



For Better Understanding on
China-Pakistan and
CPEC
Gleanings from the
National Press

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Business Recorder, 16-02-19

CPEC to play key role in economic transformation: experts

RECORDER REPORT

HYDERABAD: The friendship between China and Pakistan has always been a positive factor in the South Asian region. It has served to advance the cause of peace and stability in the region. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will play a key role in the economic transformation of Pakistan.

These views were advanced by speakers at the international seminar on ‘CPEC and Its Macro-Economic Linkages to the Economies of China and Pakistan’ organized by Pakistan Study Centre, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

The event was presided over by Dean SU Faculty of Social Sciences Prof ZareenAbbasi whereas; Prof ShabirMohsinHashmi, Director One Belt One Road (OBOR) Research Centre, Yancheng Institute of Technology, Jiangsu, China was the guest speaker.

Dean DrAbbasi in her presidential remarks said the OBOR is not only significant to China but also very vital for the development of Pakistan and other engaging countries. The OBOR is likely to generate over 200 million jobs across Asia and beyond, and is finally to become instrumental in infrastructure development and poverty alleviation.

“I am happy to share that under the dynamic leadership VC-SU Prof Fateh Muhammad Burfat, Pakistan Study Centre has improved its stature as an institution promoting broad-based research. The Centre’s mission is to further improve the quality of academic research through innovative ways of creating new knowledge.

Guest speaker DrHashmi highlighted the objectives of ‘One Belt and One Road’ project, observing that the plan was initiated by the Chinese president in 2013 and had been incorporated in the 13th five-year plan that spanned from 2016 to 2021; further adding that One Belt, One Road (OBOR) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) were also the key pillars of the given project.

DrHashmi added that the aim of B&R initiative was to create new trading routes, business opportunities stretching over 60 countries across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa including uplift of underdeveloped Western part of China.

DrHashmi also highlighted that the other potential gains of CPEC to Pakistan that included development of infrastructure, self-sufficiency in energy sector, shifting of manufacturing sector, joint partnership, transfer of technology, improvements in transport and logistics, risk associated with the B&R initiative, funding resources and investment risk, non-performing loans – Sri

Lanka, Tajikistan case, Chinese companies international experience and communication problem.

Director SU-PSC Prof Shuja Ahmed Mahesar in his welcome note brought to light the objectives of the seminar. He said that all-weather relationship between Pakistan and China indicated that both countries had deep understanding of their geo-political interests. China's Economic transformation could positively contribute to the economic development of Pakistan.

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

China's banks throw open spigots in January, lend record 3.23trn yuan

BEIJING: China's banks made the most new loans on record in January -totaling 3.23 trillion yuan (\$477 billion) - as policymakers try to jumpstart sluggish investment and prevent a sharper slowdown in the world's second-largest economy.

Chinese banks tend to front-load loans early in the year to get higher-quality customers and win market share. But they have also faced months of pressure from regulators to step up lending, particularly to cash-starved smaller firms.

Net new yuan lending last month was far more than expected, and eclipsed the last high of 2.9 trillion yuan in January 2018.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted new loans of 2.8 trillion yuan, more than double the level seen in December.

"While we wouldn't pin too much on a single month's data, the latest pick-up in credit could be a sign that credit growth is starting to bottom out in response to monetary policy easing," Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist at Capital Economics, said in a note.

"A recovery in lending, if sustained in coming months, would be consistent with our expectation for growth to stabilize in the second half of this year," he said, noting it usually took six to nine months before new loans translated into business activity.

Sources told Reuters last week that the central bank had urged banks to moderate lending in January to manage the amount of money flowing into the economy, spurring talk that the tally would be even more robust than first thought.

Demand for credit picked up sharply in the corporate sector, followed by the household sector, according to data released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) on Friday.

Corporate loans jumped to 2.58 trillion yuan from 473.3 billion yuan in December, while household loans rose to 989.8 billion yuan from 450.4 billion yuan, according to Reuters calculations based on the PBOC data.

Corporate loans accounted for 80 percent of new loans in January, up sharply from 44 percent in December.

That will be welcome news for policymakers, who have been struggling to get money to the private sector, which accounts for over half of China's economic growth.

The central bank has not opened the credit floodgate, and the record January lending showed monetary policy had become more effective, a central bank official said, in a bid to allay concerns about more debt build-up.

To free up more funds for lending, the central bank has cut the amount that banks need to set aside as reserves five times over the past year.

In the latest move, the PBOC slashed the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) in January by 100 basis points (bps), and analysts expect at least another 150 bps of cuts by year-end.

Most analysts do not expect the central bank to cut benchmark interest rates soon, though some aren't ruling out more aggressive easing if conditions continue to deteriorate or the China-US trade war escalates.

The PBOC has been guiding money market interest rates lower to reduce financing costs, but analysts at JP Morgan said in a recent note that banks have not lowered average lending rates.

While the PBOC has been pushing ample funds into the financial system, the money has not been flowing smoothly into the economy and generating growth.

Banks have been wary of lending to smaller firms with higher credit risks, preferring state-backed customers, while businesses are reluctant to take on more debt when sales and profits are weakening.

Several bankers told Reuters they were keen to avoid repeating excessive and riskier lending that followed a massive stimulus package during the global financial crisis. Banks' non-performing loan ratio climbed to a 10-year high in 2018 and corporate bond defaults hit a record.

Still, strong credit expansion should help efforts to boost fixed asset investment. Regulators have been fast-tracking approvals for infrastructure and are trying to streamline financing so projects roll out more smoothly.

Significant tax cuts are also expected this year to help ease strains on corporate balance sheets. “January credit data are very positive as it shows all easing measures including monetary easing, fiscal easing and administrative easing are taking effect,” said Tommy Xie, China economist at OCBC Bank in Singapore.

Growth measures will take time to be felt, and many analysts believe business conditions will get worse before they get better. China grew 6.6 percent last year, a 28-year low.

Data earlier on Friday showed factory-gate inflation slowed for a seventh straight month, raising concerns China may see the return of deflation as demand cools.

Several other key credit gauges also picked up modestly in January in response to the PBOC’s recent shift to policy easing.

Broad M2 money supply grew 8.4 percent on-year, also beating forecasts. Analysts had expected growth to inch up to 8.2 percent, after falling to a record low late last year.

Outstanding yuan loans grew 13.4 percent, above expectations of 13.1 percent but easing from December’s rise of 13.5 percent.

Growth of outstanding total social financing (TSF), a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, picked up to 10.4 percent from a record low of 9.8 percent in December.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

China imposes anti-dumping tariffs on Brazilian chicken

BEIJING: China announced anti-dumping duties on Brazilian chicken Friday, saying investigations had revealed that poultry imports had done “substantive damage” to the domestic broiler industry.

The tariffs — ranging from 17.8 percent to 32.4 percent — will take effect from February 17 and remain in place for five years, the commerce ministry said.

Some companies that have pledged to import at not lower than an agreed minimum price will be exempt, it added.

Brazil is the largest source of frozen chicken meat in China, accounting for nearly 85 percent of all imports in 2017, according to China industry consultancy Zhiyan. The tariffs result from a probe on poultry imports which started in August 2017.—AFP

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

Ex-Coca-Cola engineer charged with stealing secrets for Chinese firm

WASHINGTON: A former senior engineer at Coca-Cola was indicted Thursday in Tennessee for stealing trade secrets worth an estimated \$120 million to give to a Chinese company, the Justice Department announced.

US national You Xiaorong allegedly stole technology for valuable BPA-free packaging jointly owned by several companies, including a former “Atlanta-based” employer that was unnamed in the indictment.

A spokeswoman for Coca-Cola, whose headquarters is in Atlanta, declined to comment on the case but confirmed that you previously worked for the company.

“Because this is a pending legal matter, it would not be appropriate for us to comment further,” she said.

According to the indictment, you conspired with Chinese national Liu Xiangchen and an unnamed relative of Liu to steal formulations for food packing coatings that are free of the widely-used bisphenol-A chemical, which scientists have discovered in recent years, is harmful to human health.

Alternatives to BPA are scarce and highly valuable in the food packing industry.

Liu wanted the technology for his company, which was planning to develop production lines for BPA-free packing, according to the indictment.

In exchange, he offered You a job and also promised to help her win one of China’s highest awards for research and innovation, the “Thousand Talents” award.—AFP

Business Recorder, 16-02-19**Chinese protest in Madrid against mass bank account freeze**

MADRID: Hundreds of Chinese citizens staged a rare protest Friday at an office of Spain’s BBVA bank in Madrid, angrily denouncing that their personal accounts had been frozen without prior warning.

Waving Chinese and Spanish flags, the protesters shouted “racist BBVA” and “we want justice,” carrying banners reading “stop banking racism.”

Contacted by AFP, BBVA, the second biggest bank in Spain, was not able to detail how many clients had been affected.

In a statement, it said it had frozen accounts to comply with measures to fight money-laundering, adding it was working to resolve the problem.

Protesters said other banks had also frozen accounts of citizens of Chinese origin recently, but to a lesser extent than BBVA.—AFP

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

Trump says could extend March 1 China tariff deadline

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Friday that trade negotiations with China were going “extremely well” and again offered the possibility of extending the March 1 deadline for a sharp rise in punitive tariffs.

Senior officials completed two days of high-stakes talks in Beijing on Friday as they try to avert the US threat to more than double tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, which would be an unwelcome shock to the world’s second largest economy as it already has shown signs of slowing. “It is going extremely well,” Trump said of the talks. “The tariffs are hurting China very badly. They don’t want them and frankly if we can make the deal it would be my honor to remove them,” he told reporters at the White House.

The president confirmed his comments earlier this week that he might be willing to hold off on increasing tariffs to 25 percent from the current 10 percent, if Washington and Beijing are close to finalizing an agreement to deal with US complaints about unfair trade and theft of American technology.

“There is a possibility that I will extend the date,” he told reporters. “If I see we’re close to a deal or the deal is going in the right direction, I would do that.”

After progress in the talks in Beijing, a fourth round of negotiations is scheduled for next week in Washington.

Trump said he likes tariffs which are bringing “many billions of dollars pouring into our Treasury,” but continues to state that China is paying the duties, when in fact they are paid by US companies and ultimately by American consumers in the form of higher prices.

“The tariffs are hurting China very badly. They don’t want them and frankly if we can make the deal it would be my honor to remove them.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed the “important step-by-step progress,” and said he hoped the two delegations would continue to “work hard” for a “win-win” agreement, according to China’s state news agency Xinhua.

Wall Street was cheered by the talks’ optimistic tone, with the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average up more than 350 points or 1.5 percent around midday.

American officials accuse Beijing of seeking global industrial predominance through an array of unfair trade practices, including the “theft” of American intellectual property and massive state intervention in commodities markets.

Since a December detente China has resumed purchases of some US soybeans and dangled massive buying of American commodities to get US trade negotiators closer to a deal.

The talks have included discussion of purchases to reduce the “large and persistent bilateral trade deficit,” the White House said in a statement. But many China experts say Beijing’s Communist Party rulers are unlikely to make significant changes to industrial policies without a long and tough fight.

Still, expectations for an accord have been growing as China faces pressure from slowing economic growth. “We all believe that China-US relations have broad common interests in safeguarding world peace and stability and promoting global economic prosperity and development,” Xi told the US negotiators.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who led the American delegation, told Xi on Friday that while there was more work to do, they had made progress.

Lighthizer and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and met with China’s top trade negotiator Liu He, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and central bank Chief Yi Gang. Bloomberg News reported that the White House was considering a 60-day deadline extension, but Trump did not offer any particulars. Trump’s economic advisor Larry Kudlow said of the talks, “the vibe is good” but there was no decision yet on extending the 90-day tariff truce.

The two sides last year exchanged tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade.

China’s politically sensitive trade surplus with the US last year hit a record \$323 billion as tariffs kept Chinese buyers away from American agricultural and energy exports.—AFP

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

China stocks fall, but up for the week

SHANGHAI: China stocks retreated on Friday, after latest official data raised deflation fears, while investors were worried about uncertainties over the Sino-US trade negotiations.

The blue-chip CSI300 index ended down 1.9 percent at 3,338.70, while the Shanghai Composite Index dropped 1.9 percent to 2,682.39.

However, for the week, major indexes gained as risk appetite improved after the end of the Lunar New Year holiday. SSEC gained 2.5 percent, while CSI300 was up 2.8 percent, both posting their biggest weekly gain in three months.

China's factory-gate inflation slowed for a seventh straight month in January to its weakest pace since September 2016, raising concerns the world's second-biggest economy may see the return of deflation as domestic demand cools.

Consumer inflation, meanwhile, eased in January from December to a 12-month low due to slower gains in food prices, official data showed on Friday, despite the Lunar New Year holiday, which typically pushes up demand for food.

There are also concerns over the progress of the Sino-US trade talks.

The Trump administration's top two negotiators in trade talks with China will meet on Friday with Chinese President Xi Jinping, but there has been no decision to extend a March 1 US deadline for a deal, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Thursday.

"Investors are locking in profits after a recent unexpected strong rally, which caught many fund managers off-guard," said Yan Kaiwen, analyst, China Fortune Securities.

There are also uncertainties around the Sino-US trade spat which could weigh on the short-term trend, Yan added.

However, central bank data that came after market showed China's total social financing (TSF), a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, hit a record 4.64 trillion yuan (\$685 billion) in January, far more than expected.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by 1.15 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed down 1.13 percent.

At 07:13 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7768 per US dollar, 0.07 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.7718.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Shenyang Jinshan Energy Co Ltd, up 10.27 percent, followed by Hunan New Wellful Co Ltd, gaining 10.08 percent and Triumph Science & Technology Co Ltd, up by 10.08 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were HUAYU Automotive Systems Co Ltd down 6.08 percent, followed by Zhejiang Jiao Enprotech Stock Co Ltd losing 5.47 percent and Lanzhou Great wall Electrical Co Ltd down by 5.4 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 7.6 percent and the CSI300 has risen 10.9 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 8.1 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 3.78 percent this month.

About 19.60 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 126.2 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 15.54 billion shares. The volume in the previous trading session was 19.70 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

China's iron ore futures recover after falling over 4pc

BEIJING: China's iron ore futures recovered on Thursday after falling more than 4 percent in the past two sessions, but weak appetite for the high-priced raw material and doubts over actual supply disruption at the world's biggest iron ore miner clouded the outlook.

The most-active iron ore contract for May delivery on the Dalian Commodity Exchange closed 0.7 percent higher to 628.5 yuan (\$92.94) a ton, ending the two-losing streak after touching a record-high level of 652 yuan on Monday.

“It's hard for us to accept such high iron ore prices as the priority of steel mills at this moment is to reduce costs, rather than ramping up output,” said a purchase manager at a medium-sized steel firm in the province of Hebei.

Despite some corrections in the past days, iron ore prices remain near their record high levels.

“Most of steel mills in China are still on the Lunar New Year holiday break and will not start to replenish their stocks until next week,” the manager said, adding that the flat demand also weighed on iron ore prices.

Meanwhile, analysts start to re-estimate the actual supply gap, previously predicted at 70 million tonnes, caused by the deadliest dam accident in Brazil last month. “We believe the amount of output cuts at Vale might have been over-rated,” analysts at Orient Futures said in a note.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 16-02-19

China data helps copper to a positive end to a poor week

LONDON: Copper prices rose on Friday after better than expected lending data in China, the world's biggest consumer, bolstered the demand outlook.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) closed 0.8 percent up at \$6,188 a ton.

It was still down about 0.4 percent this week, its first weekly decline since early January, as slowing global growth, the US-China trade dispute and a strong dollar took their toll.

Friday's gain followed news that China's banks made the most new loans on record in January after government efforts to jump-start investment and prevent a sharp slowdown.

That offset less positive data showing China's factory-gate inflation slowed for a seventh straight month in January.

"There's a tentative improvement in expectations around Chinese demand," said ICBC Standard analyst Marcus Garvey.

Given that supply of copper is tight, better demand from China should raise prices to about \$6,500 if consumption elsewhere does not collapse, he said.

Talks between China and the United States made important progress, President Xi Jinping told top US trade negotiators on Friday, adding that meetings would continue in Washington next week.

However, several sources told Reuters there was stalemate on key sticking points. White House adviser Larry Kudlow, meanwhile, said there had been no decision to extend a March 1 US deadline for a deal.

Fears that tariffs would curtail metals demand have pushed prices sharply lower since mid-2018.

US manufacturing output fell by the most in eight months in January.

On-warrant stocks of copper available to the market in LME-registered warehouses fell to 74,600 tons, nearing 13-year lows reached in October.

Adding to concerns of a supply squeeze, one entity held 50-79 percent of LME copper warrants. The discount of cash copper to the three-month contract has flipped to a premium, suggesting less nearby supply is available.

Copper stocks in Shanghai Futures Exchange warehouses have doubled to more than 200,000 tons in the past month, with inventories of aluminum and zinc also higher.

ICBC Standard's Garvey said this was a normal seasonal inventory build and did not reflect a change in underlying demand.

A dearth of copper mine projects means the market will remain in deficit until 2027 and prices could rise to \$10,000 a ton by 2025, Capital Economics said in a note.

LME aluminum ended 0.5 percent up at \$1,859 a ton, zinc rose 2.4 percent to \$2,653, nickel gained 1.6 percent to \$12,400, lead finished 2 percent higher at \$2,078 and tin closed 1.4 percent up at \$21,200.

All except tin were down on the week.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-02-19

UK finance minister forced to axe trip to China: reports

LONDON: Britain's finance minister Philip Hammond has reportedly been forced to cancel a trip to China next week after plans to send a new aircraft carrier to the Pacific angered Beijing.

Hammond was set to visit China for trade talks with senior government figures, but has axed the trip after Beijing reacted angrily this week to news of the warship's planned deployment, according to British media reports.

Although the visit was never formally announced by London, it had been under preparation for "many weeks," the Financial Times (FT) said.

Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson announced on Monday that the first operational mission of Britain's new £3.1 billion (\$4 billion, 3.5 billion euros) aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth would include the Pacific region.

In a strongly worded speech, he said adversaries were challenging "the rules-based international order" while noting that "China is developing its modern military capability and its commercial power".

The comments reportedly provoked anger in Beijing as well as consternation in British government departments eager to foster closer relations with the East Asian economic power.

Hammond had been expected to meet Chinese vice-premier Hu Chunhua but that was cancelled following Williamson's speech, leading Britain to scrap the entire visit, the FT reported.

Meanwhile diplomatic sources told the BBC the Chinese had made it clear "it is not going to happen for now".

Britain's finance ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But a spokesperson told several media outlets earlier Saturday: "No trip was ever announced or confirmed." China is highly sensitive about the South China Sea, which it claims as its exclusive territorial waters, and is mired in ongoing disputes with its neighbors and the United States over access.

Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of the vast waters, and the US and its allies increasingly send planes and warships to the region to make "freedom of navigation operations".

In mid-January, British and American warships conducted their first joint military exercises in the sea since Beijing began building bases and air strips on islands there.

In the deployment announcement, Williamson said American F35s would be embedded alongside British planes on the carrier's air wing, "enhancing the reach and lethality of our forces".

The Chinese Embassy in London did not respond to a request for comment.-AFP

Business Recorder, 17-02-19

Big hedge funds dumped China stocks, Apple as market tumbled

NEW YORK: Prominent hedge fund managers sold out of Chinese technology stocks and dumped Silicon Valley giants like Apple Inc. and Facebook Inc. while global stock markets cratered during the fourth quarter, according to securities filings released on Thursday.

Activist hedge fund Jana Partners sold out of its position in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and reduced its stake in Apple by approximately 175,000 shares, slicing its position in the company by 63 percent.

Third Point LLC sold all of its shares of Alibaba and in streaming giant Netflix Inc., while reducing its stake in payments company Visa Inc. by approximately 200,000 shares, or about 11 percent of its prior position.

Omega Advisors, run by billionaire Leon Cooperman, sold all of its approximately 88,000 shares of Facebook and reduced its stake in Google-parent Alphabet Inc by approximately a third by selling approximately 47,600 shares.

The moves came during a volatile fourth quarter in which fears of slowing economic growth pushed the US benchmark index S&P 500 to the brink of a bear market while stock indexes in China and Germany finished the year down 20 percent or more.

Since then, shares have sharply rebounded on a broad global rally powered by hopes of a new trade deal between the US and China and the Federal Reserve's decision to slow its pace of interest rate hikes.

Alibaba is up nearly 23 percent since the start of January, while Netflix is up nearly 34 percent over the same time. Those gains helped power the average hedge fund in January by the largest monthly gain since September 2010, according to Hedge Fund Research.

“While investor optimism dominated in January, significant macroeconomic uncertainty still exists, increasing the likelihood those recent trends toward elevated realized volatility will remain and continue to drive industry performance,” said Kenneth J. Heinz, president of HFR.

Quarterly disclosures of hedge fund managers' stock holdings in 13F filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission are one of the few public ways of tracking what hedge fund managers are selling and buying. But relying on the filings to develop an investment strategy comes with some risk because the disclosures are made 45 days after the end of each quarter and may not reflect current positions.

Along with the sell-off among technology stocks, hedge fund manager's added new positions in companies ranging from Mastercard Inc to Salesforce.Com Inc.

Jana Partners added a new position in Salesforce.com by buying approximately 115,000 shares, while Third Point increased its stake in the company by 135 percent by adding another 675,000 shares. Shares of the company are up 16.6 percent since the start of the year.

Tiger Global added a new position in information technology infrastructure Management Company Solarwinds Corp. Shares of the \$5.7 billion market cap company are up 35 percent for the year. Omega Advisors, meanwhile, doubled its stake in CVS Health Corp by buying approximately 401,000 shares. Shares of the company are up 3.7 percent for the year to date.— Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-02-19

China's iron ore imports rise on pre-holiday restocking

BEIJING: China's iron ore imports climbed 5.3 percent in January from December, customs data showed, supported by strong restocking demand at steel mills ahead of the week-long Lunar New Year holiday this month.

Shipments of the steelmaking raw material last month were 91.26 million tons, up from 86.65 million tons in December, but were still shy of 100.3 million tons in January last year, data from the General Administration of Customs showed on Thursday.

January arrivals were at the highest level since September.

Steel mills in China typically replenish their inventories ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, which this year fell during the week of Feb. 4, to ensure they have sufficient raw materials for at least 20 days.

Steelmakers also bought more iron ore last month to take advantage of rising profit-margins for steel, which climbed more than 40 percent in January.

Ore imports in February are likely to drop due to mills reducing their operations until downstream users return to work later this month after the holiday.

Iron ore supply is expected to tighten after the accident at Vale SA's mine in Brazil as regulators close sites. The collapse of a dam holding mine waste on Jan. 25, the second fatal collapse in the country in five years, killed 300 people.

As much as 70 million tonnes of high-quality iron ore fines and pellets from Vale could be affected, according to analysts from Jinrui Futures, Huatai Futures and Jefferies.

Brazil is China's second-largest iron ore supplier after Australia, accounting for 23 percent of the country's total iron ore imports in 2018.

"Iron ore supply is expected to tighten after the Vale accident," said Zhao Yu, analyst at Huatai Futures.

"But the actual effects in the Chinese market will not occur until late March as it typically takes around 40 days for Brazilian iron ore to arrive (in) China."—Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-02-19

China soyabean traders dismiss market jitters over US cancellations

BEIJING: Soyabean traders in China on Friday shrugged off recent cancellations of import orders as "old business", even as the global market worried it could be a sign of Beijing backtracking on its pledge to buy more American beans.

China, the world's top soyabean buyer, sharply reduced its purchases of the oilseed from the United States from mid-2018, after Beijing hit the commodity with duties of 25 percent in a tit-for-tat trade war with Washington.

But with a trade truce on Dec. 1, Beijing pledged to buy US beans again, booking about 5 million tonnes in the following weeks.

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) weekly export sales report on Thursday, though, showed net cancellations of US soyabeans in the week ended on Jan. 3. Chinese traders said the cancellations, however, were likely booked earlier than the deals made following the trade truce.

"It's just old business by some private crushers," said a Beijing-based trader with an international firm.

The trader, who had talked to two state-owned companies to verify they had not cancelled cargoes, declined to be identified as he is not allowed to be quoted by media.

Among the cancellations were 807,000 tonnes intended for China and 444,000 tonnes for "unknown" destinations, which the market believes could also be China.

The news appeared to contradict the recent conciliatory tone between Beijing and Washington, and went against expectations of net sales of between 600,000 to 1 million tonnes.

Chicago prices were down 1 percent on Thursday, before ticking higher on Friday.

China's most actively traded soyameal futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange for delivery in May fell 1.19 percent to 2,581 yuan (\$381.20) per ton, as the market expected a potential Sino-US trade deal to open the way for more soyabean imports.

Another trader with an international firm also believed the cancellations to be for sales booked earlier than the recent purchases pledged by Beijing.

"China would not cancel cargoes at such a key point of the ongoing trade talks. What's more, China booked more cargoes from the US later in January and February," he said.

One of the state firms has already cleared some storage in preparation for recently booked cargoes, according to another source with knowledge of the matter.

The report of the cancellations comes at a critical time in ongoing talks, with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer wrapping up two days of trade negotiations in Beijing on Friday.

"China would only keep purchasing (US soyabeans) during this sensitive period of time," said Monica Tu, an analyst with Shanghai JC Intelligence Co Ltd.

China so far this crop year has only bought about a third of the beans it purchased from the US in the previous year. -Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-02-19

Opportunity, NDU join hands for Int'l CPEC workshop

KARACHI: Opportunity and National Defense University (NDU) join hands to present the first International CPEC Workshop (ICPECW), spanning Beijing, Islamabad and Gwadar.

With the upcoming completion of Phase 1 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 NDU are organizing an 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.

In addition, the PTI government wishes to include technologically empowered and corporate agriculture; the social sector and media and telecommunications in CPEC. For these transformations to succeed, a leading role for the private sector, academia and civil society is needed. ICPECW provides an opportunity to facilitate this change of focus, besides serving as a timely crash-course on CPEC for those players who had earlier stood on the sidelines, and now wish to get significantly involved.

The organizers of ICPECW would like it to be a landmark recurring annual event which the CPEC community looks forward to. The diverse scope, extensive networking opportunities and

rigorous brainstorming planned indicate that an established branded CPEC event is in the making.-PR

Business Recorder, 18-02-19

Eight diplomats from UN Office visit Xinjiang on Chinese invitation

BEIJING: Senior diplomats from permanent missions of eight countries to the United Nations Office at Geneva including Pakistan arrived here to visit Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to get first-hand information about the human-right situation there.

Other diplomats are from Venezuela, Cuba, Egypt, Cambodia, Russia, Senegal and Belarus. They were invited by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During talks with the delegation, Jiang Jianguo, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that since the 1990s, the “three evil forces” - terrorism, extremism and separatism - have organized and conducted thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, causing massive casualties and injuries of people and substantial property damage.

Based on international anti-terrorism experience and its own reality, Xinjiang has made obvious progress in recent years by setting up vocational education and training centers, Jiang said, adding that people’s sense of gain, happiness and security have been greatly increased.

Vice Foreign Minister Le Yancheng said, when holding talks with the delegation, that the world is faced with rising instability, uncertainty and insecurity, thus multilateralism should be insisted on.

All parties should respect other countries’ own human rights development paths and promote the healthy development of the human rights causes in the world, Le said.

Members of the visiting delegation spoke highly of China’s development paths, concepts and achievements. They also expressed willingness to make joint efforts with China to promote all parties to treat various kinds of human rights issues equally and prevent the issue from being politicized.—INP

Business Recorder, 18-02-19

China surveillance firm tracking millions in Xinjiang

BEIJING: A Chinese surveillance firm is tracking the movements of more than 2.5 million people in the far-western Xinjiang region, according to a data leak flagged by a Dutch internet expert.

An online database containing names, ID card numbers, birth dates and location data was left unprotected for months by Shenzhen-based facial-recognition technology company SenseNets Technology Ltd, according to Victor Gevers, co-founder of non-profit organization GDI.Foundation, who first noted the vulnerability in a series of social media posts last week.

Exposed data also showed about 6.7 million location data points linked to the people which were gathered within 24 hours, tagged with descriptions such as “mosque”, “hotel,” “internet cafe” and other places where surveillance cameras were likely to be found.

“It was fully open and anyone without authentication had full administrative rights. You could go in the database and create, read, update and delete anything,” said Gevers.

China has faced an outcry from activists, scholars, foreign governments and UN rights experts over what they call mass detentions and strict surveillance of the mostly Muslim Uighur minority and other Muslim groups who call Xinjiang home.

According to its website, SenseNets works with China’s police across several cities. Its Shenzhen-listed parent company NetPosa Technologies Ltd has offices in a majority of Chinese provinces and regions, including Xinjiang.

SenseNets and NetPosa, as well as the Xinjiang regional government, did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Sunday.

The Chinese government has ramped up personal surveillance in Xinjiang over recent years, including the construction of an extensive video surveillance system and smartphone monitoring technology.

Gevers said the foundation directly alerted Sense Nets to the vulnerability, in line with GDI.Foundation protocol. He said SenseNets did not respond, but that it has since taken steps to secure the database.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 18-02-19

Trump briefed in Florida on ‘productive’ China trade talks

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said Saturday he was briefed at his Florida resort by negotiators working to reach a trade deal with Beijing after their return from “very productive” meetings with Chinese officials.

“Trade negotiators have just returned from China where the meetings on Trade were very productive. Now at meetings with me at Mar-a-Lago giving the details,” the president tweeted.

He also reiterated his assertion that current tariffs “are being paid to the United States by China,” when in fact they are paid by US companies and ultimately by American consumers in the form of higher prices.

Senior officials completed two days of high-stakes talks in Beijing on Friday as they try to avert the US threat to more than double tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, which would be an unwelcome shock to the world’s second largest economy as it already has shown signs of slowing. American officials accuse Beijing of seeking global industrial predominance through an array of unfair trade practices, including the “theft” of American intellectual property and massive state intervention in commodities markets.

Since a December detente, China has resumed purchases of some US soybeans and dangled massive buying of American commodities to get US trade negotiators closer to a deal.

Talks have included discussion of purchases to reduce the “large and persistent bilateral trade deficit,” the White House has said.

But many China experts say Beijing’s Communist Party rulers are unlikely to make significant changes to industrial policies without a long and tough fight.—AFP

Business Recorder, 18-02-19

China to lure foreign investment in state giants

BEIJING: China will seek to attract foreign investment in its larger state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which are undergoing reforms to make them more competitive, the head of the country’s state asset regulator said.

China began a new round of reforms in 2016 aimed at streamlining its lumbering SOEs by introducing private capital, curbing overcapacity, shutting down “zombie” subsidiaries and restructuring assets.

Private and foreign firms should “actively participate in reform and development of central enterprises, and jointly explore ways of deep cooperation including mixed-ownership”, Xiao Yaqing, chairman of the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), said on the regulator’s website on Sunday.

China has been promoting “mixed-ownership” reforms aimed at introducing private capital and management methods into giant central government SOEs. The SASAC will also support investment by state giants in private and foreign firms, Xiao said, without giving details.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 18-02-19

China's HNA cuts stake in Deutsche Bank to 6.3pc

FRANKFURT: Chinese conglomerate HNA has cut its stake in Deutsche Bank to 6.3 percent, according to a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

That marks a reduction from 7.64 percent of voting rights reported in the most recent filing in Germany.

HNA, even with the reduced holding, would remain one of the largest shareholders in Germany's largest lender.

Spokesmen for HNA in Germany and Deutsche Bank declined to comment.

The SEC filing was published on Feb. 15 but the date of the reduction was Feb. 12.

HNA initially bought into Deutsche Bank in early 2017, amassing a stake of close to 10 percent. But it has since trimmed its stake in installments.

High debts at the conglomerate have fuelled speculation about the future of its Deutsche stake as it reduces or exits some of its other holdings.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 19-02-19**Indian occupied Kashmir: Accusing Pakistan for terrorist act unjustified: Chinese media**

BEIJING: Leading Chinese newspaper, the Global Times in a report condemned Indian's mindset accusing Pakistan for terrorist acts without any solid proof.

It is totally unjustified for blaming Pakistan for the terror strike for which a terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed took the responsibility.

The report published in the paper on Monday noted that blind anger toward China was ignited after the incident.

Some Indian analysts sought to link the deadly attack to "China's continued protection" of the perpetrators. By refusing to back India's appeal to list Masood Azhar, leader of terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed, as a global terrorist by the UN, they argued, China is supporting terrorism against India.

Citing China's refusal to support the bid to have Azhar blacklisted by the UN, India in recent years has aggressively blamed China for allying with Pakistan in shielding terrorists.

According to the report, it disregards the fact that as a victim of terrorism itself, China has pledged to support the international community's anti-terrorism efforts and stands ready to work with India and all other countries to fight terrorism.

As for the issue of listing Azhar, Beijing has reiterated its stand several times that New Delhi should provide solid facts and proofs for banning Azhar. China has reason to cautiously handle the issue.

Observers worry that blacklisting Azhar could be used by India to increase its military pressure on Pakistan, thus risking exacerbating tensions between the two countries.

With the proscription of Azhar becoming a contentious issue that impedes China-India relations, some Chinese scholars advise that China take India's concern more into account. But Liu Zongyi, a senior fellow of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, told the Global Times that India should, first of all, mind its approach. Should New Delhi resort to quiet diplomacy instead of extensively directing aggressive rhetoric to pressure Beijing, the Azhar issue could have been better addressed.

Terrorism in India poses a significant threat to Indians. Without solid evidence, India has long accused Pakistan of sponsoring terrorist attacks by Jaish-e-Mohammed and other militant groups and China of providing uncritical support for Pakistan.

Instead of simply blaming other countries, especially Pakistan and China, shouldn't the Indian government make more self-introspection on its anti-terrorism policy and dwell more on how to better administer the India-controlled part of Kashmir? China and Pakistan are not enemies of India in countering terrorism. Despite the India-Pakistan dispute, New Delhi has common interests in fighting terrorism with Islamabad and Beijing. —INP

Business Recorder, 19-02-19

Chinese food producer says swine fever found in dumplings

SHANGHAI: A major Chinese food producer said Monday that traces of the African swine fever virus had been found in its frozen dumplings.

China, the world's biggest consumer and producer of pork, has struggled to contain an outbreak of the virus since the first cases were detected last August.

Officials have said hundreds of thousands of pigs were culled in a bid to stop its spread — an effort that has also seen restrictions placed on moving pigs from affected areas.

Sanquan Food, based in central Henan province, issued a public statement confirming media reports published in recent days that contaminated pork dumplings were detected in two provinces that do not share a border.

The company said suspect batches of dumplings had reached grocery stores, but that it was sealing affected products and cooperating with authorities.

The statement did not mention a broader recall.—AFP

Business Recorder, 19-02-19

China blue chip index surges to over 6-month high

SHANGHAI: China's main stock indexes surged on Monday as investors cheered signs of progress in trade talks, and after banks extended record new loans in January, raising hopes that Beijing's attempts to encourage lending and investment could boost growth.

China's CSI300 index of blue-chip firms jumped 3.2 percent to 3,445.74 points, its highest close since Aug. 1. The Chinese index far outperformed other Asian markets.

It was the strongest gain for the index since November 2 and easily topped its advance on the first day of trading after the US and China on Dec. 1 agreed to a temporary ceasefire in their trade war.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite index ended 2.7 percent higher at 2,754.36 points, its highest close since Sept. 28. Trading volumes were high, with about 26.04 billion shares traded on the Shanghai exchange, the most since March 23.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 3.71 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index gained 4.11 percent.

Optimism that the US and China will reach a deal to end their bruising trade war soared after negotiations in Beijing last week were seen by both countries as achieving progress.

After a briefing by his negotiating team, US President Donald Trump pronounced on Twitter that the talks had been "very productive", echoing a tone of optimism from Chinese state media. Investor spirits were further lifted by data released Friday showing that China's banks made a total of 3.23 trillion yuan (\$477.79 billion) in new loans in January, the highest on record and exceeding expectations.

Growth of outstanding total social financing, a closely watched measure, rose to 10.4 percent from a record low of 9.8 percent in December.

Zhang Gang, an analyst at Central China Securities in Shanghai, said progress in trade talks and the new credit data were both drivers for Monday's rally.

The loan data "is undoubtedly a sign of authorities' efforts to encourage new credit to stimulate the economy. While it may not be sustainable, it definitely represents a signal, and raises strong expectations that they will be able to counter the economic slide," he said.

"At the moment it seems like we may be near the end of the process of reaching an final agreement (on trade)," Zhang added. "There are some details that need to be worked out, but the market has relatively good expectations. This is in stark contrast with 2018."

US tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods will rise to 25 percent from 10 percent if no deal is reached by March 1 to address US demands that China curb forced technology transfers and better enforce intellectual property rights.

China's yuan also gained on Monday on expectations of a trade detente. At 0728 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.762 per US dollar, 0.19 percent firmer than its previous close of 6.775.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.95 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 1.82 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 19-02-19

China's Jan soyabean imports fall 13pc

BEIJING: China's soyabean imports fell 13 percent in January from the same month a year earlier, customs data showed on Thursday, as a hefty duty imposed on shipments from the United States, its second-largest supplier, and curbed purchases.

China brought in 7.38 million tonnes of soyabeans in January, down from 8.48 million tonnes a year earlier, preliminary data from the General Administration of Customs showed. January's imports were up 29 percent from 5.72 million tonnes in December.

"The figures were higher than expected. It was mainly because some cargoes delayed in December cleared customs in January. They were mainly Brazilian beans," said Monica Tu, analyst with Shanghai JC Intelligence Co.

China, the world's top soyabean buyer, typically imports the majority of its oilseeds from the United States in the period October-January after the US harvest comes to market.

However, purchases of American soyabeans plummeted through 2018 as buyers avoided US cargoes amid tariffs and a trade war between Beijing and Washington. The customs department doesn't disclose the origin of imports in its preliminary data.

The two countries then agreed a trade truce on Dec. 1, and Chinese firms have so far bought about 10 million tonnes of US soyabeans for delivery in the first months of 2019, although a 25 percent tariff on US shipments remains in place.

Imports of the oilseed are expected to rise in coming months as the new harvest from Brazil enters the market and as more US shipments clear customs, analysts have said.

China's national weekly soyabeans stocks were at 6.19 million tonnes by Jan. 29, down from a record high in October, but still above January levels in previous years.

Still, demand for the oilseed usually weakens after Chinese New Year holiday, which fell in early February this year, while a fast-spreading outbreak of African swine fever might also dampen consumption.

China has reported about 100 cases of the highly contagious disease since early August. Some producers have abandoned pig farming on fears the disease will spread and as a government ban on hog transport has depressed prices.

Imports of vegetable oils in January were 859,000 tonnes, up 16 percent from the previous month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 19-02-19

Emirates, China Southern Airlines sign MoU

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Emirates and China Southern Airlines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to prepare a comprehensive reciprocal code-share agreement which is set to open up new destinations for passengers traveling between China, Middle East and Africa.

“The partnership will provide improved connectivity to Pakistani passengers who travel frequently to China for trade and business,” disclosed the Emirates Airline’s spokesperson on Monday.

According to him, Pakistan and China are longstanding strategic partners with trade links across the border for several businesses. The two neighboring countries have also launched the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a framework for regional connectivity aimed at enhancing geographical linkages and improved trade and business opportunities. This code-share agreement will go a long way in enhancing connectivity for Pakistani businessmen who can choose to travel to an increased number of Chinese cities.

“The partnership with the Guangzhou-based carrier will allow Pakistani passengers to enjoy seamless connectivity on domestic flights within China adding eight new destinations to its global network. The Chinese cities covered by the code-share agreement include Fuzhou, Chongqing, Kunming, Qingdao, Xiamen, Chengdu, Nanjing and Xi’an during the initial phase of the partnership, subject to necessary government approvals,” he added.

Passengers traveling from China will have more choice and travel seamlessly with minimum connection times, when flying to destinations in Emirates’ Middle East network such as Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Muscat, Kuwait and Cairo. The code-share agreement also includes flights to African destinations such as Seychelles and Lagos, operated by Emirates

Business Recorder, 20-02-19

Huawei’s founder says world can’t live without it

BEIJING: The founder of Chinese telecom giant Huawei has hit back at US efforts to blacklist the company, saying defiantly that the world cannot do without Huawei and its “more advanced” technology.

“There’s no way the US can crush us,” Ren Zhengfei said in an interview with the BBC. “The world cannot leave us because we are more advanced.”

Ren, 74, also denounced as “politically motivated” the December arrest of his daughter, Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, who is accused of violating US sanctions against Iran and faces an extradition hearing in Canada next month.

“We object to this,” he said.

“But now that we’ve gone down this path, we’ll let the courts settle it.”

The normally media-shy Huawei founder has been forced to step into the limelight in recent months as the company has come under increasing pressure over espionage concerns and the US-led campaign to persuade other countries to ban its technology.

Last year, security concerns prompted Australia to ban Huawei equipment from its future 5G network.

New Zealand has also blocked its largest telecom carrier from using Huawei technology for the next generation network, while the Czech Republic has reportedly excluded it from a 20-million-euro (\$22 million) tender to build a tax portal.

US prosecutors are also charging Huawei with stealing trade secrets, saying it offered rewards to employees for stealing technology from other rivals.

Ren shrugged off the growing pressure.

“If the lights go out in the West, the East will still shine,” he said. “America doesn’t represent the world.”

“Even if they persuade more countries not to use us temporarily, we can always downsize and become smaller.”

Signs that US efforts to convince its allies to shun Huawei technology could fall through are also growing.

British intelligence concluded that security risks posed by using Huawei’s 5G equipment can be managed, The Financial Times reported on Monday.

“Other nations can make the argument that if the British are confident of mitigation against national security threats then they can also reassure their publics and the US administration that they are acting in a prudent manner to allow their telecommunications service providers to use Chinese components,” an unnamed source told the newspaper.

New Zealand is also in talks to minimize the security risks posed by using Huawei equipment in 5G infrastructures instead of excluding it entirely. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Tuesday that New Zealand’s security bureau was discussing Huawei security concerns with Spark, the domestic telecoms carrier that had been barred from using the Chinese firm’s equipment last year.—AFP

Business Recorder, 20-02-19

Tanzania jails Chinese ‘Ivory Queen’ trafficker for 15 years

NAIROBI: A Tanzanian court on Tuesday sentenced a Chinese woman dubbed the “Ivory Queen” to 15 years in jail for her role in trafficking tusks from more than 400 elephants.

Yang Fenlan, 69, was convicted in Dares Salaam of trafficking 860 tusks between 2000 and 2014, a haul representing the slaughter of dozens of herds of elephants.—AFP

Business Recorder, 20-02-19

Chinese traders cut Australian coal imports

BEIJING: Chinese coal traders are halting purchases of Australian coal and coking coal as clearing times through China’s customs have at least doubled to 40 days or more, four traders at major buyers told Reuters on Monday.

The traders said only cargoes from Australia, the biggest supplier of the fuel to the world's top consumer, were affected.

“We have stopped ordering coal from Australia because it is unknown how long the restriction will last,” said a manager at a Shanghai-based trading company who usually buys around 400,000 tonnes of Australian coal every month.

Customs clearance typically takes five to 20 days. Now it can be as much as 45 days, said the manager, asking not to be identified as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

It was not clear why China had stepped up checks on Australian imports but tension between Beijing and Canberra has grown in recent months over issues of cyber security and China's influence in Pacific island nations. China's General Administration of Customs did not respond to a request for comment. There was no immediate response from the Foreign Ministry to a faxed request for comment.

Authorities at some ports notified importers verbally this month that Australian thermal coal and coking coal would take longer than usual to clear, the Shanghai-based manager said.

A Beijing-based coal trader and a purchasing manager at a coke plant received similar notifications. None of the buyers were aware of the reason.

China has curbed coal imports in the past to support domestic coal miners and reduce consumption to tackle air pollution. It restricted Indonesian coal imports in 2017, citing high impurities and low energy efficiency.

The Beijing trader said the restrictions on Australian imports were “the first time for Beijing to curb coal imports from a specific country but without a reason.”

Reuters reported in January that dozens of ships carrying coal and iron ore were waiting to unload outside ports due to possible customs delays.

The most-active thermal coal futures on China's Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange hit 594 yuan (\$87.79) a ton on Monday, just shy of the three-month peak of 595.6 yuan, although the contract closed down 1 percent 583.8 yuan a ton. Benchmark Newcastle high energy thermal coal prices have dropped to \$88 a ton, the lowest level in 19 months, consultancy Wood Mackenzie said.

The Shanghai trader said he had stopped buying from Australia and would purchase more from Indonesia and Russia.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 20-02-19

Shanghai shares flat

SHANGHAI: Shanghai stocks ended flat after briefly touching a near five-month high on Tuesday, as investors booked profits following a surge in the previous session.

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.2 percent, to 3,439.61 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index briefly hit its highest since Sept. 28 before ending flat at 2,755.65 points.

Both indexes had leapt around 3 percent on Monday, having gained more than 10 pct this year, thanks to trade optimism and as Beijing stepped up efforts to shore up the economic growth.

Reports of progress in trade talks between the United States and China have prompted investors to be mildly optimistic that the two countries can reach a compromise by March 1 that will de-escalate their dispute or at least avoid a sharp hike in tariffs, although few details from the talks have emerged.

A new round of talks between the United States and China to resolve their trade war will take place in Washington on Tuesday, with follow-up sessions at a higher level later in the week, the White House said on Monday.

China will provide further support for banks' perpetual bond issuance, including examining ways to broaden the investor base for such bonds, to help boost lending in the economy, a vice central bank governor said on Tuesday.

China's decision to cut company taxes and fees is an important part of fiscal policy and is a hard-hitting measure needed to cope with pressure on the economy; state media reported Vice Premier Han Zheng as saying.

Shares in Guangdong-based firms surged after Beijing issued guidelines for developing a "Greater Bay Area" around the Pearl River Delta, in a bid to spur growth in Guangdong province and the cities of Hong Kong and Macau.

The development plan will "further enhance and support a leading role of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area in national economic development and opening up", China's State Council, or cabinet, said in the guidelines.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index fell 0.16 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 0.1 percent. At 07:09 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7775 per US dollar, 0.15 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.7675.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 10.5 percent and the CSI300 has risen 14.2 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 10 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 6.62 percent this month.

As of 07:10 GMT, China's A-shares were trading at a premium of 18.05 percent over the Hong Kong-listed H-shares.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 21-02-19

China's steel prices below session highs

MANILA: Benchmark steel prices in China closed below session highs in a listless trade on Tuesday, while steel-making raw material iron ore ended flat after a two-day gain on concerns over supply disruptions.

The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange ended 0.3 percent higher at 3,655 yuan (\$539.37) a ton, after rising to as high as 3,698 yuan. Hot rolled coil climbed 1.1 percent to 3,638 yuan.

The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange ended steady at 631 yuan a ton, after rising almost 1 percent earlier in the day.

“Iron ore continues to influence the ferrous complex. Steel prices reflect the rising cost of iron ore and producers are passing it on to the consumers,” said Darren Toh, a data scientist with Singapore-based steel and iron ore data analytics company Tivlon Technologies.

A market rally earlier this month in the wake of a tailings dam disaster at top miner Vale SA's iron ore operations in Brazil had brought Dalian iron ore to a record high of 657.5 yuan last week.

Spot iron ore for delivery to China was priced at \$88.80 a ton on Monday, up 1.1 percent from last Friday, but down almost 6 percent from \$94.3 on Feb.11, Steel Home consultancy data showed.

Iron ore prices are expected to remain high for some time with the market still focused on the impact of the loss of some supply from Brazil, ANZ analysts said in a note. How much the losses would be and whether other producers elsewhere could offset them remained uncertain.

Brazil's government on Monday banned new upstream mining dams and ordered the decommissioning of all such dams by 2021, targeting the type of structure that burst last month in the town of Brumadinho, killing hundreds of people.

The move would impact some 50 upstream mining dams in the country's mining heartland of Minas Gerais state alone.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 21-02-19

China will not change prudent monetary policy: Premier Li

BEIJING: China has not and will not change its prudent monetary policy and will not resort to “flood-like” stimulus, Premier Li Keqiang said on Wednesday.

Market speculation is growing over whether authorities will take more aggressive policy steps after recent weak data.

“I reiterate that the prudent monetary policy has not changed and will not change. We are determined not to engage in ‘flood-like’ stimulus,” Li said at a cabinet meeting, according to a statement on the government’s website.

Later on Wednesday, a central bank official reiterated Li’s comments on prudent monetary policy when interviewed by the Financial News, which is run by the central bank.

The official added that the central bank will prevent risks from overly tight monetary conditions, as well as to promote reasonable growth in credit and social financing.

China, the world’s second largest economy, has been trying to reduce risks of a slowdown, especially with its trade dispute with the United States.

The government has been rolling out measures, such as cutting banks’ reserve requirement ratio (RRR) to ensure that there is ample liquidity in the financial system.

China slashed RRR by 100 basis points in January - its fifth cut in the past year, with further reductions widely expected by the market.

China’s banks doled out a record 3.23 trillion yuan (\$480.43 billion) in new loans in January while several other key credit gauges also picked up modestly that month in response to recent policy easing steps.

Rising bill financing and short-term loans could lead to “arbitrage” activities and create potential risks, he added.

Financial institutions should offer more credit, especially medium- and long-term loans to small firms, he said.

Li also said the government needed to deepen reform to resolve long-term problems in the economy.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 21-02-19

China stocks surge

SHANGHAI: Shares in China edged higher on Wednesday as the United States and China pressed ahead with their crunch talks on trade.

The Shanghai Composite Index settled 0.2 percent higher at 2,761.22 points, while the blue-chip CSI300 gained 0.4 percent. CSI300's financial sector sub-index gained 0.7 percent, the consumer staples sector lost 0.5 percent, while energy shares advanced 0.7 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index edged up 0.3 percent while the start-up board ChiNext Composite index rose 0.2 percent.

Beijing and Washington started a new round of talks on Tuesday with sessions at a higher level later in the week. US tariffs on \$200 billion in imports from China are set to rise to 25 percent from 10 percent if no deal is reached by March 1.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump again suggested that he was open to pushing off the deadline to complete negotiations, saying March 1 was not a “magical” date. Investors expect a deal to be reached next month.

Shares in China's agricultural companies jumped after the Chinese government said it will deepen reforms of the sector to promote its rural economy, the government said in its first policy statement of 2019.

Shanghai stocks rose slightly on Wednesday, as investors pocketed gains driven by trade talk optimism. Resistance after the rally was expected, Wei Yi, an analyst at Kaiyuan Securities, said in a note on Wednesday. Investors are “not psychologically prepared” for another round of sudden rise, said the analyst.

Trading volume in Shanghai rose on Tuesday to 28.5 billion shares, from 26 billion on Monday. It stood at 24.6 billion at close on Wednesday.

The offshore yuan hit a two-week high overnight and the onshore yuan was quoted at 6.7226 per US dollar at 0726 GMT, 0.55 percent stronger from the previous close, after a Bloomberg report on Tuesday suggested that the United States is seeking to secure a pledge from China that it will not devalue its yuan as part of an agreement to end the trade war.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index rose nearly 1 percent while Japan's Nikkei index gained 0.6 percent. ** The Shanghai stock index is above both its 50-day moving average and its 200-day moving average.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai composite index were ChangshuFengfanPower Equipment Co Ltd and Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd, both

up 10.1 percent, followed by Shaanxi Broadcast & TV Network Intermediary Group Co Ltd, up 10 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

China's steel, iron ore fall on weak demand

BEIJING: China's construction steel futures fell on Wednesday, as investors remained cautious about the strength of post-holiday demand from downstream users.

Following the Lunar New Year holiday earlier this month, construction sites and manufacturing plants would typically restart business this week.

“Major markets in China have not completely resumed (spot) trading and steel prices in most regions are hovering at a low level,” analysts from Galaxy Futures said in a note.

Benchmark Shanghai rebar prices dipped 0.9 percent to 3,641 yuan (\$541.45), when market closed at 0700 GMT after it plunged to a five-week-low level of 3,578 yuan.

Hot-rolled coil, a manufacturing-grade steel product, ended little changed at 3,657 yuan.

“Steel output is highly likely to increase after the holiday.

And the market focus will switch to demand strength from downstream users,” Jinrui Futures analysts said in a note.

Global mining giant BHP Group anticipates China's infrastructure to rebound in 2019, while its property market will be resilient and the automobile market will improve after a very weak 2018, according to the company's economic and commodity outlook on its website.

Faltering steel prices also dragged on iron ore futures, as the market questioned if mills will delay restocking until steel sales pick up.

China's producer price index (PPI) in January rose a meager 0.1 percent from a year earlier, official data showed last week, raising concerns the world's second-biggest economy may see the return of deflation as domestic demand cools.

Dalian iron ore futures ended a three-day winning streak on Wednesday, falling 2 percent to 619.5 yuan a ton.

Coke futures, however, rose 2.1 percent to 2,113 yuan a ton, supported by concerns over tight supply in coal mining hub Shanxi province.

A major coke plant, Shanxi Coking Co Ltd, said on Tuesday that it expects to trim coke output by around 220,000 tonnes due to an environmental restriction issued by the local government, effective from Feb. 16 to Mar. 31.

A bout of smog has been forecast for China's northern region in late February.

China's top steelmaking province Hebei issued an orange pollution alert last week, effective from Feb. 17 that could last until around Feb.22. Orange alerts require industrial companies to cut output by at least 30 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

Chinese yuan rises, others tepid

SINGAPORE: China's yuan surged against the dollar on Thursday after Reuters reported that the United States and China have started to outline commitments in principle to resolve the stickiest issues in their trade dispute.

Negotiators are drawing up six memorandums of understandings on structural issues including forced technology transfer and cyber theft, and intellectual property rights, two sources told Reuters, marking the most significant progress yet toward ending the Sino-US trade war.

“US-China trade talk progress (following reports that 6 MoUs are in the works) is helping to support sentiment,” said Christopher Wong, a senior FX Strategist at Maybank.

China's yuan strengthened for a fourth consecutive day, breaking below 6.7 per dlr to make fresh three-week highs.

The yuan was boosted by a Bloomberg report earlier this week that the United States was seeking to secure a pledge from China that it will not devalue its currency as part of a trade deal.

The Indian rupee rose 0.2 percent, on the back of higher dollar inflows related to an external commercial borrowing, traders said.

However, most other regional currencies dropped against the greenback as minutes from the Fed's Jan. 29-30 meeting released on Tuesday didn't bolster views that the US central bank would completely refrain from hiking rates this year.

“Interestingly, a dig through the text implies they would be prepared to hike rates if inflation accelerates and that the majority of governors judge rates to be neutral right here: i.e. no easing bias,” said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA.

The Thai baht led regional declines with a fall of 0.3 percent, while the Malaysian ringgit shed 0.15 percent.

Sharp gains in crude prices also undermined the oil importers currencies, like the Indonesian rupiah and the Philippine peso.

The rupiah edged lower ahead of its central bank policy meeting later in the day.

A Reuters poll predicted that the Indonesian central bank would keep its policy rate on hold. The central bank hiked its rates six times in 2018, the most in the region.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

US, China sketch outlines of deal to end trade war

WASHINGTON: The United States and China have started to outline commitments in principle on the stickiest issues in their trade dispute, marking the most significant progress yet toward ending a seven-month trade war, according to sources familiar with the negotiations.

The world's two largest economies have slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods, slowing global economic growth, skewing supply chains and disrupting manufacturing.

As officials hold high level talks on Thursday and Friday in Washington, they remain far apart on demands made by US President Donald Trump's administration for structural changes to China's economy.

But the broad outline of what could make up a deal is beginning to emerge from the talks, the sources said, as the two sides push for an agreement by March 1. That marks the end of a 90-day truce that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to when they met in Argentina late last year.

Negotiators are drawing up six memorandums of understanding on structural issues: forced technology transfer and cyber theft, intellectual property rights, services, currency, agriculture and non-tariff barriers to trade, according to two sources familiar with the progress of the talks.

At meetings between US and Chinese officials last week in Beijing the two sides traded texts and worked on outlining obligations on paper, according to one of the sources.

The process has become a real trade negotiation, the source said, so much so that at the end of the week the participants considered staying in Beijing to keep working. Instead they agreed to take a few days off and reconvene in Washington.

The sources requested anonymity to speak candidly about the talks.

Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Fang on Thursday declined to comment on the MOUs.

The MOUs cover the most complex issues affecting the trading relationship between the two countries and are meant, from the US perspective, to end the practices that led Trump to start levying duties on Chinese imports in the first place.

One source cautioned that the talks could still end in failure. But the work on the MOUs was a significant step in getting China to sign up both to broad principles and to specific commitments on key issues, he said.

Several Chinese government sources told Reuters that the two countries have basically reached a consensus on alleviating the trade imbalances, but there were still some differences on each other's "core demands" that they were seeking to narrow.

"It can be said that we are now in the sprint phase, and both negotiating teams are working towards the goal of reaching an agreement within the deadline, but some problems are still quite complicated to resolve," said one Chinese official familiar with the situation.

The United States has accused Beijing of forcing US companies doing business in China to share their technology with local partners and hand over intellectual property secrets. China denies it engages in such practices.

Trump administration officials also object to non-tariff barriers in China, including industrial subsidies, regulations, business licensing procedures, product standards reviews and other practices that they say keep US goods out of China or give an unfair advantage to domestic firms.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has pushed for China to open its financial services markets to more foreign firms, including credit card giants Visa and MasterCard, which have waited years for China to make good on promises to allow them to operate there.

On currency, US officials including Mnuchin have warned China against devaluing its yuan to gain a competitive advantage after the Chinese currency weakened significantly against the dollar last year, partly counteracting Trump's tariffs.

The two sides were discussing an enforcement mechanism for the deal, the source said. Reuters reported last month that the United States was pushing for regular reviews of China's progress on pledged trade reforms and could reinstate tariffs if it deems Beijing has violated the agreement.

The parties also were looking at a 10-item list of ways that China could reduce its trade surplus with the United States, including by buying agricultural produce, energy and goods such as semiconductors, according to two other sources familiar with the talks.

CLOCK IS TICKING

Time is running short ahead of the March 1 deadline to resolve the dispute or see US tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods rise from 10 percent to 25 percent. Trump said on Tuesday he thought China had an incentive to move swiftly.

“I think they’re trying to move fast so that doesn’t happen,” he told reporters in the Oval Office, while not ruling out the possibility of extending the deadline.

Lower-level officials held a round of talks in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday. They will be joined on Thursday by the top level negotiators, led by US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Chinese vice Premier Liu He.

One senior Chinese government official familiar with the talks said that extending the deadline was an option, though both sides were trying to reach agreement before March 1 and any extension would not be too long.

It is possible the talks won’t resolve all the differences, and it will be up to the two heads of state to make a final decision, the official said.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

China’s Dalian port bans Australian coal imports

BEIJING: Customs at China’s northern port of Dalian has banned imports of Australian coal and will cap overall coal imports from all sources to the end of 2019 at 12 million tonnes, an official at Dalian Port Group told Reuters on Thursday.

The indefinite ban on imports from top supplier Australia, effective since the start of February, comes as major ports elsewhere in China prolong clearing times for Australian coal to at least 40 days.

Australia’s ties with China have deteriorated since 2017, when Canberra accused China of meddling in its domestic affairs. Tensions rose again last month after Australia rescinded the visa of a prominent Chinese businessman, just months after barring Chinese telecoms giant Huawei Technologies from supplying equipment to its 5G broadband network.

Coal is Australia’s biggest export earner and the Australian dollar tumbled more than 1 percent to as low as \$0.7086 on fears the Dalian ban would hurt its already slowing economy.

Asked if the ban was related to bilateral tensions, GengShuang, a spokesman at China's foreign ministry, told reporters on Thursday that customs were inspecting and testing coal imports for safety and quality.

"The goals are to better safeguard the legal rights and interests of Chinese importers and to protect the environment," Geng said, adding that the move was "completely normal".

Imports through Dalian comprise only 1.8 percent of Australia's total coal exports, but if the reported ban reflects a more significant deterioration in the trade relationship between Australia and China, then it could have a broader impact, said Ivan Calhoun, chief economist of markets at National Australia Bank, in a note on Thursday.

Five harbours overseen by Dalian customs - Dalian, Bayuquan, Panjin, Dandong and Beiliang - will not allow Australian coal to clear through customs, said the Dalian port official. Coal imports from Russia and Indonesia will not be affected.

"I'm aware of unconfirmed and unsourced media reports and have asked our Ambassador in Beijing to urgently clarify their veracity," said Australia's Minister for Trade Simon Birmingham.

"We continue to engage closely with industry on matters of market access ... China is a valued partner of Australia and we trust that our free trade agreement commitments to each other will continue to be honored."

Birmingham also said that Australia's exports of coal to China in the fourth quarter of 2018 were higher in volume and value than in the same period in 2017.

The Dalian ports handled about 14 million tonnes of coal last year, half of which was from Australia, said Gu Meng, an analyst at Orient Futures.

The Dalian official declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. Neither Dalian customs nor the national General Administration of Customs immediately responded to a request for comment.

The Dalian official said he was not given a reason for the ban on Australian imports.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

China stocks lower

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks surrendered gains to end lower on Thursday, as enthusiasm over progress in trade talks with the United States gave way to concern that Beijing will not resort to aggressive interest rate cuts to boost growth.

The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.34 percent to 2,751.80.

The blue-chip CSI300 index declined 0.27 percent, with its financial sector sub-index falling 0.35 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index fell 0.27 percent while the start-up board ChiNext Composite index gained 0.3 percent.

China's central bank is not yet ready to cut benchmark interest rates to spur the slowing economy, despite cooling inflation and a stronger yuan, which have fanned market expectations of such a move, policy sources told Reuters.

The Reuters report follows comments from Chinese Premier Li Keqiang that China has not and will not change its prudent monetary policy and will not resort to "flood-like" stimulus.

Stocks had risen in the morning session, helped by news that the United States and China have started to outline commitments in principle on the stickiest issues in their trade dispute, marking the most significant progress yet toward ending a seven-month trade war, according to sources familiar with the negotiations.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.21 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 0.15 percent.

At 07:17 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7059 per US dollar, 0.17 percent higher than the previous close of 6.7171.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Henan Yuguang Gold & Lead Co Ltd, up 10.1 percent, followed by Anxin Trust Co Ltd, gaining 10.09 percent and Shantou Dongfeng Printing Co Ltd, rising 10.06 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Kangmei Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, down 5.04 percent, followed by Triumph Science & Technology Co Ltd, losing 5.04 percent and Guangzhou Pearl River Industrial Development Co Ltd, easing 5.02 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 10.3 percent and the CSI300 has risen 14.4 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 11.6 percent.

Shanghai stocks have risen 6.47 percent this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

Tokyo shares surge on US-China trade hopes

TOKYO: Tokyo stocks shed earlier losses to end the Thursday session marginally higher, thanks to rekindled hopes for progress in the US-China trade talks.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 0.15 percent or 32.74 points to 21,464.23, while the broader Topix index was fractionally up by 0.03 points at 1,613.50.

Tokyo shares dove underwater in the morning, weighed down by profit-taking after recent gains.

But investors perked up in the afternoon after reports that the US and China are drafting several documents aimed at settling the most contentious subjects in their trade war.

“Investors saw the reports related to the US-China trade talks. The market then began to rise on hopes for progress,” said Okasan Online Securities in a note to clients.

Top US and Chinese negotiators are convening again Thursday in search of a solution to their trade dispute, as a March 1 deadline for US tariffs draws near.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed the talks with Beijing are going “very well,” but concrete signs of progress have not been apparent in the three months since the two sides agreed to pause their trade war.

Trump has suggested that the deadline might be extended, calling it “not a magical date.”

However, the absence of details about the trade talks should worry investors, said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA.

“There’s a lot of good news baked into equity prices regarding the trade talks. Stocks will be vulnerable to headlines and traders should stay nimble,” he wrote in a note.

“A suboptimal outcome could make for a potentially ugly correction in equities and currencies in particular.”

The Fed minutes released Wednesday lent color to the central bank’s decision of January 30 to keep interest rates steady, and confirmed a cautious stance towards further tightening made clear by Fed Chairman Jerome Powell.

“It’s good for global markets that the US interest rates will be stable at low levels,” said Makoto Sengoku, market analyst at Tokai Tokyo Research Centre. Automakers were broadly lower with Toyota down 0.87 percent at 6,731 yen.

But Honda, which announced the shutdown of its UK plant this week, gained 2.31 percent to 3,103 yen.

Sony emerged out of the red and ended 1.25 percent higher at 5,340. Uniqlo-operator Fast Retailing added 1.49 percent to 51,090. Internet investor Softbank Group fell 1.63 percent to 10,230.—AFP

Business Recorder, 22-02-19

China to collaborate with PRCP

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab (PRCP) has sought Chinese support to establish youth clubs and first aid training institutes.

Led by the vice-president TPAFFC Chen Weiming, a five-member Chinese delegation of Tianjin People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (TPAFFC) visited the PRCP Headquarters', here Thursday.

The Chinese delegation held a meeting with the provincial chairman PRCP Lt-Gen Khalid Maqbool (retd), who appraised the delegation about humanitarian activities carried out by Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab.

The areas for mutual cooperation identified between Tianjin Red Cross and PRCP includes establishing youth clubs in different educational institution, First Aid training Centre at TEVTA and empowering women.

Business Recorder, 23-02-19

French bakery staff get suspended sentences in China

SHANGHAI: Three French staff members of a Shanghai bakery chain received suspended jail terms of up to three years after being found guilty by a Chinese court of using flour that was past its expiry date.

The French nationals and several Chinese staff were arrested in 2017 after health inspectors discovered out-of-date flour during a raid on the trendy Farine bakery and coffee shop brand and a company warehouse.

The family of one of the French defendants, Laurent Fortin, had started a petition on change.org calling for his release and pleading with the French government to help, saying he had been made a scapegoat by Farine.

Fortin, who the Shanghai court identified as the chain's production manager, was given a suspended jail sentence of two years and five months, and fined 60,000 yuan (\$8,900).

Suspended sentences typically mean the accused is not required to go to jail and may have the term reduced or waived with good behavior in the interim.

“We’re happy about the verdict because he won’t go back to jail. We understand the decision. We are grateful to China. We are patient,” Fortin’s brother David told AFP in France.

He added that he was not sure when his brother would be able to return to France.

The arrests came after a former employee posted video on Chinese social media alleging that Farine was using out-of-date flour imported from France.

Fortin was released in January last year shortly before a visit to Beijing by French President Emmanuel Macron, but had to remain in China pending a resolution of the case.

The other French defendants were identified by the court as Marion Claudia Christine Tuduri, who received a suspended sentence of three years and 150,000 yuan fine, and Damien Joseph Armand Ortal, who got two years and two months and a 50,000 yuan fine.

None of the defendants were available for comment after the ruling.—AFP

Business Recorder, 23-02-19

China’s Jan home price growth at 9-month low

ZHENGZHOU, (China): Growth in China’s home prices eased to a nine-month low in January in a further sign that the slowing economy is weighing on consumer confidence.

Weakening price gains point to strains on China’s massive property sector and raise questions over whether more cities will risk loosening restrictions on home buyers.

Average new home prices in 70 major cities rose 0.6 percent in January, the weakest pace since April 2018, according to Reuters calculations based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Friday.

That was slower than December’s 0.8 percent monthly growth but marked 45 straight months of price increases, Reuters calculations showed.

