

People's Daily, 1 November 2008

President Hu Jintao calls for more domestic needs to keep economic growth

Chinese President Hu Jintao has called for creating more domestic needs to keep stability of the country's financial market and economic growth. Hu, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remark during his visit to Yulin city in northwest China's Shaanxi Province from Oct. 28 to 29. He told the accompanying provincial Party chief Zhao Leji and governor Yuan Chunqing that the basic situation of China's economic development was still fine amid the international financial tsunami and the world economy's slowdown...

People's Daily, 1 November 2008

Premier Wen calls for implementation of Scientific Outlook on Development

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has called for more implementation of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) latest creed of Scientific Outlook on Development. In Wen's article to be published in the CPC Central Committee's Qiushi Journal on Nov. 1, the Premier called on Party members to more actively study the theory. The Premier stressed that to implement the Party's new theory, China should adapt its economic development to social progress, adapt political reform to economic reform and keep a balance between opening up and self-relied innovation...

Taipei Times, 1 November 2008

Liu adds financial memorandum to ARATS visit

Premier Liu Chao-shiuan said yesterday the government wished to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cross-strait financial supervision with China when Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin visits Taipei next week. Signing an MOU, a prelude to enhancing exchanges in financial sectors across the Strait, was not among the four agreements the government planned to ink with China during the second round of negotiations between Chen and his Taiwanese counterpart, Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Chiang Pin-kung...

Taipei Times, 1 November 2008

Editorial: The beginning of civil disobedience

A veil has been drawn over the world's media. Last weekend's half-million strong protest against China and the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou barely rated a mention in major outlets. Instead, a trifling incident in Tainan involving a flatfooted Chinese delegation and poor security measures was blown out of proportion by local and international media and the government. Prosecutors are leading the charge and champng at the bit to kill a few chickens and scare a few monkeys - the chickens being the elderly and excitable hacks from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the monkeys those who dare oppose government policy on China...

The Hindu, 2 November 2008

Domestic needs must drive economy: Hu

Beijing: Chinese President Hu Jintao has called for creating more domestic needs to maintain stability of the country's financial market and economic growth. He made these remarks during a visit to Yulin in northwest China's Shaanxi Province on October 28-29. Mr. Hu made the visit soon after the 17th CPC Central Committee ended its third Plenary Session, which had announced many measures for farmers...

People's Daily, 2 November 2008

SEF releases schedule of mainland delegation's trip to Taiwan

The Taiwan-based Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) on Saturday released the

schedule of the mainland delegation's visit to the island. Chen Yunlin, president of mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), will lead a delegation to Taiwan from Nov. 3 to 7. It will be the first meeting held in the island between the two organizations...

People's Daily, 2 November 2008

President Hu calls on women to make more contributions

Chinese President Hu Jintao has called on Chinese women to make more contributions to the country. Hu, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remark on Saturday when he met with the newly elected leaders of the All-China Women's Federation and some delegates to the 10th National Women's Congress...

Taipei Times, 2 November 2008

Editorial: Negotiations carry significant risks

After President Ma Ying-jeou said in an interview with the journal India and Global Affairs last month that he hoped to sign a cross-strait peace agreement, China responded a week later when Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Vice Chairman Wang Zaixi said the next step for both sides would be the signing of a peace accord on the basis of the "1992 consensus." However, the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) 17th National Congress report stated on Oct. 15 that a peace deal should be reached under the "one China" principle...

Taipei Times, 2 November 2008

Editorial: A three-pronged confidence crisis

Debate on the so-called mobbing of Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Vice Chairman Zhang Mingqing in Tainan last week has focused on whether the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) should draw a line between itself and those involved so that its image won't be tarnished. Commentators have largely overlooked the real problem here: There is a high degree of uncertainty about Taiwan's future and a crisis of confidence about the nation's sovereignty...

The Asian Age, 3 November 2008

Dalai Lama: My faith in China shrinking

Tokyo: The Dalai Lama said on Sunday that the situation in his native Tibet is deteriorating and he has little faith that ongoing negotiations with the Chinese government will lead to greater autonomy for the region. The exiled spiritual leader has followed a "middle way" approach with Beijing in which he seeks some form of autonomy that would allow Tibetans to freely practice their culture, language and religion...

The Times of India, 3 November 2008

Global crisis makes 2008 China's worst year in recent times: Wen

Beijing: The global financial crisis has made 2008 the worst year for China in recent memory, with growth and inflation posing serious challenges, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said in a signed article. "We must be aware that this year is the worst in recent times for our economic development," Wen said in the article, which was carried by Qiushi, a journal published by the Communist Party...

The Times of India, 3 November 2008

Chinese official begins historic trip to Taiwan

Taipei: China's top negotiator on Taiwan affairs left on Monday for the self-ruled

island that Beijing claims as its own on a historic trip on which trade and transit deals are expected to be signed as opposition leaders protest. Chen Yunlin, the highest-level Chinese official to land on the island in decades, is due to stay until Friday to sign agreements on cargo shipments, direct flights and global financial cooperation...

People's Daily, 3 November 2008

China refutes reports of helping anti-gov't groups in India

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Sunday the media reports that China helped anti-government groups in northeast India were groundless. The Times of India and Jane's Intelligence Review reported that China had supplied weapons to anti-government groups in India's northeast...

People's Daily, 3 November 2008

NBS chief: China's economy in good shape despite global financial turmoil

China's economy is in good shape despite the changing economic environment, and it will maintain stable and relatively fast growth, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) chief Ma Jiantang told Xinhua on Sunday. "The fundamentals of China's economy remain unchanged despite the changing world economic environment," the new NBS director said. "We should be confident about the country's economic outlook"...

Taipei Times, 3 November 2008

Editorial: Ma has a lot riding on talks

Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin is scheduled to arrive in Taipei today for talks. President Ma Ying-jeou says that the four agreements due to be signed at Chen's meeting with Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung are necessary for Taiwan, and he has sought to dispel fears of a sellout. He says the agreements will be enormously beneficial to Taiwan's development...

Taipei Times, 3 November 2008

Editorial: Beijing must change its mindset

After official talks between Taiwan and China were frozen for a decade, Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin finally agreed to visit Taiwan. Given the problems that have occurred during the last 20 years of interaction between Taiwan and China, the two sides have to make the most of this historic opportunity to begin a dialogue and agree on a legal framework that will assure peace across the Taiwan Strait...

Taipei Times, 3 November 2008

Editorial: It's time for the government to act like one

President Ma Ying-jeou and Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Chairwoman Lai Shin-yuan have both said the government's position and policies on cross-strait issues were not so different than those of the Democratic Progressive Party (DDP) and they couldn't understand why DPP Chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen thought the government has changed its policies. If Tsai saw this statement, she would probably feel upset but also find it amusing at the same time...

Taipei Times, 3 November 2008

Editorial: Safeguard Taiwan's national interests

Talks between Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin start this week. We know that the talks will cover four major issues: the direct shipping of

goods, proposals for more direct flight routes for air cargo, postal issues and food safety and sanitation...

The Times of India, 4 November 2008

Taiwan, China sign trade pact

Taipei: Taiwan and China set aside decades of hostilities on Tuesday and agreed to expand flights and allow shipping links across the Taiwan Strait -- a potential hotspot that has long threatened to become a war zone. The historic deal highlighted the dramatic improvement in relations in the past half year between the rivals that split amid a bloody civil war in 1949. They agreed on Tuesday to hold high-level talks every six months and focus on building closer financial ties in the next round of meetings...

People's Daily, 4 November 2008

ARATS, SEF chiefs hold talks in Taipei

The heads of the two main negotiating bodies of the Chinese mainland and Taiwan sat down together in Taipei on Tuesday morning for their first ever summit in Taiwan. The mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) president, Chen Yunlin, and the Taiwan-based Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) chairman, Chiang Pin-kung, began talks in Taipei. Chen thanked Taiwan compatriots for their understanding and support for the meeting, which he said was a milestone for the positive development of the cross-strait relationship...

People's Daily, 4 November 2008

New missiles debut at Airshow China in Zhuhai

The 7th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition will be held on November 4th to 9th, 2008 in Zhuhai Airshow Centre, South China's Guangdong province. At the exhibition, "the Chinese missile defense system concept" will be comprehensively displayed. A new set of Chinese missile equipment, including the SY 400 rocket-powered guided missile weapon system, will make its debut...

Taipei Times, 4 November 2008

SEF, ARATS heads begin historic talks

Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin and his 60-member delegation arrived from China yesterday, kicking off five days of high-level talks between Taipei and Beijing amid a heavy police presence and a slew of protests. The highest-ranking Chinese official to ever visit Taiwan arrived in a chartered Air China Boeing 737-800 at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport at 11:46am. The countries resumed talks in June after a 10-year hiatus...

Taipei Times, 4 November 2008

Dalai Lama says Tibet autonomy drive has failed

The Dalai Lama said yesterday that the drive for greater autonomy for Tibet has ended in failure, urging Tibetans to be open to all options in negotiations with Beijing over the region's future. The exiled leader is on a week-long visit to Japan for talks on spirituality as the latest negotiations between his envoys and Chinese officials were due to begin in Beijing...

