



**CCAS CHINA NEWS**  
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29 March 2024

**CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING MET REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. BUSINESS, ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC COMMUNITIES IN BEIJING ON MARCH 27**

Quoting Xinhua, the People's Daily (March 28) reported Chinese President Xi Jinping's meeting in the Great Hall of the People on March 27 with representatives of US business, academic and strategic communities. Chinese President Xi Jinping described the China-U.S. relationship as "one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world" adding that whether they have a cooperative or confrontational relationship will impact the Chinese and American peoples and humanity. He said "As long as both sides see each other as partners and show mutual respect, coexist in peace and cooperate for win-win results, China-U.S. relations will get better." Xi pointed out that the Chinese economy is sound and sustainable and claimed that "last year, China registered one of the highest growth rates among the major economies and accounted for over 30 percent of global growth as before". Pointedly, he added, "China did not collapse as predicted by the "China collapse theory," nor will it peak as forecasted by the "China peak theory". He reiterated that "reform and opening up holds the key to contemporary China's catching up with the times in great strides. China's reform will not pause, and its opening up will not stop". He said U.S. businesses are welcome to "participate more in Belt and Road cooperation", and said "The relationship cannot go back to the old days, but it can embrace a brighter future." He listed the political and diplomatic, economic and financial, law enforcement and counternarcotics, climate change and people-to-people fields, as having made progress since the Biden-Xi summit in San Francisco last year and said China and the United States should coordinate and cooperate with each other, and think and act as major countries. The People's Daily said Evan Greenberg, Chairman of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman and CEO of the Blackstone Group, Cristiano Amon, President and CEO of Qualcomm, Graham Allison, founding Dean of Harvard's John F.

Kennedy School of Government, and Craig Allen, President of the U.S.-China Business Council thanked President Xi for taking time to meet them and said "they noted that China's exceptional economic growth and transformation over the past decades speak to its strong resilience and vitality. Under the extraordinary leadership of President Xi, China is committed to developing new quality productive forces and achieving high-quality development which is more sustainable". Saying the development rights of the Chinese people should be respected, they "expressed confidence that China will realize its development goals and contribute to a stronger, more integrated global economy. A strong and prosperous China is a positive force in the world". They repeated that the "Thucydides trap" is not inevitable. They said the U.S. business, strategic and academic communities support bolstering exchanges and communication at all levels, enhancing mutual understanding, trust and cooperation, joining hands to address global challenges, and fostering a stable, sustainable and productive U.S.-China relationship. Wang Yi participated in the meeting.

ii) Among those spotted as present were: Graham Allison, John Thornton, Mark Carney (a Canadian?) Evan Greenberg, Stephen Schwarzman, Cristiano Amon, Raj Subramaniam, Hock E Tan, Joshua Cooper Ramo, Peng Zhao, Bill Hornbuckle, Craig Allen, and Stephen Orlins. On the Chinese side were: Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the Chairman of NDRC Zheng Shanjie.

(Comment: Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks expressed confidence and optimism in China's economic prospects. He asserted China's economy has not peaked. As in the past he invited US business to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative. Noticeable was, at least in the Xinhua reporting, that Xi Jinping was not at all defensive. However, unlike in the speeches or writings of Chinese leaders including himself, he did not criticise the US.)

### **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING MET PRESIDENT ADIANG OF NAURU ON MARCH 25**

On March 25, President Xi Jinping held talks at the Great Hall of the People with President Adiang of Nauru who was in China for a state visit. CCTV (March 25) reported that Xi Jinping pointed out that 'in January this year, Nauru made the political decision to adhere to the one-China principle and resume diplomatic relations with China, which is a move that is in line with the general trend of history and conforms to the trend of the times. Friendship is in no

particular order, as long as it is started, there will be a bright future. No matter how big or small the cooperation is, as long as it is sincere, it will yield fruitful results. Sino-Norwegian relations have opened a new historical chapter. China is willing to work with Nauru to create a bright future for China-Nauru relations and better benefit the two peoples'. The two heads of state jointly witnessed the signing of a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of jointly building the "Belt and Road", implementing global development initiatives, economic development, agriculture and other fields. The two sides will issue the "Joint Statement of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Nauru". Xi Jinping hosted a welcome ceremony with 21-gun salute for Nauru's President and a welcome banquet in the Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People that evening. Wang Yi participated in the activities.

### **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING MET PRIME MINISTER SKERRIT OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN BEIJING**

The People's Daily (March 25) reported that Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit met in Beijing on March 25.

### **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN OVER THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN MOSCOW BLAST**

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended condolences on March 23, to Russian President Vladimir Putin over the serious terrorist attack that caused heavy casualties at a concert hall in Moscow Oblast. In his message, Xi said that he was shocked to learn that a serious terrorist attack occurred at a concert hall in Russia's Moscow Oblast, causing heavy casualties.

### **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: RUMOURS THAT CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S WIFE PENG LIYUAN MIGHT JOIN POLITBURO**

There are more rumours that Peng Liyuan, Xi Jinping's wife, will be joining the CCP Politburo after being sent to investigate grassroots tuberculosis prevention and control work in Changsha. The rumour was probably sparked by Peng Liyuan going to Changsha alone to investigate tuberculosis prevention and control work and the the National Health Commission releasing a rare graphic, text and audio-visual report on "Peng Liyuan investigates grassroots tuberculosis

prevention and control work in Changsha, Hunan" on the homepage of its official website. According to Xinhua, Chinese President Xi Jinping, accompanied by Hunan Provincial Party Committee Secretary Shen Xiaoming and Governor Mao Weiming, visited Changsha, Changde and other places from March 18 to 21. A video from the National Health Commission of China shows that Peng Liyuan inspected tuberculosis prevention and control work in Changsha on March 20. It is being speculated that Peng Liyuan came to Changsha with Xi Jinping.

(Comment: March 24 is, incidentally, World Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Day.)

**CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CENTRAL PARTY LITERATURE PRESS PUBLISHED COMPILATION OF DISCOURSES ON FINANCIAL SECTOR BY CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING**

A compilation of excerpts from discourses on China's financial sector by Chinese President Xi Jinping has been published by the Central Party Literature Press. Compiled by the CCP CC's Institute of Party History and Literature, the book brings together 324 relevant passages in 10 categories, excerpted from over 120 important spoken and written works Xi made between November 2012 and February 2024. Some have been made public for the first time in this compilation.

**CHINA-LEADERSHIP: A CHINESE NETIZEN RECORDED THAT XI JINPING HAS "POINTED THE WAY FORWARD" ON AT LEAST 240 TOPICS SINCE 2015**

A Chinese netizen shared a compilation of topics on which Chinese President Xi Jinping has "pointed the way forward" since 2015. The compilation, republished (March 23) by the Editors of China Digital Times (CDT), is derived from articles published by People's Daily and Xinhua. The non-exhaustive list finds that Xi Jinping has "pointed the way forward" on over 240 topics. They range from the grandiose ("humanity's future development") to the Party's political concerns ("full implementation of the spirit of the 20th National Party Congress") to the nitty-gritty of governance ("agricultural supply-side reform"). CDT has translated the list in its totality.

