



PROPHETIC TIMES

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China to revamp science, tech in face of foreign 'suppression'

March 8, 2023 thesundaily.my reported: "China will conduct a sweeping revamp of its science ministry and tech capabilities, pouring more resources into manufacturing and research as Beijing pushes for self-reliance in the face of foreign attempts at 'containment and suppression'.

A broad restructuring document announced by China's cabinet on Tuesday and set to be approved by the country's parliament this week will refocus the Ministry of Science and Technology's resources on coordinating scientific and technological breakthroughs.

Beijing will 'optimise its management of the whole chain of science and technology innovation', the document said, as well as set up a national data administration responsible for overseeing the digital economy.

China faced 'a severe situation of international scientific and technological competition alongside external containment and suppression', said Xiao Jie, a member of China's State Council, as he introduced the plan at a meeting of the national parliament on Tuesday.

Beijing must 'better coordinate scientific and technological capabilities to overcome difficulties in key core technologies', while also accelerating 'high-level scientific and technological self-reliance', Xiao said, according to an official readout..."

NATO chief warns Bakhmut may fall in coming days

March 8, 2023 france24.com reported: "NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned Wednesday the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut might fall to Russia in the coming days following months of intense fighting.

His remarks came as Russia's Wagner mercenary group, which has spearheaded the attack on Bakhmut, claimed to have captured the eastern bank of the industrial town, devastated in the longest battle since Moscow invaded Ukraine a year ago.

Wagner chief and Kremlin ally Yevgeny Prigozhin said on social media Wednesday that his forces "have taken all of the eastern part of Bakhmut", a salt-mining town with a pre-war population of 80,000.

The intense fighting around Bakhmut has been the longest and bloodiest in Russia's more than year-long invasion, which has devastated swathes of Ukraine and displaced millions of people..."



NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg

North Korea warns US against intercepting missiles during tests

March 7, 2023 spacewar.com reported: "North Korea warned Tuesday that it would be a "clear declaration of war" if its missiles were shot down during their test launches over the Pacific Ocean.

The United States and South Korea have ramped up defence cooperation, including joint drills, in the face of growing threats from nuclear-armed Pyongyang, which has conducted a wave of banned weapons tests in recent months.

North Korea has said its nuclear weapons and missile programmes are for self-defence, and has bristled over US-South Korea military exercises, describing them as rehearsals for an invasion.

"It will be regarded as a clear declaration of war against the DPRK, in case such military response as interception takes place against our tests of strategic weapons," Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's powerful sister, said in a statement, using North Korea's official name.

"The Pacific Ocean does not belong to the dominium of the U.S. or Japan."

North Korea is "always on standby to take appropriate, quick and overwhelming action at any time", added her statement, published by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

This month, the US and South Korean militaries will hold their largest joint drills in five years..."

China's Xi Jinping Takes Rare Direct Aim at U.S. in Speech

March 7, 2023 wsj.com reported: "Chinese leader Xi Jinping issued an unusually blunt rebuke of U.S. policy on Monday, blaming what he termed a Washington-led campaign to suppress China for recent challenges facing his country.

“Western countries—led by the U.S.—have implemented all-round containment, encirclement and suppression against us, bringing unprecedentedly severe challenges to our country’s development,” Mr. Xi was quoted by state media as saying on Monday.

Mr. Xi’s comments marked an unusual departure for a leader who has generally refrained from directly criticizing the U.S. in public remarks—even as his decadelong leadership has demonstrated a pessimistic view of the bilateral relationship.

The accusation of U.S. suppression of China’s development over the past five years comes as Mr. Xi faces charges from investors that China’s economy has been damaged by his policies, including the emphasis on national security.” ...”

China military spending, Russia’s war show readiness to confront West

March 6, 2023 jpost.com reported: “Reports that China is increasing military spending by an alarming 7% this year while warning about threats and the visit by Russia’s defense minister to Russian troops shows how a new world order is taking shape.

This is not the ‘world order’ that was proposed in the 1990s by then-US president George H.W. Bush. It’s not necessarily a new order that will replace the US-led world order that dominated in the 1990s. However, it is a world order that will be now stretching its wings, like an animal that has been slumbering.

What this means is that, if in the last decades, there was discussion about US-China or US-Russia competition, today it is clear what is taking place. The chips are down, in a sense. That means China no longer pretends that it is going to just be an economic power, quietly moving into the vacuum left by what it sees as a declining Western power in Asia, Africa and the Americas. Now China will be more assertive.

This is akin to the way the US emerged in the last century, initially as an economic power, but then quickly assuming world power status. China has been biding its time, quietly moving forward without trying to provoke alarm...”

Report: Russia and Iran reach secret nuclear deal on uranium transfers

March 6, 2023 Arutz Sheva reported: “Amid the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) disclosure this week that Iran accumulated near weapons-grade enriched uranium for its alleged nuclear weapon program, *Fox News Digital* reported on Sunday that Iran has allegedly secured secret deals with Russia to guarantee deliveries of uranium.

In what could be a major setback to a new Iran nuclear deal, foreign intelligence sources speaking on the condition of anonymity, and who are familiar with the negotiations between Moscow and Tehran over Iran’s reported illegal nuclear weapons work, told *Fox News Digital* that Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to return enriched uranium that it received from Iran if a prospective atomic deal collapses.

The State Department would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

‘We will not comment on purported secret intelligence reports, but in any event the JCPOA has not been on the agenda for months,’ a State Department spokesperson told *Fox News Digital*, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is the official name of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

A spokesperson for the National Security Council deferred comment to the State Department.” ...#

According to Sunday’s report, the uranium enrichment deal was hammered out during Putin’s visit to Iran in July 2022...”

China increases its military budget by 7.1% - \$230BN – to ‘boost combat preparedness’

March 5, 2023 dailymail.co.uk reported: “China announced it will boost its military budget by nearly \$230 billion this year amid concerns it will launch an invasion of Taiwan.



The money is set to 'boost combat preparedness and enhance military capabilities,' claimed Premier Li Keqiang ahead of a draft budget presented to the National People's Congress in Beijing.

It means China's military spending will grow at its fastest pace in four years and take up a larger share of its economy, marking the reversal of a two-decade trend which has seen the nation prioritize growth over its military capabilities.

Defense expenditure will increase by 7.2 percent in 2023 which works out as \$224 billion - way ahead of the 5.7 percent increase in general public expenditure.

The move will no doubt spook the US government which is concerned by Beijing's strategic intentions in the wake of rising tensions with Taiwan.” ...”

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