While monthly price gains are slowing in many cities, analysts said there was no cause for alarm yet, noting they are still up 10 percent on year, pointing to strong underlying demand for housing. Prices rose 9.7 percent in December.

Fifty-eight of the total 70 cities surveyed by the NBS reported higher prices in January, down from 59 in December.

China's economy grew at its weakest pace in 28 years last year due to trade frictions and Beijing's multi-year campaign to crack down on debt risks, weighing on consumer sentiment and the outlook for the country's residential property market.

Analysts say uncertainties stemming from the US-Sino trade war have also turned more investors bearish, but the current price gain is still within a healthy range and far from alarming.

"This is not a turning point because people were more cautious on their budget constraint, which is related to the progress of the trade war," said Iris Pang, Greater China economist at ING in Hong Kong.

"If the trade war is not escalating, I think there will be more investor demand from property and other asset markets."

More marginal policy easing at local levels are likely to occur this year if risks of a sharper correction arise, Pang added.

Some smaller cities have quietly loosened property policies to stabilize sentiment. In December, Heze, a city in eastern China, reversed a rule designed to curb real estate flipping. Zhang Dawei, an analyst with Hong Kong-based property consultancy Centaline, said polarization among markets of different sizes in China was growing as local authorities pursue opposing policies based on their own conditions.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 23-02-19

China's blue-chip index post best weekly gain in over 3 years

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks climbed on Friday to post their best weekly gains in years, led by gains in brokerage firms, amid hopes of a Sino-US trade deal before the March 1 deadline, after which the United States plans to hike tariffs on Chinese goods.

The blue-chip CSI300 index rose 2.3 percent, to 3,520.12 points, its highest closing level since July 26, 2018, while the Shanghai Composite Index ended up 1.9 percent at 2,804.23 points, its highest close since September 2018.

For the week, the CSI300 was up 5.4 percent, its best week since November 2015, while SSEC gained 4.5 percent, its strongest week since March 2016.

Investors continued to closely watch high-level talks between US and Chinese trade negotiators in Washington; with little more than a week left before a US-imposed deadline for an agreement expires, triggering higher tariffs.

Top US and Chinese trade negotiators haggled on Thursday over the details of a set of agreements aimed at ending their trade war, just one week before a Washington-imposed deadline for a deal expires and triggers higher US tariffs.

Reuters reported exclusively on Wednesday that the two sides were drafting language for six memorandums of understanding on proposed Chinese reforms, progress that had helped to lift investor sentiment.

Chinese vice Premier Liu He will meet with US President Donald Trump at the White House on Friday, the White House said.

“The hopes of progress in Sino-US trade talks could help improve risk appetite, and the stock market rally is expected to extend thanks to robust foreign inflows as China further opens up its capital markets,” Zhou Yu, an analyst with Pacific Securities, wrote in note. In late Jan, China said 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.

Financial firms led the charge on Friday, in particular brokerage firms. The CSI SWS securities index, which tracks major securities firms, surged 9.7 percent, having gained 36 percent so far this year.

Real estate firms ended higher despite data showed China’s home prices growth eased to a nine-month low as confidence dipped.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.28 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed down 0.18 percent.

At 07:15 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7237 per US dollar, 0.06 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.7198.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Zhejiang Hige leaf Co Ltd, up 10.18 percent, followed by Harbin Hatou Investment Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and Shanghai Aerospace Automobile Electromechanical Co Ltd, up by 10.09 percent.

The largest percentage losses in the Shanghai index were Center International Group Co Ltd down 6.61 percent, followed by Fushun Special Steel Co Ltd losing 4.93 percent and Shantou Dongfeng Printing Co Ltd down by 4.22 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 12.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 16.9 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 12.3 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 8.5 percent this month.

About 30.15 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 169.0 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 17.84 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 29.86 billion.

As of 07:16 GMT, China's A-shares were trading at a premium of 18.47 percent over the Hong Kong-listed H-shares.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 23-02-19

China's coking coal, coke futures rise on supply concerns

MANILA: China's coking coal futures rose to their highest in six sessions on Thursday, with a mine accident in Queensland and import curbs on Australian coal fuelling worries about supply of the steel-making raw material.

The most traded coking coal contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange ended 2.1 percent firmer at 1,285 yuan (\$191.62) a ton, after rising as much as 2.9 percent earlier in the session.

Coke futures rose for a fourth day, up 1.7 percent at 2,126.5 yuan, also due to concerns over tight supply. Coking coal is heated to produce coke, which is used to make iron and steel.

Coking coal inventory in China is declining as a result of the longer-than-usual clearing of Australian coal imports at some major ports starting this month, according to some analysts.

Further declines could be expected amid an indefinite ban on Australian coal at China's northern Dalian port, with overall coal imports for 2019 through its harbours capped at 12 million tonnes, according to a Dalian Port Group official.

Coking coal inventories were down 8 percent from early February at Chinese ports, 20 percent at coke plants, and 4 percent at steel mills, but demand is expected to increase as steel production is set to pick up after this month's Lunar New Year celebration, according to Argonaut Securities.

Anglo American has suspended operations at its Moranbah North coking coal mine in Australia after one worker died and several were injured on Wednesday. The mine in northern Queensland State produced about 7.68 million tonnes of coking coal last year, according to AME Group.

"There could be some minor impact on their (Anglo-American) supply," said analyst Li Wang at CRU Group in Beijing. The most traded Dalian iron ore contract dropped 1 percent to 615 yuan a ton. Iron ore prices remained volatile after scaling a record peak last week.

Expectations of a tightening market remains a key theme for iron ore amid a spate of supply disruptions, but it won't be felt in the short term, said analyst HuiHeng Tan at MarexSpectron.

“Iron ore arrivals into China are expected to increase in the coming 1-2 weeks. With mills in destocking mode, we also (expect) an increase in spot supplies. These are both price negative developments,” Tan said.

The most active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange gained 1.6 percent to 3,677 yuan a ton. Hot rolled coil climbed 1.3 percent to 3,671 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 23-02-19

Oil reaches over 3-month highs on US-China trade hopes

- Output in US to reach 13m bpd by end-2019: Citi

NEW YORK: Oil prices reached their highest levels since mid-November on Friday, boosted by hopefulness that the United States and China would soon reach a trade deal, but new record US oil supply limited gains.

Brent crude futures briefly reached \$67.73 a barrel, their 2019 high. The global benchmark traded 7 cents higher at \$67.14 a barrel by 1:51 p.m. EST (1851 GMT). Brent was on track for a weekly gain of about 1.3 percent.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up 32 cents to \$57.28 per barrel, after hitting \$57.81 earlier on Friday, also their highest for the year. WTI was heading for a more than 3-percent weekly rise.

Top US and Chinese trade negotiators met on Friday to wrap up a week of talks that have seen the two sides struggle to reach a deal by midnight on March 1, when their seven-month trade war could escalate as the U.S imposes higher tariffs on Chinese imports.

US President Donald Trump will meet with Chinese vice Premier Liu He at the Oval Office later on Friday.

“Oil prices, as well as the stock market have been raising on the anticipation that China and the US would agree to a trade deal,” said Andy Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates in Houston. “In addition, we’re seeing a tightening of oil supplies around the world resulting from OPEC and non-OPEC production cuts.”

Both benchmarks have risen this year after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, including Russia, began to cut output to prevent a supply glut from growing.

However, surging US crude oil production is partly offsetting OPEC's cuts.

US crude production last week climbed to a record 12 million barrels per day as stockpiles built for a fifth straight week to their highest since October 2017 and exports hit an all-time high, the Energy Information Administration said on Thursday.

"We see total US crude production hitting 13 million bpd by year-end, with 2019 averaging 12.5 million bpd," US bank Citi said following the release of the EIA report.

The bank said that some weeks could see 4.6 million bpd of gross crude exports by year-end, topping last week's record of 3.6 million bpd.

However, US energy firms cut the number of oil rigs operating this week after three weeks of adding rigs, General Electric Co's Baker Hughes energy services firm said in its report on Friday. The report indicates the direction of future crude oil production.

Drillers cut four oil rigs this week and nine this month, the first time they removed rigs for three months in a row since October 2017.

With US supply surging, Goldman Sachs said it expected non-OPEC supply to grow by 1.9 million bpd this year, more than offsetting the OPEC cuts.

That means much will depend on demand, which Goldman said it expected to grow by 1.4 million bpd in 2019. Goldman said it expected an average Brent price of \$60-\$65 per barrel in 2019 and 2020.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 24-02-19

Fazal claims Pak-China trade corridor was his 'brainchild'

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Chief of Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam (JUI-F), Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman on Saturday claimed that the original Pak-China trade corridor was his 'brainchild' that latter transformed into the present day CPEC.

Speaking at Karachi Press Club's Meet-the-Press, he took away all the credits of fresh CPEC related deals between Pakistan and China from the PTI government, saying that the Chinese have already made a \$ 45 billion investment into the corridor development.

“When I was a chairman of the foreign affairs committee way back 1995 so I visited China and expounded the idea of the economic corridor in a discussion with the Chinese officials,” he said that the records of his meeting regarding the trade route in Pakistan are available. His speech also depicted a gloomy picture of Pakistan’s present and future under the PTI government in term of foreign relations and economic growth.

He said that India is an arch rival of Pakistan but China, Afghanistan and Iran are also not happy with the country’s foreign policy. Kashmir, he said, is no longer a primary feature of Pakistan’s foreign policy, while the government is readying its plan to recognize Israel. Kashmir issue has now grown stagnant.

He warned that the recognizing Israel as an independent nation will make the country surrender the occupied Kashmir claim, saying that Pakistan’s establishment unfortunately always supported the ‘great game’ execution in the region. And, recognition of Israel is one such its move. “After Israel recognition, you have to withdraw of the occupied Kashmir claim,” he added.

Maulana Fazl also condemned the ‘under repression; politics of the country, blaming the media for supporting the PTI in elections to form its government. He said the media should accept that it was wrong to support the idea that the PTI rule will bring about an economic revolution, as he was the one to oppose Imran Khan and his party for being incapable to govern the nation. “And time has proved I was right,” he added.

He said that not only the journalists’ community is faced with a killing economic repression but the entire country, as huge downsizing continues in trade and business sectors. Imran Khan claimed of providing public with houses and jobs but he rather razed millions of shelters and left a big number of people jobless. He said that the monarchy and dictatorial countries never permit free media as such a norm is the basics of democracies.

He called the NAB an instrument of ‘revenge’ against the politicians, saying that he always opposed the existing accountability law. He said that the foreign investment not taking place while the local businesses are faced with stagnation. Stock markets are giving a deserted look as investors are reluctant. He said that the government has become ‘champion’ of borrowings, as its loans reached Rs15 billion so far.

Business Recorder, 24-02-19

Trump says China trade deal likely as talks extended

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Friday a trade summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping was likely next month, and hailed two days of “very good talks” by negotiators.

The negotiations were extended through Sunday as officials race to reach a deal ahead of a deadline next week when US duty rates are due to rise sharply.

But Trump again said he was considering pushing back the deadline for raising tariffs on more than \$200 billion in Chinese exports.

“We expect to have a meeting sometime in a not too distant future,” he said of the meeting with Xi. “Probably fairly soon in the month of March.”

Xi also sounded a positive note in a letter delivered to Trump by China’s lead negotiator Liu He.

The Chinese president expressed hope that the talks maintain “a mutually respectful, cooperative and win-win attitude” and lead to a “mutually beneficial” agreement.

“I am ready to maintain close contact with the President through various means,” state-run China Central Television quoted Xi’s letter saying.

Details remained scant about any concrete progress in the seven-month-old trade war, which has rattled global markets and prompted stark warnings about the risks to the world economy.

“I think there is a very, very good chance that a deal can be made,” Trump told reporters at the White House on a second day of trade negotiations with Chinese officials.

“If we are doing well, I could see extending that” deadline for the end of the three month tariff truce.

And Trump said an agreement on currency manipulation will be included in the trade pact. Officials from Beijing also expressed optimism about a positive outcome.

“From China, we believe that it is very likely that it will happen,” Liu said, speaking through an interpreter.

Global stock markets were higher on expectations the two sides would avoid further deterioration in their trade relations.

Wall Street rose to a banner finish, posting its longest streak of weekly gains in nearly 24 years.

Analysts say the two sides are likely to trumpet mutual agreements to resolve the easier parts of the trade dispute — increasing purchases of American goods, more open investment in China and tougher protections for intellectual property and proprietary technology.

The harder parts covering issues like scaling back China’s ambitious industrial strategy for global preeminence, are another question.

Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, again warned that the US-China trade tensions a “major risk” to world economic growth.

Since July, the countries have hit out with tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade.

While the tariffs alone are having “minimal” effect on global trade, they are damaging business confidence and weighing on stock markets, Lagarde told the US radio program Marketplace on Thursday.

“I cross my fingers every morning and my toes every evening because I hope that it is going to end up with a way to fix the system, not break it,” she said.

The IMF has cut its forecast for global growth this year due to the combined impact of the trade war.

Beijing has reportedly proposed an increase in its imports of US energy and agricultural exports significantly.

US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue tweeted that China has committed to buying “an additional” 10 million metric tons of soybeans as a “show of good faith,” but he did not give any details or specify the timeframe. Still, a broader deal could be difficult given the US demands for far-reaching structural changes. Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said China may have to remove its tariffs in order to increase purchases of US goods, but Trump may feel no pressure to roll back the duties he imposed last year.—AFP

Business Recorder, 24-02-19

China ready to extend more finance for clean Karachi: Chinese CG

KARACHI: Chinese Counsel General in Karachi, Wang Yu said that the Government of China is keen to see Karachi a clean city and is ready to provide finance, if needed, for this purpose.

Chinese envoy was speaking at a ceremony to handover Garbage Tractor and Loading Bike to the Pakistan’s youngest Councilor Mustafa Karani, from UC-18 Al-Falah area of PS-129, here at the Governor House.

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail thanked the Chinese Consulate for offering more garbage tractors and loading bikes to the City Government to keep Karachi clean. The Governor recalled that Sino-Pakistan friendship went back to decades which were becoming stronger with the passage of time. In future, he said, these two border countries would expand their cooperation and partnership in more sectors especially in the economy.

He said the friendship did not exist only between the two governments but in the peoples of the two countries. “Pakistanis and Chinese do feel at home when they visit each other’s country,” he remarked.

To a question, the Governor said the accountability process was going across the board and on merit. For the first time, it was being carried in very transparent manner to the satisfaction of even the common man.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf’s members of Sindh Assembly from Karachi Dr Imran Ali Shah, Haleem Adil Shaikh, Riaz Haider, Adeel Ahmed Khan, and CPLC Chief Zubair Habib were also present.—PR

Business Recorder, 25-02-19

China’s January LNG imports rise to record high

BEIJING: China’s liquefied natural gas imports in January rose to a record as an increase in residential heating demand during the winter after the country’s shift to gas heating spurred higher shipments, customs data showed on Saturday.

January LNG imports rose 27.8 percent from a year earlier to 6.58 million tonnes, the highest since December, when they had also reached a new high, the General Administration of Customs said.

Surging imports were partially driven by consumption from residential users in northern China after the government’s drive to replace coal heating with gas, despite falling demand from the industrial sector amid a warmer-than-usual winter.

The country shifted an additional 3 million more homes this winter to gas, which is expected to create an additional 4.53 billion cubic meters of gas demand during the Nov. 15 to March 15 winter heating period.

Industrial gas demand in northern China is showing signs of a sharp slowdown as small manufacturers shut their doors or buy less gas, unable to cope with a drop-off in export orders and costs related to Beijing’s pollution control and reform measures. China’s National Offshore Oil Corp resold at least one LNG cargo in January, during what should be the peak demand month, citing this year’s warmer weather.

On Feb. 14, customs reported that China’s total January natural gas imports, including LNG and gas brought in by pipeline, rose by 26.8 percent from a year earlier to 9.81 million tonnes, a record high.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 25-02-19

Nokia says 5G would not be delayed by ban on Chinese suppliers

BARCELONA: Nokia does not expect the possible exclusion of Chinese companies on security grounds to delay the rollout of next-generation 5G services in European markets, CEO Rajeev Suri told Reuters.

Debate is raging in Europe over whether to heed calls from Washington to bar China's Huawei Technologies, even as big telecoms operators warn that such a move could set back the deployment of 5G by years.

Suri, however, downplayed concerns that a reduced field of vendors could slow network upgrades. The real reasons for Europe's growing 5G lag behind the United States are hold-ups in issuing spectrum to operators, as well as high auction costs in countries such as Italy, he said.

"I think you cannot say that you know the situation caused by some of this will delay 5G rollout or that others are not capable or ready to provide equipment. That would not be accurate," Suri said on the sidelines of the Mobile World Congress, the industry's main annual gathering, in Barcelona.

US President Donald Trump's administration has lobbied European allies aggressively to shut out Huawei, saying the company is too closely tied to the Chinese government and its equipment could be vulnerable to cyber espionage.

Huawei strongly rejects those allegations and Chairman Guo Ping, speaking in Barcelona, reiterated that it would never allow any country to insert so-called back doors in its equipment.

Nokia, the second-biggest networks player behind Huawei, has warned of a weak start to 2019 but expects sales to recover and show growth in 2020 as 5G deployment accelerates.

The Finnish company announced a key win in Australia, which has banned Huawei, saying it would provide a 5G fixed-wireless access network to operator Optus, with 50 sites to go live by March.

In a first, Nokia will provide to a limited number of Optus customers super-fast wireless internet that can support several devices and at the same time deliver ultra-high-definition video to the home, the two companies said.

Nokia also said it had agreed with Korea Telecom to conduct 5G trials for service automation, network virtualization and slicing, which allows multiple networks to run on top of shared infrastructure.

There are also plans for Nokia to cooperate with Britain's Vodafone on active antennas to boost 5G capacity and cut costs, plus an agreement with India's BhartiAirtel to conduct a trial of a so-called front-haul solution that will help to speed 5G operations.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 25-02-19

Donkeys' export to China not yet materialized

RECORDER REPORT

PESHAWAR: The export of donkeys to China has not yet been materialized due to delay in submitting required documents by the investors and companies.

The livestock department officials told this scribe that many Chinese companies had evinced their keen interest in establishment of donkey farms and their exports but the KP government had planned to deal only with state-owned companies or state-owned investor in china.

The government would provide all legal and technical support to the investors. The MoU was terminated due to ineligibility of the investor to produce the required documentations. The officials said that Chinese companies also expressed their interest in the exports of donkeys. They were asked to present the required documents in this regard. However, they responded that they would submit the documents after Chinese New Year celebrations at the end of February.

Pakistan, which has the third largest donkey population in the world, will export the animal to China, opening the avenue to earn millions from the trade, said the officials concerned. During the first three years, the government plans to export as many as 80,000 donkeys to china.

The project titled: 'Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa-China Sustainable Donkey Development Programme' is expected to bring Rs 1 billion. It is aimed at attracting Chinese investment in Pakistan's livestock and agriculture sector. Main purpose of the plan is to prevent illegal smuggling of donkeys to foreign countries, because the donkeys are used for medicines and meat consumption in china.

The proposed project will help improve the socio-economic status of donkey-rearing communities and also improve the health and production of local donkeys. An official said that new technologies would also be introduced. Work on capacity-building of donkey breeders and services they provide would also be done. The official said they were only dealing with state-owned companies because if started on commercial basis it would be a possible threat to extinction of the donkey species.

The officials said that the government had planned to establish two donkey farms initially in DI Khan and Mansehra districts. The KP livestock department would focus on building donkey farms in order to breed donkeys to increase its population.

Around 70,000 people use donkeys as working animals in KP province.

During PML-N government, Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) led by then-Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had placed a temporary ban on the export of donkey hides, after the customs in Karachi seized 35,000 skins of donkeys destined to china.

Business Recorder, 25-02-19

EU sees first Arab summit as response to Russia, China

SHARM EL SHEIKH, (Egypt): European and Arab leaders on Sunday opened their first summit in a bid to bolster cooperation as EU President Donald Tusk said neighbors “should not leave it to powers far from our region,” alluding to China and Russia.

Host Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi painted a “bleak” picture for a region hit by wars and terrorism as he appealed for deeper cooperation, in his opening summit speech at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

European Union countries view the summit as a way to protect their traditional diplomatic, economic and security interests while China and Russia move to fill a vacuum left by the United States.

Tusk, the president of the European Council who organizes summits for EU countries, acknowledged “there are differences between us” but said neighbors had more at stake than distant powers.

“We need to cooperate and not leave it to global powers far from our region,” the former Polish premier told leaders from about 40 countries.

He did not name those powers but an EU source confirmed he meant China and Russia. China is increasing trade with the region and has established a military base in Djibouti.

Russia militarily backs Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in his civil war.

EU sources said the first EU-Arab summit is all the more important as the United States “disengages” from the region while Russia and China make inroads.

“We don’t want to see this vacuum soaked up by Russia and China,” one of the sources told AFP.

The summit in the southern Sinai desert is heavily guarded by Egyptian security forces who are fighting a bloody jihadist insurgency a short distance to the north.

The presence of so many leaders shows “what brings together the two regions, Arab and European, exceeds immeasurably what divides them”, Sisi told those gathered.

Sisi called for resolving the decades-old Palestinian-Israeli conflict and settling more recent wars and conflicts in Libya, Yemen and Syria.

“The picture is in fact bleak at present,” said Sisi, who led the army’s overthrow of president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 following mass protests against the Islamist leader’s rule.

He called for Arab and EU economic cooperation and warned of “mounting risks and challenges” including terrorism and migration.

“Has not the time come to agree on a comprehensive approach on combatting terrorism?” Sisi asked.—AFP

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

Dollar, yen down after US delays tariffs on China’s goods

NEW YORK: The safe-haven dollar and yen slipped on Monday as risk appetite increased after US President Donald Trump said he would delay a planned hike in tariffs on Chinese imports, suggesting trade negotiations between the two countries have made significant progress.

The US deadline set earlier for imposing higher tariffs on Chinese goods was March 1.

Global equity markets rose on the news, along with currencies that do well in risk-tolerant environments, such as the Australian and New Zealand dollars.

Trump said on Monday he would hold a summit with China to sign any final trade deal and would meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

MazenIssa, senior FX strategist at TD Securities in New York, said the “stand down” posture on the trade talks suggested that a “more substantive deal may be in the works that could address structural issues related to intellectual property theft and forced technology transfers.”

In mid-morning trading, the dollar index, which measures the currency’s value against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.1 percent to 96.431 as investors bought currencies considered riskier.

The yen was also weaker, pushing the dollar up 0.1 percent at 110.82 yen.

China’s yuan, meanwhile, touched a seven-month high while Chinese equities surged as investors and European shares also performed well.

The offshore yuan rose as high as 6.6737 per dollar to touch its strongest since mid-July and was up 0.3 percent at 6.68.

China's yuan has strengthened 2.7 percent against the dollar in 2019, reversing some of last year's 5.5 percent loss.

The Australian dollar, seen as a proxy for China risk because of Australia's dependence on Chinese demand for its exports, rose 0.7 percent to US\$0.7176. The New Zealand dollar gained 0.6 percent to US\$0.6894.

The euro also gained against a weaker dollar, adding 0.1 percent to \$1.1353, keeping it within recent trading ranges.

Sterling held below \$1.31, up 0.1 percent, as traders considered whether the British government might delay Brexit should Prime Minister Theresa May fail to secure support for her withdrawal agreement.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

China's foreign investment law rushed to appease US: EU firms

BEIJING: European businesses said Monday they fear a Chinese foreign investment law allegedly fast-tracked by Beijing to meet Washington's demands on trade has inadequate protections against forced technology transfers.

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.

But China's parliament is expected to vote on the legislation in March — barely two months after debating a first draft — and the EU Chamber of Commerce in China said it was being fast-tracked, restricting time for foreign businesses to raise objections. “We are concerned that the drafting of the Foreign Investment Law is being squeezed between the normal legislative process and the negotiation table with the US, in part to address the trade conflict,” said Mats Harborn, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Foreign firms worry the draft glosses over details and that vague language leaves room for broad interpretation.—AFP

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

China shares, yuan soar; Hong Kong lags

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks posted their biggest single-day gains in more than three years on Monday after US President Donald Trump said he would delay an increase in tariffs on Chinese goods thanks to “productive” trade talks.

Trump said that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping would meet to seal a deal if progress continued.

China’s Shanghai Composite index surged 5.6 percent to end the day at 2,961.28 points, its highest close since June 15, 2018 and the strongest daily percentage gain since July 9, 2015.

The blue-chip CSI300 index also posted its biggest one-day rise since July 9, 2015, ending 5.9 percent higher at 3,729.48 points, the highest closing level since June 15.

After falling more than 11 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018 due to concerns about slowing domestic growth and the trade war, the Shanghai Composite index has staged a rebound in 2019. As of Monday’s close, it is up 18.7 percent so far this year. The CSI300 has gained 23.9 percent in the year to date.

News last week that China and the United States were achieving progress in high-level trade talks had pushed the CSI300 to its best week in more than three years as investors bet that the two countries would reach a deal before the original March 1 deadline.

Zhang Qi, an analyst at Haitong Securities in Shanghai, said that the market’s strength following last year’s slump was natural given increased foreign inflows, policy support and looser money conditions.

But he said that without external factors like US trade talks providing support, the market would still be “at a discount” from current levels.

Despite the jump in equities on Monday, Paul Sandhu, head of Multi-Assets Quant Solutions Asia Pacific at BNP Paribas Asset Management, said he doesn’t expect a significant change in market dynamics in the short term. “Tariff talk in the past has been the cause of market volatility and also a decoupling of the markets to some degree. As we have been through the talk around tariffs a number of times over the short horizon, much of this may be priced in,” he said.

The reaction in Hong Kong was more muted, with the Hang Seng index even dipping briefly into the red in the morning session. But a 0.5 percent gain was enough to push the index to its highest close since June 25, 2018, at 28,959.30 points. The Hang Seng's China Enterprises index ended 1.8 percent higher.

Victor Huang, head of investment strategy at GuotaiJunan International in Hong Kong, said institutional investors remained wary ahead of the release of company earnings and 2019 outlooks in March.

“The global economic environment has not improved that much,” he added, noting that the A-share market “still has more room to improve than the Hong Kong market.”

Trump's announcement also pushed China's yuan higher, with the onshore unit trading as firm as 6.6738 per dollar, its strongest level since July, before easing to 6.6903 by 0710 GMT.

Its offshore counterpart strengthened to 6.6742 per dollar, its firmest since July 13, and was changing hands at 6.6910 per dollar around 0710 GMT.

“A delay in the tariff deadline is what has been expected. Still, a near confirmation of such a delay, together with reassurance from Trump's comments, is supportive of the yuan,” said Frances Cheung, head of macro strategy at Westpac.

“Beyond the initial reaction, however, market will need a follow-up in terms of a trade deal for further impetus,” she said.

Stephen Chiu, FX and rate strategist at China Construction Bank (Asia) in Hong Kong said he expected the yuan to strengthen to the 6.6-per-dollar level once the United States and China reach a trade deal.

“Therefore, as the two sides get close to settling such a trade agreement, the pace of the current rally in the yuan will slow down,” he said.

Chinese 10-year government bond futures fell as risk appetite rose, with the most traded contract, for July delivery, down 0.4 percent at 97.140.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

China's iron ore posts first weekly loss in 2019

MANILA: China's benchmark iron ore futures ticked higher in volatile trade on Friday, but posted their first weekly loss this year as demand for the steel-making raw material remained weak, despite concerns over supply.

The most-active iron ore contract, for May delivery, on the Dalian Commodity Exchange ended the session just 0.1 percent up at 618.5 yuan (\$92.05) a ton, after trading lower by as much as 3.2 percent earlier in the day. It fell 3 percent from a week ago.

“China’s steel mills appeared reluctant to restock despite the supply outage from Brazil,” ANZ Research said.

Dalian iron ore has risen more than 3 percent this month and rallied to record-high 657.5 yuan last week amid worries over supply disruptions following the collapse of top miner Vale SA’s Brumadinho tailings dam in Brazil.

In another bad news for Vale, Brazil’s mining regulator has ordered the miner to suspend activity at its Fabrica and Vargem Grande complexes, as authorities crack down after last month’s fatal dam break.

Vale did not offer an estimate on how much production would likely be lost from the suspension.

It remains uncertain if there are miners who could produce and export more iron ore to offset whatever is lost from Brazil’s supply.

“Major producers, including BHP and Fortescue, have indicated they are unable to raise exports significantly to cover the losses from Brazil,” ANZ said.

But any restocking by Chinese steel mills is expected to be subdued in the short term considering their pressured margins, tight credit conditions, and sintering cuts as pollution levels in China continue to worsen, according to Marex Spectron.

Dalian coking coal futures was 0.7 percent higher at 1,295 yuan a tonne, ending a volatile week with market participants closely monitoring China’s stepped-up environment and safety checks on coal imports.

Coke rose 1.6 percent to 2,163 yuan.

China’s foreign ministry said on Friday that Australian coal imports continue as normal, denying that the northern port of Dalian has banned coal from the world’s top supplier.

Steel prices extended gains, with the most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange up 1.6 percent at 3,731 yuan a tonne. Hot rolled coil edged up 0.9 percent to 3,706 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

China allows corn, barley imports from Uruguay

BEIJING: China has allowed imports of corn and barley from Uruguay starting this month, two separate notices from the General Administration of Customs said on Tuesday.

Barley from Uruguay that meets quarantine requirements can be imported from Feb. 15, the first notice said. Uruguayan corn can enter China from Feb. 18, according to the second customs notice.

The new trade move came as Beijing pushes to diversify imports amid rocky trade relations with its major grains suppliers, including the United States and Australia.

China in November last year launched an anti-dumping probe into barley imports from Australia, its top supplier of the grain. It also imposed a 25 percent tariff last July on a list of US products, including corn and sorghum; two other major animals feed ingredients, in response to similar moves by Washington.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

China's import of US soyabeans climbs in Jan

BEIJING: China's imports of US soyabeans nearly doubled in January from the previous month as cargoes booked after a Sino-US trade truce arrived in the world's top oilseed importer, according to Chinese customs data published late on Monday.

China brought in 135,814 tonnes of US soyabeans in January, up 95 percent from 69,298 tonnes in December. But the figure was still down 99.7 percent from 5.82 million tonnes a year earlier as Beijing's hefty tariffs on American shipments curbed purchases.

China typically buys from the United States in the last quarter and first couple of months of the year, when the US harvest dominates the market. But Chinese buyers have steered clear of US produce amid the tit-for-tat trade dispute and scooped up Brazilian beans instead.

Chinese imports of the oilseed from America, its second largest supplier, fell sharply last year and ground to a virtual halt in November. Limited buying resumed after the two countries agreed to a truce on Dec. 1.

However, China brought in 4.93 million tonnes of Brazilian soyabeans in January, more than doubling last year's 2.07 million tonnes.

Stockpiling means Chinese crushers have sufficient stocks on hand at present, a situation set to continue in coming months, analysts said, as the new Brazilian crop reaches the market.

China crushes soyabeans to produce soyameal which is fed to its massive livestock herds but an ongoing African swine fever epidemic in China has also dampened demand for feed.

Top negotiators from Beijing and Washington last week discussed a set of agreements aimed at ending the trade war, including a 10-item list to alleviate trade imbalances, with additional Chinese purchases of US agricultural products.

China committed to buy an additional 10 million tonnes of US soyabeans, US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on Twitter on Friday. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would delay an increase in US tariffs on Chinese goods scheduled for later this week thanks to progress in trade talks.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

Cotton futures edge higher on hopes of US-China trade truce

NEW YORK: ICE cotton futures settled higher on Monday as investors bid for the natural fiber in anticipation of a possible trade deal between the United States and China.

The most active cotton contract on ICE Futures US, the May contract, settled up 0.09 cent, or 0.12 percent, at 73.1 cents per lb.

The contract traded within a range of 72.86 and 73.81 cents per lb.

Cotton was higher on the optimism around the US-China trade talks, said Louis Rose, director of research and analytics at Tennessee-based Rose Commodity Group, adding, "a trade agreement will probably be worked out because both China and US need it."

US President Donald Trump said he would delay a planned hike in tariffs on Chinese imports and that he was "very, very close" on a trade deal.

On Monday, Trump also said he was optimistic that a final trade deal could be reached with China and that he would hold a summit to sign any pact, but cautioned an agreement may still not happen.

Cotton prices fell about 8.2 percent in 2018, the first yearly decline in four years, largely due to the trade tussle between top exporter the United States and China, the biggest consumer of the natural fiber.

“There is strong support near 71.00 cents and strong resistance near 76.00-77.00 cents,” Rose added.

Total futures market volume fell by 26,558 to 16,751 lots. Data showed total open interest gained 2,512 to 219,105 contracts in the previous session. Certificated cotton stocks deliverable as of Feb. 22 totaled 127,974 480-lb bales, up from 127,973 in the previous session.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-02-19

China satisfied with CPEC progress: Qureshi

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that China is satisfied over the progress on China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) and its second phase has been settled between the two countries.

Responding to a point raised by JUI (F) leader Asad Mahmood in the National Assembly on Monday, he said that the second phase of CPEC has been agreed with China which indicates that Beijing is fully satisfied with the corridor.

Responding to another point, he said that he is ready if the opposition wants to discuss foreign policy in the House. He said the House should thoroughly discuss the foreign policy of the country. He said the House should fix a day to discuss the foreign policy.

Regarding another point raised by Asad Mahmood, the minister said there is no change in Pakistan’s policy regarding Israel. It is continuity of the policy about Israel of the previous governments.

To maintain cordial environment in the House, Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged the opposition to cooperate with the treasury benches in running the business of the National Assembly in line with the parliamentary traditions.

He said opposition has the right to raise any matter and lodge protest but it should refrain from creating rumpus in the House.

Later, the House adopted the motion to start debate on Finance Supplementary (Second Amendment) Bill 2019 today (Tuesday) in the House by suspending the business of private members' day of the National Assembly.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan moved the motion for suspending the business of private member day in the House. The House adopted the motion without any objection.

The members of the House would today (Tuesday) discuss the Finance Supplementary (Second Amendment) Bill 2019; they may give their proposals.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan also presented the recommendations made by the Senate on the Finance Supplementary (Second Amendment) Bill 2019 in the House for a discussion. The government may incorporate some amendments in the Bill.

Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda assured the National Assembly that Pakistan's share of water under the Indus Waters Treaty is secure and safe. He said that under the Treaty, India has the right over Eastern Rivers and it does not affect Pakistan if New Delhi stops the flow of Eastern rivers. Talking about Mohmand Dam, the minister of state said that Rs 18 billion has been saved in negotiation with the bidder. He said out of this amount, Rs 16 billion will be used in the construction of Naulong Dam in Baluchistan.

Parliamentary Secretary on Finance Zain Hussain Qureshi of PTI laid reports of the Auditor General for the audit year 2017-18 before the House. He also presented reports of Biannual Monitoring on the Implementation of 7th NFC Award, for the period July to December 2016, January to June 2017 and July to December 2017, as required by clause (3B) of Article 160 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Earlier, former Defense Minister Khawaja Asif requested the Speaker to issue production order for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) MNA Khawaja Saad Rafiq. He said that in the past, the previous Speakers had issued production order for Javed Hashmi and other members.

A report on the bill to further amend the Election Act, 2017 [The Election (Amendment) Bill, 2018] was also presented in the House.

He said that the production order for Saad Rafiq is being delayed while in the past such has not been done. "Mr. Speaker, you should give ruling on it," he said.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar said that he has received a file for production order. He said that he is obtaining legal opinion on it. "I will not disappoint you," he added

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

Trade activity rises on anticipation of US-China deal

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: Volume of business improved on the local cotton market on Tuesday on expectations of a possible trade deal between the United States and China, dealers said.

The official spot rate was unchanged at Rs 8,600, they added. In the ready session, about 9000 bales of cotton changed hands between Rs 7200-8875, they said.

Prices of seed cotton in Sindh were at Rs 3000-3500, in Punjab seed cotton prices at Rs 3000-3600 and in Baluchistan prices were at Rs 3200-3500, they said.

They observed that locally traders were looking optimistic about the US-China trade talks. Whereas, the US President Donald Trump said he would delay a planned hike in tariffs on Chinese imports and that he was “very, very close” on a trade deal.

Market sources said that rising tensions between India and Pakistan failed to make any negative impact on surge in demand by the mills and spinners.

Cotton analyst, NaseemUsman observed that tensions between India and Pakistan creating a kind of uncertainties in the region, the issues should be settling down as soon as possible.

Adds Reuters: ICE cotton futures settled higher on Monday as investors bid for the natural fiber in anticipation of a possible trade deal between the United States and China.

The most active cotton contract on ICE Futures US, the May contract, settled up 0.09 cent, or 0.12 percent, at 73.1 cents per lb.

Total futures market volume fell by 26,558 to 16,751 lots. Data showed total open interest gained 2,512 to 219,105 contracts in the previous session. Cotton prices moved both ways in other parts of the world, they said.

The following deals reported: 3200 bales of cotton from Rahim Yar Khan at Rs 8000/8600, 1000 bales from Shujabad at Rs 7200, 1000 bales from ChowkMundra at Rs 7500, 400 bales from Rajanpur at Rs 8875, 530 bales from PulBagar at Rs 8425, 800 bales from Sadiqabad at Rs 8750, 200 bales from Bahawalpur at Rs 7650 and 1400 bales from Alipur at Rs 8600, they said.

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

Chinese steel, iron ore slide; shrug off trade talk progress

BEIJING: Chinese steel and steel-making raw material retreated when market closed on Monday, despite positive market sentiment as Beijing and Washington moved closer to a trade deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would delay an increase in tariffs on Chinese goods due to “productive” trade talks. He and Chinese President Xi Jinping would meet to seal a deal if progress continued.

China’s official Xinhua news agency also reported that the two countries have made “substantial progress” on specific issues in the latest round of talks.

“Trade friction is easing while the Chinese economy is maintaining stability. In general, steel would move into a bull market, despite increasing output,” according to a note by Jinrui Futures.

Benchmark Shanghai rebar prices lost 0.7 percent to 3,682 yuan (\$550.43) a ton.

Hot-rolled coil futures edged down 0.3 percent to 3,678 yuan.

The weekly utilization rates at steel mills across the country edged up to 65.75 percent last week as of Feb. 22, rising 0.14 percentage points from a week earlier, data compiled by my steel consultancy showed.

Steelmaking raw ingredients prices also rose, as investors expect mills to replenish inventory after the weeks-long holiday break.

Dalian iron ore futures closed down 1.3 percent at 598.5 yuan, after jumping as much as 3 percent during early trade.

Coking coal prices climbed 0.5 percent to 1,291 yuan, while the coke contract for May delivery on the Dalian Commodity Exchange dipped 0.3 percent to 2,138 yuan.

Price falling on steelmaking raw ingredients also came as top steelmaking city Tangshan extended second-level smog alert to Mar 2 from scheduled Feb 25 due to adverse weather condition, according to a statement from local government on Monday.

Steel mills need to cut at least 30 percent production during the alert period.

On Saturday, an accident at a non-ferrous mine at a subsidiary of Inner Mongolia Xingye Mining Co killed 21 people and injured 29.

Xinye has been ordered by local authorities to halt production, and analysts say the accident may lead to safety checks across the region, affecting operations at more mines.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

CBOT soyabeans futures firm on hopes for US-China trade deal

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade soyabean futures ended firm on Monday on hopes for a U.S.-China trade deal and after Beijing vowed to increase purchases of U.S. soya.

CBOT May soyabeans ended up 1-1/4 cents at \$9.25 per bushel after peaking at \$9.34-1/2, the highest for the contract since February 7.

CBOT May soyameal was unchanged at \$309.40 per short ton, while May soyaoil ended down 0.17 cent at 30.68 cents per pound.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he was optimistic that a final trade deal could be reached with China and that he would hold a summit to sign any pact, but cautioned an agreement may still not happen.

Trump delayed a March 1 deadline over the weekend to allow for negotiations to continue. Tariffs on Chinese goods had been scheduled to jump on March 1.

China committed to buy an additional 10 million metric tons of U.S. soyabeans in a meeting in the Oval Office on Friday. Soyabean gains were largely offset by spillover pressure from lower wheat futures and by concerns about large soya supplies, with South America's harvest accelerating over the next several weeks.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

Wall Street rises after Trump stirs China trade hopes again

- Tariff-exposed industrial, technology shares rise
- GE soars on sale of bio pharmacy business for \$21bn

NEW YORK: Wall Street's three major indexes ended higher on Monday but well below the session's highs after President Donald Trump said he would delay a planned hike in tariffs on Chinese imports.

Postponement of the tariff deadline was seen as the clearest sign yet the two countries were closing in on an agreement to end their prolonged trade spat, which has slowed global growth and disrupted markets.

But gains were capped after weeks of advances for the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq, partly due to trade optimism and dovish signals from the Federal Reserve.

“A lot of the good news related to trade is priced in at this point,” said R.J. Grant, head of trading at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods in New York.

“There’s only so much we can rally when somebody says we’re making progress... The trade stuff is a little bit of a sideshow. If you get back to looking at economic growth, it’s clearly slowing.”

The S&P 500 index ended 4.9 percent below its late September record closing high after narrowing the gap to 4.3 percent earlier in the session.

Investors were also looking ahead to an appearance by Fed Chairman Jerome Powell before a US Senate committee on Tuesday.

“In the short term trade got taken off the table today so next up on the calendar is Powell speaking to Congress. Its possible investors are starting to clam up a bit because of what they think Powell may say,” said Michael Cuggino, portfolio manager at Permanent Portfolio Funds in San Francisco.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 60.14 points, or 0.23 percent, to 26,091.95, the S&P 500 gained 3.44 points, or 0.12 percent, to 2,796.11 and the Nasdaq Composite added 26.92 points, or 0.36 percent, to 7,554.46.

Investors were also wary of weakening estimates for current quarter earnings, with Wall Street on Monday expecting a 0.9 percent decline in S&P first-quarter earnings per share compared with expectations for 5.3 percent growth on Jan. 1, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

“It’s hard to get valuations to continue to raise in the face of falling earnings estimates,” said Jeffrey Kleintop, chief global investment strategist at Charles Schwab in Boston.

Of the S&P’s 11 major sectors, 7 ended the day with gains.

After advancing as much as 1.4 percent, the financials index lost ground late in the day to close up 0.4 percent.

The S&P technology index rose 0.5 percent. The Philadelphia semiconductor index climbed 0.8 percent as chip companies have a big exposure to China.

The industrials sector rose 0.4 percent, getting its biggest boost from General Electric Co, which gained 10.8 percent after announcing a sale of its bio pharmacy business to Danaher Corp for \$21.4 billion. Danaher shares rose 8.2 percent.

A flurry of M&A activity also helped the risk-on sentiment.

The Nasdaq Biotechnology Index rose 2 percent, its biggest boost coming from shares in Spark Therapeutics Inc., which soared 120 percent after Swiss drugmaker Roche Holding AG agreed to buy it for \$4.3 billion.

The biggest laggards were the S&P's defensive sectors - consumer staples, utilities and real estate. The consumer discretionary sector also ended down 0.3 percent, with the biggest drag from Home Depot, down 1.3 percent, on concerns about a soft housing market ahead of its quarterly results.

Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 1.14-to-1 ratio; on NASDAQ, a 1.05-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

The S&P 500 posted 58 new 52-week highs and 2 new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 128 new highs and 14 new lows.

Volume on US exchanges was 7.36 billion shares, compared with the 7.32 billion average for the last 20 trading days.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

China stocks fall

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks fell on Tuesday in heavy volume as some investors took profits on heavyweight financial shares, betting the market's recent spectacular surge is unsustainable.

But optimists believe the correction provides a good entry point, hailing Monday's nearly 6 percent jump in the blue-chip CSI300 Index as the start of a new wave of buying.

“Short-term adjustment is natural,” said Wen Xunneng, a Shanghai-based hedge fund manager.

“We're at the starting point of a bull market.”

The CSI300 index moved roughly 1 percent on either side before settling down 1.2 percent lower at 3,684.69 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.7 percent to 2,941.52. The CSI300's rise on Monday was its biggest one-day gain in three years.

The CSI China mainland banks index dropped 2.3 percent.

Trading turnover totaled 1.07 trillion yuan (\$160 billion), exceeding Monday's 1.04 trillion yuan and the highest level in more than three years.

After a mauling in 2018, China stocks have surged about 20 percent so far this year, driven by a combination of factors including progress in Sino-US trade talks, Beijing's monetary easing to prop up the slowing economy and foreign money inflows.

"What doesn't kill me, makes me stronger," said Pan Jiang, CEO of money manager Shanghai V-invest Co said, referring to the Sino-US trade war.

Pan added that a deal between the two countries could potentially make China more competitive in the long run, by speeding up domestic reforms.

US President Donald Trump said on Monday negotiators were "very, very close" to a deal. But Trump also sounded a note of caution, saying a deal "could happen fairly soon, or it might not happen at all."

There are signs risk appetite is rapidly improving, with some investors scrambling to buy stocks for fear of missing out on the rally.

Outstanding margin financing business at brokerages has been climbing steadily this month, while investors have also been borrowing money in the grey market to buy equities, drawing the attention of regulators.

Late on Monday, China's securities watchdog urged stricter monitoring of unusual stock trading after reports of increasing grey-market margin financing.

"We're starting to see more investors buying stocks on margin," said Yang Hai, analyst at Kaiyuan Securities. "It's difficult for regulators to manage people's greed."

Meanwhile, there are signs some investors are starting to take profits.

Foreign investors on Monday sold a net of 715 million yuan worth of A-shares via the stock connects linking mainland China and Hong Kong, snapping 18 trading days of net buying which helped power the Shanghai composite index to a more than eight-month high.

Capital Economics said the underlying economic risks didn't justify the recent rally.

“Although an agreement to end the trade war with the US would be good news for China, we doubt that it would prevent the country’s economy from weakening further,” it wrote on Tuesday.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch said it doesn’t consider conditions are ready for a bull market, but wrote: “based on the buoyant market sentiment and the past trading pattern, there is a decent chance that the market may enjoy some more upside over the next few months.

Financial firms, in particular banking stocks, led the declines on Tuesday after Beijing ordered banks and insurers to sharply step up lending to private firms, which are considered higher credit risks.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

How US bike companies are steering around Trump’s China tariffs

Rajesh Kumar Singh

US-based bicycle manufacturer Kent International has found a way around President Donald Trump’s tariffs - by shifting production out of China.

Like almost all US bike-makers, Kent has long relied on low-cost Chinese labor and parts, but Trump’s tariffs have so far inflated his costs by about \$20 million annually.

“We have no choice but to - as rapidly as possible - look to move production away from China,” said Arnold Kamler, chief executive and majority owner of the Parsippany, N.J.-based Bike Company.

But Kent and other bike makers don’t have to move their manufacturing operations to the United States to avoid tariffs - nor do they have to stop using Chinese parts.

The company now plans to make bike frames in Cambodia while continuing to buy about half the components it will attach to those frames from producers in China. The resulting bicycles can enter the United States tariff-free because of U.S. rules that generally allow products to be designated as made-in-Cambodia as long as 35 percent of their costs for parts and labor are derived from that country.

Gaming the so-called rules of origin is a legal tariff-avoidance strategy being adopted by other major US bike builders and explored across the industry, along with other manufacturing sectors, according to bike executives and supply chain consultants.

The shift in the \$6 billion bike industry underscores how such rules allow manufacturers, despite tariffs, to continue sourcing large portions of their parts from China, undermining the Trump

administration goal of boosting U.S. manufacturing employment. It further shows how quickly light manufacturers with less capital-intensive operations can move to Southeast Asia, which has seen a blitz of new investment since Trump launched his first tariffs last spring.

The bike industry plays a small role in what experts call the biggest shake-up in cross-border supply chains since China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. Companies in an array of industries - furniture, electronics, apparel, tires, vacuum cleaners, to name a few - are moving operations to Vietnam, Thailand and other Asian countries, often while continuing to use some suppliers in China.

“This is a mid- to long-term issue that is not going to blow over in a year,” said Brett Weaver, a supply-chain consultant at KPMG. “More and more companies are beginning to take that perspective.”

The Trump administration’s office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) did not respond to requests for comment.

For many companies, tariffs proved the deciding factor in moves already under consideration because of rising labor costs in China. Three decades ago, when Kamler first offshored Kent’s production, labor in China cost him 20 percent less than in the United States. That gap has narrowed to 5 percent, he said.

Kent currently sources nearly 90 percent of the 3 million bicycles it sells to Target, Wal-Mart and other US retailers from China. But sales took a hit after it raised prices in response to tariffs last September.

Kent’s new factory in Cambodia is estimated to cost \$20 million - an amount equivalent to one year of Kent’s increased costs from Trump’s 10 percent tariffs, which were added to existing duties. Trump’s tariffs were set to rise to 25 percent on March 2, but on Sunday he delayed the increase, citing progress in trade talks with China.

Another major brand, Specialized Bicycle Components, has moved production from China to Cambodia, Vietnam and Taiwan, expanding its existing Southeast Asia operations, said Bob Margevicius, a vice president of the Morgan Hill, California-based bike maker. Smaller producer Pure Bicycles, based in Los Angeles, is preparing a move to Vietnam, said Michael Fishman, president of the Los Angeles-based firm.

Industry officials and supply chain consultants say all American bike-makers are considering similar moves to shield their low-margin businesses from tariffs.

“Their supply chains are disrupted,” said Morgan Lommele, a director at PeopleForBikes, an industry association. “They are looking at other countries.”

All manufacturers face challenges in moving their operations to Southeast Asia, including constraints on port capacity and labor. And no country can easily supplant China's scale and production volumes for bicycles after three decades of the industry migrating there from the United States.

In the 1970s, the US-based firms made more than 15 million bicycles annually, compared to fewer than 500,000 now, according to the data presented by the industry to the USTR last year. And 94 percent of U.S. bike imports currently come from China, U.S. Census data shows.

China also provides more than 300 million components such as tires, tubes, seats and handlebars - accounting for about 60 percent total component imports.

Specialized finished moving all its production out of China by December but, like Kent, will continue to buy components from there.

Trump's tariffs provided a "wake-up call for the industry," said Margevicius, who also serves on the board of an industry trade group, the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association.

Chinese authorities are keen to protect manufacturing jobs, too. To cushion the impact of tariffs, China has increased export tax rebates and quickened tax refunds to exporters, Margevicius said. It is also offering companies cheap loans.

A more than 5 percent decline in the value of the Chinese Yuan last year, along with forecasts of further depreciation this year, are also helping blunt the impact of higher US duties.

Kent is, nonetheless, moving ahead with plans to start manufacturing in Cambodia in September, and Kalmer said it will shift the bulk of its production there over the long term. Lower labor costs were a major deciding factor in addition to tariffs, said Kalmer, who remains skeptical that Beijing will sustain its tax incentives to lower-end manufacturers as its economy shifts towards services, consumption and high-tech production.

South East Asian countries are also wooing firms exploring options outside China.

Cambodia has allowed Kent to bring in short-term workers from China. Thailand is promoting itself as a regional manufacturing hub, offering incentives such as an exemption of up to eight years on corporate income tax for certain industries and exemptions on import duties for some raw materials.

Vietnam has finalized 16 free trade agreements including with the European Union and is a member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, offering companies almost duty-free access to big bike markets from Germany to Australia.

Specializer's Margevicius advises companies considering a move to look carefully at whether locations outside China have the required infrastructure to meet their needs.

Each of the two biggest ports in Vietnam, for instance, has only a sixth of the capacity of the port of Shanghai, and Cambodia lacks a deep-water port to accommodate larger vessels.

The rush of manufacturers moving operations to Southeast Asia will also bring new competition to hire and train workers from a labor force far smaller than that of China.

Kamler is not deterred. Kent's Chinese partner has already bought a plot for the Cambodian factory, five miles from downtown Phnom Penh. Construction is scheduled to start next month and finish by June.

The company will initially hire and train up to 300 workers to start the production. It will also bring in 100 robots from its Chinese facilities for welding work.

"We have a big business in the United States," Kamler said. "My priority 1, 2, 3 and 4 is to rescue my USA business."—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-02-19

China to give \$1bn grant for early harvest projects

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: China would give \$1 billion grant to Pakistan for early harvest projects of socioeconomic development and agriculture sectors under the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, it is learnt.

According to the sources, China would provide this grant for early harvest and pilot projects during the next three years. Both the countries have agreed on the second phase of the CPEC.

Most of the projects relating to socioeconomic development included vocational training particularly in the provinces, capacity building of hospitals and pilot projects of agriculture sector.

Project Director/Coordination CPEC Hassan Daud Butt told this correspondent that Chinese experts team relating to health, agriculture and other sectors held a meeting at Ministry of Planning under the chairmanship of secretary planning on Tuesday. He said that both side discussed potential projects and way forward for speedy implementation of this important cooperation.

A 13-member Chinese delegation is in the town to discuss implementation of this newly introduced sector under the CPEC. The experts are meeting with the federal and provincial governments' officials and experts to identify pilot projects and their implementation mechanism.

Hassan Daud Butt said that Chinese expert team would also hold meeting today (Wednesday) to discuss the development projects. He said that the representatives of the provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan would also participate in the meeting.

He said that Chinese expert team would visit the provinces and hold meetings with high officials of provincial governments to discuss various early harvest projects under the second phase of the CPEC. He said that the expert team would also visit vocational training centers and hospitals of the provinces.

The project director said that after visiting of the provinces and Gwadar city, the expert team would hold meetings on March 7-8 at Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to priorities the projects for short and long terms. He said that the representatives of the provinces would also participate in the meetings.

According to a press release issued by the ministry, the government of Pakistan is committed to strengthen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and build closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era. The CPEC vision has been expanded based on the priority and the government's vision for making it a true gateway for progress and prosperity under the slogan of "One Corridor, Many Doors."

Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Khusro Bakhtyar said that government of Pakistan is keen to enhance scope of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the domain of socioeconomic development and agriculture sector keeping in view the potential of growth in these sectors.

He expressed these remarks while meeting Du Zhenli, head of Chinese delegation, comprising experts from socioeconomic development field here at the Ministry on Tuesday. Secretary Zafar Hasan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China Zhao Lijian, and Project Director Hasaan Daud were also present on the occasion.

The minister said, "We have come a long way in defining a sustainable way forward in the win-win cooperation framework between China and Pakistan." The federal and provincial governments are making all-out efforts to realize the planned CPEC projects as soon as possible, he added.

The minister said that in the second phase, scope of CPEC is being enhanced in the domains of social sector development and agriculture sector as both the sectors hold a huge potential of

growth. He said that government is interested to start pilot projects in these areas with the support of China on priority basis.

He said, “Our focus is on high impact, low gestation and low cost projects in less developed areas of Pakistan.” He said that priority will be given to projects in the field of vocational training, job creation, agriculture and health.

He hoped that experts on both side will be able to firm up the proposed projects and set up deliverables for the next meeting of the leaders in April next to further strengthen the economic cooperation.

Business Recorder, 28-02-19

US targets China, Canada, Mexico in new anti-dumping case

WASHINGTON: The United States has threatened fresh import duties on nearly \$2 billion in structural steel from Canada, Mexico and China, according to the Commerce Department.

The latest investigation into possible dumping and unfair subsidies, announced late Tuesday, comes on top of sweeping tariffs on steel imports from all countries that President Donald Trump imposed last year ahead of major trade negotiations.

But it also comes after the White House reached a new North American trade deal with Ottawa and Mexico City, and has called a truce in its trade dispute with Beijing.

The American Institute of Steel Construction called for the investigation, alleging that imports of fabricated structural steel — such as beams, frames, columns joists — have been dumped on the US market at less than fair value and benefited from unfair subsidies.

The organization claims Canadian, Chinese and Mexican producers benefit from scores subsidy programs, including tax abatements, grants, loans and export insurance, debt restructuring, and can receive cut-rate local goods and services.

In 2017, imports of these products from the three countries amounted to \$1.9 billion, according to the Commerce Department. That was the year before Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports on national security grounds. If the Commerce Department agrees with the charges on the US market it will impose extra duties on the imports. The alleged dumping margins are 30.41 percent for Canada, 222.35 percent for China, and 30.58 percent for Mexico.

The independent US International Trade Commission can overturn if finds that no American industry has been harmed by the imports.

In the first 10 months of last year, total US steel imports fell 10.6 percent compared to 2017, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute.—AFP

Business Recorder, 28-02-19

China stocks surge

SHANGHAI: Shanghai stocks ended up on Wednesday, after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell reinforced the US central bank's recent shift towards a more "patient" approach on policy in the face of a slowing economy.

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.2 percent, to 3,678.39, while the Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.4 percent to 2,953.82 points.

The Fed is in "no rush to make a judgment" about further changes to interest rates, Powell told US lawmakers on Tuesday as he spelled out the central bank's approach to an economy that is likely slowing.

In two hours of testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, Powell elaborated on the "conflicting signals" the Fed has tried to decipher in recent weeks, including disappointing data on retail sales and other aspects of the economy that contrast with steady hiring, wage growth, and ongoing low unemployment.

Stocks also got some support after the PBOC said it will encourage financial market innovation to boost the economy.

However, volatility increased as the trading turnover in Shanghai and Shenzhen continued to be more than 1 trillion yuan (\$149.48 billion) for the third session.

"Shareholders of listed firms step up their stake cuts as the broad rally continues, which would have dampened the sentiment for the A-share investors," Zhao Wei, chief market analyst at Founder Securities, wrote in report.

There would be technical consolidation before the benchmark Shanghai index moves past the 3000-point-level, a psychologically key level seen by many participants.

Trust-related firms surged after reports that Beijing will lower the threshold for the investment in trust products, adding to signs that Beijing is loosening financial regulation to boost the real economy.

The CSI financials index has gained over 20 percent so far this year, as Beijing continues to open up its financial markets and deepen reforms in the sector to help prop up the cooling economy.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by 0.15 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 0.5 percent.

At 07:04 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.6918 per US dollar, 0.12 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.6999.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Sichuan Hongda Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, followed by Maoye Commercial Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and Zhejiang Tiancheng Controls Co Ltd, up by 10.06 percent.

The largest percentage losses in the Shanghai index were Eastern Gold Jade Co Ltd down 10.07 percent, followed by ChangshuFengfan Power Equipment Co Ltd losing 10.03 percent and Pengqi Technology Development Co Ltd down by 10.02 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 18.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 22.2 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 13.3 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 14.29 percent this month.

About 47.50 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 228.2 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 20.81 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 56.56 billion.—Reuters

Daily Times, 16-02-19

Opportunity, NDU to present the first International CPEC Workshop



With the upcoming completion of Phase 1 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 the National Defense 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..

An International CPEC Workshop (ICPECW), a 2.5 weeks international learning and networking platform on CPEC will be held from April 17

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. Industrial cooperation depends on the successful development and population of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), significant industrial relocation from China and accelerated industrialization.

In addition, the PTI government wishes to include technologically empowered and corporate agriculture; the social sector and media and telecommunications in CPEC. For these transformations to succeed, a leading role for the private sector, academia and civil society is needed. ICPECW provides an opportunity to facilitate this change of focus, besides serving as a timely crash-course on CPEC for those players who had earlier stood on the sidelines, and now wish to get significantly involved.

The organizers of ICPECW would like it to be a landmark recurring annual event which the CPEC community looks forward to.

The diverse scope, extensive networking opportunities and rigorous brainstorming planned indicate that an established branded CPEC event is in the making.

Daily Times, 18-02-19

China rebuffs Germany's call for US missile deal with Russia



China rejected on Saturday German Chancellor Angela Merkel's appeal to join a Cold War-era arms control treaty that the United States accuses Russia of breaching, saying it would place unfair limits on the Chinese military.

Fearing a nuclear arms race between China, Russia and the United States after the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, which the United States is withdrawing from, Merkel made her call for a global treaty.

“Disarmament is something that concerns us all and we would of course be glad if such talks were held not just between the United States, Europe and Russia but also with China,” Merkel told the Munich Security Conference.

Russia and the United States are the signatories to the 1987 INF treaty that bans land-based missiles with a range between 500 kilometers and 5,500 kilometers (300-3,400 miles) and which US President Donald Trump started the six-month withdrawal from this month, blaming Russian violations.

Moscow denies any wrongdoing, but the United States and its NATO allies want Russia to destroy its 9M729 nuclear-capable cruise missile system, which Washington says could allow Russia to strike Europe with almost no warning.

Merkel’s suggestion of involving China in a negotiation is seen by European NATO diplomats as a potential way out of the impasse because a new treaty could address American concerns about a growing military threat from China and Russia.

But China’s top diplomat Yang Jiechi, who spoke on a panel in Munich, said that Chinese missiles were defensive.

“China develops its capabilities strictly according to its defensive needs and doesn’t pose a threat to anybody else. So we are opposed to the multilateralisation of the INF,” he said. China’s stated ambition is to modernize its People’s Liberation Army by 2035, improve its air force and push into new technologies including very high speed cruise missiles and artificial intelligence.

Its defense budget grew nearly six percent between 2017 and 2018, according to the London-based International Institute for Security Studies (IISS). Retired Chinese General Yao Yunzhu told delegates a new arms control agreement would only work if it included sea- and air-launched missiles, as well as land, because most of China’s military technology was ground-based and the country would not want to put itself at a disadvantage.

Cheaper to build, more mobile and easier to hide, ground-based rocket launchers are an attractive option to China as it develops its armed forces, experts say, whereas the United States operates more costly sea-based systems to comply with the INF.

“China is traditionally a land power and the Chinese military is a ground force,” Yao said. “If China is to enter into these kinds of negotiations, I think it ought to be more comprehensive to include not only land-based but also air and sea-based strike capabilities ... and that would be hugely complicated,” she said.

Daily Times, 18-02-19

Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: dynamics and dimensions of relations

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman will be in Islamabad after the weekend for a historic and momentous visit to Islamabad with his high powered entourage of Ministers and aides expected to sign eight major agreements of cooperation worth billions of dollars bailing out Pakistan from its economic vows. The associates include ministers, advisers and CEOs of the large Saudi Companies ready to invest in Pakistan. These agreements are in the areas of investment, finance, power, internal security, renewable energy, media, culture and sports. The investment is expected to reach up to \$12 billion for all the projects wherein the largest would be the agreement to set up an oil refinery by Aramco including a petrochemical complex in Gwadar.

Formal diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia established and dates back to the time of independence of Pakistan however the spiritual and religious connection with the Kingdom has remained centuries old due to the pilgrimage to the sacred affinities with holy places.

There was never a one way relation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. If Saudi Arabia continues to stand by Pakistan in thick and thin including economic and political crisis, Pakistan also supported the kingdom in times of war and peace especially in the key strategic regional issues. This reciprocity has remained the hallmark of the relations. Both states supported each other at the global and regional level keeping in view their common geopolitical and strategic interests. Apart from this, both states maintained a strong strategic and political relationship based on dynamic web of cooperative linkages and history of longstanding affinity.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have deep rooted cooperation in the spheres of economics, trade, strategic, military to military ties at the state to state levels. Pakistan place the Saudi Arabia as an important factor in the regional setting and its foreign policy ambitions are also connected with keeping steady and warm relations with the Kingdom. This is also reflective of the fact that when the incumbent Prime Minister Imran Khan sworn in as Prime Minister, his first foreign visit was to Saudi Arabia. Apart from these economic supports, both states are cooperating at strategic and tactical levels as well. Pakistan is having one of the largest and finest professional army in the world. Saudi military personnel are frequently visiting to different institutions of the Armed forces for regular training and joint working together similarly; Pakistani military personal also frequently serve for train and advice missions from Pakistan in the kingdom as a result of the joint programs and agreements of cooperation in the security sector. For instance retired General Raheel sherriff is now heading the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), based in Riyadh. IMCTC has been launched by the Crown Prince in 2017 as a Saudi led 41 country member alliance of which Pakistan is an important part. The incumbent visionary leadership in Saudi Arabia has outlined their “Saudi Vision 2030” which is built around three primary pillars of “vibrant society, thriving economy, and ambitious nation” presented by the Council of

Economic and Development Affairs chaired by the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. The vision provides Pakistan an ample opportunity to work closely with its own vision of 2030 wherein we can upscale our manpower to more skilled and managerial levels to work in a manner to boost the remittances.

Pakistan is an emerging economy with an economic growth rate of around five percent, and with China investing \$60 billion through the CPEC projects, the country has now opened up for international investors

Relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are important for both countries. These should be carefully developed and as they are based on mutual respect and consideration for each other's constraints and challenges, they should continue to blossoming in the times and years to come. As a result of Pakistani security and economic concerns while being situated in a volatile region having Afghanistan and India as its close neighbors, Saudi Arabia is providing and willing to assist Pakistan. Pakistan has already paid a heavy price during the Afghan Jihad and later the rise of menace of terrorism and extremism at home. Pakistan also lost thousands of precious lives as a result. Terrorism has remained a common concern for both countries. Both states are also cooperating with each other on all levels to curb this monster. Pakistan is also an emerging economy with around a somewhat unstable economic growth of 5 % over the years, and with China's investing of \$60 billion through CPEC development and infrastructure projects, the country is now opened for the international investors.

Over the years, there has not been any shaky patch in the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. There is a strong need that the relationship remains on a smooth footing and continue to build in the lines that may help both states to progress and reach towards their glorious future together. In the complex geostrategic and geopolitical environment of the Gulf region, Pakistan needs to play its cards safely and remain neutral in order to keep and uplift the its historic role of mediation among the actors in the region especially to avoid any further conflict. The relations should be based on the sovereign protection and promotion of the national interest of the country. As the highest level visit is expected over the weekend from a brotherly Islamic country, there is a need for the highest decision-making quarters to continue and uphold the value of transparency and wisdom for the better good of the nation and country as a whole. Rest time will tell!

The writer is Director, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies Islamabad

Daily Times, 18-02-19

Girls sport their ancestors' hair for Lunar New year in China



Girls with large headpieces made from the hair of their ancestors and wearing intricately patterned dresses danced in isolated villages in southwest China to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Against a stunning mountain backdrop, dozens of girls and women of the Long Horn Miao ethnicity performed for the annual flower festival or ‘Tiaohuajie’, held in Guizhou province on Thursday.

Onlookers watched — smartphones in hand — as the women swirled across a meadow, wearing dresses and jackets embroidered with pink roses and geometric patterns.

But it was the towering black headdresses of the dancers that really stood out — made from wool, string and the hair of their ancestors, and wrapped around animal horns with white fabric.

“It’s really special to be at the center of attention like this. I feel quite proud,” said Yang Yunzheng, 16.

“We organize this festival once a year when we wear these headpieces. That doesn’t change with modernization”.

The Miao ethnic minority is made up of some nine million people, mostly found in China’s southwest. Of those, around 5,000 “Long Horn Miao” live in just a dozen isolated villages in Guizhou.

Their headpieces are passed down through generations and worn on a number of occasions to honor their ancestors and preserve their traditions.

The festival is held on the 10th day of the Lunar New Year.

Daily Times, 19-02-19

China's car sales tumble, road ahead bumpy



China's automobile sales fell for a seventh straight month in January, the country's top auto industry association said on Monday, as demand slowed in the world's largest auto market. Sales dropped a steeper 15.8 percent from a year earlier to 2.37 million vehicles last month, the Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) said in an emailed statement to Reuters. That followed a 13 percent drop in December and a 14 percent fall in November.

