



# For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National Press

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## **Business Recorder, 01-02-19**

### **CPEC, peaceful Afghanistan to open new avenues of progress in region**

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Thursday said new avenues of development and progress for youth will emerge in country after achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan and fast implementation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking to the youth during the dialogue held on the topic of “Democratic and Peaceful Governance and Sustainable Development in Pakistan” between Youth and Parliamentarians on Thursday, a press release said.

On this occasion, large numbers of parliamentarians were present to respond the questions and suggestion raised by the youth.

The speaker said there was development under progress for peace and stability in Afghanistan at global level and we are hopeful that these efforts will become fruitful in bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan.

He said CPEC will open new avenues of development in the region. Peace and stability is essential for generating employment opportunities. Youth is a ray of light and providing them education and technical training will not only make progress but it will also help to become a developed and prosperous country.

Asad Qaiser emphasized the need for youth to participate in politics and take an active part in the development of the country.

Determination required for continuous struggle and vision to move forward. At present, 96 Young Parliamentarians are members of the National Assembly and were playing active role in the proceedings of the House and development of the country, he added.

The speaker said youth is the valuable assets of the country and nation has a lot of expectations from its young generation. He urged upon the youth to work hard to meet the expectations of the nation.

He asked the leadership of the political parties to take steps for inclusion in their parties. He appreciated the PILDAT for holding this dialogue and termed it as a positive development to bring Youth in the mainstream of socio-economic affairs.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Usman Dar, MNAs Wajiha Akram, Shandana Gulzar, Kanwal Shauzab, Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, Romina Khurshid Alam, Syed Naveed Qamar, Shahida Akhtar Ali, Kishwer Zahra, Senators Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, Mushtaq Ahmed, President PILDAT Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, Resident Representative

UNDP Ignacio Artaza, UN Resident Coordinator Pakistan, Neil Buhne and large number of youth.

### **Business Recorder, 01-02-19**

#### **Trump says US-China trade talks ‘going well’**

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Thursday touted the chances of success of US-China trade negotiations as the talks entered a second day, saying Beijing was eager to make a deal.

In a morning series of tweets, he also said a final deal would leave “NOTHING” unresolved but a bargain could only be struck after he meets with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping “in the near future.”

The meetings are “going well,” Trump said on Twitter.

“China does not want an increase in Tariffs and feels they will do much better if they make a deal. They are correct.”

Media reports indicated the two sides were considering a meeting in Asia in late February to seal a deal, days before their three-month truce is due to expire and US duty rates on \$200 billion in Chinese imports will more than double, sending a shock through the global economy.

The Wall Street Journal said Thursday that Chinese officials proposed a meeting on the island of Hainan in the South China Sea.

Chinese trade envoy Liu He is leading a 30-person delegation in the talks, which began Wednesday.

Signs of progress in the talks have lifted global stock markets in weeks as investors took heart that the world’s two largest economies would avert a cataclysm.

But Washington’s aggressive actions against Chinese telecoms firm Huawei — which federal prosecutors accused this week of industrial espionage, sanctions violations and fraud — threatened to upend the talks, drawing irate objections from Beijing.

The two sides last year traded blows, imposing steep tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, but the United States has more room to maneuver in the battle as it buys far more from China than the other way around.

Beijing has unveiled economic stimulus to shore up its economy after posting its weakest growth in 2018 for almost 30 years — underscoring its vulnerability in the trade fight.

But US officials, including US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, say the world's two largest economies are battling for nothing less than future dominance in critical high-tech industries.

A little over three years ago, Beijing launched a strategic plan dubbed “Made in China 2025” that aimed to make the nation the global leader in aerospace, robotics, artificial intelligence, new-generation autos and other areas — sectors US officials say now represent the “crown jewels” of American technology and innovation.

US officials are attacking Chinese trade practices they say are unfair, spotlighting the forced transfer of American technology through requirements that foreign companies form joint ventures with local firms, as well as other methods of allegedly stealing American intellectual property.

“Looking for China to open their Markets not only to Financial Services, which they are now doing, but also to our Manufacturing, Farmers and other U.S. businesses and industries,” Trump tweeted. “Without this a deal would be unacceptable!”

He said he would meet with Xi to address “some of the long-standing and more difficult points,” calling the effort a “very comprehensive transaction.”

“China’s representatives and I are trying to do a complete deal, leaving NOTHING unresolved on the table,” he wrote.

“All of the many problems are being discussed and will be hopefully resolved. Tariffs on China increase to 25% on March 1st, so all working hard to complete by that date!”—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 01-02-19**

#### **Chinese rover finds lunar nights ‘colder than expected’**

The Chang’e-4 probe — named after a Chinese moon goddess — made the first ever soft landing on the far side of the moon on January 3, a major step in China’s ambitions to become a space superpower.

Temperatures on the moon’s surface plummeted to minus 190 degrees celsius (-310 degrees Fahrenheit) during the probe’s first lunar night, which “was colder than scientists expected,” the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said.

The night-time temperatures were recorded by the Chinese probe after it became active on Wednesday, following a slumber that lasted for about two earth weeks.—AFP

## **Business Recorder, 01-02-19**

### **Chinese iron ore hits near 17-month peak**

MANILA: Chinese iron ore futures rose sharply to their highest level in nearly 17 months on Wednesday, after Brazil's Vale SA said it was cutting output as it moved to shut down more dams similar to the one that collapsed last week.

The world's largest iron ore miner said it would take as much as 10 percent of its ore output offline in order to decommission 10 more dams, after one of its tailings dams burst on Friday, destroying facilities and killing scores of people.

The most traded iron ore on the Dalian Commodity Exchange ended at 587 yuan (\$87.42) a ton, up 5.6 percent, after hitting the daily upside limit of 589 yuan a ton earlier in the session, the highest since early September 2017.

The disaster has created uncertainty for the iron ore market in China, the world's biggest importer of the commodity, traders say.

Vale is the world's top supplier of low-aluminum iron ore, preferred for its low impurity level by Chinese steel mills seeking to comply with pollution reduction targets as part of the country's anti-smog campaign.

"Bulk commodity markets remained on edge as supply-side issues dominated discussions," ANZ Research said in a note.

Taking into account Vale's output reduction, Singapore-based steel and iron ore data analytics company Tivlon Technologies predicts iron ore prices will hit \$120 a ton by August, from the projected \$95 a ton by May.

The Brazil disaster could also lead to tougher industry regulations elsewhere to ensure safety, such as in Australia, which could slow down or even further reduce global output, said Tivlon data scientist Darren Toh.

"Iron ore miners all over the world have been busy ramping up their production over the last five years," he said. "Regulators will want to start taking a closer examination of all mining facilities to prevent accidents."

Vale said its mining operations that would be halted currently produce 40 million tons of iron ore and 11 million tons of pellets per year. Operations will resume after the dam decommissioning, to be completed over the next three years, it said.



The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange was nearly flat at 3,677 yuan a ton, ending just 0.1 percent higher after rising as much as 2.6 percent earlier in the session. Hot rolled coil also inched up 0.1 percent to close at 3,582 yuan.

Dalian coking coal ended down 0.7 percent at 1,204 yuan a ton, erasing gains earlier in the session. Coke slipped 0.4 percent to 2,020 yuan.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 01-02-19**

#### **Nico Yennaris among first footballers to gain Chinese citizenship**

BEIJING: Nico Yennaris has made a permanent move to Beijing Guoan, the club said Thursday, becoming one of the first foreign-born players to be given naturalized citizenship in China.

“It’s an exciting opportunity for me to play in the birth country of my mother and grandparents,” the British midfielder, who started his career at Arsenal, said in a tweet.

The club confirmed the move on its official Twitter-like Weibo account.

Fresh from its first Chinese FA Cup win in 15 years, Beijing Guoan has also welcomed 20-year-old Norwegian-born John Hou Saeter, known as Hou Yongyong in China.

The midfielder has previously played for Norwegian club Stabaek.

Teams in the Chinese Super League are only allowed to field three foreigners at any league game and naturalizing foreign players is seen as a way to get around the quota.

The players would have to meet strict eligibility rules if they were to represent China at an international level.

In the case of Yennaris and Hou Saeter, FIFA rules require them to live in China for at least five consecutive years after changing nationality before they can play for the national team.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 02-02-19**

#### **US, China hail major ‘progress’ in trade talks**

WASHINGTON: The United States and China said their trade war negotiations resulted in major progress as the clock ticks on a March deadline to avert a massive escalation of tariffs that could bruise the global economy.

US President Donald Trump hailed “tremendous progress” and welcomed a “beautiful” letter from his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, who said he hoped for further cooperation.

Beijing's official Xinhua news agency said Friday that US and Chinese negotiators made "important progress" during two days of "candid, specific and fruitful" discussions in Washington.

Although the latest round of talks ended with positive words, the White House emphasized the two sides still faced the "hard deadline" of March 1 to avoid another sharp escalation in their trade war.

Economists say that prospect — which would mean more than doubling US tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods — would be a body blow to the global economy.

In a letter from Xi to Trump that was read out by the Chinese delegation, Xi said relations were at a "critical" stage and that he hoped "our two sides will continue to work with mutual respect."

Trump said relations between the two countries are "very, very good."

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will travel to China in mid-February for the next round of talks, according to Xinhua, and Trump said he would meet Xi after that to close the deal.

"We have to get this put on paper at some point if we agree. There are some points that we don't agree to yet. I think we will agree. I think when President Xi and I meet, every point will be agreed to," Trump said.

With China's economy slowing sharply and markets on edge at the prospect of further trade disruptions, the stakes for the talks have become especially high.

Last year, Washington and Beijing imposed tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, after Trump initiated the trade war because of complaints over unfair trade practices.

US duty rates on \$200 billion in Chinese goods are due to rise to 25 percent from 10 percent if no agreement is reached by March 1.

"We haven't talked about extending the deadline," Trump said.

Prior to this week's talks, Beijing had offered to resume purchases of American soybeans, a major US export, sales of which had plummeted during the trade war, leaving US farmers reeling. Some exports have since resumed.

At Thursday's meeting with Trump, Vice Premier Liu He said China agreed to purchase an extra five million tons of soybeans per day.

"That's going to make our farmers very happy," Trump told Liu.

The White House later clarified that the purchase would not be daily and there had been no time frame set.

Xinhua later reported that the Chinese delegation said Beijing would increase imports of US agricultural, energy and industrial manufactured goods, as well as services.

China also vowed to increase cooperation on a major source of US discontent: intellectual property protection and concerns over the forced transfer of technology.

But the Xinhua report did not provide a dollar figure for the imports or concrete measures that China would take to protect IP rights.

US officials, including Lighthizer, say the world's two largest economies are battling for future dominance in critical high-tech industries.

Attacking Chinese trade practices it says are unfair, Washington spotlights the forced transfer of American technology through requirements that foreign companies form joint ventures with local firms, as well as other methods of allegedly stealing American IP.

“It's impossible for me to predict success but... it could happen,” Lighthizer said Thursday, noting that the discussions included ways to enforce any ultimate agreement.

“We have much work to do.”

A little over three years ago, Beijing launched a strategic plan dubbed “Made in China 2025” that aimed to make the nation the global leader in aerospace, robotics, artificial intelligence, new-generation autos and other areas — sectors US officials say now represent the “crown jewels” of American technology and innovation.

Signs of progress in the talks have lifted global stock markets as investors took heart that the world's two largest economies would avert an economic cataclysm.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 02-02-19**

#### **Xi ‘hates’ doping, vows tough stance for Beijing 2022**

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has declared that he “hates” doping, laying out a tough stance against cheating at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

Doping has overshadowed the Games in recent years, with Russia's Olympic committee barred from last year's competition in Pyeongchang because of performance-enhancing drugs.

Doping has also tainted China's sporting record in the past decade, with some athletes stripped of Olympic medals.

Meeting with International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach in Beijing, Xi said he personally objected to doping and that China has “a clear and very strong policy” on the use of drugs in sport.

“I myself hate it,” Xi said at Thursday’s meeting, according to the official Olympic website.

“I would prefer to have clean Chinese athletes than a gold medal, or any medal at all.”

Chinese athletes who use performance-enhancing drugs will receive criminal punishments and jail terms as of this year, the official Xinhua news agency reported in December.

In 2017, a Chinese doctor told German media that there had been a systematic doping programme in China during the 1980s and 1990s across a range of sports.

Bach this week visited Beijing 2022 facilities, including the downhill skiing competition site, and said progress on venue construction was “very impressive”.

“For every venue we have visited here, we could see what the use for it would be after the Olympic Games so that the Chinese people can then really enjoy winter sports.”—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 02-02-19**

#### **China shares rise; end week higher**

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares rose ahead of the week-long Lunar New Year holidays, as Beijing and Washington progressed with trade negotiations, with investors shaking off worries about further economic slowdown for now.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 1.3 percent at 2,618.23. On a weekly basis, it ended 0.6 percent higher this week.

\*\* The blue-chip CSI300 index was up 1.4 percent on Friday, climbing almost 2 percent week-on-week.

CSI300’s financial sector sub-index higher by 0.6 percent, the consumer staples sector up 1.3 percent, and healthcare shares rose 3.7 percent. \*\* The smaller Shenzhen index jumped 2.8 percent and the start-up board Chi Next Composite index rallied 3.5 percent.

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping soon to try to seal a comprehensive trade deal, noting that Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were invited to bring a US negotiating team to Beijing around mid-February.



The two leaders met in Argentina in early December and agreed to a 90-day truce in the trade war.

The comment came after the latest round of Sino-US trade talks in Washington, and a meeting between Trump and Liu He, Chinese vice premier. The Chinese delegation said in a statement that the two days of high-level talks made “important progress,” official Xinhua news agency reported.

China’s factory activity shrank by the most in almost three years in January as new orders slumped further and output fell, a private survey showed.

The gloomy readings were more downbeat than an official survey on Thursday, which also showed growing strains on China’s manufacturing sector, a key source of growth and jobs.

But progress in the trade talk was enough to offset worries about factory activity falling further, said Cao Xuefeng, head of research at Chengdu-based Huaxi Securities. This week’s data “was somewhat affected by the Sino-US trade war,” he said.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by almost 0.1 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 0.1 percent.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were shares of E Ging Photovoltaic Technology Co Ltd, up 10.2 percent, followed by Beijing Jingyuntong Technology Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and Shanghai Daimay Automotive Interior Co Ltd, up by 10 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were shares of Dasheng Times Cultural Investment Co Ltd and Zhejiang Kanglongda Special Protection Technology Co Ltd, both down 10.01 percent, followed by Y.U.D. Yangtze River Investment Industry Co Ltd, down by 9.9 percent.

The Shanghai stock index is up 5 percent so far this year, while the CSI300 has risen 7.9 percent.

About 13.2 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 15.4 billion. \*\* As of 07:50 GMT, China’s A-shares were trading at a premium of 16.82 percent over the Hong Kong-listed H-shares.

The Shanghai stock index is above its 50-day moving average and below its 200-day moving average.—Reuters

## **Business Recorder, 02-02-19**

### **China's iron ore extends gains, steel down ahead of holiday**

MANILA: China's benchmark iron ore futures extended gains on Thursday to hit their highest in nearly 17 months, supported by concerns over supply disruptions in the wake of a mining disaster in Brazil.

But prices of steel and other steelmaking ingredients edged lower, with many market participants winding down ahead of the Lunar New Year break next week.

The most traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange rose as much as 2.6 percent to 593 yuan (\$88.36) a ton shortly after the market opened, although it was up just 0.3 percent by 0203 GMT.

"People are still worried that the supply-side may still have some trouble because of Vale's decision to cut production," said a Shanghai-based trader.

"But there could be some profit-taking ahead of the Chinese New Year holiday next week because we don't know what could happen during the market break."

Brazil's Vale SA, the world's largest iron ore miner, on Tuesday said it would take up to 10 percent of its output offline as it decommissions a total of 19 dams over three years, including an additional 10 following last week's deadly tailings dam burst.

Vale's move would cut up to 40 million tons of iron ore production a year.

"I don't think Australia has enough additional supply especially for the iron ore grade similar to the quality of Vale's output," said the trader in Shanghai.

The dam failure may knock Vale off its perch as the biggest iron ore exporter as the resulting rally in high-grade ore prices steers buyers towards rivals offering cheaper ore, according to analysts and traders.

Spot iron ore for delivery to China jumped 8.2 percent to \$85.30 a ton on Wednesday, according to Steel Home consultancy.

The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange was down 0.8 percent at 3,693 yuan a ton. Hot rolled coil fell 1.0 percent to 3,588 yuan.

Dalian coking coal edged down 0.5 percent to 1,211 yuan a ton, while coke slipped 0.7 percent to 2,031 yuan.—Reuters

## **Business Recorder, 02-02-19**

### **Aluminum drops on Hongqiao restarts; weak Chinese data weighs**

- Three-month LME copper slips

LONDON: Aluminum prices dropped on Friday, pressured by concern over excess supply after the top producer said it would resume some output, while some base metals were weighed down by weak Chinese factory data.

Other metals climbed, however, with zinc hitting its highest level in nearly seven months.

China Hongqiao Group, the world's top aluminum smelter, said it would gradually restart production after the expiration of some government-mandated output curbs.

"We haven't seen significant production cuts this year and we've been expecting to see additional supply after the expiration of the limited cutbacks," said Ross Strachan, senior commodities economist at Capital Economics.

"There is also new capacity coming on stream both within China and elsewhere in the world, particularly a very large expansion in Bahrain."

Benchmark aluminum on the London Metal Exchange shed 1.4 percent to \$1,883 a ton in closing open outcry trading, down 2 percent on the week.

China's factory activity shrank by the most in almost three years in January as new orders slumped further and output fell, a private survey showed, reinforcing fears that a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy is deepening. "Generally we're confident that there will be significantly slower growth over the next six months. You've got the weakest credit growth in China for a decade and that does tend to lead to weak demand, so that's why we see further downside in almost all the industrial metals," Strachan said.

Three-month LME copper slipped 0.5 percent to end at \$6,139 a ton, having hit a seven-week high in the previous session. The metal, widely used in manufacturing and construction, gained 1.3 percent this week.

Top copper miner Codelco said it had struck a contract deal with the union of supervisors at its Gabriela Mistral mine in northern Chile, averting the threat of a strike.

US President Donald Trump said he would meet China's Xi Jinping soon to try to seal a comprehensive trade deal, citing substantial progress.

Zinc and nickel firmed after prices of steel raw materials in China climbed to multi-month peaks on Friday, buoyed by supply disruption issues.

LME zinc, mainly used to galvanize steel, climbed 2.2 percent to finish at \$2,777 a ton, its highest since July 4, amid tight LME inventories. LME stocks have more than halved over the past five months.

Nickel, largely used for making stainless steel, gained 1.4 percent to \$12,660, its highest since Oct. 22.

Lead rose 0.7 percent to close at \$2,127 a ton while tin added 0.2 percent to \$20,890.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 03-02-19**

#### **Chinese team evinces keen interest in housing, agri sector**

MUHAMMAD SALEEM

LAHORE: Chinese Engineering Corporation and Henan D.R. Construction Group have shown interest for making investment in the agriculture and housing sectors in the province of Punjab.

A 12-member delegation of the China Engineering Corporation and Henan D.R. Construction Group met Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, here on Saturday.

The members of the Chinese delegation told the Punjab CM that they are interested for making investment to make the barren land useful for agriculture purpose through modern technology and will also transfer technology to Punjab for the construction of low-cost houses. They said they wanted to start the project of the housing industrial park and the Chinese group will make investment for this purpose.

Sources said the Punjab CM assured all out support to the Chinese investors. The officials of the China Engineering Corporation briefed the chief minister on progress on the 1263MW power project in Jhang.

“Foreign investors have been extended immense opportunities in Punjab and we welcome the interest of the Chinese investors in the housing and agriculture sectors,” the CM said, adding: “The agriculture sector of Punjab is the backbone of the economy and this sector can be strengthened with the use of modern technology.”

Usman Buzdar said the construction of low cost houses is the part of PTI’s election manifesto and the ‘New Pakistan Housing Scheme’ is the revolutionary program to provide houses to the common man.



The delegation included chairman China Engineering Corporation Zhang Chun and vice president Fang Yanshui, and chairman Henan D.R. Construction Group Huang Dao Yuan, deputy chairman Cheng Cunpan and other officials. Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, Punjab Irrigation Minister Mohsin Leghari, Punjab Agriculture Minister Malik Nouman Ahmed Langrial, Housing Minister Mian Mehmood ur Rasheed, chief secretary, chairman Planning and Development, secretaries of concerned departments, and senior officials were present on the occasion.

### **Business Recorder, 03-02-19**

#### **Chinese help sought for exports, agri growth: Razzak**

##### RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries, Production and Investment, Abdul Razzak Dawood Saturday said Pakistan seeks Chinese support for exports and agricultural growth instead of power and road infrastructure projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Addressing a gathering of businessmen and rice exporters hosted by Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), Razzak said as the challenges of all commodities are almost the same, we are seeking support from friendly countries to improve the crop yield. Japan has already agreed to extend support for increase in crop yield, particularly rice.

"We don't want more power plants and road infrastructure projects under the CPEC. What we need from China is support for agricultural and export sector," he added.

He said Pakistan's rice export posted a healthy growth during last few years reaching \$ 2 billion up from \$300 million and this is because of the visionary leadership of the REAP people. "I believe that with a visionary leadership and the government support, Pakistan's rice export can hit \$5 billion mark," he maintained.

Razzak assured REAP to incorporate rice sector in zero-rated sectors to facilitate exporters. "We will try to add rice into the basket of zero rated sectors so that exporters of rice could get more benefits," he said.

He said Pakistani companies have great potential and can perform much better than international companies, but there is need for encouraging and supporting these companies. "We must introduce our brands across the world to promote Pakistani products and increase exports," he added.

He assured REAP of full support for promotion of rice exports, adding that there is need for coordinated efforts to increase the country's exports and bring more foreign inflows into the country.

Earlier, Safdar Hussain Mehkari, Chairman REAP and Arif Nadeem, Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Agricultural Coalition (PAC) briefed Razzak about rice exports and presented recommendations for their promotion.

They said Pakistan's rice exports posted a phenomenal growth during last many years and after achieving \$2 billion exports, now we are eyeing \$5 billion exports.

Former chairmen of REAP, Rafique Suleman, Abdul Rahim Janoo and others also spoke on the occasion.

### **Business Recorder, 04-02-19**

#### **China to ease IPO rules on planned board to lure tech titans**

SHANGHAI: China will relax rules on IPOs for a planned Nasdaq-style tech board in Shanghai as it seeks to encourage start-ups to list at home after losing the likes of Alibaba and Baidu to Wall Street.

Existing rules on initial public offerings ban companies from listing unless they have a track record of profits, and put caps on their pricing and how much they are allowed to rise or fall.

But those and other constraints will be lifted or eased under rules released late Wednesday for the new technology board, which was announced by President Xi Jinping in November as China battles the United States for global supremacy in the sector.

The new guidelines, announced by the Shanghai Stock Exchange, remove the requirement of past profits as well as any restrictions on IPO pricing.

There will also be no limits on price movements for the first five days of trading, after which a daily 20 percent trading band will be imposed.

The trading band compares to the current standard 10-percent daily limits on China's two main exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen, a measure aimed at curbing excessive volatility on the country's often rumor-driven markets.

The Shanghai exchange has put the draft rules out for public comment until February 20, but proposed guidelines are rarely changed once they go public. A launch date for the board has yet to be given.

After Alibaba and Baidu listed years ago on Wall Street and fellow tech titan Tencent opted for Hong Kong, the government is hoping to keep a new generation of technology leaders closer to home.

In particular, China has a growing stable of “unicorns” — tech start-ups valued at a minimum of \$1 billion — that are expected to list publicly, such as Alibaba-linked mobile-payments pioneer Ant Financial, ride-sharing giant Didi Chuxing, and online-services platform Meituan-Dianping.

Strict rules essentially prevented the first wave of Chinese tech giants from listing in mainland China.

But authorities are now keen to develop domestic champions into global leaders in artificial intelligence, big data, and other tech sectors in which Xi wants China to dominate. Analysts say Xi’s overall strategy is to harness all facets of national power — including economic and technical — to compete with the United States.

China also is mulling plans to allow foreign-listed firms such as Alibaba to offer securities in China — Chinese Depositary Receipts (CDRs) — which are linked to their main shares.

Chinese stocks gained Thursday led by tech shares, with Shanghai’s main index was up 0.63 percent by the break.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 04-02-19**

#### **Trump sees ‘good chance’ of deals with North Korea, China**

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said in remarks aired Sunday he saw a “good chance” of reaching deals on two key US foreign policy challenges: North Korean nuclear disarmament and trade relations with China.

Interviewed on CBS’s “Face the Nation,” Trump said the date and venue of his upcoming second summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un had been agreed — and would likely be announced before or during his State of the Union address on Tuesday.

“The meeting is set,” said the president. “He’s looking forward to it. I’m looking forward to it.”

Vietnam is seen as the most likely venue for the Trump-Kim summit, which is expected to take place late this month and follows on from a landmark first face-to-face last June.

US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats told Congress this week that “North Korea is unlikely to give up all of its nuclear weapons and production capabilities.”

That analysis runs counter to the position of the president, who once more argued in Sunday's interview that "there's also a very good chance that we will make a deal."

"I think he's also tired of going through what he's going through," said Trump, referring to the international sanctions pressing on Kim's regime.

"He has a chance to have North Korea be a tremendous economic behemoth," Trump continued. "He can't do that with nuclear weapons and he can't do that on the path they're on now."

"I like him. I get along with him great," the president added. "We have a fantastic chemistry."

The two leaders' first meeting produced a vaguely-worded document in which Kim pledged to work towards "the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula".

But progress has since stalled with the two sides disagreeing over what that means.

Asked about the possibility of the United States pulling troops out of South Korea as it negotiates with Pyongyang, Trump doubled down on remarks by the US envoy on North Korea Stephen Biegun, who this week denied any such plans.

"We have 40,000 troops in South Korea, it's very expensive. But I have no plans, I've never even discussed removing them," Trump said.

The US president went on to praise China as having been "very helpful" with the North Korean dossier — and voiced optimism about the prospect of a deal to end their trade war.

"It looks like we're doing very well with making a deal with China," said Trump, who struck an upbeat note following two days of US-China trade talks at the White House this week. The two sides face a March 1 deadline to avert a sharp increase in US duties on \$200 billion in Chinese exports. "I don't know that we're going to make one, but we have a good chance," Trump said. "And if it is a deal it's going to be a real deal. It's not going to be a stopgap."—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 04-02-19**

#### **China to combine QFII, RQFII schemes, expand foreign investment scope**

BEIJING: China further deregulated its capital markets on Thursday, saying it would ease foreign institutions' access by combining two inbound investment schemes, while broadening their investment scope to include derivatives, bond repurchases and private funds.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) published draft rules that would combine the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) scheme and its yuan-denominated sibling,



RQFII. Regulators will also lower the threshold for overseas applicants and simplify the vetting process.

The new rules were aimed at “promoting high-quality opening of China’s capital markets and introducing more long-term overseas capital”, CSRC said in a statement on its website.

China is stepping up opening of its capital markets as the economy struggles amid protracted trade tensions with the United States.

CSRC vice chairman Fang Xinghai has predicted foreign inflows into mainland Chinese stocks will total 600 billion yuan (\$89.46 billion) in 2019, doubling from last year. And starting April, Chinese bonds will be added to the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index.

CSRC said on Thursday it would scrap quantitative criteria for the combined QFII, RQFII scheme and shorten the approval time for applications.

Currently, foreign investors under the scheme are allowed to buy Chinese stocks and bonds, but the new rules greatly expand their investment scope.

Investors will be allowed to buy securities traded on China’s main over-the-counter equity market, the New Third Board, and also invest in private funds or conduct bond repurchase transactions.

In addition, foreign institutions will also have access to derivatives, including financial futures, commodity futures and options, according to the draft rules.

At the end of 2018, 309 overseas institutions had been awarded \$101.1 billion of investment quotas under the QFII scheme, according to CSRC.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 04-02-19**

#### **Europe’s listed firms expect to glean \$514bn in revenue from China**

LONDON: European listed firms expect to receive 449 billion euros (\$514 billion) in total revenue from China in 2019, with luxury brands and automakers the most exposed sectors, a definitive analysis of company data shows.

Among the pan-European STOXX 600 index, consumer firms including Swatch, Richemont and BMW , derived the biggest chunk of revenues from China - with a total of 120 billion euros (\$137 billion) sales from the country, the analysis based on companies’ estimates of their 2019 revenue shows. That is nearly a third of the estimated 449 billion euros in total revenue to be derived from China.—Reuters

## **Business Recorder, 04-02-19**

### **CPEC's hydropower stations to generate 1,620MW electricity**

BEIJING: Two separate hydropower stations being completed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework will generate 1,620MW electricity and are likely to start commercial operation in next three years.

The under-construction Karot Hydropower station with an installed capacity of 760 MW at river Jhelum at a juncture of Azad Kashmir and Punjab province is expected to start commercial operation by December 2021.

Suki Kinari Hydropower Station with an installed capacity of 870 MW being constructed at River Kunhar, Naran in Mansehra District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is likely to start commercial operation by December 2022, according to official data available with APP here on Sunday.

In total, six energy projects including Suki Kinari HPP, Karot HPP, EngroThar Block-II coal-fired power plant, TEL Mine Mouth Thar Block-II coal-fired power plant and CPHGC coal-fired power plant will be completed in next few years throughout the country.

Under the CPEC, a total of 15 energy projects were planned as the priority with a total generation capacity of 11,110MW and so far seven have been completed and are in operation.

At present, Zonergy 300MW Solar Park, 50MW Dawood Wind Farm, Jhimpir UEP wind power project, Sachal 50MW Wind Farm, Sahiwal 2×660MW Coal-fired Power Plant, Port Qasim 2×660MW Coal-fired Power Plant and Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Projects have been completed. These projects have added 3240 MW to Pakistani national grid, amounting to more than 11% of the total installed capacity of 29,000 MW in Pakistan.

The CPEC energy projects include hydro, solar, wind and coal-fired power plants. The major coal-powered plants use super-critical thermal technology, which is the most advanced environmental control technique for coal-fired plants currently. Each project has got the approval of environmental impact assessment by the Pakistani government before the construction. With the introduction of CPEC energy projects, Pakistan also reduced its heavy dependence on gas and LNG power plants, which account for 50% of total installed capacity.

The CPEC energy projects are a foreign direct investment based on commercial contracts, which are in accordance with the standard clauses provided by the Pakistani government. The CPEC energy projects are executed in accordance with BOT mode. The financing of the energy projects is mainly provided by the equity of Chinese companies and commercial loans which borrowed from China Development Bank and other commercial banks in the rates of around 5%. In another word, any debt arising from CPEC energy project would be borne by the Chinese investors instead of the Pakistani government.—APP

## **Business Recorder, 04-02-19**

### **Brief recordings**

An interview with Nawabzada Zaheer Barakzai, Chairman Mega Movers Pakistan

#### **‘CPEC is the seed for logistics industry’s growth’**

Nawabzada Zaheer Barakzai is the Chairman Mega Movers Pakistan. He is an experienced entrepreneur having more than one decade of profound experience of Logistics & Supply Chain Management systems.

Barakzai has core specialties in the arena of Logistics, Container Terminals & Shipping Industry. He is a regular writer & speaks on trade & logistics industry matters at various local & international forums. Chinese Economy, Business conditions, Development of Chinese trade & CPEC related international & strategic economic prospects are his core specialties. He holds a Master’s Degree in International Marketing from the University of Surrey UK.

He is the 11th Chief of Barakzai tribe from Balochistan province. BR research recently sat down with Barakzai to discuss affairs surrounding Pakistan’s logistics industry, especially in context of CPEC, Gwadar, and the new government. Below are edited excerpts of the conversation.

BR Research: Pakistan’s logistics industry has failed to adapt to modern day changes. What in your view is the core reason for the state of the industry?

Zaheer Barakzai: The logistics industry is the backbone of any economy in the modern world. Pakistan is facing a very serious issue, as there is no formal logistics and supply chain industry. Everything happens haphazard.

The biggest challenge that Pakistan faces today in logistics is the fleet management. The environmental problem is one of the many issues that the current state of logistics industry has given birth to.

BRR: What does it take to formalize and channelize the whole logistics industry to modern standards?

ZB: The logistics industry should be formalized but the ministry of transportation is not very active. We have transportation ministries at both federal and provincial levels, but they are unaware of what needs to be done to correct the situation. They have been directionless for quite some time.

BRR: Has the advent of CPEC not changed things for the logistics industry, because we have been consistently told that success of CPEC will hinge upon the logistics industry?

ZB: With the new arrangement of CPEC, there is no doubt that the role of logistics becomes more vital than ever. In China and Far East, logistics has been developed as a separate entity and industry. Fleet, which is the backbone of logistics, plays the key role in the overall efficiency of movement of trade goods.

If the overall fleet is outdated, the cargo movement gets hampered, environment gets affected, and fuel consumption goes bad. We do not have modern fleet in Pakistan. Whatever vehicles you see in Pakistan are all outdated.

BRR: When you see that the fleet in Pakistan is informal, why has it stayed informal for over decades? Is it because the government has not treated logistics as in industry or is it that the private players are now willing to formalize themselves?

ZB: Logistics can be divided into two broad segments. The first one is the big five names, who have considerably modern fleet, and advanced ways of moving goods. The second is the informal logistics market, which owns around 75 percent of the market share, and you do not have any control on that. More than half the trucking fleet has been operating since Ayub Khan's era - you can well imagine the efficiency loss that comes with such outdated fleet.

The need is to formalize the ministry itself and gradually do away with the obsolete fleet. The small businesses need to be regulated and be brought under the tax net. This may create a disruption in the short term, and impact those involved in the small informal segment, but the long term benefits are worth taking the step. The logistics industry is in dire need of immediate reforms. I have never come across a policy document encompassing affairs surrounding logistics industry. There is no data on logistics in Pakistan, and we faced difficulty conducting feasibility reports for of our projects.

Logistics is very closely related to road network and infrastructure, which was not very comprehensively built up, until the last government. In the CPEC arrangements, new road networks are being built, and if we do not formalize our logistics industry, we will lose the game. The cargo that is going to be flown in our out of Pakistan, if you do not cater your clients properly, you will lose clients and won't be able to sustain. Eventually, they will bring their own logistic companies with modern fleet, to replace the local logistic firms.

BRR: What exactly is the shortage and potential in the wake of CPEC arrangements, especially in the trucking segment?

ZB: There is a need for at least 25000 40 feet vehicles of modern fleet today. Currently, we are at best sitting around 4000 modern vehicles.

BRR: So what is stopping the major formal players in the industry to tap that potential?

ZB: Government support is lacking, and so is the financing support – and these two are the reasons why the logistics industry has not been able to transform from informal to formal. Only a very few banks are now open to project financing for logistics. A few years back, even that was not there because of the stamp of being largely informal.

A few banks have now realized the potential, but there is still a long way to go. If the felt is updated, it will benefit Pakistan beyond the logistic industry, as the vehicles will be made in Pakistan.

BRR: What exactly are you referring to when you say the government support is lacking? Is it on the policymaking?

ZB: Policymaking, vision and direction all have to come from the government, which is lacking. We have ample cargo load to cater for, the real problem is the facilitation of the whole process, which is the government's job. The government should seriously thin about developing dedicated logistics park to give a much needed boost to the industry.

We, Mega Movers Pakistan, are the first company in Pakistan to introduce the concept of Logistics Park. The Shahdadhkot Inland Container Terminal (SICT) is not just another container terminal; it is a logistics park on 90 acres, on which we have warehousing, terminal business complex, fuel stations, motels, workshops, and towing system. This is a \$82 million project.

BRR: What is the incentive there for the informal sector to modernize and formalize?

ZB: When everything is revolving around CPEC, why can there not be a Logistics Development Bank in Pakistan and facilitate small companies? Sell the obsolete fleet, let the businesses put 30 percent of the equity, let banks mortgage the vehicles and they will remain the ownership of the banks.

BRR: Would this also mean added cost? Could that result into considerably higher prices across the industry?

ZB: The prices in logistics industry depend on availability all over the world. If we put 10000 modern fleet in the market, they will be completely utilized. Yes, the trade quantum maybe down right now – but our general cargo is still moving across Pakistan.

BRR: Is your assessment of 25000 additional modern fleet based on the thriving success of CPEC in the future?

ZB: This figure is based on just 75 percent of the total value of CPEC related goods movement. When Gwadar Port becomes fully operational, we expect 55000 containers everyday to flow back and forth between China and Gwadar. I am quoting this number from a very credible source in China.

However, there are many companies with ample demand even without the CPEC in equation, such as big MNCs and fertilizer sector and many other avenues.

BRR: Considering that CPEC's success would eventually be gauged by the success of Gwadar, how far is it from being what it is promised to be?

ZB: Gwadar will be operational when the connectivity is completed. As of now, it is 80-85 percent done. Our project is located on the M8 motorway, which is the central CPEC route. Of the 180 km of total route, 35 km is still pending, and we have been hearing since 2016 that it will be done soon, but it remains pending. We are again hearing that this route will be completed in the next two months.

BRR: Is it the only thing that is stopping Gwadar Port to be fully operational?

ZB: Gwadar Port is operational as of now, but bringing the cargo is another issue altogether. I will give you the example of Port Qasim in Karachi, which was facing the same situation that Gwadar faces today. The government took the initiative, offered incentives, and Port Qasim was up and running.

Terminal handling is not the issue at Gwadar Port right now; the real problem is moving the cargo from there to Karachi or any other place. The biggest challenge is road connectivity. The only available route right now is the coastal highway, which is not feasible being 650 km long. Why would anybody send it via Gwadar when Karachi Port could be used? Once the connectivity is there, freight will be considerably cheaper and all the other incentives will then come into play. We have been in frequent discussions with the COPHC on generating the cargo load. COSCO Shipping is going to play a vital role in generating cargo load – they have their own cargo and if it moves its load that will take care of 30 percent of the total load and the rest of shipping lines could then move swiftly. By 2022, things should be clearer in my view.

BRR: Has the new government been responsive to your suggestions? Do you see more clarity in terms of logistics in general and CPEC in specific?

ZB: With the new government, things are looking a bit dicey; they say one thing in the morning and another in the evening. I have felt that they are trying to do things but they are not very clear themselves as of now.

BRR: Is there no semblance of clarity on logistics only or CPEC also falls in the category?

ZB: Both. In broader context, we are always talking of CPEC, of which logistics is a smaller but a vital part. Things are on hold under this government, and being reviewed on CPEC matters. The government is trying to involve the whole socio-economic aspect under CPEC projects. To me, this is not the real essence of CPEC. The next two to three months are very important and

will define the intentions of the government, whether they will go completely on the back foot or not.

BRR: Do you think there is a need for a separate ministry for logistics?

ZB: We should instead have a separate ministry for CPEC, and logistics should be handled under that ministry. We already have a ministry for transportation. The real issue is running the affairs of the ministry. In the last government, we started to believe that the government is realizing the importance of logistics and the need to be treated as an industry. The realization has happened – we have to keep pushing. I am willing to give the government another two to three months to better understand their direction. To me, CPEC is the seed for growth of logistics in the country. If CPEC goes to a backburner, logistics will never rise. When we are pushing on making the industry formal, it is all because of CPEC.

This phase is for SEZs, Chinese industry will move over here, the government will have to support the local industry to move into the SEZs. This is the phase of Greenfield projects in the private sector. I believe that 2022 onwards is the time, when things will be moving in Gwadar. Till then, the focus should be on completing the Greenfield projects and the SEZs.

BRR: Tell us something about your own Shahdadhkot Inland Container Terminal (SICT) project?

ZB: Our project is at 35 percent of construction level as of now, and we expect to complete the project by the third quarter of 2019 or in the beginning of 2020. Our fleet size would be 500 40-foot vehicles, in the logistics park spread over 900 acres that offers end-to-end logistics solution. Mega Movers Pakistan is the largest private sector investor in Pakistan's terminal and logistic facilities.

Due to our strategic partnerships and various MoU's with COPHC and Gwadar International Terminals, SICT will play a very vital role in the success of Gwadar port. We are an inland extension of COPHC, and ours is the only facility available on the M8 motorway. Our container terminal will have capacity to handle around 120000 containers. Our fleet of 500 vehicles will be dedicated to Gwadar related operations.

We are also building a cold storage facility on around 30000 square feet in the same logistics park. This could be very successful in Gwadar because of the fisheries industry there.

BRR: It would be fair to say that your success depends on Gwadar. If it succeeds you succeed, if it comes down you come down along?

ZB: Whenever we speak, we speak of Gwadar and CPEC. There is absolutely no doubt about that not only our success, but the future of Pakistan's logistics industry and that of the country's economy, also go hand in hand with what happens in Gwadar and CPEC.



BRR: Do you see Chinese coming up with their own logistic companies to operate in Pakistan?

ZB: There is no harm in it and it could be on joint venture basis. It will be win-win for Pakistani companies to have joint ventures with Chinese logistic companies, as bulk of the volume will be coming from China. We should be very open to this idea of joint ventures with reputable Chinese firms. They are more technologically advanced, informative, advanced and groomed than us.

BRR: Why is that end-to-end logistics is not a big thing in Pakistan?

ZB: There are multiple reasons such as opportunities in the market, financing solutions, and government's role. The financing facilitation plays a key role which is not there, and same is the case with government's facilitation role.

BRR: Do you see any policy on logistics coming out form Islamabad anytime soon?

ZB: From my ten days spent in Islamabad recently, I do not think the government is even thinking on these lines.

BRR: But you still see Gwadar buzzing with activity by 2022.

AB: If things are not moving in Gwadar by then, that will mean things are not moving in CPEC. And if CPEC fails to take off, your only friend left will be the USA. China is playing a very important role in the future economy of Pakistan, this need to be very clear in everyone's minds. If we do not make right decisions and do not take right initiatives at the right time, it will be our loss.

### **Business Recorder, 05-02-19**

#### **China, other Asian markets closed**

SHANGHAI/HONG KONG: Shanghai, Seoul, Taipei and several other markets were closed in Asia due to Lunar New Year holiday. Markets will resume trading on Feb 6 (Wednesday).— Reuters/AFP

### **Business Recorder, 05-02-19**

#### **Russia comes in as top crude oil supplier to China**

BEIJING/SINGAPORE: Russia came in as China's largest crude oil supplier in December, cementing the top spot for all of 2018 for a third year in a row ahead of rival Saudi Arabia, customs data showed on Friday.

Imports from Russia reached 7.04 million tons, or 1.658 million barrels per day, in December, up 40 percent from 5.03 million tons a year earlier, according to the data from the General Administration of Customs.

For the full year, Russian imports rose to 71.49 million tons, or 1.43 million bpd, up 19.7 percent from 59.7 million tons in 2017.

Demand for Russian crude was supported by a rise in throughput by China's private refiners, who favor Russian grades such as ESPO, while geopolitical uncertainties also forced China to import less from countries such as Iran and Venezuela.

Russian oil giant Rosneft has also marketed its ESPO grade more aggressively, signing new long term supply deals with state oil companies such as Chem China and Petro China.

Saudi Arabia supplied China with 6.97 million tons in December, or 1.64 million bpd, up 48 percent from 4.71 million tons a year earlier.

For 2018, OPEC's top supplier boosted shipments to China by 8.7 percent to 56.73 million tons, or 1.135 million bpd.

That means Russia's lead over Saudi Arabia in supplying China almost doubled to 295,000 bpd in 2018 from 150,000 bpd a year earlier.

US shipments to China - which have been hit by a trade war between the two countries - came in at zero in December. Imports for 2018 were up 24.8 percent from 2017 at 245,616 bpd. Chinese oil trader Unipet plans to resume US crude shipments to China by March, Reuters reported in December.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 05-02-19**

#### **Chinese iron ore rallies to 22-month peaks**

MANILA: Prices of steel-making raw materials in China climbed to multi-month peaks on Friday, buoyed by supply disruption issues, with iron ore hitting its highest level in 22 months after a seven-day rally.

The most traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange rose to as high as 623 yuan (\$92.46) a ton, up 6.6 percent, and was at 621.5 yuan at the end of trading, extending its rally into a seventh session.

Iron ore posted its fifth straight weekly gain and surged more than 20 percent this year. The market is forecast to move into a deficit this year in the wake of a move by top iron ore miner Vale SA to cut output following a catastrophic dam failure in Brazil last week.

“While the company is proposing to increase production elsewhere, we estimate a net total loss of around 13 m t (million tons) in 2019,” ANZ commodity strategists Daniel Hynes and Soni Kumari said in a note. “This will ultimately push the iron ore market back into deficit this year.”

In another setback for Vale, the city of Mangaratiba in Rio de Janeiro has temporarily shuttered the company’s IlhaGuaíba (TIG) iron ore terminal, with the miner also fined for failing to submit environmental licenses, according to a radio report.

Dozens of ships carrying coal and iron ore to China are stuck outside ports waiting to unload, according to shipping data. This is likely to increase supply concerns. Harbor authorities are taking longer than usual to clear the imports with customs officials, according to traders.

News that China and the United States made “important progress” in the latest round of talks to end their festering trade dispute also buoyed the market.

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping soon to try to seal a comprehensive trade deal as Trump and his top trade negotiator both cited substantial progress in two days of high-level talks.

“There’s less uncertainty in the trade talks and that’s what the market likes to see,” said Helen Lau, analyst, Argonaut Securities.

The most active coking coal contract rose as much as 4.2 percent to a 17-month-high 1,290 yuan a ton, before ending the session at 1,288.5 yuan. Coke jumped 3.4 percent to 2,112.5 yuan.

The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose 1.6 percent to 3,754 yuan a ton. Hot rolled coil gained 1.5 percent to 3,648 yuan.

Steel’s gains also followed a report that China’s top steel-making city, Tangshan, will impose output restrictions to its heavy industries, including steel and coke, from April to September, to improve its air quality. The Shanghai Futures Exchange will close next week for China’s Lunar New Year holiday and reopen on February 11.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 05-02-19**

#### **Five-year plan: targets set for CPEC projects as well**

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Setting the ambitious targets for the 12th Five Year Plan (2018-23), the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government plans to rejuvenate industrial development of Pakistan through Special Economic Zones (SEZs), invigorate blue economy and develop Gwadar port oil city under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to documents available with Business Recorder, the actions envisaged for improving and develop industries include; (i) setting up at least four SEZs with Chinese relocation, (ii) import substitution with China in light engineering sector through relocation of Chinese industries in SECs, (iii) relocation of Chinese export focused light manufacturing and consumer products labor intensive industry to add exports, (iv) expansion of IT Sector through joint ventures and (v) transfer of technology and capacity enhancement to increase productivity.

For development of Gwadar port including oil city, the government plans to take the following actions in five years: (i) initiate development of Gwadar as per Gwadar city Master plan, (ii) set regulatory framework for Gwadar city, (iii) establish Oil City Gwadar to substitute refined oil imports with crude oil, (iv) develop aquaculture for fisheries and sea food along the coastal area to increase exports by 30 percent, (v) establish marine science-policy interface platform in Gwadar to enhance knowledge, and (vi) kick start development of Coastal Tourism.

The government has also planned a ‘Gateway of Prosperity’ deliverables under CEPC during the next five years by taking actions that include: (i) completion of early harvest projects, (ii) optimum benefits from the CPEC projects through third-country participation, (ii) connect Gwadar Port of Pakistan to China’s northwestern region of Xinjiang via Eastern and Western corridor, (iii) socio economic uplift in areas around CPEC Corridors by interventions through Joint Working Group (JWG) on Socio Economic Development, and (iv) jump start Agriculture cooperation and add 11,000 MW of energy in national grid with Matiari-Lahore line completed.

Both the countries have established Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture sector and Socio-economic Development for cooperation for exploring avenues of pilot project and capacity enhancement.

About development of agriculture sector and its marketing, the government wants to take the following actions: (i) develop improved and efficient connectivity to help farmers to access the markets, (ii) value addition & Co-branding of dairy, livestock and poultry sectors to uplift these up to 30%, (iii) Productivity enhancement of fruits and high value crops through transfer of technology in precision agriculture (Drip Irrigation, Sprinklers etc.) by 30%, and (iv) application of modified & high yield variety seeds for crop diversification to substitute edible oil/pulses imports during next five years (2018-23).

The government plans to uplift in areas around CPEC Corridors and less developed areas by interventions through JWG on Socio Economic Development.

### **Business Recorder, 07-02-19**

#### **Australia cancels residency of politically connected Chinese billionaire**

SYDNEY: A prominent Chinese billionaire political donor has been stripped of his Australian residency and barred from returning to the country after scrutiny of his Communist Party ties, media reported Wednesday.

Huang Xiangmo was reportedly left stranded outside of Australia after Home Affairs cancelled his permanent residency and rejected his application for citizenship.

The prominent property developer has donated millions to Australia's two main political parties and been photographed with key figures including former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull and opposition leader Bill Shorten.

But he has come under scrutiny for alleged links to the United Front Work Department — a Communist Party-linked body accused of neutralizing opposition and buying political influence around the world.

Asked about Huang's case, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he would not comment on such "sensitive matters", but added "the government has always acted consistent with the advice that we've received and that's what has happened on this occasion." Quoting unnamed sources, the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper said Huang had his application for an Australian passport blocked on "character grounds" and concerns over the "reliability" of information he had supplied in interviews. The Home Office declined AFP's request for comment on the case. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Marise Payne played down suggestions that the decision to strip Xiangmo of his residency could poison relations between Canberra and Beijing.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 07-02-19**

#### **Minister inaugurates 'China Window' in Peshawar**

##### RECORDER REPORT

PESHAWAR: KP Senior Minister for Tourism, Culture, Sports, Archaeology, and Youth Affairs, Muhammad Atif Khan has formally inaugurated the "China Window" in Peshawar.

A colorful ceremony was held in this regard, which attended by management of China Window and other officials concerned.

While speaking on the occasion, Atif Khan said the provincial government has planned to establish a China City in the province. He added that a week on the neighbor friendly country

will be observed and delegates will also be invited from Peoples Republic of China, Iran and Afghanistan.

The minister also assured that the provincial government would extend every possible support to the management of the China Window to make it a success story under a well-documented arrangement.

Atif Khan described the opening of the China Window a big initiative.

While responding to a question, Atif Khan said that the CPEC is game changer, which has further strengthened the relations between Pakistan and China. On completion, all such projects will significantly contribute to further cementing the bonds of relationships between both the countries.

### **Business Recorder, 07-02-19**

#### **Trump says China ‘theft’ of US jobs and wealth must end**

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday told Congress that Washington’s aggressive trade negotiations with Beijing would mean an end to China’s alleged “theft” of US jobs and wealth.

In his annual State of the Union address, Trump also called on China to make the kind of far-reaching “structural” changes to industrial policy that analysts say Beijing is likely to resist.

The world’s two largest economies have 24 days left in a three-month truce in their trade war before US duty rates are due to rise sharply — an escalation that economists say could be a powerful negative shock to the global economy.

“We are now making it clear to China that after years of targeting our industries, and stealing our intellectual property, the theft of American jobs and wealth has come to an end,” Trump said in his annual State of the Union address.

Any agreement with Beijing “must include real, structural change to end unfair trade practices,” Trump said.

Last week, top US and Chinese officials proclaimed progress and comity after two days of talks in Washington, but they disclosed few details.

Washington and Beijing have slapped punishing tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on the two countries’ manufacturing sectors and sent jitters through global markets.

The US trade deficit has swelled more than 18 percent since Trump took office, rising far faster than economic growth, and has hit record heights with China in particular.

The president also renewed his often-repeated falsehood that China was paying the US import duties on its exports.

“Our Treasury is receiving billions of dollars a month from a country that never gave us a dime,” Trump said.

In fact, such duties are paid by US importers, with costs in many cases passed on to consumers.

Trump also lauded signs of US economic strength, including robust job creation and falling unemployment.

“We are considered far and away the hottest economy anywhere in the world,” Trump said.

“Unemployment has reached the lowest rate in over half a century.”

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predicts the US economy will slow this year and the year after that as the effects of 2017’s sweeping tax overhaul fade.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 08-02-19**

#### **China seeks removal of social, cultural barriers to boost economy**

AAMIR SAEED

ISLAMABAD: China’s economic rise has been phenomenal in recent years, but it will still have to deal with social and cultural obstacles lying in the way of its economic expansion and development.

Chinese-Australian scholar Dr Baogang He said this on Thursday while speaking at a roundtable session titled “Analyzing BRI and CPEC beyond Geopolitics” which was organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

Dr He said the respect of various cultures and religions at home is a real test for the Chinese leadership as failure in showing sensitivity in this regard could prove to be detrimental for the country’s socio-political rise.

Dr Baogang He is a professor and chair in International Relations at the Deakin University, Australia. The session was moderated by Dr Azhar Ahmad, senior IPS associate and Head of Department, Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad.

Dr He was of the view that while China’s economic rise had been phenomenal, it will still have to deal with social and cultural obstacles lying in the way of its expansion and development.



“Where BRI and CPEC are set to connect and bring countries closer, a good treatment of cultures and religions in minority at home will set the perceptions in right direction for the country’s global socio-political expansion,” he said.

Speaking about Uighur Muslims in China, he said the issue of the Uighur Muslims who the Chinese government calls a threat to its national security, was one such obstacle faced by China.

The seminar participants were of the consensus view that the Chinese leadership should resolve the Xinxiang issue in a rational and peaceful way as the Muslims in Pakistan and across the world are concerned about the situation there.

Reflecting upon Pak-China interactions, Dr He said that there was a great deal of difference between Pakistan and Chinese civilizations, but these differences can easily be handled with Chinese showing respect to the host country’s norms and culture.

“An increased mutual understanding and people to people contacts are also mandatory in this regard, and that could best be done by fostering trade, tourism and academic exchanges,” he said.

The speaker and discussants also had an interesting debate on the growing conflict between China and the US vis-à-vis ‘digital civilization’ where, according to them, China wants to have an authoritarian control unlike America which is much open in its approach over keeping control of internet.

### **Business Recorder, 08-02-19**

#### **Hoti for strengthening Pak-China relationship**

##### RECORDER REPORT

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) Provincial President and former chief minister, Ameer Haider Khan Hoti said that the relations between Pakistan and China are historic, which should be further strengthened.

He was talking to media persons during his visit to China Window Centre Peshawar here on Thursday.

Hoti said it is important that people of both the countries should learn from each other experiences and success. He also emphasized the enhancement of people to people contact between to the friendly countries.

ANP leader said that talk about changes in 18th amendment has started from quite some time. He said the idea is always being flouted with the advent of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. He said that some people want to reduce the share of provinces.

Hoti stressed the need for forging unity among Pakhtuns while keeping in view the increasing challenges in the region. He welcomed that ANP and QWP have closer to each other under a single point agenda.

The party leader said that the arrest of PTI leader Aleem Khan has reminded him about speech of PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafiq. Hoti said that Saad Rafiq told media that he was arrested but questions are being asked about Aleem Khan.

ANP leader said he is no difference with personality of Chairman of National Accountability Bureau, but I am against the procedure of NAB. He said that the NAB should keep equal its parameter and procedure.

He said that there were allegations on some people, which are freeing roaming abroad, but some clean one put behind the bars. He said the accountability law was being used for destabilization of government in the past.

As per government statement, Hoti said there was no delay or deal in Nawaz Sharif case.

He added that Nawaz Sharif is not in favor of delay and deal.

He said that government is also talked that there is something happening but it should also explain who is doing this.

### **Business Recorder, 08-02-19**

#### **Natural gas trading on Shanghai exchange reaches new high**

BEIJING: Natural gas transactions in the Shanghai Petroleum and Natural Gas Exchange (SHPGX) reached a record high last year in part due to China's huge demand for clean energy.

The volume of natural gas traded in the exchange amounted to 60.46 billion cubic meters in 2018, for the first time surpassing the 60-billion mark. Of the total, deals of natural gas transported through pipelines came in at 55.54 billion.

The volume of liquefied natural gas (LNG) stood at 3.33 million tons last year, according to the exchange. 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 LNG importer in 2017, after Japan.

Some 90.39 million tons of natural gas were transported to China in 2018, 31.9 percent higher than a year ago, customs data showed.

The SHPGX was inaugurated in November 2016 after a year-long trial operation. By the end of 2018, it had 2,242 members, up 40 percent from a year ago.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 08-02-19**

#### **CBOT soya bean futures higher on sales to China**

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade soya bean futures closed higher on Tuesday after the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed more export sales to China, traders said.

CBOT March soya beans settled up 1-3/4 cents at \$9.20-1/4 per bushel. The contract was lower early in the session, but it failed to breach chart support at its 20-day moving average and turned higher near the close.

CBOT March soya meal ended down \$1.10 at \$309.50 per short ton and March soya oil rose 0.25 cent to 30.38 cents per pound.

Traders remained cautious ahead of a USDA report on Friday which will feature key supply and demand data that was delayed by the recent US government shutdown.

The USDA on Tuesday confirmed that China purchased 2.6 million tons of US soya beans for shipment during the current 2018/19 season.

The agency also said that 274,000 tons were sold to unknown destinations.

The USDA confirmation was the second sales announcement this week after the agency reported 612,000 tons in soya bean sales to China on Monday.

Beijing pledged last week to purchase 5 million tons of US soya beans as a good-will gesture during US-China talks to end the trade war between the countries.

Statistics Canada said canola stocks reached a record of 14.6 million tons in December.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 08-02-19**

#### **Thursday's early afternoon trade: Wall Street slides on rekindled US-China trade fears**

- Trade-sensitive tech, industrial stocks fall
- Twitter slides on gloomy revenue forecast

NEW YORK: US stocks sank over 1 percent on Thursday on fears that the United States and China would not be able to reach a trade deal with less than a month left in their fragile truce, adding to worries about a slowdown in global growth.

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping were unlikely to meet by an early March deadline set by the two countries for reaching a deal, two US administration officials and a source familiar with the negotiations said.

That news came after White House adviser Larry Kudlow told Fox Business Network there was a “pretty sizable distance” between the countries, which are set to resume discussions in Beijing next week.

“Any concern that the stalemate won’t be overcome by China and US is going to create negative sentiment for the markets just because trade is the single largest overhang,” said Mike Loewengart, vice-president of investment strategy at E\*Trade Financial in New York.

Nine of the 11 major S&P sectors fell. The technology sector slid 1.58 percent, with chipmakers tumbling 2.23 percent. Chipmakers get a large chunk of their revenue from Chinese customers.

The trade-sensitive industrials sector fell 1 percent.

Wall Street was already under pressure after the European Commission, earlier in the day, slashed its euro zone growth forecasts for this year and the next due to an expected slowdown in the largest countries of the bloc, partly on trade tensions.

After Wall Street’s strong run in January - on easing trade fears, a dovish Federal Reserve and largely upbeat US earnings - the market has wobbled this month as disappointing forecasts from a number of US companies give investors pause, the latest being Twitter Inc.

More than half the S&P 500 companies have reported fourth-quarter results, with about 71 percent beating profit estimates, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. However, current-quarter earnings growth estimates have shrunk to 0.1 percent, from 5.3 percent at the start of the year.

“Earnings weren’t as bad as expected, but are not nearly enough to get markets back to the highs. Investors also think earnings are going to slow in the next few quarters,” said Michael Antonelli, managing director, institutional sales trading at Robert W. Baird in Milwaukee.

At 1:06 p.m. ET the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 300.04 points, or 1.18 percent, at 25,090.26, the S&P 500 was down 33.80 points, or 1.24 percent, at 2,697.81 and the Nasdaq Composite was down 103.87 points, or 1.41 percent, at 7,271.41.

Energy stocks fell 2.43 percent as crude prices sank. Only the defensive real estate and utilities sectors were higher.

Twitter tumbled 9.4 percent after forecasting that revenue in the first quarter would be weaker than expected, while full-year operating costs would rise.

SunTrust Banks Inc jumped 8.3 percent after agreeing to be bought for about \$28 billion in stock by fellow regional lender BB&T Corp, which rose 2.4 percent.

The prospects of further deals sparked gains in other regional banks, although a drop in the large Wall Street lenders led to declines in the overall banks and financials indexes.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers for a 3.08-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and a 2.64-to-1 ratio on the NASDAQ.

The S&P index recorded nine new 52-week highs and two new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 26 new highs and 26 new lows.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 08-02-19**

#### **Billionaire's ban seen as pushback against Chinese foreign influence ops**

Andrew BEATTY

Australia's decision to ban a well-connected Chinese businessman for his political activity is being seen as a potential watershed moment, the start of pushback against Beijing's long-running operations to buy influence overseas.

In less than a decade, Huang Xiangmo went from a new arrival in Australia to hosting swanky waterside parties with political elites, to finally being kicked out of the country and declared persona non grata — as a result of his alleged links to China's Communist Party.

The 49-year-old Guangdong native is currently believed to be in Hong Kong, after the same officials he long courted and bankrolled revoked his residency, denied him citizenship and prevented him from returning to his multi-million-dollar Sydney mansion.

Experts say his case — which has prompted a furor in Australia over foreign donations to political parties — is a signal that Canberra is ready to curb China's ambitious operations to influence foreign political elites.

“It's a very significant thing,” said Michael Shoebridge, former deputy director of Australia's defense and signals intelligence agencies, pointing to Huang's links to the Chinese Communist Party.

While the 2016 US presidential election shone a fierce spotlight on Russian intelligence agencies' "active measures" to influence and subvert events abroad, less focus has fallen on China's operations in the same area.

According to Shoebridge, these are often led by the United Front Work Department, an agency of the Communist Party, and offshoot groups set up around the globe, like the Australian Council for the Promotion of the Peaceful Reunification of China.

While the United Front Work Department operates in China with close ties to party leaders, the reunification councils have been established in countries from New Zealand to the United States.

The lack of a formal link between the groups abroad and the Chinese state allows "deniability", according to Shoebridge. "But they certainly implement the policy directions of the Chinese state."

Their work also focuses on shaping public opinion and policy on contentious issues like China's claims on Taiwan, the South China Sea, Tibet and on internal issues like the treatment of ethnic Uighurs.

In a sign of their importance, President Xi Jinping met Huang in Sydney in November 2014 during a state visit.

It was Huang's political influence and his links to the United Front Work Department that reportedly set off alarm bells for the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, the country's main spy agency.

"Huang was very active in promoting United Front Work and in getting close to politicians," said Gerry Groot, a China expert at the University of Adelaide.

His interests included the 2015 Australia-China free trade agreement and a contentious bilateral extradition treaty, according to local media reports.

In 2017, one-time opposition Labor powerbroker Sam Dastyari was forced to quit politics amid allegations that he informed Huang about monitoring by western intelligence agencies and that his office took cash from the billionaire to pay legal bills. Millions more went to Australian political parties of all stripes.

Australia's foreign minister, Marise Payne, played down the significance of Huang's de facto expulsion for the broader China-Australia relationship.

"I don't expect it to be the subject of a bilateral discussion. These are matters that occur from time to time," she said.

The Chinese authorities have yet to react to news of the ban.

Beijing has often dismissed claims of meddling as hysteria and paranoia, but experts expect a muted Chinese response, so as to avoid negative publicity or draw further attention to United Front work.

“Any individual is disposable,” said Shoebridge.

But officials across the Pacific will be looking to see whether it is a precursor to further expulsions or even prosecutions.

Australia’s decision to ban Huang from the country “sets a precedent”, said Groot, adding it is something of a test case. “It will allow the Australian government to find out how Beijing will respond.”

Last year Australia passed sweeping national security reforms via the Espionage and Foreign Interference Act, which broadens the range of activities that would be treated as spying.

So far that legislation has not been used for prosecutions.

“Beijing has been surprised that it has got away with the kind of influence operations it has been running for so long, and have been so effective,” said Shoebridge.

“Australian policymakers have woken up late to these activities, but this is a sign that the rhetoric now has substance. Another big sign of that will be the first prosecution.”—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 09-02-19**

#### **China denies ‘ridiculous’ spying allegations by Lithuania**

VILNIUS: China on Friday denied what it termed “ridiculous” allegations of spying leveled by Lithuania as the Baltic euro zone state joined other western nations in expressing concerns about Chinese telecoms giant Huawei.

The company has raised suspicions in the west for its close ties to the Chinese government and generated fears the company may be a tool of China’s international espionage capabilities.

“It is absurd and ridiculous for the Lithuanian intelligence and security services to rely on conjecture and imagination to make unfounded distortions,” the Chinese embassy said in a statement.

It said it was “shocked and surprised” by the “totally unacceptable” statements made by Lithuanian intelligence, insisting that “China does not pose any security threat to Lithuania”.



Earlier this week, two Lithuanian intelligence agencies condemned China for an “increasingly aggressive” spy campaign which it said included “attempts to recruit Lithuanian citizens”.

Darius Jauniskis, head of Lithuania’s State Security Department, said his agency was analyzing the potential “threat” posed by Huawei, whose technology is being used to build the EU and NATO state’s new 5G telecommunications infrastructure.

US officials recently toured EU capitals urging European governments to scrap Huawei technology from their telecom infrastructure plans.

The US considers the matter urgent as EU countries prepare to roll out 5G networks that will deliver near-instantaneous connectivity, vast data capacity and new technologies to Europeans.

Several other countries, under pressure from the United States, have banned Huawei’s 5G equipment.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 09-02-19**

#### **Next round of US-China trade talks set for Feb 14-15: White House**

WASHINGTON: US officials will be in Beijing February 14-15 for the third round of talks aimed at heading off an escalation of the ongoing trade war with China, the White House announced Friday.

Negotiators are working towards an agreement before the 90-day tariff truce expires March 1, after which the US is set to more than double punitive duties on \$200 billion in Chinese goods.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will lead the delegation, which also includes David Malpass, who President Donald Trump has nominated to be president of the World Bank, according to the statement.

However, strident White House China critic Peter Navarro was not listed as part of the US team.

While officials seemed optimistic after talks last week in Washington, more recent comments have jarred financial markets, amplifying concerns about how the dispute will impact global growth.

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he did not expect to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping before a March 1 deadline for the two economic superpowers to reach a deal.

Trump had said final resolution of the trade dispute would depend on the meeting with Xi “in the near future,” but told reporters it had not yet been arranged.

And top White House economist Larry Kudlow said Thursday that while Trump was “optimistic” about prospects for a deal, there remained a “sizeable distance” separating the two sides.

Washington is demanding far-reaching changes from China to address unfair practices it says are deeply unfair, including theft of American intellectual property and the massive Chinese trade surplus.

The White House said there will be a preparatory meeting of senior officials beginning February 11, and the talks will include officials from the Agriculture, Energy and Commerce Departments.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 09-02-19**

#### **Wall Street slides on renewed US-China trade fears**

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks sank on Thursday as worries that the United States and China would not be able to reach a trade deal increased concerns about slowing global economic growth.

US President Donald Trump said he did not plan to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping before the March 1 deadline set by the two countries for reaching an agreement.

US stocks had already been under pressure after the European Commission slashed its euro zone growth forecasts for 2019 and 2020 due to an expected slowdown in the largest countries of the bloc, partly due to trade tensions.

“There’s a resurfacing of global growth fears, which has pushed US stocks down,” said Veronica Willis, investment strategy analyst at Wells Fargo Investment Institute in St. Louis. “There are still some concerns surrounding trade, and I think those issues will linger for some time.”

Stocks pared losses toward the end of the session. The benchmark S&P 500 index hit a key technical level - 2,700 - that likely prompted buying, said Michael Antonelli, managing director of institutional sales trading at Robert W. Baird in Milwaukee.

Still, among the S&P 500’s major sectors, only the defensive utilities and real estate indexes were positive, illustrating Thursday’s risk-off sentiment.

The Philadelphia SE Semiconductor Index tumbled 2.2 percent. Chipmakers get a large chunk of their revenue from Chinese customers.

Disappointing financial forecasts from several US companies, including Twitter Inc, have also given investors pause.

More than half of S&P 500 companies have reported fourth-quarter results, with about 71 percent beating profit estimates, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. However, current-quarter earnings growth estimates have shrunk to 0.1 percent from 5.3 percent at the start of the year.

“As earnings reports come in, there’s a heightened concern that future revenue growth as well as earnings over the course of 2019 won’t be as robust as investors expected,” said Chad Morganlander, senior portfolio manager at Washington Crossing Advisors in Florham Park, New Jersey.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 220.77 points, or 0.87 percent, to 25,169.53, the S&P 500 lost 25.56 points, or 0.94 percent, to 2,706.05 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 86.93 points, or 1.18 percent, to 7,288.35.

Energy stocks fell 2.1 percent, the largest percentage drop among S&P 500 sectors, as crude prices sank on worries of tapering demand because of trade tensions.

Twitter shares tumbled 9.8 percent after the social media company forecast that revenue in the first quarter would be weaker than expected and that its full-year operating costs would rise.

SunTrust Banks Inc shares jumped 10.2 percent after the bank agreed to be bought for about \$28 billion in stock by fellow regional lender BB&T Corp, whose shares rose 4.0 percent.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 2.34-to-1 ratio; on NASDAQ, a 2.08-to-1 ratio favored decliners.

The S&P 500 posted 16 new 52-week highs and two new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 32 new highs and 34 new lows.

Volume on US exchanges was 7.82 billion shares, compared with the 7.49 billion-share average over the last 20 trading days.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 09-02-19**

#### **CBOT soya bean falls on worries over US-China trade talks**

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade soya bean futures dropped for the first time in five sessions on Thursday on worries that the United States and China remain far apart in trade negotiations, traders said.

CBOT March soya beans were fell 8-1/2 cents to \$9.13-1/4 per bushel, breaking through chart support at its 200-day moving average.

CBOT March soya meal ended down \$3.50 at \$305.50 per short ton and March soyaoil fell 0.09 cent to 30.81 cents per pound.

Investors squared positions ahead of a bevy of US Department of Agriculture (USDA) crop reports due Friday, including some data delayed by the partial US government shutdown in December and January.

News that US President Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping would not meet during trade talks dashed hopes that the two sides were progressing on a deal to end a bitter trade fight that has slashed Chinese purchases of US soya.