(Comment: Xi Jinping's instructions are intended to project his leadership and build his personality cult.)



## **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PREMIER LI QIANG DELIVERS SPEECH AT STATE COUNCIL VIDEO CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING LARGE-SCALE EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AND TRADE-INS OF CONSUMER GOODS**

The People's Daily (March 29) said that Politburo Standing Committee member and Chinese Premier Li Qiang spoke while attending a State Council video conference on promoting large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins of consumer goods on March 28, 2024. The meeting was chaired by Politburo Standing Committee member and Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang. In his speech, Chinese Premier Li Qiang pledged to take concrete action to promote large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins of consumer goods, in an effort to facilitate economic transformation and improve people's livelihoods. He highlighted the strategic significance of the upgrade campaign and its benefits for the economy, businesses and individuals and called on all regions and government departments to attach great importance to the campaign and make solid efforts to carry it out.

## **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PREMIER LI QIANG ADDRESSES CHINA DEVELOPMENT FORUM ON MARCH 24**

The state-owned CCTV (March 24) and People's Daily (March 25) said that Chinese Premier Li Qiang attended the opening ceremony of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the China Development Forum in Beijing on March 24 and delivered a keynote speech. It quoted Li Qiang saying that in the past year, "under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, we have successfully completed the main goals and tasks of economic and social development throughout the year, and the economic recovery has continued to consolidate and strengthen, with new industries, new models, and new momentum". He said, "We believe that the mutual trust and two-way commitment between the government and enterprises will surely form a powerful synergy that can lead to win-win development". Acknowledging that "the international environment is undergoing profound changes and world economic development is facing many severe challenges", Li Qiang assured that "China will take pragmatic and effective actions to increase macroeconomic policy adjustments, focus on expanding domestic demand, accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system, continue to promote green transformation, address both symptoms and root causes, and properly prevent and resolve various risks and hidden dangers, so as to more effectively and effectively promote the high-speed development of China's economy. Quality

development will inject more certainty and positive energy into world economic recovery and stable development". He added "today's Chinese economy has been deeply integrated with the world economy". Highlighting the nation's commitment to expanding opening-up, Li Qiang said "We are willing to share China's great opportunities for sustainable development with the world and work with all parties to create a bright future of common development". State Councilor Wu Zhenglong attended the opening ceremony.

ii) Xinhua (March 25) said Chinese Premier Li Qiang met IMF President Georgieva at the Great Hall of the People on March 25. The Financial Times (March 24) reported her as saying China is at 'fork in the road,' and must boost consumer demand as export glut tensions rise. She added China must "rely on the policies that have worked in the past, or reinvent itself for a new era of high-quality growth."

iii) The People's Daily quoted Pascal Soriot, CEO of United Kingdom-based biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, saying "We recognize China's numerous strengths in accelerating global healthcare, innovation and sustainability, and we look forward to advancing further partnering opportunities with Chinese enterprises, both to promote Chinese innovations overseas and to advance scientific research in our own laboratories". Bill Winters, CEO of Standard Chartered, expressed full confidence in China's 5 percent growth target this year, saying that the nation is "still the biggest single contributor to global growth". He added that the number of foreign CEOs attending this year's China Development Forum is roughly double that of last year or even more, which "I think that reflects the level of ongoing interest in the Chinese market and in investing in China." Denis Depoux, global managing director of market consultancy Roland Berger, said developing new quality productive forces is all about the transformation of its economy. Depoux added that China's efforts to develop new quality productive forces will attract more foreign companies to bring more investment and technologies to the world's second-largest economy.

(Comment: About 400 people attended the opening ceremony, including World Bank President Pang Anjie, International Monetary Fund President Georgieva, as well as domestic and foreign experts and scholars, entrepreneurs, government officials and representatives of international organizations.)

**CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PREMIER LI QIANG ADDRESSES VIDEO CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING RESOLUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT**

The People's Daily (March 23) reported that Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC) member and Chinese Premier Li Qiang spoke at a video conference on promoting the prevention and resolution of local government debt risks on March 22, 2024. PBSC member and Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang presided over the meeting. Xinhua (March 22) quoted Chinese Premier Li Qiang as saying that continuous efforts should be made to promote the prevention and resolution of local government debt risks. He added that defusing the debt risks will be a tough and protracted battle.

**CHINA-LEADERSHIP: POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF THE CCP CC GENERAL OFFICE CAI QI ATTENDED MEETING ON BEIJING'S DEVELOPMENT**

Politburo Standing Committee member Cai Qi attended the third plenary meeting of the 20th Capital Planning and Construction Committee (CPCC) on March 27 on the planning of Beijing's development and delivered a speech. Cai Qi is also Director of the CPCC. Beijing Party Secretary and Politburo member Yin Li presided over the meeting.

**CHINA-LEADERSHIP: POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER AND CPPCC CHAIRMAN WANG HUNING CHAIRS 17TH CHAIRPERSON'S COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 27**

Politburo Standing Committee member and CPPCC Chairman Wang Huning chaired the 17th Chairperson's Council meeting in Beijing on March 27, and delivered a speech. Wang Huning said on the occasion of the 75th anniversary, the CPPCC will uphold and enhance the Party's leadership throughout the whole process and in all aspects of its work, and strengthen its role as a specialized consultative body.

## **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER AND SECRETARY OF CDIC LI XI INSPECTED (MARCH 18-21) ZHEJIANG PROVINCE**

Politburo Standing Committee Member and Secretary CDIC Li Xi travelled in Zhejiang on a fact-finding mission from March 18 to 21. During his visit Li Xi urged discipline inspection commissions and supervision agencies to enhance inspection and supervision while centering around the country's most fundamental interests, to facilitate and guarantee the development of new quality productive forces, and to advance the country's high-quality development. He also presided over a symposium in Hangzhou on March 20, when he urged efforts to intensify political oversight, further improve conduct, enforce discipline and combat corruption, and deepen the reform of inspection and supervision system. Li Xi visited local villages, research institutes and historical sites.

## **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE VICE PRESIDENT HAN ZHENG DELIVERS SPEECH AT FIRST "INVEST IN CHINA" EVENT**

Xinhua and Beijing Daily (March 23 & 27) quoted China's Ministry of Commerce as saying that Chinese Vice President Han Zheng attended and delivered a speech at the first signature event of "Invest in China" on March 26. Han Zheng said the event was "also a practical action to actively promote economic globalization and promote the stable and smooth operation of the global industrial and supply chains".

Investing in China is investing in the future. "Invest in China" is a government campaign to attract foreign investment and help foreign companies better understand China's opportunities.

