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Beijing says in talks with India to solve border dispute amid latest accusation

CGTN, August 31, 2020

Chinese Foreign Ministry said that its troops have never crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC) amid a China-India border standoff, after the Indian army alleged that China's troops violated the previous consensus. Indian army said in a statement on Monday that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) "violated the previous consensus reached in previous military and diplomatic engagements and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo" in the disputed eastern Ladakh region on the night of August 29/30. It said Indian soldiers foiled the Chinese attempt.

The Galwan Valley, which is part of the disputed region, is located on the Chinese side of the actual control line in the western section of the Sino-Indian border. And Chinese soldiers have patrolled the area for many years, according to China's Defense Ministry. During Monday's daily briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian denied the latest accusation from India, saying Chinese troops always abide by the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Zhao said the two sides are maintaining diplomatic and military communications on the border dispute but he didn't give more details on the talks. China blames India for escalation in the Galwan Valley, and it has called on the Indian side to settle the dispute through military and diplomatic dialogue.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/31/content_9894013.htm

New technology export controls are to better align with the times

China Daily, August 30, 2020

China on Friday revised its list of technologies that are banned or restricted for export for the first time in 12 years. Nine technologies have been deleted from the list and 23 new technologies added, while the key points for control of the other 21 technologies have been updated.

Although, as the Commerce Ministry has made clear, the purpose of the revision is to regulate the administration of technology exports so that the country can better promote technological progress and economic and technological cooperation, and also protect its economic security, there are some trying to interpret it otherwise, particularly against the background of the rising tensions between China and the United States. Notably, as experts point out, the revision puts the transactions of "customized information push service technology based on data analysis" and "artificial intelligence interactive interface technology" under stricter State control. Which might directly affect ByteDance, as it will need the government's approval before divesting itself of its TikTok operations in the US. Since this will be equivalent to exporting technologies on the list and it will have to complete the necessary licensing procedures. Chinese companies have leading advantages in these technologies thanks to their foresight and the huge inputs they have made as well as the fast development of relevant industries in China.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202008/30/WS5f4b93a8a310675eafc56571.html>

Playing laser tag: US dominance and Chinese ambition point to new arms race

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, August 29, 2020

The use of high-energy lasers for naval applications is gathering pace among the world's military powers, with China among those set to race the United States for supremacy. Directed-energy weapons based on lasers can offer low cost per shot and almost limitless magazines to provide an efficient and effective means of defending against missile salvos or swarms of unmanned systems. Many countries, such as the US, China, Israel, France, Germany and Russia, have been researching the weapons for a long time, and major powers are ramping up their development to gain an upper hand.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3099415/playing-laser-tag-us-dominance-and-chinese-ambition-point-new>

Mars-bound Tianwen 1 hits milestone

Zhao Lei

China Daily, August 29, 2020

China's Tianwen 1 Mars probe had traveled 100 million kilometers as of Friday morning, according to the China National Space Administration. The administration said in a statement that the spacecraft was in good condition and several of its mission payloads had completed self-examination and sent scientific data back to ground control. The robotic probe had flown about 36 days in an Earth-Mars transfer trajectory toward the red planet, around 10.75 million km from Earth, it added.

China launched Tianwen 1, the country's first independent Mars mission, on July 23 from Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan province, thus beginning the nation's planetary exploration program.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202008/29/WS5f487740a310675eafc561f3.html>

US has high-priority responsibility in nuclear disarmament: Chinese FM

Global Times, August 28, 2020

China's Foreign Ministry urged the US to take its responsibility in nuclear disarmament as the world's largest nuclear-armed nation, after Kazakhstan's first President Nursultan Nazarbayev recently called on holding a nuclear disarmament summit between US, Russia, the European Union and China. At a press briefing on Friday, spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry Zhao Lijian endorsed Nazarbayev's suggestion and said China appreciates the efforts made by Kazakhstan and Nazarbayev in promoting the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons. China always stands for the ultimate complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. And nuclear disarmament should be advanced step by step in accordance with the principles of "safeguarding global strategic stability" and "undiminished security for all

countries," Zhao said.

