

People's Daily, 1 March 2008

China welcomes agreement between Kenyan president, opposition leader

China on Friday welcomed an agreement on principles for a coalition government announced in Kenya. "China welcomes this (the signing of the agreement), and appreciates both sides' choice of a political solution to the election disputes through dialogue and consultation, which has taken the interests of the nation and the Kenyan people into consideration," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao.

People's Daily, 1 March 2008

Interview: China makes great efforts in solving Darfur crisis

China has made great efforts in searching for a solution to the Darfur crisis in Sudan, Nirj Deva, member of the European Parliament, said Friday. "I know how much China has done in Darfur," Deva said in an interview with Xinhua. Deva, a British, belongs to the Group of the European People's Party and European Democrats within the European Parliament.

People's Daily, 1 March 2008

China, ASEAN become 4th-largest trade partners in 2007

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) became each other's fourth-largest trading partners last year, the China-ASEAN Business Council said here on Friday. Total bilateral trade surged 25.9 percent year-on-year to 202.5 billion U.S. dollars, reaching that level three years ahead of the mutual target. Arin Jira, the secretary-general of ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that they expected further increases and hoped China would lift duties on some export goods, such as semi-processed steel products.

People's Daily, 1 March 2008

China, U.S. sign agreement on setting up military hotline

China and the United States officially signed in Shanghai on Friday an agreement on setting up a military hotline between the two defense departments, the Chinese Defense Ministry said. The agreement was signed at the conclusion of a working meeting between the two defense departments which began on Thursday. The Ministry said the two sides also signed an agreement on launching military archives cooperation in order to find U.S. military personnel missing in the Korean War, but did not disclose the details of both agreements.

People's Daily, 2 March 2008

Chinese motorcycle to enter Bangladesh's market

Chinese motorcycle is to enter Bangladesh's market from this month, a distributor said here on Saturday. AAK & Zak Company, distributor of Chinese motorcycle in Bangladesh, said it has already obtained certificates from different government agencies. "We are set to start commercial sales of the fuel-efficient motorcycles that can run on CNG to capture substantial share of its growing market," said Masum Faad, general manager of AAK & Zak Company.

People's Daily, 2 March 2008

DPRK's top leader visits Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang

Kim Jong-il, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), paid a visit to the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang on Saturday, the second since last year to highlight friendship between the two neighboring countries. During friendly talks with Chinese Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, Kim conveyed a greeting message to Chinese President Hu Jintao, who is also the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

People's Daily, 2 March 2008

Nigerian president ends China tour after visiting financial hub in E China

Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua left China's financial hub of Shanghai Saturday evening, concluding a four-day state visit to China, the first since he assumed office last May. Yar'Adua said before leaving that he hoped Nigeria could become China's utmost trade partner in Africa in near future.

The Indian Express, 3 March 2008

Govt puts China border road in fast lane

NEW DELHI, MARCH 1: In a show of urgency prompted by aggressive Chinese military activity along the India-China border, the Government has decided to withdraw the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) from road projects within the country and ordered immediate diversion of these resources to build over 1,100 km roads along the China border. It learnt that the Defence Ministry has written to the Ministry of Road & Transport informing that it will have to immediately withdraw the BRO from 42 projects to which it was initially committed. As for ongoing projects nearing completion, the BRO has been asked to wrap them up within a year. This includes the 293-km road through Naxal-dominated area between Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

People's Daily, 3 March 2008

China urges Israel, Palestine to exercise restraint

China hoped Israel and Palestine would remain restraint to avoid deteriorating the situation, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang on Monday. When asked to make comments on current Israeli-Palestinian situation, Qin said China expressed grave concern over Israel's military operation against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which caused many casualties of the Palestinian people. China was worried about the impact on the peace negotiation between Israel and Palestine, Qin said, noting that China called for an immediate end of Israel's military operation in the Gaza Strip.

People's Daily, 3 March 2008

Bangladeshi gov't opposes Taiwan's referendum for joining UN

The Bangladeshi caretaker government has reaffirmed its support for the one-China policy and opposed Taiwan's referendum for joining the United Nations. While meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zheng Qingdian here Monday, Bangladeshi caretaker government Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury said, "We recognize only one China, that is the People's Republic of China. We oppose any part of China seeking the membership of the United Nations."

People's Daily, 3 March 2008

Potential for Chinese exports to Russia to increase

Russia is interested in a great number of Chinese products and trade potential between the two countries is expected to grow, said a Russian trade representative to China.

International trade and business between the two neighbors has grown quickly and become more active these years. Bilateral trade volume reached 48.16 billion U.S. dollars in 2007, a 44.3 percent increase year on year.

The Indian Express, 4 March 2008

Whispers about China

During his visit to Delhi last week, US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates sought to be diplomatic in public on the question of China. But away from the media gaze, Gates had a frank discussion with his Indian counterparts on America's apprehensions about China's military capabilities. He is believed to have emphasised that the intent of the Chinese satellite test was not lost on Washington. In fact, he even disclosed that China remained extremely suspicious of the United States when it came to the issue of Taiwan. To his surprise, he found some solidarity among the Indians. Some leaders he met told him that New Delhi was also concerned and surprised by Beijing's needless provocations on the boundary issue, its protests at diplomatic levels and PLA officers being quite stubborn on the ground. Gates, no surprises, shared the concern.

People's Daily, 4 March 2008

Why 2008 NPC, CPPCC sessions are so conspicuous?

The first annual sessions of China's 11th National People's Congress (NPC) and the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (or CPPCC), abbreviated as the "two annual sessions", have drawn special attention from both at home and overseas this year. The present world economy is probably most difficult and faced with toughest challenges in a year after the entry of the 21st century. This shapes the most eminent impression I have got from the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland in January, as some political figures and economists acknowledged at the forum that "obviously, 2007 was a much tougher year than expected, and 2008 is probably going to the same."

People's Daily, 4 March 2008

Premier: Chinese economy sees more uncertain factors, but still has potential

Chinese economy is witnessing more uncertain factors but still has potential for further development, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said in Beijing Tuesday. "Currently, new changes are taking place in the world and domestic economic situations and uncertain factors are on the rise, bringing great difficulties for us to correctly judge the trend of economic development and make scientific decisions," said Wen while joining a panel discussion during the ongoing annual session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top political advisory body, which opened here on Monday.

People's Daily, 4 March 2008

China happy to see Russia's smooth presidential election

China was happy to see that Russia held a smooth presidential election, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang here Tuesday at a regular press conference. Chinese President Hu Jintao Monday congratulated Dmitry Medvedev during a telephone conversation on his victory in Russia's presidential election. Spokesman Qin Gang said the result of Russia's presidential election proved again that Russia's development path and domestic and foreign policies gained broad support by the Russian people.

People's Daily, 4 March 2008

Hu Jintao: "Taiwan independence" activities doomed to fail

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Beijing on Tuesday that secessionist activities in Taiwan have become the greatest menace to China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, but such activities are doomed to fail. "The 'Taiwan independence' activities have run counter to the Chinese nation's strong will to safeguard national unity. Such activities will get nowhere and are doomed to fail," Hu told political advisors attending the first annual full session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing.

People's Daily, 4 March 2008

China firmly opposes U.S. military report

China on Tuesday expressed its resolute opposition to a report by the U.S. Defense Department on China's military strength. The report disseminates the China military threat theory, severely distorts the truth, interferes with China's internal affairs and violates norms of international relations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular press conference when asked to comment on this annual report.

The Indian Express, 5 March 2008

'It is time to wake up to Chinese incursions'

Kiren Rijiju, the 36-year-old firebrand Member of Parliament representing Arunachal Pradesh (West), does not share the government's and Indian Army's perceptions about Chinese incursions in his border state. While Defence Minister A K Antony and army chief General Deepak Kapoor have underplayed the intrusions on several occasions, Rijiju has tried to convey in Parliament the seriousness of the situation in the strategic state. Unfortunately till now his voice has been lost in the corridors of power.

People's Daily, 5 March 2008

China's diplomacy striding ahead with new steps

The Chinese Communist Party's 17th National Congress has not only mapped out a blueprint for the nation's development but charted the course for the country's diplomatic service in the new era. In the past few months, the global setup has continued to change and evolve amid great transformation and adjustments, and so the world is not so peaceful and tranquil.

People's Daily, 5 March 2008

PLA generals call for vigilance against "Taiwan independence" forces

A general of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) said here Wednesday that the Chinese military should keep highly vigilant against the secessionist activities of "Taiwan

independence" forces, and strive hard for the prospect of China's peaceful reunification. "We should make utmost efforts with greatest sincerity to safeguard and promote the peaceful and stable development of cross-Straits relations, and strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification," General Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC), told fellow lawmakers on Wednesday afternoon.

The Japan Times, 6 March 2008

Hu's visit faces delay until May

Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Tokyo may have to wait until May instead of mid-April because of the increasingly bitter dispute over pesticide-tainted meat-and-vegetable 'gyoza' dumplings from China, government sources said Wednesday. Government officials are increasingly concerned that a disagreement between Japanese and Chinese police about how the toxic pesticide methamidophos got into the gyoza could damage bilateral ties. Although neither government has officially announced a date for Hu's visit - except to say "in the cherry blossom season" - the Japanese media have been reporting that both were shooting for around April 15.

The China Post, 6 March 2008

Beijing paper says U.S. exaggerating China threat to Taiwan to justify arms sales

BEIJING -- The U.S. military is exaggerating China's threat against Taiwan to justify arms sales to the island, the Communist Party's main newspaper said Thursday. A recent U.S. Defense Department report also overstated China's space weapons and cyberwarfare capabilities and glossed over the People's Liberation Army's steps toward greater transparency, the paper said in a signed editorial. The report "further propagandizes the 'China military threat theory,'" it said.

People's Daily, 6 March 2008

Experts propose to build South China Sea cooperation zone

Experts from China and southeast Asia on Thursday called for establishing a regional South China Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (SCSEC) to boost regional trade and investment. Wu Shicun, president of the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, called for setting up a regional South China Sea Economic Cooperative Organization that would encompass Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore and China's Hainan and Guangdong provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region plus two special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macao.

People's Daily, 6 March 2008

Hu urges SARs to boost economy, advance democracy

Chinese President Hu Jintao urged Hong Kong and Macao to seek further progress in economic and democratic development in the two special administrative regions (SAR) on Thursday. Meeting 280 deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) and members of the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) from Hong Kong and Macao, Hu said he hopes both SAR governments would work hard to develop their economies, improve people's livelihood, advance democracy and promote social harmony in a tolerant and reconcilable social atmosphere.

People's Daily, 6 March 2008

China, Russia conducts annual "physical examination" for cross-border rivers

Chinese and Russian experts have begun an annual water quality examinations for four rivers and a lake across the border to strengthen pollution control. Experts have taken samples from the ice-covered Heilongjiang, Wusuli, Ergune and Suifen rivers and Xingkai Lake for tests, according to the environment protection department of Heilongjiang Province, adding the joint operation may last for two weeks from February 25.

U.S., China Resigned to Taiwan Vote (Edward Cody), 6 March 2008

The Washington Post

BEIJING, March 5 -- After months of giving warnings, China and the United States have resigned themselves to Taiwanese plans for a much-disputed referendum on whether the self-ruled island should apply for U.N. membership under the name Taiwan.

People's Daily, 7 March 2008

President Hu calls for more role of overseas Chinese

Chinese President Hu Jintao said Friday overseas Chinese can contribute more to the country's modernization and reunification. It is important to pool the wisdom of overseas Chinese and their relatives in this regard, Hu said while joining a panel discussion of political advisors from China Zhi Gong Party and All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese.

People's Daily, 7 March 2008

Instigation of "Tibet Independence" doomed to fail

The instigation of "Tibet independence" is doomed to fail, said Tibetan Party chief Zhang Qingli in Beijing Friday. The Dalai Lama has never stopped his plot to separate Tibet from China since he betrayed the country, Zhang, secretary of the Tibetan Autonomous Regional Committee of the Communist Party of China, said on the sidelines of the parliament session.

The Washington Post, 8 March 2008

China Steps Up Its Argument Over Darfur (Edward Cody)

BEIJING, March 7 -- Liu Guijin, China's special envoy for Sudan, was fielding yet another question Friday on Darfur and the Olympics. Politics have no place in the Olympics, he told reporters, and it violates the Olympic spirit to claim that China has a duty to do more in the embattled western Sudanese region because Beijing is hosting the 2008 Games.

The Indian Express, 8 March 2008

China calls Dalai Lama an Olympics saboteur

BEIJING, March 7: China's top official in Tibet on Friday accused the Himalayan region's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, of seeking to sabotage the Beijing Olympics. The Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Communist rule, told Britain's ITV network in January that during the Games Tibet

supporters should protest peacefully in China against Beijing's rule.

People's Daily, 8 March 2008

China's top political advisor stresses cross-Straits stability, opposes secession

China's top political advisor Jia Qinglin reiterated on Friday the mainland will strive to maintain stability in the cross-Straits region but resolutely oppose to and check secessionist activities by "Taiwan independence" forces.

People's Daily, 8 March 2008

China should learn from India to develop outsourcing business

The Chinese government was strongly advised by a senior corporate executive here Saturday to learn from India to effectively develop outsourcing business. "The government shall expand preferential tax policies on software firms to all outsourcing business so as to help develop an advantage based on low cost," said Zhang Chunjiang, a member of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), at a plenary meeting of its first annual full session.

The Indian Express, 8 March 2008

Shanghai not happening, Jet looks for Hong Kong route

New Delhi, March 7: With even the Prime Minister's visit to China this January not helping Jet Airways' efforts to fly to the US west coast via Shanghai, the carrier has all but given up hope on the China front. Now, it has written to the Ministry of Civil Aviation requesting for permission to fly via Hong Kong to San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The Indian Express, 8 March 2008

Reliance eyes China, Taiwan for CDIT product sourcing

GURGAON, MARCH 7 : After making a foray into the consumer durable IT and telecom (CDIT) products with its Reliance Digital format, Reliance Retail is looking to increase product sourcing from countries like China and Taiwan. Currently, the company is operating six such speciality digital stores, Reliance Digital and two exclusive apple products store, iStores.

The New York Times, 9 March 2008

Take Aid From China and Take a Pass on Human Rights (Somini Sengupta)

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Today, a shifting world order is bearing new fruits for Sri Lanka. Most notably, China's quiet assertion in India's backyard has put Sri Lanka's government in a position not only to play China off against India, but also to ignore complaints from outside Asia about human rights violations in the war. The timing is propitious. The government jettisoned a five-year cease-fire this year, and is now banking on a military victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. In so doing, it has faced a barrage of criticism over human rights abuses and has lost defense aid from the United States and some other sources. And, in recent months, government officials have increasingly cozied up to countries that tend to say little to nothing on things like abductions and assaults on press freedom.

People's Daily, 9 March 2008

Opposition grows in Taiwan on

An increasing number of people from various circles in Taiwan have begun to oppose a "referendum" on the island's proposed entry into the United Nations (UN) under the name "Taiwan." At a press conference held by Taiwan-based Democratic Action Alliance (DAA) on Thursday, incumbent Taichung Mayor Jason Hu said the "referendum" had been reduced to a tool for the upcoming Taiwan leadership election.

