



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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Table of Contents:

1: Business Recorder.....	3
2: Dawn News.....	77
3: Dunya News.....	133
4: Express News.....	148
5: Jang News.....	173
6: Pakistan Observer.....	190
7: The Express Tribune.....	192
8: The Nation.....	202
9: The News.....	264

Business Recorder

Business Recorder, 01-01-19

ASIA FX Indonesian rupiah leads gains on “progress” in US-China talks

SINGAPORE: Most Asian currencies were set to end a bumpy year on a positive note, with the Indonesian rupiah leading gains on Monday as investors took heart from signs of progress in Sino-US trade talks.

Market sentiment was buoyed after US President Donald Trump said he had a “very good call with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Saturday and claimed “big progress” was being made on trade discussions.

Regional currencies came under pressure from multiple factors in 2018 including the Sino-US trade conflict, the US Federal Reserve’s hawkishness, and worries over global economic slowdown.

Mizuho Bank in a note to clients said that despite valuation in emerging market assets becoming increasingly attractive, investors remain cautious as some see potential risks ahead.

The Indonesian rupiah strengthened as much as 0.8 percent on Monday but pared some gains by 0400 GMT.

However, the rupiah was poised to weaken over 6 percent this year, after it breached the 15,000 per dollar mark in October, a level last seen in the Asian financial crisis two decades ago.

The Malaysian gained 0.3 percent against the greenback, while the Singapore dollar was marginally firmer.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee strengthened 0.2 percent on the last trading day of the year, but remained the worst performing currency in the region.

The rupee weakened this year on concerns of a widening current account deficit as rising global crude oil prices increased to cost of imported fuel. Though the rupee regained some ground as the strength in oil prices faded, investors remain concerned ahead of a general election due by May, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s market-friendly party fared poorly in regional polls in earlier this month.

The Taiwan dollar, the Korean won, the Thai baht and the Chinese yuan were not trading on account of holidays.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 01-01-19

China factory activity shrinks for first time in over 2 years

BEIJING: China's factory activity contracted for the first time in over two years in December, highlighting the challenges facing Beijing as it seeks to end a bruising trade war with Washington and reduce the risk of a sharper economic slowdown in 2019.

The increasing strain on factories signals a continued loss of momentum in China, adding to worries about softening global growth, especially if the Sino-US dispute drags on.

Trade frictions are already disrupting global supply chains, fuelling concerns of a bigger blow next year to world trade, investment and shaky financial markets.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) - the first snapshot of China's economy each month - fell to 49.4 in December, below the 50-point level that separates growth from contraction, a National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) survey showed on Monday.

It was the first contraction since July 2016 and the weakest reading since February 2016. Analysts had forecast it would dip to 49.9 from 50.0 the previous month.

China is expected to roll out more economic support measures in coming months on top of a raft of initiatives this year. A prolonged downturn in the factory sector, key for jobs, would likely spark further attempts to juice domestic demand.

In November, industrial output rose the least in nearly three years, while earnings growth at industrial firms fell for the first time in nearly three years.

A PMI sub-index on overall factory output prices fell to 43.3 in December from 46.4, signaling earnings erosion. A gauge on overall production fell to 50.8, the lowest since February, from 51.9.

New orders - an indicator of future activity - continued to soften, reinforcing views that business conditions in China will likely get worse before they get better.

A sub-index for total new orders contracted for the first time in at least a year, falling to 49.7 amid persistently weak demand at home and softening global growth.

New export orders shrank for a seventh straight month, with the sub-index falling to 46.6 from 47.0.

UNCERTAINTIES

Many analysts doubt that Beijing and Washington can bridge their many differences and reach a comprehensive trade deal in the latest round of talks.

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed early this month to a 90-day ceasefire that delayed a planned Jan. 1 US increase of tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods while the two sides negotiate.

Trump said over the weekend that a possible trade deal was progressing well, but few concrete details have emerged.

The trade war has resulted in billions of dollars of losses for both sides this year, hitting industries from autos and technology to US agriculture.

“There are many short-term orders from overseas but few long-term orders received by Chinese factories as caution remains amid the trade uncertainties,” said Nie Wen, economist at Hwabao Trust in Shanghai.

“The medium to long-term export prospect is not optimistic particularly.”

Warehouses across the US are bursting with Chinese goods after retailers stocked up before fresh tariffs, suggesting little chance of a near-term export rebound even if a trade deal is reached.—
Reuters

Business Recorder, 01-01-19

China’s steel, steelmaking ingredients prices fall

MANILA: Prices of steel and steelmaking ingredients in China fell on Friday in lethargic trading, pressured by worries over the outlook for demand amid ongoing concerns about the global economy.

Business confidence among entrepreneurs in China worsened in the fourth quarter compared with the previous one, and was at the lowest since the second quarter of 2017, according to a survey by the People’s Bank of China published early this week.

The most-active steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange ended the session down 0.5 percent at 3,404 yuan (\$496.70) a tonne, posting its first weekly loss after three straight weeks of gains.

Hot rolled coil was down 0.2 percent at 3,345 yuan.

Mirroring the trend in the Shanghai metals market, prices of steelmaking raw materials such as coke and coking coal also dropped, posting their second consecutive weekly losses.

“(Investors) are more fixated on recession jitters and continued weak macro numbers coming out of China”, said INTL FC stone commodity consultant Edward Meir.

The most traded coke futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange fell 0.5 percent to 1,901 yuan a tonne. Coking coal futures edged down 0.2 percent to 1,179.5 yuan.

Dalian iron ore futures climbed 0.6 percent to 494.5 yuan.

Spot iron ore for delivery to China rose 0.4 percent to \$72.30 a tone on Thursday, according to SteelHome consultancy.

China will ratchet up support for the economy in 2019 by cutting taxes and keeping liquidity ample, as growth is expected to slow further next year, the country’s top leaders said in an annual economic meeting this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 01-01-19

Soyabeans rise on US-China trade hopes but set for annual drop

PARIS/KUALA LUMPUR: Chicago Soyabean futures edged up on Monday as investors saw signs of thawing relations between Washington and Beijing in the trade dispute that has disrupted flows of the most valuable US agricultural export to China.

Soyabeans were poised to end 2018 with an annual decline after the plunge in exports to China coupled with big harvests in the United States and Brazil weighed on prices.

A resumption in Chinese imports of US Soyabeans this month as part of a negotiated truce between the world’s two largest economies has helped Chicago prices rebound from a decade low in September.

Wheat, in contrast, is set to notch up its biggest annual rise since 2012 after a sharp fall in production in major exporters Russia, the European Union and Australia, making it one of the biggest gainers in commodity markets this year.

Corn has also risen this year as tightening wheat supply fuelled additional demand from livestock feed makers, offsetting concerns about disruption to US shipments to China.

In quiet trading ahead of Tuesday’s New Year holiday closure, the most-active Soyabean contract on the Chicago Board Of Trade rose 0.6 percent to \$9.00-3/4 a bushel by 1111 GMT.

For the year, Soyabeans are set to drop 6.3 percent, marking a second straight annual decline. The price benchmark hit its lowest in almost 10 years in September at \$8.12-1/4.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 01-01-19

Adding transparency to CPEC deals

The Chinese Embassy has taken the unprecedented step to announce the exact terms and conditions of loans/investments under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This was no doubt partly to offset concerns from the Trump administration echoed by the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that consideration of a bailout package would require details of Pakistan's debt profile. On 13 December, Director Communications IMF reiterated the Fund's position: "Clearly debt transparency is essential to conduct proper analysis of the sustainability of a country's debt. That is what the IMF does when we are going into a programme with our member countries. So that will be the case in Pakistan."

China, through its embassy in Islamabad revealed that Pakistan will repay 6.017 billion dollar loans plus interest to it; and maintained that 18.9 billion dollar worth of 22 early harvest projects under the CPEC are under construction/completed focused on removing infrastructural impediments to Pakistan's economic developments and these include: (i) 5.874 billion dollars loan with a composite interest of 2 percent with repayment scheduled in 20 to 25 years (with sovereign guarantee provided by the Pakistan government); (ii) 12.8 billion dollars in energy projects with 3 billion dollar equity provided by the Chinese companies, and the remaining 9.8 billion dollars raised from commercial banks at 5 percent with a repayment schedule ranging from 12 to 18 years. The Pakistan government would not be responsible for repayment and it is the Chinese companies that would be responsible; (iii) interest-free loan is being provided for expressway east bay in Gwadar; (iv) grant for livelihood projects though the amount was not mentioned; and (v) Pakistan provided funding for feasibility study of ML-1 up gradation.

Economic Affairs Division provided data of CPEC projects the same day (it however differs, albeit marginally, from the data provided by the Chinese Embassy) with total to be repaid estimated at 7.457 billion dollars (including principal of 6.035 billion dollars and interest of 1.422 billion dollars) with an annual repayment of 350 million dollars. EAD further stated that out of the 6 billion dollar concessional loans, 4 billion dollars has been received so far. These discrepancies, however small, need to be ironed out.

The question is whether this information would satisfy the IMF as well as prospective local investors. First off, Chinese companies, unlike their Western counterparts, are not independent of the Chinese government hence the claim of their independence could be raised by the IMF.

Secondly, the Fund/local investors would require details of associated agreements, including the tariff to be imposed once these projects are completed, the taxes to be levied on the Chinese

companies as well as whether Chinese or Pakistani labor is being employed during the construction of these projects.

Thirdly, according to a Business Recorder exclusive, Pakistan borrowed short-term loans of around 13 billion dollars from China during the five-year tenure of the PML-N, at a very high rate of interest and a very short amortization period. Reports indicate that China has not agreed to extend any budget support/balance of payment support to Pakistan, in spite of requests by the present government, and given the ongoing foreign exchange reserve crisis, it is a foregone conclusion that the government would also incur short-term loans from China. The Fund would no doubt request the government for details of such loans.

To conclude, while China is perhaps the only country able and willing to undertake large infrastructure projects in Pakistan, which makes Chinese inflows at present highly desirable, yet the nature of this partnership needs to be further strengthened or else Pakistan's massive external financing requirements at present would compel it to procure lending elsewhere, including the IMF and the West, who may employ their enhanced leverage to undermine the CPEC.

Business Recorder, 02-01-19

Jimmy Carter says US, China should partner in Africa

WASHINGTON: Former US president Jimmy Carter warned Monday of the risks of sliding into a Cold War with China and called on the powers to find common cause on African development.

Marking the 40th anniversary of his January 1979 normalization of relations with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, Carter voiced concern that both countries were increasingly describing each other as threats.

“If top government officials embrace these dangerous notions, a modern Cold War between our two nations is not inconceivable,” the 94-year-old former president wrote in The Washington Post.

“At this sensitive moment, misperceptions, miscalculations and failure to follow carefully defined rules of engagement in areas such as the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea could escalate into military conflict, creating a worldwide catastrophe,” he warned.

Carter, who has devoted his post-presidential career to eradicating poverty, said that the “easiest route” to cooperation between the United States and China was in Africa.

“Both countries are already heavily involved there in fighting disease, building infrastructure and keeping peace - sometimes cooperatively. Yet each nation has accused the other of economic exploitation or political manipulation,” Carter wrote.

“Africans — like billions of other people around the world — do not want to be forced to choose a side.”

“By working together with Africans, the United States and China would also be helping themselves overcome distrust and rebuild this vital relationship,” he wrote.

The United States has stepped up warnings to developing countries about Chinese assistance, accusing Beijing of wooing countries with projects that become debt traps.

US-China tensions have soared in 2018 over trade disputes, although President Donald Trump has frozen the latest planned tariff hike and on Saturday reported “big progress.”—AFP

Business Recorder, 03-01-19

‘China, China, China’: New Pentagon chief sets priority

WASHINGTON: Patrick Shanahan, the acting US defense secretary, started his first full day at the Pentagon’s helm Wednesday by telling colleagues he sees China as a key priority.

Shanahan, who took the top spot January 1 after Jim Mattis resigned amid disagreements with President Donald Trump, told key Defense Department staff to focus on the National Defense Strategy, a broad review that highlights a new era of “Great Power competition” with Russia and China.

“While we are focused on ongoing operations, Acting Secretary Shanahan told the team to remember China, China, China,” a defense official said.

The US accuses Beijing of an ongoing pattern of military and economic espionage, and has criticized China’s ambitious “Belt and Road” trade and infrastructure initiative as being a form of economic coercion.

“In 2019, the National Defense Strategy remains our guide. America’s military strength remains our focus,” Shanahan said in a New Year’s message on Twitter.

The defense official said Shanahan would later Wednesday attend a cabinet meeting with Trump, the president’s first of 2019. Little known outside business and Washington circles, Shanahan takes the world stage at a time of tumultuous changes and unpredictable foreign policy moves under Trump.

Shanahan did not serve in the military but has worked since July 2017 as the deputy defense secretary. Before that, he spent more than 30 years at Boeing. Among the most immediate issues on his plate will be the pace at which the US pulls 2,200 or so troops out of Syria, following Trump’s decision last month to exit the war-torn country.

According to US officials, Trump is also mulling a 50 percent draw down in Afghanistan — another momentous move that has left lawmakers and international allies fearing for what comes next.

Shanahan announced that Pentagon comptroller David Norquist will perform the duties of deputy secretary of defense, the official said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 04-01-19

Eyeing China, US to hold missile drill in Japan's Okinawa

TOKYO: The US military will this year conduct its first ever missile drill around the Japanese island of Okinawa, according to a report Thursday, as Washington seeks to counter an increasingly assertive China.

The US military has told its Japanese counterpart it plans to deploy surface-to-ship missiles in the strategically important Okinawa this year for the first such drill by Japan's key ally, the Sankei Shimbun reported, without citing sources.

The drill would involve a mobile rocket launcher seen as a counter-measure to potential attacks from Chinese surface-to-sea ballistic missiles, the paper said.

In recent years, Chinese warships have frequently sailed through waters near Okinawa, where the majority of US troops in Japan are based.

Experts say China's increasingly active maritime activities are part of a plan to establish control of waters within the so-called "first island chain" that links Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Some analysts believe Beijing seeks to end US military dominance in the western Pacific by exerting control of the second island chain that links Japan's southern Ogasawara island chain, the US territory of Guam, and Indonesia.

China's rapid military build-up has unnerved Asian neighbors, with Japan's defense chief last year saying China had been "unilaterally escalating" its military activities in the previous year. Beijing insists the activities are for self-defense.—AFP

Business Recorder, 04-01-19

China stocks falter as economic concerns take over

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks edged lower on Thursday as expectations of policy support failed to offset persisting worries over economic growth.

The Shanghai Composite index ended nearly flat at 2,464.36, while the blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.2 percent.

The People's Bank of China said on Wednesday evening it had relaxed its conditions on targeted reserve requirement cuts to benefit more small firms. The move came after China reported its first factory activity contraction in over two years in December.

But "that policy alone is not enough to give the market an obvious boost," said Cao Xuefeng, head of research at Huaxi Securities in Chengdu. Cao noted that the market will react more positively to further details on tax cuts, which will come at some point this year, China's leaders said last month. "Some in the market have said that there might be as much as 5 trillion yuan of tax cuts over the next five years," he said.

Most of CSI300's sub-indexes were down. The IT sector lost 1.3 percent, telecom shares slid 2.8 percent, while consumer staples dropped 1.8 percent and healthcare shed 2.8 percent. Financials bucked the trend and climbed 1.1 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index was down 0.8 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index fell 1.2 percent. Apple Inc made a rare cut to its quarterly sales forecast on Wednesday, and, for the first time since the iPhone was launched in 2007, issued a warning on its revenue guidance ahead of releasing quarterly results.

Shares of Apple suppliers across the Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan markets came under pressure.

Although "there is some impact in Apple concept stocks, most people care more about macro data," said Zhang Gang, a Shanghai-based analyst at Central Securities.

While most sectors eased, securities companies, which typically rise when share prices are expected to jump, rose 2.2 percent. This could foreshadow a rebound in A-shares in the coming months. "If the market warms up this year, these brokerages will benefit first," Zhang added.

Jim McCafferty, head of equity research, Asia ex-Japan at Nomura, also noted that this year may be less gloomy than the last. "The Chinese market, having delivered a dismal 2018, is one of the least expensive markets globally," he said. But pressure remains on Chinese stocks in the near term, as listed companies, which were hit by the double whammy of Sino-US trade war and softer economic growth at home, begin to report their 2018 earnings, Cao noted.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were TonghuaDongbao Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, Shanghai U9 Game Co Ltd and Kangmei Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, all down 10 percent.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd and Guodian Nanjing Automation Co Ltd, both up 10.1 percent, Qingdao Huijintong Power Equipment Co Ltd, up 10 percent.

About 12.4 billion shares traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 90.5 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 13.75 billion shares. The volume traded was 10.99 billion as of the last full trading day.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 04-01-19

China's population shrinks despite two-child policy

China's population shrank last year for the first time in 70 years, experts said, warning of a "demographic crisis" that puts pressure on the country's slowing economy.

The world's most populous nation of some 1.4 billion for decades limited most families to one child in an attempt to keep population growth sustainable.

But since 2016 it has allowed couples to have two children in response to concerns about an ageing society and shrinking workforce.

The number of live births nationwide in 2018 fell by 2.5 million year-on-year, contrary to a predicted increase of 790,000 births, according to analysis by US-based academic Yi Fuxian.

Yi, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is a long-term critic of the one-child policy and his work has previously gained traction among the country's leadership.

Enforced through fines but notorious for cases of forced abortions and sterilization, the one-child policy caused birth rates to plummet after it was introduced in 1979.

However childbirths have not increased as much as forecast since the two-child policy came into force and there has been rising speculation the government will further ease restrictions.

Last year marked a "historic turning point for the Chinese population", said Yi, who studied publicly available data on births in towns and villages across China.

This downward trend may be irreversible, he cautioned, due to factors such as a decrease in the number of women of childbearing age and the reluctance of couples to have children due to rising education, health and housing costs.

Yi's calculations show that the number of deaths in 2018 was about 11.58 million and the total population shrank by 1.27 million.

“The Chinese population has started to decrease for the first time since the founding of New China in 1949, the ageing problem has accelerated, and economic vitality has weakened,” he told AFP.

Yi’s findings, due to appear in an upcoming research paper co-authored with Peking University economist Su Jian, were pieced together from National Health Commission figures.

The experts also used other official statistics including school enrolment figures, household registration data and government censuses to reach their conclusions.

China’s National Bureau of Statistics is expected to release official nationwide birth figures for 2018 later this month.

In the meantime, data released by some local authorities indicate a significant drop in births last year.

In Qingdao, a city in eastern Shandong province — one of China’s most populous regions — births between January and November decreased by 21 percent to just over 81,000 compared to the previous year.

RenZeping, chief economist at property developer Evergrande Group, wrote in a research note that China is walking into a “demographic crisis” as the easing of the one-child policy has failed to boost the country’s fertility rate.

Tracking China’s demographic changes is difficult as the figures published by the health commission and statistics bureau do not always match, said He Yafu, an independent demographer based in southern Guangdong province.

But he said Yi’s estimate of the drop in children born in 2018 is likely to be correct.

The number of women of childbearing age is expected to fall by more than 39 percent over the next decade and China’s two-child policy isn’t enough to shore up dwindling birth rates, He added.

Yi said he was skeptical of the National Bureau of Statistics figures, accusing the organization of “inflating the number of births” to account for families who may not have registered their second, third or fourth child.

Local authorities seeking more funds from the central government have also “over-reported” school enrolment figures and hospital live births, he said.

Yi added that the statistics bureau may have also under-reported the number of deaths.

In 2016, Yi was invited to speak at the Boao Forum in southwest China, an annual gathering of influential figures including politicians and businesspeople — the same year Beijing announced an end to its one-child rule.

He is now urging the government to get out of people's bedrooms by scrapping the two-child limit and offering more incentives including generous maternity leave and tax breaks for parents.

If the government doesn't intervene now, "China's ageing crisis will be more severe than Japan, and the economic outlook will be bleaker than Japan", Yi said.

China's labor force is becoming smaller as the population greys, putting intense strain on the country's fragile pension and healthcare systems.

For each elderly citizen, there are seven people who are working and contributing to the social welfare system, Yi said — a figure set to shrink to just four by 2030.

"The US economy will not be overtaken by China, but by India, which has a younger population," he said. "China's economic vitality will continue to decline, which will bring about a disastrous impact on the global economy."-AFP

Business Recorder, 05-01-19

China stocks rebound

SHANGHAI: China stocks bounced back from a more than four-year low on Friday, closing the week higher, as the government said it would cut banks' reserve requirement ratios and as optimism about trade talks with the United States helped sooth investor nerves.

The blue-chip CSI300 index rose 2.4 percent to 3,035.87, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed up 2.0 percent at 2,514.87.

The benchmark Shanghai index briefly touched a more than four-year low just as the market opened.

For the week, CSI300 and SSEC were up 0.8 percent each, both snapping three consecutive weekly falls.

China will cut banks' reserve requirement ratios (RRRs), taxes and fees, Premier Li Keqiang said on Friday, as the world's second-largest economy shows further signs of cooling.

China and the United States will hold vice-ministerial level trade talks in Beijing on Jan. 7-8, as the two sides look to end a dispute that is inflicting increasing pain on both economies and roiling global financial markets.

China's services sector extended its solid expansion in December, offering some cushion for the slowing economy, a private survey showed on Friday.

"We are strategically optimistic, as the A-shares market is in the midst of the final stage of the fifth round of bullish-bearish cycle, with the valuation(s) already touching bottom," Haitong Securities wrote in note.

In comparison with other global stock markets, the A-shares market has greater appeal, and as China has been developing equity financing to support industrial upgrading, residential asset allocation will be more focused on the stock market, the brokerage added. On the mainland, sectors rallied strongly across the board by financial firms, in particular brokerage firms, which are expected to benefit from a market rebound.

An index tracking major brokerage firms soared 6.6 percent, while the CSI China mainland banks index climbed 2 percent.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, up 10.11 percent, followed by Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, gaining 10.11 percent, and Southwest Securities Co Ltd, up by 10.11 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Nanjing Panda Electronics Co Ltd, down 8.82 percent, followed by Ningbo Joyson Electronic Corp, losing 6.89 percent, and GuangDong Super Telecom Co Ltd, down by 4.94 percent.

As of 07:03 GMT, China's A-shares were trading at a premium of 19.87 percent over the Hong Kong-listed H-shares.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-01-19

13 Canadians held in China since arrest of Huawei executive

OTTAWA: Thirteen Canadians have been detained in China following the arrest on December 1 of a senior executive from Chinese telecoms equipment giant Huawei, Ottawa said Thursday, with eight subsequently released.

Global Affairs Canada spokesperson Guillaume Berube confirmed the detentions to AFP, adding the figures excluded Hong Kong.

The thirteen include former diplomat Michael Kovrig and consultant Michael Spavor, arrested on December 10, for activities said to threaten national security, as well as Sarah McIver, who was subsequently freed and returned to Canada.

China “safeguards the security and legitimate rights and interests of foreign citizens” in the country, said spokesman for China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lu Kang on Friday at a regular press briefing, adding that he didn’t have information on the specific cases.

There are approximately 200 Canadians overall who have been detained in China for a variety of alleged infractions and continue to face ongoing legal proceedings, and the number has remained relatively stable in recent years. By way of comparison, there are almost 900 Canadians in a similar situation in the US.

Some observers believe the detentions of Kovrig, who works for the International Crisis Group, and Spavor, who is frequently consulted on matters linked to North Korea, were retaliatory actions following the arrest in Vancouver of Huawei’s Chief Financial Officer MengWanzhou, who faces extradition to the United States.—AFP

Business Recorder, 05-01-19

US warns citizens of arbitrary action in China

WASHINGTON: The United States warned its citizens Thursday they could face arbitrary action by authorities when they visit China, following the detention of a number of Canadians.

Updating a travel advisory, the State Department maintained its previous guidance that Americans should “exercise increased caution” in China but stopped short of discouraging visits.

While the language was the same as earlier, the State Department warned “arbitrary enforcement of local laws,” sudden prohibitions on exiting the country and harassment of US citizens of Chinese heritage.

“In most cases, US citizens only become aware of the exit ban when they attempt to depart China, and there is no method to find out how long the ban may continue,” it said.

“US citizens under exit bans have been harassed and threatened,” it said.

It also advised Americans to look out for last-minute security checks and curfews in Xinjiang and Tibet, two minority-dominated regions where Beijing has sought to impose strict control.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, asked about the updated advisory in a televised interview, said the State Department wanted Americans to “understand the risk but still travel there when it’s appropriate.”

“We wanted to let them know that there have been more risks from what China has done in terms of folks traveling there and not being permitted to return,” Pompeo told Fox News host Sean Hannity.

China has detained 13 Canadians since early December when a senior executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei was arrested in Vancouver on a US request for alleged violations of Washington’s sanctions on Iran, according to Ottawa.

Two of the arrests — of former diplomat Michael Kovrig and consultant Michael Spavor — were widely viewed as retaliation for the arrest of Huawei chief financial officer MengWanzhou, who is facing extradition to the United States.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang hit back at a regular press briefing in Beijing Friday. “The travel warning issued by the US, frankly speaking, does not stand,” he said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 05-01-19

China will launch options for rubber, cotton and corn

BEIJING: China will launch options for rubber, cotton and corn on Jan. 28, the country’s securities regulator said at a press briefing on Friday, adding to the tools available to hedge on price risks in the world’s largest agriculture market.

The regulator approved the launch of corn and cotton options in June last year.

It now has also approved trading of rubber option contracts, according to Gao Li, spokeswoman for China Securities Regulatory Commission. “Prices of natural rubber, cotton and corn have been quite volatile in recent years. Launching these options contracts can help enterprises manage risks effectively,” the regulator said in a statement published on its website.

China is the world’s top consumer of rubber and cotton, and its second-largest consumer of corn. In 2017, China launched soymeal and sugar options, its first such commodity derivatives.

Options give a holder the right to buy or sell a commodity at a particular strike price and are widely used in Europe and the United States by investors across commodities markets. Users range from commercial hedgers such as farmers and oil drillers to institutional and speculative investors.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-01-19

China could put reforms on hold to boost economy

President Xi Jinping hailed China's "reconstructive reforms" in a New Year speech, but the sorely needed changes could be put on ice in favor of averting a potentially devastating economic downturn.

The way ahead is further complicated by a volatile trade dispute with the United States that — if unresolved — will add to the burden of Beijing's policymakers as they seek to fuel an economy that is running out of steam.

Beijing has for years come under pressure to introduce much-needed reforms to the country's infrastructure and lumbering state-owned enterprises as part of a drive to tackle a burdensome debt mountain and transform its growth engine from investment and exports to domestic consumption.

Gene Fang from ratings agency Moody's told AFP: "When trade-offs between reforms and growth arise, we expect that the priority will more often be given to supporting growth."

Ten years ago, China unleashed the full power of its financial arsenal by introducing massive stimulus measures, which helped Beijing avert the worst of the financial crisis engulfing the rest of the world.

However, that helped sow the seeds of today's economic troubles, with debt at alarming levels and necessary economic reforms not addressed as leaders focused on maintaining stable growth and employment.

Now, with the global economy stuttering, a slowdown in key export markets is denting a crucial source of income while the country is also struggling with a plethora of structural problems such as an ageing — and now shrinking — population, a dwindling pool of rural workers, overcapacity and air pollution.

And then there is the trade war with the United States, which has magnified the problems while sending shudders through global markets.

"The Chinese economy is struggling, the debt mess is unresolved and the impact from the US tariffs has barely begun," said Bill Bishop, an expert on China, who added the Communist Party will do "everything it can to juice the economy" with "multiple forms of stimuli".

"Whether or not significant economic reforms will now also be forthcoming, and not just more promises, is the trillion-dollar question," he said.

Xi and US President Donald Trump may have agreed a temporary truce in their multi-billion-dollar stand-off — and Beijing Friday announced face-to-face talks will begin next week — but there is little optimism the row will be brought to an end any time soon.

In the absence of a breakthrough in current negotiations, “the US-China trade conflict will weigh on growth in China and on the wider Asia-Pacific region, via a slowdown in Chinese demand”, according to analysts Oxford Economics.

The impact of the trade row came in to full view this week when Apple announced a shock cut in its revenue forecast for the December quarter blaming the steeper-than-expected “economic deceleration” in China and emerging markets and citing the China-US frictions.

While analysts still believe China — which last month celebrated 40 years since opening up to the world — should still achieve its growth target of 6.5 percent for 2018 that would be the weakest rate in almost three decades. That after an average growth rate of 9.7 percent a year between 1978 and 2015.

Raymond Deng, an analyst at Singapore-based DBS Bank, said the government must raise domestic consumption and inject “sufficient” cash into the market, while “eliminating state-owned enterprises with backward production capacity”. But with a debt crisis brewing, authorities have decided against 2008-like stimulus, instead opting for a series of separate measures including making it easier for banks to lend and much-hyped tax cuts.

Some sectors saw a one percent drop in VAT and taxpayers will in 2019 benefit from deductions in education, critical healthcare and mortgage repayments, while the rate at which tax kicks in has also been raised.

“If the tax reduction plan is implemented well, it cannot only boost corporate profits and household consumption in the short term, but also improve the economic structure in the long run,” said Zhu Chaoping, a strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management.

Meanwhile, Beijing University economics professor Su Jian believes support for consumption requires a rise and a “better distribution” of household income, as well as increased health, education and social support to steer people away from precautionary saving.

He also points out that China’s GDP per capita is about one-eighth of that of the United States. “The development margin is still large... the GDP can still grow seven percent for 20 years,” he said. However, for many economists wealth generation could continue to weaken. Zhu expected “a GDP increase of around five percent across the next 10 to 15 years”, while Capital Economics expected the growth rate to even decline to two percent by 2030.-AFP

Business Recorder, 06-01-19

PQ coal-fired plant: Chinese firm pays \$167m taxes and duties

BEIJING: Chinese company, Power China alone has paid \$167 million to Pakistan in term of taxes and duties, since the operationalization of Port Qasim coal-fired power plant.

There are other companies as well in Pakistan which contribute to national exchequer, paying their due role in strengthening of the country's financial network.

According to the Chinese media group, the China Economic net, there are other areas where the roles of Chinese companies are highly commendable in the context of Pakistan's overall socio-economic development.

According to the report of China Economic Net, till present, Port Qasim coal-fired power plant has paid more than 167 million US dollars of different kinds of taxes and duties to the federal and provincial governments of Pakistan.

Furthermore, POWER CHINA creates over 4,000 employment opportunities for the local people in the peak period of construction.

More than 600 long-term stable employment opportunities have been provided after entry of commercial operation. Also, the project indirectly increases local jobs by over ten (10) thousand in relevant fields such as materials supply, equipment transportation, legal advice, financial audit etc.

According to the report, in the future, the average annual energy output is around nine(9) billion kWh, which is expected to support 4 million local families' and more than 20 million peoples' daily power consumption and effectively improve the local power shortage situation and provide continuous power for Pakistan's economic development.

The cumulative energy output of Port Qasim coal-fired power plant is up to 7.559 billion kWh with its aggregate grid output of 7.1 billion kWh.

According to the China Economic Net, the power generation capacity of Port Qasim power plant is equivalent to 10% of the current national power generation capacity in Pakistan, which has played an important role in promoting the structural adjustment and economic development of Pakistan's power industry.—INP

Business Recorder, 06-01-19

China's Chongqing to step up support for real economy

SHANGHAI: The sprawling southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing has introduced more measures to bolster the real economy amid growing pressure from Beijing to step up support for the country's private sector as economic growth slows.

The city has announced 18 policy measures to further enhance the healthy development of enterprises in the real economy, and will provide more fiscal and financial support, lower corporate costs and make it easier for firms to do business, the official Chongqing Daily reported on Saturday.

Chongqing will set up a relief fund of at least 10 billion yuan (\$1.46 billion) to help private firms suffering from temporary liquidity problems, the newspaper added.

Other provinces and regions have also sought to provide more support for the private sector, with the world's second-largest economy losing momentum aggravated by an ongoing trade dispute with the United States.

The northeast rustbelt province of Liaoning also introduced 16 measures to help revitalize private firms, and pledged to implement tax cuts, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday.

China's factory activity contracted for the first time in more than two years in December, highlighting the challenges facing Beijing as it seeks to end tit-for-tat trade tariffs with Washington and reduce the risk of a sharper economic slowdown.

In efforts to boost liquidity in the economy, China's central bank said on Friday it was cutting the amount of cash that banks have to hold as reserves for the fifth time in a year.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 06-01-19

China's population set to peak at 1.44bn in 2029

SHANGHAI China's population is set to reach a peak of 1.442 billion in 2029 and start a long period of "unstoppable" decline in 2030, government scholars said in a research report published on Friday.

The world's most populous country must now draw up policies to try to cope with a declining laborforce and a rapidly ageing population, according to the summary of the latest edition of the "Green Book of Population and Labor" published by the China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

Growth in the working population had now stagnated, the report said, and the rising number of elderly people will have a far-reaching impact on the social and economic development in the country, especially if fertility rates remain low.

“From a theoretical point of view, the long-term population decline, especially when it is accompanied by a continuously ageing population, is bound to cause very unfavorable social and economic consequences,” it said.

China’s population is expected to fall back to 1.36 billion by the middle of the century, it said, which could mean a decline in the workforce of as much as 200 million. If fertility rates remain unchanged, the population could fall to 1.17 billion by 2065, it said. China decided in 2016 to relax a controversial “one-child policy” aimed at curbing population growth and allow all couples to have two children. However, the country’s birth rate still fell 3.5 percent in 2017 and is expected to have fallen again last year.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 06-01-19

China slashes banks’ reserve requirements again as growth slows

BEIJING: China’s central bank said on Friday it was cutting the amount of cash that banks have to hold as reserves for the fifth time in a year, freeing up \$116 billion for new lending as it tries to reduce the risk of a sharp economic slowdown.

The cut comes amid mounting worries about the health of the world’s second-largest economy, which is facing both slowing demand at home and punishing US tariffs on its exports.

Global stock markets sold off on Thursday after a warning from tech giant Apple Inc about slowing China sales, while data this week showed manufacturing activity shrank in December for the first time in more than two years.

The announcement came just hours after Premier Li Keqiang said China would take further action to bolster the economy, including reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cuts and more cuts in taxes and fees, highlighting the urgency to cope with increasing headwinds.

“This speedy RRR cut with great intensity fully demonstrates the determination of policymakers to stabilize growth,” said Yang Hao, an analyst at Nanjing Securities.

“At present, the economy is facing very big downward pressure amid internal and external troubles.”

The cut in RRR is the first in 2019 by the People’s Bank of China (PBOC). It cut the ratio for all banks, freeing up a net 800 billion yuan (\$116.51 billion) after lenders use some of the 1.5 trillion yuan in liquidity released to pay back maturing medium-term loans.

The size of the cut was at the upper end of market expectations, and the net funds released would be the largest amount in the five cuts since last January.

“Policy easing will be stepped up further over coming months,” Capital Economics said in a research note.

“With credit growth still slowing and, typically, a six-month lag before any turnaround in credit affects the economy, worries about the outlook for China will persist for several months yet.”

RRRs - currently 14.5 percent for large institutions and 12.5 percent for smaller banks - will be lowered by a total of 100 basis points in two stages, the PBOC said.

The cuts will be effective Jan. 15 and Jan. 25, ahead of the long Lunar New Year celebrations when cash conditions often get tight.

Further cuts in the RRR had been widely expected this year, especially after a spate of weak data in recent months showed the economy was continuing to lose steam amid increased signs of a pinch from the trade war with the United States.

China reported on Monday that factory activity shrank in December for the first time in over two years.

China and the United States will hold vice-ministerial level trade talks in Beijing on Jan. 7-8, as they seek to end a dispute that is inflicting increasing pain on both economies and roiling global financial markets.

But the central bank said growth was still within a reasonable range and it would continue to implement a prudent monetary policy, without engaging in massive stimulus.

We will maintain reasonable and sufficient liquidity, maintain reasonable growth in the scale of money and credit and social financing, stabilize macro-leverage and seek internal and external balances,” it said.

Analysts say Beijing will have to keep up a steady stream of stimulus to engineer a sustainable economic turnaround. But they note policy transmission difficulties faced by the central bank to boost credit for private and small firms - which are vital for economic growth and jobs.

Cutting benchmark interest rates may be a last resort as that could weigh on the yuan and fuel debt risks, analysts say.

The central bank said on Friday, after a work meeting, that it would keep liquidity reasonably ample, and market interest rates steady.

Economists believe the government could take more fiscal steps by cutting taxes and boosting spending on infrastructure, amid expectations that the budget deficit ratio could be lifted to 3 percent in 2019 from 2.6 percent last year. Still, economic growth is thought to have cooled to around 6.5 percent last year - which would be the weakest since 1990 - in line with the target but down from 6.9 percent in 2017.

A further deceleration is seen this year, with some analysts forecasting growth will cool to just over 6 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 07-01-19

In space, the US sees a rival in China

WASHINGTON: During the Cold War, US eyes were riveted on the Soviet Union's rockets and satellites. But in recent years, it has been China's space programs that have most worried US strategists.

China, whose space effort is run by the People's Liberation Army, today launches more rockets into space than any other country — 39 last year, compared to 31 by the United States, 20 by Russia and eight by Europe.

On Thursday it landed a space rover on the dark side of the Moon — a first by any country — and plans to build an orbiting space station in the coming decade. In the decade after that, it hopes to put a Chinese “taikonaut” on the Moon to make the first moonwalk since 1972. China now spends more on its civil and military space programs than do Russia and Japan. Although opaque, its 2017 budget was estimated at \$8.4 billion by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

That's far less than the \$48 billion the United States spends on its military and civilian space programs, says analyst Phil Smith of consulting firm Bryce Space and Technology. But it is more than double Russia's civilian space budget, which has been slashed to \$3 billion. Overcoming a lag of several decades, China's leaders have very methodically replicated the stages of space development achieved by other great nations: a first satellite in 1970, its first manned space mission in 2003, the first docking of a manned spacecraft to an orbiting module in 2012, and activation of the BeiDou satellite navigation system, China's answer to GPS. “If they continue on this trajectory, they're going to quickly eclipse Russia in terms of their space technology capabilities,” said Todd Harrison, an expert on military space programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

China currently poses no threat to the commercial satellite launch market, which remains dominated by companies including US-based SpaceX and Europe's Arianespace, and Russia.

Nor has China's progress in space exploration eclipsed that of the US. NASA's head congratulated China on its Chang'e-4 Moon landing but a 2011 US law bars space cooperation with Beijing, although Congress could lift that restriction.

The real rivalry is in two areas: in the short term, military uses of space; and long-term, the exploitation of resources in space. The mining of minerals or water on the Moon or on asteroids, notably to produce fuel for rockets, is still a long way off, but American start-ups are already working on it.

Unlike the Cold War, the new conquest of space is unfolding largely in a legal vacuum. In the 1960s and '70s, Washington and Moscow negotiated several treaties on space, principally to guarantee scientific cooperation and to ban weapons of mass destruction in space.

"The treaties are too vague to be really certain what the legal result is for something like space mining," said Frans von der Dunk, a professor of space law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Moreover, they have been overtaken by new military technologies: anti-satellite lasers, cyber attacks, electronic jamming, and land-based anti-satellite missiles — like the one China tested in 2007.

Laws of war govern conflicts on Earth, but there is no equivalent for space. And unanswered questions abound.

If one satellite collides with another in space, does that constitute an "attack"? What would be a proportional response? Civilian satellites should be protected from reprisals but what about satellites with dual civilian and military uses? How does a nation respond to a cyber attack of uncertain origin? "It's very hard to distinguish between weapons and non-weapons in space," said Jack Beard, a professor in the University of Nebraska's space law program.

"It's unfortunately hard to envision any major armed conflict on Earth not extending into space," he added. "The Chinese have been preparing for whatever eventuality may be in the future, and... they have been experimenting with systems to interfere with our communications, our transmissions from satellites to drones."

Harrison concurs: "The United States has not been keeping pace with the threats against our space systems," and that has left the US vulnerable. Meanwhile, US dialogue with Beijing is virtually nil, in contrast with Washington's exchanges with Moscow during the Cold War.

"If there's a crisis in space involving China, it's not clear our military knows who to call," said Harrison.

But other observers take a more skeptical view of portraying China as an aggressive adversary of the United States.—AFP

Business Recorder, 07-01-19

Qatar Airways acquires 5pc of China Southern Airlines

DUBAI/BEIJING: Qatar Airways has acquired a 5 percent stake in China Southern Airlines, the state-owned Gulf carrier said on Wednesday, in a move to gain access to the fast-growing mainland Chinese market.

Qatar Airways also owns a 20 percent stake in British Airways-parent International Consolidated Airlines Group, 10 percent of South America's LATAM Airlines Group SA, 49 percent of Italy's Meridian and 9.99 percent stake in Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific.

Qatar's flagship airline has sought new partners and routes after it was blocked last year from flying to the lucrative markets of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates because of restrictions imposed by those countries.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt, imposed a political and economic boycott on Qatar since June 2017, accusing it of supporting terrorism, which Doha denies.

China Southern in a separate statement said Qatar Airways may consider increasing its stake in the airline in the next 12 months. Qatar had no previous investment in the Chinese airline.

Qatar Airways is the second foreign carrier that has a stake in China Southern, after American Airlines. The Chinese carrier left the Skyteam airline alliance at the start of the year. There are opportunities for "us to work together and build a long term relationship in ways that would bring benefits to customers of both airlines," said Qatar Airways' Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker.

Ajith K, director of Asia transport at UOB Kay Hian, said given that China Southern is the biggest competitor of Cathay Pacific in Greater China, this deal could strengthen the China Southern's position at the Hong-Kong carrier's expense.

"Why Qatar is doing, seems to me, one of course is to gain access to the Chinese market. Secondly it's probably that they are hedging against their bet given they own almost 10 percent in Cathay Pacific.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 07-01-19

China tobacco monopoly's global unit plans HK IPO

HONG KONG: The international wing of the world's largest cigarette maker — a Chinese state-owned tobacco monopoly — plans to list on the Hong Kong stocks exchange, filing documents showed on Wednesday.

The unit seeking listing only accounts for a fraction of China National Tobacco Corporation, a hugely profitable state-run behemoth that has a monopoly on tobacco inside the world's most populous nation where smoking remains stubbornly popular.

China National Tobacco buys leaf from overseas markets like Brazil and the United States and then sells it to domestic cigarette manufacturers at a six percent mark-up.

It also has a monopoly on all tobacco exports from China, a fairly limited market largely catering to Chinese tourists in duty-free outlets across Asia.

China National Tobacco does not publish data on its accounts but Bloomberg News said a rare release of financial data in 2012 suggested it earned profits on par with huge businesses like HSBC or Walmart.

The international subsidiary planning to list — China Tobacco International — is a much smaller fish, recording revenue of HK\$5.1 billion (\$651 million) for the nine months ending in September, according to documents filed with the Hong Kong stock exchange.

The listing comes at a time of growing global pressure, including inside China, to curb smoking.

Tobacco claims nearly seven million lives yearly from cancer and other lung diseases, and accounts for about one-in-10 deaths worldwide, a million in China alone, according to the World Health Organization.

Even as the percentage of adults who smoke has dropped in rich nations and plateaued in some emerging ones, the total number of smokers keeps climbing, driven by an expanding global population and more people in poor countries lighting up.—AFP

Business Recorder, 07-01-19

Apple cuts outlook, sees 'challenges' in China

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple cut its revenue outlook for the latest quarter Wednesday, citing steeper-than-expected "economic deceleration" in China and emerging markets.

The rare revenue warnings from Apple suggested weaker-than-anticipated sales of iPhones and other gadgetry, in part because of trade frictions between Washington and Beijing.

Apple shares slid some 7.6 percent in after-hours trade on the news.

The company slashed its revenue guidance for the first fiscal quarter of 2019, ended December 29, to \$84 billion — sharply lower than analyst forecasts averaging \$91 billion.

“While we anticipated some challenges in key emerging markets, we did not foresee the magnitude of the economic deceleration, particularly in Greater China,” Apple chief executive Tim Cook said in a letter to investors.

“We believe the economic environment in China has been further impacted by rising trade tensions with the United States.”

Apple is the target of nationalist sentiment over the arrest of Huawei’s chief financial officer in Canada at the behest of the United States on alleged Iran sanctions violations. MengWanzhou was detained in Canada on December 1 on a US extradition request linked to sanctions-breaking business dealings with Iran.—AFP

Business Recorder, 07-01-19

China reveals plans for carrier relocation to Beijing’s new airport

BEIJING: China’s aviation regulator published on Thursday plans for airline relocation to Beijing’s new mega-airport set to open this year and said it would let foreign carriers decide which of the capital’s airports they will use.

Beijing Daxing International Airport, due to open in September, will accommodate 72 million passengers a year by 2025 and is expected to become one of the world’s busiest airports upon completion.

This will be the city’s second such facility and help relieve pressure on Beijing Capital International Airport, whose annual capacity has reached 100 million passengers.

Foreign airlines, along with those in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, can choose which airport they want to operate in, with the option of having a presence in both. Chinese carriers, except China Postal Airlines, will have to use only one airport, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

China initially planned to relocate airlines from the Sky Team alliance to the new airport, while Star Alliance airlines would stay at the existing Beijing airport.

Airlines including China Southern, China Eastern, Beijing Capital Airlines and China United Airlines will be relocated to Beijing Daxing International Airport, while carriers such as Air China, Hainan Airlines and Grand China Air will stay at Beijing Capital International Airport.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

Special North Korean train enters China: Yonhap

SEOUL: A special North Korean train entered China late Monday, Yonhap news agency reported, raising speculation that leader Kim Jong UN could be on his way to Beijing.

The train crossed the border around 10.15 pm local time (1315 GMT) and was expected in the Chinese capital Tuesday morning, the Southern news agency reported, citing an informed source.

China is the isolated, nuclear-armed North's key diplomatically and main source of trade and aid, and Kim visited three times last year to pay his respects to leader Xi Jinping.

Until his first trip in March, Kim had not meet Xi for more than six years after inheriting power from his father, as relations between the neighbors once described as close as "lips and teeth" deteriorated.

But a whirlwind of diplomacy enveloped the Korean peninsula last year, with Kim also meeting the South's President Moon Jae-in three times, and culminating in his high-profile Singapore summit with US counterpart Donald Trump in June.

None of Kim's 2018 trips to China were announced in advance, and the earliest indications of the first one — before Kim met either Moon or Trump — came when his train was spotted in Beijing.

In the Chinese border city of Dandong, dozens of security vehicles and officials blocked the roads around the train station on Monday before the train passed through, Yonhap reported, before reopening them afterwards.

It had not been confirmed whether a senior North Korean official was on board, it quoted its source as saying.

But Japan's Kyodo news agency said hotel guests in Dandong had not been allowed to enter rooms facing the river that forms the border on Monday afternoon, in what it cited sources describing as "an apparent move to prevent the train from being seen".

Kim's birthday is reportedly on Tuesday, although that has never been confirmed by Pyongyang, and a visit by him to China would be likely to heighten speculation about a second Kim-Trump summit.

In Singapore the two men signed a vaguely-worded pledge about the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, but progress has since stalled amid disagreements over what that means, with meetings and visits cancelled at short notice.

Negotiations were underway on the location of their next meeting, Trump said Sunday, while remaining evasive on its timing.

The US president said last week he had received a “great letter” from the North Korean leader but declined to reveal its contents.

“We are negotiating a location,” he told reporters. “They do want to meet and we want to meet and we’ll see what happens.” Washington is demanding Pyongyang gives up its nuclear arsenal before any relief from economic sanctions is granted, while the North is insisting on immediate concessions from the US. Culminating in late 2017, Pyongyang carried out six atomic blasts and launched rockets capable of reaching the entire US mainland, but has now carried out no such tests for more than a year.

Officials from the Blue House in Seoul could not immediately be reached for comment by AFP.—AFP

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

Punjab CM lures Chinese towards best investment scope

MUHAMMAD SALEEM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar Monday said that best investment opportunities are available in the province of Punjab and the provincial government would provide all the necessary facilities to the Chinese companies that would make investment in Punjab.

“We would welcome the investment of Chinese company in energy and other sectors,” the CM said while talking to a Chinese delegation that led by Wang Xu President of Huaneng Shandong Ruyi called on him at his office here Monday.

Wang Xu said Huaneng Shandong Ruyi would set up its office in Punjab and hoped that new investment opportunities would be created as a result of it. “We want to expand cooperation in textile and other sectors as well,” he said. He also briefed the Chief Minister about company’s performance and its projects’ details.

Talking on the occasion, the CM maintained that bilateral relations between Pakistan and China were touching new heights, adding China had always sided with Pakistan in every difficult situation. “We appreciate Chinese investment in Pakistan as a number of projects, which have been started in collaboration with China, are running successfully.”

He said that investment environment had been boosted further due to the multibillion dollar CPEC project. He said the best investment opportunities were available in Punjab, adding the

provincial government would provide all the necessary facilities to the Chinese companies that would make investment in the Punjab. “We would welcome the investment of Chinese company in energy and other sectors,” he added. He also congratulated the delegation on the advent of new Chinese year. The delegation also extended an invitation to the Chief Minister to visit Shandong.

Vice President Huaneng Shandong Liu Jie, CEO Sahiwal Coal Power Plant Song Taji, CEO Ruyi Group Li Aiying were included in the delegation. Chairman P&D, Principal Secretary to CM, Secretary Energy, MD Punjab Power Development Board and others were also present at the meeting.

Business recorder, 10.01.19

China’s FX reserves fall in 2018

BEIJING: China’s annual foreign exchange reserves fell for the third time in four years in 2018 as the yuan came under strong selling pressure from the cooling economy and escalating Sino-US trade tensions.

Depreciation pressure on the yuan is likely to persist this year as Beijing is expected to roll out more policy easing measures to reduce the risk of a sharper slowdown.

But a test of the yuan’s decade lows that was feared by global financial markets just months ago may be less of a risk, if analysts are correct in forecasting the US dollar’s long rally is drawing to a close.

China’s foreign exchange reserves - the world’s largest - fell by \$67.24 billion last year to \$3.073 trillion, central bank data showed on Monday. That compared with a \$129.4 billion increase in 2017 to \$3.14 trillion.

In December, reserves rose by \$11 billion, after a rise of \$8.6 billion in November. The latest gain was slightly above forecasts of \$8 billion by economists in a Reuter’s poll. The country’s foreign exchange regulator attributed the

increase to valuation effects due to the appreciation of non-dollar currencies and increases in prices of major countries’ bonds held by China.

Reserves are likely to remain generally stable in 2019, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said in a statement.

In a rare respite last year, the yuan rebounded 1.3 percent against the dollar in December as the greenback faltered and Washington and Beijing agreed to resume negotiations to end their bitter trade dispute.

But the Chinese currency still fell 5.3 percent for 2018 as a whole, its fourth annual loss in five.

Still, the risk of heavy capital outflows from the cooling economy seem to have been largely contained last year, thanks to timely interventions by authorities in currency markets, tougher capital controls adopted in the last downturn in 2014-2015, and a sudden shift in expectations for US policy tightening.

But even if the dollar falters as expected, the yuan faces the same key pressure points this year as last.

US President Donald Trump has said talks toward a trade deal are progressing well, but it is unclear if Beijing will yield to key US demands over trade imbalances, market access, and more protection for intellectual property.

Failure could quickly reignite pressure on the yuan, as Trump has threatened to proceed with a sharp US tariff hike on Chinese goods and Beijing is widely expected to retaliate.

The trade dispute between the world's largest economies has already disrupted the flow of hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of goods and stoked fears of a global economic slowdown.

Even if a trade agreement is reached soon, analysts say it would be no panacea for China's economy, which is expected to continue decelerating in coming months.

China's manufacturing activity contracted in December for the first time in more than two years and key credit gauges are hovering around record lows.

On Friday, the central bank said it was cutting the amount of cash banks must hold in reserve for the fifth time in the past year, freeing up \$116 billion for new lending.

Chinese authorities have been attempting to reduce pressure on the yuan by pledging they will not resort to massive stimulus as they have in the past. But some analysts believe more aggressive easing measures such as rate cuts are possible if economic conditions deteriorate more rapidly. Policymakers may also have to contend with a significant structural shift in China's global capital flows, as its current account is swinging from a decades' long surplus to deficit, potentially making the yuan exchange rate more volatile.

"The PBOC appears to have sold only a small amount of foreign exchange last month, suggesting that the renminbi has faced little downward pressure recently," Capital Economics said in a research note after the reserves data.

"Pressure on the renminbi may return in the coming months, however, given that we expect China's economic growth to weaken further and interest rates in China to fall further."—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

Goalie howler as China, Korea survive scares at Asian Cup

AL-AIN, (United Arab Emirates): Favorites South Korea scraped past the Philippines and China needed a spectacular goalkeeping gaffe to spark their comeback against lowly Kyrgyzstan as lesser teams continued to trouble bigger sides at the Asian Cup on Monday.

A day after defending champions Australia were rocked 1-0 by Jordan, South Korea, still awaiting the arrival of star forward Son Heung-min, left it late before beating the Philippines by the same score line.

Fellow debutants Kyrgyzstan led China 1-0 at half-time but they were left to rue a costly error by goalkeeper Pavel Matiash, who's embarrassing own goal put the Chinese on course for a 2-1 win.

After hosts UAE were held by Bahrain, and Syria were kept to a goalless draw by Palestine, it provided more evidence that the gap has narrowed between Asian teams.

Separately, Thailand's Serbian coach Milovan Rajevac paid the price for yet another shock result when he was given his marching orders following Sunday's 4-1 defeat to India.

"Like all Thai football fans across the country, I am also disappointed with the result," Thailand's FA president Somyot Poompanmoung said, explaining the rapid dismissal.

"But as president of the football association, I cannot stand still with this problem."

Kyrgyzstan looked capable of pulling off an almighty upset against China when Akhlidin Israilov smashed home the opening goal just before half-time in Al Ain.

But China profited from the howler of the tournament so far when Matiash, attempting to claw a defensive header over the bar, batted it over the line instead.

A Chinese winner looked inevitable and it was Yu who completed the turnaround, rounding Matiash and scoring from a tight angle 12 minutes from time.

Lippi, who is expected to leave his post at the end of the Asian Cup, said he was "enormously unhappy" at China's first half performance, but proud of their revival.

"During the first half we weren't playing well, and I thought if we keep playing like that we're going to lose the match," said the 2006 World Cup-winning coach.

"After the reaction from my players in the second half, I'm happy that we won the three points."

Later in Dubai, prolific goal poacher Hwang Ui-jo snatched a second-half winner as South Korea beat Sven-Goran Eriksson's Philippines, who impressed on their tournament debut.

The Koreans, looking to end 59 years of hurt after failing to win the title since 1960, soaked up considerable pressure in their opening Group C fixture before Hwang broke the deadlock after 67 minutes.

The Japan-based striker swivelled and smashed home from close range to settle his side's nerves after Newcastle midfielder Ki Sung-yueng limped off with a suspected hamstring injury.—AFP

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

China has 'good faith' to fix trade issues as talks with US resume

BEIJING: China has the "good faith" to work with the United States to resolve trade frictions, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday, as the world's two largest economies resumed talks in a bid to end their trade dispute.

US officials are meeting their counterparts in Beijing this week for the first face-to-face talks since US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping agreed in December to a 90-day truce in a trade war that has roiled global markets.

Trump said on Sunday that trade talks with China were going very well and that weakness in the Chinese economy gave Beijing a reason to work toward a deal.

On Monday, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told NBC the talks were being held with appropriate level staff and would help determine how the administration moves forward.

Ross also said he saw "a very good chance that we will get a reasonable settlement that China can live with, that we can live with and that addresses all of the key issues," adding that it would be easiest to tackle immediate trade but harder to resolve enforcement issues and structural reforms such as intellectual property rights and market access."

The two sides agreed to hold "positive and constructive" dialogue to resolve economic and trade disputes in accordance with the consensus reached by the countries' leaders, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters at a regular news briefing.

"From the beginning we have believed that China-US trade friction is not a positive situation for either country or the world economy. China has the good faith, on the basis of mutual respect and equality, to resolve the bilateral trade frictions," Lu said.

Trump imposed import tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods last year and has threatened more to pressure Beijing to change its practices on issues ranging from industrial subsidies to intellectual property to hacking. China has retaliated with tariffs of its own.

“As for whether the Chinese economy is good or not, I have already explained this. China’s development has ample tenacity and huge potential,” Lu said. “We have firm confidence in the strong long-term fundamentals of the Chinese economy.”

Lu also said that Vice President Wang Qishan would attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in late January, but added that he had not yet heard of any arrangements for a meeting with Trump there.

By Monday afternoon, few details had emerged of the talks, which were scheduled to run through Tuesday.

The US delegation, led by Deputy US Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish, includes undersecretaries from the US Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy and Treasury, as well as senior officials from the White House.

TuXinquan, a Chinese trade expert at Beijing’s University of International Business and Economics, told Reuters before talks began that the meetings would likely focus on technical issues and leave major disagreements to more senior officials.

“China’s economy is significantly slowing down, and the US stock market is declining quickly. I think the two sides need some kind of agreement for now,” Tu said.

Data last week showed manufacturing has slowed in both China and the United States, though the US Labor Department on Friday reported a surge in new jobs in December along with higher wages.

Officials have given scant details on concessions that China might be willing to make to meet US demands, some of which would require structural reforms unpalatable for Chinese leaders.

Even if a trade agreement is reached soon, analysts say it would be no panacea for China’s economy, which is expected to continue decelerating in coming months.

China’s stridently nationalist Global Times tabloid said in an editorial late on Sunday that statements from both sides that they hoped to reach a deal were cause for optimism, but that Beijing would not cave in to US demands.

“If China was going to raise the white flag, it would have done it already,” the paper said.—
Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

Monday's early trade: Wall Street higher as US-China trade talks begin

- Amazon, Netflix lead consumer discretionary stocks higher
- PG&E shares slump after reports of exploring bankruptcy

NEW YORK: US stocks rose on Monday as gains in the technology and consumer discretionary sectors helped extend Friday's rally, with investors focused on the ongoing US-China trade talks.

The rally was led by momentum names such as Amazon.com Inc, Netflix Inc and big technology stocks, adding to Friday's surge of over 3 percent after strong jobs numbers and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's comments soothed worries about interest rate hikes.

Fears of a global slowdown have caused sharp pullbacks in the markets over the last few months. But since hitting a 20-month low on Christmas Eve just a rounding error from levels considered to be a bear market, the S&P 500 has now gained over 8.5 percent.

The trade spat has been a major overhang and the effects of tariffs on billions of dollars of goods have started showing up in economic data and a reduction in analysts' estimates for earnings growth rates at S&P 500 companies.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on Monday China and the United States were likely to reach a good settlement over immediate trade issues, while an agreement on structural trade issues and enforcement will be harder.

"We're looking at commentary from the Fed suggesting they're going to be flexible around rate hikes, there's positive commentary on the US trade war," said Christopher Anselmo, director at Nasdaq IR Intelligence. "That positive sentiment is forward looking."

The consumer discretionary index jumped 2.49 percent, while the technology sector gained 1.14 percent.

In economic data, the Institute for Supply Management's domestic services sector index fell to a five-month low, although one bright spot was a rise in new orders, which Anselmo said was helping sentiment.

At about 11:50 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 156.40 points, or 0.67 percent, at 23,589.56. The S&P 500 was up 23.97 points, or 0.95 percent, at 2,555.91 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 93.60 points, or 1.39 percent, at 6,832.46.

Nine of the 11 major S&P sectors were higher, with only the defensive consumer staples and utilities indexes logging losses.

Utilities were dragged lower by PG&E Corp, which slumped about 22 percent after Reuters reported the company was exploring filing some or all of its business for bankruptcy protection as it faces billions of dollars in liabilities related to fatal wildfires in 2018 and 2017.

Dollar Tree Inc jumped 5.7 percent after activist investor Starboard Value LP called on the company to sell its underperforming Family Dollar business and proposed replacing a majority of its board.

Loxo Oncology Inc surged 65.8 percent after Eli Lilly and Co said it would buy the cancer drug developer for about \$8 billion. Lilly fell 1.2 percent.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 4.56-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and a 3.07-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P index recorded no new 52-week highs or new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 24 new highs and 10 new lows.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

China shares climb

SHANGHAI: China shares ended higher on Monday after the central bank moved to support economic growth with a broad cut in the amount of cash banks must hold as reserves, but ongoing uncertainty over the economy and outlook for trade continued to weigh on the market.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 0.72 percent at 2,533.09 points.

The blue-chip CSI300 index was up 0.61 percent at 3,054.30 points, with its financial sector sub-index lower by 0.23 percent and the healthcare sub-index up 0.27 percent. An index tracking consumer staples gained 1.08 percent.

The People's Bank of China said on Friday it was cutting the amount of cash that banks have to hold as reserves for the fifth time in a year, freeing up \$116 billion for new lending as it tries to reduce the risk of a sharp economic slowdown.

But analysts downplayed the impact of the cut to banks' reserve requirement ratios (RRRs).

“The 100bp RRR cut was largely expected, not a game-changer,” Nomura analysts said in a note on Monday.

“We expect there to be limited room for the market to continue to fall from its current position. But the economic and credit cycles remain in a downturn, corporate profitability and

performance growth are weakening, and there is a limit to further loosening of macro policy,” analysts at Guodu Securities said in a note.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 1.71 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 1.839 percent.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 1.28 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 2.44 percent.

At 07:19 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.851 per US dollar, 0.29 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.871. The currency strengthened to a one-month high against the dollar on Monday.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Shanghai Zhixin Electric Co Ltd, up 10.14 percent, followed by Lanzhou LS Heavy Equipment Co Ltd, gaining 10.12 percent, and Fujian Furi Electronics Co Ltd, up by 10.11 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were New China Life Insurance Co Ltd, down 6.72 percent, followed by Wuhan Hanshang Group Co Ltd, losing 3.82 percent, and Fushun Special Steel Co Ltd, down by 3.28 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 1.6 percent, the CSI300 has risen 1.4 percent and China’s H-share index listed in Hong Kong is down 0.1 percent.

About 17.73 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 132.3 percent of the market’s 30-day moving average of 13.40 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 16.89 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

China buys more US soya as officials meet for trade talks

CHICAGO: Chinese importers made their third large US soyabean purchase in the past month on Monday, as officials from both countries meet this week for the first face-to-face talks since agreeing to a 90-day trade war truce on Dec. 1, two traders with knowledge of the deals said.

Chinese state-owned firms bought at least three cargoes of US soyabeans on Monday morning, or about 180,000 tonnes, the traders said. One of them said the total was closer to 15 cargoes, or about 900,000 tonnes.

The soyabeans will be shipped mostly from terminals in the Pacific Northwest from January through March, with a smaller volume to be exported from US Gulf Coast terminals, the traders said.

US soyabean exports to China, the world's top buyer, have plummeted this season during a bitter trade dispute, with swelling supplies sending prices to near decade lows.

US President Donald Trump imposed import tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods last year and has threatened more to pressure Beijing to change its trade practices. China retaliated with tariffs of its own, including a 25 percent duty on US soyabean shipments which remains in place.

Officials from both nations are meeting in Beijing this week in talks scheduled to run through Tuesday. China's Foreign Ministry on Monday noted his country's "good faith" to work with the United States to resolve trade frictions.

China has booked more than 5 million tonnes of US soyabeans in the past month's deals, a fraction of China's typical purchases from the United States which normally total more than 30 million tonnes.

Grain traders have been awaiting news of further Chinese buying, although official US confirmation of any deals has been suspended due to a partial US government shutdown.

Benchmark US soyabean futures on the Chicago Board of Trade rose for a fourth straight trading session on Monday and touched a three-week high as renewed Chinese buying offset concerns about abundant global supplies.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

Chinese steel, iron ore gain on cenbank policy, trade optimism

BEIJING: China's steel and iron ore futures started the week firmly on Monday, buoyed by central bank policy easing and on hopes that Beijing and Washington can strike a comprehensive trade deal.

China's central bank on Friday cut the amount of cash that banks have to hold as reserves for the fifth time in a year, freeing up \$116 billion for new lending.

A group of US delegates are meeting with their counterparts in Beijing this week for the first face-to-face talks since leaders of the two countries agreed to a 90-day truce in a trade war in December. "The market is improving its expectations over the macro-economic situation amid Beijing's attempts to stabilize the economy," analysts from Huatai Futures said in a note. Meanwhile, Baoshan Iron & Steel Co, the largest listed steel firm in China, said it would raise prices of some steel products for March delivery by 50 yuan (\$7.30) a ton.

Benchmark construction steel rebar prices on the Shanghai Futures Exchange settled 1.8 percent higher at 3,520 yuan a ton. They jumped as high as 3,526 yuan before the market closed at 0700

GMT, a level last seen on Dec. 21, 2018. However, analysts also warned of waning demand in the off-peak season.

Inventories of steel products at Chinese traders rose for the second week in the week ended Jan. 4, adding 416,000 ton from the prior week to 8.38 million tonnes, data compiled by mysteel consultancy showed. Rebar stocks were up 6.4 percent at 3.35 million tonnes and hot-rolled coil stocks were up 2.5 percent at 1.8 million tonnes.

Construction sites in northern China typically halt work in winter due to freezing conditions. Investors are closely watching the Sino-US trade talks, as well as waiting for further potential stimulus measures from Beijing that could ease downward pressure on China's economy, the analysts said.

The most-active iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange closed 1.8 percent higher at 514.5 yuan a tonne, just shy of its day's peak of 515 yuan; it's strongest since Oct. 29.

Coking coal futures climbed 1.5 percent to 1,195 yuan, while coke for May delivery rose 1.5 percent to 1,964 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-01-19

Copper steadies as traders eye US-China trade talks

LONDON: Copper prices steadied on Monday after the biggest rise in three months in the previous session on investor hopes that Chinese measures to boost lending would be followed by progress in trade talks with the United States.

Prices were also supported by a weaker dollar after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell hinted that the pace of US interest rate rises could slow.

A weaker dollar makes metals cheaper for buyers using other currencies.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) closed 0.1 percent up at \$5,923 a tonne after surging 3.2 percent on Friday in its biggest one-day gain since Sept. 21.

It rose from a low base, however, having hit an 18-month low of \$5,725 last week.

Copper, aluminum, zinc and nickel fell by between 16 and 26 percent last year as top consumer China's metals-hungry economy slowed and a trade dispute with Washington heralded further deceleration.

Prices could fall again if this week's trade talks fail said ING analyst Warren Patterson, adding that tight supplies of copper and other industrial metals would lift prices over the course of the year.

"From here we expect upside across the board," he said, predicting that copper would average \$6,400 a tonne in the second quarter and rise towards \$7,000 by the end of 2019.

US and Chinese officials are meeting for the first face-to-face talks since the two countries agreed in December to a 90-day truce in a trade war that investors fear will curb global economic growth.

China said on Monday it had the "good faith" to work with the United States to resolve trade frictions.

US Secretary of State Wilbur Ross said a good settlement was likely on immediate trade issues but an agreement on structural trade issues and enforcement would be harder.

The talks come after China's central bank on Friday said it was cutting reserve requirements for banks for the fifth time in a year, freeing up \$116 billion for new lending.

German industrial orders fell more than expected in November, adding to a slew of recent indicators showing Germany's exporters are suffering from the trade dispute between China and the United States.

LME aluminum ended 0.7 percent up at \$1,878.50 a tonne, zinc finished with a gain of 2.5 percent at \$2,498, lead rose 0.2 percent to \$1,953, tin climbed 1 percent to \$19,750 and nickel, which did not trade at the close, was bid up 0.4 percent at \$11,150.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-01-19

Trump says US-China trade talks going 'very well'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump boasted Tuesday that US-China trade negotiations were going "very well" as officials held talks in Beijing that will spill into a third day.

A member of the US delegation said the two sides would resume talks on Wednesday as they continue their first face-to-face meetings since Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to a tariff truce during a meeting in Argentina on December 1.

The talks are taking longer than expected as the Chinese commerce ministry had said last week that the meetings would take place on Monday and Tuesday.

“Talks with China are going very well!” Trump said on Twitter, but gave no further information.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday the two sides were narrowing their differences, with Chinese officials offering greater purchases of US goods and services and Cabinet-level follow-up meetings expected later this month.

Word of progress briefly drove US stocks higher in early morning trading but major indices soon pared much of those gains.

The meeting between the US delegation — led by Deputy US Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish and including officials from the Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture and Energy Departments — and the Chinese side ran late into Tuesday night.

“I can confirm we are continuing tomorrow (Wednesday),” Steven Winberg, assistant energy secretary, told reporters after returning to his hotel in Beijing. He declined to provide more details.

The Trump administration wants Beijing to abandon its strategy of seeking global industrial predominance through the alleged theft and forced transfer of American technology as well as massive state intervention in markets.

The truce came after the two sides imposed import duties on more than \$300 billion of each other’s goods.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Monday that China’s economy was more vulnerable to the fallout from the trade war.

“It certainly has hurt the Chinese economy,” Ross told CNBC, noting that China exports many more goods to the United States than the other way around.

Ross said there was a “very good chance” of reaching an agreement, although monitoring compliance would present a challenge.

Without a resolution, punitive US duty rates on \$200 billion in Chinese goods are due to rise to 25 percent from 10 percent on March 2.

The second day of trade negotiations coincided with an unannounced visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for talks with Xi in Beijing, amid speculation of a second meeting between Kim and Trump.