## **CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE STATE COUNCILOR SHEN YIQING INSPECTED YUNNAN PROVINCE**

During her three day (March 19-21) inspection of Yunnan Province, Chinese State Councilor Mme Shen Yiqin called for efforts to secure employment, promote people's income growth, and support women's employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Shen Yiqin visited multiple sites in the province including an enterprise, a school, a resident community and an employment service center. She also stressed developing industries with local characteristics, enhancing vocational skills training, providing more employment opportunities for women and supporting children's healthy growth and overall development.



**CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: FORMER VICE MINISTER ZHENG GUOGUANG APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF CHINA DISASTER PREVENTION ASSOCIATION**

Zheng Guoguang, former member of the Party Committee and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Emergency Management, was elected president of the fifth council of the China Disaster Prevention Association.

**CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: ZHOU XINMIN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN AND PARTY SECRETARY OF CHINA AVIATION INDUSTRY CORPORATION (AVIC)**

Beijing Daily (March 27) reported that on March 27, 2024, Aviation Industry Corporation of China held a meeting of middle-level and above managers and along with the "relevant responsible comrades" of the CCP CC Organization Department announced Zhou Xinmin's appointment as Chairman and Party Secretary of Aviation Industry Corporation of China.

**CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: ZHOU ZIPING APPOINTED DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF DONGFENG MOTOR GROUP**

According to the "Dongfeng Motor" WeChat public account, on March 27, 2024, the Dongfeng Motor Group Co., Ltd. leadership team entrusted by the leadership of the CCP CC Organization Department decided to appoint Zhou Zhiping as the Director, General Manager and Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Dongfeng Motor Group Co., Ltd. Zhou Zhiping has stepped down from his position as Deputy General Manager and Member of the Party Committee Standing Committee of China FAW Group Co., Ltd.

**CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: SONG YINGDONG APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF HARBIN ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY**

The "Harbin Engineering University" WeChat public account on March 24, announced the decision of the Party Leadership Group of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology that Song Yingdong will be appointed the President and Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Harbin Engineering University.

(Comment: Born in March 1969, Song Yingdong is a Doctor of Engineering, a member of the Communist Party of China, and a Professor. He graduated from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics with a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctoral degree, and has worked at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics for a long time. Song Yingdong has also served as member of the Standing Committee of the Party Committee and Vice President of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.)

### **CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: ZHAO DINGXIN, HEAD OF ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY'S SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESIGNED IN ANGER**

Prof. Zhao Dingxin of Zhejiang University (Zheda) and a renowned sociologist, recently resigned and reports in scholarly circles claim that his online resignation may have been prompted by the newly-appointed department Secretary Chen Moushan. Professor Zhao has not confirmed his resignation letter. Zheda's Department of Sociology announced on March 11, that all Department cadres met that day and agreed that Vice President Zhou Jianghong would serve concurrently as department head. Reportedly Zhao Dingxin was not given adequate funds to build his department due to opposition from the department Secretary Chen Moushan. On March 19 and 21 March, Chen Sushan took advantage of Zhao Dingxin's trip to Shanghai and held a series of full-time meetings, criticising Zhao Dingxin's original plan and asked young teachers to apply for more projects, take more topics, and follow traditional academic paths.

### **CHINA-ANTI-CORRUPTION: SENIOR OFFICIALS EXPELLED FROM CCP FOR CORRUPTION AND VIOLATIONS OF PARTY DISCIPLINE**

i) Zhou Huijun, former member of the Enshi Political Consultative Conference and its Vice Chairman was expelled from the Party on March 28, for, among other reasons, "pursuing low-level pleasures, ...seeking both official positions and personal wealth."

(Comment: Enshi City is in Hubei province.)

ii) Zhang Min, former Deputy General Manager of Heilongjiang Provincial Investment Group, was expelled from the Party on March 26, for, among other reasons, "personally deciding on major business matters of state-owned enterprises, causing significant economic losses".

### **CHINA-CCP: CCP CC LITERATURE EDITING COMMITTEE PUBLISHED THE COLLECTED WORKS OF LI PENG**

Guangming Daily (March 27) reported that 'The Collected Works of Li Peng' edited by the CCP CC Literature Editing Committee, has been published by the People's Publishing House and is now available nationwide. 'The Collected Works of Li Peng' is divided into two volumes and includes a total of 207 representative and important works by "Comrade Li Peng from September 1983 to March 2003, totalling about 800,000 words, with a significant portion being published for the first time".

### **CHINA-CCP: LATEST ISSUE OF RED FLAG RELEASED**

The latest (2024/6 dated March 28) issue of Hongqi (Red Flag) was issued on March 28. It contains articles on new productive forces, dual circulation, party leadership, thematic education and grassroots governance, and the three global initiatives (GDI, GSI, GCI).

### **CHINA-CCP: PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY YU JIANG, VICE PRESIDENT CHINA INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, EULOGISING CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES**

The People's Daily (March 24) published an article by Yu Jiang, Vice President of the China Institute of International Studies, under the caption 'Create a new situation in which major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics is more effective (International Forum)'. Stating that "currently, the world is undergoing major changes unseen in a century, and human society is facing endless challenges", it said "Major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics focuses on promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, contributing China's solutions to maintaining world peace and stability, China's strength to promoting common development and prosperity, and China's wisdom to solving the dilemma of global governance". It claimed China has taken active actions to build "a community with a shared future for mankind has achieved full coverage in Central Asia and the Indochina Peninsula. The construction of communities with a shared future for China-Africa, China-Arab States, China-Latin America, China-ASEAN, China-Pacific Island Countries, etc. is progressing rapidly and steadily. The third "Belt and Road" International Cooperation Summit The successful holding of the forum promoted the historic expansion of

BRICS countries and opened a new chapter for the "Global South" to unite and strengthen itself. China has participated constructively in resolving international hot-spot issues, promoting the historic reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, mediating the ceasefire agreement in northern Myanmar, insisting on non-interference in internal affairs, insisting on political settlement, insisting on objectivity and fairness, insisting on addressing both the symptoms and root causes, and exploring a solution to hot-spot issues with Chinese characteristics".

**CHINA-CCP: MA GUOQING, PROFESSOR OF MINZU UNIVERSITY, PUBLISHED A LENGTHY ARTICLE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY ON ETHNIC UNITY**

People's Daily (March 25) published a lengthy article by Ma Guoqing, Professor at Minzu University of China, under the caption 'The focus of building the theoretical system of the Chinese nation community (building philosophy and social sciences with Chinese characteristics)'. Stressing the need "To build a strong consciousness of the Chinese nation's community", he said "We not only have diverse ethnic groups, but also diverse regions, languages, religions, customs and cultures. However, the "diversity" of the Chinese nation is not separate or separated from each other. All ethnic groups have commonality and unity at all levels such as economy, politics, and culture. Various ethnic groups interact, exchange, and blend together to form the Chinese nation and jointly create Chinese culture. Diversity comes together as one, and unity leads diversity. The Chinese nation did not fall apart even in its weakest period in history". It said "Western ethnic theoretical research overemphasizes the differences between different ethnic groups and ignores the interaction, organic connection and symbiosis between ethnic groups, and has a strong Western-centrism tendency. The Chinese national community is not an "imagined community", but the historical result of the integration of different ethnic groups on the land of China. It is a big family in which you are included in me, and you are included in me."