The Hindu, 10 March 2008

Crew foils bid to crash Chinese plane

BEIJING: A top Chinese official on Sunday said the crew of a plane had foiled an attempt by a group of persons on board to take control of the plane and crash it after the aircraft took off from Urumqi, capital of the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Friday. The plane belonging to China Southern Airlines took off at 10:35 a.m. local time on Friday and was forced to land at Lanzhou, capital of neighbouring Gansu Province, at 12:40 p.m. because "some people were attempting to create an air disaster," said Nur Bekri, chairman of the Xinjiang regional government, on the sidelines of the ongoing Parliament session.

The Hindu, 10 March 2008

Foster harmony, Hu tells Uygur people

BEIJING: Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday called on people in the north-western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to make new achievements in scientific development and social harmony. While joining the Xinjiang delegation to Parliament in panel discussions, Mr. Hu urged Xinjiang officials and people to grasp the opportunities brought forth by the strategy of large-scale development of the western region to enhance stability and prosperity, and to ensure a stable border area by making local people rich. He urged officials to take new steps to achieve sound and rapid economic development, ensure people's well-being, improve their lives, enhance social harmony, improve work related to religious and ethnic affairs, and make more efforts in strengthening unity among ethnic groups.

People's Daily, 10 March 2008

An inopportune or inappropriate report

The US Defense Department, or the Pentagon, has released its annual assessment of Chinese military power. On March 3, "the 2008 Military Power of the People's Republic of China" was delivered to the United States Congress by Pentagon, in which it again peddled the theory concerning China's military threat.

People's Daily, 10 March 2008

Prejudice behind

Liu Guijin, the special representative of the Chinese government on Darfur issue, said at a press conference on March 7, or last Friday, that several leading technical problems have been resolved on the issue concerning the UN-African Union Darfur peacekeeping force. However, he noted, no relevant media reports have been available, and he hoped that any occurrences in Sudan should be covered truthfully and objectively in the future.

People's Daily, 10 March 2008

China's NPC active in parliamentary diplomacy

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, has been active in establishing and enhancing ties with foreign parliaments, said Cao Weizhou, Vice Secretary-General of the 11th NPC Standing Committee. Currently, the NPC has set up regular communications with the parliaments and congresses of more than ten countries; and has established parliamentary relations with 178 countries in the forms of exchange and communication.

People's Daily, 10 March 2008

Japanese students arrive in China for year of youth exchange

A total of 1,000 Japanese youth arrived in China on Monday for a seven-day tour of the country to mark the start of the China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year of the Youth. The Japanese delegation, breaking into small groups, will respectively visit such cities as Shanghai and Hangzhou in the east, Chongqing and Chengdu in the west, Guangzhou in the south and Dalian in the northeast and hold get-togethers with their Chinese peers.

People's Daily, 10 March 2008

China-Myanmar pipeline still under discussion

Construction of the oil pipeline from Myanmar to southwest China's Yunnan Province is still under discussion, a top provincial official has said. "Whether, when and how to build it are yet to be decided," said Bai Enpei, secretary of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China. "Currently, we are still studying the plan and discussing it with Myanmar," said Bai, who is attending the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, in Beijing.

People's Daily, 11 March 2008

Air travel 'safe', says official

Air passengers will be guaranteed safety during the upcoming Beijing Olympics, a senior civil aviation official said yesterday. Li Jiayang, head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), was speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing NPC session in reference to the foiled attempt on Friday to crash a passenger jet bound for Beijing.

The Times of India, 11 March 2008

China fabricated Olympic terror threat: Uighur leader

WASHINGTON: Exiled Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer on Monday accused China of fabricating alleged plots against the Olympics, and even of scheming to carry out its own terror attacks, to blacken her community's name. "It's completely untrue. All these allegations are falsified," the separatist figurehead, who joined her US-based husband in 2005 after six years in a Chinese jail, said.

The Hindu, 11 March 2008

China's judiciary needs reform: top judge (Pallavi Aiyar)

Beijing: As China grapples with the increasingly urgent quest to reform its judicial

system and ensure a society that is governed by the rule of law, the country's top judicial official admitted on Monday that a large gap remained between reality and goals. The President of China's Supreme People's Court, Xiao Yang, in his annual report to the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament, on Monday was blunt in his assessment.

China Daily, 11 March 2008

China to set up five new 'super ministries'

China will set up five new "super ministries" in the current round of government institutional restructuring, and a plan for the reshuffle will be submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC), or parliament, for deliberation on Tuesday afternoon. According to the plan, which was distributed to journalists before the parliament meeting, the five new "super ministries" are the ministry of industry and information, the ministry of human resources and social security, the ministry of environmental protection, the ministry of housing and urban-rural construction, and the ministry of transport.

Taipei Times, 11 March 2008

KMT urges legislative stance on UN bid (Flora Wang)

All eight legislative standing committees yesterday simultaneously approved a statement proposed by the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) to convey the legislature's attitude toward bids for membership in the UN and other important international organizations. KMT caucus whip Alex said that while the statement is not a binding resolution, it shows that the KMT supports Taiwan's bid to join the UN and other international organizations. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) caucus, however, accused the KMT of acting like a dictator by taking advantage of its legislative majority to approve the resolution, titled "Taiwanese People's Demand to Enter the UN."

The Indian Express, 11 March 2008

If Govt can't deliver, allow us to go to China for rail line: Arunachal MP (Raghvendra Rao)

NEW DELHI, MARCH 10: Expressing exasperation over the Union Government's alleged indifference over providing railway connectivity to the country's easternmost frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh, Bharatiya Janata Party MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao today said that if Parliament allows, the Arunachal Pradesh government should be allowed to get a rail link from China.

The Asian Age, 12 March 2008

China insists it faces terrorism threat

China on Tuesday insisted it faced a terrorism threat in its restive Xinjiang region and lashed out at an exiled minority leader who said the plots were made up to justify Chinese oppression. The comments by a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman came after Xinjiang officials on Sunday reported that authorities there had thwarted a pair of terrorist plots, including an alleged plan to attack the Olympics.

Taipei Times, 12 March 2008

Tibetans continue march in defiance of Indian police ban

A group of Tibetan exiles planning to march to their homeland from northern India were back on the road yesterday despite a police ban on their trek. The 100 activists began their walk on Monday as part of pro-independence protests ahead of the Beijing Olympics. They hope the march will highlight what they say are serious human rights violations in their Himalayan homeland.

People's Daily, 12 March 2008

Overseas media: institutional restructuring to help Chinese gov't better meet social, economic challenges

Overseas media have paid close attention to an institutional restructuring plan by the Chinese government, saying the planned reform will not only better prepare the country for meeting social and economic challenges but also have international influence. Lawmakers at the fourth plenary meeting of the First Session of China's 11th National People's Congress (NPC) deliberated a State Council proposal Tuesday for government reform, which involves the installation of "super ministries" responsible for energy, transportation, industries and environmental protection.

JoongAng Ilbo, 12 March 2008

Pragmatic diplomacy

President Lee Myung-bak has ordered the Foreign Ministry to roll out pragmatic diplomacy based solely on national interests. In a meeting with Foreign Ministry senior officials yesterday, Lee said no such things as pro-America or pro-Chinese policies exist today. Anyone can be allies when both sides interests meet, and there will be no allies when national interests clash, he said. Pragmatic diplomacy that only takes into account tangible national interest is the fundamental principle under which the new administration, and the international community, operates.

The Times of India, 12 March 2008

India lags behind China in spending on R&D: Kapil Sibal

India lags behind China in spending on research and development work as well as number of scientific researchers, Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour, he said the number of core researchers in India was about 1.5 lakh as compared to China's 8-10 lakh.

The Asian Age, 13 March 2008

Opinion: One China, two Chinas or China and Taiwan? - Madhuri Santanam Sondhi

Between 1989 and 1990, two massive student movements occurred within ten months of each other, the first in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and the second in Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Park. Given prevailing Confucian disapproval of self-centred behaviour, China's students, despite real grievances such as sharing six to a room in university accommodation or compulsory service in the countryside after graduation, couched their demands in moralistic terms about the state of public affairs. Although Mao had condemned Confucius to the dustbin of pre-modern history Chinese society was not easily "de-Confucianised," and could positively work to the advantage of authoritarian

rulers

The Times of India, 13 March 2008

'Won't tolerate stir during Olympics'

China on Wednesday sent out a clear signal that it would not tolerate any attempt to cause disturbances during the Olympic Games. The message is directed at critics including politicians in foreign countries, Dalai Lama's supporters and international non-government organisations that may be planning demonstrations in China during the Games

Taipei Times, 13 March 2008

EDITORIAL: Making `referendum' a dirty word

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Po-hsiung's announcement yesterday that his party would boycott the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) referendum on UN entry using the name "Taiwan" and back the KMT's own on "returning to the UN" would appear to be the final nail in the coffin of the DPP's plebiscite. Taking into account that previous KMT boycotts have ensured the failure of all four referendums staged since the Referendum Law was promulgated in November 2003, it signals that the DPP version now has very little chance of passing.

The New York Times, 13 March 2008

Indian Police Arrest Tibetan Exiles

Police detained more than 100 Tibetan exiles as they marched to their homeland Thursday in protest of China's hosting of the Olympic Games, charging them with threatening the "peace and tranquility" of the region, officials said. The protesters began a hunger strike within hours of being arrested, Tenzin Palkyi, a march coordinator, told The Associated Press. The protesters shouted "Free Tibet!" and other slogans as they were being detained, but there was no violence, witnesses said. Senior police official Atul Fulzele said the protesters had been charged with threatening the region's "peace and tranquility." But organizers vowed to continue the march.

People's Daily, 14 March 2008

Elaborating on 5 main concerns related to Beijing Olympics

Ten thousand smiles from children all over the world " the image the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games will leave its audience with and a symbol of humankind's bright future" will be the most touching moment that renowned Chinese film director Zhang Yimou intends to display in a 50-minute long performance. Zhang is in charge of designing the opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics. "We are going to tell a human-interest story, in a simple way, during the 50-minute performance, about who we are and why we are one family," Zhang said.

Taipei Times, 14 March 2008

Minister resigns over campaign clash

Minister of Finance Ho Chih-chin resigned yesterday to take responsibility for the melee that broke out at the campaign office of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) presidential candidate Frank Hsieh on Wednesday. "As a politically appointed minister, I am willing

to take responsibility for what happened and the disruption it caused," Ho told a media briefing yesterday morning while announcing his resignation, which ended his 20-month tenure.

The Times of India, 14 March 2008

China silent on India's handling of Tibetan protesters

The Chinese foreign ministry has refused to express its view on India's handling of Tibetan protesters, who have been trying to march from Dharmashala to Tibet since Monday. This is significant because the ministry has been severe in its criticism of the Tibetan protesters and the Dalai Lama for his speech at the start of the march on Monday.

The Indian Express, 14 March 2008

Editorial: Bold monks

The protests by Buddhist monks in Tibet and elsewhere in China end nearly two decades of relative quiet in the difficult Sino-Tibetan relationship. While the estimates on the size and intensity of these protests vary in the sketchy reports that are coming out of Lhasa and Beijing, no one, including the Chinese authorities, is denying them. While Beijing has dismissed these protests as minor, it has every reason to be rattled. For one, most major monasteries in Tibet are actively involved in the agitation. For another, they have not been limited to the truncated Tibet Autonomous Region, but have spread to neighbouring provinces that were once part of Greater Tibet. Above all, the courageous Tibetan protests will boost the global human rights campaign, in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics, against China's internal political repression.

The Hindu, 14 March 2008

Jia re-elected Chairman

Jia Qinglin was re-elected Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body, here on Thursday. Mr. Jia was re-elected at the fourth plenary meeting of the First Session of the 11th CPPCC National Committee. The meeting also elected 25 vice-chairpersons, a secretary-general and 298 Standing Committee members of the 11th CPPCC National Committee.

The Hindu, 14 March 2008

We will not allow anti-China activity: India

Reacting to a threat by India-based Tibetans that they will cross the border into China to press for independence, India has said it will not permit them to engage in any anti-China activity on its soil. Maintaining that the law and order machinery was adequate to tackle protests by foreign nationals directed against other countries, a Foreign Office spokesman said India would also deal firmly with anyone attempting to cross the international border without valid travel documents.

The Asian Age, 15 March 2008

China asks Nepal to ban Everest climbs

China has asked Nepal to not allow climbers to scale Mount Everest during the popular spring season, officials said on Friday, as Beijing grows increasingly concerned over

possible Olympics protests on the world's highest peak. Beijing may be worried that Tibetan activists will disrupt its plans to carry the Olympic torch up to Everest's 8,850-metre summit. China has not released an exact date for the planned ascent, but preparations point to late April or early May. Nepalese officials said a decision should be reached soon on whether to approve Beijing's request to shut down climbing on Everest until May 10. The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said China made the request in February

The Asian Age, 15 March 2008

Editorial: Spotlight on Tibet

The protests which have snowballed in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet in the past few days have dramatically scotched China's claims that people there were happy with Beijing's rule and had all but forgotten old loyalties to the Dalai Lama, living in exile in India for almost half a century. It is difficult to get news out of Tibet, given the vice-like grip in which the Chinese authorities keep the people of their supposedly autonomous province segregated from contact with outsiders; it is now evident, however, that the current protests have been on a scale unprecedented in the past two decades

The Asian Age, 15 March 2008

India won't allow any anti-China move: MEA

Justifying its action against Tibetan protesters here, the government has said anti-China political activities by the refugees will not be allowed in India. "The government of India does not permit Tibetans to engage in anti-China political activities in India," external affairs ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said while commenting on the police action against the refugees who had taken out a march in Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh two days back. He said that the government has the responsibility to maintain public order and "any activity which causes disruption would be dealt with in accordance with the laws of India".

The Indian Express, 15 March 2008

Column: Good fences, good neighbours

For Tibetans, March 10, 1959 is the day of their national uprising against the Chinese, which culminated in the flight of the Dalai Lama to India through Tawang. Indian authorities restricted this year's commemorative demonstrations by Tibetans in Delhi; and their plans to organise a march on Lhasa, by crossing the border at an undisclosed point on an undisclosed date, are bound to be foiled by watchful Indian and Chinese agencies. The aim is to politically embarrass the Chinese, by exposing the Tibetan skeleton in their cupboard, just when China is engaged in image-building for the Olympics

The Indian Express, 15 March 2008

With blackout, China cracks down on largest Tibet protests in 20 yrs

Violent protests erupted on Friday in a busy market area of Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, as Buddhist monks and other ethnic Tibetans clashed with Chinese security forces. The protesters burned shops, cars, military vehicles and at least one tourist bus, according to witnesses. The demonstrations were the most violent since protests by Buddhist monks began in Lhasa on Monday, the anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese

rule in 1959. The protests have been the largest in Tibet since the late 1980s, when Chinese security forces repeatedly used lethal force to restore order in the region

The Times of India, 15 March 2008

Death toll in Lhasa riots rises to 10: China

China said at least 10 people were burnt to death in riots in the Tibetan capital Lhasa, the fiercest pro-independence protests to have rocked the region in two decades, scarring China's image months before the Olympics. Xinhua news agency said the 10 died in the bitter clashes that erupted in the remote, mountain capital on Friday, having initially said seven. It said no foreigners died but gave few other details. "The victims are all innocent civilians and they have been burnt to death," an official with the regional government was quoted as saying

People's Daily, 15 March 2008

Tibet regional gov't: Sabotage in Lhasa masterminded by Dalai clique

The government of Tibet Autonomous Region said Friday there had been enough evidence to prove that the recent sabotage in Lhasa was "organized, premeditated and masterminded" by the Dalai clique. The violence, involving beating, smashing, looting and burning, has disrupted the public order and jeopardized people's lives and property, an official with the regional government said. The sabotage has aroused indignation of and is strongly condemned by the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, he said in an interview with Xinhua.

