

April 10, 2024

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
(MP - IDSA)**



Remains of five Chinese nationals killed in a terrorist attack in Dasu brought back to China by Pakistani aircraft: FM

Global Times, April 1, 2024

The remains of the five Chinese victims who were killed in the terrorist attack on the Dasu hydropower project in Pakistan were brought back to China on a Pakistani military plane, escorted by Pakistani high-level officials and a working group from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a press conference. The five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in a suicide terrorist attack on March 26 at the China-invested Dasu hydropower project in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1309917.shtml>

Xi Jinping's thoughts on China's nuclear weapons

Gregory Kulacki and Robert Rust

The Union of Concerned Scientists, April 1, 2024

Although China may still be moving to a launch on warning posture, the full text of Xi's December 2012 speech, and the phrase it contains related to alert levels, reveals Xi did not discuss nuclear strategy or announce an intention to put Chinese nuclear forces on alert. He addresses more general concerns about the combat readiness, ideological orientation, and human qualities of Chinese military officers. Every Chinese head of state since 1842, when the United Kingdom defeated Imperial China in the Opium War, shared the same concerns. Xi did not say anything new, specific, or surprising. There is no language in his speech that justifies the suggestion he communicated aggressive new nuclear ambitions that day.

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/gregory-kulacki/xi-jinpings-thoughts-on-chinas-nuclear-weapons/>

Chinese premier meets French FM in Beijing

China Daily, April 1, 2024

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Stephane Sejourne in Beijing. Li said China-France relations have long been at the forefront of China's relations with Western major countries, which not only benefits the two peoples but also has a profound impact on the world. Li said this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France. China is willing to work with France to implement the important consensus of the two heads of state, strengthen exchanges at all levels, carry forward traditional friendship, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, enhance mutual understanding, unswervingly advance bilateral relations, leverage the stability of their relations to promote better development of the two countries and inject more certainty into the development of the world through strengthening multilateral coordination.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/01/WS660ab51aa31082fc043bfd61.html>

China is one step closer to having a nuclear-powered spacecraft

Kristin Houser

Freethink, April 1, 2024

China is making progress on a nuclear-powered spacecraft — and if it works as hoped, it could cut the time it takes astronauts to reach Mars in half. When atoms split in two, they release a tremendous amount of energy in the form of heat. We already use this nuclear fission to generate electricity on Earth, but aerospace experts across the globe are looking for ways to use it to power spacecraft. Now, researchers in China have reported that a nuclear reactor they're developing for the Chinese space industry has passed some initial ground tests.

<https://www.freethink.com/space/nuclear-powered-spacecraft>

China's new Type 004 aircraft carrier: Can it challenge US naval dominance in Asia?

The Economic Times, April 1, 2024

China's ambitious naval expansion, exemplified by the construction of its fourth aircraft carrier, the Type 004, is poised to reshape the maritime balance of power in Asia and potentially challenge the US Navy's dominance. According to Yuan, a key figure in the carrier's development, there have been no delays in its construction, with illustrations suggesting the vessel is being built at Shanghai's Jiangnan shipyard. Experts speculate that if powered by nuclear energy, the Type 004 could wield advanced, power-intensive weaponry and operate at sea for extended periods without the need for replenishment.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chinas-new-type-004-aircraft-carrier-can-it-challenge-us-naval-dominance-in-asia/articleshow/108950418.cms?from=mdr>

Majority of ASEAN people favor China over U.S., survey finds

Tsubasa Suruga

Nikkei Asia, April 2, 2024

Over half of Southeast Asians would now prefer to align with China over the U.S. if ASEAN were forced to choose between the rival superpowers, a regional survey by a Singapore-based think tank showed, reflecting Beijing's growing influence in the region. According to the State of Southeast Asia 2024 survey, compiled by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, 50.5% of respondents opted for China and 49.5% preferred the U.S. if ASEAN had to pick sides -- the first time Beijing edged past Washington since the annual survey started asking the question in 2020. Last year's survey showed 38.9% preferred China and 61.1% chose the U.S.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Majority-of-ASEAN-people-favor-China-over-U.S.-survey-finds>

Ministry of State Security releases bilingual report, urging Western forces to stop slandering and attacking China