Some analysts say that China — Pyongyang’s key diplomatically and main source of trade — could use Kim’s visit as a bargaining chip in the US trade talks.

But Bonnie Glaser, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the timing of the North Korean leader's arrival could be coincidental.

"I don't see any linkage with the trade talks," said Glaser.

"China's ability to use (North Korea) as leverage has diminished considerably since Trump opened his own channel to Kim," she said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Kim's visit and the trade talks were "two separate matters".

"China's position in the China-US trade friction and its solutions to the friction is open, it's transparent," Lu said at a regular press briefing.

"We have shown our sincerity, we have established our stand in this, so we don't need other actions to gain the confidence of the US. The US is very clear about China's stance."

A separate geopolitical issue angered China on Monday when a US Navy guided-missile destroyer sailed near disputed islands in the South China Sea — a vast expanse claimed by Beijing. China called it a violation of its sovereignty that has damaged "peace, safety and order" in the waterway.

The United States periodically sends planes and warships through the area to signal to Beijing its right under international law to pass through the waters.—AFP

Business Recorder, 09-01-19

China approves five GM crops for import

BEIJING: China has approved the import of five genetically modified crops, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday, amid growing pressure from the United States to open up its market to more farm goods.

The crops are RF3 canola, originally developed by Bayer and now owned by BASF, Monsanto's glyphosate-tolerant MON 88302 canola, DuPont Pioneer DP4114 corn, Syngenta's SYHT0H2 soybean and Dow Agro Sciences' DAS-44406-6 soybean.

China is the world's top importer of soybeans and a major buyer of other grains but it has not approved any GMO products for import since July 2017, when it cleared two products following high-level talks with Washington. It also approved two products in June 2017.

The new approvals came after Chinese officials met their US counterparts in Beijing on Monday for the first face-to-face talks since US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in December to a 90-day truce in a trade war that has roiled global markets.

The US is the world's largest producer of GMO crops but the slow and unpredictable process of getting approvals for GM crops in China has long been a major irritant in agricultural trade between the two countries.

Some products have been waiting for Beijing's approval for seven years.

China's scientific advisory board on genetically modified crops did not approve any products when it met in June.

China does not allow the planting of genetically modified food crops, but does allow GMO imports, such as soybeans and corn, for use as animal feed.

The ministry said on Tuesday it had also renewed the import approval for 26 other GMO crops, extending their approval by a further three years.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-01-19

Man Utd to open 'experience centers' in China

LONDON: Manchester United announced on Tuesday they are opening a series of "entertainment and experience centers" in China as they seek to capitalize on a huge fanbase in the world's most populous country.

The first centers, developed in partnership with Chinese property developer Harves, are scheduled to open in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenyang by the end of 2020. Arsenal last year opened a club-themed sports bar and restaurant in Shanghai and French side Paris Saint-Germain also have a hub in the same city, equipped with indoor football pitches and a bar.

Each venue at the Manchester United centers will feature "interactive and immersive experiences" and will include restaurants and a club store, the Premier League club said in a statement.

"We first visited China in 1975 and we're proud to have seen our fan base in the region grow and develop their passion for United over the years," said Manchester United's group managing director Richard Arnold.

"This new concept will allow them to get closer to the club they love."—AFP

Business Recorder, 09-01-19

China stocks decline

SHANGHAI: China stocks closed slightly lower on Tuesday amid investor caution as US and Chinese officials seek to reach a trade deal in Beijing

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.2 percent, to 3,047.70, while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.3 percent to 2,526.46.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross predicted on Monday that Beijing and Washington could reach a trade deal that “we can live with” as dozens of officials from the world’s two largest economies resumed talks in a bid to end their trade dispute.

China’s foreign ministry said Beijing had the “good faith” to work with the United States to resolve trade frictions, but many analysts doubt the two sides can reach a comprehensive agreement on all of the divisive issues before a March deadline.

There seemed to be scant market reaction to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s visit in China. The CSI300 financial sector sub-index was lower by 0.45 percent, while the healthcare sub-index was up 0.37 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended down 0.12 percent and the start-up board Chi Next Composite index was weaker by 0.36 percent.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by 0.21 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 0.82 percent.

At 07:33 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.8574 per US dollar, 0.1 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.8505.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Jinzhou Port Co Ltd, up 10.07 percent, followed by Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, gaining 10.06 percent, and Zhejiang TiantaiXianghe Industrial Co Ltd, up by 10.03 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Wuxi New Hongtai Electrical Technology Co Ltd, down 9.98 percent, followed by Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, losing 9.82 percent, and BTG Hotels Group Co Ltd, down by 7.18 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-01-19

Aluminum drops as bears attack, others wait for news on China

LONDON: Aluminum prices slipped on Tuesday as bearish speculators kept up selling pressure, while other base metals were lack luster ahead of the conclusion of US-China trade talks.

Aluminum has been the worst performer on the London Metal Exchange during the last two months on concerns about excess supply that gathered momentum after the United States said it would lift sanctions on Russian giant Rusal.

“I’ve been pretty gloomy on the aluminum market for some time and I expect more downside in coming months,” said Ross Strachan, senior commodities economist at Capital Economics in London.

“There are smelter re-starts in the US, a very large expansion in Bahrain, and in China you’ve got significantly more production than at this time a year ago,” he said.

“This is all coming at a time when demand is proving to be relatively soft and slowing in a number of the major markets.”

Aluminum closed down 0.8 percent at \$1,864.50 a tonne in final open outcry trading, rowing back some of its rebound since touching \$1,785.50 last week, the lowest in about a year.

Aluminum has the biggest speculative net short position of the LME complex at 28 percent of open interest, a level not seen since November 2015, according to estimates by MarexSpectron detailed in a note.

Excess supply was evident in a build-up of LME aluminum inventories, which rose again on Tuesday, daily LME data showed. The stocks have surged nearly 40 percent since mid-October last year.

The United States and China will continue trade talks in Beijing for an unscheduled third day, a member of the US delegation said on Tuesday, as the world’s two largest economies looked to resolve their bitter trade dispute.

The uncertainty was leading to muted activity, Strachan said. “I think people are holding back before we’ve got any news on the trade talks or the (US government) shutdown, which is lingering in the background.”

The dollar index rose 0.3 percent, snapping a three-day losing streak, weighing on metals as it makes them more expensive for buyers using other currencies.

Chart patterns are indicating that downside momentum has receded in copper, Stéphanie Aymes, head of technical analysis at SocietyGeneral, said in a note.

“Copper is now inching towards the upper band of the short-term down sloping trend at \$5,980/\$6,010... A break above will mean signs of a larger recovery towards \$6,079 and more importantly \$6,108/\$6,170.”

LME copper fell 0.3 percent to end at \$5,906 a tonne, zinc shed 0.5 percent to finish at \$2,485, nickel gained 0.4 percent to \$11,190, tin gained 1 percent to \$19,940 and lead climbed 0.8 percent to \$1,969.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

Chinese general issues ‘war criminal’ warning to Taiwan

BEIJING: Taiwan independence supporters would be regarded as “war criminals” if China was forced to intervene militarily to retake the island, a Chinese general warned Wednesday. “Supporters of Taiwanese separatism must stop in time to avoid disaster, repent and return to the right path. Otherwise they will become the scum of the Chinese nation and be condemned by history,” said He Lei, former vice president of the Academy of Military Sciences. “If we are forced to use force to settle the Taiwanese issue, they will be held responsible. In other words, they will inevitably be considered war criminals,” the lieutenant general said, adopting a martial tone in a meeting with journalists.

China still sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides being ruled separately since they split in 1949 after a civil war won by Mao Zedong’s communists.

General He’s warning to Taiwanese separatists comes after President Xi Jinping last week said China would not renounce the option of using force to recover the island and vowed that reunification was “inevitable”.

Taiwan considers it a sovereign state, with its own currency, political and judicial systems, but has never declared formal independence from the mainland.

Relations have been strained since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to acknowledge Beijing’s stance that the island is part of “one China”.—AFP

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

China steel prices rise

BEIJING: Chinese steel futures prices inched up on Wednesday, buoyed by Beijing vowing to introduce policies to strengthen consumer spending and optimism that the months-long US-China trade row is finally coming to an end.

China plans to introduce policies to boost domestic spending on items such as automobiles and home appliances this year as part of wider efforts to strengthen consumption, a senior official at the country's top state planner said.

A variety of steel products, especially hot-rolled coil and cold-rolled coil, are widely used to make autos and household items.

"The main focus of fundamentals in the steel market is now on the demand side," a Shanghai-based steel trader said.

"Some mills have already hiked prices for February and March delivery as they expect to see stronger demand after Chinese New Year in February," he added.

The listed unit of China's largest steel firm, China Baowu Group, said on Sunday it would raise hot-rolled coil and cold-rolled steel coil prices for March delivery by 50 yuan (\$7.31) a tonne.

The most-active hot-rolled coil contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange climbed 0.7 percent to 3,421 yuan a tonne when market closed at 0700 GMT.

Benchmark Shanghai rebar futures also rose marginally by 0.1 percent to 3,507 yuan.

On Tuesday, some Chinese industrial websites reported that the top steelmaking city of Tangshan has issued a smog alert, effective from Jan. 8 to Jan. 14, asking steel mills to cut sintering output by 30 percent to 60 percent, or shut completely depending on emission levels.

The Tangshan government declined to comment but said in a statement that it expects to see air quality worsen during Jan. 10-12.

"But investors are still cautious... they are waiting for progress in Sino-US trade talks," said the Shanghai trader.

Chinese and US teams ended trade talks in Beijing on Wednesday that lasted longer than expected and officials said details will be released soon, raising hopes an all-out trade war that could badly disrupt the global economy can be avoided.

The most-traded iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange pared gains in the afternoon session after hitting a 10-week high at 517 yuan a tonne in early trade. It settled down 0.6 percent at 509.5 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

US official says China trade talks ‘went just fine’

BEIJING: The United States and China on Wednesday concluded three days of extended talks to resolve their trade war, with a member of the American delegation saying negotiations “went just fine”.

The US officials arrived in Beijing on Monday for the first sit-down talks since President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed on December 1 to a three-month truce in the escalating trade spat.

Asian markets rose on increasing optimism that the two sides would be able to hammer out a deal ahead of a March deadline and avert further import tariff hikes.

A member of the US delegation, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney, told reporters that the team would return to the United States later on Wednesday. “I think they went just fine,” McKinney said of the talks as he left the hotel with his luggage, adding the trip “has been a good one for us”.

Trump boasted on Twitter on Tuesday that discussions in China were “going very well!”

China’s foreign ministry confirmed the negotiations had ended in Beijing but declined to comment on the outcome, saying details would be released later. “If it’s a good outcome, it doesn’t just benefit the US and China, but it is also good news for the world economy,” said foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang.

The US delegation, led by Deputy Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish, had been scheduled to end its visit on Tuesday.

“The extension of the talks indicates that both sides take this very seriously,” Lu said.

Washington has been clamoring for an end to the forced transfer — and even theft — of American technology, as well as steep government subsidies for Chinese companies. The Trump administration also wants Beijing to buy more American goods to narrow a yawning trade gap and allow foreign players better access to the Chinese market.

The US Trade Representative office said Wednesday that the talks focused on “ways to achieve fairness, reciprocity, and balance in trade relations,” as well as the need for “ongoing verification and effective enforcement” of any agreement.

“The talks also focused on China’s pledge to purchase a substantial amount of agricultural, energy, manufactured goods, and other products and services from the United States,” USTR said in a statement.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross signaled on Monday that there was a “very good chance” of reaching an agreement.

China’s economy was more vulnerable to the fallout from the trade war, he said. Apple chief executive Tim Cook said he has “heard some very encouraging words” about the talks as well. “I don’t speak for them obviously,” Cook told CNBC in reference to the Trump administration. “I do talk with them and I give them my ideas and thoughts.”

The US smartphone maker has felt the pinch of the bruising trade spat, and warned that 2018 revenues would miss its forecast — in large part due to a slump in iPhone sales in China.

The temporary trade war ceasefire came after the two sides imposed import duties on more than \$300 billion in two-way trade.

Without a resolution, punitive US duty rates on \$200 billion in Chinese goods are due to rise to 25 percent from 10 percent on March 2.

Global financial markets retreated late last year, largely over concerns about the economic impact of a protracted trade war. Bloomberg reported that Trump is eager to strike a deal to boost markets, citing people familiar with White House deliberations.

The current trade round coincided with an unannounced visit from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Xi, ahead of a possible second meeting between Kim and Trump.

China — Pyongyang’s sole diplomatically and main source of trade — said it would not use Kim’s visit as a bargaining chip in the US trade talks.

Kim’s train left Beijing on Wednesday around the same time the US trade negotiators headed for the airport.—AFP

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

China's passenger car sales fall for first time in years

BEIJING: China's annual passenger car sales fell last year for the first time in more than 20 years as the trade war with the US rocked consumer confidence and Beijing reined in car financing channels.

Passenger car sales fell to 22.4 million vehicles in 2018, down 5.8 percent from a year earlier, data from the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA) showed on Wednesday.

In December sales plummeted 19.2 percent from a year earlier, the CPCA said.

The slumping market has hit China's manufacturing sector, which contracted last month for the first time in more than two years, according to official data.

Beijing's bruising trade war with Washington comes as it grapples with a slowing domestic economy — growth is expected to have eased to around 6.5 percent in 2018, down from 6.9 percent in 2017.

The gloomy export picture has reinforced the need for Beijing to rely on its legion of consumers to grow its economy.

But the government's campaign against debt was in full force last year, cutting into parts of the shadow finance industry like peer-to-peer lending which financed car purchases for some consumers.

Declining car sales may be last year's phenomenon, said CPCA secretary general Cui Dongshua. "I hope that's the case," he said.

Officials are taking steps to reignite consumer spending. Policies will be rolled out to push auto and home appliance consumption, an official at the state planner told official news agency Xinhua this week.

Still some officials have indicated car sales may have little room for growth. "The period of rapid growth in production and sales of cars is over and low growth speed could become the norm in the automotive market," XinGuobin, vice minister of industry and information technology said last year, according to China News.—AFP

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

China stocks surge on trade talk hopes

SHANGHAI: China stocks closed higher on Wednesday on optimism around the United States and China moving closer to a trade deal, and Beijing encouraging consumer spending amid economic slowdown.

The blue-chip CSI300 index ended up 1.0 percent at 3,078.48, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed 0.7 percent higher at 2,544.34 points.

The US trade delegation in Beijing is “wrapping up” meetings with Chinese officials and will return to the United States later on Wednesday after a “good few days”, a US official said.

Originally scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, the negotiations were extended by a day amid signs of progress on issues, including purchases of US farm and energy commodities, and increased access to China’s markets.

“We believe that the talks far exceeding their initial timeframe indicates that both Chinese and US officials are determined to reach an agreement in these negotiations,” Hu Shaohua, an analyst at Donghai Securities, said in a note.

Shares of most Chinese automakers rallied after the vice chairman of the country’s state planner said the country would introduce policies to boost domestic spending on items, including automobiles and home appliances.

Consumer firms also gained, in particular home appliance makers, as Beijing encourages spending in the sector.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 1.43 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 1.1 percent.

At 07:09 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.839 per US dollar, 0.23 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.8548.

Shares of Jinzhou Port Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, were the biggest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index, followed by those of Lifan Industry Group Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and ChangshuFengfan Power Equipment Co Ltd, up 10.08 percent.

Shares of Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, down 8.06 percent, were the biggest percentage losers on the index, followed by those of Zhejiang Dafeng Industrial Co Ltd, down 5.6 percent, and Shandong Tyan Home Co Ltd, falling 4.88 percent.

While the Shanghai benchmark index has risen 2 percent so far this year, the CSI300 is up 2.3 percent. China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 2.1 percent.

About 19.19 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 143.4 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 13.38 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 15.81 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

Envoy seeks intellectual support for Chinese projects

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing has said that there is need of intellectual support for success of Chinese projects in Pakistan and called upon PU administration and faculty members to play their role in this regard.

He expressed these views during a meeting with PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed at his office here on Wednesday. Chinese Consulate General Long Dingbing along with his Chinese colleagues, PU Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director External Linkages Prof DrKanwalAmeen, deans of faculties and principals were present on this occasion.

Addressing the meeting, ambassador Yao Jing expressed the desire to enhance more and more bilateral relations among the academic institutions of both the countries. He also stressed the need to promote cultural and people-to-people relations between the two countries. He said that Chinese government was offering scholarships to Pakistani students for their higher education in China however, more scholarship would be provided to top students to pursue their studies in top Chinese universities.

He said that China was encouraging investment and promotion of technology in Pakistan. He said that China also wanted to give more access to Pakistani products in China. He said that CPEC would play lead role in socio-economic development of Pakistan and the region.

He said that Lahoris were the friendliest people and Chinese Consulate General Long Dingbing was a lucky person who got posting in this city.

PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad said that PU was playing active role in promoting Pak-China relations. He said that recently, PU had granted admission to 15 Chinese students in PhD programme while as many as 3,500 students had completed Chinese language course from PU Confucius Centre. He said that PU had also signed memorandums of understandings with 30 Chinese institutions to enhance collaboration in different sectors and many PU faculty members and students were visiting China.

He said that PU had organized two international conferences and several seminars on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor last year. Later, the PU VC presented souvenir to Chinese ambassador.

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

NTDC official invites Chinese group to set up manufacturing units

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) Deputy Managing Director Wajahat Saeed has invited ZTT Group from China for setting up manufacturing units of cables and conductors to transfer technology to Pakistan. There is also a need of setting up Optical Power Ground Wire (OPGW) units in the country, he added.

He said the NTDC has planned to transmit and distribute 50,000 megawatt from existing 26000 megawatt electricity in next 20 years which would require the presence of transmission and distribution technology facilities in the country.

He was speaking at a seminar organized by ZTT International in collaboration with MK Engineers and Consultant on transmission and distribution technology at a local hotel.

It may be noted that MD NTDC was expected to address the seminar but he could not make it because of his preoccupation in the federal ministry. A good number of engineers from the public and private sector were present to attend the seminar.

He also introduced the NTDC to the audience and latest initiatives taken by it to improve the transmission and distribution of electricity system in the country.

CEO ZTT Ryan Shi and CEO MKEC Shahid Mehmood also spoke on the occasion. Also, detailed presentation was made on the introduction of cutting-edge technology of high temperature low sag equipment in Pakistan by ZTT. ZTT Group is a global and leading manufacturer active in the research development, design, production, supply, and installation with a complete wide range of telecom, power, renewable energy and in the oil and gas industries.

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

Oil up over 4pc on US-China trade talk hopes, OPEC cuts

- US crude climbs above \$50/bbl for first time in 2019
- Saudi Arabia confident cuts by OPEC, allies will balance market

- US oil stockpiles fall less than expected: EIA

NEW YORK: Oil prices jumped more than 4 percent on Wednesday as the extension of US-China talks raised hopes of easing trade tensions between the two superpowers, while OPEC-led crude output cuts also provided support.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose \$2.38 to \$52.16 a barrel, a 4.8 percent gain, by 1:15 p.m. EST (1815 GMT), the first time this year that WTI has topped \$50.

Brent crude futures gained \$2.48, or 4.2 percent, to \$61.20 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures for February delivery rose \$2.38 to \$52.16 a barrel, a 4.8 percent gain.

The day's sharp gains extended a rally that has pushed prices up more than 13 percent in 2019.

"After a dreadful December for risk markets, crude oil continues to catch a positive vibe," said Stephen Innes at futures brokerage Oanda in Singapore, noting that investors were growing less fearful that US-China trade tensions would slow global economic growth and dampen demand for crude.

The trade talks in Beijing were carried over into an unscheduled third day, amid signs of progress on issues including Chinese purchases of US farm and energy commodities. State newspaper China Daily said Beijing was keen to end the trade dispute, but that any agreement must involve compromise.

Oil prices also have received support from supply cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia.

The OPEC-led cuts, which officially began in January, are aimed at reining in an emerging glut as US crude output has surged to a record 11.7 million bpd.

Saudi Arabia's energy minister said he was confident that action to rein in output would bring the oil market into balance. Khalid al-Falih also said he would not rule out calling for further action.

Data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed domestic crude stockpiles fell less than expected last week. Gasoline and distillate inventories rose more than anticipated.

Crude inventories fell by 1.7 million barrels, smaller than the 2.8 million-barrel draw analysts had expected.

Gasoline inventories rose by 8.1 million barrels, far exceeding analysts' expectations in a Reuter's poll for a 3.4 million-barrel gain. Distillate stockpiles rose by 10.6 million barrels, more

than five times the expected 1.9 million-barrel increase, the EIA data showed. “The report is bearish given the smaller-than-expected decline in crude oil inventories and the very large increase in refined product inventories,” John Kilduff, a partner at Again Capital Management in New York.

Morgan Stanley cut its 2019 oil price forecasts by more than 10 percent. The bank said in a note it now expected Brent to average \$61 a barrel this year, and WTI to average around \$54 per barrel.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 10-01-19

Copper touches 1-week high on China demand optimism

LONDON: Copper prices climbed to one-week highs on Wednesday after reports of fresh stimulus in top consumer China and signs of progress in Sino-US trade talks reinforced expectations of stronger growth and demand.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange ended up 0.9 percent at \$5,958 a tonne. Earlier, the metal used widely in power and construction touched \$6,008 a tonne, its highest since Dec. 31.

“Depreciation of the Chinese currency and the stimulus effect will start to come through and Chinese data will start to improve, a major positive for industrial metals,” said Guy Wolf, global head of market analytics at brokerage MarexSpectron.

“Chinese data coming through confirms that growth slowed significantly, but this is all rearview mirror stuff.”

The Chinese yuan has fallen nearly 10 percent against the dollar since March last year. This will help its export industry, a large part of China’s economy.

Latest comes from a state planning officer saying China plans to introduce policies to boost domestic spending on items such as autos and home appliances this year as part of wider efforts to boost consumption in China.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) will also introduce policies in house leasing and services, as well as elderly and child care, with plans to also lower investment barriers in other sectors such as culture and sports.

China’s most globally high-profile and successful carmaker, Geely, is forecasting flat sales this year, a sharp slowdown from 2018 as the country’s giant auto market struggles with slowing economic growth and more cautious consumers.

“The central government has already started to encourage local governments to resume and speed up major projects, as evident in accelerating project approvals by the NDRC in October,” analysts at SocietyGeneral said in a note.

“More RRR cuts is a foregone conclusion and we argue that the PBOC should begin to lower interest rates.”

China’s foreign ministry said on Wednesday that the latest round of trade talks with the United States had concluded, with the results to be released soon.

Exports of copper concentrate from Indonesia’s Grasberg mine, the world’s second-largest copper mine, are expected to drop to 200,000 tons this year from around 1.2 million tons in 2018.

Copper is testing resistance at the 21-day moving average, currently around \$6,008. A break above could see momentum pick up for a test of \$6,110, where the 50- and 100-day moving averages appear to be converging.

Aluminum slipped 0.6 percent to \$1,852.5 a tonne, zinc rose 0.3 percent to \$2,492, lead climbed 0.1 percent to \$1,971, tin gained 0.6 percent to \$20,065 and nickel added 0.6 percent to \$11,250.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

China offers Elon Musk permanent residency

BEIJING: Tesla boss Elon Musk has been offered a “green card”, China said Thursday, a privilege enjoyed by an elite group of foreigners, including several Nobel laureates and a former NBA star.

Musk was in China for the ground-breaking of Tesla’s first overseas factory, which will allow it to sell vehicles directly in the world’s largest market for electric vehicles.

The high-profile entrepreneur met with Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday in Beijing, where they discussed Tesla’s China ambitions, said the State Council — the country’s cabinet.

“I hope to build Tesla’s Shanghai factory into a global example,” Musk told Li, according to a readout. “I really love China; I’m willing to visit here more often.”

Li replied: “If this is what you truly have in mind, we can give you a ‘Chinese green card’.”

Tesla declined to comment on the offer.

The number of foreigners with Chinese permanent residency crossed 10,000 in 2016, according to state-run China Daily.

Members of this club, according to the paper, include Dutch scientist Bernard Feringa, who won the 2016 Nobel Prize in chemistry, former NBA all-star Stephon Marbury, and Nobel-winning economist Robert Mundell.

Getting a Chinese “green card” has been described as “one of the most difficult tasks in the world”.—AFP

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

China moon rover ‘Jade Rabbit’ wakes from ‘nap’

BEIJING: China’s lunar rover got back to work on the far side of the moon Thursday after waking from five-day hibernation, its official social media page announced.

“Afternoon nap is over, waking up and getting moving,” the Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2) posted on the Twitter-like Weibo.

The rover on Saturday went into standby mode to protect itself from temperatures reaching towards 200 degrees Celsius (390 degrees Fahrenheit), the China Lunar Exploration Program under the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said.

The 140-kilogram (308-pound) rover has since resumed activities, which will include taking a picture of the front side of the lander and exploration missions.

The Chang’e-4 mission — named after a moon goddess — made the world’s first soft landing on the moon’s far side on January 3.

The rover, named after the moon goddess’s pet rabbit, successfully separated from the lander and drove onto the moon’s surface last Thursday.

Beijing is pouring billions into its military-run space program, with hopes of having a crewed space station by 2022, and of eventually sending humans on a lunar mission.

This is the second Chinese probe to land on the moon, following the Yutu (Jade Rabbit) rover mission in 2013.

China’s space agency has said the mission “lifted the mysterious veil” from the far side of the moon, which is never seen from Earth, and “opened a new chapter in human lunar exploration”.

Unlike the near side of the moon that offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged.

The moon is “tidally locked” to Earth in its rotation so the same side is always facing Earth.

The Chang’e-4 probe is equipped with instruments developed by scientists from Sweden, Germany and China to study the lunar environment, cosmic radiation and the interaction between solar wind and the moon’s surface, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Chang’e-4 landed within the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) Basin, the largest and deepest impact crater in the solar system.

Scientists have said it is a key area for solving several unknowns about the moon, including its internal structure and thermal evolution.—AFP

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

China’s iron ore futures dipped

BEIJING: China’s iron ore futures dipped by more than 1 percent on Thursday, as emergency anti-pollution measures in the north of the country dampened demand for steelmaking raw materials.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment said late on Wednesday that it expects a bout of severe smog to blanket regions in northern China, including top steelmaking province Hebei and coal mining hub Shanxi, from Jan. 10-14.

Some cities have issued smog alerts and asked heavy industry to restrict production, particularly the use of sinter plants, during the forecast pollution period.

Sintering is a highly pollute process that melts iron ore before it is put into a blast furnace. The most-active iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange fell as much as 1.5 percent, their steepest drop since Dec. 25, before closing down 1.2 percent at 506.50 yuan (\$74.61) a tonne.

Stocks of imported iron ore at Chinese ports had raised to 140.6 million tonnes, as of Jan. 7, their highest level in seven weeks, data compiled by Steel Home showed.

“Iron ore prices could be volatile in the near term due to restrictions on sintering plants,” analysts at Huatai Futures said in a note. “But there will still be some support for prices as steel mills are expected to replenish their stocks ahead of Chinese New Year in February, while shipments from overseas miners may fall in the coming weeks.”

Among other steelmaking ingredients, coke closed down 1.4 percent in Dalian at 1,934.50 yuan a tonne, while coking coal shrugged off an earlier dip to eke out a 0.1 percent gain at 1,192 yuan a tonne.

Benchmark steel rebar prices on the Shanghai Futures Exchange closed down 0.3 percent at 3,514 yuan a tonne as investors remain cautious over trade talks between China and the United

States.

China's commerce ministry said the three-day talks in Beijing this week were extensive and detailed, and established a foundation for the resolution of each other's concerns.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

China says US trade talks 'laid foundation' to resolve concerns

BEIJING: China said Thursday that trade talks in Beijing with a US negotiating team had “laid the foundation” to resolve concerns held by both sides in a bruising trade war.

US officials visited Beijing from Monday to Wednesday for the first sit-down talks since President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed on December 1 to a three-month truce in the escalating spat.

World markets rose Wednesday on increasing optimism that the two sides would be able to hammer out a deal ahead of a March deadline and avert further import tariff hikes — though Asian stocks were mostly down on Thursday.

China and the US “conducted extensive, in-depth and meticulous exchanges... which enhanced mutual understanding and laid the foundation for resolving issues of mutual concern,” the Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement.

“Both parties agreed to continue to maintain close contact.”

Washington has been clamoring for an end to the forced transfer — and even theft — of American technology and intellectual property, as well as steep government subsidies for Chinese companies.

When asked about progress in those areas on Thursday, China's commerce ministry spokesman GaoFeng said that structural issues were a focus of the talks.

“Negotiations between the two sides in this area made progress,” he said.

The US Trade Representative office said Wednesday that the talks focused on “ways to achieve fairness, reciprocity, and balance in trade relations”, as well as the need for “ongoing verification and effective enforcement” of any agreement.

For Washington, ensuring China makes good on its pledges is key — and Gao acknowledged that was important to China as well on Thursday.

“The Chinese side also believes that the implementation mechanism of any agreement is very important and both parties have an obligation to carry it out,” Gao told reporters during a regular press conference.

“For the next step, both sides will continue to work hard together, and advance the negotiation work according to the original plan.”

The Trump administration also wants Beijing to buy more American goods to narrow a yawning trade gap — a sticking point for US president — and allow foreign players better access to the Chinese market.

“The talks also focused on China’s pledge to purchase a substantial amount of agricultural, energy, manufactured goods, and other products and services from the United States,” USTR said in a statement.

Gao declined to provide details when asked about purchases on Thursday.—AFP

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

China factory gate inflation dives as trade war rumbles on

BEIJING: The cost of producing goods in China’s factories slowed sharply in December, a sign demand remains weak as the US trade war drags on, while consumer inflation also flagged, official data showed Thursday.

The producer price index (PPI) — an important barometer of the industrial sector that measures the cost of goods at the factory gate — rose 0.9 percent on-year in December, compared with a 2.7 percent rise the previous month.

The reading marks the lowest growth since September 2016, and fell short of forecasts in a Bloomberg News survey.

A slowdown in factory gate inflation reflects sluggish demand, while a turn to deflation could dent corporate profits.

It “may enter negative territory very soon given the negative sequential growth it already recorded”, Goldman Sachs economists forecast.—AFP

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

China stocks weakens

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares shed earlier gains to end lower on Thursday as worries about sluggish economic growth sunk in, while the excitement over the US-China trade negotiations and policy support faded.

The Shanghai Composite index closed 0.4 percent weaker at 2,535.10 points, while the blue-chip CSI300 index was down by 0.2 percent.

China's producer prices in December rose at their slowest pace since September 2016 as factories confront a slowdown in demand even as Beijing steps up policy support to bolster the economy.

The "slowdown is in line with the wider trend, but the scale of the fall was surprisingly big. It reflects that the Chinese economy deteriorated really rapidly in the fourth quarter of last year," said Steven Leung, director of sales at the brokerage UOB Kay Hian in Hong Kong. These worries helped offset the optimism brought about by the Chinese central bank, whose governor promised on Wednesday to ratchet up support for the economy by improving its policy transmission mechanism.

"The economy is obviously weak, but what's changed is that it is now weak beyond the market's expectation. We would expect stronger policy support to come," said Cao Xuefeng, head of research at Huaxi Securities in Chengdu.

CSI 300's financial sector sub-index closed lower by 0.3 percent, the consumer staples sector edged up 0.1 percent, and the healthcare sub-index ended 0.5 percent lower.

The smaller Shenzhen index and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index were weaker by 0.3 percent.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Baoding TianweiBaobian Electric Co Ltd, XiAn Typical Industries Co Ltd, and Jiangsu Sunshine Co Ltd, all up by 10.1 percent.

The largest percentage losses in the Shanghai index were Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, which closed down 10.1 percent, followed by ARTS Group Co Ltd, which ended 10 percent lower and Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, which closed 9.9 percent lower. About 15.99 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 19.19 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

Chinese envoy suggests steps to attract huge investment in Pakistan

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that good trade policies, low rate of taxes, tax incentives and business-friendly environment in Pakistan can attract huge Chinese investment.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

He said there is no quota restriction for Pakistani businessmen in China. The mutual trade can be enhanced through people to people direct contact.

Businessmen of both the countries should play their role to further increase bilateral trade, he added.

The Chinese ambassador said that under the Joint Coordination Committee they are working on several projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) like power plants, railways, metro train, road infrastructure and Gwadar Port.

He said that Chinese government is also focusing on health, education, agriculture, water, poverty alleviation and socio economic development of less-developed areas like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said special economic zones are also underway which should be given priority because they would boost joint ventures, private to private cooperation, especially in manufacturing and socio-economic sectors of the country.

He added that 70-80 percent priority would be given to Pakistan's share with main focus to enhance exports of Pakistan.

“There is a dire need to find ways to develop consistent policies and stable economic relations with each other. Our present level of trade seems to be the result of lack of knowledge about the mutual potential of Pakistani and Chinese economies,” the ambassador added.

He also assured that the LCCI delegation visiting China in March would be extended full cooperation and support.

LCCI President Almas Hyder said that bilateral trade figures are following increasing trend from the last four years. Since 2014, the average increase in imports from China is almost US 2 billion

dollars per year. In contrast to that Pakistan's exports are constantly dipping for the last three years, he said.

Almas Hyder said that Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to China in November 2018 was assured that the Chinese government would offer special concessions to Pakistan to enhance exports.

China and Pakistan have agreed upon sharing trade related data to address the issue of disparity in the figures of imports and exports between the two countries.

For example, Pakistan's imports from China in 2017 were shown as \$15.4 billion on ITC website. When the base country is taken as China, the same source shows that China exported to the tune of \$18.3 billion to Pakistan, he added.

The LCCI president said that due to miss-declaration, both the countries are suffering losses therefore necessary measures should be taken to check it. Pakistan has not been able to reap full benefits of FTA with China in terms of exports as China has given better tariff rates to ASEAN countries.

Since FTA is being re-negotiated, there must be deliberations on these facts, he added. He also proposed formation of a task force comprising members of business community of Lahore and Chinese counterparts to address these concerns.

He said due to the buildup of unfavorable trade scenario for the Chinese companies in the USA, many of them are relocating to India, Vietnam and Cambodia but not to Pakistan that is surprising.

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

Oil eases after rally as trade talk hopes fade, China data weak

- Iran will not comply with US sanctions: oil minister

NEW YORK: Oil prices were slightly lower on Thursday in see-saw trade, easing the day after a strong rally as investors were no longer encouraged by US-China trade talks and as weak Chinese economic data dampened risk appetite.

Brent crude futures fell 23 cents to \$61.21 a barrel, by 1:09 p.m. EST (1809 GMT). US West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell 9 cents to \$52.27 a barrel.

Earlier in the session, both benchmarks hit their highest in nearly a month. WTI hit a session high of \$52.70 per barrel and Brent rose to \$61.91 a barrel.

The previous session, oil prices jumped 5 percent, capping off an eight-day rally that marked oil's longest sustained rise since July 2017.

Global financial markets had surged on hope Washington and Beijing would avert an all-out trade war. Three days of talks between the two biggest economies that concluded on Wednesday.

But the rise in global markets began to dwindle after the two sides issued vaguely positive statements that lacked concrete details.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump told reporters the countries were having “tremendous success” in their discussions, but offered no other details.

Disappointing data from China added to concerns about the global economy. China's producer prices in December rose at their slowest pace in more than two years, a worrying sign of deflationary risks.

“Data out of China, weak inflation and the consummation of China-US talks without any major breakthroughs that we're aware of at this point led to some profit taking after the incredible run we had yesterday,” said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago.

The US stock market, which oil futures have tracked closely, was also mostly flat after a four-day rise.

“Today's price movement has been heavily driven by swings in the equities,” Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates, said in a note.

Barclays forecast that Brent will remain range bound at \$55 to \$65 per barrel as inventories build in the coming months, while it expects “the market will return to a balanced state” by the second half of 2019.

US bank Morgan Stanley cut its 2019 oil price forecasts by more than 10 percent on Wednesday, pointing to weakening economic growth expectations and rising oil supply.

US crude oil production has held around a record high of 11.7 million barrels per day since early November, according to government data.

To counter rising US output, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, including Russia, reached a deal to rein in supply that officially began in January. Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said US sanctions against his country were “fully illegal” and Tehran would not comply with them.

The OPEC deal had hung in the balance on concerns that Iran, whose crude exports have been depleted by US sanctions, would receive no exemption and block the agreement.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

Copper slips as US-China trade optimism fades

- Tin touches 6-month peak

LONDON: Copper slipped on Thursday as optimism over US-China trade talks faded and poor China data weighed, though a weaker dollar and still tight supply-side conditions kept losses in check.

China said the three days of talks in Beijing had established a “foundation” to resolve the two country’s differences, but gave virtually nothing in the way of details on key issues at stake. At the same time, the world’s biggest base metals consumer released data showing factory-gate inflation rose at its slowest rate in more than two years.

“The question is how sustainable the (China-US) developments will be. It’s given the market breathing space but there’s still no substantial information communicated,” said Xiao Fu, head of commodity market strategy at Bank of China International.

Underpinning copper, however, the dollar languished near a three-month low, making dollar-priced metals cheaper for non-US investors.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange ended down 0.5 percent at \$5,928 a tonne, snapping three days of gains. The metal fell 18 percent in 2018 and has slipped 0.1 percent since the start of this year.

“The net spec short is small but growing at 5.4 percent of open interest. Support (is at) \$5,890/900 basis the lows this week,” said MarexSpectron in a note.

The soldering metal closed above \$20,000 a tonne for the first time since late June on Wednesday. It closed up 0.4 percent at \$20,140 a tonne, having hit a fresh six-month high of \$2,200.

“The price rise is likely to have been triggered by concerns about supply, for Indonesia - the world’s largest tin exporter - has been exporting considerably less tin since October,” Commerzbank said.

Stocks of tin held in LME-registered warehouses are at their lowest in 20 years at just 1,505 tonnes, down 50 percent since mid-December.

Exports of copper concentrate from Indonesia's Grasberg mine, the world's second-largest copper mine, are expected to drop to 200,000 tonnes this year from around 1.2 million tonnes in 2018.

Copper production in Chile, the world's top producer of the red metal, reached 5.33 million tonnes in November, a 6 percent increase over the same period of the previous year.

Mining firm Anglo American Plc is betting on South America as its main growth area for base metals in the coming years, a top executive told Reuters.

Aluminum ended up 0.5 percent at \$1,861, zinc closed down 1.3 percent at \$2,461, lead ended up 0.3 percent at \$1,976 while nickel ended flat at \$11,245.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-01-19

CPEC projects may create 1.2m jobs, opine experts

BEIJING: Approximately 1.2 million jobs could be created indirectly in Pakistan because of agreed projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), experts said here on Thursday.

The CPEC has been blamed for causing a debt trap and economic distress in Pakistan, but facts have proved that the recent surge in Chinese investment is yielding employment benefits.

This is a hard-won achievement, but 1.2 million jobs aren't enough. While the first phase of the CPEC concentrated on infrastructure projects, the second part should focus on employment creation by setting up special economic zones (SEZs) and supporting economic integration.

According to the report, the CPEC needs to accelerate the shift of its focus to provide more jobs for Pakistani people.

Although there has been much controversy about the CPEC over issues such as an uneven distribution of interests among Pakistani people, the project can only move forward. But it won't be plain sailing due to challenges such as Pakistan's foreign exchange crisis and security problems, and people should be prepared for potential setbacks. However, as long as the CPEC creates a lot of jobs, it will win the favor of Pakistani people.

The construction of transportation infrastructure under the CPEC framework has created many jobs for local people. This is obviously good news for the country's poverty alleviation campaign. However, infrastructure work provides mainly limited-term employment. It takes time to complete infrastructure construction, but the country will see a substantial decrease in job creation in the future if it relies heavily on infrastructure construction to generate employment. With about 200 million people, Pakistan needs long-term employment opportunities. The CPEC has its weak points, but it also offers unique advantages. The CPEC is

designed to connect Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan with China's inland areas, offering another shipping option for Chinese importers and exporters.—INP

Business Recorder, 12-01-19

Russia, China push UN to stay out of DR Congo poll dispute

UNITED NATIONS: Russia and China led calls at the United Nations Security Council on Friday for world powers to stay out of an election dispute in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Western nations and observers have questioned the outcome of the December 30 poll, in which opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi was declared the winner, with Belgium, France and the United States saying they await details from election authorities on the vote count.

The council heard competing appeals from the DR Congo's poll chief to accept the result, while the head of the Catholic bishops conference urged the top UN body to demand the release of data from polling stations to allow verification.

China and Russia made clear that the top UN body should be concerned by the stability of the DR Congo as it undertakes what is set to be the first peaceful handover of power since its independence from Belgium in 1960.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said "any speculation" about the vote was "unacceptable" and "liable to generate far-reaching repercussions for stability both in the DRC and the entire Great Lakes region."

China's envoy Ma Zhaoxu called for "full respect" of the authority of the CENI election commission that organized the vote and announced the outcome.

"We believe that the people of the DRC have the ability and wisdom to resolve the relevant issues in their own way," said Ma.

There are suspicions that President Joseph Kabila, in power since 2001, has entered into a deal with Tshisekedi to hand him the presidency after his hand-picked candidate came in third place. Opposition rival Martin Fayulu, who came in a close second, has dismissed the result and announced he will challenge the outcome before the Constitutional Court.

Bishop Marcel Utambi, who heads the CENCO Catholic bishop conference, renewed his claim that the announced results are not in line with the data collected by its 40,000 observers, suggesting that Fayulu was the winner. Utambi argued that the release of the records of vote-counting at the polling stations could "dispel doubt among the population as to the outcome and may therefore set minds at rest."—AFP

Business Recorder, 12-01-19

Wu magic sparks China to 3-0 Asian Cup win over Philippines

ABU DHABI: Star striker Wu Lei fired a brilliant double as China beat the Philippines 3-0 on Friday to virtually assure their place in the last 16 of the Asian Cup.

Marcello Lippi emerged victorious against old foe Sven-Goran Eriksson in a heavyweight coaching clash despite spirited early resistance from the Filipino ‘Street Dogs’ in Abu Dhabi.

China, runners-up in 1984 and 2004, improved to six points from two games in Group C after beating Kyrgyzstan 2-1 in their opening game.

They should have led after 32 minutes when Wu Xi headed wastefully wide from point-blank range.

But Wu Lei provided the spark five minutes before half-time, turning on the edge of the box and whipping a right-foot shot into the far corner.

His second was even better as he swivelled to slam a Hao Junmin free kick past goalkeeper Michael Falkegaard on the volley after 66 minutes to effectively finish the tie.

Substitute Yu Dabao added a third with his first touch 10 minutes from time.

Pulverised 8-1 the last time the teams met in 2017, the Philippines gave China more of a game this time, having lost 1-0 to South Korea on their Asian Cup debut earlier this week.

Kevin Ingreso forced a fingertip save from China goalkeeper Yan Junling in first-half stoppage time but Eriksson’s faded badly after the break.—AFP

Business Recorder, 12-01-19

China shares move up

SHANGHAI: Shares in China ended higher on Friday amid news that China’s top trade negotiator may visit Washington this month, boosting optimism about a resolution to the Sino-US trade war. However, concerns about a slowing economy continued to weigh on investor sentiments.

The Shanghai Composite index settled 0.74 percent higher at 2,553.83, while the blue-chip CSI300 index advanced 0.72 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index gained 0.76 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index crept 0.204 percent higher.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced on Thursday that Chinese vice Premier Liu He will “most likely” visit the US capital later in January for trade talks.

US President Donald Trump said his country is “having tremendous success with China” in trade negotiations.

China plans to set a lower economic growth target of 6-6.5 percent in 2019 compared with last year’s target of “around” 6.5 percent, policy sources told Reuters, as Beijing gears up to cope with higher US tariffs and weakening domestic demand.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index firmed 0.3 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 0.97 percent.

At 07:18 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7524 per US dollar, 0.54 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.789.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Win time Energy Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, followed by Henan Zhongfu Industrial Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and Ningxia Jiase Renewables Corp Ltd, up by 10.08 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Shanghai Guangdian Electric Group Co Ltd, down 10.09 percent, followed by Zhan chang Big Data Corp Ltd that lost 10.01 percent, and Jinzhou Port Co Ltd, down 9.16 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 2.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 2.8 percent, while China’s H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 3.2 percent.

About 14.94 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 109.1 percent of the market’s 30-day moving average of 13.69 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 15.99 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 12-01-19

Base metals rise on trade detente hopes as US-China talks loom

- Copper on track for biggest weekly jump since Nov
- Zinc backwardation eases

LONDON: Copper prices rose on Friday on hopes for a thaw in a trade dispute between Washington and Beijing, as the two sides prepared for more talks to resolve their issues.

US officials expect China's top trade negotiator to visit Washington this month, signaling that higher-level discussions are likely to follow this week's talks with mid-level officials in Beijing.

The tit-for-tat trade dispute has pushed down metals prices on expectations it could hurt demand, especially from top consumer China.

"We started off the year with a series of weak data that raised concerns about demand, but it's a better environment for base metals at the moment given the progress in trade talks," Danske Bank commodities analyst Jens Pedersen said. Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) ended 0.2 percent higher at \$5,942 per tonne, logging its biggest weekly gain since mid-November.

The dollar rose against the euro, boosted by technical factors after falling earlier on a message that the U.S Federal Reserve will be patient on monetary policy.

Indonesia exported 5,260.55 tonnes of refined tin last month, an increase of nearly 51 percent from a month earlier, data from the Trade Ministry showed.

China plans to set a lower economic growth target of 6-6.5 percent in 2019 compared with last year's target of "around" 6.5 percent, policy sources told Reuters, as Beijing gears up to cope with higher US tariffs and weakening domestic demand.

China's refined zinc production saw its steepest plunge since 2013 last year amid tight raw material supply, longer maintenance periods and the relocation of the country's top smelter, according to Antaika, the research arm of the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association.

The discount of LME cash zinc to the three-month contract narrowed to \$12 a tonne, the smallest since Oct. 15.

Nickel was the biggest gainer in the base metals complex, rising 2 percent to \$11,460 per tonne after touching its highest since Nov. 15. On-warrant stocks of nickel available to the market in LME-approved warehouses were at their lowest since April 2014 at 144,882 tonnes.

Aluminium fell 1.3 percent to \$1,836 per tonne, zinc gained 1.3 percent to \$2,492, lead rose 1.3 percent to \$2,002, and tin added 0.8 percent to close at \$20,300 after touching a six-month high.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 13-01-19

CTD directed to submit report on Chinese Consulate attack on Feb 8

KARACHI: The anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Saturday directed the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) to compile and submit the investigation report on February 8 with regard to the attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi.

Amid the hearing, CTD officers, investigating into the case and having failed to find any evidence and arresting those responsible for the attack on the Chinese Consulate, pleaded with the court to close the case, whereas the jury expressed concerns over “reasons for keeping the case in the A-Class category.”

The A-class category is applicable to those cases where suspects are apparently unknown or untraceable.

‘Why there had been no efforts to catch the attackers,’ the court asked, while ordering the officers strictly to investigate the matter thoroughly and arrest the suspects.

The current report presented before the court mentioned ‘information’ regarding the killing of AslamAchoo, however, further states of having no confirmation or evidence.

AslamAchoo ‘was’ a senior commander of the banned outfit Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).—NNI

Business Recorder, 13-01-19

China stock market inflows could double in 2019: securities official

SHANGHAI: The inclusion of Chinese A-shares in global stock indexes could see foreign inflows into China’s stock market double in 2019; the Shanghai Securities News quoted a top Chinese securities regulator as saying on Saturday.

“Last year, net foreign stock market inflows reached 300 billion yuan (\$44.38 billion) and this year we estimate that inflows will increase further. We could expect 600 billion yuan,” Fang Xinghai, vice chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), was quoted as saying at a market forum.

It did not say where the forum was taking place.

Fang said that in addition to the Shanghai-Hong Kong and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect programmes, the inflows would be driven by a boost in the proportion of A-shares included in MSCI global indexes, as well as the inclusion of A-shares in FTSE Russell and Dow Jones indexes.

Fang also said that a number of US, Japanese and European investment banks had applied to raise their stakes in domestic brokerages to 51 percent.

In December, UBS Group became the first foreign bank to win approval for a majority stake in a domestic securities joint venture.

Fang said that several foreign banks had expressed a hope to apply to raise their stakes to 100 percent once permitted by regulations, and that the CSRC would strongly support such a move.

China's benchmark share indexes were among the world's worst performing equity markets last year, losing around a quarter of their value as the escalating Sino-US trade war put further pressure on the slowing Chinese economy. But stocks have drawn some support over the last month on signs of an easing in trade tensions.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 13-01-19

China's yuan to break 7 per dollar in six months

BENGALURU: China's yuan is still expected to breach the key 7-per-dollar mark within six months as a dimming economic growth outlook is likely to push the central bank toward easier monetary policy this year, a Reuter's poll found.

The number of analysts predicting the yuan will weaken to 7 per dollar or beyond at any time during the polling horizon increased in the latest poll from previous months and was the highest since a July 2017 survey.

Although the yuan fell about 6 percent last year, with most losses coming after June when the US-China trade war escalated, it still did not crack the 7-per-dollar rate.

The managed currency, also known as the renminbi, went through wild gyrations last year, with the spread between its high and low the widest in almost three decades. For the second month running, a strong majority of analysts who answered an extra question said the yuan would weaken to 7 per dollar within six months, despite a widely-held view the Chinese authorities will step in to defend it at that key level.

That view is largely driven by expectations the Chinese economy will lose further momentum in 2019 amid softening domestic and export demand, prompting the central bank to take more steps to reduce the risk of a sharper slowdown.

However, median estimates in the wider Jan. 2-8 poll of more than 70 foreign exchange strategists showed the yuan will only weaken about 1.5 percent to 6.95 per dollar by end-June from about 6.85 on Tuesday. It is then forecast to end the year at 6.89 per dollar. Much will also

depend on how long it takes China to stabilize its cooling economy and whether Washington and Beijing end their trade war.

“Looking at the Chinese fundamentals, the economy is slowing and the central bank is easing monetary policy, with a lot of uncertainties over the next steps for the trade dispute between the US and China,” said Erik Nelson, currency strategist at Wells Fargo.

“All these point to further weakness in the Chinese currency,” he added.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on Monday the United States and China could reach a trade deal that “we can live with” as dozens of officials from the world’s two largest economies held talks in a bid to end a trade dispute that roiled global markets last year.

Despite optimism around the talks in Beijing, some respondents warned that the US-China relationship remained on shaky ground and that tension could flare up again soon.

“Until the outcome in the latest US-China trade truce proves as substantial as the working level discussions, the risk remains for more tariffs on each other’s goods. If the US reinstates the decision to lift the tariff rate on \$200 billion worth of China’s goods to 25 percent from 10 percent, the yuan could depreciate to 7.30 per dollar,” noted Philip Wee, currency strategist at DBS Bank.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 13-01-19

China raises corn output estimate by 20pc

BEIJING: China will produce 257.33 million tonnes of corn in the 2018/19 crop year; the agriculture ministry said on Friday, up 20 percent from last month’s forecast of 215.04 million tonnes.

The higher outlook was based on China’s most recent agriculture census, the ministry said in its monthly China Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report.

China, the world’s second largest producer of corn, sharply revised higher its corn output data for the past 10 years last November following its third national agricultural census.

The ministry on Friday also raised its forecast for corn consumption in the year that began in October to 285.28 million tonnes, up by 34.48 million tonnes from its previous estimate.

Corn imports for the year were seen at 1.5 million tonnes, down from the previous forecast of 2.5 million tonnes, the report said.

China's 2018/19 corn ending stocks deficit was seen at 26.5 million tonnes against the previous forecast of 33.31 million tonnes.

Soybean production for 2018/19 was forecast at 16 million tonnes, up from a previous forecast of 15.8 million tonnes.

Soybean consumption for the year was seen at 102.8 million tonnes, down 3 percent from 107 million tonnes in the previous year, as a series of deadly African swine fever outbreaks and lower protein levels in animal feed pushed down demand for soyameal, the ministry said in the report.

China has confirmed about 100 cases of African swine fever across 23 provinces since early August last year. The disease, for which there is neither a cure nor a vaccine, is deadly to pigs but does not harm people.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 13-01-19

China's Huawei fires employee detained in Poland

BEIJING: Huawei said Saturday it has fired a Chinese employee who was arrested in Poland on espionage allegations, as China's telecom giant distanced itself from the case amid Western concerns that it could act as a proxy for Chinese security services.

This week's detention of Wang Weijing follows the December arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer in Canada and US efforts to blacklist the company internationally over security concerns.

While China's government has vociferously defended Huawei CFO MengWanzhou and demanded her release, the firm swiftly sacked Wang, who works at its representative office in Poland.

"His alleged actions have no relation to the company," Huawei said in a statement to AFP.—AFP

Business Recorder, 14-01-19

China will tackle US trade dispute in 2019: minister

BEIJING: China will work to straighten out trade frictions with the US this year; the countries commerce minister told state media, following talks with US negotiators this week. A large US delegation ended a three-day visit to Beijing Wednesday in the first face to face trade talks since President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in December pledged a three-month truce in the escalating tariff spat.

China said the talks had “laid the foundation” to resolve mutual concerns on trade.

“We will properly handle the China-US economic and trade frictions” this year, commerce minister Zhong Shan said, according to a Saturday report by state media outlet Xinhua.

Zhong said Beijing will also promote outside investment, work to pass a foreign investment law and improve its dispute resolution system, Xinhua reported.

China’s policymakers have long promised a more open and free market with better protections for foreign investors, but officials have been slow to make good on those pledges — leading the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China to coin the term “promise fatigue”.

Zhong said China’s negative list — which restricts investment in certain industries — will be further slimmed down, while Beijing also intends to expand economic sectors open for foreign investment without the need for a Chinese joint-venture partner.

The minister specifically outlined a push for foreign investment in manufacturing, high-tech industries and investment in China’s inner regions — pledges which are similar to promises made last year.

Pushing Beijing to implement economic reforms and further open up areas for US investment is a focus in trade negotiations with Washington.—AFP

Business Recorder, 14-01-19

Ahsan terms CPEC national strategic project

KARACHI: PML-N leader AhsanIqbal has said that people of Pakistan are custodians of the CPEC as a strategic national project.

In a press statement, he said that Pakistan doesn’t face any economic difficulty due to the CPEC investment on the contrary the CPEC has greatly helped Pakistan solve energy crisis, untapped valuable resources such as Thar coal, where coal with equal energy value as Saudi Arabia and Iran’s oil was sitting underground for 70 years, brought much needed foreign investment, helped build modern transport infrastructure in the country on most favorable terms.

Balance of payment crisis is not an outcome of the CPEC rather it is due to the political drama, which was staged to oust PML-N government that shied away billions of dollars in foreign investment due to political uncertainty while GDP was growing to almost 6 percent.

But, inflow of dollars got stalled due to shying away of billions of dollars in investments thanks to Panama drama. Some vested interests and elements in present government are unnecessarily creating controversies about CPEC. We should refrain from making national projects centre of

any controversy. The present government has now found that CPEC projects were done most transparently.—PR

Business Recorder, 14-01-19

Bank of China to enable payment in yuan on US e-commerce platforms

BEIJING: Bank of China's New York branch will enable Chinese firms to receive payment in yuan rather than dollars from their sales on US e-commerce platforms this year, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday.

Pledging to introduce more services for small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in cross-border trade between the United States and China, executives from the branch said payment in yuan would be possible by tapping new functions of e-MPay, a cross-border payment system launched by the branch in 2016.

The branch is developing a system using an existing platform to "facilitate trade finance for e-commerce players," said Xu Chen, president and chief executive officer of Bank of China USA, Xinhua reported, without providing further details.

The system will adhere to US anti-money laundering rules through artificial intelligence and cyber security technologies, Xu added.

Bank of China has run into problems with overseas anti-money laundering regulations in the past. In February 2017, it agreed to pay a 600,000 euro (\$688,000) fine to settle a case involving its Milan branch. Prosecutors had alleged more than 4.5 billion euros was smuggled to China from Italy between 2006 and 2010.

A unit of fellow state-owned bank Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) last year settled money laundering charges in the United States.—Reuters .

Dawn News

Dawn News, 01-01-19

China's manufacturing shrinks in December

BEIJING: China's manufacturing activity in December contracted for the first time in over two years, official data showed on Monday, amid a bruising trade war with the United States and a slowing domestic economy.

The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a gauge of factory conditions, came in at 49.4 for the month, down from 50.0 in November, according to official figures from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Marking its lowest point in over two years, the PMI fell below the 50.0 mark separating expansion from contraction.

'Some industries have gradually entered the off-season of production, and companies are cautious about the recent market expectations,' said NBS statistician Zhao Qinghe in a statement.

'Second, due to factors such as more external environmental variables and slower internal demand, the recent import and export boom has been lower.' He noted that the average PMI for 2018 has been 50.9, but a slowdown in global economic growth and international trade friction had impacted China's manufacturing industry.

After spending much of the year locked in a trade war, China and the US are now reportedly preparing for talks after a 90-day truce agreed between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in Argentina earlier this month.-AFP

Dawn News, 02-01-19

Cooperation best for both China and US, Xi tells Trump

BEIJING: History shows that cooperation is the best choice for both China and the United States, Chinese President Xi Jinping told US President Donald Trump in a congratulatory message on Tuesday to mark 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties.

The two countries agreed last month to a 90-day temporary ceasefire in their bitter trade war to give them time to hold fresh talks to try and end a dispute that has seen those level increasingly severe tariffs on each other's goods.

In his message to Trump, Xi said China-US relations have experienced ups and downs but have made historic progress over the past four decades, state news agency Xinhua said.

This has brought huge benefits to the two peoples and has contributed greatly to world peace, stability and prosperity, Xi added.

'History has proved that cooperation is the best choice for both sides,' Xi said.

Sino-US relations are in an important stage, he added.

'I attach great importance to the development of China-US relations and am willing to work with President Trump to summarize the experience of the development of China-US relations and

implement the consensus we have reached in a joint effort to advance China-US relations featuring coordination, cooperation and stability so as to better benefit the two peoples as well as the people of the rest of the world,' he said.

Trump sent his own congratulatory message in return, saying it was his priority to promote cooperative and constructive US-China relations, Xinhua added.

Xi and Trump also spoke by telephone over the weekend. Trump said he had a 'long and very good call' with Xi and that a possible trade deal between the United States and China was progressing well. China and the United States have made plans for face-to-face consultations over trade in January, China's Commerce Ministry said last week.

Xinhua said it was only natural the two countries would have disagreements and encounter problems, considering their 'different social systems, development paths and historical and cultural backgrounds'-Reuters

Dawn News, 03-01-19

China acknowledges it's extending financial help to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD:ChinaonWednesday tentatively acknowledged it was extending financial assistance to help Pakistan boost its dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang in his daily media briefing in Beijing said: 'The Chinese side has offered and will continue to offer its best through assistance, trade, investment and all-around practical cooperation to support and boost Pakistan's economic and social development.

He was responding to a question about a Financial Times report, which said that China had pledged to lend at least \$2bn to Pakistan to shore up its foreign exchange reserves and prevent further devaluation of the rupee against the dollar.

This was the first official confirmation by a Chinese official that Beijing had planned to extend a financial package to Islamabad.

Mr. Lu further noted that Pakistan and China are 'all-weather strategic partners' and both have been 'in close communication with each other on the relevant cooperation'.

The details of the conditions onwhich the assistance is being extended to Pakistan are still not known, though there have been speculations it's being given as a loan at an exorbitant rate.

Pakistan had formally sought Chinese assistance during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing last November. The Chinese leadership had after the meetings with PM Khan pledged to

help Pakistan out of the looming economic crisis, but the details were subsequently worked out in meetings at the official and experts' levels.

It was initially said that Chinese package would also include a currency swap arrangement and increased access for Pakistani products to Chinese markets to redress Pak-China trade imbalance. Mr. Kang in his statement also indicated that the package would be a comprehensive one. Pakistan is also planning to launch 'Panda Bond' to rise up to \$1 billion from Chinese equity market. Pakistan and China are, moreover, jointly undertaking the multi-billion dollar infrastructure and communications project the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). So far 22 early harvest projects under the CPEC have been completed or are under construction with a total investment of \$18.9bn. The CPEC, officials say, is being expanded and the two sides at a meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee held on Dec 20 had signed a memorandum of understanding on industrial cooperation and an agreement was also reached on promoting the construction of special economic zones. Moreover, China pledged to support projects such as education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, health care and vocational training under the newly set up socio-economic component of the connectivity project.

Pakistan had earlier secured balance of payments support from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates both of whom had pledged to deposit \$3bn each in the State Bank of Pakistan. Saudi Arabia has already transferred \$2bn to Pakistan under the arrangement. The kingdom has, moreover, promised to provide oil on deferred payment.

Negotiations with the International Monetary Fund over a bailout are, meanwhile, continuing and the government last month submitted a Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies envisaging fiscal adjustment, energy pricing, monetary and exchange rate policy and structural reforms, but differences between the two are said to be persisting.

Dawn News, 03-01-19

Chinese contractor to build warship for Pakistan: report

KARACHI: China has started building an advanced warship that would be exported to Pakistan under a defense agreement between the two neighboring countries, China Daily reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper, which quoted China State Shipbuilding Corp one of the largest state-owned defense contractors, said the construction had started at the Hudong-Zhonghua shipyard in Shanghai. It is said to be a version of China's most advanced warship.

Though the Chinese corporation did not specify the type, China Daily quoted Pakistan Navy as saying the ship's class was Type 054AP, which is based on China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's Type 054A frigate. Pakistan has ordered four such ships, the newspaper said, quoting a statement by the Pakistan Navy.

In June last year, Pakistan Navy had announced that it was purchasing two multirole Type 054A frigates from China for bolstering its war fighting capability.

The navy had said that Pakistan's fleet of Type 054A warships would grow to four by 2021. The PLA Navy has about 30 of the Type 054A ships, each of which has a loaded displacement of 4,000 tonnes and is equipped with advanced radars and missiles.

According to a researcher at the PLA Naval Military Studies Research Institute, Cao Weidong, it appeared that the equipment installed on the ships will be Chinese, which shows China's 'progress in the industry and the Pakistani Navy's confidence in our technology and capability'. Previously, Pakistan would always ask its Chinese contractors to install Western radars and weaponry as it behaved that West's technology was superior to China's, Mr. Cao said. 'I believe the reason they chose our type is that ours is one of the few that can carry out all of the air-defense, anti-ship and anti-submarine tasks, he said, adding that he believed that the ships would improve Pakistan's naval defense. KARACHI: China has started building an advanced warship that would be exported to Pakistan under a defense agreement between the two neighboring countries, China Daily reported on Wednesday.

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Dawn News, 03-01-19

Police reopen missing Chinese engineer case

RAWALPINDI: Following the directives of the federal government, the police have reopened the case of the kidnapping of Chinese engineer Pingzhi Liu, who went missing under mysterious circumstances while working on a tunnel linked to a river at the Karot Power Project, Kahuta on Dec 20, 2017.

A kidnapping case was registered with the Kahuta police, who had closed the file.

Sources said a deputy superintendent of police has now been assigned the investigation.

The police suspected that Mr. Liu may have gone back to China via land and made all efforts to track him down. The investigation was stopped when they could not find any clue. The interior ministry has now directed the police to reopen the case and track down the missing engineer.

When Mr. Liu went missing, the immigration authorities at the Benazir Bhutto International Airport were alerted but according to the immigration record, he had not left the country by air.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Operation) Abdul Qadir Qamar on Wednesday visited the Karot Hydropower Project and checked the security arrangements in place for the protection of the project and its workers.

In addition to the army, 450 to 500 personnel of the Special Protection Unit (SPU), established for the security of foreigners and 35 personnel of the Rawalpindi police have been deployed at the power project.

The Punjab Home Department had already asked the police and SPU to review security checking at the project following the disappearance of the Chinese engineer from the project without a clue.

However, the Chinese builders of the projects view the present security arrangements as a hurdle in the momentum of the construction work.

Since Mr Liu has gone missing, the police, intelligence agencies and SPU personnel have launched searched in and around the construction site and rough areas.

The Chinese government has also taken notice of the difficulties being faced by the project company in regards to security issues including checking and vetting of local staff before hiring.-
Mohammad Asghar

Dawn News, 03-01-19

US-China trade war takes toll on global manufacturing

LONDON: Factory activity weakened across much of Europe and Asia in December as the US-China trade war and a slowdown in demand hit production in many economies, offering little reason for optimism as the New Year begins.

A series of purchasing managers' indexes for December released on Wednesday mostly showed declines or slowdowns in manufacturing activity across the globe.

In China, the Caixin/IHS Markit PMI slipped into contraction territory for the first time in 19 months, broadly tracking an official survey released on Monday.

'We are really seeing a global slowdown into this year, and in Asia, particularly, export-oriented countries are hurting,' said Irene Cheung, Asia strategist at ANZ.

'Our expectation for central banks is that most of them won't change policy in 2019 and these numbers coming out on the weak side won't change that outlook.

Eurozone manufacturing activity barely expanded at the end of 2018, providing disappointing reading for European Central Bank policymakers, just after they ended their 2.6 trillion-euro asset-purchase scheme.

Earlier PMI surveys showed Italy remained in contraction territory and was joined by France, where data showed a first deterioration in operating conditions for 27 months.

Manufacturing growth in both Germany and Spain was modest, easing to the weakest in around two-and-a-half years.

British factories, however, ramped up stockpiling as they prepared for possible border delays when Britain leaves the European Union in less than three months' time.

The UK manufacturing PMI rose to a six-month high, stronger than all forecasts in a Reuter's poll of economists.

Survey compiler IHS Markit cautioned the improvement did not herald a big change in the outlook for Britain's stuttering economy -it was caused in large part by manufacturers stockpiling inputs and finished goods.

‘Despite the headline index rising to a six-month high in December, the manufacturing PMI still suggests that the sector stagnated in Q4,’ said Andrew Wishart at Capital Economics. Later on Wednesday, surveys are expected to show US activity was a tad slower, but still expanding, in a sign China has suffered more from trade frictions than the United States. But world shares started 2019 on a downbeat note, oil prices and bond yields slid, and the Japanese yen strengthened on Wednesday as the factory survey data confirmed the picture of a global economic slowdown.

China brakes China’s weakness spilled over to other Asian economies. Malaysian manufacturing slowed to its weakest pace of expansion since the survey began in 2012, and Taiwan fell to its lowest since September 2015.

Meanwhile, official economic data out of Singapore showed its gross domestic product grew more slowly than forecast in the fourth quarter as the city-state’s manufacturing contracted on a quarterly basis.

With growth slowing and inflation below or barely within target in most countries, Asian central banks are unlikely to continue their tightening cycle this year, barring any shocks in currency markets.

The world’s two largest economies agreed at the start of December to a 90-day truce following tit-for-tat tariffs that have disrupted the flow of hundreds of billions of dollars of goods between the two countries.-Reuters

Dawn News, 03-01-19

Qatar Airways buys 5pc stake in Chinese airline

DOHA: Qatar Airways said on Wednesday that it had acquired a five per cent stake in China Southern Airlines, as it seeks to establish itself in the Asian aviation market.

The state-owned airline said in a statement the deal was part of its ‘strategy to invest in the strongest airlines around the world’, but did not specify the cost of the transaction. China Southern Airlines is one of China’s ‘big three’ carriers.

Qatar Airways also owns a 20pc stake in International Airlines Group which holds British Airways under its umbrella as well as shares in LATAM Airlines Group, Italy’s Meridiana and Hong Kong based Cathay Pacific.

The latest deal comes as Qatar seeks new partners and routes for the national airline due to an ongoing diplomatic dispute in the Gulf.

Since June 2017, Qatar has been politically and economically isolated regionally by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

These Gulf peers continue to impose a blockade, after accusing Doha of supporting `terrorists` and being too close to Saudi Arabia`s Shiite archrival Iran charges Qatar denies.

The aviation deal follows warming relations between Doha and Beijing.

Government officials in Qatar said in November that China is now Doha`s third largest trade partner, as bilateral exports and imports totaled more than \$10 billion (more than 8.8bn euros) in 2017.-AFP

Dawn News, 03-01-19

Taiwan`s unification with China inevitable, says Xi

BEIJING: Taiwan`s unification with the mainland is `inevitable`, said President Xi Jinping on Wednesday, warning against any efforts to promote the island`s independence and saying China would not renounce the option of using military force to bring it into the fold.

Xi`s comments provoked a swift response from Taipei, where President Tsai Ing-wen said Taiwan`s people would never willingly give up the kind of democratic freedoms unseen on the mainland.

China sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides being ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949.

`China must and will be united... which is an inevitable requirement for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese people in the new era,` Xi said in a speech commemorating the 40th anniversary of a message sent to Taiwan in 1979, in which Beijing called for unification and an end to military confrontation.

`We make no promise to give up the use of military force and reserve the option of taking all necessary means` against Taiwanese separatist activities and `outside forces` that interfere with reunification, he said.

In his speech, Xi described unification under a `one country, two systems` approach that would `safeguard the interests and well-being of Taiwanese compatriots`.

Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state, with its own currency, political and judicial systems, but has never declared formal independence from the mainland.

Relations have been strained since the 2016 election of President Tsai, who has refused to acknowledge Beijing's stance that the island is part of 'one China'.

Though Xi's speech takes a strong stance against Taiwanese separatists and pushes for reunification, it is aimed mostly at domestic audiences, analysts say.