Taipei Times, 4 November 2008

Editorial: Fear and loathing in Taipei

The security measures that the Ma Ying-jeou government has implemented for the arrival of Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin must be awakening a sense of dread in anyone old enough to have lived in the

Martial Law era under dictator Chiang Kai-shek. In fact, so ostentatious was the presence of police and National Security Bureau officers at critical venues along Chen's path from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to the Grand Hotel in Shilin that the Chinese envoy must have felt right at home...

Taipei Times, 4 November 2008

Editorial: Only time will tell on US support for Taiwan

Tomorrow, Americans will have decided who their next president will be. In the last few weeks, US leaders and citizens have had their interest almost entirely focused on the country's economy and who will fix its problems. During the upcoming months, Taiwanese will also continue to focus their attention on the economy and on the efforts of the new president to change their relationship with China. Any changes in the US-Taiwan relationship, however, will not take place soon...

The Hindu, 5 November 2008

Debut of Chinese J-10, FBC-1 fighters

Zhuhai (Guangdong): The 7th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition - Airshow China - opened on Tuesday with the star attraction of the home debut of China's home-built J-10 fighter. China will also showcase its FBC-1 fighter in Zhuhai, said organisers. Some 600 aviation businesses from 35 countries and regions attended the largest show of its kind in China, with more than 60 aircraft being exhibited...

The Hindu, 5 November 2008

China-Taiwan pacts usher in new era

Beijing: Experts from across the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday hailed the agreements signed and the talks between the heads of the two main negotiating bodies of China and Taiwan, saying they opened a new era in cross-Strait ties. During the talks between the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) president, Chen Yunlin, and the Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) chairman, Chiang Pin-kung, four agreements were signed on food safety, direct shipping and flights, and mail services...

The Indian Express, 5 November 2008

Another airfield reopened on China border

New Delhi: India has reopened another strategic airstrip along its unresolved border with China in Eastern Ladakh that will give it the capability to rapidly induct troops in the region. The Fukche Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) was reactivated on Tuesday morning with the IAF landing a AN 32 medium transport aircraft on the newly refurbished airstrip...

The Indian Express, 5 November 2008

China blasts Dalai Lama for raising doubts about negotiations

Beijing: China's state media launched a scathing attack on Tuesday on the Dalai Lama over recent comments expressing doubt over the usefulness of new talks between Beijing and his Tibetan government-in-exile. The Xinhua News Agency commentary issued Tuesday came as the sides were believed to be preparing for their first negotiations since Beijing hosted the Olympics in August. The Tibetan envoys arrived in Beijing on Thursday, although it isn't clear whether any actual talks have taken place...

The Times of India, 5 November 2008

Finally, Pranab calls China a challenge

New Delhi: The rise of China is a strategic challenge to a rising India. After years of dancing around this central factor in India's foreign policy, foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee, for the first time, has described China as a security "challenge and a priority", but significantly not as an opportunity. India, said Mukherjee, would have to develop "more sophisticated ways of dealing with these new challenges posed by China"...

People's Daily, 5 November 2008

Mainland, Taiwan agree on direct cross-Straits transport, mail

The Chinese mainland and Taiwan agreed on Tuesday to allow civilian planes and ships to directly cross the Taiwan Straits. The mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) president, Chen Yunlin, and Taiwan-based Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) chairman, Chiang Pin-kung, signed agreements on direct shipping and flights, postal services and food safety during their first summit in Taipei on Tuesday...

People's Daily, 5 November 2008

Hu to attend G20 summit on crisis

President Hu Jintao will attend the G20 summit on the global financial crisis slated for next Saturday in Washington DC, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday. "At the invitation of US President George W. Bush, President Hu Jintao will attend the G20 summit on financial markets and the world economy on November 15," spokesman Qin Gang said...

Taipei Times, 5 November 2008

Chen and Chiang sign four agreements

Taipei and Beijing inked four agreements yesterday, agreeing to drastically expand flights and allow shipping links across the Taiwan Strait. The four pacts addressed direct sea links, daily charter flights, direct postal service and food safety. While the agreement on food safety will take effect within seven days, the other three will be implemented after 40 days...

Taipei Times, 5 November 2008

THE LIBERTY TIMES EDITORIAL: One nation loses in talks: Taiwan

Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin is now in Taiwan. Since the governments of Taiwan and China do not recognize each other, they rely on the semi-official ARATS and its Taiwanese counterpart, the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), to handle communications between the two sides. Chen and SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung held talks in Beijing in June, but this is the first time the two have met on Taiwanese soil, and both governments have taken the event seriously...

The Hindu, 6 November 2008

Among China's youth, a craze for the winner

Shanghai: In China, where the youth are unused to young and charismatic political figures, Barack Obama is proving to be a huge hit. News of Mr. Obama's electoral triumph has generated much enthusiasm in the country, with his story of hope and his victory against the odds particularly capturing the imagination of Chinese youth. An online poll conducted by State newspaper China Daily on Tuesday found a massive 75 per cent in favour of Mr. Obama's election...

The Times of India, 6 November 2008

China official meets Taiwan president amid protests

Taipei: Taiwan's president met briefly on Thursday with a Chinese official in one of the highest-level contacts between the two sides since the Chinese civil war, while protesters clashed with riot police outside. President Ma Ying-jeou met China's top Taiwan affairs negotiator, Chen Yunlin, who has already signed agreements opening up trade and transport between the two sides that in past years have edged to the brink of war...

People's Daily, 6 November 2008

China issues first Latin American policy paper, eyes closer ties

China released its first policy paper on Latin America and the Caribbean on Wednesday ahead of President Hu Jintao's Latin American tour, eyeing closer ties with the region. "The policy paper was formulated with an aim to further clarify the goals of China's policy in this region and outline guiding principles for future cooperation," said Yang Wanming, director-general of the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs of the Foreign Ministry...

People's Daily, 6 November 2008

China, Algeria call for further development of ties, intensified co-op

China and Algeria voiced commitment here Wednesday to step up bilateral strategic and cooperative relations and called for intensified cooperation in fields such as infrastructure, energy and resource exploration. In his meeting with Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia, visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo called Algeria as "an important cooperation partner," noting that China highly values its strategic and cooperative relations with Algeria...

Taipei Times, 6 November 2008

Editorial: The trampling of Taiwan's rights

Nov. 3, 2008, was a historic day for Taiwan, not because Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin met, but because it was the first of several days when the capital of the Republic of China was effectively ruled by the People's Republic of China (PRC). Nov. 3 was a day that saw both the nation's dignity and human rights trampled...

Taipei Times, 6 November 2008

Editorial: Taiwan must stand up for itself

I urge the public to remember Nov. 3, 2008. On this day, President Ma Ying-jeou once again pushed Taiwan significantly closer toward China. In order to promote the visit of Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) mobilized all their resources and approaches. Suddenly, all voices of opposition vanished from our nation to create the illusion that everyone was looking forward to Chen's visit...

The Indian Express, 7 November 2008

India, China must work together: envoy

Thimphu: Both India and China will suffer if the two countries do not work together for mutual benefits, said Zhang Yan, the Chinese Ambassador to India in the context of the External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's recent comments about China posing a strategic threat to India. He was speaking at the sidelines of the Bhutan King's Coronation Ceremony here in Thimphu this morning...

The Indian Express, 7 November 2008

Op-Ed: A brief reprieve

Relations between China and Taiwan have been strained since the two countries split in 1949. Technically, the two countries remain at war since China fails to accept Taiwanese sovereignty. This round of negotiations comes after a 60-year hiatus. The deal is a step towards normalising trade relations between the two rivals. Direct transport links between the two countries have been restricted since 1970 - the new deal signed between the two powers alter this...

The Asian Age, 7 November 2008

China warns Dalai on Tibet freedom

Beijing: A Chinese official who met this week with representatives of the Dalai Lama said the exiled spiritual leader must accept that any form of independence for Tibet is impossible, state media said on Thursday. Mr Du Qinglin, head of the united front work department, the department in charge of the talks, said China will not waver in the slightest on preserving national unity, the official Xinhua News Agency reported...

The Times of India, 7 November 2008

Chinese envoy ends Taiwan visit amid violent protests

Taipei: China's top envoy Chen Yunlin on Friday wrapped up a historic visit to Taiwan paving the way for closer cooperation between the traditional rivals but overshadowed by massive and sometimes violent protests. Chen made history on Thursday when he met Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou and was the most senior Chinese official from Beijing to visit the island since it split from China at the end of a civil war in 1949. But angry protests followed his five-day visit at every turn...

People's Daily, 7 November 2008

ARATS president: Cross-Strait historical problems could be solved through mutual trust

Chinese mainland's chief negotiator on Taiwan affairs Chen Yunlin said Thursday that complicated historical problems across the Taiwan Strait could well be resolved through mutual trust. Chen, president of the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS), told a banquet, held in the island's landmark Grand Hotel, that problems could be settled as long as the two sides made concerted efforts with "kindness and wisdom" to create conditions and firstly solve economic and livelihood problems closely linked with public interests...

