.6 percent. The trade deficit went down 1.96 billion dollars, or 28.2 percent, to 4.99 billion dollars...

Taipei Times, 27 July 2008

Wu thanks Beijing, confirms trip to Olympic Games

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung expressed appreciation yesterday for Beijing's "goodwill" over the controversy surrounding the title of Taiwan's Olympic team and said he would attend next month's Olympics in Beijing. "I am glad about the outcome and I can tell you that I will accept Beijing's invitation to attend the Olympic Games," Wu said at the KMT's Taipei City branch. Wu declined to comment on allegations that Beijing had made promises on the title following KMT negotiations with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) via a KMT-CCP platform, bypassing the Mainland Affairs Council's authority...

Taipei Times, 27 July 2008

Editorial: Taiwan needs smart deregulation

With the deregulation of cross-strait trade, the only restrictions remaining are probably the ban on Chinese workers from being freely employed in Taiwan and the import restrictions on some Chinese products, which is not in line with WTO regulations. All other areas of trade, including education - allowing Chinese students to study in Taiwan - and broadcasting - allowing China Central Television to be aired in Taiwan - are part of the deregulation. These will have an almost unfathomable impact on Taiwan. Whether we take a proactive or a reactive approach to this, the issue can no longer be avoided...

The Times of India, 28 July 2008

24% Chinese view India as an enemy

Washington: Chinese people are confident about their nation's place on the world stage but a poll highlights "significant tensions" between China and other rival powers, including India with 24% viewing New Delhi as an "enemy". Overwhelmingly, the Chinese think their country is popular abroad with roughly three-in-four (77%) believing people in other countries generally have favourable opinions of China...

The Times of India, 28 July 2008

Powerful typhoon makes landfall in Taiwan

Taipei: A powerful typhoon struck Taiwan early Monday, closing schools and businesses and grounding domestic and international air traffic. Typhoon Fung Wong made landfall on the east central coast just before daybreak, packing winds of 105 miles per hour. It is expected to drop up to 36 inches of rain on the central portion of the island and perhaps half of that much on its southern and northern extremities, including the capital of Taipei...

Taipei Times, 28 July 2008

China using KMT to pressure Ma: official

The Chinese government plans to team up with the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) to force President Ma Ying-jeou to push Taiwan closer to unification with China, a top Chinese official has said. In this month's edition of the Chinese-language Hong Kong publication Xinbao Caijing Monthly, Ye Guohua, honorary chairman of the board of the foreign affairs think tank China Foundation for International Studies and Academic Exchanges, said China wants to force Ma to adhere to the five point statement issued by former KMT chairman Lien Chan and Chinese President Hu Jintao in 2005. This would then set the framework for unification talks...

Taipei Times, 28 July 2008

Editorial: Beijing is simply biding its time

When politicians tout the idea of "win-win" situations, the first question to ask is:

"Win-win" for whom? The phrase, meant to put a positive spin on controversies much like diplomat speak uses the words "challenge" or "issue" instead of "problem" or "conflict" when discussing a crisis, has been elevated to a mantra in international relations and has become a major talking point in the administration's approach to cross-strait affairs. The corollary, of course, is that win-win situations must be acted upon in the quickest time possible or the opportunity will pass...

The Times of India, 29 July 2008

Olympics: 600 cultural events to lure visitors away from protests

Beijing: China is organizing a range of gala cultural events during the Olympic Games. The move may be partly aimed at keeping the vast numbers of foreign athletes and spectators away from demonstrations on issues like the Tibetan independence, sources said. Activists espousing causes like human rights, green movement, Sudan, Tibet and the movement for splitting China's Xingjian province are expected to use stage to make their presence noticed by hoisting banners and holding protests...

The Times of India, 29 July 2008

6 lakh evacuated as tropical storm Fung-wong hits China

Beijing: More than six lakh people were evacuated off south-eastern Chinese coast as tropical storm Fung-wong has hit the region, officials said on Tuesday. The tropical storm that hit the Fujian province of the country last night was earlier in the form of devastating typhoon when it had hit Taiwan unleashing heavy rain with strong winds. It had also claimed two lives there...

People's Daily, 29 July 2008

U.S. secretary of state, Chinese FM meet on ties

Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met on Monday with his U.S. counterpart Condoleezza Rice to exchange views on bilateral ties and other issues of mutual concerns. On bilateral ties, Yang said that the overall relationship between China and the United States has been maintaining a favorable momentum of stable development...