**CHINA-CCP: GUANGMING DAILY ARTICLE EMPHASISES IMPORTANCE OF UNITED FRONT**

Guangming Daily (March 25) published an article on the CCP's United Front captioned 'Draw the largest concentric circles for building a strong country and rejuvenating the nation'. It quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping saying at the United Front Conference that "The united front is an important magic weapon for the Party to defeat the enemy, govern and rejuvenate

the country, and is an important magic weapon for uniting all Chinese people at home and abroad to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It must be persisted for a long time."

### **CHINA-CCP: PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHED ARTICLE EULOGISING CHINESE DIPLOMACY UNDER XI JINPING**

The People's Daily (March 23) published a lengthy article captioned 'Under the glorious banner of building a community with a shared future for mankind' by Guo Jinping. It claimed that "A new chapter in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics is slowly unfolding in 2024" and that "A new journey has begun, with President Xi Jinping at the helm and leading the way. Major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics focuses on promoting the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. It will create a more promising new situation with a more proactive historical responsibility and a more dynamic creative spirit." The article contained 64 references to Xi Jinping.

(Comment: Guo Jiping is used for People's Daily editorials meant to outline China's stance and viewpoints on major international issues.)

### **CHINA-HI-TECH: CHINA BANS USE OF INTEL AND AMD CHIPS AND FOREIGN DATABASE PROGRAMMES IN GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS**

The Financial Times (March 24) reported that China has blocked the use of Intel and AMD chips in government computers. Microsoft's Windows and foreign database programs have also been sidelined as Beijing favours China-made options listed by China Information Technology Security Evaluation Center.

(Comment: According to reports, by March 24 at least 8 provinces across China had implemented the ban.)



## **CHINA-ECONOMY: PRIVATE THINK-TANK LISTS IMPORTANT ADVISORS ON THE ECONOMY TO CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING**

Among the top ten Chinese advisors on the country's economy to Chinese President Xi Jinping are (in order of ranking):

- i) Liu Yuanchun, an economist reportedly close to Xi Jinping, still holds the number one slot.
- ii) Li Yang, Chairman of NIFD, a tier-one financial think tank recently briefed the new securities regulator chairman, Wu Qing.
- iii) Li Daokui, Dean of Tsinghua University's economic think tank ACCEPT, made the cut after he briefed Premier Li Qiang in person in January 2024.
- iv) Peng Wensheng, Chief Economist of investment bank CICC, rose up the ranks after briefing several senior leaders from top financial regulators.
- v) Huang Haizhou, an economist who until recently was CICC's Managing Director, made the list after joining the PBoC's monetary policy committee (MPC).

The think tank also said: Demographer Cai Fang, who was ranked second among the advisors has recently left the PBoC's MPC.

Economist Liu Shijin just finished his term on the PBoC's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and Wang Changlin's facetime with top leaders has dried up, and he has maintained a relatively low public profile, rarely participating in economic policy forums or speaking in public.

## **CHINA-ECONOMY: PEOPLE'S DAILY QUOTED WORLD BANK PRESIDENT BANGA SAYING CHINA IS KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GROWTH**

People's Daily (March 25) quoted World Bank President Ajay Banga on his first visit to China since taking over as President of the World Bank as saying (March 23) in Shijiazhuang, Hebei province, that China is absolutely a key contributor to the sustainable global growth. He said "I think that's the role China can play in many countries to show that you can do both development and cleaner (air) at the same time. So, citizens can have (not only) economic growth but also quality of life. And I think that's a very important lesson."

**CHINA-ECONOMY: CHINESE COMMERCE MINISTER WANG WENTAO MET APPLE'S COOK, AMD'S SU ZIFENG**

i) Beijing Daily (March 24) reported that Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao met Su Zifeng, Chairman and CEO of AMD Semiconductor Company in the United States in Beijing on March 24. They exchanged views on Sino-US economic and trade relations, AMD development in China and other issues. Su Zifeng said that China is one of the focuses of AMD's global strategy. The company will continue to increase investment in China and work with local partners to provide better products and services for the Chinese market.

ii) Beijing Daily (March 23) reported that Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao met the CEO of Apple Thomas Cook in Beijing on March 22. It said they exchanged views on Apple's development in China, Sino-US economic and trade relations and other issues. Wang Wentao emphasized that Sino-US economic and trade cooperation is a stabilizing force for bilateral relations. The business community is generally opposed to decoupling from China and generalizing the concept of national security. China is willing to work with the United States to create a fair, stable and predictable environment for business cooperation between the two countries.

**CHINA-ECONOMY: NPC CHAIRMAN ZHAO LEJI ATTEND BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA - 2024 (MARCH 26-29) ON MARCH 28**

The annual Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) for 2024 was held from March 26 to 29 in the resort town of Boao in Hainan Province. Politburo Standing Committee member and NPC Chairman Zhao Leji attended and delivered the keynote speech at the opening plenary on March 28. Xinhua (March 25) said the panel discussions will cover a broad range of topics including those focusing on Asia, such as boosting investor confidence, improving the investment ecosystem, enhancing foreign investment attractiveness, investing in Asia, deepening financial cooperation in Asia, and efforts to build Asia into a growth center. Topics such as AI, the future of new energy vehicles, and high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation will also be discussed.

## **CHINA-ECONOMY: CHINA'S CRRC CHANGCHUN RAILWAY COMPANY DEVELOPED HAS DEVELOPED AN URBAN TRAIN USING IN-BUILT HYDROGEN POWER SYSTEM**

The China Daily (March 21) reported that the CRRC Changchun Railway Co., had developed China's first home grown hydrogen energy urban train and it had successfully completed its test run on a trial line at a speed of 160 kilometres per hour in Changchun, Jilin Province on March 21. It said the train has a built-in hydrogen power system that can provide a strong and durable power source and its average energy consumption was 5-kilowatt hours at an overall international-leading level. It applies a hybrid energy supply system and hydrogen-electric hybrid energy management and control system, reaching a maximum running range of 1,000 kilometres. Wang Jian, Deputy Director of the Research Department at the CRRC Changchun, claimed the company has also verified the actual performance of the hydrogen powered train at an ambient temperature of -25 to 35 degrees Celsius for the first time.