Taipei Times, 7 November 2008

Editorial: Ma must talk straight to Taiwanese

President Ma Ying-jeou finally explained the government's stance a week before Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin was scheduled to visit Taiwan. While a late explanation is better than none at all, these TV interviews actually exposed more problems. Responding to public doubts about his leaning toward China, especially his description of Taiwan and China as "two areas," Ma gave a straight answer, saying that the areas of Taiwan and China coexist under the Republic of China (ROC) in accordance with the Additional Articles of the Constitution of the ROC and the Statute Governing Relations Between Peoples of the Taiwan Area and the Ma...

The Hindu, 8 November 2008

China, Taiwan happy over talks

Taipei: Chinese chief negotiator on Taiwan affairs Chen Yunlin returned to Beijing on Friday completing a five-day historic visit to Taiwan. Mr. Chen is the president of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). "The visit completed a

long-awaited and honoured mission entrusted by compatriots across the strait," said Mr. Chen at a brief send-off ceremony in Taipei...

The Indian Express, 8 November 2008

Pranab never said China was a threat: MEA

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday sought to downplay External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's comments earlier this week that "coping with the rise of China" was foremost in the immediate challenges which India is facing and that China was furthering its interests "more aggressively". An official statement by the MEA spokesperson said, "At no point in his speech did the Minister use the word 'threat' to describe China..."

People's Daily, 8 November 2008

China, Gabon agree to strengthen economic ties

China and Gabon signed a pact on economic and technological cooperation here Friday in an effort to push for more and better cooperation in large-scale projects. The agreement was signed after visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo held talks with Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba in the presidential palace here...

People's Daily, 8 November 2008

EU applauds cross-Straits efforts to improve relations

The European Union (EU) on Friday welcomed the continued efforts by both sides of the Taiwan Straits to improve relations, which contribute significantly to stability and security in East Asia. In a statement issued by the EU's French presidency, the 27-member bloc applauded the success of the recent talks between Chen Yunlin, president of the Chinese mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), and Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Taiwan-based Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), earlier this week in Taipei...

Taipei Times, 8 November 2008

Violence ends, finger-pointing begins

The Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) traded accusations yesterday, with each side blaming the other for chaotic protests during Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin's visit to Taipei. Violent protests against Chen's visit during the past four days have resulted in clashes between police and protesters...

Taipei Times, 8 November 2008

Editorial: Obama, his aides and Taiwan's future

US president-elect Barack Obama completed his victory on Tuesday night with a speech as stirring as it was carefully worded. It would come as no surprise if his fine words moved as many people of other nations as the people of his own. Indeed, his words included a pledge that credibility in the eyes of the rest of the world is an important part of the US agenda once again: "...our destiny is shared," he said, "and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand"...

The Hindu, 9 November 2008

China's history: set in ice, hidden in a cave

Washington: A stalagmite rising from the floor of a cave in China is providing clues to the end of several dynasties in Chinese history. Slowly built from the minerals in dripping water over 1,810 years, chemicals in the stone tell a tale of strong and weak cycles of the monsoon, the life-giving rains that water crops to feed millions of

people. Dry periods coincided with the demise of the Tang, Yuan and Ming dynasties, researchers report in latest edition of the journal Science...

The Asian Age, 9 November 2008

China, India will have a key role to play in crisis

New Delhi: India and China will be the major actors in devising the new global financial architecture, which will emerge out of the present economic crisis, according to the chairman of the Prime Minister's economic advisory council, Prof. Suresh Tendulkar. "Advance countries are undergoing recession whereas developing countries like India are growing," Prof. Tendulkar told this newspaper in an interview. He said that the energy of the developed countries would be spent on how to come out of the crisis...

The Asian Age, 9 November 2008

China increases troops in Lhasa

Lhasa: China has increased its military presence in Tibetan capital Lhasa amid fears that "separatist" supporters of the Dalai Lama plan a repeat of the bloody March 2008 riots. Military personnel with machine guns are conducting routine patrols around Lhasa's historic Barkhor district. Snipers are also positioned on rooftops and stairwells. During a four-day visit to the Buddhist kingdom, The Courier-Mail also witnessed monks being bundled into a police van close to Lhasa's historic Jokhang temple...

People's Daily, 9 November 2008

Chinese president, Obama discuss relations, int'l issues on phone

Chinese President Hu Jintao and U.S. president-elect Barack Obama Saturday discussed in a telephone conversation relations between China and the United States and major international issues of common concern, including the ongoing global financial crisis. In the telephone conversation, Hu expressed appreciation to Obama for emphasizing in his election campaign speeches the great importance of China-U.S. relations, and for advocating the strengthening of China-U.S. cooperation in jointly responding to global challenges and in sharing global development opportunities...

People's Daily, 9 November 2008

UN announces Beijing Declaration on climate change

The United Nations released the Beijing Declaration here on Saturday, calling for strengthened international cooperation and improved technology transfers to battle climate change. The declaration was issued at the end of a high-level conference that opened on Friday, co-organized by China and the UN, attended by more than 600 people including 30 ministerial officials and four UN agency heads...

People's Daily, 9 November 2008

China tries to revive economy despite daunting challenges

Although China doesn't celebrate Christmas, Lou Qijun is one of the many Chinese toy and gift manufacturers who anticipates a visit from Santa Claus every year in the form of seasonal orders from the Europe and North America. Not so this year, says Lou, chairman of Yiwu Qiling Toys Co. Ltd., a leading toy producer in east China's Yiwu City, Zhejiang Province, after returning from the Canton Fair, the country's biggest trade show which concluded on Thursday...

Taipei Times, 9 November 2008

Students reconvene, protest on

"We want human rights" chanted students at National Taiwan Democracy Memorial Hall as they continued their sit-in for a third day, demanding an apology from the government over what they called the "rough" tactics used by police to deal with protesters during the visit by China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin last week. Despite the poor weather yesterday, more than 100 students wore simple raincoats and remained sitting in protest in the Taipei rain...

Taipei Times, 9 November 2008

Editorial: A tale of 'one China' and 'two Taiwans'

"One China, two Taiwans" is a concept that was proposed by some academics several years ago. While the "one China" view is getting stronger, the "two Taiwans" has become adrift following the "rise" of China. Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin was wined and dined by former Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) chairman Lien Chan and People First Party Chairman James Soong, and pro-unification groups and people from the corporate sector also welcomed his visit last week. This is one of the two Taiwans...

Taipei Times, 9 November 2008

Editorial: Cross-strait detente is only theater

Last Tuesday, four agreements were signed between Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and its Chinese counterpart, the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). Taiwan will pay a heavy price for this theatrical show of cross-strait detente. Let us leave aside for the moment the measures reminiscent of martial law taken by the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou to protect ARATS Chairman Chen Yunlin and stifle any kind of protest, and consider instead the content and consequences of the SEF-ARATS meeting...

Taipei Times, 9 November 2008

Editorial: Don't expect a miraculous revival

On Tuesday, representatives of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) signed agreements that will expand the charter passenger flights between the two sides, permit airlines to ply a more direct route to save fuel and time, make cross-strait cargo flights possible and allow for direct shipping links, in addition to agreements on postal services and food safety issues. Advocates of the normalization of cross-strait economic ties said the agreements reflected popular demand and would boost bilateral trade...

The Hindu, 10 November 2008

India, China want peaceful solution to border dispute, says Pranab

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh): Rebuffing China's claim on Arunachal Pradesh, India on Sunday asserted that the north-eastern State is its integral part and ruled out ceding any of its part. "China is often making claims on Arunachal Pradesh, but Arunachal Pradesh has a special place in our heart," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee Mukherjee, who visited the 400-year-old Buddhist monastery here in this border town said...

The Times of India, 10 November 2008

Dalai Lama followers responsible for talks breakdown: China

Beijing: China on Monday said the Dalai Lama's followers had broken the promises made by them last June, which is the reason for the breakdown of the latest round of talks between them and the Chinese government. This is the first time the Chinese

government has admitted that the talks had broken down last week. It comes in the wake of a statement by Dalai Lama that he has lost hope in the success of talks with the Chinese government...

People's Daily, 10 November 2008

China says no compromise on national sovereignty, refutes Dalai's so-called "middle way"

China said here Monday that no concessions would be made on issues concerning the national sovereignty following talks between central government officials and private envoys of the Dalai Lama. "The unification of the motherland, territorial integrity and the national dignity are the greatest interests of the Chinese people. We will never make a concession," Zhu Weiqun, executive vice minister of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, told reporters...

People's Daily, 10 November 2008

Survey: More than 70% Taiwan people satisfied with cross-Strait agreements

A poll reveals high approval ratings from the Taiwan public over recently signed cross-Strait agreements. The survey, released by Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council on Sunday, found more than 70 percent of people on the island supported the regular cross-Strait talks mechanism. More than 60 percent believed the agreements on food safety, direct shipping and flights, and mail services were good for Taiwan's economy...

Taipei Times, 10 November 2008

Ma promises to maintain strong national defense

aced with a sliding approval rating and rising public concern over his China-friendly policy, President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday vowed to maintain a strong army to protect Taiwanese interests and dignity while seeking to improve relations with Beijing. Speaking in Mandarin and Hoklo (or Taiwanese) at the Double Ten national day ceremony outside the Presidential Office yesterday morning, Ma said the public looks forward to improved cross-strait relations under the framework of the Republic of China (ROC) Constitution and the "three noes" policy - meaning no discussion of unification during his presidency, no pursuit of de jure Taiwanese independence and no use of military force...

