



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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Business Recorder, 01-03-19

US wins dispute over China grain subsidies before WTO

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization on Thursday sided with Washington in a dispute it filed three years ago over “unfair” Chinese subsidies to producers of wheat and rice. Back in 2016, the United States alleged that China doled out \$100 billion in “market price support” for wheat and rice as well as corn production, above levels agreed at the Geneva-based WTO.

A panel established by the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body to rule on the matter found Thursday that the grain subsidies provided by Beijing exceeded the accepted level, and that China had “acted inconsistently with its obligations” under international trade rules. The experts said they had found that each year from 2012 to 2015, China’s market price support for wheat, Indica rice and Japonica rice “exceeded its 8.5 percent de minimis level of support for each of these products.”

The WTO panel said it had not considered whether China had also exceeded the acceptable subsidies for corn producers, since it found China had removed the challenged subsidy before the US launched its complaint.

Both sides have up to 60 days to appeal Thursday’s ruling.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue hailed the ruling in a statement as a “significant victory for US agriculture that will help American farmers compete on a more level playing field”.

“The United States proved that China for years provided government support for its grain producers far in excess of the levels China agreed to when it joined the WTO” in 2001, Lighthizer said.

“We expect China to quickly come into compliance with its WTO obligations,” he added. China is the world’s largest producer of wheat and rice, holding significant sway over world markets. The news of the WTO ruling comes as Washington and Beijing strive to reach a new trade agreement to avoid escalating their trade war.

After exchanging punitive tariffs on more than \$360 billion in total two-way trade, US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping declared a truce in December and agreed to hold off on further tariffs or retaliation for 90 days. Trump announced Sunday that 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.—AFP

Business Recorder, 01-03-19

China’s iron ore flat, steel prices rise

BEIJING: China’s iron ore futures ended little changed on Wednesday after hitting a three-week low in the previous session, as market expects demand from steel mills to pick up ahead of the peak spring construction season.

The most traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange for May delivery closed 0.1 percent lower at 593 Yuan (\$88.73) a tonne.

The contract had shed 3.2 percent on Tuesday and hit 586 Yuan, its lowest since Feb. 1, on news that Brazilian exports of the steelmaking raw material were averaging higher year-on-year despite miner Vale’s tailings dam accident last month.

The spring period beginning in March, after China’s Lunar New Year holiday, “is generally the peak season for steel products demand,” said Zhao Xiaobo, an analyst with Sinosteel Futures in Beijing, adding that there should be a high concentration of construction sites starting work next month.

The most active construction steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose for a fourth day on Wednesday, climbing 0.2 percent to 3,715 Yuan a tonne, while hot-rolled steel coil gained 0.5 percent to 3,734 yuan a tonne.

Gains were nonetheless capped by high stock levels. Total iron ore inventories at Chinese ports currently stand at 145.05 million tonnes, according to Steel Home, the highest level since Sept. 21 last year.

“This may be due to some steel mills being forced to adhere to stricter sintering curbs in Tangshan,” ANZ wrote in a note, referring to China’s top steel-producing city in Hebei province.

Wednesday marks the first day that the Dalian exchange, whose iron ore futures trading volumes have been slumping in recent month, is allowing individual foreign investors to trade the contract.

“I do not think it would cause significant changes to price movement as the key players in the industry are already trading the Dalian iron ore futures since 2016,” said Darren Toh, a data scientist with Singapore-based steel and iron ore data analytics company Tivlon Technologies. Among other steelmaking raw materials, coking coal added 0.6 percent to 1,295.5 yuan a tonne, having touched a two-week high, while coke edged down 0.2 percent to 2,122 yuan a tonne. Physical coking coal markets remain “active, with Chinese traders keen to secure premium hard coking coal,” pushing Australian prices higher, ANZ said.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 01-03-19

China factory activity hits lowest level in three years

BEIJING: China’s manufacturing activity shrank for a third straight month in February, sinking to its worst performance in three years as the economy slows and the US trade war bites, official data showed Thursday.

The Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), a gauge of factory conditions, came in at 49.2 for the month, down from 49.5 in January, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The figure remained below the 50.0 mark separating expansion from contraction. It fell short of the 49.5 reading tipped in a Bloomberg News survey of economists.

Although manufacturing activity slowed, “market demand has picked up to some extent”, NBS analyst Zhao Qinghe said in a statement.

However, “under the influence of weakening global growth momentum and intensified trade protectionism, foreign trade is under relatively big pressure”, Zhao added.

China’s economy has been losing steam over the past several months, expanding by 6.6 percent in 2018, its slowest pace in nearly three decades as the government battles a massive debt pile. “The official PMIs suggest that growth remains under pressure and we expect conditions to weaken further in the coming months,” Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics wrote in a research note.

“While there are tentative signs that credit growth is now starting to bottom out, we don’t think that will put a floor beneath growth until the middle of this year at the earliest,” he added. The trade conflict with the United States has also inflicted some damage, with the two countries hammering each other with punitive tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade. But the two sides said negotiations last week resulted in “substantial progress”, prompting US President Donald Trump to delay a hike in tariffs and voice hope that he could soon sign a deal with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.—AFP

Business Recorder, 01-03-19

China stocks down, but post biggest monthly gain in nearly 4 years

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares ended lower on Thursday on concerns about Sino-US trade and slowing growth, but the country's main stock indexes posted their biggest monthly gains in nearly four years on investor hopes for government stimulus and policy support.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was down 0.44 percent at 2,940.95. The index ended February with a 13.8 percent rise, its biggest monthly gain since April 2015.

The blue-chip CSI300 index finished down 0.25 percent, but posted its biggest monthly gain since April 2015, rising 14.6 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 0.35 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 1.004 percent.

Factory activity in China contracted for the third straight month in February, and export orders fell to the lowest level since the global financial crisis, underscoring concerns over a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Wednesday cautioned that much work was still needed to nail down a US-China trade agreement, including working out how it will be enforced, and that the United States would need to maintain the threat of tariffs on Chinese goods for years even if Washington and Beijing strike a deal to end a costly tariff war.

But highlighting official concern about supporting the country's financial markets, a central bank official said on Thursday that China would strengthen real-time monitoring of its stock, bond and foreign exchange markets to guard against risks.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by 0.61 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed down 0.79 percent.

At 07:15 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.6828 per US dollar, 0.04 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.6855.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Henan Yinge Industrial Investment Co Ltd, up 10.15 percent, followed by HualingXingma Automobile Group Co Ltd, gaining 10.12 percent, and Shanghai Shenqi Pharmaceutical Investment Management Co Ltd, up by 10.09 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Shanghai AJ Group Co Ltd, down 10.02 percent, followed by Shanghai Shibe Hi-Tech Co Ltd, losing 10.02 percent, and Anxin Trust Co Ltd, down by 10.01 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 17.9 percent and the CSI300 has risen 21.9 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 12.2 percent.

About 35.02 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 161.0 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 21.76 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 47.50 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 01-03-19

Brent eases as trade talks drag, China's economy shows weakness

Reuter's poll shows oil price rally pessimism

NEW YORK: Brent oil fell while US crude futures steadied on Thursday as US-China trade tensions persisted, both Chinese and Indian economies showed signs of slowing and news of surging US production undermined OPEC-led output curbs.

Global benchmark Brent crude futures for April were down 38 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$66.01 a barrel by 1:18 p.m. EST (1818 GMT), ahead of expiry. The more active May Brent contract fell 27 cents, or 0.4 percent, to \$66.31.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for April delivery rose 15 cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$57.09.

Factory activity in China, the world's biggest oil importer, shrank for a third month in February as export orders fell at the fastest pace since the financial crisis a decade ago.

India's economy lost momentum in the final quarter of 2018, reducing the annual rate of growth to 6.6 percent, the slowest pace in five quarters and much less than expected.

"The energy complex will require major assistance from a renewed up-trend in the equities and/or some sustainable weakening in the US dollar if WTI is able to lift much above the \$58 mark," Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates, said in a note.

A Reuter's survey of 36 economists and analysts indicated growing pessimism about prospects for a significant price rally this year, forecasting Brent would average \$66.44 in 2019, slightly lower than the January forecast.

“In the short-term, oil markets are going to be characterized by supply tightness on international markets,” said Emirates NBD’s Edward Bell. “Over the rest of 2019, though, the rising oil price sits incongruously with slowing economic growth in major markets.”

The United States is working to hammer out a detailed trade agreement with China that will include specific structural commitments, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC in an interview from London, citing progress in recent talks and hopes for the weeks ahead.

Earlier, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer dampened expectations of a swift resolution to the dispute. He said issues were “too serious” to be resolved merely with promises from Beijing to purchase more US goods.

Crude prices have also been dragged by news that US oil production surged more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in the past year to a record 12.1 million bpd last week.

Prices have been supported since January by supply cuts from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies such as Russia - a group known as OPEC+.

“You’ve got a tug of war between the bullish sentiments from OPEC+ cuts where they are actually sticking to it versus US shale production,” said Darrell Fletcher, senior managing director of commodities at Huntington Bank.

“I do think in the past week or two, the upper hand has gone to the bullish side because of the numbers coming in from the production cuts.”

US imports from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela to the US have dropped sharply, helping to draw down US commercial crude inventories by 8.6 million barrels last week, government data showed on Wednesday.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and his Saudi counterpart Khalid al-Falih discussed in a phone call bilateral cooperation in the energy sphere, Russia’s energy ministry said in a statement on Thursday, without elaborating.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

More fuel for China stocks as MSCI ups weighting

SHANGHAI: Global stock index compiler MSCI will increase the weighting of Chinese-listed firms in a key benchmark and nearly double the number of those included, a move expected to boost acceptance of China’s often volatile equities markets and attract billions in investment.

The US-based firm, which last year added 236 China-listed large-cap stocks to its Emerging Markets Index for the first time, said in an announcement late Thursday it would quadruple those shares' weighting in three stages by November.

It will also add 168 new mid-caps in November, plus 27 stocks from the tech-heavy ChiNext board.

MSCI inclusion is expected to spur big foreign investment inflows as institutional funds buy shares of the China-listed companies — known as “A-shares” — to match their portfolios to MSCI.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.78 percent by late morning trade following the news. China's second exchange in Shenzhen gained 0.51 percent.

MSCI resisted adding A-shares for years due to concern over Chinese corporate governance; Beijing's meddling in markets, restricted foreign access to stocks, and their high volatility. But it said last year the equities had become “too big to ignore”.

China has also taken a number of steps to modernize and open up its financial markets, which MSCI cited as key factors in the latest decision.

“The strong commitment by Chinese regulators to continue to improve market accessibility... is another critical factor that has won the support of international institutional investors,” said Remy Briand, MSCI's managing director.

A-shares now account for just 0.71 percent of the Emerging Markets Index but that will increase to 3.3 percent by November, MSCI said.

Firms related to China but not traded there already make up more than 30 percent of the index, however, due to the inclusion years ago of heavyweights like Wall Street-listed Alibaba and Baidu, and Hong Kong-listed Tencent.

‘Very excited’

Chinese stocks tanked in 2018 but have rebound around 18 percent this year as trade-war fears subside and the government has rolled out a series of market-supporting policies.

Bao Ting, a strategy analyst with Great Wall Securities, said MSCI's latest decision could lure an additional \$70 billion in foreign funds into A-shares.

“Attractive Chinese stock valuations and looser monetary policies will lure more foreign capital,” she said.

China has long shielded its markets but in recent years has widened foreign access to increase its global financial footprint.

It also plans to launch a Nasdaq-style tech board in Shanghai to deter big Chinese start-ups from listing abroad.

Shares included by MSCI last year included heavyweights such as Kweichow Moutai, the world's largest distiller, automaker SAIC, and consumer appliance giant Midea. Fund management company T. Rowe Price welcomed MSCI's decision, saying it increases the internationalization of Chinese markets and could benefit corporate governance. "This should be a good incentive for local companies to increase the transparency of their reporting practices and to adopt strategies that more firmly consider shareholders' interest," said Eric Moffett, manager of T. Rowe Price's Asia Opportunities Fund.

We are very excited about the opportunity set in this market and its growing relevance to investors outside of Asia."-AFP

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

UAF, Chinese varsity sign MoU

RECORDER REPORT

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad and China Agricultural University (CAU) have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the area of academia and research. The MoU was signed by UAF Vice Chancellor Dr. Zafar Iqbal Randhawa and CAU Dean College of Horticulture Prof Han Zhenhai on behalf of the CAU President Prof Dr Sun Qixin.

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

US vows Philippines defense if attacked in China-claimed Sea

MANILA: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday vowed to defend the Philippines against "armed attack" in the disputed South China Sea, in Washington's starkest warning yet against Chinese claims to most of the strategic waterway.