Earlier on Thursday, White House adviser Larry Kudlow said in an interview on Fox Business Network that there was a sizable distance to go in US-China trade talks.

Improving crop weather in South America also weighed on prices following recent cuts to yield prospects due to drought in Brazil and excessive rains in Argentina.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 09-02-19**

#### **CPEC projects**

#### **Chinese diplomat expresses satisfaction over pace of work**

#### **RECORDER REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: A top Chinese diplomat Friday expressed satisfaction over the progress made on projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that a number of projects are set to be completed in the next few months.

Speaking at a seminar on 'Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Impact on Developments in South West Asia,' organized by Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Chinese embassy's deputy chief of mission Lijian Zhao said the work on CPEC projects is progressing satisfactorily of which some will be completed in next few months.

Referring to some major projects, Zhao said Sukkur-Multan M-5 Motorway, which is the largest project under the CPEC worth \$2.9 billion, is scheduled to be completed by June, whereas Thakot-Havelian section of Karakoram Highway is likely to be ready by the end of this year.

The 1320 MW coal-fired power plant set up in Hub, Balochistan, would likely be functional by the end of April, he said, adding that the first 660 MW unit of the power plant has already been connected to the national grid, while the second one would come online shortly. Besides, he added that Hub Power Plant is being completed at a cost of nearly \$2 billion.

Furthermore, he said progress has been made on the projects such as Karot and Sukki-Kinari hydro-power plants and Gawadar Port Free Zone.

Since the launch of Belt and Road Initiative six years ago, he pointed out that China has invested \$28.9 billion in 82 economic zones in countries which are part of the initiative with 3,995 Chinese companies setting up businesses in these countries. However, he said Pakistan has not received investment under this head, as economic zones are yet to be started in the country.

Zhao also underscored the need for strengthening people-to-people contacts to complement strong bilateral political, economic and strategic relations between the two countries.

He pointed out that currently Chinese universities are hosting over 22,000 Pakistani students, adding that this number is higher than the number of Pakistani students studying in the universities of the US and UK.

Prof Shahram Akbarzadeh, professor at Deakin University, Australia, in his presentation said Middle Eastern countries see China as a partner as unlike Western countries it does not insist on political openness and maintains business like relations.

According to him, China is presenting alternatives to the leadership in Middle East, adding that China's weakness lies in its inability to exert soft power in the Middle East.

Dr Baogang He, professor at Deakin University, Australia, in his presentation said China has global ambitions and it is exporting infrastructure in addition to building production networks and supply chains.

He said that China has accumulated knowledge, technology, raw material, and wealth for its economic agenda. However, he urged China to address issues related to labor, land acquisition, and scale of investments.

Dr Zahid Shahab Ahmed, research fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization, Deakin University, Australia, noted that there has been political consensus within Pakistan on CPEC. This, he said can be used as a model to evolve consensus on other issues of national importance.

Dr Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President SVI, in his remarks said critics of BRI and CPEC look at the projects through the geo-strategic lens and from the perspective of power politics.

He said the ascendancy of a geo-strategic perspective precludes the understanding of its desired objectives and undermines an informed and balanced discussion and discourse.

From an overriding security perspective, CPEC being viewed as a challenge rather than a cooperative enterprise while from the geo-economic angle, it is promoting regional connectivity, infrastructure growth, trade and development, he added.

### **Business Recorder, 10-02-19**

#### **China condemns Modi's visit to disputed region**

MUMBAI: China's foreign ministry on Saturday condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the disputed northeastern border state of Arunachal Pradesh, saying it "resolutely opposes" activities by Indian leaders in the region.

Modi's visit was part of a series of public meetings in the region aimed at garnering support for his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of Indian elections due by May.

Despite recent efforts to improve bilateral ties in countries, disputes over the mountainous Indo-China border - which triggered a war in 1962 - and the region that China claims as southern Tibet have remained a sensitive issue.

"China urges the Indian side to proceed from the overall situation of bilateral relations, respect China's interests and concerns, cherish the momentum of improving relations between the two countries, and refrain from any actions that intensify disputes and complicate the border issue," its foreign ministry said in a statement.

In response, the official spokesperson at India's foreign ministry said in a statement that Arunachal Pradesh was "an integral and inalienable part of India".

"Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other parts of India. This consistent position has been conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions."

Both India and China have sought to rebuild trust after an armed standoff over a stretch of the Himalayan border in 2017.

Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met a number of times last year to give impetus to trade discussions. But progress, according to Indian government officials and representatives of various Indian trade bodies, has been very slow.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 10-02-19**

#### **The giant Chinese companies shaping the world's industries**

Julien GIRAULT

PARIS: It was fear of being dominated by a Chinese behemoth that sparked an attempt by large French and German rail companies to join forces to create a European industrial champion.

The merger by Alstom and Siemens was vetoed by the EU on Thursday, but concerns about the overwhelming power of vast, often state-backed Chinese companies is not limited to the rail industry.

Here are some of areas in which Chinese companies control a large piece of the global market.

China's state-backed CRRC is the world's largest train manufacturer, with locomotives and wagons ordered across the globe from Boston to Philadelphia, Cambodia to Colombia, and customers including the iconic London Underground and Germany's Deutsche Bahn.

Its annual revenues of 26 billion euros (29 billion dollars) alone outweigh the three Western heavyweights Bombardier, Siemens and Alstom, each of which brings in around nine billion a year.

The state-owned Chem China became one of the world's seeds and pesticide producers when it acquired Swiss pesticide giant Syngenta for \$43 billion in 2017, putting it in competition with Monsanto and Dow Dupont. It was the biggest overseas acquisition by a Chinese firm yet, ahead of the \$15.1 billion purchase of Canada's Nexen Energy by China's state oil firm CNOOC in 2013.

Chem China also controls Italian tire maker Pirelli and German machinery firm Krauss Maffei.

The state-run China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) launched its locally developed Hualong One nuclear reactor in 2015 to compete with French and US models, selling to Argentina and Pakistan.

Chinese solar panel manufacturers Jinko, Trina and Solar dominate the global market.

And Chinese oil companies — CNOOC, CNPC and Sinopec — are investing heavily even as their global rivals cut spending.

China's state-owned plane-maker Comac expects to deliver its first home-made passenger jet to a customer in 2021, as it seeks to challenge the dominance of Boeing and Airbus.

The company says it has received a thousand orders for its 168-seater C919 plane.

The state-owned food giant COFCO is playing an increasing role in world grain trading after purchasing the agricultural arm of Singaporean commodities trader Noble as well as Dutch Nidera.



China's WH Group became the world's largest pork producer in 2013, when it purchased major US pork and hot dog producer Smithfield Foods Inc.

Founded by a Chinese university student in 2006, DJI has become the world's top civilian drone maker with 70 percent of the market, outpacing its French rival Parrot.

Chinese smartphone makers are taking a larger slice of the global market, with Huawei at 15 percent, Xiaomi 8.7 percent and Oppo 8.1 percent.

Phone sales by Huawei and Oppo surged by 30 percent last year, defying a downward trend that hit rivals Apple and Samsung.

China's Haier Group is the world's leading manufacturer of home appliances with around 10 percent of the market, ahead of rivals Whirlpool and Electrolux. Haier even purchased the appliances arm of US giant General Electric in 2016.

Chinese firm CATL, which supplies batteries for car titans Volkswagen, Ford and Daimler, is battling with Japan's Panasonic for the world's lithium electric car battery top spot.

Its production capacity will increase fivefold by 2020 due to a mammoth new factory in China, and the firm has announced a huge factory in Germany to supply European customers.

The state-owned Cosco Group is the world's third biggest shipping company with 50 container ports across the globe, including Greece's Piraeus and Spain's.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 10-02-19**

#### **Brazil farmers halt soya sales, China buys US supplies**

SAO PAULO: Farmers have halted sales of Brazil's soya beans as port premiums swooned, the real currency strengthened and a pause in a trade war prompted top importer China to purchase soya from the United States, growers and trading companies said.

Poor market conditions are also affecting planting decisions for Brazil's 2019/2020 crop that will be sown starting from September. Farmers generally buy inputs like seeds and fertilizers through barter arrangements with traders, used as a form of credit until the crop is harvested, and such deals are way behind schedule, farmers and companies said.

"The market is stalled," said a soya buyer representing a large trading firm in Mato Grosso, Brazil's top soya-producing state, who asked for anonymity to speak freely.

Unlike other years, grain handlers did not launch barter campaigns in December attempting to lock in farmer's 2019/20 harvests, as prices for imported fertilizers rose and locally priced soya beans fell on a stronger real, the buyer said.

Mato Grosso, which will collect an estimated 32 million tons of soya beans this season, still has not sold about half of its 2018/2019 output.

“Spot sales slowed as farmers await better prices,” soya grower Cayron Giacomelli said by telephone.

At the same time forward sales are hampered by trade war uncertainties, he added.

Growers have sold about at 46.6 percent of Mato Grosso's estimated output for this season, according to farmer-backed state research institute Imea, below a 49.9 percent five-year average.

The situation bodes ill for the entire supply chain as farmers displeased with margins tend to hold out and pressure transport, trading and fertilizer firms to cut their own margins.

Soybean exports are also below expectations in early 2019 given how advanced the harvesting is, said Frederico Humberg, founder of Agri Brasil, a fast-growing grain origination firm in São Paulo.

Humberg said China's return to the US soya market after a truce in the trade war slashed Brazil's port premiums and hindered a potential rise in local soya prices. Farmer hoarding is also keeping a lid on freight prices, he said.

“Price-wise, this is a pessimistic scenario for farmers,” Humberg said, arguing high US soya inventories tend to continue to constrain Chicago.

Grain grower association Aprosoja said the trade war is bad for local farmers because their benchmark is Chicago and the spat left US soya silos filled to the brim.

As harvesting progresses over the next 20 days, Brazilian farmers who lack storage space may be forced to sell, according to Daniel Latorraca, Imea superintendent.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 10-02-19**

#### **KCCA calls for verification of Pak-China FTA thru EDE**

##### RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA) has requested Pakistan Customs to verify Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) through Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) instead of manual.

This was disclosed in a circular issued on the other day saying that KCAA held a meeting Chief Collector Appraisal South and requested to verify Pak-China FTA through EDE instead of manual calling of documents from the traders / customs agents. The KCAA during meeting said in such cases where FTA was available electronically, online verification must be considered through EDE.

The KCAA said presently IGM de blocking of such GDs, which were filed after 15 days by the traders/customs agents electronically were required to approach concerned DC/AC for deblocking of IGM that caused excessive workload for customs officials and also increasing dwell of clearance.

Therefore, KCAA proposed that auto deblocking of IGM in order to reduce dwell time should be incorporated in the system under sub-section (1) of section 79 read with Clause 47(a) of Section 156 of Customs Act, 1969.

Furthermore, it said the consignments were presently being held by the terminal operators manually under section 82 of the Customs Act, 1969 and requested the chief collector to issue instructions to the terminal operators to discontinue the said practice where the goods declaration was out of charge from the customs department under section 83 of Customs Act, 1969.

### **Business Recorder, 11-02-19**

#### **Travel in China grows over Lunar Year holiday**

SHANGHAI: People in China made 415 million domestic trips during the Lunar New Year holiday, an increase of 7.6 percent from the same period last year, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday as the week-long break drew to a close.

Domestic tourism during China's biggest holiday generated revenue of 513.9 billion yuan (\$76.2 billion), an annual increase of 8.2 percent, it said, citing the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Meanwhile, border crossings into and out of China rose 11 percent from the same 2018 period to 12.53 million, with Chinese residents crossing the border for personal reasons 7.22 million times, up 16 percent, Xinhua reported.

The robust growth in domestic and international travel and spending over the Lunar New Year period, or Spring Festival, underscores the rise of Chinese tourism and comes in spite of a slowing economy.

More than 6.2 million arrivals were recorded by border authorities during the week, an increase of 9.5 percent. There were over 6.3 million exits, up 12.5 percent, Xinhua said, citing data from the State Immigration Administration.

Top overseas destinations for Chinese residents this Lunar New Year were Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, the United States, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, Xinhua reported.

Last year during the Spring Festival holiday, 386 million trips were made domestically, contributing to an increase of 475 billion yuan in China's travel revenue, Xinhua said.

In 2017, Chinese people made 143 million international tourist trips and were the world's biggest spenders on international tourism, the United Nations World Tourism Organization said.—  
Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 11-02-19**

#### **China-Pakistan financial cooperation**

According to a Business Recorder exclusive, China and Pakistan are close to a deal on balance of payment support of 2.5 billion dollars as a commercial loan rather than a concessional loan (or grant) and finalization of the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which was pending for some time. Subsequent to Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China, Federal Finance Minister Asad Umer in a joint press conference on 6 November 2018 with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi stated that "China has agreed in principle to extend an economic relief package to Pakistan." However reports not contradicted by the government at the time revealed that while the Pakistan delegation requested balance of payment support at concessional interest rates yet the Chinese refused to accede to this demand and urged the government to first formulate a reform agenda to allow the Chinese to assess whether it was feasible to support it.

Disturbingly to this day the PTI government has not shared its economic reform agenda targeted towards macroeconomic stabilization, necessitating containment of the budget deficit, and instead the focus has been on acquiring loans from friendly countries to meet the yawning current account deficit of around 19 billion dollars. There has thus been no serious attempt to either raise revenue or reduce expenditure and instead the government presented an industrial promotion package that envisages higher and not lower expenditure. This is not to state that the industrial promotion is not a worthy objective just that the state of the economy requires focus on stabilizing key macroeconomic variables at this time.

China as a long-term member of development financial institutions, with reduced reliance on borrowing from these multilaterals as its foreign exchange reserves soared, would, unlike Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, require a viable strategy before it agrees to extend balance of payment support. Unlike the United States Export Import Bank and other export credit agencies, Chinese banks rarely reveal information on specific financing agreements; and it is also rare for the recipients of such financing to fully disclose the details of the finance they receive from China. Be that as it may, Chinese loan finance is varied with some government loans

qualifying as “official development aid,” and others extended as export credits, suppliers’ credits, or commercial in nature hence newspaper reports that China does not extend concessional loans or writes off past loans is not correct. Be that as it may, reports indicate that the 2.5 billion dollar loan to Pakistan would be commercial in nature.

Of growing concern however are the ongoing negotiations on the second phase of the FTA with Pakistan lamenting the yawning trade gap between the two countries subsequent to the 51 agreements/Memoranda of Understanding signed between the two countries for 50 plus billion dollar of investment under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Trade volume between Pakistan and China was 13 billion dollars in 2013 and rose to 20 billion dollars by 2017 with Pakistani exports to China remaining more or less constant at around 1.5 billion dollars. The Khan-led delegation to China in November 2018 reportedly requested opening China to Pakistani products with applicable tariffs on the same pattern as allowed to the ASEAN countries however China reportedly did not agree and informed the delegation that it would seek to double Pakistan’s exports – an offer that would not make any appreciable difference to the trade gap with China. It is unclear what Imran Khan’s administration would agree to in terms of the rate of return on the loan for balance of payment support or the FTA.

To conclude, it is imperative for the incumbent government to procure loans from friendly countries at rates that are competitive and there is little doubt that if China is lending at commercial rates the International Monetary Fund presents a better option. Additionally, if the Chinese disagree to allowing Pakistani exports unfettered access to their markets and limit our exports to a mere 2 to 3 billion dollars at best there is a need for looking at the second phase of the FTA from new but informed perspective.

### **Business Recorder, 12-02-19**

#### **FTSE climbs as US-China trade talks take off**

- BATS, Imperial Brands gain
- Mid-cap Metro Bank jumps on rating upgrade

LONDON: British blue-chip names bounced back on Monday buoyed by strength in bank and consumer shares, while a stronger dollar lifted companies with greater international exposure as a fresh round of Sino-US trade talks commenced.

The main index added 0.8 percent while midcaps were up 1 percent, after ending lower on Friday as fresh concerns over the Sino-US trade situation added to fears of a slowdown in the world economy.

Overseas, gains on Wall Street were led by industrial companies as a new round of talks between the United States and China piqued hopes for a trade deal.

Asia-focused bank HSBC rose 1.5 percent.

Travel group TUI's London-listed shares advanced 5 percent to top the FTSE 100 leader-board as traders cited Bank of America Merrill Lynch resuming coverage with a "Buy" rating.

Imperial Brands was 2 percent higher after the tobacco group said its non-executive chairman Mark Williamson would step down. Larger rival British American Tobacco also rose 2.7 percent.

The gain in the FTSE 100, coming after three sessions of losses, marked a strong start to a week in which British Prime Minister Theresa May is due to update parliament on her progress towards a European Union divorce deal.

The market held up despite data showing the British economy had slowed in the final three months of last year, pushing growth in 2018 to its weakest in six years, as Brexit worries hammered investment.

The contraction, however, was as expected and came after economic growth forecast cuts by the Bank of England and the European Commission last week.

As the March 29 exit date ticks closer, a deal on how the world's sixth-largest economy will leave the European Union is still in limbo and companies are reigning in spending until the fog clears.

May has rejected the idea of targeting a customs union with the EU, stamping out hopes that she could shift her Brexit policy to win over the opposition Labor Party.

"Clearly the Brexit discussions - and the need for a compromise to be forged - are a source for further concerns or an opportunity to quell the malaise with huge implications for all UK consumers, employees, employers and the general economy," Raymond James analyst Chris Bailey said of the data.

After touching their highest since November on Chinese iron ore futures hitting record levels, metals stocks shed some gains to end up 1 percent, even as most base metals prices fell on global growth worries.

Among mid-caps, the biggest boost came from takeaway group Just Eat, which climbed 4.4 percent after its shareholder Cat Rock Capital Management, urged the company to start merger talks and said it, would benefit from a deal rather than relying on a new chief executive officer.

Metro Bank, whose stock has roughly halved in value following an accounting error, surged 6.5 percent stand among top mid-cap gainers following a Berenberg upgrade.

Among a handful of losers was Smith & Nephew which slid 3 percent after the Financial Times reported that it has held talks to buy US-based medical equipment maker NuVasive in a deal that would be worth more than \$3 billion.

Small-cap KCOM rose 6.1 percent after the Telegraph reported that Virgin Media was considering a takeover bid, while logistics firm Connect Group rose 3 percent on a contract with Daily Mirror publisher Reach Plc.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 12-02-19**

#### **China stocks ride higher on trade talk hopes**

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks jumped on Monday as China and the United States moved the trade talks forward and after retailers reported strong holiday sales figures.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 1.4 percent to 2,653.90 points, its highest close since Dec. 5, 2018. The index has risen 6.4 percent so far this year.

The blue-chip CSI300 index gained 1.8 percent, with its financial sector sub-index advancing 0.8 percent and healthcare sub-index rising 2.4 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index jumped 2.9 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index rallied 3.5 percent.

The A-share market was closed last week for the Lunar New Year holiday, during which US President Donald Trump said he did not plan to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping before a March 1 deadline set by the two countries to achieve a trade deal.

However, investors stayed optimistic ahead of the next round of trade talks that started on Monday in Beijing, spearheaded on the US side by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, which will focus on issues such as intellectual property rights.

China hopes to see good results from trade talks with the United States, the country's foreign ministry said at a regular press briefing on Monday.

Although the two sides will unlikely reach an immediate agreement on these issues, “the market is expecting the deadline to be extended so people are not prepared to be too negative (on share prices) at this point,” said Steven Leung, director of sales, UOB Kay Hian in Hong Kong.



China's retailer and catering enterprises earned over \$147.5 billion during the Lunar New Year holiday, the country's commerce ministry said late Sunday. That sent shares of liquor and home appliance makers up and pushed the CSI's consumer staples index more than 4 percent higher.

Shares in Apple Inc's suppliers in Greater China rallied, tracking a robust rebound in the iPhone maker, after the company reported sharp growth in its services business. CSI300's sub-index for information technology stocks jumped 4.1 percent.

MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.2 percent.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Jiangsu Sinojit Wind Energy Technology Co Ltd and E Ging Photovoltaic Technology Co Ltd, both up 10.2 percent, followed by CECEP Wind-Power Corp, which climbed 10.1 percent. About 15.5 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 13.2 billion. The Shanghai stock index is above its 50-day moving average and below its 200-day moving average.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 12-02-19**

#### **Brazil halts soya bean sales as China buys from US**

SAO PAULO: Farmers have halted sales of Brazil's soya beans as port premiums swooned, the real currency strengthened and a pause in a trade war prompted top importer China to purchase soya from the United States, growers and trading companies said.

Poor market conditions are also affecting planting decisions for Brazil's 2019/2020 crop that will be sown starting from September. Farmers generally buy inputs like seeds and fertilizers through barter arrangements with traders, used as a form of credit until the crop is harvested, and such deals are way behind schedule, farmers and companies said.

"The market is stalled," said a soya buyer representing a large trading firm in Mato Grosso, Brazil's top soya-producing state, who asked for anonymity to speak freely.

Unlike other years, grain handlers did not launch barter campaigns in December attempting to lock in farmer's 2019/20 harvests, as prices for imported fertilizers rose and locally priced soya beans fell on a stronger real, the buyer said.

Mato Grosso, which will collect an estimated 32 million tons of soya beans this season, still has not sold about half of its 2018/2019 output.

"Spot sales slowed as farmers await better prices," soya grower Cayron Giacomelli said by telephone. At the same time forward sales are hampered by trade war uncertainties, he added.

Growers have sold about at 46.6 percent of Mato Grosso's estimated output for this season, according to farmer-backed state research institute Imea, below a 49.9 percent five-year average.

The situation bodes ill for the entire supply chain as farmers displeased with margins tend to hold out and pressure transport, trading and fertilizer firms to cut their own margins.

Soya bean exports are also below expectations in early 2019 given how advanced the harvesting is, said Frederico Humberg, founder of Agri Brasil, a fast-growing grain origination firm in São Paulo.

Humberg said China's return to the US soya market after a truce in the trade war slashed Brazil's port premiums and hindered a potential rise in local soya prices. Farmer hoarding is also keeping a lid on freight prices, he said.

"Price-wise, this is a pessimistic scenario for farmers," Humberg said, arguing high US soya inventories tend to continue to constrain Chicago.

Grain grower association Aprosoja said the trade war is bad for local farmers because their benchmark is Chicago and the spat left US soya silos filled to the brim.

As harvesting progresses over the next 20 days, Brazilian farmers who lack storage space may be forced to sell, according to Daniel Latorraca, Imea superintendent. "Whatever is left in storage will only be sold after the peak of the season around June," he said.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 12-02-19**

#### **Zinc hits two-week low on China-US trade worries**

- Three-month copper ends lower at \$6,150 a ton

LONDON: Zinc slumped to a two-week low on Monday falling along with other industrial metals as speculators sold in response to concerns about US-China trade talks and global growth.

China expressed anger on Monday at a US Navy mission through the disputed South China Sea after US President Donald Trump said last week that he did not plan to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping before a March 1 deadline for a trade deal.

Chinese investors, returning after a week-long national holiday, seemed to focus more on downbeat news rather than optimism expressed by China on Monday about a new round of trade talks with the United States.

“You had seen quite a run-up in base metals prices, with lots of positivity on the trade negotiations, and now that balloon seems to have been punctured somewhat,” said Ross Strachan, senior commodities economist at Capital Economics in London.

“There seems to be more realization that trying to get a permanent long-term deal between those two parties is extremely difficult to imagine.”

Benchmark zinc on the London Metal Exchange had shot up by nearly a fifth in the month to Feb. 5, when it touched a seven-month peak of \$2,810 a ton.

Since then, however, it has slipped 6 percent and was the biggest LME decliner on Monday. It fell 2.2 percent in closing open outcry activity to \$2,644 a ton, having earlier touched \$2,631, the lowest since Jan. 25.

Investors apparently brushed off news that LME zinc inventories have eroded further to their lowest since January 2008.

Zinc attracted additional selling because of a weak chart picture, Marex Spectron’s Matt France said in a note. “Zinc looks most vulnerable technically as it has breached the 200-day moving average at \$2,660.”

Three-month LME copper shed 1 percent to finish at \$6,150 a ton after Chilean state miner Codelco said on Saturday that it hoped to restart operations soon at its Chuquicamata copper mine.

LME lead gave up 1.7 percent to close at a two-week low of \$2,045.50 a ton.

A pullback in lead is expected to be short-lived, Stéphanie Aymes, head of technical analysis at Society Generals, said in a note. “Once a move beyond \$2,132/35 takes shape, lead will extend the recovery towards \$2,185 and perhaps even towards the May 2018 through at \$2,241/28.”

Also weighing on metals was a stronger dollar, making dollar-denominated metals more expensive for holders of other currencies. Aluminum closed unchanged at \$1,880 a ton, nickel fell 0.6 percent to \$12,490 and tin eased by 0.1 percent to \$21,025.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 12-02-19**

#### **China ministry raises 2018-19 cotton output outlook**

BEIJING: China’s 2018/19 cotton output was seen at 6.04 million tons, up from a previous forecast of 5.94 million tons, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said in its monthly crop report released on Monday.

The ministry also raised its forecast of China's 2018/19 cotton imports to 1.6 million tons from a previous forecast of 1.50 million tons, according to the monthly Chinese Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (CASDE).

Key numbers for corn and soybean were unchanged from last month's forecast.

China's demand for soymeal in 2018/19 was expected to fall as some farmers were reluctant to replenish their herds following a series of African swine fever outbreaks, and as consumption of alternative meals will increase after China removed tariffs on imports of these products from a number of countries, the report said.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

#### **Oil relying on China-US trade talks**

Oil prices are back to being highly volatile again – after a brief period of relative stability. The latest production numbers released from OPEC suggests that the compliance levels have been much closer to the targets – as against market expectations of being termed too ambitious. Russia has continued to join hands with OPEC suppliers – and together the production cut is now close to a million barrels a day.

Russia though has appeared rather less supportive this time around – with calls from within Russia growing in dissent of being part of such an extended production cut and freeze deal. It would not come as a surprise, if Russia gradually pulls out or continues to miss the compliance marks. Saudi Arabia has been the biggest contributor in the overall cut, closely followed by the UAE and Kuwait. Efforts are seemingly underway to put a stop on prices falling any further, as the risks of global demand slide become ever so evident. The US shale production on the other hand, has continued to grow and the oil rig count over the past few months has been on the higher side.

It is astonishing that such high level of production cut compliance has not sent the prices soaring yet. That is because the other supply side issues are too big to ignore, and the OPEC alliance's actions could work only as far as balancing the market to current levels. Market experts have singled out the US and China trade talks and the outcomes as the most important determinant in terms of the medium to long term direction of oil price and ignoring the supply side risks of late.

The fundamentals on both the sides are currently balancing each other, as the supply cuts have been met by projections of a significant global economic slowdown – which could continue deep into 2021. In such a scenario, the policy risk becomes the biggest factor, adding a vulnerability premium, on both upper and lower ends.

## **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

### **China rejects report about cancellation of hydropower projects by Pakistan, Nepal**

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Hua Chunying on Tuesday rejected a report about the cancellation of hydropower projects by Pakistan and Nepal with China and said the information about the projects mentioned in the report was false and inconsistent with the facts.

"I remember this report was carried by Hindustan Times. The information about these projects mentioned in the report – released by Indian Ministry of External Affairs - is actually false and inconsistent with the facts," she said during her regular briefing held here.

She explained that for example, the dam project was not been included in the list of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and the hydropower project in Nepal was still in the negotiation stage.

As for the blacklisting of China Harbour Company by the Bangladeshi government was concerned, it was also not true.

When asked to comment that according to the report Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had countered a great push-back in its implementation and there would be a major adjustment of policy in the forthcoming Belt and Road Forum, she said at present, more than 150 countries and international organizations had signed cooperation documents with the Chinese side to build a "One Belt, One Road" cooperation project.

"A large number of cooperation projects have taken root and blossomed, which has injected strong momentum into the economic and social development of countries along the route," she added.

The spokesperson remarked that the BRI had become a popular international public product and had become an important platform for international cooperation. Co-construction and sharing were the golden rules for the construction of the "Belt and Road".

Hua Chunying said in the process of building the "Belt and Road" with the countries concerned, the Chinese side had always adhered to equality, openness, and transparency, and acted in accordance with market rules and international rules.

"We never impose on others and never impose any so-called unacceptable conditions. Each project is the result of equal consultations between the parties concerned," she added.

She said individual projects might encounter temporary difficulties or problems, and they could change the objective facts that the “Belt and Road” cooperation had played a positive role in promoting the economic and social development of the countries concerned.—APP

### **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

#### **CBOT soya bean futures fall on US-China trade talks**

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade soya bean futures declined on Monday, with the March contract hitting its lowest in nearly three weeks on improved Brazilian crop weather coupled with worries about a looming deadline for US trade talks with top global soya buyer China, traders said.

CBOT March soya beans settled down 9-1/2 cents at \$9.05 per bushel after dipping to \$9.03-1/2, the contract's lowest since January 22.

CBOT March soya meal ended down \$1.20 at \$304.90 per short ton while March soya oil fell 0.63 cent to 30.24 cents per pound.

Beneficial rains fell in crop areas of Brazil over the weekend and forecasts called for more showers this week that should help late soya bean growth, Radiant Solutions said in a note to clients.

The rains overshadowed a smaller Brazilian soya crop estimate from agribusiness consultancy Ag Rural, which pegged the harvest at 112.5 million tons, down from 116.9 million previously.

Traders worried about US trade negotiations with China, the world's top soya bean buyer. The two sides are trying to hammer out a deal before a March 1 deadline, when US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports are scheduled to increase to 25 percent from 10 percent.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

#### **China's iron ore rises on concerns over Brazilian supply**

BEIJING: China's iron ore futures rose to a record on Monday, the first session after a week-long national holiday, on concerns that supply from Brazil, the country's second-largest ore supplier, may decline after a fatal dam accident at a Vale mine.

The most-active iron ore futures for May delivery on the Dalian Commodity Exchange rose to their daily trading limit when the market opened at 0100 GMT, hitting a record of 652 yuan (\$96.26) a ton.

Contracts for March, July, September and November delivery also climbed to their daily limit during early trade on Monday.

“Price hiking today is driven by both real supply gap and speculative sentiment among investors,” said a Shanghai-based iron ore trader.

The Brazilian government last week ordered Vale to stop using eight dams used to hold tailing, or mine waste, after a dam collapsed on Jan. 25 at its Corrego do Feijao mine that likely killed more than 300 people, the country’s worst mining disaster.

The closures will affect production of 9 percent of the company’s annual iron ore output and caused Vale to declare force majeure, a legal ruling that means the company is unable to fulfill its contracts due to unforeseen circumstances, on its export contracts.

Analysts have revised their forecasts of affected iron ore output to 70 million tons from 40 million tons two weeks ago.

“It is hard for Vale to resume normal operation in the short term. The widened supply gap will intensify conflicts on the fundamental basis and push up prices in the market,” said analysts from Jinrui Futures in a note.

Benchmark construction steel rebar prices on the Shanghai Futures Exchange (ShFE) also surged on Monday, gaining more than 4 percent to a daily high of 3,908 yuan a ton, the highest in five months, as traders expect short supply in the coming months. It settled up 2.4 percent at 3,825 yuan a ton.

The most-active hot-rolled coil futures on the ShFE closed 2.3 percent higher at 3,709 yuan a ton after reaching their peak since September 2018 in early trade.

China’s top steelmaking city Tangshan will impose production restrictions on its heavy industry from April to September in order to improve its air quality. Steel mills in the city will be ordered to halve sintering production, a process that prepares raw iron ore for smelting into steel, and to continue enforcing operation curbs on blast furnaces.

Dalian coking coal dipped 0.6 percent to 1,267.5 yuan a ton, while coke contract gained 0.8 percent to 2,096.5 yuan a ton.—Reuters



## **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

### **US-China trade talk progress cools dollar rally**

NEW YORK: The dollar was down modestly mid-morning on Tuesday, cooling what was its longest winning streak in two years, as investors put money in riskier assets on rising hopes of a breakthrough in US-China trade talks.

The dollar had gained for eight consecutive sessions as of Monday, the most since February 2017, according to Refinitiv data. The dollar index, which measures the currency against a basket of six rivals, was 0.13 percent lower on Tuesday at 96.935.

Top US officials arrived in the Chinese capital on Tuesday ahead of high-level trade talks as the world's two largest economies attempt to hammer out a deal ahead of a March 1 deadline to avoid another escalation of tariffs.

Washington is expected to keep pressing long-standing demands that Beijing make sweeping structural reforms to protect American companies' intellectual property, end policies aimed at forcing the transfer of technology to Chinese companies and curb industrial subsidies.

"The multiday rally in the US dollar abated amid tentative cooling in global risks," said Joe Manimbo, senior market analyst at Western Union Business Solutions.

The dollar ceded ground to the euro, which was up 0.16 percent at \$1.1294, and to the British pound, up 0.3 percent, last at \$1.2888. Against the Japanese yen, another safe-haven currency, the dollar was little changed, slightly weaker at 110.45 yen.

The dollar earlier in the session had been trading higher as US lawmakers reached a tentative agreement on border-security funding that might help avert another government shutdown, due to start on Saturday.—Reuters

## **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

### **China stocks stay higher for 4th day**

SHANGHAI: China stocks ended higher for the fourth straight session on Tuesday, led by healthcare shares as Beijing vowed policy support for the sector.

The blue-chip CSI300 index closed 0.7 percent higher at 3,330.34, while the Shanghai Composite Index also gained 0.7 percent to 2,671.89 points.

Both indexes posted their fourth session of gains in a row.

Healthcare stocks led the advance, with the CSI300 healthcare index climbing 3.0 percent to a two-month high.

In the latest state council meeting, Chinese premier Li Keqiang vowed policy support to the prevention and treatment of cancers and rare diseases, including value-added tax break.

Consumer stocks edged up, even as China said its consumption growth is “very likely” to slow further this year as the economy cools.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.3 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 2.61 percent.

At 07:08 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7752 per US dollar, 0.25 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.792.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Eastern Gold Jade Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, followed by Sichuan Em Technology Co Ltd, gaining 10.13 percent and Nanjing Central Emporium Group Stocks Co Ltd, up by 10.11 percent.

The biggest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Hefei Changqing Machinery Co Ltd down 6.8 percent, followed by Qingdao Vland Biotech Co Ltd losing 4.29 percent and Hang Zhou Nbond Nonwovens Co Ltd down by 4.09 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 7.1 percent and the CSI300 has risen 10.6 percent, while China’s H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 9.1 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 3.38 percent this month.

About 18.41 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 125.8 percent of the market’s 30-day moving average of 14.63 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 15.49 billion.

As of 07:09 GMT, China’s A-shares were trading at a premium of 17.80 percent over the Hong Kong-listed H-shares.

The price-to-earnings ratio of the Shanghai index was 11.21 as of the last full trading day, while the dividend yield was 2.8 percent.

So far this week, the market capitalization of the Shanghai stock index has risen by 1.49 percent to 28.81 trillion yuan.—Reuters

## **Business Recorder, 13-02-19**

### **AGP to create separate wing for CPEC projects**

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD

ISLAMABAD: The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) has decided to create a separate wing to carry out the audit of various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This was revealed by senior officials of the AGP while briefing a subcommittee of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) here on Tuesday which met under the chairpersonship of Shahida Akhtar Ali.

The AGP officials gave a briefing to the panel members on how to enhance the capacity building of the staff of the audit department, internal audit, control system of the ministries/divisions, perks/privileges and independence of the audit department.

The AGP officials also revealed that most of the corporate sector organizations do not cooperate with audit officials and employ delaying tactics whenever they are asked for the audit. On the complaint of the AGP, the panel sought the details of such organizations declining audit.

Member committee Riaz Fatyana suggested that the audit of the AGP officials should also be carried out. Acknowledging the suggestion of Riaz Fatyana, another member of the committee, Syed Hussain Tariq, said that audit office should be audited by a third party.

Member committee Noor Alam Khan said some officers during their early days of service come to office by public transport or bicycles but after serving a few years, they get expensive vehicles and a number of bungalows as well as residential or commercial plots here in Pakistan, with their children studying in the United States. He said all these things are not listed in audit, adding neither National Accountability Bureau (NAB) nor Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) has ever probed such officials.

He said when a parliamentarian purchases something; it becomes the parts of official record while such details are missing when it comes to public servants, adding that the details of all such officials must be made public.

The secretary Establishment Division told the committee that there are various inquiries under process against 100 officers of different grades. He added that NAB and FIA are also carrying out investigations against various officials of the federal bureaucracy.

Audit officials told the committee that the officials of other federal departments are promoted to grade-21 on attaining the age of 52 while AGP officials get grade-21 at the age of 58, which is a

‘serious discrimination’. The AGP officials further complained that the pension of AGP employees was abolished in 2015 through an SRO and it was said that gratuity will be given.

They said that the AGP at present is responsible for conducting the audit of 47,000 departments, while the AGP officers are not provided with official vehicles and are only paid travel and dining allowances.

Noor Alam Khan said that it has been observed that the children of federal government officers are also using official cars.

The audit officials further stated that there was a backlog of 18 years in audit but now it has been reduced to 6 years and the department with the active cooperation of the PAC is working harder to clear it.

### **Business Recorder, 14-02-19**

#### **Xi to meet top US trade officials**

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to meet with top US officials in Beijing this week, a report said Wednesday, as the world’s two biggest economies rush to patch up their trade differences before a looming deadline.

Xi will meet on Friday with officials including US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who are in the capital for crunch talks towards a trade deal, the South China Morning Post reported.

“Xi is scheduled to meet both Lighthizer and Mnuchin on Friday,” it said, quoting a source briefed on the arrangements.

The US officials and their Chinese counterparts meet for talks on Thursday and Friday.

They are under the gun to seal an accord ahead of the March 1 deadline set by Donald Trump, though the US president said Tuesday that he was open to extending that, depending on progress in Beijing.

“If we’re close to a deal, where we think we can make a real deal ... I could see myself letting that slide for a little while,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

In December, Washington suspended for three months Trump’s plan to increase tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports — to 25 percent from the current 10 percent — to allow time for negotiations.

Mnuchin told reporters in Beijing late on Tuesday he was eager to start.

“We’re looking forward to several important days of talks,” he said in brief remarks.

He and other US officials left their hotel on Wednesday without making substantive remarks.

The Chinese delegation will be led by Vice Premier Liu He, China’s point man on trade, and central bank governor Yi Gang.

The two sides said major progress was made in talks last month in Washington, but subsequent comments have been less optimistic, jarring financial markets and amplifying concerns about how the dispute will affect fragile world growth.

But global stocks rose after Trump’s hint of a deadline extension.

Washington is demanding far-reaching changes to Chinese practices that it says are unfair, including theft of US technology and intellectual property, and myriad barriers that foreign companies face in the Chinese domestic market.

China has offered to boost its purchases of US imports but is widely expected to resist calls for major changes to its industrial policies such as slashing government subsidies.

The two countries have already slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets. The International Monetary Fund warned on Sunday of a possible global economic “storm” as world growth forecasts dip, citing the US-China trade row as a key pivot point.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 14-02-19**

#### **China’s iron ore and steel futures retreat from record highs**

BEIJING: China’s iron ore and steel futures retreated on Tuesday from record highs hit in the previous session, as speculators sold positions amid trade concerns between Beijing and Washington.

The most-active iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange ended 2.7 percent lower at 634 yuan (\$93.60) per ton. It reached a daily-trading limit of 8 percent to a record high of 652 yuan in the previous session.

“It is not surprising that iron ore prices will pull back as some traders want to secure gains and wait to see the next move in the market,” said a Shanghai-based trader.

The volatile iron ore prices came as an estimated 70 million ton of iron ore output cut at the world’s largest miner of the mineral, Vale SA, after a dam collapse in Brazil last month that killed at least 165 people.

“The consensus view was that the net impact (of the accident) on iron ore supply would be limited and short-term. Conversely, our view has been that the impact would be significant and longer term,” Jefferies analyst Christopher LaFemina wrote in a note.

Meanwhile, the world’s two largest economies have begun a new round of talks this week at an aim to hammer out a deal before a March 1 deadline, after which US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports are scheduled to increase to 25 percent from 10 percent.

However, a US Navy mission through the disputed South China Sea cast a shadow over the negotiations in Beijing.

“It is hard to predict if ferrous prices would bounce back as there remain many uncertainties from the fundamental sectors,” said the Shanghai trader.

Benchmark Shanghai construction steel prices also retreated on Tuesday following the falling iron ore prices. It lost 1.8 percent to 3,785 yuan a ton during when market closed at 0700 GMT.

Hot-rolled coil, flat steel, fell 1.9 percent to 3,674 yuan a ton. Steelmaking raw ingredient coking coal on the Dalian Commodity Exchange inched up 0.8 percent to 1,291.5 yuan a ton, while coke futures dropped 1 percent to 2,100.5 yuan.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 14-02-19**

#### **Indexes jump on optimism over US-China trade talks**

NEW YORK: Wall Street’s main indexes traded higher on Wednesday, though off session highs, boosted by rising expectations that the United States and China could reach a deal during their ongoing trade talks, with benign inflation data offering support.

“So far, so good,” US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said about the US-China trade talks in Beijing, a day after President Donald Trump said he would be willing to let a March 1 deadline slide if the two sides were close to a deal.

Trade-sensitive industrials rose 0.44 percent, while chipmakers, which depend on China for a large portion of their revenue, also gained, with the Philadelphia chip index up 0.62 percent.

“The optimism is really about the trade talks with China and a deal getting done, but relief about the government staying open is also helping,” said Jimmy Lee, founder and CEO of The Wealth Consulting Group in Las Vegas, Nevada.

President Donald Trump left his options open on whether to sign a funding deal that would avert another partial government shutdown, but a source familiar with the situation said he would likely back the bipartisan agreement.

“We’re back with a risk-on attitude but there’s still a little bit of profit-taking as the stock market has been up a lot this year,” said Lee.

The benchmark S&P 500 is set for its fourth session of gains and has rallied nearly 10 percent this year, helped by a dovish Federal Reserve, optimism on trade and a largely upbeat fourth-quarter earnings season.

Markets also took heart from inflation data that showed US consumer prices were unchanged for a third straight month in January, suggesting that the Fed will hold interest rates steady for a while.

At 12:42 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 78.85 points, or 0.31 percent, at 25,504.61. The S&P 500 was up 6.35 points, or 0.23 percent, at 2,751.08 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 12.64 points, or 0.17 percent, at 7,427.26.

Analysts’ expectations for first-quarter profit have turned sour, after largely upbeat fourth-quarter earnings. They now estimate current-quarter profit to decline 0.3 percent, which would be the first loss since the second quarter of 2016.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 14-02-19**

#### **China stocks rally**

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares jumped on Wednesday, rising for a fourth straight session, after US President Donald Trump suggested the deadline for Beijing and Washington to strike a trade deal could be pushed back.

The Shanghai Composite index closed 1.8 percent higher at 2,721.07 points, a level not seen since Oct. 10, 2018. The blue-chip CSI300 index rose 2 percent to its highest point since late September.

Both indices marked their largest daily percentage gains since Jan. 4.

The CSI300 financial sector sub-index added 1.9 percent, the consumer staples sector rose 1.6 percent, while healthcare shares gained 1.5 percent.

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he could let the March 1 deadline for a trade agreement with China “slide for a little while”, hinting at a possible delay for the first time.

Trump’s advisers have previously described March 1 as a “hard deadline”, after which US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of imports from China will rise to 25 percent from 10 percent, if the two sides cannot reach a deal. \*\* US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Chinese officials. Discussions



among deputy-level officials to work out technical details, including a mechanism for enforcing any trade agreement, started on Monday.

Trade optimism added to improving domestic sentiments seen in recent sessions, paving the way for investors who withdrew to the sidelines when the market slid last year to return, said Zhang Qi, an analyst at Haitong Securities in Shanghai. “Valuations are still relatively low,” he said.

However, if “there is no clear result from the Sino-US negotiations, external risks such as volatility in US stocks could transmit into China, which could increase the volatility in the stock market,” analysts at Chuanchai Securities wrote in a note on Wednesday.

Encouraged by Beijing’s commitment to develop core technologies and innovative capabilities to reduce dependence on foreign technology, CSI’s information technology index climbed 3.4 percent, while its All Share Telecommunications Services Index rallied 5 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index rose 1.9 percent each.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.6 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 1.3 percent.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Routon Electronic Co Ltd, Deluxe Family Co Ltd and China Galaxy Securities Co Ltd, all up by 10.1 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 9.1 percent. The index is above its 50-day moving average and below its 200-day moving average. About 24.4 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 18.4 billion.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 15-02-19**

#### **Chinese envoy explains next CPEC focus**

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing Thursday met Prime Minister Imran Khan and said the next stage of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would focus on investing in and buying more from Pakistan.

The ambassador updated the prime minister on the CPEC projects and said Pakistan and China are the closest friends and partners, a PM Office statement said.

He also reaffirmed his government’s resolve to work closely with Pakistan to further strengthen the bilateral relations.

Later, talking to media, the ambassador termed his meeting with the prime minister “very successful”.

He said he had conveyed that the Chinese leadership, government and the business community were encouraged by the vision, agenda and priorities set by prime minister Imran Khan and his government like the ease of doing business, Clean and Green Pakistan and opening up of Pakistan’s economy to the world.

He also lauded the government’s policies on inviting direct and indirect investment to the country besides enhancing its exports.

The ambassador said he had assured the prime minister that China would continue to be a strong partner of future development of Pakistan.

“We have every confidence that with the leadership of new government, Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan will achieve its destination of prosperity and development,” he remarked.

During the meeting, the prime minister said Pakistan and China are close friends and strong partners.

Praising the vision of President Xi Jinping for socioeconomic development of China, he said Pakistan could learn much from the Chinese experience for the social uplift of the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister viewed that CPEC had added a new dimension to bilateral ties and reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to its timely completion.

He expressed satisfaction over the significant progress made on the CPEC projects.

The prime minister also underscored his priorities for transfer of technology and capacity building in agricultural sector, which would have a direct impact on poverty alleviation in rural areas.—APP

### **Business Recorder, 15-02-19**

#### **Chinese exports unexpectedly perk up in January**

BEIJING: Chinese exports unexpectedly rose last month, according to official data released on Thursday just as China sat down for crucial trade talks in Beijing with its top trade partner the United States.

Exports rose 9.1 percent in January from a year earlier, data from the customs administration showed, ahead of forecasts and turning a corner after exports fell in December.

China's imports, however, continued to fall in January, down 1.5 percent from a year earlier, though at a slower pace than a 10.2 percent decline forecast by Bloomberg News.

Analysts cautioned that it is difficult to compare trends at the start of each year due to the Chinese New Year holiday, which came in early February this year and can affect business activity.

"The broad trend in shipments still appears to be pointing down," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. "The downbeat outlook for global growth means that this year is likely to be challenging for Chinese exporters, even if the ongoing US-China trade negotiations culminate in a deal," Evans-Pritchard wrote in a research note.

Officials from the world's top two economies are holding negotiations in Beijing on Thursday and Friday in a bid to resolve their thorny trade dispute. China and the US have already imposed new duties on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets.

Pressure to seal an accord ahead of a March 1 deadline set by Donald Trump appears to have eased slightly after the US president indicated he was open to extending a trade truce depending on progress in Beijing.

Trump in December postponed plans to sharply hike tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to allow more time for negotiation.

A slew of bad economic data has added to concerns about China's economy, which grew at its slowest pace in almost three decades last year.—AFP

### **Business Recorder, 15-02-19**

#### **China stocks little changed**

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares were little changed on Thursday, though blue-chips gained, as doubts about sustainability of strong exports data countered optimism surrounding the Sino-US trade talks.

The Shanghai Composite index cut losses to settle almost 0.1 percent lower at 2,719.70 points. The blue-chip CSI300 index gained 0.2 percent.

CSI300's financial sector sub-index fell 0.4 percent, the consumer staples sector rose 1.3 percent, while energy shares lost 0.3 percent.

China's exports unexpectedly returned to growth in January after a shock decline the previous month, while imports fell much less than expected. But seasonal factors played a big role and there could be renewed trade weakness ahead, said analysts.

US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of imports from China are scheduled to rise to 25 percent from 10 percent if the two sides do not reach a deal by March 1.

US President Donald Trump suggested this week that the deadline might be moved. On Thursday: A Bloomberg report on Thursday claimed that Trump is considering a 60-day extension to that deadline.

The report came as Chinese vice Premier Liu He, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin kicked off high-level trade talks on Thursday, which will wrap up a day later. Discussions among lower-ranking officials started on Monday.

If trade talks go well, "the only remaining negative factor is the (Chinese) economy slipping," but that risk should be limited as the Chinese government will likely roll out new policies "to ensure economic growth stops falling and rebounds," analysts at Essence International wrote in a note on Thursday.

China is considering measures to drive adjustments in financial institutions' lending rates for companies to improve credit flow into the economy, China Daily, a state newspaper, cited a central bank official as saying on Thursday.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended 0.7 percent higher and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index climbed 0.3 percent. Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was nearly flat. Japan's Nikkei index ended little changed.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Sichuan Em Technology Co Ltd, Henan Ancai Hi-tech Co Ltd, and Shanghai Sanmao Enterprise Group Co Ltd, all up by 10.1 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 9.1 percent and the CSI300 has risen 13 percent.

About 19.70 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 24.38 billion. The Shanghai stock index is above its 50-day moving average and below its 200-day moving average.—Reuters

## **Business Recorder, 15-02-19**

### **Copper prices head towards two-month highs after China data**

LONDON: Copper prices climbed on Thursday towards two-month highs hit last week as import data from top consumer China suggested robust demand, while markets awaited the outcome of high-level Sino-US trade talks in Beijing.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange ended up 0.2 percent at \$6,137 a ton from an earlier \$6,195. The price of the metal used as a gauge of economic health has gained 7 percent since early January.

China's unwrought copper imports came in at 479,000 tons last month. That was up 14 percent from 420,000 tons in December and up 8.9 percent from 440,000 tons in January 2018, reaching the highest level since September.

Overall, China's exports rose in January after a shock decline in December, while imports fell less than expected, but analysts said the strength was likely due to seasonal factors and predicted renewed trade weakness ahead.

"The Chinese economy is slowing down people want to know the magnitude of that. They are waiting to see data on key areas such as credit growth and infrastructure spending," said Philippos Kassimatis, partner at cross-asset advisory firm Maven Global.

US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of imports from China are scheduled to rise to 25 percent from 10 percent if the two sides fail to reach a deal by a March 1 deadline. "Trade talks and the macro environment are focus points, so clearly the announcement that (US President Donald) Trump was considering delaying the March 1 deadline by 60 days should have a positive impact."

Trade discussions in Beijing moved to a higher level in a push to de-escalate a tariff war ahead of the deadline.

"If you get a structural shift in the market due to a positive or negative outcome of the trade talks over the next few weeks, then momentum and volumes can pick up as CTAs will start increasing positions," Kassimatis said.

CTAs or commodity trading advisors use buy and sell signals from numerical models to make trading decisions.

"Our base case reflects a soft landing in China, which is sufficient to support global demand growth at 1.6 percent including China at 1.5 percent," Morgan Stanley analysts said in a note.

“However, downside risk is limited - zero demand growth would result in a balanced market. Given restricted supply growth, demand would have to turn negative before a significant surplus would emerge.”

The discount for the cash against the three-month copper contract has narrowed to zero from \$8 a ton on Wednesday. One company’s holding of between 50 and 79 percent of LME copper warrants has fuelled worry about tight supply.

Aluminum slipped 0.5 percent to \$1,850, zinc ceded 0.2 percent to \$2,591, lead rose 0.8 percent to \$2,037, tin fell 0.9 percent to \$20,900 and nickel fell 1.6 percent to \$12,200 a ton.—Reuters

### **Business Recorder, 15-02-19**

#### LETTERS

#### **China Pakistan Economic Corridor**

With the signing of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreements, a great opportunity has been created which will go a long way in bringing economic prosperity not only to China (as some people claim) but also to Pakistan. Simultaneously, the Government of Pakistan has started to address the problems of the shortage of electricity and gas by encouraging new sources of energy and also the alternate for gas in CNG and LPG.

To reap the benefit, the government should also consider one main problem which is presently being ignored – the problem of transmigration. This problem arises when people, not having jobs close to their villages and towns, move to the larger cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Multan, Faisalabad, etc., and this creates many problems for the city administration to provide basic facilities to these people.

Due to the transmigration, the facilities in the large cities are bursting at their seams and hence proper facilities are not available to the resident public of those cities.

To address this problem and also to avail the benefit from the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the following suggestions are being proposed.

- i) Industrial Zones should be setup along the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at every 100 to 150 miles, which must be provided with electricity and gas.
- ii) To encourage investment, tax concessions (no questions asked regarding the source of funds and/or tax exemption for say five years, etc.) be given for those industrial undertaking being setup employing at least 100 persons (labor force) or more.

iii) Housing colonies along with areas for markets and shops also be provided through builders and developers who should make the roads besides the space for accommodation, or small houses. Tax incentives should also be given to them, and easy financing should be provided for purchase of these properties.

iv) Transport facilities are encouraged to provide easy access for people working in those new industrial zones.

v) The government should also encourage small industrial units which are normally referred to as downstream industrial units, to encourage SMEs.

These measures will go a long way in improving economic progress of Pakistan by utilizing the population, as the population in Pakistan is increasing by about 2 percent every year and also reduce the problems being created in large cities because of transmigration.

Karachi Ali A. Rahim

### **Daily Times, 03-02-19**

#### **Venezuela's Guaido extends olive branch to China**

Venezuela's self-proclaimed president Juan Guaido has promised China he will honor bilateral agreements and said he was ready to start a dialogue with Beijing "as soon as possible". Guaido's comments to the South China Morning Post, published Saturday, appear aimed at laying to rest questions over whether his political challenge to President Nicolas Maduro would disrupt ties with Venezuela's main creditor. Maduro visited China in September, striking energy and gold mining deals as he sought Beijing's support for his crisis-hit nation. "China's support will be very important in boosting our country's economy and future development," Guaido, the 35-year-old opposition leader, said in the email interview with the newspaper. "Given its competitiveness and market, China is a fundamental global player with whom we would like to re-launch our relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation."

"We are ready to begin a constructive relationship and dialogue with China as soon as possible." Guaido proclaimed himself acting president last week amid protests in Caracas. While many countries, including the US and Brazil, have backed Guaido, China has so far declined to pick sides, stressing its longtime position against "interfering" in the domestic affairs of other nations.

The political upheaval has exacerbated the general disarray in Venezuela, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves but has suffered an economic meltdown marked by hyperinflation and shortages of basic necessities.

Millions have been left in poverty, while 2.3 million more have fled the country, unleashing a migration crisis in South America.



Although Maduro has control of virtually all of Venezuela's political institutions and enjoys the support of the military, many blame him for the country's economic woes. The 56-year-old was re-elected last May in voting boycotted by the majority of the opposition and dismissed as fraudulent by the United States, European Union and Organization of American States (OAS).

China has extended more than \$60 billion in credit to the South American country over the last decade, but Venezuela still owes Beijing about \$20 billion and has been repaying the debt with oil shipments.

At a press briefing in Beijing on Friday, China's foreign ministry said that it was "willing to meet all parties halfway".

China and Venezuela have been "pragmatically cooperating for a long time," said foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

"No matter how the situation changes, none of this will be damaged at all."

### **Daily Times, 04-02-19**

#### **China's economic slowdown will not hurt CPEC: Pakistan Economic Watch**

The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said global economic problems, Chinese economic slowdown, and Pakistan's internal problems will not hurt China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan is facing a shortage of foreign exchange, running a large deficit, and other problems which will not hit the pace of progress on the economic corridor, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that the European economy is weakening since 2017; the Japanese economy is also going down while global GDP has taken a blow by the trade war initiated by the US president.

The US trade war will keep the global GDP down for a few years while some nations will still be able to ensure their growth.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the Chinese economy is on the lowest since the last three decades but its growth rate is still double the expansion in the GDP of Europe.

He said that the Chinese economic slowdown is serious which has worried many countries but it has enough reserves to keep critical projects on track.

In Pakistan the political tensions and economic situation will not derail or interrupt the world's biggest ongoing developmental project, he added.

He said that all the elements including enemy nations, opponents of the economic corridor and others have so far failed to slow the pace of the project.

Thousands of kilometers of roads, Gwadar Port, power plants, optic fiber cable, up gradation of railway and other initiatives will enhance lives of millions in Pakistan and billions across the world

### **Daily Times, 04-02-19**

#### **China's services sector moderates in January but still solid – Caixin PMI**

China's sprawling services sector maintained a solid pace of expansion in January even though growth moderated slightly, a private survey showed on Sunday, offering continued support for the world's second-largest economy as manufacturing cools. The Caixin/Markit services purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell slightly to 53.6 in January from 53.9 in December, but well above the 50.0 mark separating growth from contraction. Overseas sales continued to support the sector, with new export business rising at the fastest clip in more than a year, thanks to efforts among Chinese services firms to attract foreign clients. Overall new orders also ticked higher, to 52.6 from 52.3 in December. The resilience of the services sector, which accounts for more than half of China's gross domestic product, is key to countering the ongoing slowdown in manufacturing. Chinese factories have been hit by a long-term restructuring of industries, a crackdown on pollution and China's trade tensions with the United States.

“Overall, China's economic growth was weighed on by weakening domestic demand in January, although exports improved marginally as the Sino-US trade negotiations flagged signs of progress,” said Zhong Zhen sheng, director of macroeconomic analysis at CEBM Group.

### **Daily Times, 04-02-19**

#### **Foreign businesses fret as China fast-tracks investment law**

China is fast-tracking a foreign investment law at an unprecedented pace to meet Washington's demands on trade, but businesses fear that time to review and raise objections on a crucial piece of legislation has been cut short.

The law will eliminate the requirement for foreign enterprises to transfer proprietary technology to Chinese joint-venture partners.

It also includes other steps to level the business playing field that Western trading partners have long demanded.

China's parliament is expected to vote on the legislation in March — barely two months after debating a first draft.

“It is indeed unprecedented that the bill is being moved by the NPC (National People’s Congress) at such a fast pace,” Wang Jiangyu, an expert on Chinese law at the National University of Singapore, told AFP.

“Normally it would take one to three years for a bill to be passed and signed into law.”

Foreign businesses worry the draft glosses over details and that vague language leaves room for broad interpretation.

For example, it gives China the right to expropriate foreign investment “for the public interest”, which foreign business groups fear could be abused.

### **Ticking clock**

A draft law was first published for comment in 2015 but was quickly shelved until it resurfaced late last year, Wang said.

It was only submitted to China’s rubber-stamp legislature for a first reading on December 23, and made available for public comment until February 24.

The top decision-making body of the legislature convened a special two-day session this past Tuesday to debate another “updated version”, state news agency Xinhua reported.

The law will probably be approved during the parliament’s roughly 10-day annual session which opens March 5, Wang said.

The clock is ticking on a March 1 US-set deadline for China to address trade concerns and avert an escalation in their tariff war.

“What we feel with this piece of legislation is that it’s been squeezed between the normal legal process and the negotiation table (to defuse) the trade conflict,” the president of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China, Mats Harborn, told AFP.

“In our view this is a little unfortunate because this is an important piece of legislation that will have an effect... on all foreign companies.”

Both the EU and American chambers of commerce in China said they rushed to submit feedback from members this week.

### **Falling short**

Although the legislation covers several pain points highlighted by US President Donald Trump including safeguarding foreign capital from government “interference”, it falls short in other key areas, the business lobbies said.

“The current draft law is high-level and general” and requires more detailed guidelines and implementing measures, the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing wrote in its feedback report, a summary of which was seen by AFP.

The December version debated by lawmakers is considerably shorter — by over 130 fewer articles — than the previous 2015 draft.

A section describing how the government will scrutinize foreign investments for potential national security concerns is limited to two sentences in the December version — simply stating that China would establish a review process and that decisions would be made according to law.

### **Daily Times, 08-02-19**

#### **Oil prices drop on rising US crude supply, but OPEC cuts support**

Oil prices fell on Thursday after US crude inventories rose and the country’s production held at record levels, but OPEC-led supply cuts and Washington’s sanctions against Venezuela supported markets.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$53.66 per barrel at 0744 GMT, down 35 cents, or 0.7 percent, from their last settlement.

International Brent crude oil futures fell 39 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$62.30 per barrel.

US crude oil inventories climbed by 1.3 million barrels in the week that ended Feb. 1 to 447.21 million barrels, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, average weekly US crude oil production remained at the record 11.9 million barrels per day (bpd) it reached in late 2018. The United States is currently the world’s largest oil producer, ahead of traditional top suppliers Russia and Saudi Arabia.

There are also concerns that an economic slowdown could soon weigh on growth in fuel demand, with German industrial output unexpectedly falling in December for the fourth consecutive month.

Despite the overall rise in US supply, traders were watching how long a partial closure of the Keystone oil pipeline would last after the discovery of a possible leak in the area of St Louis, Missouri.

Providing global markets with price support are supply cuts led by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) aimed at tightening the market.

“The key supply story remains the ongoing OPEC production cuts,” US bank Goldman Sachs said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, US sanctions against Venezuela’s oil industry are expected to freeze sales proceeds of Venezuelan crude exports to the United States.

“Around a third of Venezuela’s exports head to the US As such, we expect Venezuelan exports to quickly fall by 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) to around 700,000 bpd,” ANZ bank said on Thursday.

“The risks are rising that this political standoff will deepen the fall in output as funds dry up and mass defection of workers accelerates.”

Washington said last week that after April 28 foreign companies would not be able to conduct business with Venezuelan state-run oil firm PDVSA using the US financial system, effectively banning them from paying in US dollars.

“The ban ... dramatically ramps up the sanctions to a global level and could potentially result in a loss of most Venezuelan output,” French bank Society General said in a note published on Wednesday.

### **Daily Times, 09-02-19**

#### **China Spring Festival gaining ground in Pakistan**

China has not been limited to just CPEC rather it is steadily moving into the social fabric of Pakistan through a flurry of extravaganza of the Chinese Spring Festival, held on February 5.

Programs in universities, hotels, institutes and local parties introducing Chinese Spring Festival famously known as Chinese New Year are gaining ground. It seems that Chinese Spring Festival is going to become a new window allowing Pakistani people to understand Chinese culture rooted in old traditions and new modern trends.

In connection with the spectacular celebrations of the Spring Festival, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing hosted a Chinese Spring Festival reception at the Embassy. Around 200 Pakistanis from political parties and government departments, think tanks, universities and media joined the ‘show of happiness’.

China’s Deputy Chief of Mission Lijian Zhao played a pivotal role in enlightening Pakistani society about the centrality of Spring Festival in Chinese culture. He also tweeted about Chinese New Year celebrations which took place on M-3 Industrial City Faisalabad where Chinese and Pakistani people celebrated together.

This year the Chinese New Year made a big splash after China and Pakistan agreed to make 2019 the ‘year of industrial, socio-economic and agriculture cooperation’ as Beijing promised to dispatch a series of business delegations over the next two months to move forward on at least four special industrial zones projects in the year.

Despite battling global tensions because of the US trade hostility, offensives at the South China Sea, Huawei’s CEO’s trial and the smearing campaign against BRI as well as CPEC; China’s cherished Spring Festival was celebrated with jubilation.

*In a bid to accommodate all the travellers, China launched 10 new railways at the end of 2018, broadening its operational length of high-speed railways to 29,000 km. The country’s aviation authority also aimed to schedule 532,000 flights during the travel rush, which is an increase of 10 percent compared to last year*

As weal and woe often go hand in hand, around 1.4 billion Chinese have a fresh doctrine this crisis can never dampen their national celebration which marks 4000 years of tradition and history. This eve also gives birth to a mass travel exodus with likely 3 billion trips in China alone, and nearly 7 million Chinese are likely to travel to about 90 countries and regions during the 2019 Spring Festival public holiday.

The Spring Festival holiday is regarded as the ‘golden week’ in China, which saw about 6 million outbound tourists during the 2018 public holiday. The travel rush began 15 days ahead of the Spring Festival (Chinese Lunar New Year).

Millions of passengers returned to their hometowns for family reunions. The 40-day 2019 Spring Festival travel rush started on January 21.

In a bid to accommodate all the travellers, China launched 10 new railways at the end of 2018, broadening its operational length of high-speed railways to 29,000 km. The country’s aviation authority also aimed to schedule 532,000 flights during the travel rush, which is an increase of 10 percent compared to last year.

Shanghai-based online travel agency Lvmama forecast that prices for domestic tours would shoot up by 30-50 percent during the Golden Week travel and those for outbound tours are to be 10 percent higher than off-season prices.

The CTA’s latest report said Chinese spent 5.13 trillion yuan (755.8 billion U.S. dollars) on domestic travel in 2018, representing a year-on-year increase of 12.3 percent.

Agencies including Ctrip and Lvmama said 70 percent of Chinese would travel with families during the Spring Festival holiday, giving impetus to hotels to upgrade facilities and service for attracting family travelers.

The Spring Festival travel rush surfaced in the 1980s after rural laborers flocked into cities to find jobs amid China's urbanization development. They could afford time and money to go back home once a year for the Spring Festival family reunion.

Chinese New Year is a time to celebrate good luck and to wish for a prosperous new year. Celebrations include having an annual reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve, setting off firecrackers, giving money to children, ringing the New Year bell, sending Chinese New Year greetings, dragon and lion dancing, and Niu Yangge (traditional dances in northern China).

Among the house decorations auspicious couplets are posted on doors, in the hope of attracting good luck. The feast on New Year's Eve is a 'compulsory' banquet, with all family members getting together.

Chinese people believe that the ringing of a huge bell can drive bad luck away and bring good fortune. After the great dinner, families often sit together and chat happily, to welcome the New Year.

Everyone wears new clothes and greets relatives and friends with bows and gongxi (congratulations) on the first day of the New Year, wishing each other good luck and happiness in the year ahead.

In Southern China typically steamed fish, Cantonese poached chicken, and red braised pork are served, and in Northern China – mostly hotpot, noodles, dumplings, and New Year's cake (NiánGāo).

The Spring Festival falls on the 1st day of the 1st lunar month, often one month later than the Gregorian calendar. It originated in the Shang Dynasty (c. 1600 BC-c. 1100 BC) from the people's sacrifice to gods and ancestors at the end of the old year and the beginning of the new one.

Many customs accompany the Spring Festival. Some are still followed today, but others have weakened. On the 8th day of the 12th lunar month, many families make laba porridge, a delicious porridge made with glutinous rice, millet, seeds of Job's tears, jujube berries, lotus seeds, beans, longan and ginkgo. The 23rd day of the 12th lunar month is called Preliminary Eve. At this time, people offer sacrifice to the kitchen god. Now, however, most families make delicious food to enjoy them.

### **Daily Times, 10-02-19**

#### **Chinese lifestyle from Pakistani lens**

China is the new emerging power of the world and its investment and influence are increasing in other countries of the world. Pakistan is embracing Chinese investment under the umbrella of



CPEC. As huge investments are coming from China, the influx of Chinese citizens into is also increasing. On the other side, Pakistan is also revising FTA agreement with China to bolster the Pakistani exports to China. As Pakistan and China are getting closer under the ambit of CPEC, I think there is also a need for Pakistani people to understand the Chinese culture and lifestyle. In this regard, I am sharing some of my views about Chinese lifestyle. It was a wonderful experience to stay in China for doing my PhD.

Before going to China, my image about China was that I thought of China as an average mediocre Asian country; that its infrastructure would not be much advanced than the Pakistani one; and people would not be much civilized. However, I found China against my expectations. People are civilized and well mannered. The cities are clean and well managed. Chinese language is very logical and user friendly in speaking and listening. Like, in English one has to memorize the names of all weekdays i.e. Monday to Sunday and all months i.e. January to December but in Chinese language they say Day 1, Day 2, Day 3 and so on. Similarly, for months they say month 1, month 2, and month 3 and so on.

One of the several things by which I am impressed in China is the strong writ of the state. Chinese state is praiseworthy in managing a country of 1.5 billion people with almost zero cases of protests and sit-ins.

Big markets in China close at 4pm in the evening and malls close at 8:00 pm. You cannot even buy medicine from a medical/pharmacy store at night unless you go to a hospital. People sleep early and there is no busy night life as we have in big cities like Karachi and Lahore. In China, even restaurants are closed around 9 pm and it's difficult to find something to eat after that time.

*China focuses more on institutions rather than personalities. This feature of their society can be judged from the one observation that in China, no roads, streets, squares and popular places are named on the basis of the any personality rather they are named on the basis of directions, locations and places*

Chinese have a healthy life style. They eat fruit and vegetables almost daily. If I just compare the university culture of Pakistan and China, I can easily say that fruit intake by students in China is higher as compared to Pakistan.

Children can only get admission in the schools of their respective towns only. They cannot get admission in the schools of other parts of the city. This policy saves time and fatigue of children. Moreover, this system also reduces traffic congestion on roads and save fuel.

In China, there is centralized university admission test (i.e. Gaokao) for all the government universities. This test is very competitive and students put great efforts to prepare for this test so they can get admission in the discipline and university of their own choice. The interesting finding about this test is that there are some extra marks for those students who want to get

admission in the universities of their own cities. This is a good policy as it attempts to keep children and parents closer as students live with their parents while studying in university. Moreover, such policy also helps in reducing travel cost, time, fuel and pollution. On the contrary, such policy for extra marks for residents of the respective city does not exist in Pakistan.

In my University, there was a centralized library with five story- building. Sometimes, I get the seat in library easily but sometimes, I have to wait for some seat to be vacated. Many students go to library and they sit there for long time. I find their stamina of reading very high. Sleeping in the library by putting your head on the table was not prohibited unlike we have in Pakistan. Students can also watch video lectures and movies on their laptops while sitting in library.

China is making progress and the pace of this progress is very fast. Chinese people are very hard working. Their senior generation is very hard working. However, their young generation is bit lazy. Reason for this slackness may be that, the young people in china are the only child of their families. As they are the only heir of the families, they get plenty of wealth from their father, mother and paternal and maternal grandparents.

E-commerce is high in Chinese business environment. A large chunk of population does their online shopping by using their smart phones. They even pay for fruits and vegetables by using smart phone apps (e.g. wechat, QQ).