The Hindu, 11 November 2008

China unveils \$570-billion stimulus package

Beijing: China has said it would loosen credit conditions, cut taxes and embark on a massive infrastructure spending programme in a wide-ranging effort to offset adverse global economic conditions by boosting domestic demand. This is a shift long advocated by analysts of the Chinese economy and by some within the government. It comes amid indications that economic growth, exports and various industries are slowing...

The Hindu, 11 November 2008

Plan worth 7% of China's GDP

Shanghai: China's announcement of the stimulus plan on Sunday is an effort to revive a slumping domestic market amid concerns that the economy has been worse affected by the global financial crisis than previously expected. Some analysts have been surprised by the size of the package. The amount is roughly 7 per cent of the country's GDP, and in comparison exceeds the \$700-billion U.S. bailout package

announced recently, which is less than 5 per cent of America's GDP...

The Hindu, 11 November 2008

China rejects Dalai Lama's autonomy plea

Beijing: Taking a hardline stance a week ahead of a key Tibetan exiles' conclave, China rejected the Dalai Lama's latest plea for "genuine autonomy" for Tibet and ruled out any territorial "concession," even as it blamed him for the failure of the just-concluded round of negotiations. "Our contacts and talks failed to make progress and they [the Dalai Lama's envoys] should assume full responsibility for it," Zhu Weiqun, a Vice-Minister of the United Front Work Department of the ruling Communist Party of China, said on Monday...

People's Daily, 11 November 2008

China pledges more dialogue, cooperation with AU

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo pledged here Monday to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the African Union (AU). China is willing to enhance bilateral communication and coordination on international and regional issues with AU in a bid to push for improvement of China-Africa relations and safeguard the interest of developing countries, said Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC)...

People's Daily, 11 November 2008

Top legislator: China attaches great importance to ties with Ethiopia

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo said here on Monday that his country attaches great importance to its development of relations with Ethiopia. "My current visit to Ethiopia is aimed at bringing the existing all-round cooperative partnership to a new level and injecting new life into the traditional friendship between the two sides," said Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC)...

People's Daily, 11 November 2008

China blames Dalai Lama side for breaking promise

A Chinese central government official said here Monday the Dalai Lama side has failed to honor the promises they made in previous talks. In the previous talks, the Dalai Lama's representatives did not seriously reflect on fundamental issues, said Sita, vice minister of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China, noting "the political foundation of contacts and talks with them is that Tibet is an inalienable part of China..."

Taipei Times, 11 November 2008

Ma pledges reconciliation through dialogue

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday underscored the importance of peace abroad and unity at home, saying that he would seek reconciliation with his political opponents through dialogue. Ma's comments, made at the opening ceremony of an annual meeting of overseas Taiwanese affairs at Taipei's Howard Hotel yesterday morning, were a reference to the violent clashes between protesters and police during a demonstration organized by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) on Thursday and the call on Saturday by DPP Chairperson Tsai Ing-wen for dialogue on Taiwan's cross-strait agenda...

The Hindu, 12 November 2008

China: Arunachal 'never officially demarcated'

Beijing: China on Tuesday angrily rejected India's assertion that Arunachal Pradesh

is its integral part, insisting that Beijing never recognised the "illegal" McMahon Line and that the status of the border State was "never officially demarcated." Deeply regretting External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's statement that Arunachal Pradesh was part of India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said New Delhi had not taken the "historical facts" into account...

The Hindu, 12 November 2008

China: package will help global system

Beijing: China's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday said the country's economic stimulus package would help safeguard international financial stability. "This was the best way for China to cope with the international financial crisis," said spokesman Qin Gang. China said on Sunday it would loosen credit and financing and enhance investment to offset the adverse external economic situation by boosting domestic demand...

The Asian Age, 12 November 2008

Beijing rebuts Pranab remarks

New Delhi: For the second time in less than a week, Beijing has reacted sharply to minister of external affairs Pranab Mukherjee's remarks on China. Apparently, Mr Mukherjee's November 9 speech at the eighth Buddha Mahotsava at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh was the latest provocation for Beijing. The Chinese state-run news agency Xinhua on Tuesday quoted Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang as saying that China deeply regrets "the Indian side's remarks that take no regard of the historical facts"...

The Asian Age, 12 November 2008

Dalai still wants China talks: aides

Dharamsala: The Dalai Lama believes dialogue with Beijing is the only way to resolve the deadlock over Tibet, despite the failure of the latest talks with Chinese officials, aides said on Tuesday. His spokesperson Tenzin Taklha said that the exiled spiritual leader "believes the solution to any type of conflict is through dialogue. There can be no progress if there are no talks. The only solution is dialogue. This has been the consistent stand of the Dalai Lama," he said...

The Times of India, 12 November 2008

Taiwan's Chen detained on corruption charges

Taipei, Taiwan: A Taiwan court ordered the detention of former President Chen Shui-bian on corruption charges Wednesday, marking an ignominious fall for the man who incensed China and roiled the U.S. with his contentious pro-independence policies. The court sent Chen to Tucheng Jail, the suburban Taipei facility where as a dissident leader 21 years ago he served eight months for defaming an official of the ruling Nationalist Party during the waning days of Taiwan's infamous martial law regime...

People's Daily, 12 November 2008

China, Madagascar vow to boost ties

Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo and Madagascar President Marc Ravalomanana said here on Tuesday that they will do their utmost to boost ties between the two countries. The commitment was made during their talks in the presidential palace during Wu's first ever visit to the African country...

Taipei Times, 12 November 2008

Chen Shui-bian chained

A handcuffed former president Chen Shui-bian was taken to the Taipei District Court

in police custody yesterday as prosecutors sought his detention in connection with alleged embezzlement from the presidential "state affairs" fund and claims of money laundering by the former first family. The detention hearing was ongoing at press time. If the request were granted, Chen would be the first former president in Taiwan's history to be detained...

Taipei Times, 12 November 2008

Editorial: The utter failure of Taiwan's leaders

Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin visited last week to ink four deals that address direct sea and postal links, daily charter flights and food safety. Although the meeting was nominally meant to discuss cross-strait economic policy, it quickly became political. It is difficult to believe that the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) administration of Ma Ying-jeou couldn't see what was coming...

The Hindu, 13 November 2008

Editorial: A gigantic stimulus

The huge economic stimulus plan announced by China on Sunday is noteworthy for its scope and timing. By earmarking \$586 billion to be spent mostly on infrastructure in two years, the Chinese government is sending out a strong signal that it will do its utmost to stimulate the domestic economy and neutralise the effects of a global slowdown. It proposes to spend about 14 per cent of the GDP over the two-year period on constructing new railway tracks, subways, and airports and in rebuilding communities destroyed by earthquake last May...

The Hindu, 13 November 2008

News Analysis: Yunnan reaches out to India

Interaction between China and India goes back thousands of years. It is a time-honoured friendship. Recent history has seen both supporting and learning from each other in their fight for national independence and in their modernisation efforts. They have consolidated their fraternal relationship even in times of difficulty, moving along a path of cooperation and friendship. As one of the Chinese territories situated nearest to India, Yunnan has served as a bridge for Sino-Indian exchanges since ancient times...

People's Daily, 13 November 2008

Chinese Vice President urges pragmatism in Party schools

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called on Communist Party of China (CPC) schools to take a pragmatic attitude in both teaching and learning. Teachers should integrate their learning with practice and work hard to improve their teaching, said Xi, also the head of the CPC Central Committee Party School...

People's Daily, 13 November 2008

A turning point in strategy

A series of prompt measures taken by the Chinese government recently to boost domestic demand has become another turning point in strategy amid the global battle against the financial crisis. International community took a proactive combination of "fiscal policy plus monetary measure" to tackle the financial turmoil instead of solely depending on monetary policy as it did in the past...

Taipei Times, 13 November 2008

Editorial: Chen's arrest opens Pandora's box

The detention of former president Chen Shui-bian yesterday on charges related to

embezzlement of his "state affairs" fund and money laundering by the former first family is a landmark in Taiwan's history - and a depressing one - because he became the first former president in the nation's history to be incarcerated. The circumstances of his detention, however, are controversial...

Taipei Times, 13 November 2008

Editorial: Opening the door wider is harmful to Taiwan

Since President Ma Ying-jeou came into office in May, the government has moved toward a more open cross-strait trade policy and attempted to further tie Taiwan's economy to China, despite continuing financial difficulties at home. However, historical experience has shown that the more open the Taiwan-China economic and trade relationship becomes, the more people in Taiwan will suffer...

The Hindu, 14 November 2008

Do not allow separatist activities: China

Beijing: As the Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual leader, prepared to hold the biggest conclave of exiled Tibetans in nearly six decades at Dharamshala, China on Thursday asked India to honour its promise of not allowing any separatist activities from its soil against it. Dismissing as meaningless the proposed meeting of the exiled Tibetans, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Beijing expected New Delhi to honour its promise not to permit activities "aimed at splitting Chinese territory"...