People's Daily, 15 March 2008

New leaders elected at NPC plenary meeting

Hu Jintao was reelected president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission (CMC) at the fifth plenary meeting of the First Session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) here Saturday. The plenary meeting also reelected Wu Bangguo chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and elected Xi Jinping vice-president of the PRC

Taipei Times, 15 March 2008

Defend Taiwan's sovereignty, says Ma

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou yesterday voiced his opposition to China's "Anti-Secession" Law and declared his determination to defend Taiwan's sovereignty if elected. "I expressed my opposition to the law three years ago, and I continue to strongly oppose it today. Taiwan enjoys sovereignty, and Taiwan's future should only be decided by Taiwanese people," Ma said at a press conference yesterday, marking the third anniversary of the passage of the law

Taipei Times, 15 March 2008

EDITORIAL: Tibet: Now the debacle starts

The portents are bad: The day that the qualifying tournament for the Olympic baseball competition finished in Taiwan was the day that Beijing commenced its violent crackdown on Buddhist monks and other protesters in Tibet and Gansu Province after a week of protests. Local sports fans may be delighted at the good fortune of the national

baseball team, especially in light of its poor performance in previous contests. But for Taiwanese looking at the bigger picture, the thrill should be seriously dampened by the reports of a massive police mobilization, gunfire and burning of buildings in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa.

The Times of India, 15 March 2008

'Olympics torch relay to Everest unaffected by Tibet unrest'

Unrest in Tibet will not affect China's plans to take the Olympic torch to the summit of Mount Everest, officials with the Beijing Games organising committee said on Saturday. "The preparation work for the torch relay inside Tibet and to the summit of Mount Everest will not be affected by the rioting and is going smoothly," committee spokesman Sun Weide said. "The Mount Everest leg will not be affected," he said when asked if the relay would be impacted by the violence in the Himalayan region. An official with the Beijing Olympic torch relay department, who declined to give his name, also said that Mount Everest leg would not be impacted.

The Asian Age, 16 March 2008

Protesters rally on Dharamsala streets

Hundreds of Tibetans on Saturday marched through the streets here protesting the Chinese government's use of force against their brethren in their homeland even as a fresh batch of agitators on Saturday began a march to Tibet to join the rebellion there. Hundreds of Tibetans marched from Macleodganj to Dharamsala shouting slogan against Chinese authorities and burnt an effigy of Chinese President Hu Jin Tao at the main square of Macleodganj, where their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama resides

The Asian Age, 16 March 2008

India, China to discuss Jet Shanghai route

Civil aviation officials of India and China will participate in two-day talks in New Delhi on March 19 and 20 to resolve the imbroglio over the "beyond point" issue. In this case, it essentially means the rights that an airline seeks to fly to a third country via China. China is yet to approve a request made by Jet Airways - India's largest private airline - to fly to San Francisco (US) via the Chinese city of Shanghai. The Chinese government is believed to have reservations on granting approval since it would impact on the business of airlines from China operating to the US

The Hindu, 16 March 2008

Tibet: India expresses distress, urges dialogue

India on Saturday expressed distress at the deaths in the unrest in Lhasa but pointed out that Tibet was part of China, distancing itself from demands for independence being made by Tibetans. This is the second time India has expressed its views on the unrest in Tibet. In a statement earlier this week, India had said it would not allow any anti-Chinese activity on its territory

The Hindu, 16 March 2008

10 killed in Tibet violence

Even as residents in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa said on Saturday evening that the city

was by and large quiet but with a large military presence a day after troubles in the region left at least 10 people dead, China gave protesters in Tibet an ultimatum to surrender. The official Tibetan judicial authorities gave the protesters time until Monday night to turn themselves in and benefit from leniency. "Criminals who do not surrender themselves by the deadline will be sternly punished according to the law," said a notice on the local government website

The Indian Express, 16 March 2008

30 killed in crackdown, says Tibet exile group

China ordered tourists out of Tibet's capital on Saturday while troops on foot and in armored vehicles patrolled the streets and confined government workers to their offices, a day after riots that a Tibetan exile group said left at least 30 protesters dead. The Chinese government maintains that only ten died, innocents set on fire by the rioters. Meanwhile, the Nepal tourism minister Prithvi Subba Gurung said his country would block access to Mount Everest to prevent Tibetan protestors from coming in the way of China's plan to take the Olympic torch to the peak top

The Indian Express, 16 March 2008

With Tibet deja vu, Hu begins second innings

Hu Jintao started his second innings as Chinese President on Saturday in the shadow of the pro-independence riots in Tibet where he had crushed a similar uprising two decades ago that catapulted him to the power centre and brought him near patriarch Deng Xiaoping. Seen as an enigmatic figure, Hu, 65, started his political career after the 1949 communist revolution and has worked his way up the party apparatus in a steady political ascent. A trained hydro-electric engineer, Hu had his political baptism in 1964 when he joined the communist party

The Times of India, 16 March 2008

Dalai Lama hardens stand on Tibet

After two days of rioting and police action that left dozens of people dead in Lhasa, as the Chinese media and the government of Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) poured vitriol on the Dalai Lama for "inciting the riots", the Tibetan leader, too, hardened his stand by condemning the use of "brute force" by China. Calling the protest a manifestation of the "deep-rooted resentment of the Tibetan people under the present governance", the Dalai Lama said, "It is unrealistic to expect unity and stability under such a rule and would therefore not be conducive to finding a peaceful and lasting solution"

The Times of India, 16 March 2008

'Free Tibet' may crash Olympic party

From Athens to the Everest, China is feeling the heat of the "Free Tibet" campaign just five months before the biggest show on earth- the 2008 Olympics - opens in Beijing in August. Even as the first batch of 100 Tibetan activists leading the "Return march to Tibet" are cooling their heels in police detention at a government guest house in Dharamsala, all roads seem to be leading to the seat of the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile in Himachal Pradesh as at least two high-profile American visitors - House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Hollywood star Richard Gere - are expected to

show up in the town to express solidarity with the Tibetan activists who are trying to turn their protest into global movement against China's "occupation of Tibet"

The Times of India, 16 March 2008

China declares 'people's war' to control Tibet

Chinese officials have declared a 'people's war' of security and propaganda against support for the Dalai Lama in Tibet after riots racked the regional capital Lhasa, and some sources claimed the turmoil killed dozens. Residents of the remote city high in the Himalayas said on Sunday that anti-riot troops controlled the streets and were closely checking Tibetan homes after protests and looting shook the heavily Buddhist region. Two days ago Tibetan protesters, some in Buddhist monks' robes and some yelling pro-independence slogans, trashed shops, attacked banks and government offices and wielded stones and knives against police

Taipei Times, 16 March 2008

Taiwanese government condemns crackdown on Tibet

The government and politicians across party lines yesterday condemned Beijing's bloody oppression of demonstrations in Tibet. "From this incident, it is apparent that China is far from respecting human rights and upholding democratic values as it claimed it would before the Olympics. That was an empty promise," Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokeswoman Phoebe Yeh said. In a press release, the ministry condemned China for hiding Tibet from the world at this crucial moment by clamping down on media

The Hindu, 17 March 2008

Lhasa returns to normality

Many shops reopened and private cars and taxi cabs were back on the streets here on Sunday, as the city returned to calm after Friday's violence. Reporters at the Xinhua office saw many stores along the western Beijing Road, western Jinzhu Road and southern Lingor Road open. Yangzom, a woman of Tibetan ethnicity, who lives on western Jinzhu Road, said her life remained largely unaffected. "Grocery stalls and shops in my neighbourhood are still open," she said

The Hindu, 17 March 2008

Wen Jiabao re-elected China's Premier

Wen Jiabao was appointed by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's Parliament, to another five-year term as Premier on Sunday. Mr. Wen (65) is the nation's top economic official and has been at the forefront of efforts to rein in spiralling inflation among a host of fiscal and economic challenges

The Indian Express, 17 March 2008

India, China meet to clear air routes

Officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) will be meeting their Chinese counterparts later this week to resolve issues related to the bilateral air agreement between the two countries. The talks, to be held on March 19 and 20 in New Delhi, could prove crucial for Jet Airways which has for long been planning to develop Shanghai as its Asia-Pacific hub to fly to San Francisco or Los Angeles on the US west coast

The Indian Express, 17 March 2008

I feel as anguished as 1959, but let us not deny Beijing the Games: Dalai Lama

The Dalai Lama today called for an international investigation into the situation in Tibet, saying he was "deeply concerned" over the Chinese crackdown. But he disagreed with calls to boycott the Beijing Olympics, saying "China deserves to hold the Olympics, it is a matter of pride for the citizens of the country." Responding to Chinese allegations that he was masterminding the violence in Tibet, the Dalai Lama told reporters "I am happy they have found a scapegoat"

The Indian Express, 17 March 2008

What the World Is Reading

The Economist cover story "China, The New Colonialists" reveals startling statistics: China gobbles up more than half of the world's pork, half of its cement, a third of its steel and over a quarter of its aluminium." It spend 35 times as much on crude oil as it did in 1999. This is causing "a grim pollution angle...leading to unprecedented protests, 60,000 in 2006 alone". "Fire on top of the world" an eyewitness account by The Economist's correspondent, "the only foreign journalist with official permission to be in Lhasa when the violence erupted," says ethnic hatred targeted Chinese establishments: "Immigrants have been flocking into Lhasa (and) there is big resentment too over sharp increases in the prices of food and consumer goods from China..."

The Indian Express, 17 March 2008

Tibet protests spread to other provinces

Violence spilled over from Tibet into neighbouring provinces Sunday as Tibetan protesters defied a Chinese Government crackdown while the Dalai Lama warned that the area faced cultural genocide and appealed to the world for help. Protests were reported in Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu provinces. All have Tibetan populations

The Indian Express, 17 March 2008

Column: Something's changed in Lhasa

History was moving along nicely, it seems, towards its end with the most powerful capitalist-authoritarian regime ready to showcase its economic might by hosting the event of all events- the Olympic Games. But unfortunately for the Communist apparatchiks in Beijing, those prickly monks got in the way. From India to Greece, from the United Kingdom to Nepal, standing athwart history, they have yelled stop. But is anyone listening? In a news cycle dominated by the turmoil in financial markets, Iraq and Afghanistan, who has time for a bunch of robed priests in the foothills of the Himalayas trying to preserve their way of life, especially when their adversary is the economic behemoth of China, the centre of global attention today?

The Asian Age, 17 March 2008

Chinese police in Nepal area

China has deployed security personnel inside neighbouring Nepal to keep an eye out for protests by pro-Tibetan groups, Nepali officials have said. Plain-clothes Chinese officers could be seen on Saturday on the Nepali side of the border with Tibet, and even blocked

an AFP correspondent and photographer from working on Nepali soil near the main border crossing with Chinese-controlled Tibet. The cross-border security measures come after unrest in Tibet and a major clampdown in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital

The Times of India, 17 March 2008

India may be forced to seal China border

It has become a do-or-die situation for many of the monks and ordinary Tibetans who have participated in both the peaceful demonstrations and violence that rocked Lhasa over the past few days. Some of them may try to escape to neighbouring provinces with large Tibetan population and possibly sneak into India, a source said

The Times of India, 17 March 2008

'No lethal weapons used on Tibet protesters'

China on Monday denied using lethal force to quell violent protests in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, saying security personnel did not fire any gunshots. "Throughout the process (security forces) did not carry or use any lethal weapons," the chairman of Tibet's government, Qiangba Puncog, said at a press conference to discuss the days of protests against China's rule of Tibet

The Times of India, 17 March 2008

LEADER ARTICLE: Big Brother Is Watching

As this piece is being written, reports are coming in from Tibet by the minute of mass protests, arrests, the killing of demonstrators, the blockade of monasteries, and now the imposition of martial law. Not strictly limited to Lhasa, word has also filtered through of demonstrations in Kham and Amdo, far to the east. A combination of factors has come together, including Tibetan awareness of China's sensitivity to negative international attention in the build-up to the Olympics and the arrival of March 10, the day when Tibetans mark the 1959 uprising against China

Taipei Times, 17 March 2008

Taiwan takes to streets in huge rallies

Senior members of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) led their supporters in giant rallies across the country yesterday, canvassing votes on Super Sunday for their respective presidential tickets as the election race entered its final week. The DPP marked the anniversary of Beijing's "Anti-Secession" Law, which was on Friday, with a motorcade, including a truck carrying a giant golden index finger pointing to the sky and an 8m-tall wooden "Trojan horse"

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

Tibetan protests were abetted by forces outside China: envoy

China has appreciated India's stance in controlling protests by Tibetans and providing adequate security to its diplomatic mission here. At the same time, Beijing urged New Delhi to "see clearly the nature of those instigating and conspiring activities of the Dalai [Lama] clique" and maintain an "object and correct stand, and avoid any irresponsible words and acts"

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

China denies using lethal force in Tibet

China on Monday said it had shown "maximum restraint," and had not used lethal force to quell the fiercest pro-independence protests in two decades in the Tibetan capital Lhasa last week, which claimed at least 13 lives. Beijing, at the same time, vowed to deal "harshly" with protesters who committed "serious crimes," as the Monday midnight deadline for rioters to surrender neared, amidst increasing international calls to Beijing, the host of the Olympic Games in August, to exercise restraint

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

Parliament endorses new China Cabinet

On the penultimate day of its annual session, China's Parliament endorsed a new Cabinet, including four Vice-Premiers as well as five State Councillors. Amongst the more significant appointments was that of Li Keqiang, who was appointed Executive Vice-Premier

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

Opinion - 'It seems...they want to kill anyone not Tibetan'

"Oh my God. Oh no. That's crazy. One hundred people are trying to stone one man. A man was trying to cross the street with his motorcycle - they were trying to stone him but it's so crowded I can't see whether they got him or not". "We came out for a walk at about five on Friday. We were on Sera Street, which goes to the [Klukung] monastery. It sounds like the noise came from there; it sounds like at first they had been fighting in the temple

The Indian Express, 18 March 2008

Beijing begins search and arrest

Vowing a harsh crackdown, Chinese police conducted house-to-house searches in central Lhasa today and rounded up hundreds of Tibetans suspected of participating in a deadly outburst of anti-Chinese violence, exile groups and residents reported. (Agency reports, quoting activist groups, said at least eight people were killed when police opened fire on a rally led by monks in southwest China amid a wave of anti-Chinese protests outside Tibet

The Indian Express, 18 March 2008

In Tibet chorus, CPM is silent, calls it China's 'internal matter'