China focuses more on institutions rather than personalities. This feature of their society can be judged from the one observation that in China, no roads, streets, squares and popular places are named on the basis of the any personality rather they are named on the basis of directions, locations and places. Chinese model of governance and economy has given results in a shorter period of time as compared to American and European models. Several writers and intellectuals have started discussion on following the Chinese model and leaving the West's democratic and capitalistic model.

### **Daily Times, 11-02-19**

#### **High-stakes US-China trade talks resume as deadline approaches**

With a March 1 deadline fast approaching, US and Chinese officials resume negotiations next week to prevent escalation of a trade dispute that has major implications for the global economy.

China's economy already has shown signs of slowing, while the trade war has shaken the confidence of US businesses, as retaliatory tariffs have raised prices and helped choke off a key export market.

And President Donald Trump's aggressive strategy has failed to produce a reduction in the US trade deficit with China, which he set as a primary goal.

Under the looming threat of a surge in tariffs once the 90-day truce expires, financial markets worldwide have lost ground in recent days as comments about the status of the talks turned more cautious.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will lead the US delegation for the third round of talks on Thursday and Friday in Beijing.

While officials seemed optimistic after talks last week in Washington, more recent comments have jarred financial markets, amplifying concerns about how the dispute will affect global growth.

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he did not expect to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping before a March 1 deadline for the two economic superpowers to reach a deal.

Trump had said final resolution of the trade dispute would depend on the meeting with Xi "in the near future" but told reporters it had not yet been arranged.

And top White House economist Larry Kudlow said Thursday that while Trump was "optimistic" about prospects for a deal, there remained a "sizable distance" separating the two sides.

### **Deadline Extension**

While China has offered to buy more US soybeans and beef, officials have yet even to agree on a draft of a deal that would address key US concerns, according to media reports.

Washington is demanding far-reaching changes from China to address unfair practices it says are deeply unfair, including theft of American intellectual property and the massive Chinese trade surplus. The dispute has escalated to encompass \$360 billion in trade between the two economic superpowers, and without an agreement by the start of March, the Trump administration is poised to more than double the punitive duties on \$200 billion in Chinese goods.

However, amid pressure from the business community for the two sides to resolve the dispute, CNBC cited a senior administration official saying the March 1 deadline could be pushed back.

"Right now it is in place but that is right now," the official told CNBC. "It could change via telephone."

The White House said there would be a preparatory meeting of senior officials beginning February 11 and the talks would include officials from the Agriculture, Energy and Commerce

Departments. The main delegation also includes David Malpass, whom President Donald Trump has nominated to be president of the World Bank and who has worked to limit the bank's assistance to Beijing.

However, strident White House China critic Peter Navarro was not listed as part of the US team.

### **Daily Times, 11-02-19**

#### **Sensitizing university youth about CPEC**

64 percent of Pakistan's population is below the age of 30. Of this, hardly one percent makes it to universities. The youth, anywhere in the world, is either a catalyst for the socioeconomic, political and intellectual growth of a society or a recipe for self-degeneration. Many a youngster like this author returned to Pakistan with foreign qualification to serve the county in their respective capacity. Amongst this category, there are those who having faced institutional irresponsiveness and the lack of an academic environment chose to fly back to host nations which are far more advanced in epistemic and socioeconomic terms. However, there were those who despite multiple hurdles preferred to stay on in the country to work for its betterment. In the second category, the ingeniously educated and trained youth is also playing its part in various sectors of the economy. Nevertheless, there is still a huge number of our youth, which, due to various reasons, failed to reach university level. Moreover, a significant section of this sub-population remained non-skilled, semi-skilled and semi or unemployed.

On the one hand, in order to encourage parents and students of the importance of higher education and, on the other, to call upon the government to facilitate, above all economically, this particular type of youth, it is pertinent, on the part of the professional youth and the peer population, to engage our youth — especially university students — in a manner that inspires them to learn analytically, inculcates critical thinking in them and invokes their social and moral agency for social organization and collective action.

With the foregoing serving as subjective framework, this author like many others joined the Pakistani academia a decade ago. The core aim was and is to share experiences, skills and thoughts with the youth. Formal class lectures, academic seminars, conferences and symposiums are tools in this respect. Indeed, modern information technology has provided extra gadgets such as You Tube to engage the youth meaningfully. The latter, to my experiences, is, overall, quite familiar with the use of technology and, on the other hand, understands and responds to what is being communicated regardless of space, i.e. city/region, type (public or private) and (socioeconomic) status of students.

*CPEC-related loans amount to less than 7 percent of Pakistan's total loan. In addition, if our economy managers work smartly, CPEC's loan, which is around 2 billion dollars a year, can be paid back through CPEC itself*

In other words, if the students of FC college university, COMSATS university, LUMS or Iqra university – all urban universities located in the federal or provincial capitals- were inquisitive, asked critical questions, engaged (guest or visiting) faculty in a debate, (co-)authored academic papers and attended (international) seminars or conferences, the students of University of Sargodha, a regional university to say the least, behaved similarly, though in a different cultural-spatial context, during a seminar on China-Pakistan relations: the case of CPEC addressed by this author.

My major aim was to familiarize the students to the broader contours of China-Pakistan relations and introduce them to the centrality of CPEC in the recent context. Though China and Pakistan recognized each other's independence and sovereignty in the early 1950s, bilateral relations remained essentially neutral during much of the said decade. Indeed, it was an era of Hindi-Chini bhai bhai (Indian-Chinese brotherhood). However, this brotherhood was shattered by the shocking 1962 Indo-China war. In the wake of this war, China and Pakistan were able to demarcate their border permanently and, post-1965 India-Pakistan war, China-Pakistan relations started transitioning from tactical to strategic.

The 1970s onwards consolidated the process of bilateral strategic interaction. During this decade, Pakistan was indeed instrumental to China's proto "opening up" policy. Since 1978, China is pursuing 'opening up' as a result of indigenous policy ensconced with regional and global market processes. After forty years, at the zenith of this "opening up" lies contemporary China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that revolves around (extra) regional market connectivity and economic cooperation in terms of the proposed six economic corridors of which CPEC has been projected as the "flagship" project by both the countries. CPEC, in my view, is a hallmark of strategic confidence between China and Pakistan and since its formal launch in 2015, out of 22 projects, 11 have already been completed. With respect to the energy sector, 6,910 MW has been added to the national grid and six similar projects are under way. Similarly, scores of infrastructure development projects are underway with the potential to enhance intra-country trade and investment opportunities. The completion of the mentioned projects points to CPEC's sustainability which was questioned four years ago by certain academic and policy circles regionally and internationally.

Importantly, our youth –particularly the students of Sargodha University — seemed to have developed a deep interest in not just Pakistan's contemporary foreign policy but also China-Pakistan relations in general and CPEC in particular. In the Q&A session, I faced the toughest of questions related to the theme. To cite a few, one of the students asked whether China will colonize Pakistan via CPEC. It was addressed empirically and historically. When the British colonized South Asia in the 19th century, the world witnessed the "empire-state" system globally. Nowadays, the nation-state system is in place. However weaker a nation-state could be, it tries its best to guard its territorial integrity and sovereignty with all possible means. Afghanistan next door is a case in point. Secondly, China itself has a history of partial

colonization. It is quite conscious of the ramifications of such a policy discourse. Thirdly, Pakistan is not a failed state; fourthly, CPEC-related loans amount to less than 7 percent of Pakistan's total loan. In addition, if our economy managers work smartly, CPEC's loan, which is around 2 billion dollars a year, can be paid back through CPEC itself. Another student asked whether China's authoritarianism would enhance ours. China's political system is unique and has not been studied deeply in Pakistan. In addition, it has little bearing on that of Pakistan. After all, in the past 70 years, the bilateral strategic relationship endured regardless of the nature of political systems. Lastly, Pakistan's authoritarianism, be that bureaucratic, civilian or military, is purely Pakistani in nature and character.

Finally, I am quite optimistic of CPEC's dividends for our economy and society. The Pakistani youth can play a role in it by engaging with the Chinese language, education, culture and economy meaningfully. The same is suggested to the Chinese youth.

*The writer is Head, Department of Social Sciences, Iqra University, and Islamabad. He is a DAAD, FDDI and Fulbright Fellow.*

### **Daily Times, 12-02-19**

#### **Pakistan, China enjoy exemplary relations: Mirza**

Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza chaired a meeting of provincial and local government representatives on 'Pak-China Year of Friendship Sister Provinces/Cities 2019'.

The minister said that Pakistan and China enjoyed exemplary friendship. She underscored the importance of investing more in socio-economic sector and said that it was a high time for Pakistan and China to engage more. Establishing contacts and cooperation at city-to-city or at local government level can further strengthen the bilateral relations, she added.

The meeting was told that under Pakistan-China sister cities initiative, a number of MOUs was signed between different cities of Pakistan and China but those were generally dormant with no active people-to-people and economic cooperation. "It is a great opportunity to enhance our cooperation with China in different areas," she said.

The minister directed the representatives of different provincial governments and cities to formulate proposals with a defined timeframe and budgetary allocations to identify the desired areas of cooperation, including exchange between the local governments, enhancement of trade and investment, energy and industrial linkages, exchange of culture, sports, tourism, youth exchanges, agriculture and people-to people-contacts with relevant sister cities in China. She called upon the provinces and cities to come up with innovative ideas to enhance engagement with different cities of China.

## Daily Times, 12-02-19

### **Asian markets rise as US-China trade talks loom**

Asian stocks saw gains Monday as US and Chinese officials in Beijing geared up for crunch trade talks aimed at averting fresh tariff escalations.

Mainland Chinese markets reopened higher after the week-long Lunar New Year break despite a series of bearish global growth forecasts, with investor focus squarely on efforts to tackle the trade row.

Top US economic officials will travel to the Chinese capital this week for the third round of talks on Thursday and Friday, but deputies had already arrived and the White House said preparatory discussions were due to begin Monday.

Failure to agree a deal between the two economic superpowers before March 1 would see punitive US duties on \$200 billion in Chinese goods more than double.

“There’s a sense of urgency to this round,” said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA.

“If no deal is agreed by then, a belligerent President Trump and US Congress will be more than willing to simply extend the trade war so China will need to make the first move if they are to reach a detente,” he added.

Analysts say imposition of the tariffs could weaken the global economy.

US President Donald Trump said last week he does not expect to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping before the deadline expire, quashing some optimism.

But Asian tech stocks tracked a small positive lead on Nasdaq Friday.

Hong Kong was up 0.6 percent in the afternoon session, with social media and gaming giant Tencent seeing healthy gains, along with smartphone component makers such as Sunny Optical Technology and AAC Technologies.

Macau casino shares were also buoyant after strong tourism numbers over the New Year holiday.

Shanghai, reopening after a weeklong break, rose 1.4 percent. Seoul edged up 0.2 percent, but Sydney shed 0.2 percent. Jakarta, Manila and Singapore also posted losses.

Tokyo was closed for a holiday.



## **Storm clouds**

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund warned governments to prepare for a possible economic “storm” as growth forecasts dip.

It cited the trade row as one of four “clouds” overshadowing the global economy, along with Brexit uncertainty, the accelerated slowdown in China and financial tightening.

“The bottom-line — we see an economy that is growing more slowly than we had anticipated,” IMF managing director Christine Lagarde told the World Government Summit in Dubai at the weekend.

The EU, Britain and Australia all slashed growth forecasts late last week.

Adding to market trepidation is the specter of a repeat of the 35-day partial US government shutdown that ended January 25 — the longest in the country’s history.

Key Republican negotiator Richard Shelby blamed Democrats for another impasse over immigration at the weekend, in talks that have been defined by Trump’s demand for funds for a border wall.

Oil prices continued to tumble with growing oversupply fears linked to record US shale output, with both main contracts posting losses.

### **Daily Times, 12-02-19**

#### **US destroyers sail in disputed South China Sea amid trade tensions**

Two US warships sailed near islands claimed by China in the South China Sea on Monday, a US official told Reuters, a move likely to anger Beijing at a time of tense relations between the world’s two biggest economies.

Beijing and Washington are locked in a trade war and the two sides are trying to hammer out a deal ahead of a March 1 deadline when US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports are scheduled to increase to 25 percent from 10 percent.

Escalating tensions between the United States and China have cost both countries billions of dollars and roiled global financial markets.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two guided-missile destroyers traveled within 12 nautical miles of Mischief Reef in the disputed Spratly Islands.

The operation was the latest attempt to counter what Washington sees as Beijing's efforts to limit freedom of navigation in the strategic waters, where Chinese, Japanese and some Southeast Asian navies operate.

China claims almost all of the strategic South China Sea and frequently lambastes the United States and its allies over naval operations near Chinese-occupied islands.

China and the United States have repeatedly traded barbs in the past over what Washington says is Beijing's militarization of the South China Sea by building military installations on artificial islands and reefs.

*Escalating tensions between the US and China have cost both countries billions of dollars and roiled global financial markets*

China defends its construction as necessary for self-defense and says it is the United States that is responsible for ratcheting up tensions in the region by sending warships and military planes close to islands Beijing claims.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia and Taiwan have competing claims in the region.

Fears have grown in recent months that the US-China trade dispute is just one element in a bilateral relationship that is fast cooling across the board, with top US administration officials sharply criticizing Beijing for everything from human rights abuses to cyber espionage in the United States.

The two countries are also at odds over regional security, including Washington's overtures to the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own.

### **Daily Times, 13-02-19**

#### **Govt striving to upgrade train traveling system with China's help: PM**

Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday said with maximum facilitation for common man as its top priority in 'Naya Pakistan', the present government was striving to upgrade the country's train travelling system to the next level with the support of China, which had one of the best railway systems in the world.

"Common man from across the world travels by train, which is considered as the best source of travelling. But in Pakistan train has never been a priority of the previous governments, who focused on the construction of roads to facilitate the elites," he remarked while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Rawalpindi-Multan Thal Express as well as a live train tracking system here at the PM Office.

The prime minister referred to the work carried out under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so far, especially the construction of roads, and said his government was focusing on various areas of economic development including the transfer of technology from China for seeds development to boost agriculture sector as well as the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He said the construction of ML-1, under which train track would be laid from Peshawar to Karachi, would considerably curtail the travel time from Peshawar to Karachi and facilitate the common man.

*Imran directs railways ministry to send corruption cases to NAB for prosecution*

He referred to the huge corruption done by the previous governments in railway as mentioned by Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed and asked to send such cases to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for prosecution so that people might have fear and do not indulge in corrupt practices in future.

The prime minister also referred to the two NROs – NRO-1 and NRO-2 – done over the last 10 years and said those arrangements helped the corrupt and did away with the fears of corrupt. He said it was due to corruption that the country's debt swelled to Rs 30,000 billion from Rs 6,000 billion in 10 years, adding that the money went into the pockets of the corrupt, leaving the country in a situation where it has to pay Rs 6 billion per day as interest on the huge loans taken in the past.

The prime minister stressed for cost-cutting in public spending in every sector and said he himself had achieved 30% cost-cutting at the PM Office during the last six months and for that purpose an auditor had been hired. "Nihari was served at the PM House in the past. But now only tea and biscuits are served here," he remarked, and questioned if he could succeed in cutting the cost by 30%, why other ministries and divisions could not have 10% cut in their running costs.

Talking about the recent complaint of inflated gas bills for consumers, the prime minister said with Rs 157 billion of debt and Rs 50 billion of annual pilferage, the gas companies were facing closure, which caused raise in the tariff of this commodity. "At present, we are passing through hard times, but the country has a bright future," he added.

The prime minister said the government would support Pakistan Railways by all means to give ease to common man. On the occasion, he also inaugurated the new train as well as the live train tracking system by unveiling a plaque.

*Sh Rasheed says 20 new trains launched during last six months without any additional spending*

Earlier, Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed in his opening remarks highlighted the performance of Pakistan Railways over the last months and said that with Thal Express being

launched, 20 new trains including Rehman Baba Express and Mohinjodaro Express were launched during the last six months without any additional spending.

He said Pakistan Railways generated additional revenue of Rs 2.38 billion during the last six months when compared with the same period of corresponding years, adding that cost of diesel used for train operations had been slashed to Rs 15 billion from the earlier Rs 18 billion.

The minister said the present government has given 100% concession for train travel to the people with 75 years of age and above and half ticket for people with 65 years of age. He said Pakistan Railways has acquired 365 acres of land in Gwadar for constructing a railway station, for which the ground-breaking would be performed by the prime minister.

The railway minister also criticized the previous government for useless utilization of precious public funds at the so called up-gradation of railway stations at cities like Okara and Norowal. He said the new Rs 70 million live tracking systems had been developed which has been donated by Mudassir Zaidi to Pakistan Railways. Father of Mudassir Zaidi had served in Pakistan Railways, he added.

### **Daily Times, 13-02-19**

#### **Pompeo warns Eastern Europe on Chinese and Russian meddling**

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is invoking the 30th anniversary of the demise of communism to implore countries in Central Europe to resist Chinese and Russian influence. Speaking in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, Pompeo said China and Russia pose twin threats to the democratic and free market gains made since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. He said the countries of Eastern and Central Europe are particularly vulnerable to predatory investment and political meddling. To combat the threat, he said the United States is committed to boosting its engagement in the region, through defense cooperation agreements and exchange programmes.

### **Daily Times, 14-02-19**

#### **Asian shares rise as Trump boosts US-China talks**

Asian stocks climbed Wednesday as US President Donald Trump said he could extend the deadline for a trade deal with China, appearing to boost the prospects of an agreement.

Trump said “things are going well” at preliminary talks in Beijing, where top economic officials will gather Thursday seeking an accord to stop sharp US tariff hikes that could damage the global economy.

“If we’re close to a deal, where we think we can make a real deal ... I could see myself letting that slide for a little while,” the US president said of his March 1 deadline.

He added that he expects a meeting with counterpart Xi Jinping to happen “at some point”.

The comments all improved market sentiment on the likelihood of a deal to prevent US tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports more than doubling next month.

Washington is demanding changes from Beijing on what it says are unfair commercial practices.

Tokyo added 1.5 percent, Hong Kong rose 0.4 percent and Shanghai gained 0.2 percent on the news, following Wall Street’s lead.

However, some analysts struck a cautious tone, noting that much work needs to be completed before a framework agreement is in reach.

“The rally in stocks has been based on hope rather than any concrete agreements overnight,” warned Oanda senior analyst Jeffrey Halley, predicting short-term volatility to come as headlines emerges from Beijing.

Sydney shed 0.3 percent, with calls for a snap election amid political tensions over refugees adding to underwhelming corporate earnings and subdued metal prices.

Nonetheless, renewed global investor confidence saw a movement away from the greenback, which has enjoyed a strong rally in the past week, to riskier currencies.

The pound moved upwards closer to \$1.29, despite no-deal Brexit fears as Prime Minister Theresa May was accused by the opposition of “running down the clock” and “playing chicken” with Brussels over talks.

Trump’s suggestion that another chaotic US government shutdown was now unlikely following a deal struck in Congress over border security further fuelled risk appetite.

The deal to offer nearly \$1.4 billion for construction of a Mexico border wall, as well as other security measures, fell far short of Trump’s demands but has been presented as a workable compromise.

“I don’t think you’re going to see a shutdown,” said the president.

Elsewhere oil continued its climb after heavyweight Saudi Arabia slashed output and exports fell in crisis-hit Venezuela.

### **Daily Times, 14-02-19**

#### **China says report of talks with Venezuela opposition ‘fake news’**

China said on Wednesday a newspaper report that Chinese diplomats had held talks with Venezuela’s political opposition to protect its investments in the Latin American country was “fake news”.

The Wall Street Journal said the diplomats, concerned about oil projects in Venezuela and almost \$20 billion that Caracas owes Beijing, had held talks in Washington with representatives of Juan Guaido, the opposition leader heading U.S.-backed efforts to oust President Nicolas Maduro.

“In fact the report is false. Its fake news,” Hua Chunying, spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told reporters when asked about the article.

Guaido invoked a constitutional provision to assume the presidency three weeks ago, arguing that Maduro’s re-election last year was a sham.

Most Western countries, including the United States, have recognized Guaido as Venezuela’s legitimate head of state, but Maduro retains the backing of Russia and China as well as control of state institutions including the military.

Venezuela’s “affairs” should be resolved via dialogue, Hua added, reiterating China’s previous stance.

China has lent more than \$50 billion to Venezuela through oil-for-loan agreements over the past decade, securing energy supplies for its fast-growing economy.

A change in government in Venezuela would favor the country’s two main foreign creditors, Russia and China, Guaido told Reuters in an interview last month.

### **Daily Times, 15-02-19**

#### **US and China seek deal to prevent trade-war escalation**

US and Chinese negotiators on Thursday kicked off two days of high-level talks that President Donald Trump says could decide whether he escalates the bruising tariff battle between the world’s two biggest economies.

Trump indicated this week he was open to extending a trade truce beyond March 1 depending on progress in Beijing. He is considering pushing the deadline back an additional 60 days, Bloomberg News reported, citing sources.

In December he postponed plans to sharply hike tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to allow more time for negotiation.

The two economic superpowers have already imposed duties on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are meeting with China's top economic czar Liu He, seeking to build on progress made in Washington last month.

We are "looking forward to discussions today", Mnuchin said as he left his hotel Thursday morning for the talks.

Expectations for a trade deal have grown as China faces pressure from slowing economic growth, and as swooning global markets pose a challenge to Trump and his economic advisors.

Data released Thursday in China showed its trade surplus with the US — a major source of anger within the Trump administration — narrowed in January to \$27.3 billion, even as its American imports plunged 41 percent for the month from a year earlier.

Last year the surplus hit a record \$323.3 billion.

China's total imports also sank for the month, pointing to weak demand amid slowing economic growth.

### **Trump-Xi meeting**

Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to meet with the US officials in Beijing this week, a report in the South China Morning Post said Wednesday, bolstering hopes for the talks and world markets.

Trump also has said he expects to meet with Xi "at some point" to clinch a trade deal.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday that preliminary talks in Beijing were "going along very well," Bloomberg reported.

"They're showing us tremendous respect," he added.

"Markets will continue to watch — and react — closely to the ups and downs of the negotiations," said Trey McArver of Trivium Research.

"But Sino-US relations are all about the two leaders, and it will ultimately be up to Xi and Trump to come to a deal — or not," he wrote Wednesday in a newsletter.



The two sides said major progress was made in talks last month in Washington, but a wide gulf remains on some issues.

The US is demanding far-reaching changes to Chinese practices that it says are unfair, including theft of US technology and intellectual property, and myriad barriers that foreign companies face in the Chinese domestic market.

Beijing has offered to boost its purchases of US goods but is widely expected to resist calls for major changes to its industrial policies such as slashing government subsidies.

The International Monetary Fund warned on Sunday of a possible global economic “storm” as world growth forecasts dip, citing the US-China trade row as a key pivot point.

### **Daily Times, 15-02-19**

#### **Brent crude oil hits 2019-high on Sino-US trade hopes, upbeat China data**

Oil prices rose by around 1 percent on Thursday, with Brent crude futures hitting a 2019-high, buoyed by hopes that the Sino-US tariff dispute could end soon and as China’s trade figures including crude imports beat forecasts.

International Brent crude oil futures were at \$64.35 per barrel at 0754 GMT, up 74 cents, or 1.1 percent, from their last close. Brent hit a 2019-high of \$64.43 per barrel earlier in the session.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$54.46 per barrel, up 57 cents, or 1.1 percent, from their last settlement.

Optimism that a trade deal could be reached between the United States and China was boosted when US President Donald Trump said talks were going “very well”.

“The 90-day truce (on trade) agreed in December will run out on March 1, but given the progress of the talks there could be an extension, which is why there (is) rising optimism that the two leaders will meet later that month,” said Alfonso Esparza, senior market analyst, OANDA.

Markets were also supported by upbeat China trade data, including for crude oil.

China’s crude oil imports in January rose 4.8 percent from a year earlier, customs data showed on Thursday, to an average of 10.03 million barrels per day (bpd), the third straight month that imports have exceeded the 10 million bpd mark.

Not all data pointed to tighter market conditions and higher prices.

Climbing US oil stockpiles weighed on prices. US crude oil inventories rose last week to the highest since November 2017 as refiners cut runs to the lowest since October 2017, the Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday.

### **Dawn News, 01-02-19**

#### **China calls for `harmony` before talks with Qatar**

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a return to `unity and harmony` on Thursday as he welcomed gas-rich Qatar`s emir to Beijing, amid a dispute that has seen some Arab states led by Saudi Arabia severing relations with Doha.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic, trade and transport ties with Qatar in June 2017. They accuse Qatar of supporting terrorism and cultivating ties with Saudi Arabia`s regional foe, Iran.

Qatar, which denies the charge, says the boycott seeks to curtail its sovereignty.

China has largely stayed out of the dispute, calling for the problem to be resolved via talks, though has played host to senior Qatari officials since the spat began.

Meeting in Beijing`s Great Hall of the People, Xi told Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani that regional cooperation was an important basis for prosperity in the Gulf region, Chinese state television reported.

China supports the efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council to seek an `appropriate resolution to disputes and contradictions via political and diplomatic means, to return unity and harmony between Gulf and Arab countries`, Xi said.

`China is willing to continue to play a constructive role according to the wishes of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Xi added, according to the report, which did not make direct mention of the Gulf rift.

In remarks in front of reporters, Xi called Al Thani `an old friend and a good friend`.

Al Thani told Xi that he was very happy with their personal friendship. `We are ready to have bigger investments in China, in infrastructure or in any other field we see as important for us,` he said.

`We are happy to provide China with liquid gas and we are ready to provide China with more in the near future. I am very happy to be in China.` Last October, state energy giant Qatar Petroleum said it had signed a five-year agreement to supply China with 600,000 tons of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) per year.

Qatar's state news agency said Al Thani and Xi had signed memorandums of understanding on diplomatic training, future trade delegations, and the creation of a road map for Qatar to take part in China's Belt and Road initiative.

China has traditionally played little role in Middle East conflicts or diplomacy, despite its reliance on the region for oil, but it has been trying to raise its profile, especially in the Arab world. Saudi Arabia's King Salman visited Beijing in 2017. However, China has had to walk a fine line, as it also has close ties with both Iran and Israel.-Reuters

### **Dawn News, 01-02-19**

#### **Chinese institutes sign accords with ICCBS**

KARACHI: The International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Karachi University (KU), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with two leading Chinese research and academic institutions.

These agreements were signed with the School of Pharmacy, Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, China (SPHUCM), and Hunan Provincial Key Laboratory of Phytohormones, Hunan Agricultural University, China (KLPHAU), during a recent international seminar held at the ICCBS.

Prof M. Iqbal Choudhary, director of the ICCBS, and associate dean Prof Xinhua Xia at SPHUCM and Prof Langtao Xiao, director of KLPHAU, signed MoUs on behalf of their institutions at a meeting held at KU's Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research.

It was agreed that an exchange of research staff and facilities would take place between the institutions. The areas of cooperation include joint supervision of graduate students, including masters and doctorate students and researchers in the areas of chemistry, biology, biotechnology, molecular medicine, pharmacology, and natural and life sciences.

The ICCBS and the Chinese institutions intend to work together for mutual benefit in the field of biological and chemical sciences, said Prof Choudhary during the programme.

### **Dawn News, 02-02-19**

#### **China VC investment record high**

BEIJING: China's venture capital (VC) investment reached a record high in 2018 as a string of big deals led by tech giants drove up market volume, a report showed.

VC investment totaled \$70.5 billion last year, surging 52.9 per cent year-on-year, according to the latest quarterly analysis of VC trends by global audit and consultancy firm KPMG.

Overall number of deals in 2018 remained stable at 813, up slightly from 799 in 2017 and China dominated the Asia VC market.-APP

### **Dawn News, 03-02-19**

#### **Joint ventures under CPEC needed to increase industrial base: Dawood**

KARACHI: Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile Industry, Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said on Saturday that under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the country would now prefer to enter into joint ventures (JVs) with Chinese companies to increase industrial base.

‘We are in talks with China to shift the focus from power plants and road networks and move into JVs which are badly needed to increase the industrial base in Pakistan and lead to job creation, he said while addressing the business community of Karachi at an event hosted by the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (Reap) former chairman Abdul Rahim Janoo.

There is an urgent need for entering into JVs with Chinese companies which could help in transfer of technology and also improve our agriculture production which was badly suffering from low productivity, he said.

Responding to a number of issues raised by Reap Chairman Safdar Mekrai, the adviser stressed that by entering into JVs with Chinese companies many issues related to low farm productivity and high costs could be tackled by introducing technologies at different levels.

Mr Dawood regretted that almost all major crops including wheat and cotton in the country are facing similar issues as highlighted by Pakistan Agriculture Coalition’s Dr Arif Nadeem in his presentation on rice.

There is an urgent need to work on backward integration in all major crops if higher productivity and low cost is to be achieved, he said. He hoped that once these issues were resolved, the target set by Reap for enhancing rice exports from current level of little over \$2 billion to \$5bn in five years could be easily achieved.

The adviser said he would try to immediately include rice sector (which is second largest exporter after textiles) as a new member among five export-oriented sectors.

‘I am confident that rice exporters are committed to ensuring and securing interest of all the stakeholders and also have the vision to increase rice production and achieve \$5bn exports within five years,’ he added.

Mr. Dawood said that during his recent visit to Japan, the businessmen there showed keen desire to help Pakistan improve rice farming by introducing technology for improving quality and securing higher rice production.

He further urged the Reap chairman to participate in the forthcoming 'Blyani Festival' being organized in Jonesburg, South Africa.

### **Dawn News, 03-02-19**

#### **NHA told to repair roads damaged by CPEC activity**

SUKKUR: Pakistan People's Party MNA Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah has urged the National Highway Authority to rehabilitate the roads in Rohri and Pano Akil talukas which have been adversely affected by increased movement of heavy traffic for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Mr. Shah told journalists during his visit to different link roads in the two talukas on Saturday that the reconstruction work of the affected roads should be completed at the earliest and warned that no slackness would be accepted in this regard. Mr Shah inspected the roads in Ali Wahan, Kiran Sugar Mills, Dubbar, Ghulam Band, Haji Khan Chachar, Dadloi, Hussain Kalwar and other areas and was informed by deputy commissioner Ghulam Murtaza Qureshi and other officials concerned that movement of heavy machinery and dumpers laden with loose soil required for construction of CPEC projects had damaged several roads in Rohri and Pano Akil and completely destroyed some roads.

He directed NHA officials to complete work on the reconstruction of roads affected by CPEC projects as early as possible to minimize problems of the area people.

Mr Shah directed Sukkur DC Ghulam Murtaza Sohail ch and officials of the district highways department to put in place a mechanism for adequate monitoring of the under-construction roads and take special care about the measurement and standard of work on construction of protective wall and shoulders at diversions.

The Sukkur DC informed Mr Shah that 43 roads had been damaged in Rohri and Pano Akil talukas due to ongoing work on CPEC projects. After having carried out a joint survey of the affected roads, the authority had agreed to reconstruct them while reconstruction work on some roads had already started, he said.

National Highway deputy project director Sohail Raza said that in the initial phase, work on the reconstruction of five roads was under way. They included Ghulam Band to Dubbar, Haji Khan Chachar to Hussain Kalwar, and National Highway to Nabaho Malik and Dadloi to Cheechro road while work on Dadloi Cheechro road had been completed, he said.

Mr Shah also inspected Pir Wah (canal) which passed through Pano Akil town and was briefed about the lining project of the canal.

He asked the officials concerned to convene a meeting in connection with the lining project at DC office on Monday in which Sukkur DC, officials of public health engineering department, assistant commissioner and TMO of Pano Akil and other officials would participate.

### **Dawn News, 04-02-19**

#### **Chinese envoy speaks at ESU**

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing was a particularly popular guest speaker at the English Speaking Union (ESU) last week. Most of ESU's members came along with over a dozen ambassadors and other diplomats, and other guests invited for the event.

Ambassador Yao Jing focused on China's role in the region, with emphasis on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He explained that China has had unprecedented growth and development for over a generation. He said: 'It is important that the neighboring countries, too, become part of China's development, so that they and China can all benefit from it.

He spoke about CPEC projects in Gwadar, Quetta and elsewhere in Balochistan, and he spoke about the work in the northern areas and KP.

He stressed that the social sectors were given attention, with investments in hospitals, vocational training and water provision in Balochistan.

### **Dawn News, 05-02-19**

#### **Trader's cry in wilderness against a Chinese national**

FAISALABAD: A businessman has been running from pillar to post for a couple of months with all proofs for registration of a fraud case against a Chinese national Li Yimin who has already been booked in another forgery case with the Gulshan-i-Iqbal police, Lahore.

On Oct 22, 2018, Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Ilyas Rehan had also directed the police to register a case against the suspect; however, the police officials are [allegedly] not following the court direction for reasons best known to them.

Touseef Bari, a trader of furnace oil, said the suspect had purchased 163 tons of oil amounting to Rs8 million and issued him a cheque (12480965) on Aug 20, 2017. The cheque was deposited

with a private bank situated in the remit of Madina Town on the fixed date (Aug 21, 2017) which was dishonored due to payment stopped by Yimin.

The suspect had sought time till March 5, 2018 for the payment; however, he did not honor his word.

Bari said the issue was reported to the Madina Town police on Sept 15 last with all sorts of evidence for registration of the case. The police summoned the suspect who did not turn up, Bari mentioned in his writ petition.

In the decision, the judge mentioned that the petitioner annexed photocopies of cheque and cheque return memo and the original cheque instrument at the time of arguments which was returned to him after comparison with the photocopies. `Apparently, as per annexed cheque, it belongs to account of the suspect which was subsequently dishonored by the concerned bank on presentation thereof. Admittedly document of cheque is a negotiable instrument as per law which carries presumption of correctness in favor of its bearer.

`In view of foregoing circumstances, dishonoring of cheque suggests the happening of cognizable offence whereupon the SHO Madina Town, Faisalabad, is hereby directed to proceed under section 154 of the Cr PC immediately in accordance with law,` the judge said. The applicant said the police officials had been saying that they could not register the case as the suspect was a foreigner. However, he said a couple of months ago the Karachi police registered a case against the Chinese nationals on charges of ATM fraud.

Similarly, he said the Lahore police had also booked the suspect on Oct 21, 2017 on charges of issuing a cheque amounting to Rs17 million whereas the same cheque was also dishonored by the bank. He said the applicant of this FIR had managed to get his payment back following registration of the case whereas the Faisalabad police officials had made him a rolling stone.

He said: `From top to bottom, I had met all the police officials who were not registering the case despite the clear-cut orders of the court.

A police official requesting anonymity told Dawn that they had been working on the issue.

The official did not disclose what kind of working was under way and why the case is not being registered.

### **Dawn News, 06-02-19**

#### **Chinese communities welcome Year of the Pig**

CHINESE communities around the world welcomed the Year of the Pig on Tuesday, ushering in the Lunar New Year with prayers, family feasts and shopping sprees. Celebrations will take place across the globe, from Southeast Asia's centuries-old Chinese communities to the more



recently established Chinatowns of Sydney, London, Vancouver, Los Angeles and beyond. The most important holiday of the Chinese calendar marks the New Year with a fortnight of festivities as reunited families wrap dumplings together and exchange gifts and red envelopes stuffed with money.

Pigs symbolize good fortune and wealth in Chinese culture and this year's holiday brings a proliferation of porcine merchandise, greetings and decorations. Researchers have also traced the origins of the zodiac animal.

Chinese archaeologists found that China was one of the earliest places in the world to domesticate pigs about 9,000 years ago around the time when ancient Turkey began similar domestication practices based on research on pig bones excavated at Jiahu in Henan province, Xinhua reported.

In Hong Kong, flower markets were filled with residents picking out orchids, mandarins and peach blossoms to decorate their homes with stalls also boasting a dizzying array of pig themed pillows, tote bags and stuffed toys. In Shanghai on the mainland crowds packed into the Longhua temple to pray for good fortune. In Malaysia where 60 per cent of the population is Muslim and a quarter ethnic Chinese some shopping centers chose not to display pig decorations, while some shops kept them inside. But shoppers and traders said that was usual in a country where the Muslim majority are sensitive about an animal considered unclean in Islam, and overall there had been little controversy this year.

Next door in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country which also has a sizeable ethnic Chinese population, the Lunar New Year is a public holiday. In Japan, the capital's famous Tokyo Tower was due to turn red in celebration of the New Year a first for the city.-AFP

### **Dawn News, 07-02-19**

#### **Govt urged to motivate Chinese businessmen to invest in Pakistan**

KARACHI: Putting forth a range of recommendations to boost economic growth in the country, speakers at a meeting held on Monday called upon the government to make fair policies and regulations and look into the reasons why potential Chinese investors had not yet come to Pakistan in as large numbers as was earlier projected by official quarters.

They suggested that the government should allow the private sector to head institutions such as the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority to bring greater ownership of these institutions and to provide them with a corporate culture.

The programme was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, to discuss 'Drivers of future economic growth and job creation in Sindh' at the IBA.

In his welcome remarks, Dr Farrukh Iqbal, IBA executive director, highlighted the role of entrepreneurship in economic growth and job creation.

He emphasized that the role of the government should be to make fair policies and regulations, leaving the production activities in agriculture, manufacturing and services to the private sector. 'This (approach) would boost competition and bring diversification in economic base and exports,' he said, asking relevant authorities to see why potential Chinese investors had not come to Pakistan in large numbers (as was projected).

Dr Vaqar Ahmed, joint executive director at the SDPI, spoke about the aims of the National Network of Economic Think Tanks which, he said, would help the federal government in collecting evidence that could be a part of the forthcoming annual budget, 12th Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission and still under formulation Strategic Trade Policy Framework of the ministry of commerce.

'It is important for the business community in Sindh to brainstorm and submit their pre-budget proposals by Feb 21 the deadline set by Federal Board of Revenue. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry needs to engage with the government well before the budget so that measures which lead to a reduction in the cost of doing business can be made part of the next Finance Act,' he said.

He urged the business associations in Sindh to engage more closely with the authorities responsible for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Joint Coordination Committee of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor programme.

'It is important for business persons to foresee what will be the future demand patterns in China and which goods can be exported from Pakistan to China in coming days,' he said.

Pointing to the difficulties Chinese businessmen were facing in Pakistan, he said these problems primarily pertained to taxation authorities and government offices, which were responsible to provide utilities such as water, electricity and gas.

The participants in the meeting were concerned at the lack of interest and debate in parliament following the announcement of a mini-budget last month.

A reference was made to the Free and Fair Election Network data according to which 60 per cent parliamentarians did not participate in the budget debates in the National Assembly.

In terms of export promotion, there was a consensus that there was large untapped potential in

agriculture, fisheries and mining and that inland freight transportation costs were higher than such costs in peer economies.

They called for improvement in storage, warehousing facilities and trade-related border infrastructure, stressing the need for land reforms in Sindh so that agricultural land could be given to `genuine` farmers.

The meeting participants included president of the Employers` Federation of Pakistan Majyd Aziz, president of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry Danish Khan, representatives of the Pakistan Readymade Garments, MNA Shahida Rehmani and former vice president of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Karachi South Ghazala Saifi.

### **Dawn News, 09-02-19**

#### **Some CPEC critics are incorrigible, says Chinese diplomat**

ISLAMABAD: A senior Chinese diplomat here on Friday said some of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) critics were incorrigible.

Speaking at a seminar on `Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC` at the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Lijian Zhao, who is deputy chief of mission at the Chinese embassy, said while there was a political consensus on CPEC in Pakistan, there was critics as well. Government officials dub CPEC as a `game changer` and describe it as a ray of hope for the country`s faltering economy.

However, lack of transparency about the projects and reports that Chinese firms earned massive profits on investments and repatriated them has often stirred criticism. Most of the times, the critics do not get convincing explanations.

The diplomat said there were two types of critics: People who are `not well aware of developments related to BRI and CPEC` and these individuals would change `their perceptions once they get to know more about` the two initiatives.

However, there are also `those who are having an agenda and they will never accept CPEC. Mr Zhao said one of the biggest projects under CPEC Sukkur-Multan M-5 Motorway was expected to be completed by mid-year. Meanwhile, Thakot-Havelian section of Karakoram Highway is likely to be completed by year end.

The 1,320 megawatt coal-fired power plant set up at Hub in Balochistan, he said, would be fully functional by the end of spring.

The first 660 MW unit of the power plant has already been connected to the national grid while the second one would come online shortly.

The Hub power plant is being completed at a cost of nearly \$2 billion.

SVI President Dr Zafar Iqbal Cheema said criticism of BRI and CPEC was driven by geo-strategic considerations and power politics. Much of the criticism is because of the thinking that China is expanding at the expense of the US, he added.

‘The ascendancy of a geostrategic perspective precludes the understanding of its desired objectives and undermines an informed and balanced discussion and discourse. From an overriding security viewpoint, it’s more being looked upon as a challenge rather than a cooperative enterprise,’ he observed.

The other perspective is that of geo-economics, according to which CPEC is promoting regional connectivity, infrastructure growth, trade and development.

Prof Dr Baogang He, Prof Shahram Akbarzadeh and Dr Zahid Shahab from Deakin University, Melbourne (Australia), made their presentations on various aspects of BRI and CPEC.

Dr Baogang said China had global ambitions and was exporting infrastructure in addition to building production networks and supply chains as it had accumulated knowledge, technology, raw material and wealth. He asked China to address issues related to labor, land acquisition and scale of investments.

Prof Akbarzadeh said Middle Eastern countries saw China as a partner because unlike Western countries it did not insist on ‘political openness’, maintained business like relations and boosted their leverages in negotiations with the US.

DrShahab, while noting the creation of political consensus within Pakistan on CPEC, said it was a template on which consensus on other opportunities in nation building could be used.

Dr Vaqar Ahmed of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) said CPEC added to business and investor community’s confidence, attracted foreign investment and accelerated the economic growth allowing GDP to grow at over 5pc after a decade.

### **Dawn News, 09-02-19**

#### **US-China trade tensions could hit African growth**

ADDIS ABABA: Persisting trade tensions between economic superpowers the United States and China could shave 0.7 per cent from Africa’s GDP in 2019, a senior official at the African Development Bank (Af DB) said on Friday.

Hanan Morsy, director of the AfDB's macroeconomic policy department, made the prediction on the sidelines of an African Union meeting in Addis Ababa as fresh doubts emerged over the prospects for US-China trade war negotiations.

She was speaking after the release of the bank's African Economic Outlook 2019 report, which said the continent registered growth of 3.5pc in 2018, and was expected to grow 4pc in 2019. This is higher than most regions of the world but still insufficient to address persistent fiscal and current account deficits and 'unsustainable debt'.

Furthermore, the ongoing trade battle between the US and China could 'have a negative impact of 0.7pc of GDP from Africa. This impact will be through lack of trade and investment flows'. 'Af DB in particular expects a noticeable impact in the tradable sectors, including export commodities like minerals, oil and food related products, she added.

The United States has threatened to more than double existing tariffs on Chinese goods at the start of March if there is no agreement on measures to reform China's trade practices, which Washington says are deeply unfair.

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he did not expect to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping before the March 1 deadline, leading to a slump in world stock markets.

Top White House economist Larry Kudlow told Fox Business on Thursday that while Trump was 'optimistic' about prospects for a deal, there remained a 'sizeable distance' separating the two sides.-AFP

### **Dawn News, 10-02-19**

#### **US-China trade talks resume next week, focus on intellectual property**

WASHINGTON: US negotiators are preparing to press China next week on longstanding demands that it reform how it treats American companies' intellectual property in order to seal a trade deal that could prevent tariffs from rising on Chinese imports.

A new round of trade talks begins in Beijing on Monday, after the most recent set of negotiations concluded in Washington last week without a deal and with the top US negotiator declaring that a lot more work needed to be done.

A White House official said on Friday that preparations were under way and the talks would continue to focus on pressing Beijing to make structural reforms.

The White House announced a timeframe for the Beijing talks in a statement. It said lower-level officials will kick off the meetings on Monday, led on the American side by Deputy US Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish.

Higher principal-level talks will take place Thursday and Friday with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Lighthizer, named by Trump to spearhead the process after agreeing a 90-day truce in the trade war with Beijing, has been a strong proponent of pushing China to make such reforms and end what the United States views as unfair trade practices including stealing intellectual property and forcing US companies to share their technology with Chinese firms.

‘The United States is a great producer of technology, and innovation, and know-how, and trade secrets. And we have to operate in an environment where those things are protected,’ Lighthizer said last week after talks at the White House.

‘I’m by no means predicting success; there is a lot of work that has to be done,’ he said.

The two sides are trying to hammer out a deal ahead of the March 1 deadline when US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports are scheduled to increase to 25 per cent from 10pc.

China’s ambassador to the United States, Cui Tiankai, said in Michigan on Friday that a ‘zero-sum game’ mindset was destructive to China-US ties, the state-run news agency Xinhua reported.

Chinese and US companies should compete as well as cooperate with each other, Cui said.

‘The real story in business is not that black and white,’ the report quoted him as saying. Trump said on Thursday he did not plan to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping before that deadline, dampening hopes that a trade pact could be reached quickly.

‘We are hearing the list of issues the two presidents will ultimately have to make decisions on is being narrowed, so that’s an indication that things are being addressed. But we’re also hearing that there’s a lot of work to be done,’ said Erin Ennis, senior vice president of the US-China Business Council, who says she has spoken with officials in both the United States and China. ‘I don’t think either side is expecting a draft of something next week. Another source who had been briefed on the talks said a lot of work also needed to be done on an enforcement mechanism for a potential deal.

‘If there’s some indication that they’re making progress on subsidies, forced tech transfer and the constellation of issues there and an enforcement mechanism, that would be interesting. The word coming out of this last round was that there was very limited, meagre progress on those issues,’ the source said.

Escalating tensions between the United States and China have cost both countries billions of dollars and roiled global financial markets.

If the negotiations do not progress sufficiently, the US officials said increased tariffs will take effect. Washington could agree to extend the deadline without a deal if talks are progressing. Trump said last week he did not think the deadline would need to be extended, though he said a deal might not be on paper by then.-Reuters

*Washington: A timeframe has been announced for the major rounds of talks in Beijing while lower-level officials meetings will commence in the coming week*

### **Dawn News, 10-02-19**

#### **The Chinese giants shaping the world's industries**

PARIS: It was fear of being dominated by a Chinese behemoth that sparked an attempt by large French and German rail companies to join forces to create a European industrial champion. The merger by Alstom and Siemens was vetoed by the EU on Thursday, but concerns about the overwhelming power of vast, often state-backed Chinese companies is not limited to the rail industry.

Here are some of areas in which Chinese companies control a large piece of the global market.

RAIL: China's state-backed CRRC is the world's largest train manufacturer, with locomotives and wagons ordered across the globe from Boston to Philadelphia, Cambodia to Colombia, and customers including the iconic London Underground and Germany's Deutsche Bahn. Its annual revenues of □26 billion (\$29bn) alone outweigh the three Western heavyweights Bombardier, Siemens and Alstom, each of which brings in around 9bn a year.

AGRICHEMICALS: The state-owned Chem China became one of the world's seeds and pesticide producers when it acquired Swiss pesticide giant Syngenta for \$43bn in 2017, putting it in competition with Monsanto and Dow Dupont. It was the biggest overseas acquisition by a Chinese firm yet, ahead of the \$15.1bn purchase of Canada's Nexen Energy by China's state oil firm CNOOC in 2013.

Chem China also controls Italian tyre maker Pirelli and German machinery firm Krauss Maffel.

ENERGY: The state-run China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) launched its locally developed Hualong One nuclear reactor in 2015 to compete with French and US models, selling to Argentina and Pakistan.

Chinese solar panel manufacturers Jinko, Trina and Solar dominate the global market.

And Chinese oil companies CNOOC, CNPC and Sinopec are investing heavily even as their global rivals cut spending.

AVIATION: China's state-owned plane-maker Comac expects to deliver its first home-made passenger jet to a customer in 2021, as it seeks to challenge the dominance of Boeing and



Airbus.

The company says it has received a thousand orders for its 168-seater C919 plane.

FOOD: The state-owned food giant COFCO is playing an increasing role in world grain trading after purchasing the agricultural arm of Singaporean commodities trader Noble as well as Dutch Nidera.

China's WH Group became the world's largest pork producer in 2013, when it purchased major US pork and hot dog producer Smithfield Foods Inc.

DRONES: Founded by a Chinese university student in 2006, DJI has become the world's top civilian drone maker with 70 per cent of the market, outpacing its French rival Parrot.

SMARTPHONES: Chinese smartphone makers are taking a larger slice of the global market, with Huawei at 15pc, Xiaomi 8.7pc and Oppo 8.1pc.

Phone sales by Huawei and Oppo surged by 30pc last year, defying a downward trend that hit rivals Apple and Samsung.

HOME APPLIANCES: China's Haier Group is the world's leading manufacturer of home appliances with around 10pc of the market, ahead of rivals Whirlpool and Electrolux. Haier even purchased the appliances arm of US giant General Electric in 2016.

BATTERIES: Chinese firm CATL, which supplies batteries for car titans Volkswagen, Ford and Daimler, is battling with Japan's Panasonic for the world's lithium electric car battery top spot.-  
AFP

### **Dawn News, 11-02-19**

#### **Turkey urges China to close internment camps for Muslims**

ISTANBUL: Turkey has called on China to close its internment camps for Muslims, saying the camps which reportedly hold a million ethnic Uighur people are a 'great shame for humanity'. Last week, rights activists urged European and Muslim nations to take the lead in establishing a UN investigation into China's detention and 'forced indoctrination' of up to one million Uighurs, who speak a Turkic-language, and other Muslims in Xinjiang province.

'The policy of systematic assimilation against the Uighur Turks carried out by the authorities of China is a great shame for humanity, Turkish foreign ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said in a statement late on Saturday.

'It is no longer a secret that more than one million Uighur Turks incurring arbitrary arrests are subjected to... political brainwashing in internment camps and prisons, Aksoy said.

Turkey's statement follows the death of Uighur poet and musician Abdurehim Heyit in custody.

Beijing faces growing international pressure over its so-called 'deradicalisation' programme in its far western province.

Ankara called on the international community and the UN secretary general to take action. China's Embassy in Ankara called Aksoy's comments 'completely unacceptable' in a lengthy response posted on its website that defended its policies in the north-western Xinjiang region, the Uighur homeland.-Agencies

### **Dawn News, 11-02-19**

#### **Chinese diplomat speaks at SVI**

Hao Lijian, deputy chief of mission of the Chinese Embassy, was the chief guest at a seminar at the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) along with two Australian, one Chinese and two Pakistani speakers, chaired by Professor Zafar Iqbal Cheema. The theme of the seminar was the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and their impact on development in South West Asia. Several diplomats attended the seminar along with researchers, university teachers, private sector representatives and other guests.

Zhao Lijian is coordinator of CPEC at the Chinese Embassy.

'I was impressed by the detailed knowledge that Mr. Lijian mastered about CPEC projects and activities', said a participant. 'He also spoke about projects other than those related to CPEC and said there are 22,000 Pakistani students in China'.

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed of SDPI drew attention to a number of areas where CPEC projects can be expanded.

A German-Pakistani participant drew attention to the need for CPEC projects to be spread geographically and in regards to the subject area, for example, with more activities in Gilgit Baltistan.

This point created a lively debate, which continued during the pleasant tea session at the end of the event.

*Chinese Deputy Ambassador Zhao Lijian speaks at the seminar at the Strategic Vision Institute(SVI) in Islamabad.*

### **Dawn News, 12-02-19**

#### **Minister calls for city-to-city contact to strengthen Pakistan-China ties**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza chaired a meeting of provincial and local government representatives on Monday for the Pakistan-China Year of Friendship Sister Provinces/Cities 2019.

The meeting made several decisions on activities to cement the friendship between both countries.

Dr Mirza said China and Pakistan enjoy an exemplary relationship.

She also highlighted the importance of investing more in the socioeconomic sector and said it was high time for China and Pakistan to engage more deeply.

Establishing contacts and cooperation at the city-to-city or local government level could further strengthen bilateral relations, she said.

The meeting was told that the prime minister visited China last year, and it was agreed to mark 2019 as the year of friendship with China.

The leadership of both countries agreed to enhance exchanges and dialogue between leaders at the provincial and city levels to expand cooperation.

The meeting was told that a number of Pakistani and Chinese cities have signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) under Pakistan-China Sister Cities, but these are generally dormant with no active people-to-people and economic cooperation.

Establishing new sister provinces and cities relationships is the spirit of the Year of Friendship Sister Provinces/Cities.

The inter provincial coordination ministry is the focal ministry in this regard.

‘It is a great opportunity to enhance our cooperation with China in different areas, Dr Mirza said.

She directed the representatives of provincial governments and cities to formulate proposals with a defined time frame and budgetary allocations, to identify desired areas of cooperation including exchanges between local governments, heads and deputy heads, enhancement of trade and investment, energy or industrial links, cultural exchanges, sports, tourism, youth exchanges, agriculture and people to people contact with their sister cities.

She urged provinces and cities to come forward with innovative ideas to enhance engagement with Chinese cities this year.

Nominations for focal persons to coordinate provincial governments will also be finalized soon, and a follow-up meeting will be held.

### Dawn News, 12-02-19

#### **China rejects Turkey's criticism on Uighurs, denies poet's death**

BEIJING: China hit back (on Monday at Turkish criticism over its treatment of Uighurs and denied Ankara's claim that a renowned poet from the Muslim minority had died in custody, calling it an 'absurd lie'.

Turkey's foreign ministry had released a statement on Saturday severely criticizing China's mass detentions of its Turkic-speaking Uighurs, and claiming that poet Abdurehim Heyit had died serving an eight-year Chinese prison sentence imposed as punishment over 'one of his songs' But China on Sunday released a video showing a man who identified himself as Heyit and saying that he was alive and well.

'China has made solemn representations toward Turkey.

We hope the relevant Turkish persons can distinguish between right and wrong and correct their mistakes, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said during a daily press briefing. She called the Turkish statement 'vile' and urged Anl(Ara to withdraw its 'false accusations'. 'I saw his (Heyit's) video online yesterday, showing that he is not only alive but also very healthy,' she said.

A UN panel of experts has said that nearly one million Uighurs and other Turkic-speaking minorities had been herded into 're-education camps' in China's northwestern Xinjiang region, where most of the country's more than 10 million Uighurs live. Turkey had said China's treatment of Uighurs was 'a great embarrassment for humanity' perhaps the strongest condemnation yet from a Muslim country.

The Muslim world has been conspicuously quiet on the Uighur issue, possibly to avoid Chinese diplomatic or economic retaliation.

The plight of China's Uighurs is closely followed in Turkey due to shared linguistic, cultural and religious links and the presence of tens of thousands of ethnic Uighurs there.

In its statement on Saturday, Turkey did not say how it had learned that Heyit died, but said the 'tragedy has further reinforced the reaction of the Turkish public opinion towards (the) serious human rights violations' in Xinjiang.

But state-controlled China Radio International (CRI) released a 26-second video on its Turkish service on Sunday.

'My name is Abdurehim Heyit. Today is February 10, 2019,' the man in the video says, according to the English subtitles.-AFP

### **Dawn News, 15-02-19**

#### **Chinese man caught `stealing` money from ATM**

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese man was caught allegedly stealing money from a bank.

Sun Bin was captured by the security staff of a private bank in F-7 Markaz while he is alleged to have been stealing money from the bank's ATM with an accomplice.

The police said the second Chinese man managed to escape with the money and the tools used to conduct the operation.

The police took Sun Bin into custody and took him to the Kohsar police station where he was put in the lockup after a case was registered against him and his accomplice under PPC 380 for theft in a dwelling.

The foreigner was later produced in the court of a magistrate from where he was given in police custody on a two-day physical remand.

Kohsar Station House Officer (SHO) Sub-Inspector Abdul Razzaq told Dawn the bank's head office in Karachi received an alert that the ATM machine was being tampered with.

The head office informed the F-7 bank staff who found the two men in the ATM booth.

Rs225,000 was stolen from the ATM, the SHO said, adding that the detained Chinese national had arrived in Islamabad from China on Jan 12.

The Chinese embassy was informed about the incident, the SHO said, adding that the suspect only speaks Chinese and that police officials are finding it hard to interrogate him.

A request was made to senior police officers for a translator.

### **Dawn News, 15-02-19**

#### **Sweden replaces China envoy over bookseller**

STOCKHOLM: Sweden said on Thursday it had replaced its ambassador to China after her `incorrect` handling of un authorised meetings intended to help free dissident bookseller GUI Minhai.

The Hong Kong-based, Swedish publisher of books critical of China's communist leaders was abducted in Thailand in 2015 and later appeared in custody in China.

His daughter Angela Gui said this week she had met ambassador Anna Lindstedt and two businessmen in Stockholm in January, where she was advised to keep quiet about her father's case while negotiations were proceeding.

Sweden's Foreign Ministry said that was not an official meeting, and Lindstedt had now returned to Sweden with an interim envoy sent to Beijing during an inquiry.

'Neither the Foreign Ministry nor the Foreign Minister were informed until after the event, ministry spokesman Rasmus Eljanskog said in an emailed statement. 'As a consequence of the incorrect manner in which the said meetings were handled, we are now conducting an internal investigation.

GUI, 54, became a Swedish citizen after study-ing there in the 1980s. After the abduction, he was released in October 2017, but his whereabouts were unclear until January last year when his daughter said he was seized by Chinese agents on a Beijing-bound train in the presence of Swedish diplomats. China later confirmed it had detained him again.

In her blog, Angela said Lindstedt invited her to Stockholm to meet two businessmen who could help secure her father's release. 'The businessman said, 'you care about Anna [Lindstedt], right? If you keep talking to the media it'll damage her career. You don't want her to come to any harm, do you?', she said in the post on blog portal Medium.

'In order for this to happen [negotiations], I was told I needed to be quiet. I wasn't to tell anyone about this, or say anything publicly about the case, she added. 'I'm not going to be quiet in exchange for ... an arbitrary promise that my father 'might' be released.

Threats, verbal abuse, bribes, or flattery won't change that.

China's Foreign Ministry declined comment with spokeswoman Hua Chunying saying she knew nothing about Gui's latest situation.-Reuters

### **Dawn News, 15-02-19**

#### **Police grapple with security of 'misbehaving' Chinese: report**

FAISALABAD: The police officials are finding it difficult to ensure the security of the Chinese officials living in Faisalabad due to their behavior and movement without intimation says a report prepared by a security agency.

The report says that 14 Chinese language instructors, including five men and nine women, were living at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and teaching Chinese language to the university students.

Five policemen and a UAF security guard remain present outside their colony. The district police are performing their duties in two shifts. Besides these policemen, a special squad has also been provided by the district police that remain with the Chinese national during their movement till 6pm.

A project is under way at Sahianwala where some Chinese workers are also engaged. After 6pm, the report says the Chinese go to the Sahianwala to meet their countrymen and return to the residences late into night without security/escort. The Chinese nationals misbehave with the policemen deployed for their security in case they try to stop them from movement without security. The report says that the Chinese instructors usually leave the UAF by informing the police that they are going to deliver a lecture. These Chinese instructors have also been seen moving in the university without security.

Keeping in mind the attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi and arrest of some suspects near the Chinese camp in Rahim Yar Khan, it is imperative to restrict the movement of the Chinese nationals living at the UAF and they must be stopped moving without security to avoid any untoward incident, the report suggests.

It highlights some security flaws, mentioning that barriers and obstacles are missing at the main gate of the colony where the Chinese people are residing. Such barriers must be erected and the number of policemen should also be increased to avoid any mishap.

A police officer, requesting not to be named, says the report was submitted to the district police a couple of days ago and the security flaws pointed out in the report had been removed to ensure foolproof security for the Chinese nationals.



