

The Hindu, 1 May 2008

On target for a perfect Olympics

Beijing: With 100 days to go from Wednesday before the curtain rises on the 2008 Olympics, organisers are busy fine-tuning things for a perfect staging. Construction of venues, easing the city's traffic congestion, and efforts to clean up the air are all on target for the August 8-24 event, and International Olympic Committee officials have repeatedly voiced confidence that the athletes would experience a top class Games...

The Hindu, 1 May 2008

Opinion: 100 days to Beijing Olympics

Thousands of Chinese people flocked to Tiananmen Square on Wednesday to have their photographs taken in front of a giant clock that counts down the days and hours to the Olympic Games that Beijing will play host to in August. The number next to the "days" label on the clock had turned to 100. Revellers also thronged the Forbidden City, to the north of Tiananmen, its red lacquer pillars and gilt awnings glinting in an Olympic-ready state...

The Indian Express, 1 May 2008

China's Everest Olympic torch run shrouded in secrecy

Beijing: Chinese mountaineers made final preparations on Wednesday to take the Olympic torch up Mount Everest in a grand but contentious feat for the Beijing Olympics that is being accorded an unusual mixture of fanfare and secrecy. State-run China Central Television began the first of what are billed as elaborate and technically difficult live broadcasts from Everest's base camp for the torch's journey up the world's tallest peak...

People's Daily, 1 May 2008

Exhibition on Tibet's past, present held in Beijing

Jia Qinglin, Li Changchun and Zhou Yongkang, members of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, visited a large-scale theme exhibition, "Tibet, the Past and the Present," on Wednesday. During their separate visits, they were shown around the 160 material exhibits and more than 400 pictures. The exhibition is being held in two halls of the Nationalities Cultural Palace...

People's Daily, 1 May 2008

High-tech ensures Olympic torch alight on Mt. Qomolangma

An expert with a torch design lab under the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. said at the Qomolangma Base Camp on Wednesday that the Olympic torch can scale the summit without sputtering out. The ascent of the torch to the Mt. Qomolangma will be one of the highlights of the torch relay for the 2008 Beijing Olympics...

People's Daily, 1 May 2008

World's longest sea bridge to open in east China

China will inaugurate the world's longest sea crossing bridge on Thursday as part of effort to boost economic integration and development in the Yangtze River Delta. The opening ceremony of the 36-km bridge, which spans Hangzhou Bay near Shanghai, will be held Thursday afternoon and will open to traffic on a trial operation basis at

midnight...

Taipei Times, 1 May 2008

Chinese police admit to killing Tibet 'insurgent'

Police shot dead an alleged Tibetan independence "insurgent" in northwestern China, state press said yesterday, the first official admission that authorities killed anyone during recent unrest. A policeman was also killed in the gun battle on Monday in a Tibetan area of Qinghai Province, Xinhua news agency reported...

Taipei Times, 1 May 2008

Taiwan leads Asia in media freedom list for second year

Taiwan has won the distinction of being listed as having Asia's freest media environment for the second consecutive year in the annual Freedom House report. The US non-governmental organization's Freedom of the Press 2008 report released on Tuesday in advance of World Press Freedom Day on Saturday lists Taiwan as one of only three Asian countries with "free" media...

Taipei Times, 1 May 2008

Protesters call on Japan to release Tibetan Taiwanese

Dozens of Tibetan and human rights activists shouted :Free Tibet! Free Tashi!: yesterday during a demonstration in front of the Japanese representative office in Taipei, calling on Japan to release Tashi Tsering as soon as possible. Tashi, an exiled Tibetan who holds a Taiwanese passport, was arrested in Nagano, Japan, on charges of "forcible obstruction of business" when he attempted to approach the Olympic torch during the Nagano leg of the relay...

The Hindu, 2 May 2008

World's longest sea bridge opens in China

Jiaxing/Ningbo (Zhejiang Province): The world's longest sea bridge was inaugurated in the Yangtze River Delta in China on Thursday as part of its effort to boost economic integration and development. The 36-km bridge - spanning Hangzhou Bay near Shanghai - links Haiyan, Jiaxing City, to Cixi, Ningbo City, in Zhejiang Province...

The Hindu, 2 May 2008

First world to blame: China

Beijing: The energy strategies of developed countries, rather than growing demand from developing countries such as China and India, were to blame for the current global grain crisis, said a Chinese agriculture official. "Population growth and higher living standards in China and India were not the roots of the global crisis," said Vice Agricultural Minister Niu Dun. "Instead, developed countries should bear the main responsibility"...

The Indian Express, 2 May 2008

China acknowledges Tibetan death in unrest for first time

Beijing: A gun battle in a rural area of northwest China this week left a police officer and a Tibetan dead, according to state-run news media. It was China's first official admission that security forces have killed any Tibetans in the antigovernment unrest that began in

mid-March. According to the official Xinhua News Agency, the gunfight occurred Monday in Qinghai Province after the police tried to arrest a man who they said had led a group of herders seeking to incite a riot a week after the March 14 disturbances that shook Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region...

The Asian Age, 2 May 2008

Defence PSU opens office in China

New Delhi: Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML), a defence PSU under the ministry of defence (MoD), has broken new ground by opening an overseas office in Shanghai, China. BEML, which initially was engaged with earth-moving equipment for construction projects, is also now engaged in rail and metro projects, technological services, contract mining and trading of company products...

The Times of India, 2 May 2008

Leader Article: China's Tall Claim

As a triumphal symbol of its rule over Tibet, China is taking the Olympic torch through the "Roof of the World" to Mt Everest, which straddles the Tibetan-Nepalese border. That publicity stunt will only infuse more politics into the Games already tainted by the manner China's pressure helped turn the just-concluded international torch relay into a stage-managed, security exercise everywhere to pander to its sense of self-esteem at the cost of the Olympic spirit of openness...

People's Daily, 2 May 2008

Judges and lawyers: Rioters in Lhasa unrest receive fair trial

Thirty people jailed for their involvement in the March 14 riot in Lhasa, Tibet, have received fair trials, lawyers and judges said on Thursday. Three were sentenced to life and the others received terms ranging from three to 15 years, according to the Intermediate People's Court of Lhasa, which passed down the sentences at a public court session on Tuesday in the autonomous region...

People's Daily, 2 May 2008

Olympic torch to follow traditional route over Qomolangma, says official

Sun Bin, chief of the Olympic Torch Relay Center Qomolangma Operations Team, confirmed on Thursday that the Beijing Olympic flame will follow the traditional route over Mount Qomolangma. The torch relay, ahead of the Games which start in Beijing on Aug. 8, will include a climb to the top of the world's highest mountain, which spans Nepal and the Chinese region of Tibet...

Taipei Times, 2 May 2008

New anti-French rallies form in China

Protesters waved Chinese flags and shouted slogans outside Carrefour stores in Beijing and other cities yesterday, venting anger over the disruption of the Olympic torch relay. No violence was reported and police dispersed the gatherings. The French retailer has borne much of the nationalistic backlash after a pro-Tibet protester in Paris tried to grab the Olympic torch from a Chinese athlete in a wheelchair. Chinese Web sites have accused Carrefour of supporting the exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama, but the

company denied that...

Taipei Times, 2 May 2008

US hails Taiwan's anti-terror role

The US government on Wednesday praised Taiwan for its role in the global fight against terrorism, especially for its role in disrupting the flow of money that finances international terrorist activities. At the same time, Washington faulted China with impeding the world battle against terrorist financing because of its refusal to join an important international anti-terrorist group because Taiwan is a member...

The Hindu, 3 May 2008

Dalai Lama's envoys to hold talks in Beijing

New Delhi: The Chinese government and the Dalai Lama's representatives will meet in Beijing on Saturday to discuss the "current crisis" in Tibet and ways to bring peace to the region. The talks are taking place more than a week after China decided to open a dialogue with the Dalai Lama...

The Indian Express, 3 May 2008

China's new n-submarine base sets off alarm bells

New Delhi: China has deployed its latest Jin class nuclear submarine at a massive new military facility at Sanya on the Hainan Island in South China Sea - its newest and nearest naval base to India. While the Indian Navy had been aware about the upcoming military facility for some time, satellite images for the first time show the extent of the base and the fact that the Jin Class submarine, which carries 12 nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, has been deployed at Hainan...

The Indian Express, 3 May 2008

Bush tells China to hold 'real' talks with Dalai Lama

Washington: US President George W Bush has told China that it must address the "deep and legitimate concerns" of the Tibetan people and hold "real" and "substantive" talks with the Dalai Lama's representatives. "I welcome the recent statements by the Chinese government expressing its willingness to meet with representatives of the Dalai Lama, precisely what I had suggested (Chinese) President Hu Jintao do," Bush said in his first comments since since Beijing's decision to resume dialogue with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader...

The Asian Age, 3 May 2008

Dalai men in Beijing for talks today

New Delhi: A week after the Chinese government announced it was ready for a dialogue, two envoys of the Dalai Lama are set to travel to China for talks on resolving the unrest in Tibet and for making progress towards a mutually satisfactory solution to the Tibetan issue. A statement issued on Friday by Chhime R. Chhoekeyapa, secretary to the Dalai Lama, said the Dalai Lama's special envoy Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari and envoy Kelsang Gyaltsen will arrive in China on Saturday "for informal talks with representatives of the Chinese leadership"...

The Times of India, 3 May 2008

Tibetans to be part of Everest torch run

Beijing: Feeling triumphant after the successful entry of the Olympic torch to Chinese soil through Hong Kong, the government announced the formation of a 50-member team that will take the flame to the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, for the first time in history. China also imparted a political dimension to the exercise by announcing that the team will consist of members from the country's ethnic minorities, the Tibetans, Hui, Tu and Tujia besides the Han Chinese who make up for the bulk of the population...

The Times of India, 3 May 2008

China condemns Dalai Lama ahead of planned talks

Beijing: China prefaced expected talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama on Saturday by condemning the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader as a criminal, while cloaking the meeting itself in secrecy. Tibet's government-in-exile announced on Friday that envoys of the Dalai Lama were heading to China to discuss riots and protests across Tibet that have shaken Beijing's preparations for the Beijing Olympics and stoked Western criticism of a security crackdown in the restive mountain region...

Taipei Times, 3 May 2008

Hong Kong a sea of red for torch

Runners carried the Olympic flame through Hong Kong without disruption yesterday, as large groups of flag-waving torch supporters shouted insults at pro-Tibet and human-rights protesters, forcing them to seek refuge in police vans. The eight-hour relay celebrated the torch's return to Chinese soil after a 20-nation tour often disrupted by protests. About 3,000 police made sure no one blocked the flame, which is to tour Macau today...

Taipei Times, 3 May 2008

US lawmakers warn EU on lifting China arms ban

The US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has approved a measure calling on US President George W. Bush's administration to take strong actions, including sanctions on European firms if needed, to try to prevent the EU from lifting its embargo on the sale of arms to China. There is growing concern in Washington that the EU might make another attempt to lift the embargo this year...

