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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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## **Chinese, Saudi FMs discuss boosting bilateral ties, regional cooperation**

China Daily, March 25, 2021

Visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks on Wednesday with his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on boosting bilateral ties and regional cooperation. Noting that China and Saudi Arabia share a comprehensive strategic partnership, Wang said the development of the bilateral relations has maintained a sound momentum under the guidance of their heads of state. As major changes are unfolding in the world and in the Middle East, the strategic importance of the China-Saudi Arabia relations has become more prominent, and the two sides need to conduct timely strategic communication, protect the common interests, and contribute to global peace, stability and development, Wang said. He said China supports Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and stability, choosing a development path that fits its national situation, and playing a bigger role in regional and global affairs, while opposing interference in Saudi Arabia's internal affairs under the pretext of ideology and values.

Wang said that China appreciates Saudi Arabia's understanding and consistent support for China on the issues related to China's core interests, including Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and other issues of China's major concerns. The sanctions imposed by a few Western countries on China over the Xinjiang-related issues based on elaborately fabricated lies are a blatant interference in China's internal affairs which aims to suppress and contain China. Such acts should be jointly rejected by all other countries, the Chinese diplomat noted. Through safeguarding own sovereignty, national dignity and development rights, China and Saudi Arabia will further boost their strategic trust and pave the way for broader cooperation in all fields, he added. Wang said China stands ready to deepen the synergy between China's Belt and Road Initiative and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, and make good use of the mechanism of the China-Saudi Arabia High-Level Joint Committee to promote cooperation in traditional areas such as trade, investment, and infrastructure, as well as in the emerging fields including artificial intelligence, 5G and big data. China is willing to help Saudi Arabia in its efforts to diversify its economy and achieve sustainable development, Wang said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202103/25/WS605bc7e5a31024ad0bab1656.html>

## **First chief designer of China's nuclear submarine dies at 96**

China Military Online, March 24, 2021

Peng Shilu, the first chief designer of the first Chinese nuclear submarine, nuclear power expert, and academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), died in Beijing at the age of 96 at noon on March 22. Peng Shilu's father was China's revolutionary martyr, Peng Pai. On November 18, 1925, Peng Shilu was born in Haifeng County, southeast China's Guangdong Province. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Chemical Engineering in 1956 and later went on to study nuclear power at the Moscow Power Institute. Completing the courses there, he returned home in 1958. Since then, he had been appointed Deputy Minister and Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Shipbuilding Industry, Deputy Minister and Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, and the first chief designer of China's first nuclear submarine. As one of the pioneers and founders in China's nuclear power industry, he

had been engaged in nuclear power researches for a long time.

Peng was awarded the National Science Conference Award in 1978, the grand prize for National Science and Technology Progress Award in 1985, the Certificate for Making Outstanding Contributions to National Defense Science and Technology Cause as an “Outstanding Chief Designer” by the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense of the PRC in 1988, the Science and Technology Progress Award of Ho Leung Ho Lee (HLHL) Foundation in 1996, and the Science and Technology Achievement Award of HLHL Foundation in 2017.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/24/content\\_10010111.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/24/content_10010111.htm)

### **South China Sea: Beijing has extended another Spratly Islands reef, photos show**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, March 24, 2021

Land has been added in the past month to Subi Reef, also claimed by the Philippines and Vietnam. It comes amid dispute over nearby Whitsun Reef, with a reported 200 Chinese vessels being labelled ‘maritime militia’ by the Philippines. China has reclaimed land to extend a reef in the Spratly Islands, in the disputed South China Sea, satellite images show.

Photographs taken by American space technology company Maxar showed that Subi Reef – which is also claimed by the Philippines and Vietnam – had new land added to it that had not been visible in a satellite photo taken on February 20. The new rectangle of land, about 2.85 hectares (7 acres) in size, had been added to the southern edge of the ring-shaped coral atoll, which encloses a lagoon and has a channel for vessels to enter and leave.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3126656/south-china-sea-beijing-has-extended-another-spratly-islands>

### **China, Russia conduct strategic communication on issues of common concern**

CGTN, March 23, 2021

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Guilin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday. The two sides conducted strategic communication on international and regional issues of common concern and reached broad consensus. This is Lavrov's first visit to China since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The two sides briefed each other on the recent situation of their relations with the United States. Both foreign ministers said that the international community believes that the United States should reflect on the damage it has done to global peace and development in recent years, stop unilateral bullying, stop interfering in other countries' internal affairs, and stop pulling "small circles" to engage in group confrontation.