**Dunya News, 01-02-19**

سی پیک سے ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی: اسد قیصر

ندیم افضل چن کی ملاقات، معاشی و سیاسی صورت حال پر تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سے ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے نوجوانوں اور ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے مابین: ﴿﴾ جمہوری پر امن طرز حکومت اور پائیدار ترقی کے موضوع پر ہونیوالے مکالمے کے دوران کیا، سپیکر نے کہا کہ ہمیں امید ہے کہ افغانستان میں امن و استحکام قائم ہوگا، نوجوان سیاست اور تعمیر و ترقی کے کاموں میں بھرپور حصہ لیں، مکالمے میں عثمان ڈار، وجیہہ اکرم و دیگر نے شرکت کی، دریں اثنا اسد قیصر سے وزیر اعظم کے ترجمان ندیم افضل چن نے سپیکر ہاؤس میں ملاقات کی جس میں ملک کی مجموعی معاشی و سیاسی صورت حال اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، سپیکر نے کہا کہ ہمیں باہمی اختلافات بھلا کر اپنی صفوں میں اتحاد پیدا کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، ایوان میں موجود تمام ارکان ان کی نظر میں برابر ہیں، ایوان کے ماحول کو پر امن رکھنا اور عوامی نوعیت کی قانون سازی کے عمل میں تیزی لانا ان کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

اسد قیصر

**Dunya News, 01-02-19****افغانستان کے مسئلے کا سیاسی حل ہونا چاہیے: چین**

امید ہے امریکہ، طالبان بات چیت کے مثبت نتائج برآمد ہوں گے: ترجمان وزارت خارجہ  
 بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین ہمیشہ یقین رکھتا ہے کہ افغانستان کا مسئلہ سیاسی ذرائع سے حل ہونا چاہیے اور چین افغان قیادت میں افغانستان کے امن اور معاہمتی عمل کی مکمل حمایت کرتا ہے، چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان گینگ شوانگ نے یہاں نیوز بریفنگ کے دوران کہا تمام فریقین کی طرف سے اختیار کیا جانے والا عمل افغانستان کی سلامتی اور استحکام کیلئے ہونا چاہیے، چین اس کے مکمل حصول تک اپنا مثبت اور تعمیری کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا ہم نے امریکہ اور افغان طالبان کے درمیان حال ہی میں دوحہ، قطر میں ہونے والی بات چیت سے متعلق رپورٹس کا جائزہ لیا ہے۔ توقع ہے کہ اس کے مثبت نتائج برآمد ہوں گے۔

چین

**Dunya News, 03-02-19****چین، شعبہ اکاؤنٹس کو****14.8 ارب ڈالر آمدن**

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین نے کہا کہ 2018 کے دوران اکاؤنٹس کے شعبے کی آمدنی 100 ارب یوآن (14.8 ارب ڈالر) رہی جو کہ 2017 کے مقابلے میں 10 فیصد زیادہ ہے، 2017 کے دوران اس شعبے کی آمدنی 90 ارب یوآن رہی تھی۔ وزارت خزانہ کی جانب سے جاری رپورٹ کے مطابق سال کے دوران اکاؤنٹس فرموں کی تعداد 7862 رہی جن میں 1 لاکھ 9 ہزار 352 سرٹیفائیڈ پبلک اکاؤنٹنٹس تھے۔

## Dunya News, 03-02-19



چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولت دیں گے: عثمان بزدار

دوستی کا لازوال رشتہ، عمران خان کے دور میں تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی، وفد سے گفتگو

لاہور (سپیشل رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب عثمان بزدار سے وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں چائے مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن اور مین ڈی آر کنسٹرکشن گروپ کے 12 رکنی وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ چائے مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن اور مین ڈی آر کنسٹرکشن گروپ نے زراعت اور ہاؤسنگ کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی وفد کے حکام نے وزیر اعلیٰ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا بنجر اراضی کو جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے ذریعے زرعی مقاصد کیلئے قابل استعمال بنانے کے منصوبے میں سرمایہ کاری کریں گے اور کم لاگت کے گھروں کی تعمیر کے منصوبے کیلئے چین کی ٹیکنالوجی بھی پنجاب میں منتقل کرینگے۔ انہوں نے کہا ہم پنجاب میں ہاؤسنگ انڈسٹریل پارک کا منصوبہ لگانا چاہتے ہیں اور اس ضمن میں تمام سرمایہ کاری چینی گروپ کریں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے چینی وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا پاکستان اور چین دوستی کے لازوال رشتے میں بندھے ہوئے ہیں اور وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دور میں پاک چین تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا پنجاب میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے زبردست سہولتیں فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔ چین کے سرمایہ کاروں کا زراعت اور ہاؤسنگ کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کے اظہار کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولت دیں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا زراعت اور ہاؤسنگ کے شعبوں میں بہت پونڈیشن موجود ہے، زرعی شعبہ پنجاب کی معیشت میں ریڑھ کی ہڈی کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، جدید ٹیکنالوجی کے ذریعے زرعی شعبہ کو پائیدار بنیادوں پر مضبوط کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا نئے پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کی سہولتیں اور مراعات دی گئی ہیں، زراعت اور ہاؤسنگ سیکٹرز میں چین کی جدید ٹیکنالوجی سے استفادہ حاصل کرنے کے خواہاں ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب عثمان بزدار کی زیر صدارت وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس ہوا، جس میں ان لینڈ واٹرز انہورٹ ڈویلپمنٹ کمپنی کے امور کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کمپنی کی کشتیوں کو سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے استعمال میں لانے کی ہدایت کرتے ہوئے کہا کمپنی کے دیگر اثاثے اور عمارت بھی محکمہ سیاحت اور محکمہ آبپاشی کے حوالے کرنے کا جائزہ لیا جائے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے اعلیٰ سطح کی کمیٹی تشکیل دینے کی ہدایت کی۔ یہ کمیٹی کمپنی کے اثاثوں کی دیگر محکموں کو منتقلی کے بارے میں حتمی سفارشات پیش کرے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا عمارت کو ریٹ ہاؤس بنا کر سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے استعمال میں لایا جائے کیونکہ میانوالی کے علاقے داؤد خیل میں سیاحت کے بے پناہ مواقع موجود ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا ماضی میں قومی وسائل کا بے دریغ ضیاع کیا گیا لیکن ہم قومی وسائل کو کسی صورت ضائع نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار نے سابق وزیر خزانہ احسان الحق پراچہ کے انتقال پر گہرے دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کیا۔

چین بزدار

**Dunya News, 05-02-19**

حکومت چینی ماڈل سے سیکھ کر آگے بڑھ رہی ہے: وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب

کشمیر کے بہادر عوام نے اپنے لہو سے آزادی کی تحریک کو نئی جلا بخشی: پیغام

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر سے) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب عثمان بزدار نے چین کے نئے روايتی سال کی آمد پر صدر شی جن پنگ، وزیر اعظم لی چیانگ اور چینی عوام کو مبارکباد دی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ پاکستانی قوم اپنے چینی بھائیوں کی خوشیوں میں شریک ہے، چینی قوم نے اپنی عظیم لہجہ رشپ میں غربت، کرپشن، بے روزگاری اور نا انصافی کے خلاف اخلاص کے ساتھ جدوجہد کی۔ تحریک انصاف کی حکومت بھی ترقی کے چینی ماڈل سے سیکھ کر آگے بڑھ رہی ہے۔ چینی قیادت کی شبانہ روز محنت کی بدولت چین دنیا کی ایک بڑی معاشی قوت بن چکا ہے۔ چین پاکستان کا ایسا با اعتماد اور مخلص دوست ہے جس نے مشکل کی ہر گھڑی میں پاکستان کا ساتھ نبھایا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے یوم بھتی کشمیر کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں کہا کہ کشمیریوں کے حق خود ارادیت کے حصول کیلئے غیر متزلزل عزم کو سلام پیش کرتے ہیں، مقبوضہ کشمیر کے بہادر عوام نے اپنے لہو سے آزادی کی تحریک کو نئی جلا بخشی ہے، آج پاکستانی قوم اپنے کشمیری بھین بھائیوں کے شبانہ بٹانہ کھڑی ہے۔ مزید کہا کہ کشمیری آزادی اور بھائی جنگ لڑ رہے ہیں، کشمیری اپنے حق کیلئے مصائب آلام برداشت کرتے ہوئے لازوال قربانیاں دے رہے ہیں، بھارت ریاستی جبر و تشدد کے ذریعے زیادہ دیر تک کشمیریوں کو ان کے بنیادی حق سے محروم نہیں رکھ سکتا، بھارتی حکومت گولیوں کے ذریعے کشمیری عوام کے جذبہ حریت کو نہیں کچل سکتی، آزادی کی خاطر اپنی قیمتی جانیں قربان کرنے والے شہدائے کشمیر کا خون رائیگاں نہیں جائے گا۔ خطے میں پائیدار امن کیلئے تنازع کشمیر کا اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کی روشنی میں حل ناگزیر ہے اور بھارت کو آج نہیں تو کل تنازع کے حل کی جانب آنا ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کشمیری عوام اپنی جدوجہد میں تنہا نہیں ہے بلکہ پوری پاکستانی قوم ان کے ساتھ ہے، پاکستانی قوم مقبوضہ کشمیر کے عوام کے ساتھ اپنی اخلاقی، سفارتی اور سیاسی حمایت کے عزم کا اعادہ کرتی ہے۔ ادھر وزیر اعلیٰ نے شیخوپورہ کے علاقے میں اغوا کے بعد 4 سالہ بچی کے قتل کے واقعہ کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے آر پی او شیخوپورہ سے رپورٹ طلب کر لی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے ملزموں کی گرفتاری کا حکم دیتے ہوئے ہدایت کی کہ متاثرہ خاندان کو ہر صورت انصاف فراہم کیا جائے۔ دوسری طرف وزیر اعلیٰ نے کبیر والا کے علاقے میں گھر سے ماں بیٹی کی لاشیں برآمد ہونے کے حوالے سے خیر کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے آر پی او ملتان سے رپورٹ طلب کر لی۔

وزیر اعلیٰ نے آر پی او ملتان کو ہدایت کی کہ واقعہ کی تحقیقات کر کے حقائق سامنے لائے جائیں۔

عثمان بزدار

**Dunya News, 06-02-19**

**چین: ماحول دوست توانائی کی پیداوار میں تیزی سے اضافہ**

**حکومتی سطح پر متعدد اقدامات، گزشتہ سال بجلی کی پیداوار 70 کروڑ گھنٹوں تک رہی**

**آئندہ سال تک مختلف منصوبوں پر 373 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری بھی کی جائے گی**

بیجنگ (اس پی پی) چین نے کہا ہے کہ 2018 میں متعدد اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں، اس ضمن میں سولہ ماہ کے دوران اس کی ماحول دوست توانائی کی پیداوار میں تیزی سے اضافہ ہوا، گزشتہ سال نے کہا کہ گھنٹوں 2020 تک صاف توانائی کے 70 کروڑ گھنٹوں سے زیادہ بجلی پیدا کی گئی تھی۔ مختلف منصوبوں پر 373 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی، "جنرل ایگزیکٹو" کا کہنا ہے کہ صاف توانائی کی پیداوار کے ساتھ ساتھ ماحول دوست توانائی کے شعبے کی ترقی کے لیے بھی کوششیں جاری رکھی جائیں گی۔



**Dunya News, 06-02-19**

**Dunya News, 09-02-19**

سی پیک: متعدد بڑے منصوبے آئندہ

چند ماہ میں مکمل: چینی سفارتخانہ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چینی سفارتخانے کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن لی جیان ژاؤ نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیشرفت اطمینان بخش ہے، متعدد بڑے منصوبے آئندہ چند ماہ میں مکمل ہو جائیں گے، یہ بات انہوں نے سٹریٹجک وژن انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام سمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی، انہوں نے کہا کہ سکھر، ملتان موٹروے جو سی پیک کے تحت بڑا منصوبہ ہے، شیڈول کے مطابق 2.9 ارب ڈالر کی لاگت سے یہ منصوبہ رواں سال جون تک مکمل ہو جائے گا جبکہ قراقرم ہائی وے کا تھا کوٹ حویلیاں سیکشن بھی رواں سال کے آخر تک مکمل ہوگا، اس کے علاوہ حب بلوچستان میں کونکہ سے چلنے والا 1320 میگا واٹ کا پاور پلانٹ رواں سال موسم بہار تک مکمل آپریشنل ہو جائے گا جبکہ 660 میگا واٹ یونٹ کا پاور پلانٹ پہلے ہی میشل گروڈ سے منسلک کیا گیا ہے، حب پاور پلانٹ پر تقریباً دو ارب ڈالر کی لاگت آئی ہے، کروٹ اور سکی کناری ہائیڈرو پاور پلانٹس اور گوادر پورٹ اور فری زون پر کام میں پیشرفت جاری ہے۔

ڈپٹی چیف مشن



**Dunya News, 09-02-19**

پاکستانی، چینی اور انڈونیشیائی امن دستوں نے کاتگو میں 2 ماہ کا مشن مکمل کر لیا  
 اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستانی، چینی اور انڈونیشیائی امن دستوں نے کاتگو میں 2 ماہ کی سخت محنت کے بعد تعمیراتی مشن مکمل کر  
 لیا، کاتگو میں 22 ویں چائینیز امن مشن کے انجینئرنگ سیکشن کو پاکستانی انفنٹری امن دستوں اور انڈونیشیائی امن مشن کے انجینئرز  
 کے ہمراہ مرکزی پل کی بحالی کا کام سونپا گیا تھا جو انہوں نے مشترکہ طور پر 2 ماہ کی سخت محنت کے بعد مکمل کر لیا، چائینیز ڈیفنس  
 جنرل کے مطابق مائیکانامی پل کی بحالی کاتگو میں یو این او مشن کی کامیابی میں اہم قدم ہے۔  
 امن دستے: مشن

**Dunya News, 09-02-19**

**جلد شمرا ت: ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر کام تیز کیا جائے، صادق سنجرائی**

چینی سفیر یا و جنگ کی ملاقات، بلوچستان میں جاری سی پیک منصوبوں سے متعلق آگاہ کیا

ترقی کیلئے اقتصادی تعاون ناگزیر، چیئر مین سینیٹ، ترکمانستان، قازقستان کے سفیر بھی ملے

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار، نامہ نگار) چیئر مین سینیٹ محمد صادق سنجرائی نے کہا کہ ترقیاتی عمل کے شمرا ت سے عوام کو جلد مستفید کرنے کیلئے بلوچستان میں جاری بڑے منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار کو تیز کیا جائے، صاف پانی منصوبے کی جلد تکمیل سے بلوچستان کی کثیر آبادی کو فائدہ ہوگا، چیئر مین سینیٹ سے چین کے سفیر یا و جنگ نے ملاقات کی اور بلوچستان میں سی پیک کے تحت جاری منصوبوں سے متعلق آگاہ کیا، صادق سنجرائی نے کہا کہ بلوچستان کے طلباء کیلئے وظائف دیئے جائیں، اس موقع پر چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ بلوچستان میں چین کے تعاون سے کھیلوں کے انفراسٹرکچر کے فروغ کیلئے پہلانٹ بال سٹیڈیم کو سٹیڈیم میں تعمیر کیا جائے گا، چیئر مین سینیٹ سے ترکمانستان، قازقستان اور کرغزستان کے سفرانے بھی الگ الگ ملاقاتیں کیں، سفرانے سے ملاقات کے دوران چیئر مین سینیٹ نے کہا کہ پارلیمانی سفار نگاری دو طرفہ تعلقات کے فروغ اور معاشی تعاون کی راہیں ہموار کرنے میں معاون ہوتی ہے، سینیٹ پاک ترکمانستان دوستی گروپ دو طرفہ پارلیمانی تعلقات کے فروغ میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے، قازقستان کے سفیر بار لے پسد کوف سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے چیئر مین سینیٹ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور قازقستان کے مابین بہترین معاشی تعلقات سے نہ صرف دو طرفہ تعاون کو فروغ ملے گا بلکہ علاقے کی ترقی میں بھی نمایاں پیش رفت ہوگی، کرغزستان کے سفیر سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے چیئر مین سینیٹ نے کہا کہ خطے کی ترقی و خوشحالی یقینی بنانے کیلئے علاقائی ممالک کے مابین اقتصادی تعاون ناگزیر ہے، پارلیمانی تعلقات کو مزید تقویت دے کر دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دیا جاسکتا ہے۔

**Dunya News, 11-02-19**

چین، 2 حادثات میں 11 افراد ہلاک، 9 زخمی ہو گئے

انہوئی ایکسپریس وے پر گاڑی اٹنے سے 5 ہلاک، فائی حادثہ میں 6 افراد ہلاک  
 بیجنگ (آئی این پی) مشرقی چین کے صوبے انہوئی میں مختلف حادثات کے دوران 11 افراد ہلاک اور 9 زخمی ہو گئے۔ انہوئی  
 ایکسپریس وے پر ایک گاڑی اٹنے کے باعث 5 افراد ہلاک اور 5 زخمی ہو گئے۔ ٹریفک پولیس کے مطابق 14 افراد موقع پر  
 ہلاک ہو گئے جبکہ ایک ہسپتال میں دم توڑ گیا۔ دوسرا حادثہ فائی میں پیش آیا جہاں ایک کار اور مینی بس میں تصادم کے نتیجے  
 میں 6 افراد ہلاک اور 5 زخمی ہو گئے۔ پولیس نے زخمیوں کو ہسپتال پہنچا کر حادثے کی تحقیقات شروع کر دی ہیں۔  
 11 ہلاک

**Dunya News, 12-02-19**

پاک چین تعلقات مثالی، مزید مضبوطی چاہتے ہیں، فہمیدہ مرزا

صوبے اور بلدیاتی نمائندے چین سے تعلقات بڑھانے کیلئے حکمت عملی تیار کریں، ہدایت

ایران کیساتھ تعلقات میں مزید بہتری آئی، انقلاب ایران کی سالگرہ تقریب سے خطاب

اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگار، اے پی پی) وفاقی وزیر برائے بین الصوبائی رابطہ ڈاکٹر فہمیدہ مرزا کی زیر صدارت اجلاس ہوا جس میں صوبائی حکومتوں کے نمائندوں نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں وزارت داخلہ، خارجہ، خزانہ اور اطلاعات و نشریات کے نمائندوں نے بھی شرکت کی۔ اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر ڈاکٹر فہمیدہ مرزا نے کہا کہ پاک چین تعلقات مثالی ہیں، ان میں مزید مضبوطی چاہتے ہیں۔ فہمیدہ مرزا نے تمام صوبوں اور لوکل گورنمنٹ کے نمائندوں کو مختلف شہروں کی سطح پر چین سے تعلقات بڑھانے کے لئے حکمت عملی تیار کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ علاوہ ازیں ایرانی سفارتخانے کے زیر انتظام انقلاب ایران کی 40 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے فہمیدہ مرزا نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور ایران کے مابین مذہب، ثقافت اور جغرافیائی روابط صدیوں سے قائم ہیں۔ انقلاب ایران کے بعد تعلقات میں مزید بہتری آئی ہے۔

فہمیدہ مرزا

**Dunya News, 13-02-19**

اسلام آباد میں پہلی انٹرنیشنل سی پیک ورکشاپ 17 اپریل سے شروع ہوگی  
 اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) انٹرنیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی کے زیر اہتمام پاکستان کی پہلی انٹرنیشنل سی پیک ورکشاپ 17 اپریل سے  
 انٹرنیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی میں شروع ہوگی جس میں پاکستان چین اور دنیا بھر سے مندوبین شرکت کریں گے۔

**Dunya News, 13-02-19**

پاکستان اور چین میں ثقافتی و فوڈ کا تبادلہ ہونا چاہئے، شجاعت علی  
 نوجوان چین جا کر جدید ٹیکنالوجی سیکھیں اور یہاں آ کر یہ ترقی متعارف کرائیں، اجلاس سے خطاب  
 راولپنڈی (نیوز رپورٹر) آل پاکستان چائینز اور سیز پوٹھ فیڈریشن کے چیئرمین شجاعت علی نے کہا ہے کہ سی  
 پیک سے دونوں ملکوں کے عوام ترقی کی منزلیں طے کریں گے، بے روزگاری کم ہوگی، ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ  
 دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان ثقافتی و فوڈ کا تبادلہ ہونا چاہئے، گوادر میں چائنا نے جتنا کام کیا ہے وہ ترقی اور خوشحالی کا  
 باعث بنے گا، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے فیڈریشن کے اجلاس میں کیا جس میں فیڈریشن کے مرکزی صدر شبیر  
 حسین شاہ، گلگت و بلتستان سیکٹر کے صدر غلام مصطفیٰ بھی موجود تھے، انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستانی نوجوان چین جا کر  
 جدید ٹیکنالوجی سیکھیں اور ملک میں آ کر اپنی قوم کو ترقی سے ہمکنار کریں۔



**Dunya News, 14-02-19**

پاکستان میں پن بجلی منصوبے منسوخ نہیں ہوئے: چین

چین کسی پر ناقابل قبول شرائط مسلط نہیں کرتا، فیصلے مشاورت سے ہوتے ہیں

بھارتی ذرائع ابلاغ کی خبریں غلط اور حقائق کے برعکس ہیں، ترجمان وزارت خارجہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے ان اطلاعات کو غلط قرار دیا ہے جن میں کہا گیا تھا کہ پاکستان اور نیپال میں چینی تعاون سے لگائے جانے والے پن بجلی کے منصوبے منسوخ کر دیے گئے ہیں۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ ہوا چننگ نے میڈیا کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ بھارتی ذرائع ابلاغ میں ان منصوبوں کے بارے میں اطلاعات بالکل غلط اور حقائق کے برعکس ہیں۔ چین توانائی کے منصوبوں کی تعمیر سے متعلق اپنے تمام وعدے پورے کرتا ہے۔ ہم دوسروں پر نام نہاد ناقابل قبول شرائط کبھی مسلط نہیں کرتے۔ ہر منصوبہ چین اور متعلقہ فریقین کے درمیان مساوی مشاورت کا نتیجہ ہے۔ پاکستان کو چینی ایئر کرافٹ کیریئر کی فروخت بارے انہوں نے ابھی تک کوئی رپورٹ دیکھی اور نہ ہی اس کے بارے میں کچھ سنا ہے۔ ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ ان منصوبوں کے بارے میں اطلاعات دراصل بھارتی وزارت خارجہ نے جاری کیں جو بالکل غلط اور حقائق کے برعکس ہیں۔ ڈیم کا منصوبہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے میں شامل نہیں تھا جبکہ نیپال میں پن بجلی کا منصوبہ ابھی تک مذاکرات کے مرحلے میں ہے۔

چین

**Dunya News, 14-02-19**

گوادر سے فریقی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے حالات سازگار ہیں، خسرو بختیار

چینی سفیر کی ملاقات سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیش رفت کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات محمد خسرو بختیار سے ملاقات کی اس دوران دو طرفہ دلچسپی کے امور بالخصوص پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری پر جاری پیش رفت کے حوالے سے تفصیلی بات چیت ہوئی، سیکرٹری پلاننگ ظفر حسن اور پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹری پیک حسان داؤد بھی ملاقات میں شریک رہے، خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ گوادر منصوبوں بشمول گوادر ایئر پورٹ، ہسپتال، ووکیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ اور پاور پلانٹ پر کام کی رفتار تیز کر دی جائے، یہ منصوبے نہ صرف یہاں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے سازگار ماحول فراہم کرنے میں معاون ثابت ہوں گے بلکہ مقامی آبادی کو بنیادی سہولیات کی فراہمی ممکن ہو جائے گی، گوادر میں سے فریقی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے حالات سازگار ہیں، گوادر ماسٹر پلان پر تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز کا اتفاق رائے ہو گیا ہے، جلد ہی اس پلان کو حتمی شکل دی جائے گی، وفاقی وزیر نے اس موقع پر پاک چین زرعی تعاون کی اہمیت پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت صوبوں کے ساتھ مل کر جو اسٹورکنگ گروپ کے اجلاس سے قبل روڈ میپ تیار کر رہی ہے، ملاقات میں فریقین نے اپریل میں ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے موقع پر وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کیلئے تیاریاں شروع کرنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔

خسرو بختیار



Dunya News, 15-02-19Dunya News, 15-02-19

### Express News, 01-02-19

سی پیک سے ملک کی معیشت اوپر جائے گی، اسد قیصر

نوجوان اپنے اہداف بلند کریں، انسان اپنی ترقی میں خود رکاوٹ ہے: سپیکر قومی اسمبلی

اسکل ڈیولپمنٹ اداروں کو ترقی، یونیورسٹی طلباء کو لیپ ٹاپ خود لینے کے قابل بنا کیے، عثمان ڈار

اسلام آباد (ایکسپریس رپورٹر) سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان دہشت گردی سے سب سے زیادہ متاثر ملک ہے، سی پیک سے جہاں معیشت اوپر جائے گی وہاں نوجوانوں کیلئے بھی مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ پلڈاٹ کے زیر اہتمام جمہوری، پرامن طرز حکومت اور پائیدار ترقی کے عنوان پر تقریب سے خطاب میں سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے کہا کہ دوران تعلیم ہی سوچ لیا تھا کہ میں سیاست میں جاؤں گا، نوجوان اپنا ٹارگٹ اور ویرٹن ٹھیک کریں، انسان اپنی ترقی میں خود رکاوٹ ہوتا ہے، پاکستانی معاشرے کو دہشت گردی نے تباہ کیا، اسد قیصر نے کہا کہ قومی اور صوبائی اسمبلیوں میں نوجوانوں کے ساتھ پروگرام ترتیب دیں گے اور نوجوان ہمارا بہت بڑا اثاثہ ہیں، ابھرتا ہوا پاکستان نیا پاکستان ہو گا، اس موقع پر وزیراعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے امور نوجوانان عثمان ڈار نے کہا کہ جب تک ہم نوجوانوں کو انگیج نہیں کریں گے تب تک تعلیمی مسائل حل نہیں ہونگے، پارلیمنٹ میں یوتھ کوڈ لے کر آئیں گے، حکومت جلد نوجوانوں کو معاشی طور پر با اختیار بنانے کے لیے پروگرام لارہی ہے، 30 سال سے کم عمر نوجوانوں کے لیے نیشنل یوتھ کونسل بنائیں گے، اسکل ڈیولپمنٹ کے اداروں کو ترقی دیں گے، یونیورسٹی طلباء کو لیپ ٹاپ خود لینے کے قابل بنائیں گے۔

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چین سب سے زیادہ سونا استعمال کرنے والا ملک بن گیا

گذشتہ سال 5.73 فیصد کے اضافے سے سونے کی کھپت 1151.43 ٹن ہو گئی، رپورٹ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی، ش نہوا) چین میں گذشتہ سال 5.73 فیصد کے اضافے سے سونے کی کھپت 1151.43 ٹن تک پہنچ گئی۔ یہ گذشتہ کئی برسوں کے مقابلے میں بڑی کھپت تھی۔ چین مسلسل 6 برسوں سے دنیا میں سب سے زیادہ سونا استعمال کرنے والا ملک بن گیا ہے۔ صنعتی اعداد و شمار کے مطابق سونے کے زیورات کی کھپت 5.71 فیصد کے اضافے سے 736.29 ٹن جبکہ سونے ہارز کی کھپت 319 فیصد کے اضافے سے 285.2 ٹن رہی۔ چینی سونا ایسوسی ایشن کے مطابق صنعتی اور دیگر استعمال کیلئے سونے کی کھپت 17.48 فیصد اضافے کیساتھ 105.94 ٹن ریکارڈ کی گئی۔

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زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر کو سہارا دینے کیلئے رقم براہ راست سٹیٹ بینک میں جمع کروائی جائیگی، ایک سال کے دوران چین سے پاکستان کو ملنے والی امداد سائے چار ارب ڈالر ہو جائیگی

سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے 4 ارب ڈالر ملنے کے باوجود پاکستان کے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر دو ماہ کی درآمدی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے بھی کافی

اسلام آباد (شہباز رانا سے) چین نے پاکستان کے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر کو سہارا دینے کیلئے مزید 2 ارب 50 کروڑ ڈالر قرضہ دینے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے 4 ارب ڈالر ملنے کے باوجود پاکستان کے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر دو ماہ کی کٹری آمدات کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے بھی کافی ہیں۔ چینی قرضہ کی یہ رقم براہ راست سٹیٹ بینک میں جمع کروائی جائے گی۔ یہ قرضہ ملنے کے بعد چین سے پاکستان کو ایک سال میں ملنے والی امداد سائے چار ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گی۔ چین اس سے قبل بھی پاکستان کو 2 ارب ڈالر قرضہ دے چکا ہے۔ چین پاکستان کو اقتصادی بحران سے نکالنے اور یو ایچ او سے ہونے سے بچانے کیلئے امداد دینے والا سب سے بڑا ملک بن کر سامنے آیا ہے۔ ایک اعلیٰ سرکاری دفتر نے 'انکپیٹریس ٹریبیون' کو بتایا کہ دوست ملکوں سے ملنے والی یہ رقم حکومت کی ان کوششوں کا حصہ ہے جو وہ ملک کو اقتصادی بحران سے نکالنے کیلئے کر رہی ہے۔ حکومت کی طرف سے ملکی معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے کیلئے جو کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں ان کے اثرات سامنے آنے تک دوست ملکوں سے ملنے والی امداد بہت بڑا سہارا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان جب اقتدار میں آئے تو ملک یو ایچ او سے ہونے کے دہانے پر کھڑا تھا۔ ملک کو ان حالات سے نکالنے کیلئے وزیر اعظم نے بجلی قرضوں کا انتظام کرنے کیلئے سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات اور چین کے دورے کیے۔ دوست ملکوں نے سائے سے 14 ارب ڈالر دینے کے وعدے کیے جس سے بیرونی ادائیگیوں کا انتظام ہو سکا۔ سعودی عرب نے سچے سچے 3 ارب ڈالر کا پیکیج دیا جس میں 3.18 فیصد شرح سود پر تین ارب کا مختصر دورہ سٹے کا قرضہ بھی شامل تھا۔ گورنر سٹیٹ بینک طارق باجوہ کہہ چکے ہیں کہ تین ارب ڈالر ادا حاتیل کے معاہدے پر 16 فروری کو سعودی ڈی مہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کے دورہ کے دوران دستخط ہو گئے۔ متحدہ عرب امارات نے بھی تین فیصد شرح سود پر تین ارب ڈالر دینے پر اتفاق کیا تھا جس میں سے ایک ارب ڈالر پاکستان کو مل چکے ہیں جبکہ 3 ارب 20 کروڑ ڈالر کا ادھار تیل بھی پاکستان کو ملے گا۔ پاکستان نے ان قرضوں کا انتظام تین سال کیلئے کیا ہے تاہم اگر پاکستان ان قرضوں کی ادائیگی میں مشکل محسوس کرتا ہے تو ان کی واپسی آگے بھی جاسکتی ہے۔ گورنر سٹیٹ بینک نے جمعرات کو بتایا تھا کہ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے چار ارب ڈالر ملنے کے باوجود سٹیٹ بینک کے پاس زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر 12.8 ارب ڈالر ہیں جو صرف سات ہفتوں کی درآمدی ضروریات پوری کر سکتے ہیں۔ یہ ذخائر آئی ایم ایف اور ورلڈ بینک کے طے کردہ معیار سے کم ہیں۔ ان حالات میں ورلڈ بینک اور انٹرنیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ بینک بجٹ ٹراننگ کیلئے قرضے نہیں دیتے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ حکومت کی فوری ضرورت ملکی معیشت کو اس وقت تک سہارا دینا تھا جب تک معاشی استحکام کیلئے کیے جانے والے اقدامات بار آور ثابت نہیں ہو جاتے۔ گورنر سٹیٹ بینک کا کہنا تھا کہ سچے ماہ کا چارجی خسارہ آٹھ ارب ڈالر ہے جو بہت زیادہ ہے۔ موجودہ مالی سال کے پچھلے چھ ماہ کے دوران مجموعی بیرونی قرضوں کی آمد بھی بہت کم رہی ہے جو جولائی سے دسمبر تک صرف 2.2 ارب ڈالر تھی۔ حکومت نے ادائیگیوں کا قوازن بہتر بنانے کیلئے بھارت کو ڈی بی ایف ڈی اے کی رقمیں جاری کیے ہیں جن پر تین سال کی مدت کیلئے شرح سود 3.25، جبکہ پانچ سال کی مدت کیلئے 6.75 فیصد ہوگی۔ وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کا کہنا ہے کہ انہوں نے بیرونی ٹرانسنگ کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے دو قسم کے مزید اقدامات کی بھی اجازت دیدی ہے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے مطابق جون سے قبل سکوک بانڈز بھی جاری کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق حکومت اسلامی مارکیٹ کیلئے سکوک بانڈز جاری کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہی ہے۔ موجودہ مالی سال کے دوران ہی تین ارب ڈالر کے یورپی بانڈز بھی جاری کرنے کا منصوبہ تھا۔ تاہم دوست ملکوں سے امداد ملنے کے بعد وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر نے نومبر میں یہ منصوبہ ترک کر دیا تھا۔ پی ٹی آئی حکومت اس مالی بحران کی ذمہ دارانہ ایک سہ ماہیہ حکومت کو قرار دیتی ہے جس کے نتیجے میں روپے کی قدر میں 15 فیصد تک کمی ہو چکی ہے لیکن اس کے باوجود ملکی درآمدات میں کوئی خاطر خواہ اضافہ نظر نہیں آ رہا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق وزارت خزانہ اور سٹیٹ بینک کی پیچھے ریٹ میں نرمی کا بھی منصوبہ بنا رہے ہیں۔

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پاک، چین فابری آپک لنک کو کمرشل ٹریڈ کیلئے فعال کر دیا گیا

مواصلاتی رابطہ چین سے مشرق وسطیٰ، افریقہ اور یورپ کی انٹرنیٹ ٹریڈ کیلئے مفید ہوگا

سی پیک کے ابتدائی تکمیلی منصوبوں میں یہ منصوبہ قابل تعریف ہے، ترجمان ایس سی او

اسلام آباد (و قلع نگار پاک، چین فابری آپک لنک کو کمرشل ٹریڈ کیلئے فعال کر دیا گیا۔ ایس سی او کے ترجمان کی جانب سے جاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ فابری آپک لنک چین اور پاکستان کو دنیا کیساتھ منسلک کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ منصوبہ کی تکمیل تاریخی سنگ میل کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ پاک چین فابری آپک لنک سی پیک کے آئی سی ٹی منصوبے کا حصہ ہے۔ نے کہا کہ پاک چین فابری آپک لنک دو ہمسائیہ ممالک کے درمیان سرحد پار پہلا رابطہ ہے۔ مواصلاتی رابطہ چین سے مشرق وسطیٰ، افریقہ اور یورپ کی انٹرنیٹ ٹریڈ کے لیے مفید ثابت ہوگا۔ چینجوں کے باوجود، ایس او او کے تمام ارکان نے منصوبہ کی بروقت تکمیل کے لئے سخت محنت کی۔ سی پیک کے ابتدائی تکمیلی منصوبوں میں یہ منصوبہ بھی قابل تعریف ہے۔

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## چین امریکہ تجارتی جنگ پاکستانی برآمد میں اضافے کے امکان روشن

امریکی منڈی میں چین سے چاول، کپاس اور سوتی دھاگے کی برآمد مہنگی ہونے سے پاکستان کیلئے ایکسپورٹ کے مواقع بھی بڑھ گئے ہیں

پاکستان چین اور امریکہ کے درمیان اضافی ٹیرف سے متاثر 360 ارب ڈالر کی تجارت سے فائدہ اٹھا کر تجارتی خسارے میں کمی لاسکتا ہے

کراچی (رپورٹ / کاشف حسین) چین اور امریکہ کے مابین تجارتی جنگ سے پاکستان کے لیے امکانات پیدا ہو گئے ہیں۔ پاکستان چین اور امریکہ کے درمیان اضافی ٹیرف عائد ہونے سے متاثر ہونے والی 360 ارب ڈالر کی باہمی تجارت سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھا کر تجارتی خسارے میں کمی لاسکتا ہے۔ تجارتی خسارہ کم کرنے کے امکانات پیدا کر دیے ہیں۔ ماہرین کے مطابق چین کو امریکہ سے سی فوڈ کی برآمد مہنگی ہو گئی ہے، دوسری جانب امریکی منڈی میں چین سے کپاس، چاول اور سوتی دھاگے کی برآمدات کے لیے مشکلات پیدا ہو گئی ہیں۔ چین کی جانب سے امریکی سویا بین کے بیج پر جوابی ٹیرف کے نفاذ سے امریکی سویا بین بیج کے لیے چین کی وسیع منڈی میں برازیل اور ارجنٹائن سے مقابلہ مشکل ہو گیا ہے۔ اسٹیٹ بینک نے بھی سد ماہی معاشی جائزہ رپورٹ میں ان امکانات کی نشاندہی کی ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق امریکہ اور چین کی تجارتی جنگ سے فائدہ اٹھا کر پاکستان اپنی برآمدات میں اضافہ اور درآمدی بل میں کمی لاسکتا ہے جس سے تجارتی خسارہ کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ چین دنیا میں سی فوڈ کا بڑا درآمد کنندہ ہے اور چین نے 2017 میں امریکہ سے 1.3 ارب ڈالر سی فوڈ درآمد کیا چین امریکہ سے زیادہ تر لائسنس، اسٹر، اسٹر، فلیٹ فش اور سارڈین فش درآمد کرتا ہے ان سب پر امریکہ نے اضافی ٹیرف عائد کر دیا ہے جس کے بعد امریکی سی فوڈ کی چین کے لیے برآمدات خاصی مہنگی ہو گئی ہیں یہ تمام اقسام پاکستان سے ایکسپورٹ کی جاتی ہیں اور پاکستان چین کی وسیع منڈی میں پیدا ہو نیوالے اس خلا سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے چین کی منڈی میں اپنا حصہ بڑھا سکتا ہے۔ پاکستان کے لیے امریکی منڈی میں چین سے چاول، کپاس اور سوتی دھاگے کی برآمد مہنگی ہونے سے امریکہ کو کپاس، چاول اور سوتی دھاگے کی ایکسپورٹ کے امکانات بھی بڑھ گئے ہیں۔ 2017 تک چین امریکی سویا بین کا سب سے بڑا خریدار تھا امریکی سویا بین کی 57 فیصد ایکسپورٹ چین کو کی گئی تاہم چین کی جانب سے امریکی سویا بین پر جوابی ٹیرف عائد کیے جانے کے بعد چین نے اپنی طلب برازیل اور ارجنٹائن سے پوری کرنا شروع کر دی جس کے نتیجے میں امریکی سویا بین کی قیمت گر گئی پاکستان سویا بین کا بڑا خریدار ہے چین امریکہ تجارتی جنگ کے نتیجے میں پاکستانی ملوں کو موقع ملا ہے کہ وہ سستا امریکی سویا بین تیل اور بیج درآمد کر کے لاگت اور تجارتی خسارے میں کمی لاسکتے ہیں۔

**Express News, 03-02-19**

چین سے سڑکیں، پاور پلانٹس نہیں زراعت میں مدد چاہیے، رزاق داؤد

جاپان رائس سیکٹر کی ترقی میں تعاون کرنے کو تیار ہے، ”ریپ“ کے عشائیے سے خطاب

کراچی (رپورٹ / احتشام مفتی) پاکستان کو چین سے سی پیک کے تحت سڑکیں اور پاور پلانٹس کے بجائے زراعت کے فروغ میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ بات وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت و سرمایہ کاری رزاق داؤد نے ہفتے کی شب رائس ایکسپورٹرز ایسوسی ایشن آف پاکستان کے عشائیے سے خطاب کے دوران کہی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو سی پیک کے تحت سڑکوں کی ضرورت نہیں ہے، ہم نے چین کے ساتھ مشترکہ سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبے شروع کرنے ہیں۔ رزاق داؤد نے کہا کہ ’ریپ‘ کا مقصد برآمد کنندہ وژن کی حامل نمائندہ تنظیم ہے جو 2023 تک 5 ارب ڈالر مالیت کی چاولوں کی برآمدات کا ہدف حاصل کر لے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 5 زیورینڈ برآمدی شعبوں میں چاول کے برآمدی شعبے کو بھی چھٹے رکن کی حیثیت سے شامل کیا جائے گا۔ اس وقت چاول کی برآمدات 3 ارب ڈالر سے تجاوز کر چکی ہیں۔ ریپ کے پروگرام پر عملدرآمد کے لیے ہر 6 ماہ بعد ملاقات کروں گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چاول گندم کپاس کے شعبوں میں یکساں نوعیت کے مسائل ہیں جنہیں موجودہ حکومت بہر صورت حل کرے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے چین سے اپنی زراعت کو ٹھیک کرنے کی درخواست کی گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جاپان پاکستان کے رائس سیکٹر کی ترقی میں تعاون فراہم کرنے کو تیار ہے۔



**Express News, 04-02-19**

## چینی قونصلیٹ ڈھائی ماہ گزر گئے دہشت گردوں کی لاشیں لینے کوئی نہ آیا

انتظامیہ کی دی گئی مہلت آج ختم ہو رہی ہے، لاشوں کی تدفین کی جائے گی یا مہلت میں اضافہ کر دیا جائے گا  
23 نومبر کی صبح حملے میں 2 پولیس اہلکار اور باپ بیٹا جاں بحق ہوئے پولیس اور گارڈز نے تینوں دہشت گردوں کو  
ہلاک کر دیا تھا

کراچی (رپورٹ: راجیل سلمان) چین کے قونصل خانے پر حملے میں ہلاک ہونے والے دہشت گردوں کی لاشیں اب تک تلاش ورٹا کے لیے سرد خانے میں رکھی ہوئی ہیں، واقعے کو ڈھائی ماہ بیت گیا لیکن لاشیں وصول کرنے کوئی نہیں آیا۔ سرد خانے کے حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ انتظامیہ کی اجازت کے بعد ہی لاشوں کو سپرد خاک کیا جائے گا۔ انتظامیہ کی جانب سے دی گئی مہلت آج (4 فروری) ختم ہو رہی ہے، ممکنہ طور پر آج لاشوں کی تدفین کی جائے گی یا انتظامیہ اس مہلت میں اضافہ کر دے گی۔ گذشتہ سال 23 نومبر کی صبح کلکشن کے علاقے میں چین کے قونصل خانے پر صبح تقریباً 9 بجے 3 دہشت گردوں نے حملہ کیا تھا جسے موقع پر موجود پولیس اہلکاروں اور نجی سکیورٹی گارڈز نے ناکام بنا دیا تھا۔ واقعے میں 2 پولیس اہلکار کا فیصل عامر اور اے ایس آئی اشرف نے جام شہادت نوش کیا جبکہ ویزا کے حصول کے لیے آئے ہوئے باپ بیٹا نیاز محمد اور زاہد شاہ بھی جاں بحق ہوئے، ایک گارڈ جن شدید زخمی ہوا جو کہ بعد میں صحت یاب ہو گیا۔ پولیس اہلکاروں اور سکیورٹی گارڈ کی فائرنگ سے تینوں حملہ آور مارے گئے تھے جن کی لاشیں ضابطے کی کارروائی کے بعد سرد خانے میں رکھوادی گئیں، واقعے کو تقریباً ڈھائی ماہ بیت گیا لیکن لاشیں لینے کے لیے کوئی نہیں آیا۔ واضح رہے کہ حملے کی ذمہ داری بلوچ لبریشن آرمی نے قبول کی تھی جبکہ ہلاک دہشت گردوں کے نام ازل خان مری عرف سنگت داد، رئیس بلوچ اور رازق ولد دین محمد معلوم ہوئے تھے۔

**Express News, 04-02-19**

چینی صدر کی ملک بھر میں آباد تمام قومیتوں کو جشن بہار کی مبارک باد

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے ملک بھر میں آباد تمام قومیتوں کو جشن بہار کی مبارک باد دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ غربت کے خاتمے کے حوالے سے حاصل شدہ نتائج بھی قابل ذکر ہیں، چین کی ترقی عوام کی کوششوں کی بدولت ہے۔ عوام کے بغیر کسی بھی طرح کی مشکلات اور رکاوٹوں کے مقابلے میں کامیابی حاصل نہیں کی جاسکتی ہے، چین بزرگوں کے معاشرے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے۔

**Express News, 04-03-19**

چین میں جشن بہار کی آمد پر صدر عارف علوی کی مبارکباد

دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستی حکومتوں کی تبدیلی کیساتھ تبدیل نہیں ہوگی

چین بڑی معیشت بن گیا، اسکے کامیاب تجربات سے استفادہ چاہتے ہیں، پیغام

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) صدر مملکت عارف علوی نے جشن بہار کی آمد پر چینی حکومت اور عوام کو مبارکباد دی ہے۔ چینی میڈیا کے مطابق انھوں نے پاکستان کی حمایت کے لیے چینی حکومت اور عوام کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا ہماری دوستی کی طویل تاریخ ہے اور یہ پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی میں ترجیحی حیثیت رکھتی ہے جو ہماریہ سے اونچی اور بے حد بیش قیمت ہے۔ چین نے اصلاحات اور کھلے پن کے نفاذ کے چالیس برسوں میں قابل ذکر ترقی اور کامیابیاں حاصل کیں، کمیونسٹ پارٹی اور ریاستی رہنماؤں کی قیادت میں، لاکھوں چینیوں کو غربت سے چھٹکارا ملا۔ چین نے خلائی تحقیق سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں زبردست ترقی کی اور دنیا کی بڑی معیشتوں میں سے ایک بن گیا۔ پاکستان، اس کے کامیاب تجربات سے استفادہ چاہتا ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں کو آپس میں منسلک کرنے والی شاہراہ ہے، امید ہے مختلف شعبوں میں اقتصادی تعاون، پاکستان میں خوشحالی اور ترقی کے فروغ کیساتھ علاقائی امن اور استحکام کے لیے مددگار ہوگا۔ پاک، چین تعلقات کا مستقبل روشن جبکہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستی عوام کی دوستی ہے جو حکومتوں کی تبدیلی کے ساتھ تبدیل نہیں ہوگی بلکہ مزید مضبوط ہوگی اور عوام کی مشترکہ خوشحالی کو جلد عملی جامہ پہنایا جائیگا۔

## Express News, 07-02-19

# سیکسے معاشی ترقی آئیگی بلوچستان کو جو ان لوگوں ہنرمند مائرتی ہے وزیراعظم

پینے کے پانی کی کمی کا مکمل ادراک 'پختونخوا میں سیاحت کا بے پناہ پوٹینشل موجود ہے' گفتگو

وزیراعظم سے وفاقی وزیر سوسرو، چیئر مین پی آئی اے، خطا علی کی ماہر برطانوی خاتون کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (پشاور پورٹر، رضوان گلزئی، نجر ایجنسیاں) وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے بلوچستان کی عوام کی ترقی خصوصاً نوجوانوں کو ہنرمند بنانا حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے، سی پیک کی تعمیر اور گورنر میں ترقیاتی عمل سے بلوچستان کی عوام کیلئے سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے بے شمار مواقع تیسرے آئیں گے۔ وہ گزشتہ روز ملاقات کے لئے آنے والے بلوچستان عوامی پارٹی کے ممبران قومی اسمبلی وزیر برائے وفاقی پیو اور زبیدہ جلال، ایم این ای سردار محمد اسرار ترین، خالد حسین گسی، احسان اللہ ربی اور وزیر پیو عرفان سے گفتگو کر رہے تھے، اس موقع پر معاون خصوصی شیم الحق، ترجمان عدم افضل، گو عدل، ملک عامر ڈوگر اور ارشد داہمی موجود تھے۔ ملاقات میں بلوچستان کی عوام کو درپیش مسائل سے متعلقہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ ملاقات کے دوران وزیر وفاقی پیو اور زبیدہ جلال نے ایسٹ بے پرائیکٹس اور بے پناہ کی تعمیر سے متعلق بی بی سی سے متعلقہ مافی گیروں کے مسائل سے وزیراعظم کو آگاہ کیا اور بی بی سی کے ساتھ کی کامیابی کا مطالبہ پیش کیا۔ جس پر وزیراعظم نے معاملے کے حل کے لیے اقدامات کی ہدایت کی۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ بلوچستان میں پانی کی قلت خصوصاً پینے کے پانی کی کمی کے مسئلے کا مکمل ادراک ہے۔ اس مسئلے کے حل کے لیے وزیراعظم سے رابطے میں ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ نوجوانوں کو ہنرمند بنانے کے لیے بلوچستان میں ٹیکنیکل کالجز کا قیام عمل میں لایا جا رہا ہے بلوچستان میں توانائی کی ضروریات کو پورا کرنے کے لیے سول انرجی کو بروئے کار لانے پر توجہ دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ بعد ازاں تحریک انصاف ہزارہ ڈویژن کے ممبران قومی اسمبلی سے ملاقات میں وزیراعظم نے 11 ارب روپے کی لاگت سے ایسٹ شہر میں فلائی اور اور مرکزی روڈ کی توسیع کے منصوبے کی منظوری دیدی۔ اس موقع پر انہوں نے کہا کہ جون میں بی ایس ڈی پی میں ایسٹ آباد منصوبے کے لیے گیارہ ارب روپے کی رقم مختص کی جائیگی۔ ہر سال گریمن اور عید کے موقع پر میں ایسٹ آباد کے ٹریفک مسائل پر ملک بھر سے شکایات ملتی ہیں، سیاحت کے فروغ کے لیے ہزارہ ڈویژن کو تمام سہولیات فراہم کریں گے۔ بنگلہ میں گزشتہ اور الائی میں سیاحتی مقام تک رسائی کے لیے نئی سڑک بنانے کی بھی منظوری دی جبکہ دہلی کا نانا میں سیاحتی مقام مندری کے لیے سڑک کی تعمیر کی کام بھی جلد شروع کرانے کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ ملاقات میں وزیر توانائی عمرا یوب خان، پرنس فواز اللہ، صابر محمد، علی خان جدون اور عثمان ریاض موجود تھے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ خیبر پختونخوا میں سیاحت کا بے پناہ پوٹینشل موجود ہے۔ پچھلے تین سالوں میں صوبے میں غربت میں کمی کی وجہ سیاحت کا فروغ ہے۔ سیاحت کے پوٹینشل کو مزید فروغ کرنے کے لیے اقدامات کر رہے ہیں جس سے صوبے میں مزید خوشحالی آئے گی، سیاحت کو فروغ دیتے ہوئے اس بات پر خصوصی توجہ دی جائیگی کہ مقامی لوگوں کو کاروبار کے زیادہ سے زیادہ مواقع تیسرے آئیں۔ صوبوں میں سالڈ ویسٹ مینجمنٹ اور خصوصاً ویسٹ ٹرانزیشن پر توجہ دینے کی اشد ضرورت ہے، عمران خان نے کہا صوبوں کے اندر مختلف علاقوں میں ترقیاتی کاموں میں تفریق ختم ضروری کرنے کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ لوکل گورنمنٹ سسٹم کو مضبوط کیا جائے اور پرنسپل فنانس ایوارڈ پر عملدرآمد یقینی بنایا جائے تاکہ ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کو ترقی کے لیے مناسب وسائل کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔ این این آئی کی مطابق بدھ کو وزیراعظم عمران خان سے وزیر برائے ایٹن (ہوابازی) محمد میاں سومرو اور سی ای او پی آئی اے انیر مارشل ارشد محمود نے ملاقات کی۔ سی ای او پی آئی اے نے وزیراعظم کو قومی انیر لائن کی بحالی کے لئے کیے جانے والے اقدامات پر چیئر فٹ سے آگاہ کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ قومی انیر لائن کی چھڑائی پی پی آئی کے منظور میں نہیں تاہم ادارے کو خسارے سے بچانے کے لئے اصلاحات پر عمل پیرا ہیں۔ اجلاس کے دوران سیکرٹری ایوی ایشن ڈویژن کی بی ایوی ایشن پالیسی کے حوالے سے وزیراعظم کو بریفنگ دی گئی۔ اسے پی پی کے مطابق وزیراعظم عمران خان سے برطانیہ سے تعلق رکھنے والی اسلامی کی لیگنٹی کی ماہر مس سونیا نے ملاقات کی۔ سوشل میڈیا کے توسط سے انہوں نے وزیراعظم سے ملاقات کی درخواست کی تھی۔ وہ اس ملاقات کیلئے خصوصی طور پر قطر سے پاکستان آئی ہیں۔

**Express News, 08-02-19**

امریکہ کیساتھ اختلافات مناسب انداز میں حل ہونے چاہئیں: چین

دو طرفہ مفاہمت کو فروغ دیکر ایک دوسرے کیلئے کھلے پن کا مظاہرہ کیا جائے، چینی سفیر کا خطاب

واشنگٹن (آئی این پی، ش نہوا) چین نے کہا ہے کہ بیجنگ اور واشنگٹن کو اپنے اختلافات مناسب طریقے سے حل کرنے چاہیں۔ چین اور امریکہ کے درمیان تاریخی ثقافتی اور سماجی نظام میں اختلاف موجود ہے لیکن دونوں ممالک کو ان اختلافات سے خوفزدہ نہیں ہونا چاہیے۔ ہمیں ایک دوسرے کے سماجی نظام کے آزادانہ انتخاب اور ترقی کے راستے کا احترام کرنا چاہیے اور ایک دوسرے کے مفادات اور خدشات کا بھی خیال رکھنا چاہیے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار امریکہ میں چین کے سفیر کوئی تیان کائی نے یہاں چینی سفارت خانے میں منعقدہ سال نو کی تقریب اور چین امریکہ تعلقات کی 40 ویں سالگرہ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا اقتصادی اور سلامتی کے معاملات پر ہم اپنے اختلافات کو باہمی احترام اور مشترکہ مفادات کی بنیاد پر حل کرنے کا راستہ تلاش کر سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے دونوں ممالک پر زور دیا کہ وہ دو طرفہ مفاہمت کو فروغ دیں ایک دوسرے کیلئے کھلے پن کا مظاہرہ کریں۔

**Express News, 08-02-19**

اسرائیل میں کمپیوٹرز کی فروخت، چین امریکہ سے آگے

فروخت ہونے والے کمپیوٹرز میں چینی کمپنی 31.7 اور امریکی کمپنی کا حصہ 20.4 فیصد رہا

مقبوضہ بیت المقدس (آئی این پی، ش نہوا) چین کی بڑی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی لینوو نے اسرائیل میں کمپیوٹرز کی فروخت میں امریکہ کو پیچھے چھوڑ دیا۔ جاری کئے جانے والے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2018 کی چوتھی سہ ماہی کے دوران اسرائیل میں 2 لاکھ 19 ہزار نئے کمپیوٹرز (ڈیسک ٹاپ اور لیپ ٹاپ) فروخت کئے گئے۔ فروخت کئے جانے والے کمپیوٹروں میں 31.7 فیصد کا تعلق لینوو کمپنی سے تھا جبکہ امریکی کمپنی ڈل کے اس دوران فروخت کئے گئے کمپیوٹرز کی شرح 20.4 فیصد رہی۔ جبکہ اسرائیل کی مقامی کمپنی 3.3 فیصد کی فروخت کیساتھ 5 ویں نمبر پر ہے۔ چینی اور امریکی کمپنیاں اپنے کمپیوٹرز، لیپ ٹاپس اور ڈیسک ٹاپس کمپیوٹر ہر قسم کی مارکیٹ، تنظیموں، نجی اور تعلیمی اداروں کو فروخت کرتی ہیں۔

**Express News, 09-02-19**

سی پیک کیخلاف شراٹنگیز پر اپیگنڈہ حکومتی دیوالیہ پن ہے: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) مسلم لیگ (ن) کے سیکرٹری جنرل احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ وفاقی وزیر مواصلات نے سی پیک کو متنازعہ بنانے کی کوشش کی ہے، عمران خان نے بھی سی پیک منصوبوں کے خلاف زہراگلا، یہ شراٹنگیز پر اپیگنڈہ حکومت کے دیوالیہ پن کا منہ بولتا ثبوت ہے۔ اپنے ویڈیو بیان میں انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت سی پیک منصوبے کو متنازعہ بنانے سے گریز کرے، ہم نے سی پیک کے تمام منصوبوں کی حتمی منظوری سے قبل آڈٹ کروایا تھا، افسوس اور دکھ کہ مراد سعید نے سی پیک جیسے قومی منصوبے کو سیاسی جھینٹ چڑھایا ہے، عنقریب اس حوالے سے قوم کے سامنے تمام تفصیلات پیش کروں گا۔

**Express News, 11-02-19**

مودی کا تنازعہ سرحدی علاقے اروناچل پردیش کا دورہ، چین کی مذمت

بھارت ایسی کسی جارحیت سے باز رہے جو تنازع کا باعث ہو سکتی ہو، وزارت خارجہ

بیجنگ (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) چین نے بھارتی وزیراعظم نریندر مودی کی جانب سے سرحدی علاقے اروناچل پردیش کا دورہ کرنے پر احتجاج کیا ہے۔ یہ علاقہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تنازع تصور کیا جاتا ہے۔ خبر رساں ادارے کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان ہوا چوئی نے ایک جاری بیان میں کہا کہ چینی حکومت نے کبھی بھی نام نہاد اروناچل پردیش کو تسلیم نہیں کیا اور متعدد مرتبہ مذکورہ علاقے میں بھارتی رہنماؤں کے دوروں کی مخالفت کی ہے۔ انہوں نے نریندر مودی کے تنازع دورے کے کچھ گھنٹے بعد جاری بیان میں کہا کہ چین، بھارت پر زور دیتا ہے کہ وہ ایسی کسی قسم کی جارحیت سے باز رہے جو کسی تنازع کا باعث ہو سکتی یا سرحدی معاملات پر اثر انداز ہو سکتی۔ واضح رہے کہ بھارتی وزیراعظم نریندر مودی نے مذکورہ دورے کے دوران تنازع علاقے میں دو ہوائی اڈوں کا سنگ بنیاد رکھا تھا۔



**Express News, 12-02-19**

سی پیک میں کرپشن کی ہو تو اللہ مجھے نیست و نابود کر دے: احسن اقبال

نارووال (صبح نیوز) سابق وفاقی وزیر داخلہ احسن اقبال نے کرپشن کے جھوٹے اور بے بنیاد الزامات پر مقدمہ اللہ تعالیٰ کی عدالت میں پیش کرنے کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ اگر سی پیک منصوبے میں کرپشن کی ہو تو اللہ مجھے نیست و نابود کر دے۔ سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹوئٹر پر احسن اقبال نے دعا کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ اے اللہ تیرا عاجز بندہ تیری عدالت میں ان جھوٹوں کا مقدمہ پیش کرتا ہے، اے اللہ ان کو سزا دے جو بہتان کا سہارا لے کر مخالفوں کی کردار کشی کرتے ہیں۔ واضح رہے کہ وفاقی وزیر مواصلات مراد سعید نے احسن اقبال پر 70 ارب روپے کی کرپشن کا الزام لگایا تھا۔

**Express News, 12-02-19**

# گواڈری زون کیلئے ڈیوٹی اور ٹیکسوں میں چھوٹ دینے جانے کا امکان

کابینہ کی اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی آج میری ٹائم ڈویژن کی بھیجی گئی سمری کا جائزہ لے گی، اجلاس وفاقی وزیر خزانہ کی زیر  
صدارت ہوگا

عارضی بنیادوں پر ڈیوٹی فری مشینری اور کشتیاں منگوانے کی اجازت دی جائے گی، یہ سی پیک میں شامل منصوبوں  
میں اہم حیثیت کا حامل ہے

اسلام آباد (ارشاد انصاری سے) وفاقی حکومت کی جانب سے سی پیک کے تحت گواڈری پورٹ کو مکمل آپریشنل بنانے اور نیشنل ہائی ویز نیٹ ورک سے ملانے کے منصوبے ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے کی تعمیر کیلئے عارضی بنیادوں پر ڈیوٹی فری مشینری اور کشتیاں منگوانے کی اجازت دینے سمیت گواڈری پورٹ اور گواڈری فری زون کیلئے ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں چھوٹ اور عیادت دینے جانے کا امکان ہے کہ کابینہ کی اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی (ای سی سی) آج (منگل) مور میری ٹائم ڈویژن کی جانب سے بھیجی جانے والی سمری کا جائزہ لے گی ای سی سی کا اجلاس آج صبح ساڑھے نو بجے وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کی زیر صدارت منعقد ہوگا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق گواڈری پورٹ اتھارٹی وزارت امور جہاز رانی کی جانب سے فیڈرل بورڈ آف ریونیو (ایف بی آر) کو لیٹر لکھا گیا تھا جس میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے منصوبہ قومی مفاد کا اہم منصوبہ ہے جو گواڈری پورٹ کو مکمل طور پر آپریشنل بنانے کیلئے اور اسے نیشنل ہائی ویز نیٹ ورک سے ملانے کے ساتھ ساتھ گواڈری سٹی کیلئے انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے جسے سی پیک میں شامل گواڈری بیڈ منصوبوں میں ترجیحی حیثیت حاصل ہے اور یہ منصوبہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان ہونیوالے دو طرفہ معاہدے کے حامل منصوبوں میں شامل ہے، یہ منصوبہ ایکٹ کی منظوری کے بعد وزارت بندرگاہ و جہاز رانی کی زیر نگرانی شروع کیا گیا ہے جبکہ اس منصوبے کا ٹھیکہ چائینیز کمپنی میسر چائینہ کمیونیکیشنز کنسٹرکشن کمپنی (سی سی سی) کو دیا گیا اور اس حوالے سے گواڈری پورٹ اتھارٹی اور میسر چائینہ کمیونیکیشنز کنسٹرکشن کمپنی (سی سی سی) کے درمیان 24 ستمبر 2017 کو کنٹریکٹ پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ اس منصوبے کیلئے چائینیز حکومت کی جانب سے بلاسود قرضہ فراہم کیا گیا ہے اور نومبر 2017 میں وزیر اعظم پاکستان کی جانب سے اس منصوبے کا افتتاح کیا گیا اور ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے کے منصوبے نے بارہ اکتوبر 2020 میں مکمل ہونا ہے۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت 18.981 کلو میٹر طویل ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے میں سے 4.4 کلو میٹر حصہ اس وقت سمندر میں ہے جس کیلئے جدید نوعیت کی مشینری و آلات اور کشتیاں درکار ہیں۔ اس منصوبے کی بروقت تکمیل کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے ٹیڈر بیجر مشینوں اور لی بیگ اینکر بوٹس کی عارضی بنیادوں پر ڈیوٹی فری درآمد کی اجازت دی جائے تاکہ یہ منصوبہ مکمل ہونے کے ساتھ ہی سی پیک کے تحت گواڈری پورٹ پر آنیوالے اشیاء کی ترسیل ہو سکے۔ ایف بی آر ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ میری ٹائم فیئر ڈویژن کی جانب سے موصول ہونیوالی سمری پر رائے دیدی گئی ہے جس کے بعد یہ سمری آج (منگل) ای سی سی کے اجلاس میں پیش کی جائے گی، سمری میں گواڈری فری زون کی ڈیولپمنٹ اور یہاں سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کیلئے بھی ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں چھوٹ اور رعایات دینے کی سمری کا بھی جائزہ لیا جائے گا۔

### Express News, 12-02-19

چین نے شہر بینان میں پانی پر تیرتا سولر پاور پلانٹ لگا دیا

پلانٹ چھوٹے شہر کی بجلی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے کافی ہے، عالمی اقتصادی فورم رپورٹ

ڈیوس (اے پی پی) چین نے مشرقی صوبہ ان ہوئی کے شہر بینان میں پانی پر تیرتا سولر پاور پلانٹ لگا دیا جو ایک چھوٹے شہر کی بجلی ضروریات پوری کرنے کے لئے کافی ہے۔ عالمی اقتصادی فورم کی طرف سے جاری رپورٹ کے مطابق شمسی توانائی سے بجلی پیدا کرنے والا یہ پلانٹ کوئلے کی ایک متروک کان میں بنائی گئی مصنوعی جھیل میں لگایا گیا ہے۔ اس پلانٹ کے پانی میں تیرتے سولر پنیلز ایسے منصوبوں کے زرعی اراضی پر دباؤ کو کم کرنے میں مدد گار ہیں۔ مزید برآں جھیل کا پانی سولر پنیلز کو ٹھنڈا رکھتا ہے جس سے اس کی کارکردگی میں اضافہ ہوتا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق چین میں توانائی کے قابل تجدید ذرائع سے بجلی کی پیداوار میں سرمایہ کاری کسی بھی دوسرے ملک سے زیادہ ہے۔ حکومت نے 2020 ان ذرائع میں سرمایہ کاری کے اہداف ابھی سے حاصل کر لئے ہیں اور اب نئے سرے سے 213 گیگاواٹ کا نیا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ ہدف امریکا میں شمسی توانائی سے بجلی کی موجودہ پیداوار سے پانچ گنا زیادہ ہے۔ چین نے 2016 میں شمسی توانائی سے بجلی کی پیداوار کو دو گنا کر لیا تھا اور اب وہ شمسی اور ہوا سے بجلی کی پیداوار کے مقررہ اہداف کو بھی پار کر چکا ہے۔

### Express News, 12-02-19

چین نے اویغور موسیقار کی ویڈیو جاری کر دی

بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین میں ایک حراستی مرکز میں ملک کے معروف موسیقار عبدالرحیم حیات کی ہلاکت کی اطلاعات سامنے آنے کے بعد چینی حکام نے ایک ویڈیو جاری کی ہے جس میں عبدالرحیم حیات کو دیکھا جاسکتا ہے۔ 10 فروری کو بنائی گئی اس ویڈیو میں بظاہر عبدالرحیم حیات یہ پیغام دے رہے ہیں کہ ان کی صحت ٹھیک ہے۔ اطلاعات کے مطابق عبدالرحیم حیات چین کے سنکیانگ علاقے میں آٹھ سال کی سزا کاٹ رہے تھے اور ان کا تعلق اویغور برادری سے ہے۔ ایک اندازے کے مطابق چین کے ان حراستی کیمپوں میں تقریباً دس لاکھ اویغور مسلمانوں کو حراست میں رکھا گیا ہے۔

### Express News, 13-02-19

سی پیک منصوبوں میں سعودی شراکت داری خوش آئند ہے: اسد عمر

پاکستان سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مواقع کی پیشکش کر رہا ہے پاک ترک سٹریٹیجی اکنامک فریم تیار

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبوں میں سعودی شراکت داری خوش آئند ہے، پاکستان غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے کثیر الجہت مواقع کی پیشکش کر رہا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گذشتہ روز ملاقات کیلئے آئے ہوئے سعودی ولی عہد کے دورہ پاکستان کو رتبہ کیلئے آئے سعودی میڈیا کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر نے کہا کہ پاکستان غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے کثیر الجہت مواقع کی پیشکش کر رہا ہے اور پاکستان سعودی سرمایہ کاروں کو پیٹرو کی مکمل اور مائننگ سیکٹر سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے خوش آمدید کہتا ہے، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان سی پیک میں سعودی شراکت داری کو بھی خوش آمدید کرتا ہے اس موقع پر ملاقات کیلئے آئے ہوئے وفد نے وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کے ساتھ سعودی ولی عہد کے دورہ پاکستان کے حوالے سے اپنے خیالات کا تبادلہ خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ اس دورے کے موقع پر پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کے درمیان اقتصادی تعاون اور ترقی کے حوالے سے ہونے والی متوقع پیشرفت کو دیکھنے کے شوقین ہیں۔ وفاقی حکومت نے ترکی کے ساتھ تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے حوالے سے پاک ترکی سٹریٹیجی اکنامک فریم کی تیاری کیلئے چاروں صوبوں سے تجاویز مانگ لی ہیں جبکہ وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر نے پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان دو طرفہ تجارت کی فروغ کیلئے پاک ترکی سٹریٹیجی اکنامک فریم کرینڈ گارنٹی فنڈ کے قیام کی تجویز کو سراہا ہے اس ضمن میں وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کی زیر صدارت گذشتہ روز اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس ہوا ہے اس اہم اجلاس میں پاکستان اور ترکی کے درمیان تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے پاک ترکی سٹریٹیجی اکنامک فریم کی تیاری کیلئے تجاویز کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔

**Express News, 13-02-19**

روس اور چین خلاء میں امریکہ کیلئے چیلنج ہیں، پینٹاگون

واشنگٹن (اے پی پی) امریکی وزارت دفاع نے اپنی ایک رپورٹ میں واضح کیا ہے کہ روس اور چین خلاء میں امریکی برتری کو محدود کرنے کی کوششوں کا سلسلہ جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق دونوں ملک ایسے غیر معمولی پروگراموں کا سلسلہ جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں جو زمین کے مدار کے باہر امریکہ کے لئے شدید چیلنج بن سکتے ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق دونوں ممالک خلاء میں ایٹمی جنس اور نگرانی کے آلات نصب کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی بھی کئے ہوئے ہیں۔

**Express News, 13-02-19**

چین کی پاکستان میں فلاح و بہبود منصوبوں کیلئے حکمت عملی تیار

صاف پانی کلین گرین، ہیلتھ کیئر سینٹر، لیبر سپورٹ پروگرام فلٹر پلانٹس منصوبے لگائے جائیں گے

پاکستان ہمارا دوست ملک، معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں گے، سفیر یاو چینگ

اسلام آباد (ذوالفقار بیگ) چین کی حکومت نے پاکستان بھر میں سماجی شعبوں اور عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے لئے جامع حکمت تیار کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا ہے جس کے تحت پاکستان کے چاروں صوبوں کا سروے کیا جائے گا۔ سی پیک کے تحت کے پاکستان میں تعمیر کئے جانے والے منصوبوں کے ساتھ ساتھ عوامی فلاح و بہبود کے منصوبوں کے حوالے سے منصوبہ بندی کی جائے گی ان منصوبوں میں صاف پانی کلین اینڈ گرین، ہیلتھ کیئر سینٹر لیبر سپورٹ پروگرام فلٹر پلانٹس لگائے جائیں پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے روٹ پر ان منصوبوں کو مکمل کیا جائے گا پہلے فیئر میں گلگت سے مانسہرہ تک جبکہ دوسرے فیئر میں مانسہرہ سے اسلام آباد تک اور بعد ازاں سی پیک روٹ کے تحت گوادر تک اس کو بڑھایا جائے گا پاکستان میں متعین چین کے سفیر یاو چینگ کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان ہمارا دوست ملک ہے اور پاکستانی معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں گے جنوبی ایشیا میں پاکستان کی اہمیت کو کسی صورت کم نہیں ہے نجی یونیورسٹی میں غیر رسمی گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک ترقی کا راستہ ہے چین کی معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے میں حکومت اور عوام نے بے پناہ محنت کی ہے سی پیک ترقی کی علامت ہے پانچ برسوں میں پاکستان میں مکمل کئے جانے والے منصوبوں کے ثمرات عوام کو حاصل ہو رہے ہیں پاکستان میں بننے والے منصوبے پاکستانیوں کے لئے ہیں سی پیک کے تحت عوامی فلاح و بہبود کے منصوبے تیار کیے جائیں گے۔

### Express News, 14-02-19

بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کی مشترکہ تعمیر کیلئے کسی کو مجبور نہیں کرتے، چین

جامع مشاورت اور مشترکہ مفادات منصوبے کیلئے بنیادی اصول ہیں، ہوا چھنگ اینگ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا کہ متعلقہ ممالک کے ساتھ مل کر دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کی مشترکہ تعمیر کے عمل میں چین نے دوسرے ممالک کو کبھی مجبوری نہیں کیا اور نہ ہی کبھی ناقابل قبول شرط پیش کی ہیں۔ چائے ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق چینی وزارت خارجہ ہوا چھنگ اینگ دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کے تحت ہر پروگرام اور منصوبے میں تمام متعلقہ فریقین باہمی مشاورت اور مکمل اتفاق رائے سے آگے بڑھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تاحال ایک سو پچاس سے زائد ممالک اور عالمی تنظیموں نے چین کے ساتھ دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کی مشترکہ تعمیر کے معاہدے پر دستخط کئے ہیں۔ اس حوالے تعاون کے متعدد منصوبوں کے ثمرات ظاہر ہونا شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ یہ منصوبے دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سے وابستہ ممالک کی معاشی و سماجی ترقی کو ایک قوت فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ ترجمان ہوا چھون اینگ نے کہا کہ رواں سال چین دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ بین الاقوامی تعاون کا دوسرا سربراہی فورم منعقد کرے گا۔ چین امید کرتا ہے کہ اس فورم کے انعقاد کے ذریعے مختلف فریقوں کے ساتھ مل کر دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کی تعمیر کے عمل میں حاصل کردہ پیش رفت کا جائزہ لیا جائے اور مستقبل کی منصوبہ بندی کی جائے۔



### Express News, 14-02-19

چینی کمپنیوں کو زراعت میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع دینگے: خسرو بختیار

جائٹ ورکنگ گروپ اجلاس سے قبل روڈ میپ بنا رہے ہیں، چینی سفیر سے ملاقات کے دوران گفتگو

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی ترقی و اصلاحات مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین زرعی تعاون پر وفاقی حکومت صوبوں کے ساتھ مل کر جائٹ ورکنگ گروپ کے اجلاس سے قبل روڈ میپ تیار کر رہی ہے، ہم زراعت کے شعبے میں ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی، چینی مارکیٹس تک رسائی، سائنسی اور تکنیکی تعاون کے خواہاں ہیں، چینی کمپنیوں کو پاکستان کے زرعی شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے مواقع فراہم کئے جائیں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ سے ملاقات کے دوران کیا، اس دوران دو طرفہ دلچسپی کے امور بالخصوص پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری پر جاری پیش رفت کے حوالے سے تفصیلی بات چیت ہوئی، ملاقات میں فریقین نے اپریل کے مہینے میں ہیلت اینڈ روڈ فورم کے موقع پر وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے دورہ چین کیلئے تیاریاں شروع کرنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا، سیکرٹری پلاننگ ظفر حسن اور پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر سی پیک حسان داؤد بھی ملاقات میں شریک تھے، اس موقع پر وزیر منصوبہ بندی مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ گواہر منصوبوں بشمول گواہر ایر پورٹ، ہسپتال، ووکیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ اور پاور پلانٹ پر کام کی رفتار تیز کر دی جائے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے سماجی و معاشی تعاون کے سلسلے میں رواں ماہ کے آخر میں چینی ماہرین کے دورہ پاکستان پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ اس دورے کے موقع پر پاکستان و چینی ماہرین زراعت، تعلیم، صحت، غربت کے خاتمے، آبپاشی اور تکنیکی تعلیم کے شعبے میں تعاون کا جائزہ لیں گے۔

### Express News, 15-02-19

چین میں 2.44 ارب ٹن سے زائد کوئلے کے نئے ذخائر دریافت

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) شمالی چین میں کوئلے کے وسائل سے مالا مال صوبے شانزی میں 2.44 ارب ٹن سے زائد کوئلے کے نئے ذخائر دریافت ہوئے ہیں۔ صوبائی انتظامیہ کے مطابق گزشتہ سال شانزی میں معدنی ذخائر کی تلاش کیلئے 357 ملین یوان کا فنڈ مختص کیا گیا تھا۔

## Jang News, 01-02-19

چینی نوجوان کی پشاور کی دوشیزہ سے شادی

چینی سفارتخانہ نے شادی کی تصاویر

سوشل میڈیا پر شیئر کیں

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین اُن ممالک میں سرفہرست ہے پاکستان کے ساتھ جس کے دیرینہ تعلقات محض دونوں حکومتوں کی سطح پر ہی نہیں بلکہ دونوں ملکوں کے عوام میں بھی دوستی اور محبتوں کے تعلق میں جڑے ہیں۔ عوام کی سطح پر شہد سے گہری یہ دوستی اب رشتوں میں تبدیل ہو رہی ہے اور دونوں ملکوں کے حوالے سے اب ایسی خبریں بھی آنا شروع ہو گئی ہیں کہ چینی دوشیزہ نے پاکستانی لڑکے سے شادی کر لی یا پاکستانی لڑکا چینی دوشیزہ کو دل دے بیٹھا اور رشتہ ازدواج میں منسلک ہو گئے۔ گزشتہ روز ایک ایسی ہی شادی پشاور سے ایک چینی نوجوان شولونگ کی پاکستانی لڑکی فاطمہ سے ہوئی۔ چینی سفارتخانہ کے ایک افسر لیجن ڈاؤ نے شادی کی تصاویر سوشل میڈیا پر شیئر بھی کی ہیں۔ شادی کی تقریب پاکستانی رسوم و رواج سے ہوئی اس سے قبل دولہا شولونگ نے اسلام قبول کیا تھا اور اپنی دلہن کی فرمائش پر اپنا اسلامی نام ”اذان“ رکھا تھا۔ شادی کی تقریب میں شولونگ اور فاطمہ دونوں کے والدین اور خاندان کے دوسرے افراد بھی موجود تھے شولونگ نے شادی کے موقع پر سنہرے رنگ کی شیری وانی جبکہ اُن کی دلہن فاطمہ نے سرخ رنگ کا عروسی جوڑا پہنا تھا۔ رواں ماہ میں بھی ڈوان لنگ نامی ایک نوجوان نے جو پاکستان میں بطور سول انجینئر کام کرتا تھا پاکستانی خاتون زینب سے شادی کی تھی، جن کی دوستی فیس بک پر ہوئی تھی جو محبت میں تبدیل ہو گئی اور دونوں نے شادی کا فیصلہ کر لیا۔ جبکہ گزشتہ سال بھی اسی طرح کی درجنوں شادیاں ہوئی تھیں۔

**Jang News, 01-02-19**

## افغان امن، سی پیک سے نوجوانوں کیلئے ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی، اسد قیصر

**محروم طبقات کو یکساں مواقع دیئے، کنول شوذب، 10 لاکھ نوجوانوں کو روزگار دیئے، عثمان ڈار**

نوجوانوں کی توقعات پر پورا اترنا ہوگا، احمد بلال، پارلیمنٹ تک رسائی آسان بنائی جائے، آسیہ ریاض

اسلام آباد (ظاہر ظلیل) سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے کہا ہے افغانستان میں امن و استحکام کی جانب پیشرفت اور پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کی موجودگی سے خطے میں نوجوانوں کیلئے ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی، وہ پلڈاٹ کے زیر اہتمام نوجوانوں اور ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے مابین پر امن جمہوری طرز حکومت اور پائیدار ترقی کے موضوع پر ہونے والے مکالمے کے دوران گفتگو کرتے ہوئے سپیکر نے کہا نوجوانوں کو تعلیم سے آراستہ کرنے اور تکنیکی تربیت دینے سے نہ صرف پاکستان ترقی کریگا بلکہ ترقی یافتہ اور خوشحال ملک بن کر ابھریگا، نوجوان سیاست اور ملکی تعمیر و ترقی میں حصہ لیں، اسمبلی سے باہر نوجوانوں کو پارلیمنٹ تک رسائی دیئے، نوجوانوں میں مایوسی کو ختم کرنا ہوگا، نیا اور ابھرتا پاکستان نوجوان ہی بنائیں گے، کنول شوذب ایم این اے نے کہا 12 ویں پنج سالہ منصوبہ میں محروم طبقات کو یکساں مواقع دینے پر توجہ دی جا رہی ہے، مسز میناز اکبر ایم این اے نے کہا سیاسی جماعتیں خواتین کو ایسی نشستوں پر امیدوار کھڑا کرتی ہیں جو جیتی