## **CHINA-PLA: TWO OFFICERS PROMOTED AS GENERALS AT PROMOTION CEREMONY ON MARCH 28**

The state-owned CCTV reported that the Central Military Commission's promotion ceremony to the rank of General was held on March 28 at the Bayi Building in Beijing and the Chairman of the Central Military Commission, Xi Jinping, attended the promotion ceremony. CMC Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia read out the promotion order to the rank of General signed by Xi Jinping, Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and CMC Vice Chairman He Weidong presided over the promotion ceremony. The officers promoted to the rank of General are: Wang Renhua, Secretary of the CMC's Political and Legal Affairs Committee and Xiao Tianliang, President of the National Defense University (NDU).

(Comment: Born in 1962, Wang Renhua became Director of the Political Department of the Army Equipment Research and Ordering Division of the Equipment Development Department of the Central Military Commission in 2015, but having held the position for only one year, he was made Deputy Director of the PLA Army Political Work Department. In 2018, he became Deputy Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Central Military Commission, rising to Secretary in December 2019. He was inducted as full member of the CCP CC at the 20th Party Congress in 2022. He is considered close to Xi Jinping. Born in

November 1962, in December 2014, Xiao Tianliang was named Vice President of the National Defence University and was promoted as President in 2023. Both the newly promoted officers are Political Commissars.)

### **CHINA-PLA: DF-17 MISSILE TEST CRASHES IN RESIDENTIAL AREA IN CAPITAL OF HEBEI PROVINCE DURING TEST ON MARCH 26**

A post (March 26) on Twitter said "According to Xinhua News Agency, during a Made In China DF17 missile test in China's Eastern Theatre Command, the missile lost control due to GPS disconnection and crashed into a residential building in Yanjiao, capital Hebei province. The number of deaths is still being counted."

### **CHINA-PLA: UPGRADES TO NGARI-GUNSA AIRFIELD REVEAL NEW 75 METRE LONG BUNKERS FOR POSSIBLE STORAGE OF BALLISTIC MISSILES**

Recent upgrades to Ngari-Gunsa airport very close to India-China border reveals (March 27) new bunkers that are unusually long ~ 75m in length. Possible storage/staging for ballistic missiles, very similar to silos observed in Hami and Ordos ICBM missile fields.

(Comment: The bunkers could also be for storing munitions for PLAAF aircraft i.e. AA missiles, A2G munition etc.)

### **CHINA-PLA: PAP PERSONNEL OF NAGQU DIVISION TRAIN AT HIGH ALTITUDES**

Huaxia (March 21) disclosed that officers and soldiers of the Nagqu military division within the Tibet Armed Police Corps recently "demonstrated their unwavering dedication" by undertaking rigorous military training at altitudes of more than 4500 metres.

### **CHINA-YUNNAN: STRONG GUSTY WINDS BLOW OFF PART OF METAL ROOF OF KUNMING AIRPORT TERMINAL ON MARCH 27 MORNING**

Beijing Daily (March 27) disclosed that according to the official blog of Kunming Airport, at about 11:50 on March 27, due to the rare short-term strong wind weather (gusts exceeding 27

meters/second), part of the metal roof of Kunming Airport T1 Terminal was lifted, and some soft insulation material fell off. After verification, no one was injured at the scene, the aircraft and vehicle equipment were not damaged, and the main structure of the terminal was not affected. It said at present, Kunming Airport is operating normally. Kunming Airport has immediately organized personnel and equipment to repair the damaged roof and actively taken measures to reinforce it.

### **CHINA-ANHUI: ANHUI PARTY SECRETARY HAN JUN TELLS 4TH PRIVATE ENTREPRENEUR SYMPOSIUM THAT ENTREPRENEURS WILL GET 'TOP PRIORITY'**

The Anhui Daily reported that on March 27, the Anhui Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial Government held the fourth private entrepreneur symposium in Hefei. Anhui Party Secretary Han Jun said at the symposium "We should regard the 'top priority' of private enterprises as the 'top priority' of the party committee and government." 30 representatives of private entrepreneurs either directly stated the specific difficulties encountered by the enterprise, or reflected the general demands of the industry. The newspaper said the private economy is an important support for Anhui's high-quality development, contributing 56.4% of the province's tax revenue, 60.9% of GDP, 70.4% of invention patent authorizations, more than 80% of new urban jobs, and 93% of the number of enterprises.

### **CHINA-HUNAN: HUNAN PROMOTES TRADE WITH AFRICA FOLLOWING XI JINPING'S VISIT TO HUNAN**

Recalling Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks during his inspection visit (March 18-21) to Hunan, where he said "that we should deeply integrate into the joint construction of the "Belt and Road", steadily expand institutional opening up, build a high-standard free trade pilot zone, and strive to create a pioneer zone for in-depth economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa", the Hunan Daily (March 26) said a reporter visited the Changsha area of the Hunan Pilot Free Trade Zone to ascertain how Hunan and Africa can cooperate in depth in economy and trade? It said smooth channels connect Changsha to more than 20 cities in Africa and that under the Special Pro-rate Agreement (SPA) nine days ago, Hunan's first shipment of African goods transported through SPA was shipped from Changsha to Kenya and then transferred to Nigeria by Kenya Airways. It said with this "Hunan Products to Africa" has thus broken the



restrictions on direct flights, and the goods trade between Changsha and more than 20 cities in African countries has achieved "one vote to the end".

### **CHINA-GUANGDONG: GUANGDONG PARTY SECRETARY HUANG KUNMING MEETS EXXON MOBIL CHIEF WOODLON AND HIS DELEGATION**

The Guangzhou Daily (March 24) reported that on March 23, Guangdong Party Secretary Huang Kunming and Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and Governor of the Province Wang Weizhong, met Woodlon, Chairman and CEO of Exxon Mobil Corporation, who was visiting Guangdong, and his delegation. They discussed accelerating Huizhou's Project construction, further deepening and expanding strategic cooperation and other exchanges. Huang Kunming welcomed Woodlum and his delegation and expressed his gratitude to ExxonMobil for choosing, investing in, and taking root in Guangdong, and briefed them on the economic and social development of Guangdong.

### **CHINA-GUANGDONG: ZHEJIANG PROVINCE PARTY SECRETARY YI LIANHONG LEADS DELEGATION TO GUANGDONG AND MEETS GUANGDONG PARTY SECRETARY HUANG KUNMING**

The Guangzhou Daily (March 24) reported that from March 22 to 23, the Zhejiang Provincial Party and Government delegation came to Guangdong for inspection and exchange. A symposium was held in Guangzhou on March 22, when the two sides had in-depth exchanges on strengthening inter-provincial exchanges and cooperation between Guangdong and Zhejiang, jointly promoting the implementation of major national strategies, and working together to embark on a path of high-quality development. Guangdong Provincial Party Committee Secretary Huang Kunming presided over the meeting and delivered a speech. Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee Secretary Yi Lianhong attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Wang Weizhong, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Governor, and Wang Hao, Deputy Secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee and Governor, attended the meeting and gave a briefing on the economic and social development of Guangdong and Zhejiang respectively.