“Car sales in January continued to decline, and there was no sign of improvement. We estimate that February wholesales will also drop sharply” said XuHaidong, CAAM assistant secretary general.

“The reason for the sales drop is still the slowing overall economy, and consumption decline in small- and medium-sized cities” Xu said.

China's economy cooled last year to 6.6 percent, its weakest in 28 years, hit by higher trade tariffs and a government crackdown on debt, with growth set to slow further this year. Slowing consumption and the fallout of trade frictions with the United States contributed to the auto market contracting for the first time in more than two decades in 2018. Beijing is now trying to persuade consumers to loosen their purse strings and has pledged to provide subsidies to boost rural sales of some vehicles and purchases of new energy vehicles.

"Q1 sales were good last year, so this year the industry expects to have negative growth in the first quarter," Yale Zhang, head of consultancy Auto Foresight, told Reuters, but he predicts sales will gradually pick up in the next three quarters.

Daily Times, 19-02-19

China's leaders want more babies, but local officials resist

Facing a future demographic crisis and aging society, China's leaders are desperately seeking to persuade couples to have more children.

But bureaucrats don't seem to have gotten the message, fining a couple in a recent widely publicized case for having a third child against the strict letter of the law.

The move has sparked outrage among the public, who are venting their anger at venal population control officials who long persecuted couples for violating the now-scrapped "one-child policy."

"The country is doing all it can to encourage childbirth but the local governments need money, so we end with this sort of madness," a columnist and political commentator who writes under the name Lianpeng said on China's Weibo microblogging service.

"The low birthrate has everyone on edge, yet the local governments care only about collecting fees," journalist Jin Wei wrote on her verified Weibo account. "I don't know of any other nation that pulls its people in different directions like this." The Wangs, the couple at the heart of the recent controversy, were ordered by local authorities in Shandong province to pay a fine known as a "social maintenance fee" of 64,626 yuan (\$9,500) immediately after the birth of their third child in January 2017. After various deadlines came and went, the family's entire bank savings of 22,957 yuan (\$3,400) were frozen last month, with the balance still due.

In 2016, China lifted its notorious one-child policy and Chinese couples were urged to go forth and multiply — within limits

"I just don't know what I'm going to do," the husband, Wang Baohua, was quoted as saying by local media last week.

The situation the couple faces has its roots in decades-old fears that China's population would outstrip its resources, along with the ruling Communist Party's all-consuming fervor to control people's most personal decisions.

Family planning regulations emerged in the 1970s, and in 1980 the notorious "one-child policy" came into effect, mandating often brutal punishments for violators ranging from forced abortions and sterilizations to fines and workplace demotions.

Fast-forward 35 years, and a radical change of course was ordered after leaders realized an aging population and declining workforce threatened to hamstring the country's future development. In 2016, the one-child policy was officially replaced with a two-child policy and Chinese couples were urged to go forth and multiply — within limits.

But the bump in the birthrate was fleeting. Last month, the National Bureau of Statistics said the number of new births in 2018 fell to 15.23 million in a total population of 1.395 billion — a growth rate of .381 percent and the lowest increase since 1961, resulting in fully 2 million fewer births than in 2017. China's population is estimated to peak at 1.442 billion in 2029 and then gradually decline, potentially fulfilling the conventional wisdom that China will grow old before it grows rich.

Daily Times, 19-02-19

China — a success story

The history of prosperous nations around the world will reveal that their success was only possible after a long struggle and the resilience of their countrymen, who were led by able leaders. If we study the political roadmap, way of life and especially the economy of the People's Republic of China, we would find out that this great nation started its journey from scratch and now aims beyond skies.

As the People's Republic is all set to celebrate the 69th anniversary of modern China; let us take a journey of this nation. How has it progressed over the past seven decades? In the past 69 years, China has witnessed tremendous progress within the country, becoming the world's second largest economy, wherein the lives of around two billion people have significantly improved. While the world and China have never been as closely integrated as they are today, the country has entered a new era, with a mega plan for turning into a great modern socialist country in all respects. To attain this, they have adhered to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and also have kept an open mind regarding reforms.

Reforms and exposure to the outside world have both profoundly changed China and greatly influenced the world. The country has not only developed itself, but also contributed to progress in other developing countries. Under the able leadership of President Xi Jinping, it is striving to

build up a modern economic system, deepen the supply-side structural reform and speed up its innovation-driven development strategy.

China is also carrying out a number of major measures, including significantly broadening market access, creating a more attractive investment environment, strengthening protection of intellectual property rights, and expanding imports.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a momentous step by China to expand external cooperation. This initiative is unfolding day by day and has the vision of linking China's economy to the rest of the world. In Pakistan, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is regarded as a game changer that is going to bring economic stability to the country and generate employment for the people, especially the skilled youth of the country. With the expected addition of Saudi Arabia as a third strategic partner in CPEC, it has all the potential to revive the socio-economic status of the underprivileged masses. All of us know that China has been Pakistan's all-weather friend and the closest of strategic partners. Bilateral ties between the two countries continued to attain new heights in the recent years after the benefits of CPEC started unfolding and shaping up to make it a flagship project for both the countries. Modern China presents a dual image. It is a society transforming itself through economic development and infrastructure investment that aspires to global leadership; and the world's largest and oldest bureaucratic state, with multiple traditions in its cultural, economic, and political life.

The Confucian message on soft power is clear: Lead by moral authority, not force. Keep your own house in order, and others will follow your example

The modern society and state that is emerging in China bears the indelible imprint of China's historical experience, of its patterns of philosophy and religion, and of its social and political thought. These themes are discussed in order to understand China in the twenty-first century and as a great world civilization that developed along lines different from those of the Mediterranean. The modern period of China explores China's transformation from empire to nation; its dramatic encounter with the era of imperialism; the rise of alternative models for a modern China; and the prospects for Chinese leadership in the 21st century.

As China expands its reach around the world, its power is also growing in its own backyard. The United States exerts considerably less influence than it used to in Southeast Asia, and China is increasingly filling that role, even in countries that were once firmly anti-communist. China's influence steadily expands around the globe; the country faces the public relations challenge of ensuring that the rest of the world sees it in a favorable prism. China hopes to accomplish this goal through the use of "soft power" by exporting its culture.

One facet of China's effort to win support centers on the ancient philosopher Confucius, who has become something of a Chinese brand. The country has opened hundreds of schools worldwide bearing his name to teach Chinese culture and language. Every year, Chinese officials and family

members gather in front of the grand halls and ancient cypress trees of Confucius' home to celebrate his birth, now 2,558 years ago. Attendants in embroidered robes perform ritual prostrations, and students recite Confucian texts.

Confucianism was at the heart of what made China the soft-power powerhouse of Asia for centuries. Even countries like Japan, Korea and Vietnam are willingly adopting Confucian culture, as well as Chinese forms of government, art and literature. A study recently revealed that China has established more than 200 "Confucius Institutes" since 2002 in about 60 countries.

It is an agreed fact that one of the strongest forces of soft-power is competition in sports; that is why China made all out efforts to host the Beijing Olympics. Once it got this opportunity, it made a huge positive impact on the world; despite antagonism from the West. An opinion poll done in Asia suggests that an overwhelming majority of people have approved of China's leadership, which is an acceptance of their policies to change the economic roadmap of this region for the better; the situation is different in the West though. The Confucian message on soft power is clear: Lead by moral authority, not force. Keep your own house in order, and others will follow your example. China is perfectly following this model and the country is now even more influential on the basis of its booming economy, diplomacy and cultural ties around the world.

The writer is Secretary- General Pakistan China Friendship Association & Radia China listener's Club

Daily Times, 19-02-19

CPEC and Its benefits

Pakistan and China have been maintaining and developing friendly and supportive relations for the past many decades. Both are carrying these distinguished bilateral relationships by consistently building and developing strong strategic, economic, and political foundations. This enthusiasm of showing and exercising a heartening and most rational alliance from both the sides is far beyond just gaining obvious benefits from each other in their own interests.

Pakistan and China have been carrying massive investments in many development projects including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is a 3000km trade route from Gwadar in Pakistan to Kashgar city in China, which is estimated to cost \$46 billion of investment. This project is significantly as important for China as it is for Pakistan.

First and foremost, geography of the region plays a pivot role for China in making the most of this project. Currently, China imports 80% of its oil from OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exchange Countries) countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq. This trade is made through the sea route- from Persian Gulf through the Straits of Hormuz to the Arabian Sea to the Indian Ocean to the South-China Sea, through the Straits of Malacca, to Hong Kong or Shanghai or

Tianjin ports in China. This is the only possible sea route for China to strengthen her trade relationships with the Gulf and other countries to its West? It is a very long route which, besides its heavy costs, poses a bundle of other problems for China including the South-China sea conflict. With CPEC, therefore, China would be able to save the heavy costs and to lessen the pressure of other problems by directing her trade instantly after the Straits of Hormuz to Gwadar port in Pakistan and through entire Pakistan to Kashgar in the west of China.

China's trade is made through the sea route- from Persian Gulf through the Straits of Hormuz to the Arabian Sea to the Indian Ocean to the South-China Sea, through the Straits of Malacca, to Hong Kong or Shanghai or Tianjin ports in China. This is the only possible sea route for China to strengthen her trade relationships with the Gulf and other countries to its West

Secondly, this project enables China to boost her internal strength. That is, approximately 94% of her population lives in less than half of the entire country in the east, while only 6% of the population lives in more than half of China in the West. "It is very hard for China to move her army from east to west if she confronts any misfortune from the western side", many analysts believe. In this way, by initiating high volume of trade activities in Xinjiang (Kashgar) in the west, China can move her capital, financial, and human resources to the western part to encourage her population to spread across the western regions as well.

Additionally, China would get remarkable benefits of loosening the USA's and Russian grip and tighten her relations with Asian, European, and some African countries by accelerating her trade activities throughout the region. Besides, this project would add significantly more and more value to the historical friendship of both the nations, Pakistan and China. Pakistan has been offering a highly attractive marketplace and her support to China since long.

For Pakistan, geographically, this project will help win the trust and love of angry Balochi brothers, and sustain the integrity of peace-loving Pakistan. High volume of trade activities and people from Pakistan and across the globe would encourage Balochi brothers to consider themselves as an integral part of the Pakistani nation.

Furthermore, economically, it will create tremendous employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan. Also, it will attract foreign investments at large hence contributing amazingly to the GDP of the country. We hope and pray for this historic friendship to continue in the coming future.

The writer lives in Naudero

Daily Times, 20-02-19

China's top graft buster to go after 'political deviation'



China's top anti-corruption body will target "political deviation" this year along with continued efforts to stamp out graft, it said on Tuesday, as part of a long-running campaign to improve discipline in the ruling Communist Party.

President Xi Jinping has presided over a sweeping corruption crackdown since coming to power in 2012, vowing to target both "tigers" and "flies", referring to elite officials and ordinary bureaucrats. The campaign has led to the jailing or punishment of thousands of officials and also brought down dozens of senior party and military officials.

The anti-corruption effort has not only focused on issues like bribery and using public money to fund lavish lifestyles. It has also taken aim at those whose political loyalty is found lacking or who express doubt in public about party policies.

In comments carried on the website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Supervisory Commission, Wang Ying, deputy head of the inspection team, said this year they will "deepen political inspections" and "uncover political deviation". She did not elaborate.

Special effort will be made to find problems in the implementation of party policies and major party decisions, as well as rooting out corruption and "undesirable work styles", Wang added.

The graft watchdog routinely sends out inspection teams to government ministries and provincial governments, which then issue reports detailing problems found and how they intend to rectify them.

China has rebuffed criticism that the campaign is as much about settling political scores as about stamping out genuine criminal acts.

But several high profile corruption cases have made mention of specific political crimes officials were suspected of, along with actual criminal behavior like taking bribes.

Former party boss of the southwestern metropolis of Chongqing, Sun Zhengcai, was accused by the party of having inflated political ambitions and of damaging the party's image.

Sun was jailed last year for life for corruption.

Daily Times, 20-02-19

China, Iran meets amid efforts to preserve nuclear deal

The foreign ministers of China and Iran met in Beijing on Tuesday amid efforts to preserve the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.

No details were immediately released about the discussions between China's Wang Yi and Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is leading a delegation that includes parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani and the ministers of finance and petroleum, as well as the CEO of the country's central bank.

Germany, Britain, France, China, Russia and the European Union have been trying to preserve the 2015 deal meant to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon in exchange for sanctions relief after the unilateral withdrawal of the US last year.

Germany, Britain, France, China, Russia and the EU have been trying to preserve the 2015 deal

Zarif told the Munich Security Conference on Sunday that a barter-type system known as INSTEX set up last month by France, Germany and Britain to allow businesses to skirt direct financial transactions with Iran, and thereby evade possible US sanctions, fell short of commitments to save the nuclear deal.

Zarif addressed the conference a day after US Vice President Mike Pence prodded Germany, France and Britain to follow Washington in withdrawing from the deal and to "stop undermining US sanctions."

Prior to Larijani's departure from Tehran, China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying Iran and China have "close and amicable" relations in diverse areas, and that both sides have enjoyed the support of each other in the international arena.

Daily Times, 20-02-19

CPEC and Saudi investment: the way forward

Pakistan is celebrating the announcement of \$20 billion in investment by Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman (MBS). Indeed, this is a cause of great relief and satisfaction for Pakistan's investment hungry economy, which was struggling to overcome the shocks and devastating impacts of the war on terror, frequent floods and bad governance. There were offers from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but they were not acceptable. Moreover, our allies in the war on terror were using the IMF as leverage against us.

In this dire situation, Pakistan executed a plan to engage our friends and brothers. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates responded to Pakistan's call with generosity. Qatar and Oman are also not far behind. Qatar has already offered 100,000 jobs for Pakistanis.

MBS visited Pakistan to re-enforce Riyadh's commitments with Pakistan. Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) signed a diverse range of agreements in multiple sectors including energy, agriculture, culture, information and tourism during the visit. The cherry on top was that MBS announced that this was just the beginning. These investments are in addition to the CPEC-related investments that had already come in previously. So, Pakistan will have to enhance its capacity to tackle and absorb the investment flow. Capacity to absorb the investment or use it efficiently is a weak area in the context of Pakistan, as we have already witnessed this during the implementation of CPEC.

There are many commonalities between CPEC and the Saudi investment. The Saudi package is similar to CPEC and covers a wide range of areas of economy. It is a long-term program. It is mainly focused on people. It is about creating jobs. Most importantly, it has a human face and human priorities like CPEC. Lastly, it has vital importance for our economic revival like CPEC. Therefore, it is anticipated that it will attract opposition from the enemies of Pakistan. Pakistan needs to devise a policy to avoid this situation by learning lessons from the CPEC related propaganda and shortcomings in our system.

CPEC provided the basic required infrastructure in energy and transport along with other sectors, which was required to attract investment. Now Pakistan has started to reap the benefits in the form of investment from other countries

There are areas where Pakistan needs to start working immediately. Pakistan will have to overhaul its investment policy, trade policy, provision of utilities and governance. Pakistan is very poorly placed on many indicators of ease of doing business and better governance.

Previous governments could not divert much attention in these areas. In the past, this performance led to the shrinking of investment in Pakistan, even Pakistani investors started to look for other countries for investment. It is positive sign that the present government is trying to resolve these issues. However, they have to speed up the process and put more human resources

in to get results quickly. It is a huge task and the government needs much more resources in the human and financial sectors to execute it. The government does not have the required human resources to tackle this task. Therefore, it would be advisable for the government to build partnerships with independent Think-Tanks and other research institutions.

Another area of that needs attention would be countering social media propaganda. Pakistan has been a victim of this trend on multiple fronts. In recent times, CPEC has been a favorite target. Opponents applied all types of instruments to defame or malign CPEC and China. China and Pakistan were able to sustain the pressure due to their deep-rooted trust and friendship. Although Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also enjoy deep-rooted trust and brotherhood, this time the campaign would be more aggressive. It would require a multi-layer strategy and tools to counter the negative propaganda.

The third and most important actor would be the Foreign Office (FO) of Pakistan. The FO would have to redefine its public diplomacy department and concepts. Now we are living in an age of digital diplomacy and new innovative tools of engagement and pursuing national agenda. The FO would have to develop a policy which employs diplomatic experts, economic experts, culture advocates, military and strategic minds and the people of Pakistan (DECMP). Economic experts and military and strategic minds would be key in assisting the FO and developing national narrative and strategy. Economic experts would be leading on the front of “data” and real picture of economy. Data and explanation of data would be very critical in maintaining image of country. Military and strategic minds would be helpful to define and implement the security measures.

Engagement of people and promotion of culture would be a tool for countering psychological warfare. Ownership of common people will save people from being trapped in a negative agenda. Success on these fronts would determine the success of KSA’s investment and future prospects of investment.

The last area that needs special attention would be countering the notion of competition between CPEC and Saudi investment. This will be done just to create a misunderstanding between Pakistan, KSA or China. Pakistan needs to be very clear on this and adopt a transparent and comprehensive policy. First of all we need to be clear that CPEC is a unique and transformative program for Pakistan. China came to offer the program at a time when nobody was investing in Pakistan. CPEC provided the basic required infrastructure in energy and transport along other sectors, which was required to attract investment. Now Pakistan has started to reap the benefits in the form of investment from other countries.

Now, Saudi Arabia came forward to address the investment issues of Pakistan and help in managing the financial crises along with UAE and China. Saudi investment would be crucial to revive the economy and create jobs. It also presents an opportunity to increase trade with Saudi Arabia, which would be beneficial for managing the trade deficit. The establishment of an oil

refinery could help the country save \$1.2 billion. It will also open new avenues for building cooperation in tourism and the services sectors. In conclusion, both will complement each other. There will not be any competition between them. Therefore, Pakistan should keep both initiatives as one initiative and treat them equally. It would be wise to create a trilateral group (China-Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Group of Investment) to steer the future initiatives in a smooth manner.

The writer is COO Zalmi Foundation

Daily Times, 20-02-19

Blacksmiths keep alive the flame of China's molten steel 'fireworks'



Blacksmith Wang De flings a ladle of molten steel against a cold brick wall, sparking a spectacle of white-hot light in the night sky and keeping alive the flame of a centuries-old Lunar New Year tradition.

Fireworks were invented in China and have been a mainstay of Lunar New Year celebrations, but the remote village of Nuanquan in northern Hebei province has perfected an alternative kind of light show for the past 500 years.

For the performance, known as the Da Shuhua (Beating the Flower Tree), scraps of metal are melted at scorching temperatures and poured into a bucket, where performers like Wang create mesmerizing spectacles of light by tossing ladles of the liquid against the wall.

The molten metal — heated to temperatures of up to 1,600 Celsius (2,900 Fahrenheit) — creates spectacular effects that fill Wang De with pride.

“When you see it, it’ll affect you profoundly,” the 55-year-old blacksmith, wearing a sheepskin jacket and protective glasses, told AFP.

The three-day show is only put on around the Lunar New Year, but is a fast-growing attraction that now draws over a thousand people to each performance.

Its future is not certain, however, as only four blacksmiths remain — and the youngest is 50-years-old.

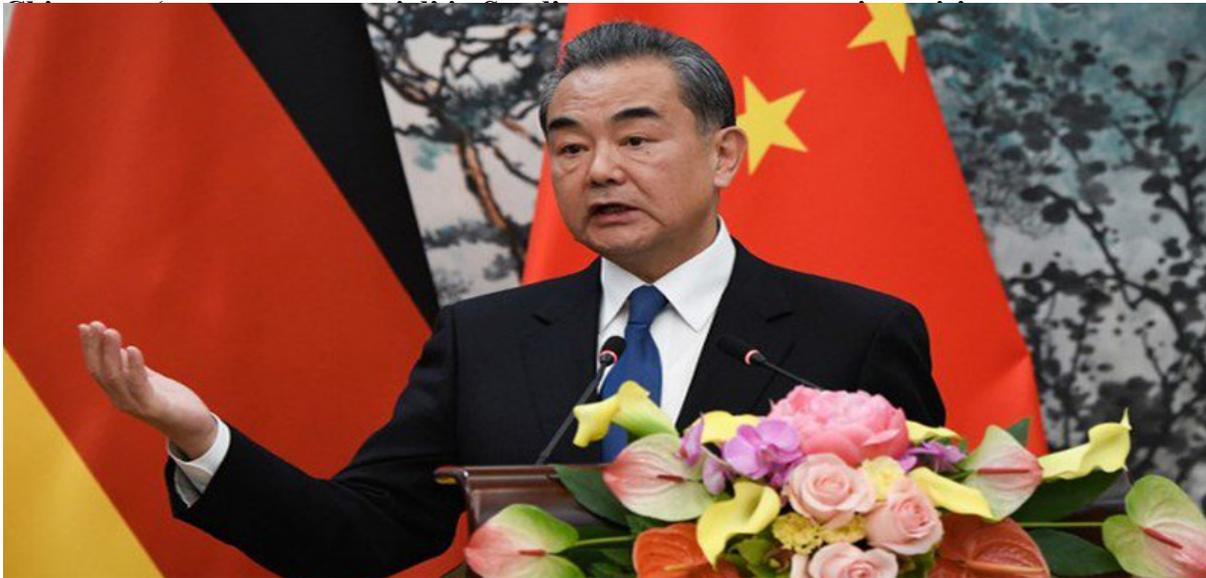
Few people are interested in learning the skills — scars and burns are inevitable — and the younger generation is anyway tending to leave rural China for a better life in the cities.

“It’s extremely dangerous and it doesn’t make much money,” said Wang, who also farms corn to supplement his blacksmith’s income.

He has passed on the craft to his son, but he has moved to Shanghai to seek a different career. Still, Wang De is hopeful he will return to keep the flame alive.

“When we no longer can pull this off, people can learn from him. I have this confidence that (Da Shuhua) will be passed on.”

Daily Times, 23-02-19



China sees “enormous potential” in Saudi Arabia’s economy and wants more high-tech cooperation, the Chinese government’s top diplomat said, as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman began a two-day trip to Beijing.

The Saudi delegation, including top executives from Saudi Aramco, arrived on Thursday on an Asia tour that has already seen the kingdom pledge investment of \$20 billion in Pakistan and seeks additional investment in India’s refining industry.

The crown prince will meet President Xi Jinping, who has made stepping up China’s presence in the Middle East a key foreign policy objective, despite its traditional low-key role there.

Meeting Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, State Councilor Wang Yi said the main features of their ties were respect, understanding and support for each other, China’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement late on Thursday.

“All countries in the world have the right to develop, and Saudi Arabia is an emerging market country with enormous potential,” the ministry paraphrased Wang as saying.

China supports Saudi Arabia’s efforts to diversify its economy and is willing to strengthen high-tech cooperation, Wang added.

Saudi Aramco, the world’s top oil exporter, will sign a pact to build a refinery and petrochemical project in northeastern Liaoning province in a joint venture with China’s defense conglomerate Norinco, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The investments could help Saudi Arabia regain its place as the top oil exporter to China, a position Russia has held for the last three years. Saudi Aramco is set to boost market share by signing supply deals with non-state Chinese refiners.

China has had to step carefully in relations with Riyadh, since Beijing also has close ties with Iran.

On Wednesday, Xi told the speaker of Iran's parliament that China's desire to develop close ties with Iran would stay unaltered, regardless of the global situation.

China is also wary of criticism from Muslim countries about its camps in the heavily Muslim far western region of Xinjiang, which the government says are for de-radicalization purposes and rights groups call internment camps.

Wang said both countries face the threats of terrorism and extremism, and should strengthen cooperation to safeguard security and stability.

China was not seeking to play politics in the Middle East, the widely-read state-run tabloid, the Global Times, said in an editorial on Friday.

Daily Times, 23-02-19

China — why and how it is different

China, Zhongguo (Central States or Middle Kingdom), was and remain one of the oldest civilization of the world. A country that has performed many miracles, one of them lifting 800 million people out of poverty (almost 4 times the total population of Pakistan), is now en-route to achieving breakthroughs in the field of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Space industry.

China, with all its shortcomings and inherent problems, continues to surprise the world, especially West. There are so many developments the implications of which then spread in a plexus of directions that it is worth studying about it in detail. Her hefty contribution to world's GDP (16 percent) and the size of its economy (second largest in the world, \$13 trillion) along with the economic and diplomatic relations with the rest of the world only accentuates her significance and underlines the importance to learn more about it.

Hence, throughout 2019, I will be exploring different aspects of China as a country and society; its history, governing principles, its ascent as a global economic powerhouse, the spread of science and technology and the race to stand amongst the list of most innovative countries and much more. While there are umpteen articles available on the internet, books will always be a better source for learning about anything. For this first article we will consider Martin Jacques'

When considered holistically hint towards the uniqueness of China; be it their government structure, familial values underlined by Confucian principles, the East Asian modernity fueling miraculous economic growth. All this together presents China as a US rival in the eastern hemisphere

The first thing that makes China different from others is that it should be considered more as a civilization than a nation-state that is to say the Chinese identity was formed before it became a nation-state. Even a taxi-driver there will start speaking about the millennial old dynasties and history if he is asked. This sense of historic superiority (which at times is not correct) gives way to the second factor that is differentiating them from others i.e. they consider themselves as a single race, Han, to be very specific. We will see in other articles that Han was, ironically, rather a recent creation. But still this sense of belonging to a single race, what Amy Chua in her book, Day of Empire, describes as ‘glue’, seems to be a potent factor in China. There is an ‘ideological component’ to China’s attitude towards race which later on, and ironically, was bolstered by the ‘century of humiliation’ when the British and Japanese pillaged and robbed China.

The third factor that helps Chinese to stand apart from others is that of the centuries old ‘tributary system’. In ancient times surrounding countries, commentaries and regions used to, as a gesture of acknowledging Chinese suzerainty, present tribute to the Chinese emperor who helped them both, economically and diplomatically. With China’s ascent as an economic behemoth; we may see the above system reforming in a modern form. Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and others realize the extent, prowess and profundity of integration of China in the global economy and can be seen once again getting close to her.

The fourth and the most important factor is that of ‘unity’. The sheer size of the country, (sometimes called as a mega-state) and the largest population which is held together by centuries old notions of unity when rubs its shoulders with other Superpowers, namely the US, the impact may be greater and certainly different.

All of the above factors when considered holistically hint towards the uniqueness of China; be it their government structure, familial values underlined by Confucian principles, the East Asian modernity fueling miraculous economic growth. All this together presents China as a US rival in the eastern hemisphere. This being said the country, like all other countries in the world, has its fair share of problems, internal and external.

Daily Times, 24-02-19

Pakistan and China at peace with the world?

This month of February, 2019, has brought Pakistan enormous opportunities for development. Pakistan has successfully conducted their sixth multinational naval exercise Aman, 2019. Pakistan has hosted 45 foreign countries for this exercise. The purpose of this exercise is to

enhance maritime cooperation among these countries to meet multifaceted non-traditional threats and challenges. These threats include piracy, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking etc. These nations have come together for peace on Pakistan's first call to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding.

Exercise AMAN is organized by Pakistan Navy biennially since 2007. Pakistan Navy invited Navies from 83 x countries. Initially, Navies from 29 countries confirmed their participation with ships, aircraft, helicopters, SOF/EOD/Marines teams and Observers in this exercise.

The exercise concept is to develop Responses, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (RTTPs) against non-traditional threats through tactical warfare planning, followed by high-end warfare serials at sea such as Naval Gunfire, Anti-piracy, Operations, Combine Anti-Submarine Exercise, Communications, Boarding and Air Defence. The principle objective of this exercise is to establish multilateral security operations to keep maritime environment safe and sustainable. Moreover, through this multilateral venture, the positive image of Pakistan as a contributory state in regional peace and stability will be enhanced.

It is a significant achievement of Pakistan Navy which would pave the way for further cooperation in the South Asian region. In the contemporary international political environment, Pakistan is attracting other countries, who realize its geostrategic importance because of China Pakistan joint venture 'China Pakistan Economic Corridor under China Belt and Road Initiative'. CPEC includes a network of roads and railways, various energy projects, and the development of Gwadar Port, industrial cooperation, telecommunication, proposed special economic zones and social sector development projects. The whole game of CPEC revolves around the development of Gwadar Port which is a great asset of Pakistan and is a main feature of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It is the key to the belt and road initiative. Pakistan's Navy has established its Special Task Force-88 to make this area secure, as maritime traffic through Gwadar Port is expected to increase exponentially. One may say that the success of CPEC depends upon its maritime security.

According to the Economic Complexity Index (ECI), Pakistan is the 68th largest export economy in the world and the 98th most complex economy. It is stated that Pakistan has exported \$24.8B and imported \$55.6B in 2017 which led to a negative trade balance of \$30.9B. In 2017, the GDP of Pakistan was \$304B and its GDP per capita was \$5.53k

A multifaceted approach is needed to meet all the security challenges by beefing up the security of Gwadar Port, directing security guards, coastal exercises and increasing maritime domain awareness in the region by engaging law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the challenges posed by India's growing influence in the Indian Ocean, there are other challenges such as human trafficking and piracy. Therefore, Pakistan's Navy is working on three main areas: Gwadar Port security, vessel security and the security of sea lanes. Initially

India was the only country overtly opposing CPEC, but recently the US has started backing India, noting that the CPEC passes through a disputed area.

Pakistan with its geography, population, military preparedness and information etc has immense potential to add transit economy because of its strategic location. The Maritime sector holds a significant place in this project. China, an emerging economy (world's second largest economy) is developing its underdeveloped western Xinjiang province under the umbrella of this project. Gwadar Port will provide an alternative shipping route to the Malacca Strait, which is frequently patrolled by the United States. The shipping route from the Middle East to China, via the strait, is about 12,000km long. So CPEC will reduce the time and distance giving an alternative route through the Strait of Hormuz.

Gwadar port with its deep waters will attract traders from many regional and extra regional countries such as ships from China, Central Asian States and South East Asian countries.

Therefore, there lies a great responsibility on Pakistan to secure its sea routes and the Gwadar Port to sustain its uninterrupted trade with other countries. Approximately, more than 95 percent of Pakistan's trade is carried out by sea. Aman exercise has added value to Pakistan's efforts to meet the challenges to ensure a smooth international trade flow.

It is pertinent to point out that according to the Economic Complexity Index (ECI), Pakistan is the 68th largest export economy in the world and the 98th most complex economy. It is stated that Pakistan has exported \$24.8B and imported \$55.6B in 2017 which led to a negative trade balance of \$30.9B. In 2017, the GDP of Pakistan was \$304B and its GDP per capita was \$5.53k. Therefore, the mode of exports and imports should be secure and smooth so that international trade is increases. To conclude, Pakistan's approach towards development and multilateral cooperation with the world will increase in future years. Pakistan's Gwadar deep Sea port will be the hub of international trade. As Pakistan has a huge economic potential in the maritime domain because of its unique geostrategic position, the regional and extra regional states will rely on Pakistan (Pakistan's sea trade routes). In the long run, Pakistan's political position will be enhanced in international community due to regional integration.

The writer has completed her M. Phil in Defence and Strategic Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad

Daily Times, 25-02-19

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, China, and Russia: a new strategic and economic block



With Chinese help, Pakistan has succeeded in expanding its military industrial base – which is also a core Saudi initiative under Vision 2030

Saudi Arabia has been one of the United States’ closest allies for years, but some recent tiffs seem to have disrupted bilateral relations. Excessive regulations on nuclear technology transfer by the US — apparently to protect the interests of its peerless partner, Israel — were a factor here.

Riyadh does not have a nuclear bomb and it is also a NPT signatory. However, it has established a nuclear research center, King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KA-CARE), in 2010 to meet the country’s energy and water needs.

In an interview with US television last March, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) said that his country isn’t interested in acquiring a nuclear bomb, but if Tehran develops such a weapon, Riyadh will follow suit.

Recently, US Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette said that the US would not help Saudi Arabia to develop nuclear technology without guarantees that it would only be used for civilian purposes – adding “as you know, this technology has a dual use and in the wrong hands, it becomes a dangerous, dangerous world”.

Former intelligence services chief and senior Saudi diplomat Prince Turki Al Faisal strongly reacted to Brouillette comments, voicing that Saudi Arabia has options for nuclear technology other than the US.

The former ambassador to the US and UK uttered that the energy market is open. “We have France. We have Russia. We have China. We have our friends in Pakistan and in other place as well, so if they want to remove themselves from that market, well, that’s up to them.”

In a recent interview, the prince also decried Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu for deceiving the Israeli public by having them believe that Palestine is a dead issue. “We don’t need Mr. Netanyahu to tell us the dangers that Iran poses. We see it on our grounds”, he added.

The Saudi diplomatic assaults comes at a time when there is a growing conviction in Washington defense circles that Saudi Arabia is pursuing a missile program with the help of China and Pakistan – cuing a major Saudi policy shift towards the East and hinting at a potential divergence from the US.

Speaking to the CNBC, a former Pentagon official Michael Rubin indicted that the “whiplash policy changes in Washington have had negative impact in Riyadh”. “Saudi authorities are no longer going to be constrained by White House whispers. The Saudis are demonstrating that they can take matters into their own hands.”

With Chinese help, Pakistan has succeeded in expanding its military industrial base – which is also a core Saudi initiative under Vision 2030

Saudi Arabia does not possess weapons of mass destruction either. It however, bought a limited quantity of ballistic missiles of Chinese-origin in 1988. More recently, it is in discussions to procure medium-range missiles from Pakistan. These missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads but no evidence was found that the Saudis were interested in nuclear weapons.

Saudi Arabia has always been ‘a friend in need’ for Pakistan. It is widely believed that Riyadh has bankrolled the Pakistan nuclear program. The Kingdom is the home of 2.5 million Pakistani expatriates and is also the largest source of foreign remittances in Pakistan.

Pakistan has a long history of US sanctions, economic fragility, and balance of payments crises. After sanctions were slapped on Pakistan following nuclear tests in May 1998, Riyadh immediately came to rescue Pakistan’s vulnerable economy and provided 50,000 barrels of oil a day, free of cost.

It provided \$1.5 billion in 2015 to shore up Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserves and again in 2018, Saudi Arabia was the first country to have pledged \$3 billion (already received) on concessionary terms. The recent investment of \$20 billion is just the latest example of the unique, deep, and durable brotherly relations between the two countries.

Unlike the US, Riyadh has never grilled Pakistan with ‘you’re with us or against us’ type ultimatums. In return for its recurrent support for Pakistan, Saudi Arabia expects Islamabad to protect the Kingdom in case it faces any threat to its national security. Pakistan has unvaryingly responded to the Kingdom’s requests by stationing its troops for the Kingdom’s security.

As Riyadh is tailing an indigenous missile and defense program, Islamabad can be instrumental to help Saudi Arabia in realizing its ambitious plan, taking advantage from its strong military ties with time-tested friend, Beijing – and at a time, when Saudi Arabia is battered by Washington’s erratic policies.

China has already been Saudi Arabia’s biggest trade partner since 2013. In 2017, bilateral trade between the two reached about \$50 billion. Beijing has also welcomed Riyadh’s announcement to join CPEC, a vital economic and strategic project that will have significant consequences in the region.

In October, Trump warned Saudi Arabia’s King Salman that he would not last in power ‘for two weeks’ without the backing of the US military, saying “King – we’re protecting you – you might not be there for two weeks without us — you have to pay for your military.”

Taking all the protective measures, Riyadh is now on a quest to find new partners, particularly in the defense sector. It has much to gain from Pakistan’s defense experiences after it was abandoned by the US.

With Chinese help, Pakistan has succeeded in expanding its military industrial base – which is also a core Saudi initiative under Vision 2030. This also leaves China with an enormous opportunity to gain greater access to the substantial Middle East defense market, capitalizing on the deep-routed Saudi-Pak ties.

Saudi Arabia is repairing its ties with Russia too. In October 2017, King Salman made his first-ever visit to Moscow and signed preliminary agreements for buying S-400 air missile defense systems, Kornet anti-tank missile systems, and other defense equipment.

The King’s visit could have been facilitated by Pakistan after Islamabad decided to mend its bonds with Moscow over US military sanctions. In June 2015, Pakistan’s then army chief General Raheel Sharif visited the Kremlin to initiate the process of thawing Pak-Russo relations.

All these developments will have long-term global impacts since these regions contain the most emerging markets of the world. Under the given geo-strategic circumstances, the world could soon witness a new Pak-Saudi-Sino-Russo strategic and economic bloc.

The author is working in a private organization as a Market & Business Analyst and is writes on domestic, regional, and global issues

Daily Times, 25-02-19**China to use facial recognition to thwart scalpers**

Chinese hospitals are using facial recognition to identify people who sell doctors' appointments at an illegal markup, the latest application of an emerging technology that is being used in places to tighten Communist Party control over the country's 1.4 billion people.

More than 30 hospitals in Beijing have installed the technology and have already identified more than 2,100 individuals who appear regularly to make appointments, then turn around and sell them to others for a profit, state media said Sunday. Chinese public hospitals require patients to line up for appointments on the day they wish to see a doctor, creating a lucrative secondary market for scalpers to sell them better numbers and save on waiting time.

China's markets are rife with counterfeit goods and fraud, and China has been aggressively applying facial recognition technology in everything from distribution of toilet paper by public lavatories to identifying jaywalkers – virtually in real time.

It's among the technologies that President Xi Jinping's government is deploying – also including the processing of big data, buying habits and genetic sequencing – to increase the party's store of personal information about individual citizens.

Such data is being fed into a system of “social credit” that rewards or penalizes individuals based on their behavior. Those with offenses ranging from failure to pay taxes and fines to walking a dog without a leash can face punishments including being barred from buying tickets for flights or seats on the country’s high-speed trains. Human rights activists say “social credit” is too rigid and might unfairly label people as untrustworthy without telling them they have lost status or how they can win it back.

Daily Times, 26-02-19

Trump delays tariff hike on Chinese goods citing trade talk progress



President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would delay an increase in US tariffs on Chinese goods thanks to “productive” trade talks and that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping would meet to seal a deal if progress continued.

The announcement was the clearest sign yet that China and the United States are closing in on a deal to end a months-long trade war that has slowed global growth and disrupted markets.

Trump had planned to raise tariffs to 25 percent from 10 percent on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports into the United States if an agreement between the world’s two largest economies were not reached by Friday.

After a week of talks that extended into the weekend, Trump said those tariffs would not go up for now. In a tweet, he said progress had been made in divisive areas including intellectual property protection, technology transfers, agriculture, services and currency.

As a result, he said: “I will be delaying the US increase in tariffs now scheduled for March 1. Assuming both sides make additional progress, we will be planning a Summit for President Xi and myself, at Mar-a-Lago, to conclude an agreement. A very good weekend for US & China! “

The White House did not provide specific details on the kind of progress that had been made

Mar-a-Lago is the president’s property in Florida, where the two men have met before.

The president did not set a new deadline for the talks to conclude, but he told US state governors gathered at the White House that there could be “very big news over the next week or two” if all went well in the negotiations.

The White House did not provide specific details on the kind of progress that had been made. China’s official Xinhua news agency reported that the two sides made “substantial progress” on specific issues, citing the Chinese delegation in Washington.

Trump and Xi called a 90-day truce last year to give their advisers time to negotiate a deal. The threat of tariff increases represented significant leverage for the Trump team.

“We can’t be sure whether this constitutes a major cave or success because we don’t know the details of what has been negotiated. But ... agreeing to extend negotiations a few more weeks definitely is in China’s interests,” said Scott Kennedy, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. “At this point, the US has likely gotten all it’s going to get out of China.”

J.P. Morgan Asset Management market strategist Tai Hui said the move suggested both sides wanted a settlement of the dispute and added that further tariff escalation would have added to concerns about the US growth outlook.

Markets, which have been sensitive to the dispute as it has slowed global growth, and some US trade associations cheered Trump’s move.

US equity index futures opened higher on Sunday evening as trading kicked off for the week. S&P 500 e-mini futures ticked higher after Trump’s tweets on trade, suggesting Wall Street would open on positive footing on Monday morning.

Asian shares scaled a five-month high and the Australian dollar, a proxy for China investments, got a 0.4 percent lift from the news.

Chinese stocks and the yuan jumped at the start of trade, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite index up 2.1 percent, its highest since Aug. 1, and the yuan hit its strongest level against the dollar since July 17.

Trump leaves on Monday for Vietnam, where he will hold a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong UN. The president, who faces a re-election battle next year, has portrayed his engagement with Kim and forcefulness with China as key successes of his presidency.

Daily Times, 26-02-19

CPEC dividends

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Indo-Pacific reflect emerging power dynamics globally. The BRI focuses is on economics and regional connectivity. The “Indo-Pacific” strategy led by the US and its allies supports India’s larger role in Asia Pacific. Pakistan as part of CPEC is central to global development. Pakistan and China’s relation irrespective of domestic politics, regional and global developments have remained strong. The China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC) is a relatively new project and has added zeal to the China-Pakistan strategic partnership. China and Pakistan’s geopolitical convergence of interest has brought the two allies closer. The CPEC is a China and Pakistan led initiative; the project aims at promoting inter-regional connectivity. Pakistan’s inclusion in CPEC is due to the country’s geostrategic location. While, for China, the corridor is an alternate trading route. The corridor will not be a mere transit trade; rather it will open up prospects of trade cooperation between Pakistan and China as well as economic cooperation with other regions/countries. Thereby, the corridor project has been of interest to regional as well as global audiences. At the regional and global fronts, CPEC is being viewed with optimism, however, there are elements skeptical towards the corridor and the dividends attached to it. CPEC is a part of BRI, which makes it controversial for those opposed to China’s rise and Pakistan.

Looking at Pakistan and the economic benefits linked with CPEC, firstly, the corridor transformed Pakistan’s image from a fragile economy to an emerging trading hub. The infrastructural developments and energy projects undertaken as part of CPEC will boost the socio-economic indicators, which will positively impact the life of a common citizen. It will be a setback to the inimical elements, involved in exploiting the weaknesses at the societal level. This, in turn, will strengthen Pakistan against the extremist forces. With stable economy, Pakistan will be able to navigate through the challenges, and come up strong internally and externally. CPEC other than the economic dividends has raised the country’s regional positioning. It has, in fact, made Pakistan central to global developments.

Looking at Pakistan and the economic benefits linked with CPEC, firstly, the corridor transformed Pakistan’s image from a fragile economy to an emerging trading hub. The infrastructural developments and energy projects undertaken as part of CPEC will boost the socio-economic indicators, which will positively impact the life of a common citizen. It will be a setback to the inimical elements, involved in exploiting the weaknesses at the societal level

The political and economic dividends of CPEC carry opportunities, but competitive tendencies coupled with the opposing forces offer resistance. The road to economic prosperity is not that smooth. The Indian opposition to CPEC reflects belligerence. However, the opposition against CPEC should not be a hindrance, through steadfastness and collaborative initiatives, the development projects should move forward. The people-to-people interaction and educational exchange between Pakistan and China should be encouraged. Pakistan needs to learn from China's economic progress (GDP US \$ 4.2 trillion) and technological expertise. The China's economic situation during the 1980s was similar to the present day economy of Pakistan. China's successful poverty eradicating measures are an example for Pakistan. In view of the optimism that every Pakistani links with CPEC, the focus of economic growth should be to improve the life of a common citizen. The idea of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) developed within the corridor project is to empower the backward areas and attract investment. The government needs to play the role of a facilitator in providing access to the SEZs. The provincial governments should focus on the development of the area. The local population also needs to understand that opening up of the area to outside industry will be an opportunity to catch up with China's industrial development. The industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan, compounded with the guidance of Chinese experts, will provide an excellent opportunity for Pakistan to strengthen industrial capability and national domestic economy. The public-private partnership initiatives to ensure sustainable development and timely execution of projects also need to be encouraged. The government institutions in collaboration with private organizations can carry out research. This will enhance the efficiency of the government institutions, and within depth knowledge and research pertaining to a specific project, output can be improved as well.

The author is a Researcher at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)

Daily Times, 26-02-19**Security risks associated with the CPEC supply chain**

Pakistan has one of the most important geopolitical and strategic locations in South Asia. On its western borders, there is a war-torn Afghanistan and Iran, who is an essential player in the Middle East. In the North, we have China and Russia, which are one of the world's most influential countries and on our Eastern border, we have India which is a rising economy and has been our arch rival since the beginning. In the South, there is the Arabian Sea, shared by Iran, other Gulf countries with the presence of the US fleet, and is one of the most important routes for oil trade across the globe. Further, Pakistan is strategically located between the Suez Canal and the Strait of Malacca.

Pakistan is placed right in the middle of crucial world players, which is why China Pakistan Economic Corridor is of utmost importance for Pakistan, China, and the region. This also exposes Pakistan and CPEC project to several internal and external threats. Among these threats, one related to security is the most important because one major incident can halt the project for a long time.

Pakistan has been fighting the war against terrorism from past fifteen years and especially last two years there have been enormous successes for Pakistan in context of that war resulting in a drastic decrement in terrorist activities across the country.

Internally Pakistan is facing severe threats from nationalists and Taliban, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Balochistan is a critical stakeholder when it comes to the successful execution of the CPEC. Different separatist groups such as the Baloch Liberation Army and Baloch Liberation front have been playing an active role in destabilizing the region since the Musharraf era. Abductions of Chinese Engineers and staff members have halted the development process several times in the past years. Similarly, the logistics convoys have also been targeted to cease the movement of cargo several times.

The second internal threat which Pakistan is facing is from the Taliban. They were involved in different incidents of suicide bombings throughout the country, which has an impact on the overall security situation of the country and international investors become reluctant to invest in Pakistan.

Externally, Pakistan has always faced threats from India. But in light of recent terror incidents in India and Iran, Pakistan is facing criticism from both the countries. These threats may harm Pakistan and CPEC indirectly as India and Iran may try to isolate Pakistan internationally. Even a threat to retaliate is enough for foreign investors to lose their morale.

There is yet another dimension to our security threats which interconnects the external and internal threats. Pakistani security agencies have found evidence of foreign powers' involvement behind the destabilization of Pakistan internally via direct funding of the separatist groups in Balochistan and some Taliban groups as well.

Consequences of these security risks do not stop here. In the future, when CPEC is complete and operationalized, a single incident in any of the nodes or port can finish the whole process for good. Apart from that bridges are vulnerable as it takes a long time to reconstruct a bridge, and due to the stoppage of supply from one on the routes, it may result in the increment of the lead time throughout the chain. Similarly, another bare vulnerability which we have is at our ports; this could be the dry port or Gwadar or Karachi's Sea ports. Any terrorist activity there can jeopardize the whole operation throughout. Recovery from which would not be an easy task.

There are several ways in which Pakistan can work to reduce these risks on its end. And it is vital to mitigate them before the completion of CPEC because any sabotage activity could destroy the whole project, once completed. The government should use a three-dimensional strategy in this regard which is military, political and developmental.

Regarded as the game changer in the region, not only Pakistan and China, but the whole region will flourish with development and prosperity due to the CPEC. To make it a success it is crucial for Pakistan to address the security issues prevailing in the country as soon as possible and take appropriate measures as mentioned above to eradicate them

Involvement of Pakistani armed forces is most critical in this aspect. The government has already announced that a special force of 10,000 men will be created only to safeguard the CPEC routes and its vital installations. Apart from that, another positive step has been taken to enhance Naval fleet presence in the Gwadar port. Military operations against the rogue elements are already underway. Further, Pakistan needs to strengthen its intelligence sharing internally within the country and also with the other countries, especially the neighboring ones.

Pakistan should also work in close coordination with China and allow their military presence in the region as well, especially naval presence. As China is a global power, merely the presence of their fleet may caution the enemies across borders.

Secondly, Pakistan should start negotiations with the rebels. The situation in Balochistan is pretty much diffused already. Still, it is imperative to listen to their rightful concerns and allow them big stakes in this project. The government should devise a way to bring these elements to be a part of CPEC and provide the guarantees for their stakes.

In the context of the Taliban, recent development involving talks between Taliban, United States, Russia, and Pakistan have been a welcoming development. These talks should further continue till the consented solution of the problem. Additionally, the inclusion of the Taliban's elements in Pakistan into the national stream should be made possible.

Further, talks with India and Iran are of significance if Pakistan wants CPEC to be fully secure and prosperous. Pakistan should involve Iran and India to join Pakistan in CPEC and must provide them stakes in this project as well. In addition to this, there should be an active intelligence sharing mechanism based on trust and transparency between Pakistan, and both the countries. This active intelligence sharing will allow security agencies on all the sides of the borders to comprehend any terrorist activity before it happens.

Thirdly, the government must work swiftly towards the construction of all three routes of CPEC. Currently, there is only one route, as mentioned any terrorist activity at any node could hinder the supply altogether. So, additional two routes will provide alternative options, to absorb any loss. Further, development of three routes will bring the areas of Western Pakistan at par with the Eastern parts, which will lead to the construction of the whole infrastructure such as dry ports, hotels, petrol pumps, docking areas, etc. which will consequently uplift these areas economically. In this way, the concerns of people living in the western parts of Pakistan may be addressed and may help to bring the separatist elements in the mainstream.

Regarded as the game changer in the region, not only Pakistan and China, but the whole region will flourish with development and prosperity due to the CPEC. To make it a success it is crucial for Pakistan to address the security issues prevailing in the country as soon as possible and take appropriate measures as mentioned above to eradicate them.

The writer is from Bahria University, Islamabad

Daily Times, 27-02-19

Chinese scholars visit Rawalpindi Agro University to apprise on research collaboration

A Chinese delegation, on Tuesday, visited PirMehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), with an aim to promote agro development ideas.

The delegation discussed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) already signed between Huazhong Agriculture University, Wohan, China, and PMAS-AAUR, and stressed upon the need to build on Chinese research collaborations in Pakistan, especially in its agricultural sector.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. DrNadeemAkhtarAbbasi had invited the team to share research idea and collaborations between the two varsities. He noted that there remained a need to estimate the agricultural commodities that could be traded with China. He also stressed upon the importance of improving bilateral trade ties, and the identification of both traded and tradeable commodities between China and Pakistan.

Daily Times, 27-02-19

Survey: American companies worry US-Chinese ties will worsen

American companies want negotiations with Beijing to win them better access to its state-dominated economy, not just a smaller Chinese trade surplus, with Washington's punitive tariffs kept in place while talks precede, a business group said Tuesday.

Companies that responded to a questionnaire last week want an end to Chinese pressure to hand over technology, unequal enforcement of laws and other chronic problems, said Tim Stratford, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China. If not, he said, their losses in a tariff war "will be a tremendous waste."

The comments appear to reflect support for President Donald Trump and other US officials including Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer who want changes in industrial policy Beijing's trading partners say violate its free-trade obligations. Others worry China might be allowed to limit such changes in exchange for narrowing its politically volatile trade surplus with the United States through higher purchases of soybeans and other exports.

"If we don't address the underlying structural issues, we will have continued trade frictions," Stratford said in an interview.

Trump's dramatic decision in July to hike duties on Chinese imports split the US business world. Some companies support the move to force Beijing into negotiations while others complain the tariffs are too costly and disruptive.

Some 43 percent of 150 companies that responded to a questionnaire last week want to keep Trump's punitive tariffs of 10 percent on \$200 billion of Chinese goods in place while negotiations go ahead, Stratford said. He said a nearly 10 percent want Trump to go ahead with a planned March 1 increase to 25 percent.

Trump announced Sunday he would postpone the March 1 increase after weekend talks made "significant progress." He set no new date.

Both governments said they made progress on technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights and non-tariff barriers to market access but gave no details.

Companies that responded to last week's questionnaire said they want guarantees Chinese anti-monopoly and other laws will be enforced equally against them and local competitors, according to Stratford. He said they want an end to pressure to hand over technology and a role in setting official industrial standards.

"We want a deal that really addresses the persistent problems," said Stratford, a lawyer and former deputy US trade representative. "There are mixed feelings about the tariffs. The majority are in favor."

Daily Times, 27-02-19

American businesses in China see gloomy year ahead

US companies in China forecast a gloomy year ahead, with many worrying about a deterioration in bilateral trade ties and nearly a quarter delaying investments, a business survey showed Tuesday.

The survey of 314 US businesses by the American Chamber of Commerce in China provided a full accounting of challenges American business face after Beijing and Washington exchanged tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$300 billion in two-way trade.

The report was released two days after US President Donald Trump said he would delay a planned further hike in tariffs on Chinese goods this week after he and Beijing both hailed "substantial progress" in trade negotiations.

"Certainly our members are hopeful that the uncertainty and the loss and the delays in business that have resulted from the trade negotiations and trade frictions will turn out to have been worthwhile in the end," said Tim Stratford, chairman of the chamber.

“If not then it would be a tremendous waste,” he told reporters.

The survey found that 89 percent of businesses reported a pessimistic view on the world’s most important bilateral trade relationship.

The tariffs directly hit US businesses, increasing costs and lowering demand from Chinese consumers with some companies even forced to lay off workers, the survey showed.

The US-China trade spat was among the top concerns for businesses across sectors. Three-fourths expect the relationship to further deteriorate or remain the same this year.

Nearly two-thirds said the tensions affected their plans for the market, and caused nearly a quarter to delay further investment in China, the survey showed.

About one-fifth of firms have moved or are considering moving production outside of China, with the tariffs and rising costs top reasons, according to the survey.

Still US firms see the tariffs have gotten both governments to sit down at the negotiating table and seriously hash out their issues, Stratford said.

He added that a separate business survey conducted last week found a majority of firms think tariffs should be kept in place “in some fashion” during negotiations.

Dawn News, 17-02-19

Disarmament efforts must include China, says Merkel

MUNICH: China must be involved in international disarmament efforts, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday, amid rising concern about Beijing’s missile arsenal and the suspension of a key US-Russia arms treaty.

Fears that the web of agreements limiting the proliferation of nuclear warheads and other weapons could be in jeopardy have grown since Washington and Moscow announced their withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

But Merkel’s call to launch a fresh push for disarmament and to include rising military power China met with a brisk rebuff from a top Beijing official and was simply ignored by senior US and Russian figures.

‘Disarmament is something that concerns us all and we would of course be glad if such talks were held not just between the United States, Europe and Russia but also with China,’ Merkel told the Munich Security Conference.

Washington began pulling out of the INF treaty this month in response to Moscow's deployment of a new missile system the US and Nato say violates the accord, prompting Russia to announce its own withdrawal.

Neither US Vice President Mike Pence nor Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov responded to Merkel's call in their speeches at the conference.

Unless Washington or Moscow changes course, the INF which banned ground-launched missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers will cease to function in August.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said he had seen no indication Russia might be willing to back down in talks he held with Lavrov on Friday.

The alliance has been urging Russia to save the treaty by abandoning the controversial 9M279 missile system, which officials say can hit capital cities throughout Europe as far as London.

While pointing the finger at each other, both Washington and Moscow have also voiced concern that the INF does nothing to constrain rapidly growing military power China.

'For several years, the Pentagon has been concerned about the imbalance, according to it, between Chinese and North Korean ballistic and cruise missiles and American resources in the region,' France's Foundation for Strategic Research said in a center report.

Germany is organizing an international conference in Berlin next month to start talks about how to create an arms control regime to replace the one forged in the bipolar Cold War era.

But it will be difficult to persuade China to give up or restrict what represents an important part of its military capability.

According to a new report by the Institute for Strategic Studies, up to 95 per cent of China's arsenal of ballistic and cruise missiles would be in breach of the INF if Beijing were party to it.

Given this, 'it is difficult to envision a scenario under which China would today enter a regime such as the INF Treaty,' the report said.

And Yang Jiechi, a senior Chinese foreign policy official, unequivocally confirmed Beijing's unwillingness to submit to the INF.

'China develops its capabilities strictly according to its defensive needs and doesn't pose a threat to anybody else,' Yang told the conference.-AFP

Dawn News, 18-02-19**Religious tolerance in China**

HYDERABAD: `India is our friend, she has been so in the past and will remain so forever, said Dr. H.H. Tusi, General Secretary of the Church of Christ, China, at a reception given to him by the Methodists of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Bishop S.K. Mondol presided.

Dr. Tusi referred to the absolute religious tolerance prevalent in China. There were instances of members of one family following three or four different religions. There were no restrictions on marriages between members of different religious communities and children born of such marriages chose their own religion when they came of age. He revealed that the Church of Christ had been able to get into its fold the followers of 13 different Missions. It did not interfere in politics, but in addition to its usual duties, it also engaged in medical relief, adult education, rural reconstruction and social uplift generally.

[Meanwhile, as reported from Calcutta,] the death occurred on February 3 at Dehra Dun of Miss Chandamukhi Bose, the first Indian woman graduate. Miss Bose was 83 and was a daughter of the late Rev. Bhuban Mohan Bose.

She did her M.A. from Calcutta University in 1884 on which occasion she was presented with a copy of Shakespeare`s works. Dawn Delhi

Dawn News, 18-02-19**Learning from China**

RECENTLY, I had a chance to travel China by road and train extensively. The thing that impressed me the most was their tree plantation drive.

From Beijing to Qinhuangdao the three-and-half-hour drive was a pleasure.

On both sides of the road one could not help but notice trees planted in about 100 meter width. They were placed two meters apart and all of them were painted white from the ground up.

They could be seen on barren land, hills, valleys, irrigational land and even on mountains. They say that 60,000-strong People`s Liberation Army was tasked to do this venture.

The same was the scene during a four-and-half-hour ride from Beijing to Shanghai in a bullet train. In Qinhuangdao, big trees with thick stem were planted directly into the ground.

All of them were of equal size and supported by four bamboos which were placed in angular direction, ensuring that they stay upright. Sheikh Rasheed should consider doing this for all train tracks.

The National Highway Authority should also make it a part of all road construction projects. We need billions of trees and let us learn this from China.

S.Iqbal Karachi

Dawn News, 18-02-19

Chinese envoy opens exhibition

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing inaugurated an exhibition of photographs showcasing the progress of China over the last few decades at the Chinese Studies Centre at the National University of Sciences and Technology (Nust). The event marked the advent of the Chinese New Year and depicted the impact of reforms and the Chinese Open Door Policy.

Nust Rector retired Lt Gen Naweed Zaman welcomed the ambassador and spoke about the relationship between China and Pakistan and China and Nust.

He said: `NUST has worked on plans and initiatives in collaboration with Chinese higher education institutions to harness opportunities from the One Belt, One Road initiative and CPEC. In May 2016, NUST had the privilege of holding the first Beijing Forum outside of China.

The ambassador said Pak-China relations would continue to become stronger with each generation and the important thing was to expand and deepen people-to-people contact. To this end, he said, the number of scholarships for Pakistani students in China will be increased.

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a long term project and its next phase will focus on investment, joint ventures, the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs), engagement in the power sector as well as export-oriented cooperation. Education, health, agriculture, poverty reduction and human resources were all sectors of cooperation during the next phase.



CHINESE Ambassador Yao Jing speaks at the photographic exhibition in Islamabad.

Dawn News, 19-02-19

China accuses US of trying to block its tech development

BEIJING: China's government on Monday accused the United States of trying to block its industrial development by alleging that Chinese mobile network gear poses a cyber-security threat to countries rolling out new internet systems.

And in a potential blow to the US's effort to rally its allies on the issue, British media reported that the country's intelligence agencies have found it's possible to limit the security risks of using Chinese equipment in so-called 5G networks.

The US argues that Beijing might use Chinese tech companies to gather intelligence about foreign countries. The Trump administration has been putting pressure on allies to shun networks supplied by Huawei Technologies, threatening the company's access to markets for next-generation wireless gear.

The company, the biggest global maker of switching gear for phone and internet companies, denies accusations it facilitates Chinese spying and said it would reject any government demands to disclose confidential information about foreign customers.

The US government is trying to 'fabricate an excuse for suppressing the legitimate development' of Chinese enterprises, said the spokesman for the Chinese foreign ministry, GengShuang. He accused the United States of using 'political means' to interfere in economic activity, 'which is hypocritical, immoral and unfair bullying.

US Vice President Mike Pence, speaking this weekend in Germany, urged European allies to take seriously `the threat` he said was posed by Huawei as they look for partners to build the new 5G mobile networks.

The 5G technology is meant to vastly expand the reach of networks to support internet-linked medical equipment, factory machines, self-driving cars and other devices.

That makes it more politically sensitive and raises the potential cost of security failures.

Pence said Huawei and other Chinese telecom equipment makers provide Beijing with `access to any data that touches their network or equipment.` He appealed to European governments to `reject any enterprise that would compromise the integrity of our communications technology or our national security systems.` -AP

Dawn News, 19-02-19

Pak-China Cultural Caravan enthralls SU students

HYDERABAD: Art and culture serve as the most powerful means to broaden understanding between Pakistan and China, deepen insight into each other and facilitate social change through community mobilization.

This was stated by Sindh University Vice Chancellor Prof DrFateh Mohammad Burfat while speaking at the Pakistan-China Cultural Caravan held on Monday at its ShaheedMohtarma Benazir Bhutto Research Chair and Convention Centre.

The event was jointly organized by SU`s Area Study Centre for Far East and South-East Asia and Hanban/Confucius Institute China.

DrBurfat hailed teachings of the Chinese philosopher Confucius and described him as a universal sage.

Students, teachers and guests packed the event`s venue, having a capacity of 2,000, and scores others had to sit or stand behind themes auditorium fell short of seats.

TV host SaqibAbro and SU student KhushbooChandio moderated the proceedings.

Speaking as the chief guest, Zhang Xiaoping, director of the Confucius Institute, Karachi, said that he, the Chinese troupe and faculty of the Confucius Institute, University of Karachi, Cadet College Petaro, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology all were glad to have brought Chinese culture, traditions, folklore and music to youths of this university in the form of diverse stage performances.

Other speakers at the event highlighted the strong bond of friendship between Pakistan and China and said that the relationship stood the test of time.

The two countries have always come to each other's help without wasting a moment. There exists an extensive common cultural ground and enormous shared future economic potential for the two countries to pursue, they noted. Pakistani and Chinese artists presented tremendous performances to enthrall the audience. National anthems of the two countries were played whereas other features included good luck opening dance by Chinese performers, performance of traditional Chinese instrument 'hulusi', jasmine flower song by MUET's Chinese language students and the Taichi Duo-Kung fu show.

Chinese songs were sung by several Chinese language students and many other students presented traditional and cultural classic-folk renditions and mystic numbers depicting cultures of all parts of Pakistan.

Earlier, SU Area Study Centre director Dr Ghulam Akbar Mahesar welcomed the guests and audience.



A CHINESE troupe performs at the Pak-China Cultural Caravan held at the Sindh University in Jamshoro on Monday.—Dawn

Dawn News, 21-02-19

CPEC allegations

HEN Communications Minister Murad Saeed alleged in public remarks that there was corruption in the award of the contract to build the Sukkur-Multan motorway; he may not have known how large a matter he was inserting himself into. That contract was part of CPEC and was awarded to

the China State Construction Engineering Corporation after what the National Highway Authority chairman referred to as `controlled bidding` There were two other companies bidding for the contract, both Chinese. Construction work began in August 2016, and one section of the road Multan to Shujabad was inaugurated in May last year. It is scheduled to be completed by August this year, and is undoubtedly the single-largest road-building contract in the entire CPEC portfolio. It is also the largest grant-funded project in CPEC, with a total cost of almost Rs300bn, 75pc of which is funded by foreign assistance, as per the details on the Planning Commission website. And to top it off, it is one of the oldest projects envisaged in the CPEC portfolio.

In short, the minister is touching upon a massive project, funded in significant part by Chinese money. It is well past the point of no return in its execution, and forms an important part of the central axis around which CPEC is said to revolve: overland connectivity from south to north. Little wonder then that the minister`s allegations drew a furious response from the CSCEC, which is unusual for a Chinese company. In a strongly worded response, the company said it was `extremely shocked` at the `groundless allegations` that the minister made in public. Given the enormity of what is being touched upon, and the fact that the project is backed by the guarantee of the government of Pakistan, the sentiments expressed are understandable.

If the minister has concrete evidence of corruption or any other wrongdoing in this project, he should have spent more time elaborating upon it in his public remarks. A more professional approach would have been to first discuss the evidence (such as there may be) with the company before going public with it. The company`s response makes it seem like this was not done. If the minister can credibly establish that there has been corruption in the award of the contract, beyond superficial allegations, then it is imperative to follow up on them, catch those responsible, and hold them accountable. But it is worthwhile to remember that the same project attracted similar allegations from opposition parties back in March last year, with nothing coming of the matter other than a virulent public spectacle. If there is any evidence of wrongdoing, action must be taken. But angry speeches and public allegations help neither the Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation, nor the fight against corruption at home.

Dawn News, 21-02-19

Senior Chinese general jailed for life over graft

BEIJING: A Chinese military court sentenced a senior general who had been chief of a top defense department to life in prison on Wednesday after finding him guilty of corruption, state news agency Xinhua reported.

The senior general, Fang Fenghui, who had accompanied President Xi Jinping to his first meeting with U.S.President Donald Trump in 2017, was replaced as chief of the Joint Staff Department of the People`s Liberation Army later that year with no explanation.

The government later confirmed he was being investigated on suspicion of corruption.

Fang was subsequently replaced as a member of the Central Military Commission, headed by Xi and which controls the armed forces, at a fiveyearly Communist Party congress in October 2017, as part of a sweeping military leadership reshuffle.

Xinhua said a court martial had found Fang guilty of bribery and having huge wealth that he had been unable to account for.

His illicit assets will be confiscated and given to the government, it added, without elaborating.

It was not possible to reach Fang for comment as he is in jail. It is unclear whether he was allowed to retain a lawyer or who that person may be.-Reuters

Dawn News, 21-02-19

China says it will engage with India on JeM leader issue

ISLAMABAD: Following the latest escalation of tensions between Pakistan and India, China on Wednesday called for restraint and said it would engage with India on the issue of listing of Jaish-e-Mohammad leader Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the United Nations.

‘China hopes that Pakistan and India can exercise restraint, engage in dialogues and realize an early ‘soft landing’ of this issue,’ Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said ahead of the next week’s trilateral foreign ministers’ meeting between China, India and Russia.

Since last week’s Pulwama attack, India has stepped up efforts for listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar by the UN.

The JeM claimed the Pulwama attack on Central Police Reserve Force bus in which 44 security personnel were killed. China, it should be recalled, has been maintaining a technical hold on Azhar’s listing.

France has said that it will make a fresh bid at the UN for Azhar’s listing in a couple of days. France had in 2017 moved a proposal with the US and UK backing to get Azhar declared a global terrorist, but the move was blocked by China.

The issue would be a major agenda point during a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj on the sidelines of the trilateral meeting.

Mr. Shuang said: ‘China will engage in relevant discussions in a constructive and responsible manner and keep close communication and coordination with India and other parties concerned.

However, his emphasis on `the relevant resolutions and the procedures of the 1267 Committee` showed that notwithstanding Beijing`s openness to discuss the matter with Delhi, it was still not in a mood to review its position.

Dawn News, 21-02-19

Chinese national held for allegedly trafficking woman

RAWALPINDI: A Chinese national was apprehended at Islamabad International Airport on Wednesday for allegedly traffic a Pakistani woman who claims to have been sold by her parents.

The alleged trafficker was operating a marriage bureau in F-7/1. He was stopped from boarding Air China flight CA-946 after he approached the briefing counter with a woman.

FIA authorities said the passengers approached the counter to travel to China.

During the investigation that followed, the woman alleged that her parents had sold her to the suspect for Rs500, 000.

She said she was not willing to leave the country, and feared that she would be sold to someone else once she is abroad.