نہیں جاسکتیں یہ سوچ بھی بدلنا ہوگی، وزیر اعظم کے خصوصی معاون عثمان ڈار نے کہا 18 ویں ترمیم کے بعد نوجوانوں کے معاملات صوبوں کو منتقل ہو گئے ہیں، نیشنل یوتھ ڈویلپمنٹ پروگرام جلد متعارف کرایا جائے، نیشنل یوتھ کونسل قائم کی جائیگی حکومت یو این ڈی پی سے ملکر 10 لاکھ نوجوانوں کو روزگار فراہم کریگی، پلڈاٹ کے سربراہ احمد بلال محبوب نے کہا پالیسی سازوں کیلئے ضروری ہے وہ نوجوانوں کی سوچ اور خیالات سے آگاہ ہوں، سیاسی جماعتوں کو نوجوانوں کی توقعات پر پورا اترنا چاہئے اقوام متحدہ کے ترقیاتی ادارہ کے سربراہ اگنا کیوارٹس نے کہا مکالمے سے نوجوانوں اور پارلیمنٹرز کے مابین نیا اعتماد پیدا ہوگا، اقوام متحدہ کے ریڈیڈنٹ کو ارڈینرٹائٹل بونے نے کہا پاکستان کا مستقبل نوجوانوں سے وابستہ ہے، ہمیں فرسودہ روایات اور سوچ کو بدلنا ہوگا پلڈاٹ کی جوائنٹ ڈائریکٹر آسیہ ریاض نے کہا سٹوڈنٹس یونینز پر پابندی ختم ہونی چاہئے، نوجوانوں کی پارلیمنٹ تک رسائی کو آسان بنایا جائے۔

**Jang News, 02-02-19**

**چین سے دنیا کے دیگر مقامات تک  
کمرشل ٹریڈ کیلئے پاک چائنا آپٹیکل  
فائبر لنک نے باقاعدہ کام کا آغاز کر دیا**

راولپنڈی (نیوز رپورٹر) کمرشل کمیونیکیشنز آرگنائزیشن (ایس سی او) کی 43 سالہ ایک اور سنگ میل کا اضافہ ہو گیا ہے اور چین سے دنیا کے دیگر مقامات تک کمرشل ٹریڈ کیلئے پاک چائنا آپٹیکل فائبر لنک نے باقاعدہ اپنے کام کا آغاز کر دیا۔ ایس سی او پی ٹی سی ایل کنسورشیم کے جانب سے شاندار کامیابی کے حامل اس موصلاتی لنک پر کمرشل ٹریڈ کی سروس ارچی (چین) سے فریڈنکرفٹ (جرمنی) تک جاری ہے۔ پاک چائنا او ایف سی لنک دونوں ہمسایہ ممالک کے درمیان سرحد پار قائم کی جانے والی اولین ترین کنکٹیوٹی ہے۔ وطن عزیز کی تاریخ میں یہ بھی پہلی بار ہوا ہے کہ کسی سرکاری شعبہ کے ادارہ کی جانب سے ایک انتہائی منظم اور وسیع گنجائش کی حامل کراس بارڈر زمینی رابطہ کاری کا قیام عمل میں لایا گیا ہے۔ اس کٹھن منصوبے میں چیلنجز اور مشکلات کے باوجود ایس سی او کے تمام ممبران نے سی پیک کے تحت بنائے گئے اس واحد آئی سی ٹی پراجیکٹ کی بروقت تکمیل کیلئے مسلسل اور انتھک محنت کی۔

**Jang News, 04-02-19**

## چین سے صنعتی تعاون کا معاہدہ جنوبی پنجاب سیکرٹریٹ جون میں کام شروع کرے گا

جنوبی پنجاب کا پیسہ جنوبی پنجاب پر ہی خرچ ہوگا، عوام بے فکر رہیں ملکی حشرات ٹریک پر آچکا، مہنگائی ختم کر دیں گے

کے تحت جنوبی پنجاب اور رحیم یار خان کے لئے ایک نیا پیکج بھی متعارف کروایا جا رہا ہے جس سے یہاں کی برسوں پرانی محرومیاں دور ہو سکیں گی انہوں نے کہا کہ لاہور میں اس وقت ایک لاکھ روپے فی کس ڈویلپمنٹ بجٹ ہے جب کہ رحیم یار خان اور راجن پور میں یہ بجٹ 4 ہزار روپے فی کس سے بھی کم ہے جس سے یہاں کے عوام محرومیوں کا شکار ہیں۔ چین نے جنوبی پنجاب میں زراعت کی ترقی کیلئے آسان شرائط پر قرض دینے کا بھی فیصلہ کیا ہے جس سے پورے جنوبی پنجاب میں زراعت کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کیا جائیگا۔

شدید مشکلات اٹھانا پڑی تاہم وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی محنت سے اب خطرناک صورت حال ختم ہو چکی اور ملک کو ٹریک پر لانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں صوبہ کے قیام سے جنوبی پنجاب کا پیسہ جنوبی پنجاب پر ہی خرچ ہوگا علاوہ ازیں میانوالی قریشیاں میں صحافیوں سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا پاکستان کو چین کے ساتھ صنعتی و زرعی تعاون کا ایک تاریخ ساز معاہدہ طے پا گیا ہے جس کے آئندہ کچھ عرصے بعد پیدا ہونے والے مثبت اثرات کے باعث پاکستان حقیقی طور پر ایشین ناٹو بن کر خطے میں ایک نمایاں مقام پانے کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان نے معاشی طور پر بھی ایک تاریخی استحکام دیکھنے میں آئے گا اور برآمدات بڑھیں گی پی ایس ڈی پی

رحیم یار خان، رکن پور (نمائندگان جنگ) وفاقی وزیر پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ محمد وسر و مختیار نے کہا ہے کہ جنوبی پنجاب سیکرٹریٹ جون میں کام شروع کر دیگا صوبہ کے قیام سے جنوبی پنجاب کا پیسہ جنوبی پنجاب پر ہی خرچ ہوگا عوام بے فکر رہیں ملکی حشرات ٹریک پر آچکا مہنگائی ختم کر دیں گے چین سے زرعی، صنعتی تعاون کا معاہدہ طے پا گیا، برآمدات بڑھیں گی ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے سابق ناظم یونین کونسل حاجی پور مرزا محمد شہباز کے ڈیرے پر عوام سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا انہوں نے کہا کہ جون میں صوبہ جنوبی پنجاب انتظامی بنیادوں پر کام شروع کر دے گا انہوں نے کہا کہ جب ہم نے ملک سنبھالا تو خزانہ خالی تھا جس کی وجہ سے ابتدائی دنوں میں

Jang News, 04-02-19چین نے 7 ممالک میں نئے سفیر مقرر کر دیئے

بیجنگ (آئی این پی / شہوا) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کی منظوری کے بعد 7 ممالک کیلئے نئے سفیروں کا تقرر کر دیا۔ چین کے قومی قانون ساز ادارے کی جانب سے اتوار کو جاری کردہ بیان میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ یوٹانگ کو یاٹنگ چیانگ کی جگہ برونائی میں سفیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ تنگ لی کو یوٹونگ کی جگہ ترکی میں سفیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ ماشنگ من کو لی لیاٹنگ خا کی جگہ سوڈان میں سفیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ شوٹنگ کو چیانگ یو کی جگہ البانیہ میں سفیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ چینی پھنگ کی چھانگ او کی جگہ بوسنیاں الزگووینہ میں سفیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ لی سونگ کو اقوام متحدہ میں فوکانگ کی جگہ نائب مستقل مندوب مقرر کر دیا گیا۔



**Jang News, 04-02-19****پاک چین تعاون خوشحالی اور امن و استحکام کا باعث بنے گا، صدر علوی****دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستی عوام کی دوستی ہے، صدر مملکت، جشن بہار پر چینی عوام کو مبارک باد**

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) صدر مملکت عارف علوی نے جشن بہار کی آمد پر چینی عوام کو مبارک باد دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مختلف شعبوں میں دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعاون، خوشحالی اور امن و استحکام کا باعث بنے گا، چین کے ساتھ دوستی پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی میں ترجیحی حیثیت رکھتی ہے، چین دنیا کی سب سے بڑی معیشتوں میں سے ایک بن گیا ہے، پاک چین تعلقات کا مستقبل روشن ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق صدر مملکت عارف علوی نے جشن بہار کی آمد پر چینی عوام کو مبارک باد دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مختلف شعبوں میں دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعاون، خوشحالی اور امن و استحکام کا باعث بنے گا۔ عارف علوی نے پاکستان کی حمایت کے لیے چینی حکومت اور عوام کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان چین دوستی کی ایک طویل تاریخ ہے اور چین کے ساتھ دوستی پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی میں ترجیحی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔



**Jang News, 04-02-19**

## سی پیک میں مالا کنڈ ڈویژن اور دیر کو بھی شامل کیا جائے، سراج الحق

**تیمرگرہ میں میڈیکل کالج کا قیام بھی ضروری ہے، ادارہ نورحق میں استقبالیہ تقریب سے خطاب**

غوث بخش بزنس کی قومی سیاست میں خدمات فراموش نہیں کی جاسکتیں، سابق سینیٹر حاصل بزنس سے ملاقات

شہر کی صورتحال انتہائی اہتر ہے۔ ہم نے شہری مسائل کے حل کے لیے پبلک ایڈ کمیٹی قائم کی ہے اس موقع پر سابق امیر جماعت اسلامی سندھ ڈاکٹر معراج الہدیٰ صدیقی، سیکرٹری کراچی عبدالوہاب، ڈپٹی سیکرٹری کراچی راشد قریشی، سیکرٹری اطلاعات زاہد عسکری، سٹی کونسل میں پارلیمانی لیڈر جنید میکانی اور دیگر بھی موجود تھے۔ دریں اثناء امیر جماعت اسلامی پاکستان سینیٹر سراج الحق نے سابق سینیٹر حاصل بزنس سے ان کی رہائش گاہ پر ملاقات کی اور ملکی صورتحال و باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ حاصل بزنس اور ان کے صاحبزادوں نے سراج الحق کی آمد پر ان کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے سراج الحق نے کہا کہ حاصل بزنس سے ہمارے اچھے تعلقات ہیں۔ قومی سیاست میں ان کے والد غوث بخش بزنس کی خدمات کبھی فراموش نہیں کی جاسکتیں۔ جماعت اسلامی کے قائدین کا بھی غوث بخش بزنس سے محبت کا رشتہ رہا ہے۔ ملکی سیاست میں رواداری اور برداشت کے فروغ میں بزنس خاندان کا نام نمایاں رہا ہے۔ سراج الحق نے ملکی سیاست میں حاصل بزنس کے ہمیشہ مثبت کردار ادا کرنے کی تعریف کی۔

کراچی، اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ، نیوز رپورٹر) سراج الحق نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک میں مالا کنڈ ڈویژن اور دیر کو بھی شامل کیا جائے، تیمرگرہ میں میڈیکل کالج کا قیام بھی بہت ضروری ہے۔ کراچی ایک غریب پرور شہر ہے۔ کراچی ملک کی ماں اور مٹی پاکستان ہے، یہاں ملک بھر کے غریب آکر آسودہ حال ہو جاتے ہیں۔ یہ شہر آگ اور خون کے طوفان سے گزرا ہے 24 ہزار افراد قتل ہوئے ہیں جن میں وکلاء، ڈاکٹر، صحافی، علماء کرام اور عام شہری شامل ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے جماعت اسلامی کی جانب سے ادارہ نورحق میں دیر بالا اور دیر پائیس کے منتخب بلدیاتی نمائندوں کے اعزاز میں استقبالیہ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ سراج الحق نے کہا کہ بد قسمتی سے ملک کے قانون ساز اداروں کے ارکان کی آپس میں الفاظ کی جنگ چلتی رہی ہے لیکن الحمد للہ دیر بالا اور دیر پائیس کے ڈسٹرکٹ کونسلز میں ماحول بہت خوشگوار ہے تمام ممبران ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ باہمی تعاون اور شائستگی کا برتاؤ کرتے ہیں۔ امیر جماعت اسلامی کراچی حافظ نعیم الرحمن نے کہا کہ سندھ کے بلدیاتی نظام میں بڑی خرابیاں ہیں، نعمت اللہ خان کے دور میں جو ترقیاتی کام ہوئے تھے اس کے بعد سے

**Jang News, 06-02-19****چین کا نیا سال پوری انسانیت کیلئے خوشحالی اور بہتری کا پیغام لائیگا، سٹیٹ کونسل****سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع 2019 کے دوران عالمی اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے بھی بڑی پیش رفت لائینگے**

کردار ادا کیا ہے اب دوسری درآمدی نمائش نومبر 2019 میں منعقد ہوگی اور کھلے پن کی پالیسی کو آگے بڑھانے کیلئے یہ نمائش اہم کردار ادا کریگی۔ اس سال کھلے پن کی پالیسی کو آگے بڑھانے کیلئے 100 اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ کانفرنس میں 40 ممالک اور خطوں کی 500 کاروباری کمپنیاں شرکت کریں گی۔ چینی حکام نے گذشتہ ماہ اپنی معیشت کو مدد دینے کی کوششوں کے سلسلے میں ملک میں کھپت بڑھانے کیلئے اقدامات تیز کر دیئے ہیں۔ ترجمان نے کہا 2019 میں غیر ملکی کاروباری ادارے چین کی کھلی مارکیٹ تک رسائی سے زیادہ سے زیادہ فوائد حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کا نیا سال پوری انسانیت کیلئے خوشحالی اور بہتری کا پیغام لائے گا اور اس سے پوری دنیا فائدہ اٹھائے گی۔ آنے والے برسوں میں چین میں اقتصادی ترقی کا سلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔ اس کی مضبوط کھپت کا حجم اور سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع 2019 کے دوران عالمی اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے بھی بڑی پیش رفت لائیں گے۔ حالانکہ بھرپور اس سال دنیا بھر میں سست اقتصادی ترقی کی بات کر رہے ہیں۔ سٹیٹ کونسل کے ترجمان کے مطابق چین میں اشیاء کی کھپت پوری دنیا کیلئے خوش آئند ہے۔ گذشتہ سال چین کی بین الاقوامی درآمدی نمائش نے بھی ملکی سطح پر ترقی میں اہم

**Jang News, 06-02-19**

## مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کیلئے پاک بھارت مذاکرات جاری رہنے چاہئیں، چینی سفیر

**چین ہر حال میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دے گا، خطاب، چینی کارکنوں کے ساتھ نئے چینی سال کا ایک کانٹا**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین میں یوم تہجہتی کے موقع پر پاکستان کے موقف اور مقبوضہ کشمیر میں حق خود ارادیت کا مطالبہ کر نیوالے کشمیریوں پر ہونیوالے مظالم کی مذمت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کیلئے پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان مذاکرات جاری رہنے چاہئیں۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ کا منگل کو ایبٹ آباد میں تقریب سے خطاب میں کہنا تھا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان مثالی دوستی ہے۔ تقریب کا اہتمام چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی کارکنوں کے ساتھ نئے چینی سال کا دن منانے کیلئے کیا گیا تھا۔ انہوں نے چینی کارکنوں کی رہائش گاہ کا دورہ کیا اور اس دن کی مناسبت سے ایک کانٹا۔ چینی سفیر نے یقین دلایا کہ چین ہر طرح کے حالات میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دے گا۔ بعد میں انہوں نے پاک چین پبلک سکول کا دورہ کیا جہاں خیر پختونخوا اسمبلی کے سپیکر مشتاق غنی نے ان کا استقبال کیا۔ سپیکر نے ایبٹ آباد کا دورہ کرنے پر چینی سفیر کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

**Jang News, 08-02-19**

## سی پیک پاکستان پر چین کا اظہار اعتماد ہے، مشاہد حسین

**غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی جس سے پاکستان کو دنیا کی مضبوط ترین معیشت بننے میں مدد ملے گی، انور کا کڑ**

لندن (مرتبہ علی شاہ) سینیٹ کی امور خارجہ کمیٹی کے چیئرمین مشاہد حسین نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک پاکستان پر چین کا اظہار اعتماد اور اس کے شاندار مستقبل کی ضمانت ہے، اس منصوبے سے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی جس سے پاکستان کو دنیا کی مضبوط ترین معیشت بننے میں مدد ملے گی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے سکول آف اورینٹل اینڈ افریقن سٹڈیز میں سیمینار کے دوران خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا، جس کا اہتمام کونز میری پاکستان سٹوڈنٹ سوسائٹی کے شریک صدر عبدالرحمن چنائے نے کیا تھا۔ تقریب سے سینیٹر انوار الحق کا کڑ نے بھی خطاب کیا، مشاہد حسین سید نے کہا کہ چین نے ایک ایسے وقت پاکستان پر اعتماد کا اظہار کیا اور اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جب کوئی دوسرا ملک پاکستان کی مدد کرنے کو تیار نہیں تھا کئی ممالک پاکستان کو رائٹ آف کرانے والے ملک کی صف میں شمار کرنے کی کوشش کر رہے تھے۔ لیکن آج صورت حال تبدیل ہو چکی ہے، پاکستان نے عالمی اور بین الاقوامی کھلاڑی کی حیثیت سے اپنی پوزیشن مستحکم کر لی ہے۔ سینیٹر کا کڑ نے بلوچستان کے حوالے سے صوبہ پاکستان کا مستقبل ہے، سی پیک سے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی اور اس سے پاکستان کو دنیا کی مضبوط ترین معیشت بننے میں مدد ملے گی۔

**Jang News, 10-02-19****بھارتی وزیراعظم کا اروناچل پردیش کا دورہ، چین کا سخت تحفظات کا اظہار**

اسلام آباد (صالح ظافر) چین نے بھارتی وزیراعظم نریندر مودی کے جنوبی تبت ریاست کے دورے پر سخت تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ جنوبی تبت بھارت کے قبضے میں ہے اور اسے اروناچل پردیش کے نام سے ملک 29 ویں ریاست قرار دیا گیا ہے۔ ریاست کی سرحدیں چین، برما اور بھوٹان سے ملتی ہیں۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ نے بھارتی وزیراعظم کے متنازع علاقے کے دورے پر کہا ہے کہ چین بھارتی رہنماؤں کے متنازع علاقوں کے دورے کی مخالفت کرتا ہے۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے موقف کا جواب دیتے ہوئے بھارتی وزارت خارجہ نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ مذکورہ علاقہ بھارت کا اٹوٹ حصہ ہے، بھارتی وزیراعظم کا علاقے کا دورہ آئندہ انتخابات میں بی جے پی کیلئے حمایت کے حصول کی کڑی تھی۔ سفارتی مبصرین کی رائے ہے کہ حالیہ امن اقدامات کے باوجود سرحدی مسئلہ اب تک حساس نوعیت کا حامل ہے۔ اسی سرحدی تنازع کی وجہ سے بھارت اور چین کے درمیان 1962ء میں جنگ بھی ہو چکی ہے۔

**Jang News, 09-02-19**

## چین اور پاکستان کو درپیش چیلنج

نگاہوں میں کھٹک رہی ہے انہیں خشکی کے راستے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تجارتی تعلقات کا فروغ کسی بھی طرح پسند نہیں کیونکہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان براہ راست سمندری ذرائع سے تجارتی تعلقات کا کوئی امکان نہیں اس لئے وسیع تر پہانے پر دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان خشکی کے راستے تجارت کا فروغ ان کے مفادات کے عین مطابق ہے اور شاہراہ ریشم نے اس میں مرکزی کردار ادا کیا ہے اس وقت دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان خوشگوار تعلقات کی کیفیت یہ ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کی سرحدوں کے آراہ افراد کسی اجازت کے بغیر ایک دوسرے کے ملک میں آ جاسکتے ہیں اور اپنی ضروریات کی اشیا بھی خریدنے میں انہیں کسی رکاوٹ کا سامنا نہیں کرنا پڑتا۔ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنے دیرینہ تعلقات کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے اقتصادی راہداری کے منصوبے سے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تجارت کو جو فروغ حاصل ہوگا اس سے دو طرفہ بنیادوں پر غربت کے خاتمے میں مدد ملے گی اس کے لئے کوشش بہر صورت جاری رہنی چاہیے تاکہ دونوں ملکوں کے عوام تک اس کے ثمرات پہنچ سکیں۔ وزیر اعظم پاکستان نے بھی اقتصادی راہداری کے منصوبے کو پاکستان کے مفادات کے مطابق قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس سے ملازمتوں اور معیار زندگی میں بہتری کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے یہ منصوبہ پاکستان کی ترقی کے لئے بڑی اہمیت رکھتا ہے اور اس کا شمار پاکستان کی اولین ترجیحات میں ہونا چاہئے۔



خصوصی مراسلہ

☆☆☆

ایم طفیل

قیام پاکستان کے بعد پاکستانی حکمرانوں نے تمام ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ خوشگوار اور دوستانہ مراسم قائم کرنے کی جو کوششیں شروع کیں ان میں ایران سمیت تمام اسلامی ممالک کے علاوہ چین اور بھارت بھی شامل تھے لیکن یہ امر انتہائی افسوسناک ہے کہ بھارت کے ساتھ خوشگوار تعلقات کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر نہ ہو سکا۔ عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے ساتھ خوشگوار تعلقات کا آغاز شاہراہ ریشم کی تعمیر سے ہوا اور پھر وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ یہ تعلقات خوشگوار ہوتے چلے گئے۔

گزشتہ دنوں چین نے پاکستان کو اس امر کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ چین اقتصادی راہداری کے خلاف کوئی سازش کامیاب نہیں ہونے دے گا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا حالیہ دورہ چین اس حوالے سے خصوصی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ اس دورہ کے دوران پاکستان اور چین کے مابین 15 نئے معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوئے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان خشکی کے راستے تجارتی تعلقات کا فروغ اور ایک دوسرے ملک کی برآمدات اور درآمدات کے ذریعے ضروریات کی کفالت بعض عالمی طاقتوں کی



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چین نے نیا تیز رفتار علاقائی طیارہ تیار کر لیا  
 بیجنگ (آئی این پی/شہوا) چین نے ایک نیا تیز رفتار علاقائی طیارہ ایم اے 700 تیار کر لیا ہے۔ چین کا یہ ہائی سپیڈ تیارہ اس سال پرواز شروع کر سکے گا۔ یہ علاقائی ایئر پلین بمبئی کا ایم اے 60 اور ایم اے 600 کے بعد تیسرا نیا ماڈل ہے۔ چینی شہری ہوا بازی صنعتی کارپوریشن (اے وی آئی سی) کے مطابق ایم اے 700 اے وی آئی سی ایکس اے سی کمرشل ایئر کرافٹ چین کے شمال مغربی صوبے شان زی میں تیار کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ تیز رفتار اقتصادی اہلیت کے مطابق ڈیزائن کیا گیا ہے یہ مختلف ہوائی اڈوں اور فضائی روٹس پر پرواز کرنے کی بھی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔ توقع ہے کہ ایم اے 700 سول ایوی ایشن اتھارٹی سے 2021 میں ٹائپ سرٹیفکیٹ (ٹی سی) حاصل کرنے میں کامیاب ہو جائیگا۔ اس وقت تک چین اور غیر ملکی سے خریداری کے 185 آرڈر موصول ہو چکے ہیں۔



**Jang News, 11-02-19****سی پیک کے تحت منصوبوں کو فائل کرنے کیلئے چینی وفد جلد پاکستان کا دورہ کریگا****غربت میں کمی، تعلیم، صحت، پانی کی فراہمی، فنی تربیت اور زراعت کے منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دی جائیگی**

کی فراہمی کے بہتر انتظام، ماحولیاتی تبدیلی، سیم و تھور سے بچاؤ، جنگلات میں اضافے کے لیے شجر کاری، ماحولیاتی تحفظ کی بحالی، جنگلی حیات کے تحفظ، ڈیزاسٹر مینجمنٹ سمیت دیگر شعبوں پر توجہ مرکوز کی جائیگی، اس حوالے سے ذیلی مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ تشکیل دے دیا گیا ہے جس کا اجلاس بھی رواں برس کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں متوقع ہے، گوادر میں نیو انٹرنیشنل ائر پورٹ، فنی تربیت کے ادارے اور ہسپتال کا سنگ بنیاد رواں برس کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں رکھا جائے گا، گوادر ماسٹر پلان بھی تیاری کے آخری مراحل میں ہے، صنعتی ترقی کے تحت پاکستان اور چین نے نو خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں سے چار اقتصادی زونز رکھائی، داہاتیبی، فیصل آباد اور وفاقی دار الحکومت اسلام آباد کا سنگ بنیاد رواں برس رکھا جائے گا۔

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) سی پیک کے تحت چھ شعبوں غربت میں کمی، تعلیم، صحت، پانی کی فراہمی، فنی تربیت اور زراعت کے منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دینے کے لیے چین کے سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے ماہرین کی ٹیم رواں ماہ فروری کے آخری ہفتے میں پاکستان کا دورہ کرے گی، سی پیک کے اعلیٰ ترین فورم مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کے آٹھویں اجلاس میں سی پیک میں توسیع کر کے سماجی شعبوں کو سی پیک منصوبوں میں شامل کرنے کی منظوری دی گئی تھی جبکہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے نومبر میں دورہ چین کے موقع پر غربت میں کمی اور سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپوں کی تشکیل کے لیے ایم او یو پر دستخط کیے گئے تھے، زراعت کے شعبے میں وسیع پیمانے پر تعاون کے لیے جنگلات کے کٹاؤ کی روک تھام، پانی

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## سی پیک سے متعلق سیمینار



شرگ  
☆☆☆  
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گزشتہ دنوں بحریہ یونیورسٹی نے کراچی میں ”سی پیک اور اسکے معاشی، بحری اور ٹیکنیکل چیلنجز“ پر ایک اہم سیمینار کا انعقاد کیا جس میں مجھے اسپیکر کی حیثیت سے مدعو کیا گیا تھا۔ دیگر اسپیکرز میں سینیٹ کی کمیٹی برائے سی پیک کی چیئر پرسن سینیٹر شیریں رحمن، ان کے شوہر ندیم حسین، اسٹیٹ بینک کے سابق گورنر سلیم رضا، بحریہ یونیورسٹی کے ڈائریکٹر کموڈور ارشد خان، مختار احمد اور ٹی وی انکر ردا سیفی شامل تھیں جبکہ ماڈریٹر کے فرائض یونیورسٹی کے شعبہ سوشل سائنسز کے سربراہ ڈاکٹر بشیر احمد نے انجام دیئے۔ اس موقع پر یونیورسٹی کا آڈیو ریکارڈنگ اس کے طلباء و طالبات سے سمجھا سچ بھرا ہوا تھا اور اندازہ ہوا کہ نوجوان نسل سی پیک منصوبوں کے بارے میں بہت دلچسپی رکھتی ہے۔ میں سی پیک پر کئی کالم لکھ چکا ہوں جس میں مختلف زاویوں سے اہم معلومات فراہم کی گئی ہیں لیکن اس سیمینار کا منفرد موضوع ہونے کی وجہ سے اسے اپنے قارئین سے شیئر کرنا چاہوں گا۔

سی پیک کا منصوبہ ون بیٹھ ون روڈ (OBOR) طویل المدت ریسرچ پر مبنی ایک طویل المیعاد منصوبہ ہے جو دنیا کے 65 ممالک کیلئے ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ چین نے علاقائی تجارت کو فروغ دینے کیلئے پاکستان میں شروع کیا جس کے فوائد چین، پاکستان اور خطے کے دیگر ممالک کو ملیں گے۔ اس وقت چین کو اپنے وسط سے یورپ ایشیا بھیجنے کیلئے نوٹس 19132 میل کا فاصلہ طے کرنا پڑتا ہے جس میں سینٹرل چین سے شنگھائی پورٹ تک زمینی راستہ 2625 میل اور شنگھائی پورٹ سے یورپ تک کا بحری فاصلہ 16560 میل ہے جس میں تقریباً 50 دن لگتے ہیں۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری مکمل ہونے کے بعد یہ فاصلہ کل 2295 میل رہ جائیگا جس میں زمینی فاصلہ 1750 میل اور سمندری فاصلہ 545 میل ہے جس کو طے کرنے میں صرف 17 دن لگیں گے۔ اس کے علاوہ 40 فنٹ کنٹینرز کے شنگھائی سے بیہرگ بھیجنے میں تقریباً 3000 ڈالر فریٹ لگتا ہے۔ اس چنٹ کو گوادری پورٹ سے بھیجنے میں فریٹ صرف ایک ہزار ڈالر تک رہ جائے

اقتصادی راہداری کے منصوبوں میں ایسے سفٹی وائل لگائے گئے ہیں جس سے چین سے خام مال کی ڈیوٹی فری سستی اپورٹ سے پاکستان کی مقامی صنعتوں کو نقصان نہ پہنچے اور ان منصوبوں میں زیادہ سے زیادہ مقامی لیبر کو استعمال کیا جائے تاکہ ملک میں بے روزگاری میں کمی آئے۔ پاکستان کے پسماندہ صوبوں خصوصاً بلوچستان کی ترقی کو ملحوظ خاطر رکھا جائے اور زیادہ سے زیادہ بلوچ نوجوانوں کو چینی زبان سیکھنے کے مواقع فراہم کیے جائیں تاکہ بلوچستان میں احساس محرومی ختم ہو۔ آئی ایم ایف کی فینڈنگ ڈائریکٹر کرشنین لیگا رڈ سے میری اسلام آباد میں ملاقات میں انہوں نے سی پیک اپورٹ اور بیرونی قرضوں کی ادائیگیوں کی وجہ سے 2018ء سے پاکستان سے فارن اینجینجنگ کے اضافی اخلاف کے خدشات کا اظہار کیا تھا جو بالکل سچ ثابت ہو رہا ہے۔ چین کی مستقبل میں دنیا سے اپورٹ 8 کھرب ڈالر ہو جائے گی اور پاکستان کو اس میں اپنا حصہ بڑھانا ہوگا۔ موجودہ حالات میں چین کی پاکستان کو ایکسپورٹ 18 ارب ڈالر جبکہ پاکستان کی چین کو ایکسپورٹ بمشکل 2 ارب ڈالر ہیں اور اس طرح 16 ارب ڈالر کا ایکسپورٹ سربس چین کے حق میں ہے جس کو ہمیں اپنی ایکسپورٹ بڑھا کر کم کرنا ہوگا۔ پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے (FTA) کے تحت پاکستان نے چین کو بے شمار ایشیا ڈیوٹی فری اپورٹ کی اجازت دی ہے جبکہ پاکستان سے چین کو ایکسپورٹ میں ٹیکسٹائل سمیت بے شمار ایشیا ڈیوٹی فری مراعات حاصل نہیں جو چین نے آسیان کے 10 رکن ممالک انڈونیشیا، تھائی لینڈ، سنگاپور، ملائیشیا، فلپائن، میانمار، کمبوڈیا، لیوس اور برونائی کو دی ہوئی ہیں۔ پاکستان کو چاہئے کہ وہ پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے دوسرے فیڑ میں ان ایشیا کو چین سے ڈیوٹی فری ایکسپورٹ کرنے کی مراعات حاصل کرے۔

حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبوں کی سیکورٹی کیلئے اسپیشل ٹاسک فورس 88 تشکیل دی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ میری ٹائم سیکورٹی کیلئے پاکستان نیوی کو خطے میں محفوظ بحری ماحول فراہم کرنے کی ذمہ داری دی گئی ہے۔ سوال جواب کے سیشن میں بتایا گیا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں میں پاکستان کیلئے بلاشبہ بے شمار فوائد ہیں جنہیں حاصل کرتے وقت ہمیں مقامی صنعت کے خدشات کو بھی مد نظر رکھنا ہوگا تاکہ یہ منصوبے دونوں ممالک کیلئے Win Win اور گیم چیئر ثابت ہوں۔

کا۔ اسی طرح ایک 40 فنٹ کنٹینرز ایونٹیلیس سے شنگھائی بھیجنے کی لاگت دو ہزار ڈالر ہے اور اسکو شنگھائی پورٹ پہنچنے میں 16 دن لگتے ہیں لیکن گوادری سے فریٹ اور ٹرانزٹ ٹائم ایک تہائی رہ جائے گا لہذا سی پیک منصوبے کی تکمیل کے بعد چین کی اربوں ڈالر کی ایکسپورٹس اور ڈالر ایٹ سے اربوں ڈالر بیٹرویلیم مصنوعات کی اپورٹ ٹرانزٹ ٹائم اور کرائے کی لاگت صرف ایک تہائی رہ جائیگی جس سے چین کو اربوں ڈالر کا فائدہ ہوگا۔ اسکے علاوہ موجودہ سمندری راستے سے چین کو بیٹرویلیم مصنوعات اپورٹ کرنے میں ہمز میں امریکی بحری بیڑے کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے جو چین کی نیشنل سیکورٹی تکلاف ہے جبکہ گوادری پورٹ اور سی پیک راہداری کے راستے چین کو اس طرح کا کوئی خطرہ نہیں۔ اسی تناظر میں حال ہی میں سعودی عرب نے گوادری میں آئل ریفاٹری قائم کرینا عہدہ دیا ہے اور ایک اعلیٰ سطحی سعودی وفد نے گوادری کا دورہ بھی کیا تھا تاکہ سعودی عرب چین کو بیٹرویلیم مصنوعات گوادری سے فراہم کر سکے۔

پاکستان کو اپنی تجارتی راہداری سے ان ایشیا کی نقل و حرکت پر پانامہ اور سوئس کیٹال کی طرح ٹرانزٹ فیس حاصل ہوگی۔ اسکے علاوہ چین اپنی پیداواری لاگت اور اجرتوں میں اضافے کی وجہ سے ایسی صنعتیں جس میں زیادہ لیبر درکار ہے، کو بیرون ملک منتقل کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں فیڈریشن آف پاکستان چیئرمینز آف کامرس (FPCCI) نے اپنا ایک خصوصی آفس گوادری میں قائم کیا ہے۔ چین کے مغربی صوبے کا شفر اور گوادری پورٹ کے مابین انفراسٹرکچر بن جانے کے بعد چین ان صنعتوں کو پاکستان کے اسپیشل اکٹناک زونز میں منتقل کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے جس سے پاکستان میں نئی ملازمتوں اور ایکسپورٹ کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ دنیا کی ریسرچ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ (R&D) میں چین کا حصہ 21 فیصد ہے جبکہ امریکہ کا حصہ 26 فیصد ہے۔ پاکستان کو چاہئے کہ چین کی ریسرچ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ سے فائدہ اٹھا کر اپنی صنعتوں کو زیادہ باصلاحیت اور پیداواری بنائے۔

معاشی چیلنجوں میں جہاں سی پیک منصوبوں نے ملک میں 10,000 میگا واٹ کی اضافی بجلی پیدا کی ہے، وہیں سی پیک منصوبوں کی مشینری کی اپورٹ نے تجارتی خسارے میں ریکارڈ اضافہ اور ملکی زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر پر دباؤ ڈالا ہے۔ پاک چین

**Jang News, 11-02-19****پاکستان اور چین کا سی پیک کے تحت  
جاری منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل پر اتفاق**

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزارت منصوبہ بندی ترقی اور اصلاحات نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین نے سی پیک کے روشن مستقبل اور اس کے تحت جاری منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل پر اتفاق کیا ہے، سماجی و اقتصادی اور صنعتی ترقی اور زراعت میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر توجہ مرکوز کرنے کے لئے مشترکہ کوششیں جاری ہیں۔ وزارت منصوبہ بندی، ترقی اور اصلاحات کے ترجمان نے وضاحت کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کا کوئی بھی منصوبہ تاخیر کا شکار نہیں ہے۔ ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ حال ہی میں بیجنگ میں منعقد ہونے والے مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کے آٹھویں کامیاب اجلاس نے اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کو نئی بلندیوں پر لے جانے کی بنیاد رکھ دی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سماجی و اقتصادی اور صنعتی ترقی اور زراعت میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر توجہ مرکوز کرنے کے لئے مشترکہ کوششیں جاری ہیں۔ وزارت کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین نے علاقائی روابط کے فروغ اور اقتصادی راہداری میں گواہ کی مرکزی اہمیت کو تسلیم کرتے ہوئے بندرگاہ اور اس سے وابستہ منصوبوں پر کام تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین نے زراعت کے شعبے میں بھی تعاون کو فروغ دیا ہے اس کے علاوہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی، آبی انتظام، جنگلات اور آلودگی سے پاک ماحول کی بحالی کے شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر بھی خصوصی توجہ دی ہے۔

## Jang News, 13-02-19

## کراچی یونیورسٹی میں سی پیک کانفرنس



آج کی دنیا

☆☆☆

اشتیاق بیگ

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قوموں کی تاریخ میں کچھ منصوبے ایسے ہوتے ہیں جو ان کی تقدیر بدل دیتے ہیں۔ سی پیک بھی ایک ایسا منصوبہ ہے جو پاپہ تکمیل تک پہنچنے کے بعد پاکستان کی تقدیر بدلنے اور معاشی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ یہ پروجیکٹ نہ صرف پاکستان کیلئے گیم چینجر بلکہ خطے کیلئے فیس چینجر بھی ثابت ہو گا اور ہر پاکستانی اس کی اہمیت سے واقف ہے۔ یونیورسٹی آف کراچی کے شعبہ ایپلائڈ اکنامک ریسرچ سینٹر (AERC) کو یہ کریڈٹ جاتا ہے کہ وہ ہر سال ایک اہم موضوع پر انٹرنیشنل کانفرنس کا انعقاد کرتا ہے جس میں پاکستان سمیت دنیا کے دیگر ممالک کے مندوبین کو بھی بطور اسپیکر مدعو کیا جاتا ہے۔ اس سال بھی شعبہ نے اپنی روایت کو برقرار رکھتے ہوئے کراچی یونیورسٹی میں سی پیک پر ایک اہم انٹرنیشنل کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا جس کا موضوع ”سینٹرل ایشین ریجنل اکنامک انٹرکیشن اینڈ سی پیک پروسیچر چیلنجز اینڈ دی وے فارورڈ“ تھا۔ کانفرنس میں سابق گورنر اسٹیٹ بینک اور وزیراعظم کے مشیر ڈاکٹر عشرت حسین، آئی بی اے کے ڈاکٹر فرخ اقبال، سابق سیکریٹری خزانہ وقار مسعود، سلمان فاروق، ڈاکٹر قیصر بنگالی، معین الدین حیدر اور سلیم رضانے بطور اسپیکر شرکت کی جبکہ کانفرنس میں بیرون ملک سے آئے ہوئے قلمبازوں کے ڈاکٹر گولانگ ونگ اور امریکہ کے ڈاکٹر گوہاد ابادوغ بھی شریک تھے۔ کانفرنس کا افتتاح صدر پاکستان عارف علوی نے کرنا تھا مگر وہ اپنی مصروفیات کے باعث اس اہم کانفرنس میں شرکت نہ کر سکے۔ اسی طرح کانفرنس کی اختتامی تقریب میں گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل نے شرکت کرنا تھی مگر وہ آخری لمحات میں شریک نہ ہو سکے۔

میرے لئے بڑے اعزاز کی بات ہے کہ مجھے بھی اس اہم موضوع پر منعقدہ کانفرنس میں بطور چیئرمین مدعو کیا گیا تھا۔ اس موقع پر یونیورسٹی کا

آڈیٹوریم طلباء و طالبات سے کھینچ بھرا ہوا تھا جس سے یہ دیکھ کر خوشی ہوئی کہ نوجوان نسل سی پیک منصوبوں میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہے۔ میں نے اپنی تقریر میں سی پیک پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا گو کہ ہر حکومت حتیٰ کہ اسٹیبلشمنٹ بھی سی پیک کا کریڈٹ لینا چاہتی ہے جبکہ حقیقت میں چین کی حکومت نے پاکستان کو اس منصوبے کی تجویز پیش کی جس پر عملدرآمد نواز شریف کے دور حکومت میں ہوا۔ سی پیک منصوبہ ون ہیلٹ ون روڈ (B&R) کا ایک طویل المدت منصوبہ ہے جو دنیا کے ممالک کو سڑکوں کے نیٹ ورک سے ایک دوسرے سے ملائے گا۔ یہ منصوبہ علاقائی تجارت کو فروغ دینے میں سنگ میل ثابت ہو گا اور اس کے فوائد چین اور پاکستان دونوں کو حاصل ہوں گے۔ منصوبے پر چین کی 65 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کوئی قرضہ یا گرانٹ نہیں بلکہ زیادہ تر سرمایہ توانائی کے منصوبوں جبکہ 12 ارب ڈالر انفراسٹرکچر پر لگائے گئے ہیں۔ یہ تاثر غلط ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبے قرضے واپس کرنے کی صلاحیت نہیں رکھتے۔ حقیقت یہ ہے کہ سی پیک سے منسلک منصوبے واپس لے کر پروجیکٹس ہیں جو اپنے منافع سے قرضوں کی ادائیگی کریں گے، اس لئے ان افواہوں کا حقیقت سے کوئی تعلق نہیں۔ میں نے بتایا کہ موجودہ حکومت کے آنے کے بعد مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے ایک بین الاقوامی جریدے کو انٹرویو میں یہ کہہ کر سب کو حیران کر دیا کہ ”حکومت پاکستان سی پیک منصوبوں پر نظر ثانی کا ارادہ رکھتی ہے اور سی پیک پر چین سے دوبارہ مذاکرات کئے جائیں گے اور یہ ممکن ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبوں میں تاخیر ہو جائے“ بعد ازاں حکومت پر تنقید کے بعد اس بیان تردید سامنے آئی۔ میں نے اپنی پریزینٹیشن میں بتایا کہ سی پیک کی جلد از جلد تکمیل دونوں ممالک کے مفاد میں ہے۔ میں نے اس بات کا بھی ذکر کیا کہ پاک چین تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت پاکستان نے چین کو بے شمار ڈیوٹی فری ایپورٹ کی اجازت دی ہے جس سے پاکستان کی ایپورٹ 18 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی ہے جبکہ پاکستان کی چین کو ایکسپورٹ 2 ارب ڈالر سے بھی کم ہے۔ اس طرح 16 ارب ڈالر کا ایکسپورٹ سرپلس چین کے حق میں ہے۔ پاکستان کے وزیراعظم عمران خان کے

حالہ دورہ چین میں فیڈریشن آف پاکستان چیئرمین آف کامرس نے یہ تجویز دی کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ اپنے معاہدے پر نظر ثانی کرے اور چین سے کہے کہ وہ ہمیں تمام مراعات دے جو اس نے بنگلہ دیش اور آسٹریلیا کے 10 ممالک کو دے رکھی ہیں تاکہ چین کے ساتھ بڑھتے ہوئے تجارتی خسارے میں کمی لائی جاسکے۔

پاکستان کی بدقسمتی رہی ہے کہ گزشتہ عشرے میں بجلی کی کمی اور امن و امان کی ابتر صورتحال کے باعث ملک میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری نہ ہونے کے برابر رہی۔ ایسے میں سی پیک پر چین کی 65 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان کیلئے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ موجودہ دور میں چین کیلئے پریشانی کی بڑی وجہ در کرز کی بڑھتی ہوئی اجرتیں ہیں جس سے اس کی پیداواری لاگت میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ چین کے ایک در کرز کی اجرت جو 10 سال پہلے 100 ڈالر تھی، اب بڑھ کر 400 ڈالر سے تجاوز کر گئی ہے۔ چین کی یہ سوچ ہے کہ وہ ویلیو ایڈیشن کیلئے ایسے ممالک کا انتخاب کرے جہاں در کرز کی اجرتیں کم ہوں تاکہ وہ وہاں اپنی انڈسٹریز منتقل کر سکے۔ چین کیلئے اس لحاظ سے پاکستان ایک آئیڈیل ملک ہے جہاں در کرز کی اجرتیں چین سے ایک چوتھائی ہیں۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ چین ایسی انڈسٹریاں پاکستان میں لگانے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے جس میں زیادہ لیبر گنتی ہو اور وہ پاکستان کے سستے لیبر سے فائدہ اٹھا کر اور اپنی مصنوعات میں ایکسپورٹ کر سکے۔ جس سے اسے دو فائدے حاصل ہوں گے۔ ایک طرف وہ پاکستان میں کم اجرت سے فائدہ اٹھائے گا جبکہ گوادر کے ذریعے شپمنٹ سے وقت اور فریٹ چارجز میں بھی کمی آئے گی اور وہ دن دور نہیں جب دشمنوں کی تمام تر مخالفتوں کے باوجود یہ پروجیکٹ پاپہ تکمیل تک پہنچے گا جس سے پاکستان کی جی ڈی پی میں ایک فیصد اضافہ متوقع ہے۔ ایپلائڈ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی پروفیسر ڈاکٹر شمینہ خلیل، ڈائریکٹر AERC عظمیٰ ارم اور ان کی ٹیم اس انٹرنیشنل کانفرنس کے انعقاد پر مہار کھاد کے مستحق ہیں جنہوں نے اس اہم موضوع پر کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا جس سے یونیورسٹی کے نوجوان نسل کو سی پیک کے بارے میں آگاہی حاصل ہوئی تاکہ ان میں شعور میں پیدا کیا جاسکے اور وہ خود کو اس منصوبے کیلئے تیار کر سکیں۔

(کالم نگار کے نام کیساتھ ایس ایم ایس اور واٹس ایپ رائے دیں 00923004647998)

**Jang News, 14-02-19****امریکن ریٹورنٹ کی چین کا بزنس کو****پاکستان تک وسعت دینے کا اعلان**

کراچی (نمائندہ جنگ) ریٹورنٹ کی امریکن چین نے اپنے بزنس کو پاکستان تک وسعت دینے کا اعلان کیا ہے، کمپنی کا کہنا ہے کہ، دنیا بھر خصوصاً ایشیائی صارفین میں چکن کی پسند بڑھ رہی ہے اور۔ 2017 میں واٹ میڈیا کی ایک زرعی رپورٹ کے مطابق 2037 تک یہاں چکن کے استعمال میں چالیس فیصد اضافہ کی پیش گوئی کی گئی ہے۔ غذائی ترجیحات میں اس تبدیلی کے سبب کمپنی نے پاکستان میں ایک گروپ کے ساتھ نئے ملٹی یونٹ فرنچائز معاہدے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ کمپنی کے نائب صدر منگ ”وائے ایم“ اونگ نے کہا۔ پاکستان تیزی سے ترقی پاتی ایک دلچسپ مارکیٹ ہے ہماری وسیع اور معیاری اقسام کی پیشکش اور ساتھ ساتھ قدر کی مضبوط رسائی کے لئے یہ منزل اور آبادی کی نوعیت سے مثالی ہے



**Jang News, 14-02-19**

## بحران کا حل نئے الیکشن نواز شریف اور زرداری کی کسی بیک کی سزا دی جا رہی ہے

شہباز شریف کو ہٹایا گیا تو حکومت کیلئے ایوان چلانا مشکل ہو جائیگا، عالمی طاقتیں چین کو پاکستان سے نکالنا چاہتی ہیں، میڈیا سے گفتگو

کے دیگر بیٹے زبیر بھٹی، افتخار بھٹی اور عمیر رمضان بھٹی سمیت قاری جمال عبدالناصر ملک فیض محمد، مولانا کامل مسعود، قاری اسماعیل کھلوان، عبدالعزیز بلوچ اور عبدالسلام ناصر کے علاوہ کارکن بڑی تعداد میں موجود تھے، مولانا فضل الرحمان نے مطالبہ کیا کہ مسائل کے حل کیلئے فوری نئے انتخابات کرائے جائیں، اداروں کو دھاندلی زدہ الیکشن کا اعتراف کر لینا چاہئے، حقائق کو تسلیم نہ کیا گیا تو ابہام میں مزید اضافہ ہوگا۔

حکومت نے چین کی سرمایہ کاری کو لات مار کر 70 سالہ دوستی اور اعتماد کے رشتے کو تباہ کر دیا۔ موجودہ حکومت کو دھاندلی کے ذریعہ لایا گیا تھا، انکے پاس نہ نیم ہے نہ سوچ اور نہ ہی موجودہ مسائل سے چھٹکارا پانے کی صلاحیت ہے۔ وہ ڈیرہ غازیخان میں اپنی جماعت کے سابق ضلعی امیر حاجی رمضان بھٹی کی وفات پر تعزیت کے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے مرحوم کے بڑے بیٹے ذوالفقار علی بھٹی کی دستار بندی اور مرحوم کی روح کے ایصالِ ثواب کیلئے دعائے مغفرت بھی کرائی۔ اس موقع پر مرحوم

ڈیرہ غازیخان، کوٹ قیصرانی (نمائندہ جنگ) نامہ نگار) جمعیت علماء اسلام (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمن نے فوری نئے انتخابات کا مطالبہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ اداروں کو دھاندلی زدہ الیکشن کا اعتراف کر لینا چاہئے، اگر حقائق کو تسلیم نہ کیا گیا تو ابہام میں مزید اضافہ ہوگا، بحران کا حل نئے الیکشن ہیں، شہباز شریف کو ہٹایا گیا تو حکومت کیلئے ایوان چلانا مشکل ہو جائیگا، عالمی طاقتیں چین کو پاکستان سے نکالنا چاہتی ہیں، نواز شریف اور آصف زرداری کو کسی بیک کی سزا دی جا رہی ہے، عالمی طاقتیں چین کو پاکستان سے نکالنا چاہتی ہیں، موجودہ

**Jang News, 15-02-19**

وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے

چینی سفیر کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کی بروقت تکمیل کیلئے پرعزم ہیں، پاکستان اور چین قریبی دوست اور مضبوط شراکت دار ہیں، عوامی بہبود کیلئے چینی تجربات سے استفادہ کریں گے۔ جمعرات کو وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے ملاقات کی، وزیر اعظم نے سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیشرفت میں اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے وزیر اعظم کو اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں میں پیشرفت آگاہ کیا۔

**Jang News, 15-02-19**

پاک چین تعلقات نئے عہد میں داخل ہو گئے ہیں، چیئر مین سینٹ

سی پیک دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کے استحکام اور علاقائی ترقی کیلئے مشترکہ وژن کا نتیجہ ہے، چینی وفد سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چیئر مین سینٹ محمد صادق سنجرائی نے کہا ہے پاک چین تعلقات خطہ کی معاشی اور سماجی ترقی کیلئے نئے عہد میں داخل ہو گئے ہیں، چین کی عوامی سیاسی مشاورتی کانفرنس کے نائب چیئر مین گاؤین لانگ کی قیادت میں وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات میں ایک نئے باب کا اضافہ ہوا ہے، دونوں ملکوں کے مابین ادارہ جاتی معاونت کو مزید مستحکم بنانے کی ضرورت ہے، سی پیک دونوں ملکوں کے

تعلقات کے استحکام اور علاقائی ترقی کیلئے مشترکہ وژن کا نتیجہ ہے جلد تکمیل کیلئے پرعزم ہیں، صادق سنجرائی نے کہا عوامی سطح پر دو طرفہ روابط کو استحکام دینے سے شراکت داری مزید مضبوط ہوگی، گاؤین لانگ نے کہا پاکستان چین کیلئے اہم ملک ہے کیونکہ دونوں کا ترقی و خوشحالی کا وژن مشترکہ ہے، انہوں نے چیئر مین سینٹ کو دورہ چین کی دعوت دی، گاؤین لانگ کی سربراہی میں وفد نے سینئر شیلی فراز اور انکے وفد سے بھی ملاقات کی۔



**Jang News, 15-02-19**

**چینی تعاون سے پاکستان کا تجارتی خسارہ تین برس میں ختم ہو سکتا ہے، خسرو بختیار**

**سی پیک نے پاکستان کا امیج تبدیل کر دیا، صنعتی تعاون سے اصل ثمرات آنا شروع ہوں گے، مشاہد حسین**

**فرینڈز آف سلک روڈ کا اجراء، وفاقی وزراء، ارکان پارلیمنٹ، چینی وفد و کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں و دیگر کی شرکت**

ترقی کا سال قرار دیا گیا، سماجی شعبے کے منصوبوں کے لیے چینی ماہرین 24 فروری کو پاکستان کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں، چھ ہفتوں میں رھنکی اقتصادی زون کا سنگ بنیاد رکھا جائے گا، سینئر مشاہد حسین نے کہا فرینڈز آف سلک روڈ کا مقصد پارلیمنٹریز، کاروباری برادری، میڈیا اور عوام کو ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ منسلک کرنا اور روابط قائم کرنا ہے، سی پیک ایسے وقت میں شروع ہوا جب ملک میں دہشتگردی تھی اس کے اصل ثمرات اب آنا شروع ہوں گے جب صنعتی تعاون کا آغاز ہوگا، سی پیک نے پاکستان کا امیج تبدیل کر دیا ہے، چین کی پیپلز پولیٹیکل مشاورتی کانفرنس کے نائب چیئرمین گاؤ یون لونگ نے کہا سی پیک کے 22 منصوبوں میں سے 9 مکمل ہو گئے ہیں۔ سینٹ میں قائد ایوان سینئر شیلی فراز نے کہا بد قسمتی سے سی پیک کے ثمرات کا پہلے ادراک نہیں کیا گیا، بعد ازاں بیٹیل مباحثہ میں چین کے سفارتخانے کے ڈپٹی ہیڈ آف مشن ژاؤ لی جیان، سی پیک پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر حسن داؤد، چائنا پیس اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ فاؤنڈیشن کے نائب صدر لی راؤ گوار چیئرمین سینٹ قائمہ کمیٹی دفاعی پیداوار لیغٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) عبدالقیوم نے سی پیک پر سیر حاصل گفتگو کی اور شرکاء کے سوالوں کے جواب دیے۔

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) پاک چائنا انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام فرینڈز آف سلک روڈ کا اسلام آباد میں اجراء کر دیا گیا، اس موقع پر وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ چین سی پیک کے سماجی و معاشی تعاون کے تحت پاکستان کو ایک ارب ڈالر کی گرانٹس دے گا، چین کے تعاون سے پاکستان کا تجارتی خسارہ آئندہ تین برس میں آسانی سے ختم ہو سکتا ہے، اپریل میں چین میں بیٹل اینڈ روڈ فورم سے قبل پاکستان اور چین میں صنعتی، زرعی تعاون، غربت کے خاتمے سمیت دیگر بہت سے شعبوں میں تعاون شروع ہو جائے گا، فرینڈز آف سلک روڈ کا اجراء پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر ژاؤ جنگ اور سینئر مشاہد حسین سید نے کیا، جس میں بڑی تعداد میں حکومت اور حزب اختلاف سے تعلق رکھنے والے پارلیمنٹریز، وفاقی وزراء، ایف پی سی سی آئی کے نمائندگان، پاکستان کا دورہ کر نیوالے 14 رکنی وفد، چینی کمپنیوں کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسرز سمیت بڑی تعداد میں کاروباری افراد، سول سوسائٹی، تھنک ٹینکس کے نمائندگان نے شرکت کی، وفاقی وزیر خسرو بختیار نے مزید کہا آٹھویں سی پیک مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی میں 2019 کو سی پیک کے صنعتی

**Jang News, 15-02-19**

چینی ارضیاتی تحقیقاتی جہاز کی ہائیڈرو  
کاربن دریافت اور ارضیاتی نقشہ  
کشی کے سلسلے میں کراچی آمد

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار) چین کے ارضیاتی تحقیقاتی جہاز (سی جی ایس) ہائی یا ٹگ ڈی شو ہاؤ نے پاکستان کی ارضیاتی نقشہ کشی اور ہائیڈرو کاربن کی دریافت کے سلسلے میں پاکستان بحریہ کی زیر نگرانی کراچی کا دورہ کیا، چینی جہاز کی اس مہم کا دورانیہ 18 دسمبر 2018ء سے 19 فروری 2019ء تک رہا، جہاز کے دورہ کا فیصلہ گزشتہ برس چیف آف نیول سٹاف ایڈمرل ظفر محمود عباسی کی چین کے ارضیاتی سروے کے نائب وزیر ڈاکٹر زونگ زیوان سے ملاقات کے بعد کیا گیا، مہم کے دوران چینی تحقیقاتی جہاز نے پاکستانی سمندری حدود میں مختلف ارضیاتی تبدیلیوں پر تحقیق کا آغاز کیا، چینی سائنسدانوں کیساتھ نیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف اوشنوگرافی اور پاکستان بحریہ کے ماہرین نے بھی حصہ لیا، حاصل شدہ معلومات پر دونوں ممالک کے سائنسدان مشترکہ تحقیقات کریں گے۔

**Pakistan Observer, 02-02-19**

# SCO commences commercial service on flagship CPEC ICT project

**STAFF REPORTER****RAWALPINDI**

SCO has embarked upon another milestone achievement in its glorious history of about 43 years when Pak-China OFC link has been made operational for carrying commercial traffic from China to international destinations. The commercial traffic on the recently commissioned link is being carried from Urumqi (China) to Frankfurt (Germany) by SCO-PTCL consortium.

Pak-China OFC link is the first ever cross-border connectivity established between the two neighboring countries. This is also

for the very first time in the



"History of country" when well organized, high capacity cross-border terrestrial connectivity has been es-

tablished by a public sector organization.

The vital communication link, besides its strategic and socio-economic dimensions has the potential to carry high volumes of traffic from China to international destinations in Middle East, Africa and Europe for which traffic projections are very healthy.

Despite challenges, all

members of SCO worked untiringly for timely completion of and only ICT project so far planned under the ambit of CPEC. The successful completion and commissioning of flagship Early Harvest ICT CPEC Project is testimonial of organizational strength, and professional acumen of SCO for which all members of the organization deserve appreciation.



**Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)  
National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC)  
(Directorate of Procurement)**

**Tender Notice**

National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC). Islamabad intends to

## Pakistan Observer, 03-02-19

### Chinese greets new year

#### ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid has warmly greeted the Chinese nation ahead of Spring Festival or New Year falls on

February 5, this year. In the video interview



on Saturday, Masood Khalid vividly relates the folktale depicting the origin of the Chinese Spring Festival, says a message received here from Beijing. He believes that Spring Festival doesn't only have a great impact on Chinese culture and society; its influence has extended to the cultures of neighboring countries where Lunar Chinese New Year is also celebrated. The ambassador regards Chinese culture as a good reflection of the country's long and rich history.—APP

## Pakistan Observer, 03-02-19

### China's peacemaking role in Afghanistan

AS China continues to embrace its role as a major regional power, its increasing willingness to engage with the Afghan peace process offers an interesting indication to the emerging dynamics of the wider Central Asian region. Having already established considerable influence across large parts of Asia, the Persian Gulf, Africa and even Europe, China with the help of its Belt and Road Initiative has continued to leverage its widespread trade and economic relations for increased diplomatic goodwill, across a diverse range of countries. This has allowed China's diplomatic relations with these countries to help shape what many have termed as a New World Order, which is directly in contention with the US unilateral supremacy. This is perhaps most apparent in China's increasingly prominent role in Afghanistan, which serves as perhaps the most challenging yet most indicative example of China's stated objectives of enhanced regional integration and shared prosperity.

The key challenge posed by Afghanistan comes to a large extent from the rampant insecurity and instability that has for decades characterized its relations with its neighbours. The impacts of the US-led War or Terror (now in its 18th year) has for instance overshadowed many attempts by its neighbours to meaningfully engage in major trade, investment and/or development-related activities. Recent statements from the US President regarding the impending withdrawal of US forces have cast even further uncertainty over these issues, specifically due to the lack of a coherent exit strategy from the US. As a result, Afghanistan's relations with its neighbours such as Iran, Pakistan and China are still weighed down heavily by security-related issues. These include cross-border terrorism, the smuggling of illicit goods and services and the ensuing threats to the safety of foreign citizens residing in and travelling to Afghanistan. The need to address these issues has further come to serve as a major pre-condition to the eventual success of the fast developing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as well as the overarching Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Especially considering how a key priority of the BRI is to socioeconomically develop the Xinjiang Autonomous region in Western China, there is a definite threat of the myriad security challenges plaguing Afghanistan to spill-over across its border into these areas.

China's increasing willingness to play a greater role in the Afghan peace process, can thus be understood as emanating to a large extent from its increased stake in the wider region as part of the BRI. Based on this framework, China can be seen leveraging its increasingly close ties with Pakistan, as well as the Central Asian Republics to address the prevailing insecurity within Afghanistan at a more regional level. The recently held meetings between the Foreign Ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan are indicative of this desire, as China continues to promote dialogue between the two neighbours. Furthermore, according to recent statements made by the Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan, China is also working to promote ongoing talks between the Afghan Government and the Taliban for which the Chinese Govt has appointed a special envoy to coordinate with the Taliban's political office in Doha.

In addition to these diplomatic efforts, China is also reported to have ramped up its military cooperation with Afghanistan, providing millions of dollars in aid to the Afghan military. It has sought closer cooperation and military exchanges particularly with respect to counter-terrorism operations. This has even given rise to rumours that China is mulling over setting up a military base in Afghanistan's Badkashan province, close to the Wakhan Corridor which borders the Xinjiang region. While the Chinese Government has officially denied such reports; such a base would purportedly be China's second overseas military base, further bolstering its capability in projecting power beyond its own borders.

Hence, while China's interests in fostering closer cooperation with Afghanistan are self-proclaimed to be promoting peace and regional stability, these measures have continued to irk the United States adding further tension to already fraught US-China relations. These include the long-standing effects of the ongoing US-China trade war, the increasing militarisation of the South China Sea and China's fast increasing influence across the surrounding region. All of these factors arguably point towards the US own unsuccessful attempts at containing the rise of China, which exacerbated by China's growing role in Afghanistan leads to the growing possibility of China eventually supplanting the US as the dominant power within Central Asia. However, considering the vast array of challenges still facing Afghanistan, and the US tenuous hold over the region built over decades of war, the prevailing politico-economic dynamics of the region still remain as complex as ever. Thus, even though China's increasing focus on Afghanistan is likely to benefit the region as a whole, its most recent efforts are likely to bear fruit only over the long-run. That is also only if China and its surrounding countries remain committed to the overall vision of regional peace and prosperity that is enshrined within the Belt and Road Initiative.

— The writer is a Researcher at the Strategic Vision Institute, a non-partisan think-tank based in Islamabad.

#### VIEW



M WAQAS JAN

“China's increasing willingness to play a greater role in the Afghan peace process, can thus be understood as emanating to a large extent from its increased stake in the wider region as part of the BRI.”



**Pakistan Observer, 03-02-19****Chinese investors show interest  
in housing, agriculture sectors****SALIM AHMED****LAHORE**

A 12-member delegation of the China Engineering Corporation and Henan D.R. Construction Group called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at CM Office here today. The China Engineering Corporation and Henan D.R. Construction Group have expressed interest in the sectors of agriculture and housing.

The officials of the delegation, talking to the chief minister, said they are interested in investing to use to make the barren land useful for agriculture purpose through modern technology and will also transfer the technology to Punjab for the construction of low cost houses.

They said they wanted to start the project of the housing industrial park and the Chinese group will do investment for this purpose. Speaking on the occasion, CM Usman Buzdar said Pakistan and

China are bounded with everlasting relationship of friendship and the relationship between both countries has got new dimension during the PTI government under the leadership of Imran Khan. He said foreign investors have been given immense opportunities in Punjab and we welcome the interest of the Chinese investors in the housing and agriculture sectors.

The Chinese investors will be given every possible facility. The chief minister said there is huge potential in the sectors of agriculture and housing. The agriculture sector of Punjab is the backbone of the economy.

The agriculture sector can be strengthened with the use of modern technology. The chief minister said the construction of low cost houses is the election manifesto of the PTI and the New Pakistan Housing Scheme is the revolutionary program to provide houses to the common man. He said new facilities and

favours have been given to the foreign investors in New Pakistan and we want to get benefits of the Chinese technology in the sectors of agriculture and housing.

The officials of the China Engineering Corporation briefed the chief minister on progress on the 1263MW power project in Jhang. The delegation included chairman China Engineering Corporation Mr Zhang Chun and vice president Mr Fang Yanshui, and chairman Henan D.R. Construction Group Huang Dao Yuan, deputy chairman Mr Cheng Cunpan and other officials.

Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, Punjab Irrigation Minister Mohsin Leghari, Punjab Agriculture Minister Malik Nouman Ahmed Langrial, Housing Minister Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed, the chief secretary, chairman Planning and Development, secretaries of concerned departments, and senior officials were present on the occasion.

**Pakistan Observer, 03-02-19**

Sri Lanka seeks  
\$1 billion loan  
from China  
amid debt woes

**COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

Sri Lanka is negotiating a \$1 billion loan from China to construct a highway linking the capital Colombo to the hilly resort city of Kandy, even as the heavily-indebted South Asian island nation makes arrangements to pay down \$5.9 billion in foreign loans this year.

Finance Ministry spokesman M.R. Hasan said Saturday that he's waiting to hear whether terms of the loan for the highway project have been approved.

A large chunk of Sri Lanka's foreign debt is from China, which sees Sri Lanka as a key link in its transcontinental Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

President Maithripala Sirisena's government had criticized the previous administration of strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa for leading the country into a Chinese debt trap. However, the government has turned to China to help relieve economic pressures.—Arab News



**Pakistan Observer, 04-02-19**Senior Chinese official urges  
high-quality development of BRI**BEIJING**

Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng has called for more efforts to realize high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Han, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the leading group on advancing BRI development, made the remarks when presiding over a meeting of the leading group at which participants studied relevant remarks and instructions of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

The BRI, proposed by Xi, boosted China's opening-up to a new level and reflected the great advantages of China's development path, Han said, calling for efforts to well implement Xi's address at a symposium marking the fifth anniversary on advancing the BRI.

Han underlined the importance of the "bottom-line mentality" and urged to strengthen forecast and judgement in order to cope with challenges brought by a changing external environment.

Coordinated efforts should also be made to prepare for the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to increase the global appeal of the BRI, he said.—Xinhua

## Pakistan Observer, 04-02-19

### Two hydropower projects being completed under CPEC

**BEIJING**

Two separate hydropower stations being completed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework will generate 1,620 MW electricity and are likely to start commercial operation in next three years.

The under-construction Karot Hydro-power station with an installed capacity of 760 MW at river Jhelum at a juncture of Azad Kashmir and Punjab province is expected to start commercial operation by December 2021.

Suki Kinari Hydro-power Station with an installed capacity of 870 MW being constructed at River Kunhar, Naran in Mansehra District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is likely to start commercial operation by December 2022, according to official data available with APP here on Sunday.

In total, six energy projects including Suki Kinari HPP, Korot HPP, Engro Thar Block-II coal-fired power plant, TEL Mine Mouth Thar Block-II coal-fired power plant and CPHGC coal-fired power plant will be completed in next few years throughout the country.

Under the CPEC, a total of 15 energy projects were planned as the priority with a total generation capacity of 11,110MW and so far seven have been completed and

are in operation.

At present, Zonergy 300MW Solar Park, 50MW Dawood Wind Farm, Jhimpir UEP wind power project, Sachal 50MW Wind Farm, Sahiwal 2×660MW Coal-fired Power Plant, Port Qasim 2×660MW Coal-fired Power Plant and Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Projects have been completed.



These projects have added 3240 MW to Pakistani national grid, amounting to more than 11% of the total installed capacity of 29,000 MW in Pakistan. The CPEC energy projects include hydro, solar, wind and coal-fired power plants. The

major coal-powered plants use super-critical thermal technology, which is the most advanced environmental control technique for coal-fired plants currently.

Each project has got the approval of environmental impact assessment by the Pakistani government before the construction. With the introduction of CPEC energy projects, Pakistan also reduced its heavy dependence on gas and LNG power plants, which account for 50% of total installed capacity.

The CPEC energy projects are a foreign direct investment based on commercial contracts, which are in accordance with the standard clauses provided by the Pakistani government.—APP

**Pakistan observer, 05-02-19**

## China's renewable investments to become more efficient

**BEIJING**

The Chinese government's push for more market-oriented renewable energy investments and alleviate regional overcapacity and subsidy pressure, according to an industrial report by Fitch Ratings.

The report said that China's renewable capacity growth, especially solar, would decelerate further in 2019, with low-cost, subsidy-free projects becoming a driver of new investment.

The analysis was made after an action plan on clean energy consumption was jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission and National Energy Administration (NEA).

Under the plan, by 2020 China will strive to lift the utilization rates of wind, photovoltaic and water power to an internationally advanced level of 95 percent. The percentage of clean-energy power wasted will be capped at 5 percent.

Li Chuangjun, deputy director of the

new energy and renewable energy sources bureau of the NEA, said that in 2018, the amount of photovoltaic power wasted in China fell by 1.8 billion kilowatt-hours from the previous year, while that for wind power wasted decreased by 14.2 billion kilowatt-hours.

He said that the utilization of China's clean energy significantly improved in 2018, with the year's renewable energy generation totaling 1.87 trillion kilowatt-hours, up 170 billion kilowatt-hours from 2017. "The substitution effect of renewable energy has become all the more prominent in China," he said.

Analysts with Fitch Ratings said they believed the regulators' focus had shifted towards greater economic efficiency of renewable energy generation as national utilization rates of wind and solar power had exceeded 90 percent, and any further significant improvement might not be economically and technically viable.

The report said China would foster a more market-driven mechanism to promote the use of renewable en-

ergy in power generation. Currently, operators have been encouraged to select project locations more carefully, take local market demand fully into consideration and actively participate in market-trading to boost utilisation rates.

It noted that the action plan had continued to promote the trading of power-generation rights and trans-province renewable energy trading.

"More innovative products, such as combining renewable energy and coal-fired power together in market trading, will also come to market in the future," the report said.

Analysts with Fitch Ratings said they expected solar project operators to become more rational in building new capacity, and would focus more on market demand and cost-reductions through improvements in technical and operating efficiency.

"The Chinese government is likely to decide on the investment scale and subsidies for most new subsidy-reliant solar projects in a market-driven way, while further slowdown in sub-

**Pakistan Observer, 05-02-19**Pakistan  
**OBSERVER****ECONOMY WATCH****Pakistan formally invited to participate  
in 2nd China Import Expo****BEIJING**

Pakistan has formally been invited to participate in the second China International Import Expo (CIIE), scheduled to be held in early November in Shanghai this year.

"We have received a formal invitation and the ministry of commerce and other concerned departments have started preparations," official sources told APP here on Monday.