The Chinese crackdown on protestors in Tibet led to an uproar in Lok Sabha today with several parties, barring the Left, expressing concern over the situation in Lhasa. The Opposition BJP walked out of the House, demanding that India raise its voice against the crackdown. The CPM refused comment on the violence in Tibet, saying it was "internal matter" of China. "The Government of India recognises Tibet to be an integral part of China. The Government has also said they would allow the refugees to stay in the country This policy has been there even before the Dalai Lama came to India and we have been supporting that stand", CPM leader Sitaram Yechury told reporters

The Indian Express, 18 March 2008

Tibet on its mind, India backs China on Taiwan

Doing a difficult balancing act over the Chinese crackdown on Tibetan protestors in Lhasa, India has offered strong support to China on the other issue close to Beijing's heart by opposing Taiwan's move to seek a UN membership for itself. Speaking to the Chinese news agency Xinhua, MEA spokesperson Navtej Sarna has reaffirmed India's stand that New Delhi continues to follow One China policy. "India has never supported Taiwan independence or UN membership," Sarna said, recalling that India's consistent policy in this regard was conveyed to Beijing most recently during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to China earlier this year

The Asian Age, 18 March 2008

Entry of foreigners banned

China has suspended permits for foreigners to travel to Tibet, an official said on Monday, as a Tibetan exile group reported mass arrests ahead of a deadline for protestors to surrender to the police in the regional capital. Officials stopped issuing the travel permits, which are not required for any other Chinese region, because of safety concerns, Qiangba Puncog, chairman of the regional government, told reporters in Beijing

The Asian Age, 18 March 2008

Editorial: Left hypocrisy

Lhasa has been sealed off. The Chinese are strictly controlling outflow of news, the local population has been told to stay indoors and foreign tourists have been ordered to leave. The world has to depend on scant information to assess the seriousness of the anti-China uprising by Tibetan monks and the citizenry. The uprising has claimed between 10 (official count) and 80 to 100 (unofficial estimate) lives since Friday. The Tibetan capital is witnessing a near-repeat of the Tianenmen Square revolt, which the Chinese Army put down ruthlessly with total disregard of the demonstrators' human rights. Military forces have been summoned in Lhasa, too, to quell the most serious anti-Beijing spontaneous popular demonstration in two decades

The Times of India, 18 March 2008

EDITORIAL: Talk To Dalai Lama

China has two options before it to deal with the protestors in Tibet. It could take a cue from Myanmar and use force to suppress the protests or negotiate with dissenters, who include a large number of Buddhist monks. Reports suggest that Beijing might exercise the second option and offer concessions including amnesty to protestors to buy peace. The temptation will be there to borrow a leaf from the Myanmar junta's book and force the monks to disperse. But Beijing should ask itself if such an approach suits China's present interests

People's Daily, 18 March 2008

China forms new Cabinet, including five

China's parliament on Monday approved Premier Wen Jiabao's nomination of a new Cabinet (New Line-up of the State Council), including five "super ministers" who are put on the frontline of a major government reshuffle. The "super ministers" include minister of industry and information Li Yizhong, minister of transport Li Shenglin, minister of

human resources and social security Yin Weimin, minister of environmental protection Zhou Shengxian and minister of housing and urban-rural construction Jiang Weixin

Taipei Times, 18 March 2008

Taiwan could be a second Tibet: Hsieh

Taiwan could become the next Tibet if Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou were to win the presidential election, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) presidential candidate Frank Hsieh's campaign said yesterday. Ma, however, challenged the remarks, saying Hsieh had denigrated Taiwan's status by comparing it to Tibet although Taiwan is not under the rule of China. Hsieh spokesman Hsiao Bi-khim said that Beijing's bloody crackdown on Tibet was a cruel warning to Taiwan

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 18 March 2008

China's ethnic policies led to Tibet riots

Rioting in China's Tibet Autonomous Region, has spread to neighboring areas. Tibetan exiles across the world have staged protests, damaging China's image abroad ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games to be held in August. It is ironic that the riots occurred when the National People's Congress, China's parliament, is in session until Tuesday because the parliament had made social harmony, including harmony among ethnic groups, one of the main themes of the annual session. The latest riots could be considered the product of China's failed policy toward Tibet

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

Tibet protests incited by Dalai Lama: Wen

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday appreciated the "position and stance of the Indian government in handling the activities of the Dalai Lama clique," but said the Tibet issue remained a "sensitive one in China's relationship with India." Mr. Wen was speaking at his annual press conference at the close of this year's two-week parliamentary session

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

Dalai Lama deprecates violence

Perturbed over the continuing violence by his supporters and the accusations by the Chinese government against him, the Dalai Lama, 73, has threatened to resign as the political head of his movement-in-exile. Talking to reporters in Dharamsala on Tuesday, he said his only option was to resign if violence continued. The spiritual head of the Tibetans living in exile in India has also refuted the Chinese claims that he was behind violence in Tibet. "It can be investigated by the Chinese," he said

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

Hu promises clean governance

The two-week First Session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, ended here on Tuesday after endorsing a new leadership. Nearly 3,000 deputies attended the annual Parliament session from March 5 to 18. They endorsed the report of government work presented by Premier Wen Jiabao, along with other important reports, and set forth the major tasks and work plans for this year and the five years to

come. Hu Jintao was re-elected President, Wu Bangguo re-elected Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, and Mr. Wen reappointed Premier

The Indian Express, 19 March 2008

Lhasa turned into war zone with mayhem everywhere: eyewitness

A Chinese shopkeeper in Tibet's capital came out of hiding on Monday for the first time since mobs ransacked his herb store last week during the biggest uprising against the region's Chinese rulers in nearly two decades. Ma Zhonglong, 20, said he had had nothing but a few packets of instant noodles to eat since he ran for cover on Friday when he saw hundreds of Tibetans smash and burn storefronts near the Jokhang Temple, the religious and geographical heart of Lhasa, the Tibetan capital

The Indian Express, 19 March 2008

Chinese Premier blames Dalai Lama for turmoil

Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday said the recent unrest in Tibet was instigated by the Dalai Lama and proved for all the world to see that his claims of seeking peaceful dialogue with China "are nothing but lies". Wen, in China's first senior-level response to the rioting in Tibet and other Tibetan-inhabited areas of the country, said the violence Friday in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, was particularly "cruel" and caused great harm to the city and its inhabitants. He dismissed charges by the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, that China's government is committing cultural genocide by submerging the region's native population under a wave of Han Chinese immigration, and vowed to carry on with economic development in the isolated mountain territory

The Asian Age, 19 March 2008

China: DOOR For talks still open

Buckling under intense international pressure, China on Tuesday said, it was still open to talks with the Dalai Lama whom it accused of "masterminding" the pro-independence protests in Lhasa and elsewhere as Tibet remained virtually cut-off after Friday's widespread violence. "The door of dialogue still opens to the Dalai Lama so long as he gives up the position for 'Tibet Independence', and so long as he recognises Tibet and Taiwan as inalienable parts of the Chinese territory," Premier Wen Jiabao said at a press conference here after being elected for a second term. He was asked if China would invite the Dalai Lama for direct talks on the vexed Tibet issue

The Times of India, 19 March 2008

China warns of 'life and death struggle' over Tibet

The torch relay for the 2008 Olympics will go to Tibet as planned despite the unrest in the Himalayan region, a senior Beijing organiser said on Wednesday. "The situation in Tibet has essentially stabilised, the Olympic torch relay will proceed as scheduled," Jiang Xiaoyu, executive vice president of the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, told a news conference. China warned of a "life and death" struggle with Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, as it sought to end a wave of protests in its Tibetan regions with arrests and tightened political control

Taipei Times, 19 March 2008

Ma won't rule out Olympic boycott over Tibet

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou yesterday reiterated his call for China to end its suppression of Tibet, and said that, if elected, he would not rule out boycotting the Beijing Olympics if the situation in Tibet deteriorated. "If the Chinese government continued its suppression of Tibetans, and the situation in Tibet worsens, I would not rule out stopping athletes from attending the 2008 Beijing Olympics," Ma said in Miaoli County

Taipei Times, 19 March 2008

EDITORIAL: Can Ma control the KMT old guard?

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou was in full damage control mode last week, profusely apologizing for the arrogant behavior of his party's legislators and demonstrating, once again, that he has a long way to go before he can control the party that he is effectively supposed to lead. When Ma became KMT party chairman in 2005, he promised to lead an opposition that would be willing to work with the ruling party. But time and again, from the failure to pass a reasonable arms budget to the KMT's stonewalling of President Chen Shui-bian's choice of prosecutor general -- a candidate Ma openly supported -- conservative elements in the party threw egg on Ma's face

The Hindu, 20 March 2008

China ready for talks: Brown

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown told MPs on Wednesday that he spoke to Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and was informed that the Chinese government was "prepared to enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama" in the light of the spiritual leader's statement that he did not support total independence for Tibet and that he renounced violence. "The Premier told me that subject to two things that the Dalai Lama has already said - that he does not support the total independence of Tibet, and that he renounces violence - he would be prepared to enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama," Mr. Brown said. Speaking in the Commons, the British Prime Minister said he, in his conversation with Mr. Wen earlier in the morning, called for "reconciliation"

The Indian Express, 20 March 2008

Column: On the move, without permits

For decades, the Chinese government was able to control the ebb and flow of internal migrants through a household registration permit called the hukou. All essential commodities, food rations in particular, were based on one's status - rural or urban. It was a way to ensure that Chinese citizenry stayed where they were born. Peasants were tied to their communes and urbanites to their industrial enclaves (danwei). So, for example, when Mao needed an industrial push in the '50s, party cadres were directed to overlook rural residence status and welcome migrants. However, during the great famine, as rations depleted steadily, peasants were dispatched back to their villages. The result: millions starved, as Beijing strictly enforced the hukou

The Indian Express, 20 March 2008

China's man in Tibet hardliner by even party standards

His credentials as a hardliner in China's ruling Communist Party are unblemished, but more than two years after he took power in Tibet, analysts are asking whether Zhang Qingli was the wrong man for the job. Tibet's capital Lhasa burst into violence last week, a show of unrest that capped days of peaceful protest led by the mountainous region's Buddhist clergy that were all the more rare in light of Zhang's assertion of political control

The Indian Express, 20 March 2008

THE UPRISING

When did Tibet come under Chinese repression? As per the Tibetan Government-in-exile, headed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tibet has been under illegal Chinese occupation since China invaded the independent state in 1949-50. However, the People's Republic of China (PRC) insists that its relation with Tibet is purely an internal affair, because Tibet is and has been for centuries an integral part of China. With the invasion, the Chinese authorities imposed a "17-Point Agreement for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet" on the Tibetan government in May 1951. But the agreement lacked validity under international law

The Asian Age, 20 March 2008

Hungerstrike by Tibet Parliament-in-exile

Expressing solidarity with their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, members of the Tibetan Parliament-In-Exile held a token hungerstrike demanding autonomy for Tibetans. "We seek autonomy for the people of Tibet. We pledge to follow the Dalai Lama and support his peaceful ways to attain justice for Tibetans," said Speaker Karma Choephel. The Tibetan government in exile expressed its gratitude to the Indian government for allowing peaceful protests against the Chinese "attack" on monks in Tibet last week

The Asian Age, 20 March 2008

Op-Ed: Taiwan: No dancing to China's tune

Taiwan holds its presidential election on Saturday at an interesting fork in its history and fortunes. The defeated Kuomintang (KMT) armies of Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 after their defeat at the hands of the Communists to set up shop there, but the plucky island nation has seen many unique transformations. The KMT had ruled it in its traditional dictatorial way, with the larger than life image of Chiang stamped on Taiwan. But Taiwan progressed economically to become a world centre of excellence in computer technology

The Times of India, 20 March 2008

Tibet a life or death struggle: China

China said on Wednesday it was engaged in a "life or death struggle" over Tibet as dramatic footage emerged of Tibetan protesters rampaging on horseback and hoisting their national flag. Chinese authorities appeared to be battling on three fronts: getting protesters in Lhasa to surrender, ensuring that the agitation does not spread to the neighbouring provinces with sizeable Tibetan population striving to do everything possible to see that the Olympic torch rally does not meet its ambitious plans of reaching Mount Everest in May

Taipei Times, 20 March 2008

Editorial: Tibet riots a meter of Beijing's rot

First Myanmar and then China. It is quite a coincidence that Buddhist monks in both countries have been leading protests against repression. It is not surprising, though, that when all other avenues of peaceful protest are denied, people should turn to their church or monasteries for leadership. It happened in communist Poland. It is happening in Myanmar and now in Tibet, where China exercises a stifling grip over the local population (Xinjiang is also proving troublesome, though Beijing attributes the trouble there to Islamic terrorism)

Taipei Times, 20 March 2008

Editorial: Whatever China does, Tibet will demand freedom

Putting the Olympic flame on the summit of Mount Everest must have seemed a great idea to the planning committee of the Beijing Olympics. What better expression of China's inexorable rise to superpower status could there be? Everest was the crowning glory for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. So it would be for China's political elite. Now the game is up. On Friday, a friend who organizes expeditions to Everest called me on his way to Kathmandu for the start of the climbing season. He had just heard that the Nepalese authorities, at China's request, had decided to stop climbers going on the mountain until after those carrying the Olympic flame had been and gone

Taipei Times, 20 March 2008

China blames foreign media for unrest

China criticized foreign media yesterday for their reporting on the violence in Tibet, while it continued to block or detain international journalists trying to cover the story. Raidi, a former vice-chairman of the National People's Congress, said foreign news coverage of the riots that gripped Lhasa last week was "outrageous and ill motivated," Xinhua news agency said. "Some Western media purposely distorted the facts and viciously described a severe crime as a peaceful demonstration, so as to slander our legitimate efforts to keep social stability as a violent crackdown," said Raidi, who was born in Tibet and like many Tibetans uses only his surname

The Asahi Shimbun, 20 March 2008

EDITORIAL: Unrest in Tibet

Chinese riot police have put down the latest outbreak of unrest in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibetan Autonomous Region. With many protesters dead or injured, the city is now under strict surveillance. But protest demonstrations by Buddhist monks and residents have since spread to neighboring Sichuan and other provinces, where fatalities are said to have occurred. Protest rallies have been held at universities in Beijing, too. The 14th Dalai Lama, living in exile in India as the spiritual leader of the people of Tibet, has denounced Beijing and called for investigations by international agencies. Beijing, however, is set for an all-out confrontation with the Dalai Lama. We fear this may mean further bloodshed

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

China asks Dalai Lama to create conditions for talks

China on Thursday asked the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, to undertake "a thorough review" of himself to create conditions for talks as it voiced "grave concern" over British Premier Gordon Brown's planned meeting with him. Mr. Brown telephoned his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao and spoke about the Lhasa riots, which claimed 13 lives on Friday last. The British Prime Minister, who plans to meet the Dalai Lama during his visit to the U.K. in May, said in London that he appealed to Mr. Wen to apply restraint in dealing with protests

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

China sends more troops to Tibet

Stepping up its action on the spiralling protests by Tibetans, China has arrested over two dozen people and said that 170 others had "surrendered" as it rushed more troops to Tibet and nearby provinces where agitators attacked shops and government buildings. For the first time since the riots erupted in Lhasa on Friday claiming 13 lives, China said Tibetan inhabited areas of Sichuan and Gansu provinces too were hit by the unrest. Shops and government offices were attacked in the Aba county on Sunday and a similar scene was replicated in the counties of Xiahe, Magu, Lugu and Jone and Hezuo city in the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in southern Gansu