In her statement, she also alleged that a previous attempt had been made to sell her to an individual in Qatar on Feb 4, and her travel documents were taken from her. When she protested, the Qatari authorities sent her back to Pakistan, she said.

She said the suspect runs a marriage bureau in the capital along with a Pakistani.

She said the suspect appeared to be involved in human trafficking.

The victim holds a Pakistani passport and lives in Sargodha. She said in her statement that she was not willing to travel with the suspect.

According to an FIA official, both the suspect and the victim were taken into custody by immigration staff and taken to the Anti-Human Trafficking Cell in G-13 for further investigation.

Dawn News, 22-02-19

Saudi crown prince arrives in China

BEIJING: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Beijing on Thursday as the monarch aims to seal partnerships on a high-profile Asia tour following a diplomatic crisis over a journalist`s brutal murder.

Mohammed is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on his two-day trip to the Chinese capital following visits to Pakistan and India.

The tour has allowed him to show that Riyadh still has allies after the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi a fierce critic of Mohammed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul tarnished the image of the kingdom and the prince.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road global trade infrastructure initiative will be on the agenda, as the two countries look to improve their economic ties.

'Saudi Arabia has a lot of capital that needs to find profitable places to be deployed,' Saudi energy and industry minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih told China's official Xinhua news agency.

'China is a great place to invest with a huge market and an improving environment,' he said. The two countries will sign agreements and memorandums of understanding in the energy, investment, transport and technology fields, said the Saudi ambassador to China Turki bin Mohammed Al-Madi, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.-AFP

Dawn News, 22-02-19

China ready to help clean Karachi: CG

Karachi: The Chinese Counsel General (CG) in Karachi, Wang Yu, on Thursday said that the Chinese government was keen to see Karachi a clean city and ready to finance projects for this purpose.

The Chinese envoy was speaking at a ceremony held to hand over Chinese garbage tractor and loading bike here at Governor House, said an official statement on Thursday.

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail thanked the Chinese consulate for offering more garbage tractors and loading bikes to the city government to keep Karachi clean.

The governor recalled that Sino-Pakistan friendship went back decades, which was becoming stronger with the passage of time.

In the future, he said, these two bordering countries would expand their cooperation and partnership in more sectors, especially in the economy.

He said the friendship did not exist only between the two governments, but also in the people of the two countries.

Pakistanis and Chinese do feel at home when they visit each other's country,' he remarked.

Responding to a question, the governor said that the accountability process was going on across the board and on merit.

For the first time, it was being carried out in a very transparent manner to the satisfaction of even the common man, he said.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf members of Sindh Assembly from Karachi Dr Imran Ali Shah, Haleem Adil Shaikh, Mr. Adeel and CPLC chief Zubair Habib were also present.-APP

Dawn News, 22-02-19

Chinese spring festival celebrated at NUML

The Confucius Institute at National University of Modern Languages (Numl) Islamabad held a colorful function to celebrate the Chinese spring festival. Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing was the chief guest while Numl Rector retired Maj Gen Ziauddin Najam, Numl Director General Brig Mohammad Ibrahim, the Chinese cultural counselor, registrars, directors, deans, heads of departments and students attended the event.

The Chinese ambassador said Numl is playing a pivotal role in promoting relations between Pakistan and China.

He said Pakistan today is more open, is a hub of regional cooperation and has a policy of regional connectivity.

He said the next focus of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor would be the social and education sectors.

He inaugurated a BS in Area Studies China in the university and said the Chinese Embassy will support the area studies program.

The Numl rector said China has always stood with Pakistan in its time of need and that the friendship and brotherhood between the two countries is exemplary.

Students from various educational institutions put on performances during the event.

By Kashif Abbasi



STUDENTS perform at the Chinese spring festival. — Dawn

Dawn News, 26-02-19

Chinese, German FMs briefed on regional situation

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Monday called his Chinese and German counterparts as well as a key European Union official and briefed them on the evolving situation in India-held Kashmir after the Pulwama incident.

Mr Qureshi spoke over the phone to China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and EU Vice President and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and discussed with them the regional situation as well as matters relating to mutual interest.

He thanked China for its steadfast support and informed his Chinese counterpart of Pakistan's desire for peace and stability in the region and resolution of all issues through negotiations with India.

He also highlighted the steps taken by Pakistan to de-escalate the situation, a Foreign Office statement issued here said.

Mr Wang appreciated Pakistan's efforts and agreed that the unfolding regional situation was serious with implications for peace and security of the entire region.

Also, Mr Qureshi briefed his German counterpart on the evolving situation after the Pulwama incident and stressed that despite baseless allegations and aggressive rhetoric emanating from India, Pakistan has offered cooperation in investigating the incident and asked India to share any actionable evidence in this regard.

He highlighted the human rights violations by the security forces in India-held Kashmir against Kashmiris in the aftermath of the Pulwama incident.

The German FM appreciated Pakistan's overtures and stressed the need for preserving peace and stability in the region.

Speaking to MsMogherini, MrQureshi briefed the EU official on the current situation of peace and security in the region. The EU high representative stressed the need for working towards normalizing the situation between the two neighbors.-Agencies



LAHORE: Police officers check documents of passengers travelling to India on board the Samjhota Express at the Lahore railway station on Monday.—AFP

Dawn News, 26-02-19

US-China battle over Huawei comes to head at tech show

BARCELONA: A global battle between the US government and Chinese tech company Huawei over allegations that it is a cyber-security risk overshadowed the opening Monday of the world's biggest mobile industry trade fair.

Huawei has an outsize presence at MWC Barcelona, from its displays in three separate show halls down to its red sponsorship logo adorning visitor pass lanyards. The focus at this year's meeting is new 5G networks due to roll out in the coming years. But the dispute over Huawei, the world's biggest maker of networking gear, is casting a pall.

The United States government dispatched a big delegation to press its case with telecom executives and government officials that they should not use Huawei as a supplier over national security concerns. US President Donald Trump's administration says the Chinese government could use Huawei equipment to snoop on the world's internet traffic accusations Huawei has rejected, saying there has been no proof of a cyber-security breach.

In a fresh salvo, 11 US senators on Monday called for the federal government to ban solar power inverters advanced control systems made by Huawei, saying they pose a national security threat to US energy infrastructure.-AP

Dawn News, 27-02-19

China, EU urges Islamabad, New Delhi to show restraint

BEIJING / BRUSSELS: China and the European Union urged India and Pakistan on Tuesday to exercise restraint` after New Delhi said its warplanes attacked a militant camp in Pakistan, in a move that sent tensions soaring between the arch-rivals over disputed Kashmir.

We hope that both India and Pakistan can exercise restraint and adopt actions that will help stabilize the situation in the region and improve mutual relations, China`s foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

We remain in contact with both countries and what we believe is essential is that all exercise maximum restraint and avoid further escalation of tensions,` EU spokeswoman MajaKocijancic told reporters.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is expected to meet his Indian counterpart SushmaSwaraj and Russia`s Sergei Lavrov in the Chinese city of Wuzhen on Wednesday for a previously planned meeting.

Wang called Pakistan`s Foreign Minister Shah MahmoodQureshi on Monday to discuss the recent suicide attack, saying China supportsPakistan and India in efforts to resolve the issue through dialogue, state news agency Xinhua reported.

China, one of Pakistan`s closest allies, has poured billions of dollars into the South Asian country as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a massive infrastructure project that seeks to connect its western province of Xinjiang with the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar in Balochistan.

The project is one of the largest in Beijing`s Belt and Road initiative, comprising a network (of roads and sea routes involving 65 countries. India said its warplanes attacked a militant camp where Pakistan-backed fighters were preparing suicide attacks on its cities, killing a `very large number` of militants from the Jaish-e-Mohammad group. Pakistani officials have confirmed Indian planes breached its airspace and dropped a payload over Balakot in the country`s northwest, condemning it as `uncalled for aggression` but insisting there was no damage or casualties.-AFP

Dunya News, 16-02-19



قیامی اصلاح کیلئے صحت کا وزیر کا اجراء

دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں قیامی عوام کا سب سے زیادہ نقصان ہوا۔ ازالہ کریں گے، امن کو خراب نہیں ہونے دیں گے

سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات اور چین جیسے دوستوں نے امداد دیکر اقتصادی بحران سے

بچایا، پشاور میں خطاب، انٹرویو

پشاور (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک، دنیا نیوز، اسے پی پی، این این آئی) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ قرضوں کی دلدل سے کسی حد تک نکل آئے ہیں اگرچہ مکمل تو نہیں نکلے لیکن سرپائی سے باہر آ گیا ہے۔ سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات اور چین جیسے دوستوں نے پاکستان کو دل کھول کر امداد دی اور ہمیں اقتصادی بحران سے بچایا۔ سعودی عرب پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرے گا جس سے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور غربت کا خاتمہ ہوگا۔ سرمایہ کاری سے ملنے والی دولت میں اضافہ ہوگا جو قرضوں کی واپسی میں مددگار ثابت ہوگی۔ حکومت نے قیامی اصلاح کے لیے صحت کا رڈ کارڈ اجراء کر کے ایک اور وعدہ پورا کر دیا ہے۔ قیامی عوام کی بحالی کا وعدہ پورا کریں گے۔ امن کو خراب نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ بیت المال اور سوشل سیفٹی نیٹ کے ذریعے لوگوں کو اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا کریں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پشاور میں قیامی اصلاح کیلئے صحت کا رڈ کارڈ کے اجراء کی تقریب، اجلاس سے خطاب اور ایک انٹرویو میں کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ حکومت نے قیامی عوام کی طرز زندگی کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے انقلابی اقدامات کئے ہیں۔ صحت انصاف کارڈ کے اجراء سے قیامی عوام کی مدد کے ایک اور وعدے کی تکمیل ہوگئی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ خراب خاندانوں کی سب سے بڑی مشکل علاج معالجہ کرانا ہے، اس بنیادی ضرورت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے تحریک انصاف نے ایسی سکیم متعارف کرائی جس کے تحت ایک خاندان ہلکتے کارڈ کے 20 لاکھ 20 ہزار روپے تک کا علاج کرا سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں قیامی عوام کا سب سے زیادہ نقصان ہوا، جس کا سب سے زیادہ احساس تحریک انصاف کو ہے۔ قیامی شیور عوام کی پاکستان کیلئے بے پناہ خدمات ہیں، بہادر قبائل نے دہشت گردی کا مقابلہ کرتے ہوئے مشکل وقت گزارا۔ قبائل نے حکومت اور سیکورٹی فورسز کا بھرپور ساتھ دیا، قبائل کی بحالی اور بہتر سماجی حالات کی ریاست کی ذمہ داری ہے جو ہم پورا کریں گے۔ جب بھی فوجی آپریشن ہوتے ہیں تو عام آدمی سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہوتا ہے۔ جب آپریشن ہوتا ہے تو فوج کو نہیں پتا ہوتا کہ کون دشمن ہے اور کون اپنا ہے۔ اسی لیے میں شروع سے قیامی اصلاح میں فوجی آپریشن کے خلاف تھا، اس وقت ہمارے ہاتھ میں کچھ نہیں تھا لیکن اب پوری کوشش کریں گے کہ قیامی اصلاح کا جو نقصان ہوا ہے اس کا ازالہ کریں۔ قیامی عوام کے لیے مزید فنڈز جاری کر رہے ہیں اور ایک ہیلتھ یونٹ بنانے کا بھی پروگرام ہے۔ پاکستان سے غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے اس مہینے کے اختتام تک پروگرام لے کر آ رہے ہیں۔ قیامی اصلاح کو ملک کے باقی شہریوں جیسی تمام سہولیات فراہم کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے سابقہ فانا کے اصلاح کو قومی دھارے میں لانے کیلئے تیز تر اقدامات کی ہدایت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ نئے اصلاح کے لوگوں کی محرومی دور کرنا ترجیح ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت قیامی اصلاح کی تعمیر نو اور لوگوں کی آباد کاری کیلئے وسائل فراہم کرے گی جبکہ انہوں نے وسائل کی منصفانہ تقسیم، شفاف حکمرانی اور خدمات کی فوری اور موثر فراہمی یقینی بنانے کی بھی ہدایت کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر وزیر اعلیٰ اور سینئرز خاص طور پر قیامی اصلاح کے عوام کے مسائل سے اور ان کے حل میں پوری مدد کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم نے قیامی اصلاح کے تحت افراد میں صحت انصاف کارڈز تقسیم کئے۔ بعد ازاں سعودی عرب کے نشریاتی ادارے کو دیئے گئے انٹرویو میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات اور چین جیسے دوستوں نے پاکستان کو دل کھول کر امداد دی اور ہمیں اقتصادی بحران سے بچایا۔ پاکستان سعودی عرب کو ایک طاقتور ملک کے طور پر دیکھنا چاہتا ہے۔ سعودی ولی عہد کی جانب سے اپنے ملک میں تاریخ ساز اصلاحات متعارف کرائی گئی اصلاحات تاریخ ساز اور جدید عصری تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ ہیں۔ شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان نے اپنے ملک میں تاریخ ساز اصلاحات متعارف کرائیں جن کی ہم مکمل حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ ہمیں قومی امید ہے کہ جامعات، سکولز، دیگر تعلیمی ادارے اور سعودی نوجوان اصلاحات اور دوسرے ممالک کے ساتھ مقابلے کی دوڑ میں شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کا ساتھ دیں گے۔ شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کے دورے پر پوری قوم خوش ہے۔

وزیر اعظم

Dunya News, 18-02-19

سعودیہ سمیت کوئی بھی ملک سی پیک میں شامل ہو سکتا ہے: چین

اسلام آباد (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک، آن لائن) چین کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن چاؤلی جیان نے کہا ہے کہ سعودی عرب سمیت کوئی بھی ملک سی پیک کا حصہ بن سکتا ہے۔ سی پیک خطے میں گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے جس کے باعث پاکستان معاشی حب بننے جا رہا ہے۔ نجی ٹی وی سے گفتگو میں ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن نے کہا کہ سی پیک تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت کے لیے کھلا پروگرام ہے اور تیسرے فریق کو سی پیک کا حصہ بنانے پر چین کو کوئی تحفظات نہیں۔ تیسرے فریق کو اسٹریٹجک پارٹنر بنانے پر پاک چین بات ہو سکتی ہے جبکہ تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت کو ممکن بنانے پر پاک چین مذاکرات جاری ہیں۔ چاؤلی جیان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک اب نئے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہا ہے، پہلے پانچ سال میں جلد مکمل ہونے والے منصوبے تھے اور اب نئے مرحلے میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کیے جائیں گے۔ چاؤلی جیان کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے پہلے دورہ سعودی عرب کے دوران سی پیک میں سعودی شمولیت پر بھی بات ہوئی تا حال سعودی عرب سی پیک کا حصہ بننے کا خواہاں ہے۔

چین

Dunya News, 19-02-19



پاکستان کو بغیر ثبوت پلوا امہ حملے سے جوڑنا غلط: چینی اخبار

بھارت یو این میں مسعود اظہر کی خلاف ٹھوس شواہد پیش کرنے میں ناکام رہا، ملہ چین پر ڈال رہا
 مودی سرکار پاکستان اور چین پر الزام کے بجائے اپنی پالیسیوں پر نظر ثانی کرے: گلوبل ٹائمز
 بیجنگ (آئی این پی، مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) چین کے سرکاری اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز میں شائع ایک رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کو
 بغیر ثبوت کے مقبوضہ کشمیر میں دہشتگرد کارروائی سے جوڑنا غلط ہے، چین اسکی سخت مذمت کرتا ہے، بھارت بغیر ثبوت کے
 پاکستان کو دہشتگرد کارروائیوں میں ملوث کرنا بند کرے، دہشت گردی عالمی مسئلہ ہے، چین ہر قسم کی دہشتگردی کی مخالفت کرتا
 ہے، مقبوضہ کشمیر میں ہونے والے حملے میں "بیش جھڑ" نے ذمہ داری قبول کر لی، دہشتگردی کی زد میں متعدد ممالک ہیں یہ کہنا
 غیر مناسب ہے کہ دہشتگردی میں پاکستان ملوث ہے، بھارت اقوام متحدہ میں مسعود اظہر کے خلاف ٹھوس شواہد پیش کرنے میں
 ناکام رہا اور اب ملہ چین پر ڈال رہا ہے۔ اسی طرح بھارت نے بغیر تصدیق کے ایک بار پھر پلوا امہ حملے کا الزام پاکستان
 پر عائد کر کے ثابت کر دیا ہے کہ وہ اپنی پالیسی اور سکیورٹی کی کمزوریوں کو درست کرنے کا ارادہ نہیں رکھتا، بہتر ہوگا بھارت
 مسعود اظہر کے خلاف ٹھوس شواہد جمع کرنے میں اپنی توانائی صرف کرے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق کچھ بھارتی تجزیہ کاروں نے
 اس جہازانہ حملے کو چین کے ساتھ بھی منسوب کرنے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ اخبار نے کہا اگر بھارت کے پاس مولانا مسعود اظہر کے
 خلاف کوئی ٹھوس ثبوت ہے تو اسے سامنے لائے چین ساتھ دینے کو تیار ہے، بلاوجہ کسی پر پابندی عائد نہیں کی جاسکتی۔ رپورٹ
 کے مطابق بھارتی مصرین کے تجزیے چین اور بھارت کے درمیان کشیدگی پیدا کر رہے ہیں۔ رپورٹ میں مزید کہا گیا دہشت
 گردی کا مقابلہ کرنے میں چین اور پاکستان بھارت کے دشمن نہیں ہیں۔ بھارت اور پاکستان کے تنازعات کے باوجود بیجنگ
 نئی دہلی اور اسلام آباد کا دہشت گردی کے خلاف ساتھ دے گا۔ چینی سرکاری میڈیا نے کہا مودی سرکار کو پاکستان اور چین پر
 الزام عائد کرنے کے بجائے اپنی پالیسیوں اور سکیورٹی اقدامات پر نظر ثانی کرنا چاہیے۔
 چینی اخبار

Dunya News, 20-02-19

پاکستان خطہ میں تجارتی سرگرمیوں کا حب ہے، چینی سفیر

نمئل پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے، تقریب سے خطاب

اسلام آباد (سٹی رپورٹر) نیشنل یونیورسٹی آف ماڈرن لینگویجز (نمئل) میں کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام چینی سپرنگ فیسٹیول کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ مہمان خصوصی چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ تھے جبکہ ریکٹر نمئل میجر جنرل (ر) ضیاء الدین نجم، ڈائریکٹر جنرل نمئل بریگیڈر محمد ابراہیم، چینی کلچرل قونصلر، ڈینز، رجسٹرار، ڈائریکٹرز نے بھی شرکت کی۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ نمئل پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے، پاکستان خطہ میں تجارتی سرگرمیوں کا حب ہے۔

Dunya News, 20-02-19

اسلام آباد: چین میں متعارف کرائی

گئی اصلاحات بارے نمائش شروع

اسلام آباد (سٹی رپورٹر) چین میں چار عشروں کے دوران متعارف کرائی گئی اصلاحات بارے بین الاقوامی نمائش منگل کو شروع ہوگئی۔ نمائش کا اہتمام اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارتخانے کے کلچرل آفس، چائنہ کلچرل سینٹر پاکستان اور نیشنل لائبریری آف پاکستان، قومی تاریخ و ادبی ورثہ نے مشترکہ طور پر کیا ہے۔ افتتاحی تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی جوائنٹ سیکرٹری قومی تاریخ و ادبی ورثہ ڈویژن جنید اخلاق، چینی سفارتخانے کے کلچرل کونسلر ژونگ ہی چینگ تھے۔

Dunya News, 20-02-19

سکھر ملتان موٹروے سی پیک کا حصہ ہے، الزامات بے بنیاد: چینی کمپنی
 بیجنگ (آن لائن) چائنا اسٹیٹ کنسٹرکشن انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن لمیٹڈ کمپنی (سی ایس سی ای سی) نے سکھر ملتان موٹروے
 منصوبے سے متعلق پاکستانی عوام اور میڈیا کے ذریعے نشر ہونے والے الزامات پر تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ کمپنی کی جانب
 سے جاری کردہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق ہم پاکستانی عوام کے مفادات کے لئے اپنی کاروباری سرگرمیاں پاکستانی قوانین اور
 اصولوں کے مطابق انجام دے رہے ہیں، لہذا منصوبے پر لگائے جانے والے تمام الزامات بے بنیاد اور جھوٹے ہیں۔

Dunya News, 20-02-19

چین اور سعودیہ کیساتھ کاروباری نہیں، دوستی کا رشتہ، صدر علوی

20 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری اور مفاہمت کی دستاویزات پر دستخط پر سعودی عرب کا شکر یہ

ادارے وزیر اعظم کی قیادت میں بدعنوانی کیخلاف حکومتی ویژن کے مطابق صف آرا ہیں

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے چین اور سعودی عرب سے تعلقات کاروباری نہیں بلکہ دوستی کے رشتے ہیں، پاکستان کے تمام ادارے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی قیادت میں بدعنوانی کے خلاف حکومتی ویژن کے مطابق صف آرا ہیں۔ عرب نیوز کو خصوصی انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں 20 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کیجیج اور مفاہمت کی دستاویزات پر دستخط پر سعودی عرب کا شکر یہ ادا کرتے ہیں، پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کے درمیان تعلق اور دوستی قلبی اور انمول ہے، سعودی عرب ایک ایسے وقت میں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے آگے بڑھا ہے جب ہمیں سرمایہ کاری کی ضرورت ہے، صنعتی شعبہ، گواہی میں ریفاہ سٹری پراجیکٹ، معدنیات، سیاحت، مصنوعی ذہانت سمیت کئی شعبے ہیں جہاں سعودی عرب سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے استفادہ کر سکتا ہے، دنیا سعودی عرب کے ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کے ویژن 2030ء کے تحت مملکت میں اصلاحات کے عمل کو دلچسپی سے دیکھ رہی ہے۔ صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ سعودی عرب کو جدید بنانے کی وجہ سے لوگ انتہا پسندی سے دور ہو رہے ہیں۔

صدر عارف

Dunya News, 21-02-19

قراقرم انٹرنیشنل یونیورسٹی میں

چینی زبان سیکھنے کیلئے داخلہ شروع

اسلام آباد (سٹی رپورٹر) قراقرم انٹرنیشنل یونیورسٹی کے شعبہ انسٹیٹیوٹ آف پروفیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ نے چائیز لینگویج کورس کے لیول ایچ ایس کے ون، ٹو اور تھری میں داخلوں کا اعلان کر دیا۔ داخلہ کیم مارچ 2019 تک جاری رہیں گے۔ یونیورسٹی حکام کے مطابق داخلہ کے خواہشمند کنفیو شیش سیٹ آفس میں داخلہ فارم اور فیس جمع کرا سکتے ہیں۔

Dunya News, 21-02-19



چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے 2017ء میں 19 ویں کمیونسٹ پارٹی کانگریس کے اجلاس میں "پچھلے دو دہائیوں کے دور" کا ذکر کیا۔ انہوں نے قوم کے مستقبل تاریخی مشن کو سب کے سامنے رکھا۔ چین اندرونی استحکام اور معاشی ترقی کے ذریعے سات دہائیوں سے "ذلت کی صدی" سے کہیں آگے نکل چکا تھا۔ ملک نے بڑے پیمانے پر معیشت تیار کی، عالمی طاقت کی حیثیت سے آگے بڑھنے کے مقصد کا آدھا راستہ عبور ہو چکا تھا۔ چینی صدر نے منزل تک پہنچنے کے لیے اپنا باقی راستہ دیکھنا چاہا۔ اس نے اپنے سابقہ موجودہ حالات کا تذکرہ کیا، مستقبل کے منصوبہ جات کے بارے میں آگاہی دی، حقیقت بھی یہی ہے کہ وہ ایک چین کا صدر ہے جو جغرافیائی، سیاسی، معاشی میدان میں عالمی سطح پر بڑا وزن رکھتا ہے۔

چین نے اپنی اقتصادی پختگی میں اس نقطہ نظر کو سامنے رکھا، جہاں اسے تیز رفتار معاشی ترقی درکار ہے۔ چین کے رہنماؤں نے آخر میں ملک کے پچھلے ادوار موجودہ صورتحال اور مستقبل کے منصوبوں کی حدود کا تعین کیا۔ چین کو جارحانہ تجارتی جنگ دوہرے مقابلے اور چینی علاقائی مسائل کی شکل میں امریکہ سے کئی چیلنجز کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہے۔ دھویں کیا گیا کہ مستقبل قریب میں چین کو داخلی اور بیرونی چیلنجز میں سے کسی کا سامنا نہیں کرنا پڑے گا؛ اگر کچھ بھی غیر ممکن حد تک بڑھ گیا، تو اس کے لئے دہائی کے سخت برسوں کا تعین کیا گیا اور اختتام پر انہیں حل کرنے کا منصوبہ سامنے رکھا گیا۔

پچھلے چیلنجز جن کا چین کو آج سامنا ہے، ان سے نشہ کے لیے تحقیقات اور جانچ پڑتال جاری ہے۔ تاریخی پس منظر میں اس سوال کا جواب نہیں کہ چین آئندہ کیا کرے گا؟ یا ہر ملک کی اپنی ترجیحات ہوتی ہیں کہ وہ کن مسائل پر توجہ مرکوز رکھتا ہے اس ملک کے رویے سے اندازہ لگایا جاسکتا ہے کہ اس کی پہلی ترجیح کیا ہے۔ چین کے اقدامات ملک کے اقتصادی راستے سے منسلک ہیں جغرافیائی سیاست عالمی سطح پر انفرادی طاقت مسائل پر قابو پالنے میں کی حدود تک مدد دیتی ہے۔

مئی 2012ء میں شی جن پنگ نے کمیونسٹ پارٹی کے جنرل سیکریٹری کی حیثیت سے اپنی جگہ بنائی، اس سے قبل اصلاحات کے دور میں چین کو اقتصادی اور سیاسی ہدایت دینے لگے۔ 1978ء میں چین نے اپنی معیشت کو دنیا کے لیے کھولا اور اقتصادی کامیابی کا راستہ اختیار کرنا شروع کر دیا، قریب میں عالمی سطح پر اضافہ کیا گیا۔ اس 40 سالہ دور میں چین کی معیشت کچھ لے کر کافی رہی اور بالآخر "سجیل گئی" مگر اس دور میں بڑے اندرونی مسائل نے جنم نہیں لیا۔ سرمایہ کاری کی واپسی اور بیرونی تجارت چین کے معاشی چہرے کے بنیادی ستون ہیں ترقی کا یہ سفر مستقل مزاجی سے جاری ہے۔ گھریلو کھپت، حدود جہد، نجی معیشت اور اعلیٰ قرضوں میں اضافہ بیرونی طور پر چلنے والے مالی بحرانوں کے لئے خطرہ سمجھا جا رہے، جو موجودہ امریکی اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی جنگ میں بڑا حصہ رہے۔ چین کی ٹیکنالوجی میں ترقی امریکہ سے تیزی سے آگے بڑھ رہی ہے۔

2008ء-9ء عالمی مالیاتی بحران کے بعد چین کے گھریلو ماحول پر گہرے اثرات پڑے، چینی پالیسی کی ترجیحات تبدیل ہوئیں، نئے چیلنجز کا سامنا کرنا پڑا، مالی بحران نے برآمدات پر مبنی ترقی کے ماڈل کو نقصان پہنچایا، بنیادی عمارتوں کے لئے 300 بلین افراد کو توکری سے باہر دھک پڑا، ان میں اکثریت کم عمر کے مینیوفیکچررز کارکنوں کی تھی، جنہوں نے گھریلو چیک سے قرضوں پر لے لیے ہوئے تھے۔ جب چین نے ساحلی معیشت کو مارا اور 40 بلین مزدوروں نے خود کو بے روزگار کر لیا، تو حکومت نے برآمداتی سیکٹر میں تیز رفتاری سے گریز کیا، سڑکوں، ریلوے اور ترقی کے منصوبے میں حکومتی 4 ٹریلین یوآن (591 بلین ڈالر) کی سرمایہ کاری کا خلا پیدا ہوا۔ معاشی بحران کے بعد چین نے اپنے اقتصادی پختگی کو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے کریڈٹ کی توسیع پر زور دیا، جس کا نتیجہ میں صنعتی صلاحیتوں اور بقا یا قرض کی ادائیگی میں کافی معاونت ملی۔

یہ وہ دور تھا جب چین نے سست ترقی کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ اس کی معیشت پختگی کی جانب پیش قدمی کرتی رہی، حکومتی قیادت کی سرمایہ کاری میں اضافہ ہوا، قدرتی طور پر پچھلے معاشی دباؤ کو کم کیا، بحران کن طور پر پیچھے رہ گیا، اسٹیٹ مارکیٹ کی حوصلہ افزائی کو تیار کیا جو 2015ء سے پہلے تجرباتی طور پر کوئی خاطر خواہ نمایاں نتائج نہیں دے پا رہی تھی، نتیجے میں مقامی گھریلو کھپت اور ریئل اسٹیٹ مارکیٹ کو فروغ دینے کی وجہ سے اس کی اہم پالیسی سامنے آئی، جو برآمد کے سلسلے سے چین کی تیز رفتار تبدیلی ثابت ہوئی۔ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق برآمدی شعبے 2007ء میں 36 فی صدی ڈی پی ٹی اور 2013 میں صرف 22 فی صدی رہے۔ چین کو اس حقیقت کا سامنا بھی کرنا پڑا کہ گھریلو کھپت کے طور پر نجی سرمایہ کاری سخت ہوئی اور قرض میں اضافہ ہوا۔ اس کے برآمداتی شعبے میں بحران کے بعد ڈالر کی قدر میں اضافہ ہوا، ملک کی معاشی پختگی کے لئے اہم بفر ثابت ہوا، کام کی بڑھتی ہوئی قیمتوں سے تیز رفتار شہریوں کو تازہ تر طور پر چھوٹا کر حاصل ہوا، جغرافیائی منافع بڑھنے لگا، جس کے نتیجے میں ابھر کر سامنے آنے والی معیشتیں چین کے مقابلے میں کمزور ہوئی گئیں۔ جنوب مشرقی ایشیا، مشرقی افریقہ میں معیشتیں اور خشک درمیانی آمدنی کے ٹیٹ ورک سے بچنے کے لئے چین کو ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں ترقی کی رفتار تیز کرنا پڑے گی، تاکہ ملک کی معیشت کو زیادہ قدر اضافی اور جدید ترین بنا سکے۔

جب شی جن پنگ اقتدار میں آیا، ملک دو قسم کی معیشتوں کے درمیان کھڑا ہوا تھا، شوئین، ابھرتی ہوئی چینی مینیوفیکچررز مارکیٹ تباہی کے دہانے پر پہنچ چکی تھی، لیکن ایک ہی وقت میں چین نے مغربی ٹیکنالوجی پر انحصار کرنا شروع کر دیا، چینی رہنماؤں کو معلوم تھا کہ ان کے اختیار راست محدود تھے، اور ان کے پاس کافی وقت بھی ہے۔ شی جن پنگ جانتا تھا، وہ علاقہ سات کی جانب دوڑ رہا ہے۔ (جاری)

Dunya News, 22-02-19

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چین کی معیشت میں عدم استحکام..... (آخری قسط)



چین کے لیے ایک نیا عالمی اقتصادی بحران ابھی تک ظاہر نہیں ہوا اور عالمی سطح پر طوفان عاصف نہیں مچا۔ امریکہ کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔

چین کی معیشت میں عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔

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چین کی معیشت میں عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔

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<p>Pre-Cast</p>			
<p>1600 SR فورمین (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/سٹیل فیکس)</p>	<p>5250 SR سپر وائزر (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/پری پریشن)</p>	<p>1200 SR فورمین (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/پری پریشن)</p>	<p>5250 SR سپر وائزر (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/پری پریشن)</p>
<p>950 SR لابور (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/پری پریشن)</p>	<p>1000 SR ماسن - کاسٹنگ سکیلڈ ماسن</p>	<p>1400 SR فیکٹوریٹرز (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/پری پریشن)</p>	<p>1800 SR فیکٹوریٹرز (ایم پی ٹیکنیشن/پری پریشن)</p>
<p>1200 SR اسٹیل فیکس</p>	<p>1200 SR ایریکٹرز</p>	<p>1200 SR ایریکٹرز</p>	<p>2000 SR ایریکٹرز</p>

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چین کی معیشت میں عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ امریکہ کی معیشت میں بھی عدم استحکام کی علامتیں نظر آ رہی ہیں۔

Dunya News, 22-02-19

Dunya News, 23-02-19**دو چینی باشندوں کیخلاف ایک کروڑ****روپے کے فراڈ کا مقدمہ درج**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) فراڈ اور خورد برد کے مقدمات درج کر لئے گئے۔ سیکرٹریٹ پولیس نے چینی باشندے ٹوکسن یورنگ کی رپورٹ پر جن جن اور رنگون لی کے خلاف ایک کروڑ روپے کے فراڈ کا مقدمہ درج کر لیا۔ لوئی بھیر پولیس نے نوید اختر کی رپورٹ پر طاہر محمود اور خرم کے خلاف چھ لاکھ پچاسی ہزار روپے خورد برد کرنے پر مقدمہ درج کر لیا، شایمار پولیس نے محمد صغیر کی رپورٹ پر ممتاز حسین کے خلاف چیک ڈس آنر کا مقدمہ درج کر لیا۔

Dunya News, 23-02-19



سعودیہ، چین میں 28 ارب

ڈالر کے 35 سمجھوتے

بیجنگ (دنیا مانیٹرنگ، ایجنسیاں) سعودی ولی عہد محمد بن سلمان کے دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے رہنماؤں نے 10 ارب ڈالر کی آئل ڈیل سمیت 28 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے 35 سمجھوتوں پر دستخط کئے۔ بیجنگ کے گریٹ ہال میں شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان سے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے ملاقات کی، اس دوران دونوں رہنماؤں نے انتہا پسندی اور دہشت گردی کے خاتمہ کی کوششوں پر تفصیلی گفتگو کی۔ سعودی ولی عہد نے کہا کہ چین کیساتھ سعودی عرب کے تعلقات کی جڑیں بہت گہری ہیں۔ قومی سلامتی کے تحفظ کیلئے دہشت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کے خلاف چین کے اقدامات کی سعودی عرب حمایت کرتا ہے اور اس حوالے سے چین سے تعاون مستحکم بنانے کا خواہاں ہے۔ دریں اثنا سعودی ولی عہد اور چینی نائب وزیر اعظم ہین ژینگ کی زیر صدارت سعودی عرب اور چین کی اعلیٰ کمیٹی کا تیسرا اجلاس بیجنگ میں ہوا۔ اس دوران دونوں ملکوں میں تعاون کے معاہدوں اور معاہدتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط ہوئے۔ چین اور سعودی عرب نے تجارت کو آسان بنانے کے لیے ایک ورکنگ گروپ تشکیل دینے کے لئے چینی وزارت تجارت اور سعودی وزارت تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے درمیان معاہدے پر بھی دستخط کئے۔ سائبر کرائمز کی روک تھام کیلئے سعودی وزارت داخلہ اور چینی وزارت برائے جزیل سکیورٹی کے درمیان سمجھوتے پر دستخط ہوئے۔ اجلاس میں انسداد دہشت گردی کے شعبے میں تعاون کے حوالے سے سعودی ریاستی سکیورٹی کی پریذیڈنسی اور چینی وزارت برائے جزیل سکیورٹی کے درمیان معاہدہ طے پایا۔ توانائی کے منصوبوں کی سرمایہ کاری میں شرکت کیلئے سعودی کمپنی انکوا پاور اور چینی سلک روڈ فنڈ کے درمیان معاہدتی یادداشت پر بھی دستخط ہوئے۔ بعد ازاں سعودی ولی عہد نے دیوار چین کا دورہ بھی کیا اور وہاں کے مناظر سے خوب لطف اندوز ہوئے۔ یاد رہے کہ سعودی ولی عہد محمد بن سلمان چین کے بعد جنوبی کوریا کا دورہ کریں گے۔

سعودی چین سمجھوتے

Dunya News, 25-02-19

دہشتگردی، انتہا پسندی کے خاتمہ کیلئے بھرپور اقدامات کر رہے ہیں، چین

ترکی نے سکینانگ کی صورتحال بارے میں منفی رائے کا اظہار کیا، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی حکومت دہشتگردی اور انتہا پسندی کیخلاف بھرپور کارروائیاں کر رہی ہے اور اس نے سکینانگ میں دہشتگردی کے خاتمے کیلئے نمایاں کامیابیاں حاصل کی ہیں۔ حکومت دہشتگردی اور انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کیلئے بھرپور اقدامات کر رہی ہے اور اس سلسلے میں نمایاں کامیابیاں حاصل کی ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ ہوا چین یانگ نے یہاں ایک نیوز بریفنگ میں کیا۔ سکینانگ کی صورتحال سے متعلق ترکی کی تنقید پر سخت رد عمل ظاہر کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ ترکی وزارت خارجہ کے ایک ترجمان نے گزشتہ ہفتے سکینانگ کی صورتحال کے بارے میں منفی رائے کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ ترکی میں چین کا سفارت خانہ پہلے ہی اس کا بروقت جواب دے چکا ہے اور چین نے ترکی سے اس بارے میں صورتحال واضح کی ہے۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ ترکی ایک کثیر النسلی ملک ہے جسے دہشتگردی کے خطرات کا سامنا ہے اگر یہ دہشتگردی کے خاتمے کیلئے دہرا معیار اختیار کریگا اس سے نہ صرف یہ خود کو بلکہ دوسرے کو بھی نقصان پہنچائے گا۔ ہمیں توقع ہے کہ ترکی غیر متعصب اور غیر جانبدار فیصلہ کریگا۔

چین

Dunya News, 25-02-19

چین: حادثات میں 26 افراد ہلاک، 29 زخمی ہو گئے

ماہی گیر کشتی اور مال بردار بحری جہاز کے تصادم میں 5 افراد زندگی کی بازی ہار گئے

بریک فیل ہونے پر بس سرنگ سے ٹکرائی، 21 مزدور ہلاک ہو گئے، تحقیقات جاری

ہینگ زو (آئی این پی) چین میں دو مختلف حادثات میں 26 افراد ہلاک اور 29 زخمی ہو گئے۔ بتایا گیا ہے کہ چین کے مشرقی صوبے زی جیانگ کے قریب مال بردار بحری جہاز اور ماہی گیر کشتی کے درمیان تصادم میں 15 افراد ہلاک ہو گئے۔ کشتی ٹکرانے کے بعد ڈوب گئی۔ حادثے کی اطلاع ملتے ہی مقامی حکومت نے 23 ماہی گیر کشتیاں اور ریسکیو جہاز اس علاقے میں بھیج دیئے۔ ماہی گیر کشتی پر 17 افراد کے سوار ہونے کی گنجائش تھی۔ دریں اثنا شمالی چین کے خود مختار ریجن داخلی منگولیا میں بس کے حادثے میں 21 افراد ہلاک اور 29 زخمی ہو گئے۔ مقامی انتظامیہ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق بس میں 50 مزدور سوار تھے۔ ایک سرنگ سے گزرتے ہوئے گاڑی کی بریکیں فیل ہو گئیں جس کے نتیجے میں بس سرنگ کی دیوار کیساتھ جا لگی۔ حادثے میں 21 افراد ہلاک اور 29 افراد زخمی ہو گئے۔

26 ہلاک

Dunya News, 25-02-19**دہشتگردی کخلاف پاکستانی حمایت کی قدر کرتے ہیں، چین**

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) پاک چین سرحد کیساتھ واقع شہر کاشغر کو دہشتگردی اور انتہا پسندانہ ذہنیت سے پاک کر دیا گیا ہے، دہشتگردی کخلاف کوششوں میں چین پاکستان کی حمایت کی بڑی قدر کرتا ہے جن کے نتیجے میں مقامی آبادی کیلئے خطہ پر امن اور زندگی معمول پر آگئی ہے، چینی میڈیا نے سرکاری ذرائع کے حوالے سے بتایا ہے کہ پاک چین سرحد کیساتھ واقع شہر کاشغر کو دہشتگردی اور انتہا پسندانہ ذہنیت سے پاک کر دیا گیا ہے، دہشتگردی کخلاف کوششوں میں چین پاکستان کی حمایت کی بڑی قدر کرتا ہے جن کے نتیجے میں مقامی آبادی کیلئے خطہ پر امن اور زندگی معمول پر آگئی ہے، حالیہ برسوں کے دوران متعلقہ سکیورٹی اداروں کے درمیان سرحدی علاقوں میں معمول کی زندگی برقرار رکھنے کیلئے قریبی رابطہ رہا ہے۔

چین

Dunya News, 26-02-19



پاکستان بھارت جلد جلد مذاکرات کر کے کشیدگی بڑھنے کو روکنے کی کوشش کریں

دو دنوں ملک دشمن سرگرمیوں کی مخالفت اور ملکر امن کی حفاظت کریں: چینی وزیر خارجہ کی پاکستانی ہم منصب سے گفتگو

جرمنی نے قیام امن کیلئے پاکستانی کوششوں کو سراہا، شاہ محمود کے برطانوی، پولش، جاپانی وزرائے

خارجہ سے بھی رابطے

اسلام آباد (دنیا نیوز)۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد بھارتی دہشت گردوں کی سرگرمیوں اور پاکستان کی مذاکرات اور شاہ محمود قریشی کی پیشکش سے آگاہ کیا۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا پاکستان، بھارت جلد جلد مذاکرات کر کے کشیدگی بڑھنے سے روکیں، پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کی مخالفت جنگ کی بھاری قیمت ادا کی۔ جیرو وزارت خارجہ کی جانب سے جاری بیان کے مطابق شاہ محمود قریشی نے اپنے چینی ہم منصب وانگ ڈی کوئی فون کر کے پلوامہ حملے کے بعد بھارت میں امن وامان کی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا پاکستان حملے میں امن و استحکام کا خواہاں ہے اس لیے بھارت کو اس کے ساتھ معاملات کو مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے کا خواہشمند ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا بھارتی امن کیلئے دہشت گردی کی مخالفت لڑائی سے متعلق پاکستان کا موقف تبدیل نہیں ہوا، ہم اس معاملے پر کسی بھی ملک سے تعاون کرنے کیلئے تیار ہیں۔ انہوں نے پاکستان کی طرف سے کشیدگی کم کرنے کیلئے کئے گئے اقدامات سے بھی چینی وزیر خارجہ کو آگاہ کیا۔ وانگ ڈی نے رابطے پر پاکستانی ہم منصب کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے قیام امن کیلئے پاکستان کی کوششوں کو سراہا۔ وانگ ڈی نے دو دنوں کے دوران پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد بھارتی کوششوں کی ایک دوسرے سے تعاون کریں اور ملکر جنوبی ایشیا کے امن و استحکام کی حفاظت کریں۔ انہوں نے اس بات سے اتفاق کیا کہ پاک بھارت کشیدگی پر سے حملے میں امن وامان کیلئے خطرے کا باعث ہو سکتی ہے، دہشت گردی کی مخالفت پاکستان کی گراؤ قدر رخصت کے خلاف کوششیں۔ وزیر خارجہ نے اپنے پولینڈ کے ہم منصب کو بھی صورتحال سے آگاہ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ بھارت کی طرف سے دہشت گردی کی حمایت کے باوجود ہم نے خواہاں طلب کئے اور پلوامہ واقعہ کی حقیقتات میں مکمل تعاون کی پیشکش کی۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے پولش وزیر خارجہ سے درخواست کی کہ پولینڈ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کا غیر مستقل ممبر ہونے کے ناطے حملے میں کشیدگی کم کروانے کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کرے۔ دو دنوں وزیر خارجہ نے باہمی دلچسپی کے مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے فروغ کے ذریعے دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید مستحکم بنانے پر اتفاق کیا، دو دنوں وزیر خارجہ نے باہمی مشاورت جاری رکھنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔ اس سے قبل شاہ محمود قریشی نے برطانوی وزیر خارجہ جیری میسٹ کو بھی فون کیا، انہوں نے برطانوی ہم منصب کو پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد جنوبی ایشیا میں امن وامان کی متحدہ صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا برطانیہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کا مستقل ممبر ہونے کے ناطے بھارت اور پاکستان کے مابین کشیدگی کے خاتمے کیلئے اپنا موثر کردار ادا کرے۔ برطانوی وزیر خارجہ نے شاہ محمود قریشی کو یقین دلایا کہ دو دنوں میں ملکہ کے مابین کشیدگی کم کروانے کیلئے وہ اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا پاک بھارت کو اپنے تصفیعی طلب تنازعات کے پر امن حل کیلئے مذاکرات کی راہ اختیار کرنی چاہیے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے جاپانی ہم منصب تاروکو کوئی لیلیون کیا اور انہیں دورہ جاپان موخر کرنے کی وجوہات سے آگاہ کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد امن وامان کی صورتحال انتہائی گھمبیر ہو چکی ہے، نتیجتاً ہمیں کوششیں صورتحال انتہائی محدود ہے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے جاپانی وزیر خارجہ کو اس ضمن میں اپنا موثر کردار ادا کرنے کی درخواست کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ اپنے وزیر اعظم کو بھی حالات سے آگاہ کریں۔ دو دنوں وزیر خارجہ نے جلد از جلد باہمی مشاورت سے دورہ جاپان کی نئی تاریخ طے کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ جرمن شریانی ادارے کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ پانچویں ماس نے شاہ محمود قریشی کی جانب سے بیلجیئم کیلئے کے دوران حملے میں قیام امن کیلئے پاکستان کی کوششوں کو سراہا۔ پاکستانی ہم منصب نے کہا بھارت پلوامہ حملے کے خاتمے سے بے نیاد اقدامات عائد کر رہا ہے۔ اہم سفارتی ذرائع کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ آئندہ چند دنوں میں اٹلی، ڈنمارک اور دیگر یورپی ممالک کے وزرائے خارجہ کے ساتھ بات چیت کریں گے، دریں اثناء وزیر خارجہ نے امریکی وزیر خارجہ سے بات چیت کی اور وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی سے ملاقات کی جس میں بین المذاہب ہم آہنگی سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

چین

Dunya News, 26-02-19



سی پیک خصوصی اقتصادی زونز سے 2 اضافی مراعات واپس لینے کا فیصلہ

شرح سود اور فریٹ سبسڈی واپس، ای سی سی کا اجلاس آج، چار نکاتی ایجنڈا زیر غور آئیگا
 اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگار خصوصی) وفاقی کابینہ کی اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی (ای سی سی) نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کو سی پیک کے تحت خصوصی
 اقتصادی زونز (ایس ای زیڈ) کو حاصل دو اضافی مراعات واپس لینے کا فیصلہ کر لیا جن میں صوبائی حکومتوں کی طرف سے شرح سود اور
 وفاقی حکومت کی فریٹ سبسڈی شامل ہے۔ ای سی سی نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کو ہدایت کی کہ ان خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں صنعتوں کے
 قیام کی منظوری کیلئے وفاقی حکومت کا کردار ختم کیا جائے جبکہ وہاں گیس اور بجلی کی فراہمی پر اخراجات وفاقی ترقیاتی پروگرام سے خرچ
 کرنے کی بھی منظوری دی ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ مسلم لیگ ن کے دور حکومت میں سی پیک پروگرام کے تحت نو خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے
 قیام کی منظوری اور صنعتوں کیلئے خصوصی مراعات کا اعلان کیا گیا تھا۔ ان میں رگھئی، نوشہرہ، دھانپتی، بوستان، بلوچستان، فیصل آباد،
 اسلام آباد، پورٹ قاسم، کراچی، میرپور آزاد کشمیر، مہمند ماربل سٹی، قانا اور مچھون داس، گلگت بلتستان شامل ہیں۔ روزنامہ دنیا کو
 موصول ای سی سی کے گزشتہ اجلاس کے فیصلے کے مطابق سرمایہ کاری بورڈ ان خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں صنعتوں کے قیام کیلئے ضروری
 کارروائی کا عمل مزید بہل بنائے اور وفاقی حکومت کا عمل دخل کم کرے اور تجاویز کمیٹی کو اگلے 45 دنوں میں منظوری کیلئے بھیجے اور
 خصوصی اقتصادی زونز ایکٹ 2012 میں آئینی ترمیم کرے تاکہ صوبائی حکومتوں کو زیادہ اختیار بنایا جاسکے۔ کمیٹی نے پاور ڈویژن
 اور پٹرولیم ڈویژن کو گیس اور بجلی کی مسلسل فراہمی کا مفصل پلان پیش کرنے کی بھی ہدایت کی۔ درس اٹنا وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر نے
 اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس آج منگل صبح ساڑھے 9 بجے طلب کر لیا جس میں چار نکاتی ایجنڈے پر غور کیا جائے گا جس میں پر امن
 بلوچستان پالیسی کے تحت فنڈز اجراء، دوران ملازمت جاں بحق افراد کے اہلخانہ کو معاوضے کی ادائیگی، وزیر اعظم معاونت کمیٹی کے
 تحت معاوضے کیلئے ضمنی گرانٹ، وزارت بجکاری کیلئے 1 کروڑ 14 لاکھ روپے کی ضمنی گرانٹ اور جھنگ میں 1263 میگا واٹ ایل این
 جی پاور پلانٹ کو گیس فراہمی کی سریاں منظوری کیلئے پیش کی جائیں گی۔

مراعات واپس

Dunya News, 27-02-19**Dunya News, 27-02-19**

چینی وفد کا بارانی یونیورسٹی کا دورہ، وائس چانسلر سے ملاقات

چائینہ کی ہوٹو ہانگ ایگریکلچر یونیورسٹی کے وفد نے تعلیم و تحقیق کے شعبوں میں تعاون پر بات کی
 راولپنڈی (خصوصی نامہ نگار) چائینہ کی ہوٹو ہانگ ایگریکلچر یونیورسٹی کے وفد نے پیر مہر علی شاہ بارانی زرعی
 یونیورسٹی راولپنڈی کا دورہ کیا جس کی سربراہی پروفیسر ڈیمن ژانگ نے کی اور وائس چانسلر یونیورسٹی پروفیسر ڈاکٹر
 ندیم اختر عباسی سے ملاقات کی اور دونوں یونیورسٹیوں کے مابین تعلیم و تحقیق کے ممکنہ شعبوں میں تعاون اور
 تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دینے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

Dunya News, 28-02-19**چینی اقتصادی و تجارتی مشیر کا سویٹ ہوم، تھیلیسیمیا سینٹر کا دورہ****وینگ ژیاو ازیر علاج مریضوں اور رہائش پذیر بچوں سے ملے، خیریت دریافت کی**

اسلام آباد (سٹی رپورٹر) پاکستان میں چین کے اقتصادی و تجارتی مشیر وینگ ژیاو نے بدھ کو پاکستان سویٹ ہوم اور پاکستان تھیلیسیمیا سینٹر کا دورہ کیا جہاں ایم ڈی بیت المال عون عباس نے انہیں عوامی و فلاحی منصوبوں کے حوالے سے آگاہ کیا، اس موقع پر معزز مہمان تھیلیسیمیا سینٹر میں زیر علاج مریضوں سے بھی ملے اور ان کی خیریت دریافت کی، بعد ازاں بیجنگ ڈائریکٹر پاکستان بیت المال کے ہمراہ سویٹ ہوم کا دورہ کیا اور رہائش پذیر بچوں سے ملے، چین کے اقتصادی و تجارتی مشیر نے پاکستان بیت المال کے اقدامات کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ ملک سے غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے ادارے کی کارکردگی بے مثال ہے۔

Express News, 16-02-19

چین سے فارغ التحصیل پاکستانی طلباسی پیک کی کامیابی میں کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کہا ہے کہ 25 ہزار کے قریب پاکستانی طلبا چین میں تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں، متعلقہ شعبوں میں چین سے فارغ التحصیل طلباسی پیک کی ترقی اور کامیابی میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں۔ نسٹ کے شعبہ چائیز سٹڈیز سنٹر آف ایکس لنس کے وفد سے ملاقات کے دوران ان کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت غربت کے خاتمے اور عوام کی معاشی و سماجی ترقی کے لیے کئی پائلٹ منصوبوں کا آغاز کر رہی ہے، موجودہ حکومت نے چین کی حکومت کے ساتھ مل کر اقتصادی راہداری کے دائرہ کار کو وسیع کرتے ہوئے زراعت، غربت کے خاتمے، سماجی و اقتصادی اور تکنیکی مہارت کے شعبوں کو شامل کیا ہے۔

Express News, 17-02-19

سی پیک سے خطے میں غربت کا خاتمہ ہوگا: ہاشم جواں بخت

فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل سٹی کی جلد از جلد تکمیل کو یقینی بنایا جائے، اجلاس میں ہدایت

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) صوبائی وزیر خزانہ مخدوم ہاشم جواں بخت کی زیر صدارت سی پیک ٹاسک فورس کا پہلا اجلاس پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ بورڈ پنجاب میں منعقد ہوا۔ اجلاس میں چیئرمین پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ بورڈ حبیب الرحمان، سیکرٹری پی اینڈ ڈی افخار سہو، سیکرٹری ہائر ایجوکیشن مومن آغا، سیکرٹری انڈسٹریز ندیم الرحمان، سیکرٹری سکول ایجوکیشن محمد محمود، چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر خالد شیر دل، چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر پنجاب انویسٹمنٹ بورڈ جہانزیب برانہ اور متعلقہ محکموں کے نمائندگان نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس کا مقصد پنجاب میں پاک چائنہ اکنامک کارڈور سے متعلقہ سرگرمیوں کا جائزہ لینا اور آئندہ لائحہ عمل تیار کرنا تھا۔ صوبائی وزیر نے سیکرٹری انرجی کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل سٹی کی جلد از جلد تکمیل کو یقینی بنائیں اور اس حوالے سے حائل مشکلات کے لیے متعلقہ اداروں سے رابطہ کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چائنہ اکنامک کارڈور خطے سے غربت کے خاتمے کا ایک سنہری موقع ہے۔

Express News, 20-02-19

سعودی عرب کو سی پیک کا حصہ بنانے پر کوئی تحفظات نہیں: چین

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن لی جیان ژاؤ نے کہا ہے کہ سعودی عرب سمیت کوئی بھی ملک چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے (سی پیک) کا حصہ بن سکتا ہے، تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت پر چین کو کوئی تحفظات نہیں، سی پیک اوپن پروگرام ہے، امید ہے سی پیک میں مزید ممالک شامل ہونگے، تیسرے فریق کی پہلے بھی شمولیت موجود ہے، کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور سٹیشن میں 15 فیصد فنائنگ آئی ایف سی اور عالمی بینک کی ہے، گوادر میں ترقی کے بہت مواقع موجود ہیں یہ پاکستان پر منحصر ہے کہ وہ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو کیسے ترغیب دیتا ہے۔ سی پیک کے نئے مرحلے میں اب خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کیے جائیں گے۔ اتوار کو نجی ٹی وی کے پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن لی جیان ژاؤ نے کہا کہ سی پیک اب نئے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہا ہے۔ پہلے پانچ سال جلد مکمل ہونے والے منصوبے تھے اب نئے مرحلے میں اسے توسیع دی جا رہی ہے جس میں ترجیح خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کا قیام ہے۔ ان کے ذریعے پاکستان کی صنعتی ترقی کو فروغ ملے گا۔ ان کے ذریعے پاکستان چین کے علاوہ دیگر ممالک کو سرمایہ کاری کے لئے راغب کر سکے گا۔

Express News, 20-02-19

سعودی عرب کو سی پیک اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت

شاہ محمود سے سعودی وزیر خارجہ، اسد عمر سے سعودی وزیر توانائی اور سرمایہ کاروں کی ملاقاتیں

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر، ایجنسیاں) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے سی پیک کے تحت اکنامک زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کے لئے سعودی عرب کو دعوت دی ہے۔ اتوار کو یہاں وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی سے سعودی وزیر خارجہ عادل الجبیر نے ملاقات کی جس میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک اکنامک سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ کا آغاز کریں گے۔ سی پیک کے نتیجے میں گوادربن جائے گا، سعودی ولی عہد کے دورے کے بعد کچھ معاہدوں پر دستخط ہونگے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر سے سعودی وزیر توانائی خالد الفلح نے ملاقات کی ہے۔ اسد عمر کے مطابق سعودی وزیر توانائی سے اربوں ڈالر کے سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبوں پر بات ہوئی ہے۔ اسد عمر نے کہا سعودی عرب کی کمپنی ایکوپاور پاکستان کے انرجی سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہے، اقدام سے پاکستان کے امپورٹ بل میں کمی آئے گی اور ملک کی توانائی کی ضروریات سستے اور ماحول دوست ذرائع سے پوری کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ اسد عمر کے چیئرمین اے سی ڈبلیو اے پاور گروپ محمد اے ابونئیان کی سربراہی میں سعودی سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد سے بھی مذاکرات ہوئے۔ مشیر تجارت عبدالرازق داؤد، چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ ہارون شریف بھی شریک تھے۔

Express News, 20-02-19

چینی سال نو کے آغاز پر پنجاب یونیورسٹی میں تقریب

لاہور (بیورو نیوز) کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ آف پنجاب یونیورسٹی، لاء کالج میں چین کے سال نو کی تقریبات کے سلسلے میں پروگرام کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں طلباء اور طالبات کی کثیر تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ چائینز لینٹرن فیٹیول میں سال نو کے آغاز پر چینی طلباء نے نغمے پیش کیے۔

Express News, 20-02-19

تخفیف اسلحہ کا معاملہ اور چین

جرمنی کی چانسلر انجیلا مرکل نے کہا ہے کہ ہتھیاروں کی بین الاقوامی تخفیف کی کوششوں میں چین کو بھی شامل کیا جائے کیونکہ بیجنگ کے میزائلوں کے ذخیرے کے بارے میں بھی عالمی سطح پر تشویش پائی جاتی ہے علاوہ ازیں امریکہ اور روس کے مابین ہونے والا اسلحہ کے حوالے سے معاہدہ معطل ہو چکا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ جب سے ماسکو اور واشنگٹن نے درمیانے فاصلے پر مار کرنے والے ایٹمی ہتھیاروں کے معاہدے سے باہر نکلنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا ہے جوہری ہتھیاروں کے اضافے کے حوالے سے خطرات ایک بار پھر بڑھنے شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ جرمن چانسلر انجیلا مرکل نے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ جوہری ہتھیاروں پر پابندی کا نیا معاہدہ طے پانا چاہیے جس میں چین کو بھی شامل کیا جائے کیونکہ وہ بھی اپنے جوہری ہتھیاروں میں اضافہ کر رہا ہے جو خطرے کا باعث ہے۔ جوہری ہتھیاروں پر پابندی کا معاملہ ایسا ہے جو سب کو پسند آتا ہے لیکن جب عمل کی باری آتی ہے تو ہر ملک اپنے اپنے مفاد کو دیکھتا ہے۔ انجیلا مرکل نے تخفیف اسلحہ کی جدوجہد میں امریکہ، یورپ اور روس کے ساتھ ساتھ اب چین کو بھی فعال کردار ادا کرنے کا مشورہ دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا ہے کہ چین کے ایٹمی اثاثے بھی باقی دنیا کے لئے تشویش کا موجب ہیں لہذا اب زیادہ توجہ اسی کی طرف دی جانی چاہیے۔ جرمن چانسلر نے ان خیالات کا اظہار میونخ سکیورٹی کانفرنس سے خطاب میں کیا ہے کہ واشنگٹن نے آئی این ایف معاہدے سے دستبردار ہونے کا اعلان کیا ہے کیونکہ ماسکو نے نئے میزائلوں کی تنصیب شروع کر دی ہے جن کے بارے میں امریکہ اور نیٹو کا موقف ہے کہ ایسا کرنا جوہری معاہدے کی صریح خلاف ورزی میں آتا ہے لہذا روس کو چاہیے کہ اپنے طور پر جوہری ہتھیاروں کی کمی کا اعلان کرے لیکن مرکل کے اس مطالبے پر نہ تو امریکی نائب صدر مائیک پنس نے اور نہ ہی روسی وزیر خارجہ سرگی لاوروف نے کوئی بات کی ہے حالانکہ چانسلر مرکل کے بعد امریکی اور روس کے نمائندوں نے بھی میونخ کانفرنس سے خطاب کیا تھا۔ اگر ماسکو اور واشنگٹن آئی این ایف میں تبدیلی پر تیار نہیں ہوتے جس کے تحت زمین سے زمین پر مار کرنے والے ایٹمی ہتھیاروں پر جو 500 سے 5,500 کلو میٹر تک مار کرنے والے میزائلوں پر پابندی ہے۔ اس معاہدہ پر عمل درآمد اگست کے مہینے میں معطل ہو جائے گا۔ نیٹو کے سربراہ جنرل سٹولنبرگ نے کہا ہے کہ انہیں روسی وزیر خارجہ کی طرف سے مثبت جواب کی توقع نہیں ہے۔ جرمنی آئندہ مہینے برلن میں ایک بین الاقوامی کانفرنس منعقد کر رہا ہے جس میں کثیر القابلی دنیا میں ایٹمی ہتھیاروں کو کنٹرول میں رکھنے کے طریقوں اور اصولوں پر غور و خوض کیا جائے گا تاکہ دنیا کو لڈوار“ میں درپیش آنے والے مسائل کا شکار نہ ہو سکے لیکن عالمی مبصرین کے نزدیک چین کو کسی اتفاق رائے پر منانا بہت مشکل ہو گا کیونکہ اس وقت چین اپنی استعداد کار بڑھانے کی پوزیشن میں ہے، اس لئے کسی کے کہنے پر اسے روک دینا آسان نہیں ہو گا۔ تزویراتی سٹڈیز کے ادارے کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین کا 95 فیصد جوہری اسلحہ جوہری ہتھیاروں پر پابندی کے ذیل میں آتا ہے۔ بہر حال یہ صورتحال بتاتی ہے کہ اب مغربی دنیا چین کی طرف متوجہ ہو گئی ہے۔ پہلے چین کو تجارتی حریف سمجھا جاتا تھا لیکن اب اسے اسلحہ کے حوالے سے بھی خطرہ سمجھا جا رہا ہے۔ جوہری ہتھیاروں کی تیاری اور پھیلاؤ کا معاملہ مستقبل میں مزید پیچیدہ ہو گا اور چین پر دباؤ بھی مزید بڑھے گا۔

Express News, 20-02-19

تفازعات کے حل کیلئے پاکستان بھارت مذاکرات کریں، چین

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین نے پاکستان اور بھارت سے کہا ہے کہ وہ ضبط و تحمل کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے تمام تصفیہ طلب امور کے حل کیلئے جلد از جلد مذاکرات کا آغاز کریں۔ یہ بات چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان چنگ شوانگ نے منگل کو پریس بریفنگ میں کہی۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت دونوں جنوبی ایشیا کے اہم ممالک ہیں، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات میں استحکام علاقائی امن، استحکام اور ترقی کیلئے ضروری ہے۔ جنوبی ایشیا میں صورتحال عمومی طور پر مستحکم ہے، یہ صورتحال مشکل سے بنائی گئی ہے اور اسے برقرار رکھنا تمام متعلقہ فریقوں کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ چین کو امید ہے کہ پاکستان اور بھارت دونوں ضبط و تحمل کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے تمام تصفیہ طلب امور کے حل کیلئے مذاکرات کا جلد از جلد آغاز کریں گے۔ پاکستان میں سعودی عرب کی سرمایہ کاری اور سعودی ولی عہد کے دورہ پاکستان کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کو خوشی ہے کہ پاکستان سعودی عرب سمیت دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ دوستانہ تبادلوں اور تعاون کیلئے اقدامات کر رہا ہے۔

Express News, 20-02-19

سرگودھا کی رہائشی لڑکی کو چین سمگل کر نیکی کوشش ناکام

والدین نے 4 لاکھ میں فروخت کیا، اسلام آباد ایئرپورٹ سے چینی باشندے کو پکڑ لیا گیا

راولپنڈی (عمران اصغر) ایف آئی اے امیگریشن نے نیو اسلام آباد ایئرپورٹ سے انسانی سمگلنگ کی سنگین واردات ناکام بنا کر چار لاکھ روپے میں فروخت ہونے والی سرگودھا کی رہائشی خاتون اور اس کے کرئیر چینی باشندے کو تھویل میں لے کر مزید تحقیقات کے لیے معاملہ انسداد انسانی سمگلنگ سیل منتقل کر دیا، ایف آئی اے امیگریشن ذرائع نے بتایا کہ چائے جانے والی نجی ایئر لائن کی پرواز 947 کی چیک ان کے دوران سرگودھا سے تعلق رکھنے والی خاتون سیلویہ نے ایف آئی اے حکام کو بتایا کہ اس کے والدین نے اسے چار لاکھ روپے میں چینی باشندے لیزنگ زوان کے ہاتھوں فروخت کیا ہے، خاتون کا کہنا تھا کہ اس کو شبہ ہے کہ چینی باشندہ اس کو بیرون ملک لے جا کر مزید پیسے حاصل کرنے کے لیے آگے فروخت کرے گا، خاتون نے مزید انکشاف کیا کہ اس سے قبل اس کو قطر میں ایک حبشی کے ہاتھوں فروخت کرنے کی کوشش کی تھی لیکن قطر کے قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں نے اس کو پاکستان ڈیپورٹ کر دیا، خاتون نے الزام لگایا کہ اس کے والدین نے چینی باشندہ سے پیسے حاصل کرنے کے بعد 4 فروری کو اس کے ٹریول ڈاکیومنٹ چھین لیے تھے، ایف آئی اے امیگریشن عملے نے اس معاملے کو مشکوک جانتے ہوئے خاتون اور چینی باشندے کو سفر کرنے سے روکتے ہوئے معاملہ ایف آئی اے انسداد انسانی سمگلنگ سیل اسلام آباد کے حوالے کر دیا ہے، ذرائع کا کہنا تھا کہ چینی باشندہ اسلام آباد کے سیکٹر ایف سیون ون میں میرج بیورو کا بزنس کرتا ہے۔