People's Daily, 14 November 2008

Chinese top legislator says int'l financial crisis not to affect China's co-op with Seychelles

The current international financial crisis will not affect China's cooperation with Seychelles, visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo said here on Thursday. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), made the remarks in his meeting with Seychellois President James Alix Michel. Wu said that China's economy will maintain its momentum of growth...

Taipei Times, 14 November 2008

Editorial: Support the students' appeal for democracy

We thought the authoritarian regime was long gone. We thought that freedom of speech had become part of our life. We were wrong. Freedom and democracy - hard to attain, easy to crush. Over the past half a century, many have sacrificed their freedom, their youth, even their dear lives to attain these rights. However, in this past week, we have witnessed the return of the authoritarian regime, with its relentless suppression of freedom of speech and assembly...

Taipei Times, 14 November 2008

Editorial: Who is calling the shots in Taiwan?

Has the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou thought through its headlong embrace of China? The deals to expand relations covering shipping, air transport and postal services might look like progress but the question is: who is calling the shots? It is certainly not the Ma government. So far, Beijing has not moved an inch in terms of acknowledging Taiwan's identity. Describing the advance in relations, China's top negotiator, Chen Yunlin, called it's a crystallization of the joint efforts of many compatriots across the Strait"...

Taipei Times, 14 November 2008

Editorial: Speak now or forever be silent

"They came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist." Many are familiar with these words penned by German pastor Martin Niemoeller, who initially supported Adolf Hitler but was later imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II. Niemoeller's poem, with its haunting last line - "Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up" - depicted his atonement for not stepping forward sooner and speaking up against the Nazis...

The Asian Age, 15 November 2008

Dalai accuses China of brutal crackdown

Dharamshala: Ahead of a crucial conclave of Tibetan exiles, the Dalai Lama on Friday accused China of "brutally cracking" down on Tibetans and asked them to decide on the "best possible future course" of action in the wake of Beijing's "intransigent" stance and failure to respond positively to "middle-way" approach. Despite the eight rounds of talks "no real progress was made," the 73-year-old spiritual head said in a strongly worded statement a day after Beijing criticised him for holding the biggest conclave of exiled Tibetans in nearly six decades and asked India to honour its promise of not allowing any separatist activities from its soil against the communist state...

The Asian Age, 15 November 2008

Sarkozy warned over Dalai meet

Beijing: China on Friday warned French President Nicolas Sarkozy that his planned meeting with the Dalai Lama threatened the "hard-earned" momentum in bilateral ties. Opposing a meeting between the Dalai Lama and Mr Sarkozy in Poland in December, Chinese foreign ministry said that Beijing was against the Tibetan leader's "secessionist activities"...

People's Daily, 15 November 2008

Chinese president arrives in Washington for summit on financial crisis

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Washington Friday for a summit to discuss issues concerning financial markets and the global economy. President Hu, and other leaders from the Group of Twenty (G20) members, have been invited by U.S. President George W. Bush to Saturday's meeting, the first in a series of summits to mitigate what economists predict could be a long and deep downturn...

Taipei Times, 15 November 2008

DPP hinders cross-strait pacts

The Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) caucus blocked the four new cross-strait agreements between the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait from clearing the legislative floor yesterday, sending them back to the Procedure Committee for rescheduling. Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) caucus whip Lin Yi-shih, however, said the four agreements would automatically take effect if they were stalled in the legislature for 30 days...

Taipei Times, 15 November 2008

Editorial: A judiciary on life support

Over the last weeks one half of this nation's political divide has watched with increasing nervousness at the trend of detaining Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) identities without charge in unrelated cases. On its own, this development might have spoken more of rotteness in the opposition party than a systemic problem with the judiciary, and there is no shortage of Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislators who argue exactly this...

People's Daily, 16 November 2008

President Hu: China to play constructive role in ensuring global economic stability

China will deepen reform and open wider to the outside world, deliver steady and relatively fast economic growth, and play a constructive role in ensuring global economic stability, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Saturday. Responding to natural disasters and the global financial crisis, China has made timely adjustment to its policies and strengthened macroeconomic regulation, Hu said while addressing a summit of the Group of Twenty (G20) on financial markets and the world economy...

People's Daily, 16 November 2008

Chinese president urges help for developing nations to cope with financial crisis

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday called for international efforts to help developing countries and the least developed countries cope with the global financial crisis. "When coping with the financial crisis, the international community should pay particular attention to the damage of the crisis on developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), and do all it can to minimize the damage," Hu told a summit meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20) on financial markets and the world economy...

Taipei Times, 16 November 2008

THE LIBERTY TIMES EDITORIAL: Unity against China's 'united front'

The civil war between the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was filled with bloodshed and brutality. There were two main strategies adopted by former CCP leader Mao Zedong against the KMT, government officials and the public. The CCP implemented terrifying acts of suppression, torture and slaughter. On the other hand, it employed "united front" tactics, trying to win over KMT members and supporters and sowing division...

Taipei Times, 16 November 2008

Editorial: A movement away from the political orthodoxy

The visit of Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin and the events surrounding it have brought a fundamental change in Taiwan's political scene. It goes beyond the advance in cross-strait peace claimed by the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government and its pan-blue allies, and beyond the pan-green opposition's accusations that the government is leaning too close to China. What we are seeing now is a new line of thinking on freedom - or the lack of it...

The Hindu, 17 November 2008

Bridge urban-rural divide, China told

Shanghai: A U.N. report released on Sunday warned China needed to improve public services in rural areas or the country risked compromising the "stunning" economic progress it achieved after three decades of economic reforms. The U.N. Development Programme study, one of the most in-depth assessments of social services in rural China, found that increasing disparities between rural and urban areas in household incomes, healthcare, education and social services were restricting consumption and reducing productivity...

The Hindu, 17 November 2008

China, Russia to enhance coordination

Washington: Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Saturday China and Russia

should enhance communication and cooperation in eliminating the adverse effects of the financial crisis and maintain stability in their respective financial markets. Mr. Hu made the remarks at a bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the G-20 summit...

The Times of India, 17 November 2008

Tibetans plot future after Dalai Lama admits failure

Dharmshala: Leading Tibetan exiles were set to meet in India on Monday for a week of discussions that could usher in a more radical approach to their long struggle against Chinese rule in Tibet. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, called the meeting after admitting that his attempts to secure greater autonomy for the region through negotiation with the Chinese government had failed...

People's Daily, 17 November 2008

Hu urges revamp of finance system

President Hu Jintao has called for a reform of the international financial system, as well as global efforts to help developing countries cope with the ongoing financial crisis. "Reform of the international financial system should aim at establishing a new international financial order that is fair, just, inclusive and orderly, and fostering an institutional environment conducive to sound global economic development," Hu told the G20 meeting over the weekend...

People's Daily, 17 November 2008

Chinese, Australian leaders vow to expand co-op

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on Sunday pledged joint efforts to expand bilateral cooperation at their meeting here. The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) summit on financial markets and the world economy. Hu said China and Australia are witnessing healthy and rapid development of bilateral ties, with ever deepening mutual understanding and trust...

Taipei Times, 17 November 2008

Editorial: Tibetans meet to discuss failed "middle way"

It's been almost 50 years since the Tibetan god-king fled across the Himalayas and created his government-in-exile. Decades later, the Dalai Lama and his followers are still in Dharmshala. And the struggle for Tibet? That, they increasingly say in the hilly, northern Indian town, has been futile. "We have failed to bring any positive change inside Tibet," said Samdhong Rinpoche, prime minister of the government-in-exile. "The majority of Tibetans are increasingly frustrated and want more forceful change"...

Taipei Times, 17 November 2008

Editorial: Uproar over visit a loss for Taiwan

With the venue besieged by crowds mobilized by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the historic meeting between President Ma Ying-jeou and Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin was cut to just five minutes from the scheduled 40. The government had hoped the first-ever talks on Taiwanese soil between Chen and Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung would ensure continued peaceful relations across the Strait and prepare the way for economic recovery by relaxing and deregulating cross-strait transport, trade and business links...

The Indian Express, 18 November 2008

Meeting on Tibet movement begins

Mcleodganj: After a series of failed talks with China and in view of the turmoil that arose in Tibet this March, it is hoped that a landmark six-day meeting of prominent Tibetans called by the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala will help the embattled region resolve its most pressing issues...

The Asian Age, 18 November 2008

Tibetans may give up Dalai's 'middle path'

Chandigarh: More than 500 top Tibetan religious and political leaders have begun a week-long conclave to deliberate on the future course of their struggle against Chinese domination after the eighth round of talks between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Beijing government failed earlier this month...

The Times of India, 18 November 2008

Move to seek Tibetan independence doomed to fail: China

Beijing: China insisted on Tuesday that any effort by Tibetan exiles to seek independence for their homeland would fail, as they held talks in India on a new strategy for their campaign against Chinese rule. "Our position on Tibet is clear and resolute. Any attempt to separate Tibet from China is doomed to fail," foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang told reporters...

People's Daily, 18 November 2008

Chinese, Costa Rican presidents discuss ties, pledging efforts to promote co-op

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday spoke highly of the rapid development of China-Costa Rica relations and pledged efforts to further expand bilateral cooperation in various fields. During talks with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez on the second day of his state visit to the Central American nation, Hu said mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields has been growing steadily...

