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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



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Two new Type 055 large destroyers, a new Type 052D destroyer confirmed in PLA Navy service

Global Times, April 20, 2022

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy displayed three of its latest warships that have recently entered service - two Type 055 10,000 ton-class large destroyers and a Type 052D destroyer - prior to its 73rd founding anniversary on Saturday. More new vessels commissioned into the PLA Navy are expected to be revealed soon, and the rapidly growing fleet reflects the Navy's fast growing capabilities to safeguard China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests, analysts said on Wednesday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1259853.shtml>

China's Tianzhou-3 cargo spacecraft completes fly-around and automatic docking with Tianhe core module

Global Times, April 20, 2022

Tianzhou-3 cargo spacecraft detached from China's Tianhe space station core module from the rear port at 5:02 am on Wednesday and flew around and successfully conducted automatic rendezvous and docking with the orbiting Tianhe at the front port, which took around 4 hours, the Global Times learned from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). Per the CMSA, the combination of Tianhe core module and Tianzhou-3 cargo spacecraft are in good condition and will receive upcoming visits by the Tianzhou-4 cargo spacecraft, Shenzhou-14 manned spacecraft and Wentian laboratory module.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1259791.shtml>

Karachi 3 passes acceptance tests

World Nuclear News, April 19, 2022

Unit 3 of the Karachi nuclear power plant in Pakistan passed acceptance tests on 18 April, marking the Chinese-supplied Hualong One reactor's entry into commercial operation, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) announced. A ceremony held to mark the end of acceptance tests was attended by representatives of CNNC and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), including CNNC President Gu Jun and PAEC Chairman Ali Raza. "At the meeting, both China and Pakistan expressed that nuclear energy is playing an increasingly important role in promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, improving people's livelihood, and boosting green and low-carbon transformation," CNNC said.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Karachi-3-passes-acceptance-tests>

China opens space station door to working with foreign astronauts

South China Morning Post, April 18, 2022

China would welcome the presence of foreign astronauts in joint missions at its space station after it becomes fully operational later this year, the foreign ministry said on Monday. "At present, we are organising and implementing the first batch of international cooperation projects jointly undertaken [between China] and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) at the Chinese space station," ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said. "[We are] hopeful that the experiments and research can be launched before the end of this year at the earliest."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3174693/china-opens-space-station-door-working-foreign-astronauts>

China reveals missions of Shenzhou-14, Shenzhou-15 space crews

China Military Online, April 18, 2022

The crews of China's Shenzhou-14 and Shenzhou-15 missions have been selected, and are carrying out relevant training and mission preparations, according to a press conference on Sunday. Both crews will stay in orbit for six months, and they will for the first time rotate in orbit to realize the uninterrupted manned residence, Huang Weifen, chief designer of the China manned space program's astronaut system, said at the press conference. The two crews, totaling six astronauts, will live together in orbit for five to 10 days. The Shenzhou-14 crew will cooperate with ground control to complete the assembly and construction of the space station, and gradually develop it from a single-module space station into a three-module combination.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-04/18/content_10148691.htm

CASIC's radar products key in safeguarding Shenzhou-13's rapid return: developers

Global Times, April 18, 2022

China's state-owned aerospace giant China Aerospace Science & Industry Corp (CASIC) revealed on Monday how its multiple advanced radar products helped achieve the rapid return of the Shenzhou-13 crew after their record-breaking six-month stay in the Tianhe space station. Two radar products developed by CASIC carried out whole-stage measurement and monitoring services for the re-entry capsule after the craft carrying the three taikonauts entered Earth's atmosphere. Developers at CASIC likened the radar services to a "measuring rod" for the ground controllers in the search and recovery mission for the Shenzhou-13 heroes. One of the radars was a phased array radar and was used to track and monitor the return module in the "blackout period" on the craft's way to the ground. The other one played a key role after the capsule had deployed the main parachute.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1259648.shtml>