All countries should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, pursue true multilateralism, work for the democratization of international

relations, accept and promote the peaceful coexistence and common development of countries with different social systems and development paths. On the Iranian nuclear issue, the two sides believe that the United States should return to the comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue as soon as possible and unconditionally, and withdraw its unilateral sanction against Iran. At the same time, they encourage Iran to fully implement the agreement and hope that the comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue will continue to play its due role in stopping nuclear proliferation. The two sides also proposed the establishment of a regional security dialogue platform to form a new consensus on solving the security concerns of countries in the region.

<https://english.cctv.com/2021/03/23/ARTIKv43wuMAQuQX0LecSqof210323.shtml>

### **China-Russia partnership 'key to balance US hegemony'**

Yang Sheng, Li Xuanmin and Bai Yunyi

Global Times, March 22, 2021

As Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived in China for his two-day visit on Monday, just two days after the China-US meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, Chinese experts said it's pretty normal for the two like-minded partners to coordinate crucial information, but it doesn't mean the two major powers are forming an anti-US alliance because this would be unnecessary and outdated. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Lavrov in Guilin, a popular tourist city in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on Monday. The atmosphere of the meeting was different from the intense China-US Anchorage meeting. Lavrov enjoyed a boat ride on Lijiang River, a beautiful scenic spot, before he arrived at the venue for his meeting with Wang.

Both sides have informed each other about the latest development of their ties with the US. The two foreign ministers urged the US to rethink the damage it has caused to the international peace. The two foreign ministers said the US should stop its bullying activities, stop interfering in other countries' internal affairs, and stop forming cliques to confront other countries. All countries should follow the principle of the UN Charter to boost democratization of international relations. The two foreign ministers also discussed the Iranian nuclear deal, Afghan peace process, Myanmar situation, Syria, climate change and UN reform, according to a statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219129.shtml>

### **Xi says China ready to work with DPRK to preserve peace on Korean Peninsula**

China Military Online, March 22, 2021

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has said that China is willing to work with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and other related parties to uphold the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue and preserve peace and stability on the peninsula, so as to make new contributions to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity. Xi made the remarks in an exchange of verbal messages with Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) of the DPRK. The messages were delivered by Song Tao, minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, and Ri

Ryong Nam, DPRK ambassador to China, during their meeting on Monday in Beijing.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/22/content\\_10008716.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/22/content_10008716.htm)

### **VR technology applied to naval POL support training**

China Military Online, March 22, 2021

A petrol, oil and lubricants (POL) support group of the navy under the PLA Northern Theater Command organized a wartime POL support training drill recently. Unlike the past, the training was held in the simulation training room instead of the docks. The service members have used a VR simulation training and assessment platform to complete the training of such subjects as equipment structure disassembly, fault identification and pipeline repair. "Training on the platform is free from the weather and equipment loss, which can effectively improve training efficiency and shorten the generation cycle of warfighting capability," said the head of the group.

In the past, their training usually focused on subjects like pipeline plugging and cutting, while emergency equipment repairs and other complex subjects were trained less due to the difficulty of organization. To make up for shortcomings, the group developed a VR simulation training and assessment platform along with civilian manufacturers. The service members can now conduct more challenging subjects in virtual environment and effectively improve their POL supply and emergency response capabilities. It is learnt that the group will work with civilian manufacturers to upgrade the software and expand the coverage of the simulation training.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/22/content\\_10008639.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/22/content_10008639.htm)

### **Soldiers in China's rocket force are using virtual reality to launch missiles**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, March 19, 2021

China's rocket force is using virtual reality to train its soldiers to use missile systems, a move that means exercises can be carried out more frequently and at reduced cost. The People's Liberation Army's strategic and tactical missile force is using the technology as a "virtual training ground" for troops, according to a report in the official PLA Daily. Battalion commander Sun Yingjiu told the military newspaper the technology had improved training.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3126025/soldiers-chinas-rocket-force-are-using-virtual-reality-launch>