The import expo would provide a good chance to our manufactur-

ers and producers to showcase their products at the expo in a bid to enhance exports to China.

Last year, Pakistan had established a pavilion at the first expo and a number of Pakistani companies participated and displayed their products in order to gain access to the Chinese market.

The Chinese government had granted the status of "Guest of

honour" to Pakistan to ensure the provision of all possible facilities and benefits to the Pakistani business community.

According to the organizers, more than 500 companies from all over the world had confirmed participation in the second expo.

The companies were from more than 40 countries and regions, including over 70 Fortune Global 500

firms and leading enterprises in various industries.

About 80 percent of the companies participated in the first CIIE, and most of them planned to expand their exhibition area this year.

A total of 172 countries, regions and international organizations and more than 3,600 enterprises participated in the first CIIE, held on November 5-10 last year in Shanghai. It was the world's first import-themed national-level expo.—APP



**Pakistan Observer, 06-02-19**

# Pak-China relations exemplary in world, friendship to continue: Jing

## China completely supports Kashmiris struggle

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

#### ABBOTTABAD

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-I would be completed till October 2019. Abbottabad is the gateway to CPEC. China completely support Kashmiri's struggle. This was stated by the Amba-

sador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing while talking to media persons after Chinese New Year celebrations here.

He further said that they have enjoyed a lot the celebrations of the new Chinese year in Abbottabad adding that CPEC played vital role between China Pakistan relations and we would in-

crease cooperation in other sectors.

Ambassador Yao Jing maintained that China would continue its support for the development of education sector in Pakistan. He said that China Pakistan relations were exemplary in the world and the friendship would continue.

Earlier, on his arrival at

Pak China Public School, Abbottabad, Speaker KP Assembly Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani welcomed the ambassador and a cake cutting ceremony was also held in connection with the new Chinese calendar year where a large number of Chinese workers from different projects were also present.



**Pakistan Observer, 06-02-19**

# CPEC phase-I to complete till October 2019: Yao Jing

**ABBOTTABAD**

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**Pakistan Observer, 08-02-19**

## Chinese New Year event held at Marriott

**ISLAMABAD**

The Deputy Chairman and CEO of the Hashoo Group Murtaza Hashwani and the General Manager of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel Maurizio Romani hosted a reception to celebrate the Chinese New Year here on Thursday.

Members of the civil society, diplomats and a number of Chinese nationals attended the reception. The Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing was the guest of honour on the occasion.

The celebrations kicked off with the traditional Lion Dance, which has been a part of the Chinese culture for many centuries.

Adding to the festivities, the guests experienced the debut of a special menu curated by the Executive Chi-



nese Chef Zubin . This special menu will be available to all diners for dinner for an entire week in celebration of the Chinese New Year.—PR



**Pakistan Observer, 13-02-19**

# China makes notable achievements countering terrorism in Xinjiang

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

**BEIJING**

Chinese government has been actively working to counter terrorism and extremism and made notable achievements to this effect.

This was stated by a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Hua Chunying at a news brief-

ing, while strongly reacting against the Turkey's criticism in regard to the situation in Xinjiang.

She noted that a spokesperson of the Turkish Foreign Ministry last week made negative remarks about the situation. The Chinese Embassy in Turkey has already made a response at the earliest time possible, and the Chinese side has made stern



representations with the

Turkish side.

The Spokesperson of the Turkish Foreign Ministry claimed that "the distinguished folk poet Abdurehim Heyit passed away in his second year of imprisonment".

Whereas, the fact is that he is still alive and in good health. She saw videos online that testify to that.

Continued on Back Page

# Pakistan Observer, 13-02-19



Wednesday, February 13, 2019

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## Saudi Arabia in CPEC panorama

Naveed Anam Khan

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government claims that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will become the third major partner in the China-funded, Belt and Road linked, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consisting of major infrastructure projects inside Pakistan. This announcement has come after Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Saudi Arabia where he sought the Kingdom's financial assistance to shore up the country's foreign reserves.

The idea of a third party joining the China-backed infrastructure initiative in Pakistan is not new. A number of other countries including Iran, Turkey, Central Asian States and the United States were also made similar offers by Pakistan. So much so Pakistan will appreciate inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC also. While the United States of America and Iran haven't joined the project yet, Saudi Arabia's announcement to become part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has emerged as an interesting case. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are important for CPEC and, of course, Pakistan. Both Pakistan and China can obtain economic benefits with the involvement of Iran in CPEC also because of very close Chabahar Port. Indian influence in the region can be minimized if Iran is welcomed and facilitated in CPEC. The Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman is all set to embark upon a visit to Pakistan with as many as three hundred delegates and investors in five big planes. He will be given head of the State protocol. Agreements on projects of energy, security and culture worth US \$14 billion will be signed.

Historically, the Saudi leadership has always offered Pakistan financial assistance whenever the country got into an economic crisis of its own making. During the 1990s, Saudi Arabia gave Pakistan subsidies in oil imports and offered liquidity to help Pakistan survive US-led sanctions on the country. The period following the 9/11 attacks in the United States also saw Saudi Arabia standing with Pakistan in case the country was in any sort of financial jeopardy. In response to Saudi's assistance, Pakistan has



**“Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's bilateral relationship may be entering a new era in which security and economic cooperation are at the core. During the coming days official Visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to Pakistan will surely strengthen bilateral ties.”**

always offered military support to the former in fighting terrorism, training troops and defending the Kingdom's security. In the past, Pakistan has directly deployed troops in Saudi Arabia to help shore up Saudi forces in the Kingdom.

There are two reasons why Saudi may be interested in now investing in Pakistan. Firstly, the Kingdom's decision to invest in an infrastructure project would surely offer it significant stakes in the Pakistani economy. Additionally, the new leadership in Saudi Arabia doesn't want to deteriorate ties with Pakistan as the former may still expect Pakistan's military support in case of any future domestic security challenge(s). Secondly, the new approach of giving funds in the form of investment rather than loans mean that the Kingdom is not going to offer financial assistance to Pakistan that doesn't bolster its influence in the country further. For Saudi, the decision to join CPEC will not only generate financial returns in the long-run, but will also strengthen its foothold in the region.

On the other hand, for Pakistan, the incoming investment from Saudi Arabia will give it much-needed financial assistance to prop up its economic reserves. Apparently, both countries are entering an era where economic and security calculus is becoming important rather than just an ideological alignment of ties. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's bilateral relationship may be entering a new era in which security and economic cooperation are at the core. During the coming days official Visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to Pakistan will surely strengthen bilateral ties. Both the countries will sign several projects of mutual significance. Upcoming visit of Crown Prince Mohammad will be the beginning of new phase of bilateral relationship ahead.

## China Window & CPEC

Shahid Ur Rehman



The Pakistan-China friendship is deeply rooted and has always been judged an exemplary ever since its establishment. It is because of this very fact that the peoples and governments of the two countries vehemently claim that their friendship is higher than Himalaya and deeper than ocean. While having glance of the present day developments, one finds the brotherly relationship between the two neighbors. The wholehearted and sincere contribution on part of People's Republic of China to Pakistan in its infrastructural development is above board the diplomatic support is internationally acknowledged and their commitment to continue with their established friendship traditions seems un-shakable. When in difficult hours, Pakistan pins expectations on its arch friend, People's Republic of China and has never been disappointed. The pace with which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is implemented, the project seems guaranteed to be materialized with success. Not only the Gwadar port is going to be linked with China through communication systems - the highway network in particular but all the 43 major projects will also be developed in the first phase. Almost nine mega projects under CPEC have already been completed while 13 are under implementation stage. The speed with which the CPEC projects are implemented, there exists every hope that the day not far away when it will be fully completed. Although, hardly there exists any doubt, as far as the CPEC implementation arrangements are concerned, yet the common citizen is equally justified to be anxious to know about the pace of progress and that is why these words are being contributed.

Window in Peshawar which is also known of this of flowers is the latest development in this respect.

While entering the well-decorated premises of the China Window one is mistaken to be in China. The Window encompasses different galleries, one among them is CPEC Gallery which attracts the business and trade community in particular besides the common citizens. To our utter astonishment, within a few days of the establishment of China Window it received the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, members of provincial assembly, Nighat Yasmin Orakzai and Sumaira Shams, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif, Additional Inspector General of Police, Mr. Shahzad Adnan and Mr. Feroze Shah and ex-Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board, Dr. Nuseem Ashraf amongst almost 500 dignitaries and prominent citizens. Now the China Window is proving a big source of attraction for the students of schools and colleges in particular and visits by the inmates of the institutions of Peshawar and its surrounding areas is becoming a routine practice. Amongst the visitors the government officials are taking special interest in the working of the Window whose visits are also proving a source of strength for it as well. In the days to come, the China Window seems to be taking a visible place amongst all the contemporary arrangements to promoting mutual cooperation and understanding at the people level between both the countries.

(The writer is a freelance journalist based in Peshawar)

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**Pakistan Observer, 14-02-19**

# Gwadar projects to create conducive environment for future investment: Bakhtiar

**STAFF REPORTER****ISLAMABAD**

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms (PD&R) Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtiar has stressed the need to expedite progress on Gwadar projects such as New International Airport, Hospital, Vocational Institutes and Power Plant.

He said that these projects would not only create conducive environment for future investment but would help to upgrade facilities for local population. The ground is set to attract more trilateral investment here in future, he added.

The Minister PD&R was talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Yao Jing who called on him here on Wednesday. Matters of mutual interest including progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects came under discussion during the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan and Project Director CPEC Hasan Daud Butt.

Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtiar intimated that stakeholders' consensus has been achieved on Gwadar City Master Plan and the document would be finalized at the earliest.

He appreciated that Chinese experts

on Socio Economic Development are visiting Pakistan this month to discuss cooperation in agriculture, education, medical treatment, poverty alleviation, water supply and vocational training projects.

The Minister PD&R hailed Chinese government for financial support to initiate pilot projects for poverty alleviation and informed that Pakistan side will identify sites for workable as well as impact creating projects with the input of provincial governments in the same sector.

Mr. Bakhtiar reiterated that all measures would be taken to fast track the industrial cooperation by ensuring development of Special Economic Zones. Ground breaking of the Rashakai SEZ will be done soon, he informed. He told that federal government would facilitate in providing utilities such as power, gas supplies and road infrastructure to all SEZs under CPEC, aiming at speedy development of these projects.

He asked Chinese Government to encourage state-owned and private sector companies to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Minister PD&R highlighted importance of agriculture sector development for Pakistan economic uplift and said that federal and provincial govern-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtiar talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing who called on him on Wednesday.

ments would come up with a viable road map for the forthcoming JWG meeting on agriculture. We promote technology transfer, trade facilitation & scientific as well technical cooperation in this important sector, he said.

Khuro Bakhtiar also stated that Pakistan welcomes Chinese ag-

riculture sector companies to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan for input supplies as well as in food production processing, logistics, marketing and exports in a vertically integrated way or through joint ventures with Pakistani companies.

The Minister underscored the

need to finalize preliminary design of Pakistan Railways ML-1 up gradation so that negotiation on financial matters may commence.

Both side agreed to prepare tangible deliverable for the Prime Minister's visit to China to participate in Belt and Road Forum, planned in April this year.

## Pakistan Observer, 14-02-19

### **Export to China**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

We, Pakistan Accumulators (Pvt.) Ltd is one of the leading manufacturer & exporters of batteries with the well known brand names of VOLTA & OSAKA, proudly announce that by the Grace of Almighty Allah we have achieved another milestone to become PAKISTAN'S FIRST COMPANY which is going to export 05 containers of BATTERY PARTS to CHINA on 26th of February, 2019 Inshallah! We believe this is a moment of great honor for VOLTA & OSAKA batteries along with all Pakistanis that we are exporting goods to China with the label of "MADE IN PAKISTAN". This will open a new economic corridor for Pakistan and help to reduce the trade deficit, ultimately supporting a national cause. Globally China is recognized as the market leader for exports of all goods with very competitive prices, this was an exceptional challenge for VOLTA & OSAKA batteries to attain price benchmark. We strongly believe that our customers in Pakistan & globally, who always trust in our products feel this privilege to become a part of this historical moment as our family member.



**Pakistan Observer, 14-02-19**

## CPEC phase-II 'Industrial Cooperation' picking up speed

**SALIM AHMED**

**LAHORE**

With the upcoming completion of Phase I of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by end 2019, Phase 2 "Industrial Cooperation" is picking up



speed. It is powered by rapidly developing public and private Special Economic Zones (SEZs), industrial relocation from China, attracting FDI into Pakistan, and growing opportunities for trade through new products and markets.

Opportunity, Pakistan's premier CPEC-focused firm, and National Defence University (NDU) are organizing an International CPEC Workshop (ICPECW), a 2.5 weeks international learning and networking platform on CPEC, spanning Beijing, Islamabad and

Gwadar. ICPECW will be held in Beijing, Islamabad and Gwadar from 17th April - 3rd May 2019.

ICPECW will bring participants up-to-speed on the key areas and challenges of CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to the point where they can conceive and implement solutions. Participants will build a network of key public and private sector individuals, in China and Pakistan. They will see for themselves where CPEC stands and where it is headed. And they will be able to rapidly formulate and implement their own strategy of benefiting from CPEC, a unique economic opportunity for Pakistan and the region.

To ensure the success of Phase 2 of CPEC, intense involvement of the private sector is required, and ICPECW promises to herald this new era.

Government to government collaboration conceived CPEC, and with the private sector as a partner, built the foundations focusing on transport infrastructure, Gwadar Port and electricity generation.

Now, "industrial cooperation" depends on the successful development and population of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), significant industrial relocation from China and accelerated industrialization.

**Pakistan Observer, 15-02-19**

## China Geological survey research ship visits for hydrocarbon research

**STAFF REPORTER**

**KARACHI**

China Geological Survey Research Ship (CGS) 'Hai Yang Di Zhi Shi Hao' visited Pakistan for Hydrocarbon research and geological mapping under the auspices of Pakistan Navy. CGS Research Ship undertook this expedition from Dec 18 to Feb 19, a press

release of ISPR-Navy said here on Thursday.

Pakistan Navy hosted the CGS research ship 'Hai Yang Di Zhi Shi Hao' at Karachi port. The visit of research ship was materialized after the meeting of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi with Vice Minister China Geological Survey (CGS) Dr Zhong Ziran, in Beijing last year.

During the expedition, CGS ship conducted various Seismic and Oceanographic observations in the offshore area of Pakistan. Along with Chinese scientists, scientists from National Institute of Oceanography and Pakistan Navy also participated in the expedition. The acquired data will be jointly processed by Pakistani and Chinese scientists.

This expedition is in line with growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of geological survey and oceanography. This cooperation in the field of offshore research will continue in future and another expedition from CGS has also been planned in near future. It is expected that these expeditions will assist in resource mapping of our offshore areas.

Pakistan Observer, 15-02-19

# KP, Centre agree on accelerating pace of work on CPEC projects

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan and Federal Minister for Power co-chaired a meeting in the chief Minister Secretariat that decided to the launch of in-

frastructure projects in the small cities and the development of existing infrastructure in the big cities throughout the province with focus on road communication, education, health, water supply and efficient social services.

The meeting agreed to

accelerate the process of work on the CPEC related project and removing the abstraction in the hydro power and gas project. The chief Minister assured drinking and water supply schemes near the Turbela Dam areas and assured to spread a network of development

schemes in the areas having natural advantages but have no efficient facilities in all sectors. The Chief Minister further assured new schemes for newly merged districts adding that Dasu and Basha Dam would become the life vanes for the economy of the province.



**Pakistan Observer, 15-02-19**

# China committed to support Pakistan economy

**ZUBAIR QURESHI**

China valued its friendship with Pakistan and would continue to explore co-operation in various fields including energy, infrastructure, industry, agriculture and others. This was said by the visiting dignitary Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Gao Yunlong at the launching ceremony of "Friends of Silk Road" here Thursday.

An initiative of Pakistan-China Institute, "Friends of Silk Road" is a platform that serves to bring together different segments of society from the two countries.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, Ambassador of China, Yao Jing, Chairman of Pak-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Leader of House in the Senate Shibli Faraz were also present on the occasion.

Gao Yunlong said Pakistan and China were all weather strategic cooperative partners and both have a shared

vision for regional growth and prosperity. He expressed his pleasure on the fast-track work underway on various CPEC projects and observed that it would lead to further growth in bilateral relations. He said that China valued its ties with Pakistan and CPEC is one of the shining examples of close neighborly ties. He said that China would further encourage Chinese investment in Pakistan. Welcoming the Chinese dignitary, Khusro Bakhtyar said President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has proved a turning point ensuring peace, progress and prosperity of the whole region. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an iconic project of the BRI, he said.

Minister said industrial cooperation would support to overcome Pakistan's trade deficit and the government would facilitate investors with continuous policy support to create a "pull factor" and China would "push" its leading enterprises to relocate to Pakistan. Ambassador of China Yao Jing while welcoming the guest briefed him about

CPEC and its impact on the lives and economy of the people. Because of the CPEC, a great number of investment opportunities have generated leading to social and financial uplift of the masses.

Sen Mushahid Hussain Sayed said Friends of Silk Road was a major initiative of PCI, and given Pakistan's pivotal role on CPEC as well as our long-standing relationship with China, it is now elevated from All Weather Friendship to being Iron Brothers.

Pakistan is the first among the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries to launch the forum which would include local communities, parliamentarians, press, business and opinion leaders, youth and women, professionals and civil society, students and scholars. The forum will provide both a better understanding and information about benefits of the fruits of progress and development offered by the numerous opportunities arising out of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Mushahid said.

The Express Tribune, 01-02-19**Bilateral** ties

# China calls for harmony among Gulf states

## Xi welcomes Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a return to "unity and harmony" on Thursday as he welcomed gas-rich Qatar's emir to Beijing, amid a dispute that has seen some Arab states led by Saudi Arabia severing relations with Doha.

China has largely stayed out of the dispute, calling for the problem to be resolved via talks, though has played host to senior Qatari officials since the spat began, including in December to Qatar's foreign minister.

Meeting in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi told Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani that regional cooperation was an important basis for prosperity in the Gulf region, Chinese state television reported.

China supports the efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council to seek an "appropriate resolution to disputes and contradictions via political and diplomatic means, to



**OFFICIAL TRIP:** Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani (C) reviews a military honour guard with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

return unity and harmony between Gulf and Arab countries", Xi said.

"China is willing to continue to play a constructive role according to the wishes of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries," Xi added, according to the report, which did not make direct mention of the Gulf rift.

In remarks in front of reporters, Xi called Al Thani "an

old friend and a good friend".

Al Thani told Xi that he was very happy with their personal friendship. "We are ready to have bigger investments in China, in infrastructure or in any other field we see as important for us," he said.

"We are happy to provide China with liquid gas and we are ready to provide China with more in the near

” China is willing to continue to play a constructive role according to the wishes of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries

Chinese President Xi Jinping

future. I am very happy to be in China."

Last October, state energy giant Qatar Petroleum said it had signed a five-year agreement to supply China with 600,000 tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) per year.

Qatar's state news agency said Al Thani and Xi had signed memorandums of understanding on diplomatic training, future trade delegations, and the creation of a road map for Qatar to take part in China's Belt and Road initiative, an expansion of infrastructure and trade links worldwide. REUTERS

**The Express Tribune, 02-02-19**

In time

# China comes to Pakistan's rescue with \$2.5b loan

## Money to provide Islamabad breathing space till desired macroeconomic stabilisation

**SHAHBAZ RANA**  
ISLAMABAD

China has agreed to provide \$2.5 billion in loans to Pakistan to boost official foreign exchange reserves that are not sufficient to provide cover to even two months of imports despite receiving \$4 billion loans from two Middle Eastern countries.

"Beijing will place the \$2.5 billion in deposits with the central bank," a top government functionary told *The Express Tribune*. With the anticipated \$2.5 billion deposits, China's contribution in this fiscal year alone would surge to \$4.5 billion.

In July, China had also deposited \$2 billion with the State Bank of Pakistan. In the past five years, China has emerged as Pakistan's single

**GOVT'S PLAN****\$3b**

Eurobonds can be launched during the current fiscal year

largest saviour in times of economic crisis.

The money is coming as part of the government's strategy to secure breathing space till the time its macroeconomic stabilisation measures take effect.

After coming into power, Prime Minister Imran Khan had visited China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to arrange emergency loans to avoid a loom-

ing default.

Resultantly, Pakistan has secured \$14.5 billion worth of commitments from these three countries that have helped largely bridge the external financing gap of the ongoing fiscal year.

Before coming into power, Khan was critical of taking loans to run the country but due to extremely low level of foreign currency reserves and financing requirements standing above \$25 billion, the premier had to fly to Beijing and other capitals to seek loans.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide a \$6 billion financial assistance package, which included \$3 billion in short terms loans at an interest rate of 3.18%.

The State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) Governor Tariq Bajwa on Thursday said the modalities for \$3 billion oil on deferred payments were finalized this week and an agreement would be signed on February 16 during the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. Riyadh has already disbursed \$3 billion.

The UAE has agreed to provide \$3 billion in loans at an interest rate of around 3% and has already disbursed \$1 billion. A \$3.2 billion worth of oil facility on deferred payment is being awaited.

Pakistan has arranged these deposits for a term of one to three years but these are likely to be rolled over, in case Islamabad faces difficulties to return them, said the sources in the Finance Ministry.

CHINESE LOAN, PAGE 8



**The Express Tribune, 02-02-19**

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## Pak-China fibre optic link activated

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📍 HAIDER NASIM  
ISLAMABAD

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The Pak-China fibre optic, a 820-kilometer long fibre optic cable project from Rawalpindi to Khunjerab, has been made active for commercial use.

A spokesperson for the Special Communications Organisations (SCO) said on Friday, the cable would play an important role in keeping China and Pakistan linked with the world. "The completion of the project holds a milestone importance," he added.

Expenditure on the initiative amounted to \$44 million supported by 85% concessionary loan from the Exim Bank of China. The project is owned by the military-run SCO and its engineering, while the procurement and construction (EPC) contractor is Huawei.

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## The Express Tribune, 03-02-19

Availing opportunity

### Chinese eager to invest in agri, housing sectors

Twelve-member delegation meets Punjab CM Buzdar

LAHORE

A 12-member delegation of China Engineering Corporation and Henan DR Construction Group in a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Saturday showed interest to invest in the agriculture and housing sectors.

They said they were also interested in investing to make the barren land useful for agriculture purpose through modern technology and would also transfer the technology to Punjab for the construction of low-cost houses.

The delegates said they wanted to start the project of housing industrial park and the Chinese group would make investment for the purpose. On the occasion, CM Buzdar said, "Pakistan and China have an everlasting friendship and this relationship has now gotten a new dimension during the PTI government under the leadership of Imran Khan."

He said foreign investors had been given immense opportunities in Punjab and "we welcome the interest of Chinese investors in the housing and agriculture sectors".

He assured that the Chinese investors would be given every possible facility.

The agriculture sector of Punjab was the backbone of economy and it could be strengthened with the use of

modern technology.

The CM said the construction of low-cost houses was the part of PTI manifesto and the New Pakistan Housing Scheme was a revolutionary programme to provide houses to the common man.

He said new facilities and favours had been given to foreign investors in new Pakistan and "we want to benefit from Chinese technology in agriculture and housing sectors".

### Officials of China Engineering Corp brief CM on progress on 1,263 MW power project in Jhang

The officials of China Engineering Corporation also briefed the CM on the progress on the 1,263 megawatts power project in Jhang. The delegation also included China Engineering Corporation Chairman Zhang Chun and Vice President Fang Yanshui; and Henan DR Construction Group Chairman Huang Dao Yuan and Deputy Chairman Cheng Cunpan.

Senior Provincial Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, Punjab Irrigation Minister Mohsin Leghari, Punjab Agriculture Minister Malik Nouman Ahmed Langrial, Housing Minister Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed, Punjab chief secretary, Punjab Planning and Development Department chairman, secretaries of concerned departments and senior officials were also present. APP

## The Express Tribune, 04-02-19

Fruits of economic corridor

# Next 5 years of CPEC likely to help Pakistan tackle trade deficit

Focus is required on training the workforce to boost industrialisation

JUNAID ZAHID  
ISLAMABAD

In March and April 2016, Pakistan sent two delegations to China for studying best practices in the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

In November 2016, the two sides established a joint working group on industrial cooperation and held its first meeting, during which they agreed to work out a mechanism, key areas of cooperation and key projects.

Later, in the sixth CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting in the same month, Pakistan submitted a list of nine SEZs. In 2017 and 2018, a Chinese expert panel thrice visited the

sites of the nine proposed zones in order to conduct a comprehensive analysis and develop proposals for an industrial development strategy for Pakistan.

Through interaction with provincial governments, business associations and enterprises, the expert panel came to know about their demands for local development. The expert group suggested that the development strategy for each industrial park under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) must be combined with the economic foundation and actual conditions in the relevant locality with distinctive features and differentiated approaches.

The expert panel also sent the Board of Investment (BOI) its appraisal of the feasibility studies of six SEZs while the rest are yet to be submitted.

In early 2018, the Pakistan government instructed the BOI to

formulate more accurate and favourable policies on top of the current preferential policies for two to three SEZs that were listed as key projects of CPEC. The two sides are negotiating details of implementation of the Rashakai SEZ project, which will be inaugurated in the first quarter of 2019.

In the 8th JCC meeting in Beijing, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China and the BOI signed a memorandum of understanding for industrial cooperation. A joint statement released after the conclusion of Prime Minister Imran Khan's first China visit emphasised that progress on CPEC was satisfactory for both the countries.

On the completion of first five years of CPEC, undoubtedly a solid development can be witnessed. But development in coming years is of more importance based on investment and industrial coopera-

### WORKFORCE

# 326,765

is the number of unskilled labour in Pakistan, according to the Economic Survey of Pakistan while 152,235 are semi-skilled registered workers

tion. The next five years can not only play a significant role in the revival of industries in Pakistan, but could also be a strong stepping stone to lead the country out of the challenge of trade imbalance.

To gain maximum advantage from CPEC in coming years, Pakistan needs to work hard and address a few in-house complications on a priority basis. First of them is the lack of skilled labour. The development of economic

zones and revival of industries requires skilled labour but Pakistan has a shortage of such workforce due to very little focus on developing vocational training institutes.

Pakistan's workforce has extensively been focused on agriculture, however, the skill sets required for the industries is different. Many researchers project that there will be room for about 1.2 million new jobs under CPEC between 2015 and 2030.

According to official documents, 30,000 jobs were created under the early harvest programme of CPEC and about 80,000 more will be created in the remaining years. Data from the Economic Survey of Pakistan shows that the country has 326,765 fully unskilled and 152,235 semi-skilled registered workers.

The crucial objective of industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China is not just the establish-

ment of industrial parks, but also to develop and implement various initiatives and projects required to help industrialise the country.

Building Pakistan's industrial capacity and linking rural and remote areas with urban centres for a harmonious rural-urban synergy is needed over the next five years of the mega project. So, given successful integration of Pakistan's markets and supply chains with those of China and the region, investors can achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.

On the other hand, Pakistan is also in dire need of technological upgrade and reforms in the agriculture sector. The agriculture sector employs 42.27% of the labour force and these reforms can help drive the country out of the current economic crisis.

Agricultural growth provides an avenue for poverty alleviation. As Pakistan's financial sys-

tem largely relies on agriculture, its development will bring more economic benefits and will allow the country to raise exports of agricultural goods.

China is the world's largest importer of agricultural products with over \$100 billion of food products. But unfortunately, Pakistan has a share of only 1% in China's food imports.

Experts are of the view that the ongoing trade war between the US and China can provide Pakistan a chance to increase exports to China. But are we prepared for it?

In order to bring prosperity, new research in agricultural products along with enhancing per-acre yield, producing high value-added products and linking farmers with the economic corridor are the measures that need to be taken.

THE WRITER IS A RESEARCHER AT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE



**The Express Tribune, 05-02-19**

## Chinese consulate attackers buried

📍 RAHEEL SALMAN

KARACHI

The three terrorists taken down in the attack on the Chinese consulate have been buried after a passage of two and a half months.

They were buried at Chakra Goth Graveyard, Korangi No 1.5 on Monday afternoon.

According to details, the terrorists had attacked the Chinese consulate located in Clifton on the morning of November 23.

The security guards and the policemen deployed at the consulate had neutralised the threat.

Two police officials and two civilians - a father and son - had also lost their lives in the attack, while a guard was seriously injured.

The bodies of the terrorists had been kept in a morgue and no one contacted the police officials to receive their bodies.

Finally, the Counter Terrorism Department of-

officials issued a letter to the morgue administration to bury the bodies.

The funeral prayers of the terrorists were offered at 4pm.

Only the employees of the welfare organisation were present at the funeral.

According to the procedure, the pictures of the bodies were taken before being buried.

Usually, bodies which are not claimed are buried by the welfare organisation in this graveyard after which a number is allotted to the grave.

If any heir contacts the welfare organisation after burial, they are apprised of the time and date.

It is pertinent to mention that the attack was claimed by the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). The names of the buried terrorists are Azal Khan Muree alias Sangat Dad, Raees Baloch and Raziq, son of Din Muhammad.



The Express Tribune, 06-02-19

Proposed acquisition

# Despite hurdles, Chinese firm keen to take over K-Electric

K-Electric CEO fears deal's failure will hurt investor confidence in Pakistan

✶ ZAFAR BHUTTA  
ISLAMABAD

Despite a long delay due to bureaucratic hurdles in some areas, Shanghai Electric Power (SEP) is still keen to acquire K-Electric, which may prove to be a game changer in efforts to transform Karachi's power infrastructure in line with international standards for a smooth electricity supply.

Talking to *The Express Tribune*, K-Electric Chief Executive Officer Moonis Alvi, who took over the charge recently, said in case the proposed acquisition of K-Electric by China's SEP failed, it would adversely affect the industrial and commercial potential of Karachi besides hurting investor confidence in Pakistan.

"The government is fully aware that this transaction will strengthen Pakistan's potential as an investment destination and it knows well that the acquisition will benefit not just Karachi, but it will also be a landmark development for the overall power sector," he said.

Alvi said SEP had expressed interest in acquiring 66.4% stake in K-Electric and the

\$1.77-billion deal would be the largest in Pakistan's private sector.

He revealed that SEP was expected to invest a further \$9 billion in transmission, distribution and generation systems in Karachi over the next 10 years. "The investment will also have a significant impact on Pakistan's GDP and greatly increase the country's chances as a favourable destination for investors."

Despite the delay attributed to red tape, Alvi saw no reason why the deal should not go ahead. "So far, SEP has consistently maintained its interest in acquiring K-Electric for the last 27 months. The final deal is subject to regulatory approvals. We are constantly engaged with various stakeholders and two outstanding issues are a sustainable multi-year tariff, in the best interest of Karachi and K-Electric customers, and a national security clearance certificate," he said.

About outstanding bills payable to K-Electric, Alvi was of the view that the dues were basically circular debt and should be treated as such. "This is clearly circular debt. The government and its entities have to pay around Rs70 billion over and above what K-Electric has to pay them," he argued.

"(K-Electric) dues towards SSGC (Sui Southern Gas

CAPITAL INJECTION

\$9b

is the investment Shanghai Electric plans to make over 10 years after K-Electric's acquisition

Company) cannot be viewed in isolation; the same treatment should be applied to all government entities that have payables towards K-Electric."

The CEO voiced hope that following a series of meetings with the government and other stakeholders, the issue of circular debt would be addressed at the earliest.

Pointing out that K-Electric had to date not paid any dividend, he emphasised that the profit declared in annual accounts had been re-invested in the business. Since 2009, when Abraaj took over management control of KES Power - the holding company of K-Electric, the utility has invested over \$2 billion across the value chain.

"This has helped add 1,057 megawatts to the generation capacity, enhancing transmission and distribution capacity by around 29% and 63% respectively and reducing transmission and distribution losses to 20%," he said.

As a result, "over 70% of Karachi including all strategic installations has been exempted from load-shedding."

Alvi called SEP an expert in its area with experience of scaling up from 3,000MW to 30,000MW in 10 years in Shanghai. "So, can you imagine what the city has already missed out due to the delay?"

He stressed that the government needed to remove all hurdles if it wanted to ensure there was no lasting negative impact on the development of Karachi and national economy.

"The delay in finalising K-Electric's multi-year tariff and subsequent delay in SEP acquisition is already impacting Karachi's power supply situation. Many of the planned investments in generation projects have been delayed. Our 900MW plant was planned for 2019 keeping in mind the growing demand," he said.

The CEO was of the view that power shortfall was inevitable and K-Electric had informed the government that it anticipated a supply shortfall of around 600MW in the summer of 2019. It was the result of delay in the tariff decision which, in turn, affected the development of K-Electric's 900MW plant. "We will engage closely with all stakeholders to address the impact of this shortfall."

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**The Express Tribune, 07-02-19**

# CPEC will boost province: Imran

PM meets BAP lawmakers; hears problems of fishermen about Eastbay Expressway



PROVINCIAL MATTERS: Prime Minister Imran Khan exchanging views with MNAs of Balochistan Awami Party. PHOTO: APP

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**  
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the process of development in Gwadar would create numerous socio-economic opportunities for the people of Balochistan.

He said uplift of the people of Balochistan, specially the technical training of youth was foremost priority of the government, adding technical colleges were being opened in Balochistan for skills training of youth in

the province.

The prime minister expressed these views while talking to members of the National Assembly belonging to Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) in Islamabad.

Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal, MNAs Sardar Muhammad Israr Tareen, Khalid Hussain Magsi, Ahsanullah Reki and Robina Irfan were present in the meeting which was also attended by Special Assistant to PM Naeemul Haq, Spokesman to PM Nadeem Afzal Chan, Malik Amir Dogar and

Arshad Dad.

During the meeting views were exchanged on matters relating to problems faced by the people of Balochistan.

**The federal government is in touch with the CM to address the problem of scarcity of water**

The prime minister said the federal government was fully cognizant of the problem of scarcity of water,

especially potable water, in Balochistan and was in touch with the chief minister to address the issue.

He said there was a need to focus on the utilisation of solar energy to meet energy requirements in the province.

Jalal apprised the prime minister of the problems of fishermen about the passageway linked with construction of Eastbay Expressway and asked for expansion of the passageway. PM Imran directed to take measures for resolving the issue.

## **The Express Tribune, 07-02-19**

### **China investigates immunoglobulin**

BEIJING/SHANGHAI. China's health authorities on Wednesday launched an investigation into a batch of human immunoglobulin for intravenous injection, which were reported to be HIV antibody positive. The drugs, carrying the batch number of 20180610Z, were manufactured by China Meheco Xinxing Pharma Co in Shanghai. Shanghai's drug watchdog has ordered the company to halt production and initiate emergency recall of its products. The National Health Commission said it has informed the National Medical Products Administration to demand medical institutions nationwide to stop using and seal products of the said batch number. The commission said the risk of HIV infection is "very low" for those who have been injected the product, based on related literatures, manufacturing technique and the pH value of the product. A follow-up monitoring plan has been made for these people, it said. XINHUA

**The Express Tribune, 07-02-19****Chinese envoy invited to celebrate Chinese New Year**

ISLAMABAD. In keeping up with the tradition to celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Deputy Chairman and CEO of the Hashoo Group Murtaza Hashwani and the General Manager of the Islamabad Marriott Hotel Maurizio Romani hosted a reception at the hotel's popular Chinese restaurant Dynasty. Members of the civil society, diplomats and a number of Chinese nationals attended the reception. Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing was the guest of honour on the occasion. The celebrations kicked off with the traditional Lion Dance, which has been a part of the Chinese culture for many centuries. Adding to the festivities, the guests experienced the debut of a special menu curated by the Executive Chinese Chef Zubin. This special menu will be available to all diners for dinner for an entire week in celebration of the Chinese New Year. PRESS RELEASE



The Express Tribune, 09-02-19

# Sanjrani calls for expediting mega projects under CPEC

Chinese envoy says Beijing offering help in public projects for less-developed areas

ISLAMABAD

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said on Friday different mega projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be expedited so that the people could reap fruits of development at the earliest.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, Sanjrani stressed the need for completing the projects for provision of clean drinking water, health care facilities, vocational training and sports infrastructure on a priority basis.

These projects, Sanjrani said, were of vital importance to Balochistan, emphasising that provision of quality health and education facilities would raise the living standard of the people.

"Projects under CPEC are not only beneficial for the people of Balochistan but also very important for economic development of different areas of the country, providing a milestone for the future de-



**Huddle:** Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani exchanges views with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing in Islamabad. PHOTO: APP

velopment of China," he said. Keeping in view the increasing requirement of health sector in the province, the Senate chairman suggested that a hospital of international standard should be set up in Balochistan in addition to the provision of added healthcare facilities to the people.

Sanjrani stressed the need for special scholarships for the students from Balochistan in cooperation of the Chinese government. "The provincial government may provide these scholarships to the students to improve the standard of education, especially in the

neglected areas," he said.

He said Balochistan offered huge investment opportunities because of the ongoing development process, particularly in the fisheries sector. "Other less-developed areas of the country should also be included in the development stream to provide better facilities at par with the developed areas."

The meeting was also attended by Balochistan Chief Secretary Dr Muhammad Nazir. The meeting was informed that a football stadium would be constructed in Quetta as a part of the sport infrastructure development

process in Balochistan.

The Senate chairman was also apprised of different projects, which were being planned by the planning and development ministry in close collaboration with the Chinese government for the less-developed areas of the country.

On this occasion, Ambassador Yao said that Pakistan and China economic partnership would be beneficial for both the countries. "The Chinese government is fully cooperating with government of Pakistan for executing public welfare projects in less-developed areas," he added. APP

**The Express Tribune, 09-02-19**

# Large-scale CPEC projects to be completed in few months

**Sukkur-Multan M-5 Motorway due to be completed by June**

ISLAMABAD

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects were progressing satisfactorily and a number of large-scale projects would be completed over the next few months, said Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy Lijian Zhao on Friday.

Addressing a seminar on 'Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Impact on Developments in South West Asia', Lijian said that the Sukkur-Multan M-5 motorway, which was the largest project under CPEC worth \$2.9 billion, was due to be completed by June, whereas Thakot-

Havelian section of Karakoram Highway was likely to be ready by the end of the year.

The seminar deliberated on the rise of China as an economic power and its political, economic, societal and technological impacts on the region as well as across the world. The 1,320MW coal-fired power plant set up at Hub would also be fully functional by "the end of spring", he added. The Chinese diplomat said that work on Karot and Suki-Kinari Power hydro-power plants and Gwadar port and Free Zone was also in progress.

He also emphasised on strengthening people-to-people contact to complement strong bilateral political, economic and strategic ties. Lijian said that since that

” The 1,320MW coal-fired power plant being set up at Hub will be fully functional by the end of spring

**Deputy Chief of Mission at Chinese Embassy Lijian Zhao**

launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, China had invested \$28.9 billion in 82 economic zones in countries that were part of the initiative with 3,995 Chinese companies setting up businesses there.

However, he maintained, Pakistan had not received investment under this head because economic zones had not started here as yet. APP



**The Express Tribune, 11-02-19**

**Beneficial** partnership

# CPEC zones 'to help bridge \$9b trade deficit'

Pakistan, China to start working jointly in agriculture sector next month: planning minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT  
LAHORE

Planning and Development Minister Khusro Bakhtiar on Sunday said that the trade deficit of \$9 billion faced by Pakistan would reduce with the economic zones being set up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) becoming operational.

The economic zones would help increase exports, which would in turn decrease the trade deficit, he said while talking to the media at the Press Information Department regional office.

The minister maintained that 19 per cent reduction in the trade deficit was recorded last month because the volume of exports had increased and imports receded.

He said Pakistan and China would also start working jointly in the agriculture sector next month.

China, he said, would also provide \$1 billion grant to Pakistan in the next three years, while around 100 Chinese investors would soon visit the country to explore opportunities in various sectors.

Khusro said Pakistan and China had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on industrial cooperation on December 20.

The PTI-led government, he said, had decided to take CPEC into a new phase by widening its scope. Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China was focused on strengthening Pakistan's economy, he added.

”China has a share of \$7b in the global trade of agriculture and livestock and \$3b in fisheries, but Pakistan has none in the two sectors

Planning and Development Minister **Khusro Bakhtiar**

He said the government was also taking effective measures to reduce the current account deficit, besides prioritising facilitation of export-oriented industries.

The minister said that initially the agriculture sector was not included in CPEC. However, the incumbent government convinced China to extend its coopera-

tion in this vital sector also. “China has a share of \$7 billion in the global trade of agriculture and livestock and \$3 billion in fisheries, but Pakistan has none in the two sectors,” remarked Khusro.

Pakistan, with the cooperation of China, was working on elimination of poverty as the neighbouring country had successfully pulled 700 million people out of poverty, he said.

A pilot project on the Chinese pattern would be initiated, which definitely would help to reduce poverty substantially, he hoped.

To a question, he said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had shown keen interest in setting up an oil city in Gwadar.

The Express Tribune, 11-02-19

# Chinese consortium devises strategy to transform PSX

## Market will be transformed by increasing retail and professional investors

by SALMAN SIDDIQUI  
KARACHI

A Chinese consortium, which bought 40% stake in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) about two years ago and lost almost half of the value to poor market performance, has devised a strategy to transform the bourse into a world-class capital market, which will automatically give a boost to the national economy.

Both the Chinese and Pakistani shareholders came to the conclusion that they should transform the PSX in the next two to three years, "which is the extent of my mandate - two years," PSX Managing Director Richard Morin said in an interview with *The Express Tribune*.

Morin, a Canadian national and first-ever foreign head of the bourse, joined the PSX in January 2018.

The key to transforming the market is to increase the number of retail and professional investors. "They (people belonging to the middle-income group earning around Rs1.5 million a year and over 10 million overseas Pakistanis) should be the driving force behind the Pakistani market and when they will do they will help transform Pakistan's economy," he said.

"Pakistan's capital market is at the centre of transformation that this country needs," he remarked.

Listed companies at the PSX, which play a significant role in economic growth every year, may attract Rs1 trillion in financing through an increase in the number of investors to at least one million from a meagre 250,000 at present.

The expected new investment would boost the average share price to multiples of around 11 to 12 of the earnings per share compared to the multiple of eight (price-to-earnings ratio) at present. It would also encourage a notable number of companies to get listed while investors were ex-

GOAL

20

is the listing of new companies the PSX is targeting every year

pected to enjoy unmatched return on investment of around 15-20% per annum, on an average, Morin said.

The market has offered, on an average, 20% return per year. "My prediction is that...the next 10 years will be similar. I think average annual return on the PSX, in my view, over the next 10 years should be what it had been in the past 10 years; something 15-20% annual return," he said.

To do all that, he emphasised, Finance Minister Asad Umar put the wheel in motion by removing two major anomalies in the second mini-budget. The minister abolished 0.02% advanced withholding tax on share sale and purchase and allowed the adjustment of losses on sales in the next three years against future profits.

"The two (measures) are in line with best international practices. It means the after-tax return will be better...to attract more investors," Morin said.

However, the need is to keep the rules consistent and these should not be changed with the change of government. "Canada has not changed its rules...since I started investing 30 years ago and I have never sold the stocks I have ever bought," he said, citing his home country's example. "This is what Pakistan needs to do; do not change rules."

"So, when we will be succeeding we will be counting investors in millions," he stressed while pointing to Bangladesh, which was a similar market like that of Pakistan, but



**ADVANTAGE:** Listed companies at the PSX, which play a significant role in economic growth, may attract Rs1 trillion in financing through an increase in the number of investors to at least one million from 250,000 at present. PHOTO: FILE

had an investor base of 2.5 million. PSX is targeting the listing of around new 20 companies a year compared to only three last year. "We are reviewing certain of our requirements to attract more start-ups, SMEs and growth companies to come to the exchange." The Chinese strategic investors bought a 40% stake in PSX at Rs28 per share in January 2017. Soon after getting listed at its own trading platform, the PSX share price faced a downturn. On Friday, the stock closed at Rs14.38 with a fresh loss of Rs0.26 and trading in just 51,000 shares.

### Game plan

Morin revealed that they had made some recommendations to the finance minister in an attempt to attract a large number of investors to the PSX. "We can persuade the finance minister that our ideas have value. If he gives the go-ahead, we will come up with more details," he said. Besides, they are working on regulations to provide a cover of up to Rs1 million to each investor in case

his broker goes bankrupt. They are also educating the middle-income group and overseas Pakistanis about benefits of investing in the PSX.

"We are reviewing investor protection fund rules to provide better protection to investors. We want to offer them the same protection in the stock market that investors enjoy in the banking sector. We have drafted the rules...will be sent to the SECP for approval by the end of March," he said.

"India provides (up to) Rs1-million protection fund to each investor, no questions are asked...we are aiming to do the same," he pointed out.

Morin emphasised that the PSX was engaged in a very constructive way with the government and the SECP to implement measures in order to promote long-term savings and investment.

"The stock market is a place where you invest to meet, what I call, life goals like down-payment for your house, sending your children for higher education and providing comfortable retirement."

Besides, the PSX is also revising rules to provide ease of opening an investment account at the bourse.

### Cross-border listing

In an effort to attract more foreign and domestic investment, Chinese and Pakistani shareholders are at an advanced stage of getting a Pakistani product - exchange-traded fund (ETF) - listed at one of the Chinese stock markets.

The ETF will buy stocks listed at the KSE 30-share Index and deposit them with a custodian in Pakistan. Later, Chinese asset management companies (AMCs) will sell ETF units in their respective markets. Simultaneously, the units will remain available for trade at a Chinese stock market like a listed firm.

Cross-border listing is one of the three major areas that Chinese strategic investors are committed to developing at the PSX. Two other areas of attention are transfer of technology and developing new products, which are in progress.

Everything is in place and ready in China to launch the ETF. It is just waiting for regulatory approval.

"Chinese cannot freely invest in overseas stocks like buying Pakistani stocks. So, the approval is required from the Chinese regulator before the ETF is offered in China," Morin said.

Similarly, the PSX management is also working on listing of an ETF at the Pakistan stock market.

PSX staff, in consultation with stakeholders, is preparing rules, which will be presented to the board and the SECP for approval by the end of March. Simultaneously, the management is in talks with four to five AMCs to offer ETF units to investors in Pakistani markets. After March, as soon as the PSX found an AMC, it would get the firm listed at the PSX trading platform, he said.

THE WRITER IS A STAFF CORRESPONDENT



**The Express Tribune, 11-02-19**

# Dream of becoming great power deters India from joining CPEC

It can pave way for regional connectivity, improvement in regional trade

**SHAKEEL AHMAD RAMAY**  
ISLAMABAD

India has been sceptical about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from its inception. It considers CPEC a stumbling block in the way of realising its dream of a great power in Asia.

For the past two decades, India has been trying to achieve high economic growth, which is a pre-requisite for gaining the status of great power. India has also expressed immense interest in matching economic advancement of China but with no success.

Although India now boasts of being able to cross China's growth rate, it could not achieve the goal of economic development similar to the rapid progress in China. In 2018, India notched up 7.5% growth, suggesting that it had beaten China where the economy grew 6.5%.

In mathematical terms, it seems fascinating, but its translation into real development does not make any difference. Calculations published in The Times of India in March 2018 categorically rejected

the idea of comparison between India and China pertaining to gains in net worth during 2017-18.

Estimates show that with 7.5% growth, India would be able to add only \$215 billion to its gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018. For China, the addition to GDP would be \$1,181 billion.

The author of a report in The Times of India highlighted that in order to match China's development, India needed to grow at a pace of 40%, which was impossible. According to the author, India needs to redesign its approach, should not strive to compare itself with China and focus on its own economic growth and development.

There is no doubt that India is an emerging economy with a rising middle class and it has its own advantages like sustainable growth. It is one of the biggest markets. But the country should play a constructive role by helping reap benefits of cooperation and economic initiatives.

Unfortunately, India's actions point to another direction. It is trying to act as a stumbling block in the region. CPEC is the latest victim of this attitude. Although some experts believe it is due to India's enmity with Pakistan, it does not reflect the full story.

**The World Bank in 2014 estimated that South Asia needed \$1.7-2.5 trillion to improve its infrastructure related to transport, services and other areas till 2020**

India considers CPEC as a hurdle in the way of becoming a great power in Asia. Therefore, Delhi deems it necessary to make CPEC a failure.

However, sane voices in India are highlighting the other direction. They are asking their government to be partner in CPEC and reap enormous benefits of economic development under the programme.

Ex-diplomat Shyam Saran points out that looking at the financial health of India, it will be wise to be part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) including CPEC, which provides opportunities. It can pave the way for regional connectivity and improvement in regional trade, which at present is very low compared to other regions of the world.

The World Bank estimates there is only 5% intra-regional trade in South Asia compared to 25% in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc. Regional in-

vestment also shows a sorry state of affairs as it is less than 1%.

In order to improve regional connectivity, there is a need to improve transport and related infrastructure. South Asia is lagging far behind in this area.

The World Bank in 2014 estimated that South Asia needed \$1.7-2.5 trillion to improve its infrastructure related to transport, services and other areas till 2020. Spread annually over all these years, it shows that every year South Asia will have to invest 6.6-9.9% of its cumulative GDP.

A worrying factor is that the lack of investment increases the cost of investment. Pakistan and India, which are major economies in South Asia due to their high population and growing middle class, have to take major steps to bring improvement in the region.

## **Opportunity**

CPEC provides the region with an opportunity to take benefit of the gigantic project and become part of the greater BRI. Although CPEC will not be able to provide all the required investment, it will help to cover a substantial part of it. By recognising this fact, Pakistan has become part of CPEC.

In recent years, Pakistan has immensely benefited from investment in energy and transport infrastruc-

ture. It is also advisable for India to be part of it and gain advantages. Its inclusion will also clear the way for other regional countries to embrace CPEC, resulting in a smooth sailing for the economic corridor and the BRI.

Moreover, if India joins CPEC, it will open doors of opportunities for connectivity with the Central Asian states. It will open Afghanistan and Central Asian markets for India. India is craving for many years to enter Afghanistan and Central Asia and CPEC is the answer.

It will also be beneficial for other regional countries as it will open markets for Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Fortunately, China and Pakistan are willing to include India or any other country in CPEC. Both countries have emphasised many a time that CPEC is a project of the future and for everyone. However, India's self-perceived fears and assumptions are a major obstacle.

The South Asian region needs an investment of \$1.7-2.5 trillion only in infrastructure. It does not include investment in education, health care, skill development and human capital development. The addition of these may increase the investment level to \$3-5 trillion.

THE WRITER IS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AT ZALMI FOUNDATION

**The Express Tribune, 15-02-19**

**ECP DIRECTIVE**

# 1,164

parliamentarians' membership has been restored on submission of their statements of assets and liabilities to the election commission. APP

## Chinese survey ship visits Pakistan



NEWS DESK. The China Geological Survey Research Ship (CGS) 'Hai Yang Di Zhi Shi Hao' visited Pakistan for hydrocarbon research and geological mapping with the support of Pakistan Navy. The expedition, in which the CGS ship conducted various seismic and oceanographic observations in Pakistan's offshore area, was conducted by Chinese scientists along with the participation of scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography, Pakistan Navy said in a statement on Thursday. According to the communiqué, the acquired data will be jointly processed by Pakistani and Chinese scientists, "This expedition is in line with growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of geological survey and oceanography," it said. "This cooperation in the field of offshore research will continue in future and another expedition from CGS has also been planned in the near future." It is expected, the statement added, that these expeditions will assist in resource mapping of our offshore areas.



**The Express Tribune, 15-02-19**

# Iran expresses desire to join CPEC

**Ambassador says Iran's support necessary for completion of project**

**MOHAMMAD ZAFAR**  
QUETTA

Iran on Thursday expressed its desire to become a part of the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The development took place during a meeting of Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost with members of the Pak-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Pak-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Haji Wali Noorzai, Iranian Consul General Agha Muhammad Rafiee, QCCI President Haji Jumma Badezai and members of the trade

community were present.

"We believe CPEC is a very important and giant project which can greatly impact peace and cooperation among countries in the region," said the ambassador. "Iran is an important country in the region with great potential and capabilities like transit line and all other resources."

Honardoost even went as far as saying that "may be without the energy and transit support of Iran, the multi-billion dollar project will not reach its final stage".

"We are ready to be a part of CPEC with all our capabilities and resources," he added.

On Wednesday's suicide attack on a convoy of Iran's Revolutionary Guards in Sistan Baluchestan, the ambassador said, "Unfortunately, Iran's bordering region re-

**”We are ready to be a part of CPEC with all our capabilities and resources**

**Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost**

mains in the grip of terrorism, but Pak-Iran forces have commenced bilateral contact after the attack.

"Both Islamic countries are plagued by terrorism which has become a common phenomenon of this region," said Honardoost, urging regional partners to launch joint efforts to root out terrorism.

He reiterated his trust in Pakistani forces to take decisive action against terrorists hiding in Pak-Iran bordering towns. To a query regarding

Saudi Arabia's investment plan near the Iran border, Honardoost said, "Regional cooperation is one of the best ways to overcome poverty and other problems in the region and we are optimistic that one day cooperation and interaction among all countries will come to one point.

During the meeting, the QCCI and Pak-Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industry members discussed Pak-Iran trade activities and informed about their woes at the Taftan border.

Assuring Iran's full cooperation in increasing trade with Pakistan, the ambassador said, "Due to American sanctions, Pak-Iran trade will take time to strengthen, but the Iranian government is willing to boost bilateral trade with Pakistan up to \$5 billion."

## The Express Tribune, 15-02-19

Yasir Masood

### Peace prospects in Afghanistan: potentials for BRI and CPEC



With the advent of multipolarity, states relations are perpetually evolving, and hence adding new connotations to its theories and application. The contemporary world order, though, renews our shades of analysis, especially when the states sharply shuffle priorities pertaining to their actions and aims. In the emerging multipolar milieu, China has long been embarking on "peaceful co-existence" and "community of shared future for all," which are not only the prime principles of its foreign policy but these traits are now squarely contributing to anchoring the multipolar world order. Realising the worth of these trends, the global populace calls for peace and stability to be championed and not the trite 'zero-sum' tactics which have been posing perennial inflictions upon global harmony.

Feeling the 'headwinds' and 'tailwinds' of the dominating powers, a war-ravaged Afghanistan has also been striving for peace and stability for the last 40 years or so. Sweeping aside the other factors, two reasons can be zoomed in on which turned out to be the major irritants in achieving promising peace in Afghanistan. The 'unilateral' interests of the regional states not only (a) exploited but kept lingering on the internal discord among Afghans and (b) the so-called 'competing rationale' of extra-regional players also kept the country in its downward spiral on external fronts.

Moreover, the post-9/11 era further dragged the country into tumult through the US and its allies over the un-called for and unjustified objectives like; 1) liberating the people of Afghanistan from the chains of terrorism and extremism; 2) bringing 'true' democracy and; 3) developing Afghanistan and the region as a whole. However, the last 17 years-plus presence of the American, Nato forces, contractors and mercenaries completely failed to achieve any of the mentioned objectives, instead, the country and the region have witnessed the opposite of the so-called rationale of the US' war and stay in Afghanistan.

Positively, a ray of hope has finally peeped out from the tunnel of conflict and chaos in Afghanistan with the eventual acceptance of the Taliban by the Trump administration as a political, social and religious entity. After marathon discussions in Qatar on January 26, 2019, the US-Taliban talks appeared closer to a pact setting out the possible withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The Taliban has also consented that they will not allow terrorist groups to use Afghan territory to stage attacks against the US and its allies and that they will keep the Daesh and al Qaeda off its soil with further assurance that no attacks will be orchestrated against Pakistan and the region at large. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Donald Trump reaffirmed on Twitter the pulling out of all the US troops from Afghanistan and also admitted in his State of the Union speech on February 5<sup>th</sup> to pursue a political solution to the Afghan bloodshed. This clearly reflects the haste on the part of the Trump administration to exit from the troubled land.

However, the daunting task of how the Ghani-led administration and the Taliban could converge for lasting peace is yet to be worked out especially when the Kabul government has shown serious reservations on being left out from the peace talks. The recent Moscow summit between the Taliban and top Afghan powerbrokers is a step in the right direction. Albeit, the major responsibility to bring an all-inclusive peace headway must be responsibly shouldered by the US along with the regional stakeholders.

From Pakistan's perspective, it is indeed a monumental diplomatic victory while playing a leading role in this peace prospects along with the backing of China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE. Pakistan's efforts of promoting peace must be lauded internationally, especially when of late, it didn't succumb to the immense pressures exerted by the US in the form of threats over Twitter and even of military action, cutting off military and economic aid if it didn't comply, scapegoating the former for its own flascos in Afghanistan and so on. Pakistan heroically resisted these American hostile moves while holding to its principal stance of a political resolution to the Afghan conundrum.

History is witness to the fact that China has always helped Pakistan in the times of test and tribulations. In these difficult times too, China has outrightly supported Pakistan and with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) up and running along with the continued diplomatic, military, strategic and financial support from its 'Iron Brothers' has further vindicated Pakistan's stance for a negotiated settlement to the Afghan conflict.

For regional growth, security and economy complement each other. A precursor to a thriving economy is a harmonious and secure region. Likewise, foreign policy necessitates timely and prudent decision-making at critical junctures which bear fruits in the long run. The true objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) translate into the promotion of peace and prosperity. And with the CPEC execution, it is an opportune time for both China and Pakistan to continue collaborating to help the Afghans. Naturally, a stable Afghanistan is indeed central to the expansion of the BRI as the former is ideally located at the node of Central and South Asia. Additionally, the BRI carries the essential concept of its 'cross-continental-connectivity' which ideally is not only aimed to uproot the existential threats of insecurities but also to strengthen the socioeconomic fabric of the societies. Afghanistan is considered a natural partner to the CPEC's connectivity, often termed 'CPEC-plus' and China too fully endorses this proposition. In a trilateral dialogue between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan held at Islamabad in November last year, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing remarked:

"Afghanistan can also act as a bridge to help expand connectivity between East, South and Central Asian regions. It [Afghanistan] would benefit from joining CPEC and BRI as the projects aim at social and economic development in Pakistan and would provide more trade opportunities."

In the event of Taliban probably becoming a major power sharer in the next government, this would be an ideal time to persuade them along with the other expected shareholders about the socioeconomic benefits of the BRI and CPEC. For China to successfully implement the BRI sans security threats and with the possible CPEC extension to Afghanistan would further open the doors of prosperity to the region and beyond.

The writer works as a deputy director Media and Publications at CPEC-Centre of Excellence, Islamabad. He is also an Academic, a Foreign Affairs and Geo-political analyst. He tweets at ScholarYK



### **The Nation, 01-02-19**

#### **China tops world's gold consumers for 6th year**

BEIJING: China's gold consumption rose 5.73 percent year on year to 1,151.43 tons in 2018 on the back of strong domestic demand, making the country the world's biggest gold consumer for the sixth straight year, industry data showed Thursday. Consumption of gold jewelry went up 5.71 percent to 736.29 tons, while that for gold bars rose 3.19 percent to 285.2 tons, said the China Gold Association. Consumption for industrial and other uses surged 17.48 percent to 105.94 tons. Last year, China's gold output went down 5.87 percent to 401.12 tons, but it still retained its position as the world's biggest producer for the 12th consecutive year.– Xinhua

China adopted new rules in 2016 to raise environmental requirements on solid waste from gold prospecting, leading to a wave of gold mine closures and output declines in the major producing provinces, including Shandong, Jiangxi and Hunan.

### **The Nation, 01-02-19**

#### **LUMS organizes conference on CPEC**

LAHORE (PR): China Pakistan Management Initiative (CPMI) at Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) recently organized its first conference on 'China Pakistan Economic Corridor: Managing the Change.

The aim of the conference was to bring together ideas and opinions from academics, policymakers and practitioners informing industry practices and policy in order to extract maximum benefits from this major international initiative in the best possible manner. The conference was attended by faculty members of LUMS and other academic institutions, representatives from policymaking bodies, representatives from Pakistani and Chinese industry as well as professionals from the services sector. Dr. Omair Haroon, Director CPMI, welcomed the participants and guests, stressing the need for the Pakistani industry and businessmen to adapt to the changing business landscape of the country. He offered ideas on how academics from LUMS and other institutions can contribute towards successful implementation of CPEC projects. He also emphasized the need for stronger linkages between academia, industry and government for effective economic management in the country.

Dr. Arshad Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, LUMS, delivered the opening remarks. He described how the Chinese were able to lift their economy through purposefulness and dedication in the areas of

education, technology and infrastructure development. He alluded to the opportunities for Pakistanis to learn from the success China has had in these areas. Later on the keynote address was delivered by Mr. Shah Jahan Mirza, the MD of Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB). He updated the participants on the developments in the energy sector in Pakistan and clarified several misconceptions that people have regarding Chinese investments in this sector. The address was followed by a discussion by representatives from the Federal and Punjab government who informed the participants about challenges being faced by our policymakers and implementation agencies related to CPEC projects. Another discussion revealed the challenges and opportunities faced by professional service providers with the increasing presence of Chinese businesses and industry in Pakistan. The discussants included Mr. Jafar Hussain, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, among other noted finance, accounting, consulting and tax practitioners.

The afternoon of the first day was dedicated to academic presentations by scholars in the areas of economics, finance, operations, political science and policy. The presenter's suggested that streamlining of Pakistani bureaucratic structure, infrastructure developments and synergized policymaking as key to successful completion and operation of CPEC-related projects.

Day two of the conference was focused on how industry in Pakistan can be facilitated to achieve its growth potential. A panel of representatives from Chinese corporations working in Pakistan described the opportunities Pakistani market offers to foreign investors and what factors impede such investments. Dr. Asad Zaman, Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and Mr. Muhammad Ali Malik, Executive Director, State Bank of Pakistan described the structural changes in our financial system to facilitate financial integration with Chinese systems for efficient and effective economic cooperation. Mr. Risha Moheyddin, Global Treasurer, Habib Bank Limited and Mr. Asim Nagi, CFO of Adamjee Insurance offered their insights from commercial banking and insurance sectors on the issues of financial integration and facilitation of CPEC projects.

The conference was well received and generated several policy insights for improved management and execution of CPEC projects.

### **The Nation, 01-02-19**

#### **China funded solar-powered in Zambia**

CHINGOLA: - About 1,830 solar-powered milling plants have so far been constructed in various parts of Zambia out of the earmarked 2,000, an official said on Thursday. The construction of the

milling parts, which is being funded at a cost of 200 million U.S. dollars from China, is intended to ease the problem of access to milling plants, especially in rural parts of the country. Bright Mapipo, president of the Zambia Cooperative Federation, which is spearheading the project, said the Chinese contractor, Shandong Contractor, has been faithful in executing its mandate and that the milling plants were operational, with only 170 remaining to be completed.

“The solar-powered hammer mills will reduce the cost of mealie-meal, especially in rural and peri-urban areas where most of our small-scale farmers are concentrated,” he said. The Chinese contractor, he said, has also completed the construction of provincial centers for hammer mills operators, warehouse for spare parts and installation of hammer mills. The building of provincial training centers is part of the package by the Chinese contractor to ensure that locals are able to man the milling facilities and as part of skills transfer, he added.

### **The Nation, 01-02-19**

#### **China to further step up IPR protection**

BEIJING - China will take more effective measures to strengthen protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in legislation, the justice system and law enforcement, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said Thursday. MOC spokesperson Gao Feng told a press conference that more efforts would be made to improve IPR reviews, introduce punitive damages and crack down on IPR violations.

IPR protection is a significant part of the draft foreign investment law that will be reviewed by lawmakers at the annual session of the National People’s Congress slated for March. “It will be an important step in the transition of China’s opening-up from being commodity and factor-centered to rules-based, providing a solid legal guarantee for opening-up at a higher level,” Gao said. “The MOC will cooperate with the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress to ensure the law is approved at an early date.

We will also work with other departments to make enforceable regulations and put into place all institutional arrangements provided in the law, in a bid to build a better environment that is more stable, transparent, predictable and fair for foreign investment,” the spokesperson said.

China has made tremendous achievements in IPR protection in recent years, Gao said. Multiple intellectual property laws in line with international rules have been passed or amended; specialized courts have been set up in major cities including Beijing and Shanghai. The government has also firmly acted against intellectual property infringement.

The Nation, 01-02-19**CHINA'S SPACE STATION IN ARGENTINA IS A 'BLACK BOX'**AGENCIES  
CHINA

When China built a military-run space station in Argentina's Patagonian region it promised to include a visitors' center to explain the purpose of its powerful 16-story antenna. The center is now built — behind the 8-foot barbed wire fence that surrounds the entire space station compound. Visits are by appointment only.

Shrouded in secrecy, the compound has stirred unease among local residents, fueled conspiracy theories and sparked concerns in the Trump administration about its true purpose, according to interviews with dozens of residents, current and former Argentine government officials, U.S. officials, satellite and astronomy specialists and legal experts.

The station's stated aim is peaceful space observation and exploration and, according to Chinese media, it played a key role in China's landing of a spacecraft on the dark side of the moon in January. But the remote 200-hectare compound operates with little oversight by the Argentine authorities, according to hundreds of pages of Argentine government documents obtained by Reuters and reviewed by international law experts.

President Mauricio Macri's former foreign minister, Susana Malcorra, said in an interview that Argentina has no physical oversight of the station's operations. In 2016, she revised the China space station deal to include a stipulation it be for civilian use only.

"It really doesn't matter what it says in the contract or in the agreement," said Juan Uriburu, an Argentine lawyer who worked on two major Argentina-China joint ventures. "How do you make sure they play by the rules?"

"I would say that, given that one of the actors involved in the agreements reports directly to the Chinese military, it is at least intriguing to see that the Argentine government did not deal with this issue with greater specificity," he said. Argentina's Congress did not approve the station until February 2015 but construction work had begun in the summer of 2013.

By early 2017, most of the buildings appeared to be structurally complete. At least 300 Argentine construction workers assisted on the site, according to CONAE, before the project was handed over to Chinese management. Today, there are 30 Chinese staff members who work and live at the station, Las Lajas Mayor María Espinosa said. Satellite images courtesy of DigitalGlobe, a Maxar company.

China's space program is run by its military, the People's Liberation Army. The Patagonian station is managed by the China Satellite Launch and Tracking Control General (CLTC), which reports to the PLA's Strategic Support Force. Beijing insists its space program is for peaceful purposes and its foreign ministry in a statement stressed the Argentine station is for civilian use only. It said the station was open to the public and media.

"The suspicions of some individuals have ulterior motives," the ministry said. Asked how it ensures the station is not used for military purposes, Argentina's space agency CONAE said the agreement between the two countries stated their commitment to "peaceful



use" of the project. It said radio emissions from the station were also monitored, but radio astronomy experts said the Chinese could easily hide illicit data in these transmissions or add encrypted channels to the frequencies agreed upon with Argentina.

CONAE also said it had no staff permanently based at the station, but they made "periodic" trips there. The United States has long been worried about what it sees as China's strategy to "militarize" space, according to one U.S. official, who added there was reason to be skeptical of Beijing's insistence that the Argentine base was

strictly for exploration. Other U.S. officials who spoke to Reuters expressed similar concerns.

"The Patagonia ground station, agreed to in secret by a corrupt and financially vulnerable government a decade ago, is another example of opaque and predatory Chinese dealings that undermine the sovereignty of host nations," said Garrett Marquis, spokesman for the White House National Security Council. All of the ESA governments play by democratic rules. The party is not the state. But that's not the case in China. The party is the state."

Some radio astronomy experts said U.S. con-

cerns were overblown and the station was probably as advertised — a scientific venture with Argentina — even if its 35-meter diameter dish could eavesdrop on foreign satellites. Tony Beasley, director of the U.S. National Radio Astronomy Observatory, said the station could, in theory, "listen" to other governments' satellites, potentially picking up sensitive data. But that kind of listening could be done with far less sophisticated equipment. "Anyone can do that. I can do that with a dish in my back yard, basically," Beasley said. "I don't know that there's anything particularly sinister or troubling about any part of China's space radio network in Argentina."

Argentine officials have defended the Chinese station, saying the agreement with China is similar to one signed with the European Space Agency, which built a station in a neighboring province. Both have 50-year, tax-free leases. Argentine scientists in theory have access to 10 percent of the antenna time at both stations. The law experts who reviewed the documents said there is one notable difference: ESA is a civilian agency.

"All of the ESA governments play by democratic rules," Uriburu said. "The party is not the state. But that's not the case in China. The party is the state." In the United States, NASA, like the ESA, is a civilian agency, while the U.S. military has its own space command for military or national security missions. In some instances, NASA and the military have collaborated, said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

The Nation, 01-02-19**Expert develops "green printing" tech in China**

WUHAN - With the latest laser imaging technology developed by Peter Bennett and his Chinese partners, printing will have a more energy-efficient and environment-friendly future.

The new technology is called "miracle plate technology," or ultrafast laser imaging technology. Trial production of printing plates will start later this year in China with the use of the technology, said the British printing expert.

"With this technology, the printing process will consume less electricity, produce less wastewater and exhaust gas and recycle printing plates more efficiently compared with the current technology," Bennett explained.

However, such a big achievement would be impossible without Bennett's collaboration with his Chinese colleagues as well as the policy and financial support from the Chinese government and institutions.

Bennett earned a PhD in chemistry at Oxford University. He joined the printing plate manufacturing company Horsell Graphics in 1987 and after a 1998 acquisition, left as UK R&D director for Kodak's Graphic Arts joint venture in 2002 to pursue an MBA and establish his worldwide consulting business. His business in China began in 2006 when he was hired as a printing technology consultant by one of the world's top press manufacturers to support a private company in Zhengzhou, capital of the central Henan Province, in developing a Computer To Plate product.

In 2007, he applied for an EU-funded research project, enabling him to do research on ultrafast laser printing technology in collaboration with the laser lab at Liverpool University, where he met Liu Dun, a Chinese PhD candidate in laser application. Liu has been a key research partner of Bennett's ever since. "Our research has achieved interdisciplinary integration. This is quite necessary for the development of disruptive technologies," Bennett said.

In 2010, Bennett encountered financing difficulty after his research fund ran out. He and Liu decided to go to China where the Computer to Plate market was still in a steep growth phase.