The Indian Express, 21 March 2008

PM's swipe at Beijing: Dalai Lama stands for non-violence

Days after Beijing officially blamed the Dalai Lama and his "clique" for inciting violence in Tibet, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is said to have conveyed to visiting US Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi today that India regarded the Dalai Lama as a "personification of non-violence." Pelosi, who is the third-ranking official in the US government after the President and the Vice-President, today met the PM ahead of her departure to Dharamshala to meet the Dalai Lama. She also had meetings with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and key parliamentarians

The Indian Express, 21 March 2008

"Except for China, the whole world trusts me"

A day before US Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrives here, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said he was open to talks with Chinese premier Hu Jintao despite the tragic events of the past few days. "It's still not too late," he said even as the Tibetan Government-in-exile told the media that the crisis in Tibet had escalated with Chinese forces laying siege to a monastery besides arresting over 600 people

The Indian Express, 21 March 2008

India, China ink MoU to augment air services

With China finally agreeing to grant a designated Indian airline full "beyond point" fifth freedom rights after talks with officials of Civil Aviation Ministry in New Delhi on Thursday, Jet Airways is gearing up to start services to San Francisco and Los Angeles via China by the middle of this year. An MoU signed between India and China says that the designated airlines of the two countries will be entitled to operate to any three "beyond points" with not more than 2 points in one region. San Francisco has been

identified by India as a "beyond point"

The Indian Express, 21 March 2008

Op-Ed: India's Tibet question

India's response to the harsh Chinese crackdown on legitimate Tibetan protests in Lhasa and elsewhere has been dispiriting. In Parliament the seasoned politician and foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee could only express distress at the plight of the hapless Tibetans. Worse still, Indian security forces swooped down on non-violent Tibetan protestors at Dharamsala, the principal refuge of the Tibetan diaspora, and incarcerated them for 14 days using India's preventive detention laws, a colonial relic

The Indian Express, 21 March 2008

Editorial: Two states' solutions

For once, the government could do no wrong. Even the opposition applauded the amendment of a constitutional order, so that the Arunachal tribe formerly known as "Dafla" (meaning unruly or wild, a name given by the British) could now be known by their real name, "Nyishi". Combined with the prime minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh and the slew of proposed infrastructure schemes, it appears as though the state's alienation can perhaps be put behind us. This small gesture of inclusion and goodwill, accomplished after years of protest, contrasts starkly with the "blood-and-fire" pronouncements from Beijing against the Tibetan agitation

The Times of India, 21 March 2008

'Himalayan tragedy awaits India, China'

Shrinking Himalayan glaciers are going to turn Chinese and Indian rivers like the Ganga and the Yangtze into seasonal rivers that dry up in summers and could eventually lead to "politically unmanageable food shortages" in the region, a leading environmental scientist has warned. Climate-driven shrinkage of river-based irrigation water supplies has been on the environmental community's radar for some time, but the alarm put out by Lester Brown, President of the Earth Policy Institute, while invoking a "civilization-threatening scenario," is the starkest yet

Taipei Times, 21 March 2008

Editorial: The West and Beijing must share shame over the Tibet crisis

China's anger and embarrassment over the Tibet protests is keenly felt and will not be easily assuaged. Its sense of betrayal is as striking as its inability to comprehend the cause of it. But Beijing's shame is widely shared. The unrest has confronted Western governments with inconvenient truths for which they plainly have no answers

Taipei Times, 21 March 2008

PLA troops converge on Lhasa

Thousands of soldiers were seen in Lhasa yesterday amid reports of a huge military build-up, as the Dalai Lama expressed fears China's crackdown on Tibetan protesters had caused many casualties. Long military convoys were on the move in Tibet while troops also poured into nearby provinces, after a week of violent unrest against China's rule of the Himalayan region, witnesses, activist groups and media reports said

People's Daily, 21 March 2008

Numerous nations oppose proposed Taiwan referendum on UN membership

Numerous countries have in the last few days voiced strong opposition to Taiwan authorities' attempt to hold a referendum on joining the United Nations and reiterated their commitment to the one-China policy. "It is our deep conviction that this political gamble, which is being persistently hyped by the authorities of the island, carries a tremendous destructive potential. It is capable of exercising, and is already exercising, a large-scale destabilizing effect on the political climate in the Asia-Pacific Region and threatens the interests of peace and development," Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Denisov said Wednesday

The Hindu, 22 March 2008

Tibetan protesters enter Chinese embassy compound

New Delhi: A group of Tibetan protesters forcibly entered the compound of the Chinese embassy here on Friday evening hours after Ambassador Zhang Yan appreciated India for providing adequate security to Beijing's missions and staff in the capital. The Tibetans overwhelmed the elaborate police cordon around the embassy just at the time their "spiritual leader" landed here for a "pre-arranged" meditation programme...

The Hindu, 22 March 2008

China's mid-air terror trail leads to Pakistan

New Delhi: Investigations into the attempted mid-air bombing of a Chinese airliner on March 7 has thrown up evidence that a Pakistan-based Islamist terror group may have aided its perpetrators. Wire service reports citing Chinese civil aviation sources say the two terrorists who attempted to blow up the China Southern flight CZ6901 from Urumqi to Beijing carried Pakistani passports, although their nationality still remains undetermined. A third member of the cell, believed to be a Pakistani national, is reported to have escaped...

The Hindu, 22 March 2008

It's interference in our internal affairs, says Chinese envoy

New Delhi: China has criticised Speaker of the U.S. Congress Nancy Pelosi's meeting with the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala and said her observations amounted to interference in China's internal affairs. "We have stated very clearly that Tibet is China's internal affair and we don't allow any country to meddle in it" Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yan said here on Friday...

The Hindu, 22 March 2008

Indian carriers can fly to U.S. via Shanghai

New Delhi: Designated airlines of India and China will be entitled to operate to any three points beyond the two countries with not more than two points in one region. However, the intermediate points and beyond points, and the exercise of rights to traffic to and from these points shall be agreed upon by aeronautical authorities of the two countries...

The Indian Express, 22 March 2008

Sharing stage with Dalai Lama, US House Speaker tears into China

McLeodganj: Calling the crisis in Tibet "a challenge to the conscience of the world", Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, today termed as "most astounding" the Chinese government's charge accusing the Dalai Lama of instigating violence in Tibet. She urged the Chinese government to allow independent monitors and medical aid into Tibet. This is the most high-powered American delegation to the Dalai Lama till date. Accompanied by 10 Congressmen and women, Pelosi, a well-known supporter of the Dalai Lama, said the world must insist upon knowing the truth in Tibet...

The Indian Express, 22 March 2008

China blankets areas of unrest with troops

Zhongdian/ Sichuan: China stepped up its manhunt on Friday for protesters in last week's riots in the capital of Tibet, as thousands of troops converged on foot, trucks and helicopters to Tibetan areas of western China. It also acknowledged for the first time that police had shot at and wounded four rioters in a Tibetan-inhabited area in southwestern Sichuan province, where protests broke out after anti-Beijing demonstrations in the restive Lhasa...

The Indian Express, 22 March 2008

Print Line: Different strokes

It is easy to get depressed about the trauma of Tibet... It is... almost half a century since the Dalai Lama fled his country. He has never been able to return and recent events make it highly unlikely that he will in the foreseeable future. Over that half century the Soviet Union has collapsed... apartheid has been defeated... colonial empires have disappeared, and the US could be about to elect its first black president. But Tibet and the Tibetans remain under the iron hand of Beijing...

The Asian Age, 22 March 2008

Tibetans claim several died in latest riots

Kangding (China): Tibetans in China's tense southwestern province of Sichuan said on Friday they believed the police had killed several people in anti-Chinese riots there this week, disputing official claims none died. China's official Xinhua news agency reported overnight that the police shot and wounded four protesters this week in a heavily ethnic Tibetan part of the province, where protests broke out after anti-Chinese riots in neighbouring Tibet a week ago...

The Asian Age, 22 March 2008

Editorial: World must find out truth on Tibet

It must rankle many Indians, and particularly those at the forefront of every campaign for democracy and human rights, that it took a visiting Speaker of the US House of Representatives to spell out the obvious truth - from Indian soil - that the developments of the past week in Tibet were a challenge to the "conscience of the world." The silence of our own leadership, which refused to go beyond expressing some "distress", is almost deafening. India, to its enormous credit, has over the past half-century given refuge to Tibetans fleeing oppression in their homeland - just as this land throughout history has never shut its doors in the face of those seeking sanctuary. India thus has a vital interest

in what happens in Tibet, but even if this were not so the pusillanimity of our leadership is unconscionable. That Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao recently went out of his way to praise India's "correct" stand on Tibet should be a badge of shame for New Delhi...

The Asian Age, 22 March 2008

Op-Ed: With China on its mind, US tries to rally Asia

When asked if his visit to various Asian countries was an effort by the US to regain the diplomatic space many fear it has ceded to China in recent years, US secretary of defence Robert Gates asserted that America's expanding bilateral relations with other states in the region don't have to be directed against any other country, including China. Yet, China was clearly the elephant in the room when Gates met with his counterparts in a series of capitals he visited a few days back in the Asia-Pacific region...

The Times of India, 22 March 2008

Defence Ministry goes 'soft' on China

New Delhi: India's defensive and ultra-cautious mindset towards China has now firmly made its way even to the normally hawkish environs of the Defence Ministry (MoD). The latest MoD annual report makes it seem that all is hunky-dory as far as the Chinese military threat is concerned, with Beijing even coming in for some glowing mention as an "important player in global affairs", proceeding firmly ahead on its "well chartered out goals"...

The Times of India, 22 March 2008

China lists 21 'most wanted' Tibet rioters

Beijing: China has issued a "most wanted" list of 21 rioters who were shown in grainy photos waving knives and fighting in Lhasa earlier this month. Thousands of troops continued to push into Tibetan areas of western China to contain unrest. Meanwhile, US Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi lent her support to the Tibetan cause while visiting the Dalai Lama on Friday, calling China's crackdown "a challenge to the conscience of the world"...

People's Daily, 22 March 2008

China calls on U.S., Japan to keep their word on Taiwan issue

China has called on the United States and Japan to keep their word on the Taiwan issue. "China hopes the United States and Japan will carry out their promises of not supporting 'Taiwan independence' or Taiwan authority's proposed 'referendum on UN membership'", Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in a written interview with Russia's Interfax news agency...

People's Daily, 22 March 2008

China garners broad international support over Tibet riots

Countries around the world have expressed their support to the Chinese government on its handling of the recent riots in Lhasa, capital city of China's Tibet Autonomous Region. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Thursday strongly denounced the unsavory elements of their moves to seek "the independence of Tibet" and scuttle the upcoming Beijing Olympics...

Taipei Times, 22 March 2008

EU parliamentarians lend support to Taiwan UN bid

One hundred EU parliamentarians have once again voiced their support for Taiwan's bid to join the UN as a full member. The parliamentarians issued a joint statement in favor of Taiwan's UN bid that was carried in the weekly European Voice on Wednesday. Taiwan will hold two referendums today, alongside the presidential election. A Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT)-initiated referendum will ask voters whether Taiwan should rejoin the UN under the name of its official title, the Republic of China, or any other "practical" name, while a Democratic Progressive Party-proposed referendum calls for joining the UN under the name "Taiwan"...

Taipei Times, 22 March 2008

Editorial: Tibet's peace is the peace of the graveyard

The recent events in Tibet and adjoining provinces are causes for deep concern. Indeed, the dispersal of a peaceful protest march organized by Tibetan monks, which led to a wave of unrest that was brutally suppressed by the Chinese military and police, has caused indignation all over the democratic world. The reaction of the Chinese authorities to the Tibetan protests evokes echoes of the totalitarian practices that many of us remember from the days before communism in Central and Eastern Europe collapsed in 1989: Harsh censorship of the domestic media, blackouts of reporting by foreign media from China, refusal of visas to foreign journalists, and blaming the unrest on the "Dalai Lama's conspiratorial clique" and other unspecified dark forces supposedly manipulated from abroad...

JoongAng Ilbo, 22 March 2008

Viewpoint: China's year of challenge

With the Beijing Olympics approaching this summer, China has stirred great controversy by using its military forces to suppress Tibetan protesters calling for independence. The action has already marred the second term of President Hu Jintao that was recently launched at the 11th National People's Congress. Despite Hu's signature slogan, "harmonious society, harmonious world" China has done serious damage to its image as a contributor to international peace. There is now even a movement by some to boycott the Beijing Olympics over the human rights issue...

The Hindu, 23 March 2008

China vows to 'resolutely crush' plot of Tibet independence forces

Beijing: China on Saturday vowed to "resolutely crush" the "Tibet independence forces" even as the Dalai Lama, Buddhist spiritual leader, warned that the younger generation may launch more vigorous and violent struggle against Beijing after his death. Updating its earlier toll of 13 in the unrest in Lhasa, which started on March 10 coinciding with the anniversary of a failed 1959 uprising against Communist rule in Tibet, Chinese authorities said the violence claimed the lives of 18 civilians and a police officer...

The Hindu, 23 March 2008

More security for Chinese embassy

New Delhi: A day after some Tibetan protesters forcibly entered the Chinese Embassy here, the police reviewed security arrangements in the Chanakyapuri area. "Two battalions are already stationed around the embassy. Though no additional force has been deployed, Panchsheel Marg has been temporarily closed to traffic and security beefed up on the road," Delhi police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said on Saturday...

The Asian Age, 23 March 2008

China fears violence in Muslim region

Kangding (China): China said 19 people died in riots in the Tibetan capital last week and official media warned against the unrest spreading to the northwest region of Xinjiang, where Uighur Muslims bridle under Chinese control. Eighteen were burnt or hacked to death in the Lhasa violence, Xinhua news agency said. It has repeatedly quoted officials as saying separatists backed by the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, engineered the protests...

The Asian Age, 23 March 2008

Dalai: Young Tibetans have 'stronger spirit' to fight

New York: The Dalai Lama has cautioned China that his death may result in a more vigorous struggle by Tibetans against Communist rule in his Himalayan homeland as the younger generation had a "stronger spirit" to fight injustice. "Both inside and outside (Tibet), the older generation may go away, but the newer generations carry the same spirit. Sometimes it is even stronger. So, after my death a younger generation will come up," the Tibetan spiritual leader told Newsweek magazine...

The Times of India, 23 March 2008

Dalai Lama scheming to take Olympics hostage: China

Beijing: China has accused the Dalai Lama of planning bloodshed in Tibet and colluding with Uighur terrorists in Xinjiang as it pushes a security and propaganda drive to stifle anti-Chinese unrest in its remote west. Anti-government protests by Buddhist monks erupted in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, from March 10 and five days later anti-Chinese rioting shook the city, killing a policeman and 18 innocent civilians, burnt or hacked to death, authorities have said. Protests then flared in nearby provinces with large ethnic Tibetan populations, leaving at least several more people dead...