### **PLA establishes POL consumption standard system**

Sun Xingwei and Zhang Lin

China Military Online, March 18, 2021

The Logistic Support Department of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) has recently issued two documents on the standards of petrol, oil and lubricants (POL)

consumption, one for ships attached to the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy and the People's Armed Police Force (PAP), the other for the military's ground equipment. This marks that the military standard system on POL consumption has been preliminarily established. An official in charge introduced that the standard is the basis for assessing the troop's POL savings and calculating the POL supply for combat readiness training missions. Since 2016, relevant departments have been revising and standardizing the POL consumption standards and the POL basic unit quantities for all types of military equipment.

The new standard system covers all weapons and equipment commissioned in recent years, including the ships of the army and the air force, aircraft (helicopters), vessels and ground equipment of the Navy and the PAP, and various ground equipment. The system applies to all the PLA and PAP troops. The new standard system also highlights the actual needs of military equipment upgrades and combat readiness training support. Based on normalized task training and the year-on-year increased POL consumption requirements, relevant departments will promptly adjust the corresponding equipment standards to realize standardized POL support and supply management.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/18/content\\_10006288.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/18/content_10006288.htm)

### **India slammed for sensational coverage of illegal exploration of uranium in China's southern part of Tibet**

Liu Caiyu

Global Times, March 17, 2021

Chinese experts blasted Indian media for their sensational coverage of India's illegal exploration of uranium in South Tibet, reflecting their stubborn position of taking the occupation of China's territory for granted, and warned that such illegal behavior will only complicate China-India border talks. Citing an Indian official, influential media outlet Times of India published the story with a headline "In a first, India set to explore uranium reserves in Arunachal" on Tuesday. It quoted D.K. Sinha, director of Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, as saying there had been "positive results" for uranium yield and further activity would continue.

India claims this area is its territory, but the Chinese government has never recognized "Arunachal Pradesh," which is referred to as the southern part of Tibet or Zangnan in China. So-called "Arunachal Pradesh" was founded illegally in the last century and occupies about 90,000 square kilometers of Chinese territory. "What counts is not whether the region is rich in uranium minerals, but their arrogant gestures of claiming the region as their own territory and hyping up border disputes," said Xie Chao, an assistant professor of Indian studies at Tsinghua University, who called on China to take countermeasures against India's evil intentions. Experts warned that India's hyping up and aggressive move will only complicate China-India border talks that aim to solve border disputes, as the previous standoff demonstrated that unilaterally provoking trouble is not conducive to bringing the two sides back to the negotiating table. Relations between China and India have nosedived since a deadly confrontation in the Galwan Valley last year.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1218645.shtml>

## **China is building more underground silos for its ballistic missiles**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, March 16, 2021

Satellite images show at least 16 of the launch facilities being constructed in a PLA training area in Inner Mongolia, according to US think tank report. It says they are designed to accommodate the country's most powerful ICBMs, as it seeks to boost nuclear deterrence. China is building more underground silos from where its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles could be launched, according to reports. They are reportedly being built in the north of the country and are designed to accommodate the DF-41 and DF-31AG missiles that have a range of 10,000km to 14,000km (6,200 to 8,700 miles) – meaning they could reach US territory. The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force has begun constructing at least 16 silos in a missile training area west of Wuhai in Inner Mongolia, Washington-based think tank the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) said in a report in late February, citing satellite images.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3125699/china-building-more-underground-silos-its-ballistic-missiles>

## **Chinese scientists challenge Google's 'quantum supremacy' claim with new algorithm**

Matt Ho

South China Morning Post, March 16, 2021

A team of Chinese researchers say they have found a “massively more efficient” and more accurate way to simulate quantum computing using traditional processors, challenging a 2019 claim by Google scientists that they had achieved “quantum supremacy”. Quantum computing is still in its infancy but promises to take computational power to a new level by manipulating subatomic particles. Scientists hope it will help lead to breakthroughs in areas such as materials science and developing new drugs. China has made quantum technology a top priority – it is listed along with six other key science and tech areas in the country's new five-year development plan approved last week – particularly for applications like computing, ultra-secure communication networks, and precision measurement.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3125539/chinese-scientists-challenge-googles-quantum-supremacy-claim-new>