Global Times, April 2, 2024

The Ministry of State Security (MSS) released a bilingual report urging the US to stop slandering and cyberattacking China. Recently, the US government conspired with the UK to slander China by saying that they are facing cyberattacks from groups of cyberintruders "affiliated to the Chinese government" and put in place unilateral and unreasonable sanctions against China. According to US media outlets, US and British officials on March 26 filed charges, imposed sanctions, and accused China of a sweeping cyberespionage campaign that allegedly "hit millions of people including lawmakers, academics and journalists, and companies including defense contractors."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1309966.shtml>

Russia, China catching up to U.S. in space weaponry, new report finds

Sandra Erwin

Space News, April 2, 2024

The Secure World Foundation on April 2 released its annual report, "Global Counterspace Capabilities: An Open Source Assessment," that sheds light on the growing space arms race between the United States, Russia and China. Both Russia and China have made significant strides in developing space-based electronic warfare tools that can disrupt or disable enemy satellites, the report found. This includes technologies like electronic jamming systems and directed energy weapons using lasers or microwaves.

<https://spacenews.com/russia-china-catching-up-to-u-s-in-space-weaponry-new-report-finds/>

Xi, Biden agree to advance cooperation

Mo Jingxi

China Daily, April 3, 2024

President Xi Jinping and United States President Joe Biden affirmed in a phone conversation on Tuesday the progress achieved so far in bilateral ties since their meeting in San Francisco in November, and agreed to strengthen communication to avoid misjudgment in order to push for the steady development of China-US relations. The two heads of state considered their phone conversation to be "candid and constructive", according to a news release from the Foreign Ministry after the phone talk. The phone call was their latest interaction after exchanging congratulations on the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries on Jan 1.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/03/WS660c4151a31082fc043c0148.html>

Biden and Xi discuss TikTok, South China Sea and de-risking in call

Ken Moriyasu

Nikkei Asia, April 3, 2024

U.S. President Joe Biden spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping for nearly two hours on a range of topics including TikTok ownership, tensions in the South China Sea and whether American sanctions against China amounted to de-risking or decoupling. It was the first time since July 2022 that the two leaders spoke by phone. They have held two face-to-face meetings since then -- in Bali, Indonesia, during November 2022 and in California during November 2023. The call comes a week before Biden hosts Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for an official visit to Washington. The two will be joined later by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the first U.S.-Japan-Philippines trilateral summit.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Biden-and-Xi-discuss-TikTok-South-China-Sea-and-de-risking-in-call>

Will the U.S. succeed in blocking semiconductor development in China?

C. Saratchand

CGTN, April 3, 2024

The United States government has been recently seeking to deploy a whole host of coercive industrial policy measures to try and prevent the further economic development of China. However, for specific political reasons, which we will shortly examine, this coercive industrial policy has been couched in the language of U.S. national security. The current round has principally involved export controls on semiconductors. These include restrictions on both the sale of high-end chips, concerning artificial intelligence and related areas, and chip making equipment, including extreme ultraviolet (EUV) lithography systems as well as many variants of them.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-04-03/Will-the-U-S-succeed-in-blocking-semiconductor-development-in-China--1suKjtcvgMU/p.html>

Chinese comments on Second Thomas Shoal in S. China Sea

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, April 3, 2024

We have made clear China's position on the issue many times. Let me say again that what caused the maritime disputes between the two countries to heat up is that the Philippines, backed by external forces, has been going back on its words and provoking China. The Philippines needs to immediately stop violating China's sovereignty and provoking China, honour its commitments, act on the understandings and consensus between the two sides, observe the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea jointly signed by China and ASEAN countries, and return to the right track of properly managing the

situation through dialogue and consultation. China remains unwavering in safeguarding our territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202404/t20240403_11276221.html

China begins live-fire military drills near Myanmar border

Yukio Tajima

Nikkei Asia, April 3, 2024

China began live-fire exercises near its border with Myanmar as it presses the country's military and armed ethnic groups to abide by a January truce brokered by Beijing. Ground and air forces under the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command are practicing rapid deployments, precision strikes and other operations over two days. Combat units under the Southern Theater Command are ready to safeguard China's sovereignty, border stability and the lives, properties and safety of the Chinese people, spokesperson Col. Tian Junli said in a statement.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Defense/China-begins-live-fire-military-drills-near-Myanmar-border>

Why the US has once again requested a phone call between Chinese and US heads of state

