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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

China's future aircraft carrier program 'depends on security needs': defence ministry

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, June 30, 2022

China will take national security needs and the development of equipment technology into consideration for the country's future aircraft carrier program, the Chinese Defence Ministry said, after China's 80,000 ton-class, electromagnetic catapults-equipped third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, was launched. Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, a spokesperson of China's Ministry of National Defence, made the remarks at a regular press conference when asked if China will build more large aircraft carriers after the Fujian, and if China is changing its defence policy that is defensive in nature. Observers believe that China will have more aircraft carriers in the future if these criteria are applied. China will always adhere to a defence policy that is defensive in nature, which is decided by China's nature as a socialist country, its strategic choice of walking a path of peaceful development, and its independent foreign policy of peace, Tan said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202206/1269497.shtml>

China lured graduate jobseekers into digital espionage

Eleanor Olcott and Helen Warrell

Financial Times, June 30, 2022

Chinese university students have been lured to work at a secretive technology company that masked the true nature of their jobs: researching western targets for spying and translating hacked documents as part of Beijing's industrial-scale intelligence regime. The Financial Times has identified and contacted 140 potential translators, mostly recent graduates who have studied English at public universities in Hainan, Sichuan and Xi'an. They had responded to job adverts at Hainan Xiandun, a company that was located in the tropical southern island of Hainan. The application process included translation tests on sensitive documents obtained from US government agencies and instructions to research individuals at Johns Hopkins University, a key intelligence target. Hainan Xiandun is alleged by a 2021 US federal indictment to have been a cover for the Chinese hacking group APT40. Western intelligence agencies have accused APT40 of infiltrating government agencies, companies and universities across the US, Canada, Europe and the Middle East, under the orders of China's Ministry of State Security.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2e4359e4-c0ca-4428-bc7e-456bf3060f45>

China-Cambodia Ream Naval Base upgrading project completely legitimate, neutral: Defence Spokesperson

China Military Online, June 30, 2022

"Certain media have been continuously hyping up the normal exchanges and cooperation between China and Cambodia with ulterior motive," said Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence. Senior Colonel Tan Kefei made the remarks when being asked to comment on foreign media's report that an official from the US Department of Defence claimed that Cambodia has authorized

the Chinese military the exclusive right to use some facilities at the Ream Naval Base, which "shows an extraordinary lack of transparency", as he put it. The official also claimed that China plans to enhance its military projection capability by building a global network of bases, monitor the operations of American troops and deter America's overseas bases. "China and Cambodia are comprehensive strategic partners, and their cooperation in all areas is open, transparent and legitimate," said the spokesperson, adding that on June 8, the upgrade and renovation project of Ream Naval Base, an aid project undertaken by China, officially kicked off.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-06/30/content_10167892.htm

China urged to boost defence talks with US, Japan, South Korea as trio joins hands on Pyongyang nuclear threat

Minnie Chan and Teddy Ng

South China Morning Post, July 1, 2022

China should step up defence dialogue with Japan, South Korea and the United States, defence experts have advised, after the two US allies and Washington agreed to boost security ties over North Korean missile and nuclear threats. While the tripartite move, announced on the sidelines of a Nato summit in Madrid, was unlikely to pose an immediate, serious challenge to Beijing, plans for joint exercises might push the North into more provocative acts, the analysts warned. The three-way meeting came amid a push towards improving Tokyo-Seoul ties following a change of guard in South Korea, and fears of North Korea carrying out its first nuclear test since 2017.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3183710/china-urged-boost-defence-talks-us-japan-south-korea-trio>

Surface tension explains stagnant water: China responds to foreign conspiracy theories on space training video

Global Times, July 1, 2022

China's aerospace institutions explained that the water in a cup didn't float in space due to the water surface tension at work in the weightless environment, and the cup was fixed on the table for ease of use, as a science class from China's space station run by taikonauts triggered a wide discussion on overseas social media recently. Some foreign netizens questioned why a glass of water didn't float in the weightless environment of space and even posed a conspiracy that China has faked its space station. Some domestic netizens also were confused by the discussion. China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, China's aerospace social media "Our Space," and the science and technology communication center of China Association for Science and Technology all posted explanations on the Quora-like platform Zhihu to explain the reasons why the water in the glass didn't float in space.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1269534.shtml>