People's Daily, 29 July 2008

Beijing has fulfilled pledge: Greenpeace

Greenpeace, in an assessment of the 2008 Olympic Games, said Beijing had met most of its environmental commitments. "We are glad to see that Beijing has improved its infrastructure in preparation for the Olympics," Lo Sze Ping, Greenpeace China's Campaign director, said. "It has made public transport more convenient, upgraded home heating systems, improved water treatment and, to some degree, reduced its reliance on fossil fuels"...

Taipei Times, 29 July 2008

Editorial: Heeding the gloom over Beijing

Days after taking 50 percent of the vehicles off the streets of Beijing to clear up the skies ahead of the Olympic Games a few weeks hence, Chinese authorities announced over the weekend that more "emergency" measures might be in order. A day later, equestrian teams practicing in Hong Kong did so in a thick layer of smog, while a dense white haze drastically cut visibility in Beijing. The capital city's response was to announce it would temporarily cut down vehicles by 90 percent...

The Asian Age, 30 July 2008

Op-Ed: China, Taiwan skate on thin ice, cracks appear

The Olympic Games are fast approaching Beijing. And the international community will be watching China - not just for its handling of Tibetan protestors, but also how it treats and handles the contingent from Taiwan. Taiwan, which transitioned from a dictatorship to a robust democracy, is at a crossroad in its history. A new President, Ma Ying-jeou, is in office and he is making cautious overtures to Beijing. The Chinese President Hu Jintao, for his part, has reciprocated with gestures of goodwill...

The Times of India, 30 July 2008

Threats cast shadow on Olympics

Beijing: Just over a week before the Beijing Olympics, a militant Islamic group's claims of responsibility for bombings in China have fueled unease about security. The government has assured its people and the Olympic community that heavy security will ensure secure games. But its clampdown has smothered a broad array of groups, many with grievances against the government but without a history of violence...

People's Daily, 30 July 2008

Chinese FM meets with Bush on constructive bilateral relations

Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and U.S. President George W. Bush met at the White House on Tuesday, agreeing to push forward with the constructive and cooperative relations between the two countries. During the meeting, Yang hailed the great development that two countries have achieved in the past seven years in enhancing China-U.S. relations, which he said also contributed to the peace, stability and development of the Asia-Pacific region and the world...

Taipei Times, 30 July 2008

UN bid will not use 'Taiwan': MOFA

The government will not follow the previous administration's strategy of using the name "Taiwan" to apply to join the UN, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said yesterday. The government is expected to unveil this year's UN entry strategy by Aug. 16, ministry spokesman Henry Chen said, adding that the administration had yet to finalize its decision on the name Taiwan will use in its UN bid this year...

Taipei Times, 30 July 2008

Editorial: China's long row to hoe

Any Chinese tourists who picked up a newspaper here earlier this month would probably have been intrigued to read the frank discussion of the government's performance following Tropical Storm Kalmaegi. The storm killed 20 people and left NT\$1.05 billion (US\$34 million) in crop damage on the heels of severe flooding that inundated fields and left farmers reeling last month. In the eyes of the disaster-weary Chinese, the damage and death toll would surely seem miniscule...

The Asian Age, 31 July 2008

'Games not to push Tibet cause'

New Delhi: Fearing that there could be harsh political suppression of the community in Tibet post-Olympics by the Chinese authorities, the Tibetan leadership has said it does not support use of the international sports event to push its cause. "We know that there is international media attention on China as the Olympics 2008 come near. But despite apprehensions of possible harsh measures against our community members in Tibet, we are for the games," said deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile, Gyari Dolma...

People's Daily, 31 July 2008

Foreign Ministry: Bush's meeting sends "seriously wrong" message to anti-

China forces

China on Wednesday expressed strong discontent with and firm opposition to U.S. President George W. Bush's meeting with some anti-China persons, saying the move sent a "seriously wrong" message to anti-China forces. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao made the remarks when asked by a journalist to respond to the report that Bush met on Tuesday with Rebiya Kadeer, Wei Jingsheng and some other anti-China persons...

Taipei Times, 31 July 2008

Ma unfazed by parade placement

President Ma Ying-jeou said yesterday he found it a consolation that the nation's title at the Olympic Games and arrangements for the opening ceremony procession have been resolved, voicing hope that there would be no controversies before the Beijing Games begin. "Disputes over the designation of Taiwan's Olympic team ... and its order of appearance at the opening ceremony have been resolved," Ma said while visiting the National Sports Training Center in Zuoying, Kaohsiung City, to present a national flag to the nation's Olympic delegation...