Taipei Times, 18 November 2008

Missile deployment would be seen as hostile act: official

Minister of National Defense Chen Chao-min said yesterday that any kind of missiles or weaponry China deploys along its coastline opposite Taiwan counts as an act of hostility. Chen's comments came after the Chinese-language United Daily News reported yesterday that China had recently deployed advanced YJ-62A subsonic anti-ship missiles. The missile, with a range of 400km, would bring almost all of Taiwan's seaports and sea traffic lanes within range, the report said...

Taipei Times, 18 November 2008

Editorial: A crash course on image control

For a government accused by opposition and rights advocates of reverting to an authoritarian past, the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou has been surprisingly inept at image control, a situation all the more strange given the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) strong ties with the media...

The Hindu, 19 November 2008

Hu arrives in Cuba to bolster trade, ties

Havana: Chinese President Hu Jintao began a two-day visit to Cuba by agreeing to increase Chinese purchases of Cuban nickel and sugar, and send farm goods to the island as it recovers from three devastating storms. Mr. Hu arrived in Cuba late on Monday on the second leg of a Latin American tour. Earlier, the Chinese leader announced the start of free trade talks with Costa Rica in January. Even as Cuban

state television broadcast images of Mr. Hu arriving at Havana's airport, it was already announcing the signing of the trade and investment accords...

The Asian Age, 19 November 2008

Efforts to separate Tibet 'doomed to fail': China

Beijing: China on Tuesday warned that the biggest-ever conclave of exiled Tibetans in India, which was charting out a future course for their movement, was "doomed to fail" as Beijing was resolutely opposed to their demand of "Tibet independence". "Our position on Tibet is clear and resolute. Any attempt to separate Tibet from China is doomed to fail," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said...

The Asian Age, 19 November 2008

Op-Ed: Crunch time for Tibetans

With the Tibetan movement at the crossroads as China tightens its vise on Tibet, the week-long conclave of exiles now in progress at the Dalai Lama's initiative in Dharamsala offers an opportunity for a critical self-appraisal so as to find a more pragmatic and workable strategy for the coming years. A good beginning has been provided by the Dalai Lama's recent public admissions. He said this month that the path of negotiations with China has failed to yield any results even as the situation in Tibet deteriorates...

People's Daily, 19 November 2008

Chinese, Cuban leaders meet on bilateral ties

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao met Cuban leader Raul Castro on Tuesday to discuss the further development of bilateral ties. The two leaders are also expected to exchange views on major international issues. Following their meeting, they are scheduled to attend a signing ceremony of documents on cooperation in the economic and educational sectors...

People's Daily, 19 November 2008

Tibetan Buddhist monks urged to contribute to ethnic harmony

A senior official met with 11 monks here Tuesday asking them to contribute to the unity of the country and harmony among different ethnic groups. "We hope the monks, outstanding in Buddhism study, will love the country, abide by laws, follow religious disciplines and serve the people," said Du Qinglin, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The monks are expected to work for the stability of Tibet and Tibetan people outside Tibet, he said...

Taipei Times, 19 November 2008

Editorial: Impartial probe of violence needed

President Ma Ying-jeou's government recently denied that relations between China and Taiwan are state-to-state in nature. The Ma administration also showed China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin the highest possible respect and treated him in a way usually reserved for heads of state of diplomatic allies. The treatment extended to Chen was not appropriate considering the actual relations between Taiwan and China, nor was it in proportion to Chen's status...

Taipei Times, 19 November 2008

Editorial: Taiwanese should not fight among themselves

At the beginning of this month, Chinese envoy Chen Yunlin visited Taiwan in an attempt to further China's "united front" strategy. During his visit, Chen trampled

Taiwan's sovereignty by not addressing President Ma Ying-jeou as president of the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan. Ostensibly to avoid offending Chen, the government ordered that the national flag be kept out of his sight during the visit...

The Hindu, 20 November 2008

Hu, Castro celebrate China-Cuba ties

Havana: China's President Hu Jintao met Cuban leader Fidel Castro - who is also the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba - in Havana on Tuesday. Mr. Hu said he was delighted to see Mr. Castro again. The comrades of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China "have all cared about your health and I brought their sincere greetings to you," he said...

People's Daily, 20 November 2008

Chinese, Peruvian leaders discuss bilateral relations

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao met his Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia Wednesday in Lima for talks on how to deepen comprehensive cooperative partnership between China and the Latin American nation. The meeting took place soon after the Chinese leader's arrival in the Peruvian capital from Havana...

People's Daily, 20 November 2008

New discovery may change understanding of universe

Chinese and foreign experts on Thursday announced the discovery of an unexpected surplus of high-energy, cosmic ray electrons, which could change the current understanding of the universe. Dr. Chang Jin, an astrophysicist at the Purple Mountain Observatory in China's eastern Jiangsu Province, along with his foreign counterparts, made the discovery using the Advanced Thin Ionization Calorimeter (ATIC)...

Taipei Times, 20 November 2008

Editorial: Ma Ying-jeou as musical instrument

"I am not into wishful thinking and I am not naive. Our efforts have obviously generated a lot of goodwill across the Taiwan Strait," President Ma Ying-jeou said on Tuesday, claiming that his conciliatory cross-strait policies were bearing fruit. In this case, the piece of fruit was rather small: Ma had been referred to as "president" on APEC's official Web site...

Taipei Times, 20 November 2008

Editorial: Strategies for a cross-strait truce

President Ma Ying-jeou's idea of a cross-strait truce is the boldest diplomatic move in decades of competition between Taiwan and China. Under Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) administrations, both sides of the Taiwan Strait poured tremendous resources into competing for allies and battling over Taiwan's participation in key international organizations...

The Hindu, 21 November 2008

India, China to get credit from Russia

Moscow: Russia will extend \$1 billion to the IMF to help fight the world financial crisis, said Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, as he unveiled a anti-crisis programme to support domestic industries and the population. "It has been decided to transfer \$1 billion to the International Monetary Fund to help countries who found themselves in especially difficult situations," Mr. Putin told the annual congress of the ruling United Russia party, which he chairs, in Moscow on Thursday...

The Asian Age, 21 November 2008

Dalai seeks India help, says it is Tibet's 'guru'

Chandigarh: The Dalai Lama has admitted that a resolution to the vexing Tibetan situation is "complicated". The Nobel Peace Prize winner and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people made the statement on the sidelines of the largest-ever conclave of exiled Tibetan leaders who have been called to McLeodganj to chart a fresh course of action on the future of their homeland...

The Asian Age, 21 November 2008

US panel warns on China spies

Washington: A congressional advisory panel said on Thursday that China has stepped-up computer espionage attacks on the US government, defence contractors and American businesses. The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission also said in its annual report to legislators that aggressive Chinese space programs are allowing Beijing to target US military forces better...

People's Daily, 21 November 2008

China, Peru agree to build strategic partnership

Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Thursday that he has agreed with his Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia to build a strategic partnership between the two countries. "We have agreed to build a China-Peru strategic partnership and strive to deepen and enrich the mutually-beneficial cooperation between the two countries in all fields," Hu said while addressing the Peruvian Congress...

People's Daily, 21 November 2008

APEC ministers pledge joint efforts to overcome financial crisis

Foreign and trade ministers from the 21 member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on Thursday called for joint efforts to overcome the ongoing global financial crisis and revive the Doha Round trade negotiations. "APEC economies are committed to implementing all necessary measures to bolster the real economy and boost investment and consumption levels in the region," said a joint statement released by the ministers after a two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting in the Peruvian capital...

Taipei Times, 21 November 2008

Editorial: The dire straits of Taiwanese democracy

President Ma Ying-jeou says he has no problem with changing the "permit system" in the Assembly and Parade Law to a "notification system" because the problem does not lie in the system but in the use of violence at protests. How could violence be the problem? No one disputes the fact that whoever commits violence should be punished in accordance with the law...

Taipei Times, 21 November 2008

Editorial: Peace in the Strait? ORBAT says no

Intelligence analysts are trained (sometimes mistakenly) to assume the worst in their field. The assumption that the other is up to no good is so endemic that even the absence of intelligence is often construed as an act of maliciousness. This phenomenon, though not restricted to counterterrorism, often manifests itself in two ways: either the individual or group is "inactive" or in "sleep" mode (as in so-called "sleeper cells"), or the target is so proficient that nefarious activities remain beyond the reach of surveillance, communications intercepts and intelligence officers...

The Hindu, 22 November 2008

U.S. asks China to halt plan for reactors to Pakistan

Washington: The U.S. has asked China to halt its plan to construct two more nuclear reactors in Pakistan and indicated that any new Sino-Pakistan cooperation in the atomic field would require "consensus" approval from the Nuclear Supplies Group (NSG), which was "difficult" to achieve...

The Hindu, 22 November 2008

China, India will lead the world: report

Washington: China and India are likely to emerge atop a multipolar international system as the U.S. economic and political clout declines over the next two decades, according to U.S. intelligence agencies projections. Not only will new players Brazil, Russia, India and China - have a seat at the international high table, they will bring new stakes and rules of the game, said the National Intelligence Council analysis "Global Trends 2025- A Transformed World" released here on Thursday...