**CHINA-TIBET: PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHED SPECIAL ARTICLE ON TIBET ON 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS "DEMOCRATIC REFORM"**

The People's Daily (March 28) published a special article titled 'Building a new socialist modern Tibet' on the occasion of the "65th anniversary of Tibet's democratic reform". The CCTV (March 28) also telecast a special feature highlighting the development brought to Tibet by the CCP.

**CHINA-HUMAN RIGHTS: CHINA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES ORGANISED SEMINAR IN GENEVA TO PORTRAY TIBET AND XINJIANG AS "MODEL REGIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS"**

Bitter Winter (March 23) reported that on March 18, the China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS) organized a seminar titled "The Protection of Human Rights for Minorities: Progress in China's Ethnic Autonomous Regions" during the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The seminar was held in a classroom of the University of Geneva which, it said, raised doubts about the institution's possible links with Chinese money. The seminar presented Tibet, systematically called Xizang, and Xinjiang as model regions where human rights are affirmed and protected thanks to the enlightened rule of the CCP. Beijing sent Liang Junyan, a researcher at the Institute of History Studies of China Tibetology Research Center, Jia Chunyang, Executive Director of the Center for Economic and Social Security Studies of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, Qiao Basheng, Director of the Center for International Communication and Cultural Security Studies of the Northwest University of Political Science and Law, and Tuersun Aibai, an Associate Professor with the School of Journalism and Communication of Xinjiang University. They were joined by André Lacroix, presented as a "Belgian Tibetologist," but who is in fact a retired high school teacher who "regularly peddles Chinese propaganda about Tibet", and Dechen Shak-Dagsay, a Swiss-Tibetan musician.

## **CHINA-TAIWAN: FORMER TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU TO VISIT CHINA FROM APRIL 1-11 AND MEET CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING**

According to Hongkong's HK01, Taiwan's former president, Ma Ying-jeou is poised to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping a second time. Ma will lead a delegation to visit mainland China from April 1 to 11.

## **CHINA-TAIWAN: TAIWAN PLANS TO BUILD ITS OWN SATELLITE CONSTELLATION**

A report in the New York Times (March 14) quoted Liao Jung-Huang, a Director at the government-sponsored Industrial Technology Research Institute, as saying that “The Ukraine-Russia war gave us a profound reflection. Even if the cost to build it is high, in a special scenario, the value of having our own constellation is unlimited.” He added that more than 40 Taiwanese companies are making parts in the satellite supply chain. In Taiwan, the government has said that it wanted to send its first communications satellite to orbit by 2026, with a second to follow within two years, while developing four more test satellites. President Tsai Ing-wen pledged \$1.3 billion for Taiwan's space program to develop the best of these tests into a satellite internet network entirely made and controlled from Taiwan. While the network is being developed, the Taiwan government has brokered deals for access to existing satellite networks. It has said it planned to deploy 700 terminals capable of receiving satellite signals. In August, it became partners with the Luxembourg company SES, and in November, Chunghwa Telecom announced a partnership with Eutelsat OneWeb. The partnerships could provide layers of backup even after Taiwan gets its own network up and running. Yisuo Tzeng, a researcher at the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, a think tank funded by Taiwan's defense ministry, said “We need to invest in more than one system. We can't put all our eggs in one basket.” Yu-Jiu Wang, founder of Tron Future, a start-up making the payload for one of the satellites the government is testing, said, “Right now we are strong in semiconductors and electronics manufacturing, but space is a new industry where we can leverage that.”

**CHINA-INDIA: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON REMARKS ON PLOT TO ASSASSINATE "A U.S. SIKH LEADER" ADVISING COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW INTERNATIONAL NORMS**

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on March 25 said "China noted the reported US allegation that India plotted murder-for-hire to assassinate a US Sikh leader. We hope relevant countries will observe international law and the basic norms governing international relations".

**CHINA-INDIA: POST ON WEIBO ADVOCATING SUPPORT TO KHALISTAN SUPPORTERS ABROAD ELICITS SUPPORT FROM SOME OTHERS**

A post (March 26) on Weibo by a blogger claiming 1,046, 666 followers said "The Sikhs outside India are calling for cooperation, saying that Sikhs serving in the Indian army should coordinate with China. As long as we help establish Khalistan, then taking over Ladakh, Northeast India, and so on wouldn't be a problem. Although we usually don't do these kinds of things, refrain from interfering in internal affairs. But if India messes with Tibet again, shouldn't we respond in this way?"

The post attracted comments among which were:

"We don't interfere in internal affairs, but if they stir up trouble themselves, it's not our concern. India is quite aggressive; someday, when it develops, it will definitely take a bite out of China. If India splits into six or seven parts, China will face no resistance in South Asia."

and: "Supporting and backing the establishment of Sikh statehood could partially solve the issue in Southern Tibet. Last year, Indian agents assassinated Sikhs in Canada. We missed an opportunity there."

(Comment: The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson made remarks on March 27 about the alleged plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurwatpant Singh Pannun and reiterated its claim over Arunachal Pradesh. These Weibo posts would have been provoked by that.)

## **CHINA-INDIA: POST ON WEIBO CAUTIONS CHINESE WANTING TO MIGRATE TO CANADA THAT INDIANS WILL OUT COMPETE THEM**

A post on Weibo (March 25) aimed at Chinese wanting to migrate to Canada said “A large number of Indians are immigrating to Canada for labour work, especially in jobs like food delivery and taxi services. Labor costs are low, which has caused headaches for Chinese immigrants who gave up their Chinese citizenship to pursue better opportunities and quality of life there. Some people initially intended to work in labour-related jobs there, but now they are facing tough competition from Indians, who also have large families. Your job opportunities are dwindling, yet you remain stubborn, saying that as long as you're willing to work hard, you can make money. Do you really believe that? Who are the ones living well abroad? It's the second-generation wealthy, entrepreneurs, and celebrities who have made a fortune. You might do well in China as an expert, scholar, or small business owner, and perhaps buying a house and obtaining residency seems appealing, but do you really think you'll have a comfortable life in Canada? The Indians will outcompete you.”