Speaking in Manila after meeting with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Pompeo said Beijing's actions in waters also claimed by the Southeast Asian nation and other neighbors were a threat.

"China's island-building and military activities in the South China Sea threaten your sovereignty, security and therefore economic livelihood, as well as that of the United States," he said.

“As the South China Sea is part of the Pacific, any armed attack on Philippine forces, aircraft or public vessels in the South China Sea will trigger mutual defense obligations under Article 4 of our Mutual Defence Treaty?”

Pompeo’s comments mark the first time a US official has publicly stated Washington’s commitment to defending its poorly-armed ally in the flashpoint sea.

A 1951 US-Philippine mutual defense treaty committed Manila and its former colonial master to come to each other’s aid in case of “armed attack in the Pacific area”.

Philippine troops and fishermen have frequently complained about harassment by Chinese maritime security forces.

Reacting to Pompeo, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Beijing was committed to keeping peace and stability in the region.

He added that for countries outside the region “such as the United States... it is not necessary to be deliberately provocative, or stir up trouble.”

The United States has said it is not taking sides in the dispute over waters claimed by China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

However, Washington has asserted its right to freely sail over waters through which trillions of dollars in global trade pass through each year and which reputedly contain vast mineral and oil reserves.

The Philippines used to be a staunch critic of China’s claims over the sea. But after his election in 2016 Duterte put the dispute on the back burner in favor of courting Chinese trade and investment.

He threatened a split with the United States and called then President Barack Obama a “son of a whore”, but relations are being rebuilt under President Donald Trump.

Senior Duterte officials have called for clarification on whether the US defense pact applies to the maritime row.

But Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin said Friday that Manila was “very confident” in US backing.

Pompeo also warned the Philippines and other nations against using technology from Chinese telecoms giant Huawei. The Philippines’ Globe Telecom plans to roll out Huawei commercial 5G services this year, while the Duterte government signed a \$400 million deal for Huawei to install closed-circuit television cameras in two Philippine cities to deter crime. US officials suspect Beijing could use Huawei’s products to spy on foreign governments. The company

denies the allegations. On Friday, Pompeo said using Huawei technology carried risks. “We want to make sure that the world has their eyes wide open as to the risks of having that technology be part of the infrastructure or backbone or networks,” Pompeo said. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman replied: “The government and people of any country probably know better what is good for their country than anyone else”.—AFP

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

SE Asian stocks: Indonesia gains; Philippines falls on MSCI’s China plan

SINGAPORE: Indonesian shares rose on Friday as upbeat economic data and forecast buoyed investor sentiment, while Philippine stocks fell on worries of fund outflows after index publisher MSCI said it would raise the weight of Chinese mainland shares in its global benchmarks.

The Jakarta SE Composite Index climbed 0.9 percent, snapping two straight sessions of declines, supported by consumer and telecom stocks.

Index heavyweight Unilever Indonesia Tbk PT gained 0.8 percent, while Smartfren Telecom Tbk PT rose 7.8 percent.

The central bank governor said he expected the first-quarter current account deficit to be narrower than the previous quarter, with a surplus in balance of payments.

The annual inflation rate cooled more than expected to the lowest in almost a decade, near the lower end of the central bank’s target range, due to falling food prices.

Vietnam shares jumped 1.5 percent, recouping some of the losses in the previous session, in broad-based gains.

The reversal was caused by a large price gap resulting from Thursday’s strong selling activities, said Bui Nguyen Khoa, head of macro research at BIDV Securities Company.

However, he said, “This recovery trend may not last long when the market faces a strong resistance level at 1,000 points.”

The Vietnam stock index, which has been the top performer in Southeast Asia since the turn of the year, declined 0.9 percent for the week in its first weekly fall in three.

Philippine shares fell 0.8 percent to a two-month closing low and were the worst hit in Southeast Asia.

MSCI said it will increase the inclusion factor of Chinese large-cap stocks to 20 percent from the current 5 percent later this year, potentially drawing more than \$80 billion of fresh foreign inflows to the world’s second-largest economy.

Malaysian stocks closed 0.4 percent lower, dragged by utility and consumer sectors, but fell 1.2 percent for the week, snapping three straight weekly gains.

Malaysia's trade surplus is expected to have narrowed to 9.2 billion ringgit (\$2.26 billion) in January from 10.4 billion ringgit in December, a Reuters poll showed.

Thai stocks closed 0.7 percent lower, while Singapore shares were marginally higher.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

China stocks rise as MSCI tightens its embrace

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares rose Friday after global stock index compiler MSCI said it will significantly raise China's profile in a key equities benchmark, a move expected to help normalize the country's often volatile markets and attract billions in investment. The US-based firm, which last year added 236 China-listed large-cap stocks to its Emerging Markets Index for the first time, said late Thursday it would quadruple those shares' weighting in three stages between May and November.

It will also add 168 new mid-caps and 27 stocks from the tech-heavy ChiNext board.

MSCI inclusion is expected to spur foreign investment inflows as institutional funds buy shares of the China-listed companies — known as “A-shares” — to match their portfolios to MSCI.

Chinese stocks endured an up-and-down session on Friday but the Shanghai Composite Index closed 1.80 percent up, or 53.06 points, at 2,994.01. The Shenzhen Composite Index, China's second exchange, closed 1.20 percent higher, or 18.51 points, at 1,564.84.

MSCI had resisted adding A-shares for years due to concern over Chinese corporate governance; Beijing's meddling in markets, restricted foreign access to stocks, and their high volatility. But China has moved to modernize and open up its markets, which MSCI cited as key factors in the latest decision.

“The strong commitment by Chinese regulators to continue to improve market accessibility... is another critical factor that has won the support of international institutional investors,” said Remy Briand, MSCI's managing director.

A-shares now account for just 0.71 percent of the Emerging Markets Index but that will increase to 3.3 percent by November, MSCI said.

Firms related to China but not traded there already make up more than 30 percent of the index, however, due to the inclusion years ago of heavyweights like Wall Street-listed Alibaba and Baidu, and Hong Kong-listed Tencent.

Chinese stocks tanked in 2018 but have rebound around 18 percent this year as trade-war fears subside and the government has rolled out a series of market-supporting policies. Bao Ting, a strategy analyst with Great Wall Securities, said MSCI's latest decision could lure an additional \$70 billion in foreign funds into A-shares.

“Attractive Chinese stock valuations and looser monetary policies will lure more foreign capital,” she said.

China has long shielded its markets but in recent years has widened foreign access to increase its global financial footprint.

It also plans to launch a Nasdaq-style tech board in Shanghai to deter big Chinese start-ups from listing abroad.

Many shares already in the MSCI index or which will be included gained on Friday.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China rose 1.74 percent to 5.85 yuan and China Construction Bank added 2.23 percent to 7.34 yuan.

Fiber glass producer China Jushi gained 2.83 percent to 11.27 yuan and feedstuffs producer Guangdong Haid Group rose 1.55 percent to 26.85 yuan.

In housewares, Zhejiang Supor jumped 4.98 percent to 64.56 yuan and Wuxi Little Swan added 0.81 percent to 55.80 yuan.

Fund management company T. Rowe Price welcomed MSCI's decision, saying the greater global scrutiny could nudge Chinese companies toward better corporate governance.

“We are very excited about the opportunity set in this market and its growing relevance to investors outside of Asia,” said Eric Moffett, manager of T. Rowe Price's Asia Opportunities Fund.—AFP

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

Chinese iron ore, steel futures rise for third month

MANILA: Chinese iron ore and steel futures rose on Thursday, supported by expectations that construction activities in the world's second-largest economy would gather steam starting next month, boosting demand for the commodities.

The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange for May delivery gained 2 percent to close at 609.5 yuan (\$91.21) a tonne. It rose in three of the last four sessions and posted its third consecutive monthly gain.

The contract, however, has pulled back by about 8 percent after a rally fuelled by supply concerns had propelled it to a record 657.5 yuan on Feb. 12, in the wake of top miner Vale SA's disastrous tailings dam burst in Brazil last month.

"The weather is getting warmer so I think the steel demand in the construction sector will recover from next month, but not strongly," said a trader at RizhaoHuaxin International Trade in Shandong province.

Steel inventories in China remained "very high", the trader said.

Steel demand has been slow in China since the latter part of 2018 as many construction projects were halted amid the cold weather and with the Chinese economy losing steam.

However, supply in the world's top steel producer and consumer remained plentiful notwithstanding output curbs intended to fight pollution.

China, which produces half the world's steel, had crude steel output of 928.3 million tonnes last year. Its output in January rose 4.3 percent from a year earlier to 75.0 million tonnes, according to data from the World Steel Association.

Iron ore inventories at Chinese ports currently stand at 145.05 million tonnes, according to SteelHome consultancy, the highest level since Sept. 21, 2018.

The most-active construction steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange, for May delivery, ended a volatile trade up 0.6 percent at 3,750 yuan.

The contract has risen 10 percent this year, and also posted its third monthly gain, supported by optimism that China's economic stimulus measures would boost steel demand.

Hot-rolled coil ended 1 percent higher at 3,778 yuan, after swinging between losses and gains.

Hot-rolled coil, steel that is heat-processed into metal sheets used for car bodies and household appliances, was a steady profit driver for mills but orders are now slowing down as China's auto sector contracts.

Coking coal ended 0.4 percent lower at 1,296 yuan a tonne, while coke slipped 0.4 percent to 2,124.5 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

China's 2018 coal usage rises

BEIJING: China's coal consumption rose for a second year in a row in 2018, but coal's share of total energy consumption fell below 60 percent for the first time as cleaner energy sources gained ground, official data showed on Thursday.

The world's biggest coal consumer used 1 percent more coal in absolute terms last year than in 2017, China's National Bureau of Statistics said in an annual communique. Coal consumption had risen for the first time in four years in 2017.

However, coal accounted for only 59 percent of China's overall energy consumption last year, down 1.4 percentage points from 2017, while gas, nuclear power and renewable energy combined accounted for 22.1 percent, up 1.3 percentage points.

That brings the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases closer to its target of reducing the proportion of coal in its energy mix to below 58 percent by 2020.

The result came as China's total energy consumption rose by 3.3 percent year-on-year in 2018, the data showed. Electricity usage rose 8.5 percent last year, according to the National Energy Administration.

"The good news is that renewable energy continued to grow rapidly in 2018, and new aggressive air pollution policies were introduced," Lauri Myllyvirta, an analyst at environmental group Greenpeace, said in a note.

However, a rapid rise in energy consumption, including increased residential electricity usage, still resulted in the biggest gain in CO2 emissions since at least 2013, Myllyvirta said.

"The increase in coal consumption since late 2016 has resulted from growth in electricity demand and expansion of the highly-polluting coal-to-chemical industry," he said.

Beijing's efforts to stimulate the economy were contributing to increased energy consumption, said Peter Kiernan, lead energy analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit in Singapore.

"The problem is that the government tries to stimulate the economy because it fears slowdowns," he said. "But this just leads to higher energy consumption from resource-intensive industries such as construction."

Coal's share in China's energy mix has fallen from 64 percent in 2015, Kiernan noted, but this rate of reduction is currently "too slow compared to the pace required, both domestically and globally, if emissions are to start falling sharply."

Carbon intensity, measured in carbon dioxide emissions per 10,000 yuan (\$1,497) worth of GDP, fell 4 percent last year as China strives to cap its emissions by around 2030.

Liu Youbin, a spokesman for China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, said at a press conference on Thursday that China had bettered its carbon intensity reduction target for 2018 by 0.1 percentage points.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

Zinc gains on dwindling stocks, copper down on China worries

Nickel hits six-month peak

LONDON: Zinc rose on Friday on concern about shortages after inventories slid, but some other industrial metals were softer after factory activity in top metals consumer China contracted.

Zinc mines have been ramping up, but smelters have not been able to keep up, so shortages of refined metal have persisted.

“Most if not all Western smelters are probably working flat out, but in China, with the environmental scrutiny clampdown, capacity is being cut and new capacity has been delayed,” said Robin Bhar, head of metals research at SocieteGenerale in London.

“The deficit in the refined market is being met by the drawdown in stocks, so that’s lending a lot of support to the zinc price.”

On-warrant zinc inventories in warehouses registered with the London Metal Exchange, material that is not earmarked for delivery, fell to 46,000 tonnes this week, LME data showed. That was the lowest since at least 1998, having more than halved so far this year.

Benchmark LME zinc rose 0.2 percent to \$2,784.50 a tonne in closing open outcry activity after climbing 13 percent so far this year.