Express News, 20-02-19

چینی قونصل خانے پر حملہ، دہشتگردوں کو ”را“ کی معاونت کا انکشاف

چالان عدالت میں جمع، مفرور دہشتگردوں کی انٹرپول کے ذریعے گرفتاری کی سفارش

کراچی (کورٹ رپورٹر) دہشت گردوں کو انڈین ایجنسی راکہ مالی معاونت کا انکشاف، چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کا عبوری چالان انسداد دہشت گردی کی منتظم عدالت میں جمع کر دیا گیا، چالان میں سی ٹی ڈی نے مفرور دہشت گردوں کی انٹرپول کے ذریعے گرفتاری کی سفارش کر دی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے میں اہم پیش رفت سامنے آگئی، چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کا عبوری چالان سی ٹی ڈی نے انسداد دہشت گردی کی منتظم عدالت میں جمع کر دیا، چالان میں کہا گیا کہ عبداللطیف سمیت 2 ملزمان اپنے جرم کا اعتراف کر چکے ہیں، دونوں ملزمان نے مجسٹریٹ کے روبرو زبردفعہ 164 بیان قلمبند کر لیا ہے، چالان میں انکشاف کیا گیا کہ دہشت گردوں کو انڈین ایجنسی راکہ مالی معاونت کی، سی ٹی ڈی نے مفرور ملزمان کی انٹرپول کے ذریعے گرفتاری کی سفارش کر دی، چالان کے متن کے مطابق مفرور ملزمان کی گرفتاری کیلئے انٹرپول سے رابطہ کیا جائے، ملزمان میں احمد حسنین، نادر خان، علی احمد، عبداللطیف اور اسلم شامل ہیں، عبوری چالان کے متن کے مطابق ملزمان نے ہلاک دہشت گردوں کو سہولت فراہم کی، چالان کے مطابق ملزمان نے چینی قونصل خانے پر حملے کا اعتراف کیا ہے، ملزمان نے حملہ آوروں کو اسلحہ، دھماکہ خیز مواد فراہم کیا، ملزمان نے ہلاک دہشت گرد کے ساتھ وقوع سے قبل چینی قونصل خانے کی ریکی بھی کی، ملزمان کا تعلق کالعدم بی ایل اے سے ہے، چالان میں انکشاف کیا گیا کہ ملزمان نے انڈین ایجنسی راکہ بیرون ملک سے مالی معاونت حاصل ہے، چالان میں 5 سے زائد دہشت گردوں کو مفرور قرار دیا ہے۔

Express News, 21-02-19

ایران علاقائی، بین الاقوامی امور میں مزید تعمیری کردار ادا کرے، چین

مشرق وسطیٰ کی تبدیلی ہوتی صورت حال کا دونوں ممالک کو بھی سامنا ہے، چینی وزیر خارجہ

چین کیساتھ شراکت داری کو بڑی اہمیت دیتے ہیں، ایرانی وزیر خارجہ جواد ظریف

بیجنگ (آئی این پی / ایش نہوا) چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے گذشتہ روز ایرانی وزیر خارجہ محمد جواد ظریف سے ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر بات چیت کرتے ہوئے چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ علاقائی معاملات میں ایران کا کردار قابل قدر ہے اور ایران توقع کرتا ہے کہ وہ علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی امور میں مزید تعمیری کردار ادا کریگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مشرق وسطیٰ اور دنیا میں صورت حال تیزی سے تبدیل ہو رہی ہے چین اور ایران کے درمیان تعلقات کو بھی ایک نئی صورت حال کا سامنا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک ہزاروں سالہ تہذیب اور روایات کے ساتھ وابستہ ہیں۔ وقطی تبدیلیوں کیساتھ بھی دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات مزید مضبوط ہوئے ہیں اور ہماری کوششوں نے دو طرفہ تعلقات میں نئی روح پھونک دی ہے۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے ایرانی وزیر خارجہ محمد جواد ظریف نے کہا کہ ایرانی حکومت چین کے ساتھ شراکت داری کو بڑی اہمیت دیتی ہے وہ چین کو ایک اہم ملک تصور کرتے ہوئے سد ابھار معاون شراکت دار سمجھتی ہے۔ دونوں ممالک اپنے درمیان رابطے اور تعاون کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کی کوشش جاری رکھے گئے اور وہ اپنے قانونی حقوق اور مفادات کے تحفظ کیلئے کام کریں گے۔

Express News, 22-02-19

سی پیک، قومی سلامتی پارلیمانی کمیٹیاں تشکیل دینے کی تحریک منظور
 قومی اسمبلی کی خصوصی کشمیر کمیٹی قائم کرنے کی تحریک کو بھی ایوان نے منظور کر لیا
 سپیکر کو ارکان میں ردوبدل کا اختیار، سینیٹ ارکان کی نمائندگی چیئر مین کریں گے

اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگر) قومی اسمبلی نے سی پیک اور قومی سلامتی پارلیمانی کمیٹیاں تشکیل دینے کی تحریک منظور کر لیں، قومی اسمبلی کی خصوصی کشمیر کمیٹی قائم کرنے کی تحریک بھی منظور کر کے سپیکر کو کمیٹیوں کی تشکیل، ارکان میں ردوبدل کا اختیار دے دیا گیا، پارلیمانی کمیٹیوں میں سینیٹ ارکان کی نمائندگی چیئر مین سینیٹ کریں گے۔ پارلیمانی کمیٹی برائے سی پیک 21 ارکان پر مشتمل ہوگی، کمیٹی منصوبوں کی نگرانی کرے گی اور بروقت تکمیل یقینی بنائے گی کمیٹی سی پیک منصوبوں میں بہتری کی تجاویز بھی دے گی جب کہ وفاق میں سی پیک کے لیے اتفاق رائے و تعاون کی راہ ہموار کرنے کے اقدامات اٹھائے گی، پارلیمانی کمیٹی برائے قومی سلامتی کی سربراہی سپیکر کریں گے، 21 رکنی قومی سلامتی کمیٹی کے ارکان پارلیمانی لیڈرز ہوں گے، پارلیمانی کمیٹی قومی سلامتی سے متعلق معاملات کا جائزہ لے گی، فوجی عدالتوں کی کارکردگی، نیشنل ایکشن پلان پر عملدرآمد میں پیش رفت اور کمرنل جسٹس سسٹم میں بہتری کے عمل کی نگرانی بھی کرے گی۔ ایوان نے قومی اسمبلی سیکرٹریٹ کے مالی امور سے متعلق ہاؤس فنانس کمیٹی کی تشکیل کی بھی منظوری دی جب کہ وزارت توانائی کی پاور اور پیٹرولیم ڈویژن کو الگ الگ تصور کرنے کی قرارداد بھی منظور کر لی گئی۔

Express News, 22-02-19

چین سے تعلقات عالمی استحکام کی بنیاد ہیں: روسی صدر

ماسکو یوریشین اقتصادی یونین کی مشترکہ مارکیٹ کی تشکیل کیلئے کوشش کرتا رہے گا

ماسکو (اے پی پی) روسی صدر ولادی میر پیوٹن نے کہا کہ روس چین تعلقات عالمی امور میں استحکام کی بنیاد ہیں۔ روسی صدر نے ان خیالات کا اظہار پارلیمنٹ میں حکومتی ورکنگ رپورٹ دیتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ روس اور چین کے درمیان برابری اور باہمی مفادات پر مشتمل دو طرفہ تعلقات عالمی امور میں استحکام کے لیے اہم عنصر ہیں اور سازگار اقتصادی تعاون کی مثال بھی دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اچھے تعلقات یورپ اور ایشیا کی علاقائی سلامتی کی ضمانت کے لیے فائدہ مند ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ روس یوریشین اقتصادی یونین کی مشترکہ مارکیٹ کی تشکیل کے لیے کوشش کرتا رہے گا، دنیا کے ساتھ تعاون کو مسلسل فروغ دیا جائے گا، جس میں یوریشین اقتصادی یونین اور دی ہیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو کے ملاپ کو آگے بڑھانا بھی شامل ہے۔

Express News, 22-02-19

سکل ڈو پلپمنٹ سے سی پیک میں روزگار کے مواقع بڑھیں گے: چینی سفیر

ہم 20 ہزار سے زائد روزگار کے مواقع پہلے ہی پاکستانیوں کیلئے پیدا کر چکے ہیں

سعودی ولی عہد کے دورے سے پاکستان میں مزید سرمایہ کاری آرہی ہے: یاؤ جنگ کا خطاب

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں مقامی یونینز سی پیک کے منصوبوں میں لیبر کی بھرتی کیلئے اپنی شرائط رکھتی ہیں، جس کے بغیر بھرتی نہیں ہو سکتی، روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنے پر حکومت پاکستان کی پالیسی واضح ہے، عمران خان پاکستان میں ملازمت کے مواقع پیدا کرنا چاہتے ہیں، سکل ڈو پلپمنٹ سے سی پیک میں روزگار کے مواقع بڑھیں گے۔ چین پاکستان سینٹر آف ایکسی لینس کی جانب سے سی پیک سکل ڈو پلپمنٹ اور درپیش چیلنجز پر کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا گیا، کانفرنس میں سی پیک کے پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر حسان داؤد بٹ، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر سی پیک سینٹر آف ایکسی لینس ڈاکٹر عبدالجلیل اور دیگر کے علاوہ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے بطور مہمان خصوصی شرکت کی، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان کے پاس نوجوان آبادی اور ترقی کے مواقع بھی زیادہ ہیں، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی پالیسی واضح ہے، تاہم چائینز کمپنیوں میں بھرتی کیلئے پاکستان کی مقامی یونینز اپنی شرائط رکھتی ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ سعودی ولی عہد کے دورے سے مزید سرمایہ کاری پاکستان آرہی ہے، سکل ڈو پلپمنٹ سی پیک کے لیے ضروری ہے ہمارا فنڈ سوشل ڈو پلپمنٹ پروگرام کو حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے پاکستان آرہا ہے، ہم ہیومن ریسورس ڈو پلپمنٹ پر ریسورسز شفٹ کر رہے ہیں، ہم 20 ہزار سے زائد روزگار کے مواقع پہلے ہی پاکستانیوں کیلئے پیدا کر چکے ہیں، اس موقع پر سی پیک کے پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر حسان داؤد بٹ نے کہا کہ سی پیک سے جہاں مواقع پیدا ہو رہے ہیں وہاں چیلنجز بھی درپیش ہیں، 19 اکنامک زون بڑے پیمانے پر روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کریں گے، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر نیو ٹیک ڈاکٹر ناصر خان نے کہا کہ اگر تربیت یافتہ ورک فورس نہیں ہوگی تو چائینز پاکستان میں انڈسٹری نہیں لگا سکیں گے، سکل لیبر فورس پر فوکس کیا جائے۔

Express News, 23-02-19

سعودی عرب اور چین میں 10 ارب ڈالر کے معاہدے

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) سعودی ولی عہد محمد بن سلمان کے چین کے دورے کے دوران 10 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے تیل کے معاہدے اور توانائی سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں مفاہمت کی 35 یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ سعودی ولی عہد نے سعودی چینی مشترکہ کوششوں کے تحت شمالی مشرقی صوبے لیاننگ میں ریفا سُنزی اور پیٹرو کیمیکل کمپلیکس کی تعمیر کے لیے 10 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے ایک معاہدے پر دستخط کیے ہیں۔

Express News, 24-02-19

پلوامہ واقعہ، تحقیقات کی پاکستانی پیشکش خوش آئند، چین

پاکستان اور بھارت تھل کا مظاہرہ، مسائل کے حل کیلئے مذاکرات کریں، چینی وزارت خارجہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے پلوامہ واقعہ کی تحقیقات کیلئے بھارت کے ساتھ تعاون کرنے کی پاکستانی خواہش کو سراہا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان گینگ شوانگ کے مطابق چین مقبوضہ کشمیر میں اس حالیہ واقعہ کے بارے میں قریبی رابطہ رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔ چینی حکومت نے اس امر کو سراہا کہ پاکستانی حکومت نے پلوامہ واقعہ کی تحقیقات کے سلسلے میں بھارت کے ساتھ رابطے اور مذاکرات کے ذریعے اختلافات حل کرنے کی خواہش کا اظہار کیا ہے ترجمان نے کہا کہ متعلقہ فریقین کو مثبت اور غیر جانبدارانہ تحقیقات کے ذریعے سچائی کی تلاش کرنی چاہیے۔ چین کو توقع ہے کہ بھارت اور پاکستان تھل کا مظاہرہ کریں گے اور مذاکرات کی میز پر آئیں گے۔ چین نے اس سے قبل بھی بھارت اور پاکستان پر زور دیا تھا کہ وہ اپنے دو طرفہ تعلقات میں کشیدگی کو ہوا دینے سے گریز کریں۔ بھارت اور پاکستان کے درمیان حالیہ دنوں میں بڑھتی ہوئی کشیدگی کی طرف اشارہ کرتے ہوئے ترجمان گینگ شوانگ نے یہاں باقاعدہ نیوز بریفنگ کے دوران کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت دونوں ہی جنوبی ایشیا کے اہم ممالک ہیں۔ خطے میں امن، استحکام اور ترقی کیلئے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان بہتر تعلقات ضروری ہیں۔ اس وقت جنوبی ایشیا میں صورتحال پر امن ہے۔

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چینی سفارتخانے، قونصلیٹس پر حملوں کا خدشہ، سکیورٹی سخت

نیکانے تھریٹ الرٹ جاری کر دیا، سکیورٹی کو بڑھا دیا: پولیس افسر کی ”ایکسپریس“ سے گفتگو

راولپنڈی (صالح مغل، خبرنگار) علیحدگی پسند تنظیم ایسٹ ترکمانستان اسلامک موومنٹ (ای ٹی آئی ایم) اور اس سے منسلک عناصر کی جانب سے اسلام آباد میں چائینز ایمبیسی سمیت لاہور اور کراچی میں چائینز قونصلیٹس کو نشانہ بنائے جانے کے خدشے کے پیش نظر پنجاب، سندھ کی صوبائی حکومتوں، اسلام آباد سمیت دونوں صوبوں کے آئی جی پولیس اور سکیورٹی سے متعلقہ اداروں کو فول پروف انتظامات کے لیے کہا گیا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق انسداد دہشت گردی کے لیے تشکیل دیئے گئے نیشنل کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم اتھارٹی (نیکانے) اسلام آباد کی جانب سے تھریٹ الرٹ کے عنوان سے ہوم سیکرٹری پنجاب و سندھ، آئی جی و چیف کمشنر اسلام آباد، آئی جی پنجاب و سندھ سمیت ڈائریکٹرز جنرل پاکستان ریجنل پنجاب و سندھ کو مراسلہ ارسال کیا گیا ہے جس میں کہا گیا کہ اطلاعات ہیں کہ ایسٹ ترکمانستان اسلامی موومنٹ (ای ٹی آئی ایم) اور اس سے منسلک عناصر وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں چائینز ایمبیسی اور لاہور و کراچی میں چائینز قونصل خانوں کو مستقبل قریب میں نشانہ بنانے کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہے ہیں لہذا کسی بھی ناخوشگوار واقعہ سے بچنے کے لیے کڑی نگرانی اور فول پروف سکیورٹی انتظامات کی ضرورت ہے۔ ”ایکسپریس“ کے رابطے پر پولیس کے سینئر آفیسر نے بتایا کہ ایسٹ ترکمانستان اسلامک موومنٹ (ای ٹی آئی ایم) علیحدگی پسند تنظیم رہی ہے جس سے منسلک عناصر کے خلاف کارروائیاں بھی جاری رہیں ہیں انہوں نے تھریٹ الرٹ کی روشنی میں نہ صرف چائینز ایمبیسی اسلام آباد بلکہ دیگر قونصل خانوں کے گرد و نواح سمیت صوبائی داخلی و خارجی راستوں پر نگرانی و سکیورٹی کو بڑھا دیا گیا ہے۔

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پاکستان کے چین، جاپان، برطانیہ اور پولینڈ سے سفارتی رابطے

کشیڈ گی ختم کرائیں، نازک صورتحال کے باعث دورہ جاپان ملتوی کرنا پڑا، شاہ محمود

اسلام آباد، ملتان (خالد محمود، نامہ نگار) پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد بھارت کے جنگی جنون کینٹھاف پاکستان کی طرف سے سفارتی کوششوں میں مزید تیزی آگئی ہے، وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے چین، جاپان، جرمنی، برطانیہ اور پولینڈ کے وزرائے خارجہ سے ٹیلیفونک رابطہ کیا ہے، اس ضمن میں انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و امان کی صورتحال انتہائی گھمبیر ہو چکی ہے، متیو ضہ جموں و کشمیر میں صورتحال انتہائی مخدوش ہے، پاکستان پر امن بحال اور علاقائی امن پر یقین رکھتا ہے، پاکستان نے امن و امان کی ذمہ داری کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے بھارت سے شواہد طلب کئے اور پلوامہ واقعہ کی تحقیقات میں مکمل تعاون کی پیشکش کی ہے۔

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے پیر کو چینی ہم منصب وانگ ژی سے ٹیلیفون پر رابطہ کیا اور انہیں متیو ضہ کشمیر میں پلوامہ کے واقعہ کے بعد پیدا ہونے والی علاقائی صورتحال کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا۔ ترہمان دفتر خارجہ کی طرف سے جاری بیان کی مطابق وزیر خارجہ نے مسلسل حمایت پر چین کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے خطے میں امن و استحکام اور بھارت کیساتھ تمام مسائل کو مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے کی پاکستان کی خواہش کو اجاگر کیا۔ انہوں نے کشیڈ گی ختم کرنے کے لئے پاکستان کی طرف سے اٹھائے جانے والے اقدامات پر بھی روشنی ڈالی۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے ٹیلیفون پر وزیر خارجہ کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کی کوششوں کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے اتفاق کیا کہ پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد پیدا کی جانے والی علاقائی صورتحال پورے خطے کے امن و سلامتی کے لئے سنگین مضمرات کی حامل ہے۔ انہوں نے ہینگر دی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کی گراں قدر خدمات کا اعتراف کیا جس کے لئے پاکستان نے ہماری قیمت ادا کی ہے۔ دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے علاقائی صورتحال کے بارے میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ رابطہ برقرار رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے جاپانی ہم منصب تارو کونو سے بھی ٹیلیفونک گفتگو کی جس میں انہیں اپنا دورہ جاپان موخر کرنے کی وجوہات سے آگاہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گذشتہ سال جاپان کی اعلیٰ شخصیات کے پاکستان کے متواتر دوروں سے دونوں ممالک کے مابین باہمی تعلقات میں بہت بہتری آئی اسی تناظر میں آپ کی دعوت پر مجھے 24 فروری کو جاپان کے دورے پر روانہ ہونا تھا لیکن علاقائی نازک صورتحال میں میری ملک میں موجودگی ناکریم ہے اور ان وجوہات کی بنا پر مجھے اپنا دورہ جاپان موخر کرنا پڑا ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ انہوں نے اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل کو اس کشیڈ گی کو کم کرنے کیلئے، بذریعہ خط اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کا کہا ہے اور جاپان کو بھی اس ضمن میں اپنا موثر کردار ادا کرنے کی درخواست کی ہے۔ دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے جلد از جلد باہمی مشاورت سے دورہ جاپان کی نئی تاریخ طے کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اے بی پی کی مطابق وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے جرمنی کے وزیر خارجہ ہیکو ماس سے بھی ٹیلیفون پر گفتگو کی۔ وزیر خارجہ نے اپنے جرمن ہم منصب کو پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد خطے میں امن و امان کی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا۔ فریقین نے پاکستان اور جرمنی کے مابین دو طرفہ تعلقات کی موجودہ نوعیت پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے برطانوی سیکرٹری آف سٹیٹ برائے امور خارجہ دولت مشترکہ جیری می ہنٹ سے بھی ٹیلیفونک رابطہ میں کیا۔ دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے پاکستان اور برطانیہ کے درمیان دو طرفہ تعلقات کی موجودہ نوعیت پر اطمینان کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے اہم علاقائی امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے برطانوی ہم منصب کو پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و امان کی مخدوش صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ برطانیہ سلامتی کونسل کے مستقل رکن ہونے کے ناطے، ہندوستان اور پاکستان کے مابین کشیڈ گی کے خاتمے کیلئے اپنا موثر کردار ادا کرے۔ جیری می ہنٹ نے کہا کہ ہندوستان اور پاکستان کو اپنے تصفیہ طلب تنازعات کے پر امن حل کیلئے مذاکرات کی راہ اختیار کرنی چاہیے، دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے پاکستان اور برطانیہ کے مابین دو طرفہ مشاورت جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے پولینڈ کے وزیر خارجہ یاسک چا پو ویتج سے ٹیلیفونک رابطہ کر کے جنوبی ایشیا میں پیدا ہونے والی امن و امان کی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا۔

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اضافی ٹیکس آئندہ جمعہ کے روز نافذ کیا جانا تھا، حقوق دانش ملکیت، ٹیکنالوجی، زراعت، خدمات اور کرنسی سمیت متعدد شعبوں میں پیشرفت ہوئی ہے: امریکی صدر

واشنگٹن (نیوز ایجنسیاں) امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے چین کے ساتھ تجارتی مذاکرات میں پیشرفت کے تناظر میں چینی مصنوعات پر محصولات میں اضافہ موخر کر دیا ہے جو آئندہ جمعہ کے روز سے نافذ کیا جانا تھا۔ صدر ٹرمپ نے ایک ٹویٹ میں کہا کہ حقوق دانش ملکیت، ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی، زراعت، خدمات اور کرنسی سمیت متعدد شعبوں میں پیشرفت ہوئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اگر پیشرفت کا عمل جاری رہا تو وہ اور چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ ایک معاہدہ کریں گے۔ امریکہ نے گزشتہ برس ستمبر میں چینی درآمدات پر 10 فیصد اضافی ڈیوٹی لاگو کر دی تھی۔ ٹرمپ نے یہ دھمکی بھی دی تھی کہ اگر فریقین کے درمیان یکم مارچ تک ایک تجارتی معاہدہ نہ ہو تو وہ اس ڈیوٹی کو بڑھا کر 25 فیصد کر دیں گے۔ اس سے قبل دونوں ممالک نے ایک دوسرے پر بھاری ٹیکس عائد کرنے کی دھمکی دی تھی۔

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بھارت ہمارا پانی نہیں روک سکتا چین کو سی پیک پر تشویش نہیں

کئی حکومتیں آئیں اور گئیں، اسرائیل کے متعلق پالیسی تبدیل نہیں ہوئی، شاہ محمود، سندھ طاس معاہدے کے تحت پاکستان کا پانی محفوظ ہے، واڈا

سعد رفیق کا پروڈکشن آرڈر جاری کریں، خواجہ آصف، قانونی رائے کے بعد فیصلہ دوں گا، سپیکر، 18 ویں ترمیم سندھ کیلئے زہر قاتل ہے، اسامہ

اسلام آباد (احمد منصور) حکومت نے قومی اسمبلی کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ بھارت، پاکستان کا پانی نہیں روک سکتا جبکہ چین کو سی پیک پر تشویش نہیں۔ سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا سی پیک پر چین کو تشویش نہیں، کئی حکومتیں آئیں اور گئیں مگر اسرائیل کے متعلق پالیسی تبدیل نہیں ہوئی۔ وفاقی وزیر برائے آبی وسائل فیصل واڈا نے کہا سندھ طاس معاہدے کے تحت پاکستان کا پانی محفوظ ہے، مودی سرکار ہمارا پانی نہیں روک سکتی۔ اس سے پہلے جے یو آئی ف کے اسعد محمود نے کہا ہم ڈی چوک پر حکومت گرائیں گے، تین مرتبہ وزیر اعظم رہنے والے کو باہر علاج کی اجازت نہیں دی جا رہی، ایران میں کوئی واقعہ ہوتا ہے تو اہم پاکستان پر لگتا ہے، بھارت کے رویے کے خلاف پاکستان تمام الزامات مسترد کرتا ہے، ہمیں دفاعی اداروں پر اعتماد ہے مگر خارجہ پالیسی پر سوالات ہیں، ہمسایہ ممالک ہم سے نالاں ہیں، سی پیک پر چین کے اعتماد کو ٹھیس پہنچائی گئی، حکومت نے سعودی ولی عہد کی آمد پر ملک دو حصوں میں تقسیم کر دیا، خارجہ پالیسی پر ایوان کو آگاہ نہیں کیا جا رہا۔ اجلاس کے دوران وفاقی وزیر فہمیدہ مرزانے قرض معافی کی تردید کرتے ہوئے پیپلز پارٹی پر الزامات کی بوچھاڑ کر دی، جس پر جیلے ارکان نے ہنگامہ اور سپیکر ڈاکس کا گھیراؤ کیا۔ مسلم لیگ ن کے رکن خواجہ آصف نے کہا امتیازی سلوک نہ کیا جائے، عبدالعلیم خان کی طرح سعد رفیق کا پروڈکشن آرڈر جاری کیا جائے، جس پر سپیکر نے جواباً کہا حوصلہ کریں، مایوس نہیں کروں گا۔

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دلچسپ و عجیب

چین نے حقیقت سے قریب ایک اور مصنوعی نیوز کا سٹریٹیا کر لی




بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) قارئین کو یاد ہوگا کہ چند ماہ قبل چین کے پہلے کمپیوٹر سے پیدا کردہ نیوز ہنٹکر کی تصاویر اور ویڈیو دنیا بھر میں مقبول ہوئی تھیں۔ اور اب سرکاری ذمہ دار نیوز ایجنسی کمپیوٹر کی مدد سے ایک اور خاتون نیوز ہنٹکر بنائی ہے جو دیکھنے میں غیر معمولی طور پر عام انسانوں کی طرح دکھائی دیتی ہیں۔ اس کی تیاری میں جدید ترین آرٹیفیشل انٹیلی جنس استعمال کی گئی ہے اور اسی بنا پر یہ حقیقت سے بہت قریب تر ہے۔ خبر رساں ایجنسی نے اس کا ایک ویڈیو کلپ بھی ریلیز کیا ہے تاہم یہ مارچ سے باقاعدہ خبریں پڑھنے کا آغاز کرے گی۔

Express News, 26-02-19

چین میں آڑو میلہ شروع، پھول بھی رنگ بکھیرنے لگے



چیگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین میں سالانہ آڑو کے میلے کا آغاز کر دیا گیا جس میں لاکھوں کی تعداد میں لوگ شرکت کرنے آ رہے ہیں۔ میلے میں قدرتی مناظر سے جھریور ہر سو آڑو کی آمد سے قبل اسکے پھول بھی رنگ بکھیرنے لگے آئے۔ چین میں آڑو کو اسکے فوائد کی وجہ سے عام کے درمیان بہت اہمیت حاصل ہے۔ آڑو کو تا صرف جوانی

تازہ اور نم رکھنے کا اہم ذریعہ مانا جاتا ہے بلکہ اسکے درخت کی لکڑی کو برائیاں دور رکھنے اور پھولوں کو خوش قسمتی اور صحت کی علامت تصور کیا جاتا ہے۔ اس سچ فیسیول میں سیاحوں اور مقامی لوگوں کا جوش و خروش دیکھنے سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ ملک بھر سے سیاحوں کی بڑی تعداد قدرتی مناظر دیکھنے اور لطف اندوز ہونے کیلئے پہنچ گئی ہے۔

Express News, 27-02-19

حکومت سی پیک کو وسعت دے رہی ہے: خسرو بختیار

علاقائی ترقی چاہتے ہیں، جنوبی پنجاب کے پسماندہ علاقوں کو بجلی دیں گے

چینی ماہرین کے وفد اور جنوبی پنجاب کے وفد سے ملاقات کے دوران گفتگو

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت پاکستان پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کو سماجی و معاشی ترقی اور زراعت کے شعبوں میں وسعت دے رہے تاکہ ان شعبوں میں موجود ترقی کے مواقعوں سے استفادہ کیا جائے، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے چینی ماہرین کے وفد سربراہ پروفیسر دوزین لی سے ملاقات کے دوران کیا، ملاقات میں سیکرٹری پلاننگ ظفر حسن، چینی سفارتخانے کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن چاولی جیان اور پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر سی پیک حسان داود شری کہوئے۔ مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان اور چین دونوں ممالک کیلئے برابر کے مواقع فراہم کر رہا ہے، ہم پر عزم ہیں کہ اس تعاون کے تحت ان تمام منصوبوں کو جلد از جلد فعال بنانے کی کوشش کی جائے گی۔ 8 دین جانٹ کو آپریشن کمیٹی کے اجلاس کے دوران دونوں جانب کے ماہرین نے ایک ایکشن پلان وضع کیا تھا جس پر عمل درآمد کا آغاز ہو رہا ہے، اس تعاون کے تحت تعلیم، صحت، زراعت، فنی تعلیم، غربت کے خاتمے اور آبپاشی کے منصوبے شروع کئے جائیں گے جس کی فہرست چینی ماہرین کو فراہم کی جائے گی۔ دریں اثنا خسرو بختیار نے جنوبی پنجاب کے وفد سے ملاقات کے دوران کہا کہ حکومت علاقائی مساوی ترقی کی حکمت عملی پر کام کر رہی ہے، جنوبی پنجاب میں 35 فیصد آبادی بجلی سے محروم ہے اور اس ضمن میں حکومت علاقے کے تمام لوگوں کو بجلی فراہم کرنے کے منصوبہ پر غور کر رہی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے وزیر مملکت برائے موسمیاتی تبدیلی مس زرتاج گل اور پنجاب کے وزیر خزانہ مخدوم ہاشم جواں بخت کی قیادت میں ملنے والے وفد سے کیا۔ بلوچستان کی ترقی کی ضروریات کا اندازہ لگانے کے لئے ایک میٹنگ پہلے بھی ہو چکی ہے۔ اس طرح کی میٹنگز دوسرے صوبوں کے ساتھ بھی ہوں گی۔ اجلاس کے دوران جنوبی پنجاب کے لائیو سٹیمیشن لائنز، روڈ، پانی، صحت، تعلیم اور بجلی سے متعلق منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

Express News, 28-02-19

ٹرمپ نے چین کے ساتھ تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کا عندیہ دیدیا

دونوں ملکوں کی تجارتی کشیدگی سے عالمی اقتصادی شرح نمو متاثر ہو رہی ہے، ٹرمپ

واشنگٹن (اے پی پی) امریکہ کے صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے کہا ہے کہ رواں ہفتے چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ کے ساتھ ایک تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کر سکتے ہیں تاکہ تجارتی کشیدگی کا خاتمہ ہو جس نے عالمی اقتصادی شرح نمو کو ست اور منڈیوں کو متاثر کر رکھا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انھوں نے چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم لیو ہی اور امریکی نمائندہ برائے تجارت رابرٹ لٹزر سے وائٹ ہاؤس میں گفتگو کے دوران کیا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مذاکراتی عمل میں ٹھوس پیش رفت ہوئی ہے اور وہ 200 ارب ڈالر کی چینی درآمدات پر محصول کی شرح 10 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 25 فیصد کرنے کا عمل موخر کر دیں گے۔ واضح رہے کہ امریکی صدر اور ان کے چینی ہم منصب شی جن پنگ کے درمیان ہونے والی ملاقات کے دوران صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے چینی درآمدات پر اضافی محصول عائد کرنے کا عمل 90 روز کے لیے موخر کر دیا تھا جسے بعد میں یکم مارچ تک بڑھا دیا گیا ہے۔

Express News, 28-02-19

خاتون اغوا کے الزام پر گرفتار چینی باشندے کے مقدمہ کا ڈراپ سین

شان یگ سے شادی کی، ساتھ رہنا چاہتی ہوں، سلویا، ملزم کی ضمانت منظور

عدالتی فیصلہ کے بعد چائینیز سفارت خانہ نے فون کر کے وکلاء کا شکریہ ادا کیا

راولپنڈی (قیصر شیرازی) سپیشل مجسٹریٹ ایف آئی اے رضوان احمد شیخ کی عدالت میں گزشتہ ہفتے اسلام آباد ایئرپورٹ سے پاکستانی خاتون کو مبینہ طور پر اغواء کر کے چائینہ لے جانے کی کوشش میں گرفتار ہونے والے چائینیز نوجوان ڈونگ جنگ لی کیس کا ڈراپ سین ہو گیا، کرپشن خاتون سلویا بی بی بھی عدالت پیش ہو گئی اور بیان دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس نے قواعد کے مطابق ڈونگ جنگ لی (شان یگ) سے باقاعدہ شادی کی ہے اور اپنے اسی 28 سالہ چائینیز شوہر کے ساتھ رہنا چاہتی ہے، اسے اغواء کرنے کا مقدمہ جھوٹا ہے جس پر عدالت نے چائینیز ملزم کی ضمانت منظور کرتے ہوئے اس کی فوری رہائی کا حکم دے دیا۔ عدالتی فیصلہ کے بعد چائینیز سفارت خانہ نے فون کر کے وکلاء کا شکریہ ادا کیا جبکہ مسماۃ سلویا بی بی دختر شمو عن مسیح زوجہ ڈونگ جنگ لی نے ایکسپریس سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ وہ اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ رہے گی۔ چائینیز گرفتار ملزم کو گزشتہ شب اڈیالہ جیل سے رہا کر دیا گیا، رہائی کے بعد اسے نئے جوڑے کو اسلام آباد پہنچا دیا گیا ہے۔

Jang News, 16-02-19

چین سے فارغ طلبہ، سی پیک منصوبوں میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں، خسرو بختیار

25 ہزار پاکستانی طالب علم چین میں زیر تعلیم، ڈیٹا میں برقرار رکھنا چاہیے، وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی ترقی و اصلاحات اور شماریات ڈویژن محمد وسرو بختیار نے کہا ہے کہ چین سے فارغ تحصیل پاکستانی گریجویٹس کا ڈیٹا میں برقرار رکھنا چاہیے تاکہ مختلف شعبوں کے لیے ہنرمند افرادی قوت دستیاب ہو، ایسے طلبہ کو سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت مختلف شعبوں کی ترقی کے لیے استعمال میں لایا جاسکتا ہے، وفاقی وزیر نے ان خیالات کا اظہار جمعہ کونسل کے شعبہ چائینز سٹڈیز سنٹر آف ایکسی لینس کے وفد سے ملاقات میں کیا، وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ 25 ہزار پاکستانی طالب علم چین میں تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں، حکومت غربت کے خاتمے اور عوام کی معاشی و سماجی ترقی کے لیے کئی پائلٹ منصوبوں کا آغاز کر رہی ہے، ان شعبوں میں چین سے فارغ تحصیل پاکستانی ماہرین ایک اہم کردار ادا کر سکتے ہیں۔

Jang News, 16-02-19

چین کیساتھ دوستی خارجہ پالیسی کا لازمی جزو ہے، عارف علوی

پاکستان سی پیک کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے پر عزم، چیئر مین چینی پیپلز کنسلٹیٹیو کانفرنس سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے کہا ہے پاکستان اور چین ہمیشہ سے تذبذب پر مبنی شراکت دار رہے ہیں، چین کیساتھ دوستی پاکستانی خارجہ پالیسی کا لازمی جزو ہے، چین کی پیپلز پبلسٹیو کانفرنس کے وائس چیئر مین گاؤ ژن لونگ سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا پاکستان سی پیک کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے پر عزم ہے، سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے میں ہماری توجہ سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی، زرعی تعاون، صنعتی استعداد کار، کاروبار و تجارت، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور موسمیاتی تبدیلی پر ہوگی، علاوہ ازیں کوڈڈ مائنڈز کے بانی اور چیف انوویشن آفیسر عمر فاروقی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا حکومت ڈیجیٹلائزیشن کو شفافیت، مستعدی اور جدت و تحقیق کے

کلچر کی تشکیل کی کاوشوں کیلئے عمل انگیز سمجھتی ہے، حکومت تعلیمی طریقہ کار پر نظر ثانی کر رہی ہے۔ تعلیم اور ٹیکنالوجی کو بروئے کار لاکر ملک کو پائیدار ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن کیا جاسکتا ہے، حکومت ڈیجیٹل میدان میں مواقع سے استفادہ کرنے اور پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو سازگار ماحول فراہم کرنے کا وژن رکھتی ہے، دریں اثناء سیکرٹری کابینہ کی طرف سے سول ایوارڈز پر دی جانے والی بریفنگ کے دوران صدر مملکت نے ہدایت کی سول ایوارڈز کی منظوری میں میرٹ پر سختی سے عمل کیا جائے، سائنس، ٹیکنالوجی، تعلیم اور کاروبار کے شعبوں میں زیادہ ایوارڈ دیئے جانے چاہئیں، ایوارڈز کی درخواستوں کی مکمل اور تفصیلی سکریننگ کی جائے۔

Jang News, 17-02-19**سی پیک خطہ کیلئے اہمیت کا حامل منصوبہ، حصہ بننے کیلئے تیار ہیں، ایرانی سفیر****منصوبہ ایران کی توانائی اور ٹرانزٹ کے بغیر مکمل نہیں کیا جاسکتا، پاکستان کیساتھ تجارتی تعلقات کو فروغ دینگے**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) ایران نے ایک مرتبہ پھر پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ میں شمولیت کی خواہش ظاہر کر دی ہے، پاکستان میں ایرانی سفیر مہدی ہنردوست کا کہنا ہے ایران کی جانب سے اس خواہش کا اعادہ اسلئے بھی کیا جا رہا ہے کہ ایران کے وسائل کو پراجیکٹ میں استعمال کیا جاسکتا ہے، انہوں نے دعویٰ کیا کہ سی پیک منصوبہ ایران کی توانائی اور ٹرانزٹ کے بغیر مکمل نہیں کیا جاسکتا، پاک ایران جوائنٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے ممبران سے ملاقات کے دوران انہوں نے کہا سی پیک منصوبہ خطہ کیلئے اہمیت کا حامل ہے اسکے تحت ہمسایہ ممالک میں امن کے قیام پر کام کیا جاسکتا ہے، ایران اپنی تمام صلاحیتوں اور وسائل کیساتھ منصوبے کا حصہ بننے کیلئے تیار ہے، انہوں نے ایران کے پاکستان کیساتھ تجارتی سطح پر تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دینے کی یقین دہانی بھی کرائی، انکا کہنا تھا امریکہ کی جانب سے عائد پابندیوں کے سبب پاکستان اور ایران کے مابین تجارتی تعلقات کو مضبوط کرنے میں تھوڑا وقت لگے گا لیکن ایرانی حکومت پاکستان کیساتھ دو طرفہ تجارت کو 5 بلین ڈالر تک لے جانے کی خواہشمند ہے۔

Jang News, 17-02-19

چینی وفد کا ایف پی سی سی آئی اسلام آباد

کے دفتر کا دورہ، انجینئر داور خان اچکزئی

و دیگر عہدیداران سے ملاقات کی

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) آل چائنا چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر اور کونسل آف چائنا پیس اینڈ ڈیولپمنٹ فیڈریشن کے چیئر مین گاؤ پولونگ کی قیادت میں اعلیٰ سطح کے چینی وفد نے فیڈریشن آف پاکستان چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے اسلام آباد میں دفتر کا دورہ کیا اور ایف پی سی سی آئی کے انجینئر داور خان اچکزئی اور دیگر عہدیداران سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دو طرفہ تجارتی و معاشی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ انجینئر داور خان اچکزئی نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں چین کا اہم کردار ہے۔ انہوں نے سی پیک کے ذریعے چین کی سرمایہ کاری کو سراہا جس سے پاکستان میں توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے شعبوں میں بہتری آئی۔ اس موقع پر گاؤ پولونگ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات سٹریٹجک پائشرپ میں داخل ہو گئے ہیں جو دونوں ملکوں کی معاشی و سماجی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تجارت میں وسعت اور جوائنٹ وینچر سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دیا جائے۔ ملاقات میں ایف پی سی سی آئی کے سینئر نائب صدر ڈاکٹر اختیار بیگ، سابق صدر غضنفر بلور، نائب صدر عبدالوحید شیخ، محمد اعجاز عباسی، مسلم محمدی، قربان علی، سابق نائب صدر عاطف اکرام شیخ، میاں شوکت مسعود، ملک سہیل حسین، سینئر میاں عتیق شیخ، مس آمنہ ملک اور دیگر اہم کاروباری شخصیات بھی شریک تھیں۔

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چین کے اسٹاکس کے اندر غیر ملکیوں نے ماہ جنوری میں ریکارڈ 9 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی

شنگھائی: گبریل ولادیو - امریکہ اور چین کے تجارتی مذاکرات کیلئے مزید مثبت توقعات بھی دیکھنا کو واضح کر رہی ہے۔ محدود سرمایہ کار یہ خیال کر رہے ہیں کہ مذاکرات سے نیرف میں فروغی اشارے کے روکے کیلئے کم از کم ایک معاہدہ ہونے کا امکان ہے۔

شنگھائی اور شیون میں یو پیس تجارت کی رجحانی کرنے والے 300 کی ایس آئی کو 2018 میں 25 لاکھ کھنڈا ہوا تاہم ہر دوں جب روز دوں می چینوں کے بعد میں لینڈ مارکیٹس دوبارہ نہیں 1.8 لاکھ منافع سبب درواں سال 9 لاکھ سے دو بارہ پر اپنی کیفیت میں لوٹ آیا ہے۔

اسٹاک ایکسچینج کے اعداد و شمار مطابق جنوری میں اسٹاک راپل پروگرام کے ذریعے ہانگ کانگ سے شنگھائی سے شیون کو سرمایے کا داخلی بہاؤ جنوری ہر 60 ارب ریمنی 19 ارب ڈالر تھا، اس طرح



کیا اس اہم پر عمل ہوا۔ گزشتہ سال کی ایف آئی آئی قوانین غیر ملکیوں کو چین کے سٹیٹ بینک ریگلیٹڈ لینڈ نے بین بین معافی اسٹاک کے فنڈز اور مستقبل روزانہ کے کولے میں اضافہ کیا، مارچن فریڈنگ اور منظر فرہمت کا بہاؤ کے طور پر جاننا ہے۔ 152 ارب ریمنی کیلئے مثال کی جانب اشارہ کریں گے۔

مورس ایسٹین نے چین کوئی کی ہے کہ لینڈ اسٹاکس اس سال داخلی سرمایے کا بہاؤ ریکارڈ 170 ارب ڈالر سے 125 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گا۔ اس کے تقریباً 115 ارب ڈالر ایف آئی ایس آئی اور اہم سرمایہ کاری کے فی الحال

کیا اس اہم پر عمل ہوا۔ گزشتہ سال کی ایف آئی آئی قوانین غیر ملکیوں کو چین کے سٹیٹ بینک ریگلیٹڈ لینڈ نے بین بین معافی اسٹاک کے فنڈز اور مستقبل روزانہ کے کولے میں اضافہ کیا، مارچن فریڈنگ اور منظر فرہمت کا بہاؤ کے طور پر جاننا ہے۔ 152 ارب ریمنی کیلئے مثال کی جانب اشارہ کریں گے۔

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14.7 لاکھ تک ہے۔ حالانکہ محدود کمپنوں نے مالیاتوں میں منافع کے اضافہ جاری کیے ہیں، مگر چھپاؤ کاروں کا خیال ہے کہ بہترین دورمخ ہو گیا ہے۔

ہانگ کانگ میں یوکوم انٹرنیشنل میں ربرج کے سربزہ ہوگے ہاؤسے کہا کہ آئی 1998، 2008 اور 2015 کے آخر کے مساوی اندازا تاریخی کر سکتی۔ بہت ساری بری خبریں پھیلنے سے آج بھی۔

Jang News, 18-02-19**سی پیک منصوبوں کیلئے اعلیٰ سطح کی
وزارتی ٹاسک فورس تشکیل دیدی گئی**

راولپنڈی (راحت مسنیر/ اپنے رپورٹر سے)
پنجاب حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبوں کیلئے ایک اعلیٰ
سطح کی 12 رکنی وزارتی ٹاسک فورس تشکیل دیدی
ہے۔ جو اپنی پہلی جائزہ، سفارشات و تجاویز پر مبنی
رپورٹ آج حکومت کو پیش کرے گی۔ ٹاسک فورس
کے کنوینر وزیر خزانہ پنجاب کو مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ چیف
سیکرٹری پنجاب کو کنوینر جبکہ سیکرٹری پی اینڈ ڈی
ٹاسک فورس سیکرٹری ہوں گے۔ سیکرٹری پی اینڈ ڈی
لاجسٹک سپورٹ بھی فراہم کریں گے۔ ٹاسک فورس
سی پیک منصوبوں کی سہ ماہی رپورٹ دیا کرے
گی۔ سی پیک منصوبوں کا جائزہ لے گی۔

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سی پیک اور یہ سمیت تیسرے فریق کو سرچیک یا رٹرن بنانا یا پاکستان ہو سکتی ہے چین

سی پیک خطے میں گیم چینجر، پاکستان معاشی حب بننے جا رہا ہے، اب خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کئے جائینگے، لی جیان ژاؤ

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارتخانہ کے نائب سفیر لی جیان ژاؤ نے کہا ہے سعودی عرب سمیت کوئی بھی ملک سی پیک کا حصہ بن سکتا ہے، سی پیک تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت کیلئے کھلا پروگرام ہے، سی پیک خطے میں گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے جس کے باعث پاکستان معاشی حب بننے جا رہا ہے، لی جیان ژاؤ نے کہا سی پیک کی افادیت کے باعث خطے کے دیگر ممالک بھی سی پیک کا حصہ بننے میں دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں جن میں سعودی عرب اور ایران سرفہرست ہیں، وزیراعظم عمران خان کے پہلے دورہ سعودی عرب کے دوران سی پیک میں سعودی شمولیت پر بھی بات ہوئی، تیسرے فریق کو سٹریٹجک پارٹنر بنانے پر پاک چین بات ہو سکتی ہے، تیسرے فریق کو سی پیک کا حصہ بنانے پر چین کو کوئی تحفظات نہیں، تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت کو ممکن بنانے پر پاک چین مذاکرات جاری ہیں، سی پیک کے نئے مرحلہ میں اب خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کئے جائیں گے۔

Jang News, 19-02-19

سعودی ولی عہد کا دورہ پاکستان، بین الاقوامی، سعودی میڈیا کی بھرپور کوریج

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) سعودی ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کے دورہ پاکستان کو اس کی اہمیت کے پیش نظر نہ صرف پاکستان میں بلکہ بین الاقوامی میڈیا اور بالخصوص سعودی میڈیا نے بھرپور انداز سے کوریج دی۔ سعودی عرب میں ولی عہد کی اسلام آباد میں ہونے والی مصروفیات کو براہ راست بھی پیش کیا گیا۔ جبکہ سعودی اخبارات میں بطور خاص اسلام آباد میں ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کے شاندار استقبال اور اسلام آباد کی تزئین و آرائش کے ساتھ ساتھ سیوریٹی کے انتظامات اور اقدامات کا بھی ذکر کیا گیا۔ سعودی عرب کے انگریزی اخبار ”سعودی گزٹ“ نے شہرشی میں لکھا کہ محمد بن سلمان کا شاندار طریقے سے استقبال کیا گیا اور پاکستانی فضائی حدود میں داخل ہوتے ہی سچے ایف۔17، ایف۔16 لڑاکا طیاروں نے اسکے جہاز کو اپنے حفاظتی حصار میں لے لیا، ”طلحہ ٹائمز“ کے مطابق سعودی ولی عہد نے کہا کہ مستقبل میں پاکستان بہت اہم ہوگا۔ عربی خبر رساں ادارے ”عرب نیوز“ نے لکھا کہ سعودی ولی عہد نے پاکستان کے ساتھ 20 ارب ڈالر کا معاہدہ کر لیا، محمد بن سلمان کی جانب سے عمران خان کو کہے گئے ان الفاظ کو بھی سرخی کی زینت بنایا کہ سعودی عرب میں آپ مجھے پاکستان کا سفیر تصور کریں، سعودی عرب کی کاروباری نیوز ویب سائٹ ”الاقتصادیہ“ نے اس اہم دورے کو اپنی شہرشی بنایا اور لکھا کہ ریاض اور اسلام آباد نے 20 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے معاہدوں کے ساتھ سڑک تعلقات کو تقویت دی۔ سعودی عرب کی قومی زبان کے اخبار ”الوطن“ نے لکھا کہ 7 معاہدے اور مفاہمت کی یادداشت کے ساتھ 75 ارب ریال کے سعودی عرب اور پاکستان کے تعلقات کے ساتھ ہی انہوں نے ان معاہدوں کے بارے میں بھی بتایا، ”گلف نیوز“ نے لکھا کہ سعودی عرب نے پاکستان میں 20 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا اعلان کر دیا۔ ایک اور سعودی میڈیا العربیہ انگلش نے سعودی ولی عہد کے دورے کی شہرشی کچھ اس طرح بنائی کہ سعودی عرب اور پاکستان نے مختلف شعبوں میں 20 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے 7 معاہدوں دستخط کر لیے۔ ادھر العربیہ اردو نے اسی خبر کو سعودی ولی عہد کے بیان سے لیا جس میں انہوں نے کہا تھا کہ پاکستان میں 20 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل ہو گیا۔ اسی طرح ”انجیر ہ ڈاٹ کام“ نے اپنی شہرشی میں لکھا کہ سعودی عرب و پاکستان شراکت داری متحدہ نقطہ نظر۔ خیال رہے کہ سعودی ولی عہد 2 روزہ دورے پر انوار کبچہیں، محمد بن سلمان کا بطور سعودی ولی عہد پاکستان کا یہ پہلا دورہ ہے، جہاں ان کا پرتیاک استقبال کیا گیا اور انہیں وزیر اعظم ہاؤس میں گارڈ آف آئز بھی پیش کیا گیا۔

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ملتان سکھر موٹروے، چینی کمپنی نے وفاقی وزیر کے الزامات مسترد کر دیئے

الزامات پر صدمہ ہوا، بولی کا عمل مقامی قوانین اور بین الاقوامی طریقہ کار کے مطابق ہوا، چینی کمپنی

تحریک انصاف کی قیادت نے جاوید صادق پر شہباز شریف کا فرنٹ مین ہونے کا الزام لگایا

کنٹریکٹ کم ترین بولی دینے کے باوجود حاصل نہ کر سکے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے یہ بھی الزام لگایا کہ جاوید صادق 2013 میں مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کے لئے نواز شریف اور احسن اقبال کو چینی کمپنی کے دفتر لے گئے۔ درحقیقت وزیر اعظم اس وقت چین کے دورے پر تھے۔ کمپنی کے چناؤ کے حوالے سے تحقیقات پر معلوم ہوا کہ چینی حکومت نے پروجیکٹ کے لئے اپنی ملک کی تین کمپنیوں کو نامزد کیا تھا۔ سی ایس ای سی ان میں سے ایک تھی۔ اس کا مطلب یہ ہوا کہ بولی میں شریک چینی کمپنیوں کے انتخاب میں پاکستانی حکومت کا کوئی کردار نہ تھا۔ نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی نے بولی کے عمل کی ابتدا کی۔ ایک ٹی وی پروگرام میں وفاقی وزیر نے الزام عائد کیا کہ جاوید صادق کو سی ایس ای سی کو سمجھوتے طے ہونے اور مفاہمت کے یادداشت پر دستخط کے بعد پروجیکٹ میں شیئر ہولڈر اور کمپنی کا ڈائریکٹر بنایا گیا۔ اس سے قبل وہ کمیشن ایجنٹ کے طور پر کام کر رہے تھے۔ ماضی میں عمران خان نے جاوید صادق پر شہباز شریف کا فرنٹ مین ہونے کا الزام عائد کیا تاہم ریکارڈ سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ جاوید صادق نے حکومت پنجاب کی جانب سے متعدد پروجیکٹس کے لئے بولیوں میں شرکت کی۔ جن کمپنیوں کی انہوں نے نمائندگی کی ان کی کم ترین بولیاں دی گئیں لیکن منصوبے دوسری کمپنیوں کو دے دیئے گئے۔ سولر پروجیکٹ کیس میں تو جاوید صادق نے اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ سے رجوع بھی کیا۔

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ : عمر چیمہ) ایک چینی کمپنی نے وفاقی وزیر کے ”بے بنیاد الزامات“ پر شدید رد عمل کا اظہار کیا ہے جس میں انہوں نے مسلم لیگ (ن) کی گزشتہ حکومت کی جانب سے سکھر، ملتان موٹروے پروجیکٹ کا ٹھیکہ مذکورہ کمپنی کو دیئے جانے پر سوالات اٹھائے ہیں۔ کمپنی کا کہنا ہے کہ اسے لگائے گئے الزامات کی نوعیت پر انتہائی دکھ ہوا ہے۔ منگل کو جاری وضاحت میں چائنا اسٹیٹ کنسٹرکشن انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن (سی ایس ای سی) نے مذکورہ وزیر کا نام لئے بغیر کہا۔ ”اسے الزامات پر شدید صدمہ ہوا ہے۔ بولی کا پورا عمل اور ٹھیکہ دیئے جانے کا عمل مقامی قوانین کے عین مطابق اور بین الاقوامی طریقہ کار کے تحت ہوا۔ گزشتہ 8 فروری کو اپنی پریس کانفرنس میں وفاقی وزیر نے سنگین الزامات عائد کئے تھے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا سابق وزیر اعظم نواز شریف اور سابق وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے اس کمپنی کے ساتھ مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط میں غلط کام مظاہرہ کیا اور منصوبہ 60 سے 70 ارب روپے زیادہ قیمت پر دیا گیا۔ پاکستان میں کمپنی کے مارکیٹنگ ڈائریکٹر جاوید صادق کو معاہدہ کرانے پر کمپنی نے نوازا۔ جنہیں ماضی میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے شہباز شریف کا فرنٹ مین قرار دیا تھا۔ تاہم پس پردہ انکوٹری سے معلوم ہوا کہ جاوید صادق جن کمپنیوں کے نمائندہ رہے وہ پنجاب حکومت سے سوائے موٹروے پروجیکٹ اور قائد اعظم سولر پروجیکٹ کے ایک مختصر حصے کے کوئی بھی

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بارے بین الاقوامی نمائش شروع**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین میں چار عشروں کے دوران متعارف کرائی گئی اصلاحات بارے بین الاقوامی نمائش منگل کو شروع ہوگئی۔ نمائش کا اہتمام اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارتخانے کے کلچرل آفس، چائے کلچرل سینٹر پاکستان اور نیشنل لائبریری آف پاکستان، قومی تاریخ و ادبی ورثہ نے مشترکہ طور پر کیا ہے۔ افتتاحی تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی جوائنٹ سیکرٹری قومی تاریخ و ادبی ورثہ ڈویژن جنید اخلاق، پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے کے کلچرل قونسلر ژونگ ہی چیگ، ڈائریکٹر نیشنل لائبریری آف پاکستان سید غفور حسین، آل پاکستان چائے فرینڈ شپ ایسوسی ایشن کی صدر عطیہ قطب مہمان خصوصی تھیں۔

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مودی سرکار الزام عائد کرنے کے بجائے اپنی پالیسیوں پر نظر ثانی کرے، چین

بھارت مسعود اظہر کیخلاف ٹھوس شواہد پیش کرنے میں ناکام رہا، ملے چین پر ڈال رہا ہے، سرکاری ذرائع ابلاغ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین کے سرکاری ذرائع ابلاغ نے بھارت کو بغیر تصدیق کے الزام تراشیاں کرنے سے گریز کرنے کا مشورہ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ مودی سرکار کو پاکستان اور چین پر الزام عائد کرنے کے بجائے اپنی پالیسیوں اور سکیورٹی اقدامات پر نظر ثانی کرنا چاہیے۔ چین نے مسعود اظہر کا نام اقوام متحدہ کی دہشت گردوں کی فہرست میں شامل کرنے کی کوششوں میں رکاوٹ بننے کے بھارتی الزام کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بھارت اقوام متحدہ میں مسعود اظہر کے خلاف ٹھوس شواہد پیش کرنے میں ناکام رہا اور اب ملے چین پر ڈال رہا ہے۔ اسی طرح بھارت نے بغیر تصدیق کے ایک بار پھر پلوامہ حملے کا الزام پاکستان پر عائد کر کے ثابت کر دیا ہے کہ وہ اپنی پالیسی اور سکیورٹی کی کمزوریوں کو درست کرنے کا ارادہ نہیں رکھتا، بہتر ہوگا بھارت مسعود اظہر کے خلاف ٹھوس شواہد جمع کرنے میں اپنی توانائی صرف کرے۔ چین کے سرکاری میڈیا نے بھارت کی جانب سے پلوامہ حملے کا ذمہ دار پاکستان کو ٹھہرانے اور مسعود اظہر کو اقوام متحدہ میں دہشت گرد قرار دینے کی کوششوں میں رکاوٹ ڈالنے کا الزام چین پر عائد کرنے کی سخت الفاظ میں مذمت کی ہے۔

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ملتان سکھر موٹروے، چینی کمپنی نے وفاقی وزیر کے الزامات مسترد کر دیئے

الزامات پر صدمہ ہوا، بولی کا عمل مقامی قوانین اور بین الاقوامی طریقہ کار کے مطابق ہوا، چینی کمپنی

تحریک انصاف کی قیادت نے جاوید صادق پر شہباز شریف کا فرنٹ مین ہونے کا الزام لگایا

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ : عمر چیمہ) ایک چینی کمپنی نے وفاقی وزیر کے ”بے بنیاد الزامات“ پر شدید رد عمل کا اظہار کیا ہے جس میں انہوں نے مسلم لیگ (ن) کی گزشتہ حکومت کی جانب سے سکھر، ملتان موٹروے پروجیکٹ کا ٹھیکہ مذکورہ کمپنی کو دیئے جانے پر سوالات اٹھائے ہیں۔ کمپنی کا کہنا ہے کہ اسے لگائے گئے الزامات کی نوعیت پر انتہائی دکھ ہوا ہے۔ منگل کو جاری وضاحت میں چائنا اسٹیٹ کنسٹرکشن انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن (سی ایس ای سی) نے مذکورہ وزیر کا نام لئے بغیر کہا۔ ”اسے الزامات پر شدید صدمہ ہوا ہے۔ بولی کا پورا عمل اور ٹھیکہ دیئے جانے کا عمل مقامی قوانین کے عین مطابق اور بین الاقوامی طریقہ کار کے تحت ہوا۔ گزشتہ 8 فروری کو اپنی پریس کانفرنس میں وفاقی وزیر نے سنگین الزامات عائد کئے تھے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا سابق وزیراعظم نواز شریف اور سابق وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال نے اس کمپنی کے ساتھ مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط میں عجلت کا مظاہرہ کیا اور منصوبہ 60 سے 70 ارب روپے زیادہ قیمت پر دیا گیا۔ پاکستان میں کمپنی کے مارکیٹنگ ڈائریکٹر جاوید صادق کو معاہدہ کرانے پر کمپنی نے نوازا۔ جنہیں ماضی میں وزیراعظم عمران خان نے شہباز شریف کا فرنٹ مین قرار دیا تھا۔ تاہم پس پردہ انکوائری سے معلوم ہوا کہ جاوید صادق جن کمپنیوں کے نمائندہ رہے وہ پنجاب حکومت سے سوائے موٹروے پروجیکٹ اور قائداعظم سولر پروجیکٹ کے ایک مختصر حصے کے کوئی بھی کنٹریکٹ کم ترین بولی دینے کے باوجود حاصل نہ کر سکے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے یہ بھی الزام لگایا کہ جاوید صادق 2013 میں مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کے لئے نواز شریف اور احسن اقبال کو چینی کمپنی کے دفتر لے گئے۔ درحقیقت وزیراعظم اس وقت چین کے دورے پر تھے۔ کمپنی کے چناؤ کے حوالے سے تحقیقات پر معلوم ہوا کہ چینی حکومت نے پروجیکٹ کے لئے اپنی ملک کی تین کمپنیوں کو نامزد کیا تھا۔ سی ایس ای سی ان میں سے ایک تھی۔ اس کا مطلب یہ ہوا کہ بولی میں شریک چینی کمپنیوں کے انتخاب میں پاکستانی حکومت کا کوئی کردار نہ تھا۔ نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی نے بولی کے عمل کی ابتدا کی۔ ایک ٹی وی پروگرام میں وفاقی وزیر نے الزام عائد کیا کہ جاوید صادق کو سی ایس ای سی کو سمجھوتے طے ہونے اور مفاہمت کے یادداشت پر دستخط کے بعد پروجیکٹ میں شیئر ہولڈر اور کمپنی کا ڈائریکٹر بنایا گیا۔ اس سے قبل وہ کمیشن ایجنٹ کے طور پر کام کر رہے تھے۔ ماضی میں عمران خان نے جاوید صادق پر شہباز شریف کا فرنٹ مین ہونے کا الزام عائد کیا تاہم ریکارڈ سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ جاوید صادق نے حکومت پنجاب کی جانب سے متعدد پروجیکٹس کے لئے بولیوں میں شرکت کی۔ جن کمپنیوں کی انہوں نے نمائندگی کی ان کی کم ترین بولیاں دی گئیں لیکن منصوبہ دوسری کمپنیوں کو دے دیئے گئے۔ سولر پروجیکٹ کیس میں تو جاوید صادق نے اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ سے رجوع بھی کیا۔

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مودی سرکار الزام عائد کرنے کے بجائے اپنی پالیسیوں پر نظر ثانی کرے، چین

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Jang News, 21-02-19**چین کے سابق آرمی چیف کو
رشوت کے الزام میں عمر قید**

بیجنگ (نیوز ڈیسک) چینی فوج کے سابق چیف آف اسٹاف فانگ فینگ ہوئی کو ایک چینی فوجی عدالت نے کرپشن کے الزامات ثابت ہو جانے پر عمر قید کی سزا سنائی ہے۔ فینگ ہوئی سن 2012 میں پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے اعلیٰ ترین افسر مقرر کیے گئے تھے۔ رشوت لینے اور دوسروں کو رشوت پیش کرنے کے الزامات کے علاوہ انہیں نامعلوم ذرائع سے اثاثے جمع کرنے کے الزام کا بھی سامنا تھا۔ فینگ ہوئی کو سن 2017 میں بھارت کے ساتھ سرحدی تنازعے کے دوران ان کے منصب سے اچانک علیحدہ کر دیا گیا تھا۔ ان پر گزشتہ برس جنوری میں کرپشن کے الزامات عائد کیے جانے کے بعد ان کی تہذیبی فوج کے شعبہ استغاثہ میں کر دی گئی تھی۔

Jang News, 22-02-19

سی پیک کے تحت رٹکنی اقتصادی زون میں ایک ہزار صنعتی یونٹ لگیں گے، چینی سفیر

زرعی شعبے کی ترقی اور عوام کا معیار زندگی بہتر کرنے کیلئے ہر ممکن تعاون کریں گے، ڈاؤ جنگ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) پاکستان میں متعین چینی سفیر ڈاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت رٹکنی اقتصادی زون میں ایک ہزار صنعتی یونٹ لگیں گے جس سے ہزاروں پاکستانیوں کو روزگار ملے گا، مستقبل میں 12 لاکھ روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے جبکہ گزشتہ پانچ سالوں میں 75 ہزار لوگوں کو روزگار مل چکا ہے، اگلے مرحلے میں تربیت یافتہ انسانی وسائل تیار کرنا ہیں جس پر دونوں ممالک خصوصی توجہ دیں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے سی پیک سکل ڈویلپمنٹ اور روزگار کے مواقع کے موضوع پر سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر سی پیک پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر، سی پیک ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر سنٹر فار ایکسی لینس، وائس چانسلر اور نارویجین سفارت خانے کے فرسٹ سیکرٹری ڈویلپمنٹ جورن ڈیلو پیڈرسن بھی موجود تھے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا واضح موقف ہے کہ اگلے مرحلے میں سی پیک کے تحت زیادہ سے زیادہ روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کئے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے سعودی ولی عہد کے حالیہ دورہ پاکستان کو خوش آئند قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک کے منصوبوں میں دوسرے ممالک کی شرکت اچھا شگون ہے۔

Jang News, 24-02-19

چینی زبان سعودی اسکولوں اور جامعات میں بطور مضمون شامل کرنے کا فیصلہ

ریاض (شاہد نسیم) ولی عہد محمد بن سلمان نے سعودی عرب اور چین کے نائب صدر نے چین کی جانب سے اجلاس کی صدارت کی۔ اس موقع پر طے کیا گیا کہ چینی زبان سعودی اسکولوں اور جامعات میں ہر مرحلے میں ایک مضمون کے طور پر شامل کی جائیگی۔ اسکی بدولت دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تعاون اور دوستی کے رشتے مضبوط ہونگے۔ ہر سطح پر اسٹراٹجک شراکت گہری ہوگی۔ دونوں ملکوں نے سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبوں، جہاز رانی، توانائی، تجارت، اسپتالوں کی تعمیر، زلزلے سے متاثرہ مکانات کی تعمیر نو، تہجد پذیر توانائی، دہشتگردی کے انسداد، کاپی رائٹ، پیٹرو کیمیکل پروجیکٹ اور آئل ریفائنری کی بابت معاہدے کئے اور یادداشتوں پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ سعودی پبلک انویسٹمنٹ فنڈ نے چین میں قومی توانائی ادارے کے ساتھ تہجد پذیر توانائی کے شعبے میں تعاون کی مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط کر دیئے۔ ولی عہد محمد بن سلمان کے دورہ چین کے موقع پر مفاہمتی یادداشت کی کارروائی عمل میں آئی۔ اس کے بموجب آئندہ 10 برس کے دوران چین سعودی عرب میں تہجد پذیر توانائی سے تعلق رکھنے والی ٹیکنالوجی اور بجلی کی تیاری اور صنعت کو فروغ دینے میں تعاون کریگا۔

Jang News, 24-02-19**پاکستان اور چین کا ویزا، قونصلر امور سمیت****تمام شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کا عزم**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) پاکستان اور چین نے ویزا، امیگریشن اور قونصلر امور سمیت تمام شعبوں میں تعاون کو مزید توسیع دینے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا ہے، ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق اس عزم کا اعادہ وزارت خارجہ میں پاک چین قونصلر مشاورت کے چھٹے مرحلہ کے دوران کیا گیا، ڈائریکٹر جنرل (چین) عائشہ علی نے پاکستانی وفد جبکہ ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر جنرل ٹونگ دیفانے چینی وفد کی قیادت کی، مشاورت انتہائی خوشگوار اور تعاون پر مبنی ماحول میں ہوئی، فریقین نے قونصلر معاملات کے تمام پہلوؤں پر بحث کی، ویزا، امیگریشن، قونصلر امور، قیدیوں کے معاملات اور گزشتہ سال نومبر میں وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے موقع پر سزایافتہ قیدیوں کے تبادلے سے متعلق طے پانیا لے معاہدے پر عملدرآمد سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو مزید توسیع دینے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا، پاک چین قونصلر مشاورت کا ساتواں مرحلہ اگلے سال بیجنگ میں ہوگا۔

Jang News, 24-02-19

چین، اسٹاک ایکسچینج میں رجسٹریشن

کیلئے دو کمپنیوں کی ابتدائی منظوری

بیجنگ (آئی این پی/شہوا) چینی سیکورٹیز ریگولیٹر نے دو کمپنیوں کی درخواستوں کی اسٹاک ایکسچینج میں رجسٹریشن کے لیے ابتدائی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ یہ درخواستیں سچوان جن شی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی لمیٹڈ اور جو شیر ی ٹیکنالوجیز پیش کی تھیں۔ سچوان جن شی کاغذ تیار کرنے والی جبکہ جو شیر ی ٹیلی کام آلات بنانے والی کمپنی ہے۔ اسٹاک ایکسچینج میں یہ کمپنیاں کتنی سرمایہ کاری کریں گی۔ اس بارے میں کچھ نہیں بتایا گیا۔