Taipei Times, 3 May 2008

Defense ministry unruffled by China sub base report

The Ministry of National Defense reacted quietly yesterday to a news report that the Chinese navy had built a nuclear submarine base in Hainan Province, saying it already knew about the base. "We knew about it six months ago," ministry spokeswoman Colonel Lisa Chi said by telephone yesterday afternoon. Agence France-Presse reported yesterday that China has built a major underground nuclear submarine base on the southern tip of Hainan...

Taipei Times, 3 May 2008

Editorial: Tibet: proof enough of the Chinese rights abyss

Today is World Press Freedom Day. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution designating this day as such in 1993. Its main purpose is to stress the importance of freedom of the press and protection of journalists. These are fundamental conditions for any country that wants to develop democratic politics, initiate political reform and promote prosperity...

The Indian Express, 4 May 2008

China issues nationwide alert on viral outbreak

Beijing: China's Health Ministry issued a nationwide alert Saturday calling for heightened efforts to control a virus that has caused the deaths of 22 children in one city and shows signs of spreading. Health bureaus around the country must step up monitoring for hand, foot and mouth disease following a "relatively large" outbreak in the central city of Fuyang, the Health Ministry said in notices on its Web site. The ministry warned that cases were more numerous this year than in recent years, and the peak for transmission would likely come in June and July...

The Times of India, 4 May 2008

Torch gets thunderous welcome in mainland China

Sanya: Thunderous applause and cheers greeted the Olympic torch on Sunday on the first leg of its marathon relay through mainland China after a protest-harried overseas journey. "Go China," people lining the streets chanted, waving Chinese flags as the flame made its way from a man-made island just off the tropical resort city of Sanya, on the southern tip of the island province of Hainan. Some of the thousands who turned out climbed up trees to get a better view of the torch, which has already been paraded through the Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macau to an overwhelmingly enthusiastic welcome...

The Times of India, 4 May 2008

Dalai's envoys to meet Chinese officials on Sunday

Beijing: Talks between the two representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government is set to begin in Shenzhen on Sunday amid indications that no official of the Tibetan provincial government would be involved in the process. Representatives of the Dalai Lama have said they wish to discuss the role played by the government during the riots in Lhasa in mid-March. They will obviously have no opportunity to deal with officials involved in maintaining law and order in Lhasa. The talks will focus on recent developments instead of covering more important issues like autonomy for Tibet, sources said...

People's Daily, 4 May 2008

Roundup: Hu's visit to further promote China-Japan ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to pay a state visit to Japan on May 6-10. The visit, the first by a Chinese president to Japan in a decade, is widely seen as a move that will further promote China-Japan relations. Hu's visit falls on the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, one of the three key political documents serving as the bedrock for developing friendly and cooperative ties between the two nations...

People's Daily, 4 May 2008

The West need to make up the missed lessons of Chinese history and culture

In recent days, the Western public opinion seems to be misled into a grey area, as some anti-China forces in the West seize on the Beijing Olympic Games to vilify and denigrate China. The din from some Western forces and people sent us again into pondering: Why so? Many Westerners have long developed a habit of thoughts, and always deem it a fact that others should follow in their footsteps. In a long run, they could keep blind to the history of other countries, especially that of developing countries...

People's Daily, 4 May 2008

Tibetologist: 14th Dalai Lama political figure bent on "Tibet independence"

The 14th Dalai Lama, described as a "spiritual leader" by some Western media outlets, is actually a political figure who has never given up "Tibet independence," a Tibetologist said here Friday. "Painting him as a 'spiritual leader' is totally misleading," said Renzhen Luose, an ethnic Tibetan native of Yajiang County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province who once served as director of the province's Institute of Tibetan Studies...

Taipei Times, 4 May 2008

Editorial: Can Ma keep Taiwanese freedom?

In January's Legislative election the pan-blue camp won more than 75 percent of the seats. On March 22 Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) candidate Ma Ying-jeou won the presidential election, taking 58 percent of the votes cast. When Ma takes office on May 20, the KMT will rule all branches of the central government and 15 cities and counties out of a total of 25. With this new political landscape, Taiwan's status quo as a de facto independent and democratic state faces three grave dangers...

Taipei Times, 4 May 2008

Editorial: Making more concessions to China?

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) president-elect Ma Ying-jeou's recent appointment of Lai Shin-yuan as chairwoman of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) has enraged a group of KMT elders who were stepping over each other to kowtow to Beijing and beg for favors. Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) chairman-designate Chiang Pin-kung even claimed that the appointment could mean a dead end for cross-strait relations. Those in the Chiang camp believe that China has been kindness itself to Taiwan...

Taipei Times, 4 May 2008

Editorial: Tibetan exile groups face China's might

Jampa Thupten, a militant lama with a patchwork of scars on his skull to prove it, reaches a monastery inside Tibet where an anguished monk on a cell phone tells him of young men fleeing into the forests to avoid capture and torture by Chinese police. From his serene, hilltop temple famed for its mischievous monkeys, Thupten then takes a call from a friend in San Francisco who explains tactics used by protesters to harass the Beijing Olympics torch relay...

The Hindu, 5 May 2008

Tibet: talks to be held again

Shenzhen (China): Chinese Central government officials and the private representatives of the Dalai Lama who met here on Sunday agreed to hold another round of talks at an appropriate time. The meeting, arranged at the repeated requests of the Dalai Lama's side for resuming talks, was held between government officials Zhu Weiqun and Sitar and the Dalai Lama's two private representatives Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen...

The Indian Express, 5 May 2008

Dalai Lama-China talks end abruptly

Beijing: The much-awaited talks between the Dalai Lama's envoys and China ended abruptly on Sunday hours after the two sides met for the first time since the unrest erupted in Tibet in March, with Beijing demanding "credible moves" from the the Tibetan leader to stop violence as a precondition for the next round of parleys. Chinese officials and the Dalai Lama's "private representatives" agreed to hold another round of "contact and consultation at an appropriate time", state run Xinhua news agency said after the meeting in the booming southern city of Shenzhen...

The Asian Age, 5 May 2008

Tibet govt anxious over outcome

New Delhi: Happy that the dialogue process has moved ahead with China inviting the Dalai Lama's special envoy for talks, Tibetan leaders are keeping their fingers crossed over the outcome of the meeting. "The recent upsurge in Tibet following the Chinese crackdown on the monks and our continuous protest both in India and abroad led the Chinese to agree for informal talks. While we are happy that the peace dialogue has inched ahead, nothing can be said about the outcome of the talks," Youdon Aukatsang, member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile told this newspaper...

The Times of India, 5 May 2008

China's state press lashes out at Dalai Lama

Beijing: China's state press accused the Dalai Lama on Monday of "monstrous crimes," a day after Chinese officials reportedly agreed with envoys of the exiled Tibetan Buddhist to keep the door open on dialogue. The Chinese officials and the envoys met in southern China's Shenzhen city on Sunday following international pressure on Beijing to reopen negotiations with the Dalai Lama amid seven weeks of deadly unrest in Tibet...

People's Daily, 5 May 2008

Dalai Lama should comply with tide of history

Chinese central government officials and the private representatives of the 14th Dalai Lama had contact on Sunday or May 4. It is hoped that the contact poses a step taken toward the correct direction, which will be conducive to Tibet's stable growth of socio-economy and culture and to the fundamental interests of all ethnicities in Tibet as well as to the fundamental interests of all the Chinese people...

People's Daily, 5 May 2008

World is expecting August gala in Beijing

Beijing Olympic Games is approaching, near at hand. We have heard the exciting chorus

of China: We are ready. Welcome to Beijing. Let's share the sports gala. It is unprecedented that hosting the Games fills the Chinese people with so much hope, yeast and enthusiasm, and so much cherished by the whole nation. The reason may lie in the country's history: The Chinese is a nation who suffered far too much, who was humiliated and disgraced repeatedly, and who have paid so high a price for its dim past full of pains and grief...

Taipei Times, 5 May 2008

China launches domestic leg of Olympic relay

China welcomed the Olympic flame yesterday with a celebrity-packed start to the China leg of the torch relay, with officials hoping to extinguish memories of a global journey marred by protests over Tibet and other controversies. Amid heavy security, speed skating Olympic champion Yang Yang was the first to carry the torch on Hainan, with basketball star Yi Jianlian and current Miss World, Zhang Zilin, also making appearances...

Taipei Times, 5 May 2008

Hu hopeful for 'positive outcome' to Tibet talks

Chinese President Hu Jintao said he hoped for a "positive outcome" from talks between representatives of the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials that began yesterday. The meeting was the first between the two sides since violent anti-government protests erupted in Tibet in March. "I hope that the contacts with the Dalai Lama's side from today will yield a positive outcome," Hu told Japanese reporters in Beijing, Xinhua news agency said...

The Hindu, 6 May 2008

Opinion: President Hu in Japan: symbolism and substance

Cherry blossoms are painting swirls of colour across North East Asia as Chinese President Hu Jintao embarks on a landmark five-day visit to Japan on Tuesday, May 6. Speaking to reporters ahead of his trip, Mr. Hu made an allusion to the seasonal omen, saying that he hoped his interaction with his Japanese counterparts would take place in the ambience of a "warm spring"...

The Indian Express, 6 May 2008

Beijing steps up attack: Tibetan group in India linked to al-Qaeda

Beijing: As the talks between the Dalai Lama's envoys and China failed to yield a breakthrough, Beijing today intensified its attack on the spiritual leader of the Tibetans, accusing him of committing "monstrous crimes" and "fraud" and alleged that a Tibetan outfit based in India had links with terror group al-Qaeda. The Dalai Lama's two envoys, Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen, returned to India from talks in Shenzhen with nothing more than an assurance from Beijing to hold the next round of dialogue at "an appropriate time"...

The Asian Age, 6 May 2008

'Dialogue went off as planned'

Dharamsala: The Tibetan government-in-exile on Monday refuted reports that talks

between the Dalai Lama's envoys and China ended abruptly on Sunday and termed as "baseless" Chinese accusation that the Tibetan spiritual leader was behind violence in Lhasa. "It is not true (that the talks ended abruptly) ... It ended as per the plan," the Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile Samdhong Rinpoche said...

The Asian Age, 6 May 2008

China for 2nd round of talks

Shenzhen/Beijing: Envoys of the Dalai Lama left on Monday after a day of talks with Chinese officials that ended in an agreement to meet again, an apparent sign of progress in easing tensions raised by violent anti-government riots in Tibet. Prime Minister Samdhong Rinpoche of the Tibetan government-in-exile said that he didn't expect definitive results from the meeting that ended on Sunday but was happy for dialogue to continue...

The Indian Express, 6 May 2008

Op-Ed: China to India, an unpleasant surprise

On May 2 2008, the internet carried some excellent satellite photographs of the newly disclosed Sanya Nuclear Submarine Naval Base for the Chinese Navy on the southern coast of Hainan island. My analysis of these internet satellite photos indicates that the Chinese have built a massive naval base, strategically located not only with respect to Taiwan, but also the three access or choke points of the Indian Ocean-South China Sea region, viz, the straits of Singapore, Malacca, Sunda and Lombok, through which all international shipping must flow...

