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A Monthly Maritime Bulletin and Perspectives of the Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies



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China launches first home-made amphibious assault ship — p. 4

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NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY



CHINA | 25 SEP | PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE

China launches first home-made amphibious assault ship

China's first amphibious assault ship, the Type 075, was launched in Shanghai on Sept. 25.

Full Report

TAIWAN | 2 SEP | TAIWAN NEWS

Taiwan Navy missile boat program delayed due to lack of funds

The Taiwan Navy has been forced to suspend its missile boat project until more funding becomes available, according to a report from the United Daily News (UDN).

Full Report

INDIA-RUSSIA | 5 SEP | TASS

Russia offers to build six submarines under intergovernment agreement with India

Russia has addressed India with a proposal for building six non-nuclear submarines under an intergovernmental agreement without holding a bidding context, the chief of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, Dmitry Shugayev, told the media on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum on Thursday.

Full Report

UNITED STATES | 6 SEP | DEFENSE NEWS

US Navy deploys new ship-killer missile to China's backyard

It can travel more than 100 nautical miles, passively detect an enemy through imaging stored in its computer brain and can kill a target so precisely that an operator can tell it to aim for a specific point on a ship — the engine room or the bridge, for example.

Full Report

INDIA | 8 SEP | FORBES

Tweet May Have Inadvertently Revealed India's Next-Gen Nuclear Weapons Platform With Global Reach

Politicians' tweets can sometimes reveal new intelligence about their own country's military capabilities and programs.

Full Report

RUSSIA | 10 SEP | TASS

First sub to carry Poseidon underwater nuke drone to begin sea trials in 2020

Russia's special-purpose nuclear sub, the Belgorod, which will be the first basic carrier of Poseidon nuclear-capable underwater drones, will enter sea trials in June 2020 and will be commissioned in September,

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Full Report

Sevmash shipyard Director General Mikhail Budnichenko told reporters on Monday.

Full Report

CHINA-THAILAND | 11 SEP | CHINA MILITARY ONLINE

China and Thailand sign shipbuilding agreement for Type 071E LPD

China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC) and the Royal Thai Navy held the signing ceremony of the shipbuilding agreement on exporting Type 071E landing platform dock (LPD) in Beijing on Sept 9.

Full Report

CHINA-BANGLADESH | 12 SEP | BENARNEWS

China To Help Bangladesh Build Submarine Base, Senior Official Says

Beijing will help Bangladesh construct its first submarine base, but Chinese subs will not use the facility, a leading member of parliamentary committees on foreign policy and defense told BenarNews on Thursday.

Full Report

UNITED STATES | 13 SEP | USNI NEWS

How to Seize Islands, Set Up a Forward Refueling Point: Marine Corps Recipes for Expeditionary Operations

The U.S. Marine Corps has been refining a pair of related concepts, Expeditionary Advance Base Operations (EABO) and the overarching Littoral Operations in a Contested Environment, for the past couple years.

Full Report

UNITED STATES | 13 SEP | REUTERS

U.S. destroyer sails in disputed South China Sea amid trade talks

A U.S. Navy destroyer sailed near islands claimed by China in the South China Sea on Friday, the U.S. military said, a move likely to anger Beijing.

Full Report

CHINA-THAILAND | 17 SEP | NAVAL NEWS

China's CSIC Lays Keel for Royal Thai Navy's First S26T Submarine

Chinese shipbuilding group CSIC (China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation) held a keel laying ceremony for the Royal Thai Navy's first S26T submarine.

Full Report

JAPAN-UNITED STATES | 18 SEP | THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

SDF, U.S. Army stage first drill using missiles to avert sea attack

Japanese and U.S. ground forces for the first time staged a simulated attack against an enemy ship using land-to-ship missiles at a training site in Kyushu.



KOREAS | 18 SEP | THE KOREA HERALD

No attack weapons deployed on N. Korea's Hambak Island in Yellow Sea: Seoul ministry

No offensive weapons are deployed on North Korea's border island of Hambak in the Yellow Sea, the defense ministry said Wednesday, after security concerns arose following media reports that the communist nation could have deployed weapons like multiple rocket launchers there.

Full Report

CHINA-THE PHILIPPINES | 19 SEP | INQUIRER.NET

DND: China Coast Guard blocked PH vessels in Ayungin Shoal

A Chinese Coast Guard ship had blocked the path of three Philippine civilian vessels on a resupply mission to BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

Full Report

THE PHILIPPINES | 21 SEP | GMA NEWS

AFP holds multi-service amphibious exercise along Subic coast

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Saturday held a joint ship-to-shore operation along Zambales' Subic Bay coast to demonstrate the military's ability to seize a littoral objective in a scenario in which they need to retake an island.

<u>Full Report</u>

THAILAND | 23 SEP | BANGKOK POST

Navy mulls postponing frigate plan

The navy is likely to postpone its plan to purchase a second frigate worth 15 billion baht as it mulls to purchase a second submarine in the 2020 fiscal year, an informed source said.