Hu Xijin

Global Times, April 3, 2024

There are many people who hold a pessimistic view toward ties between China and the US, with countless analyses focusing on conflicts and confrontations between the two. Therefore, in recent years, the most positive development in China-US relations can be attributed to the meetings and phone calls between the leaders of both countries. The communication between the heads of state has played a crucial role in maintaining stability and fostering confidence in the China-US relationship.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310009.shtml>

The political lessons from Australia's defiance of China

Alan Beattie

Financial Times, April 4, 2024

Few trade conflicts can be calibrated quite so precisely, commodity by commodity, as the China-Australia spat whose denouement continued to play out last week. Four years after Beijing started to impose trade bans in retaliation for Canberra's temerity in suggesting an inquiry into the origins of Covid-19, China lifted

its tariffs on imports of Australian wine. It has already eased restrictions on trade in coal and barley: there are now rock lobsters and beef to go. For its part, Australia dropped a World Trade Organization case against Beijing over the wine tariffs.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2939c0f3-6bbc-4ed5-9f7b-9837948cd03c>

Taiwan chip industry sails overseas amid supply chain shift

Cheng Ting-Fang

Nikkei Asia, April 4, 2024

TSMC and Foxconn are not the only Taiwanese tech companies feeling compelled to expand abroad. Suppliers of chip and electronics tools, materials and plant builders are also venturing beyond the island as top clients undertake their biggest overseas expansion in decades. China's lukewarm economy is another motivation for upstream suppliers to venture into new markets. The slowdown in Asia's biggest economy has intensified competition and price wars, according to industry executives.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/Taiwan-chip-industry-sails-overseas-amid-supply-chain-shift>

To contain China, the U.S. bets on a 40-year-old ship

Mike Cherney

The Wall Street Journal, April 4, 2024

China, meanwhile, has reinforced its coast guard with more than 20 former navy corvettes and is increasingly asserting its territorial claims in the South China Sea, where Chinese fishing vessels double as a maritime militia. Beijing is also actively seeking influence in the Pacific, after scoring recent wins such as persuading the tiny island nation of Nauru to sever diplomatic ties with Taiwan in January. Certain Chinese coast guard vessels may have longer-range guns compared with the Harriet Lane, some analysts said, but the move could still pay off. U.S. officials hope the increased Coast Guard presence will help build closer relations with island nations—and convince them they are better off joining with Washington instead of Beijing.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/asia/to-contain-china-the-u-s-bets-on-a-40-year-old-ship-08cc9d50>

China, Thailand to cooperate in peaceful use of outer space, lunar exploration missions

Global Times, April 5, 2024

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) and the Thai Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation jointly signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the

exploration and peaceful use of outer space and an MoU on cooperation in the international lunar scientific research station. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand attended and witnessed the signing. Zhang Kejian, director of the China National Space Administration, delivered a welcome speech at the ceremony. According to the MoU, China and Thailand will set up joint committees and working groups to strengthen cooperation in the fields of space exploration, space application and space capacity building by planning and implementing joint space projects, scientific exchange programs and personnel training programs, exchanging data and information, and jointly organising symposiums and scientific workshops.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310035.shtml>

China is targeting U.S. voters and Taiwan with AI-powered disinformation

Dustin Volz

Thw Wall Street Journal, April 5, 2024

Online actors linked to the Chinese government are increasingly leveraging artificial intelligence to target voters in the U.S., Taiwan and elsewhere with disinformation, according to new cybersecurity research and U.S. officials. The Chinese-linked campaigns laundered false information through fake accounts on social-media platforms, seeking to identify divisive domestic political issues and potentially influence elections. The tactics identified in a new cyber-threat report published by Microsoft are among the first uncovered that directly tie the use of generative AI tools to a covert state-sponsored online influence operation against foreign voters. They also demonstrate more-advanced methods than previously seen.