People's Daily, 6 May 2008

Chinese president begins 'warm spring' trip to Japan

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Tokyo Tuesday, kicking off a five-day "warm spring" trip to Japan aimed at boosting the strategic and mutually beneficial relations between China and Japan. Hu's state visit to Japan is the first by a Chinese president in 10 years. During his visit, the Chinese president is expected to meet with Japan's Emperor Akihito and hold talks with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on Sino-Japanese relations and other issues of common concern...

People's Daily, 6 May 2008

Jointly greeting the 'warm spring' of Sino-Japanese ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to pay a state visit to Japan from May 6 to 10, and his visit will be the first by a Chinese president to Japan over the past decade and it is seen as a step to further improve Sino-Japanese relations, which started to warm with the "ice-breaking" visit to China by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in October 2006. That event was followed by the "ice-thawing" Japan trip by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in April 2007 and Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's "spring-herald" visit to China at the end of last December...

Taipei Times, 6 May 2008

Tibetan envoys, Beijing agree to hold future talks

Chinese officials and envoys of the Dalai Lama have agreed to a second round of talks,

China's state-run media said yesterday, in an apparent sign of progress in easing tensions raised by violent anti-government riots in Tibet. State TV and Xinhua news agency said that the first round of talks had ended after one day, but that no formal announcement was made...

Taipei Times, 6 May 2008

Editorial: Will Japan get in bed with China?

Chinese officials, including Chinese President Hu Jintao who will be visiting Japan this week, have been optimistic that relations between China and Japan are on the brink of a breakthrough. Both sides have raised the possibility of some framework for future annual visits by their leaders, which they said would become a symbol of strategic and mutually beneficial relations. Buttressing these high hopes is the fact that Hu has played up the visit in a manner that dovetails with China's efforts to convince its neighbors that its rise is a peaceful one...

Taipei Times, 6 May 2008

Editorial: A fresh start for China and Japan?

Chinese President Hu Jintao will make a high-profile visit to Japan from today to Saturday, making him the second Chinese head of state ever to travel there. The trip is being carefully managed by both countries, and is being watched closely around the world, with good reason: Sino-Japanese relations over the past decade have been turbulent, to say the least...

The Hindu, 7 May 2008

Dalai Lama must show sincerity in action: China

Beijing: Following a brief round of talks with Chinese officials on Sunday, the Dalai Lama's representatives departed from Hong Kong on Tuesday. While details of what transpired at the closed-door meeting remain scarce, the highlight of the dialogue has been the agreement to keep talking. The Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed on Tuesday that another round of talks would take place at an "appropriate time," with the caveat that the Dalai Lama must "show sincerity, particularly in his actions," for the negotiations to continue...

The Hindu, 7 May 2008

Hu sees new avenues in ties with Japan

Tokyo: Sino-Japanese relations are facing new opportunities for further development, said Chinese President Hu Jintao here on Tuesday. On his arrival here, Mr. Hu - on a five-day "warm spring" trip to boost strategic relations - said "the development of a long-term stable and good neighbourly friendship between China and Japan is in the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples"...

The Indian Express, 7 May 2008

China quiet on report of nuclear submarine base

Beijing: China refused to be drawn on Tuesday on a photograph which Jane's Information Group analysts believe is evidence of a new underground nuclear submarine base off the southern tropical island of Hainan. China's increasing dependence on imported petroleum

and mineral resources had contributed to an intensified Chinese concern about defending its access to vital sea lanes, particularly to its south, Jane's said...

The Indian Express, 7 May 2008

'China must prove allegations against Dalai Lama'

New Delhi: With China keeping up its attack on the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan government-in-exile on Tuesday called on the international community to make an independent investigation into Beijing's accusations holding the spiritual leader responsible for the recent violence in Tibet. Dalai Lama aide Tenzin Taklha said China was making "shocking and ridiculous" allegations against the Dalai Lama without any evidence...

The Asian Age, 7 May 2008

Tibetans: Qaeda 'link' bad joke

New Delhi: Appalled at the Chinese allegations linking the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) with terror group Al Qaeda, the Tibetan leaders have hit back terming the charges the "biggest joke the Chinese could ever come up with". While TYC chief Tsewang Rigzin said the allegations against his group were "absurd and total lie", secretary to the Dalai Lama Tenzin Takhla termed as "baseless" China's charges that the Dalai Lama was committing "monstrous crimes"...

The Asian Age, 7 May 2008

Beijing probes Google for 'illegal maps'

Beijing: China has launched an investigation into online mapping services by Internet giants including Google and Sohu in an effort to protect state secrets and territorial integrity, state press said. According to Min Yiren, vice-head of the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, authorities hope to get rid of online maps that wrongly depict China's borders or that reveal military secrets, the People's Daily said on Monday...

The Times of India, 7 May 2008

China puts onus on Dalai Lama to create conditions for talks

Beijing: Refusing to set a date for the next round of parleys with the Dalai Lama's envoys, China on Tuesday said that Sunday's meeting was only a "beginning" and insisted that the Tibetan leader should take "concrete actions" to create conditions for further talks. In the first comments on the meeting between the two sides that lasted only a few hours, the Chinese foreign ministry said, "the central government's policy is consistent and clear cut. The door for dialogue is always open"...

People's Daily, 7 May 2008

Only by halting separatist activities can there be a way out

All people, including Buddhist monks, have their own motherland, and their hearts always yearn and turn to their motherland. The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau on the roof of the world is the common homeland of the Han people, Tibetans and people of other ethnic minorities. Tibet has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. It became an administrative region directly under the administration of the central government of China's imperial Yuan dynasty (1271-1368 A.D.)...

People's Daily, 7 May 2008

China-Japan relationship bathed in 'warm spring'

Chinese President Hu Jintao kicked off his 5-day 'warm spring' trip to Japan on May 6th, with the aims to convey a friendly message and spring-like wishes to the neighbor and cement the ties between Asia's two economic giants. President Hu's state visit to Japan, the first time in consecutive 10 years, has aroused the worldwide attention. Huntington, a noted scholar on international strategies, used to predict that 'the future peace and blessing of the East Asia will be depended upon the coexistence of China and Japan, and a common road they could seek to walk on hand-in-hand'...

People's Daily, 7 May 2008

Chinese president, Japanese PM discuss closer bilateral ties

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda held talks in Tokyo Wednesday on furthering the strategic and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries. Chinese Foreign Ministry officials said the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and other issues of common concern. The two leaders are expected to attend a signing ceremony for mutual cooperation documents and meet the press following their talks...

Taipei Times, 7 May 2008

Editorial: Taiwan and the two-sided triangle

There has been an increased focus on how the triangular relationship between Taiwan, China and the US will develop after president-elect Ma Ying-jeou takes office on May 20. Although warming cross-strait relations may lead to positive developments for the economy and an opportunity for more cultural exchange, there may also be spillover effects with regard to security across the Taiwan Strait, US arms sales to Taiwan and the US' Asia-Pacific security policy...

The Hindu, 8 May 2008

Time to forge ahead, says Hu

Tokyo: China's President Hu Jintao said on Wednesday that historical experience showed China and Japan must seek a path of peace, friendship and cooperation. During talks with Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, Mr. Hu said: "This is the right choice that is in the fundamental interests of the two countries." China and Japan have enjoyed friendly exchanges for more than 2,000 years in the past, though there was a miserable period of time between the two countries, said Mr. Hu...

The Hindu, 8 May 2008

China confident of grain supply

Beijing: China is able to guarantee stable domestic food supply and price level due to the abundant grain reserves, said the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on Tuesday. In March, international rice prices rose to their highest level in 19 years, and wheat prices rocketed to a 28-year peak. At the same time, China's domestic prices only reported mild increases, up 5.7 per cent in January and 6 per cent in February...

The Times of India, 8 May 2008

Olympic torch reaches the top of Everest

Beijing: The Olympic flame has reached the top of the world. Live television footage showed a Chinese mountaineering team holding up a specially designed torch along with Chinese and Olympic flags Thursday on the top of Mount Everest. "One World, One Dream," one of the climbers said on the approach to the peak, repeating the slogan for the Olympics. "We have lit the torch on top of the world," another climber said...

The Times of India, 8 May 2008

Next round of talks with China soon: Dalai Lama's envoy

Dharamshala: A date will soon be set for a seventh round of formal talks between the Dalai Lama's envoys and China on Tibet, an envoy of the spiritual leader said on Thursday. It follows informal talks on Sunday in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen that were the first known encounter between the two sides since unrest broke out in the Himalayan region in March...

People's Daily, 8 May 2008

Only by halting violence can there be harmony

The Chinese nation has always attached importance to social harmony. For the Dalai clique that claimed its "willingness to be a member of the big family of the People's Republic of China," it also openly voiced its "appreciation and support" to the building of a harmonious society in the country. Just as the Dalai clique said, a harmonious society cannot be separable from "freedom" and the "rule of law" and, as is known to all that either "freedom" or the "rule of law" has nothing in common with one thing -- violence...

People's Daily, 8 May 2008

Why a bright prospect looms large in China-Japan economic and trade ties

Since the normalization of diplomatic ties between China and Japan in 1972, the economic and trade relations of both sides have been greatly enhanced and made much headway. By the year 2005, the bilateral trade volumes had surged over 160 times. In the decade of 1993 till 2003, Japan remained the largest trading partner to China. In 2007, the total bilateral trade volumes climbed up to \$ 236 billion dollars, and meanwhile, China has overtaken the U.S as the largest trading partner to Japan, and Japan the third largest to China...

Taipei Times, 8 May 2008

Hong Kong clamps down on Olympic 'disruptors'

Hong Kong will not welcome any visitors who are looking to "damage the solemnity of the Olympics," the government said in a report, raising fresh concerns it was clamping down on free speech. "As a cohost city of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Hong Kong has the obligation to ensure that the relevant Olympic activities will proceed in a safe, peaceful and smooth manner," the department said in a report to legislators released on Tuesday...

Taipei Times, 8 May 2008

Editorial: The danger in choosing China over other states

Although a small group of decision-makers in President Chen Shui-bian's government must take responsibility for the Papua New Guinea scandal, it is also a result of China's policy to win over all of Taiwan's diplomatic allies. Taiwan needs to maintain allies to demonstrate the de jure existence of the Republic of China (ROC). But the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) is reluctant to discuss the shrinking of Taiwan's international space caused by the contradiction between the ROC and the "one China" consensus...

The Hindu, 9 May 2008

Olympic flame summits Everest

Beijing: The Olympic flame reached the top of Mount Everest on Thursday morning, achieving not only the literal highest point of the relay, but also its highest symbolic moment. Following the repeated disruption to some legs of the relay after the March 14 riots in Lhasa, Thursday's ascent was an emotional moment for China. It was also a grand gesture, aimed at setting the tone for China's ambitions for the Olympics...

The Indian Express, 9 May 2008

Op-Ed: It's dark in the Himalayas

Recently an India-China meeting of water resources officials concluded with the usual: promises to share time series data on river flows in the Himalayas. While they grapple with this simple transaction, the problem has magnified in the last few years. Because of lack of reliable data on the Himalayan region, the chances of knowing the impact of climate change on these areas is remote. As a result, the planning for projects downstream continues on faulty premises and outdated data. It pretends that climate change does not exist...