Full Report

NORTH KOREA | 25 SEP | KOREA JOONGANG DAILY

Satellite pics may have found Kim's new sub

North Korea may be gearing up to deploy a new submarine possibly equipped with ballistic missiles, according to satellite footage obtained by a U.S. think tank.

Full Report

MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY



ASEAN-UNITED STATES | 3 SEP | USNI News

Inaugural AUMX Exercise Seeks to Deepen U.S.-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation

The U.S. has kicked off a new exercise in the Western Pacific with participation of the maritime assets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Full Report

BRUNEI-THE PHILIPPINES-VIETNAM | 4 SEP | GMA NEWS

PHL Navy's BRP Ramon Alcaraz conducts naval drills with Vietnam, Brunei

The Philippines, together with Vietnam and Brunei, conducted series of naval drills while en route to the ASEAN-United States Maritime Exercise which will be held in Sattahip, Thailand.

Full Report

INDIAN OCEAN | 4 SEP | SUNDAY TIMES

Prime Minister urges protection of undersea cables, says current laws inadequate

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe urged Indian Ocean countries to pay special attention to the protection of undersea communication cables, claiming that the existing laws were insufficient for this purpose.

Full Report

MALAYSIA | 4 SEP | MALAY MAIL

Sabah security forces kill two in shootout at sea near Lahad Datu

Two men in a pump boat were shot dead by security forces during a gunfire exchange at sea off Sabah's east coast late last night.

Full Report

INDIAN OCEAN | 5 SEP | TASS

Putin says special organization may be created to address problems in Strait of Hormuz

Russian President Vladimir Putin does not rule out that a special organization might be created to address problems that emerge in the Strait of Hormuz.

Full Report

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ASEAN | 9 SEP | VIETNAM NET

ASEAN nations boost cooperation in fighting drug trafficking at sea

Measures to promote joint investigation in preventing drug trafficking along sea routes in Southeast Asia were discussed at a workshop in Hanoi on September 9

Full Report

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THE PHILIPPINES | 12 SEP | PNA

Bohol radar station to monitor N. Mindanao sea: PCG

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on Thursday started the construction of the PHP29.7 million worth of forward monitoring station in Balicasag Island in Panglao, Bohol that will serve as an eye for the maritime domain over northern Mindanao and southern Visayas.

Full Report

JAPAN-NORTH KOREA | 13 SEP | THE MAINICHI

Vessel, believed N. Korean, threatened to fire at Japan gov't boat

A crew member with a rifle aboard a high-speed vessel, likely from North Korea, threatened in late August to fire at a Japan Coast Guard patrol boat in the Sea of Japan, coast guard officials said Friday.

Full Report

JAPAN | 17 SEP | THE MAINICHI

Japan to build central database to bolster remote island monitoring

The government plans to build a new central database to strengthen the monitoring of remote islands that define Japan's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, sources close to the matter said Monday.

Full Report

NORTH KOREA-RUSSIA | 17 SEP | REUTERS

Russia detains two North Korean vessels after one opens fire: reports

Russian border guards have detained two North Korean boats in Russian territorial waters in the Sea of Japan after one of them attacked a Russian patrol, local media cited the Federal Security Service (FSB) as saying on Tuesday.

Full Report

THE PHILIPPINES | 19 SEP | RAPPLER

Military taps sardine fishing crews as 'reserve force' in Sulu Sea

Hard-pressed to fend off bandits, pirates, and terrorists sneaking into the Philippines through the Sulu Sea, the military enlisted the help of at least two Zamboangabased sardine companies' fishing crews as a "naval reserve" force.

Full Report

INDIAN OCEAN | 19 SEP | THE MAINICHI

US eyes 55-ship surveillance mission off Iran in Nov.: source

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is planning to form an international maritime surveillance mission involving 55 vessels in a key waterway off Iran

in November, a source familiar with the plan said Thursday.

Full Report



MALAYSIA-VIETNAM | 21 SEP | BERNAMA

MMEA chased away Vietnamese enforcement vessel

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) chased away a Vietnamese enforcement vessel 'Fisheries Resources Surveillance KN 205' for disrupting its boat from carrying its duty to detain a Vietnamese fishing boat that had trespassed into Malaysian waters.

Full Report

MALAYSIA | 23 SEP | MALAY MAIL

Three Indonesian fishermen kidnapped off Lahad Datu, believed brought to Tawi-Tawi

Three Indonesian fishermen are believed to have been kidnapped from the waters off Tambisan, near Lahad Datu in Sabah, this afternoon by masked gunmen.

Full Report

AUSTRALIA-THE PHILIPPINES | 30 SEP | GMA NEWS

PHL stands to lose P30B in Aussie loan due to Duterte order

The Philippines risks missing a P30 billion loan from the Australian government for the modernization of the Philippine Navy because of President Rodrigo Duterte's order stopping negotiations and agreements from countries that backed a United Nations probe on the bloody war on drugs.

Full Report

JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA | 30 SEP | YONHAP

S. Korea, Japan jointly take part in multinational maritime exercise

South Korea and Japan jointly participated in a multinational anti-piracy maritime exercise off the coast of Somalia, the Navy said Monday, amid strained relations between the two countries over history and trade rows.

Full Report

SHIPPING, PORTS, AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



SINGAPORE-CHINA | 5 SEP | THE BUSINESS TIMES

Singapore, China tie-up to ease sea port clearance with the use of e-certificates

The maritime authorities of Singapore and China will cooperate to issue, use and accept electronic certificates for port clearance and Port State Control (PSC) inspections, they announced on Thursday.

Full Report

CHINA-FRANCE | 2 SEP | BLOOMBERG

China Merchants in Talks to Invest in CMA CGM Port Assets

China Merchants Group is in talks to invest in port assets owned by French shipping company CMA CGM as the state-owned firm seeks to diversify geographically and boost capacity, people familiar with the matter said.

Full Report

SINGAPORE | 3 SEP | THE STRAITS TIMES

Turning to tech to keep Singapore waters safe

As the maritime sector continues to digitalise, Singapore's port authority is increasingly turning to technology to ensure the security of the Republic's waters

Full Report

THE NETHERLANDS | 5 SEP | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Maersk, Koole Terminals to Produce IMO 2020-Compliant Fuel in Rotterdam

Maersk's subsidiary Maersk Oil Trading has teamed up with liquid bulk storage operator Koole Terminals for the production of IMO 2020-compliant bunker fuel in the Port of Rotterdam.

Full Report

MYANMAR-SOUTH KOREA | 5 SEP | MYANMAR TIMES

Myanmar, South Korea ink agreements or infrastructure, investments

Myanmar and South Korea inked a series of agreements on economic and infrastructure development during South Korean President Moon Jae's visit to Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Full Report

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JAPAN | 7 SEP | THE JAPAN TIMES

Japan's plan to increase catch of bluefin tuna in 2020 rejected by fisheries commission

Due to opposition from the United States, the Pacific fisheries commission decided Friday to forego an increase in fishing quotas next year for bluefin tuna that had been requested by Japan.

Full Report

GLOBAL | 7 SEP | KYODO NEWS

U.N. body creates database to crack down on illicit N. Korea trade

he International Maritime Organization has started creating a searchable database that will show ships subject to U.N. sanctions, as part of efforts to crack down on illicit North Korean trade, people with knowledge of the matter said Saturday.

Full Report



CHINA | 8 SEP | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

China Merchants' unit sets sight on reinforced ships for polar cruises, as Chinese tourists flock to sightseeing in Antarctica

China Merchants Group, one of the country's most powerful state-owned conglomerates, has begun building a 5 billion yuan (US\$703 million) industry base in Jiangsu province to support the manufacturing of cruise ships, part of Beijing's efforts to grasp core technologies to catch up with global leaders.

Full Report

PACIFIC OCEAN | 12 SEP | UNDERCURRENT NEWS

Pew study suggests high rate of Pacific transshipments going unreported

Significant gaps in reporting, monitoring and data sharing are allowing a higher rate than realized of undocumented transshipments of fish in the western and central Pacific Ocean, a problem that is contributing to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices, the Pew Charitable Trusts says it found in a study released Thursday.

Full Report

CHINA-CHILE | 18 SEP | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

China starts talks with Chile to use Punta Arenas as jumping off point for Antarctic exploration

China is in talks with Chile over the use of a port in the South American country to transport personnel and materials destined for exploration programmes in Antarctica, the Chilean foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Full Report

SINGAPORE-PANAMA | 20 SEP | SINGAPORE BUSINESS REVIEW

MPA inks maritime deal with Panama

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Panama Maritime Authority (AMP) to cooperate on maritime matters including the promotion of the use and acceptance of electronic certificates to facilitate port state inspections, according to a press release.

Full Report

PACIFIC ISLANDS | 24 SEP | THE GUARDIAN

Pacific islands seek \$500m to make ocean's shipping zero carbon

A coalition of Pacific island nations wants to raise \$500m to make all shipping in the Pacific Ocean zero carbon by the middle of the century.

Full Report

INDONESIA-MALAYSIA | 25 SEP | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

IPC Signed MoU Agreement with Sabah Ports Authority Malaysia

Indonesia Port Corporations (IPC) and Sabah Ports Authority signed MoU Sister Port to encourage cooperation in various fields, including logistics, port industry, and education.

Full Report

EU-JAPAN | 27 SEP | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

In counterweight to China, EU, Japan sign deal to link Asia

The European Union and Japan signed an infrastructure deal on Friday (Sep 27) to coordinate transport, energy and digital projects linking Europe and Asia, seeking an alternative to Chinese largesse that has raised suspicion in Brussels and Tokyo.

Full Report

UNITED KINGDOM | 27 SEP | BBC NEWS

Europe's largest marine protected area proposed

Europe's largest marine protected area (MPA) has been proposed for an area of deep sea off the Western Isles.

Full Report