'It's rather empty and doesn't have any new points except that cross trait unification would not affect the interests of other countries,' said Fan Shipping, political analyst at National Taiwan Normal University, adding that Xi's words may also be intended for the US.

In 2018, the US sent multiple ships through the Taiwan Strait which China considers its territory but the US and others see as international waters open to all infuriating Beijing.

Washington remains Taipei's most powerful unofficial ally and its main arms supplier despite switching diplomatic recognition to Beijing in 1979.

To accommodate differences in Taiwan's political system and civil society, China has proposed adopting the 'one country, two systems' policy which was implemented in Hong Kong after the British handed the city back to China in 1997.-AFP

Dawn News, 04-01-19

China's probe lands on far side of moon

BEIJING: A Chinese lunar rover landed on the far side of the moon on Thursday, in a global first that boosts Beijing's ambitions to become a space superpower.

The Chang'e-4 probe touched down and sent a photo of the so-called 'dark side' of the moon to the Queqiao satellite, which would relay communications to controllers on Earth, China's national space agency said on its website.

Beijing is pouring billions into its military-run space programme, with hopes of having a crewed space station by 2022, and of eventually sending humans to the moon.

The Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission named after the moon goddess in Chinese mythology was launched in December from the south-western Xichang launch center. It is the second Chinese probe to land on the moon, following the Yutu (Jade Rabbit) rover mission in 2013.

Unlike the near side of the moon that offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged.

The moon is 'tidally locked' to Earth in its rotation so the same side is always facing Earth.

Chang'e-4 is carrying six experiments from China and four from abroad, including lowfrequency radio astronomical studies aiming to take advantage of the lack of interference on the moon's far side.

The rover would also conduct mineral and radiation tests, the China National Space Administration said.

'It's a very good start,' said Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar exploration programme, in an interview with state broadcaster CCTV. 'We are now building China into an aerospace power.'

Space dominance Beijing is planning to send another lunar lander, Chang'e-5, later this year to collect samples and bring them back to Earth.

It is among a slew of ambitious Chinese targets, which include a reusable launcher by 2021, a super-powerful rocket capable of delivering payloads heavier than those Nasa and private rocket firm SpaceX can handle, a moon base, a permanently crewed space station, and a Mars rover. The People's Liberation Army 'looks at space as a new strategic high ground', said Michael Raska, who studies security and defense issues at the S.

Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

An enhanced presence in space will be vital for 'anything for early warning, surveillance, reconnaissance, targeting...

nearly every military mission out there is relying on some sort of space capability'.

But China's aerospace industry still had a long way to go, especially compared to that of the US, said ShenDingli, a Shanghai-based international studies scholar.

'Armstrong landed on the moon more than 50 years ago.

Chinese people still have not landed on the moon even today.

Extreme challenges It was not until 1959 that the Soviet Union captured the first images of the moon's mysterious and heavily cratered 'dark side'.

No lander or rover has ever previously touched the surface there, and it is no easy technological feat. China has been preparing for this moment for years.

A major challenge for the mission was communicating with the robotic lander as there is no direct 'line of sight' for signals to the far side of the moon.

As a solution, China in May blasted the Queqiao (Magpie Bridge) satellite into the moon's orbit, positioning it so that it can relay data and commands between the lander and Earth. In another extreme hurdle, during the lunar night which lasts 14 Earth days temperatures drop to as low as minus 173 degrees Celsius. During the lunar day, also lasting 14 Earth days, temperatures soar as high as 127 C.

Adding to the difficulties, Chang'e-4 was sent to the Aitken Basin in the lunar south pole region known for its craggy and complex terrain.

China's previous moon rover Yutu also conquered those challenges, and after initial setbacks, ultimately surveyed the moon's surface for 31 months.

Its success provided a major boost to China's space program.-AFP

Dawn News, 04-01-19

ATC seeks CTD arguments for halting Chinese consulate attack case proceedings

KARACHI: An antiterrorism court on Thursday summoned the investigating officer of the Counter-Terrorism Department for arguments on his 'A' Class report, recommending suspension of the proceedings pertaining to the November 2018 terrorist attack on the Chinese consulate.

The administrative judge of the antiterrorism court had sent the matter to the antiterrorism court concerned with the direction to dispose of the same after the police investigating officer submitted an 'A' class report in the case.

Seven people, three heavily armed militants, two policemen and two visitors were shot dead in a gun-and-grenade attack by them on the Chinese consulate located in the 'high security zone in Clifton's Block-4.

On Thursday, the case was fixed before the ATC-II judge, who is conducting trial in the judicial complex inside the Karachi Central Prison.

The judge summoned the investigating officer to argue on the 'A' class report submitted by him, on the next date and adjourned the hearing.

In the progress report submitted to the administrative judge, the IO stated that the terrorists stormed the consulate building and started firing and throwing hand-grenades and also killed assistant sub-inspector Ashraf Dawood and police constable Mohammad Amir, who were posted at the first security checkpoint, while Muhammad Juman, who was posted at the entrance to the visa section, was injured by their firing.

It further stated that after hearing shots the visitors as well as the staff went into the consulate and locked the doors from inside.

Therefore, the attackers tried to plant an IED to blow up the iron gate but failed to do so due to firing by the security forces personnel from the outside. A visa-seeker, Tahir Shah, and his father, Niaz Ahmed, were hit by the attackers' firing and died on the spot, it added. 'The attackers were killed inside the reception area by the firing of the police and Rangers personnel in a very organized manner,' the report said. 'One of the attackers was killed in retaliatory firing by the police near the first checkpoint.

The progress report stated that the three attackers were killed in the operation by the forces, adding that earlier the attackers had completely burnt three vehicles by throwing hand-grenades, while two police mobile vans and nine other vehicles parked outside the consulate building were partially damaged.

It added that a Hag of the banned Baloch Liberation Army was found in the possession of the terrorist identified as Razig Baloch, while a national ID card and another card, showing him as an employee of the irrigation department of the Balochistan government, was also found on him. The report further said that one attacker, Razig, was identified as son of Din Muhammad through biometric verification by the National Database and Registration Authority, while no record of the two other attackers was found.

It stated that the BLA had released pictures of the three terrorists and claimed responsibility of the 'suicide attack' carried out by the outlawed Fidayeen Sarbaz of Majeed Brigade, adding that the BLA was supported by the Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing, or Raw.

It mentioned that the 'foiled' attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi was a failed attempt to vitiate the Pakistan-China relations.

The IO said the attackers were constantly in contact with Harbiyaar Marri, Aslam Baloch alias Achhu, Bashir Zaib, Noor Bux Mengal, Kareem Marri, Captain Rehman Gul, commanders Nisar, Sheikhu, Gaindi, Sharif, Hamal, Munshi, Agha Sher Dil and others, who were the masterminds and facilitators of the terrorist attack. He also said the agencies had been approached to ascertain their whereabouts so that their arrest could be affected.

The progress report stated that most of the suspects hailed to Balochistan, adding that letters were sent to the Balochistan government to check their criminal record, but the report in that regard was still awaited.

It said four Kalashnikovs, two improvised explosive devices, detonators, hand-grenades, explosive material and bullets were also seized from the possession of the three militants and the samples were sent to the forensic science laboratory for ballistic analysis.

The samples of the remains of the policemen, private persons and terrorists had been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory Lahore for DNA testing, the report said, adding that the analysis reports would be submitted to the court when received. It further stated that efforts were under way to find the eyewitnesses and record their statements, adding that the reports of the chemical analysis of the seized weapons and explosives, DNA and others had not yet been received. The IO said those reports would be submitted to the court as soon as received.

It further mentioned that during the course of investigation the charges against the three killed terrorists and others, who had not yet been arrested, had been proved.

However, the IO requested the court to accept the 'A' class report for halting the proceedings in the case till the arrest of the suspects.

A case under sections 353, 302, 324, 427, 109 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code read with the Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 and sections 3/4 and 4/5 of the Explosives Act 1908 and Section 23(i)-A of the Sindh Arms Act, 2013 was registered at the CTD police station.

Dawn News, 05-01-19

China slashes banks' reserve requirements

BEIJING: China's central bank said on Friday it was cutting the amount of cash that banks have to hold as reserves for the fifth time in a year, freeing up \$116 billion for new lending as it tries to reduce the risk of a sharp economic slowdown.

The cut comes amid mounting worries about the health of the world's second-largest economy, which is facing both slowing demand at home and punishing US tariffs on its exports.

Global stock markets sold off on Thursday after a warning from tech giant Apple Inc about slowing China sales, while data this week showed manufacturing activity shrank in December for the first time in more than two years.

The announcement came just hours after Premier Li Keqiang said China would take further action to bolster the economy, including reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cuts and more cuts in taxes and fees, highlighting the urgency to cope with increasing headwinds.

'This speedy RRR cut with great intensity fully demonstrates the determination of policymakers to stabilize growth,' said Yang Hao, an analyst at Nanjing Securities.

'At present, the economy is facing very big downward pressure amid internal and external troubles.' -Reuters

Dawn News, 05-01-19

China begins first surface exploration of moon`s far side

BEIJING: A Chinese space rover explored the lunar terrain on Friday in the world`s first mission on the surface of the far side of the moon.

Jade Rabbit 2 drove off a ramp the previous night and onto the soft, powdery surface after a Chinese spacecraft made the first-ever soft landing on the moon`s far side. A photo posted online by China`s space agency showed tracks left by the rover as it headed away from the spacecraft.

‘It’s a small step for the rover, but one giant leap for the Chinese nation,’ Wu Weiren, the chief designer of the Lunar Exploration Project, told state broadcaster CCTV, in a twist of US astronaut Neil Armstrong’s famous comment when he became the first human to walk on the moon in 1969.

‘This giant leap is a decisive move for our exploration of space and the conquering of the universe.

Previous moon landings, including America’s six manned missions from 1969 to 1972, have been on the near side of the moon, which faces Earth. The far side has been observed many times from lunar orbits, but never explored on the surface.

China’s space community is taking pride in the successful landing, which posed technical challenges because the moon blocks direct communication between the spacecraft and its controllers on Earth. China has been trying to catch up with the United States and other nations in space exploration.

‘The landing on the far side shows China’s technology is powerful,’ said He Qisong, a space expert at the East China University of Science and Law in Shanghai. While China’s space program still lags America’s, he said ‘China has already positioned itself at least as good as Russia and the European Union.

The news cheered people on the streets of Beijing on Friday, many of whom said it showed that China can now achieve or even surpass what the United States has done.

‘I think this is very good evidence that we are now able to compete with the Americans,’ said energy company employee Yao Dajun. ‘You can get on the moon and so can we I think this is very good. It means our science and technology ability is getting stronger and the country is becoming more powerful.

The news inspired dreamier thoughts for advertising employee Shang Yuegang. ‘Probably after some years ordinary people like us can also travel up there to take a look,’ he said.

The Chinese rover has six powered wheels, allowing it to continue to operate even if one wheel fails. It has a maximum speed of 200 meters per hour and can climb a 20-degree hill or an obstacle up to 20 centimeters (8 inches) tall. `The surface is soft and it is similar to that when you are walking on the snow,` rover designer ShenZhenrong of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation said on CCTV.

Exploring the cosmos from the far side of the moon could eventually help scientists learn more about the early days of the solar system and even the birth of the universe's first stars. The far side is popularly called the `dark side` because it can't be seen from Earth and is relatively unknown, not because it lacks sunlight.-AP

Dawn News, 05-01-19

Two Chinese firms hired to lift garbage in city

KARACHI: The City administration launched a three-day cleanliness campaign on Thursday in those parts of the city where garbage was disposed of by the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB).

Official sources said that a decision to this effect was taken at a meeting chaired by Commissioner IftikharShallwani in his office.

They said the meeting was also attended by representatives of SSWMB, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, district municipal corporations, deputy commissioners concerned and both the Chinese companies awarded contract for garbage collection in districts South, West, Malir and East.

The sources said that it was decided in the meeting that ChangyieKangjie Sanitation Company would collect waste in districts South and East districts, while Hangzhou Jinjiang Company would manage garbage in districts Malir and West.

The two contractors were told in the meeting that they were bound to carry out manual sweeping, mechanical sweeping and mechanical washing of the streets and roads.

They were also told that they were responsible for lifting of garbage from door to door free of cost in their assigned districts and later its transfer to the designated stations for further disposal into the landfill sites.

The companies are also bound to put the garbage containers and trash cans at various spots in their respective districts.

The sources said that the meeting decided that a three-day cleanliness campaign would be started in selected areas of the four districts in consultation with the respective deputy commissioners.

They said that the commissioner asked the deputy commissioners to monitor the work of lifting and disposal of garbage as per contract made with the companies being carried out.

The sources said that it was also decided that the deputy commissioners would submit their respective reports on the performance of the two Chinese companies with their comments to the commissioner in next meeting to be held next week.

They said that the deputy commissioners' reports and comments would be forwarded to the Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

350 more shops razed The Anti-encroachment Estate & Enforcement department of the Karachi Development Authority continued its grand anti-encroachment operation on its land in Korangi No 5 ½ and razed 350 more shops illegally constructed on drains.

Over 300 shops constructed illegally on KDA land and drains in the area were demolished on Wednesday when the grand anti-encroachment operation to retrieve illegally occupied city land was launched in the neighborhood.

Officials sources said that the operation against encroachments and illegal building constructed on the KDA land was continue under the supervision of Director General Samiuddin Siddiqui.

They said that Director Estate and Enforcement Dildar Hussain Shah were monitoring the operation.

Dawn News, 06-01-19

China package lifts sentiments on stock market

KARACHI: The stock market started on a firm footing in the first week of the New Year with the benchmark KSE-100 index claiming gains of 380 points (0.13 per cent) and settles at 37,548. There was slight effect of fresh January buying while the positive trend that followed two earlier weeks of sluggish performance was underpinned mainly by the massive gains of 929 points that the index was able to notch up on Tuesday.

That was due to investors' frenzied buying after reports of Chinese pledge to lend \$2 billion to Pakistan to shore up dwindling foreign exchange reserves. To add icing to the cake, the Finance Minister Asad Umar proclaimed that the biggest investment in country's history was about to arrive from Saudi Arabia.

But for most of the other trading days, the index moved in wide intraday swings in essentially choppy trade as investors remained in search of triggers. The last two sessions erased the earlier day's gains.

On the political front, noises simmered down amid delay in the ex-president's trial following the Supreme Court's directive to review the list of people placed on the exit control list. The ruling party's clarification that it had no intention of imposition of governor rule in Sindh helped the temperatures to decrease.

US President expressed his desire to meet Pakistan's new leadership soon in order to strengthen bilateral ties, which also set some of the concerns at rest. On macro side, there were mixed signals as the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported below expected inflation of 6.17pc for Dec'18 against the consensus estimate of 6.55pc. But the State Bank reserves fell by \$170m during the week to \$7.29bn, further pulling the country's total reserves down to \$13.84bn amid regular debt payments.

Market participation improved as average daily traded volume clocked in at 118m shares, up 7pc, while traded value also increased by 14pc to \$41m, representing movement in blue-chip stocks.

Foreign selling of equity continued for the 35th week (in succession with net outflows of \$0.51m, mainly concentrated in banking sector worth \$0.14m and technology \$0.08m.

Meanwhile, most of the buying was witnessed in cement amounting to \$0.45m and fertilizers \$0.2m. Amongst the local participants, insurance companies turned out to be the biggest sellers of equity worth \$14.7m. It was mainly absorbed by mutual funds 'net buying of \$13.4m and companies \$3.5m.

Sector-wise, the market was mainly driven by commercial banks, adding 244 points, on renewed buying interest while oil and gas exploration sector added 131 points led by 10pc rally in Brent to \$57/bbl. On the flip side, sectors that contributed negatively included food and personal care products, decreasing by 53 points, auto assembler 27 points and oil and gas marketing companies 26 points owing to decline in petroleum sales. Fresh drug price notification released by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan during the end of the week failed to excite investors as pharmaceutical edged lower by 0.1pc.

Major gaining scrips were Bank Al Habib, up 10.53pc, Engro Corporation 5.22pc and Habib Bank 4.29pc, adding 288 points. Other gainers were the major exploration and production stocks: Oil and Gas Development Company, Pakistan Petroleum and Pakistan Oilfields.

Going forward, market gurus pinned hopes on expected visit of the UAE and Saudi Arabia's crown princes in January and February, respectively, which were thought to yield potential lucrative agreements. Investor interest would be driven by the decision regarding International Monetary Fund programme anticipated during the month.

Market participants would focus on the presentation of a potential mini-budget in order to meet fiscal deficit target.

Pakistan's performance review under Financial Action Task Force is also due from Jan 8-10 in Sydney which could lead to boom or bust in investor sentiments.

Dawn News, 07-01-19

China says pace of Xinjiang `education` will slow, but defends camps

URUMQI: China will not back down on what it sees as a highly successful de-radicalization programme in Xinjiang that has attracted global concern, but fewer people will be sent through, officials said last week in allowing rare media access there.

Beijing has faced an outcry from activists, scholars, foreign governments and UN rights experts over what they call mass detentions and strict surveillance of the mostly Muslim Uighur minority and other Muslim groups who call Xinjiang home.

In August, a UN human rights panel said it had received credible reports that a million or more Uighurs and other minorities in the far western region are being held in what resembles a `massive internment camp`. Last week, the government organized a visit to three such facilities, which it calls vocational education training centers, for a small group of foreign reporters, including Reuters.

In recent days, a similar visit was arranged for diplomats from 12 non-Western countries, including Russia, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Kazakhstan, according to Xinjiang officials and foreign diplomats.

Senior officials, including Shohrat Zakir, Xinjiang's governor and the region's most senior Uighur, dismissed what they called `slanderous lies` about the facilities. Speaking in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi, Zakir said the centers had been `extremely effective` in reducing extremism by teaching residents about the law and helping them learn Mandarin. `As time goes by, the people in the education training mechanism will be fewer and fewer,` he said.

Shohrat Zakir said he could not say exactly how many people were in the facilities. `One million people, this number is rather frightening. One million people in the education mechanism that's not realistic.

That's purely a rumor,` he said, stressing they were temporary educational facilities.

Dilxat Raxit, spokesman for the Munich-based exile group the World Uyghur Congress, told Reuters the Chinese government was using extremism as an excuse to lock people up.

Inside the centers Human rights groups and former detainees have said that conditions in the camps are poor, with inmates subject to abuse. They said detainees did not receive vocational training.

Seeking to counter that narrative, the government took reporters to three centers, in Kashgar, Hotan and Karakax, all in the heavily Uighur-populated southern part of Xinjiang, where much of the violence has taken place in recent years.

In one class reporters were allowed to briefly visit, a teacher explained in Mandarin that not allowing singing or dancing at a wedding or crying at a funeral are signs of extremist thought. The students took notes, pausing to look up as report-errs and officials entered the room. Some smiled awkwardly. Others just looked down at their books. All were Uighur. None appear d to have been mistreated.

In another class, residents read a Chinese lesson in their textbook entitled 'Our motherland is so vast.' There was plenty of singing and dancing in other rooms reporters visited, including a lively rendition in English of 'If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands, that seemed to have been put on especially for the visit.

Several residents agreed to speak briefly to reporters, though all in the presence of government officials. Reporters were closely chaperoned at all times.

All the interviewees said they were there of their own accord after learning of the centres from local officials.

Many answers used extremely similar language about being 'infected with extremist thought'. Pazalaibutuyi, 26, told reporters at the Hotancentre that five years ago she had attended an illegal religious gathering at a neighbor's house, where they were taught that women should cover their faces. 'At that time I was infected with extremist thought so I wore a face veil,' she said, speaking clear Mandarin after a year at the center. Government officials came to her village to talk to the villagers and after that, she said, 'I discovered my mistake.

In the Kashgarcenter, Osmanjan, who declined to give his age, said he had incited ethnic hatred, so vil-lage police suggested he go for re-education.

'Under the influence of extremist thought, when non-Muslims came to my shop I was unwilling to serve them,' he said in unsteady Mandarin.

It was not possible to independently verify their stories. All the interviewees said they had not been forewarned of the visit.

Residents said they can `graduate` when they are judged to have reached a certain level with their Mandarin, de-radicalization and legal knowledge. They are allowed phone calls with family members, but no cell phones. They are provided halal food.

Only minimal security was visible at any of the three centers.

Over a lunch of lamb kebabs, horse meat and naan, Urumqi party boss XuHairong told Reuters that `all of the reports are fake` when it comes to foreign coverage of Xinjiang.

The government says its goal is for Uighurs to become part of mainstream Chinese society. ShohratZakir said in parts of southern Xinjiang people couldn't even say hello in Mandarin.

Officials point to a lack of violence in the past two years as evidence of program's success. `Only with a deeper understanding of the past can you understand the measures we have taken today,` Shi Lei, Xinjiang's Communist Party committee deputy propaganda chief, told reporters.-Reuters

Dawn News, 08-01-19

Chinese `education` camps

ANY questions surround the fate of Chinese Uighur Muslims sent to `education` camps run by Beijing, apparently to deradicalise Xinjiang's majority Turkic ethnic group. Among them is Chinese Muslim women married to Pakistani men, who have been separated from their families. There has been considerable criticism of Beijing's treatment of its Uighur population, with claims that the People's Republic is trying to change the demographics of the region by settling Han Chinese. China insists it is countering `radicalization` in Xinjiang. The UN has criticized China for running a `massive internment camp` for Uighur citizens, and Uighur activists say `deradicalization` is being used as an excuse to make them forsake their religion and culture, and to embrace the Chinese `mainstream`. Over 1m Uighurs are said to be interned in the camps, a figure Chinese officials have contested. In response to the criticism, China has recently opened the `education` centers to foreign diplomats and journalists. Government officials say the camps will not be closed down, but the number of people being put through the re-education program will be reduced.

While Beijing may have a genuine problem with extremism Xinjiang has been restive for years holding people in such camps and `guiding` them towards renouncing their faith and culture is not the way to address it. China needs to be more transparent about the treatment of its native Uighur population, as such anti-extremism measures may only backfire and further alienate Xinjiang's Muslims.

Moreover, considering the close ties between Islamabad and Beijing, Pakistan needs to work with China through diplomatic channels to resolve the issue of Chinese spouses of Pakistani citizens. Splitting up families is unacceptable, and there are reports that at least 200 spouses of Pakistani men are missing, and are most likely in the re-education centers. The government must make greater efforts to reunite the women with their families, while the Chinese state should rethink its approach to the Xinjiang issue in a manner that does not violate fundamental rights.

Dawn News, 08-01-19

Chinese investors flee Silicon Valley

SAN FRANCISCO: New Trump administration policies aimed at curbing China's access to American innovation have all but halted Chinese investment in US technology startups, as both investors and startup founders abandon deals amid scrutiny from Washington.

Chinese venture funding in US startups crested to a record \$3 billion last year, according to New York economic research firm Rhodium Group, spurred by a rush of investors and tech companies scrambling to complete deals before a new regulatory regime was approved in August.

Since then, Chinese venture funding in US startups has slowed to a trickle, Reuter's interviews with more than 35 industry player's show.

US President Donald Trump signed new legislation expanding the government's ability to block foreign investment in US companies, regardless of the investor's country of origin. But Trump has been particularly vocal about stopping China from getting its hands on strategic US technologies.

The new rules are still being finalized, but tech industry veterans said the fallout has been swift. 'Deals involving Chinese companies and Chinese buyers and Chinese investors have virtually stopped,' said attorney Nell O'Donnell, who has represented US tech companies in transactions with foreign buyers.

Lawyers who spoke to Reuters say they are feverishly rewriting deal terms to help ensure investments get the stamp of approval from Washington. Chinese investors, including big family offices, have walked away from transactions and stopped taking meetings with US startups. Some entrepreneurs, meanwhile, are eschewing Chinese money, fearful of lengthy government reviews that could sap their resources and momentum in an arena where speed to market is critical.

Volley Labs, Inc, a San Francisco-based company that uses artificial intelligence to build corporate training materials, is playing it safe. It declined offers from Chinese investors last year

after accepting cash from Beijing-based TAL Education Group as part of a financing round in 2017.

‘We decided for optical reasons it just wouldn’t make sense to expose ourselves further to investors coming from a country where there is now so much by way of trade tensions and IP tensions,’ said Carson Kahn, Volley’s CEO.

A Silicon Valley venture capitalist told Reuters he is aware of at least ten deals, some involving companies in his own portfolio that fell apart because they would need approval from the interagency group known as the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). He declined to be named for fear of bringing negative attention to his portfolio companies.

CFIUS is the government group tasked with reviewing foreign investment for potential national security and competitive risks. The new legislation expands its powers. Among them: the ability to probe transactions previously excluded from its purview, including attempts by foreigners to purchase minority stakes in US startups.

China is in the crosshairs. The Asian giant has been an aggressive investor in technology deemed critical to its global competitiveness and military prowess. Chinese investors have bought stakes in ride-hailing firms Uber Technologies Inc and Lyft, as well as companies with more sensitive technologies including data center networking firm Barefoot Networks, autonomous driving startup Zoox and speech recognition startup AISense.

A dearth of Chinese money is unlikely to spell doomsday for Silicon Valley. Investors worldwide poured more than \$84bn into US startups for the first three quarters of last year, exceeding any prior full-year funding, according to data provider PitchBook Inc. Still, Chinese funders are critical to helping US companies gain access to the world’s second-largest economy.

Volley’s Kahn acknowledged that rejecting Chinese investment may make his startup’s overseas expansion more difficult. -Reuters

Dawn News, 08-01-19

China conditionally invites UN observers to Xinjiang

BEIJING: China said on Monday it would welcome UN officials to its far western region of Xinjiang if they follow the ‘proper procedures’, amid global concern over Beijing’s de-radicalization program there.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kangm asked at a regular briefing about reports that China had invited UN experts to Xinjiang, said that all parties, including the United Nations, were

welcome, as long as they respected appropriate travel procedures. UN officials should also `avoid interfering in domestic matters` and adopt an objective and neutral attitude, he added.

The top UN human rights official, Michelle Bachelet, in December said her office was seeking access to Xinjiang to verify `worrying reports` of re-education camps holding Muslim minorities, including the Turkic speaking Uighurs.

In August, a UN human rights panel said it had received credible reports that a million or more Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang were being held in what resembled a `massive internment camp` In a rare move, a group of 15 Western ambassadors in Beijing, spearheaded by Canada, have sought a meeting with the top official in the region, Communist Party boss Chen Quanguo, for an explanation of alleged rights abuses against Uighurs.

Beijing has launched an increasingly active publicity campaign to defend its actions in Xinjiang in the face of an outcry from activists, scholars, foreign governments and UN rights experts.

In the last two weeks, the Chinese government has arranged for diplomats from 12 non-Western countries to visit the region, as well as organizing a trip for a small group of reporters to three facilities, which it called vocational education training centers. In the centers, Uighur students learned in Mandarin about the dangers of extremist thought and sang and danced or reporters, including a rendition in English of `If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands`.

Xinjiang officials said on the trip that the de-radicalization program had been highly successful but that fewer people would be sent through the system in future.

Last year, media reported on harsh extrajudicial detentions and interrogations at the camps, which are at odds with Beijing's claims, and tool (pictures of guard towers and barbed wire surrounding some.

Reports of gross human rights violations targeting the Uighur ethnic minority in the region in China's northwest, which shares a border with Pakistan and Afghanistan, have leaked out in the past year.-Agencies

Dawn News, 08-01-19

N. Korean train enters China, fuels talk of Kim visit

SEOUL: A special North Korean train entered China late Monday, Yonhap news agency reported, raising speculation that leader Kim Jong-un could be on his way to Beijing. The train crossed the border around 10:15pm local time (1315 GMT) and was expected in the Chinese capital on Tuesday morning, the Southern news agency reported, citing an informed source.

None of Kim's 2018 trips to China were announced in advance, and the earliest indications of the first one before Kim met either Moon or Trump came when his train was spotted in Beijing.

In the Chinese border city of Dandong, dozens of security vehicles and officials blocked the roads around the train station on Monday before the train passed through, Yonhap reported, before reopening them afterwards. It had not been confirmed whether a senior North Korean official was on board, it quoted its source as saying.

But Japan's Kyodo news agency said hotel guests in Dandong had not been allowed to enter rooms facing the river that forms the border on Monday afternoon, in what it cited sources describing as 'an apparent move to prevent the train from being seen' Kim's birthday is reportedly on Tuesday, although that has never been confirmed by Pyongyang, and a visit by him to China would be likely to heighten speculation about a second Kim-Trump summit.

Negotiations were underway on the location of their next meeting, Trump said on Sunday, while remaining evasive on its timing.

The US president said last week he had received a 'great letter' from the North Korean leader but declined to reveal its contents. 'We are negotiating a location,' he told reporters. 'They do want to meet and we want to meet and we'll see what happens.'

Washington is demanding Pyongyang gives up its nuclear arsenal before any relief from economic sanctions is granted, while the North is insisting on immediate concessions from the US.-AFP

Dawn News, 09-01-19

20-member Chinese team visits historical sites in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: A 20-member delegation from China visited the Peshawar Museum and historical sites here on Tuesday.

Members of the delegation took considerable interest in the findings and discoveries relating to Gandharacivilization and praised the directorate of archaeology and museums of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for its efforts to protect Buddhist artefacts as well as sites.

The general manager of the Tourist Information Centers, Mohammad Ali Syed, welcomed the Chinese guests.

Curator Mohammad Asif briefed the delegation on the archaeological sites in Peshawar, said a press release issued by the Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The officials expressed the hope that the visit would provide an opportunity to the Chinese guests to share their experiences and knowledge with archaeologists and researchers which could be beneficial for excavations on archaeological sites and historical buildings.

The Chinese delegation also visited the historical Masjid-i-Mahabat Khan, QissaKhawani Bazaar, Sarafa Bazaar (AndarShehr), GhantaGhar, ChowkYadgar and other sites of interest in the city.

Terming Peshawar a historic and safe city, the foreign visitors said the people of the city and other parts of KP were hospitable and friendly.

The officials informed the visitors that there were over 6,000 archaeological and heritage sites in KP where research was being carried out.

‘The followers of Buddhism would find a treasure trove of Buddhist statues and heritage after thorough research and revival of these sites’ they said.

Mr Syed said the visit of foreign dignitaries was meant to highlight the importance of heritage and archaeological sites related to Buddhism in KP, besides promoting religious tourism in the province.

He said the government had taken a number of steps for attracting foreign tourists, scholars and researchers to the province. The official said a comprehensive policy had been evolved for preserving and protecting the archaeological sites and places.

He said that initiatives were being taken to carry out excavation on archaeological sites with modern techniques and methods.

Dawn News, 09-01-19

Learning from China

PRIME Minister Imran Khan is fascinated by China’s miraculous feat of lifting 800 million people from poverty and he seeks to emulate that achievement. Then again, who does not? Every speech of his, whether at home or abroad, is invariably laced with profuse praise of the emerging superpower. But it seems that he has little understanding of how it happened.

The rise of China is surely an amazing story, and its record in poverty reduction is without parallel in human history. It may not be possible for other countries to emulate the Chinese dream, yet there are lessons to learn from the country’s Great Leap Forward. The transformation of a country with around one fifth of the world’s population could not have come without the Communist Revolution in 1949 that destroyed the regressive social structure, thereby paving the way for a second revolution which led to phenomenal economic growth.

Since the initiation of China's reform and opening-up in 1978, it has achieved an annual average 9.5 per cent growth rate, increasing almost 35 times in size within the last four decades. There is no precedent in history of such sustained economic growth. This could not have been possible without political stability, a visionary leadership and strong institutions of the state.

It was the second stage of the revolution headed by Deng Xiaoping, who was also one of the leaders of the 1949 revolution that led to the building of modern China. The principles enunciated by Deng guided Chinese policy since the 1980s. According to him, there are three criteria to judge whether or not a political system or policy is suitable or correct for a country, namely; is it beneficial for political stability, economic development and living standards? If it is for all three, then it is a good system or policy.

With its phenomenal scale of economic growth, China also focused on improving the lives of ordinary Chinese people. The enormous improvement in living standards is, therefore, the most important achievement China has made since the reform and opening-up. For a country with huge numbers of poor people streaming into its cities, many living initially in conditions of abject misery, this has been an extraordinary success.

Other factors that contributed to China's economic and social development are the massive investments it made on education and population control. For almost four decades, China strictly implemented a one-child policy that had helped the country achieve its anti-poverty drive. This policy has now been made more flexible to meet the demands of an expanding economy. More importantly, successive Chinese leaders recognized that economic development and political stability were intertwined. While its entire focus had been on economic development, China has kept itself out of outside conflicts and avoided confrontation despite provocations. It has kept a relatively low profile, notwithstanding its position as a superpower. When Imran Khan says that he wants to learn from China, he should understand that such societal transformation can only occur when one has a clear vision and the will to make tough decisions. It is indeed commendable that the PTI government places greater emphasis on human development, but the welfare of the people also depends on political stability and economic development. Catchy mantras alone will not take this country out of its current predicament. Sure, Pakistan has a different system of government and there is no revolutionary party at the helm, but it is not difficult to implement some radical reforms to put the economy on the track of sustainable growth. There is also need for change in existing social and economic structures that are the biggest obstacles to the country's transformation. But, notwithstanding Imran Khan's grand idea of establishing 'Naya Pakistan', the PTI remains a party with no clear strategy for change.

Almost five months into power, the government is still unable to set a clear direction.

There appears to be systemic failure in this country. While the PTI government is drifting without vision or purpose, growing political instability has rendered the system dysfunctional.

One cannot hope getting the economy off the ground, let alone fighting poverty, in this environment of political confrontation. The country is not expected to move forward while depending on the financial support of friendly countries. It is disgraceful the way that bailout packages from Saudi Arabia and the UAE are being portrayed as diplomatic successes. In the absence of any clear agenda for reform, these kinds of temporary relief could become liabilities, further dragging the economy down.

There is as yet no indication that the government is prepared to change its confrontationist policy.

More alarming is that it does not have any clear strategy to deal with the challenges it faces.

Undoubtedly, corruption is a serious problem, but the government seems to only focus on this one issue. Imran Khan's claim that it is the main cause of all economic and political ills is exaggerated.

The senseless campaign has increased economic and political uncertainty, making it more difficult to carry out any reform. Imran Khan often cites China's latest campaign against corruption. But what he has failed to understand is that China has been able to effectively counter the menace after it had consolidated its economy.

Instead of learning from China how it emerged as an economic superpower in such a short span of time, Imran Khan has superficially picked some aspects of its history to point to. A major factor that has caused Pakistan's economic and political slide is the absence of a long-term vision for development and social change.

China's model cannot be emulated, but one can, at least, learn some lessons from its success.

Poverty eradication, which Imran Khan appears so fascinated with, did not come without economic development and social reform. The establishment of shelter homes for the homeless is indeed a positive step, but it cannot address the basic problem behind rampant poverty, unemployment and social backwardness. The writer is an author and journalist.

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Dawn News, 09-01-19

KPT gets in line for slice of CPEC pie

KARACHI: Mega projects of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) have been submitted for possible inclusion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, official sources said on Tuesday.

Secretary Maritime Affairs Amir Khawaja, who recently attended the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting in China, has tabled some of the mega projects of Karachi Port for inclusion in CPEC, sources said.

A Ministry of Maritime Affairs official, talking to Dawn on the condition of anonymity, said that major projects put before the JCC meeting included multi-billion freight corridors from KPT to Port Qasim for onward movement to upcountry of cargo and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the backwaters of Karachi port.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who was also part of the Pakistani delegation to the JCC meeting, has supported this incorporation, the same source said. In the second phase, these projects would be taken up for approval by the relevant Joint Working Group in their meeting to be held in March.

The officials hope that the inclusion of freight corridor project under the CPEC umbrella will help Karachi Port which has been struggling to get connectivity for Pakistan Deep Water Container Port at Keamari. Presently most of the port traffic passes through the city, aggravating traffic congestion. Failure to build road connectivity between the giant port and its own hinterland is the hurdle standing in the way of growing traffic volumes there. The proposal to place the freight corridor before the JCC meeting for inclusion under CPEC is the latest attempt to crack this conundrum.

A freight corridor stretching 40-50km from KPT to Port Qasim is envisioned to have rail, road and oil pipeline connectivity along with LNG terminal and power plant.

Similarly, an SEZ adjacent to the port is ideally located for export oriented industry and Chinese had been always keen to keep such industry close to port areas, sources said.

The Karachi Port has already earmarked an area of around 2,000 acres (to be reclaimed) at the backwaters of the port.

The other project, Khawaja proposed to be included in CPEC, is related to internally connecting both East and West wharves of KPT in order to keep the movement of heavy vehicles within port area.

Connectivity has been a big problem for the deep water terminal ever since it was inaugurated.

In 2005, KPT envisioned a harbor crossing bridge to connect the port directly to the Northern Bypass for transport link for up country traffic. But at an estimated cost of \$1 billion, that plan proved prohibitively expensive.

In this regard Plan B was an elevated expressway to run from Keamari to the Northern Bypass, over Jinnah Bridge, which had an estimated price tag of \$500mn. Even that plan failed to materialize due to lack of funds.

Dawn News, 09-01-19

`US-China trade talks going very well`

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump boasted on Tuesday that US-China trade negotiations were going `very well` as officials held talks in Beijing that will spill into a third day.

A member of the US delegation said the two sides would resume talks on Wednesday as they continue their first face-to-face meetings since Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to a tariff truce during a meeting in Argentina on Dec 1.

The talks are taking longer than expected as the Chinese commerce ministry had said last week that the meetings would take place on Monday and Tuesday.

`Talks with China are going very well!` Trump said on Twitter, but gave no further information.

The meeting between the US delegations led by Deputy US Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish and including officials from the Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture and Energy departments and the Chinese side ran late into Tuesday night.

`I can confirm we are continuing tomorrow (Wednesday),` Steven Winberg, assistant secretary for fossil energy, told reporters after returning to his hotel in Beijing.

He declined to provide more details.

The Trump administration wants Beijing to abandon its strategy of seeking global industrial predominance through the alleged forced transfer and even the theft of American technology, and end massive state intervention in markets.

The temporary ceasefire came after the two sides imposed import duties on more than \$300 billion of each other`s goods.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on Monday that China`s economy was more vulnerable to the fallout from the trade war.

`It certainly has hurt the Chinese economy,` Ross told CNBC, noting that China exports many more goods to the United States than the other way around.

Ross said there was a `very good chance` of reaching an agreement, although monitoring compliance would present a challenge.

Without a resolution, punitive US duty rates on \$200bn in Chinese goods are due to rise to 25pc from 10pc on March 2.

The second day of trade negotiations coincided with an unannounced visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong UN for talks with Xi in Beijing, amid speculation of a second meeting between Kim and Trump.

Some analysts say that China Pyongyang's key diplomatically and main source of trade could use Kim's visit as a bargaining chip in the US trade talks.-AFP

Dawn News, 09-01-19

20 Chinese school children wounded in hammer attack

BEIJING: A Chinese man attacked at least 20 young children at a Beijing primary school with a hammer on Tuesday, state television reported, in a rare act of violence in the capital.

A 49-year-old man, a former maintenance worker at the school, was detained after venting his anger on the children after his work contract was not renewed, state television cited police as saying.

Twenty were taken to hospital, the government in the Xicheng district of the capital said in a post on its social media account. Three suffered heavy injuries but their condition was stable, it said.

Parents waited outside for their children as the school day ended. Almost all of the parents Reuters approached declined to be interviewed.

'I heard that children were attacked [by someone] with a knife, so I'm very anxious, said a woman surnamed Zhou as she waited for her child to finish school.

The attacker, originally from northeastern Heilongjiang province, had been detained by police and an investigation was under way, state television said.

Violent crime is rare in China but there has been a series of knife and axe attacks in recent years, many targeting children.

In January 2017, a man in southern China stabbed and wounded 12 children with a vegetable knife.

He was executed this month.-Reuters

Dawn News, 09-01-19

North Korea's Kim visits China ahead of expected Trump summit

BEIJING: North Korean leader Kim Jong UN arrived on Tuesday on an unannounced visit to Beijing for talks with President Xi Jinping, as preparations ramp up for an expected second summit with Donald Trump.

China is the key ally of isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea and its main source of trade and aid.

After arriving in the Chinese capital, Kim met Xi for around an hour, Seoul's Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday, citing unnamed sources who said the talks focused on a possible summit with US President Trump and ways to deepen ties.

Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju then attended a dinner hosted by Xi and first lady PengLiyuan at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Yonhap reported.

China's foreign ministry earlier said Kim would meet Chinese leaders to discuss 'relevant issues' but did not reveal more about his itinerary.

The North Korean leader, accompanied by several senior officials, had left Pyongyang on his private train on Monday, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

The trip, at Xi's invitation, is set to run until Thursday, according to KCNA and China's official Xinhua news agency.

Kim's fourth visit to China comes a week after he warned in a New Year's speech that Pyongyang may change its approach to nuclear talks if Washington persists with sanctions.

'Both Xi and Kim see value in coordinating their positions in advance of Trump-Kim summits. That appears to be a pattern, Bonnie Glaser, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP.

'Kim also seeks Beijing's help in getting international sanctions eased.' While China and Russia have both said the United Nations should consider relaxing sanctions on Pyongyang, Trump insisted on Sunday that they would remain 'in full force' until the US sees 'very positive' results on the nuclear issue.

Kim's trip coincides with the second day of talks between US and Chinese officials in Beijing aimed at resolving their trade war, but China rejected the notion that it was using the North Korean issue as a bargaining chip in the negotiations.

‘Xi also gains from a summit with Kim and the timing could not be any better,’ said Harry Kazianis, director of defense studies at the Center for the National Interest, a US think tank.

‘With Chinese and US officials meeting to discuss how to end the growing trade war between the two superpowers, it shows Beijing clearly has a North Korea card to play if it sees fit.’ The trip began under the usual veil of secrecy and Kim has not been spotted in public since a motorcade believed to be carrying the North Korean entourage left a Beijing train station under heavy security early on Tuesday.-AFP

Dawn News, 10-01-19

Inconsistent policies keep Chinese investors at bay: envoy

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing says that inconsistent trade policies, high ratio of taxes and some other issues are reasons for the presence of fewer Chinese investors in Pakistan.

‘The main reasons behind fewer Chinese investors in Pakistan are poor trade policies, high taxes, no tax incentives and lack of businessfriendly environment,’ a local news channel quoted the ambassador as having said while speaking to businessmen at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday.

‘Your policies lack consistency, keeping investors from China and elsewhere at bay,’ he responded when the business community asked why Chinese companies, after relocating their businesses from the United States, were preferring investment in other countries, including Cambodia and India, instead of Pakistan that was already executing several projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The ambassador said that under the CPEC, projects relating to the Gwadar port, infrastructure, energy and special economic zones (SEZs) were to be completed.

‘Though the outgoing PML-N government paid full attention to the Gwadar port, infrastructure and energy projects, it neglected completion of the SEZs. Since there are no SEZs too, how Chinese investors can make investments,’ he said.

Under the CPEC, Mr Yao said, the SEZs should be given priority because they would boost joint ventures, specifically in manufacturing and socio-economic sectors of the country.

‘In SEZs and joint venture schemes, 70-80 per cent priority would be given to Pakistan shares and exports of Pakistan would increase by 70-80pc,’ he maintained. He also revealed that the CPEC would soon be opened to the world for investment.

The Chinese envoy said Pakistan was required to make its trade policies better, besides bringing down ratio of taxes and duties and making its products competitive. Improvement of competitiveness will help your country make trade balanced.

He praised the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government for having export-oriented vision.

'The new government has an export-oriented vision and looks determined to resolve various issues,' the ambassador said.

Dawn News, 10-01-19

Chinese envoy seeks intellectual support for project

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has urged academia to play their role in giving intellectual support for the success of Chinese projects.

He said this in a meeting with Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed at his office on Wednesday.

Chinese Consulate General Long Dingbing, PU Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director External Linkages Prof Dr. Kanwal Ameen, deans of faculties and principals were present.

The ambassador also expressed the desire to enhance bilateral relations among the academic institutions of both countries and stressed the need for promoting cultural and people-to-people relations.

He said the Chinese government was offering scholarships to Pakistani students for their higher education in top Chinese universities. He said China was encouraging investment and promotion of technology in Pakistan and would also give more access to Pakistani products in China. He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would play lead role in socio-economic development of Pakistan and the region.

Prof Ahmad said the PU was playing active role in promoting Pakistan-China relations and recently granted admission to 15 Chinese students in PhD program while 3,500 students had completed Chinese language course from Confucius Centre.

He said MoUs were signed with 30 Chinese institutions to enhance collaboration in different sectors. -Staff Reporter

Dawn News, 10-01-19**New Order` in China**

WASHINGTON: `That part of the great nation of China which is occupied or controlled by the Japanese furnishes for the whole world an example of the abject failure of totalitarian regimes to accomplish the results they promised,` writes Admiral Harry O. Yarnell, former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

`The bondage and suffering in occupied China today are the direct result of the same organized conspiracy of greed and gore which the militarists of Japan and Germany carried on to occupy nations as far separated as Denmark and Burma. The war lords of Japan and the Nazi rulers of Germany worked separately. Indeed today they are completely isolated from each other, unable to cooperate in any way. But their goals and methods are almost identical.

`The striking fact about the philosophy of totalitarianism is that both Japan and Germany have had a chance to try it out thoroughly and its failure is a proved fact. There is no better illustration of this than occupied China.

`It is now over 12 years since Japan first began her attempted conquest of China. Today the inhabitants of that part of China where the Japanese are in uneasy control are far worse off in every way than before. Their position has deteriorated daily since the Japanese invaded and they are only waiting the day when they can effectively strike against the Japanese to liberate themselves...` Dawn Delhi

Dawn News, 10-01-19**Amid backlash, China allows ethnic Kazakhs to leave Xinjiang**

ALMATY: China is allowing more than 2,000 ethnic Kazakhs to abandon their Chinese citizenship and leave the country, the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said, in a sign that Beijing may be starting to feel a mounting backlash against its sweeping crackdown on Muslims in the far west region of Xinjiang.

The detention of Uighur, Kazakh and other ethnic minorities in internment camps has been a touchy issue in Kazakhstan, a Central Asian country of 18 million people.

China is a major trading partner, and Kazakhstan`s state restricted media had generally avoided reporting on it. But activists say pressure for action has slowly built, following other international media coverage.

The foreign ministry press office, in an email response, confirmed Kazakh media reports in December that China has agreed to let 2,000-plus ethnic Kazakhs leave. It did not say who could

leave or why. They will be allowed to apply for Kazakh citizenship or permanent residency after their arrival in Kazakhstan, the email said. The Chinese foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Chinese authorities in Xinjiang have launched a massive surveillance and detention campaign that has swept hundreds of thousands and possibly more than a million people into internment camps. Former detainees have said they were forced to renounce their culture and faith and subjected to political indoctrination.

The detentions have sent a chill over a tight-knit community of Chinese-born Kazakhs living in Kazakhstan. Many had left China to pursue business opportunities in trade or educate their children in Kazakh schools as restrictions tightened in Xinjiang.

Hundreds lost contact with relatives in Xinjiang, and many began writing letters and attending press conferences, hoping that greater publicity would help bring their loved ones home.

Serikzhan Bilash, head of the advocacy group Atajurt, senses a subtle shift in the Kazakh government's position.

He said he was warned by officials to halt his activities four times this summer but the warnings have stopped. Last month, he was invited onto a popular Kazakh talk show for an hour, indicating growing tolerance of his work publicizing the plight of detained Kazakhs. 'I said that Chinese officials are dangerous for Central Asia, for Kazakhstan, Bilash said. 'They are starting to accept my opinion now.

Though they've avoided criticizing China, Kazakh diplomats have worked to secure the release of their own citizens in Xinjiang. Foreign Ministry officials said in November that China had detained 29 Kazakh citizens, and 15 had since been released and allowed to return to Kazakhstan.

Gene Bunin, an activist who has collected about 2,000 testimonies from relatives of detainees in Xinjiang, estimates that about 20 people, possibly more, were allowed to return to Kazakhstan last year. Bunin has tracked another 70 or so who have been released from camps but confined to their home villages and prevented from leaving the country.-AP

Dawn News, 10-01-19

China signs MoU with ICCBS

KARACHI: The International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) of Karachi University signed an MoU on Tuesday with China's Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB), part of the Chinese Academy of Science.

The agreement was signed by ICCBS director Prof Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary and TIB director Prof Yanhe Ma on behalf of their respective institutions at a ceremony held at the TIB campus in China.

‘Both heads expressed the hope that the agreement would help strengthen academic and research initiatives between the two countries and bring them closer,’ says a press release.

As per the MoU, both institutions agreed to promote cooperation in the field of research on science and technology of natural products, biotechnology, molecular and cell biology and related fields through collaborative research.

The agreement will be effective for a period of five years.

‘ICCBS is one of Pakistan’s most prominent research and development centers in chemical and biological sciences. This MoU would further boost its research efforts and help tackle national challenges,’ the press release says, quoting ICCBS director Prof Choudhary.

On TIB’s services, Prof Ma said that the facility was committed to support sustainable development of Tianjin municipality, Bohai Rim (a region playing a crucial role in Chinese economy) and China.

‘TIB is leading scientific research in industrial biotechnology in China and striving to be a world-class research institution.

The institution is a national public welfare scientific research institute focusing on fundamental, directional, and strategic scientific and technological issues of industrial biotechnology in China,’ the press release says, quoting Prof Ma.

Dawn News, 11-01-19

Govt policies have made country US-China battleground, says Fazl

PESHAWAR: Chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday said Pakistan was being called a ‘battleground’ between China and America due to the wrong policies of the government.

‘Regrettably, our country is being called a battlefield between China and US,’ Mr. Fazl told a condolence reference held for the party’s provincial chief and parliamentarian, Maulana Amanullah Khan, here.

Awami National Party central general secretary Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz provincial president Amir Muqam, Jamaat-i-Islami provincial chief and Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Pakistan People’s Party provincial president Humayun Khan, Qaumi Watan Party

general secretary Hashim Babar, JUI-F general secretary Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and leaders of other parties also spoke on the occasion.

The speakers paid rich tribute to the deceased and eulogized his struggle for democracy and religion.

Coming down heavily on the ruling PTI over its policies, the JUI-F chief said the government had wasted over \$35 billion Chinese investment to get the US blessings.

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project was a game changer for the country but the government made it controversial and that the government was safeguarding the interests of the US and Jewish lobby. Mr Fazl said former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was declared a friend of his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, while the sitting prime minister was talking about peace and friendship with the country's archrival.

He said despite the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, the government received a cold response from New Delhi, who had rejected the offer of talks and friendship.

The JUI-F chief said the National Accountability Bureau was being used as a tool to victimize political opponents of the government.

He said the PTI had abolished its own Ehtesab Commission in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mr. Fazl said his party had demanded the abolition of the NAB during discussion on 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010 but the PPP and PML-N did not support the demand.

'Now, let these two parties bear the consequences,' he said in a lighter vein.

The JUI-F chief said parliament could do away with the NAB if the KP government amended the law to abolish the Ehtesab Commission.

He said military ruler Pervez Musharraf had created NAB to blackmail politicians and that he had opposed the move at that time, too.

Mr. Fazl said a group of corrupt elements could not hold fair accountability of others.

He said his party was fighting to liberate the country from foreign powers and their agents.

'We will take our fight to its logical end to get real freedom,' he said adding that the successive governments did not make decisions independently and were dictated by foreign powers.

He said the supremacy of the Constitution would bring social, political and economic stability in the country.

The JUI-F chief said foreign agents were trying to distort the image of Pakistan.

He alleged that Britain continued to treat Pakistan as its colony and that the acquittal of Christian woman Asia Bibi in a blasphemy case proved his apprehension in that respect.

Addressing the reference, ANP leader Main Iftikhar Hussain alleged that the establishment was patronizing Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He said the PTI government would collapse in the center if the establishment withdrew its support.

The ANP leader called for unity among opposition parties, especially PPP and PML-N.

He said all corrupt men had joined the PTI to protect their ill-gotten wealth and political careers.

Mr Hussain said Premier Imran Khan had been installed to bring changes to the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

He demanded more autonomy for provinces to strengthen federation instead of the rollback of the 18th Amendment.

The ANP leader urged Pakistan, big powers and other neighbors to play their role for the political settlement of the Afghan issue.

He said neighbors and big powers should not waste the 'golden opportunity' to end war in Afghanistan as the US had given clear indication of withdrawing its forces from the war-torn country.

Mr. Hussain also appealed to Maulana Fazl and Asfandyar Wali to use their influence to pave the way for a peaceful solution of Afghan war.

Dawn News, 11-01-19

Dock workers take out rally to highlight issues with Chinese firm

KARACHI: Some 1,750 dock workers of the Port Qasim Authority on Thursday took out a peaceful rally from Regal Chowk to the Karachi Press Club to highlight their issues with their employers for which they have been protesting for the last 108 days.

Social workers, human rights activists and trade unionists also joined in the rally to show their solidarity with the workers' cause.

Abdul Wahid, a dock worker, said that they did loading and unloading work at all the port berths but the problem occurred at berths three and four, which are coal terminals and whose management has been taken over by a Chinese company, which was not paying them for their work.

‘We have not been paid for eight months now by them. When they were new, we also in good faith worked for them for free because we wanted to be nice to our Chinese brothers. Our countries have maintained very good relations over the years after all,’ he said.

‘We had thought that they were just going through teething problems and that they would pay us sooner or later.

But after it became clear to us that they had no intention of paying us our wages, we demanded it,’ said Fareed Khan, another dock worker. ‘That’s when they also started firing us.

Mukhtar Khan, who was also protesting at the rally, explained when asked how their families were coping with the situation: ‘we are earning from our work at the other berths such as numbers one and two. But times are hard as that money is not enough after all to make two ends meet,’ he said.

Mohammad Akbar said that there were many of them and all did not find work every day. ‘There are over 1,700 workers and each day they contract different men. For example on day one there will be one to hundreds of us who will be taken on for the work. Then on day two 101st to 200th workers will be called to work. It is like a rotation system of work. So everyone doesn’t earn wages daily. We depend then on our monthly salaries, which we have not got since June 2018,’ he said.

About their income before the crisis, Abdul Ghaffar, another laborer, said that usually a common worker or loader would get Rs23, 000 and a crane operator Rs43, 000 a month.

‘Daily wages were like a bonus income and fluctuated between Rs1, 000, 1,500 and 2, 000,’ he said.

Hussain Badshah, the secretary general of the Workers Union of Port Qasim, told Dawn that they were surprised to learn of the intentions of the Chinese. ‘But if we raise our voice to point out the injustice, they tell us to go home.

‘Basically,’ he said, ‘the Chinese need to be educated about Pakistan’s labor laws so that they take our charter of demands seriously. We have been working at the dockyard since 1981, we deserve some respect.

Badshah also said that they had had issues in the past too like in 2016 when their two-year contract had expired and politicians, including current Governor of Sindh Imran Ismail and Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi, were by their side making speeches in their favor as the Muslim League-N was in power then. ‘It was thanks to them that our contracts were renewed then. But now when they are in a position to do something for us and direct the Chinese to treat us right, they are looking the other way,’ he said.

'The Chinese say they will bring their own labor from China for the work here. Then where are we to go?'

Dawn News, 12-01-19

China to import potatoes: envoy

ISLAMABAD: China plans to import potatoes from Pakistan, said Ambassador Yao Jing on Friday.

The envoy in a meeting with Minister for National Food Security and Research Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan said his country will shortly send a delegation to Islamabad to finalize arrangements and fulfilling the requirements sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS).

He said that Beijing wants to import more from Pakistan, especially food items are cherries, potato, wheat, citrus, rice and mangoes. China wants to build stronger socio-economic ties with Pakistan on the basis of reciprocity, he added.

Pakistan's annual potato yield currently stands at around 4.2 million tons as against domestic requirement is 3.75m tons leaving a sizable surplus. About 97 per cent of the vegetable is grown in Punjab while the rest in other provinces.

The fresh crop of potato, which hit the local market in early December 2018, will be ready for export by the end of January prior to the visit of Chinese delegation.

The country has already taken steps to promote the export of cotton for which a facilitation center for exporters is already operational in Okara.

The envoy informed Sultan that hybrid rice seed experts from Pakistan will soon be invited to see and monitor the facilities in China.

The minister told Jing that the Pakistani government will soon make a decision on the import of Chinese hybrid rice seed.

Over the recent past, 29 rice hybrids were received from the Hubei Provincial Seed Group of China by Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, and tested at the Rice Research Institute at Dokri, Larkana. Eight of them were found promising with paddy yield of more than 100 maunds per acre.

At the institute, various local varieties were being converted for the development of indigenous rice hybrids. The Rice Research Program has so far acquired more than 22,500 lines from the International Rice Research Institute in Philippines which are high-yielding with desirable grain quality.

The establishment of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone in Pakistan was also discussed and Sultan invited Chinese experts to visit three districts of Punjab which have been identified as FMD-free.

The minister informed the envoy that the first meeting of the joint working group created to implement the memorandum of understanding signed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China in November will take place in Islamabad next month to explore areas of cooperation between the two countries in agricultural sector.

Chinese assistance to set up the FMD vaccine plant in Pakistan will be among the agenda of the group's meeting, the minister said.

Jing informed Sultan that Chinese companies are interested to come to Pakistan and set up special economic zones with agriculture being one of the six major areas identified by Chinese government.

Sultan told the envoy that the two countries could identify and start working on areas of mutual benefit in the field of agriculture prior to the 'Belt and Road Conference' scheduled to open on April 27 in China.

Dawn News, 12-01-19

As world economy stumbles into 2019, eyes turn to China

LONDON: Ten years after China helped stave off the threat of a global depression with a huge stimulus plan, investors are looking once again towards Beijing as the world economy heads for a slowdown, or worse, in 2019.

Booming China has accounted for about a third of the growth in the global economy in recent years.

So recent signs that it is losing momentum is unsettling when the US boom, turbo-charged by President Donald Trump's tax cuts of 2017, seems to have peaked and Europe's heavyweights are stalling.

China's slowdown is already being felt around the world, from Apple's profit warning due to weaker sales of its iPhones to carmaker Jaguar Land Rover laying off workers, after a 22 per cent fall in sales in the country in 2018.

Policy sources told Reuters in Beijing on Friday that the government is planning a lower economic growth target of 6-6.5pc for 2019 after an expected 6.6pc in 2018, which would be the slowest expansion since 1990.

In the first few days of 2019, China raised infrastructure spending with a \$34 billion railway investment and its central bank loosened the screws on banks to encourage them lend more, its fifth such move in a year.

‘China, that’s what worries me most,’ Joachim Fels, managing director and global economic advisor at bond giant Pacific Investment Management Company, said as he surveyed the outlook for the world economy in 2019.

As well as cutting China’s appetite for imports, a deeper slowdown could weaken its yuan currency and fan the flames of the trade war between Beijing and Washington.

However, Fels said his recession models for 2019 were flashing only orange warnings not red in part because the US Federal Reserve was likely to stop its run of interest rate hikes after one or two more increases.

China is expected to do more to help its economy too, although officials in Beijing say they do not plan a stimulus of the magnitude of the nearly \$600bn package unleashed in 2008, shortly after the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

‘I find it hard to look at it historically and bet against the Chinese authorities managing to stabilize their economy, Jim McCormick, global head of desk strategy for RBS division NatWest Markets, said.

‘When China wants to stabilize its economy, they tend to be successful.’ -Reuters

Dawn News, 12-01-19

Poland charges Huawei worker with spying for China

WARSAW: Poland has arrested a Chinese manager at tech giant Huawei in Poland and one of its own former counter-espionage officers and charged them with spying on Poland for China, state television and officials reported on Friday.

The two men were arrested on Tuesday, according to Poland’s Internal Security Agency. Polish security agents also searched the Warsaw offices of Huawei and Orange, Poland’s leading communications provider, where the former Polish spy recently worked, seizing documents and electronic data. The homes of both men, also in Warsaw, were also searched, according to agency spokesman Stanislaw Zaryn.

Huawei is a leader in the development of next-generation ‘5G’ mobile networks and a key player in building them in Europe. But a US dispute with China over its ban on Huawei is spilling over to Europe, the company’s biggest foreign market.

Maciej Wasik, deputy head of Poland's Special Services agency, said the operation that resulted in the arrests of the two suspects had been underway for a long time. He said 'both carried out espionage activities against Poland'.

Zaryn said that prosecutors have charged the two men with espionage, but that agents are continuing to collect evidence and interview witnesses, including sorting through what was seized earlier this week. Further indictments are expected, he said.

'It's not the beginning of this case but it's also not the end,' he said. He also said no further details would be released now about the case because it is classified and the investigation is ongoing.

If convicted, they could face up to 10 years in prison each. TVP, which is government-controlled media, identified the arrested Chinese man as Weijing W., saying he was a director in Poland at Huawei. It said the man also went by the Polish first name of Stanislaw and had previously worked at the Chinese consulate in Gdansk.

A LinkedIn profile for a man named Stanislaw Wang appears to match details of the man described by Polish television. Wang's resume said he worked at China's General Consulate in Gdansk from 2006-2011 and at Huawei Enterprise Poland since 2011, where he was first director of public affairs and since 2017 the 'sales director of public sector.

The resume said he received a bachelor's degree in 2004 from the Beijing University of Foreign Studies.

State TV identified the Polish man as Piotr D., and said he was a high-ranking employee at the Internal Security Agency until 2011, where he served as deputy director in the department of information security.-AP

Dawn News, 13-01-19

A Chinese 're-education'

IN an interview with a Turkish television channel, Prime Minister Imran Khan completely sidestepped a question about the condition of Uighur Muslims in China's western Xinjiang province. He admitted that he knew little about the issue, and, instead, preferred to focus on and highlight Chinese financial assistance and investment in Pakistan.

China is under stiff criticism for its alleged persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, especially Uighur Muslims. Freedom House's 2018 country report on China classified it as 'religiously-not-free' on its freedom index. China is seriously concerned about this growing perception that hurts its efforts to promote a 'soft image' of China for a successful execution of its Belt and Road Initiative and other global commercial and strategic projects. Last week, China

said that it welcomed UN officials to visit Xinjiang provided that they stay out of its internal affairs.

Pakistan usually avoids commenting on China's internal affairs. But many Pakistani men, married to Chinese Uighur women, claim their spouses are being held in so-called re-education camps and are demanding their release. The issue has put Pakistan in a difficult position, mainly due to China's huge investment in the country, as well as the extreme sensitivity of Chinese authorities to discussions on the subject.

Mystery continues to shroud China's re-education camps, with authorities least interested in opening them up to independent observers.

However, Chinese scholars claim that they are a part of the country's countering violent extremism strategy, which was not built in isolation from rest of the world. They assert that China has designed its re-education strategy after carefully examining CVE approaches in practice in the West and Muslim world, which also employ similar community engagement programmes. Though they tend to justify their muscular approach by quoting examples from the Gulf, and South and Southeast Asian Muslim nations, the Chinese CVE strategy still appears highly politicized and opaque to Western practitioners and policymakers.

Much of the information about China's re-education centers comes from West. Though the criticism has forced Chinese authorities to 'release' some information, it is insufficient to make a proper assessment. Last year, a state-run news agency published an interview of Shohrat Zakir, the Xinjiang governor, describing the camps as 'professional vocational training institutions' for people influenced by terrorism and extremism who have not committed an offence warranting criminal punishment.

Similarly, in a seminar in China last November, local scholars explained China's CVE approaches.

Alluding to diverse and disparate CVE practices in different countries, they tended to conclude that no uniform or global CVE programme exists. One Chinese scholar presented a four-layered model based on the four principles of breaking, establishing, preventing and developing. 'Breaking' referred to isolating individuals from an extremist environment; 'establishing' meant introducing them to the true spiritual values of religion; 'preventing' was seen as educating; and 'developing' was interpreted as a skill development programme.

However, one of the best works available on the subject of China's CVE strategy is by Zunyou Zhou, a Germany-based Chinese scholar. In a paper published in the Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence in 2017, he noted that the Chinese CVE strategy is based on multiple approaches and, interestingly, that they consulted Western CVE and deradicalisation approaches extensively and then built their own, more muscular model. The approaches include 'five keys',

`four prongs`, `three contingents`, `two hands` and `one rule`. View these approaches point to legal, religious, cultural, ideological, and scientific aspects of the deradicalization effort implemented by governmental agencies, public institutions and non-governmental organizations in the region.

The Xinjiang government has developed several programmes to target different groups of people, including those who are `radicalized` as well as those who are not but considered vulnerable to recruitment. The five keysideological, cultural, customary, religious and legal give a long-sustaining solution to terrorism. The `four prongs` refer to a combination of four methods: `squeezing by correct faith`; `counteracting by culture`; `controlling by law`; and `popularizing science`. `Squeezing by correct faith` refers to clarifying people`s understanding of Islam while `counteracting by culture` means seeking effective and practical solutions to thwart extremism and guiding people towards secularization and modernization. The `three contingents` refer to the policy of reinforcing three main groups of people the government can count on to maintain stability and security. The `two hands` refer to the one `firm hand` that cracks down on terrorists, and the other `firm hand` that educates and guides Uighur people, and the `one rule` means the policy of ruling Xinjiang according to the law.

The author also provides historical background on the evolution of the Chinese CVE strategy and mentions that it materialized in a policy document entitled Several Guiding Opinions on Further Suppressing Illegal Religious Activities and Combating the Infiltration of Religious Extremism in Accordance with Law, issued by Xinjiang`s CCP Committee in May 2013. The policy document was also referred to as `No. 11 Document`, and described the borders between ethnic customs, normal religious practices and extremist manifestations.

For the CVE strategy`s smooth implementation, the Xinjiang authorities have introduced new legal regimes, and the latest amendment (titled `Regulation on Anti-Extremism`) was introduced in April 2017 to ban a wide range of extremist behaviors. Under the new legal framework, authorities have launched many program including deradicalization for prisoners, and social program for those who have engaged in terrorism or extremism but do not deserve criminal punishment.

The re-education camps or `rehabilitation centers` have been created as a part of China`s social programming. These centers run through civil society groups in Xinjiang or through `Fang HuiJu` working groups, dispatched by the regional government, comprising practitioners tasked with winning the hearts and minds of the people.

For CVE practitioners, the Chinese model may have a lot of substance to learn from. But the Uighur problem is more complex than religious extremism, as it has added dimensions of ethnic, cultural and political rights. For Pakistan, the Chinese CVE model offers nothing to learn from except to find a way of resolving the issue of Pakistani citizens` spouses held in these camps. The writer is a security analyst.

Dawn News, 13-01-19**Learning from China`**

APROPOS the article`Learning from China` (Jan 9). The key to China`s legend is rooted in Toynbee`s Challenge and Response Theory.

Civilizations apathetic to their current environmental challenges vanish into antiquity. When challenges seem horribly insurmountable, nations become apathetic.

A combination of factors, including religious fatalism, a confiscatory or predatory taxation system, feudal aristocracy and despotic governments accelerate the decline of a nation. At this point comes the role of a leader like Mao.

Facing down the Yangtze River, Mao said, `Yangtze is a big river.` As people agreed, Mao proceeded, `It is big but not frightening. Is Imperialist America big? We challenged it, nothing happened. There are things in this world that are big but not frightening` (Philip Ball, The Water Kingdom, and p.41).

What about our leaders and the led who regard an American visa as nirvana.
Mohammad Sa`ad Islamabad

Dawn News, 13-01-19**China`s premier says tax cuts support employment, economic stability**

SHANGHAI: China`s plans for tax cuts targeting smaller companies will help to support employment and economic stability, and will expand the country`s tax base over the long term, Premier Li Keqiang was quoted as saying on Saturday.

`Implementing tax cuts for small and micro enterprises is mainly to support employment,` Li said in comments posted on the Chinese government`s website.

Developing and strengthening small companies is linked to economic stability and stable employment, he said.

`Looking at the long term, this will continue to expand the tax base, conserve tax resources and ultimately achieve wins for mass employment, corporate profits and fiscal revenues,` he was quoted as saying, referring to the corporate tax cuts.

Li`s comments come amid growing official concern over China`s slowing economic growth and its impact on the labor market.

Chinese authorities plan to set a lower economic growth target of 6-6.5 per cent in 2019, compared with `around` 6.5pc in 2018, sources told Reuters, as weakening domestic demand and a damaging trade war with the United States drag on business activity and consumer confidence.- Reuters

Dawn News, 14-01-14

Govt puts major CPEC power project on hold

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government has decided to shelve a major power project pushed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz regime under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and will axe hundreds of other schemes under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) later this month.

Background discussions with government officials suggest that Islamabad has officially conveyed to Beijing that it is no more interested in the 1,320MW Rahim Yar Khan power project in view of sufficient generation capacity already lined up for the next few years. It has requested the Chinese friends to formally delete the project from the CPEC list.

During the 8th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting held last month, a Pakistani delegation led by Minister for Planning and Development Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar `proposed to remove the Rahim Yar Khan imported fuel power plant (1,320MW) from the CPEC list, in order to provide structure optimization space for the subsequent power market of Pakistan` said an official, quoting minutes of the Dec 20 JCC meeting.

The Chinese side suggested that a joint study on optimization of energy mix be carried out at the earliest.

The project was originally pushed as imported coal-based plant by Quaid-I Azam Thermal Company of the Punjab government led by Shahbaz Sharif who used to attend meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Energy led by then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A leading business tycoon had proposed the project and was expected to be one of the key sponsors.