The Asian Age, 9 May 2008

China, Dalai envoy to resume talks

New Delhi: Despite serious differences of opinion on either side during the informal talks between the special envoys of Dalai Lama and the Chinese authorities, both the parties have agreed to continue the dialogue process. "Despite major differences on important issues, both sides demonstrated a willingness to seek common approaches in addressing the issues at hand. In this regard, each side made some concrete proposals, which can be part of the future agenda. As a result, an understanding was reached to continue the formal round of discussions. A date for the seventh round of talks will be finalised soon after mutual consultations," Lodi Gyari, Dalai Lama's special envoy for the talks, told this newspaper...

The Times of India, 9 May 2008

Tibetan woman holds torch on top of Everest

Beijing: Cering Wangmo, a Tibetan woman, made history on Thursday by being the first climber to take the Olympic torch to the top of Everest. The 19-member team, included university students and female climbers, led by another Tibetan, Nyima Cering, travelled mostly in secret to avoid disruption by Tibetan protesters on the way. The torch was lit at a distance of 100m from the summit of Mount Qomolangma, as Everest is called in Chinese, and then relayed upwards by five torchbearers. It reached the top at 9.12am Beijing time (0012 GMT)...

People's Daily, 9 May 2008

Interview: China-EU trade talks promotes trust and concrete progress

Both China and the EU regard the first high level economic and trade dialogue (HED) as an extraordinary success politically and practically. More talks at various levels will be held soon. Mr. Yu Yuantang, director in charge of the EU and Benelux affairs of the Ministry of Commerce of China, commented that in a video interview with People's Daily last Friday, a few days after the China-EU High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue was held in Beijing on April 25...

People's Daily, 9 May 2008

Curtain up on China-Japan cooperation in EP

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda signed on Wednesday, or May 7th, a six-point Sino-Japanese joint statement on all-round promotion of their strategic and mutual beneficial relations. In the statement both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of energy and environmental protection (EP), and vowed to consider EP as their commitment to the following generations and the international community, signaling a full-fledged China-Japan cooperation in EP has been officially inaugurated...

Taipei Times, 9 May 2008

Editorial: Fixing how the nation implements its policies

The state of the national security apparatus over the past eight years can only be described as a complete mess. News reports imply that former vice premier Chiou I-jen is somehow involved in the diplomatic corruption case that came to the fore a few days ago. Chiou was secretary-general of the National Security Council (NSC) when the events at the origin of the scandal unfolded. At this point, there are indeed myriad defects and problems with the national security apparatus and they are in urgent need of fixing. First, let us address the matter of policymaking coordination. According to Taiwan's national security structure, the NSC is the primary policymaking coordination body...

Taipei Times, 9 May 2008

Editorial: Is dollar diplomacy even worth it?

Since the Papua New Guinea (PNG) diplomatic fund scandal broke, criticism from both the ruling and opposition parties has focused on the gullibility of the people involved or their alleged corrupt practices rather than the nation's dollar diplomacy strategy. In other words, if checkbook diplomacy could really help the nation forge diplomatic ties, many people would not oppose it. This unscrupulous way of maintaining diplomatic relations is the result of China's obstruction of Taiwan's diplomatic efforts, which has caused Taipei to lose diplomatic ties with many countries and forced its envoys to maintain the remaining diplomatic relations with small countries through money and deceit...

The Asian Age, 10 May 2008

China to help Pak on nuke power

Islamabad: China and Pakistan plan to set up a corporation to build nuclear and coal-based power plants, and Beijing has agreed to expedite the delivery of six atomic power

plants of 300 MW each to its strategic ally. The decision to form the China-Pakistan Power Plant Corporation was made during President Musharraf's April visit to China. China also promised to help Pakistan achieve its target of 8,800 MW of nuclear power by 2030...

People's Daily, 10 May 2008

Chinese president meets Japanese local officials, discuss relations, cooperation

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao met here on Friday evening with Osaka Prefecture Governor Toru Hashimoto and local government officials of Japan's Kansai region. Osaka and the broader Kansai region, with traditional close ties with China since ancient times, have been in the forefront of Japan's cooperation with China since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Hu said. He expressed appreciation of the region's commitments to advancing exchanges and cooperation with China and its active contribution to the development of the China-Japan relations in the past years...

Taipei Times, 10 May 2008

DPP apologizes for diplomatic scandal

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) yesterday apologized for the recent Papua New Guinea (PNG) aid scandal, saying the loss of US\$30 million was part of a failed attempt to establish ties with PNG and not a case involving government kickbacks. "We deeply regret what happened, but we believe that no officials received kickbacks," DPP caucus whip Ker Chien-ming told a press conference at the party's headquarters...

People's Daily, 11 May 2008

Chinese president wraps up 'warm-spring' state visit to Japan

Chinese President Hu Jintao concluded a five-day historic state visit to Japan, known as a "warm-spring" tour, and left Osaka for home Saturday. During the visit, President Hu met with Japan's Emperor Akihito and held talks with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on China-Japan relations and other issues of common concern. After their talks, Hu and Fukuda signed a joint statement on all-round promotion of strategic and mutually beneficial relations between China and Japan...

People's Daily, 11 May 2008

FM: President's 'warm spring' visit to Japan a complete success

Chinese President Hu Jintao's just-concluded "warm spring" visit to Japan has opened up new prospects for the development of strategic and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries, Chinese Foreign Minister YangJiechi said on Saturday. During his state visit, the first by a Chinese president to Japan in a decade, President Hu held fruitful talks with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, Yang told Chinese journalists accompanying Hu on the tour...

Taipei Times, 11 May 2008

Ma says Taiwan can learn from Singapore model

Taiwan should learn from Singapore and connect with the world with pragmatism and openness, as such an attitude would reduce the danger of war in the Taiwan Strait, president-elect Ma Ying-jeou said yesterday. "Singapore's national strategy "CORE" -

connectivity, openness, reliability and entrepreneurship - successfully connected the country with the world, and that's the path Taiwan must follow," Ma said while addressing an annual convention of the International Relations Institute of the ROC in Taipei...

Taipei Times, 11 May 2008

Editorial: On ending 'checkbook diplomacy'

The commotion over the Papua New Guinea diplomatic fund scandal has been increasing in intensity. Yet I feel that if it were not for the structural weaknesses present in Taiwan's diplomatic relations, it would be difficult for politicians, greedy officials, corrupt businessmen and middlemen to cheat the public and steal from the nation's coffers. Any corruption or dereliction of duty in this particular case should be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent...

People's Daily, 12 May 2008

Launching a new era in China-Japan relations

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda signed the China-Japan Joint Statement on Advancing the Strategic Relationship of Mutual Benefit last Wednesday during Hu's state visit to Japan. This is the fourth political document the two countries have inked after the China-Japan Joint Communiqué of 1972, the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1978 and the China-Japan Joint Declaration of 1998...

People's Daily, 12 May 2008

Only by ceasing harassment can one win over world support

The Olympic flame, a symbol of friendship, peace and justice, scaled the "rooftop of the world"--Mount Qomolangma (Everest)--on the morning of May 8. When the scene of Tibetan mountaineer Ciren Wangmu holding high the torch of "lucky clouds" at an altitude of 8844.43 meters above sea-level was broadcast live to the world, many people could not help shed tears of joy and excitement. At this moment, China had fulfilled its promise to the world people that it would adhere to the spirit of the Olympic Motto--Faster, Higher, and Stronger--and would bring out the spirit at a new height...

Taipei Times, 12 May 2008

Editorial: Beijing's biggest enemy is itself

Is there a method to Beijing's madness regarding the Olympics? Obviously there is. But if the objective is to make China look good, its ruling oligarchy is going the wrong way. They found themselves wrong-footed when the Olympic torch relay became entangled with the Tibetan human-rights issue. All their heaving and weaving about the unrest in Tibet failed to convince audiences abroad that it was the work of the Dalai Lama clique involving some wayward monks...

Taipei Times, 12 May 2008

Editorial: It is time for a review of diplomatic initiatives

Taiwan's diplomatic predicament lies in the unclear definition of its sovereignty and the fact that China and other countries deny Taiwan's sovereignty. Both the Chinese

Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) governments used diplomatic ties to show that Taiwan is a sovereign country, leading to the misplaced idea that the total number of allies is of extreme importance...

The Hindu, 13 May 2008

Over 8,700 people killed as quake rocks China

Beijing: A major earthquake of 7.8 magnitude ripped through southwest China on Monday afternoon, killing more than 8,700 people and sending shock waves through cities across a large swathe of the country and southeast Asia. The epicentre of the quake was pinpointed at Wenchuan County, some 100 km northwest of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province and home to over 12 million people...

The Indian Express, 13 May 2008

Brown will meet Dalai Lama but not at 10 Downing

London: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will not receive the Dalai Lama at 10 Downing Street, a move seen by many as an effort to appease China, which has accused the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader of masterminding anti-Beijing protest in Lhasa. Brown will, instead, meet the Dalai Lama in Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, enabling the Prime Minister to claim to the Chinese that he is receiving the exiled leader in spiritual rather than political capacity, The Times daily of Britain said on Monday...

The Times of India, 13 May 2008

China quake toll rises, rain hampers rescue

Dujiangyan: Heavy rainfall and wrecked roads hampered rescuers' efforts to reach the areas hardest-hit by China's worst earthquake in three decades on Tuesday as the death toll rose to nearly 10,000. State media reports indicated that the number of dead was likely to soar, with Xinhua saying 10,000 people remained buried in the Mianzhu area of Sichuan province...

People's Daily, 13 May 2008

President Hu says quake relief government's top priority

Chinese leader Hu Jintao urged governments at all levels to regard earthquake rescue and relief as the top priority at a high profile meeting late Monday evening. Hu, state President and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), presided over the meeting of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the CPC...

Taipei Times, 13 May 2008

Editorial: Learning from the Communists

Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) loss to the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) in the past two elections reminded me of how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) also experienced defeat by the KMT. Many lessons can be learned from the loss. Although the DPP is not the CCP, it can learn from the CCP's strategic thinking. In 1927, KMT leader Chiang Kai-shek purged the party of communists and the CCP suffered a major defeat, although it maintained some military power...

The Hindu, 14 May 2008

A race against time

Beijing: Rescuers are racing against time in the search for survivors on Tuesday, a day after a quake struck China's south-western province of Sichuan. The death toll has surpassed 12,000. Premier Wen Jiabao, who flew to Sichuan on Monday, urged the public to have "composure, confidence and courage" in the face of the catastrophe. Mr. Wen is heading a temporary disaster relief headquarters. Wenchuan County, the epicentre, has reported 57 deaths and the fate of about 60,000 other residents was yet to be clarified...

The Hindu, 14 May 2008

We are engaging China in railway sector: Lalu

Singapore: India is engaging China in the railways sector, and Japan has reaffirmed its commitment to "contribute" to the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai western corridor of the planned national network of dedicated freight lines. Outlining the much-hailed turnaround of the Indian Railways, traced to indigenous efforts in recent years, Railway Minister Lalu Prasad said here on Monday that the ongoing track electrification project might also benefit from the U.S.-India nuclear energy deal, work in respect of which "is on"...