The Indian Express, 22 November 2008

Tibetan meet to conclude today, reaffirms faith in Dalai Lama

Dharamsala: The special six day meeting called by the Tibetan parliament-in-exile shall conclude on Saturday, with the passing of a resolution that shall reaffirm faith in the Dalai Lama's Middle Path - pressing for meaningful autonomy for Tibet. The meeting is being attended by around 580 Tibetan leaders from across the world, comprising parliamentarians, activists, students and spiritual leaders, are working towards a strategy to overcome China's mistrust of the Dalai Lama...

People's Daily, 22 November 2008

China, Latin America join hands in creating model for South-South Cooperation

Following his trip to Washington for the Group of 20 summit, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Costa Rica, Cuba and Peru in the past week to promote ties with Latin America. As the international situation undergoes profound changes, President Hu's trip was aimed at injecting new vitality into China-Latin America relations, which have been moving forward on a sound development track since early this year...

People's Daily, 22 November 2008

Hu Jintao meets KMT honorary chairman on cross-Strait ties, tackling global financial crisis

Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, met in Lima Friday with Kuomintang (KMT) Honorary Chairman Lien Chan. At their meeting, Hu spoke highly of Lien's unremitting efforts in and contributions to the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations. Both leaders are in the Peruvian capital Lima to attend the 16th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)...

Taipei Times, 22 November 2008

Taiwan protests exclusion

Taiwan has lodged a protest with authorities in Peru, the host country of the 2008 APEC forum, over the country's exclusion from an informal meeting of APEC foreign ministers, Taiwanese officials said on Thursday. The meeting, which took place on Wednesday on the sidelines of the annual APEC ministerial meeting held in Lima, focused on issues concerning the global financial crisis. The foreign ministers of all APEC members were invited to attend, except for Taiwan and Hong Kong...

Taipei Times, 22 November 2008

Editorial: The KMT's fate is suicide

In a time of political hunger strikes, student protests and fiscal madness in the guise of universal consumer vouchers, news must be spectacular to get airplay. One story that received very little this week was an item on the restructuring of the Central Standing Committee of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT)...

The Indian Express, 23 November 2008

Tibetans back Dalai Lama's path

Dharamsala: The conclave of Tibetan leaders called by the government-in-exile has on its concluding day passed a resolution calling for cessation of all talks with China. It also said that in case China doesn't respond favourably to the present demand of meaningful autonomy for Tibet, they would be left with no option but to press for "complete independence". The resolution also reiterated its faith in Dalai Lama's leadership and implored him not to consider retirement...

The Asian Age, 23 November 2008

Tibetans: No more talking to China

Chandigarh: A special general meeting of Tibet's top political and religious leaders has elected to break off the already stalled dialogue process with the Chinese government unless Beijing is prepared to "respond positively" to the Dalai Lama's proposals for "genuine autonomy". The decision to end the dialogue was the unanimous view of nearly 600 delegates, representing the global Tibetan diaspora, who have deliberated on the future course of the Tibetan movement over the past week in Mcleodganj (Himachal Pradesh), the headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile...

People's Daily, 23 November 2008

Hu presents proposals for tackling financial crisis at APEC meeting

Chinese President Hu Jintao put forward three proposals for coping with the ongoing worldwide financial crisis at the 16th APEC economic leaders' meeting on Saturday. "The rapidly-spreading international financial crisis, with its extensive impact, constitutes the most severe challenge confronting world economic growth," Hu said...

People's Daily, 23 November 2008

President Hu: central gov't to help HK overcome financial crisis

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Lima on Saturday that the central government would take effective measures to help Hong Kong to ward off the impact of the global financial crisis, safeguard the stability of financial markets and boost economic growth. Hu made the remarks during a meeting with Donald Tsang, chief executive of the the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China...

Taipei Times, 23 November 2008

Ma promises closer links between the KMT and Cabinet

Top government officials and Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) figures led by President Ma Ying-jeou gathered at the party's 17th national congress yesterday, vowing to enhance cooperation to create a better future for Taiwanese. Ma led the party's top brass, including Vice President Vincent Siew, Premier Liu Chao-shiuan and KMT Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung, in bowing to a statue of Sun Yat-sen at the party's first national congress since it regained power in May...

The Hindu, 24 November 2008

Hu: China upholding global financial stability

Lima: China's President Hu Jintao gave an outline of China's future development to the business community of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Addressing the APEC Chief Executive Officers Summit, Mr. Hu said China would continue to follow the "scientific outlook on development" by putting people first and making development comprehensive, balanced and sustainable...

The Asian Age, 24 November 2008

Dalai: I won't quit... Delhi 'overcautious' on China

Chandigarh: Emphatically ruling out any plan to relinquish his responsibilities as spiritual head and mentor until all Tibetans are free to return to their homeland or his own demise, the Dalai Lama has once again sought India's help in accelerating the Tibet-China reconciliation, obliquely suggesting that India ought to give up what he views as its "overcautious" approach on Tibet...

The Indian Express, 24 November 2008

Editorial: No third ways

For all of last week, more than five hundred Tibetan leaders in exile debated issues that define their political identity. In a year when China showed its clout by having the Olympic torch run around the world stay mostly untouched by Tibetan protests and cracking down on the uprising in Lhasa, there had been palpable a strong current of unease amongst exiled leaders. The question they have confronted all this year is whether they need to be less conciliatory in seeking negotiations with China for "meaningful autonomy" for Tibet...

People's Daily, 24 November 2008

Chinese, Russian FMs pledge to boost bilateral relations

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov held talks here on Sunday and pledged to push ahead with relations between their two countries. The two ministers, who are here for the annual forum of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), said the Sino-Russian strategic cooperative partnership has maintained a sound momentum of development this year...

People's Daily, 24 November 2008

Chinese president urges APEC members to boost economic integration, strengthen human security

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Sunday urged the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members to boost economic integration and strengthen human security in the region. In an address to the 16th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting which ended in the Peruvian capital Lima on Sunday, Hu said the process of regional economic integration is developing continuously, featured by ever closer trade and economic links among the APEC members. Hu arrived here on Wednesday for a state visit to Peru and the APEC summit...

Taipei Times, 24 November 2008

Dalai Lama says 'a great danger' faces Tibetans

The Dalai Lama warned Tibetan exile leaders yesterday to be prudent in their plans or risk failure after they said at a key conference they might push for independence for their homeland if China refuses to grant it autonomy soon. The delegates ended their weeklong conference on Saturday saying they had decided against pushing independence for now and that they would maintain the Dalai Lama's "middle way" - his push for autonomy through measured compromise that falls short of calling for independence...

Taipei Times, 24 November 2008

Editorial: More hot air than substance in Lima

Former vice president Lien Chan met Chinese President Hu Jintao at the APEC leaders' summit in Lima on Friday. APEC is one of a handful of international bodies of which Taiwan is an official member and this was the first time such senior Taiwanese and Chinese leaders met at one of its summits. The meeting was symbolic for both sides, but nothing more than that. Although the meeting was an indication of reduced cross-strait tension, Taiwan should not rush to celebrate...

Taipei Times, 24 November 2008

THE LIBERTY TIMES EDITORIAL: Taiwan doesn't want puppet leader

Four cross-strait agreements were signed at the meeting between Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) Chairman Chiang Pin-kung and Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) Chairman Chen Yunlin earlier this month. Last Monday, Chiang and Mainland Affairs Council Chairwoman Lai Shin-yuan finally gave the legislature a belated report on the pacts. This rash attempt to dodge public supervision was strongly criticized in the legislature...

The Hindu, 25 November 2008

China stimulus package under scrutiny

Beijing: A joint official statement promised on Monday to ensure close supervision of the huge stimulus package to prevent waste and fraud. Two dozen inspection teams will soon be sent to locations around China to follow projects funded by the package. The inspectors will "check whether the money is used to build office buildings or guesthouses of party and government departments," said the central government notice...

The Indian Express, 25 November 2008

Op-Ed: Tibet's generation gap is no gulf

The attention of the world turned to Dharamsala last week when nearly 600 Tibetan delegates, as representatives of the six million Tibetans in Tibet and in exile, converged in this hill town to discuss the future of our struggle. This meeting was called by the Dalai Lama, and organised by the Tibetan Parliament. The Tibetan people were told to take greater leadership in light of the failure of the dialogue with China and the ongoing crisis inside Tibet...

The Asian Age, 25 November 2008

Editorial: Delhi, Beijing must heed Dalai counsel

The just-concluded stocktaking conference of the Tibetan leadership in McLeodganj-Dharamsala, the North India hill station in the Himalayas which serves as the headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile - in which about 600 delegates took part - is something of a warning to Beijing to be more pragmatic, more reasonable and, above all, more democratic...

People's Daily, 25 November 2008

Chinese, Greek leaders hold talks, agree to lift bilateral strategic ties to higher level

Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias agreed on Monday to lift the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership to a new height. During his talks with Papoulias, Hu first thanked Greece for its support for the Beijing Olympic Games and the Paralympics. The Greek side also rendered support for Beijing in the torch lighting and relay, he added. Sino-Greek relations now stand on a new historical starting point and are faced with broader prospects, the Chinese

president said...