The project was removed from the CPEC priority list when then bureaucracy highlighted that surplus generation capacity had already been contracted and more contracts would lead the country to `capacity trap`.

The government had already notified a ban on capacity addition on imported fuels as early as June 2016 and the Rahim Yar Khan and Muzaffargarh coal-based plants were removed from the CPEC priority list.

Among other reasons, this led to unceremonious removal of the then power secretary and head of the National Transmission Company the system operator.

The Punjab government had pushed for revival of the plant which was included again in the priority list in subsequent CPEC negotiations, according to a federal secretary. It was not needed at all and would have been a burden on the already deteriorating financial condition of the power sector, he said, adding that Diamer-Bhasha dam was also included in the CPEC list when the coal-based projects were removed, but the dam project could also not move forward under the CPEC for unrelated reasons.

The official said the PTI government had already made up its mind to remove almost 400 'politically motivated' projects from the development portfolio as part of a comprehensive mid-year review of the PSDP later this month. Giving an example, the official said the last government had included hundreds of gas schemes in the PSDP and allocated funds even though there was no additional gas available for new connections. Many of these schemes could not take off.

'We are reviewing all such schemes in detail; we do not want to waste public funds where lien has been created or sufficient progress achieved, but we definitely don't like to throw good money after bad,' a cabinet member told Dawn, claiming that more than 20 seats went to the PML-N in the last elections due to constituency politics of gas connections.

He said the mid-term review of the PSDP would be held in the last week of January and about Rs2 trillion worth of development projects would be revised. He said that most of the unapproved projects at the level of the Central Development Working Party or the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council and unfunded schemes would be excluded from the PSDP.

The cabinet member said that at least 400 projects included in the PSDP did not receive funding over the past four years and yet they were part of the programme. But he hastened to add that the Rs675 billion federal development budget approved by parliament in September this year would not be reduced further even though adjustments would be made where necessary to divert funds from problematic projects to more deserving ones for effective funding utilization. He said the PSDP used to get average Rs55bn additional funds over the past five years for development projects but most of them had not been given funds because the overall development portfolio expanded significantly. He said that all secretaries would be asked to provide unnecessary schemes under the respective ministries and divisions during the mid-year review so as to complete maximum projects in the minimum time period.

The federal government's overall development portfolio stood at about Rs6tr and with the current pace, allocation of funds would take 9-10 years to complete even if no fresh development project was taken up, an official said. The PSDP size would remain unchanged at Rs675bn, but throw-forward would be significantly reduced through revision in the number of projects and their rationalized costs, he added.

Dawn News, 14-01-1

CPEC & apprehensions

CHINA has been showing a great interest in the stability, development, and progress of Pakistan by investing lavishly in many projects, including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This project is considered a game changer for serving the interests of both the countries, especially for the prosperity of Pakistan.

Some analysts fear that China will seize control of Pakistan under these projects as East India Company did in the subcontinent.

First, the colonial trend has been demolished globally and global institutions and organizations will never replay the old game.

Second, China has never made any attempt to colonize another country throughout its history. It has also never interfered in the politics of countries in its vicinity. In addition, of all its neighbors, China has friendly relations with Pakistan.

Last but not least, Pakistan has emerged as a nuclear power and continues to develop its nuclear program. No country, and hence China, will ever be careless enough to neglect mutually assured destruction.

Besides, Pakistanis are a patriotic people, who have been proving their love and loyalty to the country since its inception, even in the worst times of wars.

These points ensure Pakistan and China's territorial integrity. Both are working for their prosperity with high technological breakthroughs using all available resources.

Fahad Khan Naudero

Dawn News, 14-01-19

CPEC: govt seeks more joint ventures

CHINA and Pakistan have made strides particularly in electricity and infrastructure projects in the first three-year phase of their cooperation under the multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both countries have had good and not-so-good experiences and are learning about each other's strengths and deficiencies as they try to build upon lessons learnt. At the conclusion of the recently held eighth meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), they agreed to conduct at least five in-depth sector studies for future investment cooperation under the framework as Islamabad pursues more financial support and Beijing seeks increased facilitation, improved security and a smooth repayment mechanism. In addition, 'both sides

agreed to make joint efforts to improve the overall media environment for CPEC cooperation`.

Pakistan made a formal request to the JCC the highest decision-making body on the CPEC for `more grant, investment, joint ventures and concessional loan arrangements to strengthen and fast track` transport infrastructure, industrial cooperation and socio-economic development. China`s focus during the meeting that ended on Dec 20 was more on putting in place a mechanism that ensures smooth repayments given Pakistan`s financial constraints. It expects Islamabad to further strengthen the security structure and take targeted measures to reduce the threat of terrorism by speeding up the building and deployment of Special Security DivisionSouth. Beijing is also pushing more vigorously for the removal of irritants in the implementation of existing projects.

Led jointly by NingJizhe, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China, and MakhdoomKhusroBakhtiar, minister for planning, development reforms, meeting participants appreciated that the CPEC had achieved important milestones of early-harvest projects (EHP) and was now entering a new development stage.

The in-depth studies will be on Pakistan`s power market, a cascade study for hydro-power projects all along the Jhelum River, optimization of overall energy mix, an oil and gas industry development plan and a five-year action plan for cooperation on the highway between China and Pakistan as part of the joint traffic density study.

(The) results of a joint study on power market of Pakistan will be fundamental for deciding the next step of energy cooperation.` The working on the study has just begun. Pakistan has committed to putting into operation all transmission lines required for the evacuation of energy well before CPEC projects achieve commercial operations to avoid penalties. The payment of outstanding tariffs for the operational energy projects is a source of irritation for China. The two sides agreed to have scientific planning and amicable negotiations to address the issues arising from energy cooperation and create a common panel under the joint working group on energy for monthly formal and informal communications and consultations.

Pakistan promised a timely recovery of bills from consumers as part of the ongoing campaign to reduce line losses and improve collection through reforms and new technology. But Pakistan also wanted Chinese technical support with respect to technology. A comprehensive technical study will also be carried out to increase the production capacity of the surface mine in the Thar coalfield.

Pakistan has demanded that a major 1,320-megawatt Rahimyar Khan project under CPEC be scrapped on the ground that its next-stage priority was using domestic sources of energy. Hence, the need for maximum benefits from the Jhelum River flows by optimizing the combined operation of all cascade projects there.

On the industrial side, China asked Pakistan that the Board of Investment should act as lead agency for industrial development and ensure land, energy, taxation, customs, law and other services from the relevant departments to deal with land prices, park development models and infrastructure services.

Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabeji in Thatta and M3 in Faisalabad have been selected as special industrial zones for the first phase of development.

They will promote Chinese investments in key industries, like textile, petro-chemical and iron and steel.

In infrastructure, both sides are happy with the progress on two big projects: \$8.2 billion Mainline (ML-1) from Karachi to Khyber and \$2bn Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) besides Eastbay Expressway Gwadar and security arrangements for them. Pakistan has promised to ensure timely land acquisition and demolition for the project implementation.

The preliminary design of ML-1 will be ready this month. The project will be implemented in line with the framework agreement signed in May 2017. This means China will provide up to 85 per cent of the project cost as a loan as opposed to a 'build-operate-transfer' model proposed by the PTI government to shift financial responsibility on to the private sector and keep government loans on the lower side.

Beijing is annoyed about slow progress on KCR by the provincial government despite the project being critical and feasible for the growth and prosperity of the country's largest city. Mass transit projects for Quetta and Peshawar have been put on the back burner for the time being because of a lack of preparedness. These will be taken up once their PC-1s are approved by the relevant government forums.

Noting full operational capability of the Gwadar Port, the two sides agreed to continuously pay high attention to it. Weekly container liner services are calling the port as coal trans-shipment and clinker export take place. The JCC appreciated progress on the Gwadar Free Zone. It agreed to jointly make more efforts to attract qualified companies to invest in the area.

Pakistan was required to provide agreed tax and tariff mechanisms to create a good investment environment leading to the next phase. The two sides have failed so far to finalize the Gwadar Smart City Master Plan, but promised to hold the groundbreaking ceremony for the New Gwadar International Port before March 2019. •

Dawn News, 15-01-19

China's US trade surplus hit record in 2018 but tariffs bite

BEIJING: China's trade surplus with the United States hit a record high last year but the country's imports and exports fell in December as the long-running trade war begins to bite in the world's number two economy, data showed on Monday.

The surplus with the US is a major source of anger within the Trump administration, which imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods last year and has warned of more to come.

Despite the levies, exports to the United States grew 11.3 per cent last year while imports rose 0.7pc, expanding the surplus to a record \$323.3bn from \$275.8bn in 2017, customs data show.

However, in a sign that the White House's measures are having an impact, China's exports to the US sank last month.

The figures come after a US delegation held three days of talks in Beijing last week in the first face-to-face meeting since Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in December pledged a 90-day truce to resolve the crisis.

Trump wants Beijing to buy more American goods to narrow the yawning trade gap and allow foreign players better access and protection in the Chinese market.

China traditionally imports vast quantities of American soyabeans in the second half of the year, long making it the most valuable import from the US.

Subdued import growth but the buying fell off last year after China imposed a 25pc retaliatory tariff on the commodity in the summer.

Total imports of soyabeans fall 7.9pc last year to 88 million tonnes, customs data showed, with December imports down 40.1pc from a year earlier.

'The overall development of China-US trade in 2018 was still relatively normal, but the trade surplus did expand slightly,' said Li Kuiwen, spokesman for the customs administration. The country's commerce minister told state media on Friday that China will work to straighten out trade frictions with the US this year.

China's exports to the world fell 4.4pc in December from a year earlier, while imports dropped 7.6pc, reflecting sluggish demand at home and abroad.

‘With global growth set to cool further this year, exports will remain weak even if China can clinch a trade deal that rows back Trump’s tariffs,’ said Julian Evans Pritchard of Capital Economics.

The trade slowdown sent Chinese stocks lower on Monday.

Rapidly falling exports could point to rising unemployment, said Nomura economist Lu Ting.

‘Beijing will perhaps be more eager to strike a trade deal with the US...policymakers will need to take more aggressive measures to stabilize GDP growth, Lu wrote in a note.

‘Hidden concerns’ China’s global trade volume rose last year but its surplus with the world fell 16.2pc to \$351.76bn in 2018, as imports rose 15.8pc while exports gained 9.9pc.

The customs administration will work to ‘improve the country’s business environment and expand foreign trade... in order to keep employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign investment’ stable, Li said, adding there are some ‘hidden concerns’ and ‘uncertain external factors’ for development.

With US tariffs in place, the gloomy export picture has reinforced the need for Beijing to rely on its legion of consumers to grow its economy.

But a slew of bad data has added to concerns about China’s economy, which is expected to have grown around 6.5pc in 2018, down from 6.9pc in 2017 and at its weakest rate in almost three decades.

China’s annual passenger car sales fell last year for the first time in more than 20 years, as the trade war with the US rocked consumer confidence and Beijing reined in car financing channels.-AFP

Dawn News, 15-01-19

China sentences Canadian to death raises tension

BEIJING: A Chinese court sentenced a Canadian man to death on Monday in a sudden retrial in a drug smuggling case that is likely to escalate tensions between the countries over the arrest of a top Chinese technology executive.

The court in Liaoning province announced that it had given Robert Lloyd Schellenberg the death penalty after rejecting his plea of innocence and convicting him of being an accessory to drug smuggling. It gave no indication that the penalty could be commuted, but Schellenberg’s fate is likely to be drawn into diplomatic negotiations over China’s demand for the top executive’s release.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in Ottawa that he is extremely concerned that China chose to 'arbitrarily' apply the death penalty to a Canadian citizen. In his strongest comments yet against China, Trudeau said 'all countries around the world' should be concerned that Beijing is acting arbitrarily with its justice system.

Schellenberg was detained more than four years ago and initially sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2016. But suddenly last month, an appeals court agreed with prosecutors who said the sentence was too lenient, and scheduled Monday's retrial with just four days' notice. The Chinese press began publicizing Schellenberg's case in December after Canada detained Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, on Dec 1 at the request of the US.

Since then, China has arrested two Canadians in apparent retaliation for Meng's arrest. Both Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat, and Michael Spavor, a businessman, were arrested on vague national security allegations. A Canadian teacher was detained but released.

Schellenberg's lawyer, Zhang Dongshuo, said his client now has 10 days to appeal.

Zhang said he argued in the one-day trial on Monday that there was insufficient evidence to prove his client's involvement in the drug smuggling operation. He added that prosecutors had not introduced new evidence to justify a heavier sentence.

'This is a very unique case,' Zhang told The Associated Press in a phone interview. He said the swiftness of the proceedings with a retrial held so soon after it was ordered was unusual, but declined to comment on whether it was related to Meng's arrest.

The court said it found that Schellenberg was involved in an international drug smuggling operation and was recruited to help smuggle more than 222kgs of methamphetamine from a warehouse in Dalian city to Australia.

Earlier on Monday, a Chinese spokeswoman said Kovrig, the former Canadian diplomat detained in December, does not enjoy diplomatic immunity, rejecting a complaint from Trudeau that the man's rights were being denied.

Trudeau said last week that Chinese officials were not respecting Kovrig's diplomatic immunity. However, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that Kovrig is no longer a diplomat and entered China on an ordinary passport and business visa.-AP

Dawn News, 15-01-19

China to collect samples from moon this year

Beijing: China will launch a probe to collect samples from the moon around the end of this year; a space official said on Monday, weeks after Beijing hailed the successful touch down on the far side of the moon. The Chang'e-4 lunar probe landed on Jan 3 and transmitted the first-ever 'close range' image of the far side of the moon.

The tasks of the Chang'e-4 include astronomical observation, surveying the moon's terrain and mineral makeup and measuring the neutron radiation and neutral atoms to study the environment of its far side.

The Change 5 mission will lay the ground work for fudher probes to be sent to the moon's south pole and possibly to return samples from the far side of the moon, depending on the results collected in the upcoming mission, Wu said.

Tests carried out by future missions could lay the groundwork for building on the moon's surface, by testing technologies like 3D printing or the use of moon soil in construction, he said.-
Reuters

Dunya News
Dunya News, 01-01-19



امریکہ، چین 3 ماہ کیلئے اضافی محصولات کا نفاذ روکنے پر متفق
واشنگٹن (این این آئی) امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے کہا ہے کہ ان کی اپنے چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ سے ٹیلی فون پر طویل
اور عمدہ بات چیت ہوئی ہے۔ امریکی صدر کے ٹویٹر پیغام کے مطابق امریکہ اور چین اگلے نوے روز کے لیے اضافی محصولات
کا نفاذ روک رہے ہیں جب کہ تجارتی تنازع کے خاتمے اور کسی معاہدے کے لیے بات چیت جاری ہے۔

Dunya News, 01-01-19

چین اور پاکستان نے 2030 تک تعاون میکنزم تشکیل دیدیا

سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے پر عمل کیلئے طویل اور مہمائی اور مختصر مدتی منصوبہ تیار

دونوں حکومتیں پہلے ہی رسمی دستاویزات پر دستخط کر چکیں: چینی سفارتی ذرائع

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین اور پاکستان نے آگے بڑھتا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں دونوں ممالک اپنی
مشترکہ طور پر 2030 تک ایک طویل المیعاد تعاون مرکزی اور صوبائی حکومتوں کی مدد سے لینے کے بعد پہلے
حکومت تشکیل دیدیا ہے جس کا مقصد اقتصادی راہداری اور رگی دستاویزات پر دستخط کر چکے ہیں۔ چینی سفارتی
نیت ورگ کے تحت سماجی و اقتصادی شراکت داری کو ذرائع کے مطابق طویل المیعاد (آئی سیل 6 نمبر 28)

Dunya News, 01-01-19

سال 2018 میں سی پیک پر حمایت کرنے والوں کا شکریہ، چینی سفیر

اسلام آباد (نیوز ایجنسیاں) پاکستان میں چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ، برطانوی ہائی کمشنر تھامس ڈریو اور فرانس کے سفیر ڈاکٹر مارک باریٹ نے پاکستانی شہریوں کو نئے سال کی مبارکباد دی ہے، چینی سفیر نے کہا ہے کہ چینی سفارتخانہ تمام دوستوں کا شکریہ ادا کر رہا ہے جنہوں نے سال 2018 میں سی پیک اور پاک چین دوستی کی مکمل حمایت کی ہے، برطانوی ہائی کمشنر تھامس ڈریو نے نئے سال کی آمد پر اپنے پیغام میں کہا کہ وہ برطانوی ہائی کمیشن کی جانب سے اپنے پاکستانی دوستوں کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں، ہمیں آگے بہت کچھ کرنا ہے، جون میں برٹش ایئرز کی پاکستان کیلئے پروازوں کی بحالی خوش آئند ہوگی، انہوں نے 2019ء میں سب کیلئے پرامن، خوشحال اور صحت مند زندگی کیلئے نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار کیا، فرانس کے سفیر ڈاکٹر مارک باریٹ نے کہا کہ 2018ء پاکستان اور فرانس کے تعلقات کے حوالے سے بہترین سال رہا، اس سال دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات میں مزید پیش رفت ہوئی۔

چینی سفیر

Dunya News, 02-01-19



کے الیکٹریک حصص فروخت معاملہ پرفریقیں تھرڈ پارٹی ثالثی پر متفق

شنگھائی گروپ اور ابراہم گروپ میں کے ای کے 66 فیصد حصص فروخت کرنا معاہدہ ہوا

کراچی الیکٹریک کے پی ایس او، ایس ایس جی سی کے ذمہ 79 ارب روپے وجہ تنازع ہیں

اسلام آباد (آفتاب میکن) وفاقی حکومت، شنگھائی گروپ اور ابراہم گروپ کے الیکٹریک کے حصص کی فروخت کا زیر التوا معاملہ حل کرنے کیلئے تھرڈ پارٹی پر متفق ہو گئے ہیں، وزارت توانائی نے ابراہم گروپ اور شنگھائی گروپ کے درمیان سمجھوتہ کرانے کی کوششیں شروع کر دیں، سیکرٹری پاور ڈویژن عرفان علی نے بتایا کہ شنگھائی گروپ اور ابراہم گروپ نے اکتوبر 2016 میں کراچی الیکٹریک (کے ای) کے 66 فیصد حصص کو 1.77 ارب ڈالر میں فروخت کرنے کا اعلان کیا تھا لیکن دونوں کمپنیوں نے خرید و فروخت کا معاہدہ (ایس بی اے) خفیہ رکھا۔ کے ای کے مختلف حکومتی کمپنیوں کے ذمہ واجب الادا اربوں روپے وفاقی حکومت کے درمیان وجہ تنازع رہے۔ سیکرٹری پاور ڈویژن نے واضح کیا کہ کے الیکٹریک کی فروخت پر سکیورٹی سرٹیفکیٹ جاری کرنے پر اصولی فیصلہ نہیں ہوا۔ دونوں کمپنیوں نے معاہدہ جھکاری ڈویژن کو فراہم کر دیا اور کے ای کی طرف سے پی ایس او، ایس ایس جی سی کے ذمہ 79 ارب روپے کے بقایا جات کے حل کیلئے تھرڈ پارٹی کی ثالثی پر راضی ہو گئے ہیں۔ جھکاری ڈویژن کے ذرائع کے مطابق شنگھائی الیکٹریک کے چیئرمین نے گزشتہ ہفتہ وزیراعظم سے ملاقات کر کے شیئرز ٹرانسفر کرنے کی درخواست کی تھی، معاملہ کے حل کیلئے وفاقی وزراء پرویز خٹک، اسد عمر، غلام سرور خان، عمر ایوب خان اور محمد میاں سومرو پر مشتمل کمیٹی بنائی گئی تھی۔ گزشتہ ہفتہ وزیر جھکاری محمد میاں سومرو کی سربراہی میں وفاقی کابینہ کی کمیٹی برائے جھکاری کے اجلاس میں کے الیکٹریک کی فروخت کیلئے ضروری سکیورٹی سرٹیفکیٹ جاری کرنے کی سفارش کی تھی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق تھرڈ پارٹی ثالثی سے شنگھائی گروپ کی طرف سے الیکٹریک کی 18 ارب ڈالر سے اپ گریڈیشن کاراستہ ہوا ہو گیا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ ابراہم گروپ سے شنگھائی الیکٹریک نے کے الیکٹریک کے 66 فیصد شیئرز خریدنے کا معاہدہ کر رکھا ہے، فی شیئر قیمت 7 روپے 75 پیسے رکھی گئی لیکن مقررہ تاریخوں کے اندر شیئرز کی ٹرانسفر نہ ہو سکی جس کی ذمہ داری ایس ای سی پی کے سپرٹجی، دو بار ٹرانسفر کی تاریخ مقرر کی گئی ہے۔

تھرڈ پارٹی ثالثی

Dunya News, 02-01-19



روپے کو گرنے سے بچانے کیلئے چین پاکستان کو 2 ارب ڈالر قرضہ دے گا

پاکستان آئی ایم ایف کیساتھ 7 سے 8 ارب ڈالر قرضے کیلئے بھی مذاکرات کر رہا ہے، رواں ماہ دو بارہ

بات چیت متوقع

دسمبر میں پاکستانی کابینہ نے چینی کرنسی کے ”پائڈا بانڈز“ جاری کرنے کے منصوبے کی منظوری دی

، فنانشل ٹائمز

اسلام آباد (دنیا ماہیٹرنگ) ذرمبادلہ کے گرتے ڈخاز کو سہارا دینے اور روپے کو گرنے سے بچانے کیلئے چین پاکستان کو 2 ارب ڈالر قرضہ دے گا۔ یہ بات برطانوی اخبار فنانشل ٹائمز نے دو سینیٹر پاکستانی عہدیداروں کے حوالے سے بتائی۔ سینیٹر پاکستانی اہلکار نے بتایا کہ چین کا قرض دینے کا یہ وعدہ پاکستان کو بحران سے بچانے میں معاونت کے عزم کا عکاس ہے، روپے کی قدر کو مزید گرنے سے روکنے کیلئے ہم چین سے رجوع کر سکتے ہیں۔ اخبار کے مطابق چینی حکام نے اس قرضہ پر کوئی تہیہ نہیں کیا۔ مالی سپورٹ کا وعدہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین گہرے معاشی روابط کی علامت ہے، پاکستان آئی ایم ایف کیساتھ 7 سے 8 ارب ڈالر قرضے کیلئے بھی مذاکرات کر رہا ہے۔ رواں ماہ پاکستانی وزارت خزانہ اور آئی ایم ایف کے مابین پیکج کی تفصیلات پر دوبارہ مذاکرات متوقع ہیں جس میں آئی ایم ایف کی جانب سے سخت شرائط کا امکان ہے، جیسے کہ سرکاری کارپوریشنوں میں ملازمین کی تعداد کم کرنا وغیرہ۔ 2017 کے آخر تک ڈالر کے مقابلے میں روپے کی قدر پانچویں حصے تک گر گئی تھی، گزشتہ ماہ چینی قرضوں کی درجہ بندی میں پاکستان کی ریٹنگ بہت کم کر دی گئی۔ ماہرین معاشیات کے مطابق پاکستان کے ذرمبادلہ کے ذخائر 7.3 ارب ڈالر تک گر گئے جسے چین حد تک کم ترین سطح کہا جاتا ہے، جو کہ ایک سے ڈیڑھ ماہ کی درآمد کو سہارا دے سکتے تھے۔ کئی عشروں کے دفاعی تعاون کے بعد چین نے پاکستان کی مالیاتی سپورٹ بڑھادی ہے، چین کے سرکاری بینکوں نے جون 2017 میں پاکستان کو 4 ارب ڈالر قرض دیا۔ چین نے ہی بیک منسوبے کے تحت پاکستان کے انفراسٹرکچر، توانائی، ریلوے اور شاہراہوں کے منصوبوں میں 60 ارب ڈالر سے زائد کی سرمایہ کاری کا وعدہ کیا ہے، جو کہ صدر می کے روڈ اینڈ ہیلٹ پروگرام کا اہم حصہ ہے۔ اس راہداری کا مقصد چین کے مغربی علاقے کو گوادرن بندرگاہ سے جوڑنا ہے، جسے چینی فنڈز سے مکمل کیا گیا۔ اخبار کے مطابق دسمبر میں پاکستانی کابینہ نے چین کی مارکیٹ میں چینی کرنسی کے ”پائڈا بانڈز“ جاری کرنے کے منصوبے کی منظوری دی، حکام کے مطابق ان بانڈز سے ایک ارب سے ایک ارب 20 کروڑ ڈالر کے فنڈز حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ تجزیہ کاروں کے مطابق اس پیش کش کا باضابطہ اعلان نہ کر کے بیٹنگ اسلام آباد کیساتھ اپنے تعلقات سے متعلق امریکی خدشات سے بچنا چاہتا ہے۔ جولائی 2018 میں امریکی وزیر خارجہ مائیک پومپو نے خبردار کیا کہ آئی ایم ایف کا تیل آؤٹ پیکج پاکستانی چینی قرضوں کی واپسی کیلئے استعمال کر سکتا ہے۔ سابق وزیر تجارت زبیر خان نے کہا کہ چین کی پاکستان کیساتھ جتا ڈیٹنگ کا مطلب آئی ایم ایف کی اہمیت کم کرنا نہیں۔ چین بھی آئی ایم ایف کا اہم رکن ہے، وہ پاکستانی معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ پاکستان کے مشرق وسطیٰ کے اتحادیوں نے بھی مدد کی کوششیں تیز کر دی ہیں، سعودی عرب نے جون 2019 تک 6 ارب ڈالر قرض کا وعدہ کیا ہے، جبکہ یو اے ای نے اسی عرصہ میں 3 ارب ڈالر قرض کا وعدہ کیا ہے۔

چین آؤٹ

Dunya News, 04-01-19

پاکستان کے تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز سی پیک کی تعمیر و ترقی کیلئے یکسو

پاکستان اور چین نے سی پیک بارے منفی پراپیگنڈا سختی سے مسترد کر دیا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین کے حکومتی عہدیداروں نے سی پیک کے تحت قرضوں کے حوالے سے میڈیا کے منفی پراپیگنڈے کی تردید اور سختی سے مسترد کرتے ہوئے اسے گمراہ کن قرار دیا ہے اور کہا ہے کہ جھوٹا پراپیگنڈا دونوں ممالک کے بڑھتے سماجی اقتصادی تعلقات کو متاثر نہیں کر سکتا، امید ہے میڈیا اپنی ذمہ داری کا احساس کرتے ہوئے مثبت رویہ اختیار کرے گا۔ اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ سے جاری ہونے والے الگ الگ بیانات میں کہا گیا ہے کہ سی پیک کا مقصد عوام کی فلاح و بہبود اور ترقی ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت جاری قرض پاکستان کی ملکی معیشت پر کوئی بوجھ نہیں ڈالے گا، دونوں ممالک کی حکومتوں نے میڈیا کے اس منفی پراپیگنڈے کو مسترد کر دیا ہے،۔ چینی اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز کے مطابق پاک چین تعلقات ایسے منفی پراپیگنڈے سے ہرگز متاثر نہیں ہوں گے۔ پاکستان کے تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز سی پیک کی تعمیر و ترقی کے لئے یکسو ہیں، اقتصادی راہداری عوامی فلاح و بہبود، خوشحالی اور ترقی کا ذریعہ ہے۔

یکسو

Dunya News, 05-01-19**چین نے بھی 'بہموں کی ماں' کا تجربہ کر لیا**

بم کی طاقت جوہری ہتھیار سے کچھ ہی کم، ایچ سسکس بمبار کے ذریعے گرایا گیا

وزن امریکی بم سے کم، لمبائی 6 میٹر، ہنگروں کو تباہ کرنیکی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے

بیجنگ (اے ایف پی) چین نے اپنے سب سے طاقتور غیر جوہری بم کا تجربہ کر لیا جسے سرکاری میڈیا نے تمام بہموں کی ماں سے تشبیہ دی ہے۔ چین کی سرکاری اسلحہ بنانے والی کمپنی نورٹکو کی ویب سائٹ پر جاری کی گئی مختصر ویڈیو میں انتہائی وزنی بم گرتے دکھایا گیا، جس کے بعد آگ اور دھوئیں کا بڑا بگولہ اٹھا۔ بم کو، جس کی طاقت جوہری ہتھیار سے کچھ ہی کم ہے، چینی ایچ سسکس کے بمبار سے گرایا گیا۔ چین کے نیم سرکاری اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز نے دفاعی تجربہ کار روے ڈونگلو کے حوالے سے کہا کہ چین کے طاقتور ترین غیر جوہری بم کی لمبائی 5 سے 6 میٹر (16 سے 20 فٹ) ہے لیکن اس کا وزن امریکی بم سے کم ہے۔ چینی ماہرین کے مطابق یہ بم فوجی تعمیرات، ہنگروں اور ٹھکانوں کو مکمل تباہ کرنیکی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ سال 2017 میں امریکی فوج نے افغانستان کے صوبے ننگر ہار میں پاکستانی سرحد کے قریب سب سے بڑا غیر جوہری بم 'جی بی یو 43' گرایا تھا۔

Dunya News, 06-01-19

جنگ کسی وقت بھی چھڑ سکتی ہے چینی صدر فوج تیار رہنے کا حکم

رواں صدی تیزی سے تبدیلیاں لارہی ہے، بدلتی صورت حال میں چین کو خطرات کے مقابلہ کیلئے

حکمت عملی مرتب کرنا ہوگی

خطے میں بڑھتے خطرات، چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کیلئے جدید جنگی ٹیکنالوجی تیار کرنا ہوگی: شی جن پنگ کا اعلیٰ فوجی

افسروں سے خطاب

بیجنگ (دنیا ما نیوزنگ) چینی صدر نے فوج کو جنگ کے لیے تیار رہنے کا حکم دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ جنگ کسی وقت بھی چھڑ سکتی ہے۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا کے مطابق شی جن پنگ نے چینی فوج کے اعلیٰ افسروں کے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ فوج کو کسی بھی قسم کی ہنگامی صورت حال کیلئے ہمہ وقت تیار رہنا چاہیے۔ چینی صدر نے جنوبی چین کے ساحلی علاقے کے تنازع اور امریکہ کے ساتھ کشیدہ صورت حال کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ خطے میں بڑھتے ہوئے خطرات اور چیلنجز کا سامنا کرنے کیلئے عصر حاضر کے جدید تقاضوں کو پورا کرنے والی جنگی ٹیکنالوجی تیار کرنا ہوگی۔ شی جن پنگ نے مزید کہا کہ رواں صدی دنیا میں کئی نمایاں تبدیلیاں لارہی ہے اور اس تیزی سے بدلتی ہوئی صورت حال میں چین کو اپنی جغرافیائی اہمیت کے باعث مختلف خطرات کا بھی سامنا ہے جس سے نبرد آزما ہونے کے لیے حکمت عملی مرتب کرنے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ بحیرہ جنوبی چین کا ساحلی علاقہ تائیوان اور چین کے درمیان کشیدگی کا باعث ہے جب کہ امریکہ کے ساتھ جاری معاشی جنگ کا اونٹ بھی کسی کروٹ پیٹھتے نظر نہیں آ رہا۔

Dunya News, 07-01-19

سوڈان: ڈارفر میں چینی فوج کے ہیلی کاپٹر
یونٹ نے نئے سال کا پہلا مشن مکمل کر لیا

خرطوم، بیجنگ (آئی این پی) سوڈان کے علاقے ڈارفر میں امن قائم کرنے کے لئے چینی فوج کے ہیلی کاپٹر یونٹ نے سال 2019 کا پہلا مشن کامیابی سے مکمل کر لیا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق چینی ہیلی کاپٹر یونٹ نے اسی روز ڈارفر میں افریقی یونین کے خصوصی وفد کے سولہ اہلکاروں اور چار سو کلوگرام ساز و سامان کو سو کلو میٹر کے فاصلے پر واقع دو مقامات تک پہنچایا۔ اطلاع کے مطابق یہ سوڈان میں امن کے تحفظ کے لئے چینی ہیلی کاپٹر یونٹ کا دوسرا بیج ہے۔

Dunya News, 09-01-19

چین کے غیر ملکی زرمبادلہ

کے ذخائر میں کمی

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) اقتصادی ماہرین نے کہا کہ 2018 کے دوران چین کے غیر ملکی زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں کمی ہوئی جس کی وجہ سے ملکی اقتصادی شرح نمو کے باعث ملکی کرنسی، 'یوان' پر دباؤ اور امریکہ کے ساتھ تجارتی کشیدگی ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق دسمبر 2018 کے اختتام پر چین کے غیر ملکی زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر 167.24 ارب ڈالر کی کمی کے ساتھ 3.073 ٹریلیون ڈالر ہے جو دسمبر 2017 میں 3.14 ٹریلیون ڈالر ہے تھے۔

Dunya News, 09-01-19

اقتصادی زونز کے قیام سے مقامی صنعت ترقی کریگی: چینی سفیر

نجی شعبہ زونز کی تعمیر میں حصہ ڈالے، یاؤ جنگ کی راولپنڈی چیئرمین کے وفد سے گفتگو

راولپنڈی (خصوصی نامہ نگار) راولپنڈی چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر ملک شاہد سلیم کی قیادت میں وفد نے پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ سے اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کی۔ وفد میں گروپ لیڈر سہیل الطاف، ایس ایم نسیم، نائب صدر فیاض قریشی، علی رضا، ڈاکٹر شاکل اور مجلس عاملہ کے اراکین بھی موجود تھے۔ وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبے سے پاکستان کی معیشت میں بہتری آئے گی۔ نجی شعبہ آگے آئے اور خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر میں اپنا کردار ادا کرے۔ اقتصادی زونز کے قیام سے مقامی صنعت ترقی کرے گی اور روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پچھلے سال کی طرح اس سال بھی چینی کمپنیاں راولپنڈی چیئرمین کے زیر اہتمام راول انٹرنیشنل ایکسپو میں سٹالز لگا سکیں گی اور اپنی مصنوعات کی تشہیر کریں گی۔ اس موقع پر راولپنڈی چیئرمین کے صدر ملک شاہد سلیم نے کہا کہ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں مشترکہ منصوبے لگا سکیں۔ ٹیکنالوجی منتقل کی جائے۔ پاکستانی مصنوعات کی چین برآمد پر ٹیرف ریٹ میں کمی کی جائے۔ چیئرمین آف کامرس کی سطح پر وفد کے تبادلے کئے جائیں اور سیاحت کو فروغ دیا جائے۔

Dunya News, 12-01-19

چین کی طرف سے ایئر پورٹس

کیلئے 4 جدید سکیٹرز کا تحفہ

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) چین نے پاکستان کے چار بڑے ایئر پورٹس پر سامان کی سکیٹنگ کیلئے پاکستان کو 4 نئے جدید سکیٹرز تحفے میں دیئے ہیں یہ سکیٹرز پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے کے قونصلر چین وئی نے ممبیر پاکستان کسٹمز (آپریشنز) ڈاکٹر جواد اویس آغا کے سپرد کئے، تحفے میں دیئے گئے سکیٹرز کی مالیت 10 لاکھ آرا ایم بی چینی کرنسی ہے جنہیں جلد ملک کے چار بڑے ایئر پورٹس پر نصب کیا جائے گا، اس سے نہ صرف مسافروں کے سامان کی فزیکل چیکنگ ختم ہو جائے گی بلکہ سامان بھی فوری کلیئر ہوگا۔

سکیٹرز تحفہ

Dunya News, 12-01-19

چینی سیٹلائٹ سے چاند کی تصویر ارسال

سچوان (آئی این پی/شہوا) چین کے خلائی تحقیقی مشن نے زمینی مرکز سے رابطہ کیا ہے اور چاند سے پہلا تصاویر ارسال کی ہیں۔ چاند کے تاریک حصے پر لینڈنگ کرنیوالے چھانگ ای 4 کی 360 ڈگری زاویہ پر کھینچی گئی تصاویر جاری کی گئی ہیں۔ ان تصاویر کو جدید ترین سیٹلائٹ چوئے چیاؤ کی مدد سے بھیجا گیا ہے۔

چاند کی تصویر

Dunya News, 14-01-19

سی پیک: ثمرات جلد چاروں صوبوں میں نظر آئیں گے: اسد قیصر
 پختونخوا میں عوامی خدمت کے پیش نظر ہمیں مرکز میں بھی حکومت ملی
 رھکنی اکنامک زون سے ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی، ارکان اسمبلی سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے کہا کہ خیبر پختونخوا میں خدمت کے پیش نظر عوام نے ہمیں مرکز سمیت دیگر صوبوں میں دوبارہ خدمت کا موقع فراہم کیا، عوامی مسائل ترجیحی بنیادوں پر حل کرنا وفاقی، صوبائی اور ضلعی حکومتوں کی بنیادی ذمہ داری ہے، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پشاور سے تعلق رکھنے والے ارکان قومی و صوبائی اسمبلی اور ضلعی حکومت کے نمائندوں سے پشاور میں ایک اعلیٰ سطح کے اجلاس میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک ملک کے لئے گیم چیجر ہے جس کے ثمرات چاروں صوبوں میں نظر آئیں گے، خیبر پختونخوا میں متعدد ترقیاتی کام زیر تکمیل ہیں رھکنی اکنامک زون سے ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی جس سے عوام کا معیار زندگی بہتر ہوگا، رھکنی فری زون کی تکمیل سے روزگار کے نئے مواقع میسر آئیں گے، اجلاس میں نور عالم خان، شوکت علی، شیر علی ارباب، محمود جان، اشتیاق ارمر، تیور جھگڑا سمیت دیگر نے شرکت کی۔ دریں اثنا انڈس وائر کراس جیپ ریل کی اختتامی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے کہا کہ خیبر پختونخوا سیاحتی لحاظ سے حسین صوبہ ہے یہاں سیاحتی مقامات بھی زیادہ ہیں، صوبائی ہنڈ کے مقام کو سیاحت کیلئے آباد کریں گے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان بھی پاکستان میں سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے کوششیں کر رہے ہیں، رئیس کے اختتام پر مہمان خصوصی اسد قیصر نے جیتنے والے ڈرائیورز میں ٹرافیوں اور انعامات تقسیم کئے۔

اسد قیصر

Dunya News, 15-01-19

؟ کشمیر چین بھارتی مظالم کو روکنے کیلئے چین اقدامات کرے اور سراج الحق

کشمیر پر چین کا مضبوط موقف عوام کیلئے حوصلے کا سبب، افغانستان پر اتحاد زیادہ ضروری ہو گیا: چینی سفیر سے ملاقات میں گفتگو

چینی مسلمانوں بارے خبریں عالم اسلام میں باعث تشویش: امیر جماعت اسلامی، علاقائی یا مذہبی تقسیم سے بالاتر ہیں: یاؤ جنگ

اسلام آباد (اپنے رپورٹر سے) امیر جماعت اسلامی پاکستان سینیٹر سراج الحق نے پاکستان میں چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ سے اسلام آباد میں ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے سینیٹر سراج الحق نے کہا پاک چین تعلقات کی مضبوطی علاقائی ترقی اور استحکام کیلئے ناگزیر ہے۔ کشمیر پر چین کا مستقل اور مضبوط موقف پاکستان اور کشمیری عوام کیلئے ڈھارس اور حوصلے کا سبب ہے۔ امید ہے بھارتی مظالم کو روکنے کیلئے چین مزید موثر سفارتی اور سیاسی اقدامات کریگا۔ انکا کہنا تھا افغانستان سے امریکی افواج کی واپسی کے اعلان کے بعد چین پاکستان اور افغانستان کی قیادت کا باہمی اتفاق پہلے سے بھی زیادہ ضروری ہو گیا ہے۔ افغانستان میں امن سی پیک کیلئے بھی انتہائی ضروری ہے، چینی سفیر نے چین کے مسلمانوں اور سکھوں کی صورتحال پر تفصیلی روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا چین کسی بھی علاقائی، نسلی یا مذہبی تقسیم سے بالاتر ہو کر اپنے ہر شہری کی ترقی کیلئے یکساں حقوق اور مواقع کی پالیسی پر گامزن ہے۔ امیر جماعت اسلامی نے کہا چینی مسلمانوں کے بارے میں عالمی ذرائع ابلاغ میں آنیوالی خبروں سے عالم اسلام میں گہری تشویش پائی جاتی ہے۔ انہوں نے اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ چین کے عملی اور مثبت اقدامات اس تشویش کا مداوا کر سکیں گے۔

سراج الحق

Express News
Express News, 02-01-19

چین 8 فیصد سود پر 2 ارب ڈالر قرض دیگا، فنانشل ٹائمز

رقم 3 برسوں میں فراہم، زر مبادلہ، روپے کی قدر بہتر بنانے میں مدد ملے گی

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک، نیوز ایجنسیاں) چین، پاکستان کو 2 ارب ڈالر کا کمرشل قرضہ دے گا، جس پر شرح سود 8 فیصد ہوگی۔ قرض کے حصول کے لیے مذاکرات آخری مراحل میں ہیں، چین نے حتمی معاہدے سے قبل معاملہ خفیہ رکھنے کی درخواست کر رکھی ہے، یہ رقم 2 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ بھی ہو سکتی ہے۔ برطانوی اخبار فنانشل ٹائمز کے مطابق عمران حکومت کو روپے کی گرتی قدر اور زر مبادلہ کی قلت کا مسئلہ درپیش ہے تاہم چین، اسے معاشی بحران کا شکار نہیں دیکھنا چاہتا، تین برسوں میں دیا جانے والا قرض، زر مبادلہ میں اضافے، روپے کی قدر بہتر بنانے اور بیرونی ادائیگیوں کے دباؤ میں خاتمے کا باعث بنے گا۔ چین نے مدد کا اعلان امریکہ کے باعث نہیں کیا، دوسری طرف پاکستان اور آئی ایم ایف کے مذاکرات اس ماہ کے آخر میں ہوں گے۔ برطانوی اخبار کے مطابق قرض کی تفصیلات حکومت پاکستان کے دو عہدیداروں نے بتائیں، قرض دینے کی منظوری مالیاتی مشکل حل کرنے میں چینی مدد کا ایک اور اظہار ہے۔ دوسری جانب پاکستان، آئی ایم ایف سے 7 سے 8 ارب ڈالر کا مالیاتی پیکیج حاصل کرنے کیلئے بھی مذاکرات کر رہا ہے، چین نے پاکستان کی امداد کا اعلان اس لئے نہیں کیا کہ امریکہ شکوک کا اظہار نہ کرے۔ یاد رہے پاکستان، سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے بھی قرض حاصل کر چکا ہے۔

Express News, 03-01-19

سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی، سعودی وفد گوادر پہنچ گیا

سی پیک روٹ پر 9 فری زونز میں سرمایہ کاری مواقع ہیں، بریفنگ

گوادر (خ ن) سعودی عرب کا 14 رکنی وفد منسٹری آف انرجی اینڈ منرل ریسورس کے ایڈوائزر احمد حمد الغامدی کی قیادت میں گوادر پہنچ گیا وفد گوادر بندرگاہ کا دورہ کیا اس موقع پر گوادر پورٹ اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین ن چائینہ اور سیز پورٹ ہولڈنگ کمپنی کے چیئرمین ٹنگ باؤ ژونگ نے سی پیک منصوبوں فری زون کے متعلق وفد کو بریفنگ دی، گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے ڈی جی ڈاکٹر سجاد حسین نے سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیش رفت اور گوادر ماسٹر پلان سے متعلق وفد کو بتایا سی پیک روٹ پر 9 کنامک فری زون قائم کئے جا رہے ہیں بلوچستان خصوصاً سیندک ریکوڈک کے معدنی وسائل کو گوادر سے منسلک کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں 600 کلومیٹر تک سڑک تعمیر کی جا رہی ہے اسی روٹ کو افغانستان کے راستے ترکمانستان تک لے جایا جائیگا پسینی کے علاقے میں آئل ریفاؤنڈری کا قیام بھی گوادر کی ترقی سے منسلک ہے گوادر میں سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع ہیں سعودی وفد نے گوادر میں سرمایہ کاری میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا

Express News, 03-01-19

2 ارب ڈالر قرضہ: پاکستان کی معاونت جاری رکھیں گے، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) بیجنگ میں چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے ہفتہ وار بریفنگ کے دوران کہا پاکستان سدا بہار دوست اور سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے، اقتصادی و سماجی ترقی کیلئے چین اس کی معاونت جاری رکھے گا، ترجمان نے کہا پاکستان سدا بہار دوست اور سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے۔

Express News, 03-01-19

چین پاکستان کو جدید ترین بحری جنگی جہاز فراہم کریگا

شنگھائی میں جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے حامل جہاز کی تعمیر شروع کر دی گئی

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین پاکستان کو جدید ترین بحری جنگی جہاز فراہم کرے گا، اس سلسلے میں چین نے جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے حامل بحری جنگی جہاز کی تعمیر شروع کر دی ہے، چین کی سرکاری شپ بلڈنگ کارپوریشن نے کہا ہے جہاز چینی بحریہ کا جدید ترین ماڈل ہے جو تباہ کن گائیڈڈ میزائلوں سے لیس ہوگا، پاکستانی نیوی کے مطابق اس بحری جہاز کی قسم 054AP ہے جس کا مطلب یہ ہے یہ چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی (پی ایل اے) نیوی کی قسم 054A کی بنیاد پر تعمیر کیا جا رہا ہے، اس سے پہلے کہا گیا تھا اس قسم کے چار جہازوں کا آرڈر مل چکا ہے، ایک بار تعمیر کیا گیا بحری جہاز سب سے بڑا اور ٹیکنالوجی کے لحاظ سے پاکستانی بحریہ کا جدید ترین پلٹ فارم ہوگا، چین کے بحری جہاز تعمیر کرنے کے شعبے سے آگاہ ایک اہلکار نے چائے ڈیلی کو نام ظاہر نہ کرنے کی شرط پر بتایا ہے کہ کسی ملک کو فروخت کیا جانے والا یہ سب سے بڑا اور طاقتور جنگی بحری جہاز ہے، انٹرنیٹ پر اس بحری جہاز کی جو تصاویر موجود ہیں یہ جہاز کثیر الجہتی خصوصیات کا حامل ہے۔

Express News, 03-01-19

کروٹ پاور پرو جیکٹ، لاپتہ چینی انجینئر کا کیس ری اوپن

تفتیش ڈی ایس پی سطح کے افسر کے سپرد، ایس ایس پی آپریشن کا سائٹ کا دورہ

راولپنڈی (صالح مغل، خبر نگار) چینی ماہرین کی نگرانی میں کہوٹہ میں جدی کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پرو جیکٹ سے دسمبر 2017 میں پراسرار طور پر لاپتہ ہونے والے چینی انجینئر کے مبینہ اغواء کا مقدمہ از سر نو کھول کر تفتیش کا آغاز کر دیا گیا ہے۔ لیونگ زئی نامی انجینئر دریا کے کنارے بنائی جانے والی ٹنل پر کام کے دوران پراسرار طور پر لاپتہ ہوا تھا۔ ذرائع کی مطابق وفاقی حکومت کجانب سے راولپنڈی پولیس کو ہدایت جاری کی گئیں ہیں کہ چینی انجینئر کے کیس کی از سر نو تفتیش کر کے اس کا سراغ لگایا جائے۔ راولپنڈی پولیس کے سینئر آفیسر نے نام ظاہر نہ کرنے کی شرط پر ایکسپریس کو بتایا کہ وفاقی حکومت کی ہدایت کی روشنی میں چینی انجینئر کی فائل ری اوپن کر کے نئے سرے سے تفتیش کا آغاز کیا جا رہا ہے، تفتیش ڈی ایس پی سطح کے آفیسر کو دی گئی ہے جو تمام پہلوؤں کو سامنے رکھ کر تحقیقات کریں گے۔ دوسری جانب بدھ کو ایس ایس پی آپریشن راولپنڈی عبدال قادر قمر نے کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پرو جیکٹ کا دورہ کیا اور پرو جیکٹ سمیت گردنواح میں سکیورٹی انتظامات کا جائزہ لیکر چائنا انجینئرز و ماہرین سمیت وہاں کام کرنے والی لیبر اور تنصیبات کی سکیورٹی، پولیس اور ایس پی یو کے جوانوں کیلئے سہولیات وغیرہ کا جائزہ لیا اس موقع پر انہوں نے منصوبے اور ماہرین کی سکیورٹی پر متعین عملے کو بریفنگ بھی دی اور ڈیوٹی محنت اور لگن کیساتھ انجام دینے کی تلقین کی۔

Express News, 04-01-19

پاکستان کو جامع امدادی پیکیج دینگے، چینی وزارت خارجہ

مالی مدد کی فراہمی کا مقصد گرتے ہوئے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر کو سہارا دینا ہے، ترجمان

پاکستان اور چین ہر موسم کے اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر، دونوں کے درمیان قریبی روابط ہیں، لو کینگ

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چین نے کہا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کے کم ہوتے غیر ملکی زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر میں اضافے کے لیے مالی مدد فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لو کینگ نے میڈیا بریفنگ میں بتایا کہ چین نے امداد، تجارت، سرمایہ کاری کے ذریعے پاکستان کی اقتصادی اور سماجی ترقی کے فروغ اور تعاون کے لیے پیش کش کی تھی اور یہ پیش کش جاری رہے گی۔ ان کی جانب سے یہ جواب فنانسئل ٹائمز کی اس رپورٹ سے متعلق سوال پر دیا گیا جس میں کہا گیا تھا کہ چین نے پاکستان کے غیر ملکی زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر بڑھانے اور ڈالر کے مقابلے میں روپے کی قدر مزید کم ہونے سے روکنے کے لیے کم از کم 2 ارب ڈالر دینے کا وعدہ کیا تھا۔ لو کینگ نے اپنے بیان میں بھی اس بات کی جانب اشارہ کیا کہ یہ ایک جامع پیکیج ہو گا۔ اس رپورٹ کے بعد چینی حکام کی جانب سے یہ پہلی مرتبہ تصدیق کی گئی کہ بیجنگ نے اسلام آباد کو مالی پیکیج دینے کی منصوبہ بندی کی تھی۔ لو کینگ نے بتایا کہ پاکستان اور چین ہر موسم کے اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہیں اور دونوں تعاون کے سلسلے میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ قریبی روابط میں ہیں۔

Express News, 04-01-19

سی پیک سے تجارتی مواقع پیدا ہو گئے، سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے ماحول سازگار بنار ہے ہیں: انقرہ میں ترک تاجروں سے

خطاب

عمران کی قونینہ میں مولانا روم کے مزار پر حاضری، فاتحہ خوانی، لوگوں میں گھل مل گئے، اردوان سے خصوصی

ملاقات کر چکے

قونینہ، انقرہ، اسلام آباد (سپیشل رپورٹر، نیوز ایجنسیاں) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان دو طرفہ برادرانہ تعلقات کو مثالی قرار دیتے ہوئے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تجارتی تعلقات کے فروغ اور تجارتی حجم کو بڑھانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے اور کہا ہے کہ ترکی کی تحریک آزادی میں پاکستانی علاقے (کے لوگوں کا بڑا اہم کردار ہے، ہم ملک میں گورنمنٹ کی بہتری پر توجہ دے رہے ہیں، غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے سرمایہ کاری میں آسانیاں پیدا کر رہے ہیں، سرمایہ کاری سے ہی روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، پاکستان میں سیاحت کے فروغ پر خصوصی توجہ دے رہے ہیں، چین کی مدد سے خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کر رہے ہیں، پاکستان میں سی پیک سے زبردست تجارتی مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، پاکستان میں آئندہ پانچ سال میں 50 لاکھ گھر تعمیر کئے جائیں گے۔ وہ گزشتہ روز دور و دور پر ترکی پہنچنے کے بعد انقرہ میں ترک صنعت کاروں اور تاجروں سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ عمران خان نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی حجم بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے، سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے ماحول سازگار بنار ہے ہیں، سرمایہ کاری کے ذریعے ہی بے روزگاری میں کمی آئے گی، پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے بہترین مواقع ہیں، پاکستان معدنی وسائل سے بالمال ملک ہے، پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاروں کو تمام سہولیات دیں گے۔ پاکستان میں سیاحت کے شعبے میں بے پناہ مواقع ہیں، سیاحت کے فروغ پر خصوصی توجہ دے رہے ہیں، دنیا کی بلند ترین چوٹیوں میں سے آدھی پاکستان میں ہیں۔ تیل گیس معدنیات کے شعبوں میں مواقع تلاش کرنا ضروری ہیں۔ قبل ازیں عمران خان ترک صدر رجب طیب اردوان کی دعوت پر ترکی کے 2 روزہ سرکاری دورہ پر ترک شہر قونینہ پہنچے تو گورنر اور نائب میئر قونینہ، پاکستان کے سفیر اور دیگر سینئر حکام نے ایئر پورٹ پر ان کا پرتیاک استقبال کیا۔ وزارت عظمیٰ کا منصب سنبھالنے کے بعد یہ عمران خان کا ترکہ کا پہلا دورہ ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی، وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر، وزیر منصوبہ بندی خدوم خسرو بختیار اور مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد سمیت اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد بھی وزیر اعظم کے ہمراہ ہے۔ بعد ازاں عمران خان نے قونینہ میں وفد کے ہمراہ عظیم صوفی بزرگ حضرت جلال الدین رومی کے مزار پر حاضری دی۔ چھو لوں کی چادر چڑھائی اور فاتحہ خوانی کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم نے کہا مولانا جلال الدین رومی کا شمار عظیم صوفی بزرگوں میں ہوتا ہے جن کی صوفیانہ تصنیفات روحانی موضوعات پر شاہکار اور لازوال ہیں۔ مولانا روم علامہ اقبال کے روحانی پیشوا تھے۔ وزیر اعظم مولانا رومی کے مزار کے احاطہ میں علامہ محمد اقبال کی علامتی قبر پر بھی گئے۔ عمران خان اس موقع پر مقامی لوگوں میں گھل مل گئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا ترکی کے ساتھ ہمارے تاریخی تہذیبی اور ثقافتی تعلقات صدیوں پر محیط ہیں۔ قونینہ کے گورنر جنید ارہان کے ساتھ ملاقات میں عمران خان نے کہا ہمیں ترکی کے ساتھ اپنے مثالی برادرانہ تعلقات پر فخر ہے، ان تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں تک لے جانے کے لئے کوششیں جاری ہیں۔ عمران خان نے ترک وزیر تجارت رسار پیک جان سے ملاقات میں اقتصادی اور تجارتی معاملات پر گفتگو کی۔ عمران خان ترکی کے صدر سے خصوصی ملاقات اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان باہمی تعلقات کے وسیع تر امور پر تبادلہ خیال کریں گے۔

Express News, 04-01-19

چینی ”چینگ فور“ چاند کے تاریک حصے میں کامیابی سے اترنے والا پہلا جہاز بن گیا
بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین نے اعلان کیا ہے کہ اس کاروباروں کے خلائے جہاز ’چینگ فور‘ چاند کے ’تاریک حصے‘ میں
کامیابی سے اترنے والا پہلا جہاز بن گیا ہے جو خلا بازی کی تاریخ کا اہم قدم ہے۔ ماضی میں بھیجے گئے مشن چاند کے
اس حصے میں گئے جو زمین کے رخ پر ہے لیکن یہ پہلا موقع ہے جب کوئی جہاز عقبی حصے میں گیا ہو۔

Express News, 06-01-19

پاکستان کا مالیاتی نیٹ ورک مضبوط بنا رہے ہیں: پاور چائنہ

کمپنیاں کروڑوں ڈالر ٹیکس، ڈیوٹی ادا کرتی ہیں روزگار کے ہزاروں مواقع فراہم ہو رہے ہیں

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان کی قومی اور صوبائی حکومت کو ٹیکس اور ڈیوٹی کی مدد میں کروڑوں ادا
کرنے کے علاوہ مقامی ہزاروں لوگوں کو روزگار کے مواقع بھی فراہم کر رہی ہے۔ ایک چینی کمپنی پاور چائنہ نے
پورٹ قاسم کے کولہ سے چلنے والے بجلی گھر کے آپریشنل ہونے کے بعد سے اب تک پاکستان کو ٹیکس اور ڈیوٹی
کی مدد میں 167 ملین ڈالر ادا کیے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ بھی پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیاں کام کر رہی ہیں جنہوں نے
ادائیگی کر کے ملکی مالیاتی نیٹ ورک کو مضبوط بنانے میں کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ چینی میڈیا گروپ چائنہ اکنامک نیٹ کے
مطابق کئی اور شعبے بھی جن میں چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان کی سماجی اور اقتصادی ترقی کے حوالے سے نمایاں خدمات
ادا کر رہی ہے۔ چائنہ اکنامک نیٹ کی ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق اس وقت تک پورٹ قاسم بجلی گھر 167 ملین ڈالر
سے زیادہ رقم مختلف قسم کے ٹیکسوں اور ڈیوٹیوں کی مدد میں ادا کر چکی ہے۔ مزید برآں پاور چائنہ نے اپنے منصوبوں کی
تعمیر کے دوران 4 ہزار سے زائد مقامی پاکستانیوں کو روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کیے۔ چھ سو سے زائد پاکستانیوں کو
طویل مدتی مستحکم ملازمت کے مواقع فراہم کیے گئے۔ جبکہ منصوبوں کے ذریعے بلاواسطہ بھی متعلقہ شعبوں میں
دس ہزار سے زیادہ روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کیے گئے ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق مستقبل میں پاکستان کو سالانہ نو
ارب کلو واٹ گھنٹے بجلی فراہم ہوگی۔ جس سے چالیس لاکھ سے زائد مقامی خاندانوں اور دو کروڑ سے زائد افراد کو
مالی سہولت حاصل ہوگی۔ پورٹ قاسم بجلی گھر مجموعی طور پر 7.559 ارب کلو واٹ گھنٹے بجلی فراہم کرے گا۔
جس نے پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچے اور معاشی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

Express News, 06-01-19

چینی صدر نے ملکی فوج کو جنگ کیلئے تیار رہنے کا حکم دیدیا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے اپنے ملک کی فوج کو جنگ کیلئے تیار رہنے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ صدر شی جن پنگ نے چینی فوج کے اعلیٰ سطح کے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ہدایت کی ہے کہ افواج کو کسی بھی قسم کی ہنگامی صورت حال کیلئے ہمہ وقت تیار رہنا چاہئے۔ کسی بھی وقت جنگ چھڑ سکتی ہے۔

Express News, 06-01-19

کھاریاں کے قریب پاک چین مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں اختتام پذیر

ایک ماہ سے جاری مشقوں میں دونوں ممالک کی سپیشل فورسز کے دستوں نے حصہ لیا

اسلام آباد (ایکسپریس نیوز) پاک چین مشترکہ فوجی مشقوں کا اختتام ہو گیا، واریئر سکس میں دونوں ممالک کی سپیشل فورسز کے دستوں نے حصہ لیا، مشقیں ایک ماہ تک جاری رہیں۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق پاک چین مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں کھاریاں کے قریب اختتام پذیر ہو گئیں، ان مشقوں میں پاک فوج اور پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کی سپیشل فورسز کے دستوں نے شرکت کی، مشقوں کا مقصد فیلڈ میں دہشتگردی کے خلاف آپریشنز میں سیکھنا اور ایک دوسرے کی مہارت سے مستفید ہونا تھا، چھٹی مشترکہ مشقیں دو طرفہ فوجی تعاون کے سلسلہ کی کڑی تھی، اختتامی تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی آئی جی ٹریڈنگ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل شیر اقلن تھے۔

Express News, 06-01-19**خلائی سائنس میں چین کا نیا کارنامہ**

خلائی سفر کا آغاز دنیا کی دوسری بڑی سپر پاور سوویت یونین نے کیا تھا اور اپنے خلا نورد یوری گیگرین کو اپالو نامی راکٹ کے ذریعے چاند کی جانب بھیجا یہ وہ دور تھا جب بعض انڈین فلموں میں روس کی اس کامیابی کا تذکرہ کیا گیا تھا جیسے تینوں چن دی میں سیر کر اواں تے روس دے راکٹ تے۔ تاہم صدر جان ایف کینیڈی دور کے امریکہ نے اپنے سب سے بڑے حریف سوویت روس سے بازی جیتنے کیلئے اپنے راکٹ کو چاند پر اتار کر میدان مارنے کا دعویٰ کر دیا تاہم یہ الگ بات ہے کہ اب بھی یورپ کے کئی ممالک امریکی راکٹ کے چاند پر پہنچنے کو شعبہ بازی قرار دیتے تھے تاہم تازہ خبروں کے مطابق امریکہ کا ایک خلائی جہاز اب نظام شمسی کی آخری حد تک جا پہنچا ہے اور وہاں سے تصاویر بھی زمین پر بھجوائی ہیں جبکہ سوویت یونین کا عدم ہونے کے بعد اس خلائی مہم جوئی سے باہر ہونا نظر آتا ہے۔ یہ الگ بات ہے کہ اب خلا نوردی کے میدان میں امریکہ کے مقابل چین آگیا ہے جس کا خلائی جہاز چاند کے تاریک حصے پر اتر گیا ہے۔ چاند کے تاریک حصے کا رخ تاریخ میں پہلی بار دیکھا گیا ہے اور امریکہ کو سوویت روس کے بعد چین کی شکل میں ایک نیا حریف مل گیا ہے۔ چاند پر پہلا انسانی قدم رکھنے والے امریکی خلا باز کا نام آرم سٹرانگ تھا تاہم چاند کی دوسری جانب کے بارے میں خلائی سائنس ابھی تک غیر آگاہ تھی جس کا چین نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ چاند کی اس ”ڈارک سائڈ“ کا پتہ چلانے والی یہ پہلی انسانی کاوش ہے جس کی تصاویر چینی خلائی مرکز کو بھجوا دی گئی ہیں۔ اس سے خلا نوردی کیلئے نئے امکانات روشن ہو گئے۔ بتایا گیا ہے کہ اب چین خلائی تحقیق کے میدان میں ”سپر پاور“ بننے کی راہ پر گامزن ہے۔ چاند کے عقبی جانب جانو ا لے چینی راکٹ کا نام ”چانگ-4“ بتایا گیا ہے جس نے چاند کی تاریک جانب کی تصاویر زمین پر بھیج دی ہیں۔ چین نے 2013ء میں یونانی خلائی جہاز سے چاند کی دوسری جانب رسائی کی کوشش کی تھی مگر اسے کامیابی نہیں ملی تھی۔ اب چین اس سال کے اواخر میں ”چانگ-5“ کے نام کا ایک اور خلائی جہاز چاند کی طرف بھیجنے کی تیاری کر رہا ہے اور اس مقصد کی خاطر چین بہت بھاری بھر کم راکٹ تیار کر رہا ہے جو امریکی خلائی ادارے ناسا کے راکٹ کی نسبت کہیں زیادہ بھاری بھر کم ہو گا۔ چینی مہم جوئی سے خلائی تحقیق کے بارے میں انسانی سائنس کو نئی معلومات ملیں گی۔

Express News, 07-01-19

رزاق داؤد نے دورہ چین میں وزیراعظم کی گیزوبا کمپنی سے ملاقات کرائی: فرخ سلیم

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) سابق حکومتی ترجمان ڈاکٹر فرخ سلیم نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ وزیراعظم کے مشیر رزاق داؤد نے عمران خان کی دورہ چین کے دوران چینی کمپنی گیزوبا کے حکام سے ملاقات کرائی جو ان کی دورے میں کسی بھی نجی کمپنی سے واحد ملاقات تھی۔ نجی ٹی وی پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے ڈاکٹر فرخ سلیم نے کہا کہ وزیراعظم کے مشیر عبدالرزاق داؤد کی کمپنی نے مہند ڈیم ٹھیکے کیلئے بولی جیت لی، حکومت میں رہ کر اہم ٹھیکے لینا مفادات کا ٹکراؤ ہے، حکومت کی نیت درست لیکن قابلیت کا فقدان ہے، حکومتی عہدے کے ذریعے جیسے گرم کرنا کرپشن ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سعودی عرب سے ایک ارب ڈالر آتا اور 16 دن میں ختم ہو جاتا ہے، کب تک قرضوں سے ملک چلایا جائیگا؟ ملکوں میں دوستی نہیں مفادات ہوتے ہیں، دنیا میں کہیں مفت لٹج نہیں ملتا۔ ڈاکٹر فرخ سلیم نے بتایا کہ متحدہ عرب امارات سے 2.8 فیصد شرح سود پر قرض ملا، سعودی عرب سے بھی 3 فیصد سے زیادہ شرح سود پر قرض ملا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گردشی قرضہ ماضی کے مقابلے میں ڈیڑھ گنا زیادہ تیزی سے بڑھ رہا ہے، غیر یقینی کی صورت حال میں کوئی کاروبار نہیں چل سکتا۔ ڈاکٹر فرخ سلیم کا کہنا تھا کہ روپے کی قدر کی حکومتی پالیسی کے نتائج نہیں ملے، مہنگائی دو گنا بڑھ چکی ہے، سابق وزیر خزانہ نے روپے کی قدر منجمد رکھنے کیلئے 9 ارب ڈالر مارکیٹ میں جھونک دیے۔

Express News, 07-01-19

پاکستان اور چین میں بس سروس کا باضابطہ آغاز

نارتھ ساؤتھ ٹرانسپورٹ کمپنی کے زیر انتظام بس لاہور سے کاشغر کے درمیان چلے گی

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان آزمائشی بس سروس کی کامیابی کے بعد باضابطہ آغاز کر دیا گیا، نارتھ ساؤتھ ٹرانسپورٹ میٹورک کمپنی کے زیر انتظام بس لاہور سے تاریخی کاشغر کے درمیان چلے گی۔ میڈیا رپورٹ کے مطابق این ایس ٹی این کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر محمد انور نے بتایا کہ بس لاہور، اسلام آباد اور گلگت بلتستان کے دلفریب علاقوں سے گزرتی ہوئی سوست کے مقام پر سرحد عبور کر کے چین داخل ہوتی ہے۔ بس کا ایک طرف کا سفر 36 گھنٹے جبکہ مجموعی طور پر دو طرفہ سفر تقریباً 72 گھنٹے کا ہے۔ مسافروں کے پاس ویزہ وغیرہ کا ہونا ضروری ہے۔ بس سروس کا آغاز کاروباری افراد کو سامنے رکھ کر کیا گیا ہے، بس کا یکطرفہ کرایہ 13 ہزار جبکہ ریٹرن ٹکٹ 23 ہزار روپے رکھا گیا ہے۔ سی پیک کے روٹ پر چلائی جانے والی بس چین کی ہی ایک کمپنی کی تیار کردہ ہے جس میں ایک وقت میں 36 مسافر سوار ہو سکتے ہیں۔ دوران سفر کسی شخص کو بس میں سوار ہونے یا اسے چھوڑنے کی اجازت نہیں ہوگی۔ پاکستان اور چین کی حکومتوں نے مکمل سیوریٹی فراہم کرنے کی بھی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔

Express News, 07-01-19

سورج گرہن چین، جاپان، جنوبی کوریا، شمالی بحر الکاہل میں دیکھا گیا

لاہور (اے پی پی) نئے سال کا پہلا جزوی سورج گرہن گذشتہ روز بیجنگ، ارکوشا، سیول، تائیپے، ٹوکیو، نارتھ پیٹک اور نارتھ ایسٹ ایشیا میں دیکھا گیا تاہم یہ پاکستان میں نظر نہیں آیا، سورج گرہن کا دورانیہ پاکستانی وقت کے مطابق سہ پہر 4 بجکر 34 منٹ سے رات 8 بجکر 49 منٹ تک تھا، محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق رواں سال 2 چاند گرہن اور 3 سورج گرہن ہونگے۔

Express News, 08-01-19

ہم نے کئی بار پیشکش کی، بی جے پی مذاکرات نہیں کر رہی، امریکا کا ساتھ دیکر بھاری نقصان اٹھایا، انٹرویو
مسائل کی نشاندہی اور حل کیلئے عوام سے رابطہ رکھیں، فواد چوہدری لاہور، ساہیوال ڈویژن کے اراکین اسمبلی کی
ملاقات