The Indian Express, 14 May 2008

Toll in just one China city: 3,629 dead, 18,600 buried

Dujiangyan: Chinese rescue workers have reported that 3,629 people had been confirmed dead and 18,645 were still buried under debris in Mianyang city, which neighbours the epicenter of Monday's massive earthquake. The official death toll so far from the 7.6 magnitude quake is over 12,000. It is not known if the Mianyang figures are included in that...

The Asian Age, 14 May 2008

Olympic celebrations turn to tragedy, turmoil

Beijing: A devastating earthquake is the latest in a series of disasters and controversies that have turned what China had hoped would be an Olympic year of celebration into one of turmoil and tragedy. With tens of thousands of people either dead or missing, Monday's 7.9 magnitude quake in the southwest of the country has plunged China into mourning less than 90 days before the Games...

The Times of India, 14 May 2008

Taiwan cabinet resigns ahead of new president's inauguration

Taipei: The Taiwan cabinet resigned on Wednesday ahead of president-elect Ma Ying-jeou's inauguration in six days. Premier Chang Chun-hsiung presided over the ceremony of the cabinet's resignation, putting an end to the eight-year scandal-plagued rule by pro-independence President Chen Shui-bian. After Ma is sworn in on May 20, Chen will step down after having served two four-year terms, the longest tenure for a Taiwan president...

People's Daily, 14 May 2008

Premier Wen reemphasizes saving lives in quake relief

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday evening that saving lives is still the major task of current relief work against a major quake which jolted southwest China's Sichuan Province on Monday afternoon. Wen made the remarks at a meeting of the disaster relief headquarters under the State Council...

People's Daily, 14 May 2008

Chinese, U.S. presidents talk over phone on quake, ties, Tibet

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his U.S. counterpart George W. Bush held a telephone conversation Tuesday, during which they discussed the latest massive earthquake in southwest China, bilateral ties and Tibet. Bush said the United States expressed deep concerns over the quake in Sichuan province and sympathy toward the Chinese people, and is willing to provide any possible assistance for disaster relief...

Taipei Times, 14 May 2008

Taipei offers aid, awaits the go-ahead from Beijing

Taiwanese officials yesterday offered to provide "all the help needed" to China's earthquake-stricken region. Urging the public to contribute donations toward the relief and reconstruction efforts, President Chen Shui-bian yesterday instructed the Executive Yuan to integrate public and private resources to offer humanitarian relief to Sichuan Province...

Taipei Times, 14 May 2008

Editorial: One old face we don't need to see

The incoming administration announced its choice for secretary-general of the National Security Council this week: former Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislator Su Chi. Although the appointment did not come as a surprise, it was no less disappointing. After accepting the position, Su told a press conference that he would serve the administration as a key source of unbiased facts and counsel for major policy decisions...

The Hindu, 15 May 2008

Opinion: Toiling through the night in a quake-devastated city

The roads were black and eerily quiet for a city of such size. But on a street near the centre, floodlights and the grind of cutting equipment announced that rescue workers were toiling through the night. It had been a commercial bank, said one bystander; a Bank of China, said someone else. You couldn't tell any more. All that was left was a great mound where the building had slid forward into the road as if it were melting butter...

The Indian Express, 15 May 2008

Wen shows china can care

Beijing: Mothers wailing over the bodies of their children. Emergency workers scrambling across pancaked buildings. And a grim-faced political leader comforting the stricken and reassuring a worried nation. While such scenes are a staple of disasters in much of the world, the rescue effort playing nonstop on Chinese television is remarkable for a country that has a history of concealing the scope of natural disasters and then

bungling its response...

The Indian Express, 15 May 2008

Op-Ed: Disaster politics

As it copes with a series of natural disasters this year, the current leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is acutely aware of the need to not just respond effectively but to also be seen to be doing so. Within hours of the devastating earthquake striking, Premier Wen Jiabao flew into Sichuan province to oversee the emergency relief. A couple of months ago during the Chinese New Year holidays, when millions in southern China were trapped in a transport gridlock created by powerful snowstorms, Wen was quick to apologise on behalf of the government...

The Times of India, 15 May 2008

Entire generations wiped out in China

Beijing: Hopes of survival of the 40,000-odd people missing or trapped in debris seemed to recede some 56 hours after the earthquake struck China's southwest province of Sichuan. Only a few people have so far been pulled out of fallen buildings and other debris, suggesting that rescue mission in this mountainous region is extremely daunting. With China practising one-child family norm over the past two decades, many of the parents that have lost children were suddenly faced the possibility of an entire generation or family tree being wiped out...

People's Daily, 15 May 2008

PM orders reinforcements as toll rises to 14,866

China's central government has ordered to mobilize 50 more military helicopters to airlift the critically injured residents from the mountain-logged rural areas, also epicenter of the killer earthquake which struck southwestern Sichuan Province on Monday. While on another air inspection of the quake-hit districts on Wednesday, Premier Wen Jiabao ordered new reinforcements to the two hardly-battered counties, Wenchuan and Beichuan, as more than 100,000 PLA troops and police forces are searching and rescuing victims day and night...

Taipei Times, 15 May 2008

China spy suspect admits guilt

Kuo Tai-shen, a Taiwan-born naturalized US citizen and a member of a prominent Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) family, on Tuesday pleaded guilty in a US federal court in Virginia to spying for China on US military sales to Taiwan, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Kuo, whose father-in-law is General Xue Yue, a long-time a key adviser to dictator Chiang Kai-shek, admitted in an appearance before US District Court Judge Leonie Brinkema to having bought secret information on US arms sales to Taiwan from a highly placed US defense official and delivering it to a Chinese military official at the behest of Beijing...

Taipei Times, 15 May 2008

Editorial: Isolated China benefits nobody

A perfect storm is brewing that could threaten China's relations with the world. Although

some China bashers in the West and nationalists in China may be rejoicing, the potential deterioration of China's international relations serves nobody's interest and threatens to undermine global peace and security. As the Olympics approach, what Beijing seems to want most - that the Games herald China's return as a leader among nations - appears close to slipping from its grasp...

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 15 May 2008

Survivors scabble for aid

Mianzhu, China: Survivors of the powerful earthquake that struck Sichuan Province on Monday expressed frustration Wednesday with delays in government help. In a farming area in Mianzhu in the province, survivors were seen scrambling for relief supplies after halting the trucks carrying aid. Two days after the earthquake that jolted southwest China, victims' nerves have been stretched thin in what is one of the worst-hit locations. Many residents were killed, power and water supplies have been cut, and food is running short...

The Asahi Shimbun, 15 May 2008

Editorial: Disaster relief for China

Amid international frustration over Myanmar's (Burma's) foot-dragging in allowing relief efforts to the cyclone-hit nation, a massive earthquake with 20 times the energy of the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake struck China. Monday's 7.8 magnitude temblor destroyed as many as 500,000 buildings and claimed more than 10,000 lives in areas centering on Sichuan province...

The Hindu, 16 May 2008

Russia, India, China step up solidarity

Yekaterinburg (Russia): Russia, India and China displayed enhanced solidarity on a range of key international issues at their meeting here on Thursday in a sign that their trilateral dialogue may be acquiring a strategic dimension. In a joint communique, adopted at their eighth meeting, the Foreign Ministers of the countries "reaffirmed the commonality" in their views on the global situation and, for the first time, set out coordinated positions on Kosovo, Iran, Afghanistan and the Asia-Pacific region, as India displayed a greater readiness to go along with its partners in the triangle on these issues...

The Hindu, 16 May 2008

Opinion: Challenge and response in China

The May 12 earthquake, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, in China's south-western Sichuan province has taken a confirmed toll of over 19,500 lives. It is feared that the number of dead could be above 50,000. The toll would have been higher but for the quick and efficient response by the government and the diligence shown by the rescue machinery. Amidst the gloom of many people buried under debris, beyond all help, there are moving accounts of children, women, and the elderly being rescued. Even rare giant pandas have survived in reserves...

The Indian Express, 16 May 2008

Op-Ed: Tremors of History

It is a cruel and poignant certainty that the children who died in the wreckage of their school during the earthquake this week in Dujiangyan, China, knew all too well that their country once led the world in the knowledge of the planet's seismicity. They would have been taught, and proudly, that almost 2,000 years ago an astronomer named Chang Heng invented the world's first seismoscope...

The Asian Age, 16 May 2008

Dalai criticises China on Tibet

Frankfurt: The Dalai Lama lashed out on Thursday at the "suppression" of anti-Chinese unrest in Tibet, as he arrived in Germany to start a Western tour ahead of the Beijing Olympics. "The Chinese political authorities' reaction, as before, was suppression. So it is very sad," the Tibetan spiritual leader said after landing in Frankfurt. He called for autonomy for the Himalayan region and stressed that Tibetans wanted to live in peace with China...

The Times of India, 16 May 2008

Quake rescue in crucial phase: Hu

Mianyang: Chinese President Hu Jintao flew on Friday into one of the areas worst hit by this week's earthquake, vowing no let-up in rescue work from the country's worst disaster in a generation. Hu, who is commander of the People's Liberation Army which has spearheaded relief efforts, was paying his first visit to the zone ravaged by Monday's 7.9-magnitude earthquake, which officials estimate has killed 50,000 people...

People's Daily, 16 May 2008

Much distress regenerates a nation

The year 2008 is an eventful year; or so to speak, a year full of troubles. The year started with a terribly heavy snowstorm hitting many provinces in China. With heavy snow and icy rain falling since January, 2008 brought traffic to a standstill at peak season, when millions of Chinese were on their way home to celebrate Spring Festival. However, the snow and ice did not chill people's warm hearts to help each other. The country got over "cold injuries" in a very short time with relief efforts across China...

People's Daily, 16 May 2008

Premier Wen calls for nationwide efforts in rescue, relief after "most destructive" quake since 1949

Rescue operation and disaster relief for victims in the worst earthquake over decades are of top priority of the nation, and thus require concerted efforts from the whole country, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Thursday night. Monday's 7.8-magnitude earthquake that ravaged southwestern Sichuan Province and was felt in most parts of the country was the "most destructive" tremor and had the "most wide-spreading impact" since New China was founded in 1949, Wen said on a meeting of the rescue headquarters under the State Council headed by himself...

Taipei Times, 16 May 2008

China warns death toll could reach 50,000

China warned the death toll from this week's earthquake could soar to 50,000, while the

government issued a rare public appeal yesterday for rescue equipment as it struggled to cope with the disaster. Rescue workers cleared roads to the epicenter in the race to find survivors. More than 72 hours after the earthquake rattled central China, the relief effort appeared to shift from poring through downed buildings for survivors to the grim duty of searching for bodies...

Taipei Times, 16 May 2008

Editorial: The tremors are felt in Beijing

The damage wrought by the Sichuan earthquake is so massive, yet so inadequately understood, that the economic and political fallout in the longer term can only be guessed at. What is certain for the moment is that the central government will need to channel enormous amounts of money and other resources into the region for recovery and rebuilding to prevent it from becoming a showcase of dysfunction and neglect amid massive wealth accumulation along the coast...