Some metals were pressured after China's factory activity contracted for a third straight month in February albeit at a slower pace, helped by improvements in domestic manufacturing, a private survey showed on Friday.

“There’s still a lot of caution because of trade tensions, China slowing and physical premiums are tracking sideways,” Bhar said.

Three-month LME copper shed 0.5 percent to end at \$6,478 a tonne.

Earlier this week, available LME copper stocks fell to 21,600 tonnes, their lowest since 2005. “The fact that spreads are not insanely backwardated at these levels of stocks tells you that there is some metal around but it isn’t necessarily on the LME,” said Guy Wolf, head of global market analytics at MarexSpectron.

The backwardation - the premium of cash copper over the three-month LME contract - was at \$44 a tonne on Friday, compared to a discount of \$23.25 a month ago, but far from a peak premium of \$149 seen in 2012.

China's Yangshan copper import premium fell to as low as \$48 a tonne, the lowest since April 2017, suggesting weak physical demand.

LME nickel, used to make stainless steel, finished up 1.1 percent at \$13,195 a tonne after touching a six-month peak of \$13,400, tracking the surging Chinese ferrous complex. Aluminium added 0.4 percent to close at \$1,918 a tonne, lead fell 0.4 percent to \$2,143 and tin dipped 0.1 percent to \$21,620.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

China's fledgling junk bond market spawns new breed of vulture funds

Samuel Shen and Noah Sin

When the Shanghai-traded bonds of conglomerate China Minsheng Investment Group plunged 40 percent over two days in January after news it had missed a repayment, Beijing-based hedge fund manager Jash Zhang smelled blood.

As the private investors in the bond rushed to sell, Zhang snapped up CMIG's dumped bonds at about 50 yuan (\$7.48) apiece, or half their face value, betting that the 300-billion-yuan company would eventually repay the debt.

The strategy, she said, is simply to pounce when faint-hearted investors are wavering.

"When bad news breaks about an issuer, some funds will scramble to sell the bonds," said Liu Xiaofang, head of investment research at Shanghai Fengshi Asset Management Ltd, which launched its first vulture fund in September. But the bonds' underlying problem might be "not that big," creating opportunities.

Zhang and Liu are among a new flock of vulture investors that have emerged in China's corporate bond market in the last year, seeking to profit from steep sell-offs.

The risky but potentially lucrative business of trading in bonds on the verge of default is in its infancy in China, almost as new as the phenomenon of corporate defaults in the state-run economy.

A regulatory source said only a handful of other hedge funds have entered the trade, including Lanjing Investment, Colight Asset Management, Jing Tang Investment and Yongle Fund Management. The source declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

By some estimates, the market in such distressed bonds is worth just 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion), a tiny fraction of the \$472 billion corporate bond market.

But analysts expect it to grow rapidly as the country's default wave, driven by funding squeezes in the private sector, claims more victims.

The strategy of trading in distressed bonds is more commonplace in mature markets, with recognizable names such as Elliot Management and Aurelius Capital known for their aggressive recovery tactics.

The emergence of vultures in China, spurred by a record number of delinquencies in 2018, could help improve liquidity in a corporate bond market that has traditionally been dominated by low-risk investors such as mutual funds, brokers and insurers.

In all, 45 companies in sectors ranging from real estate to industrials and mining defaulted on 117 bonds with a total principal amount of 110.5 billion yuan in 2018, according to ratings agency Fitch.

That is more than all the previous years' sums combined. China's first bond default occurred in 2014.

"The (Chinese) government did not really allow defaults to happen until about four years ago," said Ben Zhu, a Hong Kong-based distressed debt investor. "As defaults spread, the bad apples get picked out. These companies will lose access to financing, and that's a good thing." For Liu of Fengshi Asset Management, the game of hunting for "fallen angels" has been highly profitable.

Last November, when Kangmei Pharmaceutical Co's debt instruments dived on a wave of negative reports suggesting reckless fundraising and insider trading by the firm, Liu bought for 70 cents on the dollar one of its bonds that would mature soon.

"The market consensus was that this company was cooking books. But we didn't think the problem was big enough to lead to an imminent default," Liu said.

Kangmei paid investors in full the next month.

"On an annualized basis, it's a return of several hundred percent. On an absolute basis, it was a gain of around 40 percent. And we bet heavily," he said.

More audacious investors like to buy bonds that have failed to repay investors on time. "There's too much panic around defaults," said Zhou Li, president of Rationalstone Investment. "Whenever a company defaults, people would assume the (bond) value would be wiped out to naught. But that's not the case."

He added that not all technical defaults - such as a delay in payment - would lead to genuine defaults. And some or all of the money can be recovered, he said, making bargain hunting profitable.

Distressed asset specialists previously active only in lending markets are now venturing into troubled bonds. Guoho AMC, a bad-loan company in eastern Anhui province, is one example. “We see mutual funds dumping them in the market. They have to. For them, it’s toxic,” said Liu Zhenhua, Guoho’s Shanghai general manager. “But as a bad-loan company, we’re good at assessing its value. You need an eye to spot gold in a junk market.”

Skeptics say this money-making model will falter in China.

Desmond Kuang, portfolio manager at Income Partners Asset Management in Hong Kong, said the typical strategy would be to buy into cheap bonds after thorough research and with some conviction that the investment can be recovered. That may not work in China, he said, where there is a lack of transparency in company disclosures.

There will be a lot of luck required onshore,” he said.

Fengshi Asset Management’s Liu said the risks could be big, and such a strategy would typically require clients with strong nerves to commit their funds for three to five years. “It’s a gamble. And you’re betting against professional institutions, not layman retail investors,” Liu said. “This game is very demanding in your ability to identify and assess risks.”—Reuters

Business Recorder, 02-03-19

Singaporean businessmen keen to invest in CPEC projects

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: A high powered business delegation from Singapore on Friday visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and held B2B meetings with their Pakistani counterparts to explore new trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan.

ShamsherZaman, who is also Singapore’s Ambassador to Jordan led the delegation representing a wide range of sectors such as construction, oil & gas, agriculture & livestock, chemicals, professional services, plastic & rubber industry, logistics, packaging, power, marble and halal food.

ShamsherZaman and LCCI President Almas Hyder termed it a historic “economic event” as this is the first-ever huge business delegation of Singapore visiting Pakistan to identify areas where Singapore companies can invest.

Speaking on the occasion, Shamsheer Zaman said that Singapore is a small country as compared to Pakistan, yet it is one of the strong economies of the world. Interaction between business communities of the two countries can greatly help Pakistan learn from the experience of Singapore.

He said that businessmen of Singapore are quite keen to invest in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. A lot of Singapore companies are interested in CPEC and Singapore companies have a lot of expertise in infrastructure, industrial parks.

The delegation head said that SMEs are an important part of Singapore's economy and the same situation prevails in Pakistan. Singapore started engaging countries in Africa, the Middle East and with zero business to start with but now their businesses were in billions, he said. Pakistani businessmen should have sustainable liaison with the businessmen in Singapore as they are not much aware of the trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan, he said.

Shamsheer Zaman said that Pakistan is a big market with over 200 million people that's why businessmen of Singapore have keen interest. He also called for exchange of trade delegations on reciprocal basis.

LCCI President Almas Hyder said that Singapore can be rated as the best model country for the whole Asia. He said that the balance of trade has traditionally been in favor of Singapore. Though, the figures of bilateral trade are around US \$1 billion but both the countries have great potential to double and triple these trade figures in 5 to 10 years.

He said the trade profile sets an encouraging note for expansion of trade and investment ties between the two economies. The identification of the markets for specific products is a pre-requisite for expansion of trade. The major items of exports to Singapore are articles of apparel, petroleum oils and surgical instruments. On the other hand, petroleum gas, vessels for breaking, medical instruments, chemicals and data processing machines etc., are imported from Singapore. He said that Pakistani government is committed to ensure that the best facilitating environment is provided to the foreign investors in almost all the spheres of economic activity. Special economic zones are being established under the CPEC and friends of Pakistan are initiating a number of mega projects in Pakistan. Singapore business community can take advantage of Pakistan's geographic location as a center point to South Asian, Central Asian, Gulf and Middle Eastern market.

The future is bright for us and we should make the most of it", he added.

Business Recorder, 03-03-19

China says it welcomes delay on US tariff increase

SHANGHAI: China said on Saturday that it welcomed the release of language from the United State Trade Representative's office (USTR) delaying a scheduled hike in U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods.

In a statement posted on the website of the Ministry of Commerce, citing an unidentified official at China's State Council Tariff Commission, China said that it was aware of the USTR's announcement to maintain tariffs at 10 percent until further notice, and welcomed the step. The USTR released language to delay a scheduled hike in tariffs on Chinese goods from 10 percent to 25 percent on Friday, ahead of the publication of a notice next Tuesday.

President Donald Trump had announced the delay on Sunday as trade talks between the two sides had made progress.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 03-03-19

China publishes final rules for new tech board

SHANGHAI: China has finalized regulations for a Nasdaq-style innovation board that promises to smooth the way for Chinese technology IPOs and, if successful, could raise Shanghai's profile as a capital-raising competitor to Hong Kong and New York.

The stock market regulator late on Friday published the rules for the tech board after considering opinions from the public on draft regulations that were introduced on Jan. 30. They took effect immediately.

Listings on the new board will be done according to a registration system that limits official powers to control the timing of IPOs. In addition, some companies that are not yet profitable will be allowed to go public. Those provisions alleviate two major impediments to companies seeking to tap existing equity capital markets in China. China has long wanted its tech champions to list closer to home, but many of the best-known Chinese technology firms, including Alibaba Group Co Ltd and Tencent Holdings, chose to raise funds in international markets. New York and Hong Kong accounted for nearly 70 percent of the money raised through Chinese IPOs last year. In another sign plans for the new board are progressing, the financial news website Caixin reported that the Shanghai Stock Exchange had completed recruiting employees for the board and they were slated to start work in mid-March.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 03-03-19

Chinese demand for US soya beans to be capped as Brazilian harvest hits market

- Freshly-harvested Brazilian soya bean crop coming to market

SINGAPORE: China's purchases of US soybeans beyond 10 million tonnes that Washington says Beijing has committed to buy could be limited as a freshly-harvested Brazilian crop hits the market, a leading US-based agriculture broker said on Thursday.

Appetite for soya from Brazil could dampen Chinese demand for old-crop soybeans from the United States, said Jeffrey McPike, global marketing manager at McDonald Pelz, referring to US beans harvested last year.

“Given the market logistics in China and the size of the Brazilian crop, sales of US old-crop beyond the second tranche of 10 million tonnes, which Beijing has apparently committed to, looks unlikely,” McPike told Reuters on the sidelines of a grains conference in Singapore.

China committed to buy an additional 10 million tonnes of US soybeans in a meeting on Friday, US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on Twitter, as the two nations try to thrash out a deal to end a festering trade war.

US soybean prices inched up on Thursday, but gains were muted as traders worried that the eagerly awaited trade deal could remain elusive.

China, the world's top importer of soybeans, resumed buying some US cargoes in December, after US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping struck a temporary truce in the trade conflict, but sales are still lagging.

As of last Thursday, only 7.4 million tonnes of the last US soya bean harvest had been sold to China, well below the 26 million in purchases at the same time last year, according to US government data.

Pelz also said that outbreaks of African swine fever in China could dampen demand for soybeans used to make animal feed.

The country has already reported more than 100 cases of the incurable disease since it was first detected in the country in early August.

Pelz also noted that African swine fever had emerged in Vietnam, a country that is one of the fastest-growing consumers of feed grain in the world.

The disease this week hit two more provinces in the Southeast Asian nation, after it was first detected in three separate farms in two other provinces earlier this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 03-03-19

Canada launches extradition of top Chinese executive to US

OTTAWA: Canada on Friday launched the extradition of Huawei executive MengWanzhou to the United States — the latest move in a case that has roiled relations between the North American neighbors and China.

Beijing was quick to react, saying Ottawa's action amounted to a "severe political incident." The 47-year-old businesswoman was changing planes in Vancouver in December when she was detained at Washington's request on suspicion of violating US sanctions on Iran — sparking arrests of Canadians in China that were seen as retaliatory.

"Today, Department of Justice Canada officials issued an Authority to Proceed, formally commencing an extradition process in the case of Ms. MengWanzhou," the government said in a statement.

Meng, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder RenZhengfei, is due in court on March 6, when prosecutors will present the evidence against her and lay out detailed arguments for her extradition.

The decision, the statement said, followed a "thorough and diligent" review which found sufficient evidence to warrant putting the matter before a judge. At the end of the process — which could last months, or even years — Canada's attorney general will have the final say on whether or not to hand Meng over.