اسلام آباد (پیش رپورٹر، مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ بھارت نے کشمیر میں ظلم کی تمام
حدیں پار کر لیں، چین پاکستان میں اہم کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا۔ ترک ٹی وی کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے وزیراعظم عمران
خان کا کہنا تھا کہ امداد اور قرض کے لیے دوسروں پر انحصار کیا جائے تو کوئی چیز مفت نہیں ملتی، پاکستان نے امریکا کا
ساتھ دینے پر بھاری نقصان اٹھایا۔ سی پیک اور چینی امداد سے متعلق وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان میں اہم
کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا چین کو معاشی معاملات کی تشہیر پسند نہیں ہے۔ بھارت سے متعلق سوالات پر عمران خان کا
کہنا تھا کہ بھارت سے جنگ مسئلے کا حل نہیں ہے پاکستان تو مذاکرات کے لیے تیار ہے لیکن بی جے پی انتخابات
میں کامیابی کے لیے مذاکرات نہیں کر رہی، بھارت سے کئی بار کہا ہے کہ آپ امن کی طرف ایک قدم بڑھائیں ہم
دو بڑھائیں گے لیکن جواب میں پاکستان سے متعلق بھارتی سیاستدانوں کے بیانات افسوسناک ہیں۔ وزیراعظم
عمران خان نے کہا کہ بھارت نے مقبوضہ کشمیر میں ظلم کی تمام حدیں پار کر لیں، بھارتی فوج کشمیری نوجوانوں کو
پلیٹ گنز سے اندھا کر رہی ہے، مقبوضہ کشمیر میں ظلم و ستم سے معاملات کبھی حل نہیں ہوں گے، بھارت کو آج
نہیں تو کل سوچنا ہی پڑیگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کشمیریوں کی جدوجہد آزادی مقامی آبادی نے شروع کی۔ افغانستان سے
متعلق انہوں نے کہا کہ افغان مسئلے کا حل فوجی نہیں افغانستان میں قیام امن صرف مذاکرات سے ہی ممکن ہے
وہاں طاقت کے استعمال سے فائدہ نہیں ہوگا۔ مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک کے مطابق وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ بکر پشپن سے
پاکستان کی معیشت کو بہت نقصان پہنچا، اٹھک محنت کر رہے ہیں، چار ماہ میں صرف 5 چھٹیاں کی ہیں 4 ماہ میں
پاکستان معاشی طور پر مستحکم ہوا، کرنٹ اکاؤنٹ خسارہ پاکستان کا بڑا مسئلہ ہے، 1985 سے پہلے پاکستان دنیا کی
بڑھتی ہوئی معیشت تھا، کرپشن نے ملک کا بیڑہ غرق اور ادارے تباہ کر دیے، ہماری تحریک سٹینڈس کو مخالف تھی،
پاکستان نے امریکا کا ساتھ دیکر بھاری نقصان اٹھایا، امداد اور قرض کیلئے دوسروں پر انحصار کیا جائے تو کوئی چیز مفت
نہیں ملتی، افغان مسئلے کا حل فوجی نہیں صرف مذاکرات ہیں، طالبان کو مذاکرات پر آمادہ کرنے کیلئے دوسرے
ممالک کو کردار ادا کرنا ہوگا۔ قبل ازیں اسے پی پی کے مطابق وزیراعظم سے لاہور اور ساہیوال ڈویژن سے تعلق
رکھنے والے تحریک انصاف کے اراکین قومی اسمبلی نے ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم عمران خان نے ہدایت
کی ہے کہ وہ عوام کو درپیش مسائل کی نشاندہی اور انکے فوری حل کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے اپنے حلقوں میں عوام سے
مستقل رابطہ میں رہیں۔ ارکان کے حلقوں میں عوامی مسائل کے حل کیلئے اراکین قومی اسمبلی کی مشاورت سے
مسائل کے حل کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر ممکن بنایا جائیگا۔ صبح نیوز کے مطابق بعد ازاں وزیراعظم سے فواد چوہدری
نے بھی ملاقات کی، جس میں ملک کی مجموعی سیاسی صورتحال اور وزارت اطلاعات سے متعلق امور پر تبادلہ خیال
کیا گیا۔ فواد چوہدری نے بلاول بھٹو اور مراد علی شاہ کا نام ای سی ایل سے نکالنے کے عداوتی فیصلے، جعلی اکاؤنٹس کیس
اور ای سی ایل کے معاملے پر بھی بریفنگ دی۔

Express News, 08-01-19**پاک چین افغان مسئلے کے حل کیلئے کوشاں**

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین اور پاکستان افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے مسلسل جہد و جہد میں مصروف ہیں۔ چینی اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین دونوں دیرینہ دوست ہیں۔ اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ نے افغان امن عمل کیلئے مل کر کام کیا ہے۔

Express News, 10-01-19**چین، روس افغان امن عمل میں ضامن کا کردار ادا کریں، اسفندیار**

پشاور (سٹاف رپورٹر) عوامی نیشنل پارٹی کے مرکزی صدر اسفندیار ولی خان نے کہا ہے کہ افغانستان امن مذاکرات میں افغان حکومت کو شامل نہ کرنا ایک اور جنگ کو دعوت دینے کے مترادف ہے، پاکستان کی پارلیمنٹ اس حوالے سے پہلے ہی قرارداد منظور کر چکی ہے کہ امن مذاکرات افغان حکومت کی سربراہی میں ہوں اور وہ اسے اپنائے، بصورت دیگر خطے میں مزید غلط فہمیاں پیدا ہونے کا خدشہ ہے۔ طالبان کیساتھ ایک طرفہ سمجھوتہ کی صورت میں داعش کو لگام ڈالنا مشکل ہو جائے گا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے ولی باغ چار سہ میں افغانستان کے اعلیٰ سطحی وفد سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا جس نے سابق وزیر داخلہ اور افغان امن کونسل کے چیئرمین محمد عمر داؤد زئی کی قیادت میں ان سے ملاقات کی۔ وفد میں نئے تعینات ہونیوالے سفیر عاطف مشال اور دیگر اہم رہنما بھی شامل تھے۔ اسفندیار ولی خان نے اس موقع پر طالبان، پاکستان اور امریکی اسٹیبلشمنٹ کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مذاکرات تب کامیاب ہوں گے جب سارے فریقین کو افغان حکومت کی سربراہی میں اس عمل کا حصہ بنایا جائے۔ آج طالبان کے ساتھ اگر ایک طرفہ طور پر سمجھوتہ کیا گیا تو داعش اپنی کارروائیاں کرتا رہے گا اور پھر ایک سال بعد ان کے ساتھ بھی مذاکرات کرنا ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور روس کو افغان امن عمل میں ضامن کا کردار ادا کرنا ہو گا ورنہ روس میں کریمیا اور چین میں سکلیانگ کے راستوں سے ہوتے ہوئے طالبان اور داعش اس سارے خطے میں پھیل جائیں گے۔

Express News, 10-01-19

زلے خلیل پاک، افغان، بھارت، چین کا دورہ کریں گے

خطے میں قیام امن اور افغانستان کی صورتحال پر مشاورت کریں گے

اسلام آباد (خالد محمود) امریکی نمائندہ خصوصی برائے افغانستان زلے خلیل زاد خطے میں قیام امن اور افغانستان کی صورتحال پر مشاورت کے لئے چار ممالک کا دورہ کریں گے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق امریکی خصوصی نمائندے زلے خلیل زاد بھارت، چین، افغانستان اور پاکستان کا دورہ کریں گے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کے مطابق چاروں ممالک کے دورہ میں افغان مسئلہ کے سیاسی حل کے لیے سینٹر حکام سے ملاقات کریں گے، امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کا کہنا ہے کہ امریکہ افغان تنازعہ کے پرامن حل کے لیے ہر کاوش کیساتھ ہے، امریکہ امید کرتا ہے کہ افغانستان دوبارہ کبھی دہشت گردی کے پلیٹ فارم کے طور پر استعمال نہیں ہوگا۔ زلے خلیل زاد افغان حکومت اور تمام دلچسپی رکھنے والے گروہوں کے ساتھ ملاقات کریں گے۔ زلے خلیل زاد افغانستان میں مفاہمتی عمل اور افغان عوام کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے بات چیت کریں گے۔ امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کا کہنا ہے کہ افغان تنازعہ کا واحد حل یہ ہے کہ تمام فریقین ملکر ایک ساتھ بیٹھیں اور ایسے معاہدہ پر پہنچیں جو افغانستان کے سیاسی مستقبل میں سب کے لیے عزت احترام اور قابل قبول ہو۔

Express News, 10-01-19

ماسٹرز موٹرز کی چین کے اشتراک سے وہیکلز اسمبلی پلانٹ میں سرمایہ کاری

لائسٹ وہیکلز اسمبلی پلانٹ آئندہ ماہ پیداواری عمل شروع کریگا، 5 ماہ میں آپریشنل ہوگا

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) ماسٹرز موٹرز کارپوریشن پاکستان میں چینی، جاپانی اور اٹلی کی ٹیکنالوجی کے حامل ہیوی ٹرکس، لائسٹ کمرشل وہیکلز اور مینجر وہیکلز کا اسمبلی پلانٹ قائم کرنے میں سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے، لائسٹ وہیکلز اسمبلی پلانٹ آئندہ ماہ سے پیداواری عمل شروع کر دے گا جبکہ ہیوی وہیکلز کا اسمبلی پلانٹ آئندہ 5 ماہ میں آپریشنل ہو جائے گا۔ یہ بات ماسٹرز موٹرز کارپوریشن کے سی ای او ادوانیال ملک نے بدھ کو کمپنی کے پہلے 15 ایس سینٹر کے افتتاح کے بعد ایکسپریس سے بات چیت کے دوران کہی۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ کمپنی نے چین کے ساتھ جوائنٹ وینچر پروگرام کے تحت 100 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے جس میں چین 30 فیصد حصہ شامل ہے جبکہ ہیوی ٹرکوں کی اسمبلی پلانٹ میں مزید 10 تا 15 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں پہلی بار یورپین ٹیکنالوجی کے حامل ”ایویکو برانڈ“ ہیوی ٹرکوں کی نہ صرف اسمبلنگ کی جائے گی بلکہ یورپین ٹیکنالوجی کو ملک میں منتقل بھی کیا جا رہا ہے۔ کمپنی کی اسمبلی پلانٹ کی پیداواری استعداد اگرچہ سالانہ 30 ہزار یونٹس ہے لیکن کمپنی آئندہ ماہ چینگن برانڈ کی 2 ہزار یونٹس سالانہ سے آغاز کرے گی۔

Express News, 11-01-19

چین کی 58 کروڑ 40 لاکھ ڈالر سرمایہ کاری

دس سال کے دوران حجم پانچ ارب پچانوے کروڑ چالیس لاکھ ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گیا

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) رواں مالی سال 2018-19 کے دوران چین کی جانب سے پاکستان میں مجموعی طور پر 58 کروڑ چالیس لاکھ ڈالر سے زائد مالیت کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی ہے جبکہ گذشتہ دس سال کے دوران چین کی جانب سے پاکستان میں کی جانے والی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کا حجم پانچ ارب پچانوے کروڑ چالیس لاکھ ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گیا ہے اس ضمن میں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی جانب سے چین سے ہونیوالی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی بارے میں سرفہرست ہے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے مطابق رواں مالی سال کے دوران چین نے اب تک پاکستان میں 58 کروڑ چالیس لاکھ ڈالر کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے اور توقع ہے کہ مالی سال کے اختتام تک میں مزید اضافہ ہو گا جبکہ گزشتہ مالی سال 2017-18 کے دوران چین کی جانب سے پاکستان میں ایک ارب اکیاسی کروڑ چھبیس لاکھ ہزار ڈالر کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی تھی اعداد و شمار کے مطابق مالی سال 2016-17 کے دوران ایک ارب اکیس کروڑ ستر لاکھ ڈالر، مالی سال 2015-16 کے دوران ایک ارب تین کروڑ چھیاسٹھ لاکھ ڈالر، مالی سال 2014-15 کے دوران 31 کروڑ اکیانوے لاکھ ڈالر اور مالی سال 2013-14 کے دوران مجموعی طور پر 69 کروڑ اٹھاون لاکھ ڈالر مالی سال 2012-13 میں نو کروڑ چھ لاکھ ڈالر، مالی سال 2011-12 میں بارہ کروڑ اسی لاکھ ڈالر، مالی سال 2010-11 میں چار کروڑ چوبیس لاکھ ڈالر اور مالی سال 2010-11 میں مجموعی طور پر چھتیس لاکھ ڈالر سے زائد مالیت کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی تھی۔

Express News, 11-01-2019

جرائم کی بیخ کنی کیلئے عملی اقدامات کئے جائیں، پولیس افسران کھلی کچھریاں لگا کر سائلین کے مسائل حل کریں:

اجلاس سے خطاب

پنجاب میں سپیشل اکنامک زونز قائم کر رہے ہیں، چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو سہولتیں دیں گے، چینی سفیر، علیم خان،

راجہ بشارت کی ملاقاتیں

لاہور (این این آئی) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار کی زیر صدارت وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس ہوا جس میں امن و امان کی صورتحال اور جرائم پر قابو پانے کیلئے اقدامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے اجلاس سے خطاب میں کہا کہ جرائم کی بیخ کنی کیلئے زبانی جمع خرچ کے بجائے عملی اقدامات کئے جائیں، ڈکیتی، راہزنی اور دیگر جرائم کے سدباب کیلئے ٹھوس حکمت عملی بنائی جائے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے سنگین جرائم میں ملوث اشتہاری ملزمان کی گرفتاری کیلئے صوبہ بھر میں بھرپور مہم چلانے کا حکم دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اشتہاری ملزمان کی گرفتاری کے حوالے سے ہفتہ وار رپورٹ انہیں پیش کی جائے۔ اجلاس میں فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ زیر التواء کیسوں کو جلد نمٹانے کے لئے تیز رفتاری سے اقدامات کئے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جرائم کی شرح بڑھنے پر متعلقہ پولیس افسر سے جواب طلبی کی جائے گی، پولیس افسران ہر ضلع اور ڈویژن میں کھلی کچھریاں لگا کر سائلین کے مسائل حل کریں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے پولیس حکام سے ہر ضلع میں امن و امان سے متعلق صورتحال کی رپورٹ بھی طلب کر لی ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں عثمان بزدار سے وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے ملاقات کی جس میں پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ، سی پیک کے منصوبوں اور نئے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں وزیر اعلیٰ اور چین کے سفیر نے مستقبل میں دو طرفہ تعاون کو نئی جہت دینے کیلئے پبلک پرائیویٹ شراکت داری، سپیشل اکنامک زونز کے قیام اور سماجی شعبوں کی ترقی کیلئے مشترکہ اقدامات کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دور میں پاک چین دوستی کا نیا باب رقم ہو رہا ہے، سی پیک کے منصوبے پاکستان کی پائیدار ترقی کے سفر میں اہمیت کے حامل ہیں، پنجاب حکومت نے سپیشل اکنامک زونز قائم کر رہی ہے، سپیشل اکنامک زونز میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو مراعات اور سہولتیں دیں گے، پنجاب میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے سازگار ماحول موجود ہے، چینی سرمایہ کار سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔ بعد ازاں عثمان بزدار سے صوبائی وزیر بلدیات عبدالعلیم خان اور وزیر قانون پنجاب راجہ بشارت نے ملاقات کی۔

Express News, 12-01-19

5 سہولت کار گرفتار کر لئے گئے، ملازمان میں کالعدم بی ایل اے کے لوگ شامل ہیں، منصوبہ ساز اسلام عرف اچھو کی موت کی تصدیق نہیں ہوئی، اسلحہ ٹرین سے لایا گیا

حملہ آور قونصلیٹ عملے کو برغمال بنانا چاہتے تھے، مقصد سی پیک منصوبے میں دراڑ ڈالنا تھا، بھارت اب بھی ہمارے خلاف متحرک ہے، ڈاکٹر امیر شیخ کی پریس کانفرنس

کراچی (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) کراچی میں چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کے پانچ سہولت کار گرفتار کر لیے گئے۔ ایڈیشنل آئی جی سندھ اور پولیس چیف کراچی ڈاکٹر امیر شیخ نے کہا ہے کہ چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے میں بھارتی خفیہ ایجنسی 'را' ملوث ہے اور اس کی منصوبہ بندی افغانستان میں ہوئی۔ ڈی آئی جی ایسٹ کے دفتر میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے میں بھارتی خفیہ ایجنسی 'را' ملوث ہے۔ بھارت اب بھی ہمارے خلاف متحرک ہے۔ اس کی منصوبہ بندی افغانستان میں ہوئی۔ حملے کا مقصد سی پیک منصوبے میں دراڑ ڈالنا تھا، قونصل خانے پر حملے کے لیے اسلحہ ٹرین سے لایا گیا۔ حملہ آور قونصل خانے کے عملے کو برغمال بنانا چاہتے تھے۔ بروقت کارروائی کی وجہ سے دہشت گردوں کا منصوبہ ناکام رہا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ملزم بلدیہ کے علاقے میں آکر رہتے رہے۔ چار ماہ کے مختلف اوقات میں آکر رکھی کرتے رہے۔ حملے کی منصوبہ بندی اسلام اچھو گروپ نے افغانستان میں کی تھی، حملے میں ملوث پانچ سہولت کاروں کو گرفتار کر لیا گیا ہے جن میں عبداللطیف، حسین، عارف عرف نادر، ہاشم عرف علی اور اسلام مغیری شامل ہیں، ملازموں میں کالعدم بی ایل اے کے لوگ شامل ہیں جب کہ بی ایل اے کی کمان اس وقت بشیر زیب کے پاس ہے، پولیس چیف نے کہا کہ حملے کے منصوبہ ساز اسلام عرف اچھو کی موت کی بھی تصدیق نہیں ہوئی، حملہ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی میں دراڑ ڈالنے کی ناکام کوشش تھی، کراچی سمیت پاکستان کا امن دشمن کو کھٹکتا ہے، شہر میں ہونے والے بڑے ایونٹس پر بھارت میں پریشانی ہو رہی ہے، واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ ماہ کراچی کالڈن میں چینی قونصل خانے پر دہشت گردوں نے حملہ کیا، پولیس اور سیکورٹی اہل کاروں نے حملہ ناکام بناتے ہوئے تمام دہشت گردوں کو ہلاک کر دیا تھا جب کہ دہشت گردوں کی فائرنگ سے 2 اہل کار اور 2 شہری بھی شہید ہوئے تھے۔

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پاکستان اور چین کے ساتھ دوستی اور اشتراک عالمی مثال ہوگا، خالد بن عبدالعزیز، مجوزہ آئل ریفا سٹری کی سائٹ
کامعائنہ، بریفنگ دی گئی

سعودی شمولیت سے سی پیک کی اہمیت بڑھے گی، گوادری میں آئل سٹی کیلئے آئندہ ماہ معاہدہ کریں گے، وزیر پٹرولیم
غلام سرور

اسلام آباد، گوادری (خصوصی رپورٹر، خبرنگار خصوصی) سعودی وزیر توانائی، صنعت و معدنی وسائل شہزادہ خالد بن عبدالعزیز الفالح نے وفد کے ہمراہ گوادری کا دورہ کیا۔ گوادری ایئرپورٹ پر وفاقی وزیر پٹرولیم غلام سرور خان اور وزیر برائے پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ علی زیدی نے مہمانوں کا استقبال کیا۔ بعد ازاں گوادری میں چائنہ بزنس کمپلیکس میں اجلاس ہوا جس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سرمایہ کاری سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں باہمی تعاون بڑھانے کیلئے مختلف معاہدوں کو حتمی شکل دینے پر مشاورت کی گئی، چیئرمین گوادری پورٹ اتھارٹی دوستین خان جمالدینی اور جی ڈی اے کے ڈی جی ڈاکٹر سجاد بلوچ نے وفد کو گوادری پورٹ اور ترقیاتی کاموں کے حوالے سے بریفنگ دی۔ شہزادہ خالد بن عبدالعزیز نے کہا سعودی عرب پاکستان میں تاریخ کی سب سے بڑی سرمایہ کاری کریگا، پاکستان اور سعودی عرب خطے کے امن اور استحکام کیلئے دو اہمیت کے حامل ممالک ہیں، گوادری پورٹ ایک اہم خطے میں واقع ہے، پاکستان، چین اور سعودی عرب کی دوستی اور باہمی اشتراک عالمی مثال ہوگا۔ وفاقی وزیر پٹرولیم غلام سرور خان نے کہا سعودی عرب کی شمولیت سے سی پیک منصوبے کی اہمیت مزید بڑھ جائے گی، پاکستان میں زراعت کے شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے کے وسیع مواقع موجود ہیں، سعودی عرب کو پاکستان میں ایگریکلچر سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دیتے ہیں، پاکستان اور سعودیہ گوادری میں آئل سٹی کے قیام کیلئے اگلے ماہ معاہدے پر دستخط کریں گے۔ بی بی سی کے مطابق سعودی وزیر توانائی و پٹرولیم کی سربراہی میں سعودی وفد کے دورہ گوادری کا مقصد وہاں مجوزہ آئل ریفا سٹری کیلئے مختص سائٹ کامعائنہ کرنا تھا۔ بریفنگ میں پاکستان اور سعودی حکام کے علاوہ چینی حکام بھی شریک تھے۔ سرکاری ریڈیو نے غلام سرور کے حوالے سے ایک رپورٹ میں کہا ہے کہ گوادری میں مجوزہ آئل ریفا سٹری 10 ارب ڈالر کی لاگت سے تعمیر کی جائے گی، اس ریفا سٹری کی تیل ریفا سٹری کرنے کی صلاحیت یومیہ دو لاکھ پچاس ہزار بیرل ہوگی۔

Express News, 13-01-19

چودھری پرویز اقبال لوہ سر کی ہیلجیم میں چینی سفیر سے ملاقات

برسلز (پ ر) ای یو پاک فرینڈشپ فیڈریشن یورپ کے چیئرمین چودھری پرویز اقبال لوہ سر نے ہیلجیم میں چینی سفیر زی ای کاؤ ژوئنگ منگ سے ملاقات کی ہے۔ پرویز اقبال لوہ سر نے چینی سفیر کو یقین دہانی کرائی کہ سی پیک پر پاکستان چین کا بھرپور ساتھ دیگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبے کے دشمنوں کو شکست ہوگی۔

Express News, 13-01-19

چینی قونصل خانہ حملہ کیس، 5 سہولت کاروں کا ریمائنڈ

پولیس نے مارا تو نہیں، اہل خانہ سے ملاقات کرائی، عدالت کا ملزمان سے استفسار

ملزمان کی اہل خانہ سے ملاقات کا حکم، عدالت نے پیشرفت رپورٹ طلب کر لی

کراچی (سٹاف رپورٹر) انسداد دہشت گردی کی منتظم عدالت نے چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے 5 سہولت کاروں کو دھماکا خیز مواد اور اسلحہ ایکٹ کے مقدمات میں 17 جنوری تک جسمانی ریمائنڈ پر پولیس کے حوالے کر دیا، سندھ ہائی کورٹ میں انسداد دہشت گردی کے منتظم جج کے روبرو چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کے 5 سہولت کاروں کو پیش کیا گیا، گلشن معمار پولیس نے ملزمان احمد حسنین، نادر خان، علی احمد، عبداللطیف اور اسلم کو دھماکا خیز مواد اور اسلحہ ایکٹ کے مقدمات میں پیش کیا گیا، عدالت نے ملزمان سے استفسار کیا کہ آپ کو مارا پٹا تو نہیں، کیا اہل خانہ سے ملاقات کرائی گئی ہے، ملزمان نے جواب دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ مارا نہیں گیا لیکن گھر والوں سے ملاقات نہیں ہوئی، عدالت نے تفتیشی افسر نصرت شیخ کو حکم دیا کہ ملزمان سے اہل خانہ کا نمبر لے کر ملاقات کرائی جائے، ایف آئی آر متن کے مطابق مخبر نے اطلاع دی کہ چینی قونصل خانے پر حملہ کرنے والے دہشت گردوں کے ساتھی شہر موجود ہیں جس پر پولیس پارٹی نے گلشن معمار صادق بلوچ گوٹھ کے پلاٹ پر چھاپہ مارا جہاں مسلح ملزمان کو گرفتار کیا گیا پولیس کے مطابق دہشت گرد شہر میں کسی حساس مقام پر دہشت گردی کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہے تھے گرفتار ملزمان نے ہلاک دہشت گردوں کو سہولت فراہم کی تھی ملزمان کے قبضے دستی بم، آر پی جی راکٹ، کلاشنکوف، ٹی ٹی پستول، دھماکا خیز مواد اور موبائل فون برآمد کیے ہیں، تفتیشی افسر نے بارودی مواد اور اسلحہ ایکٹ میں عدالت سے استدعا کی ملزمان کا سی آر او کرانا ہے اور دیگر ملزمان کی گرفتاری کے لیے تفتیش کرنی ہے، تفتیشی افسر کی استدعا پر عدالت نے ملزمان کو 17 جنوری تک جسمانی ریمائنڈ پر پولیس کے حوالے کر دیا، عدالت نے تفتیشی افسر کو آئندہ ساعت پر پیش رفت رپورٹ پیش کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے۔

Express News, 14-01-19**رواں سال امریکہ کے ساتھ تجارتی کشیدگی دور کر لیں گے: چینی وزیر تجارت**

بیجنگ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری قانون کو پاس کرنے اور تنازعات کے حل کو بہتر بنانے پر کام کریگا

بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چینی وزیر تجارت نے امریکی وفد سے بات چیت کے بعد کہا ہے کہ رواں سال چین امریکہ کے ساتھ تجارتی کشیدگی کو ختم کرنے پر کام کرے گا۔ دسمبر میں ٹرمپ اور چینی صدر کی جانب سے بڑھتی ہوئی ٹیرف کشیدگی میں 3 ماہ کے عارضی وقفے کے وعدے کے بعد ایک بڑے امریکی وفد نے بیجنگ کا دورہ کیا۔ اس 3 روزہ دورے کے دوران امریکی وفد نے پہلی مرتبہ چینی رہنماؤں سے براہ راست تجارتی مذاکرات کیے۔ چین کا کہنا تھا کہ ان مذاکرات نے تجارت سے متعلق باہمی خدشات کو دور کرنے کی بنیاد رکھی ہے۔ اس حوالے سے چین کے سرکاری نشریاتی ادارے نے رپورٹ کیا کہ وزیر تجارت ژونگ شان نے کہا کہ رواں سال ہم چین، امریکہ کی اقتصادی اور تجارتی کشیدگی کو مناسب طریقے سے سنبھال لیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ بیجنگ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری قانون کو پاس کرنے اور تنازعات کے حل کو بہتر بنانے پر کام کرے گا، اس کے علاوہ بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کو بھی فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ خیال رہے کہ چینی پالیسی سازوں نے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے بہتر تحفظ کے ساتھ مزید کھلی اور فری مارکیٹ کا وعدہ کیا تھا لیکن حکام کی جانب سے ان وعدوں پر ست روی سے سامان بنایا جا رہا ہے۔

Express News, 14-01-19

چین: کان بیٹھنے سے 21 کان کن ہلاک، 66 کو بچا لیا گیا

بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین میں کونکے کی کان بیٹھنے سے 21 کان کن ہلاک جبکہ 66 کو بچا لیا گیا ہے۔ چینی میڈیا کے مطابق کان بیٹھنے کا حادثہ صوبے شانزی پی میں گزشتہ دوپہر پیش آیا۔ حادثے کے وقت کونکے کی کان میں 87 افراد موجود تھے۔ ریسکیو اہلکاروں نے لمبے تلبے دے کر 66 افراد کو بچایا اور زخمیوں کو فوری ہسپتال منتقل کیا۔ حادثے کی وجہ جاننے کیلئے تحقیقات شروع کر دی گئی ہیں۔

Express News, 14-01-19

چین کو تاراج نہ کریں

ایسے لگتا ہے کہ ہم نے فیصلہ کیا ہوا ہے کہ دوست ممالک کو تاراج کر کے اس قدر توجہ کریں کہ دوپٹے کپتے پر مجبور ہو جائیں۔ حالات کا تقاضا تو یہ ہے کہ دشمنوں کو دوست بنایا جائے نہ کہ دوستوں کو دور کیا جائے۔ اس بنیادی اصول کو سمجھنے کے لئے ہم تیار نہیں بلکہ دوستوں سے باہر چلے کر اندرونی اطمینان محسوس ہوتا ہے۔

چین نے پچاس سال قبل جب اقتصادی زنجاری کے حصول کا فیصلہ کیا تھا، انہوں نے طے کیا کہ سرمایہ کاری کے راستے میں حائل پیرو کر تک رکھیں اور درگاہ چین کو سرمایہ کاری اور کاروبار کیلئے انتہائی پرکشش بنانا ہے اور 2025ء تک کسی بھی تنازعہ میں نہیں اٹھنا جو ترقی کی راہ میں رکاوٹ کا سبب ہے۔ نتیجہ دیا کے سامنے ہے آج چین نے اقتصادی و معاشی لحاظ سے دنیا میں گری۔ امریکہ کیورپ اور دیگر ممالک اس کی مصنوعات کی منڈیاں بیٹے جا رہے ہیں۔ چین کی معاشی میدان میں مسلسل پیش قدمیوں کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔

پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سے بے امید بندھ چلی تھی کہ پاکستان میں ترقی کا دور شروع ہونے والا ہے۔ یہ ایک ان تمام منصوبوں سے کئی گنا زیادہ ہے جو چین نے دوسرے ممالک میں شروع کر رکھے ہیں۔ بد قسمتی سے اس منصوبے پر بیان بازی اور اسے متنازعہ بنانے کی انتہائی منظم انداز میں ہم چلائی جا رہی ہے۔ افسوسناک پہلو یہ ہے کہ اس میں بیرون سے زیادہ ہاتھوں نے کارگیری، کھائی دے رہی ہے۔

چینی گہری اور بخند پی ڈی پی عمل پر عمل کرتے ہیں وہ کسی صورت ایسے انداز لٹنے والے طوفانوں کو ظاہر نہیں ہونے دیتے۔ چینیوں کی کوشش ہوتی ہے کہ وہ کل حد تک معاملات کو خراب ہونے سے بچائیں۔ تاہم ان کا مسئلہ ہو یا بھارت کے ساتھ سرحدی تنازعہ چینی موقفت اس کو تاہم تکلیف دہ نہیں ہے۔

گزشتہ دو تین سال کے حالات کا جائزہ لیا جائے تو ہم نے چین کو تاراج کرنے کا کوئی موقع ضائع نہیں کیا۔ سب سے زیادہ جھگڑا چین کو مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کے اضرویہ سے لگجس میں انہوں نے سی پیک منصوبوں کو ایک سال تک معلق کرنے کا کہا اور اس کیلئے دن رات چپا کیا گیا ہے۔ روز چینی وزیر خارجہ اپنے نائب وزیر خارجہ کے ہمراہ اسلام آباد کیلئے روانہ ہو چکے تھے اور یہ سلسلہ زکاتیں کسی نہ کسی صورت جاری ہے۔

چند روز قبل چینی سفیر یاڈ چنگ نے بالآخر نہایت نرم الفاظ میں پاکستان کی تالائیکوں کی تائیدی کر دی انہوں نے لاہور چیئر آف کامرس کے اجلاس کے دوران صنعتی پالیسی پر تحفظات کا اظہار کیا کہ چائیزنگ پاکستان کے بھانے بھارت یا دیگر ممالک میں صنعتیں لگانے سے ہیں تو یہ چین کا نہیں پاکستان کی پالیسیوں کا نتیجہ ہے کہ چینی صنعت بھارت جا رہی اور دیگر ممالک کو پاکستان پر سرمایہ کاری کرنے کو ترجیح سے رہے ہیں۔ سی پیک منصوبے میں چار شعبوں پر کام کرنے کا معاہدہ ہوا تھا اور بندرگاہی تعمیرات، انفراسٹرکچر جس میں سڑکیں، ریلوے شامل ہیں، توانائی کے بران کا خاتمہ اور پیش آنکاز ذوزنی تعمیر شامل تھی۔ چینی سفیر نے بھانے بھارت کی تائیدی اور پاکستانی سست روی کا ٹھکر ہے۔ یہ بات تو طے ہے کہ جب تک آناک ذوزنی نہیں بنتی سرمایہ کاری کیسے پاکستان آنے کی ہے؟ حقیقت ہے کہ سرمایہ وہیں جاتا جہاں کاروباری فضاء سازگار ہوتی ہے۔ اسی لئے صرف دو تین سال میں امریکہ سے درجنوں چینی کمپنیاں بھارت اور برونڈیا میں منتقل ہو چکی ہیں۔

اللہ تعالیٰ نے ہمیں پاکستان سے قربت آفلاس کو ختم اور ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھولنے کے کئی مواقع فراہم کئے۔ اس سر زمین میں لوہے سے لے کر سونے تک کے خزانے بھر دیئے کہ انہیں استعمال میں لانا پڑے۔ دنیا سٹور میں اور اقوام عالم کی صف میں عزت و وقار سے کھڑے ہو کر غیرت اور خودی کی زندگی بسر کریں۔ لیکن ہمیں سیاست سیاست کیلئے کا اتنا شوق ہے کہ ایسے قومی منصوبے بھی سیاست کی ہڈی کر دیتے ہیں۔ ہمیں اپنی ذاتی مفاد کے منصوبوں پر سیاست کی گئی اور اب نتیجہ سامنے ہے۔ اس میں زیادہ قصور کو چھوڑیں اور ذاتی مفادات تک محدود رہنے والے رہنماؤں کا ہے۔ جنہوں نے ذاتی مفاد کو قومی مفاد پر ترجیحی ذاتی منفعت کے لئے اپنی قوم کو سودا کیا جس کا نتیجہ مختلف مسائل کی صورت میں ہمارے سامنے ہے۔ ہم ہاضمی سے سبق سیکھ کر اصلاح کرنے کی بھی روایت نہیں رکھتے اور غلطی پر غلطی کرتے چلے جاتے ہیں۔ کچھ ایسی قسم کا معاملہ چین چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے ساتھ ہم کر رہے ہیں۔ ہم نے ہمارے ہنگامہ کٹنے تک کر چکے ہیں کہ آخر چینی سفیر بھی بول پڑے۔

52 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کو متنازعہ بنانے سے پہلے ہم یہ بھول جاتے ہیں کہ سی پیک چین کی طرف سے پاکستان پر اہم کاروبار کا منصوبہ تھا جس سے دنیا بھر میں پاکستان کا تھڑ تھڑیل ہوا اور پاکستان کو دیکھتے ہی بھانے کی بھانے دیا کو جوڑنے اور ملانے اور سرمایہ کاری کرنے والا ملک بننے کا تھڑا تھڑا ہے۔ عمران خان جو اس وقت ایک ایک ڈالر کے لئے ہر دو چھوڑ رہے ہیں اس منصوبے کو مشکلات سے دوچار ہونے سے بچائیں جس پر اب تک چین 204 ارب ڈالر لگ چکا ہے اور گوارڈ پورٹ کو چلا چکا ہے۔ ایسے منصوبوں کو متنازعہ بنانا چین کے لئے کم اور پاکستان کے لئے زیادہ نقصان کا فائدہ ہے۔ سی پیک اب پاکستان چین تعلقات کا محور ہے۔ چینی سی پیک کے ساتھ جاری اتار چڑھاؤ کو سمجھنے کی سے دلچسپی ہے۔ دوسری طرف ہماری بیرونی پالیسی کی حالت یہ ہے کہ جانکھ کو آرزو بخش یعنی جو انتہائی اہمیت کا اجلاس ہوتا ہے کے موقع پر پاکستانی وفد جس کی سربراہی وفاقی وزیر خسرو بختیار کر رہے تھے کے پاس ضروری دستاویزات تک نہیں تھے جس سے ایک طرف شرمندگی کا سامنا کرنا پڑا اور دوسری طرف اربوں ڈالر کے کئی اہم منصوبوں پر پیشرفت نہ ہو سکی اور معاملات حقل کا ٹھکر ہو گئے۔ اسی طرح وزیر اہم کے دورہ چین سے بھی بہت سی توقعات وابستہ تھیں۔ عمران خان ایک بڑی سیاسی جماعت کے سربراہ ہونے کے ساتھ اب ملک کے بھی سربراہ ہیں انہیں چین کے سفیر کی ہاتھ پر سمجھنے کی سے غور کرنا ہو گا۔ چینی سفیر نے جو کچھ کہا وہ خود سے نہیں کہہ دیا۔ چیننگ کی اجازت کے بغیر وہ کچھ نہیں کہہ سکتے لہذا ان کی بات کو چینی اقتدار کی بات ہی سمجھنا چاہئے۔ اس منصوبے کی راہ میں حائل رکھیں شکر کار اور چین کا اتحاد حاصل کرنا ہی اصل کا پائی ہوگی۔

قومی منصوبے ہر صورت سیاست سے بالاتر ہونے چاہئیں۔ بے شک وہ کسی بھی سیاسی جماعت نے شروع کئے ہوں۔ سرمایہ کاری کیلئے پرکشش فضاء بنانا حکومت کی اولین ذمہ داری ہوتی چاہئے۔ وزیر اہم نے زیادہ ذمہ داریت کریں کہ وہ سی پیک یا کسی بھی منصوبے پر بیان دینے سے پہلے متعلقہ افسران اور ماہرین سے پریشک لیا کریں۔ کسی بھی اہم فورم میں شرکت کرنے سے پہلے وزراء خود بھی تیار کریں اور اپنے ساتھ لے جانے والی مذاکرہ کی ٹیم کو بھی مکمل طور پر تیار کریں تو چین وقت پر شرمندگی بھی نہیں ہوگی اور منصوبے اتار کا ٹھکر بھی نہیں ہوں گے۔

Express News, 15-01-19

زلے خلیل 15 سے 19 نومبر تک قیام، سول و عسکری قیادت سے ملیں گے

اتحادی فوج کے انخلاء، طالبان سے مذاکرات پر پاک امریکہ مشاورت ہوگی

امریکی خصوصی ایپچی چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتوں کے بعد پاکستان پہنچیں گے

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) افغانستان میں مفاہمتی عمل کیلئے امریکی کوششیں آخری مراحل میں داخل ہو گئیں۔ امریکی صدر کے نمائندہ خصوصی برائے افغان زلے خلیل زاد آج منگل کو ایک بار پھر پاکستان پہنچیں گے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کے مطابق زلے خلیل زاد کا دورہ پاکستان 15 سے 19 جنوری تک ہوگا۔ زلے خلیل زاد اپنے دورے میں اعلیٰ سول و عسکری قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ زلے خلیل زاد کے ہمراہ امریکی ڈپٹی وزیر خارجہ ایلین ویلز بھی پاکستان آئیں گی۔ زلے خلیل زاد باقاعدہ طور پر وفود کی سطح پر دفتر خارجہ میں مذاکرات کریں گے۔ زلے خلیل زاد کے دورے کا مقصد افغانستان میں فوجی انخلاء، افغان طالبان سے بات چیت اور افغان عمل سے متعلق پاکستانی حکام سے مشاورت ہے۔ آئی این پی کے مطابق زلے خلیل زاد چین سے پاکستان پہنچیں گے۔ دورہ چین کے موقع پر انہوں نے چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کی ہیں۔ زلے خلیل زاد نے سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹویٹر پر کہا ہے کہ وہ خطے میں چین کے کردار کو اہم سمجھتے ہیں اس لئے افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے چین کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ یاد رہے کہ کچھ عرصہ کے دوران امریکی ایپچی زلے خلیل زاد کا یہ تیسرا دورہ پاکستان ہوگا۔

Express News, 15-01-19

گواور پورٹ میں 250 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی، چین

میگا آئل سٹی کی تعمیر کیلئے پاک سعودیہ مفاہمتی دستاویز پر آئندہ ماہ دستخط متوقع

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین نے سی پیک کے تحت گواور پورٹ میں اب تک 250 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے، 5 جدید نئی کرینیں نصب کی گئیں، دو لاکھ 20 ہزار گیلن صاف پانی روزانہ فراہم کیا جا رہا ہے، گواور میں سیوریج ڈسپوزل سسٹم اور کارگو ہینڈلنگ کیلئے آلات بھی نصب کئے گئے ہیں، چینی سفارتخانہ کی طرف سے جاری دستاویزات کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے مابین گواور پورٹ بین الاقوامی اور جدید بندرگاہ بنانے میں مدد ملے گی وہاں اقتصادی زونز کو عملی شکل دیکر پاکستان میں صنعتی انقلاب کیلئے راہ ہموار ہوگی۔ ادھر گواور ڈیپ سی پورٹ سٹی میں میگا آئل سٹی کی تعمیر کیلئے پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کے درمیان مفاہمتی دستاویز پر دستخط آئندہ ماہ متوقع ہیں۔

Express News, 15-01-19

چینی انجینئر، پاکستانی خاتون رشتہ ازدواج میں منسلک

پاکستانی خاتون کی محبت میں گرفتار چینی نوجوان نے نکاح سے قبل مسلمان ہو کر اپنا نیا نام اذان رکھا

پشاور (آئی این پی) مقامی عدالت میں ایک دوسرے کی محبت میں گرفتار چینی انجینئر اور پاکستانی خاتون رشتہ ازدواج سے منسلک ہو گئے، پاکستانی خاتون کی محبت میں گرفتار چینی مرد نکاح سے قبل مسلمان ہوا، اس کا نام اذان رکھا گیا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق پشاور کی مقامی عدالت میں چینی شہری ژوان لنگ اور پاکستانی خاتون زینب نے شادی کر لی۔ چینی شہری ژوان لنگ بطور سولر انجینئر پاکستان میں کام کر رہا ہے جب کہ زینب پشاور کے علاقے سول کوارٹر کی رہائشی ہے، کچھ عرصہ قبل دونوں کی دوستی ہوئی اور پھر یہ دوستی محبت میں بدل گئی۔

Jang News

Jang News, 01-01-19

سی پیک خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کیلئے ضروری انفراسٹرکچر انتظامات کی ہدایت

وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں اقتصادی زونز کا دائرہ پورے بلوچستان تک بڑھانے پر بھی غور

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) سی پیک کے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر کیلئے وزارت منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات کو ضروری انفراسٹرکچر کے انتظامات کی ہدایت کر دی گئی جبکہ زونز کا دائرہ جب سمیت پورے بلوچستان تک بڑھانے پر بھی غور کیا گیا، ملک بھر میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر سے متعلق پیشرفت کا جائزہ لینے سے متعلق وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کی زیر صدارت اجلاس ہوا جس میں وزیر منصوبہ بندی خسرو بختیار بھی شریک ہوئے، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں بجلی کی فراہمی کیلئے پاور ڈویژن کو ضروری اقدامات کرنی بھی ہدایت کی گئی ہے، اجلاس میں متعلقہ اداروں کے اعلیٰ حکام شریک ہوئے۔

Jang News, 02-01-19

چین پاکستان کو 8 فیصد شرح سود پر 2 ارب ڈالر قرض دے گا

مالیاتی پیکیج کیلئے مذاکرات جاری ہیں، قرضے کے علاوہ سی پیک اور دیگر پروجیکٹس میں سرمایہ کاری بھی شامل ہوگی، ذرائع وزارت خزانہ

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر، نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین سے مالیاتی پیکیج کے لیے مذاکرات آخری مراحل میں ہیں، چین پاکستان کو 2 ارب ڈالر کمرشل قرضہ دے گا، وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع کے مطابق چین اور پاکستان کے مابین مالیاتی پیکیج کے لیے مذاکرات جاری ہیں اور توقع ہے کہ چین دو ارب ڈالر پاکستان کو کمرشل قرضہ فراہم کرے گا جس پر شرح سود 8 فیصد ہوگا، ذرائع کے مطابق مالیاتی پیکیج فائل ہونے تک معاہدے کو خفیہ رکھا جائے گا، وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع نے بتایا کہ مالیاتی پیکیج میں کمرشل قرضے کے علاوہ سی پیک اور دیگر پروجیکٹس میں سرمایہ کاری بھی شامل ہوگی، واضح رہے کہ برطانوی اخبار نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کو دو ارب ڈالر کمرشل قرضہ فراہم کرے گا، ادھر اسلام آباد میں ایک حکومتی ذریعے نے اس بات کی تصدیق کی ہے کہ چین سے دو ارب ڈالر کے قرضے کیلئے مذاکرات جاری ہیں اور یہ قرضہ کمرشل ہوگا جس کا پاکستان کو آٹھ فیصد شرح سود ادا کرنا ہوگا۔ وفاقی حکومت کے مصدقہ ذریعے کے مطابق اصولی طور پر اس بات کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کو ایک امدادی پیکیج دیا جائے لیکن دو چیزوں پر تبادلہ خیال ہو رہا تھا کہ اس کا حجم کیا ہوگا اور اسے پاکستان کو فراہم کرنے کا کیا طریقہ کار ہوگا، مذکورہ ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان کو کچھ ہفتے پہلے یہ بتایا گیا تھا کہ اصولی طور پر اس بات کا فیصلہ ہو گیا ہے۔ اقتصادی ماہرین کے مطابق دوست ممالک سے ملنے والی رقوم کے باوجود پاکستانی معیشت کو پائیدار بنیاد پر استوار کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کیلئے آئی ایم ایف سے تیل آؤٹ پیکیج کا حصول ضروری ہے۔

Jang News, 02-01-19

چینی کمپنی کا ای کامرس کے شعبے میں بڑے
پیمانے پر پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان
 اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) چینی کمپنی نے ای
 کامرس کے شعبے میں بڑے پیمانے پر پاکستان میں
 سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان کیا ہے، پاکستان میں ای کامرس
 کے ذریعے تیز ترین ڈیلیوری سروس، ٹیکسی سروس، سامان
 کی ٹریکنگ سمیت جدید ترین نظام کے جنوری میں اجراء
 کیا جائے گا، چینی کمپنی ٹائٹنیا کیو کے چیف ایگزیکٹو ڈونلڈ
 کے مطابق کمپنی پاکستان میں بڑے پیمانے پر سرمایہ
 کاری کرے گی جس سے لاکھوں افراد کو روزگار ملے گا،
 ابتدائی طور پر راولپنڈی اسلام آباد کے جڑواں شہروں
 میں سرمایہ کاری کی جائیگی اس سے پاکستان میں ای
 کامرس کے شعبے میں ترقی ہوگی، ای کامرس کا یہ نظام چند
 ماہ میں پاکستان بھر میں متعارف کرایا جائیگا۔

Jang News, 03-01-19

چین سے 2 ارب ڈالر قرضے اور پینج پرباٹ ہورہی ہے، وزارت خزانہ

بنکنگ کمپنیز ترمیمی بل 2018 منظور، یو اے ای کے 3 ارب جلد مل جائینگے

کرائے جائیں جبکہ فوکل پرسن مقرر کئے جائیں اور اکاؤنٹ نہ کھولنے والے متعلقہ بینک حکام کیخلاف کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے،، سینیٹر عتیق الرحمن نے کہا فوکل پرسنز کے فون کالز کو ریکارڈ کیا جائیگا فوکل پرسنز سے رابطہ کیا جائے مشکلات کو دور کیا جائیگا، رضاربانی نے کہا بنکنگ کمپنی ایکٹ کے سیکشن 27 بی کے تحت بینکوں میں ٹریڈ یونین کی سرگرمیوں پر پابندی ہے یہ نہ صرف آئین کے آرٹیکل 17 سے متصادم بلکہ انٹرنیشنل لیبر آرگنائزیشن کے قوانین کی بھی خلاف ورزی ہے، ڈپٹی گورنر سٹیٹ بینک نے بتایا بینکوں میں ٹریڈ یونین پر پابندی نہیں صرف پیپرمیٹرز مقرر کئے گئے ہیں، رضاربانی نے کہا سٹیٹ بینک کو بینک مالکان کے مفادات کا تحفظ نہیں کرنا چاہئے، قراۃ العین مری نے بتایا سرکاری ونجی اداروں میں خواتین کو میٹرنٹی رخصت میں مشکلات درپیش ہیں جو خواتین رخصت پر جاتی ہیں ان کی ترقی روک لی جاتی ہے ونجی اداروں میں انکی تنخواہ روک لی جاتی ہے اور ملازمت سے بھی برطرف کر دیا جاتا ہے لہذا میٹرنٹی رخصت تین سے بڑھا کر چھ ماہ کیا جائے، سرکاری ونجی اداروں کو پابند کیا جائے کہ وہ خواتین کو یہ سہولت فراہم کریں۔

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) سینٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی خزانہ نے بینکوں میں ٹریڈ یونین کی سرگرمیوں پر عائد پابندی کے خاتمے کیلئے بنکنگ کمپنیز ترمیمی بل 2018 کی منظوری دیدی، وزارت خزانہ کے حکام نے کمیٹی کو بتایا چین سے دو ارب ڈالر قرضہ سمیت مالیاتی چیک پر مذاکرات جاری ہیں، سعودی عرب سے دو ارب ڈالر موصول ہو گئے ہیں رواں ماہ مزید ایک ارب ڈالر مل جائینگے، متحدہ عرب امارات نے تین ارب ڈالر دینے کا وعدہ کیا ہے توقع ہے جلد مل جائینگے، سعودی عرب سے ملنے والے تین ارب ڈالر بیرونی ادائیگیوں سمیت زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر کے طور پر استعمال کر سکیں گے، قطر سے ایل این جی بارے کچھ نہیں آیا، کمیٹی نے وزارت خزانہ نے اس حوالے سے تین روز میں تفصیلی جواب مانگ لیا، کمیٹی نے سینیٹر قراۃ العین مری کے میٹرنٹی اور پیٹرنٹی رخصت بل پر وزارت قانون کیساتھ ملکر مزید جامع بل لانے کی ہدایت کردی، بل کو ایک ہفتہ کیلئے موخر کر دیا گیا، کمیٹی نے سینیٹر بیرسٹر محمد علی سیف کے سیاستدانوں، وکلاء اور صحافیوں کیلئے بینک اکاؤنٹ کھولنے میں درپیش مشکلات پر سٹیٹ بینک کو ہدایت کی کہ اس حوالے سے تفصیلی ایس او پی مرتب کر کے جمع

Jang News, 04-01-18

ترک سرمایہ کاری ایک مہینہ حصہ دینے کے لیے عمران خان

گورنمنٹ
بہتر بنانے ہیں

پاکستان میں کاروبار اور سرمایہ کاری کو منافع بخش بنائیں گے، تاجروں و سرمایہ کاروں سے خطاب، مولانا روم کے مزار پر حاضری بھی دی

آئندہ پانچ سال میں پچاس لاکھ گھر تعمیر کریں گی یہ بہت بڑا منصوبہ ہے اس میں تعمیراتی کمپنیوں کیلئے بڑے مواقع ہیں، پاکستان میں پرکشش قدرتی سیاحتی مقامات کے علاوہ مذہبی سیاحت کے بھی بڑے مواقع ہیں، دنیا کی بلند ترین چوٹیوں میں سے نصف پاکستان میں ہیں، بدھ مت، سکھ اور ہندو مذاہب کے تاریخی مقامات کے علاوہ قدیم سندھ تہذیب کے آثار بھی موجود ہیں، وزیراعظم نے کہا ترکی کی تحریک آزادی میں پاکستانی خطہ کے لوگوں نے بڑا کردار ادا کیا تھا، قبل ازیں ترکی چھیننے پر وزیراعظم عمران خان نے وفد کے ہمراہ عظیم صوفی بزرگ حضرت جلال الدین رومی کے مزار پر حاضری دی، مزار پر پھولوں کی چادر چڑھائی اور فاتحہ خوانی کی۔

کاروبار کے بڑے مواقع ہیں، معدنیات اور بالخصوص تیل و گیس کے ذخائر کو بروئے کار لانے کی ضرورت ہے، وزیراعظم نے کہا پاکستان کی سٹرٹیجک پوزیشن بہت اہم ہے جو خطے کی بڑی منڈیوں کے سنگم پر واقع ہے اور مختلف علاقوں کو رابطہ کاری کی سہولت فراہم کر سکتا ہے، پاکستان میں چین کے تعاون سے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کئے جا رہے ہیں جہاں سرمایہ کاری اور کاروبار کیلئے مواقع پیدا ہونگے، سی پیک منصوبے سے ملک میں کاروباری سرگرمیاں شروع ہونگی، پاکستان کی آبادی کا بڑا حصہ نوجوانوں پر مشتمل ہے جو ملک میں مواقع اور بڑے امکانات کو ظاہر کرتا ہے، انہوں نے کہا ملک میں کاروباری لاگت میں کمی لانے اور اس حوالے سے آسانیاں پیدا کی جارہی ہیں، ہمیں اپنے نوجوانوں کو روزگار دینے کیلئے سرمایہ کاری کی ضرورت ہے، حکومت

انقرہ، اسلام آباد (خبر ایجنسیاں، نیوز رپورٹر) وزیراعظم عمران خان نے ترکی کے تاجروں اور سرمایہ کاروں کو پاکستان میں کاروبار و سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے گورنمنٹ بہتر بنا رہے ہیں، ترک سرمایہ کاری پیک میں حصہ ڈالیں، پاکستان میں کاروبار اور سرمایہ کاری کو منافع بخش بنایا جائیگا، پاکستان بے پناہ مواقع کا حامل ملک ہے، موجودہ حکومت کاروبار میں آسانیاں پیدا کرنے اور تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کو منافع بخش بنانے کیلئے پرعزم ہے، پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان تجارتی رکاوٹوں کو دور کرتے ہوئے تجارت کو مزید فروغ دیا جائے گا، انقرہ میں تاجروں اور سرمایہ کاروں سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے عمران خان نے کہا پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان تجارت کے وسیع مواقع ہیں مگر ان سے استفادہ نہیں کیا جاسکا، پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری اور

Jang News, 05-01-19**چین، 'مدر آف آل بمبس' کا تجربہ**

بیجنگ (اے ایف پی) چین نے اپنے انتہائی طاقتور غیر جوہری ہتھیار کا تجربہ کیا ہے، افغانستان میں استعمال کیے گئے امریکی اسلحہ کے حوالے سے سرکاری میڈیا نے اسے 'مدر آف آل بمبس' کا نام دیا ہے۔ ریاستی اسلحہ ساز نورینکو کی ویب سائٹ پر جاری کردہ ایک مختصر ویڈیو میں ایک جسیم بم کو طیارہ سے گرایا جاتا ہے جس سے آگ اور دھوئیں کا ایک دیوہیکل جسامت کا گولہ بنتا ہے۔ بدھ کو سوشل نیٹ ورکس پر سرکاری ذہنوں اخبار رساں ایجنسی نے پہلی مرتبہ بم کو 'مدر آف آل بمبس' کا چینی ورژن کے طور پر بیان کیا۔ ایجنسی کے مطابق اس کی طاقت جوہری ہتھیار سے کچھ ہی کم ہے، چینی بمبار طیارے h-6k سے بم گرایا گیا۔ ڈینا، مقام یا بم دھماکے کی حد کی تفصیلات فراہم نہیں کی گئیں۔ 2017 میں امریکا نے اپنے اسلحہ کے سب سے طاقتور روایتی بم گرایا، جسے 'مدر آف آل بم' کا نام دیا، 'مدر آف آل بم' کو افغانستان کے مشرق میں داعش گروپ کے زیر استعمال سرنگوں کے جال کو تباہ کرنے کیلئے استعمال کیا گیا۔

Jang News, 05-01-19

امریکا نے اپنے شہریوں کو چین

کا سفر کرنے سے روک دیا

واشنگٹن (اے ایف پی) امریکا نے چین میں کینیڈین شہریوں کی گرفتاری کے بعد اپنے شہریوں کو چین کا سفر کرنے سے روک دیا ہے۔ سٹیٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی طرف سے جاری ٹریول ایڈوائزری میں کہا گیا ہے کہ حکم کی خلاف ورزی پر سخت تادیبی کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ چین نے ایک ٹیلی کام کمپنی کی افسر کی کینیڈا میں گرفتاری کے بعد راست اقدام کے طور پر 13 کینیڈین شہریوں کو گرفتار کر لیا تھا۔ پانچ اب بھی چینی حکام کی حراست میں ہیں۔

Jang News, 06-01-19

خطے کی سلامتی کو
خطرات بڑھ گئے

چینی صدر کا فوج کو جنگ کے لیے تیار کرنے کا حکم

خطرات اور چینلینجز کا سامنا کرنے کے لیے عصر نو کے جدید تقاضوں کو پورا کرنے والی جنگی ٹیکنالوجی تیار کی جائے، شی جن پنگ

لارہی ہے اور اس تیزی سے بدلتی ہوئی صورت حال میں چین کو اپنی جغرافیائی اہمیت کے باعث مختلف خطرات کا بھی سامنا ہے جس سے نبرد آزما ہونے کے لیے حکمت عملی مرتب کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ بحیرہ جنوبی چین کا ساحلی علاقے تائیوان اور چین کے درمیان کشیدگی کا باعث ہے جب کہ امریکا کے ساتھ جاری معاشی جنگ کا اونٹ بھی کسی کروٹ بیٹھے نظر نہیں آتا۔

قسم کی ہنگامی صورت حال کے لیے ہمہ وقت تیار رہنا چاہیے۔ کسی بھی وقت جنگ چھڑ سکتی ہے۔ چینی صدر نے جنوبی چین کے ساحلی علاقے کے تنازع اور امریکا کے ساتھ کشیدہ صورت حال کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے اپنی افواج کو ہدایت کی کہ خطے میں بڑھتے ہوئے خطرات اور چینلینجز کا سامنا کرنے کے لیے عصر نو کے جدید تقاضوں کو پورا کرنے والی جنگی ٹیکنالوجی تیار کرے۔ شی جن پنگ نے مزید کہا کہ رواں صدی دنیا میں کئی نمایاں تبدیلیاں

بیجنگ (مانیٹرنگ سیل) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے خطے کی سلامتی کیلئے بڑھتے ہوئے خطرات کے پیش نظر اپنے ملک کی فوج کو جنگ کے لیے تیار رہنے کا حکم دیا ہے، خطرات اور چینلینجز کا سامنا کرنے کے لیے عصر نو کے جدید تقاضوں کو پورا کرنے والی جنگی ٹیکنالوجی تیار کی جائے۔ بین الاقوامی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق صدر شی جن پنگ نے چینی فوج کے اعلیٰ سطح کے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ہدایت کی ہے کہ افواج کو کسی بھی

Jang News, 07-01-19

چین خلا میں راکٹ اور سیارے

بھیجنے والا دنیا کا پہلا ملک بن گیا

واشنگٹن (اے ایف پی) چین کے کامیاب خلائی پروگرامز امریکا کیلئے لمحہ فکریہ بن گئے، سرد جنگ کے دور میں سائینسی محاذ پر امریکا روس کو نیچا دکھانے کی حکمت عملی پر کار بند تھا، مگر گزشتہ سال چین نے امریکا کو بلکہ پوری دنیا کو پیچھے چھوڑ دیا۔ چین نے 39 امریکا نے 31، روس نے 20 جبکہ یورپ نے 8 راکٹ خلا میں بھیجے۔ چین نے 2017 میں خلائی پروگرام پر 8.4 ارب ڈالر خرچ کئے جو روس اور جاپان سے زائد تھے۔ جمہرات کو چین کا خلائی جہاز تاریخ میں پہلی دفعہ چاند کے سیاہ حصے پر اترا، جو وہاں ایک سٹیشن کے قیام اور 1972 کے بعد کسی بھی چینی کو چاند پر اتارنے کی منصوبہ بندی میں مصروف ہے۔

Jang News, 07-01-19



آلودہ فضلہ کی درآمد پر چین کی پابندی سے آسٹریلیا کچرے کا ڈھیر بن گیا

والے فضلہ کی صفائی کیلئے گھروا اٹھانے والے ٹرکوں کی صفیے گاؤں پر ضرورت ہوئی۔

آسٹریلیا کی دفاعی اور ریاستی حکاقتیں فضلہ کی صفیے قومی پابندی تیار کرتی ہیں، جس کا مقصد زیادہ دہری سائیکل کرنا اور فضلہ کی کم پیداوار، اور نقصان دہ چارٹنگ کے استعمال کو بتدریج کم کرنا ہے۔ تاہم مٹلو یا ہوائی گیس میں اضافہ ہے، جیسا کہ 2030 تک فضلہ کی پیداوار میں 10 فیصد تک کی لاہری سائیکل میں اضافہ اور 80 فیصد تک فضلہ سے توانی کی بحالی، اور ری سائیکل شدہ مواد کا 30 فیصد استعمال ایسی تک باہم بن جائے گا، ہوا ہے۔

پرتھ - جیمی اسمتھ

آسٹریلیا کی ری سائیکل سٹریٹس درجنوں ملازمین پلاسٹک، کارڈ بورڈ اور کاغذ کے بندلوں کو چن رہے ہیں، آسٹریلیا چین کی جانب سے ری پروسس آؤٹی والے مواد پر پابندی سے پیدا ہونے والے فضلہ کے عالمی بحران کے خلاف اٹن پر ہے۔ سوز مفری آسٹریلیا کے چرنل سٹریٹس کرکٹ باؤکسے کہا کہ چین کے اقدام نے ری سائیکل کے قابل مواد کو دوبارہ میوزیم کرنے کیلئے موثر طور پر 60 فیصد اہلیت سے لی ہے، جسے اس نے راتوں رات ختم کر دیا ہے۔

ری سائیکل کی پابندی کی سختی اس کی درآمدات کی ری سائیکل کی سختی سے حد کے جنوبی میں ناز کے ساتھ فضلہ کیلئے جودھ کرنے والی ہزاروں کمپنیاں ہیں سے ایک ہے۔

آسٹریلیا کی صورتحال تیزی سے بڑھتے ہوئے عالمی مسئلہ کی ایک علامت ہے۔ ممالک جو فضلہ پیلے چین کو بھیجتے تھے اس سے بھرے ہوئے ہیں، چین اس بات کو دیکھ کر ری سائیکل کے طور پر کام کر رہا ہے۔ جیسا کہ آسٹریلیا میں ڈھیر کیلئے والے مواد کے عمل کے طور پر اسے آؤٹی ری سائیکل کیلئے پھر سے کیلئے مخصوص براہ راست زمینی کی پھر لی کیلئے لیا جاتا ہے، جو ماہرین ماحولیات کے لئے ہولناک ہے۔

سوزے کہا کہ چین کی پالیسی میں تبدیلی سے آسٹریلیا میں بیچ بھری ہوئے فضلہ کی قدر کو نصف کر دیا اور چارٹنگ کی قدر کو تقریباً نصف کرنے کیلئے قومی حکمت عملی، آسٹریلیا کے کئی طور پر تقاضا مل رہے ہیں۔ تازہ سربراہ کاری اور ری سائیکل میٹریل کیلئے مٹلو مقامی مارکیٹ کی ضرورت ہے۔

مستز پارک نے کہا کہ چین کی ری سائیکل پروسیجر پر اصرار کرنا ہوا اس کا مطلب مقامی انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر اور ری سائیکل شدہ مصنوعات کیلئے طلب پیدا کرنا ہے۔ جس کی وجہ سے کچھ ری سائیکل کوڈن کرنا پڑے گا۔ اپریل میں کوئینزلینڈ میں ایونج کونسل نے خبردار کیا کہ چین کے بحران کی وجہ سے یہ اپنا تمام ری سائیکل شدہ مواد کو ڈالنے کیلئے کیلئے ضرورت ہے۔

آسٹریلیا کی ری سائیکل کا سامنا کرنا پڑنے والے کیلئے کیلئے ضرورت ہے۔ تاہم مٹلو یا ہوائی گیس میں اضافہ ہے، جیسا کہ 2030 تک فضلہ کی پیداوار میں 10 فیصد تک کی لاہری سائیکل میں اضافہ اور 80 فیصد تک فضلہ سے توانی کی بحالی، اور ری سائیکل شدہ مواد کا 30 فیصد استعمال ایسی تک باہم بن جائے گا، ہوا ہے۔



2025 میں ہر روز پیدا ہونے والے فضلہ کا ڈھیر اور ایک پریشان کن منظر ہے۔

اور کارڈ بورڈ سمیت تقریباً 13 لاکھ ٹری سائیکل مواد میں ہوا ہے۔ قومی طور پر کچھ حصہ کو بیرون ملک ہی بی بی بی کی سائیکل کی قدر کو نصف کر دیا اور چارٹنگ کی قدر کو تقریباً نصف کرنے کیلئے قومی حکمت عملی، آسٹریلیا کے کئی طور پر تقاضا مل رہے ہیں۔ تازہ سربراہ کاری اور ری سائیکل میٹریل کیلئے مٹلو مقامی مارکیٹ کی ضرورت ہے۔

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آسٹریلیا کی ری سائیکل کا سامنا کرنا پڑنے والے کیلئے کیلئے ضرورت ہے۔ تاہم مٹلو یا ہوائی گیس میں اضافہ ہے، جیسا کہ 2030 تک فضلہ کی پیداوار میں 10 فیصد تک کی لاہری سائیکل میں اضافہ اور 80 فیصد تک فضلہ سے توانی کی بحالی، اور ری سائیکل شدہ مواد کا 30 فیصد استعمال ایسی تک باہم بن جائے گا، ہوا ہے۔

Jang News, 11-01-19**جنگ ہو یا قدرتی آفات چین ہمیشہ پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہا ہے، پرویز الہی****سی پیک پاک چین ترقی میں ریڑھ کی ہڈی کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، جلد از جلد مکمل ہونا چاہئے چینی سفیر سے گفتگو**

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) قائم مقام گورنر پنجاب چودھری پرویز الہی سے چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے جمعرات کو گورنر ہاؤس لاہور میں ملاقات کی۔ پرویز الہی نے پاک چین دو تہی کو لازوال قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ خطہ میں پائیدار امن کی حامل ہے، ہر مشکل گھڑی میں چاہے وہ جنگ ہو یا قدرتی آفات چین ہمیشہ پاکستان کے

ساتھ کھڑا رہا۔ سی پیک دونوں ملکوں کی ترقی میں ریڑھ کی ہڈی کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے لہذا اسے جلد از جلد مکمل ہونا چاہئے۔ چینی سفیر نے چودھری پرویز الہی کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان ہمیں اپنا دوسرا گھر لگتا ہے ہم آپ کے بطور وزیر اعلیٰ قائم کردہ لاہور سنڈرائنڈ سٹرل اسٹیٹ میں گارمنٹس پلانٹ لگانے کی خواہش رکھتے ہیں۔

Jang News, 11-01-19**پنجاب حکومت نے سیشنل اکٹانک زون قائم کر دی ہے****چینی سفیر سے گفتگو، عوام کے جان و مال کے تحفظ کیلئے پولیس کو تاج دینا ہو گئے، اجلاس سے خطاب، سرگودھا بار کے وکلاء کی ملاقات**

لاہور، سرگودھا (خصوصی رپورٹر، نامہ نگار) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب عثمان بزدار سے وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے ملاقات کی جس میں پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ، سی پیک کے منصوبوں اور نئے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں وزیر اعلیٰ اور چین کے سفیر نے مستقبل میں دو طرفہ تعاون کو نئی جہت دینے کیلئے پبلک پرائیویٹ شراکت داری، سیشنل اکٹانک زونز کے قیام اور سماجی شعبوں کی ترقی کیلئے مشترکہ اقدامات کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دور میں پاک چین دو تہی کا نیا باب رقم ہو رہا ہے، پاک چین رابطے عوامی سطح پر بھی مضبوط کرینگے، پنجاب حکومت نئے سیشنل اکٹانک زون قائم کر رہی ہے جن میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو مراعات اور ہولڈنگس دیں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ سماجی

شعبوں کی پائیدار ترقی ہماری حکومت کی ترجیح ہے اور سماجی شعبوں میں چین کے تعاون کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔ چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے اس موقع پر بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پنجاب حکومت کا سیشنل اکٹانک زونز کے قیام کا اقدام قابل تعریف ہے۔ سیشنل اکٹانک زونز کے قیام سے پاک چین معاشی تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوں گے اور پبلک پرائیویٹ شراکت داری کے فروغ سے دونوں ملکوں کو فائدہ پہنچے گا۔ عثمان بزدار کی زیر صدارت گزشتہ روز وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں صوبے میں امن و امان کی صورتحال اور جرائم پر قابو پانے کیلئے اقدامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ عوام کے جان و مال کے تحفظ کیلئے پولیس کو تاج دینا ہو گئے۔ ڈکیتی، راہزنی اور دیگر جرائم کے سدباب کیلئے ٹھوس حکمت عملی بنائی جائے کیونکہ عوام کی جان و مال کے تحفظ سے بڑھ کر

کوئی ترجیح نہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے سنگین جرائم میں ملوث اشتہاری ملزمان کی گرفتاری کیلئے صوبہ بھر میں بھرپور مہم چلانے کا حکم دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اشتہاری ملزمان کی گرفتاری کے حوالے سے ہفتہ وار رپورٹ انٹرنس پیش کی جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پولیس افسران ہر ضلع اور ڈویژن میں کھلی پھریاں لگا کر سائیکل کے مسائل حل کریں۔ عثمان بزدار سے صدر بار سرگودھا، جنرل سیکرٹری بار اور دو ممبران پنجاب بار کونسل سمیت 10 ارکان نے ملاقات کیا۔ پانچوں ڈویژنوں کے وکلاء نے ہائی کورٹ پیٹرن سمیت اپنے مطالبات پیش کئے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعلیٰ نے فیصل آباد کے علاقے چک جھمرہ میں خاتون پر پولیس کے مہینہ تشدد کے واقعہ کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے واقعہ کی تحقیقات کا حکم دیا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے ہدایت کی ہے کہ خاتون پر تشدد کے ذمہ داروں کا تعین کر کے قانونی کارروائی کی جائے۔