The Times of India, 23 March 2008

China to help Pak build hydro-electric project in PoK

Beijing: Pakistan is expected to conclude soon reinsurance deals with a Chinese consortium for the strategically important Neelum-Jhelum hydro-electric project being built by it at a cost of USD 1.5 billion in Pakistan- Occupied Kashmir (POK), over which India has voiced concerns. "The talks are in very advanced stages and close of the deal is expected by April end or early May," a senior executive of Adamjee Insurance Company, Pakistan-based insurer, who is tying up the deals, said. A consortium consisting of China's Gezhouba Water and Power Company and China National Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation (CMEC) were awarded contracts by Pakistan in December last year to build the Rs 7,873 crore project in eight years...

People's Daily, 23 March 2008

Int'l community supports China's handling of Lhasa riots

More countries around the world have thrown their support behind the Chinese government in its handling of the recent riots in Lhasa, capital city of China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Violent acts should be denounced and separatist moves can be permitted or accepted in no country, Mauritius President Anerood Jugnauth said while meeting with the Chinese ambassador to the island country in the southwest Indian Ocean...

People's Daily, 23 March 2008

Mountaineers

Chinese mountaineers about to take the Olympic torch to the world's highest mountain peak said they are ready for the torch relay despite the recent unrest in the mountainous regional capital of Tibet. "We are ready for the challenge. The unrest in Lhasa last week will not change our plan to ascend Mount Qomolangma for the torch relay," said Pemba Dondrup, a 29-year-old Tibetan athlete, who made his first ascent to the top of the world's highest mountain in 2006...

Taipei Times, 23 March 2008

Decisive victory for Ma Ying-jeou

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) candidate Ma Ying-jeou and his running mate Vincent Siew scored an overwhelming victory in yesterday's fourth direct election for president, taking nearly 60 percent of the vote to defeat Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Frank Hsieh and his vice presidential candidate Su Tseng-chang. The result saw the KMT sweep back into power after eight years in opposition...

Taipei Times, 23 March 2008

Editorial: Out with the old, in with the older

Taiwan's voters have changed government for only the second time, re-installing the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) in the presidency. KMT candidate Ma Ying-jeou defeated the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Frank Hsieh by almost a 17 percent margin. Ma was the favorite in the election and opinion polls had at one time put him as many as 25 percentage points ahead of Hsieh. Public dissatisfaction with the DPP's political record and consequent losses in January's legislative elections sapped party morale, and this was reflected in the results of the poll, despite a narrowing in the performance of the candidates...

Taipei Times, 23 March 2008

Vote is over, but what lies ahead?

The campaign for the presidency ended with yesterday's election and as predicted by many opinion polls, Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou was elected, garnering 58 percent of the vote. With his election, the KMT reclaims the reins of power after eight years in opposition, providing yet another example to support US political scientist Samuel Huntington's saying that democratic consolidation requires two government transitions...

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 23 March 2008

Editorial: Taiwan voters offer olive branch to China

Ma Ying-jeou, former leader of Taiwan's Nationalist Party (Kuomintang or KMT), has defeated Democratic Progressive Party candidate Frank Hsieh in the island's presidential election by a large margin. Ma's victory will bring the territory's main opposition party back to power for the first time in eight years. The former KMT chief's election as president means Taiwan voters opted for friendly relations with China and closer economic ties...

The Hindu, 24 March 2008

India's position is clear and consistent: China

Beijing: Irked by top U.S. lawmakers hobnobbing with the Dalai Lama in its backyard, China on Sunday said that India's position on Tibet has not changed. India, which maintains that Tibet is an internal issue of China, has assured Beijing that its position on Tibet "is clear and consistent" and it would not change in the future, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said...

The Hindu, 24 March 2008

India, China plan joint air exercises

New Delhi: In a sign of broadening defence cooperation, China and India are now considering holding of joint air exercises. The two countries held their first-ever joint army exercise at Kunming in China's Yunnan province in December last. "We favour scaling up the military-to-military ties with India and as part of the efforts, the two countries are holding talks for joint exercise between the Air Forces," Chinese Defence Attache in New Delhi Li Chao told PTI...

The Hindu, 24 March 2008

Opinion: Tibet issue and the Indian reaction

The eruption of violence and the vandalism in Lhasa, capital of China's Tibet Autonomous Region, and the Indian reaction to it raise some profound questions. Any casual visitor to Dharamsala on the Indo-Tibetan border, seat of the so-called Tibetan "government-in-exile," can make out that the recent violence in Lhasa was anticipated well beforehand by the Tibetan activists based in that Himalayan hamlet...

The Indian Express, 24 March 2008

Column: On history's plateau

Despite China's earlier assurance to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, there no longer seems any possibility of Beijing entering into negotiations any time soon with the Dalai Lama for a peaceful settlement of the Tibet issue that, as recent rioting and violent protests show, remains a tinderbox. Beijing's brutal suppression of the protests may have doused the situation but it does not necessarily solve even China's immediate problem of ensuring the smooth conduct of the Olympics, on which it has invested not just \$3 billion but also its entire prestige as a superpower in waiting, leave alone the long-term goal of ensuring peace in the discontented minority province...

The Asian Age, 24 March 2008

Centre to focus on Chinese tourists

New Delhi: Union tourism and culture minister Ambika Soni has said that the government has approved the opening of India Tourism Office in Beijing, in order to increase the flow of foreign tourists to India from China. Air services were also being expanded as part of the strategy to boost tourist traffic from China. Aeronautical authorities of India and China met in New Delhi on 19-20 March, 2008 for consultations on air service matters...

The Asian Age, 24 March 2008

Opinion: It is still not too late for China

They burn candles all night and sit in the open in Dharamsala to pray. They are Tibetans who are concerned about the safety of their brethren in Lhasa and the places around. Hundreds have been killed and Chinese tanks have rolled over habitations and fields. Those in Tibet have not given up their demand for independence, with the Dalai Lama if possible, or without him if necessary. But their eyes are fixed on New Delhi as are those of nations all over the world. Some 60 years ago, India's first envoy to China, K.M. Panikkar, suggested to the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, that he make efforts to establish Tibet as an independent country. China was then in the midst of civil war. When Nehru made the suggestion, China lost no time in taking over Tibet militarily. Still Nehru felt that India, while recognising China's suzerainty over Tibet, had the right to express an interest in the maintenance of Tibetan autonomy...

The Times of India, 24 March 2008

Tibetan protests mar Olympic torch lighting ceremony

Beijing: The traditional Olympic torch lighting ceremony in Greece was on Monday marred by mounting protests against Chinese rule in Tibet as Beijing vowed to carry the flame to the world's highest peak, Mount Everest as planned. Tibet activist groups have called for stopping the Olympic torch relay from passing through the restive Himalayan region swamped by the Chinese military to crush the most volatile protests against its rule since 1989...

People's Daily, 24 March 2008

Senior political advisor: Dalai Lama backs up riots in Tibetan regions

The Dalai Lama was the wire-puller of the riots broke out in Tibetan regions in China, a senior political advisor said Sunday. The Dalai Lama intended to separate Tibet from the motherland while the country was preparing for the Beijing Olympic Games, Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, vice chairman of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua...

Taipei Times, 24 March 2008

Ma says he will focus on economic ties

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou pledged yesterday to seek closer economic ties with China and resuscitate the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) as a communication channel on cross-strait issues. Speaking in English, Ma told a news conference at the Taipei Youth Center that he would prioritize closer economic relations after his inauguration on May 20, followed by confidence-building measures leading to an eventual peace agreement

with Beijing...

Taipei Times, 24 March 2008

Editorial: Ma faces many challenges

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou faces a tough challenge: How to boost the economy by delivering on his campaign promises. The people of Taiwan -- who gave Ma 58.45 percent of their votes against 41.55 percent for Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) rival Frank Hsieh -- made it clear that they hoped to see the economy improve after the new government takes office. Many Taiwanese might also have decided to vote for Ma because they were fed up with corruption scandals and government bickering between legislative and executive branches, but admittedly the election results shows they were more concerned about their salaries and living standard...

Taipei Times, 24 March 2008

Tibet, Olympics make a volatile mix

Despite strenuous Chinese efforts to stifle the flow of information out of Tibet on the uprising there, the stream of dispatches continues and has begun to confront Chinese leaders with a dilemma: What do they do about the Olympics scheduled to open in Beijing on Aug. 8? Does China go ahead and risk more adverse reports from the horde of 10,000 athletes, 20,000 foreign journalists, and tens of thousands of spectators who will descend on Beijing? Or do the Chinese renege on their promise to open the country for the games? Or, as has already been speculated in Asia, does China call off the games rather than be subjected to close-up international scrutiny...

Taipei Times, 24 March 2008

Constraints on Ma's leadership cripple him

Voters have decided to embrace a unified government and elected Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) candidate Ma Ying-jeou to be the next president. With a new mandate, it is Ma's responsibility to tackle the constraints facing him. The first one is the degree to which he can shoulder the pressure from some KMT old guards who favor quicker talks with Beijing on unification, a common market and a peace agreement in which Taiwan's sovereignty might be sabotaged under China's insistence that Taipei accept the "one China" principle...

The Hindu, 25 March 2008

India, U.S. urge China to talk to Dalai Lama

Washington: India and the United States on Monday urged China and the Dalai Lama to hold peaceful negotiations to resolve the pro-independence unrest in Tibet with Washington insisting that only dialogue was sustainable in the Himalayan region. "We have expressed our concern ... about the latest developments. We do hope it will be possible to resolve the issue through peaceful dialogue between the parties concerned," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who is here on his maiden bilateral visit, told reporters at a joint press conference after holding talks with the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, here...

The Indian Express, 25 March 2008

Beijing angry, V-P calls off Dalai Lama meeting

New Delhi: Within hours of Tibetan protestors scaling the Chinese embassy walls and entering its premises as a mark of protest last Friday, an extremely upset Chinese government summoned Indian Ambassador Nirupama Rao well after midnight the same day to register a strong protest. This, incidentally, was the second time the same day on March 21 that Rao was called in by Chinese authorities on the Tibet issue. Earlier in the day, Beijing took strong exception to reports that Vice-President Hamid Ansari would meet the Dalai Lama during the latter's two-week stay in Delhi. It also showed discomfort with the visit of Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, to Dharamshala to meet the Dalai Lama...

The Indian Express, 25 March 2008

Op-Ed: So many ways to Tibet

Chinese officials criticise the Dalai Lama as an anti-motherland conspiratorial politician, "a wolf in monk's robes" while many Tibetan exiles are exasperated with the failure of his "middle way" (appealing for genuine autonomy within China). His "strategy" has been one that is neither anti-China nor anti-Chinese. He seeks to make a moral appeal to the conscience of the Chinese people and government...

The Asian Age, 25 March 2008

'130 people confirmed dead'

Dharamshala: Around 130 people have been confirmed killed in a Chinese crackdown on protests and unrest in Tibet, the Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile said on Monday. "This figure is from our sources in Tibet. The verifiable number is about 130 in entire Tibet," Samdhong Rinpoche said in Dharamshala in northern India, the base of exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. The new toll is a jump from the figure of 99 confirmed deaths provided by the government-in-exile last week...

The Asian Age, 25 March 2008

Cops break up protest, 40 held

Kathmandu: The Nepal police broke up a protest by 200 Tibetan refugees and monks near the offices of the United Nations on Monday by beating them with bamboo sticks and arresting 40. The refugees demonstrating in Kathmandu were demanding that the UN investigate the recent crackdown in Tibet by Chinese authorities. Chanting "China, stop killings in Tibet. UN, we want justice", the protesters were marching to UN headquarters when the police stopped them about 100 metres from the office and snatched their banners...

Taipei Times, 25 March 2008

Editorial: Congratulations -- we'll be watching

For all its vaunted intrinsic value, democracy means that its outcomes cannot please everybody. Such was the case on Saturday, when Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou won by a comfortable margin, leaving 41.55 percent -- or 5.4 million -- of those who voted for the Democratic Progressive Party shaking their heads and wondering what will happen to their country...

Taipei Times, 25 March 2008

KMT must turn promises into reality

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou won a decisive victory with nearly 60 percent of the vote in the presidential election on Saturday. In political economist Kenneth Arrow's terms, the election results can be described as Taiwan's "social choice" as well as a rational choice based on the public's collective political preferences. However, whether it is a social or a rational choice, it is inevitable that people will associate Ma's resounding victory with the KMT's crushing defeat of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in the January legislative elections...

The Asahi Shimbun, 25 March 2008

Editorial: Taiwan's new president

Taiwanese voters on Saturday elected Ma Ying-jeou, a 57-year-old former Taipei mayor from the Nationalist Party, as their new president. With Ma's victory, the Nationalist Party sweeps back to power after spending eight years in opposition. People in Taiwan still harbor some bitter memories about the Nationalist Party, or the Kuomintang Party. Some 60 years ago, defeated by the Communists in the Chinese Civil War, the Nationalist Party fled the mainland to Taiwan. The party ruled the island with a dictatorial fist for decades...

The New York Times, 25 March 2008

China Still Has Some Tarnish on Its Image

China's violent suppression of protests in Tibet does not present the optimal image of an Olympic host, any more than barring live TV shots from Tiananmen Square during the Summer Games in Beijing this August burnishes the government's reputation. The International Herald Tribune reported Monday something that will not be included in Beijing's Olympic media kits: a Chinese land-rights activist received a five-year prison sentence and was shocked with electric batons during a scuffle between his family and the police...

The New York Times, 25 March 2008

Pressed Over Tibet, China Berates Foreign Media

Shanghai: Chinese officials have sharply criticized foreign reporters here over their coverage of the riots in Tibet, accusing them of biased reporting and preventing them from traveling to Tibet or neighboring provinces to report on the unrest. The government has also begun a propaganda campaign aimed at persuading the public that the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leader, instigated the violence in Tibet on March 14 and that China was a victim of separatist terrorist activity...

The Hindu, 26 March 2008

Dalai Lama repeats threat to quit

New Delhi: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Tuesday reiterated that he would resign if violence continued in Tibet and indicated his disapproval of attacks on other Chinese people. He said "just wait" when asked about the way the Tibetan crisis was heading. The Dalai Lama said: "I have always made it clear that the expression of deep emotion should be in control. If it is out of control, we have no option. If the violent

demonstrations continue, I will resign," he told journalists here...

The Hindu, 26 March 2008

Tibet: all options open, says France

Paris: French President Nicolas Sarkozy, criticised here for his long silence over the protests in Tibet, on Tuesday said "all options were open" regarding a possible boycott of the Beijing Olympics' opening ceremony. "All options are open and I appeal to the Chinese leaders' sense of responsibility," the President said. His aides said France had not shut the door on the opening ceremony on August 8, though it still opposed any call to stay away from the games...

The Hindu, 26 March 2008

Editorial: The question of Tibet

If you go by western media reports, the propaganda of the so-called "Tibetan government-in-exile" in Dharamsala and the votaries of the "Free Tibet" cause, or by the fulminations of Nancy Pelosi and the Hollywood glitterati, Tibet is in the throes of a mass democratic uprising against Han Chinese communist rule. Some of the more fanciful news stories, images, and opinion pieces on the "democratic" potential of this uprising have been put out by leading western newspapers and television networks. The reality is that the riot that broke out in Lhasa on March 14 and claimed a confirmed toll of 22 lives involved violent, ransacking mobs, including 300 militant monks from the Drepung Monastery, who marched in tandem with a foiled "March to Tibet" by groups of monks across the border in India...