Beijing on Saturday voiced its "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to Canada, which obstinately moves forward the so-called judicial extradition process."

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in a statement the US and Canada were "abusing their bilateral extradition treaty to apply arbitrary coercive measures against Chinese citizens, in violation of their rights and legitimate interests".

"This is a severe political incident."

China had "solemnly protested" to the Canadian authorities for Meng's release, and called on the US to drop its arrest warrant and extradition request, Lu added.

Meng has been released on bail pending the outcome of the hearings.

China is furious over the US charges against Meng, saying they are the product of "strong political motivations" and an attempt to undermine its flagship telecoms company.

Huawei has strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

Canadians detained

Nine days after Meng's arrest, Chinese authorities detained two Canadians — former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor — in what was widely seen as an act of retaliation.

A third Canadian, meanwhile, had his sentence for drug trafficking upped from 15 years in prison to death row.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has insisted on a strict hands-off approach to the issue, with his justice department stressing on Friday that “Canada is a country governed by the rule of law.”

Trudeau sacked his ambassador to China for undermining that position by saying Meng had a “strong” case against extradition, and later adding that it would be “great for Canada” if the US dropped the case.—AFP

Business Recorder, 04-03-19

Xi faces doubts as legislature meets

BEIJING: China's rubber-stamp parliament opens its annual session on Tuesday as President Xi Jinping faces growing concerns about the slowing economy, a major challenge to the country's pre-eminent leader.

One year after the legislature abolished presidential term limits and etched Xi's name on the constitution, his “new era” vision of a resurgent China at the center of world affairs has hit unforeseen road bumps.

Economic growth is slowing; a festering trade war with the United States has eroded confidence and Xi's signature Belt and Road global trade infrastructure initiative has faced setbacks in some countries.

Bubbles of discontent have appeared as the state has pushed deeper into the economy and people's lives.

“This will be a much more difficult situation for Xi Jinping than last year. Last year he was riding high,” said Hong Kong-based political analyst Willy Lam.

Premier Li Keqiang is expected to open the National People's Congress by announcing a lower GDP growth forecast for 2019, setting the tone for a session heavy on economic legislation and expected to last two weeks.

Nearly 3,000 delegates will ratify a raft of bills in a session expected to last two weeks, including a foreign investment law that could address some US demands and possible tax cuts.

“Xi Jinping has been criticized by party members for not handling the economy well, and failing to tackle the challenges posed by Donald Trump,” said Lam.

Lam believes Xi avoided holding a fourth plenum of the party’s Central Committee last autumn because of his weakened position.

But he convened a meeting with hundreds of provincial and ministerial leaders in Beijing in January to warn them on the need to prevent “major risks” in politics and the economy. “We must increase our readiness for unexpected developments, take precautions, and properly prepare for major risks that may arise in the economic field,” Xi warned.

Slowing growth

China reported 6.6 percent growth in 2018, the slowest in nearly three decades. Independent analysts estimate it was worse.

Three-quarters of provinces have lowered annual growth targets for 2019.

Delegates from around the country will convene for the NPC session and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body that runs simultaneously and begins discussions Sunday.

“Behind closed doors NPC members from the provinces will demand Xi Jinping do something about reviving the economy,” Lam said, adding he will face “angry voices”.

Still Xi presides from a position of strength with no potential challengers on the horizon.

“For him it’s not only the backbone of the economy that makes him a strong leader, but also political ideology. An ongoing campaign places Xi center stage,” said Matthias Stephan of Germany’s Mercator Institute for China Studies, noting it made it hard for any competitor to emerge.

Most recently the party released a “Study to Make China strong” propaganda app that grades people’s knowledge of all things Xi.

In 2017 Xi expanded his portfolio into economics — once seen as the purview of the premier — stamping it with a new wordy banner: “Xi Jinping Thought on Socialist Economy with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era”.

His push to increase the state and party’s role in the economy has coincided with a downturn.

Video game, film and TV makers have struggled to navigate the vagaries of changing censorship guidelines while internet companies have been forced to retrench in some areas and step up monitoring.

Some entrepreneurs have privately bristled at a push to expand party cells in all companies while others bat about the phrase “guojinmintui” or “state firm’s advance, private companies retreat”.

“On the one hand the government wants to develop the market but on the other hand they want to control the freedoms that come with a market economy,” said Sheng Hong of the Unirule Institute of Economics.

“They are afraid of an economy without government control,” Sheng said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 04-03-19

Stan Chart hiring Chinese-speaking bankers to connect its network

LONDON: Standard Chartered is targeting more trade-focused business from Chinese companies by hiring around 15 bankers worldwide, a source familiar with the plans told Reuters.

The move forms part of a broader StanChart strategy announced on Tuesday to boost profits in its corporate and institutional banking division by focusing on its network of 63 countries, mainly in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The London-based bank is pursuing the plan despite trade tensions between the United States and China and the new Chinese-speaking hires will be based in countries including Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates, the source said on Wednesday.

They will work in StanChart’s Global Subsidiaries team to bank Chinese companies with business in those markets.

StanChart Chief Executive Bill Winters said a network was vital to financing trade and investment between regions, after analysts questioned why it remains in markets such as Indonesia and Korea where returns have been weak for years.

Around 20 of its 63 markets are delivering substandard returns, winters said, but maintaining a presence in them is worthwhile for the ability to help global companies expand, invest and trade in those countries.

The corporate banking unit added more than 6,400 customers last year and ‘network’ income from firms operating outside their home market grew to 70 percent of the investment banking division’s total income, head of that division Simon Cooper told staff in a memo seen by Reuters.

The bank’s emerging markets and trade-focused business model has been hit hard in recent years by rising Sino-US trade tensions and slowing growth in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, but Cooper said the bank will keep pursuing its strategy.

“We’ve talked a lot about trade tensions recently and they continue to be a concern. However, we might see some new winners emerge: Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand have great potential to capitalize on the shifting trade landscape,” he said in the memo to around 12, 000 staff in the investment bank.

The new China bankers, which will also include hires in Pakistan and Britain, will help grow the bank’s business with Chinese companies that are expanding globally, the source said.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 04-03-19

China driving eSIM adoption: new GSMA report

BARCELONA: The GSMA Feb 27 announced the release of a new report highlighting the significant progress made by Chinese mobile operators, vendors and manufacturers in adopting Remote SIM Provisioning and eSIM technologies.

The in-depth report which is titled “In China and around the world, the huge adoption of eSIM technologies has been underpinned by the GSMA’s common and interoperable specification that is reducing fragmentation and delivering a consistent consumer experience,” said Alex Sinclair, Chief Technology Officer, GSMA. “From consumer electronics to automotive we are seeing a diverse array of products hitting the market utilizing the benefits of connectivity and bringing consumers choice.”

Smart watches with eSIM technology are gaining momentum in China supported by products from numerous vendors. Although eSIM smart watches still account for a small percentage of total smart watch ownership this is likely to increase in the future. To drive adoption, Chinese operators are also allowing consumers to use their smart watches as secondary devices with one mobile subscription. Despite creating smartphones for the global market, the Chinese domestic market has not formally adopted eSIM technology which will require appropriate regulation and new manufacturing, logistical and supply chain processes. Globally, over fifty mobile operators already support eSIM functionality in smartphones.

“China has a unique mobile market, both in terms of size and revenue growth and leadership in mobile developments and tech innovation has reached unprecedented levels. China is increasingly demonstrating its technological innovation and is emerging as a leading global market to test and implement new technologies,” said Xie Yi, Chairman of TAF. “Promoting the steady development of eSIM in China will help support developments in both the consumer and industrial markets. Based on the premise of national conditions, TAF has been committed to all parties in the joint industrial chain and cooperation with the GSMA, to make the best efforts to this end.”

The report highlights the role of industry-wide collaboration in driving eSIM developments in China involving operators, government and regulatory bodies. China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom are all developing eSIM solutions and have launched cellular M2M and IoTeSIM platforms. The Chinese eSIM market is still in an early phase of development in which some proprietary solutions coexist with GSMA specifications. However, it is anticipated that there will be a transitional period as the market matures before it settles on the GSMA specification.

The report highlights the significant efforts being made in China to help set a favorable regulatory framework for eSIM deployments. Streamlining procedures and setting clear, unified rules on eSIM requirements for consumer and industrial devices is critical to accelerating the deployment of eSIM technology and its market adoption. This includes credentials management, designation of root certificate issuing and security and cross-border interoperability. The report also recommends that the government should facilitate trials of eSIM services, particularly in the nascent industrial IoT to promote an open eSIM ecosystem.

The report highlights that there have been significant developments in the global eSIM ecosystem over the past two years with more than 90 mobile industry players supporting the GSMA’s specifications for Remote SIM Provisioning of consumer devices around the world. All are aligned behind a single, defacto approach avoiding industry fragmentation and interoperability issues, driving global developments and allowing consumer choice. While smart watches were the first mass market product to adopt the technology, there is now growing implementation of eSIM functionality in tablets, laptops, notebooks and smartphones (e.g. Google and Apple). The automotive industry is also at the forefront of eSIM deployments and built-in connectivity is also now a specific requirement in Europe following the European Emergency Call (eCall) initiative.

The GSMA hosted a seminar on eSIM at MWC19 on Thursday 28th February between 9-11am. The session included a panel of expert speakers to explore and debate the challenges in deploying eSIM and bringing devices to market including topics such as Security, Scalability and Connectivity.—AP

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

China suspects detained Canadian of spying

BEIJING: China suspects detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig of spying and stealing state secrets, state media reported Monday, turning up the heat in a diplomatic row between Beijing and Ottawa as a top Huawei executive faces possible extradition. Another Canadian in Chinese detention — businessman Michael Spavor — was one of Kovrig's main sources of intelligence, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing authorities. The pair were detained in December in what observers see as retaliation just days after Canada arrested Chinese telecom giant Huawei's chief financial officer, MengWanzhou, at the request of the United States.

Chinese authorities had previously said the two Canadian men were under investigation on suspicion of endangering national security. Spying charges could expose them to tough prison sentences.

Kovrig, who now works for the International Crisis Group think tank, had often entered China using a non-diplomatic passport and business visas and has been gathering intelligence since 2017, Xinhua said.

The new allegations come three days after Canada launched the extradition process against Meng, angering Beijing, which called the action a “severe political incident.”

Meng will be in court in Vancouver on Wednesday to schedule a date for her extradition hearing.

The United States wants to put her on trial on fraud charges for alleged Iran sanctions-busting and lying to US banks about it.

Ottawa has said the two Canadian citizens were “arbitrarily” detained and that interrogations of Kovrig breached the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations — allegations Beijing flatly rejected.

A group of Canadian parliamentarians had earlier complained to Chinese authorities that Kovrig and Spavor have been denied access to lawyers, and remain in “completely unacceptable” detention conditions.

“China's approach is no different from the rest of the world in dealing with such cases involving national security cases,” foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a regular briefing Monday.

China will handle their case in “strict accordance with the law, guarantee the legitimate rights of Kovrig and Spavor,” and arrange for consular visits, a report by a Communist Party organ overseeing state and public security said in a report on a news website it operates. Meanwhile,

Meng, 47, has filed suit against Canadian authorities for violating her constitutional rights when she was detained at Vancouver International Airport.

Her lawyers charge impropriety in the conditions under which Meng was interrogated for three hours by the customs officers, officially as part of a routine inspection, before being served with her arrest. During those three hours, the customs officers searched her phones and computers as well as her luggage, in violation of her rights, the lawyers said.

The US Justice Department accuses Huawei and its chief financial officer of circumventing US sanctions against Iran, but also, via two affiliates, stealing trade secrets from US telecommunications group T-Mobile.

The daughter of Huawei's founder, Meng was released on parole in mid-December in Vancouver, where she owns two residences, on a bond deposit of C\$10 million (\$6.6 million), wearing an electronic bracelet and handing over her passports.

The extradition procedure can take months or even years because of the many appeal possibilities.—AFP

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

Chinese yuan, Aussie up in Asia

TOKYO: The Australian dollar and the Chinese yuan inched up on hopes Washington and Beijing were close to a trade deal after a bitter year-long tariff dispute.

Fuelling such expectations was a report from the Wall Street Journal on Sunday that said the United States and China could reach a formal agreement at a summit around March 27 given progress in talks between the two countries.

The Aussie gained as much as 0.57 percent to \$0.7118, before giving up some of its gains to \$0.7085 following soft business inventories and declines in job advertisements and dwelling approvals.

“The data was seen as pointing to a weak reading in Australian GDP data due on Wednesday, prompted speculators to create new short positions,” said Yukio Ishizuki, senior strategist at Daiwa Securities.