<https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/china-is-targeting-u-s-voters-and-taiwan-with-ai-powered-disinformation-34f59e21>

China, U.S. militaries meet in Hawaii to discuss maritime, air safety

CGTN, April 6, 2024

Chinese and U.S. militaries met in Hawaii from April 3 to 4 to discuss the current maritime and air security situation between the two countries, China's Defense Ministry said. The China-U.S. Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) Working Group meeting aims to implement the important consensus of the two heads of state and promote the healthy, stable, and sustainable development of relations between the two militaries, said the ministry. During the Hawaii meeting, the two sides assessed the implementation of the China-U.S. Rules of Behavior for the Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters since the MMCA meeting in 2021 and discussed measures to improve maritime military security between the two countries, the Chinese Defense Ministry said.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-04-06/China-U-S-hold-Military-Maritime-Consultative-Agreement-meeting-in-Hawaii-1szACGQvzJ6/p.html>

Janet Yellen warns China of ‘significant consequences’ if its companies support Russia’s war

Henry Foy, Felicia Schwartz, Demetri Sevastopulo and Claire Jones

Financial Times, April 6, 2024

The US has warned of “significant consequences” if Chinese companies provide support for Moscow’s war against Ukraine in one of the sharpest messages it has yet delivered to Beijing. Following discussions in Guangzhou, the US Treasury said: “Secretary Yellen emphasised that companies, including those in the PRC, must not provide material support for Russia’s war against Ukraine . . . and the significant consequences if they do so.”

<https://www.ft.com/content/ba524406-ee6c-4c39-9ac2-110a2549569a>

China strives for development, intl cooperation of nuclear fusion to seek ultimate solution to power shortage

Leng Shumei

Global Times, April 6, 2024

In March, the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) announced it would open 10 of its nuclear technology research facilities and testing platforms, including China's new-generation "artificial sun" Huanliu-3 (HL-3) tokamak, to the world for the first time. The move is expected to not only further enhance China's influence in nuclear science and technology globally, but also boost international cooperation in dealing with the energy crisis as the issue seemingly grows more and more urgent along with the rapid development of artificial intelligent (AI) in consideration of the technology's staggering energy consumption.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310066.shtml>

U.S. and China resume talks to avoid accidental clashes at sea

Rintaro Tobita

Nikkei Asia, April 6, 2024

The U.S. and China held maritime military talks this week in Hawaii, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said, as the countries revive efforts to prevent an accidental clash. The dialogue, known as the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement talks, ended Thursday and is designed to improve operational safety and reduce risks between the two militaries. It was last held online in December 2021. China had suspended the framework following a visit by then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan in August 2022. But U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in November 2023 to resume direct military-to-military dialogue.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/U.S.-and-China-resume-talks-to-avoid-accidental-clashes-at-sea>

US-Japan-Philippines' minilateral mechanism harms the prosperity, stability of Asia-Pacific

Sun Xihui

Global Times, April 7, 2024

In the security field, the US has long carried out the so-called freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, often entering the waters near China's South China Sea islands and reefs, provoking China's territorial sovereignty, worsening China-US relations, and posing a threat to China and regional security. The Philippines and the US conducted so-called joint patrols in the South China Sea, frequently trespassing on China's South China Sea islands and reefs.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310121.shtml>

Yellen meets China's Premier Li amid 'tough conversations' on industry

CK Tan

Nikkei Asia, April 7, 2024

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, the highest-ranking leader she is due to see on a five-day visit that is meant to stabilize ties but that has also underscored tensions over industrial capacity. "While we have more to do, I believe that, over the past year, we have put our bilateral relationship on more stable footing," Yellen told Li in Beijing. "This has not meant ignoring our differences or avoiding tough conversations. It has meant understanding that we can only make progress if we directly and openly communicate with one another."

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/Yellen-meets-China-s-Premier-Li-amid-tough-conversations-on-industry>

Chinese scientists question 'flaw' in Nasa's hypersonic aerodynamics software

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, April 8, 2024

A research team in China says it has discovered a potentially fatal flaw in Nasa's hypersonic aerodynamics software. This small deficiency amid tangled equations could lead to "inevitably erroneous outcomes" when scientists simulate and analyse important issues, such as high-temperature ablation, said the team led by Professor Liu Jun, a researcher at the Hypersonic Technology Laboratory of the National University of Defence Technology, in a peer-reviewed paper published in the Chinese academic journal Acta Aerodynamica Sinica on March 14.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3258190/chinese-scientists-question-flaw-nasas-hypersonic-aerodynamics-software>