Jang News, 24-02-19



شیشے کا پل

چین کا تعمیراتی شاہکار

رابعہ شیخ

میدان سائنس کا ہو، ٹیکنالوجی کا یا تعمیرات کا! چین نئی اور حیرت انگیز تعمیرات اور ایجادات کے حوالے سے دنیا بھر میں مشہور ہے۔ حالیہ برسوں میں چین کی سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں تیز رفتاری سے دنیا بھر میں جہاں اس کا نام روشن کیا ہے، وہاں چین کے حیرت میں جتلا کر دینے والے تعمیراتی شاہکار، عجائبات سے کم نہیں۔ دنیا میں چلے تو آپ نے بہت دیکھے ہوں گے، تاہم چین دنیا کا سب سے بڑا اور حیرت انگیز پل تعمیر کر کے نئی تاریخ رقم کر رہی ہے۔ اس پل کی خصوصیت ہے کہ یہ دنیا کا سب سے طویل پل ہونے کے علاوہ شیشے سے تعمیر کیا گیا ہے۔ اس پل پر چلنے والے افراد کے لیے مضبوط دل ہونا بے حد ضروری ہے، کیونکہ کمزور دل افراد کے لیے اس پر چلنا ناممکن ہے۔ آئیے جانتے ہیں کہ یہ پل کیسا ہے اور اس کی تعمیرات سے متعلق حقائق کیا ہیں۔

مقام

یہ پل چین کے مرکزی سوبے ہونان میں ”شیژیانگ“ کے مقام پر واقع بیٹھل پارک میں 11,900 ایکڑ رقبے پر تعمیر کیا گیا ہے، جو اوتار (جہاں ہالی ووڈ کی کامیاب فلم اوتار فلمائی گئی) نامی دو پہلاڑی چوٹیوں کو آپس میں ملاتا ہے۔ گزشتہ برس اس پل کو عوام کے لیے کھولا گیا تھا۔ اس پل کی لمبائی 430 میٹر ہے، جبکہ اسے 300 میٹر گہری کھائی پر تعمیر کیا گیا ہے، جس کے سبب اس پل کو دنیا کا سب سے سب سے لمبا بلکہ سب سے اونچا پل بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔

ڈیزائن اور تعمیراتی لاگت

اس پل کی تعمیراتی ڈیزائن بنانے کے

اور پانچ منٹ تک اس پل پر ہتھوڑے برسائیں۔ اس کا نتیجہ یہ ہوا کہ پانچ منٹ تک ہتھوڑے برسائے سے شیشے کی پگھلی تہہ پر خراش آئی جبکہ باقی دو تہیں محفوظ رہیں۔ بیم دو تان کا کہنا ہے کہ پل پر 2200 مسافر ایک ساتھ باسانی چل سکتے ہیں، تاہم حفاظت کو یقینی بنانے کے پیش نظر اس پل پر صرف 500 سیاحوں کو بیک وقت آنے کی اجازت دی جاتی ہے۔ اس دوران انہیں محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ جیسے وہ ششوں زمین پر چل رہے ہوں۔

بیم دو تان کا کہنا ہے کہ میں نے پل کو کسی تعمیراتی شاہکار کے طور پر ڈیزائن نہیں کیا بلکہ اس کی تعمیر کچھ خانہ بنا، آغاز سے ہی آرکیٹیکٹ کے مطابق پل کے ارد گرد ایک تعمیر (بینیوی طرز کی تماش گاہ) بنانے کا ارادہ ہے، جس کے بعد پل کو میڈوک کنسٹراکٹ اور فیشن شو کے لیے مختص کر دیا جائے گا۔ اس پل کی تعمیر کے بعد چین حکومت کی جانب سے سکیورٹی خدشات کے پیش نظر دو چیزوں پر پابندی عائد کی گئی ہے، جس میں سے ایک (Stiletto Heel) ہے اور دوسری سیلفی اسٹک، جس سے متعلق حکام کو خدشہ ہے کہ سیلفی اسٹک اور ہیٹیل ڈوں اس پل پر چلنے والے افراد کے لیے نقصان دہ ثابت ہو سکتی ہیں۔

اگر بات کی جائے تو پانچ منٹ تک کے لیے موجود خاص بات کی تو اس پل میں ایک ویو پوائنٹ بھی بنایا گیا ہے، جہاں سے پل کے نیچے بیٹھ کر آہٹار کا نظارہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے، جبکہ قریب ہی ہم جوئی کے شیشوں سیاحوں کے لیے Bungee Jump کی سہولیات بھی موجود ہیں۔ تو ہماری ماسے، جب بھی آپ چین جائیں، اس شیشے کے پل کا نظارہ کرنے کے لیے وقت ضرور رکھ لیں۔

محفوظ ہونے سے متعلق

خدشات کیسے دور کیے گئے؟

یہ پل استعمال کے لیے کتنا محفوظ ہے؟ اس حوالے سے آرکیٹیکٹ بیم دو تان کہتے ہیں کہ اس



گئی اور اس پر 460 ملین یو آن (48 ملین پاؤنڈ) کی تعمیراتی لاگت آئی۔ اس پل کی تعمیر کے لیے تیلے Titanium Alloy نامی مضبوط ترین شیشے کا انتخاب کیا گیا۔ یہ شیشہ اتنا شفاف ہے کہ ہزاروں فٹ نیچے کا منظر صاف دکھائی دیتا ہے۔

میں شیشے کی تین شفاف تہوں کے 99 حصے ہیں۔ تعمیر سے قبل 40 ٹن وزن کے ہمراہ بھاری ٹرک گلاس بیٹیل سے گزرا گیا۔ بیم دو تان کے مطابق، یہی نہیں ہم نے پل کو عوام کے لیے کھولنے سے قبل مختلف تقریبات میں لوگوں کو دعوت دی کہ وہ آئیں

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چینی کیپٹل مارکیٹ میں پانڈا بانڈ کا اپریل کے آخر میں اجراء کا امکان

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) حکومت نے پانڈا بانڈز کے اجراء کی تیاری شروع کر دی ہے اور معتبر مالیاتی اداروں سے بطور فنانشل ایڈوائزر پیش کش 20 مارچ تک طلب کی ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق پانڈا بانڈ اپریل کے آخر میں جاری ہونے کا امکان ہے۔ پانڈا بانڈ چینی کیپٹل مارکیٹ میں چار اقساط میں جاری کیا جائیگا۔ پانڈا بانڈ سے ایک ارب ڈالر تک زر مبادلہ حاصل ہونے کا امکان ہے۔ اس کیلئے 20 کروڑ ڈالر سے 25 کروڑ ڈالر مالیت کی ٹرانزکشن متعارف کرائی جائیں گی۔

Jang News, 25-02-19

پاکستان کو تنہا کرنے کی کوششیں امریکا، چین، روس، سعودیہ اور اسرائیل کے ساتھ ہیں

10 ارب ڈالر ملنے پر سعودیہ بھی سعودیہ دلی عہد کے سامنے ہاتھ باندھے کھڑے تھے، محبوبہ مفتی، ٹی وی شو کے دوران پاکستان کیخلاف بولنے پر بھارتی ایئر کرپٹو چپ کرا دیا

لاہور (مانیٹرنگ سیل) مقبوضہ کشمیر کی سابق وزیر اعلیٰ محبوبہ مفتی نے کہا ہے کہ بھارت کے پاکستان کو سفارتی سطح پر تنہا کرنے کے دعوے جھوٹے ہیں۔ امریکا، چین، روس، سعودیہ عرب سب پاکستان کے ساتھ ہیں۔ سعودیہ دس ارب ڈالر ملنے پر سعودیہ دلی عہد کے پاس ہاتھ باندھے کھڑے تھے۔ ایک ٹی وی شو کے دوران پاکستان کے خلاف بولنے پر محبوبہ مفتی نے بھارتی ایئر کرپٹو چپ کرا دیا۔ انہوں نے کہا آپ پاکستان کی سفارتی تنہائی کا دعویٰ کرتے ہیں لیکن امریکا، چین، روس، سعودیہ عرب سب پاکستان کے ساتھ ہیں۔ سعودیہ دلی عہد نے جب بھارت میں سرمایہ کاری کے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے تو سعودیہ بھی ہاتھ باندھے کھڑے تھے۔ محبوبہ مفتی نے کہا کہ آپ کو کشمیر کشمیریوں کے بغیر چاہیے، عقل کی بات کریں۔ دو ایشی طاقتوں کے مابین کوئی جنگ نہیں ہو سکتی اگر ایسا ہوتا ہے تو کوئی نہیں بچے گا اور بڑا ملک ہونے کی وجہ سے بھارت کا نقصان زیادہ ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جنگ شروع کرنا آسان جبکہ ختم کرنا مشکل ہے۔ آج کل 20 سال بعد بھی بات چیت ہی مسئلہ کشمیر کا واحد حل

ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کشمیر میں خون ریزی روکنے کیلئے واحد حل مذاکرات ہیں اور کئی بھارتی جنرل کہہ چکے ہیں کہ مسئلے کا فوجی حل ممکن نہیں۔

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پاکستان اور چین جون میں دوسرے آزادانہ تجارتی سمجھوتے کیلئے تیار

چین کا چاول و چینی کی برآمد کیلئے خصوصی کوڈ دینے پر اتفاق سیکرٹری تجارت مارچ میں ہم منصب سے ملیں گے

اسلام آباد (خالد مصطفیٰ) پاکستان اور چین طویل عرصہ سے زیر التواء دوسرے آزادانہ تجارتی سمجھوتے پر جون 2019ء میں دستخط کرنے جا رہے ہیں، اس ضمن میں فنی ماہرین کا ایک وفد رواں ماہ فروری کے دوران ہی چین جائے گا متعلقہ اعلیٰ اہلکار نے ”دی نیوز“ کو بتایا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان پیش رفت ہوئی ہے اور وہ جون 2019ء میں دوسرے ایف ٹی اے پر دستخط کریں گے اس باہمی تجارتی سمجھوتے پر مزید بات چیت کے لئے ماہرین کی ٹیم اس ماہ جائے گی جبکہ مارچ میں سیکرٹری تجارت یونس ڈھاگا معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دینے کے لئے چین کے نائب وزیر تجارت سے ملاقات کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پہلا آزادانہ تجارتی سمجھوتہ 2012ء میں ہوا تھا مگر اس سے مطلوبہ فوائد حاصل نہ ہو سکے کیونکہ چین نے جن اشیاء پر پاکستان کو ٹیرف مراعات دی تھیں اس سے زائد مراعات آسیان ممالک کو دے دی گئیں جس سے چینی مارکیٹ میں پاکستانی اشیاء مقابلہ نہ کر سکیں اور پاکستان کی برآمدات 1.2 ارب ڈالر تک محدود ہو کر رہ گئیں جبکہ چین سے درآمدات 15 ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ گئیں۔ چینی حکام سے 18 ہزار ٹیرف لائنز پر مذاکرات ہوئے ہیں اور پاکستان کے فائدہ میں دوسرا سمجھوتہ تیار کیا گیا ہے یہ مذاکرات وزارت تجارت کی طرف سے چین کے لئے تیار کئے گئے مخصوص ماڈلز کے تحت کئے گئے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے حالیہ دورے کے دوران چین پہلے ہی پاکستان سے درآمدات دوگنا کرنے کا وعدہ کر چکا ہے۔ مشیر تجارت رزاق داؤد کے مطابق چینی وزیراعظم لی کیا نک نے پاکستان کی اعلیٰ قیادت کو واضح طور پر بتایا کہ چین پاکستان کو اپنی درآمدات کو 1.2 سے بڑھا کر 2.2 ارب ڈالر تک اور وہ اس سے زیادہ بھی درآمدات بڑھا سکتے ہیں۔ اس طرح چین پاکستان سے درآمدات تین گنا کرنے کے لئے بھی تیار ہے تاہم اس کا تمام تر انحصار پاکستانی اداروں پر ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں بیجنگ نے

چینی اور چاول کی برآمد کے لئے پاکستان کو خصوصی کوڈ دینے پر بھی اتفاق کیا ہے جس سے چین کو برآمدات میں بڑے اضافے میں مدد ملے گی، کاہینہ کے ایک رکن نے بتایا کہ پاکستانی اعلیٰ حکام کی چینی ہم منصب حکام سے ایک ملاقات جلد ہونے والی ہے جس میں پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر کو بہتر کرنے کے لئے چین کی طرف سے ڈالر رکھنے اور چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات بڑھانے کے معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دی جائے گی، پاکستانی برآمدات اب تک ماہانہ بنیادوں پر 120 سے 150 ملین ڈالر کے درمیان رہیں تاہم جولائی سے نومبر 2018ء کے دوران یہ بڑھ کر 200 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچیں وزارت تجارت ماہانہ برآمدات کو 400 ملین ڈالر تک لے جانے کے لئے کوشاں ہے تاکہ چین کی پیشکش سے استفادہ کیا جاسکے۔ پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات 1.2 ارب ڈالر تک رہی ہیں جنہیں بتدریج 2.2 ارب ڈالر بعد ازاں 3.2 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھا یا جاسکتا ہے پاکستان چاہتا ہے کہ اسے 313 ٹیرف لائنز میں خصوصی مراعات اور مارکیٹ تک رسائی دی جائے جبکہ چینی وزیراعظم نے اس مطالبے سے ہٹ کر پاکستان کی اعلیٰ قیادت کو پیشکش کی ہے کہ ان کا ملک پاکستان سے درآمدات میں سو فیصد اضافہ کر سکتا ہے اور بعد ازاں اس میں مزید 100 فیصد اضافہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ اس سے صرف چین سے تجارتی خسارے میں مدد ملے گی، اہلکار نے کہا کہ پاکستان چینی مارکیٹ میں ایک ملین ٹن چینی اور ایک ملین ٹن چاول فراہم کر کے صرف 500 ملین ڈالر کی برآمدات بڑھا سکتا ہے۔ اس طرح چین کی درآمدات جو 2 ٹریلین ڈالر کے بقدر ہیں مگر پاکستانی ادارے اس کا ایک فیصد بھی پورا کرنے کی صلاحیت نہیں رکھتے۔ چین کی درآمدات 2 ٹریلین ڈالر کے بقدر ہیں مگر پاکستانی ادارے اس کا ایک فیصد پورا کرنے کی بھی صلاحیت نہیں رکھتے۔

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بھارت کشیدگی شاہ محمود کو چین جرمنی سمیت متعدد ممالک کے وزیر خارجہ رابطے

بھارتی دھمکیوں اور خطے کی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا، بھارت کو پلوامہ واقعہ کی تحقیقات میں مکمل تعاون کی پیشکش کی، وزیر خارجہ

پاک بھارت کشیدگی خطے کے امن کیلئے خطرناک، دہشت گردی کیخلاف پاکستان نے بھاری قیمت ادا کی، چینی وزیر خارجہ کی گفتگو

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) پلوامہ واقعہ کے تناظر میں بین الاقوامی سطح پر حقائق پیش کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کی وزارت خارجہ کی جانب سے سفارتی سطح پر رابطوں کو سلسلہ جاری ہے، شاہ محمود قریشی مختلف ممالک میں اپنے ہم منصبوں کو فون پر بھارت کی پاکستان کو دی جانے والی دھمکیوں اور منفی طرز عمل سے آگاہ کر رہے ہیں۔ پیر کو بھی وزیر خارجہ نے جرمنی، چین، جاپان، پولینڈ کے وزرائے خارجہ سے رابطہ کر کے انہیں تازہ ترین صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا، انہیں بتایا پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و امان کی صورتحال گھمبیر ہو گئی ہے، مقبوضہ کشمیر میں صورتحال انتہائی خمدوش ہے، ایسے میں اقوام متحدہ اور اقوام عالم کو اپنا کردار ادا کرنا ہو گا، جرمن وزیر خارجہ ہیکو ماس سے گفتگو میں دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے باہمی روابط کو مضبوط سیاسی اور معاشی شراکت داری میں ڈھالنے پر آمادگی ظاہر کی۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے انہیں پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد خطے کی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا اور کہا بھارت کے جارحانہ رویے اور بے بنیاد الزامات کے باوجود پاکستان نے واقعے کی تحقیقات میں تعاون اور بھارت کو قابل کارروائی ثبوت فراہم کرنے کا کہا، انہوں نے جرمن وزیر خارجہ کو مقبوضہ کشمیر

میں بھارتی افواج کی جانب سے انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں سے بھی آگاہ کیا۔ جرمن وزیر خارجہ نے خطے میں امن و استحکام برقرار رکھنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا، دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے باہمی اہمیت کے امور پر مشاورت جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ جاپانی ہم منصب تاروکونو سے گفتگو میں شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا پاکستان پر امن ہسٹری اور علاقائی امن پر یقین رکھتا ہے، گزشتہ سال جاپان کی اعلیٰ شخصیات کے پاکستان کے متواتر دوروں سے دونوں ممالک کے باہمی تعلقات میں بہت بہتری آئی اسی تناظر میں آپ کی دعوت پر مجھے 24 فروری کو جاپان کے دورے پر روانہ ہونا تھا تاہم بد قسمتی سے پلوامہ واقعہ کی وجہ سے دورہ جاپان موخر کرنا پڑا، وزیر خارجہ نے کہا انہوں نے اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل کو کشیدگی کم کرنے کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کے لیے بھی خط لکھا ہے جاپان سے بھی اس ضمن میں اپنا موثر کردار ادا کرنے کی درخواست ہے۔ جاپان کے وزیر خارجہ نے کہا جب آپ تشریف لائیں گے تو وزیر اعظم جاپان سے بھی ملاقات کرائی جائے گی۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے چینی ہم منصب وانگ ٹھی سے بھی ٹیلی فونک رابطہ کیا اور وانگ ٹھی کو پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد خطے میں

امن کی صورتحال سے تفصیلی آگاہ کیا، شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا پاکستان خطے میں امن و استحکام کا خواہاں ہے اور بھارت سے معاملات مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے کا خواہشمند ہے، انہوں نے کشیدگی کم کرنے کے پاکستانی اقدامات سے بھی چینی ہم منصب کو آگاہ کیا۔ وانگ ٹھی نے قیام امن کے لئے پاکستان کی کاوشوں کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک بھارت کشیدگی خطے میں امن و امان کے لئے خطرے کا باعث ہو سکتی ہے۔ دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاکستان کی گرانقدر خدمات کے معترف ہیں، اس نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں بھاری قیمت ادا کی ہے، وزیر خارجہ نے پولینڈ کے وزیر خارجہ یاسک چاپوویچ سے ٹیلی فونک رابطہ کر کے پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد جنوبی ایشیا میں پیدا ہونے والی امن و امان کی صورتحال سے بھی آگاہ کیا، انہوں نے پولش وزیر خارجہ سے درخواست کی کہ پولینڈ اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل کا غیر مستقل ممبر ہونے کے ناطے خطے میں کشیدگی کم کرانے کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کرے، دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر اتفاق کیا۔

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چینی وفد 1 ارب ڈالر کے منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دینے پاکستان آئیگا

پہلے مرحلے میں چین 300 سے 400 اسکالرشپس پاکستانی طلباء کو فراہم کرے گا

تعلیم، صحت، تکنیکی تربیت، چھوٹے پیمانے کی زراعت، غربت میں کمی کے منصوبے اور پینے کا صاف پانی شامل ہیں۔ دی نیوز سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے اعلیٰ سرکاری ذرائع نے کہا کہ آنے والا چینی وفد اگلے ہفتے تک کیلئے ملک میں ٹھہرنے والا ہے تاکہ اگلے دو سے تین سالوں کیلئے سی پیک کے تحت ایک ارب ڈالر تک کے سماجی اقتصادی ترقیاتی منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتوں کے ساتھ اجلاس رکھے جائیں۔ وفاقی سیکریٹری منصوبہ بندی کمیشن ظفر حسن سے ان کی رائے لینے کیلئے رابطہ کیا گیا تو ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سماجی اقتصادی منصوبوں کو صوبوں کے مشورے سے عمل میں لایا جائے گا اور ان کو توقع ہے کہ چین مرحلہ وار طریقے سے کچھ منصوبوں پر کام شروع کرنے کیلئے اتفاق کرے گا۔

اسلام آباد (مہتاب حیدر) چین کا اعلیٰ وفد ایک ارب ڈالر تک کے سماجی اقتصادی تعاون کے منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے پاکستان آ رہا ہے جیسا کہ اسلام آباد نے مختلف شعبوں میں مرحلہ وار پاکستانی طلباء کو 20 ہزار اسکالرشپس دینے کیلئے باضابطہ درخواست کی ہے۔ پہلے مرحلے میں توقع ہے کہ چین 300 سے 400 اسکالرشپس پاکستانی طلباء کو فراہم کرے گا جیسا کہ اسلام آباد چین کے بہترین تعلیمی اداروں میں طلباء کیلئے تعلیمی مواقع چاہتا ہے۔ پہلے مرحلے میں چین نے 200 ملین ڈالر کے منصوبوں کو عمل میں لانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے اور ان منصوبوں کو چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتوں کے مشورے سے حتمی شکل دی جائے گی۔ دونوں جانب سے سماجی اقتصادی تعاون میں 16 شعبوں کو شناخت کیا گیا ہے جن میں

Jang News, 26-02-19

پاک چین آزادانہ تجارت

2012ء میں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین آزادانہ تجارت کا جو سمجھوتہ ہوا تھا اور ایکسپورٹرز کو جن ایشیا پر ٹیرف مراعات ملی تھیں، اندرون ملک توانائی کے بحران، برآمدی ڈیوٹی سمیت پیداواری لاگت بڑھ جانے سے یہ ایشیا چینی مارکیٹ میں آسیان ممالک کا مقابلہ نہ کر سکیں اور اس سمجھوتے سے مطلوبہ فوائد حاصل نہ ہو سکے۔ اس صورتحال سے پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات 1.2 ارب ڈالر تک محدود ہو کر رہ گئیں حالانکہ چین نے یہ سہولت بڑھا کر 2.2 ارب ڈالر اور پھر بتدریج 3.2 ارب تک پہنچانے کا عندیہ دیا تھا۔ اسی دوران پاکستان کو چین سے درآمدات کا حجم 15 ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ گیا، اس طرح پاکستانی ادارے چینی درآمدات کا ایک فیصد پورا کرنے کی بھی صلاحیت حاصل نہ کر سکے جو متعلقہ اداروں خصوصاً ایوان ہائے صنعت و تجارت کے لئے لمحہ فکریہ ہے، تاہم اس صورتحال میں یہ امر نہایت حوصلہ افزا ہے کہ چینی حکام سے 18 ہزار ٹیرف لائنز پر جو مذاکرات ہوئے ہیں اس کے تحت پاکستان کے ساتھ آزادانہ تجارت کا دوسرا سمجھوتہ تیار کیا گیا ہے۔ اس پر آئندہ جون میں دستخط ہوں گے۔ اس ضمن میں فنی ماہرین کا ایک وفد ایک دو روز میں چین جا رہا ہے، بعد ازاں سیکرٹری تجارت معاہدے کو حتمی شکل دینے کے لئے اگلے ماہ چین کے نائب وزیر تجارت سے ملاقات بھی کریں گے۔ اگرچہ چین کے آسیان سمیت دوسرے ملکوں سے بھی آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے موجود ہیں، تاہم پاک چین پائیدار دوستی کے تناظر میں متذکرہ سمجھوتہ پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر کو بہتر کرنے کے لئے نہایت اہم ہے۔ اس وقت پاکستانی ایکسپورٹرز کو نہ صرف حکومت نے حالیہ اقدامات کے تحت مختلف مراعات دی ہیں اس کے ساتھ ساتھ حکومت چین کی طرف سے متعلقہ مارکیٹ تک رسائی بھی بہت آسان ہو گئی ہے۔ مقامی اور وفاقی ایوان ہائے صنعت و تجارت کو نہ صرف چین بلکہ دوسرے ملکوں کے لئے برآمدی صنعت و تجارت پر طاری جمود ختم کرنے کے لئے اپنی کوششیں بروئے کار لانی چاہئیں۔

ادارہ پرائیس ایم ایس اور وائٹس ایپ رائے دیں 00923004647998

Pakistan Observer, 16-02-19

Yao updates PM on CPEC projects

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that Pakistan and China were closest friends and partners and reaffirmed his government's resolve to work closely with Pakistan to further strengthen Pak-China relations. Ambassador Mr. Yao Jing said this during his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan here.

The Ambassador also updated the Prime Minister on the CPEC projects. He said that the next stage of CPEC would be focused on to invest more and buy more from Pakistan.

The Prime Minister, praising the vision of President Xi



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Yao Jing called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at PM Office.

Jinping for Chinese socio-economic development, said that Pakistan could learn much from the Chinese experience for the social uplift of the people.

The Premier highlighted that CPEC has added a new dimension to bilateral ties and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to its timely completion. He expressed satisfaction over the important progress made on the CPEC projects.

The Prime Minister also underscored his priorities for transfer of technology and enhancing capacity in agricultural sector, which would have direct impact on poverty alleviation in rural areas.

Pakistan Observer, 16-02-19

Saudi Crown Prince to visit China

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BEIJING

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will visit China next week, Beijing's foreign ministry said on Friday. The Saudi Arabian leader will visit next Thursday and Friday and will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Vice Premier Han Zheng. The visit will seek to "promote the greater development of Sino-Saudi relations" and "deepen cooperation" on China's "Belt and Road" economic and trade diplomacy initiative, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a daily press briefing.

Pakistan Observer, 16-02-19**China opposes,
slams all forms
of terrorism****Shocked over
Pulwama attack****BEIJING**

China's foreign ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuang at the regular ministry briefing on Friday condemned the Pulwama attack and said, "We have noted relevant reports and are greatly shocked by this attack.

We express our deep sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families and the injured. China firmly opposes and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism and hopes that relevant countries in the region could make joint efforts to combat terrorism and preserve regional peace and security".

China said that New Delhi didn't share enough evidence against Azhar to list him a terrorist at the UN.

"China has noted the reports of suicide attack.

Continued on Back Page

Pakistan Observer, 17-02-19

CPEC golden opportunity for poverty eradication from region: Minister

LAHORE

Punjab Finance Minister Makhdoom Jawan Bakhat Hashim said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a golden opportunity for poverty eradication from the region and the Punjab will fully utilize this potential to end the deprivation of its people through this project.

Chairing the maiden meeting of the CPEC Task Force here on Saturday, Makhdoom Jawan Bakht said that agriculture sector strategy was focused in the planning and development of Punjab and the province would be benefited from it.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman Planning and Development Board Habib-ur-Rehman Gillani, Secretary Higher Education Commission

Momin Agha, Secretary Industries Nadeem-ur-Rehman, Secretary School Education Muhammad Mehmood, and other official concerned. The objectivity of the meeting was to review activities of the CPEC projects and future planning on it.

Briefing the meeting, Chairman Planning and Development Habib-ur-Rehman Gillani said that Chief Minister constituted a task force headed by finance minister and chief secretary to exploit and promote the CPEC potential in the province. Besides, the all concern departments officials are the members of the tax force, he added.

Habib-ur-Rehman Gillani further stated that the objective of the task force was to review the ongoing

CPEC projects, liaison with concerned stakeholders, ensuring the security of partners in ongoing projects, and recommending the new projects under CPEC. He said the task force will prepare quarterly report on the progress of the CPEC projects. The meeting was also briefed about ongoing projects.

Finance Minister Makhdoom Jawan Bakhat Hashim instructed the secretary energy to ensure timely completion of Faisalabad Industrial City, and to resolve the issues faced in the completion of it. Furthermore, he directed to engage the private sector for power projects in the industrial zones to overcome the energy shortage there, besides ensuring the development and functioning of the industrial zones.—INP

Pakistan Observer, 17-02-19

NDU join hands to present the first ICPECW, spanning Beijing, Islamabad and Gwadar

STAFF REPORTER

With the upcoming completion of Phase 1 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.

Obortunity, Pakistan’s premier CPEC-focused firm, and the 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.

Pakistan Observer, 18-02-19

China capable of maintaining sustainable growth

NEW YORK

China will maintain reasonably rapid growth while making a significant contribution to global growth, a U.S. economist has said. "China's absolute growth, I think, will continue in the middle to high single digits for several decades," Albert Keidel, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

He mainly attributed

his optimistic projection to China's economic resilience as well as the country's growth-oriented policies. In the midst of a complex external environment, China's economy ended 2018 on firm footing, with an emphasis on higher quality growth. The world's second-largest economy grew 6.6 percent year-on-year to reach 90.0309 trillion yuan (about 13.28 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2018, above the

official target of around 6.5 percent, according to data from China's National Bureau of Statistics.

Keidel, who is also an adjunct graduate professor at the Economics Department of George Washington University, said the average level of income and an appropriate distribution within that level of income are among the important metrics to gauge the health of an economy.—Xinhua

Pakistan Observer, 19-02-19**Pakistan, China cultural caravan organized****HYDERABAD**

The art and culture serve as the most powerful means to broaden bilateral understanding, deepen insight into each-other as people and nations as we connect to one another at visceral level. The Vice Chancellor University of Sindh Jamshoro expressed these remarks on Monday while attending the Pakistan-China Cultural Caravan organized by Area Centre Fareast and Souteast Asia at SMBB Research Chair and Convention Centre of Allam I.I. Kazi Campus Jamshoro.

The Pakistan-China friendship is higher than mountains, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey and both the coun-

tries stood the test of times have always come to each other succor without wasting a moment, he said and added it exist extensive common cultural ground and enormous shared future economic potential for both China and Pakistan to pursue. He said, the cultural exchanges help us grasp issues that we otherwise ignore or misrepresent. Both art and culture facilitate social change through community mobilization'. Dr Burfat said.

Hailing the teachings of 551 BC Chinese philosopher-teacher Confucius, the Vice Chancellor termed him a universal wisdom-inspirer of China, affording sagacity to all those who ever happened to negotiate his ideas.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 19-02-19

KSA's CPEC-like investment

CROWN Prince Mohammed bin Salman has announced China-Pakistan Economic Corridor-like investment to give the much-needed fillip to Pakistan's economy. Soon after his arrival to a historic welcome, the two countries signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth \$20 billion with the Crown Prince declaring at the banquet speech that this was just first phase of Saudi investment in Pakistan and that the Kingdom would invest more in future.

The volume of the investment is not just important because it would help develop key sectors of energy, petro-chemicals, mineral resources and sports but is also indicative of the confidence that the brotherly country has in the future of Pakistan. MBS loudly expressed his feelings about this when he expressed optimism about the economic future of Pakistan, saying his country had been waiting for a leadership like that of Prime Minister Imran Khan to partner with Islamabad in various areas. This is also a tribute to the leadership qualities of PM Imran and foreign policy direction of the PTI Government, which successfully accomplished the task of resetting relations with Saudi Arabia in a few months, taking them to new heights. The focus on Pak-Saudi relations began when Prime Minister Imran Khan chose the Kingdom as his first destination abroad after his electoral victory and assumption of the office of the chief executive. Saudi leadership reciprocated his goodwill gestures and offered generous support as per requirements of the difficult times that Pakistan was going through. It is to be noted that \$20 billion investment was over and above the financial assistance offered by the Kingdom to Pakistan in the shape of deposits in State Bank of Pakistan and provision of oil on deferred payment facility, which would go a long way in helping the country to bridge over its financial crisis.

In fact, Saudi Arabia always proved to be a true and genuine friend of Pakistan and Riyadh proved this on a number of occasions in the past as well. We have been pleading in these columns that sky was the limit to Pak-Saudi relations and there exists enormous goodwill for Pakistan in KSA and it was for policy-makers in Islamabad to exploit these sentiments and opportunities for mutual progress and development. The sectors that Saudi Arabia has chosen for investment in Pakistan would not only create huge economic activities, generate employment opportunities and help absorb up tax collection but are also attractive profitable ventures for Saudis, who would be using Gwadar port for aggressive regional trade and business contacts. The Prime Minister also referred to this in his speech and invited Riyadh to avail opportunities that can arise from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Pakistan's close links with Beijing. The prospects are there but what we need is aggressive follow up to translate MoUs into projects on ground and demonstrate complete unity in welcoming the Saudi investment. Some unscrupulous elements tried hard but in vain to create doubts about CPEC and similar attempt was made when Balochistan Assembly passed a resolution asking the Federal Government to protect rights and interests of the province while finalizing MoUs for investment in Balochistan, as if the province was going to be colonized. Investment should be seen as investment and a golden opportunity to take the masses and backward regions from the vicious cycle of poverty and ignorance. The tendency of doing politics over prospects of development and growth must be curbed as we harmed ourselves on several occasions in the past by adopting unrealistic attitude. One such example was a comprehensive package announced by the Sultanate of Oman to develop Gwadar, which was politicized by vested interests.

Pakistan itself has not enough resources to develop all regions and areas at an accelerated pace, therefore, we must be thankful to our foreign friends and brothers for their huge investment in different sectors of the economy. As the Crown Prince has pledged to make more investment in Pakistan, it is now for the Government and the policy-makers to have follow up discussions with their Saudi counterparts to give this commitment a concrete shape. The Prime Minister has done well by raising the problems being faced by Pakistani pilgrims and work force in Saudi Arabia and here again the Crown Prince readily agreed to respond positively in resolving their issues. We wish the PM should have also taken up the issue of increased Hajj charges by the Kingdom and sought some concessions for Pakistani pilgrims as Hajj expenditure has gone up to unbearable limits. Similarly, Saudi Arabia is building two new cities and there was greater scope for increase in manpower export to the Kingdom. Discussions should be held for this purpose and also for export of technical and professional manpower to KSA that could help increase the remittances meaningfully. We would also propose that Pakistan should also convince Saudis to make investment in construction of water reservoirs and hydel-power generation for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Crown Prince MBS visited Pakistan at a time when important diplomatic initiatives were underway in the two regions and the visit afforded an opportunity to harmonize their strategies. Already there is remarkable similarity in the view of the two brotherly countries on a host of issues of bilateral and regional interest especially those concerning the Muslim Ummah. Attempts were being made and threats were being hurled for isolating Pakistan and Saudi Arabia but the visit proved beyond any doubt the popularity of the Crown Prince in Pakistan and the visit was also a rebuke to PM Modi's threat of isolating Pakistan diplomatically.

It is hoped that Pakistan side would have briefed the Saudi side on the latest situation on Kashmir front, which would be helpful to the Crown Prince while putting across his point of view during his talks with Indian leaders. It is also worth mentioning that like China-Pakistan cooperation, the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is firmly grounded on sincerity and sovereign equality and their ties are not against the interest of any other country. The ties have dominant economic dimension and therefore no one needs to be threatened and instead they should become partner in development. The high profile and productive visit of the Crown Prince is also a message that Pakistan can play a vital role in regional and global affairs and can become an attractive destination for investors provided we sort out our domestic problems amicably. Differences of opinion or political interests notwithstanding, all parties, leaders and institutions should stand united when it comes to safeguarding fundamental and core interests of the country. All parties should demonstrate maturity when it comes to building fruitful and cooperative ties with other countries. Hand of the Government in power should be strengthened on each and every move that is aimed at progress of the country and welfare of the people. As for Crown Prince MBS and King Salman, their stature stands further elevated in the eyes and hearts of Pakistani people for the sentiments they have expressed for Pakistan and backed by concrete actions.

Pakistan Observer, 20-02-19**Int'l exhibition of
China's reforms
put on display****STAFF REPORTER**

An exhibition of some 140 significant photos was opened here Tuesday at National Library of Pakistan, covering 40 years of historical routes, development achievements, win-win cooperation and Reforms in China.

The display offered the visitors a glance on China's 40 years since reform and opening up by the pictures selected for the exhibition.

The event was organized by Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, China Cultural Center in Pakistan and National Library of Pakistan (National History and Literary Heritage Division) and co-hosted by China State Council Information Office and Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to celebrate 2019 Chinese Lunar New Year.

Joint Secretary National History and Literary Heritage Division, Junaid Ikhtlaq, Cultural Counselor of Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, Zhang Heqing and Director National Library of Pakistan, Syed Ghayoor Hussain inaugurated the show while people from Chinese community and a large number of students were present on the occasion.

Director National Library of Pakistan, introduced the audience with cultural revolution and reforms in China, celebration of Chinese New year and Developments in China.

Pakistan Observer, 20-02-19



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CPEC: A Golden Sparrow for Pakistan?

Tooba Zafar

Pakistan and its economy are the victims of terrorism. There is a huge deficit in the balance of payments. Poor management, reliance upon foreign aid, corruption and many other factors are the reason of Pakistan's economic failure. In such conditions, CPEC is a blessing for Pakistan's economy. Pakistan became part of CPEC due to its geographical position and good friendly relationship with China. As CPEC is the major part of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) project and a large investment of \$64 billion will be made by China in this project. Pakistan will only have to make \$15 Billion investment in the project. Both partners of the project will get their fair share by this project. The development of infrastructure, energy production, agricultural development and establishment of economic industrial zones are the expected fruits of the project.

CPEC is a win-win model in which both parties will gain their fair share. China will get connected to Arabian Sea by road between China's north western region XINGJIANG and Gwadar Port Baluchistan, by this China will get the shortest and feasible route to approach the Arabian Sea. Gwadar is a gateway for China to Eurasia (Russia, Central Asia and Iran) which are supplier of China's 99% oil. Gwadar port is the hub of all activities related to the project, as Gwadar will provide gateway to Central Asia, Arabian Sea and also to the Middle East and for Pakistan there will be three alignments with several roads, Central, Western and Eastern. All of these three alignments will be interconnected through highways and motorways. This package of infrastructure and energy projects will be attained in four steps. In early steps the main work is done on energy sector and some are expected to be completed in 2019 which will add 7000 MW to the national grid and will ensure to minimize the shortage of energy. At the same time alternative energy resources like solar parks/cities will also help Pakistan in overcoming ongoing energy crisis.

CPEC is the major part of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) project and a large investment of \$64 billion will be made by China in this project

In the next phase till 2022 the roads and Gwadar port development will be focused. The construction of road from Kashgar to Gwadar and mass transit between the big cities through high speed trains will definitely relieve the business community as well as common people. This will not only reduce the transportation timing but also the expenses will be lessened.

In the third phase till 2025 medium-term projects like railway lines and industrial zones will be established. And in the last fourth phase till 2030 projects of agriculture, tourism and industrial zone will be completed. Establishment of the industrial zones alongside the roads will be the most productive part for Pakistan's economy. On the western route, China will establish their economic zones which will open the doors for prosperity and development of Baluchistan and the KP, new opportunities for employment will be created even in remote areas of Pakistan. These economic zones will provide easy access to the raw material. On the other hand free trade zones will help to increase the exports of Pakistan. All of above mentioned developments will increase the employment opportunities for the young generation of Pakistan.

The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received by Pakistan till now in this project is the highest after 1970's. Government of Pakistan has established IPP policy under which the domestic and foreign investors are allowed 20% return on equity in US dollar terms. The just concluded visit of the Saudi Crown Prince, HH Muhammad bin Salman, to Pakistan has resulted Crown Prince The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's massive participation in the CPEC will surely give a fillip to the economy of Pakistan. Similarly, the UK, Russia, Egypt, Iran and many Central Asian and European States have shown interest in this project and their participation will boost the economy of Pakistan as well.

To attain the best results from CPEC and then to sustain the progress is in our own hands. Federal, provincial, local government, the private sector and civil society's collaboration and coordination will decide the outcome of CPEC. Thus, CPEC is a golden sparrow or not is in our hands.

CPEC and Afghanistan: The Prospects of Trilateral Cooperation



The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a mega project, estimated total cost of 62 billion dollars, between China and Pakistan which is basically a framework of regional connectivity under the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC is aimed at connecting China's Kashgar to the Gwadar port of Pakistan through the network of highways, railways and pipelines. Other than these transportation infrastructures, CPEC will help energy deprived Pakistan to augment its energy resources, will create immense job and trade facilities for Pakistan, enhance people to people contact, socio-economic development and many more projects that will boost the Pakistan's economy. For China, CPEC will reduce its trade cost and provide alternate routes for its energy imports that will help China to boost its economy.

CPEC is thus believed as a "game changer" for not only China and Pakistan but for the whole South Asian, African, Central Asian and Middle Eastern states as it will connect all the regions. The expected benefits and huge investment of CPEC have drawn the attention of other regional players as well. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have shown greater interest in becoming part of CPEC. While India's anti-CPEC designs are not hidden, the US, the sole superpower, is also showing reservations and concerns over CPEC as it will not only provide a boom to Chinese economy but obstruct USA's strategic objectives in the region. USA is also countering CPEC by increasing India's military and monetary power to counter Chinese growing influence in the region and on the other hand frustrating Pakistan by providing greater role to India in Afghanistan and influencing the international financial institutions.

Pakistan and China have time and again cleared the air that "CPEC is not aimed against any country and rather it is purely an economic initiative aimed at the peaceful development of its neighbourhood". Pakistan and China both offered Afghanistan membership of CPEC last year in a 4th Trilateral Dialogue between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Chinese envoys in their address stated that Kabul can also act as a bridge to help expand connectivity between East, South and Central Asian regions. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing, labelled Afghanistan as a "natural partner" of the mega project CPEC. Yao Jing further said that "China would also push the development process in war-torn Afghanistan as it is a facilitator of better dialogue and connection between Pakistan and Afghanistan". The inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC will open up new avenues of cooperation for China, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This trilateral cooperation, if established, would redefine the region's economic and security context. Afghanistan's geostrategic location holds immense standing for both China and Pakistan and Afghanistan's weak infrastructure, poverty, poor economic and political conditions and being hub of the "Great Game" by regional and global powers demand that it should seek for more partnerships and CPEC could be the one among others.

The trilateral cooperation between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan would have huge economic perks for all three states. For China, Afghanistan holds a pivotal economic significance as many of the Afghanistan's natural resources are untapped and provides an economic opportunity to China. Being on the crossroads of South Asia and Central Asia, Afghanistan's geographic location also holds strategic value to China. Decades long war in Afghanistan has not destroyed the infrastructure of Afghanistan but also dented its economic and political clout. Afghanistan, therefore, is in a dire need of economic cooperation that would rebuild its infrastructure and improve its economic conditions. Both China and Pakistan are already investing in Afghanistan and developing infrastructure particularly the road networks, however the strong partnership through CPEC would not only supplement the ongoing projects but also the future economic projects. Afghanistan would also enjoy

trade benefits by joining CPEC as it is a landlocked state and would have got the better trade routes by being the project member of CPEC. The trilateral cooperation is also economically advantageous to Pakistan as Afghanistan is the only gateway through which Pakistan can reach to Central Asian Republics and mistrust and political grievances between Pakistan and Afghanistan, fuelled by the presence of foreign influence in Afghanistan, always hinder any economic cooperation between these two states. By being the project member of CPEC, both countries could get enormous economic benefits offering each other better trade.

The trilateral cooperation is pivotal to all three states because of the security situation prevailing in China, Pakistan and Afghanistan which are closely linked with each other. The militancy in China's region Xinjiang, where the Uyghur's extremist challenged the Chinese government by carrying out several terrorist acts, is providing threat to China's larger political and security agendas in the region. Chinese Government claimed that these militants are getting training in Afghanistan and are residing on Pak-Afghan borders. The one way to control militancy in China is the inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC and its economic development. So, it could be said that China would seek security benefits through these developmental projects. Inclusion of Afghanistan will further secure the CPEC project and could curb the militancy in China emanating from Pak-Afghan border. The presence of USA and India's influence is another security concern for China that could sabotage its economic and security agendas regionally and globally. Both the US and India have been trying to subvert the China's growing influence and halt the CPEC through various notorious means. China and Pakistan both blamed that attack on Chinese engineers and a recent attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi had been planned in Afghanistan and carried out with the support of Indian Raw to subvert the CPEC. Therefore, China intends to engage Afghanistan in an economic partnership to safeguard its security objectives and the peaceful completion of CPEC.

Similarly, Pakistan's internal security conditions and successful completion of CPEC also depends largely on peace in Afghanistan which is not possible without the cooperation of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. The economic cooperation through CPEC would be beneficial for both Afghanistan and Pakistan to leave behind their political grievances for the long-term economic cooperation. Chinese government has also asserted that China would cooperate with both Pakistan and Afghanistan to achieve peace. Furthermore, China would facilitate development in war-torn Afghanistan as well as dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan. There is a strong need for all these governments to take concrete steps to cement and fully materialize trilateral cooperation through CPEC.

Aqsa Khalid

Aqsa Khalid is independent researcher and visiting teacher at IUI.

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Pakistan Observer, 21-02-19

China asks Pakistan, India to start talks to resolve issues

OUR CORRESPONDENT**BEIJING**

China Wednesday said that Pakistan and India were important countries in South Asia and called upon them to exercise restraint and conduct dialogue to achieve resolution of outstanding issues as soon as possible.

"Pakistan and India are both important countries in South Asia. The stability of bilateral relations is crucial to regional peace, stability and devel-

opment," Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Geng Shuang said during his regular briefing while responding to question about the current situation between the two South Asian neighbours following the recent attack on security forces in Indian held Kashmir.

He observed that the current situation in South Asia was generally stable and this situation



Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Geng Shuang addressing media.

was hard-won and deserved to be cherished and maintained by all parties concerned.

The Chinese side hoped that both India and Pakistan would exercise restraint and conduct dialogue to achieve a soft landing of relevant issues as soon as possible, he added.

Noting the massive investment cooperation agreement signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan during the Saudi crown prince recent visit, he said that the Chinese side was glad to see Pakistan having

friendly exchanges and cooperation with other countries including Saudi Arabia.

The spokesperson said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a pilot project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it was committed to consultation and collaboration for shared benefits.

He said it has always adhered to the principles of mutual cooperation, construction, sharing and openness, and transparency. "Last year, when State Councilor and For-

eign Minister Wang Yi visited Pakistan, China and Pakistan agreed to welcome third parties to participate in the construction of the corridor, so that the corridor not only benefits the people of China and Pakistan but also promotes regional economic cooperation and interconnection and achieves common development", he added. "China on the basis of consultation and consensus with Pakistan is ready to have third party cooperation," he added.

Pakistan Observer, 22-02-19**China to
collaborate
with Pakistan
Red Crescent
Punjab****STAFF REPORTER**

Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab (PRCP) has sought Chinese support to establish youth clubs, first aid training institute.

A five-member Chinese delegation of Tianjin People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (TPAFFC) visited the Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab Provincial Headquarter on Thursday.

The vice-president TPAFFC Chen Weiming led the delegation.

The Chinese delegation held a meeting with the provincial chairman PRCP Lt. Gen (R) Khalid Maqbool who apprised the delegation about humanitarian activities carried out by Pakistan Red Crescent Punjab.

The areas for mutual co-operation identified between Tianjin Red Cross and PRCP includes establishing youth clubs in different educational institution, First Aid training center at TEVTA and empowering women.

Pakistan Observer, 23-02-19**Saudi Arabia backs China's role in regional affairs: Prince Muhammed****BEIJING**

Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad met with the Chinese President Xi Jinping here on Friday and declared his country's support to China for its active role in regional and international affairs.

During the meeting held at the Great Hall of the People, he said Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to China's active role in international and regional affairs and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China.

He said, Saudi Arabia is full of confidence in China's bright development prospects under the leadership of President Xi.

They regard China as an important strategic partner, and thanks China for its support for Saudi domestic reform and development.

Saudi Arabia is willing to link the "2030 Vision" of Saudi Arabia with the "One Belt, One Road" initiative to further deepen pragmatic cooperation in various fields between the

two countries.

Prince Muhammad added, Saudi Arabia firmly adheres to the one-China policy. China has the right to take anti-terrorism and de-extremization measures for safeguarding national security.

Xi Jinping pointed out that in recent years, under the leadership of the two sides, the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Saudi Arabia has formed a new pattern of all-round, multi-level and wide-ranging areas.

The Chinese side regards Saudi Arabia as a good friend and good partner. It is willing to join hands with the Saudi side to carry forward the past and continue to create a new situation of friendship and strategic relations between China and Saudi Arabia.

Xi Jinping emphasized that China and Saudi Arabia should continue to support each other and promote political mutual trust on issues involving core interests and major concerns. China firmly supports the economic diver-

sification and social reforms promoted by the Saudi side and firmly supports the efforts of the Saudi side to safeguard national sovereignty, security and stability, and opposes any interference in Saudi internal affairs.

The two countries should strengthen the development strategy, deepen the integration of interests, accelerate the signing of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative and Saudi Arabia's "2030 Vision" docking implementation plan, and promote bilateral and pragmatic cooperation in all fields to achieve new results, he added. Xi Jinping pointed out that China supports the peace demands of the people in the Middle East, supports the reform and transformation efforts of the countries in the region, appreciates Saudi Arabia's active efforts to maintain regional peace, stability and development, and is willing to work with Saudi Arabia to explore the Middle East governance of "promoting peace through development".

Pakistan Observer, 24-02-19**Briefs****180,000 new
businesses
registered in
Beijing last year****BEIJING**

Beijing reported a growing number of companies last year with 180,000 new businesses registered, authorities said.

Although many businesses moved elsewhere amid Beijing's efforts to move non-capital functions out

of the Chinese capital, the number of registered companies rose by 6.5 percent to 1.65 million by the end of 2018, figures released by the Beijing municipal administration for market regulation showed.

The total registered capital of companies reached 38.38 trillion yuan (5.7 trillion U.S. dollars), up 9.7 percent than the amount in 2017, according to the figures issued Friday.

Some 180,000 businesses registered last year, or 790 new companies emerging every day on average.

Five years ago, China initiated a strategy to integrate the development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei to create a model with a better economic structure, cleaner environment, and improved public services. A prominent task is to move the non-capital functions out of Beijing to treat "urban ills" in the Chinese capital, such as traffic jams and pollution.

Last year saw 780 companies moved out of Beijing, with a quarter of them to the neighboring Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province, according to figures. Wholesale and retail, scientific research and technological services, and leasing and business service sectors accounted for 84 percent of the moved companies.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 25-02-19

Saudi investment in Pakistan good news for CPEC: Chinese scholar

OBSERVER REPORT

BEIJING

The investment cooperation worth US\$20 billion signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia during the Saudi Crown Prince's visit will be a good news for the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the one

Belt and one Road Initiative, which aims to strengthen the exchanges and cooperation in the fields of transportation, energy and ocean economy between China and Pakistan.

"The corridor has been encouraging investment from the third parties," Tang



Mengsheng, director of the Center for Pakistan Studies at Peking University told China Daily. He said the investment to

the Gwadar port would actively promote the construction of the China-involved project. Tang remarked that the investment could to some extent relieve the economic difficulties Pakistan is facing. "It's not a surprise for Saudi Arabia to visit and in-

vest Pakistan as the two countries have had a longtime friendly relationship, sharing the same religion and similar history."

The crown prince said Pakistan is a "dear country" to all Saudis and that the two countries "have walked together in tough and good times."—APP

Pakistan Observer, 25-02-19

Emirates forges codeshare partnership with China Southern Airlines

OBSERVER REPORT

ISLAMABAD/DUBAI

Emirates and China Southern Airlines (IATA code: CZ) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to progress a comprehensive reciprocal codeshare agreement, which is set to open up new destinations for passengers travelling between China and the Middle East and Africa. The partnership will provide improved connectivity to Pakistani passengers who travel frequently to China for trade and business.

Pakistan and China are longstanding strategic partners with trade links across the border for several businesses. The two neighbouring countries have also launched the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a framework for regional connectivity aimed at enhancing geographical linkages and improved trade and business opportunities.

This code share agreement will go a long way in enhancing connectivity for Pakistani businessmen who can choose

to travel to an increased number of Chinese cities.

The partnership with the Guangzhou-based carrier will allow Pakistani passengers to enjoy seamless connectivity on domestic flights within China, adding eight new destinations to its global network. The Chinese cities covered by the codeshare agreement include Fuzhou, Chongqing, Kunming, Qingdao, Xiamen, Chengdu, Nanjing and Xi'an during the initial phase of the partnership, subject to necessary government approvals.

Passengers travelling from China will have more choice and travel seamlessly with minimum connection times, when flying to destinations in Emirates' Middle East network such as Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Muscat, Kuwait and Cairo. The codeshare agreement also includes flights to African destinations such as Seychelles and Lagos, operated by Emirates. Pakistani Passengers can also enjoy hassle-free stopovers in Dubai, and experience what the city has to offer before flying to their final destinations.

Pakistan Observer, 26-02-19

Pak-India tussle will have 'serious results for regional peace': Wang

OBERVER REPORT**ISLAMABAD**

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday called China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and briefed him on the evolving regional situation after the February 14 Pulwama attack in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The foreign minister thanked China for its steadfast support and highlighted Pakistan's desire for peace and stability in the region. Qureshi reiterated that Pakistan was ready to resolve all issues with India through dialogue and negotiations.

The Chinese foreign minister thanked Qureshi for calling and appreciated Pakistan's efforts. He agreed that the regional situation was serious and, if not ad-

ressed expediently, could have serious implications for peace and security of the entire region. He also acknowledged Pakistan's invaluable contributions in the fight against terrorism and said that the country has paid a

heavy price for its role.

Both the foreign ministers also agreed to maintain regular contact to discuss regional developments.

Earlier in the day, the European Union and Germany also urged Pakistan and India to take immediate steps to de-escalate the heightened tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

While appreciating the early commitment of Prime Minister Imran Khan to reach out to India, Federica Mogherini stressed the urgency to de-escalate the situation and confirmed that the European Union was also in contact with Indian counterparts. "The European Union's policy has always been to promote a dialogue between Pakistan and India to sort out differences," said Mogherini.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (File photo)

Pakistan Observer, 27-02-19

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Produced by Shanghai Daily

Pakistan Observer Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Shanghai mayor unveils comprehensive plan for year ahead after notable 2018

Ding Yining and Chen Huizhi

Shanghai remains confident it can achieve an annual GDP growth of between 6 and 7 percent but is prepared to tackle challenges ahead, the city's Mayor Ying Yong told a press conference at the conclusion of the annual plenary session of the Shanghai People's Congress on January 31.

"Shanghai's economic basics remain positive," Ying said. "We shall forge ahead with supply-side reform to ensure healthy and stable development."

Shanghai will concentrate on the three major tasks designated by the central government. Seeing through the expansion of the local free trade zone, the launch of the technology innovation board, and the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region.

The National Development and Reform Commission is drawing up a policy plan for the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region, which also includes a pilot zone to demonstrate development synergies in the area.

"The pilot demonstration zone is expected to implement new reform measures as well as new development ideas," he said. "It would also be a space to promote coordinated environmental protection efforts."

Shanghai will continue to raise pension, as well as the minimum wage and subsistence allowance, to ensure all people share in the city's growing prosperity. The government will focus on the key links in long-term care insurance, which covered more than 5.6 million senior citizens last year. These include beneficiary selection and the delivery



Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong delivers the government work report at the second session of the 15th Shanghai People's Congress. — Zhang Chunhui

of nursery care.

Shanghai will also host the second China International Import Expo, which is expected to occupy a larger exhibition space. Some 500 companies from more than 40 countries and regions have confirmed they will attend 2019 CIE.

Shanghai will focus its future cooperation with Hong Kong on finance, technology, culture and youth development and learn from Hong Kong's experiences in developing financial services and human resources. Ying said Hong Kong Culture Week will be held in Shanghai in November, and HK Chief Executive Carrie Lam will be invited to visit.

Ying also said the government will devote more resources to the development of suburban districts and rural areas. "There's no modernization of the entire city without modernization of agriculture, livestock

society without well-off farmers and no eco-city without a good eco-environment of rural areas," he said.

Building Shanghai's business environment is also among the city's priorities.

Plans are being drafted to resolve leftover issues and learn from international best practices how to make business license registration more efficient.

Shanghai will also stick to the bottom line of ruling out financial risks and ensuring financial safety as the city strives to become an international financial center by 2020.

Based on the successes of the government's "one-stop portal" for public services, the government will focus on the consolidation of public data for the purpose of better sharing. It will gradually move all government IT systems "onto the cloud."

The government will formulate a regulation on the publication and management of public data, and reinvent the processes and procedures, both within and across government departments.

"Some of these will be quite 'revolutionary,'" Ying said.

"We hope both the amount of time and material required for online administrative approval can be reduced by 50 percent," he said.

When companies and residents are dealing with the government, he hope it could be as pleasant and as easy as online shopping.

Regarding the domestic garbage management regulations that were adopted by the city's legislators, Ying said it gave a great boost to waste sorting and management.

Let's navigate Shanghai's Two Sessions together!

Andy Bereham

SHANGHAI'S high-profile annual political event, Shanghai Two Sessions, ended last month. Two Sessions refers to the sessions hosted by the city's political advisers — members of the Shanghai Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference — and legislators, who are deputies to the Shanghai People's Congress.

This year's Two Sessions reviewed and enacted the city's first regulations around waste management.

Since 2001, the amount of domestic garbage thrown out in Shanghai has climbed 1 percent annually, and now nearly 7.5 million tons of waste is handled each year.

In order to better protect the environment, the government has enforced new regulations that require individuals and businesses to sort their waste themselves into four categories. They are hazardous, recyclable, wet and dry.

According to the new law, if individuals refuse to sort their garbage out they could face fines of up to 200 yuan (US\$28).

On top of that, the regulations stop hotels from offering disposable items such as slippers and shower caps, and restaurant operators will no longer be able to give out disposable chopsticks and spoons.

Every year dozens and dozens of new pieces of legislation

and regulation are discussed and passed at Two Sessions, but there is a lot of work that goes into researching such changes beforehand, as well as analyzing how they will work, and how they will affect people's lives.

Around 500 pieces of field research were undertaken last year when looking into possible new laws and regulations, and that included 22,000 suggestions from local residents and companies. That's a lot of leg work!



Andy Bereham comes from New Zealand's capital city, Wellington, and has lived in China, off and on, for the past six years. He is interested in all things related to contemporary Chinese society.



Foreign students show off the hongbao they received at their 'Chinese New Year's Eve' dinner on January 28. — Dong Jun

Foreign students celebrate Spring Festival in the city

Yang Meiling

AROUND 230 students from 23 countries at East China Normal University, who are staying in Shanghai during the winter vacation, celebrated the Spring Festival in six campuses in Putuo and Minhang districts last month.

Many wore traditional Chinese clothes, tried writing Chinese calligraphy and spring couplets, a pair of poetry lines pasted on both sides of a front door and a four-character horizontal scroll affixed above, to express delight at the festival and wishes for a better life.

Some learned to make Chinese dumplings, a traditional Spring Festival delicacy.

Zain ul Abidin from Pakistan spent almost the whole afternoon writing calligraphy and finished his first spring couplets. He said he would like to paste them at the door of his dorm room to add some Spring Festival atmosphere.

Nilab Oppal from Uzbekistan said she loved Chinese calligraphy as a way of learning Chinese and relaxing. She had learned calligraphy for a semester, but had little time to practice due to her busy study schedule.

"I'm glad to have the opportunity to write calligraphy here," she said.

Teachers had dinner with them and gave them hongbao, the red envelopes containing money that families give to children and old people on Chinese New Year's Eve.

"It's my first time to get a hongbao," said Nurriya Sulaiman Kyry, a Kyrgyzstan student majoring in teaching Chinese as a second language. "It's only 10 yuan, but I'm very glad to experience the Chinese culture. It will be helpful for me to teach Chinese language and culture to my students in the future."

She said it was the fourth year she had spent the winter vacation in Shanghai and celebrated the festival at the university.

"The Chinese New Year is very interesting, everything is in red and people all go back home for family reunions. I'm looking forward to an opportunity to spend some days in a Chinese family to see how they celebrate the festival," she said.

More than 6,000 international students from 130 countries study at the university.

Achievements and goals

Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong reviewed the government's work in 2018 and set out the blueprint for the new year during the annual session of the Shanghai People's Congress. Here are some major points he mentioned about public services and environment protection in the government work report.

2018 Achievements

- Urban per capita disposable income up 8.8%
- Rural per capita disposable income up 9.2%
- 7,103 New beds at senior care centers
- 1,003 New "love relay stations" for outdoor workers
- 1.6% CPI
- 36 mg/m³ The annual average density of PM2.5
- 81.1% Days reported with excellent and good air quality
- 122 New day care centers for kids aged between 2-3
- 89 New jogging and walking paths
- 10,46 million square meters Renovation of old apartments
- 76,000 mu (504 square kilometers) New forest
- 1,307 hectares New greenery area
- 224 km New greenway

2019 Goals

- In line with the national index
- 7,000 New beds at senior care centers
- 200 New "love relay stations" for outdoor workers
- 50 New day care centers for kids aged between 2-3
- 100 New jogging and walking paths
- 3 million square meters Renovation of old apartments
- 75,000 mu (504 square kilometers) New forest
- 1,200 hectares New greenery area
- 200 km New greenway

3 MAJOR TASKS IN 2019

- Expanding the free trade zone.
- Launching the "technology innovation" board with a pilot registration system.
- And pushing forward with the national strategy to integrate development of the Yangtze River Delta.

SECOND IMPORT EXPO

Shanghai will put out all the stops to host a successful second China International Import Expo.

Graphics by Shen Xinyi

Shanghai's Metro network reached 705 kilometers in 2018 while another 128 kilometers of new Metro lines will be built in 2019.

60 new neighborhood sports fields will be built in 2019.

More government service via Internet

More families to be freed from ghettos

Xu Lingchao

YANG Guozhen, who has been living in a ghetto in the Qiaolu Road area of Huangpu District in Shanghai for decades with his family of seven, will finally say goodbye this year to the days when they don't even have a bathroom in their 20-square-meter room.

So will another 5,800 families living in the area as a renovation project will start this year. All residents living in warrens are expected to move out to new homes with better facilities.

Qiaolu Road is a small street in the old city, once the center of Shanghai that covers 1.99 square kilometers. The road stretches out for less than one kilometer. It was where Xu Guangli (1962-1933), the famous scholar-bureaucrat under the Ming Dynasty, was born. His former residence is still in existence.

The historic houses remain and have become homes for local residents. But as time passed by, the conditions of the historic buildings in the area worsened. The buildings that used to house only one family are now stuffed with five or six, sometimes even more.

The district aims to reach an agreement with the 5,800 families living in the area to move out by the end of this year. Investment in the project is expected to reach 36 billion yuan (US\$ 5.6 billion).

Over the past few years, more than 16,000 families living in the old city have moved out to new homes or had their homes renovated. But according to Huangpu District, there are still 24,000 families living in poor conditions in the old city, 17,000 of which don't have a proper bathroom.

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Pakistan Observer, 27-02-19**China urges
Pakistan, India
to exercise
restraint****OUR CORRESPONDENT****BEIJING**

China on Tuesday urged India and Pakistan to “exercise restraint” after the Inter-Services Public Relations said that Indian warplanes violated the Line of Control (LoC) last night and released their payload in Muzaffarabad sector of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

“We hope that both India and Pakistan can exercise restraint and adopt actions that will help stabilise the situation in the region and improve mutual relations,” China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lu Kang said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is expected to meet his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj and Russia’s Sergei Lavrov in the Chinese city of Wuzhen on Wednesday for a previously planned meeting.

Pakistan Observer, 28-02-19**US, China urge Pakistan,
India to exercise restraint****Turkey to stand by Pakistan against India****OBSERVER REPORT**

ISLAMABAD/BEIJING

China hoped that both India and Pakistan can exercise restraint and can maintain good neighbourly and friendly relations.

Chinese Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in his regular press briefing said that Pakistan and India to "exercise restraint" and seek dialogue after the Pakistani military said it shot down two Indian warplanes in its airspace amid rising border tensions.

He said "What we are concerned about is that India and Pakistan, as important countries of the South Asian subcontinent, can maintain good neighbourly and friendly relations."

"We hope that both India and Pakistan can exercise restraint, take initiatives that are conducive to promoting dialogue, meet halfway and make active efforts for lasting peace and stability in South Asia," Lu said.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednes-

day urged Pakistan and India to exercise restraint and avoid escalation at any cost after Pakistan Air Force shot down two Indian jets.

Pompeo said in a statement he had spoken to foreign ministers from India and Pakistan and "encouraged both Ministers to prioritize direct communication and avoid further military activity."

Turkey on Wednesday categorically announced to stand by Pakistan and its people in the face of Indian aggression. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu expressed these sentiments during his telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Sharing details of his talk, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the Turkish foreign minister also declared to oppose if the Indian external affairs minister was given an opportunity to speak at the upcoming Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Abu Dhabi.

According to TRT re-

port, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said that he has told Pakistan that "Turkey is willing to mediate between India and Pakistan." The minister said that he had a phone contact with his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi, but not with any Indian official yet.

Expressing concerns over the prevailing tensions, Mavlut said: "We are concerned over this tension. We want to call for common sense and calm between the parties. Steps that will escalate the tension should be avoided."

He also said the main issue between the two neighbouring countries was the "Kashmir issue" and this issue must be solved "as soon as possible" within the framework of the international law.

"This is also important for people of [occupied] Kashmir," he added.

"Turkey is always willing to contribute to easing tension and to resolving these issues, including Kashmir," Mavlut said.

The Express Tribune, 16-02-19**Editorial****CPEC and Iran**

Iran is eager to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC – a part of the gigantic One-Belt One-Road initiative envisioned by President Xi Jinping. This is not the first time that the neighbouring Muslim country has expressed desire to be a part of the multi-billion-dollar project with an intent to enhance land connectivity for trade purposes. The latest 'expression of interest' came during a meeting of Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost with members of the Pak-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

That economic integration and trading blocs are fundamental elements of the contemporary world order needs no debate. Examples in the context are the success stories of the European Union i.e. the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or Asean. While the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, i.e. Saarc, so far failed to take off, CPEC has fortunately provided our region a much better substitute. Billed as game changer and fate changer, the giant project has all the potential to integrate the region into a strong economic and trading bloc, which can then serve to decrease the global role of the United States and its allies.

That a lot of countries, including Britain, Turkey, Russia and several Central Asian states, have expressed the desire to join CPEC speaks volumes about the growing regional interest in the project and its potential to turn into an effective trade bloc. Bringing Iran on board CPEC can be the first step towards regional integration. Iran believes "regional cooperation is one of the best ways to overcome poverty and other problems in the region" and says it is "ready to be a part of CPEC with all our capabilities and resources". Understanding full well that it is trade that trumps diplomacy, Iran is optimistic that CPEC can serve to narrow down diplomatic differences among the various states in the region by becoming a common platform of cooperation.

The Express Tribune, 23-02-19

China urges fair probe into IOK attack

BEIJING

China on Friday called on relevant parties to conduct an objective and fair investigation into an attack in Indian Occupied Kashmir to find out the truth.

When asked if the press statement means the UN Security Council has evidence to hold the JeM responsible, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a news briefing that although the statement mentions a particular organisation, it doesn't mean a judgment on the incident.

China noticed that the Pakistani government had expressed its willingness to cooperate with India in the investigation and resolve their disputes through dialogue, he said.

"China hopes India and Pakistan will continue to exercise restraint and have dialogue to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," he said. The spokesperson called upon both Pakistan and India to resolve their outstanding issues through dialogue and consultations to ensure peace and security in the region. AGENCIES

The Express Tribune, 24-02-19

Trump inclined to extend China trade deadline

Negotiators extend talks in Washington by two days; both nations agree on currency deal

WASHINGTON

There is a very good chance that the United States would strike a deal with China to end their trade war, said US President Donald Trump, adding that he was inclined to extend his March 1 tariff deadline and meet soon with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

US and Chinese negotiators had made progress and will extend this week's round of negotiations by two days through Sunday, Trump told reporters at the White House as he met with his top negotiators and their counterpart, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He.

