

# Chinese vessels make aggressive moves on U.S. ship

## Five Chinese ships shadow and manoeuvre near U.S. ship in international waters

By **TIM McDEVITT**  
Epoch Times Staff

According to a news story issued by the American Forces Press Service on Monday, five Chinese vessels, including a Chinese navy intelligence ship, made aggressive moves and shadowed a U.S. Navy ship in the South China Sea, in international territory.

The incident occurred on Sunday, 70 miles south of Hainan Island. The USNS Impeccable is a U.S. oceanographic ship that is manned by a civilian crew, which operates under the auspices of the Military Sealift Command. The incident began as the Chinese ships surrounded the Impeccable and two craft closed to within 50 feet, said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman.

"We view these as unprofessional manoeuvres by the Chinese vessels and violations under international law to operate with due regard for the rights and safety of other lawful users of the ocean," Whitman said.

The Chinese ships included a

Chinese navy intelligence collection ship, a Bureau of Maritime Fisheries patrol vessel, a State Oceanographic Administration patrol vessel, and two small Chinese-flagged trawlers.

As the Chinese ships moved closer the crew of the Impeccable used fire hoses to spray water on the crew of the Chinese ships. The Chinese crew then stripped down to their underwear, and then came as close as 25 feet to the Impeccable.

The crew of the Chinese vessels also dropped pieces of wood in the path of the Impeccable, attempted to snag its towed acoustic array sonar, and two of the ships stopped directly in its path, forcing it to stop.

Impeccable's master then used bridge-to-bridge radio circuits to inform the Chinese ships in a friendly manner that it was leaving the area and requested a safe path to navigate.

The aggressive manoeuvres are apparently part of an ongoing series of challenges between Chinese and U.S. ships in these waters. Several incidents have occurred over



A crewmember on a Chinese trawler uses a grapple hook in an apparent attempt to snag the towed acoustic array of the military Sealift Command ocean surveillance ship USNS Impeccable.

COURTESY OF U.S. NAVY

the last weeks.

A Chinese patrol vessel shined a high-intensity spotlight March 4 on the USNS Victorious operating in the Yellow Sea 125 miles from China's coast. Chinese maritime aircraft "buzzed" the ship 12 times on March 5.

A Chinese frigate crossed the bow of the Impeccable at a range of about 100 yards on March 5.

Another Chinese ship challenged the Impeccable over bridge-to-bridge radio March 7, calling its

operations illegal and directing the American ship to leave the area or "suffer the consequences," officials said.

As reported by Phoenix TV, the Chinese embassy in Washington issued a response that the U.S. has been "conducting illegal surveying" in the South China Sea, and that Beijing will issue a formal statement about the incident. Phoenix TV has signed an agreement to move from Hong Kong to Beijing.

# Gao Zhisheng's wife and children escape to U.S.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT P1

Mr. Gao's law business was shut down in 2005 and he and his wife and children were repeatedly harassed by the authorities. In September 2007, he was kidnapped for the second time and subjected to 50 days of torture, the gruesome details of which were revealed in a recently released letter.

Mr. Gao's present whereabouts are unknown, but human rights organizations and his supporters fear that he is again being tortured.

"The Chinese regime has been using the family as a hostage. We are sure that their being in the United States is a big comfort to Gao. We don't know his exact whereabouts but believe he is in the hands of the police," said Ms. Zhang.

"We also believe he is being brutally tortured right now, and we are now even more concerned about his safety. The Chinese regime may even try torture him even more to

try to find out the location of his family."

Friends of Gao Zhisheng and the Global Association for the Rescue of Gao Zhisheng expressed thanks to those who helped in the rescue, including the U.N. Refugee Agency.

Special thanks were given to the U.S. government which quickly approved Geng He's application and admitted the family into the U.S.

To help Geng He and her family, Friends of Gao Zhisheng and the Global Association established a "Gao Zhisheng's Family Aid Foundation." The account information is as follows:

Future China Foundation, a special account for the support of Gao's family: 781817259

Check title: Future China Foundation

40-46 Main Street, Suite 201, Flushing, NY 11354 USA

Routing No: 021000021

Swift No: Chasus33 (foreign wire)



Gao Zhisheng, his wife, Geng He and two children. THE EPOCHTIMES

# World's richest not so rich, Gates regains top spot

NEW YORK (Reuters)—Microsoft Corp founder Bill Gates is the richest man again, overtaking investor Warren Buffett, as the global financial meltdown wiped out \$2 trillion from the net worth of the world's billionaires, Forbes Magazine said on Wednesday.