"Liu told me that China's printing industry was expanding quickly. He invited me to come to China, where we might create wonders," Bennett said.

They were drawn to Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, where the high-tech development zone "Optics Valley of China" is located. The city provides financial support and living subsidies for high-level talent, and the industrial concentration of the city is a key attraction.

They set up a Sino-Britain ultrafast laser processing center with Hubei Technology University, where they also teach. Liu registered Wuhan Jindun Laser Technology Co., Ltd. and Bennett works as the company's research and development director.

"I feel very lucky to participate in the research and development of this disruptive technology," said Liu. "Without international technological cooperation, I might just be working as a teacher or researcher at a university." Compared with investors in some developed economies, Chinese investors are more open to new technologies and their curiosity is strong, according to Bennett.

In Wuhan, the two would often attend startup events and lectures given by entrepreneurs and professors, which inspired them a lot.

"As a new round of technological and industrial revolutions advance, the printing sector faces an upgrade," said Bennett.

"The green, environment-friendly and sustainable technology we have developed will reduce the chemical pollution of the printing process and thus it has broad prospects."

### **The Nation, 01-02-19**

#### **Over 400-year-old stone tablet found in China**

SHIJIAZHUANG - Archaeologists found a stone tablet dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in a village in northern China's Hebei Province, the local cultural relics protection department said Thursday.

The tablet, which is believed to be made while Emperor Wanli was in power, has a history of 418 years.

The tablet, 310 cm in height, 88 cm in width and 23 cm thick, was found in Huaizhuang Village in Sansi Township, Nanhe County. It was well preserved with a clear inscription on it.

The inscription has a total of 729 characters that described the social situation at that time and the process of building a temple.

The temple mentioned in the inscription was also built during Emperor Wanli's rule, but only a small part of the ancient temple has been preserved so far, said Lan Jianhui, a history expert in the city of Xingtai.

The tablet will provide valuable material for research on the religious traditions and on the changes of the administrative division in the region, according to Lan.

### **The Nation, 02-02-19**

#### **Baidu plans new AI cloud computing center in China**

SHIJIAZHUANG-Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) giant Baidu has decided to set up an AI cloud computing center in the northern Chinese city Baoding in its latest efforts to build more smart cities.



The AI cloud computing center is super-large in scale and will serve users in the Xiongan New Area and other places in north China by leveraging its mega pool of data and high-performance computing power, according to a strategic cooperation MOU inked Thursday by Baidu and the government of Baoding city, Hebei Province.

The Baoding center will be Baidu's second mega cloud-computing center after the landmark one in Shanxi Province's Yangquan City. The two centers are physical manifestations of the firm's AI-based artificial neural network Baidu Brain.

The two parties also work on using AI technologies to improve traffic monitoring and management to turn the city into a pilot for smart transport development.

The partnership is part of Baidu's "ACE" program launched last November, which aims to promote autonomous driving, connected roads and efficient cities. More scenarios and opportunities will be explored to apply AI in urban development, said Baidu founder and CEO Robin Li, who reset the company's vision last month, aiming to turn the company into a world-class high-tech firm that not only understand users, but also provides products enabling personal growth.

### **The Nation, 04-02-19**

#### **China's services sector moderates in Jan**

BEIJING - China's sprawling services sector maintained a solid pace of expansion in January even though growth moderated slightly, a private survey showed on Sunday, offering continued support for the world's second-largest economy as manufacturing cools. The Caixin/Markit services purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell slightly to 53.6 in January from 53.9 in December, but well above the 50.0 mark separating growth from contraction.

Overseas sales continued to support the sector, with new export business rising at the fastest clip in more than a year, thanks to efforts among Chinese services firms to attract foreign clients. Overall new orders also ticked higher, to 52.6 from 52.3 in December.

The resilience of the services sector, which accounts for more than half of China's gross domestic product, is key to countering the ongoing slowdown in manufacturing.

Chinese factories have been hit by a long-term restructuring of industries, a crackdown on pollution and China's trade tensions with the United States.

“Overall, China’s economic growth was weighed on by weakening domestic demand in January, although exports improved marginally as the Sino-U.S. trade negotiations flagged signs of progress,” said Zhong Zheng sheng, director of macroeconomic analysis at CEBM Group.

China’s policies to support domestic demand and developments in the trade war “will remain key to the prospects of the Chinese economy. Given that the government has refrained from taking policies of strong stimulus, the downward trend of the economy may be hard to turn around for the time being,” Zhong said.

Caixin’s composite manufacturing and services PMI, also released on Sunday, slipped to 50.9 in January from 52.2 in December. The January manufacturing PMI, announced on Friday, was 48.3, the lowest since February 2016.

Beijing has taken a raft of measures in the past year to encourage growth - reducing the levels of cash that banks must hold as reserves to spur lending, cutting taxes and fees, and expediting infrastructure spending.

Resolving trade tensions with the United States remains key to improving sentiment and lifting the outlook for Chinese exporters.

Illustrating how China’s services sector is holding up, services firms added to their payroll numbers in January. Inflation pressures eased, with operating costs and output charges rising at a slower pace.

Caixin’s upbeat readings for services were consistent with a official survey published on Thursday that showed the industry picked up for a second straight month in January.

China unveils tax cuts for graduates, low-income workers

China will introduce tax breaks for small businesses run by recent graduates and low-income workers, according to a joint ministry announcement, as the country looks to boost spending and offset an economic slowdown.

Earlier this month China’s state planner said it would prioritize graduates and migrant workers in efforts to combat unemployment, which rose in the December quarter amid shrinking factory orders and lower consumer spending.

The cuts will target university graduates, self-employed people and those who have been unemployed for more than six months, said the Ministry of Finance, State Administration of Taxation and other departments in a joint statement released on Saturday.

People who are eligible for the scheme can deduct a total of 12,000 yuan (\$1,779.73) from the taxes of their household over three years. The cuts take effect from January 1 and run until the end of 2021.

Companies who hire people designated as “needy” will also qualify for a tax deduction of 6,000 yuan per person per year for three years.

China has said it will introduce new stimulus measures this year after the Sino-U.S. trade war took a heavy toll on the economy in 2018.

The Finance Ministry this month said it will implement larger tax and fee cuts, targeting small firms and manufacturers, while the country’s state planner has unveiled incentives to boost retail spending.

### **The Nation, 04-02-19**

#### **China customs seizes 8 ivory items**

BEIJING:-Nanning Customs in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has seized eight ivory products, it announced Sunday. The eight ivory bracelets weighing a total 577.1 grams were found inside four coffee packages carried by a foreign passenger. The customs has handed over the items to the anti-smuggling department for further investigation. China banned all domestic ivory trade at the end of 2017 as part of its commitment to protecting wild animals.

### **Daily Times, 04-02-19**

#### **China’s economic slowdown will not hurt CPEC: Pakistan Economic Watch**

The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said global economic problems, Chinese economic slowdown, and Pakistan’s internal problems will not hurt China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan is facing a shortage of foreign exchange, running a large deficit, and other problems which will not hit the pace of progress on the economic corridor, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that the European economy is weakening since 2017; the Japanese economy is also going down while global GDP has taken a blow by the trade war initiated by the US president.

The US trade war will keep the global GDP down for a few years while some nations will still be able to ensure their growth.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the Chinese economy is on the lowest since the last three decades but its growth rate is still double the expansion in the GDP of Europe.

He said that the Chinese economic slowdown is serious which has worried many countries but it has enough reserves to keep critical projects on track.

In Pakistan the political tensions and economic situation will not derail or interrupt the world's biggest ongoing developmental project, he added.

He said that all the elements including enemy nations, opponents of the economic corridor and others have so far failed to slow the pace of the project.

Thousands of kilometers of roads, Gwadar Port, power plants, optic fiber cable, up gradation of railway and other initiatives will enhance lives of millions in Pakistan and billions across the world.

### **The Nation, 05-02-19**

#### **Pakistan invited to participate in second China Import Expo**

BEIJING - Pakistan has formally been invited to participate in the second China International Import Expo (CIIE), scheduled to be held in early November in Shanghai this year.

“We have received a formal invitation and the ministry of commerce and other concerned departments have started preparations,” official sources told APP here on Monday.

The import expo would provide a good chance to our manufacturers and producers to showcase their products at the expo in a bid to enhance exports to China.

Last year, Pakistan had established a pavilion at the first expo and a number of Pakistani companies participated and displayed their products in order to gain access to the Chinese market.

The Chinese government had granted the status of “Guest of honor” to Pakistan to ensure the provision of all possible facilities and benefits to the Pakistani business community.

According to the organizers, more than 500 companies from all over the world had confirmed participation in the second expo. The companies were from more than 40 countries and regions, including over 70 Fortune Global 500 firms and leading enterprises in various industries.

About 80 percent of the companies participated in the first CIIE, and most of them planned to expand their exhibition area this year.

A total of 172 countries, regions and international organizations and more than 3,600 enterprises participated in the first CIIE, held on November 5-10 last year in Shanghai. It was the world's first import-themed national-level expo.

### The Nation, 05-02-19

## Pakistanis jubilant over Chinese New Year festival

INP  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani nation stand by their Chinese friends, while they are enjoying their New Year (Spring Festival) that falls on February 5.

Both, the government and the people of Pakistan feel immense pleasure, joining the Chinese people on their annual festivity.

In their news reports and special columns, print and electronic media have also greeted their Chinese friends on their New Year.

Conveying the sentiments of joy on the Chinese New Year, Pakistani officials and private circles in their separate messages hoped that China will continue to grow as a prosperous nation in the years to come.

It was hoped that collective and individual life of the Chinese people will be full of happiness and they will stand high in comity of the nations.

In his message, President Arif Alvi greeted the Chinese government and the Chinese people on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

The message says, "On behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan, I must extend my heartfelt felicitation to the government of China and the people of China."

The friendship between Pakistan and China is "very important and valuable," the president told the Chinese media.

After decades of reform and opening-up, China has made tremendous progress and contributed greatly to poverty alleviation, he added.

The most remarkable idea of China to open up is the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as the CPEC, he said.

Alvi believed that the future of Pakistan-China relations will keep on developing towards prosperity of the two peoples.

In Beijing, Pakistan Ambassador, Masood Khalid has warmly greeted the Chinese nation on New Year that falls on February 5 this year.

In the video interview, he vividly relates the folktale depicting the origin of the Chinese Spring Festival.

He believes that Spring Festival doesn't only have a great impact on Chinese culture and society; its influence has extended to the cultures of neighbouring countries where Lunar Chinese New Year is also celebrated.

The ambassador regarded Chinese culture as a good reflection of the country's long and rich history. "It is a civilization which has made an imprint on global culture", the ambassador said.

Chinese Lunar New Year or 'Spring Festival' is China's most important festival and holiday time. People hang red lanterns for the upcoming Spring Festival at the gate of houses, shops and streets to celebrate the spring festival all across the country.

### **The Nation, 05-02-19**

#### **China achieves real-time transmission of deep-sea data**

QINGDAO: China has achieved real-time transmission of deep-sea data at 6,000-meter depth through its self-developed Bei Dou satellites for the first time, a move essential to more secure, independent and reliable deep-sea data transmission. China's most sophisticated research vessel Kexue (Science) returned to the eastern port city of Qingdao on Thursday after wrapping up a 74-day, 12,000-nautical mile expedition. During the trip, Chinese scientists maintained and upgraded the country's scientific observation network in the West Pacific, according to the Institute of Oceanology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

### **The Nation, 06-02-19**

#### **CPEC phase-I to complete till Oct 2019: China**

ABBOTTABAD - Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing on Tuesday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-I would be completed till October 2019.

“Abbottabad is the gateway to CPEC. China completely support Kashmiri’s struggle,” he said while talking to media persons after Chinese New Year celebrations.

He further said that they have enjoyed a lot the celebrations of the new Chinese year in Abbottabad adding that CPEC played vital role between China Pakistan relations and we would increase cooperation in other sectors.

Ambassador Yao Jing maintained that China would continue its support for the development of education sector in Pakistan. He said that China Pakistan relations were exemplary in the world and the friendship would continue.

Earlier, on his arrival at Pak China Public School, Abbottabad, Speaker KP Assembly Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani welcomed the ambassador and a cake cutting ceremony was also held in connection with the new Chinese calendar year where a large number of Chinese workers from different projects were also present



**The Nation, 06-02-19****China sees lunar year a message for world prosperity**

INP  
BEIJING

China's Lunar Year, began yesterday, will usher in new era, bringing a message of prosperity and well-being for the entire humanity, said a spokesperson of the State Council.

China sees consistent economic growth in the coming years. Its ample potential for investment could have a major upside for global economic growth in 2019 when observers are raising the risk of a further slowdown. According to the spokesperson, China's strong consumption momentum is a blessing for the world.

A case in point is that during the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in Shanghai held last year, deals worth about 57.83 billion U.S. dollars were made, benefiting 3,617 foreign exhibitors and more than 400,000 buyers from home and abroad.

The second CIIE scheduled for November 2019 will be better than last year's session, with further opening-up measures. Shanghai will put into practice 100 measures to support further opening up this year. According to the CIIE bureau, more than 500 companies from more than 40 countries and regions have confirmed participation in the 2019 CIIE.

Chinese authorities last month pledged an array of measures to boost consumption as part of the efforts to support the economy.

With stable debt levels, China has more room for effective investments to shore up growth, while a better environment for foreign investors is also foreseeable as the country opens up further to the world.

With stable economic growth and easier market access, China bucked the global foreign direct investment slide in 2018, as the largest investment recipient in the world.

In 2019, foreign businesses are set to reap more benefits from China's continued efforts to widen market access and build a better business environment.

One of the highlights will be a unified foreign investment law that aims to adopt a model of pre-established national treatment with a negative list and strengthened protection of property rights for companies with foreign investments.

**The Nation, 06-02-19****Australia targets Chinese tourist groups with funding boost**

CANBERRA-The Australian government has announced 11 million Australian dollars (7.92 million U.S. dollars) in additional funding to lure Chinese tourism groups to the country. Simon Birmingham, the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, unveiled the boost for the Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) on Tuesday, saying it accounted for one quarter of the annual Chinese visitors to Australia.

According to Tourism Australia 1.42 million people visited Australia from China in the 12 months to September 2018, spending 11.5 billion AUD (8.28 billion USD).

Birmingham said those who came via the ADS spent an average of 865 AUD (623 USD) per night in Australia, promising that the additional investment would "pay for itself many times over."

The ADS has been a huge success story helping to lure and facilitate the travel of many Chinese tourists on tours to Australia, he said in a statement on Tuesday.

"It's a major reason why China is Australia's fastest growing and highest spending inbound tourism market. Australia's scheme is regarded as best practice with strict accreditation requirements and ongoing monitoring of tour operators helping to ensure Chinese travellers who visit Australia on a tour get the highest possible quality tourism experience.

"China still presents enormous opportunities for growth and the more tour groups we can attract to Australia under the ADS, the more tourism dollars injected into Australian businesses and our economy." David Coleman, the Minister for Immigration, re-affirmed the government's commitment to making it as easy as possible to travel between China and Australia.

"In addition to the ADS, our government continues to improve the competitiveness of our visa system for Chinese visitors with the trialing of 10-year multiple entry visitor visas and online visa lodgments," he said.

"Initiatives that make it easier for Chinese tourists to travel to Australia such as online visa lodgments and enabling lodgment applications in simplified Chinese will only further boost the attractiveness of Australia as a holiday destination."

### **The Nation, 07-02-19**

#### **China's software sector maintains rapid growth**

BEIJING - China's software and IT services reported steady revenue and profit increases last year, official sources said. The sector's total revenue amounted to 6.31 trillion yuan (about 940 billion U.S. dollars) in 2018, up 14.2 percent from a year earlier, the same growth pace as 2017, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. Its profitability also improved. Combined profits grew 9.7 percent year on year to reach 807.9 billion yuan. "The sector maintained stable and sound development trend... and served as a major driver for the digital economy," the MIIT said, citing quicker industrial restructuring and emerging growth points. In breakdown, information security and industrial software posted robust revenue growth of 14.8 percent and 14.2 percent respectively. The revenues of both cloud computing and e-

commerce services registered over 20 percent increases. South China's Guangdong Province saw the highest software revenue, followed by Jiangsu and Beijing. China's software and IT service sector has witnessed rapid development during the past decade thanks to Internet-based innovations and upgrades in traditional sectors.

### **The Nation, 07-02-19**

#### **VolvoXC60 cars recalled in China**

BEIJING - A number of Volvo XC60 vehicles will be recalled in China as a defect in the power lift gates could lead to malfunctions and even cause injuries, according to the country's market regulator.

Starting from April 11, the recall involves 23,595 XC60 cars produced between October 19, 2017 and October 26, 2018, according to the plan filed with the State Administration for Market Regulation by Zhejiang Haoqing Automobile Manufacture Co., a unit of Geely, owner of Volvo.

The company said the plastic part of the power lift gate support, due to insufficient strength, may create noise or trigger malfunctions when the lift gates are opened or closed.

Under extreme conditions, the springs of the lift gate support may pop out and cause injuries. The company has promised to replace the defective lift gate support free of charge.

Located in east China city Linhai, Zhejiang Haoqing is one of the major manufacturing bases of Geely, a leading Chinese car maker that acquired Volvo Cars from Ford Motor in 2010.

### **The Nation, 07-02-19**

#### **Beijing receives more overseas tourists**

BEIJING:-Beijing saw more than 4 million arrivals of overseas tourists in 2018, up 2 percent year on year, the municipal statistics bureau has said. The United States and Japan were the two major sources of overseas tourists in Beijing, which saw 720,000 visits from Americans and 249,000 from Japanese, according to the bureau. Continent-wise, Asia was the top source of tourists in Beijing, which saw about 1.7 million visits from countries and regions in Asia last year, up 1.4 percent year on year.

### **The Nation, 07-02-19**

#### **Chinese programmer took \$1m by ATM loophole**

BEIJING-A Chinese senior programmer in a local bank developed a way to withdraw more than US\$1 million in "free" cash from ATMs operated by his employer.

According to "Verge Technical" website, 43-year-old Qin Qisheng managed to withdraw over 7 million Yuan from the bank, all by exploiting a simple loophole. According to the website, the bank's system didn't properly record withdrawals made around midnight, effectively spitting out cash without removing the total from a user's account. Normally, that might send up a red flag that a transaction had failed, but Qisheng allegedly inserted scripts into the system that suppressed those alerts. Qisheng started pulling out money in November 2016, but it wasn't until January 2018, some 1,358 withdrawals later, that the bank discovered the bad code in its system and brought him to the authorities.

The bank didn't want to keep pressing charges once he'd returned the money, fearing the bad publicity as the loophole has already been fixed.

"The bank reportedly asked police to drop the case but the courts refused, and Qisheng is now looking at 10 and half years in prison," the Verge added.

### **The Nation, 08-02-19**

#### **Pakistan to participate in Int'l Horticultural Exhibition in China**

BEIJING - Pakistan will participate in the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 scheduled to open here on April 29 and will run through October 7, showcasing gardening cultures from various countries. The departments concerned are making preparations to display Pakistani gardening and horticulture during the exhibition, according to official sources here on Thursday. The 162-day exhibition will host more than 16 million people from 86 countries and 26 international organizations. Located 10 kilometers north of the Badaling Great Wall in the capital's Yanqing district, the expo park covers an area of 503 hectares. Three ecological belts will line the expo park to provide leisure zones for tourists. A green area of 37.5 hectares around the pavilions will display many varieties of trees, including willows, the organizers said. Trees have already been planted in the designated places, he said. There will be 1.8 million flowers as well.

An existing wetland has been renovated in the park to provide improved habitat for fish and birds.

Pavilion construction has also relied on green concepts. The International Pavilion, the largest in the park, was built with 94 steel columns shaped like flower umbrellas. Their special design allows them to collect rainwater from the roof.

The exhibition will showcase flowers and gardening cultures from various countries, as well as serve as a platform for cooperation in cultural and economic exchanges.

Yanqing district is preparing various modes of transportation to the expo park. Sixteen trains from downtown Beijing to the park will run each day. Five bus lines will also open, linking the park to downtown Yanqing.

It will be the second high-level horticulture expo hosted by China, following one in Kunming, Yunnan province, in 1999. More than 2,500 cultural activities have been scheduled for the expo, as well as parades during the exhibition.

### **The Nation, 08-02-19**

#### **Chinese New Year celebrated at Marriott**

ISLAMABAD - Keeping the yearly tradition alive, General Manager Islamabad Marriott Hotel Mr Maurizio Romani invited the crème de la crème of the capital to celebrate Chinese New Year or Spring Festival as it is also called at Dynasty Restaurant at Marriott Islamabad. The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr Yao Jing was the guest of honor on the occasion and the Deputy Chairman and CEO of the Hashoo Group Mr. Murtaza Hashwani played as host. The alley leading to the venue was decorated with red lanterns hanging in the hallway and standees highlighting stories of the Chinese nation.

Guests were in full attendance appreciating the décor and making a beeline to savor the customary Chinese delicacies prepared by the Executive Chinese Chef Mr Zubin in Chinese tradition, each year is named after one of the twelve animals which feature in the Chinese zodiac signs. Rat, Ox, Monkey and Tiger are part of the 12 animals.

The reason that New Year in Chinese culture falls at this time is that it marks the start of their Lunar New Year. This is different from the Gregorian calendar that has been adopted all over the world and always starts from 1st Jan. Chinese New Year depends on the moon and therefore the

date of Chinese New Year changes each year, but it will still fall sometime between 21st of January and 20th of February.

In 2019, 5th February was the beginning of a New Year of Zodiac Animal, and that is the reason that Chinese New Year is never on 1st Jan.

Unlike many countries of the world, China has fixed number of holidays to celebrate their New Year or Spring Festival. This year the public holidays, which started from 4th of Feb, will last till the 10th of Feb.

“It’s like celebrating Eid in your country. Most of the Chinese people working in Beijing leave the capital to go to their hometowns. On the first day of the New Year, the Chinese people visit their elders as a mark of respect, on the second day a reunion with friends and relatives and on the third day, the elders visit their younger relatives. Money is distributed amongst the family members and friends in red envelopes just like your Eid in Pakistani culture. A reunion dinner happens in the evening of the last day of the traditional year, “informed ambassador Jing while explaining the festivities. The traveling in China during Chinese New Year is considered the most significant movement in the world in a limited number of days.

Interesting before the festival begins, Chinese people clean their homes thoroughly to ward off evil spirits but on New Year’s Day they are not supposed to pick the broom in case you sweep the good luck for the New Year out of the door. Noodle soup and Dum sum are some very traditional dishes served during the feast as it is believed that it brings good luck for the year ahead.

On the sighting of the moon, fireworks are also set off, as it is thought that noise and lights will scare away any evils spirits for the coming months. The festivities continue for all most two weeks finishing with a unique lantern festival on the year’s first full moon which signals the end of the New Year celebration period.

Like the zodiac lunar calendar, many Chinese families consider five Chinese elements in the likes of Wood, Fire, Dirt, Metal, and Water as an essential part of their culture. They even believe that zodiac year’s animal can change how someone thinks and acts. Marriages, as well as childbirths in many families, are also planned to take into consideration the animal of the year.

The Chinese celebration is never complete without a Dragon or Lion dance as it plays a very pivotal role. Chinese people in the past thought that Chinese Dragons were kinds of god who had powers. Dragon dances in China happen throughout the year. Doing their best to bring China to



Pakistan, Marriott too had arranged a Dragon dance. A colorful Dragon dancing on the beat of the drum was quite an amusement for the guest. Dum Sum, Prawn Tempura, Crum fried Muscles were some of the Chinese dishes on display. The special menu will be available to all diners for dinner for an entire week in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

–The writer is a freelance contributor.

### **The Nation, 09-02-19**

#### **Key CPEC projects to be completed soon: China envoy**

ISLAMABAD - Key China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects will be completed in the coming months, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy Lijian Zhao said yesterday.

The senior diplomat said CPEC projects were progressing satisfactorily and a number of large scale projects were set to be completed soon.

The Chinese diplomat was speaking at a seminar on “Belt and Road Initiative and China - Pakistan Economic Corridor: Impact on Developments in South West Asia” at Strategic Vision Institute.

The seminar deliberated on the rise of China as an economic power and its political, economic, societal and technological impacts on the region as well as across the world. A number of international and local experts spoke at the event.

Zhao said China had since the launch of Belt and Road Initiative six years ago invested \$28.9 billion in 82 economic zones in countries that are part of the initiative with 3995 Chinese companies setting up businesses there. However, he maintained, Pakistan has not received investment under this head because economic zones have not started here as yet.

He said that Sukkur-Multan M-5 Motorway, which is the largest project under CPEC worth \$2.9 billion, is scheduled to be completed by June, whereas Thakot - Havelian Section of Karakoram Highway is likely to be ready by the end of the year.

The 1320MW Coal-fired Power Plant set up at Hub (Balochistan), he further said, would be fully functional by “the end of spring”. The first 660MW unit of the power plant, he said, has already been connected to the national grid, while the second one would come online shortly. The Hub Power Plant is being completed at a cost of nearly \$2 billion.

He noted progress on Karot and Sukki-Kinari Power hydro-power plants and Gawadar Port and Free Zone. The diplomat also emphasized on strengthening people to people contact to complement strong bilateral political, economic and strategic ties. He said Chinese universities were already hosting over 22000 Pakistani students. This number, he underlined, was higher than the number of Pakistani students in UK and US together.

Three scholars from Deakin University, Melbourne (Australia), Professor Dr Baogang He, Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, and Dr Zahid Shahab made their presentations on various aspects of BRI and CPEC.

Dr Baogang said that China had global ambitions and is exporting infrastructure in addition to building production networks and supply chains as it has accumulated knowledge, technology, raw material, and wealth. He asked China to address issues related to labour, land acquisition, and scale of investments.

Professor Akbarzadeh said Middle Eastern countries see China as a partner because unlike Western countries it does not insist on “political openness”, maintains business like relations, and boosts their leverages in negotiations with US. “China is presenting alternatives to the leadership in Middle East,” he said. However, he said, China’s weakness lies in its inability to exert soft power in Middle East.

Dr Shahab, while noting the creation of political consensus within Pakistan on CPEC, said it is a template on which consensus on other opportunities in nation building can be used.

Dr Vaqar Ahmed of Sustainable Development Policy Institute said that CPEC added to business and investor community’s confidence, attracted foreign investment and accelerated the economic growth allowing GDP to grow at over 5 per cent after a decade.

He said business community now wants expedited development of special economic zones especially in Faisalabad, Dhabeji and Rashakai, full exploitation of country’s transit potential, and conclusion of revised Free Trade Agreement with China.

President SVI Dr Zafar Iqbal Cheema said detractors of BRI and CPEC look at them through the geo-strategic lens and from the perspective of power politics.

“The ascendancy of a geostrategic perspective precludes the understanding of its desired objectives and undermines an informed and balanced discussion and discourse. From an overriding security viewpoint, it’s more being looked upon as a challenge rather than a

cooperative enterprise,” he observed adding that from the geo-economic angle CPEC is promoting regional connectivity, infrastructure growth, trade and development.

### The Nation, 09-02-19

#### **Pakistanis proud of China's economic rise**

INP  
ISLAMABAD

Cross-sections of Pakistani society, while greeting China on their new lunar year, have said that they are proud of China's economic rise, as it also brings dividends to them for a better future.

The week goes on, celebrating the event in China and the world's capitals as well. In their greeting messages, officials, diplomats, businessmen and media personnel in their separate messages to their Chinese friends wish them best of luck.

With the colorful advertisement of "Happy Chinese New Year" hanging and waving along the Jinnah Avenue, the main street in Pakistan's capital, Pakistanis are well aware that the traditional Chinese Spring Festival that was on Feb. 5 this year.

In this regard, multiple events with spectacular cultural performances were organized in various cities in Pakistan to celebrate the event.

It is more like a kind of new phenomena largely being seen as an indication Pakistan's growing acceptability over Chinese culture.

The events, being attended by thousands of Pakistanis, highlighted different cultural activities like Chinese paper cutting, calligraphy, Chinese painting, use of chopsticks, and dumplings which is the auspicious symbol of traditional Chinese New Year food.

Raheem Khan, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, told Chinese official News Agency, Xinhua that with each passing day, the bonhomie between the time-tested friendly countries of China and Pakistan is increasing.

"The upsurge is visible in every aspect of life ranging from cultural acceptability, language, literature, food. Friendship between China and Pakistan is unique as it's not only state-to-state relation but also people to people connection," Khan said.

"Over the years, a massive enthusiasm among the Pakistani students is observed by the government who are much eager to learn Chinese language and understand Chinese culture. The student exchange programs would serve the said purposes," the official said.

Mehnaz Perveen, an event organizer at the Foundation of Arts, Cultural and Education, said the Pakistani government has been encouraging Chinese dramas to be telecasted with Urdu translation in Pakistan and the process of broadcasting Chinese dramas on Pakistani TV channels has already been started.

### **The Nation, 09-02-19**

#### **China Focus: Seed of moon's first sprout**

BEIJING:—An experiment that saw the first-ever plant sprouting on the moon last month was born in a natural disaster that devastated China's cotton-industry almost three decades ago. Li Fuguang was one of the Chinese agricultural scientists whose years of hard work might one day help lead to a base and long-term human residence on the moon. He was on the team that developed the cotton seeds carried to the moon by China's Chang'e-4 probe, leading to the first-ever sprout on the moon.

### **The Nation, 09-02-19**

#### **Chinese astronomers find over 10,000 metal-poor star candidates**

BEIJING-Chinese astronomers have discovered more than 10,000 metal-poor star candidates, which may help shed light on the early universe and the emergence of the first stars and galaxies. Astronomers use the word "metals" to describe elements heavier than hydrogen and helium. This usage is distinct from the usual physical definition of a solid metal, said Li Haining, an astronomer with the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Astronomers believe that the majority of elements heavier than hydrogen and helium in the universe are formed in the cores of stars as they evolve. Over time, stellar winds and supernova deposit the metals into the surrounding environment, enriching the interstellar medium and providing recycling materials for the birth of new stars.

Therefore, the lower the metal contents in stars, the older the stars in the universe.

The research on metal-poor stars will help us understand the early universe, the origin of elements, as well as the emergence and evolution of the first generation stars and galaxies, Li said.

However, metal-poor stars are very rare and difficult to observe, she said.

Based on data from the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST), located in NAOC's Xinglong Observatory in north China's Hebei Province, astronomers have found more than 10,000 metal-poor star candidates with metal contents less than 1 percent of those in the sun.

LAMOST can observe about 4,000 celestial bodies at one time, and helped Chinese astronomers establish the world's largest databank of stellar spectra.

"This greatly improved the possibility of discovering rare celestial bodies like metal-poor stars," Li added.

The discovery was recently published in the *Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series*.

### **The Nation, 10-02-19**

#### **Chinese team due in Pakistan to finalize CPEC projects**

ISLAMABAD - A team of Chinese socio-economic development experts would visit Pakistan in the last week of current month to finalize the projects and their sites in already agreed six different areas under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including health, education, water supply, vocational training, poverty alleviation and agriculture.

This was disclosed by spokesman of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms here on Saturday.

The spokesman, in a statement, also clarified a news item published in a section of press regarding delays in implementation of CPEC, saying that none of the CPEC projects is facing delay; rather Pakistan and China are agreed on the future trajectory of the CPEC and timely completion of its ongoing projects.

He told the successful 8th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting laid foundation for the expansion of CPEC to new heights. For future, he said joint efforts are underway, focusing on socio-economic development and accelerating cooperation in industrial development as well as agriculture. The MoU on the formation of JWG on Socio-economic development and MoU on Poverty Reduction have been signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in November, the spokesman added.

Recognizing the significance of Gwadar as an important node in cross-regional connectivity and the central pillar of CPEC, he said Pakistan and China have agreed to speed up the progress on the Port and its auxiliary projects. The groundbreaking of New Gwadar Airport, vocational institute and hospital are planned in the 1st quarter of this year. Gwadar Master Plan is being prepared and it is in the final stages of formulation. Huge investment is expected in the petrochemical sector at Gwadar, he told.

Pakistan and China, the spokesman said have expedited the work on industrial cooperation under CPEC and the government has expedited development of economic zones by prioritizing Rashakai, Dhabiji Faisalabad and ICT SEZs with a vision to make 2019 as a year of industrial development under CPEC.

Pakistan and China have expedited cooperation in the field of agriculture with a special focus on enhancing cooperation in the areas of climate change, desertification control, desalination, water

management, afforestation and ecological restoration, wetland protection and restoration, wildlife protection, forestry industry development, disaster management and risk reduction and other areas of mutual interest.

A sub group has been elevated to a full-fledged joint working group and its meeting is planned to be held in the first quarter of this year, he said.

The government, the spokesman said promotes development of hydro energy projects and more projects based on indigenous sources are being added to CPEC portfolio. Similarly, he said process has been initiated to prepare an integrated plan in line with Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development aimed at facilitating logistics and transportation for the zones.

He told that it has been decided to complete the modalities for all weather opening of Kara Koram Highway at Khunjrab. ML-1 designs and scope are being firmed up jointly. Government of Pakistan has prioritized implementation of Western Route project with a focus to expedite development of D I Khan-Zhob and Zhob-Quetta sections in order to ensure uplift of less developed areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The completion of two early projects of CPEC; Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur) and KKH Phase II (Thakot -Havelian) are planned in August 2019 and March 2020 respectively but both the projects are expected to be completed ahead of its schedule, he expressed.

### **The Nation, 10-02-19**

#### **US in race with China, Russia to develop hypersonic missile: USAF**

NEW YORK - Heather Wilson, secretary of the US Air Force, said on Friday that the US is closer to developing a hypersonic missile that travels at five times the speed of sound.

Wilson, speaking on Friday at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, said an effort was being made to keep pace with other nations in the development of new missile systems.

The US Air Force currently operates 80 satellites in space, the secretary added. Her comments followed reports suggesting Russia was also developing new missile systems after Washington announced plans to exit from the landmark INF Treaty. Moscow and Washington had been accusing each other of violating the treaty long before the United States announced it was withdrawing from the pact, thereby giving Russia six months to choose between leaving the INF Treaty or following its rules.



Russia has denied committing any violations and announced that it has started to develop new weapons systems in order to keep up with the US and China.

Russian officials cited by the Independent have said that this work should be completed by the end of next year and expect the new systems to be ready by 2021.

Washington might, however, still reconsider its withdrawal from the INF treaty “should Russia return to full and verifiable compliance,” the US disarmament ambassador Robert Wood told a UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on Tuesday, adding that its “Russia’s final opportunity to return to compliance.”

### **The Nation, 10-02-19**

#### **China opposes Indian PM’s visit to disputed border region**

BEIJING - A Chinese foreign ministry’s spokesperson Saturday strongly opposed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the remote Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China has never recognized.

“The Chinese government has never recognized the so-called “Arunachal Pradesh” and resolutely opposes the activities of Indian leaders to the eastern section of the Sino-Indian border,” Hua Chunying said in a statement issued here.

She said that China’s position on the Sino-Indian border issue is consistent and clear and urged the Indian side to proceed from the overall situation of bilateral relations, respect China’s interests and concerns, cherish the momentum of improving relations between the two countries, and refrain from any actions that intensify disputes and complicate the border issue.

The Indian Prime Minister inaugurated several projects and lay the foundation of many vital schemes during his visit to the north-eastern state on Saturday.

### **The Nation, 10-02-19**

#### **China to sell aircraft carrier to Pakistan**

Moscow - The Chinese government has decided to sell its first and only aircraft carrier to Pakistan. More specifically, the Liaoning will be sold to Pakistan for a yet-undetermined price in order to upgrade the Pakistani Navy’s capabilities, reported Chinese and Russia media on Saturday.

The addition of an aircraft carrier to the Pakistani Navy's arsenal will make it more competitive with respect to its rival India, which has an operational aircraft carrier.

The Liaoning was first commissioned for the Soviet Navy in the 1980s and was expected to enter service in the early 1990s. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, however, frustrated these plans, and the unfinished structure was sold to Ukraine. The hull ended up in China, which rebuilt and decommissioned the ship and declared it operational only three years ago, in 2016.

The Chinese Navy plans to replace the Liaoning with up to six nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The Chinese government announced its plans to have six carrier battle groups by 2035. Aside from being potent machines of naval warfare, aircraft carriers serve as the ideal foreign policy tools. For example, just the appearance of an American aircraft carrier close to the shores of a country could deter actions hostile to US interests.

“China's nuclear-powered aircraft carriers are expected to join the navy by 2035, bringing the total number of carriers to at least six—although only four will work at the front line. The country needs to keep developing until it is at the same level as the United States,” said Wang Yunfei, a former Chinese naval officer.

According to Russia's state-owned RT.com, new nuclear aircraft carriers and state-of-the-art carrier-borne fighter jets will join China's revamped navy by 2035, Chinese specialists familiar with the programme told the South China Morning Post.

The experts added that the carriers will also come equipped with electromagnetic catapults similar to the EMALS system used on their US counterparts. This will allow fighters to be launched faster than they were on older diesel-powered vessels.

At present, the Chinese Navy operates only one diesel-powered aircraft carrier, the 'Liaoning.' Commissioned in 2012. Currently serving as a training vessel for aircraft carrier crew, it's been reported that the 'Liaoning' will be resold to Pakistan after a “large-scale upgrade.” It aims to help Pakistan “compete” with India's own carrier buildup.

China's first domestically built aircraft carrier, the Type 001A, is still undergoing sea trials, but is expected to enter service in April ahead of the Navy's 70th anniversary in October.

The US Navy, by comparison, boasts 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, and has nine other amphibious ships that could be utilized as carrier vessels in a time of war.

However, Chinese military planners are eagerly racing to close the gap and money is seemingly no object, even as the ongoing trade war with the US is hurting both economies.

Wang Yunfei told the SCMP “Even if the economic downturn has an effect, we can adjust proportions in total military expenditure to make sure naval modernization keeps going.”

Cash is also being poured into designs for a new carrier-borne stealth fighter, the fighting capability of which Wang believes may only be “a little bit behind” that of the costly US F-35.

Song Zhongping, a Hong Kong-based military commentator, said Chinese technology would soon be on par with US fighters and carriers, but warned that superior hardware was only “part of the picture.”

He explained that crew training and damage-control readiness have been lacking in the past because Chinese troops have not “had as much real combat experience as the Americans.”

The report comes as tensions between the US and Beijing continues to simmer over influence in the South China Sea.

In January, the US Navy sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait on what it called a freedom of navigation exercise.

China later upped the ante by unveiling a new intermediate-range ballistic missile. Known as the ‘Guam Killer,’ the missile is capable of striking the US island territory or any US warship in the Pacific Ocean or South China Sea.

### **The Nation, 11-02-19**

#### **Chinese tools help improve Iraq’s agriculture**

BAGHDAD - From greenhouses to pesticides, fertilizers and vaccines, China’s advanced equipment and technologies have made a qualitative leap for Iraqi agriculture in Salahuddin province.

After experiencing wars and sanctions, the agricultural sector in Iraq deteriorated significantly and some farmers abandoned their farms because of the shortage of agricultural supplies and the absence of laws to protect national products against imports from neighboring countries.

Iraq's openness after the U.S. occupation and the lifting of economic sanctions redrew the country's agricultural industry based on the modern technologies available in international markets, including Chinese markets.

"The first option to boost agriculture in Salahuddin province was to go to China to benefit from the advanced agricultural technologies," Safi Mahmoud al-Tikriti, a hardware, fertilizer and agricultural technology dealer in Tikrit of Salahuddin province, told Xinhua.

"The Chinese equipment that was put in the markets of Salahuddin province has received unprecedented popularity from the farmers," al-Tikriti added.

The dealer said that many Iraqi farmers bought Chinese equipment because of the "low prices, high quality and advanced technology, which is one of the most advanced technologies in the world."

Al-Tikriti estimated the volume of dealing in agricultural supplies in Salahuddin province to be more than 20 million U.S. dollars annually.

Khalid Abdullah Hussein, agricultural engineer, said that the agricultural equipment of China has contributed effectively to expanding the cultivated area in Salahuddin to more than 400 percent and increasing production by more than 60 percent.

"China's excellent equipment allows farmers to control the irrigation level, its kind and the appropriate timing that benefits the plants, as well as the delivery and application of compost when needed," he added.

"Chinese equipment also contributed to reducing labor by using machines that spray pesticides, vaccines and fertilizer ... and improving the quality as well as the quantity of agricultural production," the agricultural engineer said.

Saif Hussein, a farmer, said that modern Chinese agricultural technologies have made an effective contribution to increasing the productivity of different agricultural crops.

Hussein hoped that Iraqi traders are moving towards bringing more Chinese agricultural equipment from authentic sources to avoid the unauthentic ones.

"One of my relatives who lives in the province of Kirkuk has bought modern Chinese equipment, which helped him to increase production with less efforts, leading many of the villagers to buy some of the equipment as well," Hussein said.

He asserted that modern Chinese technology began to spread not only in Salahuddin province, but also in the rest of the country.

### **The Nation, 11-02-19**

#### **Chinese restaurants go intelligent**

BEIJING (Xinhua): Would you enjoy a truly unique hotpot experience? If so, you could be warmly served by robots. A famous hotpot chain has gained even more popularity since it opened its intelligent restaurant in downtown Beijing in October 2018. Patrons eager to visit the establishment often have to wait an average of two hours to get a seat.

There are 18 automatic “machine arms” that constantly work in an intelligent dish sorting room that is between zero and four degrees Celsius. They are capable of processing up to 8,000 dishes each day. Windows allow guests across the 93-table dining hall to see the operation from start to finish.

The flavor of the hotpot is one of the most important factors. Customers can choose from six levels of spiciness, and flavor consultants help advise when patrons face the dilemma of choosing between moderately spicy and eye-watering extremely spicy hotpot. Once the decision is made, the broth is seasoned by the automatic flavoring machine.

Within 10 minutes after customers place their orders on iPads, six dish dispatching robots carry the meats and vegetables to the dining tables by tag location technology.

Each dish dispatching robot can operate for an entire day after being charged for one night.

“The operation of our restaurant is helped by two intelligent systems,” said Zhang Jinshan, technical trainer of the restaurant. “One accurately copes with customers’ canceled, added and urgent orders, analyzes the data of the restaurant, monitors the operation condition of the equipment, provides maintenance of the software and checks the food inventory and expiry date.”

The other is an energy management system which calculates and analyzes the energy consumption including water, electricity and fuel gas of the restaurant, Zhang added.

The intelligent hotpot restaurant is not alone. China’s e-commerce giant JD.com opened its smart X cafe restaurant in November 2018 at Tianjin.

The 400-square-meter dining hall can hold 100 people. Ordering, assembling, cooking, dispatching, dining and checking out are all facilitated by robots and artificial intelligent (AI) system. In the kitchen, one person operates five robots.

As of now, there are a total 40 courses available at the restaurant.

JD.com is transforming and upgrading traditional industries using AI, robots and big data, said its Vice President Xiao Jun. The intelligent restaurant is their attempt to combine catering with intelligent technology. He expects that “unmanned technology” will have broader applications.

China’s catering industry posted a record high of 4.27 trillion yuan (about 628 billion U.S. dollars) in revenue in 2018, coupled with encouraging trends.

The figure marked a rise of 9.5 percent from the previous year, accounting for 11.2 percent of the country’s total retail sales of consumer goods, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The huge catering market means diversified flavoring demands across the country. Thus, intelligent catering has to improve the capability of automatic machines and prepare a wide range of dishes, said Tang Siyu, director of the X cafe restaurant project.

Intelligent restaurants are expected to solve the problem of rising human costs in the catering industry, and JD.com hopes to make the robot technology applied in practice, said Tang.

Tang admits that intelligent restaurants are still in their early stages. He predicts that the intelligent catering industry will attract more merchants in the following three to five years.

But not everyone is so keen on the idea. “Chinese cuisine is extensive and profound,” said Zhang Yi, chief executive officer of iiMedia Research. “Take noodles as an example, we have various kinds of noodles from north to south and from west to east,” he said. “I believe hand-made sliced noodles taste much better than those made from machine hands.”

Feng Jun, a member of the fast food professional committee of China Cuisine Association, acknowledged that jobs in the catering industry could be divided into three categories: physical labor, skilled labor and emotional expression. “The fast-food industry can make full automation happen, while high-end restaurants require more considerate service by people,” Feng said.



### **The Nation, 11-02-19**

#### **250 quakes rattle Philippine town in three days**

MANILA - Nearly 250 earthquakes have rattled a small town in Surigaodel Norte province in southern Philippines since Friday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said on Sunday.

A 5.5-magnitude earthquake was recorded at 6:21 a.m. local time as the strongest one on Sunday, hitting northeast of General Luna, a town in Surigaodel Norte province, at a depth of 44 km. The institute added more than 60 aftershocks have been recorded so far on Sunday.

The 5.9-magnitude earthquake, which jolted at 7:55 p.m. local time (1155GMT) on Friday, hit 28 km southeast of General Luna town at a depth of 19 km. On Saturday, General Luna was also hit by over 130 earthquakes.

The institute said the tremors, which were tectonic in origin, are not expected to cause any damage. As of Sunday noon, disaster agencies in the Philippines have not reported any damage caused by earthquakes.

### **The Nation, 11-02-19**

#### **11 Chinese tourists injured after speedboat crashes in Phuket**

BANGKOK - A total of 11 Chinese tourists and two crew members were injured after a tourist speedboat crashed with an oil barge near Thailand's southern Phuket Island on Saturday afternoon, the Chinese Consulate-General in the southern province of Songkhla confirmed on Sunday.

The 11 tourists are two families from China's eastern city Hang Zhou, six of whom having already left hospital while the remaining five still being treated.

The speedboat carrying Chinese tourists was on the way back from a day trip to Koh Phi Phi island to Phuket when it hit the oil barge at about 2:50 p.m. local time.

An official of the Phuket Consular Office of the Chinese Consulate-General in Songkhla visited the injured tourists at the hospital in time and called on local authority to treat them and investigate into the accident.

**The Nation, 11-02-19**

## China joins Pak naval drills in a big way

INP  
ISLAMABAD

Chinese ships have participated in the Pakistan's multinational naval exercise in a big way, demonstrating their long-term cooperative partnership in the maritime sector.

Chinese media has extensively reported the Pak naval drills, Aman 19, highlighting the significance of the event, in pushing forward the two countries' joint collaboration in strengthening their defence capabilities.

China People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA Navy) was the most prominent in the sixth Pakistan-led multinational maritime naval drills that was participated by navies and observers from 46 countries.

The PLA Navy has been participating in all previous Aman exercises. A commander of the PLA Navy who requested anonymity said this time the PLA Navy has sent two warships from the 998 Fleet to participate in the exercise, which consists of a Kunlunshan amphibious transport dock and the supply ship Luomahu.

The two Chinese warships and more than 500 Chinese naval soldiers were engaged in the joint exercises, which includ-

ed anti-piracy exercises and maritime interception.

The concept of the exercises was to develop responses, tactics, techniques and procedures (RTTPs) against non-traditional threats through tactical warfare planning, according to the Pakistan Navy.

Starting 2007, Exercise Aman has regularly been conducted every two years (the Aman 15 was not held in 2015 due to some operational commitments of the Pakistan Navy).

This year's edition was scheduled from February 8 to 12, where over 45 countries are participating with ships and observers.

The exercises had two major phases: harbour and sea phases. Harbor activities include seminars, discussions and demonstrations. A three-day international maritime conference also held on the topic, "Global geopolitics in transition and rethinking maritime dynamics in the Indian Ocean region."

Maritime activities included high-end warfare serials at sea, such as naval gunfire, anti-piracy, operations, combined anti-submarine exercises, communications, boarding and air defence.

**The Nation, 11-02-19**

### **Chinese artist's imagination takes wing**

BEIJING-Over the past 12 years, while the global gaze was on China's new generation of advanced aircraft, artist Gong Haoqin focused on broken wings, battered propellers and abandoned warplanes covered in rust.

He compares the exposed wires of "old heroes" to blood vessels, and the rust stains to wounds. He says his pictures are a personal tribute to the sacrifices of the aircraft and pilots.

After gaining a doctorate from Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design in 2007, Gong worked as an associate professor at Beihang University, which specializes in aeronautical and astronautically education and research.

He gained fame in 2016 for his sepia, monochromatic drawings of the legendary Flying Tigers, a group of American pilots who volunteered to help China's air force fight the invading Japanese from 1941 to 1945.

The works were displayed at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in China, and the Reagan National Airport and Radford University in the United States.

He spent five years researching and visiting veterans and their families, learning how retired U.S. Army Corps officer Claire Lee Chennault brought fighter planes to China, along with American pilots and ground crews. They joined the war and were greeted by the Chinese with love and esteem.

He depicted the moments when Chinese troops fought side by side with Americans, as well as many warm scenes of interaction between the aviators and Chinese civilians.

One painting depicts an elderly Chinese man getting a light for his cigarette from a U.S. Army sergeant after the forces of the two countries expelled the Japanese from Tengchong, a border city in southwest China, in 1944.

"A painter also can record history," Gong says. Unlike other aviation painters, Gong seldom draws just an aircraft. To commemorate the start of a direct air route linking Beijing, Chengdu and Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, in 1965, he painted a plane that flew the route at the top of the picture, with a joyful Tibetan mother carrying a baby, the Potala Palace and snow-covered mountains below.

"Although an aircraft is lifeless, Gong's paintings are full of human characters, showing courage, will and dedication," says critic Hou Yaodao. "His works lead viewers to reflect on war, life, mercy and compassion."

In recent years, Gong has painted scenes from China's space exploration, with spacecraft, moon rovers, satellites and astronauts. He has published multiple collections, including "Flying with the Wings of Art", which was displayed during the 58th session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

He was inspired to combine traditional cultural elements, such as woodcut printing, into his space artworks. Gong drew a constellation of stars on a piece of paper before carving it on a board. Then, he printed these on paper and sketched in new subjects with brown pencil.

He loves to painted modern subjects with legendary figures. One work shows Chinese astronaut Zhai Zhigang, who carried out a spacewalk from Shenzhou-7, encountering a group of flying apsaras from a Dunhuang fresco.

In another painting, lunar rover Yutu travels on the moon with the white pet rabbit of Change, the moon goddess in Chinese folklore who lent her name to the Chinese lunar mission.

"The Chinese were one of the first peoples to respect and study space," Gong says. He wants his works to show the connection between China's remarkable aerospace achievements and the visualization of the universe since ancient times.

Gong has a grand plan to complete a record of aerospace history in his lifetime. He has named the plan "Flying Civilization".

"People love flight because they love freedom," says Gong. "That is also the charm of aerospace painting."

### **The Nation, 11-02-19**

#### **Chinese researchers in Antarctica arrive at Zhongshan Station after six-day journey**

ANTARCTICA-A total of 37 members on China's 35th Antarctic research mission on Friday night arrived at the Zhongshan Station after a six-day 520-km journey amid storms.

They started off from the Taishan Station on Feb. 3, which, at an altitude of 2,621 meters, is located between the Zhongshan and the Kunlun Stations. The stations are the latest three out of the four scientific research bases on the Antarctic ice sheet built by China since 1964.

The Chinese researchers, 21 of them from the Taishan team and 16 from the Kunlun team, came to Zhongshan after successfully completing their tasks. The two teams together departed on Dec. 18 from near Zhongshan for their missions.

The Taishan team completed the construction project of the supporting facilities at Taishan in 38 days, a week ahead of schedule. Taishan was put into operation in February 2014 after its main building on the ground was completed.

The Kunlun team conducted research works on astronomy, ice berg and surveying and mapping, among other things. For instance, they on Feb. 7 set up a new automatic meteorological station, some 100 km away from Zhongshan.

The team members arrived at Taishan on Jan. 31 to join the researchers there. The members of the two teams are scheduled to board on China's icebreaker Xuelong on Feb. 15, leaving Antarctica for home. They are expected to arrive in Shanghai on March 10.

### **The Nation, 12-02-19**

#### **Beijing parks receive 2.3m visitors in spring fest**

BEIJING:-Parks have become popular destinations for people in Beijing to celebrate the week-long Spring Festival holiday, which ended on Sunday, official statistics showed. Beijing's 11 municipal parks and the Museum of Chinese Gardens and Landscape Architecture received 2.32 million visitors during the holiday, a slight increase over the previous year, according to the municipal park administration.

### **The Nation, 12-02-19**

#### **China sees over 12m air trips during Spring Festival holiday**

BEIJING-More Chinese traveled by air during the just-concluded week-long Chinese Lunar New Year holiday, official data showed Monday. A total of 12.59 million air passenger trips were made from Feb. 4 to 10, up 10.6 percent from last year's holiday, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). Around 111,000 flights were dispatched during the period, up 6 percent year on year. Popular tourist destinations like Haikou, Lijiang, and Harbin saw busy airports. The national travel rush peaked on Feb. 10 with daily air trips reaching a historic high of 2.03 million, according to the CAAC. From Jan. 21 to Feb. 10, air travelers in China made 37.46 million trips, up 10.4 percent from the Spring Festival travel rush last year. During the 40-day travel rush from Jan. 21 to March 1, air travelers are expected to make 73 million trips, up 12 percent year on year, the CAAC said. Traveling by air has become increasingly popular in China thanks to expanding air networks and rising household income.

### **The Nation, 12-02-19**

#### **Nepal sees surge in Chinese tourists during Lunar New Year**

KATHMANDU-Escape from congestion, cold and crowd, celebrate your new year in Nepal where summer is cool and winter is warm. It is the message that Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) conveyed to the Chinese people during the ongoing holiday of Chinese Lunar New Year, or

Spring Festival. As China has emerged as second largest source market for Nepal's tourism sector in the recent years after India, the Himalayan country is making every effort to bring in Chinese visitors. "Many activities are being organized on the occasion of Chinese New Year in Nepal in cities like capital Kathmandu and western tourism city Pokhara," Deepak Raj Joshi, chief executive officer of NTB told Xinhua last week. Chinese Spring Festival began on Feb. 5 and the Chinese people travel to different destinations during the week-long holiday as a large number of people choose Nepal. Kathmandu, Pokhara and Chitwan are common destinations for most of the Chinese tourists visiting Nepal during the Spring Festival.

Chinese airlines have reported almost full occupancy while Nepal's travel trade sector has also reported a surge in Chinese visitors during the Spring Festival.

Rashika Shrestha, sales and reservation supervisor at China Eastern Airlines Office in Kathmandu, told Xinhua on Sunday that the China Eastern has occupancy remained almost full in the recent days.

During the festival season, Nepali travel sector has a busy schedule managing the Chinese tourists.

Kishor Raj Pandey, chairman of Saathi Travel, has been organizing trips for seven groups of Chinese tourists, each consisting of around 15 people.

"We organize trips for maximum 3-4 groups in normal days in a week. We are now dealing with seven groups this week as more Chinese visitors came to Nepal during the New Year holidays," Pandey told Xinhua.

Saathi is a pioneer travel agency in bringing in Chinese tourists since early years of this century.

Similar is the experience of Shuang Qi Tour Pvt. Ltd, a tour agency dealing with Chinese tourists in Nepal.

"Normally, we deal with 400-500 Chinese visitors in a month. We are organizing trips for around 500 visitors in a week-long holiday of this Spring Festival," Bishwesh Shrestha, managing director of Shuang Qi Tour, told Xinhua last week.

SNT Holidays, another travel agency, has also witnessed upswing in Chinese visitors for the New Year. "More Chinese tourists have come to Nepal this Spring Festival. We are seeing surge in arrivals of individual visitors compared to those who come in a group this time around," said Sri Ram Thapa, managing director of the company.



Nepal's travel trade sector has been organizing the welcome ceremonies and handing out greeting cards and gifts for the Chinese visitors coming to Nepal during the New Year.

Hotel Annapurna, a five-star hotel in Kathmandu, has also prepared special menu targeting the Spring Festival. According to hotel officials, around five percent of the rooms have been occupied by Chinese tourists currently.

"Although occupancy from Chinese visitors is not so high, they are all high-end visitors," Atma Khanal, sales executive at the Hotel.

Although arrivals of Chinese tourists have grown during the Spring Festival, Nepali travel trade sector believes that number could grow even higher if the airfare for Chinese visitors coming to Nepal becomes cheaper.

"Chinese tourists complain about high airfare although travel package within Nepal is relatively cheap," said Thapa.

Therefore, Nepali travel industry officials insisted that there should be more competition among the airlines connecting Nepal and Chinese cities.

As Nepal celebrated arrivals of over 1 million foreign tourists in a year for the first time in 2018, a record 153,602 Chinese tourists visited the country in that year, a rise of 46.8 percent compared to 2017.

### **The Nation, 12-02-19**

#### **Pakistan, China enjoy exemplary relations: Mirza**

Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza chaired a meeting of provincial and local government representatives on 'Pak-China Year of Friendship Sister Provinces/Cities 2019'.

The minister said that Pakistan and China enjoyed exemplary friendship. She underscored the importance of investing more in socio-economic sector and said that it was a high time for Pakistan and China to engage more. Establishing contacts and cooperation at city-to-city or at local government level can further strengthen the bilateral relations, she added.

The meeting was told that under Pakistan-China sister cities initiative, a number of MOUs was signed between different cities of Pakistan and China but those were generally dormant with no active people-to-people and economic cooperation. "It is a great opportunity to enhance our cooperation with China in different areas," she said.

The minister directed the representatives of different provincial governments and cities to formulate proposals with a defined timeframe and budgetary allocations to identify the desired areas of cooperation, including exchange between the local governments, enhancement of trade and investment, energy and industrial linkages, exchange of culture, sports, tourism, youth exchanges, agriculture and people-to people-contacts with relevant sister cities in China. She called upon the provinces and cities to come up with innovative ideas to enhance engagement with different cities of China.

### **The Nation, 12-02-19**

#### **Asian markets rise as US-China trade talks loom**

Asian stocks saw gains Monday as US and Chinese officials in Beijing geared up for crunch trade talks aimed at averting fresh tariff escalations.

Mainland Chinese markets reopened higher after the week-long Lunar New Year break despite a series of bearish global growth forecasts, with investor focus squarely on efforts to tackle the trade row.

Top US economic officials will travel to the Chinese capital this week for the third round of talks on Thursday and Friday, but deputies had already arrived and the White House said preparatory discussions were due to begin Monday.

Failure to agree a deal between the two economic superpowers before March 1 would see punitive US duties on \$200 billion in Chinese goods more than double.

“There’s a sense of urgency to this round,” said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA.

“If no deal is agreed by then, a belligerent President Trump and US Congress will be more than willing to simply extend the trade war so China will need to make the first move if they are to reach a detente,” he added.

Analysts say imposition of the tariffs could weaken the global economy.

US President Donald Trump said last week he does not expect to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping before the deadline expire, quashing some optimism.

But Asian tech stocks tracked a small positive lead on Nasdaq Friday.

Hong Kong was up 0.6 percent in the afternoon session, with social media and gaming giant Tencent seeing healthy gains, along with smartphone component makers such as Sunny Optical Technology and AAC Technologies.

Macau casino shares were also buoyant after strong tourism numbers over the New Year holiday.

Shanghai, reopening after a weeklong break, rose 1.4 percent. Seoul edged up 0.2 percent, but Sydney shed 0.2 percent. Jakarta, Manila and Singapore also posted losses.

Tokyo was closed for a holiday.

### **Storm clouds**

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund warned governments to prepare for a possible economic “storm” as growth forecasts dip.

It cited the trade row as one of four “clouds” overshadowing the global economy, along with Brexit uncertainty, the accelerated slowdown in China and financial tightening.

“The bottom-line — we see an economy that is growing more slowly than we had anticipated,” IMF managing director Christine Lagarde told the World Government Summit in Dubai at the weekend.

The EU, Britain and Australia all slashed growth forecasts late last week.

Adding to market trepidation is the specter of a repeat of the 35-day partial US government shutdown that ended January 25 — the longest in the country’s history.

Key Republican negotiator Richard Shelby blamed Democrats for another impasse over immigration at the weekend, in talks that have been defined by Trump’s demand for funds for a border wall.

Oil prices continued to tumble with growing oversupply fears linked to record US shale output, with both main contracts posting losses

**The Nation, 13-02-19**

# China rejects report about cancellation of hydropower projects

APP  
BEIJING

A Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Hua Chunying on Tuesday rejected a report about the cancellation of hydropower projects by Pakistan and Nepal with China and said the information about the projects mentioned in the report was false and inconsistent with the facts.

"I remember this report was carried by Hindustan Times. The information about these projects mentioned in the report - released by Indian Ministry of External Affairs - is actually false and inconsistent with the facts," she said during her regular briefing held here.

She explained that for example, the dam project was not been included in the list of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and the hydropower project in Nepal was still in the negotiation stage.

As for the blacklisting of China Harbour Company by the Bangladeshi government was concerned, it was also not true, she added.

When asked to comment that according to the report Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had countered a great push-back in its implementation and there would be a major adjustment of policy in the forthcoming Belt and Road Forum, she said at present, more than 150 countries and international organisations had signed cooperation documents with the Chinese side to build a "One Belt, One Road" cooperation project.

"A large number of cooperation projects have taken root and blossomed, which has injected strong momentum into the economic and social development of countries along the route," she added.

The spokesperson remarked that the BRI had become a popular international public product and had become an important platform for international cooperation. Co-construction and sharing were the golden rules for the construction of the "Belt and Road", she added.

Hua Chunying said in the process of building the "Belt and Road" with the countries concerned, the Chinese side had always adhered to equality, openness and transparency and acted in accordance with market rules and international rules.

"We never impose on others and never impose any so-called "unacceptable conditions", she stated.

Each project is the result of equal consultations between the parties concerned," she added.

She said that individual projects might encounter temporary difficulties or problems, and they could change the objective facts that the "Belt and Road" cooperation had played a positive role in promoting the economic and social development of the countries concerned.

The spokesperson informed that this year, China would host the second "One Belt, One Road" international cooperation summit forum.

"We hope that by holding this forum, we will work together with all parties to summarise the progress of the "One Belt and One Road" and plan the blueprint for future cooperation, with a view to building a "Belt and Road" with high quality, high level, and high standards," she added.

Responding to a separate question about the selling of Chinese aircraft carriers to Pakistan, Hua Chunying replied that she had not seen such a report.

**The Nation, 13-02-19****China to modernize Pak-Afghan border crossings**

ISLAMABAD - China plans to fund and install modern reception centers, drinking water and cold storage facilities at main entry points on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Chinese project aims to better serve the daily movement of tens of thousands of people as well as trade convoys, and will help ease tensions between the two countries, officials said.

The deputy chief of mission at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad, Zhao Lijian, told VOA in a wide-ranging interview the border development programme is an outcome of recent high-level talks held in Kabul between foreign ministers of the three countries.

“We are trying to promote these projects so that it can help with the improvement of relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan and also finally it would be helpful with peace and development in Afghanistan,” Lijian noted. The trilateral dialogue, he said, was initiated by Beijing in late 2017 with a mission to promote “counterterrorism, strategic dialogue and pragmatic cooperation” among the three nations.

Lijian explained that the cold storage facilities will be established at the busy Torkham and Chaman crossings while the water schemes will be installed at the Ghulam Khan Khel terminal in North Waziristan district.

“Small businessmen are entering Torkham and Chaman everyday so if there is some cold storage facilities they could use those facilities to store their fruits. If there is a proper reception centre and a drinking water scheme, those kinds of facilities may serve the people in a better way,” Lijian said.

Pakistan consumes 90 percent of Afghan fresh fruits and vegetables, according to official estimates. Islamabad recently waived off regulatory duties on fresh fruit imports from Afghanistan, leading to an estimated 30 percent increase in Afghan exports to Pakistan in 2018. Officials say some 60,000 people commute across the border between the two countries.

Lijian said extending CPEC to Afghanistan, which is part of BRI, is under consideration to develop and improve trade routes through the war-ravaged country to Central Asia markets. “For China, we have been having this 40 years of economic development, reforms and opening up, and in Afghanistan for these last 40 years they have been suffering from chaos, from civil war, from foreign occupation. So, we are very much sympathetic with Afghan people and we would like to extend a helping hand to them,” he said.

Lijian defended Beijing’s close contacts with the Taliban, saying they are used to encourage the insurgents to seek an inclusive political understanding with incumbents in Kabul to help “manage” if not end Afghan hostilities in the near future.

“Pakistan has been helping the United States and the Taliban to have direct talks and it is playing a very critical role. We hope that the peace process can take some root in the heart of the people, not only in Afghanistan but also in Pakistan,” the deputy Chinese ambassador noted.

A spokesman for the Taliban’s political office in Qatar told VOA his group maintains close contacts with China and believes the Chinese are well placed to assist in resolving the Afghan

crisis. “We really appreciate their latest public stance of declaring the Taliban as a political force in Afghanistan. They understand the ground realities in our country.

Their stance could be really helpful for Afghan peace building,” Suhail Shaheen noted.

Beijing has noted US plans to draw down troops in Afghanistan if progress is achieved in talks Washington is holding with the Taliban. But Lijian cautioned against staging a hasty withdrawal. “They should have a plan to withdraw from Afghanistan in a gradual way and during this process they should also try to promote the intra-Afghanistan dialogue so that when the American troops leave Afghanistan, Afghanistan will not be condemned into a chaotic situation like before,” the Chinese official noted.

### **The Nation, 13-02-19**

Pak-China co-op in agriculture to be extended under CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have decided to expedite cooperation in the field of agriculture under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and an important meeting in this regard is expected to be held next month, an official in Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reforms said.

The official said that the cooperation was being extended with a special focus on boosting cooperation in the areas of climate change, desertification control, desalination, water management, afforestation and ecological restoration, wetland protection and restoration, wildlife protection, forestry industry development, disaster management and risk reduction and other areas of mutual interest.

“A sub group of CPEC agriculture sector has been elevated to a full-fledged joint working group and its meeting is planned to be held next month,” he added.

Meanwhile, he said that a team of Chinese Socio-Economic Development experts was visiting Pakistan in the last week of current month to finalize the projects and their sites in already agreed six different areas under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including health, education, water supply, vocational training, poverty alleviation and agriculture.

To a question, he said work on all the CPEC projects was going on in a smooth way and none of the CPEC projects is facing delay; rather Pakistan and China are agreed on the future trajectory of the CPEC and timely completion of its ongoing projects.



For future, he said joint efforts are underway, focusing on socio-economic development and accelerating cooperation in industrial development as well as agriculture.

The MoU on the formation of JWG on Socio-economic development and MoU on Poverty Reduction had been signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in November this year, the official added.

Recognizing the significance of Gwadar as an important node in cross-regional connectivity and the central pillar of CPEC, he said Pakistan and China have agreed to speed up the progress on the port and its auxiliary projects.

The groundbreaking of New Gwadar Airport, vocational institute and hospital are planned in the 1st quarter of this year.

Gwadar Master Plan is being prepared and it is in the final stages of formulation. Huge investment is expected in the petrochemical sector at Gwadar, he said.

Besides, he said Pakistan and China have expedited the work on industrial cooperation under CPEC and the government has expedited development of economic zones by prioritizing Rashakai, Dhabiji Faisalabad and ICT SEZs with a vision to make 2019 as a year of industrial development under CPEC.

He said ML-1 designs and scope are being firmed up jointly and government of Pakistan had prioritized implementation of Western Route project with a focus to expedite development of D I Khan-Zhob and Zhob-Quetta sections in order to ensure uplift of less developed areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The completion of two early projects of CPEC; Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur) and KKH Phase II (Thakot -Havelian) are planned in August 2019 and March 2020 respectively but both the projects are expected to be completed ahead of given schedule, he expressed.

### **The Nation, 13-02-19**

#### **Bill Gates says China major contributor to global progress**

NEW YORK - Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Tuesday said that exciting progress against poverty and disease around the world has been made in 2018, and China has been a major contributor to this progress. In a video speech exclusively broadcast via Xinhua, Gates said over the past four decades, China lifted over 800 million people out of

poverty and became the second largest economy in the world. Now, it is stepping up its efforts to help solve some of the toughest challenges in the rest of the world.

He said during his recent visit to China, he attended the Reinvented Toilet Expo and once again saw China's innovation capacity, with companies showcasing game-changing products that will benefit billions who today do not have access to safe sanitation.

He met Chinese scientists who are developing new drugs to tackle infectious diseases like tuberculosis that affect the poor, and talked with Chinese partners who are sharing lessons from China's own development, so that African countries can make progress on vital priorities such as strengthening health systems and controlling deadly diseases like malaria, and also improving agricultural transformation.

"I believe in China's ability to help hundreds of millions of young people in the world's poorest countries fulfill their potential. As we usher in the New Year, our foundation is committed, as always, to supporting China in building a better future for all," he said.

The video coincides with the release of Bill and Melinda Gates 2019 Annual Letter, in which they focused on nine surprises and what can be learned from them.

"Some surprises help people see when the status quo needs to change. Others underscore that needed transformation is already happening," he said.

"In 2018, we continued to see exciting progress against poverty and disease around the world. But as many nations turn inward, we risk losing sight of crucial global priorities, especially the need to invest in the health and education of young people," Gates said.

He said one surprise they share in the letter is how much Africa is the world's youngest continent. Between now and the end of the century, an increasing proportion of young people will come from countries on the African continent.

"Whether we ensure that these people (who) grow up healthily and well-educated and have the opportunity to thrive will determine the future trajectory of the whole globe," he stressed.

**The Nation, 13-02-19****China makes notable gains against terrorism in Xinjiang****INP  
BEIJING**

Chinese government has been actively working to counter terrorism and extremism and made notable achievements to this effect.

This was stated by a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Hua Chunying at a news briefing here on Tuesday, while strongly reacting to the Turkey's criticism in regard to the situation in Xinjiang.

She noted that a spokesperson of the Turkish Foreign Ministry last week made negative remarks about the situation.

Hua Chunying said, "First, since 1990s, the "three evil forces" (terrorism, extremism and separatism) in China and abroad have plotted, organized and conducted thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, injuring and killing a great number of innocent people of various ethnic groups."

Drawing on the anti-terrorism experience of the international community and based on its realities, the Chinese government has been actively working to counter terrorism and extremism and made notable achievements.