PLA missile interceptor test seen as response to warning from Taipei

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, July 2, 2022

The People's Liberation Army's latest test of a ground-based system designed to intercept ballistic missiles indicates China has narrowed the gap in midcourse interceptor technology with the United States and enhanced its strategic deterrence ability, analysts said. China's defence ministry announced that the PLA had successfully conducted the sixth test of its land-based anti-ballistic-missile system on June 19 within the country's borders, said Zhou Chenming, a researcher at the Beijing-based Yuan Wang military science and technology institute. He said the move indicated Beijing was willing to invest more on missile defence technology similar to the US Ground-based Midcourse Defence (GMD) system, rather than increasing its nuclear arsenal. "Developing GMD is the most complicated, difficult and costly way to raise the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, and so far just the US and China are capable of doing that," Zhou said, adding that China's ground-based interceptor technology was based on mature US technology and used an intercontinental ballistic missile fitted with a kinetic kill vehicle as the interceptor.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3183898/pla-missile-interceptor-test-seen-response-warning-taipei>

NASA chief urged to drop Cold War mentality after his lashing out at China's space progress

Fan Anqi and Zhang Changyue

Global Times, July 3, 2022

NASA chief Bill Nelson has freshly warned of a new "space race" with China, claiming that China wants to "occupy the moon" citing the lunar research base that China and Russia are co-building, which he is "very concerned about." Experts noted that Nelson's remarks, following a series of similar accusations, does not represent the majority of the space community in the US, as they still want to seek cooperation with China in the field, an attempt that has been sadly limited by the US' own laws. In an interview with BILD published, Nelson said that he is not comfortable with the moon base that China and Russia are setting up. "We have to be very concerned about China landing on the moon and saying: It's ours now, and you stay out." The senior US official is pointing at an International Lunar Research Station that China and Russia are jointly developing, which is expected to become operational by 2035, enabling experimental and research facilities for a wide range of scientific work to operate in lunar orbit.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1269666.shtml>

FT is playing the trick of a thief crying stop thief: Chinese Embassy in the UK responds to media's accusations of digital espionage

Global Times, July 3, 2022

The Financial Times' report is a malicious denigration of the Chinese government and slander on the Chinese students by the British media, said the Chinese Embassy in the UK, in response to a report accusing

a Chinese hacking group of luring university graduates into digital espionage with the support of the government. On June 30, the Financial Times published an article entitled "China lures graduate jobseekers into digital espionage," alleging that "Chinese university students have been lured to work at a secretive technology company that masked the true nature of their jobs: researching western targets and spying and translating hacked documents as part of Beijing's industrial-scale intelligence regime." A spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in the UK said that it is sheer nonsense and that the report is a blatant violation of the professional norms of fairness, impartiality, and objectivity of journalism.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1269613.shtml>

China's new wind tunnel for hypersonic testing is too powerful for the electricity grid: scientists

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 5, 2022

A wind tunnel built recently by China to test hypersonic flight requires so much power it cannot be connected to the local electricity grid, according to scientists involved in the project. To simulate extreme flight conditions at Mach 5 or faster at high altitude, the wind tunnel runs a 13-megawatt vacuum pump to create an extreme environment from thin air. But the power needed for the pump to operate continuously was greater than "the upper limit allowed by the local electric power distribution network", said research engineer Li Yanliang, of the Beijing Institute of Space Long March Vehicle, in a paper published in the domestic peer-reviewed Measurement & Control Technology journal.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3184194/chinas-new-wind-tunnel-hypersonic-testing-too-powerful>

Chinese university sanctioned by US declares success of hypersonic test flight

Zhang Tong

South China Morning Post, July 5, 2022

A Chinese university sanctioned by the US said it had successfully carried out a test flight of a new hypersonic aircraft. Feitian 1, which was developed by a research team at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xian, Shaanxi province, used a combination of rocket and air-breathing engines and could generate a thrust faster than Mach 5, according to a statement posted on the university's social media account. The rocket and scramjet engines burned kerosene, a low-cost fuel. The university said the test flight was a "complete success" and was world-first proof of the feasibility of critical new technologies. The launch was conducted in an unspecified test facility in China's northwestern region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3184229/chinese-university-sanctioned-us-declares-success-hypersonic>

Chinese scientists try to reduce space junk by using drag sail on rocket

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, July 6, 2022

Chinese scientists have successfully unfurled a drag sail to deorbit one of its recently launched Long March 2 rockets in a bid to reduce space junk – the first time this was done with a rocket. The drag sail is 25 sq metres (269 sq feet) when fully unfurled and extremely thin – just one-tenth the diameter of a human hair, according to the official Science and Technology Daily. This kite-like membrane was designed to increase atmospheric drag and accelerate the orbital decay of the 300kg (661 pounds) rocket's final stage. The rocket was used to send remote sensing satellites into orbit last month and has since become space junk.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3184224/chinese-scientists-try-reduce-space-junk-using-drag-sail-rocket>