China eyes next-generation manned carrier rocket, spaceship

Global Times, April 17, 2022

With the epic Shenzhou-13 mission drawing a perfect conclusion to the key technology verification stage of China's space station Tiangong, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA)

revealed on Sunday that six more flights will be arranged this year to complete the station's construction. Tiangong will then enter the operational stage that will run for over 10 years, becoming a space "home" for all mankind. For the next step, authorities with the CMSA disclosed at Sunday's press conference that they are developing a next-generation manned carrier rocket and spacecraft, which will enable their return capsules to be reusable and support sending seven taikonauts in one go, a significant boost in the payload capacity.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1259536.shtml>

Core module of China's space station achieves anticipated goal

China Military Online, April 17, 2022

Tianhe, the core module of China's space station, has completed its verification of key technologies and achieved its expected goal. Yang Hong, chief designer of the space station system of the China Manned Space Program at the China Academy of Space Technology, made the remarks at a press conference in Beijing on Sunday. Yang said the core module has been in orbit for almost one year, and all missions have been carried out smoothly and according to plan, including rendezvous and docking with two manned spacecraft and two cargo spacecraft, as well as the three-month stay of the Shenzhou-12 crew and the six-month stay of the Shenzhou-13 crew.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-04/17/content_10148599.htm

Shanghai's Covid-19 outbreak stalls plans for China's third aircraft carrier

South China Morning Post, April 17, 2022

Shanghai's coronavirus lockdown has slowed China's shipbuilding plans and may affect the launch of the country's third aircraft carrier, sources said. The People's Liberation Army Navy had been widely expected to launch the new carrier around the navy's 73rd anniversary, on April 23. "But the plan faces delay as the rampant pandemic in Shanghai has delayed the transport of some key components," one of the sources, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3174496/shanghais-covid-19-outbreak-stalls-plans-chinas-third-aircraft>

Touchdown for Chinese astronauts after six months on Tiangong space station

South China Morning Post, April 16, 2022

Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Saturday after spending six months on the Tiangong space station, a record-setting mission that almost doubled the nation's previous longest stay in orbit. The Shenzhou 13 capsule landed in Inner Mongolia at around 9.56am with the probe using three parachutes to slow down from a speed of 200 metres per second to 7 metres per second as it approached the Earth. Support teams rushed to collect debris soon after the capsule touched down at the Dongfeng landing site.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3174479/chinese-astronauts-land-back-earth->

[after-six-months-tiangong](#)

Japan's ruling party pushes for contentious military strike capability to counter missile threats

South China Morning Post, April 16, 2022

A national security panel of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has proposed that Japan acquire an enemy base strike capability, in a move to counter growing missile and other security threats in the region, ruling party lawmakers said on Friday. Whether to push for the controversial plan to possess such capability has been the key issue for a major policy review into Japan's security by year-end, at a time when China and North Korea are ramping up their military activities. Having such capability remains politically sensitive in Japan given its exclusively defence-oriented policy under the war-renouncing Constitution.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3174483/japans-ruling-party-pushes-contentious-military-strike>

Pentagon warns China-Solomon Islands security deal could be destabilizing

South China Morning Post, April 15, 2022

The US Defence Department on Thursday expressed concern over a possible security pact between China and the Solomon Islands, saying it leaves the door open for deployment of Chinese military forces to the Pacific nation. "We believe that signing such an agreement could actually increase destabilisation within the Solomon Islands and could set a concerning precedent for the wider Pacific Island region," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told a press conference. "Obviously we are concerned about this," he added.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/australasia/article/3174349/pentagon-warns-china-solomon-islands-security-deal-could-be>

Serbia defends China FK-3 missile deal, 'no threat' to neighbours

South China Morning Post, April 14, 2022

Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic has rejected criticism its Chinese FK-3 surface-to-air missiles could pose a threat to its neighbours and described the purchase as "legitimate, completely regular and transparent". In a video statement on his official website, Vucic said the weapons system posed no threat, with Serbia surrounded by Nato members, and that Montenegro and Kosovo needed to let his country chart its own course. "They are not able to say how we threaten them with defensive weapons, because it is a system that serves to defend against cruise missiles and planes that would violate the airspace of Serbia," he said. Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic and Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti each raised concerns the weapons systems could endanger their countries, after six Chinese Y-20A heavy transport planes started arriving in Belgrade on Saturday.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3174239/serbia-defends-china-fk-3-missile-deal-no-threat-neighbours>