People in Xinjiang now have a stronger sense of security, happiness and fulfilment. Recently, diplomatic envoys and representatives from a dozen countries as well as media representatives from countries including Turkey visited Xinjiang. They toured several places, including vocational education centers.

Their trip enhanced their comprehensive understanding of the economic and social situation in Xinjiang, and they believed that the happiness that exuded from the faces of local people is the most eloquent response to those rumors.

**The Nation, 14-02-19****China to lift another 10m people out of poverty**INP  
BEIJING

China will continue to work vigorously to reduce poverty and lift no less than ten million people out of poverty in 2019, to lay a solid foundation for winning the battle against poverty, the State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang decided on Wednesday.

The year 2018 saw China launch its three-year actions in fighting the battle against poverty. Premier Li Keqiang vowed to reduce the poor population by ten million each year in all his government work reports over the past five years.

He gave specific instructions on ways to push forward this work and to better manage the poverty alleviation funds.

According to the progress update at the meeting, 13.86 million people were lifted out of poverty in 2018, thanks to the dedicated efforts by local authorities and competent departments in implementing the decisions made by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

Figures from the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development show that the new approach of poverty relief by developing emerging industries in poor areas such as e-commerce, photovoltaics and country tourism has paid off.

Infrastructure development in poor areas has been accelerated.

Some 208,000 kilometers of rural roads were built or renovated in 2018. New progress was made in upgrading the power grid in poor areas.

And 94 percent of the poor villages are now covered by broadband internet services.

"We must strive to meet the poverty alleviation target for this year. Making poverty history by 2020 is the solemn commitment our Party and government have made to the people. We must fulfil this commitment by ensuring full delivery of all related policies and consolidating the progress we have made," Li said.

It was decided at the meeting that efforts will be intensified this year to help the deeply poor areas. Increase in the poverty alleviation fund under the central government budget will be mainly channeled to these areas.

Projects under the 13th Five-Year Plan that help enhance the weak links of poor areas will be prioritized.

The meeting urged to stick to current standard, and the cross-regional pairing arrangements for poverty alleviation will be enhanced.

The difficulties poor people face in meeting the five essential needs of food, clothing, compulsory education, basic healthcare and a place to live will be tackled down to every household.

Counties that have emerged from poverty and their populations shall remain eligible for related policy incentives by 2020, the final-stage year in fighting poverty.

Records of those who fall back into poverty and the newly discovered poor will be promptly established to provide them support.

The meeting urged to cut the poor population by another ten million this year to lay a solid foundation for winning the final battle against poverty.

**The Nation, 14-02-19****Imported infectious diseases on rise in China**

BEIJING - A recent study shows that more than 30,000 cases of infectious diseases were imported to the Chinese mainland from 2005 to 2016, and the types of imported infectious diseases increased from two in 2005 to 11 in 2016.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and other Chinese research institutions, collected and analyzed data related to imported infectious diseases from China's National Information Reporting System of Infectious Diseases.

A total of 31,470 cases of infectious diseases were imported to the Chinese mainland from 2005 to 2016, and the cases were imported mainly from Africa and Asia. The study was published in the January issue of the U.S. journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

According to the China Statistical Yearbook, the number of inbound tourists from Africa grew from 238,000 in 2005 to 589,000 in 2016, and the number of inbound tourists from Asia grew from 12.5 million in 2005 to 18 million in 2016. Some infectious diseases have been re-emerging, such as epidemic hemorrhagic fever and malaria, which previously had been under control, and wild poliovirus that had previously been eliminated in China in 2000.

In 2011, an outbreak of wild poliovirus infection was reported in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. A few emerging infectious diseases, such as the Middle East respiratory syndrome, yellow fever and the Zika virus, were also reported in China.

The study found a seasonal distribution of imported infectious diseases. Most yellow fever cases were imported in March. There is usually a higher incidence of imported malaria from April to August, reaching a peak in May and June. All the Japanese encephalitis cases were imported from June to September, whereas the incidence of imported dengue fever usually peaks in October. The cases of Zika were imported mainly through international airports around major festival events, such as the Spring Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day.

Information about the imported infectious diseases is believed to be of value for helping with drafting policies for public health.

### **The Nation, 14-02-19**

#### **Huawei ranks world's third biggest chip buyer**

BEIJING - Huawei Technologies Co. ranked the world's third-largest buyer of semiconductors in 2018, following Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc, the China Daily reported on Wednesday, citing a recent report by U.S.-based research firm Gartner Inc.

The Chinese tech company spent over 21 billion U.S. dollars on semiconductor chips last year, accounting for 4.4 percent of the total world-wide market. It increased its chip spending by 45.2 percent, jumping in front of Dell and Lenovo Group to the third spot.

Three other Chinese companies, Lenovo, BBK Electronic Co. and Xiaomi Corp., were also among the top 10 semiconductor buyers in 2018.

Gartner said semi-conductor spending by the top 10 buyers increased significantly, and their share reached 40.2 percent of the total semiconductor market in 2018, up from 39.4 percent in 2017.

With regard to smartphone sales, Huawei shored up its leading position. The company shipped 30 million smartphones in the domestic market in the fourth quarter of last year, up 23.3 percent year on year. It topped the list with a market share of 29 percent.

According to research firm IDC.

Oppo ranked the second place, with its shipment of smartphones reaching 20.3 million units in the fourth quarter, accounting for 19.6 percent of the market share, followed by Vivo, with a market share of 18.8 percent.

Apple Inc's smartphone shipments in the Chinese market plummeted about 20 percent during this period, taking up 11.5 percent of the market share.

### **The Nation, 14-02-19**

#### **China and India help make planet leafier**

NEW YORK - China and India, two of the world's biggest polluters, are making it leafier - for now, a report says.

The greening effect stems mainly from ambitious tree-planting in China and intensive farming in both countries. There are now more than 2 million sq miles of extra leaf area per year, compared with the early 2000s – a 5% increase.

Extra foliage helps slow climate change, but researchers warn this will be offset by rising temperatures.

Satellite data from the US space agency Nasa shows that over the last two decades there has been an increase in leaf area on plants and trees equivalent to the area covered by all the Amazon rainforests. The greening was first detected in the mid-1990s.



Scientists first assumed plants were being fertilized by the extra CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and boosted by a warmer, wetter climate. But they didn't know whether changes in farming and forestry were contributing to the changes.

Thanks to a Nasa instrument called Modis, which is orbiting the Earth on two satellites, they can now see that both are clearly playing a direct part, too. China's contribution to the global greening trend comes in large part (42%) from programmes to conserve and expand forests.

The policies were developed to reduce the effects of soil erosion, air pollution and climate change.

Another 32% of the greening there – and 82% of the greening in India – comes from intensive cultivation of food crops thanks to fertilizers and irrigation.

Production of grains, vegetables, fruits and other crops has increased by 35% to 40% since 2000, so both nations can feed their large populations.

The future of the greening trend may change depending on numerous factors. For example, India may run short of groundwater irrigation.

On the global picture, scientists recently warned that CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere could reach record levels this year as a result of heating in the tropical Pacific which is likely to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in plants.

Rama Nemani, from Nasa's Ames Research Center, a co-author of the work said: "Now that we know direct human influence is a key driver of the greening Earth, we need to factor this into our climate models.

"This will help scientists make better predictions about the behavior of different Earth systems, which will help countries make better decisions about how and when to take action."

The scientist who first spotted the warming trend, Prof Ranga Myneni from Boston University, reiterated a previous warning to BBC News that the extra tree growth would not compensate for global warming, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, ocean acidification, the loss of Arctic sea ice, and the prediction of more severe tropical storms.

But it's acknowledged that although carbon uptake from plants was factored in to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) models, it remains one of the main sources of uncertainty in future climate forecasts.

The research comes as a UK-based think tank IPPR warned that governments should not focus narrowly on any single environmental problem, but recognise the slew of environmental issues facing the world, including the loss of soil which is already reducing fertility in many areas.

### **The Nation, 15-02-19**

#### **Next CPEC phase to focus buying more from Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing Thursday met Prime Minister Imran Khan and said the next stage of China Pakistan Economic Corridor would focus on investing and buying more from Pakistan.

The ambassador updated the prime minister on the CPEC projects and said Pakistan and China were the closest friends and partners, a PM Office's statement said.

He also reaffirmed his government's resolve to work closely with Pakistan to further strengthen the bilateral relations.

Later, talking to media, the ambassador termed his meeting with the prime minister "very successful".

He said he had conveyed to Premier Khan that the Chinese leadership, government and the business community were encouraged by the vision, agenda and priorities set by him and his government like the ease of doing business, Clean and Green Pakistan and opening up of Pakistan's economy to the world.

He also lauded the government's policies for inviting direct and indirect investment to the country besides enhancing its exports.

The ambassador said he had assured the prime minister that China would continue to be a strong partner of future development of Pakistan. "We have every confidence that with the leadership of new government, Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan will achieve its destination of prosperity and development," he remarked.

During the meeting, the prime minister said Pakistan and China were close friends and strong partners.

Praising the vision of President Xi Jinping for socio-economic development of China, he said Pakistan could learn much from the Chinese experience for the social uplift of the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister viewed that CPEC had added a new dimension to bilateral ties and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to its timely completion.

He expressed satisfaction over the significant progress made on the CPEC projects.

The prime minister also underscored his priorities for transfer of technology and capacity building in agricultural sector, which would have direct impact on poverty alleviation in rural areas.

#### NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ERA

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Thursday said Pakistan and China have entered into a new era of strategic partnership which would go a long way in economic and social development of the region.

He expressed these views while talking to GAO Yunlong, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) here at Parliament House.

The Vice Chairman of CPPCC is heading a delegation on a four-day visit to Pakistan. During the visit, the Vice Chairman of CPPCC would also meet the President of Pakistan and other dignitaries in Islamabad.

Sanjrani said Pakistan was proud of its unprecedented friendship with China and the recent visit of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to China has added a new chapter in the bilateral relations of both the countries. He appreciated the momentum in exchange of parliamentary delegations and said that parliamentary diplomacy could better develop understanding on issues of mutual concern.

He said that the Upper House of the Parliament has established a Parliamentary Friendship Group which can play a crucial role in cementing the existing ties. Chairman Senate said that there was a need to further boost cooperation among the secretariats of the parliaments in both the countries to steer the cooperation in different areas of mutual interest. He said that the business delegations should also exchange visits for enhancing the economic ties and improving the balance of trade between the two countries. He said that CPEC was a flagship game changer project and they were committed for its early completion to benefit from its potential for regional

development. He said that the ongoing mega projects under the CPEC including an international airport, hospitals and professional training institutes needed to be completed at the earliest.

Sadiq Sanjrani apprised the Vice Chairman of CPPCC that a successful Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) meeting in Gwadar has paved the way for increased interest of the international investors in the region. He said that APA platform needed to be further strengthened and Pakistan would seek Chinese support for this purpose. Chairman Senate said that the mutual ties between the two countries called for further momentum in people to people contacts to strengthen the existing economic and parliamentary linkages.

The Vice Chairman of CPPCC conveyed special greetings of the Chairman CPPCC to Chairman Senate and thanked for fruitful discussion during his visit of China. He said that China attached utmost importance to its ties with Pakistan as both the countries shared a common vision and agenda for regional development. He said that the purpose of this visit was to further enhance the parliamentary relations between the two countries which would be instrumental for steering the political and economic ties. He said that both the countries shared a common stance on most of the international issues and China looks forward for further cooperation in this regard. The visiting dignitary invited Senate Chairman to visit China. Chairman Senate informed the Vice Chairman that a high level parliamentary delegation of Senate would soon visit China to move ahead on parliamentary ties.

Separately, Vice Chairman of CPPCC along with his delegation met with the group of senators headed by Leader of the House in the Senate Shibli Faraz. “Pakistan and China are all weather strategic cooperative partners and both have a shared vision for regional growth and prosperity,” said Senator Faraz. He said Pakistan would continue to adhere to One China Policy and supported China on all core issues. He further said Prime Minister Imran Khan also appreciated China’s contribution towards regional development and his visit to China last year further reaffirmed their traditional friendship. He expressed his satisfaction that intern-parliamentary linkages had increased and there was need to bring the people of two sides closer to push forward development agenda.

Leader of the House emphasized the need to enhance and strengthen institutional linkages between the two parliaments and said that the friendship groups could play active role in cementing ties.

On bilateral friendship, Senator Shibli said that Pakistan’s political parties used to speak with one voice for deepening ties with China. He said that Pakistan attached great importance to

CPEC and was committed to its early completion. He stressed that Pakistan was trying to expand cooperation under CPEC on socio-economic development, agriculture cooperation, industrial capacity, job creation, poverty alleviation, trade and commerce besides broadening special economic zones base.

Leader of the Chinese delegation said that China valued its ties with Pakistan and it was one of the shining examples of close neighborly ties. He said that China would further encourage Chinese investment in Pakistan.

### **The Nation, 15-02-19**

#### **China geological survey ship concludes Pak visit**

Islamabad - China Geological Survey Research Ship (CGS) “HAI YANG DI ZHI SHI HAO” has concluded visit of Pakistan for Hydrocarbon research and geological mapping under the auspices of Pakistan Navy.

A statement issued by Pakistan Navy spokesperson on Thursday, the CGS Research Ship undertook this expedition from Dec 18 to Feb 19.

According to spokesperson, Pakistan Navy hosted the CGS research ship “HAI YANG DI ZHI SHI HAO” at Karachi port.

The visit of research ship was materialized after the meeting of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi with Vice Minister China Geological Survey (CGS) Dr Zhong Ziran, in Beijing last year.

During the expedition, CGS ship conducted various Seismic and Oceanographic observations in the offshore area of Pakistan.

Along with Chinese scientists, scientists from National Institute of Oceanography and Pakistan Navy also participated in the expedition. The acquired data will be jointly processed by Pakistani and Chinese scientists.

This expedition is in line with growing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of geological survey and oceanography.

This cooperation in the field of offshore research will continue in future and another expedition from CGS has also been planned in near future.

It is expected that these expeditions will assist in resource mapping of our offshore areas.

### **The Nation, 15-02-19**

#### **2 power plants sale may draw interest from Chinese, ME investors**

LAHORE - JPMorgan Chase & Co., CLSA and Credit Suisse Group AG are among foreign banks pitching for a role on Pakistan's biggest privatization in over a decade, which could raise around \$2 billion, people with knowledge of the matter said, Bloomberg.com reported.

The government's sale of two LNG-fired power plants could draw interest from Chinese and Middle Eastern investors, one of the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private. Pakistan received about 10 bids from groups seeking a financial advisory role and expects to pick banks by the end of March, another person said.

Citigroup Inc. and Standard Chartered Plc. made their own separate proposals, while Lazard Ltd. is pitching with Pakistani brokerage Next Capital Ltd., the people said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is pursuing a divestment that would rank as one of the biggest-ever mergers and acquisitions in Pakistan, as he seeks to bridge a financing gap of more than \$12 billion and avoid a balance-of-payments crisis. The nation has secured loans from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and is close to a loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

"The sale will bring in much-needed foreign currency into the country, complementing foreign government loans and a likely IMF bailout package," said Arif Rafiq, an analyst at the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

#### **Privatization Push**

Pakistan is selling National Power Parks Management Co., the state-owned firm that owns and runs the 1,230-megawatt Haveli Bahadur Shah plant and the 1,223-megawatt Balloki plant. Both plants are located in Punjab province, Pakistan's most populated, and started operations in the past two years. The government has said it aims to complete the privatization of the power assets in the financial year ending June 30.



The sale would rank as Pakistan's largest privatization since 2006, when Emirates Telecommunications Group Co. bought a \$2.6 billion stake in Pakistan Telecommunication Co. in the country's biggest-ever M&A transaction, data compiled by Bloomberg show. The power plant divestment is set to become Pakistan's largest privatization in the energy sector, according to government figures dating back to 1991.

Pak Brunei Investment Co. is also pitching for a role on the power plant divestments in a group with Zeeruk International Pvt, the people said. BMA Capital Management Ltd. and CPCS Transcom Ltd. have submitted a joint proposal, according to Salman Virani, head of investment banking at BMA Capital.

Habib Bank Ltd. and China International Capital Corp. are partnering with JPMorgan, a representative for Habib Bank said in response to Bloomberg queries. CLSA submitted a joint proposal with Bank Alfalah Ltd. and their local brokerage venture Alfalah Securities Pvt, while Credit Suisse is pitching together with Pakistan's Elixir Securities Ltd., the people said.

A representative for the Pakistan's Privatization Commission said the government has no comment. Representatives for CICC, Citigroup, CLSA, Credit Suisse, JPMorgan, Standard Chartered, Elixir Securities and Next Capital also declined to comment. Representatives for Lazard, Bank Alfalah, Pak Brunei and Zeeruk didn't immediately respond to queries.

### **The Nation, 15-02-19**

#### **First CPEC SEZ at Rashkai set to hit the ground**

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar has said the first CPEC Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Rashkai will hit the ground in the coming six weeks.

The minister expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of "Friends of Silk Road" here Thursday. The minister said that formation of CPEC business forum would help to create an interface with business community of Pakistan.

While endorsing the previous government stance of generating enough electricity, the minister highlighted that CPEC has helped to overcome severe energy crises in the country. "Sufficient power availability is supporting to ensure investment in Pakistan," he added.

Bakhtyar said that President Xi Belt and Road Plan is transforming this century wherein China Pakistan Economic Corridor is an iconic project. He said CPEC is a project above the party or regional lines which enjoys full consensus of different stakeholders.

Minister said that CPEC 8th Joint Cooperation Committee has decided to make 2019 as "year of industrialization" and now Pakistan is fully focussing on development of special economic zone.

Minister intimated that Rashkai would be the first SEZ which will hit the ground in the coming six weeks.

Minister said industrial cooperation would support to overcome Pakistan's trade deficit. Government will facilitate investors with continuous policy support to create a "pull factor" he reiterated, adding that China would "push" its leading enterprises to relocate to Pakistan.

Minister said that the incumbent government has expanded base of CPEC with a vision "One Corridor, Many Doors". On these lines, Pakistan and China have signed agreements on agriculture cooperation, socio economic development and poverty alleviation during the Prime Minister's visit to China in November last year.

He informed that Chinese experts were visiting Pakistan this month in order to promote cooperation in this sector. He hailed Chinese government for its financial support, amounting to one billion dollar grant in order to facilitate socioeconomic development.

Minister PD&R said that agriculture sector is a major contributor of Pakistan's GDP which holds huge investment potentials in future. Pakistan and China have expedited cooperation in this sector by establishment of a full-fledged joint working group which is planned to meet next month.

Bakhtyar said that government attaches top priority to the development of Gwadar. Groundbreaking of a number of projects including Gwadar Power Plant, New International Airport, Vocational Institute and Hospital would be done in the coming few weeks, he informed. Similarly, Gwadar Master Plan would be finalized in the coming 6 weeks, he added.

Minister said that Pakistan is fully committed to take CPEC to new heights. We will participate with full preparation in the Belt and Road Forum, planned in the month of April, he vowed.

## The Nation

### **China's oldest Quran displayed in Qinghai province**

BEIJING:- China's oldest handwritten Quran manuscript is on public display in Haidong in Northwest China's Qinghai province. The 30-volume, 867-page Quran is believed to date back 1,100 to 1,300 years and weighs 12.79 kilograms, according to China Daily on Thursday. The Quran belongs to a mosque in the Xunhua Salar autonomous county and is seen as a testimony to the development of the ethnic group that set out eastward from what is now Turkmenistan in the 13th century and finally settled in Qinghai.—APP

## The News, 04-02-19

### **China disciplines 80 officials linked to major vaccine scandal**

BEIJING: China's corruption watchdog on Saturday said it had disciplined more than 80 officials linked to a vaccine scandal last year that inflamed public fears over the safety of domestically produced drugs.

Changchun Changsheng Biotechnology -- a major Chinese manufacturer of rabies vaccines -- was slapped with a \$1.3 billion fine in October after it was found to have fabricated records. Four officials from the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA), including former deputy director Wu Zhen, have been handed over to prosecutors, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a statement Saturday.

State-run news agency Xinhua detailed the allegations against Wu including nepotism and taking bribes. He has also been expelled from the Communist Party, it said. "Being 'ruthless to the people', Wu allegedly abused his power in drug regulation, severely jeopardizing the state's supervision over drugs," Xinhua said, citing the graft watchdog.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection also said it would "seriously deal with" more than 80 other provincial or local officials from multiple government organizations, without offering details.

These officials have already been fired or demoted, it said. Authorities earlier said the faulty rabies vaccines did not enter the market. But the case provoked outrage from customers fed up with recurring product-safety scandals, particularly in the drug sector.

The drug company's chairwoman and 14 employees were arrested after the scandal came to light last July, while more than a dozen national, provincial and local officials were sacked.

## The News, 04-02-19

### **‘Pak-China border free of terrorism’**

BEIJING: Kashgar, officially known as Kashi close to Pak-China border gets free of terrorism and extremist mind-set, says media reports quoting official sources.

China highly obliged to Pakistan’s support in its efforts, making the region peaceful for the local residents and keeping the life normal. In the recent years, there has been close coordination among the relevant security agencies to maintain normalcy along the border region.

Authorities in Kashi, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region have vowed to keep up the momentum in their crackdown on organized gang crimes, and encourage the public to offer tip-offs of gangsters involved with extremism and terrorist activities. A letter distributed to the public by the local government listed 16 types of gang crimes, including organized groups or families that "threaten political security, especially the security of the socialist system," those who "try to exert influence on the political field, or attempt to separate the country, plot extremist and terrorist activities."

The letter was first published in February 2018 and was reissued by authorities on social media in recent months. In January 2018, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council jointly released a notice on the launch of a major campaign against gang crimes.

According to a report from the Ministry of Public Security, by last January, police had solved 79,270 criminal cases, confiscated 851 guns, and sealed assets worth 62.1 billion yuan (\$9.23 billion) related to such crimes.

Governments at all levels in Xinjiang have made efforts to push forward the operation. Zhu Hailun, a deputy Party chief of Xinjiang, was quoted by the Xinjiang Daily as saying in October 2018 that the region should combine its drive to fight gang crimes with its anti-terrorism efforts.

Kashi, located in southern Xinjiang, has previously suffered from extremism and terrorism in recent years. "The violent groups and criminal gangs are a malignant tumor which is detested by people and can harm the healthy development of the economy," according to a release from Kashi's Public Security Bureau in January.

In a promotional video, the bureau referred to some gang crimes connected to religious extremism. For example, some Party members, religious groups and officials who have been used as protective umbrellas for separatists, criminal gangs, religious extremists or who have divulged information to separatists and interfered in such cases, will also be regarded as being involved with gang crimes.

## The News, 04-02-19

### **China expects India to sign NPT at the earliest**

BEIJING: China called on countries that have not yet joined the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to join as non-nuclear weapon states as soon as possible.

China's Foreign Ministry said this in response to questions on India's application to the NPT treaty.

The comment was given by Geng Shuang spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry at a regular news briefing when asked if the meeting of five nuclear weapon states talked about the possibility of India joining the NPT and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

There has not been a precedent for a non-NPT country to join the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), so, if India wants to join the NSG, it requires sufficient negotiation among NSG members and a consensus among them to reach a resolution to the issue said Geng.

The NSG was set up by a group of countries that have civil nuclear technology equipment and material export capabilities. It aims to achieve nuclear non-proliferation by preventing civil nuclear technology and material from being used to develop nuclear weapons.

Xu Guangyu a senior consultant at the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association and a participant of open activities at the P5 Conference told Chinese media that it is impossible for China as well as the other four recognized nuclear weapon countries in the NPT to recognize a new nuclear weapon country because this would cause serious nuclear proliferation and global security would be greatly damaged.

Many more countries would like to become nuclear armed states if the five do not safeguard the standard and norm of joining the NPT Xu said.

Four states—India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan— have never signed the NPT. India and Pakistan have publicly disclosed their nuclear weapons programmes and Israel has a long standing policy of deliberate ambiguity with regards to its nuclear programme.

## The News, 06-02-19

### **US trade agency sees negotiating new WTO rules to rein in China as futile**

WASHINGTON: Negotiating new World Trade Organization rules to try to rein in China's "mercantilist" trade practices would be largely a futile exercise, the Trump administration's trade office said on Monday, vowing to pursue its unilateral approach to protect US workers, farmers and businesses, Reuters reported.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office used its annual report to Congress on China's WTO compliance in part to justify its actions in a six-month trade war with Beijing aimed at forcing changes in China's economic model.

The report also reflects the United States' continued frustration with the WTO's inability to curb what it sees as China's trade-distorting non-market economic policies, and offered little hope that situation could change soon.

"It is unrealistic to expect success in any negotiation of new WTO rules that would restrict China's current approach to the economy and trade in a meaningful way," the USTR said in the report.

Some U.S. allies, including Canada, the European Union and Japan, which are also frustrated with pressures created by China's economic policies, have begun talks on the first potential changes and modernization of WTO rules since it was founded in 1995.

But any WTO rule changes must be agreed by all 164 member nations, and past efforts have stalled. It was "highly unlikely" China would agree to new disciplines targeting changes to its trade practices and economic system, the USTR said.

The report shed little light on progress in talks between the United States and China to ease a bruising tariff fight, despite a swiftly approaching March 2 deadline to hike U.S. tariffs to 25 percent from 10 percent on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods imports.

The WTO report follows two days of intense talks between high-level U.S. and Chinese officials last week centered on U.S. demands for structural policy changes. These include enforcing



intellectual property protections, ending cyber theft of trade secrets, halting the forced transfers of American technology to Chinese firms and reining in industrial subsidies. [L1N1ZV015]

While U.S. President Donald Trump said he would like to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping to try to hammer out a trade deal, the USTR report makes clear a massive amount of work will be needed to bridge the gulf between the two countries.

It cited the key structural issues in the talks, which also include China's new cyber security law and discriminatory regulatory practices, as examples of how China aids domestic firms at the expense of foreign competitors in ways that escape WTO rules, adding that China has become "a unique and pressing problem for the WTO and the multilateral trading system."

The criticism also comes as the United States weakens the WTO's role as global commerce watchdog by blocking the appointments of judges to its appellate body, which may no longer be able to function by December, when two judges step down.

USTR said the United States intends to "hold China accountable" for adhering to existing WTO rules and "any unfair and market-distorting trade practices that hurt U.S. workers, businesses, farmers or ranchers."

"Until China transforms its approach to the economy and trade, the United States will take all appropriate actions to ensure that the costs of China's non-market economic system are borne by China, not by the United States," USTR said.

The agency reiterated a broad array of concerns over China's key structural issues, such as its 2025 plan for investment in particular sectors and its failure to follow market-oriented principles expected of WTO members, the report said.

"China retains its non-market economic structure and its state-led, mercantilist approach to trade, to the detriment of its trading partners," it said.

## The News, 07-02-19

### **World leaders praise Chinese glorious traditions**

BEIJING: World leaders including President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi praised high China's glorious traditions, motivating the spirit of love for the family and the country among its people, through country-wide celebrations on eve of new Lunar Year.

In their messages on the occasion, they extended best wishes to the Chinese people, seeking closer ties with China, attracting Chinese tourists and consolidating support from Chinese communities.

In a congratulatory video speech, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wished the Chinese people a happy new year. He pledged to relax visa policies for Chinese students studying in Japan and called for more people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern posted her lunar new year's wishes on social media. She took the opportunity to thank the Chinese community in New Zealand for its hard work and contributions.

Pakistani President Arif Alvi, President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani, Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and other world leaders also sent videos or messages to wish the Chinese people a happy lunar new year.

For centuries, the Lunar Year has been the most important festival in China and a large part of Asia. People leave behind the worries and troubles of the past year and move on to a new spring full of hope and life.

Today, the festival has become a worldwide holiday as China plays a bigger role in world affairs and people all around the world share the wish to leave uncertainties behind and usher in a peaceful and prosperous year ahead.

As the Chinese New Year falls on Tuesday, major cities across the globe are vying to hold the greatest celebration of this traditional festival outside China. The Chinese New Year, also known

as the Spring Festival, is the most important festival in China. Celebrations begin about a week in advance and end with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the New Year.

### **The News, 07-02-19**

#### **Chinese New Year marked**

Islamabad: A reception was held at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel on Wednesday to celebrate the Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival.

General Manager of hotel Maurizio Romani hosted the event at Dynasty, the Chinese restaurant, where members of civil society, diplomats and Chinese nationals were in attendance.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing was the guest of honor on the occasion. The celebrations kicked off with the traditional 'lion dance', which has been part of the Chinese culture for centuries.

Adding to the festivities, the guests experienced the debut of a special Chinese menu curated by executive Chinese chef Zubin. The special menu will be available to all diners for an entire week.

### **The News, 07-02-19**

#### **UNCTAD estimates \$1bln in export gains for Pakistan**

KARACHI: US-China's trade tiff is expected to pave way for Pakistan to have export gains of around one billion dollars, the United Nations said, indicating a good omen for the economy struggling to increase foreign inflows.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said Pakistan would have export gains of 3.8 percent of its total exports as a consequence of Chinese tariffs on US. The country's total exports amounted to \$23.212 billion in the last fiscal year of 2017/18, up 14 percent over the preceding fiscal year.

A new study by UNCTAD looks at the repercussions of existing tariff hikes by the United States and China, and the effects of the increase scheduled for 1 March.

“Substantial effects relative to the size of their exports are also expected for Australia, Brazil, India, Philippines, Pakistan and Viet Nam,” Geneva-based UNCTAD, the part of the United Nations secretariat, said in the latest study.

Around \$250 billion in Chinese exports will be subject to US tariffs, while approximately \$110 billion in US exports will be subject to China’s tariffs.

Pakistan will be among the countries that could benefit from Chinese tariffs on the US. The largest beneficiary of the trade war would be European Union in export gains, followed by Mexico, Japan, Canada, Korea, India, Australia, Brazil, Taiwan, Viet Nam, Singapore and others.

“Countries that are expected to benefit the most from US-China tensions are those which are more competitive and have the economic capacity to replace US and Chinese firms,” the intergovernmental body said.

“European Union exports are those likely to increase the most, capturing about \$70 billion of US-China bilateral trade (\$50 billion of Chinese exports to the US, and \$20 billion of US exports to China). Japan, Mexico and Canada will each capture more than \$20 billion.”

China’s tariffs on US exports will give benefits mostly to non-Chinese firms and the same will be case vis-à-vis US tariffs on China’s exports.

“The reason is simple: bilateral tariffs alter global competitiveness to the advantage of firms operating in countries not directly affected by them,” the UNCTAD said. “This will be reflected in import and export patterns around the globe.”

China is the third biggest export destination for Pakistan after the US and UK, accounting for seven percent share in the country’s total exports to the world. But, China is the biggest import source for Pakistan with nearly 24 percent share in the country’s total imports of \$60 billion.

China-Pakistan’s bilateral free trade agreement largely remains in benefit of the former with the latter facing trade deficit of almost \$10 billion.

## The News, 09-02-19

### **Murad accuses Ahsan of Rs70b corruption**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Murad Saeed has accused former federal planning and development minister Ahsan Iqbal of receiving up to Rs70 billion commissions in the Multan-Sukkur motorway project.

Talking to journalists, the minister said Ahsan Iqbal, front man Javed Sadiq and the former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are involved in the scam.

He urged the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to take action against the corrupt immediately. “This is just the first case in many to come,” Murad Saeed said. “I will give details of transfer of funds to Larkana, which took place during the Pakistan People’s Party tenure,” he said.

On Pakistan PTI leader Aleem Khan’s arrest by the NAB, the minister said, “Aleem did not say ‘why was I ousted’ (mujhe kyun nikala).”

“The PML-N finalized major projects for commission through their front man Sadiq and in the Multan-Sukkur Motorway project, the national exchequer suffered a loss of Rs70 billion,” the minister alleged. He further alleged that Ahsan Iqbal and Sadiq, back in 2013, inked the contract to benefit an international firm-China Estate Company.

“Sadiq was made the company director in order to obtain the contract in the bidding process. Ahsan Iqbal signed the contract on behalf of the prime minister,” he alleged. In response through a video statement, Ahsan Iqbal said Murad Saeed’s needless press conference is another dangerous effort to make the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project controversial.

Expressing grave concern and disappointment, Ahsan Iqbal said that in the past, Prime Minister Imran Khan too jeopardized the entire flagship project initiative with his irresponsible and misinformed statements. Ahsan warned the PTI government not to spew venom against the CPEC project, urging it to stop making the corridor project controversial with their grossly miscalculated assumptions.

“This outburst is a reaction of the government’s incapacity and failure to carry out the CPEC projects. Instead of taking the criticism positively, pulling up their socks and getting to work on the projects, the intolerant and inept PTI government has started attacking the CPEC project itself with their baseless propaganda,” he said, adding, “The naive PTI government doesn’t even know that the monitoring of all CPEC projects was done by independent experts from both China and Pakistan.”

Ahsan Iqbal said he would soon share the facts to rebut the false PTI propaganda against CPEC.

This, he said, would expose to the people of Pakistan, the real enemy of the state who “is defiling CPEC” just to cover up their gross incompetence.



The News, 09-02-19

## Sanjrani calls for expediting CPEC projects

Talks to Chinese envoy; says completion of projects of clean drinking water, healthcare facilities, vocational training etc vital for Balochistan; AJK Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir meets Mandviwalla

### Our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani emphasized on Friday that various mega projects being executed under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be expedited, enabling people to reap the fruits of the development at the earliest.

"Completion of the projects for provision of clean drinking water, healthcare facilities, vocational training and sports infrastructure on priority basis is of vital importance for the province of Balochistan," Sanjrani said this while talking to Ambassador of China Yao Jing here. Chief Secretary Balochistan Dr Muhammad Nazir was also present during the meeting.

Chairman Senate said that historic friendly relations between Pakistan and China had further strengthened due to enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries. "Projects under CPEC are not only for the benefit of people of Balochistan but also very important for economic development of different areas of the country as well as providing a milestone for future development of China," Sanjrani said and added that provision of quality health and education facilities would raise the standard of living of people of Balochistan.

He said that keeping in view the increasing requirement of health sector in the province, a hospital of international standard in Balochistan should be setup in addition to provision of added healthcare facilities to the people. He said the province is offering optimal investment

opportunities due to ongoing development process in the province and there was a huge potential for the investment in fisheries sector.

Chairman Senate said that other less developed areas of the country should also be included in the development stream to provide better facilities at par with the developed areas. He said that there was a need to offer special scholarships for the students of Balochistan with the cooperation of Chinese government.

"Provincial government may provide these scholarships to the students of all the districts of province purely on merit so as to improve the standard of education especially in the neglected areas," he noted.

Chairman Senate pointed out that as a part of the sport infrastructure development process in Balochistan, the first football stadium would be constructed in Quetta. He was also informed that different projects were being planned for less developed areas of the country with close collaboration of Chinese government and Ministry of Planning and Development.

Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan and China friendship was time tested and the present economic partnership would be mutually beneficial for both the countries. He said that Chinese government was fully cooperating with government of Pakistan for the executing public welfare projects in less developed areas of the country with the active participation of the relevant provinces.

Meanwhile, Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

Shah Ghulam Qadir made a courtesy call on Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla at the Parliament House. Issues of mutual interest, including security and environment were discussed.

Mandviwalla stressed the need to promote tourism of AJK and also asserted the need for proper waste management mechanism to protect the Kashmir's natural beauty and its immaculate environment.

Speaking about his recent visit to AJK, he conveyed the concerns and problems being faced by the people of Leepa Valley, Kashmir and said that a tunnel may be constructed with the help of any friendly country likewise Lowari Tunnel in order to get local people connected with other cities of AJK throughout the entire year.

While discussing the issues regarding treatment of Pakistani tax filers in the territories of AJK, Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir said the AJK government was in constant consultation with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to integrate the systems and hopefully it would be integrated soon.

Deputy Chairman Senate said a meeting would be called with the FBR and relevant stakeholders and the matter would be taken up with them. He also stressed the need to enhance interaction between the two Parliaments and said that he would visit the AJK Assembly in near future.

In another development, Ambassador of Switzerland Thomas Kolly met Deputy Chairman Senate and exchanged views over bilateral re-

lationship and friendship.

Mandviwalla said there was a dire need to enhance Parliamentary activities between the two countries in order to encourage exchange of ideas and partnerships. He stressed the need for the activation of friendship groups on both sides and extended invitation to President of Council of States in Switzerland.

Speaking about investment and trade issues, Mandviwalla said that currently there existed trade around dollars 1.2 billion between Pakistan and Switzerland, of which a major chunk consisted of Pakistani imports. He said the Ambassador of Switzerland may advise Pakistan on ways to enhance business-to-business contacts and also identify Pakistani products having high potential in Swiss markets.

Deputy Chairman Senate also stressed the Swiss government to review its decision of closing down the Consulate of Switzerland in Karachi and suggested to open it again for the general public and business people due to economic and political significance of the city. He said a representative of the Switzerland Embassy may be assigned at the initial stage.

The Ambassador of Switzerland agreed with the views of Deputy Chairman Senate and said that both countries can achieve a lot through enhanced interactions and increased bilateral cooperation. He said that trade and investment is in the interest of both the countries and would open up new avenues of bilateral cooperation in near future.

The News, 10-02-19

## CPEC to ensure peaceful trade: President Alvi

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi has said the Indian Ocean has great importance in the world trade: it has drawn world powers in the region.

Addressing the International Maritime Conference held in connection with the Pakistan Navy Exercise AMAN in Karachi, the president said the purpose of CPEC is to transport trade goods from Asia to the entire world peacefully, oceans would have to be utilized for peaceful, stable

and economic benefits, war is no solution to any issues permanently, it is the responsibility of world powers to set the direction of the globe.

Addressing the conference, Naval Chief Admiral Zafar Mehmood Abbasi said that the East Timor and South Sudan's quest for self-determination was granted by the United Nations, but it has constantly failed to extend the same right to the people of Kashmir. The naval chief said the countries facing turmoil includes mostly the Muslim world that poses a grave question. He said the Gwadar Naval port is entirely and managed by Pak forces, and friendly countries could also use it like Karachi port.

The three-day International Maritime Conference organized on the theme of 'Global Geopolitics in Transition: Rethinking Maritime Dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region' under the auspices of National Institute of Maritime Affairs commenced today. President Dr Arif Alvi graced the Opening Session as chief guest. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi was also present on the occasion. The conference is being held in tandem with biennial Multinational Maritime Exercise - AMAN 2019.

While addressing the audience, the chief guest underscored the importance of Blue Economy and effective use of Ocean resources as key to Pakistan's future. He stated that Indian Ocean acts as a strategic gateway for food, maritime transportation and energy supplies to the world and the presence of major powers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), signifies its importance under a complex security environment.

Appreciating the role of Pakistan Navy, the president said that the collaborative maritime security engagements with regional and extra-regional navies in the form of "AMAN-19" signify Pakistan's resolve and commitment towards global peace and prosperity. Pakistan as an important regional player wishes to work in harmony and collaboration with all regional countries for the common objectives of peace, stability and economic prosperity for the people of the region.

Earlier, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi in his opening remarks welcomed all guests and participants and highlighted the significant role being played by Pakistan Navy in the sustenance of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

The naval chief added that Pakistan has always been an ardent supporter of maritime cooperation, and being the pioneer partner of Combined Maritime Forces' (CMF) task forces CTF150 and CTF 151, Pakistan has been the largest regional contributor to these constructs in terms of men and material. On our national front, Pakistan has commenced 'Regional Maritime Security Patrols' (RMSP) which aims to maintain security posture in critical sea areas and choke points in the Indian Ocean.

In his welcome address, Director General National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Vice Admiral (Retd) Syed Khawar Ali Shah, presented a brief resume including the objectives of International Maritime Conference. In addition, David N. Griffiths, Research Fellow Centre for the Study of Security and Development at Dalhousie University Canada, presented Keynote address on "Security Myths and Paradigm Traps: Strategic Thinking for the 21st Century".

### **The News, 10-02-19**

#### **Giant Chinese firms shaping up world's industries**

PARIS: It was fear of being dominated by a Chinese behemoth that sparked an attempt by large French and German rail companies to join forces to create a European industrial champion.

The merger by Alstom and Siemens was vetoed by the EU on Thursday, but concerns about the overwhelming power of vast, often state-backed Chinese companies is not limited to the rail industry. Here are some of areas in which Chinese companies control a large piece of the global market.

China's state-backed CRRC is the world's largest train manufacturer, with locomotives and wagons ordered across the globe from Boston to Philadelphia, Cambodia to Colombia, and customers including the iconic London Underground and Germany's Deutsche Bahn. Its annual revenues of 26 billion euros (29 billion dollars) alone outweigh the three Western heavyweights Bombardier, Siemens and Alstom, each of which brings in around nine billion a year.

The state-owned Chem China became one of the world's seeds and pesticide producers when it acquired Swiss pesticide giant Syngenta for \$43 billion in 2017, putting it in competition with Monsanto and Dow Dupont.

It was the biggest overseas acquisition by a Chinese firm yet, ahead of the \$15.1 billion purchase of Canada's Nexen Energy by China's state oil firm CNOOC in 2013. Chem China also controls Italian tyre maker Pirelli and German machinery firm Krauss Maffei.

The state-run China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) launched its locally developed Hualong One nuclear reactor in 2015 to compete with French and US models, selling to Argentina and Pakistan.

Chinese solar panel manufacturers Jinko, Trina and Solar dominate the global market. And Chinese oil companies -- CNOOC, CNPC and Sinopec -- are investing heavily even as their global rivals cut spending.

China's state-owned plane-maker Comac expects to deliver its first home-made passenger jet to a customer in 2021, as it seeks to challenge the dominance of Boeing and Airbus. The company says it has received a thousand orders for its 168-seater C919 plane.

The state-owned food giant COFCO is playing an increasing role in world grain trading after purchasing the agricultural arm of Singaporean commodities trader Noble as well as Dutch Nidera. China's WH Group became the world's largest pork producer in 2013, when it purchased major US pork and hot dog producer Smithfield Foods Inc.

Founded by a Chinese university student in 2006, DJI has become the world's top civilian drone maker with 70 percent of the market, outpacing its French rival Parrot.

Chinese smartphone makers are taking a larger slice of the global market, with Huawei at 15 percent, Xiaomi 8.7 percent and Oppo 8.1 percent. Phone sales by Huawei and Oppo surged by 30 percent last year, defying a downward trend that hit rivals Apple and Samsung.

China's Haier Group is the world's leading manufacturer of home appliances with around 10 percent of the market, ahead of rivals Whirlpool and Electrolux. Haier even purchased the appliances arm of US giant General Electric in 2016.

Chinese firm CATL, which supplies batteries for car titans Volkswagen, Ford and Daimler, is battling with Japan's Panasonic for the world's lithium electric car battery top spot.

## **The News, 10-02-19**

### **Beijing condemns Modi's visit to China-India boundary**

BEIJING: A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Hua Chunying has condemned Indian Prime Minister, Modi's visit to the East Section of the China-India Boundary.

He noted with concern Narendra Modi's visit to the so-called "Arunachal Pradesh" on Saturday. The spokesman categorically stated that China's position on the China-India boundary question is consistent and clear-cut.

Chinese government has never recognized the so-called "Arunachal Pradesh" and is firmly opposed to the Indian leader's visit to the East Section of the China-India boundary, he added. "China urges the Indian side to bear in mind the common interests of the two countries, respect the interests and concerns of the Chinese side, cherish the momentum of improvement in bilateral relations, and refrain from any action that may lead to the escalation of disputes or complicate the boundary question," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson regretted the US Secretary of State Pompeo's announcement that the US was suspending its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty effective February 2, and would begin the withdrawal process.

Commenting on the announcement, the spokesperson said, "China finds this move regrettable. We have repeatedly stated China's position regarding the INF Treaty.

As an important bilateral treaty in arms control and disarmament, this treaty plays a significant role in easing major-country relations, promoting international and regional peace, and safeguarding global strategic balance and stability.

China is opposed to the US withdrawal and urges the US and Russia to properly resolve differences through constructive dialogue. The US unilateral withdrawal from the INF Treaty may trigger a series of adverse consequences. China will closely follow relevant developments.

The multilateralization of the INF Treaty involves a series of complex issues covering political, military and legal fields, which draws concerns from many countries. China opposes the

multilateralization of this treaty. What is imperative at the moment is to uphold and implement the existing treaty instead of creating a new one.”

### **The News, 10-02-19**

#### **Planning ministry rules out delay in CPEC projects**

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects are progressing as per their schedules, while the government is expediting uplifts of Gwadar port for its significance in cross-regional connectivity, a ministry’s spokesman said on Saturday.

The spokesman of the ministry of planning, development and reform said there are no delays in implementation of CPEC projects.

“None of the CPEC projects is facing delay rather Pakistan and China are agreed on the future trajectory of the CPEC and timely completion of its on-going projects,” the spokesman said in a statement.

The ministry’s official said the eighth joint cooperation committee meeting laid foundation for the “expansion of CPEC to new heights”.

“For future, joint efforts are underway, focusing on socioeconomic development and accelerating cooperation in industrial development as well as agriculture.” China and Pakistan have signed memoranda of understanding on the formation of the joint working group on socioeconomic development and poverty reduction.

Chinese socioeconomic development expert team visit is planned during end of the current month to finalize the projects and its sites in already agreed six different areas, including health, education, water supply, vocational training, poverty alleviation and agriculture.

“Recognizing the significance of Gwadar as an important node in cross-regional connectivity and the central pillar of CPEC, Pakistan and China are agreed to speed up progress on the port and its auxiliary projects,” the ministry’s spokesman said.

Groundbreaking of new Gwadar Airport, vocational institute and hospital are planned till end of March. Gwadar master plan is being prepared and it is in the final stages of formulation. The



ministry's official said huge investment is expected in the petrochemical sector in Gwadar. Pakistan and China have expedited work on industrial cooperation under CPEC and "the government has fast-tracked development of economic zones by prioritizing Rashakai, Dhabiji Faisalabad and ICT (information and communication technology) SEZs (special economic zones)".

Pakistan and China have expedited cooperation in the field of agriculture with a special focus on enhancing cooperation in the areas of climate change, desertification control, desalination, water management, afforestation and ecological restoration, wetland protection and restoration, wildlife protection, forestry industry development, disaster management and risk reduction, and other areas of mutual interest.

"A sub group has been elevated to a full-fledged joint working group and its meeting is planned to be held in the first quarter of this year," the ministry's spokesman said.

"Government promotes development of hydro energy projects and more projects based on indigenous sources are being added to CPEC portfolio." The official said process has been initiated to prepare an integrated plan in line with SEZs development aimed at facilitating logistics and transportation for the zones.

The government decided to complete modalities for all-weather opening of Karakoram highway in Khunjab. China and Pakistan are also firming up designs and scope of Karachi-Peshawar railway line, also known as Main Line 1.

The spokesman said the government prioritized implementation of western route project with a focus to expedite development of Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob and Zhob-Quetta sections to ensure uplift of less-developed areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The completion of two early projects of CPEC: Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur) and KKH Phase II (Thakot -Havelian) are planned in August 2019 and March 2020, respectively "but both the projects are expected to be completed ahead of their schedule," the planning ministry's spokesman added.

**The News, 12-02-19****Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations held at NUST**

Islamabad: As part of the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations, a China Photo Exhibition was held at National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) here on Monday. The photos depicted China's great progress over the past four decades of reforms and Open Door Policy to the outside world.

The Chinese Studies Centre (CSC) at NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities (S3H) in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad organized the event. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Islamabad was the chief guest at the occasion. Lt Gen (r) Naveed Zaman, HI(M), rector NUST, welcomed the Chinese Ambassador and other guests to the ceremony, and spoke high of the friendship between Pakistan and China, which he said was all-weather and time-tested. Mentioning the longstanding bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the higher education sector, the Rector said that NUST, over the past few years, has worked out plans and initiatives in partnership with Chinese HEIs to harness the opportunities from the "Belt & Road Initiative" and "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor." He maintained that NUST also had the privilege to hold the first Beijing Forum outside of China at its premises in May 2016.

Ambassador Yao Jing thanked NUST for organizing the event and the get-together of the alumni from Chinese HEIs. He recalled his long association with NUST and expressed his desire to promote closer linkages to promote the mission objectives of Belt & Road Initiative of which the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is the Flagship Project.

He reiterated the readiness of the Chinese government to promote all-round cooperation with Pakistan, particularly in sharing its experiences in Special Economic Zones, Industrialization, Agriculture uplift and social sector to include Poverty Alleviation, Health, Higher Education and Vocational/Training sectors in addition to ongoing cooperation to modernize Pakistan's infrastructure and develop energy resources.

### The News, 13-02-19

#### **China to fund Pak-Afghan border crossings modernization**

ISLAMABAD: China plans to fund and install modern reception centers, drinking water and cold storage facilities at main entry points on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Chinese project aims to better serve the daily movement of tens of thousands of people as well as trade convoys, and will help ease tensions between the two countries, reports Voice of America (VOA) officials said.

Beijing, which is on good terms with both countries, continues to undertake diplomatic and economic initiatives to help improve Islamabad's troubled ties with Kabul and encourage them to jointly work for a political settlement with the Taliban to end the Afghan war.

The deputy chief of mission at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad, Zhao Lijian, told VOA in a wide-ranging interview the border development program is an outcome of recent high-level talks held in Kabul between foreign ministers of the three countries.

“We are trying to promote these projects so that it can help with the improvement of relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan and also finally it would be helpful with peace and development in Afghanistan,” Lijian noted. The trilateral dialogue, he said, was initiated by Beijing in late 2017 with a mission to promote “counterterrorism, strategic dialogue and pragmatic cooperation” among the three nations. Lijian explained that the cold storage facilities will be established at the busy northwestern Torkham and southwestern Chaman crossings while the water schemes will be installed at the Ghulam Khan Khel terminal in North Waziristan district.

“Small businessmen they are entering Torkham and Chaman everyday so if there is some cold storage facilities they could use those facilities to store their fruits. If there is a proper reception Centre and a drinking water scheme, those kind of facilities may serve the people in a better way,” Lijian said.

Pakistan consumes 90 percent of Afghan fresh fruits and vegetables, according to official estimates. Islamabad recently waived off regulatory duties on fresh fruit imports from

Afghanistan, leading to an estimated 30 percent increase in Afghan exports to Pakistan in 2018. Officials say some 60,000 people commute across the border between the two countries.

Overall bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan has significantly declined in recent years due to political tensions. Moreover, Pakistani authorities are unilaterally constructing a robust fence to secure the nearly 2,600-kilometre porous Afghan border and tighten monitoring of cross-border movement to deter militant infiltration.

Lijian said extending CPEC to Afghanistan, which is part of BRI, is under consideration to develop and improve trade routes through the war-ravaged country to Central Asia markets.

“For China, we have been having 40 years of economic development, reforms and opening up, and in Afghanistan for these last 40 years they have been suffering from chaos, from civil war, from foreign occupation. So, we are very much sympathetic with Afghan people and we would like to extend a helping hand to them,” he said.

Lijian defended Beijing’s close contacts with the Taliban, saying they are used to encourage the insurgents to seek an inclusive political understanding with incumbents in Kabul to help “manage” if not end Afghan hostilities in the near future.

“Pakistan has been helping the US and the Taliban to have direct talks and it is playing a very critical role. We hope that the peace process can take some root in the heart of the people, not only in Afghanistan but also in Pakistan,” the deputy Chinese ambassador noted.

A spokesman for the Taliban’s political office in Qatar told VOA his group maintains close contacts with China and believes the Chinese are well placed to assist in resolving the Afghan crisis.

“We really appreciate their latest public stance of declaring the Taliban as a political force in Afghanistan. They understand the ground realities in our country. Their stance could be really helpful for Afghan peace building,” Suhail Shaheen noted.

“They (Americans) should have a plan to withdraw from Afghanistan in a gradual way and during this process they should also try to promote the intra-Afghanistan dialogue so that when

the American troops leave Afghanistan, Afghanistan will not be condemned into a chaotic situation like before,” the Chinese official noted.

China’s security concerns are also behind its stepped-up Afghan diplomacy. Officials in Beijing worry that continued instability in Afghanistan could encourage terrorist groups, including the anti-China militant group the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), to foment problems in the western border region of Xinjiang.

International human rights groups have expressed concerns that authorities in Xinjiang are allegedly forcing Uighur and other Muslim minorities to renounce their religious beliefs in internment camps set up under the guise of vocational education centers. China rejects the charges as Western media propaganda.

### **The News, 13-02-19**

#### **Why world feels more threatened by US than by China or Russia**

If 2017 was the year foreign observers of US politics struggled to decide where the country was headed, 2018 was the year they came to a conclusion: not in the right direction.

Rick Noack writes for the Washington Post that far more people around the world now believe that their countries are threatened by US power and influence under President Trump than they are by the other global heavyweights, Russia or China, according to a new Pew Research Center survey released on Sunday.

While 45 percent of respondents in 26 large countries interviewed between May and August last year said that the US posed “a major threat to our country,” only 36 percent said the same about Russia and 35 percent about China. Back in 2013 — under President Barack Obama — only 25 percent of global respondents held that view about the United States, while 34 percent considered China to be a major threat to their countries at the time. Data for Russia were not available that year.

During Trump’s first year in office, global approval of US leadership began to drop significantly, with 38 percent saying they viewed the United States as a threat — compared to 33 percent saying the same about Russia and 34 percent about China. While China’s standing appears to

have remained largely unchanged since, the percentage of people who now consider the United States a threat has almost doubled within just half a decade.

The sudden rise of the United States as a perceived major threat in other countries likely comes down to a number of different factors. The most prominent one is Trump. His trade wars and affronts against traditional alliances have unsettled US partners and allies in Europe and other parts of the world, where “US power and influence,” as the Pew survey phrased it, has become tightly associated with Trump himself. While 49 percent of Germans said they considered “US power and influence” to be a top security concern, only 30 percent said the same about Russia. (The ratio of Germans fearing US power is in fact now higher than the share of Russians who are concerned about the US.) In Britain, which prides itself for having a special relationship with the United States, 37 percent still said they feared Washington’s leadership posed a threat to their nation, too.

Support remained high in countries with large conservative electorates, including Poland and Hungary, as well as Israel, where Trump was applauded last year for moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In Latin America, Trump’s hard-line immigration policies and his insistence on building a wall on the US border with Mexico have earned him few friends, however. In all three surveyed Latin American countries — Brazil, Argentina and Mexico — more than half the population said the United States posed a major threat.

Animosity toward the United States was also high in countries directly impacted by Trump’s highest-stakes act of diplomacy so far. Despite Trump’s summit with Kim Jong Un, a vast majority of people in South Korea and Japan said US power and influence were perilous. The Pew survey was conducted while negotiations between the United States and North Korea were still ongoing, so the data may not fully capture public opinion in those two countries by the end of last year. But for a president who has said that “everyone thinks” he should get a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the North Korea talks, the Pew data may be disappointing.

The survey comes at a time when Trump also appears to be following through on his promises to withdraw troops from Syria and Afghanistan, effectively disengaging from international conflicts, despite warnings by allies that the time may not be right. Trump’s rhetoric and



unpredictable attacks on allies and foes alike also appear to have made him a bigger target of public animosity than the human rights violations committed by other major powers. China's brutal detention campaign of up to 1 million Uighurs and other minorities appears to weigh less heavily in the survey, perhaps because China's human rights violations have so far been restricted to certain groups. Only 22 percent of Swedes said they considered China to be a major threat.

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its attempts to meddle in Western elections have infuriated (some) leaders of the affected countries, but concerns over Moscow's intentions are far less pronounced elsewhere.

Russia and China may be deeply unpopular in some places, but in international rankings they're still able to balance those sentiments out. In China's case, significant financial investments abroad may have helped, while Russia's military maneuvers have so far rarely extended beyond Europe and parts of the Middle East.

In comparison, animosity and skepticism toward the US are relatively evenly distributed across the globe, likely reflecting both the country's large footprint in various regions and particularly strong feelings on Trump.

Trump may be able to find some comfort in the fact that the United States is actually not considered the world's biggest threat by the citizens of the 26 polled nations. Instead, climate change came out on top last year, followed by the Islamic State group.

Trump's perception of global threats doesn't appear to be exactly aligned with that view of the world, however. One of the president's early moves was to withdraw from the Paris climate accord that aimed to lower the emissions most believe are behind climate change, followed by his more recent victory claim over the Islamic State and withdrawal of the troops confronting it.

### **The News, 13-02-19**

#### **Chinese FDI footprint expansion to spur SAARC economies: SCCI**

LAHORE: China's apex international trade body's plans for investing in each SAARC member state to lay down a launch pad for industrial growth will go a long way in strengthening

economic partnership between the regional association and the world's second largest economy, an official said on Tuesday.

China Council for Promotion of International Trade's (CCPIT), which develops business cooperation and exchanges with foreign countries, has committed pilot projects in the industrial parks of the South Asian states in a bid to expand Chinese investment footprint as well as spur economic growth in the members.

"We appreciate the accomplishment of all those commitments pledged by the CCPIT as well as its active efforts in finding appropriate solutions for the problems between Chinese and South Asian business," Iftikhar Ali Malik, senior vice president SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) said in a statement.

Malik said SCCI was sold on this Chinese idea that came from the platform of CCPIT for engaging potential investors, who were interested in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects in each SAARC member state. "We welcome increasing economic cooperation between China and South Asian countries for green development and production of clean products," the SCCI official said.

If SAARC states were working in the same direction individually then "why not work together", Malik said, while calling for deeper economic cooperation with China to usher into a new era of progress, prosperity, development, growth and public welfare in the region.

He said another good omen was that Ruwan Edirisinghe, president SCCI and CCPIT chairperson had agreed in principle to jointly organize 14th China South Asia Business Forum (CSABF) in Kunming China on June 12 next.

He said that SCCI would extend all possible assistance and close co-operation to Chinese investors for investment in member countries.

CSABF is the first ever cooperation mechanism established for the regional economic cooperation between Chinese and SAARC industrial and commercial circles in 2005, in this context of ever-increasing mutual trust in political affairs and continuous economic cooperation between China and South Asian countries under the aegis of CCPIT and SAARC Chamber.

Malik further said the purpose of Beijing meeting was to seek valuable input from members for a meaningful and productive 14th CSABF.

The meeting attended by Vice Presidents Chandi Ra Dhakal Nepal, Dr Rohita Silva, Sri Lanka, executive members Zubair Ahmad Malik, Pakistan, Keerthi Gunawardana Sri Lanka, Ms. Shaira Saleem, Maldives, DG Indian chamber Dr Rejeev Singh, Hina Saeed Secretary General SAARC Chamber and Zulfiqar Butt, Deputy Secretary General focused for boosting cooperation mechanism for coming moot.

### **The News, 14-02-19**

#### **China to build hydropower project in Pakistan**

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Hua Chunying denied report about the cancellation of hydropower projects by Pakistan and Nepal with China.

The information about the projects mentioned in the media's report was false and inconsistent with the facts. China fulfills all its commitments regarding building of energy-related projects.

"I remember this report was carried by Hindustan Times. The information about these projects mentioned in the report – released by Indian Ministry of External Affairs is actually false and inconsistent with the facts," she said while replying to a question here at a regular briefing.

She explained that the dam project was not been included in the list of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and the hydropower project in Nepal was still in the negotiation stage. As for the blacklisting of China Harbour Company by the Bangladeshi government was concerned, it was also not true.

When asked to comment that according to the report Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had countered a great push-back in its implementation and there would be a major adjustment of policy in the forthcoming Belt and Road Forum, she said at present, more than 150 countries and international organizations had signed cooperation documents with the Chinese side to build a "One Belt, One Road" cooperation project.

“A large number of cooperation projects have taken root and blossomed, which has injected strong momentum into the economic and social development of countries along the route,” she added. The spokesperson remarked that the BRI had become a popular international public product and had become an important platform for international cooperation. Co-construction and sharing were the golden rules for the construction of the “Belt and Road”.

Hua Chunying further said in the process of building the “Belt and Road” with the countries concerned, the Chinese side had always adhered to equality, and transparency, and acted in accordance with market rules and international rules.

### **The News, 14-02-19**

#### **Pakistan, China vow to expedite Gwadar uplifts**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday vowed to expedite Gwadar developments and improve cooperation in agriculture and industrial sectors under the corridor projects, but restrained from giving deadlines for completion.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government is also giving indication that third-party countries such as Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries are showing interest for investing in Pakistan. Saudi Arabia is going to construct oil refinery having capacity of 300,000 barrels per day in Gwadar to export surplus to China.

Nothing on account of deadlines related to CPEC projects could be shared with the media through official announcement made by the Planning Commission.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing met with Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar on the eve Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Ben Salman’s visit to Pakistan with expectation that he would finalize memoranda of understanding in the range of \$15 to \$20 billion during his stay. It would be the second largest commitment from any country after China that pledged \$46 billion in investment under the much-trumpeted CPEC.

The statement said the Chinese envoy called on the planning minister to discuss matters of mutual interest, including progress on CPEC.

Bakhtyar emphasized the need to expedite progress on Gwadar projects, such as New International Airport, a hospital, vocational institutes and a power plant. The projects would create conducive environment for future investment and help in upgrading facilities for local population.

“Ground is set to attract more trilateral investment here in future,” the minister was quoted as saying.

Stakeholders’ consensus has been achieved on Gwadar City Master Plan and the document would be finalized at the earliest.

The minister said Chinese experts on socioeconomic development are visiting Pakistan this month to discuss cooperation in agriculture, education, medical treatment, poverty alleviation, water supply and vocational training projects.

Planning minister hailed Chinese government for financial support to initiate pilot projects for poverty alleviation and informed that Pakistan side will identify sites for workable as well as impact creating projects with the input of provincial governments in the same sector.

Bakhtyar said all measures would be taken to fast-track the industrial cooperation by ensuring development of special economic zones. Ground breaking of the Rashakai SEZ will be done soon, he informed.

The minister said federal government would ensure utilities, such as power, gas supplies and road infrastructure to all the special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC, aiming at speedy development of the projects.

Bakhtyar asked Chinese government to encourage state-owned and private sector companies to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

**The News, 15-02-19****Pakistan Accumulators becomes first firm to export battery parts to China**

Pakistan Accumulators (Pvt.) Ltd, one of the leading manufacturer & exporters of batteries with the well known brand names of VOLTA & OSAKA, has proudly announced to achieve another milestone by becoming country's first company which is going to export 05 containers of BATTERY PARTS to China, later this month.

This is a moment of great honor for VOLTA & OSAKA batteries along with all Pakistanis that the company is exporting goods to China with the label of "Made in Pakistan". This will open a new economic opportunity for Pakistan and help to reduce trade deficit, ultimately supporting a national cause.

Globally China is recognized as the market leader for exports of all goods with very competitive prices, this was an exceptional challenge for VOLTA & OSAKA batteries to attain price benchmark. Management of the company strongly believes that their customers in Pakistan & globally, who always trust in its products feel this privilege to become a part of the historical moment as their family members.\*\*\*



The News, 15-02-19

# Pakistan, China enter into era of strategic partnership: Sanjrani

**Our correspondent**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said Pakistan and China had entered into a new era of strategic partnership which would go a long way in economic and social development of the region as both the countries are time tested iron friends.

He expressed these views while talking to Gao Yunlong, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) here at Parliament House on Thursday.

The Vice Chairman of CPPCC is heading a delegation on a four day visit to Pakistan. During the visit, the Vice Chairman of CPPCC would also meet the President of Pakistan and other dignitaries in Islamabad.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that Pakistan is proud of its unprecedented friendship with China and the recent visit of the prime minister of Pakistan to China has added a new chapter in the bilateral relations of both the countries.

He appreciated the momentum in exchange of parliamentary delegations and said that parliamentary diplomacy can better develop understanding on issues of mutual concern. He appreciated that both the countries enjoy cordial parliamentary linkages. He said that the Upper House of the Parliament has established a Parliamentary Friendship Group which can play a crucial role in cementing the existing ties.

The Senate Chairman said that there is a need to further boost cooperation among the secretariats of the parliaments in both the countries to steer the cooperation in different areas of mutual interest. He said that the business delegations should also exchange visits for enhancing the economic ties and improving the balance of trade between the two countries.

He said that CPEC is a flagship game changer project and we are committed for its early completion to benefit from its potential for regional development. He said that the ongoing mega projects under the CPEC including international airport, hospitals and professional training institutes needs to be completed at the earliest.

Sanjrani apprised the Vice Chairman of CPPCC that a successful Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) meeting in Gwadar has paved the way for increased interest of the international investors in the region. He said that APA platform needs to be further strengthened and Pakistan would seek Chinese support for this purpose. Chairman Senate said that the mutual ties between the two countries calls for further momentum in people to people contacts to strengthened the existing economic and parliamentary linkages.

The Vice Chairman of CPPCC conveyed special greetings of the Chairman CPPCC to Chairman Senate and thanked for fruitful discussion during his visit of China. He said that China attaches utmost importance to its ties with Pakistan as both the countries share a common vision and agenda for regional development. He said that the purpose of this visit is to further enhance the parliamentary relations between the two countries which would be instrumental for steering the political and economic ties.

He said that both the countries share a common stance on most of the international issues and China looks forward for further cooperation in this area. The visiting dignitary invited Senate Chairman to visit China. Chairman Senate informed the Vice Chairman that a high level parliamentary delegation of Senate would soon visit China.

## The News, 15-02-19

### China's foreign trade reaches \$395.98b

**BELJING:** China's goods trade rose 8.7 percent year on year in January to 2.73 trillion yuan (395.98 billion US dollar), customs data showed Thursday.

Exports rose 13.9 percent year on year to 1.5 trillion yuan last month, while imports grew 2.9 percent to 1.23 trillion yuan, the General Administration of Customs said.

Exports and imports of products under the general trade category rose 13 percent year on year to 1.66 trillion yuan, accounting for 60.9 percent of the total foreign trade, 2.3 percentage points higher than the same period last year.

China's trade with the European Union, the ASEAN countries, and Japan increased 17.6 percent, 7.8 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, while trade with countries along the Belt and Road registered faster-than-average growth, with the combined trade volume standing at 770.8 billion yuan, up 11.5 percent year on year.

Exports to the United States added 1.9 percent, while imports tumbled 38.6 percent, the data showed. —INP

## The News, 15-02-19

### ■ HIGH LEVEL TALKS

# US and China seek deal to prevent trade-war escalation

BEIJING: US and Chinese negotiators on Thursday kicked off two days of high-level talks that President Donald Trump says could decide whether he escalates the bruising tariff battle between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump indicated this week he was open to extending a trade truce beyond March 1 depending on progress in Beijing. He is considering pushing the deadline back an additional 60 days, Bloomberg News reported, citing sources.

In December he postponed plans to sharply hike tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to allow more time for negotiation.

The two economic superpowers have already imposed duties on more than \$300 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven

Mnuchin are meeting with China's top economic czar Liu He, seeking to build on progress made in Washington last month. We are 'looking forward to discussions today', Mnuchin said as he left his hotel Thursday morning for the talks.

Expectations for a trade deal have grown as China faces pressure from slowing economic growth, and as swooning global markets pose a challenge to Trump and his economic advisors.

Data released Thursday in China showed its trade surplus with the US - a major source of anger within the Trump administration - narrowed in January to \$27.3 billion, even as its American imports plunged 41 percent for the month from a year earlier.

Last year the surplus hit a record \$323.3 billion.

China's total imports also sank for the month, pointing to weak demand amid slowing economic growth.

Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to meet with the US officials in Beijing this week, a report in the South China Morning Post said Wednesday, bolstering hopes for the talks and world markets.

Trump also has said he expects to meet with Xi 'at some point' to clinch a trade deal.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday that preliminary talks in Beijing were 'going along very well,' Bloomberg reported.

'They're showing us tremendous respect,' he added.

'Markets will continue to watch - and react - closely to the ups and downs of the negotiations,' said Trey McArver of Trivium Research.

'But Sino-US relations are all about the two leaders, and it will ultimately be up to Xi and Trump to come to a deal - or not,' he wrote Wednesday in a newsletter.

The two sides said major progress was made in talks last month in Washington, but a wide gulf remains on some issues.

The US is demanding far-reaching changes to Chinese practices that it says are unfair, including theft of US technology and intellectual property, and myriad barriers that foreign companies face in the Chinese domestic market.

Beijing has offered to boost its purchases of US goods but is widely expected to resist calls for major changes to its industrial policies such as slashing government subsidies.

The International Monetary Fund warned on Sunday of a possible global economic 'stern' as world growth forecasts dip, citing the US-China trade row as a key pivot point.

Meanwhile, China's trade surplus with the US narrowed in January even as its American imports plunged, buffeted by a slowing economy and the tariff battle with

Washington, data showed on Thursday.

The surplus - a major source of anger within the Trump administration, which imposed levies on hundreds of billions of dollars worth of Chinese goods - fell to \$27.3 billion, from \$29.9 billion in December. Last year it hit a record \$323.3 billion.

But China's imports from the US shrank 41 percent from a year earlier, data from the customs administration showed.

Chinese buyers pulled back from purchasing American agricultural and energy commodities, which Beijing slapped with retaliatory tariffs last year.

China's exports to the US fell more than two percent in January year-on-year.

'Based on the positive signals from the US-China trade negotiations, further tariff hikes will likely be suspended,' noted Louis Kuijs.

Kuijs of Oxford Economics, adding he expected continued pressure on exports due to a global slowdown and the existing US tariffs.

China's global exports - all countries including the US - unexpectedly rose 0.1 percent in January from a year earlier, turning a corner after exports fell in December.

'One possible explanation for January's upbeat export data could be some re-arrangement of regional supply chains on the back of the ongoing China-US trade dispute,' said Betty Wang, an economist at ANZ bank. Exports to Europe and ASEAN countries surged, she noted.

China's imports, however, continued to fall in January, down 1.5 percent from a year earlier, though at a slower pace than a 10.2 percent decline forecast by Bloomberg News. 'The import slowdown in recent months obviously in part reflects the slowdown in China's domestic economy,' said

Kuijs.

A slew of bad economic data has added to concerns about China's economy, which grew at its slowest pace in almost three decades last year. —AFP