"I think that we both feel there's a very good chance a deal will happen," Trump said. Liu agreed there had been "great progress". "From China, we believe that (it) is very likely that it will happen and we hope that ultimately we'll have a deal. And the Chinese side is ready to make our utmost effort," he said at the White House. The Republican president said he probably would meet with Xi in March in Florida to decide on the most important terms of a trade deal.

Extending the deadline would put on hold Trump's

threatened tariff increase to 25% from 10% on \$200 billion of Chinese imports into the United States. That would prevent a further escalation in a trade war that already has disrupted commerce in goods worth hundreds of billions of dollars, slowed global economic growth and roiled markets.

since mid-November, with Brent crude reaching a high of \$67.73 a barrel.

Currency agreement

Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the two sides had reached an agreement on currency. Trump declined to provide details, but US officials long have ex-

horse," but would likely be positive for Asian emerging market currencies, said Alan Ruskin, global head of currency strategy at Deutsche Bank in New York.

"How can you agree to avoid excessive Chinese yuan depreciation or volatility if you have not made an agreement on trade that could have huge



IMPACT: Extending the deadline would put on hold Trump's threatened tariff increase to 25% from 10% on \$200 billion of Chinese imports into the United States. PHOTO: REUTERS

Optimism that the two sides will find a way to end the trade war lifted stocks, especially technology shares. The S&P 500 stock index reached its highest closing level since November 8. Oil prices rose to their highest

pressed concerns that China's yuan is undervalued, giving China a trade advantage and partly offsetting US tariffs. Announcement of a pact aimed at limiting yuan depreciation was putting "the currency cart before the trade

FX implications?" Ruskin asked in a note to clients.

Trump said a deal with China may extend beyond trade to encompass Chinese telecommunications companies Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corp. REUTERS

The Express Tribune, 26-02-19**US Navy ships pass through Taiwan Strait, riling China**

WASHINGTON

The United States sent two Navy ships through the Taiwan Strait on Monday as the US military increased the frequency of movement through the strategic waterway despite opposition from China.

The voyage risks further raising tensions with China but will likely be viewed by self-ruled Taiwan as a sign of support from the Trump administration amid growing friction between Taipei and Beijing.

The movement comes as US President Donald Trump said the United States and China are "very, very close" to a deal to end a months-long trade war that has slowed global growth and disrupted markets.

The US Navy's passage through the Taiwan Strait also comes just days before a summit between Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

"The ships' transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the US Pacific Fleet said in a statement.

The two ships were identified as the destroyer Stethem and Navy cargo and ammunition ship Cesar Chavez, the statement added. The 180-km-wide (111.85 miles) Taiwan Strait separates Taiwan from China. Washington has no formal ties with Taiwan, but is bound by law to help defend

the island nation and is its main source of arms.

The Pentagon says Washington has sold Taiwan more than \$15 billion in weaponry since 2010. China has been ramping up pressure to assert its sovereignty over the island, which it considers a breakaway province of "one China".

Washington has sold Taiwan more than \$15 billion in weaponry since 2010

China has repeatedly sent military aircraft and ships to circle the island on drills in the past few years and worked to isolate the island internationally, whittling down its few remaining diplomatic allies.

Earlier this year the US Defense Intelligence Agency released a report describing Taiwan as the "primary driver" for China's military modernization, which it said had made major advances in recent years.

Taiwan is one of a growing number of flashpoints in the US-China relationship, which also include a trade war, US sanctions and China's increasingly muscular military posture in the South China Sea, where the United States also conducts freedom of navigation patrols. REUTERS

The Express Tribune, 26-02-19

CPEC group established in UK parliament

House of Commons member says move is aimed at highlighting investment avenues

IMRAN RANA
FAISALABAD

Following an improvement in the security situation, Pakistan government is striving to attract maximum foreign direct investment (FDI) despite daunting internal challenges, said United Kingdom House of Commons member Faisal Rasheed.

Speaking to a meeting at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Rasheed revealed that he had established a CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) group in the UK parliament.

“The purpose of this forum is to raise awareness of the opportunities to be created following the completion of this mega infrastructure project, which is part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),” he pointed out. “I had a meeting with the Chinese ambassador in order to formally launch this group in September 2019.”

Noting that the business environment in Pakistan had improved considerably, Rasheed announced that British investors were now keen to undertake energy and logistics-related projects.

He was of the view that investment in Pakistan would enhance job opportunities for

the youth besides generating wealth for the stakeholders.

Pointing to the Afghan war and the 9/11 incident, he regretted that Pakistan had suffered badly. “As a result, several foreign banks and institutions shut their businesses over security concerns,” he pointed out. “A few foreign airlines also diverted flights after the issuance of travel advisories.”

Rasheed emphasised that Pakistan govt should focus on enhancing trade instead of seeking aid from other countries

However, he explained that after the change of government, the situation improved considerably, adding that he had two meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was also eager to attract FDI.

Although Pakistan was facing daunting internal and external challenges, the direction was correct, he declared and voiced hope that it would yield positive results in the next five to six years.

He emphasised that the government of Pakistan should focus on enhancing trade instead of seeking aid from other countries. “Being chairman of the International Trade Committee of the UK parliament, I will give due importance to Faisalabad in my trade strategy,” he stressed.

The Express Tribune, 28-02-19

Pindi court releases Chinese 'trafficker' on bail

Qaiser Sherazi
Rawalpindi

A Rawalpindi court on Wednesday approved the bail of a Chinese man, who had been arrested by immigration authorities for suspected human smuggling after the woman he was accused of attempting to traffic out of the country appeared before the court and claimed was her husband. Dong Jing Lee was presented before a Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) special magistrate Rizwan Ahmed Sheikh on Wednesday.

Young Pakistani woman Silvia Shamoon, who Dong was accused of trafficking out of the country, also appeared

before the court. She said that she had married Dong of her own free will on December 4, 2018, and wanted to live with him. She contended that the case registered against Dong of trafficking her to China by the FIA was fictitious.

The suspect's counsel Syed Yasir Hussain Shah Tirmizi also appeared before the court along with an official from the Chinese Embassy. He asserted that the FIA had filed a false case against Dong. He added that Shamoon had legally married Dong and that their marriage certificate was registered in Sargodha and records can be obtained from the official registrar there.

The Express Tribune, 28-02-19

China's central bank to take steps for multi-level capital market

Aims to diversify financing services in banking sector

BEIJING

China's central bank will take further steps to encourage equity financing and facilitate capital market reforms to diversify financing services in the banking sector, a senior official said on Tuesday.

In response to a top-level financial development plan issued last week, People's Bank of China Deputy Governor Pan Gongsheng said the key issue of supply-side reform in the financial sector is to improve the financing structure and let the multi-level capital market play a more significant role.

"The prudent monetary policy will continue to provide a proper monetary and financing environment for financial supply-side reform and high-quality development," Pan said during an interview with China Central Television.

Pan said the central bank will promote market-oriented interest rate reform and prevent 'self-cycling' of funds within the finan-

cial sector, which means investors are trading financial products for arbitrage purposes based on interest rate spreads, rather than injecting funds into the real economy.

The central bank will also support the development of small and medium-sized financial institutions, and diversify the banking and credit systems, Pan said. China's financial sector has been long dominated by the banking system, or 'indirect financing system', compared with relatively weaker equity financing.

At a high-profile meeting on Friday, policymakers called for the building of a multi-level banking system with wide coverage and diverse expertise, while personalised and differentiated financial products that suit market demand should be developed, according to a statement after the meeting.

As for the renminbi's exchange rate, Pan said the central authorities will continually improve its flexibility and enhance the risk management ability given a further opened financial industry.

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Over 60 Chinese delegates confirm participation in Texpo-2019 in Lahore

BEIJING

Over 60 Chinese delegates have confirmed their participation in the second edition of Texpo scheduled to be held in Lahore from April 11-14 to promote Pakistani textile industry.

"We are expecting the largest international delegation from China as so far over 60 companies have got themselves registered at the Texpo," Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Badar u Zaman told APP here.

Textile importers, interna-

tional purchasers and global brands have been invited to participate in the event being organized by Pakistan Trade Development Authority and the Ministry of Commerce, which will be an ideal demonstration of Pakistan's textile strength.

The products including cotton yarn, fabric, knitwear, ready-made garments, hand-cuffs, towels, stockings, leather garments and accessories, handicrafts, bedding, textile machinery, tents, carpet and sportswear etc will be ex-

hibited at the expo. According to official sources, the momentum and interest for the second edition of Texpo are picking up as the local textile industry is showing great interest in the event. The TDAP has already sold out more than 80% of the available space.

Leading textile brands like Sapphire, Chen One, Siddique Sons, Rajby will be exhibiting their top quality products. Texpo has seen unprecedented interest from the textile sector as more than 170

exhibitors representing the entire value chain have already confirmed their space in the event.

The TDAP and Pakistan Fashion Design Council have also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for holding a fashion show on the sidelines of the Texpo. The TDAP has made reservations in leading hotels of Lahore for the stay of the



buying houses, chains and re-

tail stores for this event. All

trade officers have been given special tasks and directions for bringing the best possible

buyers for Texpo.

The first edition took place in 2016 at Expo Center Karachi and drew in 450 international delegates chosen from 50 countries across the globe. It is expected that Texpo, 2019 will give a boost to the textile exports of Pakistan which accounts for nearly 60 per cent of Pakistan's total exports.—APP

The Ministry of Commerce is making all-out marketing efforts to attract international

The Nation, 16-02-19

China's market

Pakistan's new government has finally gotten relief by securing a soft loan from Saudi Arabia, which will buy enough time for policies to be implemented which can direct the economy out of the deficit crunch.

The policies that we need to focus on are industrialization and exporting policies. It's time to gear up our industries to start supplying to the world.

Also China is opening its doors to bilateral trade with the world for the very first time. It is a significant move for the Chinese government to hold CIIE to give firm support to trade liberalization and economic globalization and actively open the Chinese market to the world. It facilitates countries and regions all over the world to strengthen economic cooperation and trade, and to promote global trade and world economic growth in order to make the world economy more open.

China International Import Expo is attracting Commerce ministries and key industrial players to exhibit and market its products to China Enterprises from over 100 countries and regions are expected to participate in the first CIIE. Supporting activities such as supply-demand matchmaking meetings, seminars and product releases will be held during the Expo. At National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai), host by Ministry of Commerce of the Peoples' Republic of China & Shanghai Municipal People's Government. The show will be inaugurated by the President of Peoples republic of China and Pakistan will be a key partner of the expo.

MASHOOD KHAN

The Nation, 17-02-19

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. Realizing 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.

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.

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 fiascos 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 out rightly 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 Nation, 19-02-19

China, Germany ready to enhance mutual cooperation



BEIJING - Director of China's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office Yang Jiechi and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas during the recent Munich Security Conference have confirmed their readiness to strengthen cooperation on international issues and address global challenges, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“In the present international situation, China and Germany need to strengthen cooperation and jointly protect multilateralism and rules-based world order,” Yang was quoted as saying by the ministry.

Maas highlighted that Germany attached great importance to the development of relations with China and was ready to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields, including within the framework of Beijing's Belt and Road project.

In this Thursday, July, 5, 2018 photo, a jockey truck passes a stack of 40-foot China Shipping containers at the Port of Savannah in Savannah, Ga.

Yang noted that China was also ready to strengthen comprehensive cooperation with Berlin and expressed hope that its investment and technology companies in Germany would be treated fairly.

On 8 February, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier said that the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) was investigating rumors that Beijing's Huawei devices enabled the tech giant to gather data from the German mobile network and hand over it to the Chinese authorities.

Huawei has recently faced allegations that it had been linked to the Chinese government and even has been spying on its behalf, something that the company has vehemently denied. Last year, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States banned the Chinese telecommunications giant from participating in government contracts, while several other countries voiced their own concerns over Huawei's activities.

The three-day Munich Security Conference ended in Germany on Sunday.

NATIONAL

China urges nuclear neighbours to defuse tension

OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

China has said that Pakistan and India are "both important countries" in South Asia and a stable bilateral relationship between the two is essential to the peace and stability in the region.

This was stated by Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang in a briefing on Tuesday, when he was asked what role China - as a close neighbour of both countries - will play to de-escalate

the post-Pulwama attack situation.

New Delhi has put blame of the recent suicide attack on its security forces in the Indian Occupied Kashmir on Islamabad and adopted a number of reactionary measures.

Islamabad, which strongly backs Kashmiris' peaceful struggle for right to self-determination, has vociferously rejected the allegation of backing the militant organization that claimed the bombing - which killed dozens of members of India's Central Police Reserve Force.

The Nation, 20-02-19

China, Pakistan set to finalize socio-economic development action plan



ISLAMABAD - China and Pakistan are likely to finalize one billion dollars Socio-Economic Development action plan under CPEC by the first week of March, it was learnt reliably here.

The Chinese experts group on socio-economic development is arriving in Pakistan on February 24 and will stay here for two weeks, official sources told The Nation here Tuesday.

This is a huge expert group consisting of 10 to 12 experts and will discuss the finalization of action plan with Pakistani experts, said the source. The finalization of action plan will help the government to launch pilot projects in the selective districts of the country. China has agreed to extend Pakistan grant for Socio-Economic Development through China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

In the 8th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of Pakistan China Economic Corridor (CPEC) held in Beijing last year December, a joint working group on socio-economic development was established and it has devised a draft action plan. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the formation of JWG on socio-economic development and MoU on poverty reduction had been signed during the Prime Minister Imran Khan visit to China in November last year.

The joint working group (JWG) has identified six areas for future cooperation which includes education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, skill development, healthcare, water supply and vocational training projects. The action plan will provide guidelines in the developments of these six areas. The initiative will be focused on less developed areas of the country particularly

Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, southern Khyber Pakhthunkha, Northern Sindh and Southern Punjab.

Soon after the formation of working group, the federal government asked the recommendations of the provinces regarding the identifications of districts, areas of cooperation. Chinese socio-economic development expert's team will hold meeting with the federal planning ministry and the officials and experts from the provinces to finalize the projects and its sites in already agreed six different areas.

The projects in the six identified areas will be funded through China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). When asked about the quantum of the grant to be extended by China for the socio economic development, the source said that initially the Chinese grant will be around one billion dollars.

In the first phase, the pilot projects will be launched in the six identified fields and later projects will be extended to the entire backward areas of the country, said the source.

The Nation, 20-02-19

China to collaborate with Red Crescent to establish rehab center



ISLAMABAD- Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) sought China's support to establish a physical rehab center, a statement said.

A five-member Chinese delegation of Tianjin People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (TPAFFC) visited the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) National Headquarters here on Tuesday.

Vice-President TPAFFC Chen Weiming led the delegation.

A meeting was arranged for the delegation in the Committee Room chaired by the PRCS Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed.

Joint Director Operations Muhammad Abaidullah Khan briefed the delegates about the humanitarian projects and major emergency operations carried out by the PRCS with the support of the Red Cross Society of China at different times.

The areas for future cooperation with the PRCS including maintenance/renovation of a 50-bed hospital in Gilgit, establishment of a vocational training and resource centre in Islamabad, procurement of a blood donation bus and equipment for Regional Blood Donor Center, and technical and financial support for establishment of PRCS Business Tower and Rehabilitation Centre at the National Headquarters also came under discussion.

Secretary-General PRCS Khalid Bin Majeed highly appreciated the support of Red Cross Society of China during major disasters such as earthquakes in 2005 and 2015, floods in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014, establishment of state-of-the-art Fraternity Emergency Care Centre in Gwadar and another such health facility in Quetta.

He said that PRCS is keen to set up a physical rehabilitation center in Islamabad to provide artificial limbs to handicapped people.

He said the PRCS looked forward to Chinese technical and financial support for the establishment of this center to help those needing the most.

Chen Weiming said the purpose of his visit was to establish a strong connection with China and to explore areas for collaboration and ventures on One Belt, One Road.

He said the PRCS was a vibrant, dynamic National Society having a very strong humanitarian capability.

He said the Red Cross Society of China was working extensively on providing relief to people with disability and serious illness and requested the PRCS to share comprehensive proposals and plans for possible collaboration and cooperation.

At the end of the ceremony, PRCS Secretary General and President TPAFFC exchanged mementoes.

It is pertinent to mention that the delegation is visiting Pakistan primarily to discuss business and investment cooperation with the Pakistani side.

The Nation, 20-02-19

Significant photos of China's reforms put on display

ISLAMABAD - An exhibition of some 140 significant photos was opened here yesterday at National Library of Pakistan, covering 40 years of historical routes, development achievements, win-win cooperation and Reforms in China.

The display offered the visitors a glance on China's 40 years since reform and opening up by the pictures selected for the exhibition.

The event was organized by Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, China Cultural Center in Pakistan and National Library of Pakistan (National History and Literary Heritage Division) and co-hosted by China State Council Information Office and Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to celebrate 2019 Chinese Lunar New Year.

Joint Secretary National History and Literary Heritage Division, Junaid Ikhlq, Cultural Counselor of Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, Zhang Heqing and Director National Library of Pakistan, Syed Ghayoor Hussain inaugurated the show while people from Chinese community and a large number of students were present on the occasion.

Director National Library of Pakistan introduced the audience with Cultural Revolution and reforms in China, celebration of Chinese New year and Developments in China. This exhibition is an attempt to create a link between people of Pakistan and China.

It is important to understand the culture of each other to know more about people. China and Pakistan have strong bond of friendship comprising 70 years of relations, he said.

The opening ceremony was followed by a special acrobatic, robotic dance and cultural performance by the students of International Grammar School Islamabad. The performers presented the traditional vibrant attires of both Pakistan and China. The exhibition is part of series of activities organized to celebrate Chinese New Year in Pakistan by Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan. The exhibition will remain open for public till February 24.

The Nation, 21-02-19

China welcomes third-party coop with Pakistan

BEIJING (INP): China stands ready to engage in third-party cooperation with Pakistan to implement the CPEC projects. "We can do it on the basis of consensus," said a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang at a regular news briefing while commenting on Saudi Arabia's investment in Pakistan.

"We have noted relevant reports about the Saudi Arabia's investment and are glad to see Pakistan develop friendly exchanges and cooperation with other countries." The CPEC is a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative and has been following the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits as well as openness and transparency.

Last year, during State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Pakistan, the two sides agreed to welcome third parties to join the CPEC projects so that the CPEC will not only benefit the people of China and Pakistan, but also help the region enhance economic cooperation and connectivity and realize common development, he added.

The Nation, 22-02-19**Saudi Crown Prince arrives in China**

SHENZHEN, CHINA - Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) has arrived in China where he will meet President Xi Jinping in hopes of bolstering an image tarnished internationally over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey last year. The two-day visit in Beijing is expected to focus on energy deals for resource-hungry China and regional economic agreements that align with Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative [BRI], Xi's signature infrastructure initiative spanning across Southeast, South and Central Asia to the Horn of Africa.

"The leadership in Riyadh and Beijing probably realize the strategic importance of their relationship on the energy front and most recent attempts have been driving it towards cooperation in other areas," AyhamKamel, Middle East and North Africa expert with the Eurasia Group told Al Jazeera.

China is Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade in goods totaling \$63.3bn last year. In 2017, during the last major state visit to Beijing by Saudi Arabia's King Salman, the two sides signed deals worth around \$65bn, mostly related to energy and technology.

"[MBS] is looking for building greater confidence with the Chinese leadership, demonstrating that he has options beyond the West, and showcasing that he remains the heart of the leadership circle and the next king of Saudi Arabia," Kamel said.

Besides an audience with Xi, the crown prince will meet Vice Premier of the State Council, Han Zheng, who will chair a China-Saudi High-Level Joint Committee meeting where deals will likely be hashed out.

Zhu Weilie, director of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum Research Center, wrote in the Shanghai Observer that he believed “development of the economic zone along the Red Sea coast and cooperation on energy” would be the main focus of the talks beginning on Thursday.

The zone launched by MBS in 2017 under the acronym NEOM is expected to receive around \$500bn in investments from Riyadh upon completion.

With China, the third and final leg of an Asia tour that saw MBS attempt to sidestep friction during high-level meetings in Pakistan and India over a major suicide attack in Indian-administered-Kashmir, getting down to business should be a welcome change for him.

Yet Beijing is also attempting a balancing act of its own, having just hosted Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister of Iran - Saudi Arabia’s regional rival - on Tuesday. At the same time, one of the crown jewels of its BRI Programme - Gwadar Port in the Pakistani province of Balochistan - sits at the fulcrum.

In Pakistan, MBS pledged \$10bn in investments for a refinery and petrochemical complex at Gwadar, which lies at the heart of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor - a connection of roads, rail and other infrastructure linking to the port. Gwadar plays a very important role in the Beijing-Islamabad BRI relationship.

“The port of Gwadar is strategically very important to China as a way to circumvent the Straits of Malacca and the Chinese are not crazy about others in that pond, particularly others that may have a different agenda,” James Dorsey, senior fellow at S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, told Al Jazeera.

Dorsey said Riyadh might see Balochistan as “an investment target or a place where it could destabilize Iran from” but it is unclear how far China wants Saudi Arabia to get involved, considering Iran’s sensitivities.

Geng Shuang, China’s ministry of foreign affairs spokesman said on Tuesday that the Chinese government was pleased by Saudi Arabia’s investment in Pakistan and welcomed the additional participation of third parties in the economic corridor.

“They are walking a tightrope between Saudi Arabia and Iran,” Dorsey said of China. “How long they will be able to do that is a question.”

Kamal said “Iran might sense some anxiety as Riyadh attempts to narrow and curtail Tehran’s partnerships in the East and West” but added that Saudi Arabia had other areas to focus on besides its regional foe.

One issue unlikely to come up, however, at least not publicly, is China’s treatment of Uighur and other Muslim minorities in its northwestern region of Xinjiang, where it is alleged that an estimated one million people have been detained and sent to “concentration camps” against their will - a charge denied by Beijing which says these are “voluntary” vocational training facilities.

“Saudi Arabia’s silence has been deafening on this,” Dorsey said. “Public pressure is much regulated in Saudi Arabia. We don’t even know if it exists in regards to the Uighurs.”

On February 10, the Turkish government under President RecepTayyipErdogan called the detentions “a great shame for humanity” and decried the alleged “torture and political brainwashing” in the camps. “Turkey’s president was responding to public pressure,” Dorsey said. “[MBS] doesn’t have quite that degree of pressure.”

According to Kamel: “The Uighur issue can be viewed as a strategic lever and important issue for Turkey but Saudi Arabia does not particularly care about this group given its geopolitical competition with Ankara.”

Chas Freeman, a former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia said the crown prince’s visit serves many purposes, including advancing Riyadh’s goal of becoming less reliant on the United States and muscling in on Iran, which is also wooing China.

“It shows that, despite his tarnished reputation in the West, his power is respected in the East,” Freeman said. “It courts what is clearly the market of the future for Saudi Arabia.”

For China, “a robust relationship with Saudi Arabia opens a market for its increasingly advanced armaments, construction and telecommunications industries and secures an important source of energy imports,” added Freeman.

“It shows that, despite Chinese suppression of Islam in Xinjiang and elsewhere, China can sustain mutually advantageous relationships with a leading Muslim country.”

The Nation, 22-02-19

HEC, Chinese varsity ink accord to award doctorate scholarships



ISLAMABAD - The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Shenzhen University China (SZU) inked an agreement on Thursday to award fully funded PhD and post-doctoral scholarships to Pakistani students.

The statement issued by HEC said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Shenzhen University (SZU), China and HEC here by Prof Li Qingquan, President, Shenzhen University and Dr Tariq Banuri, Chairman HEC signed the agreement.

It said that the two sides will deliberate on award of fully funded SZU scholarships for Pakistani students at split PhD, doctoral and post-doctoral levels, joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchanges, establishing institutional linkages between SZU and Pakistani universities and latest status of SZU to become a member of Consortium established under the umbrella of Chinese Association of Higher Education and HEC Pakistan.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr Banuri appreciated SZU for providing opportunities to Pakistani students to pursue doctoral and post-doctoral studies. He said that China is one of Pakistan's leading partners in the development of higher education and that "we wish to further strengthen this relationship, particularly in the context of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Since different

special economic zones are planned to be established in Pakistan under CPEC, we would like to learn from SZU experience as of how it became instrumental for Shenzhen Special Economic Zone.”

The Chairman also informed the delegation about transnational education policy of HEC in which foreign universities are welcome to start their campuses and sub-campus in Pakistan and Pakistani universities are also encouraged to start their operations in foreign countries. He also mentioned the key functions of HEC including promotion and financing of research in higher education institutions, maintaining standards and building capacities. He emphasized that the key challenge and focus of HEC is to enhance and ensure the quality of higher education and research.

Prof Qingquan expressed his gratitude to HEC for inviting them to Pakistan for discussion on collaboration with Pakistani universities. He said though SZU has a short history of 40 years it has developed swiftly in these years and has been emerging in world university rankings. He said that our University is situated in a newly built special economic zone and has achieved the status of the fastest-rising university in China and abroad.

“Among other things, we have also focused on internationalization of our University including increased collaborations with universities worldwide and attracting more students from other countries to study at SZU. Likewise, we also expect collaborations with universities in Pakistan and more students in our various disciplines so they have a first-hand experience of China’s development,” the President said.

He said that SZU enrolled its first students in 1983, and has since rapidly grown into a well-known institution boasting over 34000 students, including 5500 postgraduates and over 1500 international students. “At present, 76 Pakistani scholars are studying in our University and we expect that our recent visit would get us a young and talented pool of Pakistani scholars.”

Mr Wasim Hashmi, Adviser Human Resource Development, HEC gave a presentation on the progress of Pakistan’s higher education sector since the establishment of HEC in 2002. He briefed the delegation about how investing in HRD and R&D has helped in raising the standard of country’s universities. He said that the main focus of our collaboration with SZU would research collaborations, faculty and student exchanges, doctoral and post-doctoral opportunities for Pakistani students and discussion on the possible establishment of SZU campus in Pakistan.

Other members of SZU delegation included Prof. Ming Haiyan, Director of Graduate School, Prof. Ming Zhong, Dean of Computer Science and Software Engineering College, Prof. Zhang Xiaohong, Dean of Foreign Language College, Prof. Zhang Han, Representative of Physics and Optical Engineering College, Prof. Gu Wei, Vice Dean of International Exchange College, and Mr. Muhammad Sadiq, a PhD scholar from Pakistan at SZU’s Computer Science and Software

Engineering College. Vice Chancellors and representatives of local universities also attended the meeting.

During their three-day visit, they will also visit National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), International Islamic University (IIU), Bahria University, Air University and COMSATS University.

The Nation, 23-02-19

China calls for Pak-India talks



BEIJING : Reacting to a press statement issued by United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the Pulwama incident in Indian-held Kashmir, China on Friday said that the statement mentioned a particular organization in general terms and it did not represent a judgment.

“Yesterday, the UN Security Council issued a Press statement that mentioned a particular organization but only in general terms. It does not represent a judgment on the attack,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Geng Shuang said during his daily briefing.

Geng Shuang said that the Chinese side was closely following the situation after the attack in Pulwama in Indian-Held Kashmir and hoped that all parties concerned would work to find the truth about the attack. “On the terror attack not long ago, China is closely following that. China hopes all parties will work to find the truth about this attack,” he said. China also noted that the Pakistani government showed readiness to cooperate with India on the investigation and that it was also ready to resolve differences with India through dialogue, he said.

The Nation, 23-02-19



CHINA:
A child watches the dough modeling exhibited on the annual dough modelling exhibition held in Nanzhang.-Xinhua

The Nation, 24-02-19**US and China extend trade talks**

CHINA - U.S. and Chinese negotiators agreed Friday to extend high-level trade talks through the weekend, and President Donald Trump said he hoped to meet next month at his Florida resort with President Xi Jinping to try to finalize an agreement.

The news followed two days of negotiations in Washington aimed at resolving a trade war that has rattled financial markets and threatened global economic growth.

“We’re making a lot of progress,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “I think there’s a very good chance that a deal can be made.”

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the negotiations, which had been scheduled to conclude Friday afternoon, would continue through Sunday. The Chinese delegation is led by Xi’s special envoy, Vice Premier Liu He, the American team by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Trump had originally warned that he would escalate the tariffs he has imposed on \$200 billion in Chinese imports, from 10 to 25 percent, if the two sides failed to reach a deal by March 2. But in

recent days, and again on Friday, he raised the possibility of extending that deadline if negotiators were nearing an agreement.

The world's two biggest economies are sparring over U.S. allegations that Beijing uses predatory tactics in a drive to make Chinese companies world leaders in such advanced industries as robotics and driverless cars.

Those tactics, the Trump administration argues, include cyber-theft, unfair subsidies for state-owned Chinese companies, the use of regulations to hobble China's foreign competitors and pressure on American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

The administration contends that Beijing has repeatedly failed to live up to its past commitments to open its markets and to treat foreign companies more fairly.

The president has imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports and 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion worth. The latter grouping would face the 25 percent tariffs, too, if no agreement is reached.

Beijing has lashed back with import taxes of its own on \$110 billion in U.S. goods.

These tariffs are heavily aimed at soybeans and other agricultural products in an effort to pressure Trump supporters in the U.S. farm belt.

On Friday, the president and his advisers provided few details on this week's negotiations. Trump did say the two sides had reached some agreement on currency manipulation but offered no specifics. The administration has worried that Beijing would blunt the impact of Trump's sanctions by manipulating its currency down to give Chinese companies a competitive edge in international markets.

Trump said both sides want to "make this a real deal."

"We want to make it a meaningful deal," the president said, "not a deal that's done and doesn't mean anything. We want to make this a deal that's going to last for many, many years and a deal that's going to be good for both countries."

Trump raised the possibility that the U.S. will drop criminal charges against Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, saying the issue would be discussed with Attorney General Bill Barr and U.S. attorneys.

The U.S. has charged Huawei with lying about violating sanctions against Iran and with stealing trade secrets.

Asked about Huawei before the Oval Office meeting with Liu, Trump said that a decision on Huawei is pending, but “right now, it’s not something we’re discussing.”

After Trump appeared with Liu, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced that Beijing had agreed to buy 10 million metric tons of American soybeans, tweeting: “Hats off to @POTUS for bringing China to the table.”

China’s soybean tariffs have squeezed many American farmers. In the first 10 months of 2018, U.S. soybean exports to China dropped to 8.2 million metric tons from 21.4 million metric tons a year earlier a 62 percent free fall, according to the Agriculture Department.

In front of Liu and the press corps, Trump ridiculed members of his own trade team for using the term “memoranda of understanding,” or MOU, to describe the agreements they were working out with the Chinese.

“You either make a deal or you’re not,” Trump said. “To have these other agreements doesn’t mean anything because they’re not that meaningful in my opinion.” Lighthizer at first defended the acronym, describing MOUs as binding contracts, then made light of the rebuke and vowed never to use the term again.

The U.S.-China conflict has rattled markets. It has also fanned uncertainty among businesses that must decide where to invest and whether Trump’s tariffs — which raise the cost of imports on the target list will last long enough to justify replacing Chinese suppliers with those from countries not subject to the tariffs.

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have all downgraded their forecasts for the global economy, citing the heightened trade tensions.

The Chinese economy, in particular, is decelerating: The IMF expects China to record 6.2 percent growth this year, down from 6.6 percent in 2018.

“The Chinese economy is definitely hurting right now,” said Timothy Keeler, partner at the law firm Mayer Brown and former chief of staff for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. “There’s a lot of leverage for the U.S.”

Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the two countries have yet to bridge their differences over nettlesome issues such as the forced technology transfer. He said the chamber wants to see an end to the tariffs between Washington and Beijing. But he also said American businesses are demanding a deal that would produce lasting improvement in Chinese trade practices.

“We simply can’t go back to business as it was before,” Brilliant said. Beijing, he said, has “got to deliver the goods.”

The Nation, 25-02-19



ISLAMABAD:
Relatives of a Chinese man protesting against his arrest by FIA, outside National Press Club on Sunday.--NNI

The Nation, 25-02-19

Over 60 Chinese delegates confirm participation in Texpo-2019

BEIJING - Over 60 Chinese delegates have confirmed their participation in the second edition of Texpo scheduled to be held in Lahore from April 11-14 to promote Pakistani textile industry.

“We are expecting the largest international delegation from China as so far over 60 companies have got themselves registered at the Texpo,” Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Badar u Zaman told APP here on Sunday.

Textile importers, international purchasers and global brands have been invited to participate in the event being organized by Pakistan Trade Development Authority and the Ministry of Commerce, which will be an ideal demonstration of Pakistan’s textile strength.

According to official sources, the momentum and interest for the second edition of Texpo are picking up as the local textile industry is showing great interest in the event. The TDAP has already sold out more than 80% of the available space.

Leading textile brands like Sapphire, Chen One, Siddique Sons, Rajby will be exhibiting their top quality products. Texpo has seen unprecedented interest from the textile sector as more than

170 exhibitors representing the entire value chain have already confirmed their space in the event.

The TDAP and Pakistan Fashion Design Council have also signed a memorandum of cooperation for holding a fashion show on the sidelines of the Texpo. The TDAP has made reservations in leading hotels of Lahore for the stay of the international buyers.

On the opening day, an inauguration ceremony is being planned inside the majestic Lahore Fort for international buyers which would be a combination of cultural ethos and eastern values.

The Ministry of Commerce is making all-out marketing efforts to attract international buying houses, chains and retail stores for this event. All trade officers have been given special tasks and directions for bringing the best possible buyers for Texpo.

The first edition took place in 2016 at Expo Center Karachi and drew in 450 international delegates chosen from 50 countries across the globe. It is expected that Texpo, 2019 will give a boost to the textile exports of Pakistan which accounts for nearly 60 per cent of Pakistan's total exports.

The Nation, 25-02-19

China to hold world stamp exhibition in June



BEIJING - China will hold the 2019 FIP General World Stamp Exhibition in the central Chinese city of Wuhan from June 11 to 17, according to the State Post Bureau (SPB). The exhibition will showcase for the first time over 1,300 sets and 4,500 stamps the People's Republic of China has issued since its founding 70 years ago. About 80 countries and regions will come to the exhibition where over 3,500 framed sets of stamps will be on display, according to a senior SPB official. Some precious items from collectors and museums worldwide will be also exhibited.

China joined the FIP, the international association for stamp collectors and philatelists, in 1983, and hosted the world stamp exhibition in 1999 and 2009.

The Nation, 25-02-19

Trump says trade talks with China were ‘very productive’



WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that trade talks a day earlier with China had been “very productive,” as negotiators worked ahead of a March 1 deadline for the imposition of further U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports. Trump said on Twitter on Sunday morning that discussions would continue Sunday. As talks proceeded Saturday both sides reported narrowing their differences. Officials are trying to come to terms on an array of complex issues governing the relationship between the world’s two largest economies, including China’s currency policies and the enforcement of intellectual property rights. Trump said on Friday there was a “good chance” a deal would emerge, and that he might extend the March 1 deadline and move forward with a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The United States is set to increase tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent unless Trump decides to delay it.

The imposition of tariffs by both countries and the threat of more severe action has been a major source of global economic tension in recent months. The situation has contributed to recent large swings in equity markets, and is considered by some to be a key reason why business investment has slowed of late.

The Nation, 25-02-19

China marks success against terror in Xinjiang

BEIJING (INP): 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, 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 had made negative remarks about the situation in Xinjiang.

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.

Adding a few points, the Hua Chunying said, "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.

The Nation, 25-02-19

Chinese engineers look to grapheme to space exploration



BEIJING: A two-dimensional form of carbon known as grapheme might one day help power space exploration into the unknown universe, say Chinese space engineers.

Graphemes, which are just one atom thick, could enable light-powered propulsion technology leading to fuel-free spacecraft. Traditional spacecraft depend on chemical propellants, and the amount they carry determines how far they can fly, said Song Shengju, the research leader at the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

More than 80 percent of the takeoff weight of current carrier rockets is chemical propellants. If spacecraft could travel without fuel, humans could explore much farther into deep space, Song said. Scientists in other countries have been studying light-powered propulsion technology. There are about 400 billion stars in the galaxy, and their light could become an inexhaustible energy source.

Scientists in Europe, the United States and Japan are developing spacecraft with solar sails made with polyimide film, but the thrust is relatively weak, said Song.

Chinese researchers are developing sails with grapheme, one of the strongest and thinnest known materials, which can withstand temperatures over 800 degrees centigrade.

Previous research conducted by Professor Chen Yon sheng, of Nankai University, showed grapheme can be driven by various light sources including sunlight, and the thrust generated is 1,000 times higher than that of polyimide film in vacuum conditions.

“It’s just the beginning. We need to conduct further research on the mechanisms and properties of the grapheme and light-powered spacecraft. If we make breakthroughs in this technology, it would facilitate exploration to the unknown universe,” Song said.

The Nation, 25-02-19

Chinese scientists develop new test for smell identification



BEIJING: Scientists have developed a new test to evaluate the Chinese sense of smell, which could help the diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative and mental illnesses.-

The deterioration and loss of olfactory function could seriously affect quality of life, or even put lives at risk in situations like gas leaks, according to scientists from the Institute of Psychology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

BEIJING - China's online insurance policy deals have expanded 18 times over the past five years, the Securities Daily reported, quoting an industry report released by China's internet giant Ten cent.

According to the 2018 annual online insurance policy report, about 222 million Chinese have so far bought insurance sold via the internet, accounting for 27.7 percent of China's total internet users, the newspaper reported. Ten cent's report said China's online insurance would remain robust with huge potential owed to the great disparity in the number of people who had purchased online insurance and the gross online user population. A total of 75.2 percent of respondents said they are willing to use insurance sold via the internet, and the average age of internet users' first-time purchase is 28.7, said the report.

Long-term accident insurance, long-term critical illness insurance and life insurance are the three most purchased online, with children and the elderly being top priority targets.

However, the report also pointed out that the more reasonable logic was to insure the "breadwinner" of the family, the main source of income.

The report said middle-aged white-collar workers earning 10,000 yuan (1,496 U.S. dollars) to 20,000 yuan a month with children consist of the main consumer group of online insurance.

In terms of the purchasing channel, online payment instruments including We chat Wallet are the most recognized channel of online insurance purchasing.

The Nation, 26-02-19**Death toll from China mine accident rises to 22**

HOHHOT - The death toll from a coal mine accident in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has risen to 22 after one injured died, local authorities said Monday. The critically injured died Sunday afternoon after treatment failed, the rescue headquarters said. Twenty-eight others were still being treated in hospital. The accident occurred around 8:20 a.m. Saturday as a shuttle vehicle taking the 50 workers to the underground lost control due to faulty brakes and crashed into the side of the tunnel at a lead, zinc and silver mine under Yinman Mining Company in West Ujimqin Banner, Xilingol League.

The Nation, 27-02-19

Provinces submit 100 projects to Chinese experts for grants under CPEC

FAWAD YOUSAFZAI
ISLAMABAD

Provinces have submitted around 100 projects to the Chinese experts to secure grant for the socioeconomic development under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The provinces have submitted their recommendations to 13 Chinese delegates who are currently visiting Pakistan. The Chinese delegation is headed by Du Zhenli, comprising of experts from socioeconomic development field.

The expert group is discussing implementation of newly introduced sector of socioeco-

nomie development under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The experts held a meeting with federal, provincial government officials and Pakistani experts to identify pilot projects and its implementation mechanism.

The expert group will discuss the finalization of action plan with Pakistani experts, said the source. The finalization of action plan will help the government to launch pilot projects in the selective districts of the country. China has agreed to extend Pakistan grant for Socio-Economic Development through China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

It is pertinent to mention here that during the

8th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of Pakistan China Economic Corridor (CPEC) held in Beijing last year December, a joint working group on socio-economic development was established and it has devised a draft action plan. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the formation of JWG on socio-economic development and MoU on poverty reduction had been signed during the Prime Minister Imran Khan visit to China in November last year.

The joint working group (JWG) had identified six areas for future cooperation which includes education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, skill development, healthcare, water supply and

vocational training projects. The action plan will provide guidelines in the developments of these six areas. The initiative will be focused on less developed areas of the country particularly Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Northern Sindh and Southern Punjab.

Soon after the formation of working group, the federal government asked the recommendations of the provinces regarding the identifications of districts, areas of cooperation. Chinese socio-economic development experts team will hold meeting with the federal planning ministry and the officials and experts from the provinces to finalise the projects and its sites in already agreed six different areas.

China likely to extend \$1b grant for socioeconomic development

The Nation, 27-02-19

Geneva-based diplomats praise HR situation in Xinjiang

BEIJING (INP): Senior diplomats from permanent missions of eight countries to the United Nations Office at Geneva including Pakistan have visited the Xinjiang and appreciated the existing stable and peaceful environment of the region.

The visit took place at the invitation of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The diplomats from Venezuela, Cuba, Egypt, Cambodia, Russia, Senegal, Belarus and Pakistan spoke with trainees at vocational education and training centers, teaching clerics and members of the public.

They agreed that the Chinese government has made great achievements in preventing terrorism in accordance with the law, safeguarded the religious freedom of its citizens, and conserved ethnic traditions and culture.

Since the 1990s, the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism both at home and abroad have plotted and organized thousands of violent activities and gravely damaged the stability, solidarity and progress of Xinjiang.

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The Nation, 27-02-19

Chinese delegation visits arid varsity

Rawalpindi-A Chinese delegation headed by Professor Debin Zhang, Huazhong Agriculture University, and Wohan, China visited Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Tuesday.

The Chinese Delegates were called upon by the Vice-Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Nadeem Akhtar Abbasi for sharing research ideas and collaborations between both universities. Both sides agreed to enhance possible research collaboration in view of MoU already signed between both Universities

Vice-Chancellor emphasized that there should be arrangements for estimation of agricultural commodities what can be exported to China and what can be taken from China.

Another member of the China delegation Dr. Muhammad Rizwan also shared his views for possible research collaboration between both universities and the countries.

Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR also stressed the importance of improving bilateral trade ties between China and Pakistan and the identification of different traded and potential trade commodities between China and Pakistan.

On the occasion, Faculty of Social Sciences also arranged a seminar for enhancing research collaboration between Huazhong Agriculture University China and PMAS-AAUR.

All faculty members and Ph.D. scholars of the Faculty of Social Sciences participated in the collaborative meeting.

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor chaired the seminar. Professor Debin Zhang of Huazhong Agriculture University China presented his research work before the audience on Decision making and risk aversion modeling in China.

Faculty members and Ph.D. Scholars showed interest in the research work and shared many questions and comments with the presenter. Faculty members also presented their research work on Hydroponics and CGE modeling.

Professor Debin Zhang of Huazhong Agriculture University China showed interest in improving research ties with the Faculty in lieu of MOU signed between both the collaborative universities.

Ph.D. Scholars also shared their research work with the delegate.

Dr. Rizwan suggested for development of research team in different research areas or effective research collaboration. Prof. Dr. Abdul Saboor stressed the need for linking research work with the policy for its effective contribution to the economic development of the country.

The Nation, 27-02-19

China bans game over Winnie the Pooh joke



(BEIJING): A Taiwanese games company has had its latest release pulled from mainland China, after players noticed subtle references mocking Chinese President Xi Jinping, including comparing him to Winnie the Pooh. Red Candle Games released Devotion, a first-person horror game set in 1980s Taiwan, on games platform Steam on 19 February. The game quickly went viral after players spotted so-called “Easter eggs” and publicized them. However, online discussion has since been censored.

An “Easter egg” is a hidden message or joke in a computer game, normally only picked up by some players paying close attention.

Taiwan is an island that is for all practical purposes independent, but China sees it as a rebel region and insists that other countries should not have diplomatic relations with it. Taiwan's current president has sparred with Beijing over the island's political future. In January, Xi Jinping said Taiwan "must and will be" reunited with China.

One of the Easter eggs in Devotion is a poster containing the words "Xi Jinping" next to "Winnie the Pooh", in an ancient style of writing. Winnie the Pooh has been censored on Chinese search engines and social media since 2017, after bloggers began comparing Mr Xi to the children's story book and film character.

Gamers have also spotted an old newspaper in Devotion that refers to an individual who has received a prison sentence, nicknamed "baozi" or "steamed bun". This meme showing Xi Jinping and former US President Barack Obama began circulating in 2013

"Steamed bun" is another sensitive term in China, as social media users have used it to refer to the president and evade government censors. Red Candle Games confirmed that Devotion had been removed from Steam China on 23 February, and issued an apology, saying the poster with the Winnie the Pooh reference had made it into the game by accident due to a technical issue.

It said that it was aware some players may have been offended by the images, and said that it was in touch with Steam to ensure that such players could obtain a full refund. "The whole team of Red Candle Games bears the responsibility of this awfully unprofessional mistake," a statement on Monday said. "It is not Red Candle's vision to secretly project extensive ideology, nor is it to attack any person in the real world. "We sincerely hope that this ends with Red Candle, and please do not take it out on all of our innocent partners." Taiwanese vice Premier Chen Chi-mai has praised the game, saying: "Only in countries with democracy and freedom can creation be free from restrictions." Red Candle Games apologized and confirmed the game had been removed from Steam China. Chinese online censors, meanwhile, are trying to scrub references to the game and its hidden messages.

What's On Weibo, which tracks content on the site, said that over the weekend posts containing the hash tag #Devotion were racking up hundreds of millions of views.

The Nation, 27-02-19**Exhibition of Chinese maritime history opens**

NICOSIA-A major art exhibition celebrating China’s rich maritime history opened on Monday at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia.

The significant collection of works tells the story of China’s historic maritime exchanges in regions spanning from Asia and Africa to Europe and the Mediterranean. The event is organized within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Opening the exhibition, the Rector of the University of Cyprus, TasosChristofides, said the works gave the opportunity for the local community to “familiarize with China’s long history, rich culture and tradition”.

The showcase titled, “Two Millenniums of Maritime Silk Road”, will run for a week. Among the highlights is a magnificent scroll, depicting the history of Chinese sea trade. All the works displayed show how contemporary artists give their understanding and appreciation of modern Chinese marine development.

Speaking at the unveiling, Chinese Ambassador to Cyprus Huang Xingyuan pointed to the long history of friendly exchanges and communication between two ancient civilizations.

“We all know that Cyprus has a civilization of over 7,000 years old, and the Chinese civilization is over 5,000 years old and because of the maritime Silk Road, Cyprus and China began our friendly exchanges 2,000 years ago,” he said.

“Our forefathers have given us a very good foundation to work with -- and now our two countries are again bound by the Belt and Road Initiative,” the Ambassador added.

The artworks were donated by the Shenzhen University within the framework of promoting and supporting the Chinese marine culture and the in-depth exchanges between Cyprus and China.

The ambassador also praised the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus which he said was “now in full swing”. The institute is a joint venture between the Office of Chinese Language Council International, the University of Cyprus and the Beijing Institute of Education. It works with the public sector, businesses and academia in both Cyprus and China to develop educational, cultural and commercial links between the two countries.

“This event is the first of many to come with the University of Shenzhen and with other Chinese university institutions in the near future promoting art, cultural, educational and research interactions,” Professor Tasos Christofides added.

The Nation, 27-02-19

China to invest \$45m to protect Potala Palace's ancient documents



LHASA-The Chinese government will invest 300 million yuan (44.9 million U.S. dollars) in the next 10 years in its greatest efforts of protection and utilization of ancient documents in the Potala Palace, a World Heritage site in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

At present, a total of nearly 40,000 books of precious ancient documents in Chinese, Tibetan, Manchu, Mongolian and Sanskrit are preserved in the Potala Palace, said the management office of the Potala Palace Monday.

“It is stunning to see so many rare ancient documents distinctive in content, versions and artistic value,” said Pedron, an expert from the ancient documents protection center of Tibet. Local protection workers will take preventable protection and restoration measures and digitize and put on a show of the precious ancient documents.

Local staff will roll out the digital registration for about 2,800 books of ancient documents in Chinese and Tibetan. The ancient documents are not only relics but precious historical files that

demonstrate and help safeguard a unified China with territorial integrity, said Jordan, vice director of the management office.

“To maintain the diversity of Chinese culture and make it pass on from generation to generation, it is essential for us to protect and make good use of these ancient documents,” said Jordan.

The Potala Palace was built by Tibetan King SongtsaGambo in the seventh century and was expanded in the 17th century, covering an area of 41 hectares atop a craggy hill in the heart of Lhasa. As one of China’s top tourist destinations, the palace was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994.

The Nation, 28-02-19

Malaysia attracts 2.9 million Chinese tourists



KUALA LUMPUR- Tourist arrivals from China to Malaysia rose 28.9 percent year-on-year to 2.9 million in 2018, official data showed Wednesday.

According to data from Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board, the number of tourist arrivals from China ranked third, after those of Singapore and Indonesia. However, Malaysia missed its overall 2018 tourism target, as its foreign tourists arrivals were flat at 25.8 million, 0.5 percent lower than the 25.9 million foreign arrivals in 2017. The tourism revenue stood at and 84.1 billion ringgit (about 20.7 billion U.S. dollars), 2.4 percent higher than 82.1 billion ringgit in the previous year.

Arrivals from other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continued to dominate, accounted for 70.1 percent of total foreign visitors. Singapore remained Malaysia's top tourist arrival country, but the figure fell 14.7 percent year-on-year to 10.6 million.

Arrivals from Indonesia and Thailand rose 17.2 percent and 4.3 percent respectively to 3.3 million and 1.9 million.

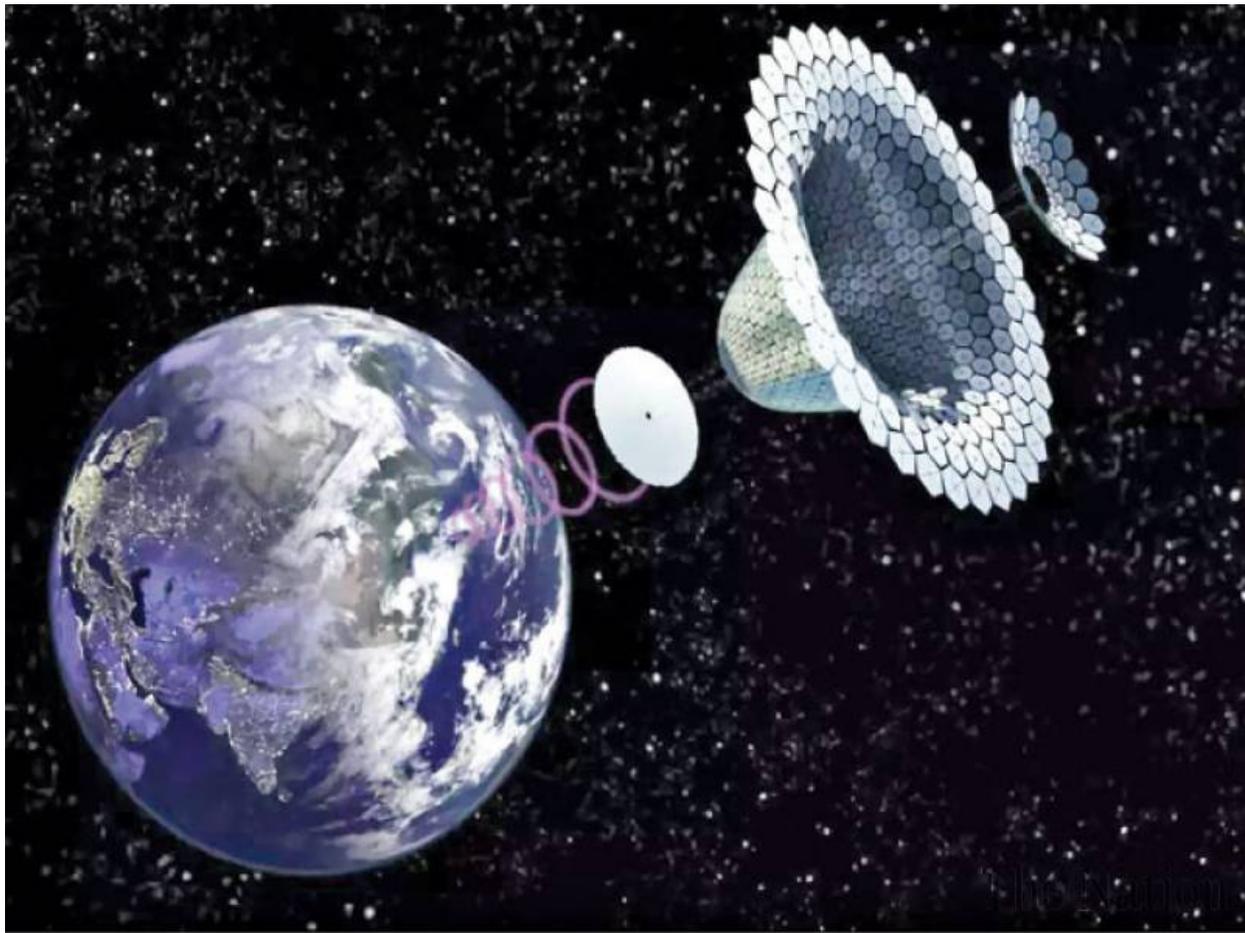
Meanwhile, inbound tourist per capita expenditure grew 2.9 percent year-on-year to 3,257 ringgit (800 U.S. dollars) last year. Per capita expenditure of Chinese tourists stood at 4,179 ringgit (1,027 U.S. dollars).

Malaysian government earlier revised down its tourism revenues target to 84.9 billion ringgit and 92.2 billion ringgit for 2018 and 2019, from 134 billion ringgit and 151 billion ringgit, respectively.

The government also lowered its foreign tourist targets to 26.4 million and 28.1 million for 2018 and 2019, respectively, from the previous targets of 33.1 million and 34.5 million.

The Nation, 28-02-19

Chinese envision solar power station in space



Beijing- Chinese scientists are exploring the possibility of setting up a space-based solar power station, which is expected to reduce pollution back on Earth and mitigate energy shortfalls, local media reported Wednesday.

Researchers have begun designs on a testing facility in Chongqing's Bishan district, Wednesday's China Daily reported, citing Xie Gengxin, deputy head of the Chongqing Collaborative Innovation Research Institute for Civil-Military Integration. The facility will be used to test the theoretical viability of the solar power station.

The test facility will occupy 13.3 hectares and demonstrate space transmission technologies while studying the effect of microwaves beamed back to Earth on living organisms according to the paper.

The initial investment of 100 million yuan (about 15 million U.S. dollars) will be made by the Bishan district government.

The construction of the base will take one to two years and once it begins operation, scientists and engineers will build tethered balloons equipped with solar panels and use them to verify microwave transmission technologies.

The balloons will collect sunlight and convert solar energy to microwave before beaming it back to Earth. Receiving stations on the ground will convert such microwaves to electricity and distribute it to a grid. The size and weight of such a station have yet to be determined because the research is still in a preliminary stage, the paper said. If everything goes well, a Chinese solar power station will be put into orbit about 36,000 km above Earth and start generating power before 2040, the newspaper quoted Xie as saying.

The News, 16-02-19

Pakistan committed to early completion of CPEC: Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi emphasized that Pakistan attaché's great importance to the CPEC and is committed to its early completion.

The president said this while talking to Gao Yunlong, Vice-Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Leader of the House in Senate, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz and Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing were also present on the occasion.

Arif Alvi said Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative partners and friendship with China is cornerstone of Pakistan foreign policy.

He said our focus in the next phase of the CPEC will be on socio-economic development; agriculture cooperation; industrial capacity; job-creation; poverty alleviation, trade and commerce; science and technology and climate change. He hoped that a few Special Economic Zones (SEZ) would be inaugurated this year.

Dr Alvi underlined that bilateral visits at the leadership level have been a hallmark of traditional friendship and warm relations between both countries. He added that Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China last year was very successful which reaffirmed our strong brotherly relations and understanding. He highlighted that China's willingness to address the large trade deficit is a welcome development. He further stated that more Chinese investment and trade delegations may be encouraged to visit Pakistan to identify Pakistani products for Chinese markets.

The president stressed that efforts should be made to further enhanced people-to-people contact as increased interaction between different institutions, academia and think tanks will further strengthen mutual trust and understanding.

He further said that there is a huge potential of enhancing cooperation in tourism sector, both sides should explore different avenues in this regard.

The News, 16-02-19

China bans non-climbers from Mount Everest base camp

BEIJING: China has banned tourists from accessing its Mount Everest base camp in Tibet amid an ongoing campaign to clean up trash in the mountainous region, said state media Friday.

The ban applies to "ordinary tourists", not those with climbing permits, reported official news agency Xinhua. Access will be closed from areas above the Rongpo Monastery, which is about 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) above sea level, said the report, citing remarks from Kelsang, the deputy director at the nature reserve. A new camp for visitors will be set up about two kilometers from the original one, reported Xinhua. The Everest region part of which belongs to neighboring Nepal.

The News, 16-02-19

China's top legislative bodies to meet early next month

BEIJING: The 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature will start its annual session on March 5, an official statement said.

The 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's national political advisory body, will begin its annual session on March 3. A press center for the two sessions will open on Feb. 27, said the statement jointly issued by the general offices of the NPC Standing Committee and the CPPCC National Committee. "We welcome journalists at home and abroad to report the two sessions," the statement said.

Meanwhile, a draft of China's foreign investment law will be submitted to the upcoming plenary session of the National People's Congress (NPC). Once adopted, the unified law will replace three existing laws on Chinese-foreign equity joint ventures, non-equity joint ventures (or contractual joint ventures) and wholly foreign-owned enterprises.

The foreign investment law will be a basic law in that field, and its drafting is an important move in implementing the strategy of further opening-up made by the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said the decision adopted by the NPC Standing Committee.

The drafting of the foreign investment law is also necessary in help with China's efforts to attract more foreign investment, protect foreign investors' legitimate rights and interests, foster an environment favorable to doing business, as well as provide legal guarantee to opening-up at a higher level, according to the document.

Presiding over the closing meeting, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said there was a consensus among the standing committee members on the significance and urgency of drafting the foreign investment law. Standing Committee members agreed that the content of the draft was basically mature and the draft demonstrated China's resolute determination to open wider to the world, Li said.

The News, 16-02-19

International CPEC moot planned

Islamabad: With the upcoming completion of Phase 1 of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the end of 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 Defense 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 April 17 to May 3, 2019.

The 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 the 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.

The News, 16-02-19

Saudi Arabia expected to take part in CPEC projects



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia is expected to purely invest on commercial basis in various projects, including those under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood said on Friday.

“It [Saudi investment] is not in competition [with China], but it is adding on,” Dawood said during a joint press conference with Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Haroon Sharif.

Saudi Arabia’s crown prince Mohammed bin Salman is to arrive in Pakistan this week with the promise of billions of dollars in cash, subsidies and investment for the kingdom’s cash-strapped ally.

Crown prince will be accompanied by 30 private sector businessmen and dozens of other government officials. They would explore economic opportunities in the country.

“They are coming on pure commercial basis, keeping in view the returns on their investment,” commerce adviser said. “We have to watch out the country’s interest... we would give them adequate return on their investment.”

The adviser said Saudis are also planning to take part in ‘open bidding’ of privatization of two re-gasified liquefied natural gas-based power plants, including 1,223 megawatts of Balloki power plant and another 1,230MW power station in Haveli Bahadur Shah.

“Pakistan is not a very cheap energy country,” he added. “We have to reduce electricity cost to make the generation cost competitive. It would make our products competitive in world market. Over the last years, cost has come down [in solar and wind] energy.”

Dawood said investments in infrastructure, including power sector, under the CPEC has reduced power shortage to a large extent during the last five years.

The adviser said they are also interested to invest in mineral sector, as they have good experience. It would benefit the country, especially Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They would carry out studies on mineral sites in Pakistan and if they found it commercially viable, then they would bring investment in the sector.

On a question about viability of refinery and its huge distance from major urban centers, Dawood said: “Yes, we know this is one of the things they would be looking at”. “Crude oil will come from Saudi Arabia and would be refined here and sold in Pakistan and can also be exported.”

The adviser said as they would be starting work on feasibility study, they are going to decide how competitive it is. It can also sell downstream products of the refinery.

To a question, Dawood said anybody could come to Pakistan to invest. A Saudi-Pak Supreme Coordination Council would be co-chaired by Muhammad Bin Salman and Prime Minister Imran Khan. The council aims to unite efforts and raise level of coordination between two countries to achieve mutually agreed political, economic and development objectives. Three pillars: political and security, economic and social and cultural would be managed by steering committees. “After this trip ends, we would go for implementation.”

Dawood said Pakistan would decide with the passage of time what benefits “we would be extending on their investments.”

“It must be a win-win situation,” he said. “We want that investors should also get their good returns and also Pakistan gets its benefits. However, this is always decided after the feasibilities get complete, it is now too early to say something.” On India’s step of withdrawing Pakistan’s most favored nation status, he said Pakistan “would not overreact”.

“However, we have three options including unilateral, bilateral under South Asian Free Trade Area and multilateral under World Trade Organization,” he added. “We would take action under a great care, let’s not overreact.”

Dawood said Pakistan’s exports to India are around \$300 million/annum, while Indian exports to Pakistan are more than a billion dollars. “We want to be a nation interlinked with the world.”

Sharif, who is also minister of state, said the government is to sign four major memoranda of understanding with the Saudi government for setting up a big oil refinery in Gwadar, alternative

energy, mineral resources and one for projects financing under Saudi Fund for Development. Under the MoUs, projects would be executed under government to government arrangement, he said.

“For the last many years, the world was seeing Pakistan through the lens of security, now it is seeing it through the lens of investment and stability,” he said. “Now, the Saudis are coming to Pakistan for long-term investment.”

Chairman BOI said Saudi Arabia and Pakistan would hold joint investment and economic conferences to attract investment in Pakistan’s agriculture, food, and emerging technology in IT, construction and some other sectors. “Business to business meetings will be arranged to ensure materialization of investment projects.”

The News, 16-02-19

China-US trade talks to move to Washington after ‘hopeful’ Beijing meeting

Beijing: China-US trade talks will continue in Washington next week, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Friday, as the world’s top two economies try to resolve a festering trade dispute that has roiled global markets.

"The consultations between the two teams have made important step-by-step progress," Xi told top US and Chinese trade negotiators after two days of high-level talks wrapped up in Beijing, according to China’s official news agency Xinhua.

White House said trade talks between the US and China held in Beijing led to "progress" between the two sides, confirming dialogue would continue in Washington next week.

"These detailed and intensive discussions led to progress between the two parties," a statement by the White House press office said.

"Much work remains, however. Both sides will continue working on all outstanding issues in advance of the March 1, 2019, deadline for an increase in the 10 percent tariff on certain imported Chinese goods," it added.

The US "focused on structural issues, including forced technology transfer, intellectual property rights, cyber theft, agriculture, services, non-tariff barriers, and currency," the statement said.

It added the two sides discussed China’s purchases of US goods and services to reduce the "large and persistent" bilateral trade deficit.

Both sides have agreed that any commitments will be stated in a Memoranda of Understanding between the two countries, the statement said.

Officials of different levels have held talks in Beijing all week, hoping to at least create sufficient goodwill to stave off an escalation of a tariff war ahead of a March 1 deadline imposed by US President Donald Trump.

Beijing and Washington have already imposed duties on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, hitting their manufacturing sectors and shaking global financial markets.

"Next week the two sides will also meet in Washington. I hope that you will continue to work hard to promote a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement," Xi said.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday that while there was more work to do, they had made progress.

"We have had two very good days of negotiations," Lighthizer told Xi.

"We have additional work to do, but we are hopeful."

The delegations met President Xi in Beijing's Great Hall of the People after their talks.

"We all believe that China-US relations have broad common interests in safeguarding world peace and stability and promoting global economic prosperity and development," Xi told the US negotiators.

Lighthizer and Xi were joined by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other US officials seated across from China's top trade negotiator Liu He, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and central bank chief Yi Gang.

Earlier Mnuchin said on Twitter that the two sides had held "productive" talks.

The high-level negotiations began after Trump suggested that if talks in Beijing went well he may extend his March 1 deadline for China to make significant concessions on trade before resuming the tariff onslaught.

Trump's economic advisor Larry Kudlow had earlier said Xi's willingness to meet with the US officials was a "very good sign".

Kudlow also said "the vibe is good", in characterizing the talks, but said there was no decision yet on extending Trump's tariff truce.

After Trump suggested he may delay plans to more than double punitive tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, Bloomberg News reported that a 60-day postponement was being considered to allow more time for negotiations.

Washington accuses Beijing of a range of unfair trade including installing myriad barriers against foreign access to its market, subsidies that favor Chinese companies, rampant theft of intellectual property, and the requirement that foreign firms transfer proprietary technology to their partners in China as a condition of doing business.

Expectations for an accord have been growing as China faces pressure from slowing economic growth and as the market turmoil rattles Trump and his economic advisors.

But many China experts say Beijing's Communist Party rulers are unlikely to make significant changes to industrial policies that have abetted the country's economic rise without a long and tough fight.

Trump has said that any eventual trade deal would need to be sealed personally between him and Xi in a summit meeting.

The News, 17-02-19

China suggests Pak-India joint efforts to curb terrorism

BEIJING: China has suggested that Pakistan and India should make joint efforts to fight out terrorist activities and to ensure peace and stability in the region.

“We hope that relevant countries in the region could make joint efforts to combat terrorism and preserve regional peace and security,” said a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on the recent terrorist attack in the Indian-held Kashmir. While strongly condemning the sad incident, the spokesperson said “We have noted relevant reports and are greatly shocked by this attack. We express our deep sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families and the injured.

China, he added firmly opposes all forms of terrorism and extremism. About the urgent need of settling Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the spokesperson said, China has repeated many times that as major countries in South

Asia, Pakistan and India should properly resolve this issue through dialogue and consultation.

To a question of listing of the certain organization and individual by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee, he said, the UN Security Council 1267 Committee has detailed criteria for the listing and designation procedures for terrorist entities or individuals.

The Jaish-e-Mohammed which claimed responsibility for this attack is already on the Security Council sanctions list against terrorism.

China will continue to deal with the relevant listing issue in a constructive and responsible manner. We will also keep in close communication with all relevant parties on this issue, he added.

The News, 17-02-19

Chinese delegation visits FPCCI

KARACHI: A high-level Chinese delegation urged for business interactions, trade expansion, and creation of joint ventures for higher investments in both China and Pakistan, a statement said on Saturday.

Leader of the delegation, GAO Yunlong, president, All-China Chamber of Industry and Commerce (ACCIC), and chairman, Council of the China Federation for Peace and Development (CFPD), said Pakistan and China relations had entered into strategic partnership, which would go a long way in economic and social development of both countries.

He stressed on the importance of interaction between business people, expansion of trade, and creation of joint ventures for investment between both nations.

The delegation was visiting the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Capital Office Islamabad, to discuss various bilateral trade and economic issues between Pakistan and China, the statement added.

FPCCI President Daroo Khan Achakzai welcomed the delegation, and highlighted the contribution of China in the economic development and prosperity of Pakistan.

The News, 18-02-19

Trump briefed in Florida on 'productive' China trade talks

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said Saturday he was briefed at his Florida resort by negotiators working to reach a trade deal with Beijing after their return from "very productive" meetings with Chinese officials.

"Trade negotiators have just returned from China where the meetings on Trade were very productive. Now at meetings with me at Mar-a-Lago giving the details," the president tweeted. He also reiterated his assertion that current tariffs "are being paid to the United States by China," when in fact they are paid by US companies and ultimately by American consumers in the form of higher prices.