Taipei Times, 16 May 2008

Editorial: Was the Hu Japan visit the start of better ties?

Giving old buildings a "facelift" by redoing the facade rather than demolishing and rebuilding them has become a fashion of sorts. The result looks like a brand new building, but the old structure remains unchanged. Chinese President Hu Jintao's five-day "spring warmth" visit to Japan was just such a facelift to the always tense Sino-Japanese relationship. He did not seek resolutions to fundamental problems or existing obstacles in the relationship...

The Hindu, 17 May 2008

China missile base larger than expected: study

New Delhi: An analysis of new commercial satellite photos has identified a larger deployment of medium range nuclear missiles in Central China with the capability to attack Russia and north India including New Delhi, the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) has reported. A study by Hans Kristensen concedes that the deployment is not new and the U.S. intelligence has known for years that the sites are for targeting Russia and India...

The Hindu, 17 May 2008

We are with you, Hu Jintao tells earthquake victims

Beichuan County (Sichuan): Chinese President Hu Jintao on Friday went to Beichuan County of Mianyang City to visit people affected by the southwest China earthquake, encouraging them to be confident in overcoming hardships caused by the disaster. The death toll from the 7.8 magnitude quake in the Sichuan Province rose to 22,069 while 1,68,669 people were injured...

The Indian Express, 17 May 2008

Strong aftershock rattles China, causes panic

Beichuan: A strong aftershock sparked landslides on Friday near the epicenter of this week's powerful earthquake, while some survivors were pulled from rubble after being buried for four days. The first foreign rescue workers since Monday's magnitude 7.9

temblor were allowed to the scene, and helicopters dropped leaflets urging people to "unite together" and providing survival tips...

The Indian Express, 17 May 2008

China upgrading n-missile launch site nearest to India

New Delhi: Less than a month after China's new nuclear submarine base came to light, latest satellite images show that Beijing is upgrading and extending its nuclear missile deployment site that is nearest to India. The images reveal that the Delingha missile base, located 1,900 km northeast of New Delhi in the central province of Qinghai, has recently been upgraded and new missile launch sites have been added at the military facility...

The Asian Age, 17 May 2008

Beijing in June, Tehran in July

New Delhi: India and China will review their bilateral ties when external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee travels to Beijing in June. The visit is being described here as part of the ongoing bilateral exchanges between the two countries. In July, Mr Pranab Mukherjee will be headed to Tehran for the India-Iran joint commission meeting. He is likely to discuss the prospects of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Iran at an early but mutually convenient date...

People's Daily, 17 May 2008

Foreign rescue personnel first join in China's disaster relief

A group of earthquake relief professionals sent by Japan arrived in southwest China's Sichuan Province Friday to become the first foreign rescuers working in China since 1949. The 31 rescuers began searching for three people, including a mother and her 70-day-old baby, buried in a collapsed building in the county seat of Qingchuan on Friday afternoon. Although well-equipped, the Japanese rescuers had to use their hands to dig in the debris for the safety of those who were trapped...

Taipei Times, 17 May 2008

US criticizes Chinese missile buildup

The US criticized China's missile buildup along the Taiwan Strait on Thursday and said Washington would continue to sell arms to Taiwan to bolster its defense needs. "We continue to express concern about the Mainland's ongoing military build-up on its side of the Strait," US Deputy Secretary of State John Negoponte told a congressional hearing held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on China-US relations...

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 17 May 2008

China doffs cap over Japan aid / Beijing's acceptance of Tokyo's help has implications beyond quake-aid efforts

The main reason behind China's apparently belated acceptance of Japan's offer to send emergency relief workers to an area hit by Monday's powerful earthquake seems to be an acknowledgement by Beijing of this country's accumulated experience in such matters. Though the Japanese government presented the offer to Beijing soon after the earthquake occurred Monday, the Chinese government did not immediately take up the offer...

The Hindu, 18 May 2008

Now, threat of lake burst

Qingchuan (Sichuan): Thousands of persons are being evacuated from around a lake and a river at risk of bursting in south-west China's earthquake-affected zone, said relief officials on Saturday. The disaster relief headquarters in the Beichuan County said it received reports of water levels reaching danger point at the Laoyingyan section of the Qianjiang River on Saturday. The river has been blocked by landslips caused by the earthquake...

The Indian Express, 18 May 2008

Tip of Sikkim is latest India-China flashpoint

New Delhi: China has surprised India by laying claim on a small tract of land in North Sikkim, even threatening this week to demolish existing stone structures there. India has strongly rebutted these claims, lodged an official protest and barred Chinese troops from entering the area. Referred to as the "Finger Area" by Indian armed forces, this territory falls north of Gyangyong in Sikkim and overlooks a strategically important valley known as the Sora Funnel...

The Asian Age, 18 May 2008

China deployment adds to India worry

New Delhi: China has established an extensive missile deployment area in its Qinghai province with 58 launch pads for medium-range nuclear ballistic missiles, latest commercial satellite photos released by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) have revealed. The launch pads are located near Delingha and Da Qaidam in central China...

The Asian Age, 18 May 2008

Tibet victims to testify in Spain court

New Delhi: Certain victims of the genocide in Tibet will testify in a Spanish court on May 19. The victims, some of whom live in India, have had to travel to Madrid to personally appear before the judge, Mr Ismael Moreno, after India refused to set up a rogatory commission that would have allowed the Tibetans to testify here. One of the victims who will testify is Mr J. Monlam, assistant director of the Dharamsala-based Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) and a former monk from the Drepung monastery in Tibet...

The Times of India, 18 May 2008

Strong aftershock rattles China quake zone

Beichuan, China: A powerful aftershock rattled China's southwest early Sunday, hampering frantic efforts to find earthquake survivors and help nearly five million people facing the risk of disease and flood. The 6.0-magnitude tremor shook some of the worst-affected parts in Sichuan province six days after China's worst natural disaster in a generation left an estimated 50,000 people dead...

People's Daily, 18 May 2008

Foreign rescuers battle for lives in quake-hit Shifang

Foreign rescue teams have joined the front line in the battle to free those trapped after Monday's devastating earthquake in southwest China. A 55-member rescue team from Singapore on Saturday morning reached Hongbai town, one of the worst-hit areas in Shifang City, Sichuan Province, to assist rescue efforts. The team arrived in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, at 7:40 p. m. Friday and reached Shifang city late the same day...

People's Daily, 18 May 2008

Chinese Premier stresses all-out efforts to rescue quake victims

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Saturday underscored unremitting efforts in searching and rescuing people buried in debris in the earthquake in southwestern Sichuan Province. Rescuers should do all out and leave no "dead angle" or "blind spot" when searching for victims, Wen said while presiding a meeting of the general headquarters of quake relief under the State Council Saturday afternoon...

Taipei Times, 18 May 2008

KMT chairman Wu accepts invitation to travel to China

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung yesterday accepted an invitation from Chinese President Hu Jintao to visit China to initiate a new round of party-to-party negotiations after Tuesday's transfer of power. Wu, who would be the first ruling party chairman to visit China, will arrive in Nanjing on May 26, meet Hu in Beijing and visit Taiwanese business groups in Shanghai before returning to Taiwan on May 31...

Taipei Times, 18 May 2008

Editorial: Time to rethink diplomatic tactics

For many days, the Papua New Guinea diplomacy case involving former vice premier Chiou I-jen has been at the center of media attention. The embezzlement of funds intended for aid in exchange for diplomatic relations clearly shows the flaws in the diplomatic system and the harsh reality that huge diplomatic investment is not cost-efficient. Government officials appear content to abuse authority and revel in diplomatic games outside the official framework...

The Hindu, 19 May 2008

Nuclear facilities safe and secure, says China

Beijing: All the nuclear facilities in the earthquake-hit areas are safe and secure, said a senior military officer on Sunday. Ma Jian, Deputy Director of the Combat Department of the General Staff Headquarters of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), said nuclear facilities had been put under strict protection by forces of the armed police and PLA immediately after the earthquake struck on May 12...

The Indian Express, 19 May 2008

Earthquake opens gap in controls on media

Shanghai: Two and a half hours after a huge earthquake struck Sichuan Province on Monday, an order went out from the powerful Central Propaganda Department to newspapers throughout China. "No media is allowed to send reporters to the disaster zone," it read, according to Chinese journalists who are familiar with it. When the order

arrived, many reporters were already waiting at a Shanghai airport for a flight to Sichuan's provincial capital, Chengdu...

The Indian Express, 19 May 2008

China row: BJP says UPA inactive, Left warns against 'provocation'

New Delhi: With China making fresh claims on Indian soil at the northernmost tip of Sikkim, the BJP on Sunday hit out strongly at the Congress-led UPA government for "not doing enough" to check the "expansionist designs" of China. While the Indian Government struck a more reconciliatory note despite China's stridency on the issue, the ruling Congress sought to distance itself as it said there was no "question of any territorial claims" since that had been resolved decades ago...

The Indian Express, 19 May 2008

Op-Ed: Fed up with peace

A Tibetan monk, recently out of jail and still in pain from beatings by the police, said he reveres the Dalai Lama but also regards him as a political failure. "We think the Dalai Lama has been too peaceful," he said. "There is a big discussion now about whether we should turn to violence." Another monk at Labrang Monastery here in Xiahe on the Tibetan plateau put it this way: "For 50 years, the Dalai Lama said to use peaceful means to solve the problems, and that achieved nothing. China just criticizes him"...

The Indian Express, 19 May 2008

Editorial: To deal with China

Even as External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee was drafting soaring demands for a multipolar world with his Chinese counterpart in Russia last week, the People's Liberation Army, as reported in The Sunday Express, was displaying some aggression on the border with Sikkim. At about the same time in Beijing, China's officials warned Indian diplomats that the PLA has the right to destroy structures it objects to on the Indian side. Meanwhile, Defence Minister A.K. Antony seems more intent on being politically correct and downplaying the China threat...

The Asian Age, 19 May 2008

Dalai: I want to be a Chinese

London: The Dalai Lama, who is visiting Britain for nine days from May 22, has said that he would like to return to Tibet as a Chinese citizen. "Actually, I am very much looking forward to becoming a citizen of the People's Republic of China. At the moment I am a refugee. But I would like to return to Tibet as a member of China's Tibetan minority," he told the Sunday Times in an interview. The Dalai Lama has set four conditions which, if met, would permit him to return to Tibet...

People's Daily, 19 May 2008

China begins three-day mourning for quake victims

China on Monday began a three-day national mourning for the tens of thousands of people killed in a powerful earthquake which struck the country's southwest on May 12. At 4:58 a.m., the national flag at the Tian'anmen Square in downtown Beijing flew at half-mast after a complete flag-raising ceremony. About 2,600 people watched the flag-

raising ceremony in the square...

Taipei Times, 19 May 2008

Editorial: Tsai faces a battle to reform the DPP

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has elected a new chairwoman, Tsai Ing-wen. She is taking over at a difficult time for the party: Tomorrow the DPP hands over the reins of government to the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and once again joins the ranks of the opposition. The DPP's political fortunes are foundering. The party controls just eight county and city governments in the south and 27 of the 113 seats in the legislature...