The next wolf warriors: China readies new generation of tough diplomats

Richard McGregor and Neil Thomas

Nikkei Asia, July 6, 2022

After nine years as China's top diplomat, the 72-year-old Yang Jiechi is set to leave the Politburo and his post as director of the general office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission (CFAC) at the 20th party congress, likely to convene in October or November. If Xi makes himself the only exception to retirement norms, Wang Yi, the 68-year-old foreign minister and China's No. 2 diplomat, will also step down. Their likely departure in the space of a few months gives Xi the chance to promote a new generation of foreign policy leaders. The choices he makes will underline his global priorities and give up-and-coming diplomats a template for the type of work that wins professional reward.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/The-Big-Story/The-next-wolf-warriors-China-readies-new-generation-of-tough-diplomats>

China's first spaceport for commercial launches starts construction in Wenchang, Hainan

Global Times, July 6, 2022

China's first spaceport for commercial launches started construction in Wenchang, South China's Hainan Province. As another major aerospace project of the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), the Hainan Commercial Space Launch Site will help build Wenchang into a world-class space city, an official said during the ground-breaking ceremony. Industry insiders said that the Hainan Commercial Launch Site will further improve the launching capability of domestic commercial carrier rockets. "Hainan will make full use of the synergistic advantage of the launch site and policies of the FTP, striving to build Wenchang into a top-ranking international space city, and to accelerate the construction of industrial chains of rocket launch, satellite and data," Feng Fei, governor of the Hainan provincial government, said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1269922.shtml>

‘Not a joint drill’: Chinese frigate ‘sent to monitor Russian warship’ near Diaoyus

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, July 6, 2022

A Chinese navy vessel was monitoring a Russian warship – and not taking part in joint exercises – in an incident in the East China Sea that prompted a protest from Japan, according to a defence analyst. Japanese news agency Kyodo reported on Tuesday that vessels from China and Russia were seen near the disputed Diaoyu Islands, known in Japan as the Senkaku. Japan controls the uninhabited islands, which are also claimed by China. The incident comes as China and Russia have sought to show a united front in the face of US and Japanese pressure, including flying strategic bombers over the Sea of Japan in May. Japan is renewing ties with the US to counter China and has criticised Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3184223/not-joint-drill-chinese-frigate-sent-monitor-russian-warship>

History urges the U.S. and China to cooperate in space

Keith Lamb

CGTN, July 7, 2022

Recent claims by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) administrator Bill Nelson that China might "take over" the moon, along with other concerns about China developing space technology, were met with comments from Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhao Lijian who said that such talk was "reckless" and "false." He went on to urge the U.S. "to step up to its responsibility as a major country, reflect on and rectify its negative moves and statements about outer space, and make its due contribution to safeguarding enduring peace and security in space." China doesn't want dominance; it wants equality. When it comes to space exploration, China seeks to work with the U.S. As such, talk of China taking over the moon is nothing but hysteria to drum up the "China threat." For example, in 2011 the U.S. officially barred China from visiting the International Space Station (ISS). Apparently, China's space agency was viewed as too inexperienced to offer any useful contributions. However, this was an excuse as China soon developed its own space station, but still, the U.S. refused to cooperate.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-07-06/History-urges-the-U-S-and-China-to-cooperate-in-space-1brlsJRrcTC/index.html>

China and India share common interests, will make greater contributions to the future of mankind: Chinese FM

Global Times, July 8, 2022

China and India, with common interests and similar legitimate claims, will never go with the flow, but are destined to uphold strategic persistence and achieve their respective development and revitalization as well as make greater contributions to the future of mankind, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, said during his meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, on the

sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali, Indonesia. Since March this year, China and India have maintained communication and exchanges, effectively managed differences, and a momentum of recovery has been shown in the overall bilateral relations between the two countries that have common interests and similar legitimate claims, Wang said. Major countries like China and India will never go with the flow against the backdrop of the changes of a century in the world, Wang noted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270058.shtml>

Senior Chinese military official holds video talks with US chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

China Military Online, July 8, 2022

General Li Zuocheng, member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and chief of the CMC Joint Staff Department, held video talks at invitation with General Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Li said that Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that China and the US should respect each other, coexist peacefully and cooperate for win-win results in the new era. China attaches great importance to US President Biden's positive remarks of "five assurances" on many occasions, that is, "the US does not seek a new Cold War with China; it does not aim to change China's system; the revitalization of its alliances is not targeted at China; the United States does not support 'Taiwan independence'; and it has no intention to seek a conflict with China". "As long as we follow the strategic guidance of the two heads of state and implement the important consensus reached by them, China and the US can surely achieve common development and mutual benefits," General Li said. He pointed out that under the current circumstances, the two militaries should adopt an objective and rational attitude of mutual respect, further strengthen dialogue, manage risks and promote cooperation, rather than deliberately creating confrontation, stirring up troubles or excluding each other.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-07/08/content_10169690.htm