Jang News, 11-01-19

سی پیک سے پاکستان میں روزگار کے

12 لاکھ مواقع پیدا ہونگے، ماہرین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) معاشی ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری سے پاکستان میں 12 لاکھ لوگوں کو روزگار کے مواقع مل سکتے ہیں، سی پیک کے بارے میں یہ منفی بات پھیلائی جا رہی ہے کہ اس سے پاکستان قرضوں کے جال میں پھنس جائے گا حقیقت یہ ہے کہ پاکستان میں چین کی سرمایہ کاری سے بہت سے لوگوں کو روزگار ملے گا، سی پیک کے دو مراحل ہیں، پہلے مرحلے میں بنیادی ڈھانچے کے منصوبوں اور دوسرے مرحلے میں روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنے، معاشی زون اور معاشی ترقی پر توجہ مرکوز کی جائے گی۔ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق ٹرانسپورٹ کے لئے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر سے بھی روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، پاکستان میں 20 ملین افراد کو روزگار کی ضرورت ہے جس کیلئے پاکستان کو طویل المعیاد حکمت عملی اپنانا ہوگی، سی پیک کی اپنی کمزوریاں ہیں لیکن اسکی منفرد خوبیاں بھی ہیں، سی پیک گوادر اور چین کو منسلک کرے گا جو چین کی درآمدات اور برآمدات کیلئے ایک زبردست آپشن ہے، سی پیک سے پاکستان کی پیداواری صنعت، کارخانوں کی صلاحیت بڑھے گی بلکہ چین کیلئے ایک اہم برآمدی ملک بنے گا دوسری طرف چینی کمپنیاں کوشش کر رہی ہیں کہ مقامی پیداوار بڑھائیں لیکن ان کو سیکورٹی اور کم تربیت یافتہ ورکرز سمیت کئی مسائل کا سامنا ہے، اگر پاکستانی حکومت کاروباری ماحول بہتر بنائے تو سی پیک سے مقامی لوگوں کو روزگار سمیت بہت سے فوائد مل سکتے ہیں۔

Jang News, 12-01-19

چین کا کرنسی سمنگ روکنے کیلئے

پاکستان کسٹمز کو 14 ایکسرس سکیورز کا تحفہ

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کے سفارتخانے نے ایف بی آر کے شعبہ کسٹمز کو چار ایکسرس سکیورز کا تحفہ دیا ہے جن کو ایئر پورٹس پر نصب کیا جائے گا اور کرنسی سمیت دیگر ممنوعہ اشیاء کی سمنگ روکنے میں مدد ملے گی۔

Jang News, 12-01-19

دنیا کے 100 بہترین ایئر پورٹس، 14 امریکی، 7 چینی، 6 آسٹریلوی شامل

پاکستان کا ایک بھی ایئر پورٹ شامل نہیں، خطے اور دنیا کے ممالک ہم سے آگے نکل چکے

فہرست 7 کے ساتھ چین دوسرے اور 16 ایئر پورٹس کے ساتھ آسٹریلیا تیسرے نمبر پر ہے۔ جنگ ڈیولپمنٹ رپورٹنگ سیل نے کمرشل ایئر لائنز پر تحقیق کرنے اور بین الاقوامی مسافروں کی آراء سے کہیں اسٹاف، ہوائی اڈوں، ایئر لائنز، ایئر لائن لائنڈیج، دوران سفر تفریح، کھانے اور ہوائی سفر کے دیگر عناصر کے حوالے سے درجہ بندی کرنے والے برطانوی مشاورتی ادارے اسکائے ٹریکس کی 2017-18ء کے دوران 100 ممالک سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایک کروڑ 37 لاکھ سے زائد مسافروں کی آراء پر کی گئی۔



لاہور (رپورٹ: نوید طارق) جدید دور میں ذرائع نقل و حمل کسی ملک کی ترقی کی بنیادی ضروریات میں سے ایک اہم عنصر کے طور پر سامنے آیا ہے جس میں بہترین سڑکوں، پلوں، نظام ریل کے ساتھ ساتھ ہوائی سفر کا ڈھانچہ بھی اہم ہے، ایئر پورٹس اس کا اہم ترین جزو ہے لیکن بد قسمتی سے پاکستان جہاں اقوام عالم میں دیگر کئی شعبوں میں ترقی کی دوڑ میں پیچھے رہ گیا، وہیں بہترین ہوائی اڈوں میں خطے اور دنیا کے ممالک بھی ہم سے آگے نکل چکے ہیں۔ جن 47 ممالک کے ایئر پورٹس کو 100 بہترین ایئر پورٹس میں شامل کیا گیا ہے ان میں سے ایک بھی پاکستانی شامل نہیں، فہرست میں 14 ایئر پورٹس کے ساتھ امریکہ سر

Jang News, 12-01-19

چینی قونصلیٹ حملے کا اصل منصوبہ

کراچی کے ایڈیشنل آئی جی ڈاکٹر امیر احمد نے جمعہ کے روز پریس کانفرنس میں بتایا کہ اسپیشل سیکورٹی یونٹ اور دیگر ونگز نے حساس اداروں کے تعاون سے چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کے 5 سہولت کار بھاری اسلحہ سمیت گرفتار کئے ہیں۔ ملزموں کا تعلق بی ایل اے سے ہے جبکہ حملے کا منصوبہ بھارتی خفیہ ایجنسی را کے ایماء پر افغانستان میں بنایا گیا۔ یہ مسلمہ حقیقت ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے اشتراک سے پتھیل کے مراحل طے کرنے والا دنیا کا سب سے بڑا اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ (سی پیک) پاکستان کے روشن مستقبل کا ضامن ہے۔ یہ ایک ایسا گیم چینجر منصوبہ ہے جس سے طاقت کا توازن بھی چین اور پاکستان کے ہاتھوں میں آجائے گا۔ کون نہیں جانتا کہ دنیا میں اس وقت جو کشمکش ہے، اسے کوئی بھی نام دے دیا جائے، دراصل یہ معاشی استحکام کی مسابقت ہے۔ تسلیم کہ اس منصوبے کے زیادہ فوائد چین کو حاصل ہوں گے لیکن پاکستان اس منصوبے سے اس قدر معاشی استحکام ضرور حاصل کر لے گا کہ اسے دوسرے ملکوں سے امداد کی ضرورت نہ رہے گی۔ سی پیک کی اسی اہمیت کے پیش نظر اس کے بارے میں نہ صرف منفی پروپیگنڈا کیا گیا بلکہ اس کی راہ روکنے کیلئے شراٹگیزی بھی کی جا رہی ہے۔ پاکستان میں صوبائی تعصب پھیلانے کی مذموم سعی کی گئی تو پاک چین تعلقات خراب کرنے کیلئے اس منصوبے پر کام کرنے والے بعض چینی انجینئرز کو قتل اور اغوا کیا گیا۔ نومبر 2018 میں کراچی میں چینی قونصل خانے پر حملہ، جس کی ذمہ داری بلوچ علیحدگی پسند گروہ بلوچ لبریشن آرمی نے قبول کی، بھی اس سلسلے کی ایک کڑی ہے، تاہم یہ تمام تر تخریبی کارروائیاں پاک چین تعلقات کو اس لئے متاثر نہ کر سکیں کہ دونوں ملکوں کے علم میں ہے کہ کون کون اس منصوبے کے درپے ہے۔ لہذا منصوبے کی تکمیل کے عزم میں کوئی چیز حائل نہ ہوئی۔ چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کے سہولت کاروں کی گرفتاری ایک احسن پیش رفت ہے، جس سے چین بھی مطمئن ہوگا اور پاکستان دشمن عناصر بھی جان لیں گے کہ ان کی کسی بھی حرکت پر انہیں معاف نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

Jang News, 14-01-19

جلاپور پیر والا: چینی کیمپوں کے قریب

خانہ بدوشوں کی بستیاں ختم کرنے کی ہدایت

بہاول پور (ڈسٹرکٹ رپورٹر) جلاپور پیر والا میں سی پیک کیمپ کے اردگرد خانہ بدوشوں کی بستی سے بھاری اسلحہ بارود برآمد کر لیا۔ ہوم ڈیپارٹمنٹ حکومت پنجاب کی جانب سے آئی جی پنجاب، ایڈیشنل آئی جی سپیشل برانچ، آر پی او اور سی پی او کو جاری ایک مراسلے میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ سی پیک شیوانی کیمپ جلاپور پیر والا کے اردگرد ٹیلی جنس ایجنسیز نے خانہ بدوشوں کی بستی میں سرچ آپریشن کیا تو وہاں سے اسلحہ و بارود برآمد ہوا۔ خانہ بدوشوں کی آبادیاں چائینز نیشنلز کیلئے مستقل سیکورٹی تھریٹس ہیں لہذا فوری طور پر تمام خانہ بدوش و کچی آبادیوں کو چائینز کیمپس کے نزدیک سے ختم کیا جائے۔

Jang News, 14-01-19

چین کا چھوٹی صنعتوں پر ٹیکسوں میں کمی پر غور

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین کی حکومت نے ملک میں روزگاری زیادہ سے زیادہ فراہمی اور اقتصادی استحکام کیلئے چھوٹی صنعتوں کیلئے ٹیکسوں میں کمی پر غور شروع کر دیا۔ وزیراعظم لی کی کیانگ نے کہا کہ چھوٹی صنعتوں پر ٹیکسوں میں کمی سے نہ صرف روزگار کے وسیع تر مواقع پیدا ہونگے بلکہ ملک میں اقتصادی استحکام اور ٹیکس نیٹ وسیع کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔

Jang News, 14-01-19



چین امریکا تجارتی مذاکرات شروع کرنے کی خبروں کے بعد ایشیائی اسٹاک میں تیزی

احساس اور اعداد و شمار کے کمزور سلسلے کے بعد چین میں اقتصادی سست روی کے خدشات سے دوچار رہی ہے۔ اس کا نجی ملکیت کا میٹو سٹریٹجک کے شعبے نے 19 ماہ میں دسمبر میں پہلی بار سٹاک گیا، جو ملکی طلب کے کم ہونے اور دنیا کی دوسری بڑی معیشت پر امریکا کے ٹریف سے دباؤ کی عکاسی کرتا ہے۔

چین نے اپنی سست روی کا شکار معیشت کی ٹیکوں کو ذخائر میں جو رکھنا چاہئے اس رقم میں کمی کے ذریعے مدد کی، جبکہ حکام نے گزشتہ ماہ 125 ارب سے زائد مالیت کے انفراسٹرکچر کے منصوبوں کی بھی منظوری دی۔

جے پی مورگن ایسٹ مینجمنٹ جے پی مورگن میں گلوبل مارکیٹ اسٹریٹجسٹ چیف ٹیو کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کے اقدامات سے یہ ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ حکومت کا چھکاؤ ترقی پر مبنی موقف کی جانب ہے، جیسا کہ یہ اقتصادی ترقی کے انتظام، مہنگے ہارڈنگ کے ٹیلے اور دباؤ کی شرح کے استحکام کے درمیان ایک توازن پیدا کرنے کے ساتھ نبرد آزما ہے۔

منصب کے درمیان ملاقات کی خبروں سے زندہ دل ایشیائی مارکیٹوں میں بھی تیزی آگئی۔

سٹی میں ای ایم ایشیا اکٹنا سٹ جو ہانا شوہا کا کہنا ہے کہ بیجنگ میں امریکا اور چین کے مابین بات چیت کی امریکی چینی تجارتی مذاکرات میں پیشرفت کے اشارہ کے لئے قریب سے نگرانی کی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بات چیت کے موضوعات میں دانشورانہ ملکیت، زراعت اور صنعتی خریداری شامل ہو سکتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ مذاکرات کی خبر سے نقصان رساں اثاثوں کے لئے وسیع تعاون اور پالیسی سازوں سے یقین دہانی سے ای ایم کرنسیوں کے استحکام کو بڑھانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ پیر کی صبح چین کی ملکی کرنسی جو چینی مرکزی بینکوں کی جانب سے ٹریڈنگ بیڈ کے اندر چلتی ہے، 6.8461 ریٹنہمیٹی فی ڈالر پر 0.3 فیصد مستحکم ہونے کے ساتھ رہنمائی ایشیائی کرنسیوں مستحکم ہوئیں، یہ دسمبر کے شروع سے اب تک بلند ترین سطح ہے۔

چین کی اسٹاک مارکیٹ سرمایہ کار کے کمزور

0.6 فیصد کا نقصان اٹھانا پڑا۔ نعلے بھر کا اسٹاکس 600 جو 0.6 فیصد گر گیا۔

فیڈرل ریزرو کے چیئرمین جے پاؤل کے اس تبصرے کہ امریکی اعداد و شمار سنے سال میں اچھی رفتار برقرار رکھنے کیلئے ٹریک پر نظر آتے ہیں، کے بعد امریکا کی ایکویٹی مارکیٹ کے جمعہ کو ایس اینڈ پی 500 انڈیکس 3.4 فیصد پر بند ہونے کے بعد ایشیا پر اپنی کیفیت میں واپس آیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ مالیاتی پالیسی کو سخت بنانے کے لئے عمل کا کٹھن نظر اپنا نہیں گے۔

اس تبصرے نے اقتصادی مندی کے رجحان کے خدشے کو کم کیا اور شرح سود میں اضافے کیلئے فیڈرل ریزرو کے کٹھن نظر کو نمایاں کیا، امریکی ڈالر کے استحکام پر بریٹس لگائی اور ایشیائی اثاثوں کیلئے مہلت فراہم کی۔

امریکی فیوچر ٹریڈ کے مطابق ایس اینڈ پی 500 وال اسٹریٹ کے آغاز میں 0.2 فیصد گر جائے گا۔

تناؤ کے مہنگے پھلنے کی علامت میں پیر کو دو روزہ امریکی تجارتی حکام کے ان کے چینی ہم

ہانگ کانگ: ایماڈ نکل

ایشیا بھر میں پیر کو اسٹاک اور کرنسیاں بلند رہیں۔

پہنچ گئیں جب چین نے امریکا کے ساتھ دوبارہ تجارتی مذاکرات شروع کرنے اور محرک اقدامات کا انکشاف کیا، جبکہ وفاقی ریزرو کی جانب سے اقتصادی ترقی پر خدشات کے حوالے سے رائے تعلق بخش ہے۔

واقعات کی ترتیب نے عالمی ایکویٹی کیلئے انتہائی ضروری مدد دی، جس نے ان کے ایک دہائی سے زیادہ عرصہ کے دوران 2018 میں بدترین سال سے گزرے۔

گزشتہ ماہ مندی میں جانے کے بعد جاپان کا ٹیکس تقریباً 3 فیصد پر بند ہوا۔

ہانگ کانگ اور مرکزی چین میں اسٹاک کے اعشاریہ بالترتیب زیادہ سے زیادہ 0.8 اور 0.6 فیصد بڑھے۔

یورپ میں ریلی سے رفتار زوال پزیر ہوئی۔

فرینکفرٹ کا زلیٹراڈیکس 30 جو 0.5 فیصد نیچے چلا گیا، جبکہ لندن کا ایف ٹی ایس ای 100 کو

Jang News, 14-01-19**پاکستان کو سی پیک کی سرمایہ کاری سے معاشی مشکل کا سامنا نہیں، احسن اقبال****سیاسی بے یقینی سے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری متاثر ہوئی، قومی منصوبوں کو متنازع بنانے سے اجتناب کرنا چاہئے**

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) سابق وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی اور مسلم لیگ ن کے رہنما احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے عوام سی پیک کے نگران (کسٹوڈین) ہیں، سی پیک ایک قومی سٹریٹجک منصوبہ ہے، پاکستان کو سی پیک کی سرمایہ کاری کے باعث کسی معاشی مشکل کا سامنا نہیں، سی پیک سرمایہ کاری کے باعث پاکستان میں توانائی کا بحران حل ہوا اور اس کے ذریعے ہم نے تھر کول جیسے قیمتی وسائل کو نکالا، سی پیک کے باعث پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری آئی، آسان شرائط پر پاکستان میں ماڈرن ٹرانسپورٹ انفراسٹرکچر کو تعمیر کرنے میں مدد ملی ادائیگیوں کے توازن کا بحران سی پیک کے باعث نہیں ادائیگیوں کے توازن کا بحران اس سیاسی ڈرامے کے باعث ہے جو ن لیگ کو اقتدار سے ہٹانے کیلئے رچایا گیا، سیاسی بے یقینی کی صورت حال

کے باعث اربوں ڈالرز کی غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری متاثر ہوئی حالانکہ جی ڈی پی گروتھ ریٹ 6 فیصد تک تھا، معیشت میں بہتری آرہی تھی، توانائی کی سپلائی میں بہتری کے باعث بند صنعتیں دوبارہ چلنا شروع ہوئیں، صنعتوں کو بڑے منصوبوں اور صنعت کی ترقی کیلئے خام مال، مشینری اور پلانٹس کی درآمد کی ضرورت پڑی اس کے باعث درآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا تاہم پانا ماڈرامہ کے باعث غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری میں اربوں ڈالرز کا بہاؤ رکا، موجودہ حکومت میں شامل مفاد پسند عناصر سی پیک کے حوالے سے غیر ضروری تنازعات شروع کر رہے ہیں ہمیں قومی منصوبوں کو متنازع بنانے سے اجتناب کرنا چاہیے موجودہ حکومت کو اب علم ہو چکا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبے شفاف تھے۔

Jang News, 14-01-19

راولپنڈی رنگ روڈ منصوبہ، چینی بینک کا مشن

قرضہ شرائط طے کرنے اسلام آباد پہنچ گیا

اسلام آباد (ساجد چوہدری) چینی ایشین انفراسٹرکچر انویسٹمنٹ بینک کا مشن راولپنڈی رنگ روڈ مجوزہ منصوبہ کیلئے قرضہ کی شرائط طے کرنے کیلئے اسلام آباد پہنچ گیا ہے، یہ مشن 19 جنوری تک پاکستان میں رہے گا، ذرائع کے مطابق مشن اکنامک افیئر ڈویژن حکام سے ملاقاتیں کرے گا تاکہ رنگ روڈ منصوبہ کیلئے قرضہ کی شرائط کو طے کیا جاسکے، مشن منصوبے کی الاٹمنٹ کا بھی دورہ کرے گا اور چیئرمین و ڈی جی آر ڈی اے سے بھی ملاقات کرے گا، بینک اپنی مروجہ پالیسی کے تحت رنگ روڈ کیلئے قرضہ دے گا، مشن اپنے دورہ کے آخری روز بھی اکنامک افیئر ڈویژن میں حکام سے ملاقاتیں کرے گا، آر ڈی اے ذرائع کے مطابق رنگ روڈ سے روزانہ تقریباً 45 ہزار گاڑیاں گزریں گی، 35 روپے تا ساڑھے تین سو روپے فی گاڑی ٹول پلازہ پر وصول کئے جائیں گے، اس منصوبہ کی تکمیل کی صورت میں ہیوی ٹریفک سے آئی جے پی سمیت راولپنڈی اسلام آباد و دیگر شاہراہوں کو نجات ملے گی، ذرائع کے مطابق چینی بینک کا مشن تو اسلام آباد میں پہنچ چکا ہے مگر آر ڈی اے نے جو بنیادی کام کرنے ہیں جن میں لینڈ ایکوزیشن کے پی سی ون سے پہلے کمیٹیاں بنانی ہیں اس حوالے سے کوئی کام نہیں ہو پا رہا ہے اس کی وجہ آر ڈی اے کے شعبہ انجینئرنگ میں قیادت کا فقدان قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔

Jang News, 15-01-19

سی پیک، بند کئے جانے والے منصوبوں میں آزاد پتھن پاور پراجیکٹ بھی شامل

720 میگا واٹ کے دوسرے کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر بھی کام کی رفتار سست

راولپنڈی (راحت منیر/ اپنے رپورٹر سے) سی پیک منصوبہ کے تحت ضلع راولپنڈی میں 720 میگا واٹ کا آزاد پتھن ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ ڈراپ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ جبکہ ضلع راولپنڈی میں ہی 720 میگا واٹ کے دوسرے کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر بھی کام کی رفتار سست ہے اور تاحال کروٹ پاور کمپنی کو اراضی منتقلی کا معاہدہ (سی ایس اے) نہیں ہو سکا، جو آئندہ ماہ ہونے کی توقع ہے۔ باخبر ذرائع کے مطابق دریائے جہلم پر آزاد پتھن کے مقام پر رپورٹن پر منصوبہ سی پیک کے تحت ان لیگ حکومت نے منظور کیا تھا، پراجیکٹ کے متبادل جنگل کیلئے گوجرخان میں زمین ایکویز کرنے کیلئے سیکشن چارجز نوٹیفکیشن بھی جاری ہو چکا ہے مگر اب سی پیک کے تحت بند کئے جانے والوں منصوبوں میں آزاد پتھن پاور پراجیکٹ کو بھی شامل کیا جا رہا ہے۔

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan Observer, 01-01-19

CPEC to enhance communication' transport system

OUR CORRESPONDENT

QUETTA

Balochistan Minister for Transport Mir Mohammad Umar Khan Jamali on Monday said Pakistan China Economic Corridor Project (CPEC) was going to build up an efficient transport and communication system. He said the system would not only have a positive influence on mobility of products, trade stimulation, extension of markets, increase in employment, but would also support spread of education as well increase social welfare and help in stability of prices.

It's amazing that tomorrow's small fishing village 'Gwadar' is fast emerging as a Deep Sea Port today, the minister said.

Pakistan Observer, 01-01-19**CPEC: Not burden
but an opportunity**

As voices are raised against the CPEC with some describing it as a burden on Pakistan while others associating it as the one having military dimensions, there is a need to undertake an in-depth review and realistic analysis as to what Pakistan has gained in economic terms by addressing its power crisis and developing modern road infrastructure ever since the launch of this mega project.

If we go back five years ago, the country was faced with serious energy crisis and nobody was ready to invest in Pakistan due to poor security situation. It was China which while reposing confidence on the potential of the country came forward to help the country wriggle out of the energy crisis and develop state of the art infrastructure in order to bolster trade within the region. Since then, 11 projects have been completed while another 11 projects are under construction. The total investment of these 22 projects is around 18.9 billion dollars. There are 20 more projects in the pipeline. As a result of these projects, Pakistan managed to cope with prolonged power outages and running the wheels of its industry which definitely is and will continue to contribute to the economy in the years to come. With the construction of motorways and expressways we have become the country having the most modern road infrastructure in the region and the complete operationalization of Gwadar will make it hub of trade in the entire region. The two countries are also in negotiations to build a modern railway system from Karachi to Peshawar which is another step in achieving greater connectivity in the region. The establishment of special economic zones under the project will promote industrialization and help provide thousands of jobs to our youth. Already CPEC projects have created more than 75,000 direct job opportunities for Pakistani people. According to a report by Deloitte in 2017, CPEC will create 700,000 jobs for Pakistan from 2015 to 2030. Now our new government has further expanded the scope of the CPEC by including subjects such as development of agriculture sector which will help the country learn from Chinese experience and bolster its agri yield. Thus, economically, it is a project that will bring joint development to the two countries; and socially, it is aimed at mobilizing the people to work together for the betterment of our two nations. Thus, Pakistan has lost nothing but gained a lot as a result of this mega project. We are confident that the two countries will further gear up their efforts towards early realisation of all the projects under the CPEC and work hand in hand in order to thwart all the designs and plots of the enemies against this game changer project.

The Express Tribune

The Express Tribune, 01-01-19

HASAAN KHAWAR

CPEC liabilities and repayments



The writer is a public policy expert and an honorary Fellow of Consortium for Development Policy Research. He tweets @hasaankhawar

Recently, a news item appearing in *The Express Tribune* highlighted that the CPEC investments of \$26.5 billion would eventually lead to \$40 billion of outflows over 20 years. The government was quick to issue a rebuttal and claimed that government liabilities related to CPEC are only limited to \$6 billion.

This is not the first time this controversy has been raised and there have been various conflicting reports on CPEC-related liabilities. It is, therefore, important to objectively look at this issue and unpack this discussion.

There are three intertwined issues that must be looked at separately. Firstly, the CPEC investments include both government-to-government borrowing and commercial loans and investments. The government's direct liability of \$6 billion may be a small part of the overall CPEC portfolio, but most of the commercial investments under CPEC are also guaranteed by the government and would, therefore, add to its contingent liabilities. The

government must, therefore, also disclose its CPEC-related contingent liabilities, whenever it mentions its direct liabilities.

Moreover, the balance of payments does not only depend on government borrowing, and any profit repatriation is also reflected as current account outflows. The CPEC-related outflows of \$2-3 billion per annum for the next few years, on account of total investment of \$26 billion, would, therefore, have a direct bearing on Pakistan's balance of payments, irrespective of the fact that CPEC energy projects were undertaken in the IPP mode.

The second issue pertains to Pakistan's ability to repay CPEC loans and manage other outflows. Pakistan's total external debt is close to \$100 billion. Not only does the CPEC-related government debt constitute a mere 6% of this external debt stock but it is almost as high as the recent deposits committed by the UAE and Saudi Arabia in the last two months. Moreover, Pakistan's multilateral debt is at least 4-5 times the

CPEC debt. It is, therefore, absurd to claim that CPEC loans have added significantly to Pakistan's debt burden.

Furthermore, the balance of payments is a much larger issue for Pakistan, with CPEC playing a minuscule role in it. Considering Pakistan's annual imports of more than \$60 billion, the expected annual CPEC-related outflows only account for 15-20 days of the import bill. Isn't it prudent to slightly rationalise our imports to pay for the assets that we have built under CPEC?

The third issue is the terms and conditions of CPEC financing. While the interest ranged from 2% on concessional loans to as high as LIBOR + 4.5% for commercial loans, it were the equity investments that were perhaps the most expensive. Assuming a 75:25 debt-to-equity ratio, the equity part out of \$16 billion CPEC energy portfolio should stand around \$4 billion. Against this investment, the dividend payments are expected to be almost three times of \$11.4 billion. This is because of the excessively-high

return on equity (ROE) ensured on these projects. On coal power projects, for instance, the ROE was as high as 27-34% for 30 years, even for imported coal. What exactly are the reasons for allowing these disproportionately-high returns for an environmentally-hazardous technology, and that too in a time period when the costs of renewable energy are sliding down, remain unclear.

However, we must realise that CPEC has provided the much-needed infrastructure financing for Pakistan, leading to improved power-generation capacity and better connectivity, and now it's for us to make best use of this improved infrastructure.

The real focus of CPEC, therefore, should not be on mulling over repayments of contracts that have already been agreed upon by both countries and rather on how we can increase our exports, encourage Chinese industry to relocate to Pakistan and form better business linkages with China. If we do it right, we can more than compensate for these outflows.

The Express Tribune, 02-01-19

Higher rates

PAC to get briefing on CPEC power projects

Shehbaz also asks Power Ministry to give in-camera briefing on Karkey case

SHAHBAZ RANA
ISLAMABAD

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday decided to get a briefing on the energy projects being set up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) after some members raised questions over high rate of returns given to Chinese investors and location of certain power plants.

The questions were mainly raised by members belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) during a briefing given by the Power Division forcing PAC Chairman Shehbaz Sharif decided to call for a comprehensive.

Shehbaz also announced to set up two PAC sub-committees to look into the issues of overbilling by power

distribution companies and how to ensure generation of electricity from cheap sources.

"Pakistan has offered a very high rate of return in the range of 25% to 35% in dollar terms and the government of Pakistan guarantees are involved in these deals," said PTI Senator Shibli Faraz.

A report by the Ministry of Planning revealed that during the next 20 years, CPEC power projects-related outflow would amount to \$32 billion, including debt repayments and repatriation of profits.

But Power Division Secretary Irfan Ali told the PAC that the internal rate of return of CPEC power projects "is in the range of 17% to 25%" due to a different nature of input fuels of the plants.

"It is the return on eq-

"CPEC projects are in the IPP mode and the Central Power Purchase Agency pay investors through tariffs

PPP's Naveed Qamar

uity that in case of energy projects is as high as 34.2%, starting from 25%," he added.

PPP's Naveed Qamar questioned the difference in the rate of return given to various power plants set up under CPEC.

"CPEC projects are in the IPP [Independent Power Producer] mode and the Central Power Purchase Agency pay investors through tariffs," said Irfan Ali.

"The power projects investors can repatriate their

profits to China," he added.

PPP's Raja Pervaiz Ashraf questioned the rationale of setting up coal-based CPEC power plant in Sahiwal. "There is no valid reason for establishing the coal-based power plant far away from the sea port that is now a serious source of pollution and rising temperatures," said the former PM.

The Pakistan Power Infrastructure Board managing director said the 1,320MW power plant was set up in Sahiwal to meet the energy needs of central Punjab. The PTI's Brig (ret'd) Ijaz Ahmad Shah said it was a political decision to setup the power plant in Sahiwal.

PTI MNA Riaz Fatyana, who belongs to the area, said due to the Sahiwal power plant, temperature in adjoining districts has started to go up.

However, the power secretary argued that super critical technology has been used in the plant that addresses the pollution and environment degradation concerns. But Ashraf did not accept his explanation.

Senator Faraz said the Chinese investors of Kohala and Karot hydropower plants want to go back due to the problems they are facing. But the secretary said he had not heard about this.

The PAC directed the Power Division to give a briefing on the CPEC related issues in light of concerns raised by the members.

Karkey case

The PAC chairman asked the Power Division to give an in-camera briefing on the Turkish ship-based energy firm, Karkey Karadeniz Elektrik Uretim (KKEU).

The Express Tribune, 04-01-19

Economic, social uplift

China assures continued help to Pakistan

NEWS DESK

China said on Thursday that it will continue to provide assistance for economic and social development in Pakistan through trade, investment, and all-around practical cooperation, Radio Pakistan reported.

Speaking at a weekly briefing in Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Lu Kang said, "China and Pakistan are all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners."

Responding to a question about China's offer to give Pakistan \$2 billion in aid to support its foreign currency reserves, he said that "the two sides have always maintained close communications on relevant cooperation."

On Wednesday, it was reported that China is building the first of four 'most advanced' naval frigates for Pakistan as part of a major bilateral arms deal to ensure 'balance of power' in the Indian Ocean.

The vessels, a version of China's guided missile frigates, are equipped with state-of-the-art sensors and weapons system, the publication quoted defence contrac-

tor China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) as saying. The shipbuilder added that the ships would have anti-ship, anti-submarine and anti-air armament.

The ships are of the Type 054AP class, meaning that it is based on the Type 054A of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), the report quoted Pakistan Navy as saying.

” China and Pakistan are all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Lu Kang**

Once constructed, the warship "will be one of the largest and most technologically advanced platforms of Pakistan Navy and strengthen the country's capability to respond to future challenges, maintain peace and stability and the balance of power in the Indian Ocean region," the report said.

The Express Tribune, 06-01-19

Govt report

China's population set to peak at 1.44b in 2029

SHANGHAI

China's population is set to reach a peak of 1.442 billion in 2029 and start a long period of "unstoppable" decline in 2030, government scholars said in a research report published on Friday.

The world's most populous country must now draw up policies to try to cope with a declining labour force and a rapidly ageing population, according to the summary of the latest edition of the 'Green Book of Population and Labor' published by the China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

Growth in the working population had now stagnated, the report said, and the rising number of elderly people will

have a far-reaching impact on the social and economic development in the country, especially if fertility rates remain low.

"From a theoretical point of view, the long-term population decline, especially when it is accompanied by a continuously ageing population, is bound to cause very unfavourable social and economic consequences," it said. China's population is expected to fall back to 1.36 billion by the middle of the century, it said, which could mean a decline in the workforce of as much as 200 million.

If fertility rates remain unchanged, the population could fall to 1.17 billion by 2065, it said. China decided in 2016 to relax a controver-

sial "one-child policy" aimed at curbing population growth and allow all couples to have two children.

However, the country's birth rate still fell 3.5 percent in 2017 and is expected to have fallen again last year. China's "dependency rate" — or the proportion of non-working people, including children and the elderly, in the total population — rose for the first time in more than 30 years in 2011, and is widely predicted to increase further for at least the next few decades.

According to previous forecasts, China's elderly population is expected to reach 400 million by the end of 2035, up from around 240 million last year. AFP

The Express Tribune, 06-01-19

Upcoming parleys

China woes help in trade talks, says US president

Hopes to make deal with China; US officials to arrive in Beijing next week for face-to-face talks

WASHINGTON/BEIJING

US President Donald Trump on Friday downplayed a revenue warning from Apple Inc that cited slowing sales in China and said China's weakening economic growth puts the United States in a strong position as negotiators from the world's two largest economies prepare for trade talks next week.

Trump has slapped import tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods as he seeks concessions from Beijing on issues ranging from industrial subsidies to hacking, sparking retaliation by China. The measures have disrupted trade, hurt manufacturing, roiled international markets and slowed the global economy.

US officials are heading to Beijing next week for the first face-to-face talks since Trump and China President Xi Jinping in December agreed to a 90-day truce in the trade war as they sought to strike a deal.

"I think we will make a deal with China," Trump told reporters at the White House after a meeting with



AGREEMENT: US officials are heading to Beijing next week for the first face-to-face talks since Trump and China President Xi Jinping in December agreed to a 90-day truce. PHOTO: REUTERS

Democratic and Republican lawmakers about the US government shutdown. "I really think they want to. I think they sort of have to."

Beijing on Friday cut bank reserve requirements for a fifth time this year amid slowing growth at home and the punishing US tariffs on exports.

"China's not doing well now. And it puts us in a very strong position. We are doing very well," Trump said. "I hope we're going to make a

deal with China. And if we don't, they're paying us tens of billions of dollars worth of tariffs -- not the worst thing in the world." Official data this week showed manufacturing has slowed in both China and the US, though the US Labour Department on Friday reported a surge in new jobs in December along with higher wages.

The president downplayed the effects of the economic woes on US technology giant

Apple Inc, which this week blamed slowing iPhone sales in China for a rare reduction in its quarterly sales forecast. When asked if he was concerned about Apple's revenue cut and share price drop, Trump said: "No, I'm not. I mean look, they've gone up a lot."

Trump tells Apple to build at home

Shares of Apple rebounded on Friday after a 10% nosedive on Thursday on the revenue warning. The shares closed at \$148.26 on Friday, down about 5.1% for the week. For the 2018 full year, Apple shares fell 7%, though they are up about 24% since Trump took office in Jan 2017.

"They're going to be fine. Apple is a great company," Trump said, adding he had told Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook to build his company's products at home in the US, something he has harped on previously.

"Apple makes its product in China. China is the biggest beneficiary of Apple, more than us, because they build their product mostly in China," Trump said. REUTERS

The Express Tribune, 09-01-19

8th JCC meeting

**'Missing paperwork'
delays CPEC mass
transit schemes**

Pakistan side failed to complete paperwork on time for mega projects

SHAHBAZ RANA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China could not make any breakthrough on mega mass transit and infrastructure projects during the 8th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting due to Islamabad's inability to timely complete paperwork of these multibillion dollars schemes.

The status quo remained on \$8.2 billion mainline (ML-1) project of Pakistan Railways, \$2 billion Karachi Circular Railways (KCR), mass transit schemes of Quetta and Peshawar and five small road projects, according to signed minutes of the 8th JCC meeting. The JCC is the highest decision-making body of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that met last month in Beijing after one year.

China's National

Planning Ministry spokesperson on CPEC affairs did not say why no breakthrough was achieved on mass transit

Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman Ninglizhe and Pakistan's Minister for Planning and Development Khusro Bakhtiar co-chaired the JCC meeting.

China has declared the \$2 billion KCR project 'technically feasible' and important for 'growth and prosperity' for Pakistan's largest commercial hub. But Pakistani authorities failed to fulfil the procedural requirements.

"The Chinese side noted the importance of the KCR project for growth and prosperity of Karachi, presented that more endeavours shall be taken to facilitate the KCR project as soon as possible since it's JCC MEETING, PAGE 8

The Express Tribune, 10-01-19

Boosting fleet

China 'needs three aircraft carriers'

Beijing parades its naval prowess as three warships dock in Cambodia

BEIJING/ PHNOM PENH

China needs "at least three aircraft carriers" to protect its extensive coastline and its interests abroad, a senior Chinese naval expert said Wednesday.

"Our country has an 18,000-kilometre (11,000-mile) long coastline. Also, our economy is outward looking and our interests abroad are growing," said Commodore Zhang Junshe, a member of the Naval Research Institute.

"All this requires us to send a military force to distant seas to protect (these interests). In these circumstances, I think we need at least three aircraft carriers. Of course, depending on economic development, we could legitimately revise this figure upwards," he said during a meeting with the Chinese and foreign press.

China currently has only one operational aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, a secondhand Soviet ship built nearly 30 years ago and commissioned in 2012.

A second carrier — the first

built entirely by China and known only as "Type 001A" — was launched a year ago and has been undergoing sea trials.

With just one fully operational aircraft carrier, China is far behind the United States, which has 11 such warships, but is on a par with Russia, France, India and Britain, which have one each, according to Nick Childs, a naval specialist at Britain's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"Since the first Opium War in 1840 until the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, we have suffered 470 naval attacks from Western countries or Japan," said Zhang.

During this period, China suffered several defeats by Britain, Japan and France which resulted in the colonisation of Chinese territories.

"We will not be invading other countries, but the Chinese are afraid that their country will be invaded again, so the main reason we are strengthening our defence is to ensure our security," he said.

'Military cooperation'

Three hulking Chinese war-

ships docked in Cambodia on Wednesday for a four-day visit, as Beijing parades its naval prowess alongside its staunch Southeast Asian ally.

While doling out cash China has also sought high-profile military exchanges, fuelling speculation that it is building a naval base off the Cambodian coast, claims vehemently denied by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Several joint military exercises have also taken place while in June Beijing promised \$100 million to modernise Cambodia's armed forces.

The three warships, the longest 180 metres (590 feet), stopped at Cambodia's Sihanoukville port for a visit to January 12, Cambodian defence ministry spokesman Chhum Socheat told AFP.

"The goal of the visit is to boost ties and military cooperation, especially between the navies from both countries," he said, dismissing suggestions that the display was about touting "Chinese influence".

He said the Chinese navy delegate would meet with Cambodian military commanders and Defence Minister Tea Banh during the visit. AFP

The Express Tribune, 10-01-19

Chinese automaker set to start production of buses, trucks

Has invested \$100m in partnership with Pakistani company

✉ USMAN HANIF
LAKHORE

Leading Chinese automobile manufacturer Changan, in collaboration with the Master Group, is set to kick-start commercial production of passenger buses and cargo trucks in Pakistan next month.

The Chinese firm has invested \$100 million in a joint venture with Master Motors Corporation Limited (MMCL), in which it holds a 50% stake.

"Foreign direct investments (FDI) is coming through a Chinese company, which will help ease pressure on our foreign exchange reserves," said Master Motors CEO Daniel Malik at the inauguration of his company's first 3S (service, spare parts, sales, support and safety) facility and showroom at SITE Karachi.

"Completely built units (CBU) of Changan karwan van and Mp pickup have reached Pakistan and we have already got bookings up to March. We are fully sold out," he said.

In late first quarter of 2018, the Ministry of Industries and Production had awarded Category A Greenfield status - which is awarded to new players - to Master Motors.

"Master Motors' assembly



PLANS: Master Motors will invest about \$15 million in an Italian brand, Iveco trucks, and start assembling these trucks in the next five to six months. PHOTO: ICI

plant at Port Qasim will start producing Changan vehicles next month," said Malik.

"We want to remain ahead in competition and has opened this one-window showroom to bring international standards to Pakistan," he said, adding, "I hope this showroom will force others to improve their services as well."

After a blaze involving an oil tanker in Bahawalpur, the company gave importance to safety in all of its products, he said. Master Motors imports and assembles Japanese Fuso and Chinese Foton and Yutong and is going to start assembling trucks based on European technology for the first time in Pakistan.

The company will invest about \$15 million in an Italian

brand, Iveco trucks, and start assembling these trucks in the next five to six months.

The relevant Italian company has conducted all necessary checks and certified the plant as an authorised assembler, allowing it to bring completely knocked down (CKD) European trucks in Pakistan, the CEO said. It has imported completely built units (CBU) as well.

"We will go looking at the market," he said and added, "In the first year, we plan to assemble 100 trucks." "This will help us bring European technology in the country," he said. Master Motors will start with 1,000 units of Changan vehicles and its production will rise to 30,000 units per year in the next four years.

The Express Tribune, 12-01-19

K-P to set up dedicated body for CPEC-related projects

Mahmood Khan directs expeditious completion of health, education, irrigation and power projects

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PERISHAWA

In a bid to remove hiccups and to smoothen the process of setting them up, the provincial government has decided to set up a separate body which will oversee all China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects in the province.

This was stated as Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Mahmood Khan directed to expedite work on projects relating to health, education, irrigation, power and communication in the province. The directions had been issued in two separate meetings at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Peshawar, statements released on Sunday stated.

In a meeting on hydro power projects being built in the province, Mahmood asked the energy and strategic support departments to own their projects and ensure that they are completed within the stipulated time period.

"The importance of CPEC should not be overshadowed by other considerations," Mahmood said, stressing that CPEC should be the focus of attention at all times.

He directed to continue working

on CPEC related projects around the clock. In this regard, the CM said that his government will set up a separate model institution for all CPEC-related projects in the province.

Stating that his government wants to achieve sustained economic growth to ensure that the "province stands on its own feet", CM Mahmood called for the early execution and timely completion of hydropower projects in the province.

In this regard, the chief minister issued guidelines on the use of electricity generated through hydro power projects in the province. With the aim of igniting industrialisation, Mahmood said that the generation and provision of cheap electrical power through hydropower projects would attract large scale investment helping develop the province and creating jobs.

In this regard, he said that K-P will create a transmission company which will be dedicated to industries. Moreover, he specified that all megawatts (MW) of power produced through the Pishar hydro-power project will be provided to the Gadoon Industrial Estate in Swabi.

POWERING DEVELOPMENT
28MW
is the power to be provided to the Gadoon Industrial Estate from the Pishar hydro-power project

He sought comprehensive research-oriented plans for hydro-power generation in the province, including in Chitral which has the potential to generate 3,000MW of electricity.

With participants raising issues relating to the National Transmission and Dispatch (NTDC) and the Central Power Purchasing Authority (CPPA), Mahmood assured them that he will take up these concerns with the federal government.

He also directed for the rapid execution and completion of government-to-government projects which include those by the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), Korean Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) project. He further directed the re-

levant quarter to prepare a report on the Swat dam.

Mardan development

Meanwhile, in a meeting on development projects in Mardan, Mahmood directed to complete ongoing projects as soon as possible and to submit a comprehensive progress report within a month.

The K-P chief minister directed to open completed projects for the public benefit and to focus on near-complete projects in the first phase.

After being briefed on different development projects, Mahmood directed to complete the remaining 25 per cent of work on the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital of Mardan. He also directed to resolve all power-related problems faced by the DHQ.

Moreover, he directed to complete work on six wards of the Bacha Khan Medical College immediately so that it can be handed over to the concerned quarters. Thereafter, a schedule should be prepared for the creation of new posts.

To further improve health facilities in Mardan, Mahmood directed that SHAs should be set to the rural health centres (RHCs) and basic

health units (BHUs) of Mardan so that these facilities can start serving the public.

"There should be no administrative irritants in the operationalisation of newly established facilities," he stated. He also directed to resolve the issue of providing equipment to the Mardan Medical Complex.

On the education front, Mahmood directed to post both male and female District Education Officers (DEOs) in Mardan. He also directed to move a summary for the provision of officers in Tribal Kuzam.

The CM was briefed about the revised project concept (PC-II) for the Mardan Mega Pak and that a meeting in this regard has already been held with the National Logistics Company (NLC).

He was told that a meeting for shifting the site of the Fatahah Girls Secondary School will be held.

An agreement was reached on the 20-kilometre-long Pishar Road project. The CM also directed to resolve salary-related issues of K-P House in Mardan and for the posting of a technician. To resolve issues of UET, Mahmood directed to contact the higher education department for a resolution.

The Express Tribune, 13-01-19

RAOSEN TAJ RAISANI

CPEC and Balochistan



The writer is a former research associate at LUMS

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been hailed as a game changer for Pakistan and for its most restive and underdeveloped province, Balochistan. It is deemed the new project of development and connectivity with all entailing perks and privileges. It has also been hyped up to such a point that it looks as if the topic de jour of Pakistani media has transcended above conflicts and arguments. It looks that all is quiet and well regarding this utmost important issue within and without. The problem is that silence does not solve but further complicates the misgivings and shortcomings.

It is no doubt a fact that the insecurity and disaffection in the province have been reduced by the efforts of government and military. But it is quite wrong to assume that everything is hunky-dory in the region. The project with its progress and exclusion of local populace is creating a festering of ill-treated, age-old wounds of peoples of locality. There

exists no representative data to depict the popular sentiments of public on this topic, roughly because of the hyper-sensitivity of the topic. Agreed that the project is going to bring happiness, but how and when is the question? Nobody knows of the gains of the implementation of the project. Except for completion of projects of road networks that have been in the pipeline since the start of this century, there are no new employment centres, technical institutes and educational infrastructures to meet the needs of the mega project that is hailed as the initiative of eternal blessing for the local people.

The picture becomes bleaker when viewed in the context of past grievances and concerns in the region. The chronic and violent instability and geopolitical considerations along with a faulty Afghan policy have created a cornucopia of malafide intentions and realities in the region. Also, the conditions of local conflict involve a historical ethnocentric element. This is a keg that nobody should light up again.

CPEC is a dilemma. If it is completed and sustained without the inclusivity of locals, in time it can become a cause of grievance which can heighten the tensions again in the region or if it is not completed or remains confined to developed areas, it will further create resentment and strengthen the inequality rhetoric. The fact remaining to be established is that the prime actors and benefactors of this project must be the people of Balochistan, or for that matter the people of Pakistan.

The political and sociological narrative in Balochistan is complex but major themes can be identified. The tribal close-knit society is sporadic but still retains its primary characteristic of *lex talionis*. Rural areas and huge expanses of land are devoid of imposing control. No new industrial or manufacturing units are being established to aid in the economic or social uplift. The divisiveness created by social engineering and favouring elements without any political character has caused uncertainty in the political milieu of the province.

The human rights issues that were justified as a necessity of conflict look out of place in the new narrative of stability and peace. It is pertinent and indeed a necessity to initiate dialogue which deals with the relationship of state, society and nature of development in the region because hushing the voices of the polity and civic activism are having an adverse effect for the organic growth of society and politics in the province, which can aggravate once the situation of CPEC becomes clearer and prevalent. The notion of peace must be nurtured in the public through measures of confidence building. They should be a part in this grand scheme of development not on the sidelines and fringes as an externality impervious of its inclusion or exclusion. This region has been in a long conflict which is a different reality. The psyche and understanding of its public needs comfort and care. It needs its state to ensure the safety and surety of its people and it wants the state to own its people, not just its land.

The Express Tribune, 14-01-19

Kohat oil, gas fields

K-P may form commission to probe environmental impacts

CM's adviser says audit to be conducted via a third party

OUR CORRESPONDENT
PESHAWAR

The provincial government has hinted at creating a joint commission which will probe the air pollution allegedly caused owing to the rising number of oil and gas fields in Kohat division.

This was suggested by Adviser to the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister (CM) on Energy and Power Development Himayatullah Khan during a visit to inspect different oil and gas fields in the division including in Dhoke Hussain, Noshaba and Makri. The commission, Himayatullah said, would investigate ways and means to control rising air pollution and devise a comprehensive strategy in this regard.

He directed the companies

to take appropriate, positive and solid measures to keep the environment clean to safeguard valuable lives in the division, adding that companies could plant more trees under their corporate social responsibilities to keep the environment clean.

Member National Assembly (MNA) Shahid Khattak, MPAS Nisar Gul Kakakhel, Zahoor Shakir, and Shah Faisal stated how the local infrastructure, including roads of the division, had been damaged owing to the presence of the oil and gas companies.

They further complained that the oil and gas royalties provided to locals is quite low and it should be increased so that the living standard of the people could be improved.

Energy and Power Department secretary stated that land for the oil and gas fields had been purchased on nominal rates through the old land lease agreement. However, he said that these

agreements will be revised soon after the relevant legislation is passed by the K-P Assembly.

Himayatullah assured that an audit will be conducted through a third party so that the good work done is appreciated apart from encouraging those working for the welfare of the people of the area.

Moreover, he directed the relevant oil and gas companies to revise their plans and provide much-needed employment to residents of the area.

He also directed them to announce scholarships for local students apart from creating sporting and other entertainment opportunities for the youth of the area.

The adviser also visited the control room of the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) where he was told that the Noshaba oil and gas fields produce some 18,400 barrels oil and 86 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) of gas along with 300 metric tonnes

of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) on a daily basis.

He also directed the concerned quarters to computerise all processes so that actual production could be gauged.

Locals had filed a petition before the Peshawar High Court (PHC) in which they sought an order for the formation of a joint investigation team to probe the theft of crude oil worth Rs142 billion from the oil and gas fields of Karak.

A counsel for the petitioners had told the bench that the petition had been filed in the interest of the public at large and thus it should be heard by a division bench of the high court. In the petition, the residents requested the court to declare that the people of Karak, Kohat and Hangu, whose properties and lands were damaged and faced health hazards and environmental degradation, were entitled to compensation from the provincial and federal governments.

The Nation

The Nation, 01-01-19

China's Xi wishes happy New Year to Russia's Putin

MOSCOW - Chinese leader Xi Jinping has wished a happy New Year to Russia's President Vladimir Putin and the nation, state media reported.

In the message cited by the Xinhua news agency, the Chinese president said next year would mark the 70th anniversary since the two nations established diplomatic relations.

The Russian and Chinese national flags are seen on the table as Russia's President Vladimir Putin (back L) and his China's President Xi Jinping (back R) stand during a signing ceremony at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on November 9, 2014.

China's Xi Accepts Putin's Invitation to Visit 2019 St. Petersburg Int'l Economic Forum

Xi added he wanted to further develop the bilateral relationship across all areas for the sake of well-being and prosperity of both countries.

In his New Year telegram to Xi, Putin wished praised the comprehensive and trusting partnership between the two nations, saying it had reached an unprecedented level.

The Nation, 01-01-19

China's reform momentum to remain unabated

BEIJING - China is set to usher in broader and more intensive reform in 2019 as reform, a policy the country adopted 40 years ago, has become a hallmark of the country.

Starting January 1, a new personal income tax cut will take effect as part of China's tax reform which also involves value-added tax reductions.

These tax cut measures are expected to boost consumers' spending power, optimize income distribution, grow the domestic market, encourage companies to engage in technical upgrading and innovation, and enhance the strength of the Chinese economy to pursue sustained development.

At its bimonthly session last week, China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, reviewed a draft foreign investment law and adopted the revised civil servant law as part of the country's efforts to promote its civil service reform.

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said about one-third of the subjects covered in this session were closely connected to China's reform, stressing the standing committee's duty in implementing reform and ensuring that all major reform measures are taken in accordance with the law.

As well as the legislature, Chinese people have been passionately advocating reform. A grand exhibition to commemorate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, for instance, received over 2.2 million visits within 44 days.

With historical photos, texts, videos, miniature models on display, and interactive activities, the exhibition at the National Museum of China in Beijing has seen the number of daily visits exceeding 60,000 on several days.

A digital version of the exhibition launched about a month ago had been visited nearly 265 million times online as of Dec. 28.

The public enthusiasm about reform and policymakers' resolve to advance reform have mainly come from the country's collective experience of turning China from a poverty-stricken country to the one with growing competitiveness and influence across the world within 40 years.

It is fair to say that China's reform momentum has been particularly strong over the past five years after the Communist Party of China (CPC) decided to advance reform in all aspects at the third plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee in 2013.

Since the third plenary session, Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has presided over at least 45 high-profile meetings on advancing reforms, during which 400 documents and 1,932 reform plans have been launched, according to official statistics.

As a result, China's reform has been expanded from the economic field to a broad sphere including administrative management, culture, society, ecological conservation, Party building, and the military. And such reform momentum has been unabated.

Despite rising protectionist sentiments overseas, China consistently expands its market to foreign investors through reform measures. After a pilot run of negative list in Shanghai and later other provinces since 2016, the Chinese government recently announced a negative list for market access nationwide, opening more industries, fields, and businesses to all investors.

The move is to implement the instruction of having the market play a decisive role in resource allocation as instructed by the third plenary session.

A significant institutional breakthrough, as the government noted, is that all market players including state-owned firms, private companies, mixed-ownership enterprises, and foreign firms will be treated equally despite their size or other differences.

According to the Central Economic Work Conference held in December, an annual tone-setting meeting to make arrangements for next year's economic work, the country's reform will be advanced from a long-term perspective to better respond to the concerns of the people and for the good of China and the world at large.

In the financial market, reform measures will be taken to improve the country's monetary policy transmission mechanisms, increase the proportion of direct financing and make financing more

accessible and affordable for the private sector and small businesses. Fair competition will be highlighted in next year's reforms concerning state-owned enterprises, taxation and financing, land, market access, social management, and small and medium enterprises.

Instead of using administrative orders, China will resort to more market-oriented and law-based means to advance the supply-side structural reform, especially when it comes to the downsizing of gutted industries and increasing the vigor of micro market entities.

China is also expected to make more institutional reforms to promote technological innovation and foster new industrial clusters, build a unified and open market system with orderly competition, and prompt the financial sector to better serve the real economy.

The Nation, 01-01-19

China releases first short video AI production platform

CHENGDU-China's state-run Xinhua News Agency and internet giant Alibaba on Thursday jointly launched the country's first short video intelligent production platform to improve news reporting efficiency.

The platform, with the domain name "magic.shuwen.com.", made its debut at the 6th China Emerging Media Industry Integration and Development Conference in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

As the first application of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in the field of media integration, the platform is independently developed by Xinhua Zhiyun Technology Co. Ltd., a joint venture founded by Xinhua and Alibaba.

At the conference, the platform gave a real-time demonstration of the short video intelligent production process. On Thursday morning alone, it produced 186 short videos, among which 97 were produced by AI and the other 89 by man-machine collaboration.

Currently, all domestic media outlets can use the platform to produce high-quality short videos after applying for certification via the website, according to the conference.

With the advent of the 5G era, short videos will become the main carrier of news reporting in the future. Liu Siyang, vice president of Xinhua, said that the platform will help editorial staff produce more short videos that users are drawn to.

Multiple news templates are set up on the platform, including politics, emergencies, sports, fashion and entertainment. The platform is able to analyze and capture information with high news value, such as fires, earthquakes and other emergencies, so as to help journalists and editors save time when reporting.

In specific fields such as sports live broadcasting and financial news, it realizes data visualization, data-to-video transformation and video production automation.

The platform enables journalists and editors to devote themselves to more valuable reporting work where human beings cannot easily be replaced by machines, said Shao Xiaofeng, secretary-general of the Alibaba group.

The Nation, 02-01-19

Sabotaging CPEC: An Indo-US ploy?

Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman, during his last week's press briefing, made it just clear that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had no military dimensions. "The CPEC is a bilateral economic project, which is not against any country", he further clarified. He was commenting on a report published in a leading US newspaper alleging that the CPEC was not about economy and trade but had military dimensions as well. No doubt, there are strong military ties between China and Pakistan. The CPEC, however, has nothing to do with these ties. Both 'all-weather' friends have been enjoying close diplomatic, strategic and military relations for decades, independent of, and prior to, the CPEC project. China and Pakistan, being two sovereign states, have the right to foster strong economic and military relations in accordance with their national interests. Therefore, any regional or global power is by no means justified in unnecessarily objecting to this bilateral relationship.

Last week, Chinese embassy in Pakistan also refuted another media report which claimed that Pakistan would pay \$40 billion to china in 20 years in shape of repayments of debt and dividends on Chinese investment under flagship CPEC. The embassy issued a statement that the Chinese government provided concessional loans of \$5.874 billion for Pakistan's transportation infrastructure projects, with a composite interest rate of around 2 per cent in a repayment period of 20-25 years. The embassy also clarified that all the CPEC energy projects are investments in nature and the companies are responsible for their own profits and losses and repayments of loan. Therefore, both of the latest media reports on the CPEC are wrong and misleading, which appear to be only aimed at making the CPEC project controversial.

As a matter of fact, there has been a systematic and persistent propaganda campaign against the CPEC since this project was formally announced in April 2015. Ever since, this mega project has also been the subject of numerous conspiracies and controversies, both domestically and internationally. In order to dispel similar domestic controversies, Pakistan had to conceive and announced the idea of the "Western Route" of the CPEC in addition to some Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the CPEC route in different provinces in the country. Noticeably, a section of national media, and various so-called nationalist political parties and pressure groups have also been the ardent critic of this mega economic project.

Terrorism has been a major tool to sabotage the ‘game changing’ CPEC project. We have observed a significant surge in the terror attacks across the country following the formal launch of this project. The province of Balochistan, which occupies a pivotal position in the entire CPEC project owing to deep-sea Gwadar Port, instantly became the hotbed of terrorism, militancy and insurgency. This troubled province has experienced most of the worst terror attacks in Pakistan during the last couple of years. According to official statistics, there have been some 1860 terrorist incidents in Balochistan during the last 7 years, leaving more than 2300 people dead and many more injured. In this respect, Quetta, Mastung, Awaran, Khuzdar and Dera Bugti were the worst affected districts in the province. Gilgit-Baltistan, which hosts another important segment of the CPEC route, has also been under attacks by the terrorists. This region experienced the unfortunate 2013 Nanga Parbat massacre where 10 foreign tourists were shot dead. A large number of schools have also been torched by miscreants in this region. Many Chinese nationals, engineers and workers, who were working to complete various CPEC projects in Pakistan, have also been attacked and killed. The recent terror attack on Chinese Consulate in Karachi is also being viewed as a conspiracy to sabotage CPEC.

The United States and India, the two strategic allies in the post-9/11 era, are particularly known for their strong opposition to the CPEC as well as an anti-CPEC hostile propaganda. Both countries have launched a proactive diplomatic and media campaign against the CPEC for the last few years. We have noticed Indian PM Modi’s persistent anxiety over the CPEC project. He has openly hinted at supporting the separatist elements in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. In May 2015, he readily visited China to persuade the Chinese government to abandon this project by maintain that the CPEC route was passing through the disputed territory of Gilgit-Baltistan. During the G-20 summit at Hangzhou in China in September 2016, PM Modi had expressed India’s concerns over the CPEC in his bilateral meeting with Chinese President, holding that the two countries needed to be “sensitive” to each other’s strategic interests. In October 2017, the Trump administration told the Senate Armed Services Committee that CPEC was passing through a disputed territory. Similarly, a senior Trump administration official has recently also remarked that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) “is a made in China, made for China” initiative.

Substantially shifting the focus of US foreign policy from the Middle East to the East Asia, the Obama administration ambitiously launched its ‘pivot to Asia’ regional strategy in 2012. Under this US foreign policy initiative, the US will endeavor to increasingly relocate its extensive military and economic resources in the Asia Pacific region, realizing the utmost economic, political and military significance of this region in the twenty-first century. This US regional strategy includes actions like engaging with regional multilateral organizations, strengthening bilateral security alliances, forging an active broad-based military presence, deepening relationship with emerging powers, expanding trade and investment, and advancing democracy and human rights in the region.

There is a general perception that the US pivot to Asia strategy is nothing but another important tool of its so-called China containment policy in this region. It only aims at minimizing or undermining the rising economic and political influence of China in the world. At present, the US economy is in trouble on account of the current global financial crisis and a number of domestic economic constraints. The long-term viability of the US economic model is also being questioned. Therefore, the US is wary of the rapidly growing Chinese economy, which already has become world's largest economy in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). China has also become the global hub for manufacturing, and the largest manufacturing economy as well as the largest export of goods in the world.

Besides the East Asia, the South Asian region has also become the primary hub of US extensive strategic maneuverings in Asia over a period of time. Therefore, notwithstanding its typical 'pivot to Asia' strategy, South Asia is now playing a pivotal role in articulating and realizing US strategic goals in the region. Bordering China, Iran, and Central Asian Republics, South Asia is bounded on the south by the Indian Ocean, which provides the major sea route connecting the Middle East, Africa, and Europe to East Asia and Australia. Thus this region is central to the so-called One Belt, One Road plan. The flagship OBOR project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is also located in this region. Therefore, South Asia is by no means strategically less important to the US than East Asia.

India and Afghanistan have occupied a central position in the US 'pivot to South Asia' strategy. On the pretext of fighting its War on Terror, the US has been staying in Afghanistan since 2001. Ever since, it has spent its enormous economic and military resources apparently to stabilise the volatile Hindukush state. However, its broader strategic interests demand its active presence in the region. The US has greatly helped India consolidate its position in Afghanistan. Now India is ambitiously desirous of replacing the US in Afghanistan as its 'successor in interest' in the region after the US exits Afghanistan. India, Afghanistan and Iran have also signed a tripartite agreement to develop Iranian Chabahar port and a linked trade corridor. Many believe that the primary objective of this project is to undermine the strategic importance and relevance of Pakistan's Gwadar port.

At the moment, Pakistan's strategic security and economic interests observably converge with that of China in this region. Both countries will certainly benefit from the CPEC. Therefore, both countries are currently determined to actively protect their shared interests. To provide security to Chinese nationals working on the CPEC project in Pakistan, Pakistan Army has already established a Special Security Division (SPD), comprising some 15 thousand security personnel. Indeed, Pakistan and China need to be more active, vigilant and cautious to counter all CPEC-related controversies and conspiracies being hatched in the region and beyond.

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The Nation, 02-01-19

CPEC adds 300MW to national grid

ISLAMABAD - The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has contributed 300MW of clean wind energy to the national grid through its four early harvest wind power projects.

According to sources from embassy of China in Pakistan, the four wind projects that had been completed under CPEC and are connected with the national grid include Dawood wind power project (50 MW), Sachal Energy wind farm (50MW), three gorges second wind farm project (100MW), and UEP wind farm project (100MW).

Dawood wind power project is a prioritized or early harvest project under CPEC, which installs 33 wind turbine generators with the capacity of 1.5MW per unit and total capacity is 49.5MW on 1,720 acres of land in the coastal area of Gharo wind corridor in Bhanbore, District Thatta, Sindh.

This is a direct investment (FDI) project and total investment of Dawood wind power project is US \$115 million. The rate of equity to loan is 30 percent:70 percent.

Dawood wind power project achieved Commercial Operation Date (COD) on April 4, 2017 and annual electric power supply to the National Grid is more than 130GWh, which is sufficient for daily use of 100,000 Pakistan families and is effectively easing the crisis of electricity shortage in Pakistan.

Sachal wind power project was completed in April 2017 at a cost of \$110 million. It is located in Jhimpir, Thatta district, Sindh province, about 100km northeast of Karachi.

The total installed capacity of this project is 49.5MW, and 33 Gold wind brand wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a capacity of 1.5MW are installed. It is invested by Sachal Energy Development (private) Ltd., in which Arif Habib Corporation Limited holds 100 percent shares. HydroChina International Engineering Co., Ltd. is the engineering procurement construction (EPC) contractor.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) provided a loan. The debt and equity ratio is 85 percent:15 percent.

Three Gorges second wind power project (2×50MW) is located at Jhimpir, Thatta district, Sindh province, 90KM west from Karachi. This is a foreign direct investment (FDI) project, and is invested, developed and constructed by Three Gorges Second Wind Farm Pakistan Limited (TGS) and Three Gorges Third Wind Farm Pakistan Private Limited (TGT).

The total investment amount is \$224 million on the basis of Build-Own-Operate (BOO), with a construction period of 18 months and an operation period of 20 years. The total installation capacity is 100MW, with an annual electricity output of 286.6 GWH. It was listed as actively promoted project in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in August, 2014.

Pakistan Jhimpir UEP 100MW wind farm is located in Jhimpir, Thatta district, Sindh, 110km from Karachi. The total installed capacity is 100MW with the supply of 66 sets of Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) of 1.5MW per set. It also includes construction of a 132KV substation and a control center.

This is a foreign direct investment (FDI) project. It is developed by UEP Wind Power (Pvt.) Limited, a joint venture of Orient Group Investment Holdings Co., Ltd. (99%) and United Energy Group Co., Ltd. (1%). China Gezhouba Group Company Limited (CGGC) is the engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) contractor.

The commercial contract of this project was signed on September 11, 2015. China Development Bank provided financing of \$252 million to the project, with the debt and equity ratio of 75 percent: 25 percent. The project became operation in May 2017.

The Nation, 02-01-19

News of \$2b loan from China rejuvenates Index

LAHORE - The KSE-100 index started the new year on a positive note, ending its 4 consecutive session close in the red, rallying by 930 points (or +2.51 percent), closing at 37,996 level. Positive sentiments were driven by reports that China has pledged to lend at least US\$2bn to Pakistan to shore up its foreign exchange reserves. Moreover, Asad Umar's recent statements that an incoming investment package from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which promises to be the biggest foreign investment in Pakistan history, also boosted investor sentiments.

International Oil prices rose more than 2 percent, resultantly, E&P's closed in the positive led by POL (+5 percent), OGDC (+5 percent) and PPL (+3.9 percent).

Out of the 323 scrips traded yesterday, 207 advanced, 98 declined and 18 remained unchanged.

Investor participation decreased today as traded volumes fell by 57 percent to 97mn, while traded value decreased by 61 percent to US\$31mn.

Experts said that Stock Exchange welcomed new year with a bull run where KSE 100 index made an intraday high of +980 points to close at 37,996 level. Volumes remained subdued as 97mn shares changed hands during the day. PAEL (+4.7 percent) led volumes with 12mn shares traded. On the news front, Prime Minister Imran Khan rang in the new year saying that 2019 is the beginning of Pakistan's golden era and vowed to continue his mission against the ills

plaguing the country. Among major stocks, ENGRO (+5 percent), OGDC (+4.7 percent), PPL (+3.6 percent), UBL (+5 percent), LUCK (+4.7 percent), POL (+4.8 percent) and HBL (+2.3 percent) cumulatively contributed +457 points towards the close. Commercial banks closed in the green zone where big banks boosted the index by +140 points. UBL (+5 percent), HBL (+2.3 percent), BAFL (+5 percent) and MCB (+1.3 percent) were the major movers of the mentioned sector. POL (+4.8 percent), PPL (+3.6 percent) and OGDC (+4.7 percent) from the E&P sector closed higher than its previous day close on back of increase in crude oil prices in international market.

The Nation, 02-01-19

China building largest earthquake warning system

BEIJING - China is building the world's largest and most advanced earthquake alert system which is set to be completed in 2022. Engineers are setting up more than 15,000 sensors all over the country and wiring them into a web.

When an earthquake happens, the sensors can send electrical pulses to the control center and then ordinary people's smartphones, according to China Television Network (CGTN) on Tuesday. The signal travels at (almost) light speed and is much faster than the devastating earthquake shaking, giving local people a little bit time to prepare.

The system can send messages to people less than two seconds after the earthquake happens. So the time between the warning and the actual impact might only be seconds or a minute. But it's proved to be life-saving because of every second matter in this situation. Similar systems can be found in other earthquake-prone places including Japan and U.S. west coast.

But China's system can be more advanced in many ways. "It will be the largest earthquake observation network in the world," said Li Shanyou, deputy chief engineer of the system.

The system can not only detect the movement of the continents but also calculate the possible impact of an earthquake. So it will automatically warn local people, making it much faster than human observation. The system, overseen by China's Ministry of Emergency Management, is set to be completed in 2022.

The Nation, 03-01-19

China to provide advanced warships to Pakistan

BEIJING It said the ship is a version of the Chinese Navy's most advanced guided missile frigate, without specifying its type.

In late December it said the ship was under construction at its Hudong-Zhonghua shipyard in Shanghai, noting it will be equipped with modern detection and weapon systems and will be capable of anti-ship, anti-submarine and air-defense operations.

According to the Pakistani Navy, the ship's class is Type 054AP, which means it is based on the Type 054A of the People's Liberation Army Navy. It previously said four such ships had been ordered.

Once constructed, the warship will be one of the largest and technologically advanced platforms of Pakistan's Navy and strengthen the country's capability to respond to future challenges, maintain peace and stability and the balance of power in the Indian Ocean region.

It will also support the Pakistani Navy's initiative of securing sea lanes for international shipping by patrolling distant waters, it said in a statement on its twitter account.

Type 054A is the best frigate in service with the PLA Navy. Military sources said the ship has a fully loaded displacement of about 4,000 metric tons and is equipped with advanced radars and missiles. About 30 Type 054As are in service with the PLA Navy, observers said.

Cao Weidong, a senior researcher at the PLA's Naval Military Studies Research Institute, said that in the past, the Pakistani Navy would ask its Chinese contractors to use Western radars or weapons on ships constructed by Chinese shipbuilders because it believed Western naval technologies were better than Chinese ones.

"But it seems that all weapons and radars on the new ship will be Chinese products, which reflects our progress in the industry and the Pakistani Navy's confidence in our technology and capability," he said.

Cao said there are many nations selling frigates in the market, so Pakistan must have made thorough comparisons in terms of combat capability and costs.

"I believe the reason they chose our type is that ours is one of the few that can carry out all of the air-defense, anti-ship and anti-submarine tasks," he said, expecting the service of the Chinese frigate to substantially boost Pakistan's defense capability.

An insider in China's shipbuilding sector with knowledge of the Type 054AP programme told China Daily on condition of anonymity that the ship is the largest and most powerful combat vessel China has ever exported.

"Based on pictures circulating on the internet, the ship will have vertical launch cells that can fire Chinese HQ-16 air-defense missiles and other kinds of missiles. Vertical launch cells will bring flexibility to the user in terms of weapons portfolio, thus giving it a stronger fighting capability,"

he said, adding that the Type 054AP is the best frigate Pakistan can access in the international market.

“The service of Type 054APs will double the combat power of the Pakistani Navy’s surface fleet,” he said.