## **CHINA-INDIA: GLOBAL TIMES REACTS TO FOREIGN MINISTER JAISHANKAR'S REMARKS IN MALAYSIA ABOUT NOT COMPROMISING ON BORDER ISSUE**

A Global Times (March 28) article captioned 'China, India hold 'candid, in-depth' talks on boundary issues but Jaishankar says 'won't compromise' said as China and India agreed to continue talks through diplomatic and military channels to resolve border issues at the latest border consultation in Beijing, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he will "never compromise on securing borders." It added analysts viewed this "as a trick to pass the buck to China over the dispute and try to gain more leverage to bargain with Beijing". It noted that meeting with the Indian community in Malaysia, according to NDTV Jaishankar said, "My first duty to Indians is to secure the border. I can never compromise on that". Jaishankar claimed that "normalcy in bilateral ties with China will only be achieved based on the traditional deployment of troops and will be the prerequisite for the relationship with Beijing in the future." It quoted Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, as telling Global Times (March 28) that Jaishankar's "tough words" were made with an eye on the upcoming election. He also said "the words and acts from the Indian diplomat were also likely aimed at passing the buck to China



over the border standoff and worsening bilateral ties, noting that China needs to be wary of India's tricks to "internationalize the border disputes." Hu was also quoted saying "it's India that keeps provoking China and making trouble on the border issue in order to gain more leverage to bargain with China. "There is more about China-India bilateral relations than the border issue," Hu said, "But Indian politicians have tried to use the border issue to kidnap the bilateral relationship." Hu Zhiyong warned "Both the Indian government and media should be careful in their words and actions, and respect basic historical facts on the territorial issue. Only in this way can China-India relations move forward in a healthy way and return to the normal track". China, which always seeks cooperation, does not want to make India an enemy, and India should not treat China as a "threat" and rival.

(Comment: The Global Times reporting was on the 29th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) on March 27 in Beijing.)

### **CHINA-INDIA: CHINA WARNS INDIA AGAINST SIDING WITH THE PHILIPPINES IN COORDINATION WITH THE QUAD**

A Global Times (March 27) article captioned 'India is naive to interfere in South China Sea issue' claimed "India is actively joining the "anti-China club," hoping to put more pressure on China by siding with the Philippines on the South China Sea issue". It added that "Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, believes that India wants to exploit the South China Sea issue as a strategic hedge against China. Lan Jianxue, director of the Department of Asia-Pacific Studies at China Institute of International Studies, echoes this view and points out that in the current situation where the US and Western countries are increasingly tilting toward the Philippines in the South China Sea issue, India's interference also aims at strengthening coordination with other countries in the Quad alliance, with the ultimate purpose to compel China to make concessions on the China-India border issue. India could have collaborated with China for mutual development, but instead it has turned the China-India relationship into a strategic competition in the instigation of the US and the West, which is nothing less than an act of self-destruction. India thinks it has seized a "golden opportunity" to contain China, but it is just being very naive". It added in conclusion: "India meddling in the South China Sea issue is not wise".

## **CHINA-NEPAL: NEPAL'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON VISIT (MARCH 24-APRIL 1) TO CHINA AND TIBET**

Nepal's newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Narayan Kaji Shrestha, is in China on his first foreign visit from March 24 – April 1. He will also visit Tibet. The trip comes less than three weeks after the new government was formed in Nepal on March 4. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Politburo were quick to extend an invitation to the newly formed government, now led by a five-party Left Alliance.

## **CHINA-MALDIVES: CHINA DONATED 1500 TONNES OF DRINKING WATER FROM TIBET TO MALDIVES**

The Chinese government has donated 1,500 tonnes of drinking water sourced from glaciers in Tibet. This donation comes as part of China's ongoing support to the Maldives, especially since President Dr Mohamed Muizzu took office in November 2023. The announcement was made by the Maldives government. This decision was a result of discussions during the official visit of China's Tibet Autonomous Region's Chairman, Yan Jinhai, to the Maldives, where he met with President Dr Mohamed Muizzu last November.

## **CHINA-PAKISTAN: PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR CELEBRATES PAKISTAN'S 84TH NATIONAL DAY IN BEIJING**

The Global Times (March 20) reported that hosting an event commemorating the 84th National Day of Pakistan in Beijing, Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi expressed Pakistan's profound pride in its longstanding friendship with China, emphasizing their deep-rooted connection based on shared values of respect, trust, and solidarity. Hashmi also stressed that as Ambassador of Pakistan to China, he and his team are committed to "implementing the consensus reached between the two countries' leadership to fortify the strategic trust between the two countries, strengthen ties across multiple domains, and build an even stronger China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era".

ii) Xinhua (March 24) reported that at the invitation of the Pakistani military, the Guard of Honor of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) participated in a military parade at Shakarparian Parade Avenue in Islamabad on March 23, to celebrate the 84th Pakistan Day.

The 36-member PLA Guard of Honour escorted the Chinese national flag while marching across the avenue and shouted "Long live Pakistan-China friendship" in Urdu.

### **CHINA-PAKISTAN: MILITANTS ATTACK GWADAR PORT KILLING AT LEAST 5 SECURITY PERSONNEL AND CHINESE COMPANY SUSPENDS WORK ON TARBELA HYDROPOWER PROJECT**

i) The Power Construction Corporation of China on March 28, suspended civil works at the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project and “laid off” over 2,000 workers after the killing of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in Shangla district. The suspension of work on the 1530 megawatts Tarbela extension project (T5) was notified by the manager (administration) of the Power Construction Corporation of China. He also revealed that the project’s “all site workers and office staff members had been laid off until further orders due to security reasons.”

ii) Reuters (March 26) reported that a suicide bomber rammed a vehicle into a convoy of Chinese engineers working on a dam project in northwest Pakistan on March 26, killing six people. This was the third major attack on Chinese interests in Pakistan in a week. The first two attacks targeted a Pakistan naval air base and a strategic port used by China in the southwest province of Balochistan where Beijing is investing billions in infrastructure projects. The engineers were enroute from Islamabad to their camp at the dam construction site in Dasu in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Police said five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in the attack.

ii) Nikkei Asia (March 22) reported that eight militants stormed the Gwadar Port Authority complex on March 20, 7 kilometres from the port itself and operated by China Overseas Ports Holding as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). They crashed a car full of explosives into the gate of the complex, but it did not fully detonate. As many as five security personnel were killed, along with all eight attackers.

### **CHINA-US: US TREASURY SECRETARY JANET YELLEN TO VISIT CHINA IN EARLY APRIL**

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is scheduled to visit China in early April. She will have a 90-minute meeting with representatives of American companies in Guangzhou before going to

Beijing for meetings with, probably, Vice Premier He Lifeng, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and Central Bank Governor Pan Gongsheng.

**CHINA-US: ON 4-DAY TRIP TO SINGAPORE CCP CC ILD CHIEF LIU JIANCHAO CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND MEETS SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER**

On a 4-day visit to Singapore, the head of the CCP CC ILD Liu Jianchao told (March 27) Caixin at a forum in Singapore that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the basis for the development of constructive China-U.S. relations. He called on Beijing and Washington to do everything in favor of the peoples of both countries and refrain from doing anything that could damage the relationship. He said China and the U.S. need to manage risks, crises and conflicts to avoid any potential clashes, warning that failure to respect each other's right to development, culture or national conditions could damage the relationship. Xinhua said during the visit he met Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and other leaders.

**CHINA-US: U.S. NEWSPAPER DISCLOSES VISIT BY CHINESE CONSUL GENERAL TO CULTURAL ASSOCIATION IN OKLAHOMA THAT HAS ALLEGED LINKS WITH CHINESE MAFIA**

The US publication Propublica (March 22) disclosed that Chinese Consul General Zhu Di during two trips to Oklahoma visited a cultural association that has been a target of investigations into Chinese mafias that dominate the state's billion-dollar marijuana industry. Donnie Anderson, Director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, said "He's meeting with known criminals."