China's 'Mighty Dragon' stealth fighter stretches its wings over a wider area

South China Morning Post, April 14, 2022

Chinese J-20 stealth fighters have been making regular patrols over the East and South China Seas, the developers have said – the first official confirmation that the country's most advanced warplane is operating over such a wide area. The statement also said the planes, also known as Mighty Dragons, were now powered by home-made engines – a reference to a long-standing problem that has hindered its performance.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3174308/chinas-mighty-dragon-stealth-fighter-stretches-its-wings-over>

Tianzhou 4's rocket arrives in Hainan

China Military Online, April 13, 2022

The Long March 7 carrier rocket tasked with launching the Tianzhou 4 cargo spacecraft arrived at Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan province on Monday, the China Manned Space Agency said. Next, the rocket will be assembled and undergo ground tests with the robotic spaceship at the coastal launch complex, the agency said in a brief statement. Tianzhou 4, the country's fourth cargo space vehicle, is set to dock with China's Tiangong space station that has been in low-Earth orbit about 400 kilometers above the ground since April 2021. According to information previously published by the agency, the launch mission is scheduled to take place in the coming months.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-04/13/content_10147663.htm

Serbia must follow EU rules if it wishes to join bloc, Germany says after Chinese missile delivery reports

South China Morning Post, April 13, 2022

Germany said it expects Serbia to conform with EU foreign and security policy if it wishes to become a member of the bloc, days after People's Liberation Army planes reportedly delivered Chinese missiles to the Balkan country. "The German government expects all EU accession candidates to join the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy and so to come increasingly closer to the EU," the German federal press office said in an emailed statement on Wednesday. The office also said it had taken note of the reports surrounding the airlifts, but did not elaborate.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3174115/serbia-must-follow-eu-rules-if-it-wishes-join-bloc-germany-says>

China and Russia seek weapons to hit US satellites, Pentagon says

South China Morning Post, April 13, 2022

China and Russia continue to develop and deploy weapons that can attack US satellites even as they increase their own fleets of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance space vehicles, according to the Pentagon's intelligence agency. Although the updated report issued on Tuesday

by the Defence Intelligence Agency is based mostly on news accounts and declarations from Chinese and Russian officials, it is a useful summary of the threats that the US says are driving major investments in the Pentagon's proposed fiscal 2023 defence budget, specifically for the US Space Force and Space Command. "China has multiple ground-based laser weapons of varying power levels to disrupt, degrade, or damage satellites that include a current limited capability to employ laser systems against satellite sensors," the intelligence agency said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3174066/china-and-russia-seek-weapons-hit-us-satellites>

Taiwan to boost defences of tiny islet outpost Dongyin with short-range automated weapons

South China Morning Post, April 13, 2022

Taiwan expects to strengthen its tiny military outpost on an islet off the mainland province of Fujian before the end of this year, with the deployment of its home-grown short-range automated defence system. The plan to step up Dongyin's combat capability follows concerns raised in February when a small civilian aircraft from the mainland flew near the islet, which is part of the Taiwan-controlled Matsu archipelago. There was speculation the People's Liberation Army was using the Harbin Y-12 to ramp up pressure on Taiwan by testing its response measures ahead of a potential attack aimed at returning the self-ruled island to mainland control.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3174122/taiwan-boost-defences-tiny-islet-outpost-dongyin-short-range>

Pentagon's 'China, Russia threat in space' hype aims at hegemony, developing own military: FM