Taipei Times, 19 May 2008

Editorial: Beijing's responses show a new confidence

China has experienced two successive natural disasters - the ice storms that hit central China earlier this year and the devastating earthquake that ravaged Sichuan Province - even as its people awaited the Beijing Olympics. However, these disasters have not hindered the normalization of relations with China's neighbors, and the rapid and transparent reporting of the quake was an impressive demonstration of the nation's self-confidence...

Taipei Times, 19 May 2008

Editorial: Beijing gives an unprecedented transparent look at disaster

Graphic footage of death and destruction has been shown on China's state-run news networks in the days following the massive earthquake that hit southwest Sichuan Province last week. Such telling video has rarely been shown by domestic media so extensively and so quickly after a national disaster. CCTV, China's state-run TV network, as well as some local TV stations, have interrupted their regular programming to provide 24-hour coverage of the disaster...

The Hindu, 20 May 2008

Tents are our top need: China

Beijing: China has requested the international community to offer tents among other relief donations to survivors in quake-hit Sichuan. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said on Monday: "China would like the international community to give priority to tents when providing relief materials." Citing information from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Mr. Qin said many tents were required to shelter victims whose houses collapsed in the quakes, especially as it's raining in the affected areas now...

The Asian Age, 20 May 2008

Nathu-La trade begins amid new border row

Nathu La (Sikkim): Bilateral trade between India and China opened on Monday through the fabled Silk Road amid a fresh border row, with Beijing claiming a strip of land in Sikkim. "Border trade was earlier scheduled to open on May 1 but was postponed after Beijing requested New Delhi to delay the start following landslides in the Tibet Autonomous Region," said Ujwal Gurung, Sikkim's director of industry and commerce...

The Asian Age, 20 May 2008

Opinion: China breaks ice with 'fluff'

The venerable Economist of London, as well-known for its clever phrases as for the substance in its comments, has dismissed the recent visit to Japan by Chinese President Hu Jintao as "more fluff than substance". But having thus satisfied its love of clever writing, it then looks more seriously at the meaning of that visit, and it then discovers the following: That the visit took "officials on both sides by surprise"; that it is the longest by Mr Hu to any country while in office; is only the second by the Chinese head of state to Japan; that China has now become Japan's biggest trading partner, bigger than America, and thus services one of Japan's highest priorities, foreign trade; and the visit comes at a time when the present Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Yasuo Fukuda, unlike predecessor Junichiro Koizumi, refrains from angering China by paying visits to the Yasukuni shrine...

People's Daily, 20 May 2008

Glimmer of hope, 100 times the effort

An entire week has elapsed since the devastating quake hammered Southwest China's Sichuan Province. These days have been intermingled by both sadness and joy; and great dismay has been mixed with secretive hope, as people across China pray for the strong lives still trapped in the debris far beyond the "golden rescue time" limit. The central government has given its top priority and immediate attention to search-and-rescue efforts. Premier Wen Jiabao stressed on different occasions that as long as there is a glimmer of hope, we will spare no effort to save lives...

People's Daily, 20 May 2008

Indomitable strength cohered amid grief

When the sunshine again sheds on the land and the (minute) hand of the clock points at 4:57'40" a.m. Monday or on May 19, 2008, the bright-colored red flag slowly lowered to half-mast at the imposing Tiananmen Square in downtown Beijing. With the sounding of horns and air sirens, 1.3 billion people across China bowed their heads to observe three minutes of silence, and the history has frozen the frame of this moment at 2:28 p.m. (0628 GMT) on May 19, 2008...

Taipei Times, 20 May 2008

Ma prepares for inauguration

Incoming president Ma Ying-jeou of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) will be sworn in today, bringing an end to the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) eight years in office and ushering in a new era. Ma's inauguration will also mark the nation's second transition of power. Ma yesterday described his frame of mind on the eve of his inauguration as like "treading on thin ice and standing upon the edge of an abyss." Ma said he would remain vigilant and alert after taking the helm...

Taipei Times, 20 May 2008

Editorial: Lessons from the 921 Earthquake

The death toll from the Sichuan earthquake is in the tens of thousands and climbing. A reasonable assumption is that as communications and access in the disaster zone improve,

the number will grow still higher. Experience shows that disaster data and the type of disaster are factors determining the effectiveness of relief. Such was the case after Taiwan's 921 Earthquake...

The Hindu, 21 May 2008

Radioactive sources recovered

Chengdu: Nuclear facilities and radioactive sources for civilian purposes in southwest China's Sichuan Province have been confirmed safe and controllable after the May 12 quake, said an environment official here on Tuesday. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of environmental protection, told Xinhua that altogether 32 radioactive sources had been buried under debris during the 8-magnitude earthquake centred in Wenchuan County of Sichuan. So far, 30 have been recovered, according to Mr. Zhou...

The Indian Express, 21 May 2008

China calls off first Mansarovar Yatra batches due to 'domestic reasons'

New Delhi: The first two batches for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra have been cancelled off after China said it would not be able to host any Indian pilgrims before June 21 due to "domestic reasons". Though details have not been revealed, it is learnt that the delay has been caused due to uncertainty over the dates of the Olympic torch run through Tibet. Beijing was earlier not certain about the dates of the Olympic torch run as it had to be taken to the summit of Mt Everest...

The Times of India, 21 May 2008

China allots \$14 bn for relief in quake hit areas

Chinese premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday announced that the central government will spend 70 billion Yuan (\$10.14 billion) this year for setting up a reconstruction fund for the quake-hit regions. An additional 25 billion Yuan (\$3.57 billion) has been allocated for rescue and relief efforts in regions devastated by May 12 earthquake. The State Council, which is the Chinese cabinet, also decided to impose a five per cent cut in central government spending to meet the additional financial burden caused by the havoc...

The Times of India, 21 May 2008

Tibetan govt-in-exile calls for halt to anti-China protests

Dharamsala: The Tibetan government-in-exile on Wednesday called for a temporary halt to anti-China protests to express solidarity with the victims of the recent earthquake in southwest China's Sichuan province. "In order to express our solidarity with the great natural disaster that befell on China, Tibetans across the world should shun staging demonstrations in front of Chinese embassies in the respective host countries they live in at least till about the end of May," said a statement issued by the Tibetan government-in-exile...

People's Daily, 21 May 2008

Opinion: 'We are part of one Chinese nation'

The official death toll of the massive earthquake which shattered Sichuan Province last Monday has risen to 40,075; and is estimated to surpass 50,000, according to the disaster relief headquarters under the State Council. Facing the merciless, unpredictable death toll

updates, and shocked by the ordeal the quake survivors have gone through, Chinese people across the nation and overseas have wasted no time in offering a helping hand to their disaster-stricken compatriots and demonstrating how "blood runs thicker than water"...

People's Daily, 21 May 2008

Opinion: The world is with us upon rage of earthquake

Leaders worldwide have offered condolences to China over the deadly earthquake that jolted Wenchuan county in southwestern Sichuan province and adjacent areas. After the devastating quake hit Wenchuan county, the quake epicenter, on May 12, 2008, the international community and leaders of various countries have sent messages to Chinese leaders to extend their sympathy and solicitude for the quake victims...

Taipei Times, 21 May 2008

Ma takes the reins

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday called for cross-strait negotiation based on the "1992 consensus" in his inaugural address after becoming the nation's 12th president, and proposed reconciliation and detente. The "1992 consensus" describes the notion that both sides concede separate interpretations of the "one China" policy, but it is not universally recognized as valid in Taiwan...

Taipei Times, 21 May 2008

Editorial: Ma Ying-jeou: crossroads president

Following his "no unification, no independence, no use of force" campaign pledge, President Ma Ying-jeou told The Associated Press recently that unification with China was not likely "within our lifetimes," an extraordinary comment that discredits the narrative of detente that haunts credulous media coverage of cross-strait affairs. Hopes for the acceleration of cross-strait cooperation with a view to a peace deal are likely to be dashed if China is unwilling to fall into step with Ma's realistic assessment...

The Hindu, 22 May 2008

'Don't disrupt Olympics relay'

London: The Dalai Lama, who is here on what he described as a "non-political" visit, has appealed to Tibetans not to disrupt the Olympic torch relay. Reiterating his support for the upcoming Beijing Olympics, he said: "I appeal particularly to [people] inside Tibet to not disturb...the torch. I made it clear right from the beginning that we fully support the Olympic Games. The Olympic torch is part of that. We must respect, we must protect that"...

The Indian Express, 22 May 2008

China emerging as main source of arms to N-E rebels: Jane's Review

New Delhi: China has replaced Cambodia and Thailand as the main supplier of weapons to insurgent groups in India's Northeast and Myanmar, the Jane's Intelligence Review (JIR) has said. In an analysis of the Asian weapons black market, the defence think-tank says that the United Wa State Army (UWSA) rebel group in Myanmar acts as the "middleman" between Chinese arms manufacturers and insurgent groups in the

Northeast, with most weapons routed through China's Yunnan province...

The Indian Express, 22 May 2008

OP-Ed: Games China plays

The 4,056 km long frontier between India and China remains unmarked on map and ground. Talks to resolve the border issue have taken place over the last 20 years at different levels of officialdom without any fruitful result. Between 2002 and 2005 a degree of sanguineness did develop leading to hopes of an early breakthrough. But talks again started to cool off, mainly because of closer Indo-US ties and the possibility of the nuclear deal...

The Asian Age, 22 May 2008

Tibetans halt China protest

New Delhi: Opposed to the policies of the Chinese government on Tibet tooth and nail, the Central Tibetan Administration has asked community members all over the world to donate generously for the Chinese quake victims as a mark of solidarity. "This is a moment of crisis for the Chinese people. We are opposed to the Chinese government not to its people. We are paying homage to the dead and will try to help the quake victims in whatever way we can," Choekyang Wangchuk, member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile told this newspaper...

The Asian Age, 22 May 2008

China shifts focus to relief

Qingchuan (China): Heavy rain forecast for southwest China threatened to disrupt relief efforts on Wednesday and raise the risk of reservoir breaches in earthquake-stricken areas, where tents have become the most-wanted item. Thousands of aftershocks and a forecast of more rain compounded the difficulties for military, government and private workers trying to deliver aid and ensure millions get shelter as the focus turned inevitably from rescue to relief...

The Times of India, 22 May 2008

Nuclear watchdog warns of nuclear terror threat to Olympics

London: The Beijing Olympics could be the target of terrorists using radioactive material, possibly in the form of a "dirty bomb," an official from the IAEA nuclear watchdog told the BBC on Wednesday. Anita Nilsson, head of nuclear security at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the Vienna-based UN body was helping Chinese organisers with training exercises ahead of the Games in August...

People's Daily, 22 May 2008

Spending cuts to fuel quake relief

The State Council yesterday ordered government departments to cut spending by 5 percent this year to free up money for quake reconstruction. The money will help to finance a 70 billion yuan (10 billion U.S. dollars) fund for rebuilding after the May 12 quake, which killed tens of thousands, the Cabinet said on its website...