"As the country with the world's largest nuclear arsenal, the US has a special high-priority responsibility in nuclear disarmament. The US has nearly 6,000 nuclear warheads, which the media reported is 20 times the number of China's," Zhao said. Zhao said that the international nuclear arms control system is facing severe challenges, and the US should show a responsible attitude to respond to calls from the international community. Zhao said the US should extend its Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (the New SART) with Russia and deeply cut its nuclear arsenals, creating conditions for other countries to participate in nuclear disarmament talks.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1199185.shtml>

Beijing claims it has warned a US destroyer in South China Sea after missile launch

Kinling Lo

South China Morning Post, August 28, 2020

The USS Mustin near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea on Thursday. Photo: Handout
China says it has warned off a US guided-missile destroyer in the South China Sea which was deployed to the disputed waters after a Chinese missile launch in the latest of a series of escalating tensions in the region. The Chinese military said the destroyer sailed into "China's territorial waters" near the islands, called the Xisha by China, and the PLA Southern Theatre Command had dispatched naval and air forces and "expelled" the US Navy ship.

"China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and their adjacent waters in the region, and the command troops are always on high alert to resolutely protect national sovereignty and safeguard peace and stability in the region of the South China Sea", PLA spokesman Senior Colonel Li Huamin said early on Friday.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3099198/china-says-it-has-expelled-us-destroyer-south-china-sea>

Why China brought out the 'aircraft-carrier killer' to flex its military muscle

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, August 28, 2020

When China flexed its military muscle in the South China Sea on Wednesday, it put the PLA's most advanced land-based anti-ship ballistic missile to the test: the "aircraft-carrier killer". The DF-26B was fired into the northern area of the disputed waterway from Qinghai province in China's northwest, a source close to the military said, in a move seen as a warning to the United States. They said a DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile was also launched from Zhejiang province in the east.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3099157/why-china-brought-out-aircraft-carrier-killer-flex-its-military>

PLA Rocket Force develops smart playground system to promote training assessment

China Military Online, August 28, 2020

In conjunction with local scientific research institute, a unit of the Chinese PLA Rocket Force recently developed an intelligent playground system that could further improve the informatization level of military training assessment and management. It is said that the system can realize whole-process surveillance, automatic judgment and performance record, as well as automatic statistical analysis through technologies including facial recognition, infrared induction, intelligent video analysis and video surveillance.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/28/content_9892460.htm

China urges US military to restrain behaviors to avoid contingency

China Military Online, August 28, 2020

“China urges the US to immediately stop provocations, strictly manage and control its maritime and air military operations, strictly restrain the behaviors of its front-line naval and air forces, so as to avoid any contingency,” said Senior Colonel Li Huamin, spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), in a written statement. Li pointed out that in disregard of the rules of international law, the US has repeatedly provoked troubles in the South China Sea and asserted its navigation hegemony in the name of "freedom of navigation" , which has seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security interests, as well as the international navigation order in the South China Sea.

Li stressed that China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters, adding that the troops of the PLA Southern Theater Command will always stay on high alert and resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty and security and uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/28/content_9891579.htm

Chinese missile launch ‘could raise risk of military clash with US’

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, August 27, 2020

China's missile launch over the South China Sea may push the United States to deploy more missiles and take a more aggressive stance towards Beijing, elevating the risk of an accidental armed conflict, analysts said. The assessment came after China launched Dongfeng missiles, including the DF-26B and DF-21D – seen as “aircraft-carrier killers” – into an area between its southern island province of Hainan and the disputed Paracel Islands on Wednesday, the day after a US U-2 spy plane entered a no-fly zone without permission during a Chinese live-fire naval drill in the Bohai Sea off China's northern coast. The US Defence Department said on Thursday

that the launches threatened peace and security in the region. Beijing's "actions, including missile tests, further destabilise the situation in the South China Sea", the Pentagon said in a statement.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3099142/chinese-missile-launch-could-increase-chances-military-clash-us>

China opposes and is unafraid of US provocations: Defense Spokesperson

China Military Online, August 27, 2020

"Recently, the US has increased its efforts to pressurize and provoke China. The Chinese stance is always clear in this regard: we oppose and are unafraid of the US provocations," said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense, at a regular press conference. Wu made the remarks when commenting on the recent US military's active actions in areas surrounding China. The US military planes have frequently approached for reconnaissance along the coast of the Chinese mainland, and the US warships have carried out targeted military exercises in waters of the South China Sea and the East China Sea. All these actions showed strong provocative meaning against China.