The Indian Express, 26 March 2008

China tightens security as Olympics approach

Beijing: In the midst of the unrest during March in Tibet, Cub Scout Pack 3944 from Beijing was invited to round the bases and meet their baseball idols, the Los Angeles Dodgers, when they came for the first major league game played in China. Shortly before the first pitch, however, Chinese police told leaders of the expatriate pack that the deal was off. The apparent concern: The boys might agitate for Tibetan independence. As it prepares to host the Olympics, China is on edge and isn't likely to take any more chances. Two weeks of unrest in the ethnic Tibetan region has further shaken the confidence of a government already nervous about criticism over its human-rights record...

The Indian Express, 26 March 2008

Op-Ed: To Beijing, with calm

The election of Ma Ying-jeou - who belongs to the Kuomintang Party (KMT) - as the future president of Taiwan marks a watershed in north east Asia's geo-political scenario. Eight years of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) rule in this tiny nation state were marked by heightened anxieties on cross-strait stability. The rhetorical flourishes of the outgoing Taiwanese President, Frank Hsieh, on the future status of his country, his foreign tours and his courting of political popularity - through the language of confrontation with China - did little to build stability in an already turbulent region. It had succeeded in antagonising both the US and Chinese leadership, which is testimony to a flawed policy...

The Times of India, 26 March 2008

'China alarmed over rising support'

New Delhi: Global strategic analyst Stratfor believes that Beijing was disturbed by the sight of Pranab Mukherjee and Condoleezza Rice jointly addressing the Tibet issue in Washington. "Alarm is rising in Beijing that the US, India and other nations - including the UK - are actively supporting the Dalai Lama in an attempt to force policy changes in China. Protecting its territorial integrity is of utmost concern to China... Beijing is hypersensitive to real or perceived threats, always assuming the worst about outsiders' motives," global strategic analyst Stratfor said...

The Asian Age, 26 March 2008

140 killed in unrest: Tibet govt

Dharamsala: Some 140 people have been confirmed killed in a Chinese crackdown in Tibet, the Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile said on Tuesday. "It is about 140," said Samdhong Rinpoche. "This is the toll till Monday evening and includes the whole of Tibet." The new toll from protests and unrest was up from 130 confirmed deaths announced on Monday morning and 99 last week. "It is from our own sources in Tibet," said Mr Rinpoche in Dharamsala in northern India, the base of exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama...

People's Daily, 26 March 2008

Do you really care for human rights in Tibet?

A few Westerners often incline to pass themselves off as leaders of the "moral authority" but, as a matter of fact, they have harbored a very deep prejudice in their intrinsic sub-consciousness. It seems that it is only up to them to judge if things on earth are correct or incorrect, right or wrong. In the wake of recent grave violence in Lhasa, the capital of China's Tibet autonomous region, and some other ethnic Tibetan areas with hallmarks of beating, smashing, looting and setting fire to properties, a leading US official has gone to see the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India...

People's Daily, 26 March 2008

China, Malawi unveil new chapter in bilateral ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks in Beijing on Tuesday with Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika, who said his visit had unveiled a new chapter for enhancing bilateral ties. The two countries established diplomatic ties in December last year. "This not only meets the fundamental interests of both countries and the two peoples, but also contributes to regional and world peace, stability and development," said Hu. Mutharika said he was in China for friendship and cooperation, and expected to get support and cooperation from China for Malawi's poverty relief and development cause...

People's Daily, 26 March 2008

Biased reporting runs counter to journalism codes

Recently, tens of thousands of Chinese citizens have been voicing their outrage at the biased and dishonest reporting by some Western media on the recent riots in Tibet. With great concern over the truth and its responsibility as an official news source with the

largest reader base in China, People's Daily this week turned to media experts for their comments and analyses on the slanted reports by a handful of foreign media; and the ulterior motives behind them. The following are excerpts from an interview with Prof. Tang Xujun, vice-director of the Journalism and Media Studies Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and dean of the Journalism Department at the Graduate School at CASS...

Taipei Times, 26 March 2008

Editorial: Ma should heed EU lawmakers' call

Last Wednesday, 100 members of the European Parliament reiterated their support for Taiwan's bid to join the UN. The news was largely overshadowed by election fever in the final days of campaigning, despite the strength of the statement in the European Voice, an independent newspaper that documents EU developments, and the fact that Taiwan was preparing to vote on two referendum proposals concerning UN membership. The parliamentarians went further than acknowledging the long ignored fact that Beijing's seat at the UN does not represent Taiwan's people and interests. Their statement said Taiwan has never been controlled by the People's Republic of China and that it is a sovereign country...

The Asian Age, 27 March 2008

China: 660 surrendered

Beijing: China moved on Wednesday to show it had the situation in Tibet under control, escorting foreign journalists on a tour of the region and saying more than 660 people had surrendered over deadly unrest. The media trip came as Chinese state-run press and online forums ramped up criticism over Western reporting about the unrest, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy warned he might boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics...

The Asian Age, 27 March 2008

Torch relay security worries China

New Delhi/Beijing: After summoning Indian envoy in Beijing at an odd hour to register its "concern" over the security breach at its embassy in Delhi last week, China is worried about the safety of the upcoming Olympic torch relay through India and has sought foolproof protection for it. China has clearly demonstrated its unhappiness over last Friday's incident when a group of Tibetan protesters stormed into its embassy in New Delhi as it summoned ambassador Nirupama Rao past midnight to the foreign ministry last week to convey its concern over security of its mission and staff...

The Indian Express, 27 March 2008

Olympic torch will be safe here, India assures China

New Delhi: India has said that it will make "all possible arrangements" to ensure the safety of the Olympic torch during its passage through the country after Beijing expressed concern about Tibetan protestors targeting the flame. China, which has already expressed displeasure over the storming of its Embassy in New Delhi by Tibetan protestors, had handed over a list of likely Tibetan protests in India ahead of the Olympics to Ambassador Nirupama Rao last week. Beijing had also expressed concern

about the safe passage of the Olympic torch in the country...

The Indian Express, 27 March 2008

Govt appeasing China at the cost of national honour: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday condemned what it called Government of India's "shameful appeasement" of China over Tibet and demanded that "India must give voice to its concerns, correctly, unequivocally and unambiguously". In a joint statement issued by party leaders L K Advani, Rajnath Singh and Jaswant Singh, the BJP said: "It is indeed shameful to note that the Government of India, instead of expressing concern against the use of force by the Chinese Government, is adopting a degrading policy of blatant appeasement towards China with scant regard to the country's national honour and foreign policy independence"...

The Asian Age, 27 March 2008

Opinion: China's Tibet claims are a little hollow

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's retort to the Chinese saying that the Dalai Lama stands for non-violence must be considered as one right reaction among so many reactions emanating from New Delhi regarding the recent happenings in Tibet. There is indeed a need for overall reappraisal of India's traditional policy. One need not go into the question of whether it was correct on the part of India to acquiesce in China's brutal occupation of Tibet in 1950, and even more brutal suppression of the Tibetan uprising in 1959, leading to the Dalai Lama's flight to India...

The Asian Age, 27 March 2008

Op-Ed: Beijing has won the battle, not the war

Beyond the spin the Chinese government has put on the Tibetan unrest and the world's reaction to it is a central problem: Has Beijing the suppleness and wisdom to alter its monolithic view of how China should be governed? Deng Xiaoping had the stature and vision to improvise the Hong Kong experiment of "one country, two systems". His successors in the shape of Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao have failed to measure up to their responsibilities thus far...

The Times of India, 27 March 2008

Leader Article: No Laughing Matter

With the lighting of the Olympic flame and the start of the flame relay on Monday, the countdown to the Beijing Olympics has formally begun. The 130-day torch relay, covering the longest-ever distance in Olympic history and passing through 19 international and 115 Chinese cities, signals the start of what will possibly be the world's biggest sporting spectacle ever...

The Times of India, 27 March 2008

Desperate China gets tough

Beijing: China sought on Wednesday to contain ongoing protests in its ethnic Tibetan regions, as it stepped up detentions in Tibet's capital Lhasa and vowed tighter control over monasteries. The western province of Qinghai was the latest area to report anti-government activities, with hundreds of civilians staging a sit-down protest after

paramilitary police stopped them from marching, a Beijing-based source who spoke to residents said...

People's Daily, 27 March 2008

Chinese, U.S. presidents hold telephone talks on Taiwan, Tibet

Chinese President Hu Jintao expressed his views on the Taiwan and Tibet issues to his U.S. counterpart George W. Bush during talks over the telephone held Wednesday, a statement released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. During the talks, President Hu voiced his appreciation of the U.S. stance, repeated many times by Bush and his administration, that the U.S. adheres to the one-China policy, abides by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, opposes "Taiwan independence" and a referendum on Taiwan's U.N. membership, and is against Taiwan's bid to join the United Nations and other international organizations, which only sovereign countries can join...

Taipei Times, 27 March 2008

Editorial: UN referendums trip on threshold

In any other country, if a referendum were held and 94 percent of those who voted approved it, it would be considered a great success. That is not the case in Taiwan, however, which has unusually high requirements for success. For the results of a referendum to be valid, 50 percent of all eligible voters must pick up and cast a ballot in a referendum, and 50 percent of those who cast a ballot must approve it. Herein lies the problem...

Taipei Times, 27 March 2008

Editorial: DPP faced difficulties of a young democracy

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) loss in the presidential election was expected. Judging from the experiences of mature Western democracies and young democracies in the former Soviet bloc, it was clear from the situation facing the DPP and the campaign strategies of its candidate Frank Hsieh that the loss was inevitable. A DPP victory would have been a miracle...

The Hindu, 28 March 2008

Hu's firm reply to Bush on Tibet

Washington/Beijing: U.S. President George W. Bush has asked his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao to talk to the Dalai Lama's side on the Tibet issue. But Mr. Hu said they would do so only if the Tibetan spiritual leader "truly" abandoned his quest for "Tibet independence" "President Bush telephoned President Hu Jintao of China today. The President raised his concerns about the situation in Tibet and encouraged the Chinese government to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives and to allow access for journalists and diplomats," a statement by the White House said...

The Hindu, 28 March 2008

Woman confesses to terrorist attempt on China flight

Beijing: A 19-year-old woman of Uyghur ethnic background has confessed to a failed terrorist attempt on a passenger plane that left Urumqi on March 7, China's Ministry of Public Security announced on Thursday. The Ministry issued a statement here about the

investigation of the planned attack against a China Southern Airlines flight that took off from from Urumqi, capital of the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It said the suspect, Guzalinur Turdi, and others involved in the case were apprehended by police...

The Indian Express, 28 March 2008

Defiant monks disrupt showcase tour

Lhasa: A government-managed visit by foreign reporters to Tibet's capital backfired on Thursday when Buddhist monks disrupted the tour, screaming that there was no religious freedom and that the Dalai Lama was not to blame for Lhasa's recent violence. The government had arranged the trip for the reporters to show how calm Lhasa was after the deadly riots shattered China's plans for a peaceful run-up to the Beijing Summer Olympics...

The Indian Express, 28 March 2008

Make up mind on date for talks: Ministry to China

New Delhi: Irked by China repeatedly changing dates for a high-level meeting between Union Commerce Minister Kamal Nath and his Chinese counterpart, the Commerce Ministry has shot off a sharply worded letter to Beijing asking it to make up its mind on the dates before inviting India to the table. Nath was to attend the meeting after China invited him to take forward negotiations between the two Asian giants for a regional trade pact. Originally scheduled for next Wednesday, April 2, the meeting has now been put off for "later" by India. "It is your invitation, you set the dates. If you keep changing the dates as you are now, let's meet later, make up your mind first. This is not the way countries deal with each other," Commerce Secretary Gopal K Pillai is learnt to have written to the Chinese after they tried to reschedule the meeting at least four times in the span of two days...

The Indian Express, 28 March 2008

Print Line: China's thought industry

I will never forget my first visit, in 2003, to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. I was welcomed by Wang Luolin, the academy's vice-president... [who] told me that his academy had 50 research centres covering 260 disciplines with 4,000 full-time researchers. I had imagined that China's intellectual life consisted of a few unbending ideologues in the back rooms of the Communist party... Instead, I stumbled on a hidden world of intellectuals, think-tankers and activists... Some were party members; others were outside the party... Yet to some degree, they are all insiders...

The Times of India, 28 March 2008

China set to take foreign diplomats to Lhasa

Beijing: A group of Beijing-based foreign diplomats were scheduled to leave for Tibet's riot-hit capital Lhasa on Friday for a two-day trip organised by the Chinese government, Embassy officials here said. Diplomats from a number of countries including the United States, Britain, France, Australia and Italy were to participate in the trip, which came on the heels of another government-arranged tour for foreign journalists...

The Times of India, 28 March 2008

Tibet monks won't be punished: China

Beijing: China will not punish Tibetan monks for disrupting a government-organised foreign media tour of Lhasa and voicing support for the Dalai Lama, a senior official said in a bid to allay fears of repercussions. Baema Chilain, vice-chairman of the Chinese-controlled Tibet Autonomous Region, also said "separatists" were planning to disrupt the Olympic torch relay as it crossed Tibet, but he pledged to ensure the flame's security in the region and on its planned ascent of Mount Everest, the official Xinhua news agency said...

People's Daily, 28 March 2008

Secret CIA Sponsorship of Tibetan Rebels against China Exposed---How A Ground-breaking Book Unveiled History as It Was

On March 25, 2008, Mr. Kenneth Conboy, the book -CIA's Secret War in Tibet's only author alive, readily accepted an exclusive interview by People's Daily staff editor Dr. Liu Chao. The following are excerpts from Dr. Liu's exclusive interview with Mr. Kenneth Conboy, as well as some excerpts from his renowned book...

People's Daily, 28 March 2008

Opinion: Can "desire for peace" be voiced in such way?

The incident that occurred in Lhasa on March 14, widely known as the "March 14" incident, has simply been a case of serious secessionist violence. The people of all ethnicities across China have been vehemently condemning or denouncing such violent acts as beating, smashing, ransacking and committing arson in violation of law, which was aimed at seceding the motherland. "Do not impose on others what you would not like others to impose on you," as the old Chinese saying goes...

Taipei Times, 28 March 2008

PRC media trip backfires as Lhasa monks speak out

Monks from one of Tibetan Buddhism's most sacred temples defied China's crackdown to protest in front of visiting foreign reporters in Lhasa yesterday, voicing their support for the Dalai Lama. The protest came as China again refused to hold talks with the exiled spiritual leader, after US President George W. Bush added his voice to calls for dialogue in an effort to solve the Tibetan crisis...

Taipei Times, 28 March 2008

Editorial: SEF: Putting trouble out to pasture

No sooner had Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) candidate Ma Ying-jeou secured victory in Saturday's presidential election than the Chinese-language media began to speculate on candidates for the Cabinet. Following Ma's comments on Sunday that in order to bring about his promised thaw in cross-strait relations, he would revive the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) to serve as the primary conduit for negotiations, speculation has increased on who will be appointed head, with former KMT chairman Lien Chan and People First Party (PFP) Chairman James Soong two of the names mentioned...