The number of billionaires in the world fell by nearly a third to 793 in the past year, with large numbers dropping off the list in Russia, India and Turkey.

Gates regained his title as the richest man in the world, with \$40 billion after slipping to third last year when he was worth \$58 billion. Buffett, last year's richest man, fell to second place with \$37 billion, down from \$62 billion. Mexican telecommunications tycoon Carlos Slim took third place with \$35 billion, down from \$60 billion.

Collectively, the top three billionaires lost \$68 billion in the year to February 13, when Forbes took a snapshot of wealth around the world to compile its annual list of billionaires.

Chief Executive of Forbes Magazine Steve Forbes said that, while few would shed a tear for the plight of a billionaire, it was bad for the economy when entrepreneurs were in trouble.

"Billionaires don't have to worry about their next meal, but if their wealth is declining and you're not creating numerous new billionaires,

it means the rest of the world is not doing very well," he told reporters. "The typical billionaire is down at least one third on their net worth."

The net worth of the world's billionaires fell from \$4.4 trillion to \$2.4 trillion, while the number of billionaires was down to 793 from 1,125.

"It's the first time since 2003 that we have lost billionaires, but we've never before lost anywhere near this number," said Luisa Kroll, senior editor of Forbes.

"It's really hard to find something to cheer about unless you get some perverse pleasure in realizing that some of the most successful ... people in the world ... can't figure out this global economic turmoil better than the rest of us."

New York City replaced Moscow as home to the most billionaires, with 55. Russia, which saw the number of super-rich soar in recent years, suffered among the biggest shocks, with the number of billionaires down to 32 from 87.

**What goes up fast, comes down fast**

Other developing countries that saw fast growth in previous years were hit hard as well, including Turkey, where the number of billionaires fell to 13 from 35, partly due to the collapse in the value of the lira currency, and India.

Indian businessman Anil Ambani, the biggest gainer on last

year's list, was the biggest loser this time, with \$32 billion wiped out over the last 12 months. Ranked sixth last year, he fell to 34 with an estimated wealth of \$10.1 billion.

"India took a huge whack," Kroll said, noting that last year Indians held four of the top 10 spots and now only two, and the number of Indian billionaires more than halved to 24.

Of those who remained or returned to the list, 656 saw their net worth fall, 52 held even and only 44 managed to expand their wealth.

The only person in the top 20 who did not lose money was New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, whose net worth was revised up to \$16 billion from \$11.5 billion because of a revaluation of his media company, Bloomberg LP, Forbes said. He is now the richest man in New York, jumping from 65 in the world to 17.

Forbes Senior Editor Matthew Miller said that, in the current climate, those who lost only 20 percent of their wealth were doing relatively well; for example members of the Walton family which founded discount retailer Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

"They lost \$5 billion each, but Wal-Mart stock hasn't completely fallen off the cliff like everything else," he said.

Another discount retailer riding out the storm was Japan's Tadashi

Yanai. His firm Fast Retailing, known for its Uniqlo stores, helped push him from 296th last year to 76th and raised his net wealth to \$6 billion from \$3.6 billion.

Others who managed to get richer were investors George Soros and Ronald Perelman, as well as short-seller John Paulson, who has profited from the fall in financial stocks, and entertainer Oprah Winfrey who jumped to 234 from 462.

Among those conspicuous by their absence from the list was Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, one of last year's stars when he became the youngest self-made billionaire to make the list.

Also dropping out were big name casualties of the financial crisis on Wall Street -- former American International Group Inc chief executive Maurice "Hank" Greenberg and former Citigroup Inc chief executive Sanford Weill.

Allen Stanford, the Texan accused of an \$8 billion fraud by U.S. regulators, was also booted off the list.

Crime, however, did not disqualify one notable new entry to the list -- Mexican drug lord Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, who is among the world's most wanted men and now worth \$1 billion.

"He is not available for interviews," Kroll said. "But his financial situation is doing quite well."

# Aid needed to boost world's 'green' energy

COPENHAGEN (Reuters)—Wind and solar power could produce 40 percent of the world's electricity by 2050, but only if government subsidies are secured for the next two decades, scientists said on Wednesday.

The technologies will each need global support totaling 10 billion to 20 billion euros (\$USD12.76 billion to \$USD25.51 billion) per year, said Peter Lund, professor in advanced energy systems at Helsinki University of Technology.