Wu pointed out that some US politicians have tried their best to undermine the relations between China and US and the two militaries for their own benefit before the US presidential election and even attempted to create accidents and military conflicts. "Such actions are very unpopular, since it puts the lives of both sides' frontline military members as well as the fundamental interests of the two peoples at risk, and goes against the will and demands for peace of peoples in the world," Wu stressed. Wu added that the Chinese military will take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security, development interests, and regional peace and stability. "We urge some US politicians to recognize the reality, remain rational, stop provocative challenges, and get the relations between the two countries and the two militaries back on the right track," Wu said.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/27/content_9891423.htm

US spy plane enters no-fly zone during Chinese live-fire naval drill

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, August 26, 2020

The US has sent spy planes over a live-fire Chinese military drill – including a U-2 which entered a declared no-fly zone – triggering a protest from Beijing and heightening the risk of an armed conflict. The development followed weeks of increased US activity in the region, with numerous military jets and vessels deployed to keep a close watch on Chinese activity. The Beijing-based think tank South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative said a US Air Force RC-135S reconnaissance aircraft flew across the South China Sea on Wednesday, during the Chinese military drill. But it said it appeared the plane was on a transfer, rather than a reconnaissance mission.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3098885/us-spy-plane-enters-no-fly-zone-during-chinese-live-fire-naval>

US has ‘modest’ lead over China in artificial intelligence but gap has narrowed, American think tank says

Matt Ho

South China Morning Post, August 26, 2020

The United States had a “modest” lead over China in artificial intelligence as of early this year, mainly because of its edge in the advanced semiconductor sector, according to a US policy think tank. But Beijing’s continued focus on developing AI combined with the country’s vast population had substantially narrowed the gap, the Rand Corporation said in a report. “A strong semiconductor industry is an essential foundation for good, solid AI research,” it said, adding that China was also catching up in the semiconductor industry with massive government investment. “This lead leaves no room for complacency,” the report said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3098834/us-has-modest-lead-over-china-artificial-intelligence-gap-has>

Y-20 completes first heavy equipment airdrop in plateau areas

China Military Online, August 26, 2020

The Y-20 strategic transport aircraft attached to the PLA Air Force completed the first heavy equipment airdrop in plateau areas in a recent real combat training exercise. This means that Chinese airborne troops have possessed strong maneuverability in the plateau areas and greatly improved their capabilities in defense and firepower, which would enable them to conduct large-scale assaults with heavy equipment. During this live-fire training, the Y-20 continuously airdropped multiple pieces of heavy equipment. As the equipment got landed, hundreds of paratroopers jumped from the aircraft, and achieved coordinated operation of personnel and equipment after landing accurately.

The equipment for this airdrop is a couple of 107mm multi-barrel rocket launchers (MBRLs). The device, characterized by lightweight and strong firepower, has a maximum range of about 8 kilometers and is one of the major supporting weapons for rapid response forces such as airborne troops. As a large transport aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of 200 tones, the Y-20 can airdrop both multi-barrel rocket launchers and Type-03 crawler-type paratrooper vehicles, together with wheeled armored vehicles.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/26/content_9890562.htm

Chinese military: Rocket Force drills prepare for possible US nuclear weapons attack

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, August 25, 2020

The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force has stepped up its drills for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) warfare, in what military experts say is preparation for a possible nuclear attack by the United States. Since April, anti-CBRN exercises have become a major training focus in the Western Theatre Command and with the PLA's Rocket Force troops, according to online reports and video footage posted on the WeChat social media accounts of the army's military mouthpiece, the PLA Daily, and the missile force. One drill video posted online on August 22 showed four first aid brigades from the Rocket Force called to rescue wounded soldiers from a base under a simulated nuclear weapons at night. The base was more than 2,000km (1,240 miles) away and the medical officers and first aid crews also needed to overcome "accidents" and "raids" on their way to the nuclear battlefield, according to the video.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3098727/chinese-military-rocket-force-drills-prepare-possible-us>