Taipei Times, 22 May 2008

No immediate plans to meet with Beijing, Ma says

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday ruled out the possibility of visiting China and Hong Kong but said official channels of communication between both sides of the Taiwan Strait would resume shortly. Emphasizing that his administration would like to resume bilateral talks based on the "1992 consensus," Ma told his first international press conference since taking the oath of office that he did not have any plan to visit China and there was no hurry for leaders of both sides to meet, but he was glad to see Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung visit China...



Hindu, 25 May 2008

China quake death toll may touch 80,000

YINGXIU: China said on Saturday that the death toll from its worst earthquake in a generation could climb past 80,000. Premier Wen Jiabao said the death toll had crossed 60,000. Fatalities 'may further climb to a level of 70,000, 80,000 or more,' said the Premier

Indian Express, 25 May 2008

In face of Beijing counterclaim, Delhi orders fresh 'hi-tech' survey of Sikkim

New Delhi, May 24: Stumped by fresh Chinese claims in North Sikkim that Beijing seeks to substantiate by producing maps which it says are 'more accurate' because they have been plotted using the best available technology, the government has asked the Survey of India to carry out a fresh survey of the Northern plateau in Sikkim using latest methods to validate and verify Indian positions. Until now, India has relied on a 1924 Survey of India map of the area which records 23 stone cairns in the area that the Chinese now threaten to destroy. In all, the Chinese claim 2.1 sq km in what is referred to as the 'Finger Area' in Sikkim's northern plateau. Given that this falls in the plateau area where the watershed  ?? the geographical divide used in mountains to demarcate boundaries  ?? is not clearly identified at times, sources said, the survey is aimed at marking out the watershed

People's Daily, 25 May 2008

China raises four-point proposal for Sino-Russian ties

President Hu Jintao raised a four-point proposal to further develop the China-Russia strategic partnership during talks with visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev here on Friday. First, Hu suggested that the two countries further strengthen political mutual trust and support. The two sides should abide by the principles of the Sino-Russian Good-Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, comprehensively carry out the spirit of generation friendship and cooperation, make full use of high-level meetings and consultation systems between officials of the two nations, exchange views on bilateral ties and other key issues of common concern, and continuously support each other on crucial issues such as sovereignty and the integrity of territory, state security, stability and development, Hu said

People's Daily, 26 May 2008

China-Russia friendship blossoms

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev kicked off today his two-day visit to China. As China is the first non-Commonwealth of Independent States member country on Medvedev's first tour abroad since he was sworn in on May 7, the visit marks the importance the two countries have attached to a strategic partnership of cooperation; and maps out a blueprint for bilateral ties in the future

Taipei Times, 27 May 2008

Wu arrives on historic visit to China

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung led a delegation of 16 KMT officials to China yesterday, vowing to help develop cross-strait peace while safeguarding the interests of Taiwanese. 'We can feel the heavy responsibility on our shoulders. We will do our best to play our roles [on cross-strait issues],' Wu said when approached for comment at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport yesterday morning

Taipei Times, 27 May 2008

EDITORIAL: Beijing's new (old) best friend

As the Cold War taught us, fear and the inability to fully predict the opponent's true intentions can lead to acts that, in the worst of times, have taken humanity to the brink of catastrophe. The Berlin Blockade, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the nuclear arms race between East and West are but three examples of misinterpreted signals or flawed communication that could have ended in disaster. What these three and other instances of brinkmanship have in common is that fear ♦?? fear of the unknown ♦?? guided policymakers and made them adopt strategies that, with hindsight, look like sheer folly

Yomiuri Shimbun, 27 May 2008

China to set up 1 million temporary homes by Aug. 10

DUJIANGYAN, China--The Chinese government now plans to put up temporary housing for 250,000 survivors of the Sichuan Province earthquake within a month and for 1 million in 2-1/2 months, but disaster management experts predict problems ahead. The immediate issue is how to secure accommodation for the 5 million people made homeless by the earthquake in Sichuan Province. The Chinese government plans to deploy soldiers and construction workers across the country to help put up temporary housing

Chosun Ilbo, 27 May 2008

Chinese Crab Fishing Boats Crowd Korean Waters

It is a bumper season for crab fishing in Yeonpyeong Island in the West Sea, with the catch standing at 44.3 tons in April, eight times more than the 5.5 tons caught a year ago. Yet fishermen in the island, far from rejoicing, complain they have had enough of Chinese fishing boats encroaching on their fishing grounds

Chosun Ilbo, 27 May 2008

Korean Navy to Set Up Hotline With China

According to a report issued Tuesday at Armed Forces headquarters during a National Assembly audit, a direct line of communication with the Chinese Navy 'for the purpose of mutual information exchange' is to be set up in December. According to a report issued Tuesday at Armed Forces headquarters during a National Assembly audit, a direct line of

communication with the Chinese Navy 'for the purpose of mutual information exchange' is to be set up in December

Times of India, 28 May 2008

'Survey on in Sikkim region eyed by China'

NEW DELHI: Army chief General Deepak Kapoor said on Tuesday that India was conducting a survey in a region of Sikkim over which China has recently laid claim. Kapoor said there was nothing unusual in the survey as such exercises were on in other places too, but the move appears to be aimed at revalidating New Delhi's position in the face of Beijing's claim. The army chief said there was no problem "between us and them" over the north Sikkim area called 'Finger Point'. "Within our territory, we can survey and patrol as we have been doing for years," Kapoor said on the sidelines of a defence seminar

People's Daily, 28 May 2008

Strategic partnership with ROK announced

Beijing and Seoul will upgrade their relationship from a "comprehensive cooperative partnership" to a "strategic cooperative partnership" while intensifying cooperation in security, trade and people-to-people exchanges. The announcement was made yesterday by President Hu Jintao and his Republic of Korea (ROK) counterpart Lee Myung-bak after 80 minutes of talks

People's Daily, 28 May 2008

China to meet DPRK, U.S., ROK, Japan in Beijing for nuclear talks progress

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei will hold talks respectively with chief delegates to the six-party talks from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, said a Foreign ministry spokesman here Tuesday. The five parties, which are expected to exchange views on how to promote the six-party talks process, are working on specific arrangements, said Chinese Foreign spokesman Qin Gang at a regular press conference

Taipei Times, 28 May 2008

Ma's peace talk just the beginning (Edward Chen)

In his inaugural address last Tuesday, President Ma Ying-jeou sought to sweep away eight years of gloom and to set a cautious, yet optimistic, foundation for three-way relations between Taiwan, China and the US. But while Ma has bid farewell to the past, new and difficult problems have emerged. Through a multi-layered strategic approach in his inaugural speech, Ma used security and trade relations between Taiwan and the US as backup and the potential for another power transfer as bargaining chips in an attempt to seek cross-strait negotiations with Beijing on highly sensitive issues such as the threat of Taiwan's marginalization in the economic integration of Southeast Asia and its shrinking international space. At the same time, Ma utilized the improvement in cross-strait relations as a leverage for engaging in talks with Washington on intellectual property rights enforcement, import of US agricultural products and weapon sales to Taiwan

Chosun Ilbo, 28 May 2008

Lee, Hu Agree to Upgrade Bilateral Relationship

President Lee Myung-bak met with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing on Tuesday. The two leaders agreed to upgrade the bilateral relationship from the current "comprehensive cooperation" to 'strategic cooperation." Hu agreed to pay a return visit to Korea in the second half of this year. In a joint press conference after the summit at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday afternoon, Hu said the two countries 'agreed to make a joint four-point effort to develop a partnership of strategic cooperation."

Chosun Ilbo, 28 May 2008

Japan, China Agree to Promote Strategic Ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on Wednesday morning issued a joint statement in Tokyo agreeing to develop a future-oriented 'strategic reciprocal relationship." The concept is based on a diplomatic principle of acknowledging the difference in their respective positions, and pursuing and promoting common interests. The principle was first adopted as the basic spirit for the bilateral relations by Hu and then Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe in a summit in October 2006

People's Daily, 30 May 2008

KMT chairman appeals for more cross-Strait economic, cultural exchanges

Kuomintang (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung said here on Thursday that he hoped the people across the Taiwan Strait would have more economic and cultural exchange. Shanghai was the third stop on Wu's six-day mainland tour. He met with General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Hu Jintao in Beijing on Wednesday

People's Daily, 30 May 2008

China, Vietnam vow to further parliamentary exchange

The Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) is willing to deepen exchanges with the Vietnamese parliament of each other's experience in administrative theories and the building of democracy and rule of law, China's top legislator said on Friday. "The NPC and the Vietnamese parliament have been maintaining an all-level and deepened cooperation that pushes forward the relations between the two countries," said NPC Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo

People's Daily, 30 May 2008

ROK president concludes four-day state visit to China after tour to quake-hit Sichuan

The president of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Lee Myung-bak, left southwest China on Friday afternoon as he wrapped up a four-day state visit. Prior to his departure, Lee traveled by bus to Dujiangyan, a city in Sichuan Province severely damaged in the May 12 quake disaster. Lee visited a damaged Bank of China local branch and survivor shelters in the city. He expressed condolences to survivors and visited pupils in a primary school temporarily established in the shelters

Taipei Times, 31 May 2008

Japan decides against sending planes to PRC

Japan has decided not to use military planes to deliver relief goods to quake-hit China, government officials said yesterday, after Beijing voiced uneasiness over the mission. The Japanese government later announced additional aid of up to ¥500 million (US\$4.76 million) in earthquake relief, in addition to the same amount that Tokyo had promised earlier this month

Taipei Times, 31 May 2008

DPP slams cross-strait talks plan

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) attacked the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) administration's handling of cross-strait talks, claiming that its rush to deliver President Ma Ying-jeou's campaign pledge on weekend passenger charter flights and Chinese tourism has ignored a more important need — regular cargo charter flights for Taiwan's high-tech industry. Lin Chen-wei, director of the DPP's International Affairs Department, made the comments one day after Mainland Affairs Council Chairwoman Lai Shin-yuan said that when Taiwan and China resume cross-strait talks on June 12, the aim will be to complete consultations on the two issues by July

Taipei Times, 31 May 2008

Diplomacy will be guided by dignity, flexibility: Liu

The government will adhere to the principles of 'dignity, autonomy, pragmatism and flexibility' in its diplomatic affairs, Premier Liu Chao-shiuan said yesterday. 'Although the government hopes that our number of diplomatic allies will increase, improving the quality of all diplomatic relations is far more important,' he said in his first report to the legislature. He said the government would seek to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation with the US and Japan while helping to ensure regional peace in East Asia

Asahi Shimbun, 31 May 2008

Plan scrapped to use SDF for quake-hit China

The government said Friday it will not use Self-Defense Forces aircraft to deliver supplies to quake victims in China, citing concerns among the Chinese related to the wartime history between the two countries. The government plans to charter commercial planes instead to transport tents, blankets and other goods to China's Sichuan province devastated by the May 12 earthquake, officials said

Chosun Ilbo, 31 May 2008

China Insists Korea-U.S. Alliance 'a Cold-War Hangover'

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang on Thursday stood by an earlier statement describing the Korea-U.S. military alliance as 'a historical relic and a leftover of the Cold War.' Coinciding with President Lee Myung-bak's visit to China, Qin said the alliance 'cannot resolve security issues of the contemporary world.'