Global Times, April 13, 2022

By disregarding facts and repeatedly hyping the "space threat from China and Russia," the US is creating excuses to develop its own military and seek hegemony in space, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday, after the Pentagon's intelligence agency claimed on Tuesday that China and Russia are developing and deploying weapons that can stop US satellites while also increasing its own fleet of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) space vehicles. It is also a reflection of the US' Cold War mentality and a right-wing move to shift responsibility, as it is the US that is the biggest threat to space security, Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the Global Times at a regular press conference on Wednesday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1259250.shtml>

Chinese UN representative 'laments' deaths in Ukraine missile attack but doesn't blame Russia

South China Morning Post, April 12, 2022

China continued its attempts to thread the needle on its response to Russia's war in Ukraine on

Monday, as a top diplomat expressed sorrow for the killing of more than 50 civilians in a missile strike on a train station last week while declining to apportion blame for the attack. “China laments the killing and injuring of dozens of civilians, including women and children, caused by the Kramatorsk train station attack,” Dai Bing, China’s deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said during a UN Security Council session. “The relevant circumstances and specific causes of the incident must be established, and any accusations should be based on facts,” said Dai, speaking during the body’s first meeting since Friday’s attack in eastern Ukraine.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/3173921/chinese-un-representative-laments-deaths-ukraine-missile-attack-doesnt>

Taipei wakes to warplanes overhead as military drill simulates PLA attack

South China Morning Post, April 12, 2022

Taiwan’s military sent warplanes into the island’s capital early on Tuesday in a drill simulating an air attack by the People’s Liberation Army, while a survival handbook was released telling citizens what to do in the event of a bombardment. It comes as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has prompted the self-ruled island to look at how well prepared it is for a potential attack from mainland China. Beijing – which claims Taiwan as part of its territory – has not ruled out the use of force to take the island under its control and has heaped pressure on President Tsai Ing-wen in a bid to push her to agree to unification talks.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3173983/taipei-wakes-warplanes-overhead-military-drill-simulates-pla>

China’s military looks for new drones and intelligent vehicles for logistics

South China Morning Post, April 12, 2022

China’s military has brought together hundreds of arms makers to showcase their products as the PLA looks for new drones and intelligent vehicles to boost logistics, according to state television. The event – organised by the People’s Liberation Army’s Joint Logistics Support Force and held at an unspecified location – was highlighted on state broadcaster CCTV on Sunday, though it did not say when it took place. The Joint Logistics Support Force, which is seeking to develop an unmanned intelligent logistics system, was said to have inspected and assessed the performance of a range of new equipment on display at the event.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3174026/chinas-military-looks-new-drones-and-intelligent-vehicles>

Linglong One reactor pit installed at Changjiang

World Nuclear News, April 11, 2022

The steel reactor pit has been installed for the ACP100 multi-purpose small modular reactor (SMR) demonstration project at the Changjiang nuclear power plant on China's island province of Hainan. China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) said the component - weighing about 4.85 tonnes - was installed on 7 April in an operation lasting 40 minutes. The steel pit was designed and

manufactured by CNNC subsidiaries the Beijing Nuclear Engineering Design Institute and the China Nuclear Engineering Design Institute. Construction of the multi-purpose 125 MWe pressurised water reactor (PWR) - also referred to as the Linglong One - officially started on 13 July 2021 following final approval for its construction being given by China's National Development and Reform Commission in early June.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Linglong-One-reactor-pit-installed-at-Changjiang>

China delivered FK-3 missile system to Serbian military, state media says

South China Morning Post, April 11, 2022

China's air force flew 12 covert sorties to Serbia at the weekend, which state media said delivered three Chinese anti-aircraft missile systems in the biggest overseas airlift involving its Y-20 transport planes. Six Y-20As headed westward towards Serbia on Saturday with a stop at Baku in Azerbaijan before crossing the airspace of Nato members Turkey and Bulgaria, according to flight tracking website Flightradar24. They were reportedly delivering the new FK-3 medium-range missile system to the Serbian military. Another group of six planes followed a similar path on Sunday.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3173904/china-delivered-fk-3-missile-system-serbian-military-state>