But Ishizuki also said markets had gone too far in pricing in a downturn in the Australian economy.

“Interest rate futures are now pricing in a rate cut this year but the economy could turn out to be

stronger than expected given recent strength in commodity prices. I'd bet the Aussie could easily rise to around \$0.73-74," he said.

The Reserve Bank of Australia will hold its policy meeting on Tuesday.

The Chinese yuan ticked up 0.20 percent to 6.7030 to the dollar in offshore trade, edging near its 7-1/2-month high of 6.6737 hit last week.

The yuan has been supported since late last month after Washington delayed its self-imposed March 1 deadline for raising tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, citing progress in its trade talks with Beijing.

While the trade optimism pushed the dollar lower against most Asian currencies, it helped erase the greenback's earlier losses against the safe-haven yen, which followed US President Donald Trump's criticism about Federal Reserve monetary policy and a strong dollar.

The dollar traded at 111.96 yen, near a 10-week high of 112.08 on Friday. It had dipped to 111.75 yen after Trump's comments on the Fed.

"We have a gentleman that likes a very strong dollar at the Fed...I want a strong dollar, but I want a dollar that's great for our country not a dollar that is so strong that it is prohibitive for us to be dealing with other nations," he told his supporters in a speech.

The positive investor sentiment offset some of the caution that followed soft US data published on Friday.

Factory activity, gauged by the Institute for Supply Management's (ISM) survey, hit the lowest level since November 2016 while personal incomes fell for the first time in more than three years.

Expectations that the Fed will avoid raising interest rates any time soon have also underpinned risk sentiment.

"This week we have a few central bank meetings, including the European central Bank, Australia and Canada. All of them are likely to take either a dovish or neutral stance. That should support 'risk-on' trades," said Shinichiro Kadota, senior FX & rates strategist at Barclays.

The euro stood little changed at \$1.1365, with focus on Thursday's ECB policy meeting.

Given recent weakness in the euro zone economy, the ECB looks certain to suggest a rate hike this year would be off the table and could signal a re-launch of its offer of long-term loans to banks.

Elsewhere, the British pound found support on receding fears that Britain will leave the European Union without a deal after Prime Minister Theresa May said last week lawmakers would get to vote on a delay to Brexit if they choose not to approve her withdrawal agreement. The pound rose 0.2 percent to \$1.3235, inching towards its near eight-month high of \$1.3351 hit last week.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

Chinese shares near 9-month high

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares rose on Monday in heavy trading, finishing near nine-month highs as Washington and Beijing were said to move closer to reaching a deal to end their trade war, and as China prepared for the opening of its annual session of parliament.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 1.12 percent at 3,027.58 points, the first time it has closed above 3,000 points since June, and its highest close since June 14.

The blue-chip CSI300 index finished 1.18 percent higher at 3,794.10 points, its highest close since June 12.

Trading volumes were high, with about 52.56 billion shares traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 228.1 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 23.04 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 34.58 billion.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 2.21 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 3.306 percent.

Zhang Yanbing, an analyst at Zheshang Securities in Shanghai, said the rally was a continuation of market strength “prompted by the combination of many favorable factors” that have emerged since October of last year.

But he said that the news of a possible forthcoming agreement between China and the United States, and the opening of the annual session of China's parliament on March 5 could be seen as specific factors driving gains on Monday.

Chinese leaders are expected to set less ambitious targets for economic growth this year, but Premier Li Keqiang's 2019 work report is expected to offer more assurances of Beijing's support for small businesses, and plans to boost domestic demand and safeguard jobs.

The United States and China appear close to a deal that would roll back US tariffs on at least \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, as Beijing makes pledges on structural economic changes and eliminates retaliatory tariffs on US goods, a source briefed on negotiations told Reuters on Sunday.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.28 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 1.02 percent.

At 07:15 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.696 per US dollar, 0.18 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.7078.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Shanghai Feilo Acoustics Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, followed by Sichuan Hongda Co Ltd, gaining 10.12 percent and Sichuan Changhong Electric Co Ltd, up by 10.1 percent.

The largest percentage losses in the Shanghai index were WuXiXinje Electric Co Ltd down 5.43 percent, followed by Healthcare Co Ltd losing 3.32 percent and Luenmei Quantum Co Ltd down by 3.16 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 21.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 26 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 14.7 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 2.95 percent this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

China's rapeseed meal futures jump 4pc

BEIJING: China's rapeseed meal futures on Friday jumped more than 4 percent on worries that supplies would tighten as cargoes from major supplier Canada were said to be receiving higher scrutiny at ports.

The most active rapeseed meal futures on Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE) for delivery in May rose 4.2 percent to 2,166 yuan (\$323.40) per tonne, their biggest daily gain since April 2018.

The rally was supported by market rumours that China has rejected applications for GMO certificates that are required to import rapeseed meal and rapeseed oil cargoes, amid souring Sino-Canadian relations.

A political dispute between China and Canada over the arrest of a Huawei executive is slowing canola shipments through Chinese ports, traders told Reuters in early February.

Reuters could not immediately confirm that GMO certificates for rapeseed cargoes from Canada had been rejected.

China's most active rapeseed oil futures on the ZCE also rose about 3 percent to 6,810 yuan per tonne, their biggest daily jump since at least September 2012.

Canadian rapeseed cargoes have already run into delays at Chinese ports following a political dispute between Beijing and Ottawa. Some importers have chosen to avoid shipments from Canada, China's top supplier of the feed grain.

China imports rapeseed to crush into meal to feed its vast herds of farm animals and to make vegetable oil.

Relations between China and Canada took a downturn in December when Canadian authorities arrested Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer MengWanzhou for extradition to the United States.

Shortly after, China detained two Canadians and sentenced a third to death for drug smuggling, moves that Ottawa has said are deeply concerning.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

China's Jan net gold imports double

HONG KONG: China's net gold imports via main conduit Hong Kong doubled in January from the previous month, data showed on Tuesday, as banks in the world's top consumer likely stocked up at the beginning of the year.

Net imports of the metal via Hong Kong to China rose to 38.373 tonnes in January from 19.22 tonnes in December, according to data from the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department.

Total gold imports via Hong Kong surged 75.1 percent to 42.276 tonnes last month from 24.149 tonnes in December.

"Import quotas (for banks) start from scratch in January," said Samson Li, a Hong Kong-based senior precious metals analyst at Refinitiv GFMS.

In December, China's net gold imports through Hong Kong nearly halved to 19.22 tonnes as the central bank likely limited import quotas for its banks.

While imports rose in January, it was still lower than expected, given the increased gold demand seen by some institutions in the first quarter of 2019, Li added.

China's 2018 gold consumption rose by 5.73 percent year-on-year to 1,151.43 tonnes, the state-run Securities Times reported in January, citing data from the China Gold Association.

In January, demand for physical bullion gathered pace in China ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, when gold is considered as a popular gift. Investment demand also saw a rise in China during the month.

Spot gold prices rose nearly 3 percent in January.

China does not provide trade data on gold, so the Hong Kong figures serve as a proxy for flows to the mainland.

The Hong Kong data, however, might not provide a full picture of Chinese purchases because gold is also imported via Shanghai and Beijing.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

Chinese iron ore, steel rise on strong demand

BEIJING: China's iron ore futures rose nearly 4 percent on Friday alongside steel prices, as investors banked on firm steel demand from manufacturers and construction projects.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 49.2 in February from 49.5 in prior month, official data showed on Thursday, but total new orders — an indicator of future activity — edged back into expansionary territory, suggesting some improvement in domestic demand. "More new orders indicate demand from the manufacturing industry is stabilizing. Meanwhile more infrastructure projects are expected to start construction, which would further support fundamentals of the steel market," said analysts from CITIC Futures in a note in Mandarin.

The market also expects China's leaders to offer plenty of assurances in parliament next week that Beijing will do more to help struggling small businesses, boost demand and safeguard jobs. Benchmark construction steel rebar prices on the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose 2.2 percent to 3,815 yuan (\$569.28) a tonne. Hot-rolled coil, a manufacturing-grade steel product, climbed 2.1 percent to 3,825 yuan.

Total steel inventory at Chinese traders rose by 695,600 tonnes this week as of March 1 to 18.67 million tonnes, according to data compiled by Mysteel consultancy, indicating that traders are

actively purchasing products from mills in expectation of strong downstream demand. Stocks of construction product rebar at traders increased 6.8 percent to 10.19 million tonnes this week, while hot-rolled coil stocks edged up 0.3 percent to 2.75 million tonnes.

Prices of the steelmaking raw ingredient also rose on Friday, due to expectations that steel mills will look to replenish stocks.

The most-active iron ore futures closed 3.7 percent higher to 625.5 yuan a tonne.

Coking coal contract gained 1.6 percent to 1,313.5 yuan a tonne, while coke futures climbed 2.3 percent to 2,168 yuan. Weekly utilization rates at steel mills across the country were steady at 65.75 percent this week as of March 1, Mysteel data showed.

On Friday, China's top steelmaking city Tangshan issued a level 1 smog alert, the highest in the country's four-tier pollution warning system.

Steel mills in the city will have to curb output by 40-70 percent or even stop production during the alert, which is effective from March 1 until March 6. —Reuters

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

China vows 'fundamental change' for foreign investors

BEIJING: China's legislature will vote next week on a highly-anticipated bill that will bring "a fundamental change" for foreign investors, an official said Monday, in a move that could help ease US trade tensions.

The draft foreign investment law will be the most closely watched item at the annual two-week session of the rubber-stamp National People's Congress, which opens on Tuesday.

The legislation seeks to address longstanding complaints from foreign companies, though Europeans voiced concerns that it was being fast-tracked to meet US demands on trade. The bill will eliminate the requirement for foreign firms to transfer proprietary technology to Chinese joint-venture partners — a central issue in China's trade negotiations with the United States.

It also promises to abolish the "case-by-case approvals" process for foreign investments, NPC spokesman Zhang Yesui said at a news conference.

The change will ensure that foreign investors will enjoy the same privileges as Chinese companies in most sectors, except those placed on a "negative list".

Beijing uses negative lists to identify areas that are either off-limits to non-state businesses or that require them to go through an application and approval process. “Areas for prohibiting and restricting foreign investments shall be clearly listed and areas outside the negative list will be fully open,” Zhang said.

“Chinese and foreign investment will enjoy the same treatment.”

The new “unified law” will replace three existing laws on Chinese and foreign equity joint ventures, non-equity joint ventures and wholly foreign-owned enterprises.

“This is a fundamental change in our foreign investment management system, which will improve the openness, transparency and predictability of the investment environment,” Zhang said.

US and EU officials have long complained of a lack of fair access for foreign companies in China, as well as rampant theft of intellectual property.

Tim Stratford, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, said last week “our initial impression is positive” but that businesses were waiting for further detail.

But the European Chamber of Commerce said it fears the legislation is being fast-tracked to meet US demands.

The NPC will vote on the draft law on March 15, the last day of its annual session.—AFP

Business Recorder, 05-03-19

Easier for China to face tariffs than bend to US pressure

Michael Martina

China will acknowledge concessions made in any trade deal with the United States for the sake of stabilizing shaky relations, but is unlikely to yield to demands it alter its economic model even if faced with continued tariffs, many trade experts believe.

U.S. President Donald Trump has warned he could walk away from a China deal if it were not good enough, even as his advisers touted “fantastic” progress towards an agreement to end a dispute that has put tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of each other’s goods.

Such optimism has taken a different shape in Beijing, where the delay on a once “hard” March 1 deadline for a U.S. tariff hike reinforced views that Trump’s appetite for tough measures has weakened as the 2020 presidential election draws closer and a strong U.S. economy shows initial signs of flagging.

Chinese concessions in any deal are likely to fall short of U.S. demands for deep change in the way the world’s second-largest economy works.

Revamping decades of state planning will not happen overnight, Chinese experts argue.

And President Xi Jinping faces political realities at home, where being seen as kowtowing to Trump would be less palatable than navigating the near-term impact continued trade tensions might have on China’s own slowing economy, they say.

One Chinese official told Reuters that China’s domestic reform was a long-term process.

“If the United States carries out overall restrictions or pressure based on its own interests, China will not accept it,” the official said.

TuXinquan, a trade expert at Beijing’s University of International Business and Economics, said it would be difficult for Xi to agree to U.S. demands that China revamp the role of state-owned enterprises and other core industrial policies.

Xi would likely be prepared to go as far as to give “visible, politically influential commitments” to Trump, such as to buy more American goods and improve protection of intellectual property rights (IPR).

The United States has long complained that Beijing has systematically obtained American companies’ intellectual property through coercion and outright theft. But improving copyright and trademark enforcement is seen by hardliners in Washington as a practical and self-interested move for China, now that it has innovative companies of its own.