The Nation, 03-01-19

China’s longevity city records 440 centenarians

NANJING - Rugao, a city renowned for the longevity of its residents in east China’s Jiangsu Province, has registered a record number of 440 centenarians, local authorities said Wednesday.

This marked a yearly increase of 37 centenarians, according to the municipal working commission on aging.

With a population of about 1.43 million, the city has 92 male centenarians and 348 women. The oldest is 110 years old.

Healthy eating and sleeping habits as well as a favorable environment are believed to have contributed to longevity in Rugao.

China has witnessed a rise in people’s average life expectancy over the years, from 74.83 years in 2010 to 76.7 years in 2017, according to the National Health Commission.

The Nation, 04-01-19

China Moon mission lands Chang'e-4 spacecraft on far side

BEIJING - China says it has successfully landed a robotic spacecraft on the far side of the Moon, the first ever such attempt and landing.

At 10:26 Beijing time (02:26 GMT), the un-crewed Chang'e-4 probe touched down in the South Pole-Aitken Basin, state media said. It is carrying instruments to analyse the unexplored region's geology, as well to conduct biological experiments.

The landing is being seen as a major milestone in space exploration. There have been numerous missions to the Moon in recent years, but the vast majority has been to orbit, fly by or impact. The last crewed landing was Apollo 17 in 1972.

The Chang'e-4 probe has already sent back its first pictures from the surface, which was shared by state media. With no direct communication link possible, all pictures and data have to be bounced off a separate satellite before being relayed to Earth.

Why is this Moon landing so significant?

Previous Moon missions have landed on the Earth-facing side, but this is the first time any craft has landed successfully on the unexplored and rugged far side. Some spacecraft have crashed into the far side, either after system failures, or after they had completed their mission. Ye Quanzhi, an astronomer at Caltech, told the BBC this was the first time China had "attempted something that other space powers have not attempted before".

The Chang'e-4 was launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in China on 7 December; it arrived in lunar orbit on 12 December. It was then directed to lower itself toward the Moon, being careful to identify and avoid obstacles, Chinese state media say.

The Chang'e-4 probe is aiming to explore a place called the Von Kármán crater, located within the much larger South Pole-Aitken (SPA) Basin - thought to have been formed by a giant impact early in the Moon's history.

"This huge structure is over 2,500km (1,550 miles) in diameter and 13km deep, one of the largest impact craters in the Solar System and the largest, deepest and oldest basin on the Moon," Andrew Coates, professor of physics at UCL's Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Surrey, told the BBC.

The event responsible for carving out the SPA basin is thought to have been so powerful, it punched through the Moon's crust and down into the zone called the mantle. Researchers will want to train the instruments on any mantle rocks exposed by the calamity.

The science team also hopes to study parts of the sheet of melted rock that would have filled the newly formed South Pole-Aitken Basin, allowing them to identify variations in its composition.

A third objective is to study the far-side regolith, the broken up rocks and dust that make up the surface, which will help us understand the formation of the Moon.

What else might we learn from this mission?

Chang'e-4's static lander is carrying two cameras; a German-built radiation experiment called LND; and a spectrometer that will perform low-frequency radio astronomy observations. Scientists believe the far side could be an excellent place to perform radio astronomy, because it is shielded from the radio noise of Earth. The spectrometer work will aim to test this idea. The lander also carried a container with six live species from Earth - cotton, rapeseed, potato, fruit fly, yeast and arabidopsis (a flowering plant) - to try to form a mini biosphere.

The arabidopsis plant may produce the first flower on the Moon, Chinese state media say.

The mission is part of a larger Chinese programme of lunar exploration. The first and second Change's missions were designed to gather data from orbit while the third and fourth were built for surface operations.

Chang'e-5 and 6 are sample return missions, delivering lunar rock and soil to laboratories on Earth.

Is there a 'dark side of the Moon'?

The lunar far side is often referred to as the "dark side", though "dark" in this case means "unseen" rather than "lacking light". In fact, both the near and far sides of the Moon experience daytime and nighttime.

But because of a phenomenon called "tidal locking", we see only one face of the Moon from Earth. This is because the Moon takes just as long to rotate on its own axis as it takes to complete one orbit of Earth. The far side has a thicker, older crust that is pocked with more craters. There are also very few of the "mare" - dark basaltic "seas" created by lava flows - that are evident on the near side.

How will scientists keep track of the rover?

In an article for the US-based Planetary Society in September, Dr Long Xiao from the China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) said: "The challenge faced by a far side mission is communications. With no view of Earth, there is no way to establish a direct radio link." So the landers must communicate with Earth using a relay satellite named Queqiao - or Magpie Bridge - launched by China last May.

Queqiao orbits 65,000km beyond the Moon, around a Lagrange point - a kind of gravitational parking spot in space where it will remain visible to ground stations in China and other countries such as Argentina.

What are China's plans in space?

China wants to become a leading power in space exploration, alongside the United States and Russia. In 2017 it announced it was planning to send astronauts to the Moon.

It will also begin building its own space station next year, with the hope it will be operating by 2022. The chief designer of China's lunar exploration programme, Wu Weiren, has described Thursday's landing as "an important milestone" for the country's space effort, state media report.

The BBC's John Sudworth in Beijing says the propaganda value of China's leaps forward in its space programme has been tempered by careful media management. There was very little news of the Change 4 landing attempt before the official announcement it had been a success.

But Fred Watson, who promotes Australia's astronomy endeavors as its astronomer-at-large, says the secrecy could simply be down to caution, similar to that shown by the Soviet Union in the early days of its competition with Nasa. "The Chinese space agency is a young organization, but perhaps in years to come, it will catch up," he told the BBC.

Ye Quanzhisay China has made efforts to be more open. "They live stream the launch of Change 2 and 3 as well as the landing of Change 3. PR skills take time to develop but I think China will get there," he said.

China has been a late starter when it comes to space exploration. Only in 2003, it sent its first astronaut into orbit, making it the third country to do so, after the Soviet Union and the US. The far side landing has already been heralded by experts at Nasa as "a first for humanity and an impressive accomplishment.

The Nation, 05-01-19

US, Chinese scientists develop potential therapy for breast cancer

WASHINGTON - American and Chinese researchers developed an experimental therapy that can reduce the spread of a kind of hard-to-treat breast cancer in a mice study.

The study, published on Thursday in the journal Cancer Cell, reported the therapeutic agent that blocks two of the main pathways by which breast cancer cells grow and migrate out of the primary tumor to spread to other organs in the body.

The spread of triple-negative breast cancer is difficult to block, because "if you try one approach, the cancer cells compensate by finding a way to escape," according to the paper's senior author Kang Yibin, professor of molecular biology at Princeton University.

This kind of breast cancer is highly aggressive and it occurs in 12 to 17 percent of all breast cancer cases. It gets the name from the lack of three major biological targets that are used to find and kill cancer cells.

Patients with triple-negative breast cancer have high rates of recurrence and fewer treatment options, according to the researchers.

"With this new approach, the treatment blocks both pathways at the same time. It is like having one stone that kills two birds," said Kang.

The researchers found that the new agent called Tinagl1 could inhibit distinctly two main pathways that contribute to triple-negative breast cancer's aggressiveness and ability to resist treatments.

The agent can stop action of a tumor-promoting protein known as EGFR and also target molecules called integrin's that are involved in regulating cellular transformation into tumors, according to the study.

The researchers found that high expression of Tinagl1 in mouse cancer cells produced slower-growing tumors that were less likely to metastasize to the lung.

They also administered Tinagl1 protein to mice with breast cancer and found that treatment for seven weeks significantly inhibited primary tumor growth and spontaneous lung metastasis.

Researchers from Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey also contributed to the study.

The Nation, 05-01-19

Chinese loan package to be finalized in few days

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan expects to receive loan package from the friendly country China within next two weeks that would help in building the country's foreign exchange reserves.

"China has not announced the loan package yet but we are expecting it will be finalized in next few days," said an official of the ministry of finance. He said that government is expecting to receive \$2-\$3 billion from China. He has not disclosed the further details of the package by saying Chinese authorities had requested not to public the details before finalization of the package.

China would be third country which would provide loan to Pakistan after Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE). Pakistan is expecting to receive one billion dollar from Saudi Arabia in mid-January, as it had already provided two billion dollars in last couple of months. Meanwhile, the UAE is likely to deposit the pledged amount of \$ 3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s account next week. "Financing need for the current fiscal year is almost met due to the inflow from Saudi Arabia, UAE and China," the official added. Financial gap for the ongoing financial year was projected at around \$12 billion.

The country's foreign exchange reserves would go beyond \$11 billion after receiving the loans from friendly countries. Currently, the reserves are sharply depleting every week. "During the week ending 28th December 2018, SBP's reserves had decreased by US\$170 million to US\$7,287.5 million, due to external debt servicing and other official payments," the SBP said in an official handout.

On the other hand, the pressure on foreign exchange reserves would start easing after government avail defer oil payment facility. The deferred oil facility with Saudi Arabia might be complete and ready for signature in January. Once the draft has been agreed at the technical

level, it will be signed by the ministers of both countries. As per proposed agreement, Pakistan will receive up to \$3 billion worth of oil with payment deferred for 365 days in the first year of the agreement in 2018. The SBP will begin repayments to the Saudi Development Fund 12 months later, with monthly payments. Meanwhile, talks with UAE government are in an advanced stage for a similar agreement of up to \$3 billion.

The Nation, 05-01-19

US issues fresh travel warning after China detentions

NEW YORK - The US state department has urged Americans to “exercise increased caution” when travelling to China after a spate of high-profile detentions.

Its updated advice says dual US-Chinese nationals are at particular risk from so-called exit bans that prevent them from leaving. Canada also revealed that 13 Canadians had been detained since 1 December. On that day, a top Chinese executive was arrested in Canada at the request of US prosecutors.

Huawei chief financial officer MengWanzhou was detained in Vancouver and faces extradition to the US to face fraud charges, which she denies, that are linked to allegations of avoiding US sanctions on Iran.

China has dismissed the US travel warning as unjustified. “To be frank, the issuance of such a travel advisory by the US side does not hold water,” foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

“From January to November 2018, 2.3 million visits to China were made by Americans, which means 70 per 10,000 American people made the trip, a ratio far higher than that of the Chinese visiting the US. “So, this figure is a testament to China’s safety.”

The new advisory warns that dual US-Chinese nationals are at particular risk from so-called exit bans, which it says can be used to prohibit US citizens from leaving China - in some cases keeping them in the country for years.

The exit bans are also being used to try to lure other individuals back to China, it warns. It advises citizens travelling to China to use their US passport with a valid China visa. They should ask officials to notify the US embassy immediately if they are detained or arrested.

The state department says that as dual-citizenship is not recognized under Chinese law, “US-Chinese citizens and US citizens of Chinese heritage may be subject to additional scrutiny and harassment”. The advisory says exit bans are being used to “compel US citizens to participate in Chinese government investigations” and “to aid Chinese authorities in resolving civil disputes in favor of Chinese parties”.

Three US citizens were accused of committing “economic crimes” and barred from leaving China in November. Victor and Cynthia Liu, who are the children of a fugitive businessman, and their mother, Sandra Han, have reportedly been detained since June.

The businessman, Liu Changming, is wanted in a \$1.4bn (£1bn) fraud case in China and the family has said their detention is an attempt to lure him back to face charges. Beijing has defended its decision to bar the three US citizens from leaving the country.

A foreign ministry spokesman told reporters that they “all have... valid identity documents as Chinese citizens” and are “suspected of having committed economic crimes”.

On Thursday, Global Affairs Canada revealed that 13 Canadians had been detained in China since 1 December, although eight have since been released. Among the Canadians who remain detained are former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor.

Canadian teacher Sarah McIver was reportedly released last week. she was held for “unlawfully working in China”. China and Canada both said the case was different to that of MrKovrig and MrSpavor who stand accused of harming national security. China insists the detention of both men is not linked to MsMeng’s arrest, but many analysts believe it was a tit-for-tat action. On Thursday, China’s prosecutor general said the pair had “violated our country’s laws and regulations” and were being investigated.

The Nation, 05-01-19

China unveils footage of own ‘Mother of All Bombs’ dropped by H-6K Jet

BEIJING - The China North Industries Corporation (Norinco) has showcased for the first time a video of the country’s own version of “Mother of All Bombs,” the Global Times newspaper reported.

The aerial bomb was airdropped by an H-6K bomber causing a massive explosion at an unknown location, the outlet said on Thursday, citing Norinco.

In a comment to the newspaper, the company dismissed the suggestion that the bomb was also thermo baric, without providing further details. An H-6K bomber is reportedly capable of carrying only one such bomb at a time due to its huge weight. According to an expert, cited by the newspaper, the bomb is 5-6 meters (16.4-19.6 feet) long.

On April 13, US military dropped the 22,000-pound GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb in Afghanistan’s Nangarhar province targeting a tunnel complex which, according to the US Central Command, was used by the Islamic State’s (outlawed in Russia) local affiliate.

The MOAB, dubbed the “Mother of All Bombs,” is the largest non-nuclear bomb developed by the United States and had not been used in combat before the Nangarhar operation.

The Nation, 05-01-19

China names new moon rover “Yutu-2”

BEIJING - China has chosen the name “Yutu-2”, or Jade Rabbit-2, for its new moon rover, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced late Thursday.

The CNSA made the announcement after China’s Chang’e-4 probe, comprised of a lander and a rover, landed on the far side of the moon earlier in the day.

In Chinese folklore, Yutu is the white pet rabbit of Change, the moon goddess who lent her name to the Chinese lunar mission. Legend has it that Change, after swallowing a magic pill, took her pet and flew toward the moon where she became a goddess and has lived with the white jade rabbit ever since.

Last August, China launched a worldwide poll to name the rover. According to the CNSA, a total of 42,945 proposed names were submitted from Aug. 15 to Sept. 5, among which 3,192 names were submitted by more than two participants.

During the final round, Yutu-2 stood out from nine other names in online voting and a special committee discussion. The other names included “Tansuo” (Explore), “Guangming” (Light), and “Jintu” (Golden rabbit).

The CNSA said that Yutu is a symbol of kindness, purity, and agility, and is identical to the moon rover in both outlook and connotation. It also reflects China’s peaceful use of space.

Yutu-2 faces more challenges than Yutu as its landing area, the Aitken Basin, is the largest, deepest and oldest crater in the solar system. “We hope Yutu-2 can make its exploration with no fear and have a more stable, wide and long journey,” said the CNSA in a statement.

Like its predecessor, Yutu-2, capable of enduring vacuum pressure, intense radiation, and extreme temperatures is equipped with four scientific payloads, including a panoramic camera, infrared imaging spectrometer and radar measurement devices, to obtain images of the moon’s surface and detect lunar soil and structure.

The Nation, 05-01-19

China will have declining population around 2028

BEIJING - A new report predicts that China will see a population decline around 2028, the Beijing Youth Daily reported Friday.

Since 2010, the number of Chinese people age 65 and above has increased by 83.2 million, with an average annual growth of 2.08 million. However, the population under the age of 15 has decreased by 90.17 million, with an average reduction of 2.25 million per year, said the report released Thursday by the Institute of Population and Labor Economics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing.

China is aging rapidly. Its aging population has increased from 3.76 percent to 8.40 percent since 2010, and the country's total population will begin to show a negative growth around 2028, according to the report.

However, data shows that the number of newborn second children has risen significantly in 2016 and 2017, accounting for 51.2 percent of all newborns.

A total of 8.83 million babies born in 2017 have an older sibling, an increase of 1.62 million, or 11 percentage points from 2016.

The report also said that China would have a shrinking labor population. In 2017, the country's working-age population (16 to 64) has declined by 5.78 million.

The negative growth of the labor force will bring structural changes to the supply-demand relationship of the labor market and put forward urgent requirements for the reform of related systems, said the report.

The Nation, 05-01-19

RAW paid \$1m to Harbiyar for hit on Chinese Consulate: JummaMarri

LAHORE - Overseas Pakistani Baloch Unity chief Dr. Jumma Khan Marri on Friday claimed that BLA leader HarbiyarMarri was paid one million dollars by RAW to attack the Chinese Consulate in Karachi.

In an earlier post on the social media, Dr. Marri had claimed that AslamBaloch alias Achchu had executed the attack on Chinese consulate.

In his latest post on his facebook account, DrJumma asked the family of deceased AslamAchchu as to how much money they had received out of the one million dollars paid to HarbiyarMarri.

DrJumma had also revealed last month that following series of attacks on Chinese Consulate in Karachi and Chabahar, Iran, India had reportedly shifted commander BLA Aslam alias Achchu to Kandahar, Afghanistan. He had then termed this development as an attempt by India to cover up its covert support to the BLA since it had also cancelled the so-called human rights conference planned to be held in New Delhi.

He later reported that mastermind of BLA attack on Chinese Consulate in Karachi – along with his six companions – had been killed in Kandahar.

The BLA militants had on November 23 attacked the Chinese Consulate in Clifton, Karachi, killing four people in an hour-long shootout. The victims included two policemen and two Pakistani civilians. No Chinese nationals were hurt in the attack though. The three attackers were also killed.

The BLA later claimed responsibility for the attack in a tweet that included a photo of three attackers identified as Azal Khan Baloch, RazikBaloch and RaisBaloch.

Previously a Baloch nationalist leader, Jumma Khan Marri had announced his dissociation from the Baloch separatists in February this year. He had then also launched an organization, ‘Overseas Pakistani Baloch Community’ for the Baloch living abroad.

In a reiteration, DrJumma in his Friday post urged the Balochi people to wake up before it was too late. He also told them that India would soon dump all the Balochis now working for it.

It may be recalled here that DrJumma had an important meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan last month in Moscow when the latter was on official visit to Russia.

DrMarri had then also suggested that Pakistan government should make a formal demand with United Kingdom to stop providing safe haven to BLA’s commander HarbiyarMarri. While pledging to voice his concerns on this issue in the European Parliament as he had done earlier, DrMarri had also asked the Pakistan government to raise this issue at the United Nations.

DrMarri believes that some prominent Baloch leaders would soon be joining the mainstream Pakistani politics by declaring disassociation with anti-Pakistani forces.

He also says that his new organization would confront and expose the evil designs of disgruntled Baloch leaders such as BrahamdaghBugti, MehranMarri and HarbiyarMarri who, according to him, are on the Indian payroll.

The Nation, 05-01-19

Chinese experts set foot in 6G research

NANJING: Southeast University in eastern China's Jiangsu Province said Thursday that a team has begun to research 6G mobile networks. You Xiaohu, a professor with the university and the team leader, said they have set sights on the early research and development of 6G mobile networks, based on the 5G technologies. You said that compared with 5G technologies, 6G will cover a wider range of fields with higher speed and greater security.–Xinhua

The early research and development will mainly focus on intelligent mobile communications, massive wireless communications, millimeter wave/sub millimeter wave wireless communications, optical wireless communications and broadband satellite mobile communications.

"There's still a long way to go in applying 6G technologies into our daily life. Experts predict that 6G technologies will go into commercial operation by 2030. However, the 6G competition has already begun among many enterprises," You said

The Nation, 06-01-19

Pak-China ‘Warrior VI’ drill ends

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan and China Joint Military Exercise ‘Warrior VI’ culminated near Kharian on Saturday. According to a notification issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), “Troops from Special Forces of Pakistan Army and Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) participated in the joint military exercises.” The four-week long joint exercise aimed at sharing respective experiences in the field of counter terrorism operations and learn from each other’s, it added.

“This is the sixth joint exercise of the series as part of bilateral military cooperation between both the countries,” said the notification.

Inspector General Training and Evaluation (IGT&E) Lieutenant General SherAfgun was the chief guest on the occasion, it added.

The Nation, 06-01-19

Chinese hegemony

Some media reports allege ‘Pakistan is building a city for half a million Chinese nationals at a cost of US\$150 million in port city of Gwadar. Only Chinese citizens will live in this gated zone,

a China's colony within Pakistan'. They surmise 'CPEC could turn into another East India Company'.

Wherever the Chinese go, they prefer to set up and live in China towns, even in the USA. Their lifestyle and notion of 'halal (religiously valid food and drinks) is different from Muslim, Christian and Jewish (kosher). Not long ago (April 4, 2018), Chinese engineers scuffled with police when it prevented them to go to red-light area in Khanewal (Punjab). Affluent foreigners and overseas Chinese are accustomed to enjoying Karaoke clubs in China. 'In 2001, a count of the out-of-wedlock children produced by Shenzhen's working women and mistresses over two decades numbered 5,20,000 (Ted C. Fishman, China, Inc., p. 98).

China has time and again assured that she 'was not seeking to bide time so as to gain hegemony' (Alvin Y. So & Yin Wah the global rise of China). 2016. Polity Press, Cambridge, UK. p.214). the writer point out 'China did not intend to dominate Asia or to displace the United States as the world's preeminent power'. 'Even as there was an apparent increase in military tensions between China and Japan over Diaoy/Senkaku Islands after September 2012, the Chinese administration as well as the Chinese Liberation Army remained adamant on the country's commitment to peace and harmony. Chinese Liberation Army made it very clear that China's main objective is economic growth, not war'. 'Regardless of Germany's real purposes, once Germany succeeded in building a powerful navy, this would present an objective threat to Britain...formal assurance from Germany was hardly sufficient to dispel the suspicions' (ibid., p. 215). Henry Kissinger (On China, 2011, New York: Penguin) says 'China would push American power as far away as it could, circumscribing the scope of American naval power and reduce America's weight in international diplomacy'.

MOHAMMAD ASAD MALIK,

Rawalpindi, December 22.

The Nation, 06-01-19

Trumps says China woes help US in trade talks

WASHINGTON/BEIJING - President Donald Trump on Friday downplayed a revenue warning from Apple Inc that cited slowing sales in China and said China's weakening economic growth puts the United States in a strong position as negotiators from the world's two largest economies prepare for trade talks next week.

Trump has slapped import tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods as he seeks concessions from Beijing on issues ranging from industrial subsidies to hacking, sparking retaliation by China. The measures have disrupted trade, hurt manufacturing, roiled international markets and slowed the global economy.

U.S. officials are heading to Beijing next week for the first face-to-face talks since Trump and China's President Xi Jinping in December agreed to a 90-day truce in the trade war as they sought to strike a deal.

"I think we will make a deal with China," Trump told reporters at the White House after a meeting with Democratic and Republican lawmakers about the U.S. government shutdown. "I really think they want to. I think they sort of have to."

Beijing on Friday cut bank reserve requirements for a fifth time this year amid slowing growth at home and the punishing U.S. tariffs on exports.

"China's not doing well now. And it puts us in a very strong position. We are doing very well," Trump said. "I hope we're going to make a deal with China. And if we don't, they're paying us tens of billions of dollars' worth of tariffs — not the worst thing in the world."

Official data this week showed manufacturing has slowed in both China and the United States, though the U.S. Labor Department on Friday reported a surge in new jobs in December along with higher wages.

The president downplayed the effects of the economic woes on U.S. technology giant Apple Inc (AAPL.O), which this week blamed slowing iPhone sales in China for a rare reduction in its quarterly sales forecast.

When asked if he was concerned about Apple's revenue cut and share price drop, Trump said: "No, I'm not. I mean look, they've gone up a lot."

TRUMP TELLS APPLE TO BUILD AT HOME

Shares of Apple rebounded on Friday after a 10 percent nosedive on Thursday on the revenue warning. The shares closed at \$148.26 on Friday, down about 5.1 percent for the week. For the 2018 full year, Apple shares fell 7 percent, though they are up about 24 percent since Trump took office in January 2017.

"They're going to be fine. Apple is a great company," Trump said, adding he had told Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook to build his company's products at home in the United States, something he has harped on previously.

"Apple makes its product in China. China is the biggest beneficiary of Apple, more than us, because they build their product mostly in China," Trump said. "I want Apple to make their iPhones and all of the great things that they make in the United States. And that'll take place."

Apple's lowered revenue outlook along with a double-digit drop in earnings at commodities giant Cargill Inc [CARG.UL] on Thursday may be among the clearest warning signs yet that the trade war's effects have begun to hit U.S. companies.

A team led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish will travel to China for talks, China's commerce ministry and USTR said. That news that helped boosts global markets. The talks begin on Monday.

USTR said the U.S. delegation would also include undersecretaries from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy and Treasury, as well as senior officials from those agencies and the White House.

While Trump and other officials have said talks between the two sides are progressing well, they have given few details on concessions that China has made. Some U.S. demands would require structural reform that may be unpalatable for Chinese leaders.

China would deepen reform but will not yield on issues it deems to be its core national interests, a commentary in the ruling Communist Party's official newspaper said on Wednesday.

"We know what sort of changes we need," White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said in an interview with Fox Business on Friday. "Now, the question is can we negotiate these changes and can we do so with enforcement (and) with timetables."

The Nation, 07-01-19

'China strengthens Pakistan's overall monetary position'

**BNP
BEIJING**

Chinese official and private sectors have been playing a proactive role in the recent years, strengthening Pakistan's overall mandatory position, Chinese media portrays.

The government's sectors had been forthcoming in helping the country through grant, loans and investment giving boost to Pakistan's economy, mainly under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

As far as private sector is concerned, just in one case, Chinese company, the Power China alone has paid \$167 million to Pakistan in term of taxes and duties, since the operationalization of Port Qasim coal-fired power plant.

There are other companies as well in Pakistan which contribute to national exchequer, paying their due role in strengthening of the country's financial network.

According to the Chinese media group, the China Economic net, there are other areas where the role of Chinese companies are highly commendable in the context of Pakistan's overall socio-economic development.

According to the report of China Economic Net, till present, Port Qasim coal-fired power plant has paid more than 167 million US dollars of different kinds of taxes and du-

ties to the federal and provincial governments of Pakistan.

Furthermore, POWER CHINA creates over 4,000 employment opportunities for the local people in the peak period of construction. More than 600 long-term stable employment opportunities have been provided after entry of commercial operation. Also, the project indirectly increases local jobs by over ten(10) thousand in relevant fields such as materials supply, equipment transportation, legal advice, financial audit etc.

According to the report, in the future, the average annual energy output is around nine(9) billion kWh, which is expected to support 4 million local families' and more than 20 million peoples' daily power consumption and effectively improve the local power shortage situation and provide continuous power for Pakistan's economic development.

The cumulative energy output of Port Qasim coal-fired power plant is up to 7.559 billion kWh with its aggregate grid output of 7.1 billion kWh. According to the media's, the power generation capacity of Port Qasim power plant is equivalent to 10% of the current national power generation capacity in Pakistan, which has played an important role in promoting the structural adjustment and economic development of Pakistan's power industry.

The Nation, 08-01-19

CPEC and Balochistan

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is going to take Pakistan towards a bright future. Its construction is ongoing in Balochistan the largest and richest province of Pakistan, but unfortunately, Balochistan is not getting any significant from the CPEC construction. Though Balochistan's people facing major problems. It has made their lives in troubles. Recently, many ideas were described by the PM for only other three provinces of Pakistan and the Capital, didn't discuss for the improvement of Balochistan's education, healthcare sectors, industrial sectors and many more. When CPEC was about to be in construct, then all unemployed graduated Baloch got hope for being employed, but not, foreign engineers are working on this project and Baloch are only seeing the work and getting more problems. I plea the government to focus on Balochistan's problems and try to solve them as soon as possible.

MUHAMMAD ADNAN,
Balochistan, January 2.

The Nation, 08-01-19

China has 'good faith' to fix trade issues as talks with US resume

BEIJING - China has the "good faith" to work with the United States to resolve trade frictions, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday, as the world's two largest economies resumed talks in a bid to end their trade dispute.

U.S. officials are meeting their counterparts in Beijing this week for the first face-to-face talks since U.S. President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping agreed in December to a 90-day truce in a trade war that has roiled global markets.

Trump said on Sunday that trade talks with China were going very well and that weakness in the Chinese economy gave Beijing a reason to work toward a deal.

The two sides agreed to hold "positive and constructive" dialogue to resolve economic and trade disputes in accordance with the consensus reached by the countries' leaders, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters at a regular news briefing.

"From the beginning we have believed that China-U.S. trade friction is not a positive situation for either country or the world economy. China has the good faith, on the basis of mutual respect and equality, to resolve the bilateral trade frictions," Lu said.

Trump imposed import tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods last year and has threatened more to pressure Beijing to change its practices on issues ranging from industrial subsidies to intellectual property to hacking. China has retaliated with tariffs of its own.

“As for whether the Chinese economy is good or not, I have already explained this. China’s development has ample tenacity and huge potential,” Lu said. “We have firm confidence in the strong long-term fundamentals of the Chinese economy.”

Lu also said that Vice President Wang Qishan would attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in late January, but added that he had not yet heard of any arrangements for a meeting with Trump there. By Monday afternoon, few details had emerged of the talks, which were scheduled to run through Tuesday.

The U.S. delegation, led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish, includes undersecretaries from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy and Treasury, as well as senior officials from the White House

The Nation, 08-01-19

Muslims enjoy freedom in Xinjiang: China Islamic Association

URUMQI - President, China Islamic Association, AbdulRaqib has said that Muslims from Uygur and other ethnic groups were enjoying complete religious freedom and living in harmony in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China as the constitution and law of the land protected rights of the people with religious beliefs.

“The Chinese government always protects freedom of religious beliefs of people in Xinjiang as well as other parts of the country while the constitution and regulations relating to religious affairs protect rights of the people with religious beliefs,” he said while talking to APP Correspondent who visited several mosques, and vocational education and training centers in Urumqi, Kashgar and Hotan in Xinjiang along with a group of foreign journalists.

He informed there were over 24,000 mosques in Xinjiang and all the Muslims were free to offer five times prayers and recite Holy Quran besides observing fasting in the month of Ramazan. Abdul Raqib, also head of Islamic Institute in Urumqi said, the institute spread over 150 acres had a history of 32 years and accommodated over 1,500 students.

He said the religious classes were started in the year 2014 and at present, the students were studying religion, politics and common national language. In the religious classes, the students were studying the Quran, Hadith and other Islamic teachings.

“We provide scholarships, accommodation, and food to students and award diplomas and certificates upon completion of their courses,” he added.

He said around 238 professional clerics were also enrolled for training and they would be sent to other mosques to perform religious duties. About duration of courses, he informed the institute had organized short-term courses as well as a five-year-long graduation program.

About spread of extremism, he said it was because of multiple factors and the government had made a series of measures including vocational education and poverty alleviation programmes to get the people involved in terrorism and extremism back to their normal life. In Kashgar, Imam of historical Etigar Mosque, MuhamitJuma said the Muslims were enjoying religious freedom and performing their religious obligations without any fear.

He informed the mosque was built in the 15th century and recently renovated with the financial assistance from the provincial government. The imam said the five prayers, as well as Juma prayer, were held at the mosque, the largest in the city.

He informed his father, the grand imam of the mosque, was killed by the terrorists in the year 2014 and after then necessary arrangements were made for the security of people coming to offer prayers. In Hotan, Imam of Jamia Mosque, Abul Hassan also shared that all the Muslims in the city were enjoying the freedom of religious beliefs.

He said the local government also provided financial assistance for day to day needs and renovation of the mosque. More than 2,000 faithful attend Juma congregation. Muslims were free to offer daily prayers and observe fasting in Ramazan while Halal meat was available all across the province.

The Nation, 08-01-19**China, Pakistan seeking early settlement of Afghan issue**

INP
BEIJING

China and Pakistan are consistently engaged in bringing Taliban on negotiating table, seeking peace and stability in the region.

According to a report, published in the Chinese official newspaper, the Global Times on Monday, China and Pakistan being close friend worked together for the negotiated settlement of the Afghan issue. Both are availing all possible opportunities for the early settlement of the issue, the report said quoting diplomatic sources.

China's role as a facilitator will be acceptable to the government and the Taliban because it has always seen Afghanistan as a partner country.

A stable Afghanistan is also inevitable for China's security and economy. Unrest in Afghanistan is a threat to the entire region and China cannot afford such instability in its neighbourhood. It ought to engage in Afghanistan for its own national and economic stability.

The added, "Instability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on the security of China's western provinces, especially Xinjiang. The East Turkestan Islamic Move-

ment (ETIM), which seeks independence for Xinjiang, is believed to be running training camps in the Wakhan Corridor and entering Xinjiang through Afghanistan's Wakhan to radicalize Uyghurs Muslims or stage attacks in China. The ETIM, which is also linked to the Taliban, is a serious threat to China's security.

Currently, China is Afghanistan's biggest investor. During 2002-13, China gave \$240 million in aid to Afghanistan. In 2014, it gave \$80 million in aid and promised an additional \$240 million over the next three years. In September 2017, China extended \$90 million for development projects in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province.

Afghanistan needs China's economic, financial and technical resources and its political influence at the global stage to get the support of other countries for peace talks.

China's Belt and Road initiative includes the building of highways and railways to better connect South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Afghanistan is the geographical hub among these regions and only a peaceful Afghanistan can help China connect the regions.

The Nation, 09-01-19**China Sets up no-coal zones to curb pollution**

TAIYUAN - A total of 11 prefecture-level cities in China's coal hub Shanxi Province have established no-coal zones in its urban districts to tackle air pollution, local authorities said. The storage, sales and use of coal are all banned in the no-coal zones, according to the Shanxi Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment. The exceptions are made for coal-fired electricity generators, large-scale heat providers and industries that use coal as a raw material. The authorities said the area covered by the no-coal zones will be gradually expanded. Meanwhile, the sale or burning of low-grade coal among residents has been banned in the whole province. For those who violate the rules, market regulators above the county level will order them to make rectifications and will confiscate raw materials, coal products and illegal gains. A

fine up to three times the value of the goods will be imposed. Shanxi is under big pressure to curb air pollution. In the first three quarters of last year, 7 out of 20 cities with the worst air quality were in Shanxi.

With a quarter of China's proven coal reserves, Shanxi shut down 36 coal mines in 2018, cutting 23.3 million tonnes of production capacity.

According to a plan regarding the reduction and reconstruction of the coal mining industry in the province, coal mines with an annual output below 600,000 tonnes will be closed by 2020.

The Nation, 09-01-19

Co-op only right option for China-US ties: Envoy

NEW YORK - The China-U.S. relationship has been a shared success story over the past four decades, while cooperation is the only right option for the future development of bilateral ties, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai said here on Monday. "China remains committed to expanding cooperation with the United States on the basis of mutual benefit, managing our differences on the basis of mutual respect, and developing a relationship with the United States based on closer coordination, cooperation and greater stability," Cui said while addressing the annual New Year gala of the China General Chamber of Commerce -- USA (CGCC-USA). Cui told the 450-strong gala guests that China-U.S. ties have to evolve with time in light of the profound changes that have taken place in both countries and in the world over the past decades. "But all this is only understood as the need for closer China-U.S. cooperation," he stressed.

Pointing to the fact that the normalization and development of China-U.S. relations have benefited countries and the entire world, the Chinese envoy emphasized the need for both parties "to look forward to the coming decades and plan our work together for even greater success."

The seasoned diplomat also said China will continue to carry out reform and opening-up and seek people-centered development, sustainable development and peaceful development, which will create more opportunities for the world.

Cui urged business communities of both countries to keep the big picture in mind, remain open and have a clear stand on what is right and what is wrong.

The New Year gala, which was also dedicated to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the normalization of China-U.S. relations, was hosted by CGCC-USA as part of its annual tradition.

Founded in 2005, CGCC-USA has been recognized as the largest and most influential non-profit organization representing Chinese enterprises in the United States, with the total number of its members exceeding 1,500.

The Nation, 09-01-19

CPEC to create 700,000 direct jobs by 2030

ISLAMABAD - As many as 700,000 new job opportunities for local people are estimated to be created by 2030 under the mega project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“So far various CPEC projects have provided direct job opportunities to around 75,000 people across the country, according to documents from China Embassy here.

A recent study conducted by CPEC Centre of Excellence, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform of Pakistan showed that indirectly, CPEC could help create even 1.2 million jobs under its presently agreed project.

In order to promote economic development and employment of Pakistan, Chinese companies also subcontract a large number of projects to local Pakistani companies.

This also develops relevant upstream and downstream industries, such as raw material processing and catering industry which also provide more employment opportunities for the local people.

Chinese companies have engaged themselves in three areas to fulfill their social responsibilities in collaboration with the Chinese government.

The Chinese side has proposed to conduct social cooperation on agriculture, education, medical care, poverty ~ alleviation, water supply and vocational training.

The Chinese companies shared advanced techniques and successful experience to help Pakistan transform its human resources into advantages.

The Chinese companies have sponsored thousands of Pakistani students to study in China and sent hundreds of Pakistani engineers and professionals to China for training on scholarships.

Chinese universities have set up two vocational training centers with local universities in Lahore and Quetta.

China Fund for Peace and Development (CFPD) has built the Faqeer Primary School in Gwadar, which is known as “Chinese Pakistan Friendship School”.

The school was completed and started classes in September 2016 with 500 students, more than double of its designed capacity.

Since the operation of the school, the Chinese company has donated books, schoolbags, stationery, uniforms and 3 school buses for the students. The Chinese Embassy has also made donations to the school.

CPEC emergency medical Centre was set up in Gwadar port in May, 2017. It was donated and run by the Chinese Red Cross Foundation with a top class Chinese medical team working there, providing local residents with necessary first aid treatment and free medical examinations for local primary school students.

Many Chinese companies have also donated medicines to residents near the project, and provided free medical examinations to the local people.

The Chinese companies are actively exerting their own advantages to build bridges and drill wells for residents to help them solve water and travel problems.

The Nation, 09-01-19

China deepens reform on judicial, social systems

BEIJING:- China has achieved all-round progress in deepening reform in its judicial and social systems since the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which was held in 2013. Zhang Jun, procurator-general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), announced on Thursday that the SPP will form 10 new procuratorial departments and implement a new mechanism to allow the same department to handle both the arrest and prosecution processes of criminal cases.—Xinhua

“The old mechanism lowers efficiency because one department handles the arrest process and the other department has to learn about the case all over again when it handles the prosecution process,” Zhang said at a press conference organized by the Information Office of the State Council.

Over 90,000 procurators and 120,000 judges have been re-elected under the judicial reform aimed at improving their professional competence. They will take on lifelong responsibilities for specific cases in an effort to boost their enthusiasm and sense of responsibility.

Previously, China's judicial selection and management system was based on the public servant management system, which did not suit the profession well.

Citizens can now establish legal cases by simply getting registered instead of going through inspections. Currently, over 95 percent of the cases are registered and established on site.

In May 2018, the Legal Services of China website started operation, collecting data from over 380,000 legal service institutions and 1.39 million professionals nationwide. It selected 475 institutions and 925 professionals to form a counseling team to serve the public.

“These unprecedented reforms and changes stemmed from the Party’s people-centered governance philosophy to make the people actually feel equality and justice,” said XuHanming, a professor with Zhongnan University of Economics and Law.

On Sept. 1, 2018, the Ministry of Public Security rolled out 20 reform measures to streamline traffic management. The measures included information sharing and online settlement of claims of accidents.

The country also issued documents on reforming the registered permanent residence system and loosening restrictions on rural residents settling in urban areas.

Major universities have also raised their ratio of recruited students from rural families. Over 90 percent of handicapped children now have access to education resources.

As of the end of 2017, the number of cities with hierarchical medical systems had increased to 321 and average life expectancy rose to 76.7.

The supply of elderly care continues to grow. By September 2018, 29,300 institutions across the country offered elderly care with more than seven million beds

The Nation, 09-01-19

South Korea welcomes DPRK leader’s visit to China

SEOUL - South Korea’s presidential Blue House on Tuesday welcomed the visit by Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) to China, as it was anticipated to contribute to building peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim Eui-keum, the Blue House spokesman, told a press briefing that Kim’s visit to China was anticipated to contribute to the complete denuclearization of the peninsula and the settlement of permanent peace.

The spokesman said exchanges were underway between the two Koreas, between China and the DPRK, and between the DPRK and the United States, noting that each exchange was anticipated to advance others by creating a virtuous cycle among them. He noted that South Korea hoped the exchange between China and the DPRK would become a stepping stone for the second DPRK-U.S. summit.

The DPRK leader and U.S. President Donald Trump met in Singapore in June last year, holding the first-ever DPRK-U.S. summit. Kim and Trump expressed their hopes to meet again in the near future.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee's International Department spokesperson said in Beijing that Kim is visiting China from Jan. 7 to 10.

The Nation, 09-01-19

Xi honours two academicians with China's top science award

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping presented China's top science award to Liu Yongtan and QianQihu on Tuesday for their outstanding contributions to scientific and technological innovation.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, granted award medals and certificates to them at an annual ceremony held in Beijing to honor distinguished scientists, engineers, and research achievements. Liu Yongtan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), is from the Harbin Institute of Technology, and QianQihu, a CAE academician, is from the Army Engineering University of the People's Liberation Army. Xi shook hands with them and expressed congratulations. Other leaders, including Li Keqiang, Wang Huning, and Han Zheng, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, were also present.

Tuesday's ceremony honored 278 projects, with 38 winning the State Natural Science Award, 67 the State Technological Invention Award, and 173 the State Scientific and Technological Progress Award.

Five foreign experts won the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award.

On behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, Premier Li Keqiang extended congratulations to the award winners and thanked foreign experts for their support to China's science and technology development.

Li said China has achieved remarkable progress in science and technology since the country's reform and opening-up four decades ago, and the past year again witnessed excellent performance in science and technology innovation.

He called on scientific and technological workers to follow the guidance of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, grasp the new trend of science, technology revolutions and industrial transformation, and further implement the

innovation-driven development strategy, so as to speed up the building of an innovative country and a leading power in science and technology.

Basic research should be given more priority, and receive more long-term and stable support, Li said, adding that the development of basic research, applied research, and industrialization should be integrated to build an open, coordinated and efficient research platform.

“We should deepen the reform on the scientific and technological system, innovate the scientific and technological investment policy and the fund management system, as well as expand the decision-making rights of scientists and researchers in choosing technological routes, utilizing funds, and transforming their research achievements,” Li said, while urging for the more flexible and diversified payment incentives.

He stressed the need to strengthen the role of enterprises as the main players of innovation and the integration of industries, universities and research institutes, noting that more market-driven means should be applied to encourage entrepreneurship.

China will step up building the system for IPR creation, protection, application and services, and cracking down on IPR infringement and counterfeiting, Li pledged.

Vice Premier Han Zheng presided over the ceremony, which was attended by about 3,300 people.

Before the ceremony, Xi and other leaders met with representatives of the winners.

The Nation, 09-01-19

Cooperation only right option for China-US ties: Chinese ambassador

NEW YORK - The China-U.S. relationship has been a shared success story over the past four decades, while cooperation is the only right option for the future development of bilateral ties, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai said here on Monday.

“China remains committed to expanding cooperation with the United States on the basis of mutual benefit, managing our differences on the basis of mutual respect, and developing a relationship with the United States based on closer coordination, cooperation and greater stability,” Cui said while addressing the annual New Year gala of the China General Chamber of Commerce -- USA (CGCC-USA). Cui told the 450-strong gala guests that China-U.S. ties have to evolve with time in light of the profound changes that have taken place in both countries and in the world over the past decades. “But all this is only understood as the need for closer China-U.S. cooperation,” he stressed.

Pointing to the fact that the normalization and development of China-U.S. relations have benefited countries and the entire world, the Chinese envoy emphasized the need for both parties “to look forward to the coming decades and plan our work together for even greater success.”

The seasoned diplomat also said China will continue to carry out reform and opening-up and seek people-centered development, sustainable development and peaceful development, which will create more opportunities for the world.

Cui urged business communities of both countries to keep the big picture in mind, remain open and have a clear stand on what is right and what is wrong.

The New Year gala, which was also dedicated to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the normalization of China-U.S. relations, was hosted by CGCC-USA as part of its annual tradition.

Founded in 2005, CGCC-USA has been recognized as the largest and most influential non-profit organization representing Chinese enterprises in the United States, with the total number of its members exceeding 1,5000.

The Nation, 09-01-19

China to strengthen cultural relic protection

BEIJING:-The National Cultural Heritage Administration will work out a plan to better protect cultural relics and speed up the creation of a safety oversight platform in 2019. Stressing the importance of such protection, Liu Yuzhu, head of the administration, said lax enforcement is a prominent problem that endangers cultural relics, at a meeting attended by cultural heritage administrators nationwide.

The Nation, 10-01-19

China car sales fall for the first time in 20 years

CHINA -GN- Car sales in China, the world’s biggest vehicle market, have seen their first annual fall in twenty years. Sales fell 6% to 22.7 million units in 2018, according to the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA).

The deceleration comes amid a slowdown in China’s economy which has hit performance at car manufacturers around the world. The news comes after Apple warned that sales would be hit by slowing iPhone demand in China.

Meanwhile, the country's most successful carmaker, Geely, is forecasting flat sales this year. Foreign car makers such as Ford, Volkswagen, Jaguar Land Rover and General Motors have all reported falls in sales over the last few months in China. The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM), a government-backed industry group, last month blamed the sales slowdown on economic shifts and "international reasons", referring to China's trade war with the US. Last year, both countries imposed billions of dollars' worth of tariffs on each other's goods. CAAM said it expected the market to be unchanged in 2019 and added that although demand for diesel and petrol cars was falling, rising sales of electric cars would probably help the overall market to avoid another slump.

Government subsidies for car buying also ended last year reducing consumer incentives to buy new cars.

However, the China National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) says it plans to introduce policies to boost consumer spending on cars as well as home appliances.

NDRC vice-chairman NingJizhe told China's state broadcaster that there was still potential for more car sales. He said policies such as the introduction of a rural car purchase programme, or a cut in taxes on car sales could help drive sales.

The Nation, 10-01-19

Chinese military to open online enlisting service

BEIJING - Candidates who want to enlist in the Chinese armed forces will be able to submit application documents through a website from Thursday, the Ministry of National Defense said Wednesday.

The website, www.gfbzb.gov.cn, will also allow users to register their enlisting records and search for relevant policies, said a statement from the ministry's conscription office.

The ministry aims to recruit the majority of new service personnel from universities, the statement said.

The priority of this year's recruitment campaign will be college graduates and students of leading universities, it added.

The country currently has 2 million service personnel.

The Nation, 11-01-19

China gifts four snow removing machines to FWO

Gilgit - The Chinese government has gifted four latest machineries for cutting and clearing of snow from upper Hunza and Khunjerab Top in GilgitBaltistan, Frontier Works Organization (FWO) sources told APP here Thursday.

An FWO official said that machines have been handed over to FWO authorities which included two machines for cutting snow and two clearing snow from roads. The snow clearing process from Karakorum Highway has been started.

The Nation, 11-01-19

CM, Chinese envoy discuss CPEC initiatives

LAHORE - Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing called on Punjab Chief Minister SardarUsmanBuzdar at his office here on Thursday.

Matters of mutual interest including promotion of Pakistan-China relations and CPEC related initiatives came under discussion. Both agreed to take collective measures to initiate public-private partnership for giving new dimensions to bilateral relations, establishment of special economic zones and development of social sector.

Talking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that China was the most trustworthy country and added that we appreciate Chinese cooperation in the development of a new Pakistan. A new chapter of Pakistan-China friendship has been written in the tenure of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Work has been started on the new dimensions of Pakistan-China economic relations while the CPEC project carries vital importance in the durable development of Pakistan. He said that Punjab government was establishing new special economic zones where Chinese investors will be given incentives and facilities. The public-private partnership will further boost Pakistan-China economic relations, he said.

Chief Minister said that durable development of social sector was a priority of the government and Chinese cooperation in this regard would be welcomed. He announced that people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and China will be further strengthened and we will move forward by identifying the future strategy while considering the new dimensions of CPEC project. He appreciated Chinese cooperation in energy, infrastructural development and other sectors and added that government is desirous of benefiting from latest Chinese technology in agriculture and farming sectors. A conducive atmosphere is provided for investment in Punjab and Chinese investors should take benefit of it, he added.

Chinese ambassador appreciated the establishment of special economic zones by the Punjab government and hoped that Pakistan-China economic relations will be further strengthened and both the countries will benefit from public-private partnership initiative. We want to further extend our cooperation with the Punjab government for the development of social sector. He said that joint steps will be taken to boost public level contracts and China is siding with Pakistan in its journey of development and prosperity.

Chinese Consul General Mr. Long Dingbin, MD Punjab Mass Transit Authority, Principal Secretary to CM, Secretaries of industry, P&D and energy departments as well as high-level Chinese official were present in the meeting.

The Nation, 11-01-19

China-Russia trade volume tops \$100b

BEIJING: Trade volume between China and Russia exceeded 100 billion U.S. dollars by mid-December 2018, a record high, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced Thursday. Sino-Russia trade growth outpaced those between China and its other major trade partners, according to MOC spokesperson GaoFeng, calling 2018 a "genuinely fruitful year" for bilateral economic and trade cooperation. China remains Russia's largest trade partner, while Russia is China's tenth largest trade partner. Bilateral trade structure also improved in 2018. Trade in mechanical and electrical products, high-tech products and agricultural produce rose 15 percent, 29 percent and 31 percent respectively in the first 11 months of 2018.—Xinhua

The two countries also partnered on energy, nuclear, aerospace, cross-border infrastructure and other fields.

China is willing to work with Russia to lift bilateral economic and trade ties to a new phase on a larger scale with deeper dimension and higher levels, as 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Gao said.

The Nation, 11-01-19

CPEC can play key role in generating jobs in Pakistan

BEIJING - The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can play a better role in yielding employment benefits for local people if the Pakistani government keeps improving the business environment for the manufacturers.

Approximately 1.2 million jobs could be created indirectly in Pakistan because of agreed projects under the CPEC, according to report published by Global Times here on Thursday. The CPEC has proved that the recent surge in Chinese investment is yielding employment benefits in Pakistan.

This is a hard-won achievement, but 1.2 million jobs aren't enough. While the first phase of the CPEC concentrated on infrastructure projects, the second part should focus on employment creation by setting up special economic zones (SEZs) and supporting economic integration. The CPEC needs to accelerate the shift of its focus to provide more jobs for Pakistani people.

The construction of transportation infrastructure under the CPEC framework has created many jobs for local people. This is obviously good news for the country's poverty alleviation campaign.

However, infrastructure work provides mainly limited-term employment. It takes time to complete infrastructure construction, but the country will see a substantial decrease in job creation in the future if it relies heavily on infrastructure construction to generate employment. With about 200 million people, Pakistan needs long-term employment opportunities.

The CPEC also offers unique advantages as it is designed to connect Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan with China's inland areas, offering another shipping option for Chinese importers and exporters.

Working on the CPEC's SEZs should be stepped up to promote Pakistan's manufacturing sector and its industrialization, making the country a new important exporter to China. This will provide more long-term jobs for local Pakistani people.

The Nation, 11-01-19

Pak-China mutual trade has great potential to grow further

LAHORE - Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that that mutual trade can be enhanced through people to people direct contact. Businessmen of both the countries should play their role to further increase bilateral trade. He said that good trade policies, low rate of taxes, tax incentives and business-friendly environment in Pakistan can attract huge Chinese investment.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The Chinese Ambassador said that under Joint Coordination Committee meetings, they are working on several projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor like power plants, Railways, Metro train, road infrastructure and Gwadar port. He said that Chinese government is also focusing on health, education, agriculture, water, poverty alleviation and socio economic development of less developed areas like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that Special Economic Zones are also underway which should be given priority.

When LCCI President Almas Hyder informed that the LCCI delegation is visiting China in March, the Ambassador ensured full cooperation and support to the delegation. "There is a dire

need to find ways to develop consistent policies and stable economic relations with each other. Our present level of trade seems to be the result of lack of knowledge about the mutual potential of Pakistani and Chinese economies”, the Ambassador added.

LCCI President Almas Hyder said that Pakistan and China being steady geo-political partners have very cordial relations. CPEC which is part of the Belt and Road Initiative promises even greater fortunes for us. It will certainly prove to be a game changer. “Be it electricity generation, infrastructure development, technology transfer, knowledge sharing or joint venture projects with Chinese firms, Pakistan knows that tomorrow is bound to get better than today”, he added.

It is worth mentioning that bilateral trade figures are following increasing trend from the last four years in particular. From 2014 on, the average increase in imports from China is almost dollar 2 billion per year. In contrast to that Pakistan’s exports are constantly dipping for the last three years.

The Nation, 11-01-19

Chinese naval escort fleet concludes visit to Cambodia

China: - China’s missile frigate “Wuhu” arrives at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port,

Cambodia. The 30th Chinese naval escorting fleet, composed of missile frigates “Wuhu” and “Handan”, and supply ship “Dongpinghu”, arrived Wednesday at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port for a four-day friendly visit to Cambodia.–Xinhua

The Nation, 11-01-19

China-Russia trade volume tops 100 bln USD

BEIJING - Trade volume between China and Russia exceeded 100 billion U.S. dollars by mid-December 2018, a record high, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced Thursday.

Sino-Russia trade growth outpaced those between China and its other major trade partners, according to MOC spokesperson GaoFeng, calling 2018 a “genuinely fruitful year” for bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

China remains Russia’s largest trade partner, while Russia is China’s tenth largest trade partner.

Bilateral trade structure also improved in 2018. Trade in mechanical and electrical products, high-tech products and agricultural produce rose 15 percent, 29 percent and 31 percent respectively in the first 11 months of 2018.

The two countries also partnered on energy, nuclear, aerospace, cross-border infrastructure and other fields.

China is willing to work with Russia to lift bilateral economic and trade ties to a new phase on a larger scale with deeper dimension and higher levels, as 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Gao said.

The Nation, 11-01-19

Kim leaves China with ‘backing for second Trump summit’

Beijing - After his surprise visit to China, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un left with backing for a possible second summit with US President Donald Trump, state media said.

Trump and Kim first met last June, but progress over denuclearization has since stalled.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said he hoped the two leaders “meet each other halfway”, Xinhua news agency reported China is the North’s main ally and key trade partner.

Xi said China supported North Korea and the US “holding summits and achieving results, and supports relevant parties resolving their respective legitimate concerns through dialogue”.

He also said China would be ready to play a “positive and constructive role” towards maintaining peace and achieving denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, reported Xinhua.

Kim made what is believed to be his first official trip outside North Korea to China last year, even before meeting South Korea’s President Moon and Trump. The recent visit is Kim’s fourth to China in less than a year.

During his three-day visit to China, Kim and his wife Ri Sol-ju were welcomed by Xi and his wife with a banquet and an art performance. He also visited a pharmaceutical plant specializing in Chinese medicine.

The trip is believed to have taken place over Kim’s 35th birthday.

Xi accepted an offer to visit North Korea, state media said. It is still unclear when this would take place.

Kim had said in his annual new year’s speech in January that he remained committed to denuclearization, but warned that he would change course if US sanctions remained.

According to North Korean’s official KCNA agency China supported the North’s position.

“Xi Jinping said that the legitimate issues raised by the DPRK are rightful demands and that he fully agrees that the DPRK’s reasonable interests should be justly resolved,” it said, using the official country name the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

It is not clear when or where a possible second Kim-Trump summit would take place, though South Korean president Moon Jae-in has said it will happen “soon”.

Moon, who has over the past year played mediator between North Korea and the US, said at a news conference on Thursday that Seoul would cooperate with the US in resolving the issue of sanctions on North Korea.

There has been little progress made between the US and North Korea since the historic Singapore summit in June - the first ever meeting between a North Korean leader and a sitting US president.

Both parties signed a pledge at the time to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, though it was never made clear what this would entail.

Pyongyang wants Washington to lift the sanctions the United Nations imposes on the country because of its nuclear and missile programmes.

North Korea argues that the US needs to match the steps it has taken towards denuclearization, namely dismantling a nuclear testing site and a key missile engine facility.

The Nation, 11-01-19

China to intensify crackdown on data fraud

BEIJING-China's top statistical regulator will step up efforts to prevent and punish data falsification and other fraudulent practices, in an effort to ensure data authenticity.

A supervision campaign on statistical work will be launched this year, the first time in history, to promote fulfillment of duties, punish illegal practices and improve statistics quality, said Ning Jizhe, head of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The NBS would enhance inspection and law enforcement, expand exposure of wrong-doers and hold them accountable; Ning told a national meeting on statistical work. The country exposed 27 illegal statistical cases, disclosed information and imposed punishments on 118 firms found guilty of serious data doctoring, according to Ning.

China introduced an updated detailed guideline for implementing statistics laws in 2017 to prevent data fraud.

The Nation, 11-01-19

Chinese researchers use AI to explore diabetes classification

BEIJING-Chinese researchers are using artificial intelligence (AI) to classify different types of diabetes, which may help patients obtain more precise treatment.

Different types of diabetes require diverse treatment. The current diabetes classification system, which has been used for more than 20 years, is based on cause and pathological features, which has limitations in guiding clinical treatment.

Researchers from Peking University People's Hospital are working on a more elaborate classification of diabetes that may support individualized treatment. They conducted research on diabetes classification based on the data of 2,316 Chinese people newly diagnosed with diabetes and 815 Americans. Using the AI clustering method, they separate the two groups into four diabetes subtypes based on five variables including age, BMI, blood glucose levels and insulin resistance indexes.

According to ZouXiantong, one of the researchers, a previous study from Northern Europe has used similar methods to divide diabetes into five subgroups and demonstrated that the subgroups have different clinical manifestations and corresponding treatments. However, all cases involved in the study were from Northern Europe, and it is unknown whether it is applicable to other populations.

"We hope our research may provide data support for more accurate typing and treatment of diabetes in the Chinese population," Zou said.

The data analysis showed that the main clinical features of the four subtypes were basically consistent in the Chinese and U.S. groups, which also coincided with the subtype characteristics of the Northern Europe research. The research was published in the journal *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*.

The Nation, 11-01-19

Experts identify 20 health problems in China

BEIJING-A group of top Chinese medical and health experts recently identified the 20 most important and most preventable health problems for the next 20 years in China. The 20 health problems are comprised of diseases, unhealthy behaviors, environmental pollution, food contamination and road injuries.

Diabetes and hypertension are ranked as the top two, along with seven major chronic diseases including coronary heart disease and stroke, as well as lung, liver and breast cancers. Risk factors for chronic diseases, such as air and water pollution, smoking, an unhealthy diet, as well as

contamination with pesticides, antibiotics and hormone residues are all among the 20 health problems.

AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, depression and obesity are also on the list. The results were recently published in the American Journal of Public Health.

Wu Yangfeng, the lead author of the study and researcher with the Peking University Clinical Research

Institute, said the results were a consensus from a panel of 70 top Chinese experts working mainly in the field of public health, clinical medicine and medical research, with an average age of 64 with each contributor having been engaged in their profession for more than 15 years.

Panelists could choose from a list provided of 106 diseases and could also add new items. Then, they were asked to rate two aspects for each health problem: the degree of importance and the degree of

Prevent ability.

They also considered other characteristics of health problems, such as the number of people affected, its importance in the future and their personal beliefs regarding its consequences. "The ranking of the top 20 health problems indicates that the panelists prioritized health problems where intervention could prevent disease worsening or the development of other serious conditions and focused more on chronic than on infectious diseases," Wu said.

China faces shifting health challenges, with chronic diseases now accounting for the vast majority

of all deaths. Wu believes the study could help set up national priorities to improve health and prevent Disease.

Researchers also found that the diseases identified on the list accounted for 61 percent of total deaths

in China, showing that the experts' choices are in line with national statistics.

Jonathan Fielding, professor at the University of California in the Fielding School of Public Health, said the study highlighted the role of expert opinions in health policy making, instead of relying on statistics alone.

"The results could help establish research priorities, and invite collaboration among nations faced with similar challenges," he said.

The Nation, 11-01-19

Training classes for Muslim clerics held in Xinjiang

BEIJING-China's Northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region recently held training classes for Muslim clerics, which is aimed at guiding them to resist extremism and contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

The class was recently held in Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang, according to a statement released on the website of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Muslim clerics are required to have a comprehensive understanding of Xinjiang's stability and development, the statement said and added the religion department should strengthen their politics, law and religious education.

The training sessions require the Muslim clerics to study traditional Chinese, the history of the country and the Party, especially the modern history of the country and of Xinjiang. They also need to learn Putonghua.

Xinjiang is home to 24,400 mosques and about 29,000 Muslim clerics. Since 2001, the State Administration for Religious Affairs has held 12 training sessions for Muslim clerics and has trained approximately 500 clerics for the region.

"Muslim clerics generally refer to imams, who are respected by Muslims. Trained imams can help tens of thousands of believers nurture patriotism and national unity," GaoZhanfu, a vice dean of the

Beijing-based China Islamic Institute, told the Global Times. The China Islamic Association is about to compile textbooks for Muslim clerics around the country, which will further standardize their training. Professors who specialize in a certain subject are usually invited to train the clerics, Gao noted

The Nation, 12-01-19

China to import potato, cherry, wheat from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing here on Friday said that China was interested to enhance its import of potato, cherry, wheat besides increasing its investments in other sectors of economy to further cement the bilateral trade and investment relations between both the countries.

The Ambassador of China called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan and discussed the matters relating to promote bilateral trade and cooperation in different sectors of economy including agriculture and livestock's.

The Ambassador said that Chinese government would also formally invite Pakistani experts to monitor the hybrid rice seed expertise of China and monitor the facility to enhance its local output of the crop and promoting its exports.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister said that Pakistan and China were members of various organizations and being member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Pakistan had endorsed agreement on cooperation in agriculture between the governments of the member states of the organization.

China, he said produces food for 20 percent of the world's population and it also imports huge quantity of food for its population. China was a strong force in South Asian region and CPEC opened up new venues of cooperation between two friendly neighbors.

The minister said that China is the 4th largest export market of Pakistan, adding that it was heartening that both countries have signed free trade agreement (FTA) which has facilitated to expand bilateral trade.

Federal Minister Mehboob Sultan said that government was moving ahead to collaborate in achieving foot and mouth disease free zone and a memorandum of requirements for the establishment of FMD free zone is currently negotiated by both sides.

He added that we believe in ease of doing business and if we collaborate for the elimination of FMD it will boost our meat export to China.

Mehboob Sultan extended his invitation to Chinese experts to visit the three districts of Punjab which are identified as FMD free zone

The Nation, 12-01-19

43 Chinese companies listed on US bourses in 2018

BEIJING: The number of Chinese firms listed on the U.S. bourses increased in 2018, as more companies mull going public driven by the country's fast economic development, Securities Daily reported Friday. A total of 43 Chinese companies were newly listed in the U.S. market last year, higher than the 24 firms in 2017 and 10 in 2016, according to data from Wind, a financial data provider. Chinese A-shares' high threshold contributed to the overseas listings, said Cen Saiyin, vice president of Cornerstone Capital. If a company wants to be listed on the A-share market, it should meet certain requirements including profitability before approval, according to Ge Shoujing, a financial researcher. The number of IPOs on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock

markets fell to a five-year low of 105 in 2018, compared with 436 in 2017, partly due to the China Securities Regulatory Commission's stricter review process, according to the PwC. Though the IPO reviews have become stricter than before, continuous reforms have made it easier for companies to access financing on the capital market, according to Tong Chuanjiang, a Deloitte China representative in charge of A-share IPO business for northern China.

New listings on the A-share market are likely to get a boost from factors such as the government's decision to launch a science and technology innovation board in Shanghai and experiment with a registration system for listed companies, Tong said.

The Nation, 12-01-19

Siberian tiger family spotted in northeast China

CHANGCHUN-A tiger family consisting of five members has been spotted in northeast China's Jilin Province.

The wild Siberian tigers were caught on tape by an infrared camera in Jilin's Hunchun City in May last year, according to the management bureau of the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park. The park covers two Chinese provinces and borders Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It covers an area of more than 1.46 million hectares.

In the 50-second video, the mother tiger could be seen taking care of her four playful tiger cubs. China has intensified protection efforts for Siberian tigers, which led to rising numbers of the big cat. In 2018, three families of Siberian tigers were spotted in Hunchun alone, including seven tiger cubs. Siberian tigers, otherwise known as Amur or Manchurian tigers, mainly live in eastern Russia, northeast China and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. By the end of 2017, at least 27 adult tigers and 42 Amur leopards had been reported to roam in Jilin Province, and their numbers are stable.

The Nation, 13-01-1

China attends more exhibitions in B&R countries in 2018

BEIJING (Xinhua): China attended and organized more exhibitions in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative last year as industrial exchanges heated up. Chinese exhibitors attended and organized 718 events in 33 countries in the regions by mid-November 2018, up 14.3 percent and involving about 26,000 Chinese firms, according to a report by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). Machinery was one main theme of these exhibitions, the report stated. Russia was the most popular destination for China's exhibitors, followed by India, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. Chinese exhibitors attended and organized 1,672 overseas events during this period, up 4.89 percent year on year. For the domestic exhibition

market, CCPIT expected more industrial events this year focusing on emerging sectors like artificial intelligence, energy conservation, and new generation information technology as well as themes of regional development like the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The Nation, 13-01-19

China's book retail sales up 11.3 pct

BEIJING - China's book retail sales totaled 89.4 billion yuan (13.1 billion U.S. dollars) in 2018, up 11.3 percent year on year, said a report issued at the Beijing Book Fair.

A total of 57.3 billion yuan was spent via online channels, increasing by 24.7 percent from 2017, while sales through bookstores dropped by 6.69 percent.

According to the report, there were 1.94 million different types of books in the retail market last year, including 203,000 new books.

First held in 1987, this year's annual book fair centers its exhibition on the achievements the publishing industry has made over the course of the country's reform and opening-up.

It also shows the new trends in the new development phase of the publishing industry and focuses on the new forms of the industry, people's various needs in all forms of reading, according to Liu Binjie, head of the Publishers Association of China.

"Reform and opening-up has brought significant changes to the industry's opening-up, with publishing outlets carrying out international cooperation and telling more Chinese stories," said Liu, who asked for deeper reform and further innovation within the industry.

The Nation, 13-01-19

Chinese cities open direct flights to Thailand, Myanmar

GUIYANG - Two major cities in southwest China opened direct passenger flights to Thailand and Myanmar respectively on Friday to boost bilateral exchanges.

9 Air, a privately-owned budget airline in China, opened its direct flight linking Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province, and Phuket, Thailand, a popular tourist destination.

Outbound flights of the company's new route depart from Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport at 10:05 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday each week.

Return flights take off from Phuket International Airport at 1:30 a.m. local time on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

Also on Friday, Sichuan Airlines launched a direct flight between Chongqing Municipality and Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city. Round trips are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The direct flight takes about 2.5 hours and is expected to boost bilateral trade, tourism, and exchanges.

The Nation, 14-01-19

Xi calls for 'greater strategic achievements' in party governance

BEIJING - Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called for efforts to advance Party building, and demanded "greater strategic achievements" in full and strict governance over the Party.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at the third plenary session of the 19th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the CPC. He called for consolidating and developing a "sweeping victory" in the fight against corruption.

Efforts should be made to make sure officials don't dare to, are unable to and have no desire to commit corruption, to improve Party and state oversight systems, and to ensure the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress and major decisions of the CPC Central Committee are resolutely implemented, so as to greet the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) with great achievements, Xi said.

Members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning and Han Zheng attended the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Zhao Leji, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the CCDI.

Noting achievements in Party building since the 19th CPC National Congress that included the "sweeping victory" in fighting corruption, Xi said the Party is now "radiating with more vitality in the new era."

He summed up some of the invaluable experience in disciplinary inspection and supervision over the past 40 years of reform and opening-up.

The authority of the CPC Central Committee and its centralized, unified leadership must be firmly upheld, and the governance over the Party must precede the governance of the country and it must be strict, Xi said. The people-centered approach must be upheld, Xi continued, adding that it was also necessary for cadres to continue innovating, keep working hard, and fight against inaction and corruption.

Xi called for continuous efforts to advance full and strict governance over the Party as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and is key in finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects to achieve the first centenary goal. He laid out six tasks:

The spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress needs to be further implemented. The Party's political work must be strengthened to ensure unity of the whole Party and strict implementation of its orders. Excellent conduct must be encouraged to ensure joint efforts for building a moderately prosperous society. Fight corruption with strong resolve to consolidate and develop the "sweeping victory." Improve the supervision systems and strengthen the sense of responsibility.

Address corruption and malpractices that occur on people's doorsteps to safeguard the people's immediate interests.

Xi urged officials to correctly uphold the authority of the CPC Central Committee, and firmly resist illicit intervention and profit-seeking by central-level leaders' family members, their work staff, and people who claim to have connections with them.

He stressed maintaining healthy comradeship within the Party and enforcing the system of democratic centralism.

Officials should also take the lead in establishing a healthy working relationship and not use public resources as a tool of building clout or underhand connections to seek illicit gains.

Those who play a key role in this regard, Xi said, are members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Central Committee.

Xi also stressed building an "iron army" of disciplinary inspection and supervision officials who are loyal, clean and have strong sense of responsibility and removing the "bad apples" from them.

Presiding over the meeting, Zhao called on Party organizations at all levels to unify their thinking and action with the spirit of Xi's speech.

On behalf of the CCDI standing committee, Zhao delivered a work report titled "faithfully fulfil the obligations stipulated in the CPC Constitution and the Constitution of the country, and strive for high-quality development of disciplinary inspection and supervision work in the new era."

"Although China's campaign against corruption has made sweeping victory, it is not the time to lie back," said Xin Ming, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

Last year, the list of “tigers” -- referring to senior officials taken down on corruption charges -- continued to expand.

Fifty-one officials at or above the provincial/ministerial level were among a total of 621,000 people punished by CCDI and the National Supervisory Commission.

And increasing attention was paid to minor offenses of officials. About 1.1 million officials were interviewed and cautioned for slight violations, about 63.6 percent of the total cases disciplinary inspectors handled in 2018.