(Comment: While there is no indication of wrongdoing by the Consul General, the paper said the visits to Oklahoma reflect a pattern of contacts around the world between China's government and diaspora leaders linked to criminal activity. It noted that U.S. and foreign national security officials have alleged that the Chinese state maintains a tacit alliance with Chinese organized crime in the U.S. and across the world.)

## **CHINA-US/UK: US AND UK ANNOUNCE NEW SANCTIONS AND CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST CHINESE HACKING GROUP LINKED TO CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 25**

The United States and United Kingdom announced new sanctions and criminal charges against a hacking group linked to the Chinese government known as APT31 on March 25. The yearslong campaign targeted political information in both countries. New Zealand, a fellow Five Eyes intelligence ally, said it was hit by APT40, another state-affiliated hacking cell. The impact of the hacking was particularly serious in the United Kingdom, where one 2021 attack appears to have compromised data from the U.K. Electoral Commission, which stores personal information on 40 million voters. Prominent Conservative politicians have condemned China's actions, and the U.K. government summoned the Chinese ambassador in London. UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was quoted saying (March 26) on Twitter (X) "Attacks on our democracy are unacceptable. Yet that is what organizations backed by China have done. Today, we are publicly calling them out, and we've taken action. We've summoned the Chinese ambassador, and we are putting sanctions, travel bans, and asset freezes on the individuals and the group responsible. Such action from China will not be tolerated. We will always seek to defend ourselves from those that threaten our values and our democracy. And we encourage other countries to do the same."

ii) The China hack on UK's MPs is reportedly worse than admitted by the UK Government, with at least 30 MPs targeted. The targets were members of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China - a global group of politicians with hawkish views on China.

## **CHINA-UK: ALLEGATIONS BY BRITISH NEWSPAPER THAT UK GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PAUSE ANY CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CHINESE COMPANIES**

iNews of UK has reported (March 21) that senior MPs and peers have demanded answers after leaked documents appeared to show that the Government has secretly softened its policy on Chinese businesses accused of human rights abuses. It said a Whitehall assessment advised ministers that the Government would be pausing any consideration of sanctions against Chinese firms "indefinitely", according to internal Cabinet documents seen by the newspaper. The Foreign Office (FCDO) has claimed elements of the document are "incorrect", and the



FCDO has “never ruled out sanctions designations on any individual or entity”. The documents were shared amongst ministers in November last year, when David Cameron took up his role in the Foreign Office, with the rationale behind the decision withheld for security reasons. It added that while the UK has publicly criticised Beijing on its human rights record, but only four Chinese government officials and a Xinjiang security body have faced sanctions under the UK’s flagship Global Human Rights sanction regime since its inception in 2020, with none being handed down for the past three years. A parliamentary question was tabled in the House of Lords pressing the Government to make a statement on the matter, following its revelations.

### **CHINA-AUSTRALIA: FIJI PRIME MINISTER RABUKA WARNS CHINA THAT ITS "UNWARRANTED INFLUENCE" IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC RISKS THE REGION'S STABILITY**

Australia's The Age (March 24) said that Fiji’s Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has called on China to retreat from the South Pacific and warned that Beijing’s “unwarranted influence” risks the region’s stability. Rabuka’s comments came as Australian researchers unearthed an extraordinary Chinese security agency video, casting new light on a controversial police operation in Fiji that has become a case study of Beijing’s desire to operate beyond its borders. The video shows dozens of Chinese police personnel flying to Fiji in 2017, conducting raids and arresting and hooding 77 mostly young male and female Chinese alleged cyber scammers, who are then loaded onto a charter plane bound for China as Fijian police observe passively. He said “The Fijian police are there, but only really in the background, and they are, to all intents and purposes, treating Fijian soil as Chinese soil. It is absolutely a ceding of sovereignty and ... a very bad precedent that was set.”

(Comment: These are Rabuka's most forthright comments on China since his election in Dec 2022.)

### **CHINA-NETHERLANDS: PRIME MINISTER OF NETHERLANDS MARK RUTTE VISITS CHINA ON MARCH 26-27**

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian announced (March 25) that the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte will pay a working visit to China from March 26 to 27, at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

## **CHINA-ARGENTINA: ARGENTINA'S NEW RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENT CHANGES ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHINA**

An article in the French publication 'Diplomatie' (March 17) anticipated changes in Argentina's policy towards China after the coming to power of the far-right Javier Milei. Javier Milei and his government have expressed a desire to strengthen alignment with United States and reduce relations of dependence with Beijing. The first and most concrete example of Argentina's changed attitude towards China is its decision to withdraw from the expansion project of the bloc of emerging economies BRICS. Argentina was due to join BRICS in January after being invited in 2023, with Brazil and China driving the country's bid. In a letter to the bloc in late December, Milei said Argentina's current foreign policy priorities differ from those of the former president's previous government Alberto Fernández .

(Comment: In mid-January, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs Diana Mondino met the Chinese ambassador to Argentina and confirmed "the importance of trade between the two countries ". Two days after this meeting, Milei published the following message on X: "The left wants you to have the wages of Cuba, the freedom of North Korea, the justice of China and the abundance of Venezuela ". In total, Argentina has a currency swap line of \$18 billion with China, which allowed it to repay part of its international debts. In 2023, the two parties signed a swap extension for an additional \$5 billion. However, in late December, in light of Milei's statements and to put pressure on the new government, China suspended the \$6.5 billion currency swap line that had been negotiated with the previous administration of Argentina. China is also now Argentina's second largest trading partner and export destination, behind Brazil. In 2022, exports to China accounted for approximately \$8 billion, or 9.1% of Argentina's exports, setting a historic record in bilateral trade. China represents 92% of the Argentine soy export market, 57% of meat and 59% of barley. Last year, it was the destination of 7.9% of Argentina's exports by value, for a total of \$5.27 billion. It is the third largest buyer, behind Brazil and the United States. At the same time, China was responsible for 19.7% of Argentina's imports, totalling \$14.5 billion, behind Brazil. According to the Stimson Center based in Washington, China and its state-owned enterprises have the largest distant-water fishing fleet in the world, with nearly 3,000 ships . In March 2021, Oceana, a non-profit organization working for ocean conservation, showed that between 2018 and April this year, almost 400 Chinese vessels carried out 69% of the 900,000 hours of fishing activity off the coast of Argentina. Oceana estimates that Chinese trawlers extract from the Argentine Sea

approximately 950,000 tonnes per year of fish worth approximately \$2.47 billion. The Argentine Naval Prefecture (ANP) and the US Coast Guard Cutter USCG James plan to get approval to organize combined training for the defense of fisheries resources in the South Atlantic.)