Taipei Times, 28 March 2008

Editorial: Learning from Tibet's experience

President-elect Ma Ying-jeou may now be basking in a round of congratulatory messages on his landslide victory in last Saturday's election, but the road ahead promises to be a tough one as he has to deal with difficult issues, both domestically and internationally. One of these tests will be Ma's strategy on China. During the last few days of the election campaign, China cracked down on protesting Tibetans, and when Ma met with reporters after casting his ballot, he emphasized that Taiwan is not Tibet...

Taipei Times, 28 March 2008

Editorial: Can Ma work cross-strait miracles?

As expected, Ma Ying-jeou has won the presidency. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was worn out and didn't seem to be going anywhere, except backward. The economy under President Chen Shui-bian had faltered, and there was a stench of corruption enveloping his family and cronies. Chen also had the "distinction" of being disliked both in Washington and Beijing. Indeed, Beijing hated him on a par with the Dalai Lama. In other words, Ma's election victory has created a sense of relief in both China and the US. Washington worried about Chen's presumed propensity to provoke China...

The Hindu, 29 March 2008

China takes foreign diplomats to Lhasa

Beijing: Apparently unhappy over New Delhi's handling of the Tibet issue, China on Friday chose not to invite any Indian diplomat in the tour of foreign envoys to riot-scarred Lhasa amid intensified global pressure to stop the crackdown on Tibetans and open a dialogue with the Dalai Lama. In a hurriedly-arranged visit, China escorted a group of foreign diplomats to Lhasa to showcase its version of the goings-on in the Tibetan capital. The Indian embassy did not receive any invitation, sources said...

The Hindu, 29 March 2008

China's economy will grow at 10.7 p.c., says U.N. agency

Beijing: China's economy will moderate but remain robust in 2008 with a growth rate of 10.7 per cent, providing a cushion against the expected international downturn, according to a forecast issued by the United Nations commission here on Thursday. "Investment continues to be the main driver of growth, remaining resilient despite government cooling measures and with support from low real interest rates," said a report released by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). "A slowdown in exports and the country's efforts to cool the economy are the main reasons for the moderation," it said...

The Indian Express, 29 March 2008

Editorial: Carry the flame

That China is digging itself into a deeper hole on Tibet was manifest this week when its attempt to choreograph a visit by foreign journalists into Lhasa ended in protests by monks in front of television cameras at one of the holiest shrines of Tibetan Buddhism, the Jokhang temple. The debacle underlines the simple reality that the old communist tricks of managed press coverage have no longer any credibility in Tibet. If the objective

of China's communist rulers was to show that things have returned to normal in Lhasa, it proved the exact opposite...

The Times of India, 29 March 2008

Foreign diplomats demand unfettered access in Lhasa

Beijing: Foreign diplomats demanded unfettered access in Lhasa on Saturday after authorities allowed them to visit the riot-torn city amid debate in Europe on a possible boycott of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony. Two weeks after protests in the Himalayan region turned deadly, diplomats from 15 Embassies, including those of the United States, Britain, France and Japan, arrived in the Tibetan capital for a hastily arranged one-day tour...

The Asian Age, 29 March 2008

ITBP to fortify China border

New Delhi: In a move that will help further fortify the Indo-China border, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force has informed the Union home ministry that it will be ready to deploy an additional 13 battalions along the 2,115 km-long Indo-China border by August this year. The sensitivity of the Indo-China border has become a matter of concern for the Centre ever since pro-independence Tibetans began their anti-China protests in the country recently...

The Asian Age, 29 March 2008

Op-Ed: Repression may unravel China's monocracy

Growing authoritarianism more often than not rebounds. The monk-led Tibetan uprising, which has spread across Tibet and beyond to the traditional Tibetan areas forcibly incorporated in Han provinces, marks a turning point in Communist China's history. It comes as a rude jolt to the world's biggest and longest-surviving autocracy, highlighting the signal failure of state-driven efforts to pacify Tibet through more than half-a-century of ruthless repression, in which as many as a million Tibetans reportedly have lost their lives...

The Asian Age, 29 March 2008

Dalai makes fresh appeal for talks

New Delhi: The Dalai Lama appealed to China on Friday to enter into "meaningful dialogue" over the crisis in Tibet and asserted that he did not want to undermine the Beijing Olympics and was not seeking independence. In an open letter to his "Chinese brothers and sisters", the exiled spiritual leader said he was a "simple monk" trying to preserve "the Tibetan people's distinctive culture, language and identity"...

Taipei Times, 29 March 2008

Ma cautiously welcomes Hu comments

Chinese President Hu Jintao's expression of willingness to resume cross-strait negotiations could be interpreted as a goodwill gesture from China and a positive sign for the development of cross-strait relations, president-elect Ma Ying-jeou said. Nevertheless, caution was warranted, Ma told reporters yesterday after a private meeting with American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Chairman Raymond Burghardt at Chinese

Nationalist Party (KMT) headquarters in Taipei...

Taipei Times, 29 March 2008

Activists worry Beijing will punish monks in Lhasa

Tibetan activists voiced concern yesterday over possible Chinese government retaliation against Buddhist monks who disrupted a stage-managed media tour of the riot-torn region's capital, Lhasa. Dozens of red-robed monks had pushed into a briefing being given by officials at the Jokhang Temple on Thursday, complaining of a lack of religious freedom and denouncing official claims that the Dalai Lama had orchestrated the March 14 violence...

Taipei Times, 29 March 2008

Editorial: China's strike may be coming soon

China has aimed far more missiles at Taiwan than previously reported, according to US officials with access to military intelligence. This disclosure comes as China enters a troubling and potentially dangerous time intensified by recent anti-Chinese protests in Tibetan areas. The officials say China has 1,400 ballistic missiles targeting Taiwan. That is 40 percent more than earlier reports that gave an approximate figure of 1,000 missiles. The Defense Department, in its recent report on Chinese military power, said 990 to 1,070 missiles were pointed at Taiwan, including variants "with improved ranges, accuracies, and payloads"...

The Hindu, 30 March 2008

Dalai Lama allays China's fears on Olympic torch

New Delhi: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Saturday sought to allay China's fears that Tibetans might cause trouble when the Olympic torch came to India, suggesting that he favoured safe relay of the flame. "I have said they [China] deserve to host the famous games as it is the most populous nation of the world. My position is the same despite the suppression in Tibet," he told a press conference here. "The Olympic torch is part of the games and my attitude towards it is the same," the Dalai Lama said...

The Hindu, 30 March 2008

New protests in Lhasa

Beijing: New protests were reported on Saturday in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa as diplomats wrapped up a trip organised by Beijing in an effort to blunt criticism of its crackdown on unrest in the region. A protest began at Lhasa's Ramoche monastery and grew to involve "a lot of people," said Kate Saunders of the Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet. Citing witnesses in the city, she said there were "some reports of fighting," but had no other information. Ramoche was where protests started on March 14 that led to the crackdown...

The Indian Express, 30 March 2008

China behind Tibet violence: Dalai Lama

New Delhi: With his repeated calls to Beijing for starting a dialogue getting no response, a frustrated Dalai Lama on Saturday lashed out against China saying the recent violence in Tibet region might be the handiwork of Chinese soldiers themselves, disguised as

monks. In a hard-hitting statement, the spiritual leader of Tibet, whom China has labelled as the "mastermind" behind the recent violent outbreaks in Lhasa and elsewhere, said he had knowledge that hundreds of Chinese soldiers had received the robes of monks...

The Indian Express, 30 March 2008

China to compensate riot victims

Beijing: China offered to pay compensation to the families of the civilians it says died in violence in the Tibetan capital this month, as Beijing kept up an intense propaganda campaign in the wake of the unrest. Pressure grew from abroad for China to respect human rights in its response to continuing pockets of unrest over the past two weeks in Tibet and neighbouring areas, with US President George W Bush calling on Chinese leaders to talk to representatives of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama...

The Asian Age, 30 March 2008

Tibet crisis gets human face

Lhasa: China's Tibet problem got a human face this week in images of crying, red-robed monks, giving international concern a new focal point just as Beijing gears up for the arrival of the Olympic torch. The outburst by 30 monks at Lhasa's holiest shrine dealt a setback to the government's plans to use a three-day trip for foreign reporters to show that protests and deadly anti-Chinese rioting in the Tibetan capital two weeks ago had subsided...

The Times of India, 30 March 2008

India has sold out to China: George Fernandes

New Delhi: Describing as an "error" the NDA government's decision to recognise Tibet as a part of China, former Defence Minister George Fernandes has said the Communist nation was "potential threat number one" to India and flayed the UPA dispensation for allowing it to be "bullied". Venting anger over the Tibet crisis and India's response to it, the NDA leader said the Olympic torch should not be allowed to come to India and that he had asked his "colleagues" and others to make "whatever effort" to prevent the flame's run in this country...

People's Daily, 30 March 2008

EU foreign ministers reject call for boycott of Beijing Olympics

The European Union (EU) foreign ministers rejected on Saturday the call for a boycott of the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games over the Tibet issue. "We are separating the issue of human rights dialogue, intercultural dialogue and so on from events like Olympic Games and participation in those," Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, whose country holds the EU presidency, told reporters after a two-day meeting in Brdo with his EU colleagues...

People's Daily, 30 March 2008

Foreign diplomats visit Lhasa after March 14 riot

A 15-member diplomat delegation visited Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, on Friday and Saturday, the first group of foreign diplomats to visit the plateau city after the March 14 riot. Their tight agenda included talking with a monk at the

Jokhang Temple and meeting with Qiangba Puncog, chairman of the Tibet regional government...

Taipei Times, 30 March 2008

Diplomats call for unfettered access in Lhasa

Foreign diplomats demanded unfettered access in Lhasa yesterday after authorities allowed a visit to the riot-torn city amid debate in Europe over a boycott of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony. Two weeks after protests in the Himalayan region turned deadly, diplomats from 15 embassies, including those of the US, Britain, France and Japan, arrived in the Tibetan capital for a hastily arranged one-day tour...

Taipei Times, 30 March 2008

Editorial: The DPP faces a long, uphill battle

On the heels of his defeat in the presidential election, Frank Hsieh resigned as Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) chairman. Then, at risk to his reputation, he withdrew his resignation and agreed to stay on until May 25. The temporary chairman will have to shoulder the burden of rebuilding the party's morale after two consecutive election losses, review party affairs and pave the way for his replacement. This is a heavy responsibility and involves a lot of work...

Taipei Times, 30 March 2008

Editorial: Don't expect better days ahead for the Tibetans

On March 14, the otherworldly calm of Lhasa, Tibet's holy city, was shattered by riots and gunfire. The spark that triggered unrest in the Tibetan part of what is now a largely ethnic Han Chinese city is unclear, but occurred somewhere near the Ramoche Temple when Chinese security forces attempted to stop a demonstration by monks. Whatever the details, only a spark was needed to set off the most serious disturbances in Tibet since the riots of 1987 to 1989, or perhaps since the Tibetan revolt of March 10, 1959, which sent the Dalai Lama into exile...

The Indian Express, 31 March 2008

Beijing calls NSA over Tibet, says he has promised not to allow anti-China activity

New Delhi: Keen to ensure that the violence in Tibet did not cause a strain on its bilateral ties with New Delhi, China today reached out to India to apprise it of the situation in Lhasa and seek continuing support from India on the issue. Chinese State Councillor Dan Bingguo spoke to National Security Advisor M K Narayanan over phone today and explained Beijing's stand on the situation in Tibet, China's state news agency Xinhua reported...

The Indian Express, 31 March 2008

Dalai Lama closed door on dialogue: China

Beijing: Chinese state media accused the Dalai Lama of closing the door on talks over Tibet's future, an apparent response to rising international calls for Beijing to negotiate with Tibet's exiled Buddhist leader. In a lengthy article, Xinhua News Agency on Sunday cited past actions and statements attributed to the 72-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner that it said contradicted or undermined his calls for negotiations...

The Times of India, 31 March 2008

Olympic torch arrives in China amid protests

Beijing: The Beijing Olympic flame was welcomed by cheering children in the Chinese capital amid tight security on Monday after attempts by pro-Tibet protesters in Athens to block its path. Exiled Tibetans and human rights activists have targeted the Olympics since China poured security forces into Tibet and parts of western China to suppress anti-government protests...

The Times of India, 31 March 2008

Now, George says China is 'potential threat No. 1'

New Delhi: NDA convener George Fernandes, who was defence minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, said the previous regime's decision to recognize Tibet as part of China was an "error". Fernandes, a known China biter, said the communist nation was "potential threat number one" to India and flayed the UPA dispensation for allowing it to be "bullied"...

The Asian Age, 31 March 2008

Fresh protests rock Lhasa

Beijing: Tibet's capital Lhasa remained tense after a protest broke out amid increased armed police security checks, an overseas group said on Sunday as Beijing geared up for the arrival of the Olympic torch. Beijing has imposed a massive military clampdown in Tibet and other areas of China inhabited by the Tibetans. A new protest reportedly broke out on Saturday in Lhasa as diplomats wrapped up a visit organised by Beijing in an effort to blunt criticism of its crackdown on the unrest...

The Asian Age, 31 March 2008

Tibetans light 'independence torch' in Delhi against China

New Delhi: Several dozen Tibetans in India on Sunday unveiled an "independence torch" in New Delhi that will be carried around the world in an anti-China protest ahead of the summer Olympics in Beijing. The torch was brought from the northern Indian town of Dharamsala, home to the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader and the government-in-exile...

Taipei Times, 31 March 2008

Editorial: Taiwan can take a page from Teddy Roosevelt

Taiwanese voters have overwhelmingly elected Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) presidential candidate Ma Ying-jeou with a 17 percent margin. The KMT now has control of the legislature, the presidency and most local governments. In short, the KMT now enjoys the strongest political position it has held since the beginning of open, democratic politics in Taiwan. But now the difficult task of governing starts, and no issue will be more difficult than to manage cross-strait relations...

People's Daily, 31 March 2008

China "strongly dissatisfied" with EU meeting on Tibet issue

China on Sunday voiced its "strong dissatisfaction" over the EU foreign ministers'

discussion of and comments on the Tibet issue during their meeting in Slovenia. "The Tibet issue is completely China's internal affairs. No foreign countries or international organizations have the right to interfere in it," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu...

People's Daily, 31 March 2008

Wen: Channels for dialogue with Daila Lama always open

The channels for dialogue between the Chinese government and Dalai Lama is always open, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Vientiane on Sunday. As long as Dalai Lama abandons the claim for "Tibet independence," especially uses his influence to stop the violence in Tibet, and recognize both Tibet and Taiwan as inseparable parts of China, the Chinese government is to continue resuming dialogues with him, the Chinese premier said...

The New York Times, 31 March 2008

Chinese Nationalism Fuels Tibet Crackdown

Beijing: Like so many Chinese, Meng Huizhong was horrified by the violent Tibetan protests in Lhasa. She cringed at videos of Tibetan rioters attacking a Chinese motorcyclist. Her anger deepened as Tibet dominated her online conversation groups, until it settled on what might seem like an unlikely target: the Communist Party. "We couldn't believe our government was being so weak and cowardly," said Ms. Meng, 52, an office worker, who was appalled that the authorities had failed to initially douse the violence...