The PLA Navy Coastal Defense Missile Force

Daniel C. Rice

China Aerospace Studies Institute, April 8, 2024

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is comprised of five branches: the surface fleet, the submarine fleet, naval aviation, the marine corps, and coastal defense. As the PLAN modernizes, each of the branches has undergone its own modernization. This includes the PLAN Coastal Defense force (PLANCDF) which is primarily comprised of coastal artillery forces and coastal defense missile forces. Although the PLANCDF coastal artillery has become mostly obsolete, the missile component of this force or PLAN Coastal Defense Missile force (CDMF)) has not only been growing, but may play a critical role in many of the PLA's envisioned operations on China's periphery. The CDMF is comprised of anti-ship cruise missile (ASCM) systems and represents the shore-based medium and long-range fires that the PLAN brings to fights on the periphery of China. In the past decade, the CDMF has consistently undergone upgrades to its organization, the missile systems that it fields, and its barracks.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/3727771/the-pla-navy-coastal-defense-missile-force/>

China anti-graft agencies investigate top defence group executive

Joe Leahy

Financial Times, April 9, 2024

Chinese anti-corruption authorities are investigating a senior executive at one of the country's top military equipment suppliers, China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, in a new sign of turmoil in the country's defence establishment. The probe into He Wenzhong, deputy general manager of CETC, a company subject to US sanctions, follows a shake-up of the armed forces last year, when the two generals in command of the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force were replaced. The force controls China's land-based nuclear missiles.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f54616bd-deec-44f2-adca-7ed80acc8d77>

Chinese comments on China-DPRK relations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, April 9, 2024

China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors that are connected by mountains and rivers. The two parties and two countries have a tradition of friendly exchanges. This year marks the 75th anniversary of China-DPRK diplomatic relations, and also the "China-DPRK Friendship Year" designated by the top leaders of the two parties and two countries. To send a high-level delegation on an official goodwill visit to the DPRK and attend the opening ceremony of the "China-DPRK Friendship Year" at the DPRK's invitation reflects the deep friendship between the two countries and the great importance China attaches to its relations with

the DPRK. We believe that with the joint efforts of both sides, the visit will be a full success and further deepen bilateral ties.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202404/t20240409_11278689.html

China realizes first in-orbit application of 3D-printed storage tank technology

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, April 9, 2024

China's space development achieved another milestone with the successful operation of the propulsion subsystem of the Tiandu-2 satellite. Launched on March 20, the satellite is dedicated to testing communication and navigation technology for lunar exploration. Since April 3, the propulsion subsystem has been operating normally, marking the first successful application of the liquid ammonia cold gas micro-propulsion system in deep space exploration. Additionally, this signifies the maiden in-orbit application of China's 3D-printed storage tank technology, the Global Times learned from the subsystem developers.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310297.shtml>

Xi Meets with Russia's Foreign Minister, reaffirming ties

David Pierson and Ivan Nечepurenko

The New York Times, April 9, 2024

China's top leader, Xi Jinping, and Russia's foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, met in Beijing, in a session seen as laying the groundwork for an expected visit to China by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and pushing back against mounting pressure from the United States and its allies. Mr. Lavrov's visit came just days after Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen warned of "significant consequences" if Chinese companies provided material support for Russia's war in Ukraine. It also took place as President Biden was set to host the leaders of Japan and the Philippines to boost economic and security ties to counter China's growing assertiveness in Asia.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/09/world/asia/xi-lavrov-russia-china.html>

China slams Campbell's linking AUKUS with Taiwan question, calling trilateral pact a case of 'typical Cold War mentality'

Chen Qingqing

Global Times, April 9, 2024

China's Foreign Ministry slammed recent remarks made by senior US diplomat Kurt Campbell on linking the AUKUS military pact to the Taiwan question, expressing strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition

toward the remarks. And concerning the possible AUKUS expansion to include Japan, the ministry said China does not support provoking bloc confrontations and opposes increasing the risk of nuclear proliferation. In a press conference, the ministry's spokesperson Mao Ning said Campbell's remarks disregard the facts, reverse black and white, fan the flames of conflict, and are malicious in intent. "China is strongly dissatisfied with this and resolutely opposes it."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310264.shtml>

Thank China for our new three-way Pacific alliance

Josh Rogin

The Washington Post, April 9, 2024

“The Indo-Pacific comes down to two strategic visions - One is that this is China’s neighborhood and China makes the rules. The other is that the United States is a permanent Pacific power that you can bet long. The U.S. version is gaining ground.” In the long run, just the countries’ common urge to oppose China’s aggression won’t be sufficient to sustain the momentum. Unless the United States improves the investment and trade elements of its Indo-Pacific strategy, Asian allies will eventually turn back to China out of economic necessity. But for now, Xi’s bullying is driving his neighbors to call for more U.S. engagement and cooperation.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/04/09/china-united-states-japan-philippines-alliance-summit/>