China verifiably cracking down on the more existential threat of forced technology transfer - which officials deny actually occurs - or substantially curbing the influence of state-owned companies in the economy is seen as less likely.

“The core features of the Chinese model - these issues will be left to the future,” Tu said. Sources have suggested that the two sides are getting closer to a deal that could roll back some tariffs and set forth agreements on structural issues in China’s economic model, but that details of an enforcement mechanism to ensure Beijing follows through on policy pledges are still not set.

While no plans have been announced, there is widespread speculation in trade circles that Xi could travel to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida to hammer out a final deal in late March, on the tail end of a planned trip to Europe.

Some in U.S. diplomatic and business communities, concerned that Trump could rush into accepting weak Chinese commitments, have been for weeks referring, with mock grandiosity, to a possible deal as the "Mar-a-Lago Accord".

China's willingness to make smaller commitments is driven by a desire to stabilize US-China relations and prevent the trade dispute from spreading, which has become more salient as Washington pressures its allies to jettison cooperation with Chinese tech champions, including Huawei Technologies.

"We are afraid this conflict will be extended to other areas, even affecting the relationship between China and the West. So we want to control it. Maybe not solve all the problems, but control it and calm it down," Tu said.

China hopes commitments to purchase more US goods, along with pledges to improve its reporting of subsidies at the World Trade Organization and IPR enforcement can clinch an interim deal, according to Chinese trade experts.

Trump has delayed the threatened hike in tariffs on some \$200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent, which was due to kick-in on Friday.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has signaled that tariffs would remain an important tool to push China to address U.S. concerns over Chinese industrial policies, saying in written testimony at Congressional hearings last week that trade issues with China were too serious to be resolved merely through stepped-up purchases.

Zhang Huanbo, a researcher at the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a well-connected think-tank in Beijing, said China would not agree to abolish subsidies but it would correct market-distorting subsidies so they were "in-line with WTO rules".

Xi, who fundamentally believes in a strong role for the state and the ruling Communist Party in the economy, does not want to, and cannot, quickly dismantle decades of state planning, political analysts say.

But he still has room to give the United States more market access in the service industry and for agricultural products.

Shi Yinhong, director of the Center for American Studies at Renmin University, said beyond those types of openings China had to attend to its "own basic dignity and authority".

“If China makes too big a concession to the United States, it might create domestic economic disorder. And also how would you explain it to Communist Party members and the Chinese people?” said Shi, who has advised the government on diplomatic matters.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 06-03-19

China cuts taxes, sees ‘tough struggle’ as growth slows

BEIJING: China’s premier warned Tuesday that the country faces a “tough struggle” as he unveiled tax cuts to prop up a stuttering economy while increasing military spending to nearly \$180 billion.

The slowdown and US trade war have become major challenges for President Xi Jinping, a year after becoming the country’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong with the abolition of term limits and etching of his name into the constitution.

Premier Li Keqiang told the opening session of China’s annual National People’s Congress that the government is targeting growth of 6.0-6.5 percent this year for the world’s second-largest economy, lowering its range from 2018.

Nearly 3,000 delegates from across the country gathered under tight security, with legislation aimed at improving conditions for foreign investors topping the agenda of the two-week session.

“In pursuing development this year, we will face a graver and more complicated environment as well as risks and challenges ... that are greater in number and size,” Li said in his speech. “We must be fully prepared for a tough struggle,” he said.

The government had set a target of around 6.5 percent in 2018 and eventually recorded official growth of 6.6 percent — the slowest pace in nearly three decades. Three-quarters of provinces have already lowered their annual growth targets this year.

“We have made a moderate adjustment to our projection on the basis of a thorough assessment of destabilizing factors and uncertainties affecting the economic performance,” Li said.

To combat slowing growth, policymakers have said they will lower taxes, reduce fees and streamline red tape.

China will cut company taxes and employer social insurance contributions paid on behalf of workers by nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$298 billion), Li said.

The value-added tax for manufacturers will be lowered to 13 percent from 16 percent and drop one percent for transportation and construction industries.

Beijing will also lift spending, with China's targeted fiscal deficit set to increase to 2.8 percent of GDP, from 2.6 percent last year.

"They need to strike a balance between boosting economic activity and not restarting another debt-fuelled boom," said Tai Hui of JP Morgan Asset Management.

Fiscal policy will be "proactive", while monetary policy will remain "prudent", Li said, outlining cuts to the reserve ratios at medium and small banks to unleash more funds into the economy. Beijing is determined to achieve above six percent growth for the next two years to "meet its promise" of doubling GDP for the decade ending 2020, said Lu Ting, an analyst at Nomura bank.

Despite the slowdown, the government unveiled a military budget increase of 7.5 percent to 1.2 trillion yuan, though that is lower than last year's 8.1 percent hike.

China has spent billions on stealth warplanes, aircraft carriers and other advanced weaponry as it faces territorial disputes in the South China Sea and issues warnings against independence in Taiwan.

Recent economic data point to the difficulties China faces, with growth in the last three months of 2018 clocking in at 6.4 percent.

In January, an important barometer of prices in the country's industrial sector neared contraction territory while China's imports fell at the start of the year.

Manufacturing activity saw its worst performance in three years in February. But the country's stock market soared to its highest point in more than eight months Monday on renewed optimism about a US trade deal.

Relations with the United States deteriorated sharply last year after President Donald Trump hit roughly half of Chinese imports with new tariffs in an attempt to force trade concessions. Trump, however, has voiced confidence that he could soon sign a deal with Xi.

Li said China will settle "trade disputes through discussions as equals".—AFP

Business Recorder, 06-03-19

China stocks gain on policy support

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks rose on Tuesday after Beijing unveiled plans to cut taxes and increase public expenditure and lending to rev up its slowing economy.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 0.9 percent at 3,054.25 points, while the blue-chip CSI300 index rose 0.6 percent.

CSI300's financial sector sub-index was lower by almost 0.1 percent, the consumer staples sector was flat, while healthcare shares rose 0.6 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 2.3 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 3.5 percent.

China will cut nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$298.31 billion) in taxes and fees for companies, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said at the National People's Congress on Tuesday.

The special bond issuance quota for local governments, a key source for infrastructure investment, has been set at 2.15 trillion yuan, according to the finance ministry. Last year's quota was set at 1.35 trillion yuan.

Beijing will also step up targeted cuts in the reserve requirement ratio for smaller and medium-sized banks with an aim to boost lending to small companies by large banks by more than 30 percent, said Li. Market reaction was muted as Li, in the same address, said China will target an economic growth of 6.0 to 6.5 percent in 2019, less than the 6.6 percent gross domestic product growth reported last year.

The effectiveness of the flagship tax cut policy is also in doubt. "We don't see (how) the tax cut could turn the economy around. It never did in the past," Larry Hu, an economist with Macquarie, wrote in a note.

The Chinese premier also vowed to reform and open up the financial sector - an area which top banking regulator GuoShuqing said China can "absolutely" reach an agreement on with the United States.

Reports suggesting that Beijing and Washington were closing in on a trade agreement sent Chinese stocks to their near nine-month highs on Monday.

But analysts at China Galaxy Securities cautioned long-term investors against chasing the rally. "If valuations do not rise, (stock) prices are rising because of an improvement in risk appetite_ there is no support for the market's rise in terms of fundamentals," they wrote in a note.

Sino-US trade talks have been difficult but the two sides have achieved a breakthrough in some areas and will continue their negotiations, Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said on Tuesday.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by 0.1 percent, while Japan's

Nikkei index closed down 0.4 percent. So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 22.5 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 3.9 percent this month.

The Shanghai stock index is above both its 50-day moving average and 200-day moving average. About 42.41 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 52.56 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 06-03-19

LUMHS, Chinese varsity sign MoU

RECORDER REPORT

HYDERABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding was made between the Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro and Nenjing Medical University (NMU) Peoples Republic of China.

The Universities desire to engage in cooperative educational & research activities with the object to recognize the mutual scientific, and medical technical cooperation with advancing the state of science and technology in order to strengthen the scientific infrastructure and to bring benefits to both sides.

LUMHS Vice Chancellor Prof Bikha Ram Devrajani expressed that LUMHS recognizes the importance of collaborating with institutions of higher education to strengthen the link between practice and research, as well as to develop the public health and behavioral health workforce.

Business Recorder, 06-03-19

Oil flat as market wavers on US-China trade

- Pompeo says China trade deal has ‘got to be right’
- Libya’s biggest oilfield restarts
- OPEC-led supply cuts prop up market

NEW YORK: Oil prices were little changed on Tuesday as the market wavered on expectations for an imminent trade deal between the United States and China while awaiting US government crude stocks data.

Investors also weighed OPEC-led efforts to tighten crude supply against the restart of Libya's biggest oilfield and the prospect of weaker demand from China.

Brent, the international benchmark, rose 3 cents to \$65.70 a barrel as of 1:40 p.m. EST (1840 GMT). US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 2 cents to \$56.57 a barrel.

"Oil is still waiting for a deal to come back to table with China," said Phillip Streible, senior commodities strategist at RJO Futures.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said President Donald Trump would reject any trade deal that is not perfect, but added the White House would keep working on an agreement.

A day earlier, reports that Washington and Beijing could reach a formal agreement in March boosted crude futures.

Supply curbs by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies helped support crude.

On Monday, Russia said it would speed up its output cuts this month, and OPEC sources this week also said the group would likely extend its output cut pact that has driven oil prices about 20 percent higher this year.

"By them kicking the can down the road, and not making a decision on production until June, the die has basically been cast for the start of US summer driving season. You'd think that'd be pretty bullish," said Phil Flynn, analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago.

The restart of Libya's El Sharara oilfield could offset some of the cuts, however, as the field, which has a capacity of 315,000 barrels a day, had been closed since December.

The market expects US inventory reports will show rising crude stockpiles. Six analysts polled by Reuters estimated, on average, that crude stocks rose 400,000 barrels in the week to March 1.

The first supply report is due at 4:30 p.m. EST (2130 GMT)

from the American Petroleum Institute (API), an industry group, followed by the government's official figures on Wednesday.

Concern about a slowdown in oil demand growth has weighed on prices.

China's government said it is targeting economic growth of 6.0 to 6.5 percent in 2019, lower than the 6.6 percent growth reported last year and raising the prospect of slowing fuel demand.—
Reuters

Business Recorder, 06-03-19

Copper rises as China promises tax cuts and infrastructure

- Nickel prices rise to highest since August

LONDON: Copper prices rose on Tuesday after top consumer China unveiled economic stimulus measures including tax cuts for manufacturing industry, bolstering the demand outlook.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meanwhile, said the United States and China were “on the cusp” of a deal to end a trade dispute that has pushed metals prices sharply lower since last summer.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) closed 1.1 percent up at \$6,478 a tonne, reversing Monday’s losses and approaching a seven-month high of \$6,540 reached on Feb. 25.

The Chinese stimulus measures, which included promises of infrastructure spending, were largely expected and come as overall economic growth is cooling, with Beijing saying it targets growth of 6-6.5 percent this year, down from 6.6 percent in 2018.

For copper to really rally, China will have to move from talk to delivery on its stimulus pledges, said ING analyst Warren Patterson, predicting that copper would average \$6,400 a tonne for April-June and rise later in the year.

Supporting copper are signs of tight supply on the LME, where headline warehouse stocks, at 118,600 tonnes, are the lowest since May 2008 and the premium of cash copper over the three-month contract has risen to four-year highs at \$70.

However, stockpiles in Shanghai Futures Exchange (ShFE) warehouses have more than doubled to 227,049 tonnes during a seasonal lull in manufacturing activity during the Chinese winter and the Lunar New Year holidays. Chinese import premiums have fallen to \$55.50 from \$120 in September.

“On the LME it’s all looking pretty constructive,” said ING’s Patterson, “but it’s quite a different picture in China, where premiums are falling and ShFE inventories have swelled. Those indicators suggest a little bit of a concern over demand.”

Copper is tight but not as tight as LME stocks suggest: Andy Home.

LME nickel finished 3 percent up at \$13,650 a tonne after hitting \$13,725, the highest since August.

Nickel stocks in LME-registered warehouses, at 196,410, have nearly halved since the start of January last year.

Data from the International Nickel Study Group shows the nickel market deficit was 46,000 tonnes in 2016, 115,000 tonnes in 2017 and 127,000 tonnes last year.

LME aluminium ended down 0.1 percent at \$1,874 a tonne, zinc rose 1.1 percent to \$2,780, lead slipped 0.6 percent to \$2,101 and tin closed 0.5 percent up at \$21,565.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 07-03-19

China's rebar, iron ore snap 4-day rally

MANILA: Steel futures in China fell on Tuesday, with both rebar and iron ore retreating after rising for four sessions, as slowing economic growth in the world's top ferrous metals consumer continued to cloud the demand outlook for these commodities.