Last year, 1,335 fugitives were sent back to China. Among them, 307 were former Party members and officials, mostly involved in graft cases.

“The tough stance against corruption should not and will not ease,” Xin, the professor said.

The Nation, 14-01-19

Chicago to celebrate Chinese New Year

CHICAGO-Chicago is preparing to celebrate the Chinese New Year, which falls on Feb. 5 this year, with cultural, culinary and music events, organizers said Saturday.

"The atmosphere of celebrating Chinese New Year is getting heavier in the United States, particularly in cities with a big Chinese population," Liu Jun, acting consul general of the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago, said at a press conference. Liu said dozens of programs have been organized for the upcoming Chinese New Year, in which cultural and artistic troupes from China will work with the local Chinese community to provide a glimpse of Chinese cultural traditions.

"Chicago has more wonderful celebration programs this year, and I believe all of you will enjoy a happier Chinese New Year here," Liu said. Chicago is the first city in the United States to launch a Chinese New Year celebration in the name of the city government, and 2019 will be the sixth year for the city to mark the Chinese New Year.

On Feb. 4, the China National Peking Opera Company will kick off the Year of the Pig with a performance at the Chicago Cultural Center.

The Hubei Opera and Dance Drama Theater and Shanxi Cultural Troupe will also join in celebrating the Chinese New Year with a festive display of Chinese dance, music, and traditional food.

Chicago is paying a lot of attention to obtaining Chinese investments and attracting more Chinese tourists.

The Nation, 15-01-1

Conspiracies and controversies against CPEC

Undoubtedly, the CPEC project has remained under a systematic and persistent propaganda campaign since its formal announcement in April 2015. A large number of conspiracies and controversies have been made against this project. Recently, a report published in a leading US newspaper alleged that the CPEC was not about the economy and trade but had military dimensions as well. However, the project is a bilateral economic one, which is of course not against any country.

Besides, terrorism has also been an essential tool in failing and sabotaging the project. Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan that occupy a pivotal position in the entire project have suffered from severe terror attacks during the last couple of years.

As a matter of fact, Pakistan and China will surely benefit from CPEC. It's high time both countries needed to be more active and cautious to counter all controversies and conspiracies against the CPEC project.

SHEERAZ AKHTAR BHUTTO,
Sindh, December 6.

The Nation, 15-01-19

China's natural gas imports hit record high

BEIJING: China's imports of natural gas climbed to a new high last year in part due to government support for clean energy.

Some 90.39 million tonnes of natural gas were transported to China in 2018, 31.9 percent higher than a year ago, the General Administration of Customs said Monday. The growth rate picked up from a 26.9-percent increase in 2017. In December, the country's natural gas imports came in at 9.23 million tonnes. China's appetite for natural gas has swelled rapidly in recent years, in part driven by environmental policies to replace dirtier coal-fired electricity generation. It surpassed the Republic of Korea to become the world's second-largest liquefied natural gas importer in 2017, after Japan. Monday's data also showed import increases in other commodities including crude oil and copper, while imports of iron ores and soybeans went down.

The Nation, 15-01-19

China, Finland vow to write new chapter in bilateral ties

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his visiting Finnish counterpart Sauli Niinistö agreed to work together to write a new chapter in bilateral ties during their talks on Monday.

Hailing that China and Finland have been committed to forging a future-oriented new-type of cooperative partnership in recent years, Xi said it is not only in line with both countries' and people's interests but also conducive to world peace, stability and prosperity that China and Finland enhance dialogue and cooperation.

The two countries need to adhere to mutual respect and trust, be open-minded and inclusive, respect each other's development path and take each other's core interests into consideration so as to promote the steady development of bilateral ties, Xi told Niinisto during the talks held at the Great Hall of the People. Xi encouraged both countries to expand cooperation in new areas driven by innovation.

China appreciated Finland's support to the Belt and Road Initiative, said Xi, adding that the country is ready to work with Finland to enhance Belt and Road cooperation.

He suggested the two countries make the best use of the China Railway Express and other facilities to boost two-way trade, conduct third-party cooperation, discuss opportunities for cooperation on the Arctic shipping routes and jointly build the Polar Silk Road.

Xi also called for enhanced cultural and people-to-people exchanges as the two presidents would jointly launch the 2019 China-Finland Year of Winter Sports in the hope of forging a model of winter sports cooperation.

The two countries need to jointly promote the reform on global governance, enhance cooperation on international affairs, push forward the establishment of the open world economy, safeguard the multilateral trading system, and implement the Paris Agreement on climate change, Xi said.

Stressing that China has always supported the European integration, Xi said China hopes Europe will maintain unity, stability, openness and prosperity and play an active and constructive role in the international arena, calling on Finland to continue contributing to China-Europe ties.

On the Arctic affairs, Xi said China stands ready to work with Finland to enhance cooperation under the framework of the Arctic Council and boost the sustainable development in the Arctic region.

China will also maintain close contact with Nordic countries and the Nordic Council of Ministers to develop cooperation between China and Nordic countries, Xi said.

Hailing the rapid development of bilateral ties, Niinisto said that Finland speaks highly of China's achievements, values China's role in international affairs and cherishes its friendship with China.

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Xi is very important, he said, adding that Finland is willing to play a positive role to better align this initiative with the European Union (EU) to promote the connectivity of the Eurasian continent.

During Niinisto's visit to China, the two sides are scheduled to publish a joint action plan (2019-2023) on promoting the future-oriented new-type cooperative partnership between China and Finland.

Finland is ready to work with China to implement the action plan, strengthen pragmatic cooperation in areas including trade, innovation, environment, tourism, and Arctic affairs, boost people-to-people exchanges and cement cooperation on sports, particularly winter sports, Niinisto said.

It is important for the two countries to maintain close communication and coordination on international affairs under the current situation, he said, adding that Finland applauds China's positive role in tackling climate change and safeguarding the multilateral trading system.

Finland will assume the rotating presidency of the EU in the second half of this year. The country will take this as an opportunity to promote closer ties between the EU and China, Niinisto said.

After the talks, the two presidents witnessed the signing of cooperation agreements and attended the inaugural ceremony of the 2019 China-Finland Year of Winter Sports.

During the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games, the People's Republic of China made its debut at the Olympic Games, and for the first time China's national flag was raised at the Olympic arena, Xi said.

There is huge potential for cooperation on winter sports between the two countries given the high complementarity, Xi said while addressing the inaugural ceremony.

"I believe the 2019 China-Finland Year of Winter Sports will boost the two countries' sports cooperation, inject new vitality to people-to-people exchanges, and further advance the future-oriented new-type cooperative partnership between China and Finland," Xi said.

Finland supports China in hosting the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games, Niinisto said, adding that he is glad Finland will be the first country to launch the Year of Winter Sports with China and he believes this will further promote friendship between the two countries.

China is on its way of becoming a big power in winter sports and Finland is willing to lend a helping hand, Niinisto said. Niinisto is paying a state visit to China from Sunday to Wednesday at the invitation of Xi.

The Nation, 15-01-19

China's record high foreign trade volume highlights economic resilience

BEIJING - China's import and export volume hit a historic high in 2018, a sign that the economy remained resilient despite growing external uncertainties.

"China effectively tackled profound changes in the external environment last year, and the foreign trade maintained steady and positive growth, reaching a historic high in import and export volume," the General Administration of Customs (GAC) spokesperson Li Kuiwen said Monday.

China's foreign trade rose 9.7 percent year-on-year to a historic high of 30.51 trillion yuan (about 4.5 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2018.

The value was 2.7 trillion yuan higher than in 2017, according to the GAC.

Exports rose 7.1 percent year-on-year to 16.42 trillion yuan last year, while imports grew 12.9 percent to 14.09 trillion yuan, resulting in a trade surplus of 2.33 trillion yuan, which narrowed by 18.3 percent.

"China is expected to keep its number-one position in the world in terms of trade in goods," Li Kuiwen told a press conference.

Li attributed the growth to sound and steady economic fundamentals and a number of policies and measures boosting steady foreign trade growth, including lower import tariffs, higher export tax rebates and improvement in the business environment.

In 2018, China maintained stable economic growth and remained a top performer in the global economic arena.

Its GDP rose 6.7 percent in the first three quarters of 2018, putting the economy on track to meet the government's targeted growth of around 6.5 percent for 2018.

To boost imports, China has cut tariffs for an array of products including automobiles, consumer products and medicine this year, lowering the overall tariff rate on imported goods from 9.8 percent to 7.5 percent.

A total of 172 countries, regions and international organizations, and more than 3,600 enterprises participated in the first China International Import Expo, which was held last year from Nov. 5 to 10 in Shanghai.

Behind the strong foreign trade figures, China's shifting engines of economic growth are well told.

Exports and imports of products under the general trade category, which has a higher added-value than processing trade, surged 12.5 percent year-on-year to 17.64 trillion yuan, accounting for 57.8 percent of total foreign trade, 1.4 percentage points higher than 2017.

China's trade with the European Union, the United States and ASEAN increased 7.9 percent, 5.7 percent and 11.2 percent respectively, with their combined trade volume accounting for 41.2 percent of China's total foreign trade.

Trade with countries along the Belt and Road registered faster-than-average growth, with the trade volume standing at 8.37 trillion yuan, up 13.3 percent year on year.

"Trade cooperation with Belt and Road countries has become new driving force of China's foreign trade development," Li said.

Private enterprises played a bigger role, accounting for 39.7 percent of the total foreign trade, up 1.1 percentage points compared with 2017.

"Private enterprises contributed more than half to China's foreign trade growth in 2018, a bright spot of China's foreign trade development," the spokesperson said.

Electro-mechanical products remained a pillar of exports, with some high value-added products doing well. Exports of metal-working machines, cell phones and automobiles grew 19.2 percent, 9.8 percent and 8.3 percent respectively.

Trade growth is more balanced among regions. Less developed regions, including central and western China and northeast China, all outpaced the national average.

Monday's data also showed China's trade with the United States totaled 4.18 trillion yuan in 2018, up 5.7 percent year on year.

Exports to the U.S. rose 8.6 percent year on year to 3.16 trillion yuan last year, while imports from the U.S. dropped 2.3 percent to 1.02 trillion yuan, resulting in a trade surplus of 2.14 trillion yuan, which widened by 14.7 percent.

"The widened trade surplus in 2018 shows China and the U.S. are in different development stages and both are economically complementary," Li said.

For China's foreign trade outlook in 2019, Li said the biggest challenge was the severe and complicated external environment, rising protectionism and unilateralism, and slowed global economic growth that will drag down multinational trade and investment.

“China’s foreign trade growth would slow in 2019 off a high base due to the complicated and severe external environment,” Li told the press.

But generally speaking, Li said, China’s steady and positive growth momentum would lay a solid foundation for the development of foreign trade this year.

As the country continues to push forward supply-side structural reform and opening up, the structure of China’s exports and imports will be further optimized with both quality and efficiency improved, according to Li.

The Nation, 15-01-19

China sentences Canadian mule to death

CHINA - A court in China has sentenced a Canadian to death for drug smuggling, a verdict likely to reignite a diplomatic row between the two countries.

Robert Lloyd Schellenberg was originally given a 15-year jail term in 2018 but after an appeal the court said the sentence was too lenient.

Monday’s ruling comes weeks after Canada arrested MengWanzhou, a top official at Chinese telecoms giant Huawei, on a request from the US.

Canada condemned the latest ruling.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said: “It is of extreme concern to us as a government, as it should be to all our international friends and allies, that China has chosen to begin to arbitrarily apply the death penalty, as in this case facing a Canadian.”

China was angered by the arrest of MsMeng, 46, the daughter of Huawei’s founder, and the case has soured its relations with both Canada and the US. She was granted bail in December.

China has since detained two Canadian nationals, accusing them of endangering national security.

Life of Huawei’s high-flying heiress What’s going on with Huawei?

What is Schellenberg’s case?

He was arrested in 2014 and accused of planning to smuggle into China almost 500lb (227kg) of methamphetamine.

He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in November 2018. But following an appeal, a high court in the north-eastern city of Dalian on Monday sentenced the Canadian national to death.

The court also ruled that all of his financial assets must be confiscated.

“I am not a drug smuggler. I came to China as a tourist,” Schellenberg said just before the verdict was announced, the AFP news agency reports.

He has 10 days to appeal.

China has denied that it is using its legal system to take hostages as bargaining chips in the Huawei case. But for whatever reason China has suddenly begun working hard to push Schellenberg’s case to international prominence, taking the highly unusual step of inviting foreign journalists into the court, the BBC’s John Sudworth in Beijing reports.

And despite the Canadian’s insistence that he is innocent, his retrial lasted just a day, with his death sentence coming barely an hour after its conclusion, our correspondent says.

What about MengWanzhou?

She was arrested in Vancouver on 1 December, but was granted bail by a Canadian court several days later. A judge in Canada’s western city ruled that she would be under surveillance 24 hours a day and must wear an electronic ankle tag.

MsMeng is accused in the US of using a Huawei subsidiary called Skycom to evade sanctions on Iran between 2009 and 2014.

She denies any wrongdoing and says she will contest the allegations. US President Donald Trump has said he is willing to intervene in the case.

The arrest came against the background of an increasingly acrimonious trade dispute between the US and China.

The Nation, 15-01-19

China’s foreign trade hits historic high in 2018

BEIJING - China’s foreign trade rose 9.7 percent year on year to a historic high of 30.51 trillion yuan (about 4.5 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2018, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said Monday.

The value was 2.7 trillion yuan higher than that of 2017, according to the GAC. “China effectively tackled changes of the external environment last year, and the foreign trade maintained stable and positive growth, reaching a historic high in import and export volume,” GAC spokesman Li Kuiwen told a press conference.

Exports rose 7.1 percent year on year to 16.42 trillion yuan last year, while imports grew 12.9 percent to 14.09 trillion yuan, resulting in a trade surplus of 2.33 trillion yuan, which narrowed by 18.3 percent. Exports and imports of products under the general trade category surged 12.5 percent year on year to 17.64 trillion yuan, accounting for 57.8 percent of the total foreign trade, 1.4 percentage points higher than 2017. China's trade with the European Union, the United States and the ASEAN countries increased 7.9 percent, 5.7 percent and 11.2 percent, respectively, with their combined trade volume accounting for 41.2 percent of China's total foreign trade.

Trade with countries along the Belt and Road registered faster-than-average growth, with the trade volume standing at 8.37 trillion yuan, up 13.3 percent year on year.

“Trade cooperation with Belt and Road countries has become new driving force of China's foreign trade development,” said Li.

Private enterprises played a bigger role, accounting for 39.7 percent of the total foreign trade, up 1.1 percentage points compared with 2017.

“Private enterprises contributed more than half to China's foreign trade growth in 2018, a bright spot of China's foreign trade development,” said the spokesman.

The Nation, 15-01-19

Beijing city to reinforce greening efforts

BEIJING - The mayor of Beijing said Monday that more efforts would be made to green the city in the new year, including creating more parks, planting more trees and expanding greenbelt areas downtown.

The annual government work report, delivered by Chen Jining at the opening meeting of the annual session of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, said 1,600 hectares of land would be vacated for greening purposes in 2019.

The city has planned to add 16,667 hectares of forest this year, in addition to the 17,933 hectares completed in 2018, according to the report.

A total of 1,683 hectares of land were vacated for greening in the last year, Chen said. Another 28 city leisure parks and 121 mini parks were added, bringing the coverage of parks within a radius of 500 meters to 80 percent citywide.

An area of 66.7 hectares of the “green core” of the city, located in Tongzhou District, has been greened in the past year, together with the creation of several other wetland parks in and around the city, Chen said.

Suburban districts including Yanqing, Huairou and Miyun will step up applications to be national-level forest cities through the establishment of a green development fund and green bonds to attract social capital, the report said.

The Nation, 15-01-19

Millions of Chinese CVs exposed on cloud server

CHINA-A database containing resumes of more than 200 million Chinese people has been found exposed online. Security firm Hackenproof said the "very detailed" information lacked even the most basic security protections.

Names, mobile phone numbers, email addresses, education histories and many other personal details were included in the data trove. Analysis suggested the information was built up by "scraping" several Chinese job sites.

Breach list

Writing in a blog, Hackenproof research director Bob Diachenko said he initially thought the data had been taken from large, classified advert site BJ.58.com. However, in a statement given to Hackenproof, BJ.58.com denied it had let the data escape.

"We have searched all over the database of us and investigated all the other storage, turned out that the sample data is not leaked from us," it said.

"It seems that the data is leaked from a third party who scrapes data from many CV websites," it added.

Soon after Mr. Diachenko publicized the existence of the data cache via Twitter, it was removed from the Amazon cloud server where it had been stored. Later analysis suggested it had been copied at least 12 times before being deleted. The data loss is the latest in a series that have exposed information about Chinese people. In early January, Beijing police arrested a man who was allegedly stole data on five million rail travelers. The hacker is believed to have targeted the widely used 12306 online rail booking system.

In August 2018, Chinese police were reportedly investigating a data breach that involved 500 million records about customers of the Huazhu Group, which operates hotels across the country.

The data lost included customer registration information, booking records and personal data. About 19% of Chinese net users had social media and other accounts hacked or lost passwords, reported the Internet Society of China in its 2018 look at online life in the nation. Phishing attacks crafted to look like they come from friends were widely used to catch people out, said the report.

The Nation, 15-01-19

Rare robin in Beijing spurs Brexit Jokes

BEIJING-The rare appearance of a European robin in Beijing has caused a stir among Chinese nature fans.

Hundreds of bird-watching photographers flocked to the Beijing Zoo last Friday after word spread that a European robin had been spotted there.

The red-breasted bird is common across Europe but is rarely seen in Beijing - it's only the third time one has been recorded in the capital.

Some birdwatchers have joked the robin might be a "Brexit refugee".

"It's very rare to see [the European robin] in Beijing," Terry Townshend, founder of Birding Beijing told the BBC.

"Almost 200 photographers camped out for it. I think a lot of people want to [capture it] because it's a very photogenic bird and it has that sort of exotic feel." Mr Townshend was among the 200 photographers who camped out at Beijing Zoo last Friday.

Hundreds of photographers camped out for a chance to catch the bird

He said he found out about the sighting through bird watching groups on WeChat - a messaging app in China.

"A lot of people associate the bird with Britain... [so] someone in the WeChat group called the bird a 'Brexit refugee' because [they joked that it was] escaping the political chaos in the UK," said Mr Townshend.

"Then the name kind of just caught on really." It is not common for robins to migrate and it is unclear how this one might have landed so far away from home.

"It normally lives in Europe [and] Beijing is at least 1,500 miles off where it should normally be," said Mr Townshend. "But it's likely that this bird is from the eastern part of Europe and not Britain."

The European robin is, as its name suggests, normally only found in Europe. "We don't really know why birds sometimes turn up in odd places, it might be related to weather, when they are migrating they could be blown by strong winds."

However it got there, the European robin is expected to stay in Beijing for some weeks to come.

Mr Townshend said a robin would normally only leave for home at the end of winter.

"So we would expect it to stay in Beijing for the rest of winter and it would probably disappear in March."

The European robin was in 2015 chosen as UK's first national bird in a poll of more than 200,000 people.

The News

The News, 01-01-19

China Gezhouba, Descon to build Mohmand Dam

ISLAMABAD: In major development, the Joint Venture of Pakistani Company — Descon owned by Adviser to PM on Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood and Chinese company — China Gezhouba has won the bid for construction of Rs309 billions Mohmand Dam with capacity to generate 800MW of electricity on December 31, 2018.

Mohammad Dam is basically the flood control dam and after its construction the dam will be able to store 300,000 cusecs of water, and will save Charsadda, Peshawar and Nowshera. The cost of the said project in 2003 stood at \$1 billion which has now swelled to \$3 billion because of the inordinate delay in Musharraf regime.

The said dam if completed on time, the 2010 flood could have been averted and the loss of \$10 billion incurred on account of the flood could have been minimized. During the Musharraf regime, the said dam was handed over to a US company – AMZO which did nothing for 8 years and inflicted the huge loss of Rs152 billion to Pakistan economy. However, in PPP era the project was handed over to Wapda. Soon after that the Wapda arranged \$6 million from Afd, a French development agency for detailed engineering of the project. The construction of Japanese and Australian firm carried out the detailed engineering of the project and handed it over to Wapda in 2014.

Wapda Chairman General (R) Mozammil Hussain confirmed to The News that the Joint Venture Descon and China Gezhouba have won the bid and to this effect the contractor will mobilize to the site of the project with 10 weeks. "The international competitive bidding was held in single bid mode and the Joint Venture of Descon and China Gezhouba has qualified for the project. Other joint venture of FWO with Power China also participated the bid which could not win the project," chairman said.

Wapda has also moved to the site for civil works including carrying out the geo tech, seismic and installing the weather stations and constructing the access road. Apart from it, Wapda will itself

construct the colony and basis facilities that will accommodate 6000 employees. With Wapda's this initiative, the construction on the project will be kicked off during the low water flows period from December to May of the Swat River. Wapda will also make the Kuafer Dam. "This will help reduce the cost of the project as earlier the finalized bidder used to do all such works."

Hussain did not stop here rather further said in the same breath disclosing that with this initiative, dam will be completed 6 months earlier in April-May 2023. "We are in the process to negotiate the winning bidder for further cut in the bid and hopefully Pakistan will be able to make this vital project on a very competitive price," the chairman said, adding that "You can say that Wapda has achieved the comfort level for initiating the construction of the project after the successful bid of the project."

On the issue of financing of the project, he said that 37 percent will be given by the federal government through PSDP and 63 percent will be arranged through Wapda equity and commercial loans. The government in every year will provide Rs17 billion for 6 years' time for Mohmand Dam and Rs30 billion in every year for DiamerBhasha Dam and Wapda will also generate the amount of Diamer-Basha dam. "So funding is no more issue for Mohmand Dam."

When asked for the acquisition of the land, he said that Wapda has referred Rs864 million to KPK after the go-head of the KPK government, tribal leaders, the MNAs of the said constituencies wherein the dam side is proposed. He said over 8000 acres of land are required for the project and the process of purchasing the land is underway.

The consultancy firm will be finalized soon as its bidding has also taken place and it is in the process of evaluation. This will ensure the 60 percent recruitment of local engineers and 40 percent from abroad.

However, the top officials in the Ministry of Water and Power said that the project is being initiated in haste as its financial closure is yet to be achieved. Its land has not yet been acquired and consultancy firm is yet to be finalized. "Moreover the revised PC-1 of the project based on the bid of the project is yet to be approved and in the absence of the said pre-requisites the haste groundbreaking of the project is beyond our comprehensions."

The News, 02-01-19

China to lend Pakistan \$2b

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to lend at least \$2 billion to Pakistan for helping it boost its dwindling foreign exchange and tanking currency, Financial Times reported.

“China’s promise to Pakistan is an indication of their commitment to help us avoid a crisis. If the rupee falls sharply and we need to prevent its slide, we can turn to China,” a senior government official in Islamabad was quoted as saying by FT.

According to Jang reporter, the loan will be commercial and Pakistan will have to pay 8 percent interest on it. China has decided in principle that an economic package will be given to Pakistan. Discussions are going on in this regard.

In November, Geo News quoted sources as saying that Pakistan is expected to receive a \$6 billion economic package from China during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit in November. A loan of \$1.5 billion and a grant of \$1.5 billion are expected to be offered, along with an additional package of \$3 billion for CPEC.

Pakistan is also in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a financial bailout package

The News, 02-01-19

Stocks up 2.5pc as China vows to loan \$2bln to troubled Pakistan

Equities staged grand recovery on first day of the New Year after mutual funds and some of the leading investors placed fresh deals on undervalued stocks over expectations from China and other brotherly countries that showed interest in lending support to boost the reeling economy, dealers said.

Salman Ahmad, director equity sales at Aba Ali Habib, said the market desperately wanted some positive development to change gear.

“Investors heard that China has announced to lend \$2 billion for Pakistan to shore up foreign exchange reserves and support falling rupee. Another factor which cemented the sentiment was the government move to cool down the political temperature which gave ease to investors,” Salman added.

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 shares index gained 2.51 percent or 929.10 points to close at 37,995.77 points level. KSE-30 shares index followed suit with a high of 3.37 percent or 579.33 points to end at 17,753.05 points level.

Of 339 active scrips, 233 moved up, 88 retreated, and 18 remained unchanged. The ready market volumes stood at 96.662 million shares, as compared with the turnover of 226.060 billion shares in the previous session.

Analyst Ahsan Mehanti from Arif Habib Corporations said, “Stocks showed sharp recovery amid speculations after China’s financial commitment to lend \$2 billion to support falling rupee.”

Oversold oil, banking, and fertilizer scraps outperformed. Investor concerns for political uncertainty invited mid-session pressure.

UAE announcement to deposit \$3 billion in SBP, reduction in local POL prices and government agreement with banks over issue of Rs200 billion sukuk to resolve circular debt crisis played a catalytic role in the bullish close, Mehanti added.

The capital market stayed in green since the start of the session on the first day of 2019, as buying spread to all counters because of hefty declines witnessed in the shares during the last year.

Though the overall index declined by merely 8.4 percent, the scraps belonging to all the sectors had plunged between 30 and 40 percent, which was evident from the market capitalization declining by \$26 billion in 2018.

The market was bound to move up after receiving encouraging news that countries like China, Saudi Arabia, and UAE wanted to invest \$30 billion in coming three years.

Moreover, sentiment further strengthened on report of foreign newspaper that Pakistan would get financial assistance from China amounting to \$2 billion to boost foreign exchange reserves and support falling rupee.

The highest gainers were Nestle Pakistan, up Rs400.00 to close at Rs9,400.00/share, and Pakistan Tobacco, up Rs99.00 to finish at Rs2,999.00/share.

Companies that booked highest losses were Colgate Palmolive, down Rs80.01 to close at Rs2,210.00/share, and Abbott Laboratories down Rs16.97 to close at Rs614.08/share.

Pakistan Elektron recorded the highest volumes with a turnover of 11.992 billion shares. The scrip gained Rs1.16 to close at Rs26.06/share.

The lowest volumes were witnessed in Millat Tractors Limited, recording a turnover of Rs47,450 shares, and losing Rs11.51 to end at Rs820.48/share.

The News, 03-01-19

China to provide all-round support to Pakistan

BEIJING: China has reassured that it will continue to provide all-round support to Pakistan for its socio-economic development.

Commenting on the Wednesday media's reports regarding \$ 2 billion aid to Pakistan, the spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry Lu Kang said, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners.

“China has been and will continue to provide support and assistance to Pakistan's economic and social development through assistance, trade, investment and all-round pragmatic cooperation.

The two sides have actually maintained close communication on relevant cooperation, “he added.

Meanwhile, Chinese media reported that China recently started construction of an export version of one of its advanced warships and will deliver it to Pakistan as part of a major arms deal, according to China State Shipbuilding Corp, a large State-owned defense contractor.

It said the ship is a version of the Chinese Navy's most advanced guided missile frigate, without specifying its type.

In late December it said the ship is under construction at its Hudong-Zhonghua shipyard in Shanghai, noting it will be equipped with modern detection and weapon systems and will be capable of anti-ship, anti-submarine and air-defense operations.

According to the Pakistani Navy, the ship's class is Type 054AP, which means it is based on the Type 054A of the People's Liberation Army Navy. It previously said four such ships had been ordered.

Once constructed, the warship will be one of the largest and technologically advanced platforms of Pakistan's Navy and strengthen the country's capability to respond to future challenges, maintain peace and stability and the balance of power in the Indian Ocean region.

It will also support the Pakistani Navy's initiative of securing sea lanes for international shipping by patrolling distant waters, it said in a statement on its twitter account.

Type 054A is the best frigate in service with the PLA Navy. Military sources said the ship has a fully loaded displacement of about 4,000 metric tons and is equipped with advanced radars and missiles. About 30 Type 054As are in service with the PLA Navy, observers said.

The News, 04-01-19

Pak-China ties not to be affected by negative reports

BEIJING: Officials from Pakistan and China have categorically stated that the misleading media's reports about the debt could never affect the two countries' growing socio-economic partnership under the economic corridor project.

Hoping that the media will show positivity and due care in their reporting, the officials from both sides in their separate statements issued in Islamabad and Beijing reiterated that the CPEC is meant to ensure better future of their people. It could never be a burden on their economy, as was being portrayed by some media's circles. Chinese newspaper, the Global Times quoting the officials said Pakistan; China relations will never be affected by an imaginary debt trap. It was reported by a section of the press that Pakistan owes \$40 billion to China to repay debt and dividends on the latter's investments made under the CPEC, raising concerns about a "debt trap," whereas the actual figure is only \$6.017 billion. The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad stated last week that China provided concessional loans of \$5.874 billion for major Pakistani transportation projects. The Pakistani government will repay only \$6.017 billion, including interest, to China. This was also confirmed by the Pakistan's Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and Development. The officials, while clarifying the facts noted recent media reports questioning the viability of CPEC, claiming that it would create an unbearable debt burden for Pakistan. Such media reports are often one-sided, distort facts, and are based on irresponsible statements by individuals who either have no understanding of CPEC or are driven by ulterior motives. They pointed out that the CPEC projects are financed through a composite financing package comprising long-term government-to-government concessional and preferential loans, as well as grants from the Government of China. Repayments on these loans would not commence in the immediate future. It is because of the favorable financing arrangements that Pakistan opted for Chinese investment under CPEC. China stepped forward to support Pakistan's development at a time when foreign investment had dried up, and economic activity was being crippled by energy shortages and infrastructure gaps. According to the officials, the CPEC has provided enormous opportunities for Pakistan to grow economically.

The News, 04-01-19

Chinese Chang'e-4 lander on 'dark side of the Moon'



▶ World's 1st lander on the far side of the Moon

▶ 2nd Chinese probe on the Moon, after the 2013 Yutu rover

Experiments

- ▶ 6 from China, 4 from abroad
- ▶ Low-frequency radio astronomical tests
- ▶ Mineral and radiation tests



Schematic diagram

© AFP

Source: State media

Challenges of the far side

- ▶ It never faces Earth
- ▶ Direct communication impossible, so China has placed a satellite in the Moon's orbit to relay data
- ▶ Very rugged and mountainous

A Chinese lunar rover landed on the far side of the moon on Thursday, in a global first that boosts Beijing's ambitions to become a space superpower. The Chang'e-4 probe touched down and sent a photo of the so-called "dark side" of the moon to the Queqiao satellite, which will relay communications to controllers on Earth, China's national space agency said on its website. Beijing is pouring billions into its space programme with hopes of having a crewed space station by 2022, and of eventually sending humans to the moon. The Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission, named after the moon goddess in Chinese mythology, launched in December. Unlike the near side of the moon that offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged. The moon is "tidally locked" to Earth in its rotation so the same side is always facing Earth. No lander or rover has ever previously touched the surface on the "dark side". — AFP

The News, 06-01-19

Xi orders China armed forces to enhance combat readiness

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping on Friday ordered the Chinese armed forces to enhance their combat readiness from a new starting point and open new ground for developing a strong military.

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the instruction at a CMC meeting held here.

Hailing the landmark, pioneering and historic military achievements since the 18th CPC National Congress, Xi said the armed forces had resolutely safeguarded national sovereignty, security and development interests and withstood complex situations and severe struggles.

"The world is facing a period of major changes never seen in a century, and China is still in an important period of strategic opportunity for development," he said, warning that various risks and challenges were on the rise.

The entire armed forces should have a correct understanding of China's security and development trends, enhance their awareness of danger, crisis and war, and make solid efforts on combat preparations in order to accomplish the tasks assigned by the party and the people, Xi said.

Regarding combat capability as the only and fundamental criterion, Xi ordered all work, forces and resources to focus on military preparedness and ensure a marked progress in this regard.

He emphasized the armed forces' ability to respond quickly and effectively to contingencies, asking them to upgrade commanding capability of joint operations, foster new combat forces, and improve military training under combat conditions.

The party and government departments and agencies at the central and local levels are required to support the defense and military development.

XuQiliang, a CMC Vice Chairman, presided over the meeting, and Zhang Youxia, the other CMC Vice Chairman, announced the decision to give awards to 10 model units and 20 model individuals. They received awards from leaders, including Xi.

Xi also signed a mobilization order for the training of armed forces, the CMC's first order in 2019.

The News, 06-01-19

‘China could put reforms on hold to boost economy’

Beijing: President Xi Jinping hailed China's "reconstructive reforms" in a speech, but the sorely needed changes could be put on ice in favor of averting a potentially devastating economic downturn. The way ahead is further complicated by a volatile trade dispute with the United States that -- if unresolved -- will add to the burden of Beijing's policymakers as they seek to fuel an economy that is running out of steam.

Beijing has for years come under pressure to introduce much-needed reforms to the country's infrastructure and lumbering state-owned enterprises as part of a drive to tackle a burdensome debt mountain and transform its growth engine from investment and exports to domestic consumption.

But Gene Fang from ratings agency Moody's told AFP: "When trade-offs between reforms and growth arise, we expect that the priority will more often be given to supporting growth."

Ten years ago China unleashed the full power of its financial arsenal by introducing massive stimulus measures, which helped Beijing avert the worst of the financial crisis engulfing the rest of the world. However, that helped sow the seeds of today's economic troubles, with debt at alarming levels and necessary economic reforms not addressed as leaders focused on maintaining stable growth and employment.

Now, with the global economy stuttering, a slowdown in key export markets is denting a crucial source of income while the country is also struggling with a plethora of structural problems such as an ageing -- and now shrinking -- population, a dwindling pool of rural workers, overcapacity and air pollution.

And then there is the trade war with the United States, which has magnified the problems while sending shudders through global markets.

"The Chinese economy is struggling, the debt mess is unresolved and the impact from the US tariffs has barely begun," said Bill Bishop, an expert on China, who added the Communist Party will do "everything it can to juice the economy" with "multiple forms of stimuli".

"Whether or not significant economic reforms will now also be forthcoming, and not just more promises, is the trillion-dollar question," he said.

Xi and US President Donald Trump may have agreed a temporary truce in their multi-billion-dollar stand-off -- and Beijing Friday announced face-to-face talks will begin next week -- but there is little optimism the row will be brought to an end any time soon.

In the absence of a breakthrough in current negotiations, "the US-China trade conflict will weigh on growth in China and on the wider Asia-Pacific region, via a slowdown in Chinese demand", is according to analysts Oxford Economics.

The impact of the trade row came in to full view this week when Apple announced a shock cut in its revenue forecast for the December quarter blaming the steeper-than-expected "economic deceleration" in China and emerging markets and citing the China-US frictions.

While analysts still believe China -- which last month celebrated 40 years since opening up to the world -- should still achieve its growth target of 6.5 percent for 2018 that would be the weakest rate in almost three decades. That after an average growth rate of 9.7 percent a year between 1978 and 2015.

The News, 06-01-19

‘Democratic allies should rally to protect Taiwan from China’

TAIPEI: Taiwan’s president called on allies to help defend its sovereignty on Saturday, accusing China of waging a "deliberate campaign" to undermine the island’s democracy by refusing to talk to her government.

Relations between Taiwan and China have been at a low since Tsai came to power in 2016, refusing to acknowledge that the self-ruled island is part of "one China".

Beijing unilaterally cut off communication with her administration and stepped up military drills around the island as well as poaching several of its dwindling diplomatic allies.

Tsai’s comments capped a week of escalating rhetoric between the two neighbors, sparked by a landmark speech from Chinese president Xi Jinping on Wednesday.

Xi described Taiwan’s unification with the mainland as "inevitable" and reiterated Beijing’s willingness to use force if necessary, especially if Taiwan ever declares formal independence.

He also said Beijing was willing to talk to political parties and groups in Taiwan that recognized their "one China" principle -- a reference to the main opposition parties.

Tsai hit out at Beijing’s willingness to bypass her elected government as "a continuation of its deliberate campaign to undermine and subvert our democratic process and create division in our society".

"At a time when we are exhausting efforts to avoid provocation and miscommunication, China’s actions are unhelpful and contrary to democratic practices," she said in a briefing with foreign media on Saturday.

China still sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides being ruled separately since they split in 1949 after a civil war.

The schism is one of profound geopolitical importance.

The United States diplomatically recognizes China over Taiwan but it remains Taipei's staunchest political and military ally.

Tsai said China's increasingly muscular rhetoric towards Taiwan was a test of whether democratic allies would protect each other.

"If the international community fails to speak up for and assist Taiwan under the circumstances we face today, I have to ask which country will be next?" she asked.

Xi has been touting the "one country, two systems" model for Taiwan.

A version was implemented in Hong Kong after Britain handed the city back to China in 1997 as a way to guarantee the kind of liberties and government unseen on the authoritarian mainland.

But sliding freedoms in Hong Kong in recent years have done little to endear the Taiwanese people to the idea of a similar deal for them from Beijing.

Tsai said it would be impossible for her government or any Taiwanese politician to accept Xi's recent remarks "without betraying the trust and will of the people of Taiwan".

Taiwanese frustration has also been compounded recently by allegations from the government that Beijing is not doing enough to inform its neighbor about an outbreak of African swine fever on the mainland.

Taiwan's livestock exports have in the past been hammered by disease outbreaks from the mainland.

The discovery this week of infected pig carcasses on a Taiwanese island close to China's shoreline -- which authorities believed floated over from the mainland -- has only added to a sense of urgency and anger in Taipei.

"I urge the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to intervene and call on countries in the region to engage in outbreak prevention," Tsai said.

The News, 07-01-19

In space, the US sees a rival in China

WASHINGTON: During the Cold War, US eyes were riveted on the Soviet Union's rockets and satellites. But in recent years, it has been China's space programs that have most worried US strategists.

China, whose space effort is run by the People's Liberation Army, today launches more rockets into space than any other country, 39 last year, compared to 31 by the United States, 20 by Russia and eight by Europe. On Thursday it landed a space rover on the dark side of the Moon, a first by any country, and plans to build an orbiting space station in the coming decade. In the decade after that, it hopes to put a Chinese "taikonaut" on the Moon to make the first moonwalk since 1972. China now spends more on its civil and military space programs than do Russia and Japan. Although opaque, its 2017 budget was estimated at \$8.4 billion by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. That's far less than the \$48 billion the United States spends on its military and civilian space programs, says analyst Phil Smith of consulting firm Bryce Space and Technology. But it is more than double Russia's civilian space budget, which has been slashed to \$3 billion. Overcoming a lag of several decades, China's leaders have very methodically replicated the stages of space development achieved by other great nations: a first satellite in 1970, its first manned space mission in 2003, the first docking of a manned spacecraft to an orbiting module in 2012, and activation of the BeiDou satellite navigation system, China's answer to GPS. "If they continue on this trajectory, they're going to quickly eclipse Russia in terms of their space technology capabilities," said Todd Harrison, an expert on military space programs at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. China currently poses no threat to the commercial satellite launch market, which remains dominated by companies including US-based SpaceX and Europe's Arianespace, and Russia. Nor has China's progress in space exploration eclipsed that of the US. NASA's head congratulated China on its Chang'e-4 Moon landing but a 2011 US law bars space cooperation with Beijing, although Congress could lift that restriction.

The real rivalry is in two areas: in the short term, military uses of space; and long-term, the exploitation of resources in space. The mining of minerals or water on the Moon or on asteroids, notably to produce fuel for rockets, is still a long way off, but American start-ups are already working on it. Unlike the Cold War, the new conquest of space is unfolding largely in a legal vacuum.

In the 1960s and '70s, Washington and Moscow negotiated several treaties on space, principally to guarantee scientific cooperation and to ban weapons of mass destruction in space. "The treaties are too vague to be really certain what the legal result is for something like space mining," said Frans von der Dunk, a professor of space law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Moreover, they have been overtaken by new military technologies: anti-satellite lasers, cyberattacks, electronic jamming, and land-based anti-satellite missiles -- like the one China tested in 2007. Laws of war govern conflicts on Earth, but there is no equivalent for space. And unanswered questions abound. If one satellite collides with another in space, does that constitute an "attack"? What would be a proportional response? Civilian satellites should be protected from reprisals but what about satellites with dual civilian and military uses? How does a nation respond to a cyberattack of uncertain origin? -

The News, 08-01-19

China, Pakistan back early settlement of Afghan issue

BEIJING: China and Pakistan are consistently engaged in bringing Taliban on negotiating table, seeking peace and stability in the region.

According to a report, published in the Chinese officials newspaper, the Global Times on Monday, China, Pakistan being close friend worked together for the negotiated settlement of the Afghan issue. Both are availing all possible opportunities for the early settlement of the issue, the report said quoting diplomatic sources.

China's role as a facilitator will be acceptable to the government and the Taliban because it has always seen Afghanistan as a partner country. A stable Afghanistan is also inevitable for China's security and economy. Unrest in Afghanistan is a threat to the entire region and China cannot afford such instability in its neighborhood. It ought to engage in Afghanistan for its own national and economic stability.

The added, "Instability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on the security of China's western provinces, especially Xinjiang. The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which seeks independence for Xinjiang, is believed to be running training camps in the Wakhan Corridor and entering Xinjiang through Afghanistan's Wakhan to radicalize Uyghurs Muslims or stage attacks in China.

The ETIM, which is also linked to the Taliban, is a serious threat to China's security. Currently, China is Afghanistan's biggest investor. During 2002-13, China gave \$240 million in aid to Afghanistan. In 2014, it gave \$80 million in aid and promised an additional \$240 million over the next three years. In September 2017, China extended \$90 million for development projects in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province.

The News, 08-01-19

Abraaj nears deal to offload K-Electric stake to Chinese group

DUBAI: Abraaj is close to reaching an agreement with the Pakistan government that will allow the failed emerging markets private equity firm to sell its 66 percent stake in Karachi-based K-Electric to a Chinese group, the Financial Times reported.

Two years ago, the company's sale price to Shanghai Electric Power was set at about \$1.8 billion, which would have earned Abraaj about \$450 million. Now the deal, which had been held up by regulatory approvals, is being renegotiated, probably at a lower price, according to senior people at Abraaj and people close to the transaction.

The proposed sale is still likely to prove the biggest source of recovery funds for Dubai-based Abraaj's creditors and will also provide some money to investors, the people added.

"There is more momentum than ever before," one Abraaj executive said. Abraaj was once the Middle East's largest buyout fund with close to \$14 billion of assets under management. It was sent into a death spiral last year after investors accused the indebted firm of misusing funds.

The company and its Pakistani-born founder, Arif Naqvi, have denied any wrongdoing. Liquidators have since been negotiating to sell assets to recover \$1.1 billion in debts.

In recent months, Naqvi has been using his connections with the new Pakistan government of Prime Minister Imran Khan to salvage the transaction, even though it comes too late to save Abraaj itself.

Naqvi has described as erroneous claims that he was one of the biggest funders of Khan's unsuccessful 2013 election campaign.

"The bureaucracy under the previous administration was the biggest obstacle to closing the deal," says one person with direct knowledge of the matter. "But this government is stronger."

At the end of December, Shanghai Electric informed the Pakistan Stock Exchange that it intended to make a revised offer for a majority of the utility, which is a critical supplier of electricity to Karachi, a city with a population of nearly 15 million and rising.

That announcement followed a meeting between Shanghai Electric, Khan and Naqvi in Islamabad.

The reduced valuation is in part due to a change in the tariffs that utilities are allowed to charge introduced before the original sale was agreed. In recent months, Chinese engineers have started work at K-Electric amid fears there could be more power cuts when demand overwhelms supply, especially in the hot months.

“They are terrified if there is a lack of improvement in the technical infrastructure,” the person adds. The sale is part of an ever-growing number of transactions between Chinese interests and Pakistani companies. Chinese infrastructure companies are building ports, power plants, roads and railways as an initiative, which is expected to see about \$65 billion in spending over five years.

—An arrangement with Financial Times.

The News, 09-01-19

Chinese delegation visits museum, historic sites



PESHAWAR: A group of Chinese tourists visits the Peshawar Museum. —The News photo

PESHAWAR: A 20-member delegation from China on Tuesday visited the Peshawar Museum and other historic places in the provincial capital.

They evinced a keen interest in the findings and discoveries of Buddhism and Buddhist heritage.

General Manager Tourist Information Centers (TICs) Muhammad Ali Syed welcomed the Chinese delegation and garlanded the visiting guests. Curator Muhammad Asif briefed the visiting dignitaries on the archaeological sites in Peshawar, Buddhism, a gallery of Buddhist statues, antiques and artifacts. They said there were over 6,000 archaeological and heritage sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where research was being carried out to revive these sites properly. “The followers of Buddhism would find a treasure trove of the Buddhist statues and heritage after thorough research and revival of these sites,” Muhammad Asif told the delegation.

He said the visit of foreign dignitaries was meant to highlight the importance of heritage and archaeological sites related to Buddhism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides promoting religious tourism in the province. He added that the government had taken a number of steps for attracting foreign tourists, scholars and researchers to the province. The official said a comprehensive policy had been evolved for preserving and protecting the archaeological sites and places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that the initiatives were being taken to carry out the excavation on archaeological sites along modern techniques and methods.

The official mentioned the latest discoveries and the rich Gandhara heritage in various parts of the province.

The delegation also visited historic Masjid Mahabat Khan, QissaKhwani Bazaar, Sarafa Bazaar (AndarShehr), GhantaGhar, ChowkYadgar and other sites in the city.

The foreign visitors said that Peshawar was a historic and safe city. They said the people of Peshawar and elsewhere in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were hospitable and friendly.

The News, 11-01-19

CPEC plays key role in generating jobs for Pakistanis

BEIJING: Approximately 1.2 million jobs could be created indirectly in Pakistan because of agreed projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), experts said here on Thursday.

The CPEC has been blamed for causing a debt trap and economic distress in Pakistan, but facts have proved that the recent surge in Chinese investment is yielding employment benefits.

This is a hard-won achievement, but 1.2 million jobs aren't enough. While the first phase of the CPEC concentrated on infrastructure projects, the second part should focus on employment creation by setting up special economic zones (SEZs) and supporting economic integration.

According to the report, the CPEC needs to accelerate the shift of its focus to provide more jobs for Pakistani people. Although there has been much controversy about the CPEC over issues such as an uneven distribution of interests among Pakistani people, the project can only move forward. But it won't be plain sailing due to challenges such as Pakistan's foreign exchange crisis and security problems, and people should be prepared for potential setbacks. However, as long as the CPEC creates a lot of jobs, it will win the favor of Pakistani people.

The construction of transportation infrastructure under the CPEC framework has created many jobs for local people. This is obviously good news for the country's poverty alleviation campaign. However, infrastructure work provides mainly limited-term employment.

It takes time to complete infrastructure construction, but the country will see a substantial decrease in job creation in the future if it relies heavily on infrastructure construction to generate employment. With about 200 million people, Pakistan needs long-term employment opportunities. -

The News, 12-01-19

Trade wars

The past three days US and China negotiators have met in Beijing to try one last time before a true trade war erupts between them in March 2019. Higher level trade negotiators will follow up in Washington in coming weeks.

What follows is the first of a 2-part history and analysis of Trump trade strategy, which addresses events from the initiation of Trump's trade offensives in March 2018 to December 2018, with predictions for 2019. In part 1, US trade policy under Trump in 2018 is compared with similar US trade offensives under Nixon in the 1970s, targeting Europe, and Reagan in the 1980s targeting Japan. The historical parallels situate US trade policy as an important, often over-looked element in the evolution of US Neoliberalism.

“Trade War! Trade War! When Trump pre-announced on March 2 his plan to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, the mainstream press immediately began hyping the line that trade war was looming on the horizon. Panicking, investors ran like lemmings over the stock market cliff after the steel tariff announcement; US allies huffed and puffed, promising tit-for-tat tariff responses on US agricultural goods or commercial aircraft; Trump's traditional elite advisors, like Gary Cohn, former CEO of Goldman Sachs investment bank and head of Trump's economic council, resigned later that week – no doubt in part due to frustration and disagreement over Trump's unilaterally announced tariff.

At week's end, on March 8, 2018, Trump proposed to implement steel and aluminum tariffs universally, across the board, affecting all importers to the US.: 25% tariffs on steel imports and

10% on Aluminum. The big 5 US steel importers are Canada, Mexico, South Korea, Brazil, and Germany—collectively responsible for \$15 billion a year in steel imports. Canada, Russia and the United Arab Emirates are the major aluminum importers. (Worth noting, for 2017 steel imports China is well down the pack, tenth or eleventh on the list, contributing only 2.2% of US steel, importing in the millions of dollars annually – not billion – and mostly semi-finished steel goods used by US manufacturers for fabricating final goods produced in the US.) When announced on March 8, Trump argued there would be no countries exempted from the 25% tariffs on steel and 10% on aluminum. That quickly changed.

By mid-March, Canada and Mexico were temporarily exempted from the tariffs, even though they were among the top four largest steel importers to the US, with Canada largest and Mexico fourth largest. Thereafter, Brazil (second largest steel importer), Germany, and others steel importers were exempted. And Canada, by far the largest aluminum importer to the US, accounting for 43% of US aluminum imports, was exempted as well.

South Korea, the third largest steel importer last year, was exempted from steel tariffs permanently, as it quickly renegotiated its 2012 free trade deal with the US. Moreover, no other significant tariffs were imposed on South Korea as part of the bilateral treaty revisions. What the US got in the quickly renegotiated US-South Korea free trade deal, was more access for US auto makers into Korea's auto markets. And quotas on Korean truck imports into the US.

Korean auto companies, Kia and Hyundai, had already made significant inroads to the US auto market. US auto makers have become dependent on US truck sales to stay afloat; they didn't want Korean to challenge them in the truck market as well. Except for these auto agreements, there were no major tariffs or other obstructions to South Korea imports to the US. Not surprising, the South Koreans were ecstatic they got off so easily in the negotiations. Clearly, the US-South Korea deal had nothing to do with Steel or Aluminum. If anything, it was a token adjustment of US-Korea auto trade and little more.

So if the Korean deal was a 'big nothing' trade renegotiation, and if virtually all the US major steel and aluminum importers have been exempted worldwide, what's Trump's new trade policy aggression all about? US steel and aluminum imports combined make up only \$47 billion – a fraction of total US imports of \$2.36 trillion in 2017.

Was the steel-aluminum tariffs announcement just another example of Trump bombast, launched via tweets from the second story of the White House at 3am, to be followed by a quick retreat? Was the South Korean agreement a template and a big 'softball' for later negotiations with US trade allies – Mexico, Canada, Europe? Was it Trump shooting off his mouth and then retreating following pressure from his advisors and US business interests? Was the tariff announcement a 'stalking horse' for something bigger? Perhaps the tariffs were a cover for domestic political objectives – aimed either at agitating and mobilizing Trump's political base in 'red state' America in preparation for midterm US elections in November 2018 or even a Trump decision to

fire special investigator counsel Mueller in coming weeks? Playing the ‘economic nationalist’ card and mobilizing his base, by initiating new tariffs and talking of a ‘trade war’, would serve both Trump domestic political objectives.

For polls show Trump’s steel-aluminum tariffs announcement played well in the Midwest, the great plains states and the South; and especially in those steel and mining towns of Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Minnesota – i.e. those key swing states that gave him the narrow margin of victory in the 2016 elections! Even if he quickly shelved the tariffs, the media hype sent the message Trump wanted to his base: he was doing something about the decades-long loss of steel and mining jobs in those regions since the 1980s. In short, how much of the steel-aluminum tariffs were for domestic political consumption and how much not?

That question applies as well to the subsequent trade actions by the Trump administration. By the end of March, given all the exemptions, it became clear the real target of Trump’s trade offensive was China and not the rest of US allies.

A closer look at Trump administration statements since March 2018 reveals that Trump’s anti-China trade offensive has had less to do with China general imports to the US and more about US next generation technology transfer by US corporations to China. Next gen technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G wireless networks, and similar cyber-security and militarily strategic tech now in development.

As Trump’s new chair of his Economic Council, Larry Kudlow, put it in March, “There’s no trade war. All we’re trying to do is protect US technology”. Kudlow added a month later, in early April, “Sometimes you have to use tariffs to bring countries to their senses”. Tariffs are the tactic, not the strategic policy objective. And if trade deficits are not the primary issue, and tariffs are only the tactic, then what is the strategic objective? Its technology transfer and domestic politics. Perhaps the US defense sector, in particular the NSA and Trump’s military generals-heavy administration, are playing a greater role in the US-China trade war in the background than is thus far noted by the media. And not enough attention is being given to the role of domestic political events as well.

Put another way, at the level of appearance, the US trade deficit and China imports to the US may be the target for purposes of public opinion. But behind the appearance, it’s more likely that US domestic politics plus US long term military planning are the two more important drivers behind Trump’s emerging trade war. All of Trump’s tariffs and subsequent trade measures are being invoked based on an obscure ‘national security’ clause in US trade legislation. And China is increasingly the target, as tariffs and other measures are suspended and reduced for US trading partners – with the exception of China – as the US pursues a soft trade ‘offensive’ against all its other trading partners.

This article has been excerpted from: ‘Trump’s Deja Vu China Trade War’.

The News, 12-01-19

China's moon rover prepares for a rough ride on the dark side

BEIJING: China on Friday hailed its historic mission to the far side of the moon as a "complete success" so far but said new challenges await its rover as it explores rugged terrain.

The Chang'e-4 probe, named after a moon goddess, made the world's first soft landing on the moon's "dark side" on January 3, a major step in China's ambitions to become a space superpower. A rover dubbed Yutu-2, or Jade Rabbit, the name of the moon goddess's pet -- successfully separated from the lander and drove onto the moon's surface about eight hours after landing. The mission sent the first panoramic image of its landing site Friday, showing the grey moonscape it is exploring and the track marks left by the rover in the lunar soil.

"From the panorama, we can see the probe is surrounded by lots of small craters," said Li Chunlai, commander-in-chief of the ground application system for the Chang'e-4 mission, according to the official Xinhua news agency. Chang'e-4 landed in the Von Karman Crater within the South Pole-Aitken Basin.

The craters close to the rover, including one that was 20 meters wide with a depth of about four meters (13 feet), will pose great challenges when planning its route, Li said. The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said the initial stage of the mission was a "complete success" after the lander and the rover sent back images via the Queqiao relay satellite that beams data back to Earth.

The News, 12-01-19

Karzai lauds China, Pakistan for Afghan peace efforts

BEIJING: Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai said China and Pakistan have been making sincere efforts over the years for seeking a negotiated settlement of the Afghan issue.

Karzai who is currently in China echoed President Xi Jinping's opinion, saying China has been a steadfast friend and a very good neighbor to the Central Asian nation. "China has contributed to Afghanistan's well-being and stability, giving us economic assistance," he said. "We value very highly the decades of Afghan-China relationship, and especially China's contributions in Afghanistan in the past 18 years, which have been very significant. In their neighbor, they highly value the role of China and Pakistan in the peace process.

In an interview with the Chinese media, Karzai added that Afghanistan sees China as having an extremely important role in peace and reconciliation in the country as China has all three elements required for this role.

"China is a neighbor. China is a friend of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. China is a major world power," he said, adding that China has the capacity, means, and connections to contribute to Afghan peace and stability.

Karzai said he believed the trilateral dialogue mechanism between China, Afghanistan and Pakistan will play an important role in easing the situation in Afghanistan, improving relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and promoting regional peace by controlling terrorism and extremism. The Afghan side welcomed the trilateral mechanism and appreciated the Chinese government's efforts to make it work.

"Since there is now a new effort by the United States to bring peace to Afghanistan, we hope that the US will seek China's assistance in this and work together with China, our other big neighbors, and major power Russia," he said. "So, the three joining hands will surely make contributions to Afghan peace and stability."

Karzai also spoke highly of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Xi. Afghanistan was one of the earliest countries to support the initiative. Chinese businesses have been involved in the mining and the oil and gas sectors in Afghanistan. In 2008, a consortium launched by China Metallurgical Group and Jiangxi Copper won the contract to recover resources from the Mes Aynak copper mine in Afghanistan, which Afghan authorities said contains the world's second-largest copper deposit. Afghanistan welcomes China's investment in Afghanistan, and the country is seeking more Chinese involvement in the Afghan economy, he said. Karzai also welcomed Xi's proposal to build a community with a shared future for mankind, saying that it is a "tremendously good vision".

The News, 12-01-19

China declares region bordering Pakistan an open place

ISLAMABAD: Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang has announced that its far western region's Xinjiang is an open place.

The spokesman this said in a briefing in Beijing. The region is bordering with Pakistan. He cautioned those who would visit to "abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and refrain from interfering in others' internal affairs or undermining others' sovereignty." They should adopt an objective and unbiased attitude and avoid buying one-sided stories or making preconceptions. "We would like to remain in contact with the relevant UN agencies and meet each other halfway," he said. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Hua Chunying also hit back against fifteen ambassadors to China who expressed concerns over Xinjiang in a November letter, calling their actions "rude and unacceptable." A small group of foreign journalists were taken to Xinjiang as part of China's plan to showcase the far western region's social and

economic progresses amid increasing international criticism of a systematic crackdown against Muslim minority Uyghurs.

According to reports China recently took diplomats from a dozen countries, including Pakistan, with large Muslim populations to Xinjiang where members of the Uyghur community have been interned in camps.

The News, 13-01-19

China steps up fight against corruption

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping announced that China will make greater efforts to root out corruption from the society and to ensure good governance at all levels.

He made the announcement at the third plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection in Beijing.

The sweeping victory that has been secured in the anti-graft campaign must be consolidated by strengthening deterrence so that officials "don't dare to, are unable to and have no desire to" commit acts of corruption, Xi said.

To this end, anti-corruption efforts in financial fields should be stepped up, particularly in key projects, areas and positions that concern the overall development and security of the country, he said.

Xi summed up the experiences drawn from 40 years of reform and opening-up in Party building, saying the authority and central and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee as well as a people-centered approach must be upheld.

Decisions and plans made by the CPC Central Committee should be implemented in full by each and every Party organization, he said, adding that people's interests must be safeguarded.

Stating this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and is a crucial year for securing a victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, Xi added that the country must continue to advance full and strict Party self-governance and the anti-graft drive.

He call for improving intra-Party political culture and firmly fighting against formality and bureaucratic.

Xi urged leading officials of the CPC Central Committee to scrutinize them and resolutely hold back attempts of their family, relatives and others with close connections to them to seek benefits by misusing their powers.

Reform of the national supervision system must be strengthened, and Party committees at various levels should hold major responsibility in this regard, he added.

At the 19th CPC National Congress, Xi vowed to fight graft, saying, "No place has been out of bounds, no ground left unturned and no tolerance shown in the fight against corruption."

The News, 13-01-19

Chinese Embassy donates four scanners to Customs

Islamabad: Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has donated four scanners to the Custom Wing of Federal Board of Revenue here on Friday.

According to the statement issued by the FBR, the scanners were handed over by Mr. Chen Wei, Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad to DrJawwadUwais Agha, Member Customs (Operations), Federal Board of Revenue in the presence of other senior officers of Pakistan Customs. The donated scanners, having value of One million RMB, shall be instrumental in supporting the Customs authorities at the airports to effectively utilize non-intrusive technology in preventing smuggling of contrabands especially currency. The gift of 4 X-Ray scanners will reaffirm the immutable bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the people of Pakistan and China, to strengthen the unbreakable and timeless China-Pakistan friendship, and to promote Customs clearance facilitation in Pakistan.

The News, 14-01-19

CM wants work on hydal power generation projects expedited

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has directed for the accelerated execution of hydel power generation projects in the province.

He was presiding over a meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, said an office handout.

Advisor to chief minister on Energy Himayatullah Khan, Head of the Strategic Support Unit SahibzadaSaeed, Secretary Energy & Power, commissioner Peshawar and other relevant officers were there.

The chief minister said the government would set up a separate model institution for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor-related projects in the province.

He said the Chashma Lift Irrigation Scheme would boost agriculture productivity and self-sufficiency in food requirement and promote agro-economy.

Mahmood Khan directed to get approval from EPA for 36 megawatt Dral, 17 Mega Watt Ranolia, 2.6 Mega Watt Machia.

He asked the departments to own projects and ensure timely completion of these projects. The chief minister said the importance of CPEC should not be overshadowed by other consideration, therefore, CPEC would be the focus of our all times attention.

He directed to continue working on CPEC related projects round the clock as we have to work harder for the growth in all sectors in the province.

Mahmood Khan directed for the early execution and timely completion of hydropower generation projects to strengthen the economic base of the province.

He gave guidelines for the use of electricity to be generated through hydel power projects in the province for the industrialization within the province on cheap prices that will attract mass scale investment and in the process; this province would record mass scale investment, industrialization, jobs creation and overall prosperity.

The chief minister assured to launch own transmission company. The Gadoon Industrial Estate would get 28 megawatt of electricity produced through Pehur hydropower projects of the province that would make the industries in the Gadoon industrial estate viable.

He assured to take up NTDC and CCPA related issues with the federal government. He directed for a comprehensive research-oriented plan for the hydel power generation including Chitral where 3000 megawatt of electricity could be generated from Chitral alone.

The chief minister also directed for the rapid execution and completion of government to government projects that included FWO, Korean projects, Syno-Hydro and KHNP project.

Widow of Pashto poet appeals to PAL: The widow of noted Pashto poet Azam Khan aka Azam Da Kurwai,

Has asked the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), Islamabad not to stop her quarterly stipend, which she feared may be discontinued because she could not fill in a form sent by the authorities concerned.

ZarPariBibi, 66, told The News that she had received a quarterly stipend on behalf of her husband.

She said she couldn't fill out a form sent to her by PAL, Islamabad, asking for details of her properties and manuscripts of her late husband.

According to her, the form warned that if she did not fill it, her stipend would be stopped from next quarter.

Noted Pashto poet Azam Khan had contributed to Pashto literary magazines and Pashto newspapers including Olas, Jamhoor-i-Islam, Laar, Baang-i-Haram and Shahbaz.

He also wrote features for Radio Pakistan, Peshawar on various social issues. He was contemporary of Hamza Baba, Dost Mohammad Khan Kamil, Qalandar Momand, and Ajmal Khattak.

“My husband Azam Khan was a known Pashto poet and writer and one of his Pashto poetry collections titled ‘Da Ghalbail Zrrah Fariyad’ way back in 1963, and another ‘Da Watan Meena’ was ready for publication but couldn’t be published owing to his poverty and illness. On December 10, 2018, I received two forms from PAL, each asking for details of my husband’s manuscripts and properties,” Pari recalled. She feared she would lose the quarterly stipend, with which she could only afford to buy medicines. The elderly woman appealed to the director general and PAL Islamabad chairman to take notice of her problem in the wake of her old age and sickness and also conduct verification of her husband’s publications and literary contributions on its own.

The News, 14-01-19

CPEC’s new triumph

CPEC – the signature project of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – is attaining new heights. Continuity and expansion in its base are the two elements that have paved the way for the success of this multibillion-dollar economic corridor.

The development voyage was essentially revitalized with the visit of the Chinese foreign minister in September, expanded during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to China in November, and entered a new phase as the 8th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting in Beijing was concluded in December. The recent statement of the Chinese Embassy with respect to CPEC is a manifestation of the achievements and mutual trust enjoyed by both countries.

During PM Imran Khan’s visit to China, the leadership of both countries has reaffirmed their complete consensus on CPEC’s future trajectory, the timely completion of its ongoing projects and the expansion of mega projects. Correspondingly, the 8th JCC meeting on December 20 concluded successfully, with the resolve “to make CPEC the heart and soul of mutual cooperation and take it forward to the next level” wherein cooperation can be diversified to further trade and industrial cooperation, socioeconomic development, agricultural modernization, the development of the maritime sector, people-to-people interaction and knowledge-sharing under the ambits of the vision set by our respective governments.

The incumbent government accords top priority to the socioeconomic development of Pakistan and primarily focuses on uplifting the less-developed regions of the country, which have been neglected over the decades. In accordance with the same vision, the scope of CPEC was broadened by establishing a separate joint working group (JWG) on “social and economic development”.

Its first meeting was held in Beijing on the sidelines of the JCC meeting that prepared an action plan underlining cooperation in agriculture, education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, water-supply management and vocational training. The JWG has identified pilot projects to be implemented with the Chinese grant in less-developed areas of Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan and southern Punjab, the northern part of Sindh, the southern parts Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Details that have been revealed so far paint an encouraging picture that highlights agricultural cooperation in areas of biotechnology; research in oil crops, rice, and wheat; and disease-control technologies. In the field of education, it focuses on providing scholarships to Pakistani students and building schools. Moreover, the JWG envisages the construction of vocational institutes in Gwadar and other parts of Pakistan to provide state-of-the-art skills and job opportunities to the youth.

The health-sector initiative involves building Gwadar Hospital and telemedicine support to hospitals in Pakistan by means of remote diagnosis and treatment. In addition, China will collaborate to install tubewells and solar-powered water filtration plants to provide safe and stable water for locals. More importantly, the group aims to learn and emulate China’s rich experiences in poverty alleviation by promoting pilot projects at the village level.

The socioeconomic development planned under this JWG will be beneficial on many fronts. We should be clear about the fact that CPEC is not a substitute to the Public-Sector Development Programme (PSDP). Nevertheless, a healthy competition has lasted and will continue among the provinces to hold its proper share in the form of various development projects. With further expansions in CPEC’s portfolio, it has now become easier to address a wide range of areas and regions across diverse sectors that impact people’s wellbeing.

The implementation of socioeconomic projects will specifically bring people to the center of economic policies. By setting a clear vision of inclusive development, this mega-regional initiative will prove instrumental in uplifting less-developed areas that were left out deliberately or ignored due to its remoteness. People-centric projects would garner popular support for CPEC, thereby creating a favorable and friendly environment wherein win-win cooperation would jointly flourish.

Cooperation in the agricultural sector is another milestone achieved during the meeting of the CPEC apex body. Pakistan and China have agreed to hold the first meeting of the newly-

established Joint Working Group for Agriculture in the first quarter of 2019. The agro-cooperation focuses on attracting investment in the agricultural sector by Chinese agricultural and food companies. Investments would be made in Pakistan for input supplies as well as for food production, processing, logistics, marketing and exports in a vertically-integrated way on their own or in joint ventures (B2B) with Pakistani companies. This cooperation will help Pakistan to accrue a maximum share in China's food imports worth \$58 billion.

Following the 8th JCC meeting, CPEC has moved towards the implementation of much-needed industrialization, with the signing of a framework to attract investment in key industries, including textile, petrochemical, iron and steel and automobile. The cooperation will ensure the development of special economic zones (SEZs), including the Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Dhabeji SEZ in Thatta, the Punjab M3 SEZ in Faisalabad, and the IT SEZ in Islamabad. Industrialization will help overcome the trade deficit and expand the export base to make CPEC a sustainable project.

Above all, both countries are working on a mechanism that encourages pragmatic planning and due financial diligence in selecting projects to optimize the cost-to-benefit ratio and ensure that the benefits of CPEC are yielded by everyone in Pakistan. We must all work together to make CPEC a gateway for progress and prosperity under the umbrella of “one corridor, many doors”.

The News, 15-01-19

Pakistani diplomat visits Xinjiang

BEIJING: Diplomats from Pakistan and other regional countries visited Xinjiang region last week, and got highly impressed by the recent measures taken by the Chinese government for ensuring peace and prosperity for their people.

The regional government of the region has invited diplomatic envoys and representatives from Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Thailand and Kuwait.

According to the Chinese media's reports, they visited local markets, farmers, educational institutions, mosques, factories and vocational education centers.

Throughout the trip, members of the group interacted with local vendors, students and workers in Xinjiang and learned about the region's progress in maintaining social stability, improving people's livelihoods and developing the local economy. They said they expected to cooperate with Xinjiang in the fields of culture, tourism, economy and trade.

At the Grand Bazaar in the regional capital, Urumqi, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, charge d'affaires at the Pakistan embassy in China, said Xinjiang's cultural vitality and people's hospitality had

impressed her deeply. A Pakistani businessman at the bazaar told Baloch that he had married a Uygur woman and is happy with his life and work in Urumqi.

At the Xinjiang Islamic Institute, which offers three-year bachelor programs and religious training, SameehJohar Hayat, Kuwait's ambassador to China, encouraged the students to learn more and contribute what they learn to the development of their country.

The News, 15-01-19

China's US trade surplus hit record in 2018 but tariffs bite

Beijing: China's trade surplus with the United States hit a record high last year but the country's imports and exports fell in December as the long-running trade war begins to bite in the world's number two economy, data showed Monday.

The surplus with the US is a major source of anger within the Trump administration, which imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods last year and has warned of more to come.

Despite the levies, exports to the United States grew 11.3 percent last year while imports rose 0.7 percent, expanding the surplus to a record \$323.3 billion from \$275.8 billion in 2017, customs data show.

However, in a sign that the White House's measures are having an impact, China's exports to the US sank last month.

The figures come after a US delegation held three days of talks in Beijing last week in the first face-to-face meeting since Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in December pledged a 90-day truce to resolve the crisis.

Trump wants Beijing to buy more American goods to narrow the yawning trade gap and allow foreign players better access and protection in the Chinese market. China traditionally imports vast quantities of American soybeans in the second half of the year, long making it the most valuable import from the US.

But the buying fell off last year after China imposed a 25 percent retaliatory tariff on the commodity in the summer. Total imports of soybeans fell 7.9 percent last year to 88 million tonnes, customs data showed, with December imports down 40.1 percent from a year earlier. "The overall development of China-US trade in 2018 was still relatively normal, but the trade surplus did expand slightly," said Li Kuiwen, spokesman for the customs administration.