Without financial and political support, he said wind and solar power would only account for less than 15 percent of the world's energy output.

"With favorable conditions, solar and wind energy could be replacing coal, which is the worst enemy for us. We have to give them political preference, as it used to be done for nuclear energy in the 1970s," Lund told the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

He said with a strong deploy-

ment programme and supportive policies, wind power could break even between 2020 and 2025, while solar power could break even closer to 2030.

In November, the International Energy Agency said if the world managed to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius by 2030 -- a scenario many scientists already see as hopeless -- renewable sources of energy would account for 40 percent of global electricity generation.

To limit warming to 3 degrees, renewables would make up 23 percent of global power generation.

Scientists said intermittent electricity such as that from wind is now still 50 percent more expensive compared to baseload electricity from coal or nuclear.

"We need policies that promote investment in supply chains to avoid long waiting times and price spikes," said Anthony Patt, a researcher at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria.



A car makes its way up U.S. Highway 6 past several 2.1 mega watt wind powered turbines owned at the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon in Spanish Fork, Utah. Wind and solar power could produce 40 percent of the world's electricity by 2050 if government subsidies are secured for the next two decades, scientists said on Wednesday.

GEORGE FREY/GETTY IMAGES

To fully exploit the potential of wind and solar power, electricity grids will have to be modernized and national electricity markets will have to be integrated, scientists said.

"We have a huge challenge ahead of us in integrating differ-

ent sources of intermittent power," said Poul Erik Morthorst, a scientist at the National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy in Riso, Denmark.

Eventually, the subsidies will lead to cheaper electricity when wind and solar power become

# Dubai traders sell luxury cars to make up market losses

CONTINUED FROM FRONT P1

The Dubizzle statistics match with anecdotal evidence obtained from used car dealers. One such dealer said that where he once received only one Porsche a day, he now receives around eight.

However, according to Hussam Khaled, General Manager of Dubai-based Target Auto, fewer people than ever are buying luxury

cars.

"People will not buy cars that are over Dh80,000, where before this used to be no problem," he said. "This month has been very quiet. As we know, there are more people here who are dealing with the stock market so they know what is happening with the economy. Those who can afford to buy these cars, aren't doing so anymore."

# Nurses fearful of deportation could hide infectious diseases

By **STEPHEN JONES**  
Epoch Times Staff

DUBAI—Healthcare workers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who are likely to have contacted HIV or Hepatitis B from hospital patients are reluctant to report the injuries, through fear of losing their jobs.

A survey of 1,420 nurses and doctors in Dubai and Sharjah revealed that one in five have been injured by sharp objects and 55 percent of those injuries were contaminated.

However, under-reporting was sixfold in a study group of 752 workers and non-existent in a further study group of 668 workers.

"People are often scared of reporting these injuries because they could be socially excluded or isolated," said Dr Ana Jacob, Specialist Physician at the Welcare Hospital in Dubai. "Especially in the UAE they could lose their jobs if they are found with these diseases."

"There is a three month incubation period from the point of the injury until the disease becomes apparent," said Jacob. "There is a high degree of anxiety during this period for healthcare workers."

The study is not yet published but findings were revealed at the International Risk Management Conference recently. It is the first of its kind in the UAE and fills a gap in World Health Organization statistics.

Bins overflowing with hypodermic needles can cause accidental injury and over half of the injuries reported in the survey were from objects that had been inadequately disposed of.

Following injury, the health-

care worker should take a specific medication an hour after the injury to prevent the contraction of HIV. While this is available in the state sector, private hospitals do not similarly protect staff.

Jacob said that the same protection should be offered at private hospitals. Moreover, she added that where such treatment was available, it was important that nurses be able to report injuries anonymously rather than having to put their careers on the line.

The two healthcare organizations surveyed in Jacob's report had previously made employees pay for their own Hepatitis B vaccinations soon after joining the company. This meant that many had opted out and were not protected against the disease.

However, after hospital bosses were notified of the survey both organizations began to offer free vaccinations to new employees.

**'Our nurses are fearful of needles'**

For expatriate nurses in Dubai hospitals a simple prick of a needle could end a career before it begins.

Last year a Filipino nurse was deported after contracting Hepatitis B just months after being scratched by a piece of broken glass.

Stories about deportations have made many nurses especially wary about sharp objects.

"Many of our nurses are very careful about pricks from hospital needles," said a senior nurse at Royal Hospital. "We haven't had any infectious diseases at our hospital but we have heard about nurses being deported elsewhere because of it. This isn't right."