China cut its GDP growth target for this year to 6.0 percent to 6.5 percent, as expected, from around 6.5 percent last year but offered more stimulus, including cuts in taxes and social security fees, increases in infrastructure investment and lending to small firms, to shore up its economy.

Whether the stimulus measures are enough to meet the revised growth target, which is a "wide" range, remains to be seen, said analyst Helen Lau at Argonaut Securities.

"The market is reacting to the headlines," she said. "Iron ore prices had recently surged due to concerns over supply, but there is still uncertainty on the demand side."

The most traded iron ore on the Dalian Commodity Exchange ended down 1.3 percent at 623 yuan (\$92.96) a tonne, after falling as much as 3 percent earlier in the day.

Dalian iron ore hit a record-high 657.5 yuan in February in the aftermath of top miner Vale SA declaring force majeure on iron ore contracts after one of its tailings dams in Brazil collapsed in late January.

Iron ore prices are likely to "moderate" in March, said analyst Edward Meir of INTL FCStone.

"We do not see the supply disruptions lasting long as the Brazilian government has given no indications that it intends to come down hard on Vale," he said.

He downplayed the impact of the Brazilian supply cutbacks, which he said are still "relatively small in the grand scheme of things, impacting roughly 1 1/2 percent of world supply".

Other steel-making raw materials were also lower, with Dalian coke ending down 2.5 percent at 2,087 yuan a tonne while coking coal fell 1.4 percent to 1,278.5 yuan.

The most-active construction steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange edged down 0.7 percent to 3,793 yuan a tonne. Hot rolled coil edged 0.8 percent lower at 3,777 yuan.—

Reuters

Business Recorder, 07-03-19

Chinese swimming world champ Ning quits at 26

SHANGHAI: China's former 100m freestyle world champion and swimming pin-up Ning Zetao announced his retirement from the sport on Wednesday, his 26th birthday.

A fan favorite in China because of his ability and looks, Ning won the 100m free world title in 2015 and was a four-time gold medalist at the Asian Games a year earlier.

But his career has been on the slide since and he hangs up his trunks with the reputation of a talent never fulfilled.

Ning, who served a one-year suspension after testing positive for clenbuterol in 2011, announced his retirement on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter.

“Don't be afraid of the past and the future! Say good bye to the swimming pool and blue water and restart my own new life,” Ning wrote.

“Thank you, my dear fans! I wish you all the best.”

He added in English: “The way to success is never easy, push yourself and DO NOT SETTLE.”

After his feat at the world championships the colorful Ning looked set to star at the Olympics.

But he bombed at Rio 2016, where he failed to qualify for the 100m freestyle final.

In February 2017 he was thrown out of the China team for “violating the rules” over sponsorship.—AFP

Business Recorder, 07-03-19

Chinese carmakers show goods in Geneva as sales tank at home

GENEVA: Chinese carmakers have flocked to this year's Geneva International Motor Show, eager to present new electric models to a global crowd as traditional car sales slip at home.

Europe's biggest annual car show, which opens to the public on Thursday, has typically been a showcase for luxury cars from historic manufacturers, but this year new Chinese players have come out in force. State-run giant Beijing Automotive (BAIC), China's fifth largest automaker, has turned up in Switzerland with its small electric and hybrid unit BJEV, which is partially owned by Daimler.

Its booth boasts two futuristic-looking electrical concept cars, an SUV and a sports car, under BJEV's premium sub-brand Arcfox. Nearby, Chinese start-up Aiways, founded just two years ago, is meanwhile showing off a fully electric and hyper-connected SUV that it wants to see compete against far pricier high-end German models.

Aiways only counts around 1,000 employees, but it aims to play in the big leagues. It has reached deals with Siemens and Bosch and has hired Roland Gumpert — the designer of Audi's Quattro of 1980s rally fame — as its new product chief.

"Commercialization will begin in China in late 2019 and in Europe in 2020," Gumpert said in Geneva. The group has a factory in China capable of pushing out 150,000 vehicles a year, with the possibility of doubling that number.

"I think that the participation of Chinese auto companies in international auto shows in Europe or North America will allow them to promote their brand internationally," said Cui Dongshu, secretary-general of the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA).

This "gives them an opportunity to understand other international brands," he said, adding that coming to Geneva also offers a chance "to test the international consumers' recognition of Chinese products."

Chinese automakers at the Geneva show therefore appear to be on a scouting mission of sorts, as the industry back home declares its international ambitions.

A year ago, Lynk&Co — a brand created in 2016 by China's Geely, which also owns Swedish Volvo — confirmed its ambition to release electric models in Europe in 2020.

The cars, it said, would be designed in China but made in Belgium, with the aim eventually of conquering the Holy Grail: the US market.—AFP

Business Recorder, 07-03-19

China stocks rise to 9-month high

SHANGHAI: China stocks climbed on Wednesday to nine-month closing highs, bolstered by hopes Beijing would pursue more stimulus this year to underpin the cooling economy, even as investors watched for developments in Sino-US trade talks.

The blue-chip CSI300 index rose 0.8 percent to 3,848.09, its highest close since May 23, 2018, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed up 1.6 percent at 3,102.10 points, its highest close since June 7, 2018.

China's state planner said on Wednesday the government would implement measures to further boost domestic consumption this year.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 24.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 27.8 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 14.4 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.48 percent this month. About 55.50 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 220.3 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 25.19 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 42.41 billion. Beijing announced billions of dollar in tax cuts and infrastructure spending on Tuesday to reduce the risk of a sharper economic slowdown. A private survey showed on Tuesday China's services sector expanded at the slowest pace in four months in February, underlining growing strains on the economy and a challenging outlook for businesses this year.

On the trade front, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Monday he thought the United States and China were "on the cusp" of a deal to end their trade war. Pompeo added on Tuesday that "things are in a good place, but it's got to be right."—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-03-19

Second phase

Chinese experts discuss various projects under CPEC

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese experts' team has discussed about 25 various development projects relating to socio-economic development and agriculture sector with Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform under the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to the sources, the development projects were discussed at a meeting held under Secretary Planning ZafarHasn here on Thursday. Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China, Zhao Lijian and Project Director HasaanDaud Butt, high officials of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic China and others participated in the meeting.

Project Director/Coordinator CPEC Hassan Daud Butt told this correspondent that Chinese experts' team discussed development projects relating to health, education, vocational training and agriculture in the meeting. He said the representatives of Balochistan, Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan participated in the meeting.

He said a 13-member Chinese experts' team had visited Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and discussed various development projects with the provincial governments. He said the project would be scrutinized and final decision would be taken within 15 days.

The project director/coordinator CPEC said China would give \$1 billion grant to Pakistan for early harvest projects of socioeconomic development and agriculture sectors under the second phase of CPEC. He said China would provide this grant for early harvest and pilot projects during the next three years.

Answering a question, he said the government did not divert Rs 24 billion allocation for CPEC to other projects. He said the allocation made for CPEC projects was as per requirement and demand for executing agencies for the financial year 2018-19. He said Pakistan was committed to strengthening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and building closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

Business Recorder, 08-03-19

China's top grain region plans to raise subsidies for growers

BEIJING: China's top grain producing region plans to increase subsidies for corn growers as a stocks glut eases, and will keep soybean subsidies at high levels for a second year running, official media reported.

The increase for corn marks a reversal from last year when the government was still trying to encourage farmers to reduce corn acreage as it sold off mammoth stocks of ageing grain. However, soybeans will attract a much bigger subsidy after Beijing pledged to expand domestic soybean output this year amid a bitter trade war with the United States.

China's Heilongjiang province will also promote rotation from rice to soybeans in the new year, according to the provincial agriculture ministry, the party-run Heilongjiang Daily reported. The northeastern province nearly doubled subsidies for soybean farmers last year to 320 yuan (\$47.67) per mu—a Chinese measure of land equal to 0.06 hectare (0.14 acre)—while slashing corn subsidies to 25 yuan per mu, from about 134 yuan in 2017. Heilongjiang is China's top grower for both soybeans and corn, with farmers there switching between the two crops based on which will be more profitable in a given year.

Subsidies for soybean growers will be maintained at about 300 yuan per mu, the Heilongjiang Daily said. It did not give a figure for the increased 2019 corn subsidy, but said the figure for soybeans would still be more than 200 yuan higher than for corn.

Beijing said last month that it will further increase subsidies for farmers in northern China to help expand acreage in the region. China has been seeking ways to reduce its reliance on US soybeans, although the two sides have recently been in talks aimed at ending the trade dispute.

Beijing has also been whittling down its huge corn stockpiles, but the world's No. 2 consumer of the grain will likely sell off the last of its ageing stocks this year, an agriculture ministry official said earlier this year.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-03-19

China's iron ore futures fall as anti-smog measures weigh

MANILA: Prices of China's steel-making raw materials dropped on Wednesday after the top steelmaking city of Tangshan maintained the highest smog alert amid unfavorable weather conditions, while the government vowed to extend its anti-smog measures.

The level 1 alert, the highest in China's four-tier pollution warning system, has been in place since March 1 and requires steel mills to curb output by 40 percent-70 percent or even stop production, depending on the scale of their emissions.

The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange fell as much as 1.2 percent to 610 yuan (\$90.86) a tonne, and stood at 610.5 yuan by the end of the session.

Coking coal edged 0.8 percent lower to 1,266.5 yuan a tonne, while coke dipped 1.1 percent to 2,063.5 yuan.

Steel prices were also lower, with the most-active construction steel rebar on the Shanghai Futures Exchange down 1.2 percent at 3,737 yuan a tonne. Hot rolled coil, used for cars and home appliances, dropped 1.6 percent to 3,708 yuan.

Trading, however, was muted for most of the day, with prices swinging between gains and losses, while investors awaited more directional clues, including progress in the Sino-US trade talks. There was "no strong direction, as markets await updated US-China trade news", ANZ Research said in a note.

US President Trump will reject a trade deal with China that is not perfect, but the United States would still keep working on an agreement, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, according to a transcript of a media interview released by the State Department on Tuesday.

Despite some recent "positive" developments regarding the trade deal negotiations, the market is not discounting the possibility of "further tensions" between the world's two biggest economies, said Darren Toh, steel and iron ore data scientist at Singapore-based Tivlon Technologies.

“There’s nothing to speculate on at the moment, and some construction activities may have been suspended, while the NPC meeting is going on,” said analyst Richard Lu of CRU in Beijing, referring to the National People’s Congress, China’s parliament.

Delegates to the annual NPC gathering will meet in Beijing this week to discuss political and economic policies.

China’s top steelmaking city of Tangshan has extended a level 1 smog alert that was due to be lifted on Wednesday as unfavorable weather conditions persist. China will extend winter anti-smog measures such as production cuts and traffic restrictions for a third successive winter, the environment ministry said in a pollution battle plan for 2019 published on Wednesday.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 08-03-19

Badminton

China’s Lin Dan dumped out of All England Open

LONDON: Chinese badminton superstar Lin Dan crashed out of the All England Open in the first round, losing to Japan’s Kanta Tsuneyama.

Lin, a six-time winner of the tournament who is now ranked 12th in the world fell to a 19-21, 21-14, 21-7 defeat in Birmingham on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old, nicknamed “Super Dan”, said he struggled with his concentration.

“Every player is fighting very hard to win more points because of the coming Olympics,” he was quoted as saying by Chinese state news agency Xinhua. “I will play more tournaments for more ranking points.”

Tsuneyama, 22, who is ranked 17th, said his “physical ability” gave him the edge. “This tournament is the greatest, so I really want to win as much as possible and I feel the atmosphere here is unique, so I want to proceed as far as I can — I feel very confident now,” he said.

In front of noisy support the Japanese player struggled against one of the greatest shuttlers ever in the first game but turned the tide after that.

Tsuneyama accelerated away midway through game two with five consecutive points and Lin never got close in the decider, with the younger player showing more energy.—AFP

Business Recorder, 08-03-19

China right to aim to boost consumption: IMF

WASHINGTON: China is right to aim its stimulus policies at boosting domestic consumption since that will produce better quality economic growth, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

Beijing this week announced it had lowered its 2019 growth target to 6.0-6.5 percent for the world's second-largest economy.

And in response to the slowing growth, amid the trade friction with the United States, policymakers said they would lower taxes, reduce fees and streamline red tape.

“The IMF’s view is this will allow policymakers in China to focus on improving the quality of growth rather than maintaining a high quantity of growth,” fund spokesman Gerry Rice told reporters.