Senior officials completed two days of high-stakes talks in Beijing on Friday as they try to avert the US threat to more than double tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, which would be an

unwelcome shock to the world's second largest economy as it already has shown signs of slowing.

American officials accuse Beijing of seeking global industrial predominance through an array of unfair trade practices, including the "theft" of American intellectual property and massive state intervention in commodities markets.

The News, 18-02-19

Diplomats from UN Geneva office to visit Xinjiang

BEIJING: Senior diplomats from permanent missions of eight countries to the United Nations Office at Geneva including Pakistan arrived here to visit Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to get first-hand information about the human-right situation there.

Other diplomats are from Venezuela, Cuba, Egypt, Cambodia, Russia, Senegal and Belarus. They were invited by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During talks with the delegation, Jiang Jianguo, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that since the 1990s, the "three evil forces" - terrorism, extremism and separatism -- have organized and conducted thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, causing massive casualties and injuries of people and substantial property damage.

Based on international anti-terrorism experience and its own reality, Xinjiang has made obvious progress in recent years by means including setting up vocational education and training centers, Jiang said, adding that people's sense of gain, happiness and security have been greatly lifted.

Vice Foreign Minister Le Yancheng said when holding talks with the delegation that the world is faced with rising instability, uncertainty and insecurity, thus multilateralism should be insisted on.

All parties should respect other countries' own human rights development paths, jointly oppose supremacy of human rights and promote the healthy development of the human rights causes in the world, Le said.

The News, 19-02-19

Three-day conference on CPEC begins today

PESHAWAR: The China Study Centre (CSC), University of Peshawar, in collaboration with institutions of higher education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is organizing a three-day international conference on "CPEC: Collaboration in higher education and sustainable development" today.

The organizers said the conference will engage academicians, scholars, government officials, practitioners, diplomats, journalists and development specialists from all over the world, especially Pakistan and China, in an interaction with the participants to generate critical thinking over policy formulations and coordinative integration across borders.

Development specialists from Pakistan, China and the developed world will analyze the project's trajectories objectively to help reap the opportunities and address the challenges in an efficient manner.

The speakers and presenters at the conference will engross the participants in a constructive interaction of learning and contributing to the understanding of CPEC and its implications for Pakistan and the region at large.

The event will provide opportunities for discussion, exchange of ideas and developing realistic perspectives on different aspects of CPEC.

The international conference will help develop a better understanding on CPEC and the perceived sustainable development in its wake.

The conference is expected to provide opportunities to institutes of higher education in Pakistan to strengthen educational cooperation, which will benefit the youth of KP and polish their talents.

The News, 19-02-19

China province defends ban on Tibetan lessons

BEIJING: Chinese authorities on Monday defended a ban on schoolchildren attending informal Tibetan language classes taught by Buddhist monks in western China, as religious and cultural freedoms in the country come under increasing pressure.

A county in western Qinghai, a province with a large Tibetan population that is mostly Buddhist, in December ordered an immediate halt to informal language classes taught by monks during the winter school holidays.

The lessons taught in monasteries in the province bordering Tibet have gained popularity among parents as a way for their children to learn a language that is being sidelined from the official curriculum.

It follows a similar ban last summer barring Tibetan students from taking part in religious activities during their holidays.

The provincial government on Monday told AFP that the lessons were "illegal" and said the monasteries were "safety hazards" as well as being "ill-equipped" to teach students.

"According to Chinese law... education is conducted by the government. No organization or person can use religion as a means of obstructing the state education system," it said in a statement. It added that the classes pose a financial burden to students and their families, and contravene regulations to reduce the workload of students.

Monasteries and monks who do not follow the new rules will be "dealt with in accordance with the law", the statement said.

The regulations follow similar edicts by the ruling Communist Party in other regions with large ethnic minority populations, starting with a clampdown on Islam in Xinjiang, a Muslim-majority region in the far west. Rights groups have accused the Chinese government of curbing religious freedoms and cultural rights.

"Qinghai authorities' responses about the ban strain credulity," Human Rights Watch China researcher Sophie Richardson said.

"They fail to address previous official comments demonizing these informal classes, and are reminiscent of the after-the-fact justifications for other instances of disregard for cultural rights and religious freedom." China's constitution protects free speech and religion but critics say in reality there is little room for opinions that challenge government policies.

The News, 19-02-19

Accusing Pakistan of IHK terrorist act unjustified: Chinese media

BEIJING: Leading Chinese newspaper, the Global Times in a report condemned Indian's mindset accusing Pakistan for terrorist acts without any solid proof.

It is totally unjustified for blaming Pakistan for the terror strike for which a terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad took the responsibility. The report published in the paper on Monday noted that blind anger toward China was ignited after the incident.

Some Indian analysts sought to link the deadly attack to "China's continued protection" of the perpetrators. By refusing to back India's appeal to list MasoodAzhar, leader of terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed, as a global terrorist by the UN, they argued, China is supporting terrorism against India.

Citing China's refusal to support the bid to have Azhar blacklisted by the UN, India in recent years has aggressively blamed China for allying with Pakistan in shielding terrorists. According to the report, it disregards the fact that as a victim of terrorism itself, China has pledged to support the international community's anti-terrorism efforts and stands ready to work with India and all other countries to fight terrorism. As for the issue of listing Azhar, Beijing has reiterated

its stand several times that New Delhi should provide solid facts and proofs for banning Azhar. China has reason to cautiously handle the issue.

Observers worry that blacklisting Azhar could be used by India to increase its military pressure on Pakistan, thus risking exacerbating tensions between the two countries. With the proscription of Azhar becoming a contentious issue that impedes China-India relations, some Chinese scholars advise that China take India's concern more into account. But Liu Zongyi, a senior fellow of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, told the Global Times that India should, first of all, mind its approach. Should New Delhi resort to quiet diplomacy instead of extensively directing aggressive rhetoric to pressure Beijing, the Azhar issue could have been better addressed. Terrorism in India poses a significant threat to Indians. Without solid evidence, India has long accused Pakistan of sponsoring terrorist attacks by Jaish-e-Mohammed and other militant groups and China of providing uncritical support for Pakistan.

The News, 20-02-19

Chinese tourists visit museum, historical sites



PESHAWAR: Chinese tourists at the Peshawar Museum. —Sardar Mahmoodul Hasan

PESHAWAR: A 15-member delegation of tourists from China on Tuesday visited the Peshawar Museum and other historical places in the city.

The delegation comprising men and women evinced a keen interest in the findings and discoveries of Buddhism and Buddhist heritage.

The officials of the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) welcomed the Chinese tourists.

They briefed the visiting dignitaries on the archaeological sites in Peshawar, Buddhism, a gallery of Buddhist statues, antiques and artifacts.

The officials said there were over 6,000 archaeological and heritage sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where research was being carried out to revive these sites properly. “The followers of Buddhism would find a treasure trove of Buddhist statues and heritage after thorough research and revival of these sites,” the officials told the delegation. They said that the visit of foreign tourists was meant to highlight the importance of heritage and archaeological sites related to Buddhism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides promoting religious tourism in the province.

The KP government has taken a number of steps for attracting foreign tourists, scholars and researchers to the province, the delegation was told.

The officials said a comprehensive policy had been evolved for preserving and protecting the archaeological sites and places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They informed the tourists about the initiatives being taken for carrying out the excavation on archaeological sites along modern techniques and methods.

The officials mentioned the latest discoveries and the rich Gandhara heritage in various parts of the province.

“The government is giving top priority to repair, renovation and preservation of archaeological heritage, and historical buildings in the province,” the officials said.

They said that a plan had been chalked out to protect and preserve all ancient places and building in a proper manner.

They hoped that the visit would provide an opportunity to the visiting tourists to share experiences and knowledge with archaeologists and researchers, which could be beneficial for excavations on archaeological sites and historic buildings. The delegation visited historic Masjid Mahabat Khan, Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Andar Shehr, Ghanta Ghar, Chowk Yadgar and other sites in the city.

The visitors said that Peshawar was a historic and safe city. They said the people of Peshawar and elsewhere in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were hospitable and friendly.

The News, 20-02-19

Sukkur-Multan Motorway project: Chinese company responds to minister's allegations

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese company has reacted to, what it terms, the “groundless allegations” of the Minister for Communication Murad Saeed who raised questions about the award of Sukkur-Multan Motorway project by the PML-N government to the company which “feels extremely shocked” at the nature of accusation.

In a rare clarification issued Tuesday, China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) without naming the minister has said it “feels extremely shocked by the recent groundless allegations made through media. The whole tendering, bidding process and award of the contract was made in accordance with local laws and international practices which, the company says, it won after declared the lowest bidder. CSCEC is the largest investment and construction corporation in the world.

Murad Saeed in a press conference on February 8 had leveled serious allegations wherein he accused former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and former planning minister Ahsan Iqbal of showing indecent haste in signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSCEC for the preparation of feasibility study, PC-1, design and the execution of the Sukkur-Multan Motorway project. He further alleged of awarding the project at Rs60-70 billion higher prices. He also accused Javaid Sadiq, the company's marketing director in Pakistan, of executing this scheme right from MoU signing till the award of the contract and was rewarded by the company for doing this. In past, Prime Minister Imran Khan declared Javaid as the “front man” of Shahbaz Sharif during a press conference.

However, background inquiries by The News found that Javaid failed to get any contract from Punjab government for the companies he represented despite offering the lowest bids except this motorway project and a small part of Quaid-i-Azam Solar Project.

Regarding the MoU of motorway project, CSCEC said in its statement that the memorandum was signed with the government in July 2013; it was a non-binding document and valid for a period of one year that expired on July 4, 2014 while the bidding process started in June 2015 thus the said MoU had no influence over the whole bidding process.

Murad had alleged that Javaid took Nawaz Sharif and Ahsan Iqbal to the CSCEC's office for signing MoU in 2013. The facts gathered by The News found that former PM was then on China's official visit and he met with different companies' delegations including CSCEC at Diao Yutai State Guest House in Beijing and during his train ride from Beijing to Shanghai and Guanzhi. He didn't meet CSCEC representatives at the company's office.

The MoU signed, it has further been confirmed from the document, was a non-binding agreement as it clearly stated that “nothing in this MoU binds GoP to perform beyond its lawful authority or in relaxation of any rules/laws at that time.” Its clause 5.3 further stated: “This MoU is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation agreement. Specific activities that involve creation of rights between GoP and CSCEC shall require execution of separate agreements or contracts strictly in accordance with the laws of Pakistan.”

Contrary to Murad’s claim, the MoU was not related to preparation of feasibility or PC-1 and neither did CSCEC prepare PC-1 for the project. It was done by NHA, Murad’s subordinate department. However, the fact remains that CSCEC prepared a feasibility study free of cost on the request of the Ministry of Communication in August 2013. The ministry’s letter clearly stated: “It is understood that the feasibility study would not construct any obligation upon GoP in contradiction to Article 5 (5.2) of the MoU.” In the meanwhile, NHA signed another MoU with another Chinese company for the survey and design of the Hyderabad-Lahore section of this project in June 2014.

Murad alleged that the company was awarded project three years after the signing of the referred MoU and in the meantime, CSCEC prepared a PC-1 having a project estimate of Rs242 billion and total cost Rs259 billion. However the same company submitted its bid of Rs406 billion, he said. It is mentioned in their minutes, Murad continued, that the “bid price was reduced to Rs111.98 billion; only non-essential items were deleted during the deliberations without compromising the functionality of the motorway.”

In other words, Murad inferred CSCEC first quoted the items which were not needed and subsequently removed these items from the bid and government shows it had saved Rs111.96 billion.

Regarding the selection of the company, The News investigation has determined, that three Chinese companies were formally nominated by the Chinese government and CSCEC was one of them which mean Pakistani government had no role in naming the companies participating in the bid. Subsequently, NHA initiated the bidding process.

CSCEC maintains that its bid was not high considering the scope of work, employer’s requirements which were significantly higher that what CSCEC used for preparing its cost estimate provided in the feasibility report submitted to NHA in 2014. These requirements were even higher than the PC-1 prepared by NHA itself contrary to Murad’s claim that it was done by CSCEC with a cost estimate of Rs259 billion.

The company explains the cost items that increased the bid price not earlier estimated during the feasibility stage. They are: use of LTE dedicated frequency for the Intelligent Transport System (ITS), inclusion of taxes and duties, formation of granular material platform for flood protection,

construction of 235km service road, defects notification period up to three years against normal one year, increase length of the project by 14km, more bridges and service areas etc.

“Numerous meetings were held between NHA and CSCEC to optimize/rationalize the employer’s requirements, design, scope of work and terms & conditions. As a consequence of these exhaustive meetings, the prices were rationalized, and the bid price was reduced by Rs111.98 million,” a company official told The News.

Murad during a TV Programme had alleged that Javaid Sadiq was made CSCEC’s shareholder and director after successfully making this deal and getting the MoU signed for such a mega project. Previously, he was working as a commission agent, he alleged.

Contrary to his claim, the company’s documents show Javaid has been working as a marketing and project consultant for Pakistan since 2006 and he was appointed its director and shareholder in 2012 when it was registered in Pakistan, well before the MoU was signed.

In past, Imran Khan alleged Javaid as “front man” of Shahbaz Sharif. However, record indicates that Javaid participated in bidding process of several projects of Punjab government and companies he represented declared the lowest in price but projects were awarded to other companies. Khadim-e-Punjab Ujala Programme, a project of 100 megawatt of Quaid-i-Azam solar project, Lahore Safe City project and Safe City projects of five other cities are included among them where they were not awarded contract.

In the case of solar project, Javaid even moved Islamabad High Court.

The News, 20-02-19

PRCS seeks Chinese support to set up Physical Rehab Center

ISLAMABAD: A five-member Chinese delegation of Tianjin People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (TPAFFC) visited the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) National Headquarters here on Tuesday.

Vice President TPAFFC Chen Weiming led the delegation.

A meeting was arranged for the delegation in the Committee Room chaired by the PRCS Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed, says a press release.

Joint Director Operations Muhammad Abaidullah Khan briefed the delegates about the humanitarian projects and major emergency operations carried out by the PRCS with the support of the Red Cross Society of China in different times.

Areas for future cooperation with the PRCS including maintenance/renovation of a 50-bed hospital in Gilgit, establishment of a vocational training and resource center in Islamabad, procurement of a blood donation bus and equipment for Regional Blood Donor Center, and technical and financial support for establishment of PRCS Business Tower and Rehabilitation Center at the National Headquarters also came under discussion.

Secretary General PRCS Khalid Bin Majeed highly appreciated the support of Red Cross Society of China during major disasters such as earthquakes in 2005 and 2015, floods in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014, establishment of state-of-the-art Fraternity Emergency Care Center in Gwadar and another such health facility in Quetta.

He said the PRCS looked forward to Chinese technical and financial support for establishment of this center to help those needing the most.

Chen Weiming said the purpose of his visit was to establish a strong connection with China and to explore areas for collaboration and ventures on One Belt, One Road. He said the PRCS was a vibrant, dynamic National Society having a very strong humanitarian capability. At the end of ceremony, PRCS Secretary General and President TPAFFC exchanged mementos.

The News,20-02-2019

Chinese Spring Festival celebrated at NUML



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Yao Jing, NUML Rector Major General Zia ud din Najam with students and others at Chinese Spring Festival.

Islamabad : The Confucius Institute at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Tuesday organized a function to celebrate Chinese Spring Festival.

Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China to Pakistan, Yao Jing was the chief guest of the ceremony while NUML Rector Major General R Zia Uddin Najam, Director General NUML Brig Muhammad Ibrahim, Chinese Cultural Counselor, Registrar, Directors, Deans, HoDs, and students from the various educational institutions attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said that NUML was playing pivotal role to promote China-Pak relations.

Pakistan today was a more open and a hub of regional cooperation and Pakistan policy was aimed at regional connectivity, he added.

He said that CPEC next focus would be on social sector and education would be given priority.

He along with Rector and DG NUML inaugurated NUML new program which was BS Area studies China and said that Chinese embassy will support Area Studies program.

He said that two governments were moving forward to cooperate in education sector and NUML was the first one.

This cooperation, he said, will move fast from government to government.

He thanked Rector NUML for introducing this new program in the university.

Earlier, NUML Rector Major General Zia ud din Najam in his welcome address said that China stood with Pakistan in time of test and the friendship and brotherhood of both countries was just exemplary.

He said that initiating BS Area Studies Chinese will help the students to know about China and its diversity.

He was of the view that youth of both the countries will bring this friendship to new level. At the end kids and young students from various educational institutions showed their performances.

The News, 21-02-19

China urges Pakistan, India to exercise restraint

BEIJING: China has urged both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint in escalating tension.

Commenting on growing tension between the two countries in recent days, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson GengShuang said in a regular news briefing that Pakistan and India were both important countries in South Asia.

“A stable Pakistan-India relationship is crucial to regional peace, stability and development. At present the situation in South Asia is generally stable which is hard won and should be cherished and upheld by relevant parties. China hopes that Pakistan and India can exercise restraint engage in dialogues and realize an early soft landing of this issue,” he said.

When asked to comment on Saudi Arabia’s investment in Pakistan, the spokesperson said China stands ready to engage in third party cooperation with Pakistan to implement the two country’s corridor projects.

“We have noted relevant reports about the Saudi investment and are glad to see Pakistan develop friendly exchanges and cooperation with other countries.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative and has been following the principle of wide consultation joint contribution and shared benefits as well as openness and transparency.”

Last year during State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi s visit to Pakistan the two sides agreed to welcome third parties to join the CPEC projects so that the CPEC will not only benefit the people of China and Pakistan, but also help the region enhance economic cooperation and connectivity and realize common development, he added.

The News, 22-02-19

NA Speaker to form panels on Finance, CPEC, Kashmir, National Security

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Thursday adopted four motions authorizing the Speaker to constitute committees on Finance, China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor project, National Security and a Special Committee on Kashmir.

Motions were moved by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan. Presenting the main functions of the committee on CPEC, the Minister of State said it will oversee the CPEC related projects and monitor their timely implementation. It will present periodic reports to both Houses of the Parliament.

Presenting terms of reference of the committee on National Security, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said it will discuss issues relating to national security of urgent nature. It will periodically review, monitor and oversee implementation of national action plan against terrorism with a view to ensuring its expeditious implementation.

The committee will monitor process of transition from military courts to civil courts through criminal and justice reforms. It will also present its periodic reports to both Houses of the Parliament.

Referring to the functions of the Special Committee on Kashmir, Ali Muhammad Khan said it will monitor human rights violations and atrocities being committed by Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir and raise them at appropriate for. It will work to increase awareness about Kashmir dispute both inside and outside the country.

The committee will mobilize world opinion in support of right to self-determination of people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the principled stand of Pakistan on it. It will make efforts to monitor and improve the performance of the organizations working on Kashmir.

The Speaker will constitute the committees on CPEC, National Security and Kashmir in consultation with the Chairman Senate and the Parliamentary Leaders.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan laid before the House the Fiscal and Debt Policy statements for the year 2018-19.

The House passed a resolution recommending the government to take steps to constitute power division and Petroleum division as two separate ministries instead of their current status as divisions under the ministry of energy.

The resolution was moved by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan.

The House was also scheduled to discuss and consider recommendations made by the Senate on the Finance Supplementary (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 but the same could not be possible due to opposition parties' protest against arrest of Sindh Assembly's Speaker.

The News, 22-02-19

HEC, Chinese university ink MoU

Islamabad: Pakistani students will be awarded fully funded Shenzhen University (SZU), China, scholarships at split PhD, doctoral and post-doctoral levels under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SZU and Higher Education Commission on Thursday.

Signed by President, Shenzhen University Prof. Li Qingquan and Chairman HEC Dr. Tariq Banuri, both sides also commits joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchanges under the MoU. The MoU also includes establishing institutional linkages between SZU and Pakistani universities and latest status of SZU to become a member of Consortium established under the umbrella of Chinese Association of Higher Education and HEC Pakistan.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Banuri appreciated SZU for providing opportunities to Pakistani students to pursue doctoral and post-doctoral studies. He said that China is one of Pakistan's leading partners in development of higher education.

“We wish to further strengthen this relationship, particularly in the context of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Since different special economic zones are planned to be established in Pakistan under CPEC, we would like to learn from SZU experience as how it became instrumental for Shenzhen Special Economic Zone,” said the Chairman HEC.

The Chairman also informed the delegation about transnational education policy of HEC in which foreign universities are welcome to start their campuses and sub-campuses in Pakistan and Pakistani universities are also encouraged to start their operations in foreign countries.

He also mentioned the key functions of HEC including promotion and financing of research in higher education institutions, maintaining standards and building capacities. He emphasized that the key challenge and focus of HEC is to enhance and ensure quality of higher education and research.

Prof. Qingquan expressed his gratitude to HEC for inviting them to Pakistan for discussion on collaboration with Pakistani universities. He said though SZU has a short history of 40 years but it has developed swiftly in these years and has been emerging in world university rankings. He said that SZU is situated in a newly built special economic zone and has achieved the status of fastest rising university in China and abroad.

“Among other things, we have also focused on internationalization of our University including increased collaborations with universities worldwide and attracting more students from other countries to study at SZU. Likewise, we also expect collaborations with universities in Pakistan and more students in our various disciplines so they have a first-hand experience of China’s development,” the President said.

He said that SZU enrolled its first students in 1983, and has since rapidly grown into a well-known institution boasting over 34000 students, including 5500 postgraduates and over 1500 international students. “At present, 76 Pakistani scholars are studying in our University and we expect that our recent visit would get us young and talented pool of Pakistani scholars.”

Adviser Human Resource Development, HEC, Wasim Hashmi, gave a presentation on progress of Pakistan’s higher education sector since establishment of HEC in 2002. He briefed the delegation about how investing in HRD and R&D has helped in raising the standard of country’s universities. He said that main focus of collaboration with SZU would be research collaborations, faculty and student exchanges, doctoral and post-doctoral opportunities for Pakistani students and discussion on possible establishment of SZU campus in Pakistan.

Other members of SZU delegation included Prof. Ming Haiyan, Director of Graduate School, Prof. Ming Zhong, Dean of Computer Science and Software Engineering College, Prof. Zhang Xiaohong, Dean of Foreign Language College, Prof. Zhang Han, Representative of Physics and Optical Engineering College, Prof. Gu Wei, Vice Dean of International Exchange College, and

Mr. Muhammad Sadiq, a PhD scholar from Pakistan at SZU's Computer Science and Software Engineering College. Vice Chancellors and representatives of local universities also attended the meeting.

During their three-day visit, the delegation will also visit National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), International Islamic University (IIU), Bahria University, Air University and COMSATS University.

The News, 22-02-19

IIU, Chinese varsities agree on bilateral cooperation

Islamabad: The International Islamic University and Shenzhen University of China on Thursday agreed to mutual cooperation for advance exchange and collaboration in the field of education culture and pledged to provide better opportunities to students through bilateral cooperation.

Both sides on new IIU campus signed a document on exchanging views and making road maps for joint degree programmes, exchange of information, joint research projects, conferences, seminars on academia and industry linkage and joint inter disciplinary mutual research in various fields.

The Shenzhen University delegates were headed by its president, Prof Li Qingquan, who was accompanied by Deans of Shenzhen University faculties and researchers, including dean of international excellence, dean of Computer Sciences, dean of Foreign Languages and head of the Physics department.

The News, 23-02-19

MBS meets Xi, bags \$10b oil deal

BEIJING: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met China's President Xi Jinping on Friday and bagged a \$10-billion oil deal, pressing on with his diplomatic charm offensive in Asia following a global outcry over the Khashoggi killing.

Mohammed arrived in Beijing on Thursday following visits to Pakistan and India, showing the world that his country still has allies after the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

"China is a good friend and partner to Saudi Arabia," Xi told Mohammed in a meeting in the Great Hall of the People. "Saudi Arabia's relations with China can be traced back a very long time in the past," the crown prince said. "Over such a long period of exchanges with China, we have never experienced any problems with China." He met with Chinese vice Premier Han Zheng earlier on Friday.

"Is the crown prince's tour symbolic of Saudi Arabia's pivot to the East? Yes," Najah al-Otaibi, a senior analyst at the pro-Saudi think-tank Arabia Foundation, told AFP. "Riyadh wants to strengthen alliances in Asia -- especially now with the continuing fallout with the United States over Khashoggi's murder and other issues, and attempts by the EU to put Riyadh on a blacklist over money laundering allegations."

Khashoggi, a fierce critic of the prince, was killed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October, a murder that tarnished the image of the kingdom and of the crown prince in particular. Riyadh initially denied the murder, then gave several conflicting accounts of Khashoggi's death, and now claims he was killed in an unauthorized operation that did not involve Mohammed.

The murder sparked global indignation, with US lawmakers pushing for Washington to distance itself from the crown prince, but the White House has maintained close relations with Riyadh, a major ally in the Middle East.

Separately, the European Commission wants to add Saudi Arabia to a money-laundering blacklist of governments that do too little to thwart the financing of terrorism and organized crime.

But China is looking to strengthen its economic ties with the kingdom, as Beijing pursues its ambitious Belt and Road trade infrastructure initiative, while Riyadh rolls out "Saudi Vision 2030" -- the crown prince's major Programme to diversify the national economy away from oil. Mohammed told the Chinese President they could join the two projects "to realize more progress and jointly confront challenges".

Vice Premier Han suggested during his meeting with the crown prince that the two countries deepen partnerships in energy, infrastructure construction, finance, and high-tech.

Riyadh's national oil giant Saudi Aramco said it had signed an agreement to form a Saudi-Chinese joint venture — worth more than \$10 billion — to develop a refining and petrochemical complex in northeastern Liaoning province. The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority also announced the signing of 35 non-binding memorandums of understanding, including deals related to energy, mining, transportation and e-commerce.

China is Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner. "As the kingdom diversifies its non-oil economy, it needs a variety of other investors with technical expertise, including the Chinese," Otaibi said.

"China steadfastly supports Saudi Arabia pushing a diversification of its economy and societal reforms," Xi told Mohammed, according to state broadcaster CCTV, adding he supported the hard work the kingdom has undertaken to promote stability and safety at home.

National security is a potential area of cooperation between the Gulf state and China. The two countries should boost partnerships in counterterrorism and law enforcement, and exchange

experience on combating extremism, Han said in his meeting with Mohammed, according to a report by the official Chinese news agency Xinhua.

The Saudis said they “firmly supported” Beijing’s efforts to keep the country secure, and opposed “interference by external forces in China’s internal affairs”, Xinhua added, paraphrasing remarks by the crown prince. Riyadh has remained silent over China’s treatment of Uighurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in the far-western region of Xinjiang.

Up to one million Uighurs and other minorities are being held in internment camps in Xinjiang as part of a draconian anti-terror and anti-separatist campaign, according to estimates cited by a UN panel.

“China has the right to take anti-terrorism and de-extirmination measures to safeguard national security,” Mohammed told Xi, according to CCTV. “Saudi Arabia respects and supports it and is willing to strengthen cooperation with China,” he said.

The News, 23-02-19

China against forcefully sending aid to Venezuela

BEIJING: China said Friday it was against forcefully sending "so-called humanitarian assistance" to Venezuela, warning it could spark conflict in the crisis-torn country. China has loaned billions to Venezuela and has remained committed to President Nicolas Maduro even as the country has fallen deeper into economic crisis.

Foreign aid mostly from the US has piled up on Venezuela’s borders as the Maduro government refuses to let it into the country. "If the so-called humanitarian assistance were forcefully sent to Venezuela it might trigger conflict and lead to serious consequences," said China’s foreign ministry spokesman GengShuang. "This is not what anyone wants to see," Geng said.

"China is against a military intervention in Venezuela and against any behavior that might cause escalation or turmoil," he told reporters. Opposition leader and self-declared interim president Juan Guaido has vowed to bring aid in from various points Saturday "one way or another" despite military efforts to block it.

Shipments of food and medicine for Venezuelans suffering in the country’s economic crisis have become a focus of the power struggle between Maduro and Guaido. "We have noticed recently the Venezuelan government has been level-headed and exercised restraint to safeguard domestic peace and stability and effectively prevented large-scale conflict," Geng said.

Venezuela’s military said it is on alert at its frontiers and has closed border crossings and suspended air and sea links with the nearby island of Curacao ahead of the expected aid shipment.

The White House said Vice President Mike Pence would visit neighboring Colombia on Monday in a show of support for Guaido. The US has repeatedly said "all options," including military, are on the table.

The News, 23-02-19

Saudi Arabia supports China's active role in regional affairs: MBS

BEIJING: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Sulman (MBS) met with the Chinese President Xi Jinping here on Friday and declared his country's support to China for its active role in regional and international affairs.

During the meeting held at the Great Hall of the People, he said Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to China's active role in international and regional affairs and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China.

He said, Saudi Arabia is full of confidence in China's bright development prospects under the leadership of President Xi. They regard China as an important strategic partner, and thanks China for its support for Saudi domestic reform and development.

Saudi Arabia is willing to link the "2030 Vision" of Saudi Arabia with the "One Belt, One Road" initiative to further deepen pragmatic cooperation in various fields between the two countries. Prince Mohammed added, Saudi Arabia firmly adheres to the one-China policy. China has the right to take anti-terrorism and de-extirpation measures for safeguarding national security.

Xi Jinping pointed out that in recent years, under the leadership of the two sides, the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Saudi Arabia has formed a new pattern of all-round, multi-level and wide-ranging areas.

The Chinese side regards Saudi Arabia as a good friend and good partner. It is willing to join hands with the Saudi side to carry forward the past and continue to create a new situation of friendship and strategic relations between China and Saudi Arabia.

Xi Jinping emphasized that China and Saudi Arabia should continue to support each other and promote political mutual trust on issues involving core interests and major concerns. China firmly supports the economic diversification and social reforms promoted by the Saudi side, and firmly support the efforts of the Saudi side to safeguard national sovereignty, security and stability, and oppose any interference in Saudi internal affairs.

The two countries should strengthen the development strategy, deepen the integration of interests, accelerate the signing of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative and Saudi Arabia's "2030 Vision" docking implementation plan, and promote bilateral and pragmatic cooperation in all fields to achieve new results, he added.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China supports the peace demands of the people in the Middle East, supports the reform and transformation efforts of the countries in the region, appreciates Saudi Arabia's active efforts to maintain regional peace, stability and development, and is willing to work with Saudi Arabia to explore the Middle East governance of "promoting peace through development".

The two sides should promote counter-terrorism cooperation in the Middle East, strengthen international cooperation, and prevent the spread of extreme ideas, he added. Chinese State leaders Yang Jiechi, Wang Yi and He Lifeng attended the meeting.

The News, 23-02-19

Trump to greet China's trade negotiator as deadline presses

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is due to meet Friday afternoon with China's top trade negotiator, as talks continue to try to defuse the escalation of the tariff war between the world's economic superpowers.

Global stock markets were higher as the two sides continued to project optimism, with Trump's personal involvement a likely signal of the White House's confidence in a successful outcome.

Just a week remains to avoid a sharp increase in US duty rates on more than \$200 billion in Chinese exports -- though Trump has suggested he could extend this deadline if needed.

The fourth round of talks has been underway all week, with senior officials meeting as of Thursday. The White House said Trump would meet with China's vice Premier Liu He, who is leading the delegation from Beijing.

China's President Xi Jinping also met with US negotiators last week in Beijing, a sign the two leaders are closely following the high-stakes talks.

Analysts say the two sides are likely to trumpet mutual agreements to resolve the easier parts of the trade dispute -- increasing Chinese purchases of American exports, more open investment in China and tougher protections for intellectual property and companies' proprietary technology.

The harder parts -- structural changes to China's economy including an end to Beijing's massive intervention in markets and scaling back its ambitious industrial strategy for global preeminence -- are another question.

William Reinsch, a former senior Treasury official for trade in the administration of President Bill Clinton, told AFP it was unclear if Trump would seek to force Beijing to make such deep concessions.

"Will he hold out for the whole loaf? I don't think anybody knows whether he'll do that. I don't know if he knows," said Reinsch. A risk for Trump, said Reinsch, is whether any agreement holds and the Chinese honor their commitments.

"If it unravels and we have a string of unmet commitments and then US retaliation right before the election, we're kind of right back where we started," he said. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is leading the US negotiating team, which also includes Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

In a sign of how high the stakes could be, Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, called the US-China trade tensions a "major risk" to global economic growth. Since July, the countries have hit out with tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade.

By them, Lagarde told the US radio broadcast Marketplace, the tariffs are having "minimal" effect on global trade but they are also damaging business confidence and weighing on stock markets.

"So the combined three impacts -- trade, markets, confidence -- actually reduce global growth and certainly explain our downside projection," Lagarde said, referring to the IMF's recent cuts to global growth forecasts.

The two sides are working towards memorandums of understanding to formalize their commitments ahead of a possible meeting between Trump and Xi. "The big surprise would be a complete removal of tariffs by Trump but I'm expecting an asymmetrical removal of tariffs by China in order to get to some of these numbers," said Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

China may have to remove its tariffs in order to increase purchases of US exports while Trump may feel no pressing obligation to lower the tariffs he imposed on Chinese imports last year, he said.

Global stock markets have been battered since last year through the ups and downs of the trade war but have tended to react positively to signs relations at least will not deteriorate further.

Word of progress had Wall Street in a cheerful mood, with the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average up 0.6 percent at 1600 GMT.

The News, 24-02-19

Durrani accuses govt of stopping work on CPEC projects

NOWSHERA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader and opposition leader in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Akram Khan Durrani said on Saturday that the PTI-led government had stopped work on the projects being executed under the CPEC.

He was talking to reporters after attending the walima of Mohammad Waleed Akhtar, the member of the JUI-F provincial council. JUI-F provincial spokesperson Abdul Jalil Jan, former senator Haji Ghulam Ali, former Member Provincial Assembly Qurban Ali and others were also present on the occasion. Akram Durrani said that no corruption was committed in CPEC though Imran Khan and his PTI tried to sabotage this mega project by staging a sit-in in Islamabad when the Chinese president was visiting the country.

The JUI-F leader also accused the government of harassing the opposition through National Accountability Bureau. He said that the sanctity of chadar and chardiwari was violated when the Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani was arrested.

The News, 24-02-19

North Korean leader's train arrives in China: reports

DANDONG, China: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's armoured train arrived in China late Saturday ahead of his highly anticipated second summit with US President Donald Trump in Vietnam, according to media reports.

The train arrived in the border city of Dandong after 9 pm local time (1300 GMT), according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency and the specialist outlet NK News, though it was not known whether Kim was on board.

The train's crossing into China follows days of speculation over Kim's travel plans, which remain shrouded in secrecy, as his team gathered in Hanoi ahead of the talks expected next Wednesday and Thursday.

Security was tight before the train's arrival, with police cordoning off the river front some 100 meters from the bridge with tape and metal barriers, and leading an AFP journalist out of the area.

Guests at a hotel facing the rail bridge from North Korea were suddenly asked to leave on Friday and told it was closed Saturday for impromptu renovations. "The train is long and crossed the bridge slower than the tourist train, but it's definitely him, there's a lot of police presence," an unidentified source told NK News.

Windows on the train were blacked out, the source said, with only headlights turned on as it crossed. Kim has previously travelled in an armoured train to Beijing and, if he is on board, may

stop in the Chinese capital on what could be an epic journey to Vietnam, meeting President Xi Jinping prior to his second face-to-face with the US president.

Or he could save the meeting for his return trip to debrief his country's sole major ally. Trump and Kim met in June in Singapore, producing a vaguely worded agreement on denuclearization, but progress has since stalled, with the two sides disagreeing over what the agreement meant.

Observers say tangible progress is needed in Hanoi to avoid the talks being dismissed as a publicity stunt. Kim travelled to Singapore last year on a plane lent by Beijing, and it remained unclear whether he would ride all the way to Hanoi by rail -- a nearly 4,000-kilometre (2,500-mile) journey taking more than 60 hours from Pyongyang. Another option would be to take the train to Beijing and catch a plane to the Vietnamese capital.

But several sources said Kim was expected to arrive in Vietnam by train, stopping at the Dong Dang train station near the China border, then driving to Hanoi. On Saturday soldiers were deployed to Dong Dang station and along the road to the capital, according to AFP reporters at the scene.

It came after Vietnam announced the unprecedented move of closing that 170-kilometre stretch of road on Tuesday between 6:00 am and 2:00 pm -- suggesting Kim could travel on the road between those hours. The Vietnamese foreign ministry said Saturday that Kim would "pay an official visit to Vietnam in the coming days". He is expected to tack on a visit to industrial zones in Vietnam's Quang Ninh and BAC Ninh provinces, sources told AFP.

Rail travel is a family tradition that was started by Kim's grandfather; the North's founder Kim IL Sung. His late father, Kim Jong Il, travelled all the way to Moscow by train in 2001.

"It sends a strong message to North Koreans that Kim Jong Un has inherited his grandfather's good qualities, and the Kim Dynasty is stronger than ever," Koh Yu-Hwan, professor at Seoul's Dongguk University, said.

Jeong Young-tae of the Institute of North Korean Studies in Seoul said the safest way to travel would be to take a plane provided by Beijing. "But by choosing to travel by their own special train over a Chinese aircraft, Pyongyang may be signaling its willingness to be independent."

China has one of the most extensive railway systems in the world, with 130,000 kilometers of tracks -- enough infrastructure to circle the Earth three times. Still, a journey from China's frozen northern border to subtropical Vietnam would present a logistical headache and complex security challenges.

The News, 24-02-19

Oil hits 2019 highs on US-China trade hopes

Monitoring Desk

Oil prices touched more than three-month highs during the week, supported by rising hopes that the United States and China would soon reach a deal to end their trade war, but new record U.S. oil production limited gains, Reuters reported.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures ended Friday's session 30 cents higher at \$57.26 per barrel, its highest closing price since mid-November.

WTI also set a fresh intraday high for 2019 at \$57.81 and posted a 3-percent weekly rise.

International Brent crude futures were down 2 cents at \$67.05 per barrel, after striking a fresh high of \$67.73 going back to mid-November.

Brent was on track for a weekly gain of about 1.2 percent.

Traders said prices were lifted by hopes that Washington and Beijing could resolve their trade disputes, which have dented global economic growth.

The broad outline of a possible U.S.-China trade deal was beginning to emerge from talks between the two countries, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

Both sides are pushing for an agreement by March 1, the end of a 90-day truce agreed by U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping late last year.

"Should risky assets receive some additional optimistic news out of the ongoing U.S.-China trade talks amidst potential weakening in the U.S. dollar, WTI could easily achieve our stated target to the \$58 area today," Jim Ritter Busch, president of Ritter Busch and Associates, said in a note.

Prices continue to be supported by supply cuts led by the OPEC and its allies, including Russia.

The group, known as OPEC+, agreed in December to cut output by 1.2 million bpd to prevent a crude supply glut from growing.

Surging U.S. crude oil production is partly offsetting OPEC's cuts.

"We see total U.S. crude production hitting 13 million bpd by year-end, with

2019 averaging 12.5 million bpd," U.S. bank Citi said following the release of the EIA report.

The bank said that some weeks could see 4.6 million bpd of gross crude exports by year-end, topping last week's record of 3.6 million bpd.

U.S. energy firms this week cut the number of oil rigs operating for the first time in three weeks. Drillers cut four oil rigs in the week to Feb. 22, bringing the total count down to 853, General Electric's Baker Hughes energy services firm said in its closely followed report on Friday.

With U.S. supply surging, Goldman Sachs said it expected non-OPEC supply to grow by 1.9 million bpd this year, more than offsetting the OPEC cuts.

That means much will depend on demand, which Goldman said it expected to grow by 1.4 million bpd this year.

Given the supply and demand picture, Goldman said it expected an average Brent price of \$60-\$65 per barrel in 2019 and 2020.

The News, 24-02-19

Trump says China deal likely as talks extended

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said a trade summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping was likely next month, and hailed two days of "very good talks" by negotiators.

The negotiations were extended through Sunday as officials race to reach a deal ahead of a deadline next week when US duty rates are due to rise sharply.

But Trump again said he was considering pushing back the deadline for raising tariffs on more than \$200 billion in Chinese exports.

"We expect to have a meeting sometime in a not too distant future," he said of the meeting with Xi. "Probably fairly soon in the month of March."

Xi also sounded a positive note in a letter delivered to Trump by China's lead negotiator Liu He.

The Chinese president expressed hope that the talks maintain "a mutually respectful, cooperative and win-win attitude" and lead to a "mutually beneficial" agreement.

"I am ready to maintain close contact with the President through various means," state-run China Central Television quoted Xi's letter saying.

Details remained scant about any concrete progress in the seven-month-old trade war, which has rattled global markets and prompted stark warnings about the risks to the world economy.

"I think there is a very, very good chance that a deal can be made," Trump told reporters at the White House on a second day of trade negotiations with Chinese officials.

"If we are doing well, I could see extending that" deadline for the end of the three month tariff truce. And Trump said an agreement on currency manipulation will be included in the trade pact. Officials from Beijing also expressed optimism about a positive outcome.

"From China, we believe that it is very likely that it will happen," Liu said, speaking through an interpreter.

Global stock markets were higher on expectations the two sides would avoid further deterioration in their trade relations.

Wall Street rose to a banner finish, posting its longest streak of weekly gains in nearly 24 years.

Analysts say the two sides are likely to trumpet mutual agreements to resolve the easier parts of the trade dispute -- increasing purchases of American goods, more open investment in China and tougher protections for intellectual property and proprietary technology.

The harder parts covering issues like scaling back China's ambitious industrial strategy for global preeminence, are another question.

Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, again warned that the US-China trade tensions a "major risk" to world economic growth.

Since July, the countries have hit out with tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade.

While the tariffs alone are having "minimal" effect on global trade, they are damaging business confidence and weighing on stock markets, Lagarde told the US radio program Marketplace on Thursday.

"I cross my fingers every morning and my toes every evening because I hope that it is going to end up with a way to fix the system, not break it," she said. The IMF has cut its forecast for global growth this year due to the combined impact of the trade war.

Beijing has reportedly proposed an increase in its imports of US energy, Agricultural exports significantly.

US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue tweeted that China has committed to buying "an additional" 10 million metric tons of soybeans as a "show of good faith," but he did not give any details or specify the timeframe.

Still, a broader deal could be difficult given the US demands for far-reaching structural changes.

Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said China may have to remove its tariffs in order to increase purchases of US goods, but Trump may feel no pressure to roll back the duties he imposed last year.

"The big surprise would be a complete removal of tariffs by Trump but I'm expecting an asymmetrical removal of tariffs by China in order to get to some of these numbers," he said.

China's retaliation has hit US farm exports hard. The US Agriculture Department estimated this month that US soy exports would not turn to their pre-trade war levels for another six years.

William Reinsch, a former senior Treasury official for trade in the administration of President Bill Clinton, told AFP a risk for Trump is whether any agreement holds and the Chinese honor their commitments.

"If it unravels and we have a string of unmet commitments and then US retaliation right before the election, we're kind of right back where we started," he said

The News, 25-02-19

Pakistan, China set to ink FTA-II by June 2019

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are set to ink mu

ch-awaited second free trade agreement by June 2019 and to this effect a technical experts' delegation from Islamabad will leave for China by end of February, a relevant top official told The News.

"Yes, both the countries have progressed on this account and are set to ink the second FTA by June 2019 and to this effect, Pakistan's experts' team is to leave for Beijing to further fine tune the bilateral trade agreement. And in the month of March, Commerce Secretary Younas

Dagha will hold meeting with vice commerce minister of China to give final shape to the agreement."

First FTA with China was, he said, concluded in 2012, but it didn't yield the required dividends as the items on which Beijing had provided tariff concessions but later on provided more concession on the said items to ASEAN countries owing to which Pakistan' products in Chinese market remained no more competitive and Pakistan's exports to China continued to stay at \$1.2 billion whereas import from China soars to over \$15 billion.

There are 8,000 tariff lines that have been negotiated with Chinese counterparts and to shape up the trade deal-II in favor of Pakistan, Pakistan remained in talks as per the studies and models commerce ministry have had exclusively for China.

Beijing has already extended the commitment to Islamabad during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan that China will double its imports from Pakistan. According to Commerce Minister RazakDawood, Chinese Premier Li Keianq, during the visit, in clear words asked the top

leadership of Pakistan that they are ready to double the imports from Pakistan and if Pakistani entrepreneurs have the capacity, after doubling the imports from \$1.2 billion to \$2.2 billion, they would also increase imports from Pakistan by more \$1 billion. So China, he said, is ready to triple the imports from Pakistan but it all depends upon the ability of Pakistani entrepreneurs.

In addition, Beijing has also agreed to extend to Pakistan a special quota for export of sugar and rice which will also help to have a massive surge in exports to China.

The cabinet member said that a crucial meeting of Pakistan top officials is going to take place in Beijing on November 9 with their counterparts to shape up the process to finalize placing the dollars in Pakistan's account to improve reserves situation and carve out the modus operandi to improve the export of Pakistani goods to China.

Pakistan exports range from \$120-\$150 million a month which improved in the July 2018, August, September, October and November to \$200 million a month. In the remaining months, commerce ministry wants to jack up its monthly export to \$400 million to materialize the offer of China.

Pakistan's export to china stands at \$1.2 billion per annum which can go up to \$2.2 billion and then to \$3.2 billion. Pakistan wants market access and unilateral concession of 313 tariff lines, but the Chinese premier by setting aside these demands offered Pakistan's top leadership that his country is poised to increase its imports from Pakistan by 100 percent and later on it would also increase them by another 100 percent.

This will help decrease trade deficit with China. The official said that Pakistan can increase its exports by just \$500 million by sending to Chinese market one million tons sugar and one million tons rice. China's imports stands at \$2 trillion but Pakistan entrepreneurs lacks the ability to harness even 1 percent share in China's total imports.

The News, 25-02-19

Exhibition on glimpses of China's development concludes

Islamabad: An exhibition of as many as 140 significant photos concluded here Sunday at National Library of Pakistan, featuring images of 40 years of historical routes, development achievements, win-win cooperation and reforms in China.

The display offered the visitors a glance on China's 40 years since reform and opening up by the pictures selected for the exhibition.

The event was organized by Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, China Cultural Centre in Pakistan and National Library of Pakistan (National History and

Literary Heritage Division) and co-hosted by China State Council Information Office and Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to celebrate 2019 Chinese Lunar New Year.

During the exhibition, Director National Library of Pakistan introduced the audience with Cultural Revolution and reforms in China, celebration of Chinese New year and Developments in China. This exhibition is an attempt to create a link between people of Pakistan and China.

It is important to understand the culture of each other to know more about people.

China and Pakistan have strong bond of friendship comprising 70 years of relations, he said.

Earlier, the show was opened with a special acrobatic, robotic dance and cultural performance by the students of International Grammar School Islamabad.

The News, 26-02-19

‘Chinese govt to play vital role in KP development’

PESHAWAR: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has said his government will play a vital role in the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the province has great importance in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He was talking to a delegation of journalists headed by Peshawar Press Club (PPC) President Syed Bukhar Shah in Islamabad. The envoy praised the journalists of Peshawar for the role they had played during the war on terror and endured hardships in the line of duty.

The Chinese ambassador said that his government wanted to play a role in the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and it was going to establish an industrial zone at Rashakai area of Mardan.

He said KP had great potential for tourism and China would want the development of the tourism industry. The envoy talked about the development of newly merged tribal districts and said that China was constructing 50 schools there in addition to carrying out other schemes. He welcomed Saudi Arabia and others in investment under the CPEC. Earlier, the PPC president appraised the Chinese envoy of the history and background of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and also talked about the problems being faced by the journalist community.

The envoy thanked Syed Bukhar Shah and assured the delegation of fully supporting the journalist’s demands for building their professional capabilities.

The News, 26-02-19

Visiting Chinese team to finalize socio-economic projects

ISLAMABAD: China's high-powered delegation is on a visit to Pakistan to finalize socio-economic cooperation projects up to \$1 billion grants money as Islamabad has made formal request to provide 20,000 scholarships to Pakistani students in different fields in phases.

In the first phase, it is expected that China will provide 300 to 400 scholarships to Pakistani students as Islamabad wants opportunity for students to study in best educational institutions of China.

In the first phase, China has taken decision to execute projects of \$200 million and these projects will be finalized in consultation with federal and provincial government under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both sides have identified six major areas of cooperation in socio-economic cooperation including education, health, technical training, small scale agriculture, poverty alleviation projects and clean drinking water. The smart school will be another area of cooperation as the existing buildings will be converted into smart one such as through establishment of solar provisions for electricity to school buildings for achieving the desired results.

The technical training can be another area where Chinese can impart technical training and skills to Pakistani students as through affiliation with best Chinese institutions the students' degrees would be recognized in all parts of the world.

The transfer of technology can also be objectives for expanding the scope of CPEC to other areas. "The visiting Chinese delegation is going to stay in the country till next week for holding meetings with federal and provincial governments in order to finalize socio-economic uplift projects under CPEC up to \$1 billion for next two to three years period," top official sources said while talking to The News here on Monday. The Chinese delegation that had already reached Islamabad would evolve consensus on the list of projects tabled by Pakistani authorities during the last JCC meeting held in Beijing.

The News, 26-02-19

Trump says he sees 'signing summit' with China on trade

Washington: US President Donald Trump said on Monday he expects to hold a "signing summit" with China's President Xi Jinping to seal a trade deal, since negotiators "very, very close" to an agreement.

Negotiators worked through the weekend and citing progress in the four day so talks, Trump extended the March 1 deadline, postponing for now a sharp increase in tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump said he expected trade negotiators to resume quickly "and we're going to have another summit." "We're going to have a signing summit, which is even better. So hopefully we can get that completed. But we're getting very, very close," he said at a meeting with US governors.

Trump last week he expected to meet with Xi at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida in March. After exchanging punitive tariffs on more than \$360 billion in total two-way trade, Trump and Xi declared a truce in December and agreed to hold off on further tariffs or retaliation for 90 days. The United States was poised to more than double the tariffs on the most recent and largest round of Chinese exports.

Trump told the state leaders late Sunday to expect "very big news over the next week or two." Trump said he would now delay the punitive duties following the "very productive talks". "I am pleased to report that the U.S. has made substantial progress in our trade talks with China on important structural issues including intellectual property protection, technology transfer, agriculture, services, currency, and many other issues," Trump wrote on Twitter.

The official Xinhua news agency used almost the exact same language, reporting "substantial progress" on those thorny issues in the talks led by Xi's top trade negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He.

The delegations "came a step closer to realizing the important consensus reached" by Trump and Xi late last year, Xinhua said. The report said the parties also agreed to "carry out follow-ups in accordance with the instructions of the two heads of state".

"Assuming both sides make additional progress, we will be planning a Summit for President Xi and me, at Mar-a-Lago, to conclude an agreement," Trump tweeted. "A very good weekend for U.S. & China!"

After exchanging tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$300 billion in total two-way trade, Trump and Xi declared a truce in December and agreed to hold off on further tariffs or retaliation for 90 days. "If all works well, we'll have very big news over the next week or two," Trump told state leaders at the Governors' Ball in the White House Sunday evening.

Noting the many questions on the state of trade negotiations from governors, Trump added: "China is everywhere." "Let's see what happens. We still have a little ways to go," he said of a deal.

Trump initiated the trade war, which ate into company profits and contributed to stock market plunges, because of complaints about unfair Chinese trade practices -- concerns shared by the European Union, Japan and others.

Shares in Shanghai surged by more than five percent Monday -- leading a rally across Asian markets -- following Trump's announcement of a delay in the tariffs increase. The news also fired currency markets with the yuan extending gains to a seven-month high, while other high-yielding, riskier units were also up against the dollar.

Xi had also struck a positive tone in a letter Liu delivered to Trump on Friday, saying he hoped the negotiations would be held in a "win-win" spirit that would lead to a mutually beneficial agreement.

Analysts say the two sides are likely to trumpet mutual agreements to resolve the easier parts of the trade dispute -- increasing purchases of American goods, more open investment in China and tougher protections for intellectual property and proprietary technology.

The harder parts covering issues such as scaling back China's ambitious industrial strategy for global preeminence, meanwhile, are another question. "This is clearly not the end of the negotiations, let alone the underlying tension between the two countries," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics.

Agreement on how to enforce a deal will be hard to achieve, Kuijs noted. "Underlying tensions on technology, China's industrial policy and, more broadly, its rise, will not subside any time soon," he said in a note. Trump said Friday that an agreement on currency manipulation will be included in the trade pact, but otherwise few details have been made public.

Beijing has reportedly proposed a significant increase in its imports of US energy and agricultural exports. Still, a broader deal could be difficult given the US demands for far-reaching structural changes.

China's retaliation has hit US farm exports hard. The US Agriculture Department estimated this month that US soy exports would not return to their pre-trade war levels for another six years.

The News, 27-02-19

OIC, China, EU, UN urge Pakistan, India to exercise restraint

Ag Agencies

RAWALPINDI/BEIJING/BRUSSELS/NEW YORK/UNITED NATIONS: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned on Tuesday the aerial violation and dropping of four bombs by India across the Line of Control (LoC).

The General Secretariat of the OIC condemned the action against one of the founding members of the organization — Pakistan.

The OIC urged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and avoid any steps that would endanger peace and security in the region, reported local media.

The OIC held an emergency meeting of its Contact Group on Indian-occupied Kashmir Tuesday on Pakistan's request. "On the request of Islamic Republic of Pakistan a meeting of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir ... will be held at the OIC General Secretariat" on February 26 at 11am, said a notice marked "urgent" which was sent to members of the contact group by the OIC secretariat in Jeddah earlier this week. The permanent ambassadors of the OIC's member states participated in the meeting on Occupied Kashmir, the notification added.

China urged India and Pakistan on Tuesday to "exercise restraint" after New Delhi said its warplanes attacked a militant camp, in a move that sent tensions soaring between the arch-rivals over disputed Kashmir.

"We hope that both India and Pakistan can exercise restraint and adopt actions that will help stabilize the situation in the region and improve mutual relations," China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is expected to meet his Indian counterpart SushmaSwaraj and Russia's Sergei Lavrov in the Chinese city of Wuzhen on Wednesday for a previously planned meeting.

Meanwhile, the EU on Tuesday called on New Delhi and Islamabad to exercise "maximum restraint" after Indian warplanes attacked a militant camp in Pakistan, sending tensions soaring between the nuclear-armed arch-rivals.

"We remain in contact with both countries and what we believe is essential is that all exercise maximum restraint and avoid further escalation of tensions," EU spokeswoman MajaKocijancic told reporters.

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has issued an urgent appeal to India and Pakistan for "maximum restraint" in the wake of the airspace violations by Indian war planes along the Line of Control (LoC) on Tuesday, his spokesman said.

"The Secretary-General is closely following the situation," Spokesman StephaneDujarric said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. "He (UN chief) reiterates his urgent appeal to both the governments of India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint to ensure that the situation does not further deteriorate," the spokesman added.

Replying to a question about Indian claims of heavy casualties on the Pakistani side, he said that UN had nothing on it.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi delivered Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General at his office.

The Pakistani envoy is also circulating to the UN member states OIC's condemnation of airspace violations along the LoC by Indian war planes.

The South Asian region is on the cusp of a very dangerous situation as a result of India's escalation following the Pulwama incident, which could have serious consequences for international peace and security, Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi has said.

"The situation could spin out of control," Ambassador Lodhi, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said in an interview on Turkish Television's Programme, "Newsmakers", on Monday.

Responding to questions, she said Prime Minister Imran Khan had offered talks to India and to resume the peace process. The Pakistani leader had also offered an investigation into the incident of 14 February. "Dialogue, not demonization is the answer to this situation" she said emphatically.

The News, 27-02-19

CPEC scope to be enhanced to socioeconomic, agri sectors

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar said that Pakistan is keen to enhance scope of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the domain of socioeconomic development and agriculture sectors keeping in view the potential of growth in these sectors.

He expressed these remarks while meeting Du Zhenli, head of Chinese delegation, comprising experts from socioeconomic development field here at the Ministry on Tuesday. Secretary Zafar Hasan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China Zhao Lijian and Project Director Hasaan Daud were also present on the occasion.

A 13-member Chinese delegation is in the town to discuss implementation of these newly introduced sectors under CPEC. The experts are meeting federal, provincial government officials and experts to identify pilot projects and its implementation mechanism.

Minister PD&R said, "We have come a long way in defining a sustainable way forward in the win-win cooperation framework between China and Pakistan". The federal and provincial

governments are making all out efforts to realize the planned CPEC projects as soon as possible, he added.

The minister said that in the second phase, scope of CPEC is being enhanced in the domains of social sector development and agriculture sectors as both the sectors hold a huge potential of growth of Pakistan.

He said that government is interested in starting pilot projects in these areas with the support of China on priority.

He informed that since the 8th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting in December last, Pakistan side has worked on the projects list as per the agreed action plan in six cooperation areas, which would be shared with Chinese team.

“Our focus is on high impact, low gestation and low cost projects in less developed areas of Pakistan”, he remarked. He said that priority will be given to projects in the field of vocational training, job creation, agriculture and health.

He hoped that experts on both sides will be able to firm up the proposed projects and to set up deliverables for the next meeting of the leaders in April next to further strengthen economic cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Chinese experts’ first meeting was held at Ministry of Planning under the chairmanship of Secretary Planning on Tuesday. Both sides discussed potential projects and way forward for speedy implementation of this important cooperation.

Government of Pakistan is committed to further strengthen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and build closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era. CPEC vision has been expanded based on the priority and government vision for making it a true gateway for progress and prosperity under the slogan of “One Corridor, Many Doors”.

The News, 27-02-19

Chinese envoy calls on Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing was the first foreign envoy posted in Islamabad who visited the Foreign Office on Tuesday in the wake of the Indian aggression at Balakot and had meeting with Foreign Minister Shah MahmoodQureshi.

Well-placed sources told The News that Chinese ambassador expressed solidarity with the Foreign Minister and conveyed an important message of his government to Shah MahmoodQureshi.

Ambassador Yao Jing later told this scribe that China is desirous of lowering tension between Pakistan and India. It has impressed upon the two sides to work for de-escalation. He also referred to the statement made by Chinese spokesman in Beijing earlier in the day after the Indian air force act.

The ambassador said that Foreign Minister Qureshi has given the whole account of the events and made it clear that Pakistan isn't interested in enhancing tension. Islamabad is prepared to engage New Delhi but it must desist from worsening the situation.

Chinese ambassador reminded that Beijing has been asking Pakistan and India both to concentrate on eliminating terrorism and they should devote their attention on development and progress of their people and country.

Ambassador Yao Jing had extensive meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The ambassador briefed the Foreign Minister that his country has called for restraint from both Pakistan and India saying that a sound relationship and cooperation between the two nations serves the interests of the international community as well as peace and stability in South Asia.

He said that his country has taken the notice of the reports pertaining to the airspace violations along the Line of Control (LOC) by India and dropping of the payload by the intruder Indian planes. The Chinese envoy expressed the hope that the two countries would exercise restraint and do more to improve their bilateral relations

The News, 27-02-19

Chinese New Year celebrated at RIS

Islamabad : Roots International schools (RIS) celebrated Chinese New year with full zest and zeal, Zhang Heqing Cultural Counselor and Pan Yuqi -First Secretary of Chinese Embassy to Pakistan graced the occasion, says a press release.

Students from RIS Rawal, Wellington and Richmond campuses showed their mesmerizing performances. High level of participation was exhibited by students of RIS who were ready to win hearts of their esteemed guests with their love for the language and culture. Audience could feel the rays of sparkling impulses creating an interface of two backgrounds. RIS students exhibited Chinese stalls depicting true Chinese culture, their special food, trades, dresses etc. Students sang Chinese songs, gave their perspective and proved that how school is contributing in their lives by giving them exposure and making them open minded and diversified individuals.

Mr. Walid Mushtaq said, 'we wanted to connect the world virtually, by introducing languages in Real Time to promote cultural harmony, trade and investments initiatives. The collaboration with

Confucius Institute and has proved a great help in making the languages department of RIS a huge success reaching the enrollment of 4000 students by now.

Mr Zhang said: I am really impressed by the RIS students, their performances, cultural representations, and their full command over the Chinese language. He appreciated the efforts of CEO RIS WalidMushtaq, staff and teachers for training students and giving them knowledge in versatile way. He said Pakistan China relationship is deeper than sea, higher than mountain and sweeter than honey, and these students will make this bond stronger by bridging language barriers, by becoming ambassadors of Pak-China relationship.

The News, 28-02-19

China to invest \$2.7b in Kohala Hydro project

ISLAMABAD: As another major development in Sino-Pak cooperative partnership in energy sector, China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) is set to construct 1124 MW Kohala Hydropower project along the Neelum Jhelum, officials said here.

The AJK area has recently been swept by demonstrations and rallies appealing for “Saving River, Saving Muzaffarabad” against the unacceptable environmental issues in Muzaffarabad city caused by the diversion of Neelum River after recent commissioning of Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP).

The KHPP is the largest hydropower project being implemented by Kohala Hydro Company (Pvt.) Ltd with the cost around US\$ 2.7 billion. KHPP is being developed in private sector under BOOT model and it shall be transferred free of cost to GoAJ&K after 30 years.

According to the sources, for all its national importance and interests, a construction period of 6.5 years will provide thousands of job opportunities to local people, Water use charge and taxes will be a huge and steady income for GoAJ&K and an elaborate Community Investment Plan can certainly lead the way in nurturing a vibrant and thrilling society”

CTG, the parent company of KHCL and a world leader in hydropower development, possesses the most advanced and scientific ecological concept in hydropower project design and development in compliance with international standards, and is dedicating itself to reducing the known environmental impact of all its projects to minimum by establishing effective environmental mitigation measures.

The Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study of KHPP and the associated minimum water flow called Ecological-Flow (E-Flow) assessment of 30 m³/s, were carried out by KHCL in a transparent manner through a world renowned consultant, in consultation with all stakeholders.

It was also reviewed by PPIB and finally approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of GoAJ&K through an official NOC after holding two (02) widely-participated public hearings (one at Sarran and one at Barsala), which was also verified by International Finance Corporation (IFC) having highest international standards in this regard.

Furthermore, KHPP has three features that merit attention. The E-Flow in Jhelum River is not less than 30m³/s. Besides, the water flow is more than 30m³/s in eight months out of the whole year after KHPP is completed.

Second, the average water flow throughout the year shall be more than 68m³/s. During summer time, there will be two days for flushing with discharge of more than 1,000 m³/s to keep the river clean and pollution free.

The third one, with fewer residents living along Jhelum River than those along with Neelum River, a minimum E-Flow of 30 m³/s shall be good enough and sufficient to meet water supply requirements of Muzaffarabad city as well as dilution of municipal effluents drained by the city into the Jhelum River for the next more than fifty (50) years.

Polls indicate that a large part of the residents of Muzaffarabad city are supporting KHPP for its providing various stimuli to the slow economy. In additional, the local people from villages Adam Seri, Sarran, Langla, DhaniBakalan and Hattian Town have given their complete support to Kohala Project, hoping it will end poverty and bring prosperity in our areas.

After all professionalism in hydropower development and a good sense of public environmental awareness serve better in safeguarding the city's environment than simply shutting down an eco-friendly, promising and highly beneficial project worth billions of dollars, which would also become the property of AJK's government and people after 30 years.

The News, 28-02-19

Pakistan opposed to terrorism: China

Ag Agencies

ISLAMABAD: China on Wednesday said that Pakistan is opposed to terrorism and hoped that Pakistan and India would exercise restraint, engage in dialogue and take actions for the peace and stability of the region.

“As two important countries in South Asia, we hope the two countries will exercise restraint, engage in dialogue and take actions for the peace and stability of the region,” Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesman Lu Kang said during his regular briefing. When asked to comment on violation of Pakistan's airspace and territory by the Indian air force, he said, “We have taken note of the relevant development.”

The Chinese side had taken note that both India and Pakistan have stated their positions on the matter, he added. He said both Pakistan and India were important countries in South Asia and hoped that both countries could view this from the larger picture of regional peace and stability, exercise restraint and take measures to engage in dialogue for the peace and stability of the region and benefit of the two countries.

Responding to a question about shooting down of two Indian military aircraft by Pakistan, he said the Chinese side had taken note of the relevant development. “Yes I understand. It is the latest development that Pakistan has shot down two Indian aircraft and may be captured Indian pilots.”

“Well, the international community follows this issue closely,” he added. Lu Kang reiterated that China’s position was clear.

Pakistan Air Force earlier shot down two Indian jets within its airspace and arrested two Indian pilots, one in an injured condition, the Pakistan military spokesperson said in a press conference hours after the retaliatory action.

A day ago, Indian aircraft had intruded into Pakistani airspace from the Muzaffarabad sector and dropped their payload on what India claimed was a terrorist camp before they were repelled by timely action from the Pakistan Air Force.

PAF shoots down two Indian aircraft inside Pakistani airspace two pilots arrested. The incursion into the Pakistani air space followed a series of threats by Indian political and military leadership after an attack on an Indian Army convoy at Pulwama by a local youth in reaction to the oppression unleashed by the occupational forces.

In Washington, the US has urged Pakistan and India to exercise restraint and avoid escalation” in tensions at any cost between the two nuclear armed countries.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo spoke separately with Pakistani and Indian leaders on Tuesday to show concerns about the escalating tensions. He encouraged both sides to priorities direct communication and avoid further military activity, according to a statement issued later in the evening.

The secretary said that he spoke with Indian Minister of External Affairs SushmaSwaraj to emphasize close security partnership and shared goal of maintaining peace and security in the region. “I also spoke to Pakistani Foreign Minister Qureshi to underscore the priority of de-escalating current tensions to avoiding military action,” he said adding that Pakistan take meaningful action against terrorist groups operating on its soil.

“I expressed to both ministers that we encourage India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, and avoid escalation at any cost. I also encouraged both ministers to prioritize direct communication and avoid further military activity,” the statement by Secretary Pompeo said.

The statement came hours after Pakistan declared that it reserved the right to respond to Indian air jets violated the country’s sovereignty. Last week, President Donald Trump also voiced alarm at the soaring tensions between the two countries. He had called it a “very dangerous situation,” asking both the countries to defuse the tensions. In New York, United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appealed to India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint in wake of airspace violations by Indian aircraft at the Line of Control (LoC), Radio Pakistan reported.

Briefing the reporters at UN Headquarters, the UN Secretary General’s Spokesman StephaneDujarric said that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is closely following the situation.

He said the World Body Chief reiterated his urgent appeal to both the governments of India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint to ensure that the situation does not further deteriorate. Replying to a question about Indian claims of heavy casualties on the Pakistani side, he said that the UN had nothing on it.

Meanwhile, Pakistan’s Ambassador to the UN MaleehaLodhi delivered Foreign Minister Shah MehmoodQureshi’s letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General at his office. The Pakistani envoy is also circulating to the UN member states OIC’s condemnation of airspace violations along the LoC by Indian warplanes.

Turkey also announced to stand with Pakistan and its people in the face of Indian aggression and also has opposed the opportunity given to Indian Minister of External Affairs at the upcoming Organization of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Abu Dhabi.

United Kingdom Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday urged both Pakistan and India to “exercise restraint” and voiced her concern over the rising tensions between the two nuclear armed neighbors.

She also expresses deep concern by the recent military escalation over the last two days. “We are in regular contact with both countries (Pakistan and India), urging dialogue and diplomatic solutions to ensure regional stability,” says a statement from her office.

The British prime minister went on to say that the UK is working closely with international partners through the UN Security Council to de-escalate tensions.