A warning to China? US plans to deploy medium-range missile launchers in the Asia-Pacific

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, April 9, 2024

Washington’s deployment of ground-based launchers for its medium-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific region for the first time in nearly four decades is a “warning” to Beijing against military advancement and a conflict across the Taiwan Strait, according to analysts. During a visit to South Korea on Saturday, General Charles Flynn, the US Army Pacific commander, said the army would soon deploy a new missile launch system that could fire its latest “long-range precision fires”, such as the Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) interceptor and the maritime-strike Tomahawk, in the Asia-Pacific.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3258327/us-viewed-warning-china-against-military-advancement-its-plan-medium-range-missile-launchers-asia>

The rusting Philippine ship forcing Joe Biden and his Asia allies to focus on China

Demetri Sevastopulo, Kana Inagaki and A. Anantha Lakshmi

Financial Times, April 10, 2024

A rusting vessel stranded on a reef in the South China Sea will be among the geopolitical flashpoints under scrutiny when Joe Biden holds historic summits with his Japanese and Philippine counterparts this week in Washington. The common theme will be China and its growing assertiveness in the region — and the US president is sending a clear message to Beijing that Washington is bolstering its alliances in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ec967a36-c526-475e-83be-c35063ccc9ed>

Chinese, Russian FMs hold talks

People's Daily Online, April 10, 2024

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov in Beijing, and both sides expressed hope for strengthening practical cooperation in various fields. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, extended congratulations to President Putin on his reelection. Wang said that China will continue to support Russia's development and revitalization under the leadership of President Putin and support the Russian people's independent choice of development path.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0410/c90000-20155065.html>

Radioactive incident in Russian city bordering China has no impact on Heilongjiang: Chinese authority

Chen Qingqing

Global Times, April 10, 2024

China's National Nuclear Safety Administration announced that radioactive sources in Khabarovsk in Russia's Far East near the border with China have not affected neighboring areas in our country. The 24-hour monitoring in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province has shown results within normal levels, and no abnormalities have been observed. The topic of "radioactive sources found in the Russian city just about 60 kilometers from the border areas of Heilongjiang" has been trending in recent days on Chinese social media, and some netizens raised concerns about the potential impact on the livelihoods in the Chinese province.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310358.shtml>

How China allegedly interfered with Canada's elections

Amanda Coletta

The Washington Post, April 10, 2024

The conclusions in the top-secret intelligence briefing were stark: China “clandestinely and deceptively” interfered in Canada’s 2019 and 2021 federal elections, seeking to support candidates favorable to Beijing’s strategic interests. The activity was aimed at discouraging Canadians, particularly Chinese Canadians, from voting for the Conservative Party, which it viewed as having an anti-Beijing platform, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service reported.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/04/10/canada-china-foreign-interference-trudeau/>

Turkey becomes 10th nation to join Chinese-Russian led International Lunar Research Station program

Global Times, April 10, 2024

Russia confirmed that Turkey has applied to participate in the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) jointly initiated by China and Russia, making it the 10th nation to join the group following Thailand. The news coincided with the arrival in Beijing of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov for a visit to China. Russia has also invited other BRICS members to join the lunar research. Anatoly Petrukovich, director of the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS IKI), made the announcement, citing Turkey's emerging role in global space endeavors, according to Russian and Turkish media reports.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310311.shtml>

Why Xi Jinping is meeting with Taiwan's ex-president

Chris Buckley

The New York Times, April 10, 2024

When China’s leader, Xi Jinping, and then-President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan shook hands in Singapore back in 2015, they each extolled their meeting — the first top-level talks between the rival governments — as a breakthrough that could pave the way to a durable peace, ending decades of enmity. But, as the two men met again in Beijing, the prospects for an amicable settlement over Taiwan’s future seemed more distant than ever. Mr. Ma, who pursued closer engagement with China during his eight years in office, is no longer president of Taiwan. Fewer and fewer Taiwanese people now share his belief that Taiwan must see its future as a part of a greater China.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/10/world/asia/china-taiwan-ma-ying-jeou.html>

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA