


[China, Russia, Energy, Trade] *China signs 30-year deal for Russian natural gas* – Associated Press.

[China, Terrorism] *Bombs tossed out car windows in Chinese terror attack; 31 dead* – Los Angeles Times.


[Mali, MNLA, Internal Conflict] *Tuareg rebels beat back Mali offensive in flashpoint town* – France24; Reuters. (France delayed plans to transfer troops from Mali to counter militant groups in the Sahel region following the failure of the Malian offensive, according to Al Jazeera and Reuters.)

[Space Exploration, Aerospace Industry] *SpaceX Dragon returns to Earth from International Space Station* – Associated Press.

[Turkey, Mining, Protests, Internal Politics] *Arrests in deadly Turkish mine fire* – CNN.


[Pakistan, Pakistani Taliban, Internal Conflict] *Pakistan Airstrikes Kill 60 Militants* – Associated Press.


[Russia, Journalists, Crime] *Five convicted of killing Russian journalist Politkovskaya* – Reuters.


[U.S., CIA, Public Health, NGOs] White House says CIA will stop using vaccination programs as cover for operations – Fox News; Associated Press.


[India, Elections, Internal Politics] Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi claims victory as India’s next Prime Minister – CNN.


[South Sudan, Internal Conflict, Food Supplies] South Sudan President Salva Kiir warns of ‘famine’ – BBC News.

[Syria, Chemical Weapons] No sign Syria is handing over remaining chemical weapons – Reuters.

[Australia, Internal Politics] Popularity of Australian PM Slumps Following Tough Budget – The Diplomat, Oceana blog.

[Switzerland, Internal Politics] Swiss reject world’s highest minimum wage – USA Today.

[South Korea, Maritime, Internal Politics] South Korean Coast Guard Disbanded After Botched Ferry Rescue – Bloomberg News.

[U.S., Russia, Sanctions, Human Rights] US Treasury sanctions 12 Russians for human rights violations – Reuters. (Russia stated that it would retaliate for the sanctions, Reuters also reported.)
Pakistan drops ammunition case against FBI agent – BBC News.

Iraq’s Maliki wins at least 94 parliament seats in national election – Reuters.

4,000 Chinese nationals await Vietnam evacuation: report – Agence France-Presse.

Syria war: Air defence chief Gen Hussein Ishaq killed – BBC News.

Ratko Mladic war crime defence begins – BBC News.

Swiss Banking Model Threatened by Legal Rows, Jordan Says – Bloomberg News.

French rail company orders 2,000 trains too wide for platforms – Reuters.

Vietnam, Philippines jointly denounce China’s maritime moves – Reuters. (Vietnam also announced that it would consider international legal action against China over the recent deployment of a Chinese oil rig to disputed waters, according to a second Reuters report.)

Indonesia to Conduct Massive Military Drill – The Diplomat, Flashpoints blog.

North Korea artillery fires at South Korean navy ship, and misses – Reuters.

Ukraine crisis: Donetsk sees deadliest attack on troops – BBC News.

80 U.S. troops in Chad will aid search for abducted Nigerian girls – CNN.

Russian Proton Rocket Explodes After Launch – DefenseTech.