People's Daily, 25 November 2008

China's confidence vital to weather global financial crisis

As the global financial turmoil, triggered by a subprime lending crisis in the US has swept the world, Chinese leaders announced courageous measures to stabilize the world economy on various international occasions, making China's confidence the attention of the world. China's confidence is based on a series of subjective and objective factors rather than having materialized from nowhere...

Taipei Times, 25 November 2008

Editorial: China's non-democratic advantage

The just-concluded APEC leaders' summit in Lima, Peru, was very much the affair of one giant, Chinese President Hu Jintao, leaving pretty much everybody else to vie for a rare spot in the light. China's shadow was especially long this time around as everybody either waited to see what contributions it would make to reviving the slumping global economy or sought to ink various trade or military agreements with it...

Taipei Times, 25 November 2008

Editorial: Ma looks ahead by looking backwards

On Nov. 6, a group of students began a silent sit-in in front of the Executive Yuan. They demanded that President Ma Ying-jeou and Premier Liu Chao-shiuan apologize for heavy-handed police tactics that infringed human rights during the visit of Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin, that National Police Agency Director-General Wang Cho-chiun and National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Chao-ming step down and that the Assembly and Parade Law be amended...

The Asian Age, 26 November 2008

Sarkozy to meet Dalai on Dec. 6

Dharamsala: Despite stiff opposition by the Chinese government, the much-awaited meeting between the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy has been finalised and will take place in Poland early in December. "The Dalai Lama has been invited to Poland to attend ceremonies to mark the 25th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Polish labour leader Lech Walesa in the first week of December," Thubten Samphel, a spokesman for the spiritual leader, said on Tuesday...

People's Daily, 26 November 2008

Chinese president hopes to bring Sino-Greek ties to higher level

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Athens on Tuesday that China hopes to push its ties with Greece to a higher level. The Chinese government has attached great importance to its relations with Greece and has been viewing the bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective, Hu said during his meeting with Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis...

People's Daily, 26 November 2008

Chinese, EU parliaments pledge co-op on int'l financial crisis

The National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, and the European Parliament (EP) vowed in Beijing on Tuesday to forge closer cooperation to address significant international issues such as the current financial crisis. The two sides voiced the commitment during the 27th meeting of the China-EU parliamentary

regular exchange mechanism held from Monday to Tuesday...

The Indian Express, 27 November 2008

Op-Ed: India's Tibet ambiguity

One of the iron laws of Sino-Indian relations is beginning to assert itself again. When there is relative tranquility in Tibet, India and China have reasonably good relations. When Sino-Tibetan tensions rise, India's relationship with China heads south. The current restiveness in Tibet and the collapse of the talks between the exiled Tibetan leadership and Beijing are likely to squeeze New Delhi harder in the coming months...

People's Daily, 27 November 2008

China postpones summit with EU due to French leader's planned meeting with Dalai Lama

China has to postpone the 11th summit with the European Union scheduled in early December because of French leader's planned meeting with the Dalai Lama, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said here Wednesday night. The decision is made because the summit does not enjoy a good atmosphere, nor can it achieve expected goals, Qin said, adding the cause and responsibility do not lie on the Chinese side...

People's Daily, 27 November 2008

Bailout plan is not free lunch

As global financial slowdown intensifies, the auto industry in the US finds itself in the mire. Sluggish sales, staling credit, rocketing losses and shrinking cash flow have pushed three big US auto makers to the verge of bankruptcy. To get government aid, senior management from GM, Ford and Chrysler tried to persuade US congress to pass a bailout plan before it adjourns to meet their urgent needs...

Taipei Times, 27 November 2008

Editorial: Dharamsala meet produces little to help Tibetan movement

A gathering of leading Tibetan exiles last week witnessed a rare debate on the future of their movement, but failed to bring the dream of a free Tibet any closer to reality, analysts said. The unprecedented conclave in the exiles' Indian base of Dharamsala wound up on Saturday with the nearly 600 delegates backing the Dalai Lama's long-standing policy of seeking autonomy, rather than independence, from China...

The Asian Age, 28 November 2008

China blames France, EU

Beijing: China said on Thursday French Pres-ident Nicolas Sarkozy's plans to meet with the Dalai Lama - hated by Beijing - left it no option but to pull out of an upcoming China-European Union summit. Mr Sarkozy's decision "deprived the EU-China summit of the required good atmosphere and made it impossible for it to obtain the anticipated result," foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said...

People's Daily, 28 November 2008

Top political advisor: China attaches importance to co-op with Turkey

China attaches importance to its friendship and cooperation with Turkey, said China's top political advisor Jia Qinglin here Thursday. China will enhance exchanges and mutual trust, consultations and coordination in international and regional affairs, and cooperation in economy, trade, culture, education and tourism with Turkey, said Jia at a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan...

Taipei Times, 28 November 2008

Editorial: Toward Taiwan's tipping point

The term "tipping point" is becoming a cliché, but it is perfectly applicable to a political situation in which the goal of unification shared by the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) demands a gradual diminishing of legal and human rights and the convergence of state and party power. Opponents of China's designs on Taiwan would do well to conceptualize the stages and processes that mark a devolution to autocracy, and prepare for sustained action well before any "tipping point" - irreversible movement toward autocratic rule - is reached...

Taipei Times, 28 November 2008

Editorial: Dependency and risk in cross-strait trade ties

Vice President Vincent Siew and Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Chiang Pin-kung, both technocrats with a background in foreign trade, should be able to remember the advice the older generation of Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) cadres gave when Taiwan's economy took off: Trade must not be too dependent on the US and Japan and should develop a wider market to distribute risk...

The Indian Express, 29 November 2008

China official daily says don't rule out Hindu radicals

New Delhi: The Chinese Communist party's mouthpiece - the People's Daily - has carried a news article, indicating involvement of Hindu radicals in the Mumbai Terror attacks. The article has based its argument on a "red thread" worn by the attackers on their wrists...

People's Daily, 29 November 2008

Foreign Ministry: China "has no choice but to react" to French leader's Dalai Lama meeting

After the French announced their leader would meet the Dalai Lama, China had no choice but to react, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said here Friday in a statement. France made the announcement brushing aside China's stance and bilateral relations, Qin said. He said China attached great importance to the 11th China-European Union Summit scheduled to take place in France in early December, and had made active and intensive preparations for it...

People's Daily, 29 November 2008

China signs 19 purchase contracts with Turkey

Chinese and Turkish business people signed 19 contracts here Friday on the purchase of Turkish commodities worth about 230 million U.S. dollars. Visiting China's top political advisor Jia Qinglin attended the signing ceremony after the Sino-Turkish economic and trade cooperation forum which was attended by government officials and business people from the two countries...

People's Daily, 29 November 2008

Chinese President says stable, fast growth on top of next year's economic agenda

Chinese President Hu Jintao said Friday the top priority of the country's 2009 agenda on economic development is to maintain a "stable and relatively fast growth", amid the grim global economic downturn. "We will ensure a quality and fast growth of the national economy next year," Hu said while sitting down with personages outside the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) to seek their advice on the country's economic development...

People's Daily, 30 November 2008

President Hu: China's economic development faces challenges

Chinese President Hu Jintao warned on Saturday that the global financial turmoil will make it harder for China to maintain the pace of its economic development in the near future. China is under growing tension from its large population, limited resources and environment problems, and needs faster reform of its economic growth pattern to achieve sustainable development, said Hu when addressing members of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee...

People's Daily, 30 November 2008

Expert: China expects economic growth by 10% in 2009

China's economy is expected to grow by 10 percent in 2009 despite the impact of the financial crisis and global economic downturn, a researcher with the country's Cabinet said. "Although dim world economic situation has led to weak overseas demand, domestic consumption and investments, vast development potential decided the country's economy will grow at fast paces," said Zhang Liqun, the Development Research Center of the State Council researcher...

Taipei Times, 30 November 2008

Ma, Liu mull Cabinet reshuffle

Premier Liu Chao-shiuan said yesterday that he and President Ma Ying-jeou were studying the possibility of reshuffling the Cabinet. Details will be announced "at an appropriate time" when a decision is made, he said. "President Ma and I are pondering a [Cabinet reshuffle]. We will explain the matter to the public at the proper time," he said yesterday after attending the opening ceremony of IT Month at the Taipei World Trade Center...

Taipei Times, 30 November 2008

Dalai Lama says he hopes to visit Taiwan next year

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, said on Friday he hopes to visit Taiwan next year, in what would be his first visit in seven years and an apparent reversal of a policy of avoiding the nation for fear of angering China. "Taiwan-China ties are developing smoothly, so maybe this is a good time," the Dalai Lama told Elta TV in the northern Indian city of Dharamsala. "I haven't visited Taiwan for several years, but I have never forgotten Taiwan"...

Taipei Times, 30 November 2008

Editorial: Both parties must forget the past

If democracy had a life cycle, Taiwanese democracy would have entered a period of mourning following President Ma Ying-jeou's to power six months ago. If the eight years of governance by former president Chen Shui-bian were a time of dejection filled with a mixture of passion and disappointment, Ma's accession would be the start of a recollection of past politics. Cherishing memories of the past, one often feels depressed about the current situation...