Defence Ministry spokesperson condemns US lawmakers' visit to Taiwan

China Military Online, July 8, 2022

Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence (MND) answered press questions on the recent visit to Taiwan paid by US Florida Senator, Republican Rick Scott, saying that China is firmly opposed to the US senator's visit to China's Taiwan region. Snr. Col. Wu said that China firmly opposed such move by the US side, which seriously violated the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-US joint communiques, severely undermined the political foundation of China-US relations, heavily damaged the relations between the two countries and the two militaries, and gravely escalated regional tensions across the Taiwan Strait. In response to the vicious acts of collusion and provocation by the US and the Taiwan region, the PLA Eastern Theater Command has recently organized joint combat-readiness security patrol and combat training exercises involving troops of multiple services and arms in the airspace and waters around the Taiwan Island, Wu said.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-07/08/content_10169776.htm

PLA Eastern Theater Command organizes joint security patrol and combat drills around Taiwan Island

China Military Online, July 8, 2022

Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesperson for the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), said that the PLA Eastern Theater Command has recently organized joint combat-readiness security patrols and combat training exercises involving troops of multiple services and arms in the waters and airspace around Taiwan Island. Shi pointed out that the recent moves by the US side on the Taiwan question to bolster the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces are totally futile and result in nothing but only disturb peace across the Taiwan Strait and escalate the regional tension. He stressed that Taiwan is a part of China. Troops of the PLA Eastern Theater Command stay on high alert at all times, keep strengthening military training for war preparedness, and will firmly safeguard national sovereignty and security as well as regional peace and stability, and resolutely smash any "Taiwan independence" plot.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-07/08/content_10169781.htm

China to enforce cross-border data transfer rules in September

Shunsuke Tabeta

Nikkei Asia, July 9, 2022

The Chinese government will implement on September 1 newly adopted rules controlling transfers of data outside of the country, marking a new step in Beijing's campaign to tighten oversight over the digital space. Critical infrastructure industries such as communications, finance and transportation are among those subject to the new rules, with companies seeking to transfer personal data on 100,000 or more people to undergo security reviews, the Cyberspace Administration of China recently announced. The security checks will also apply to businesses that handle personal data on 1 million or more people, as well as on operators that transferred personal information on at least 100,000 cumulative individuals since the beginning of the previous year. Operators that transfer fingerprints and other sensitive personal data on 10,000 or more will be subject to the rules as well.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/China-tech/China-to-enforce-cross-border-data-transfer-rules-in-September>

New US Space Force spy agency points to earthly rivalries being played out in orbit

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, July 9, 2022

The US Space Force has launched a new space intelligence unit as competition heats up in space and nations take action to protect their orbiting interests. The unit, called Space Delta 18 or the National Space Intelligence Centre (NSIC), was officially launched late last month with a mission to "deliver unparalleled technical expertise and game-changing intelligence ... to outwit, outreach and win in the space domain". The new unit is tasked with monitoring and identifying threats to US space assets in orbit, those either

causing physical damage or operational disruption, after the US military defined outer space as an “operational frontier” while becoming increasingly alert to any development of anti-satellite capabilities by China and Russia. China’s active progress in anti-satellite abilities have been repeatedly mentioned by US officials.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3184660/new-us-space-force-spy-agency-points-earthly-rivalries-being>

China begins construction on world’s most far-reaching radar system, to boost defence against near-Earth asteroid impact

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, July 10, 2022

In a move to play increasingly role in global efforts to safeguard Planet Earth, China has recently begun constructing a new high-definition deep-space active observation facility in the country's Southwest Chongqing municipality, with goals including boosting its defence capability against near-Earth asteroid as well as sensing capability for the Earth-Moon system. The new observation facility, codenamed China Fuyan [faceted eye], will be consisted of distributed radars with more than 20 antennas, and each antenna will have a diameter of 25 to 30 meters. Working together, they are expected to carry out high-definition observation of asteroids within 150 million kilometers, the Global Times learned from the project lead, the Beijing Institute of Technology. The Beijing Institute of Technology Chongqing innovation center, China's National Astronomical Observatories under the China Academy of Sciences, Tsinghua University and Peking University will also join the Fuyan construction process, which will become the world's most far-reaching radar system.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270185.shtml>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak with inputs
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