“This more modulated growth rate in China is something that the IMF has actually been advocating and encouraging... for some time.”

The Washington-based lender has long called on Beijing to shift away from a focus on export-led growth, so “we think this is an appropriate step,” Rice said.

“We welcome the intention to support consumption which remains relatively low in China.” He also praised the cuts to the “relatively high social security contribution rate,” which penalizes employment, as well as the changes to the value-added tax, a move which “reduces inefficiencies and opportunities for tax avoidance.”

China announced it will cut company taxes and employer social insurance contributions paid on behalf of workers by nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$298 billion).—AFP

Business Recorder, 08-03-19

China blue-chips snap four days of gains

SHANGHAI: Chinese blue-chips fell on Thursday after four straight sessions of gains while Shanghai shares closed slightly higher in a volatile session of trade, after the finance minister reiterated that China would not seek to flood a slowing economy with stimulus.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 0.14 percent at 3,106.42, having earlier lost as much as 0.9 percent. The blue-chip CSI300 index ended 1.02 percent lower.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 0.49 percent, while the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was weaker by 0.48 percent. In the latest round of comments indicating that China will avoid broad loosening despite a slowing economy, China's finance minister said on Thursday that a proactive fiscal policy does not mean Beijing will open a floodgate of stimulus, adding that authorities are highly concerned about local government debt risks.

Also, reinforcing ongoing uncertainty over the prospects of an end to the US-China trade war, US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that trade talks with China were moving along well, but predicted either a "good deal" or no deal between the world's two largest economies. The CSI telecommunication services index ended flat after having earlier been dragged lower by Huawei suppliers. The Chinese telecom equipment maker confirmed it is suing the US government over a section of a defense bill passed into law last year that restricted its business in the United States.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Wintime Energy Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, followed by Sichuan Western Resources Holding Co Ltd, gaining 10.12 percent, and Qinhuangdao Port Co Ltd, up by 10.11 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Wingtech Technology Co Ltd, down 5.41 percent, followed by ZhengjiangHuazheng New Material Co Ltd, losing 4.98 percent, and Bestsun Energy Co Ltd, down by 4.78 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 24.6 percent and the CSI300 has risen 26.5 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 13.2 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.63 percent this month. About 58.38 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 219.9 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 26.55 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 55.50 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

China Feb exports tumble the most in 3 years

BEIJING: China's exports tumbled the most in three years in February while imports fell for a third straight month, pointing to a further slowdown in the economy and stirring talk of a "trade recession", despite a spate of support measures.

While seasonal factors may have been at play, the shockingly weak readings from the world's largest trading nation added to worries about a global slowdown, a day after the European Central Bank slashed growth forecasts for the region.

Asian stock markets and U.S. futures extended losses after the data. Chinese stocks sank over 4 percent in their worst day in five months.

Global investors and China's major trading partners are closely watching Beijing's policy reactions as economic growth cools from last year's 28-year low. But the government has vowed it will not resort to massive stimulus like in the past, which helped revive demand worldwide.

February exports fell 20.7 percent from a year earlier, the largest decline since February 2016, customs data showed. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a 4.8 percent drop after January's unexpected 9.1 percent jump.

"Today's trade figures reinforce our view that China's trade recession has started to emerge," Raymond Yeung, Greater China chief economist at ANZ, wrote in a note.

Imports fell 5.2 percent from a year earlier, worse than analysts' forecasts for a 1.4 percent fall and widening from January's 1.5 percent drop. Imports of major commodities fell across the board.

That left the country with a trade surplus of \$4.12 billion for the month, much smaller than forecasts of \$26.38 billion.

Analysts warn that data from China in the first two months of the year should be read with caution due to business disruptions caused by the long Lunar New Year holidays, which came in mid-February in 2018 but started on Feb. 4 this year.

But many China watchers had expected a weak start to the year as factory surveys showed dwindling domestic and export orders and the Sino-U.S. trade war dragged on.

"Seasonal distortions around the Chinese New Year holiday has added noise to the export data in the past two months, and in our view explain most of the surprise (relative to consensus)," said analysts at Goldman Sachs, whose estimate for a 20 percent export drop was the most pessimistic in the Reuters poll.

But they noted that export momentum on a three-month basis has moderated significantly since the third quarter last year and said "growth is likely to remain soft in the near future."

TRADE WAR

The increasingly weak China data comes amid months of intense negotiations between Washington and Beijing aimed at ending their trade dispute.

On Wednesday, the U.S. reported its goods trade deficit with China surged to an all-time high last year, underlining one of the key sticking points.

China's data on Friday showed its surplus with the United States narrowed to \$14.72 billion in February from \$27.3 billion in January, and it has promised to buy more U.S. goods such as agricultural products as part of the trade discussions.

U.S President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that trade talks were moving along well and predicted either a "good deal" or no deal between the world's two largest economies.

Trump postponed a sharp U.S. tariff hike slated for early March as the talks progressed, but both Washington and Beijing have kept previous duties in place.

The Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councilor Wang Yi, said on Friday that talks had made substantive progress, and that the two countries' relations should not descend into confrontation.

But the New York Times reported that Chinese officials are leery of continued discussions and don't want to commit China to structural changes in its economy.

WORLD'S GROWTH ENGINE SLOWING

China's economy was already slowing last year before trade tensions escalated; due in part to a regulatory clampdown on riskier lending that starved smaller, private companies of financing and stifled investment.

Even if a trade deal is reached, its exporters will have to contend with weakening demand globally, particularly in Europe. China's exports to all of its major markets fell across the board last month.

The government is targeting economic growth of 6.0 to 6.5 percent in 2019, Premier Li Keqiang said at Tuesday's opening of the annual meeting of parliament, a lower target than set for 2018. Actual growth last year slowed to 6.6 percent, and is expected to cool further to 6.2 percent this year. Many analysts expect a rocky first half before a flurry of stimulus measures start to stabilize activity around mid-year.

China's slowdown and the trade war are having an increasing impact on other trade-reliant countries and businesses worldwide.

Imports from Japan sank 19.3 percent in February compared with a month earlier, Chinese customs data showed.

On Thursday, automotive chipmaker Renesas Electronics Corp said it plans to halt production at six plants in Japan for up to two months this year as it braces for a further slowdown in Chinese demand.

Taiwan reported its biggest export drop in over 2-1/2 years on Friday, with shipments to China down 10.4 percent. Like China, Japan and South Korea, its hi-tech manufacturers are also being hurt by a global downturn in demand for electronics from memory chips to smartphones.— Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

China backs Huawei in US legal fight

BEIJING: China threw its weight behind Huawei's legal battle against the United States on Friday, vowing to take all necessary measures to defend the "legitimate rights" of Chinese companies and individuals.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi voiced Beijing's support as Huawei mounts a legal and public relations campaign to counter US warnings that the company's networks and equipment could serve as Trojan horses for Chinese intelligence services.

US prosecutors have also charged the company and its chief financial officer, MengWanzhou, over allegations of violating Iran sanctions.

"It's quite obvious to any fair and unbiased person that the recent action against a particular company and Chinese individual is not just a pure judicial case but deliberate political suppression," Wang said at a news conference on the sidelines of China's annual parliament session.

"We have already and will continue to take all necessary steps, and resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies and citizens," Wang said, without explaining what kind of measures Beijing would take.

Huawei announced on Thursday that it had filed a lawsuit in the US state of Texas to seek the reversal of legislation that prevents American federal agencies from buying its equipment and services.

Wang said China supports the company's use of the "weapon of law to safeguard" its rights and not become a "silent lamb to the slaughter".

Meng was arrested in Canada in December at the behest of the United States and this week a court set a May 8 date to start her extradition hearings.

Two Canadians were subsequently detained in China in suspected retaliation over Meng's arrest, and the 15-year prison term of a third Canadian held on drug trafficking charges was switched to a death sentence.—AFP

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

Trump won't sign China trade pact unless it's 'great'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Friday he will not agree to a pact with China to resolve the months-long trade war unless it is a "very good deal."

The economic superpowers have been locked in a trade battle since last summer, striking out with steep tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which is beginning to sap economic growth and business confidence.

"I am confident but... if this isn't a great deal, I won't make a deal," Trump told reporters as he departed the White House to visit tornado-damaged Alabama.

But he added, "We will do very well either way, with or without a deal."

US and Chinese officials have said they are making progress toward a resolution of the dispute but a US diplomat in Beijing said Friday that an agreement was not imminent.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow acknowledged Trump's planned meeting at his Florida resort with Chinese President Xi Jinping, which officials said was expected to be held late this month to seal an agreement, could slip into April.

Kudlow told CNBC that talks have "advanced enormously," echoing comments from a Chinese diplomat in Beijing earlier Friday.

But "you saw them walk away from North Korea and just saying that... it could apply to trade," he said, referring to Trump's recent summit in Hanoi with the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which ended early and without an agreement.

"I don't want to hang a timetable on this," Kudlow said. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer "is doing the best he can."

"There may be a meeting in Florida, Mar-a-Lago between the two leaders, maybe late this month or early next month."

He credited Trump's tough negotiating strategy and "aggressive tariffs" for bringing Beijing to the negotiating table.

"We have them over a barrel," he said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

SE Asian stocks fall on dismal China trade data

SINGAPORE: Southeast Asian stocks tumbled on Friday in line with broader Asian peers, after the region's largest trading partner, China, reported a sharper-than-expected fall in exports in February, reigniting concerns of a global slowdown.

Exports from Beijing in February fell 20.7 percent from a year earlier - the largest decline in three years - compared to forecasts of a 4.8 percent drop, pointing to a further cooling in the economy despite a spate of support measures.

The data comes just a day after the European Central Bank slashed its growth forecasts, deferring rate hikes until 2020 and offering banks a new round of cheap loans, as it cautioned that the economy was in "a period of continued weakness and pervasive uncertainty".

In Southeast Asia, the Singapore index fell for a third session in four, dropping 1 percent to a more than one-month low with broad-based losses.

The country's largest lender DBS Group Holdings Ltd and Singapore Telecommunications Ltd lost 1 percent each.

The Singapore benchmark index posted a 0.8 percent fall for the week.

Philippine stocks snapped their two-day rally, declining 1.1 percent, hurt by weakness in industrial and financial sectors.

SM Investments Corp and Bank of the Philippine Islands were among the biggest drags on the benchmark index, shedding 3 and 2.2 percent, respectively.

However, the Philippine stock index, which was the worst performer in the region last week, recorded a weekly gain of 2 percent.

Indonesian shares fell 1.2 percent to a one-and-a-half-month low as trading resumed after a holiday on Thursday, with financial and consumer stocks taking the biggest hit.

An index of the country's 45 most liquid stocks declined 1.4 percent.

Vietnam stocks, which have outperformed their regional peers by a vast margin this year, closed 0.9 percent lower on Friday.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

China shares tumble the most in five months

SHANGHAI: China stocks suffered their worst day in five months on Friday, plunging about 4 percent as investors scrambled to take profit amid signs of tighter regulatory scrutiny after a recent market resurgence fuelled concerns of bubbles forming.

The blue-chip CSI300 index tumbled 4.0 percent, to 3,657.58 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index dropped 4.4 percent to 2,969.86 points.

Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index lost 1.9 percent on Friday.

The losses for the two main China indexes were their biggest since Oct. 11, and came in heavy trading, with financial shares leading the decline.

Shanghai-listed shares of major insurer People's Insurance Group of China (PICC) plummeted the maximum allowed 10 percent, after Citic Securities issued a rare "sell" rating on the stock, citing frothy valuation.

The brokerage forecast that PICC, whose shares doubled in just two weeks and rose the 10 percent limit in each of the previous five sessions, could slump by more than half over the next 12 months. Even after Friday's tumble, PICC is still up 115 percent for the year. "What we're seeing is profit-taking after the recent surge. That's very natural," said Wen Xunneng, a Shanghai-based hedge fund manager.

But Wen remained upbeat on Chinese shares, saying "I don't see big room for correction. Plenty of opportunities to make money ahead."

Some analysts had warned a correction was near as indexes had been in overbought territory for weeks, despite signs the economy was continuing to weaken.

On Friday, sentiment was also dampened by poor February trade data and weak global markets. China's exports tumbled the most in three years in February while imports fell for a third straight month, pointing to a further slowdown in the economy despite a spate of support measures.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), at a news conference in Beijing, declined to comment on Friday's market performance, but said it hopes more long-term overseas capital can invest in China's capital markets.

Throughout Friday, investors dumped stocks amid signs of tighter regulatory oversight after the market rebounded over 20 percent this year on loose credit conditions and hopes for a Sino-US trade deal.

“I suspect regulators are sending the signals to cool the market a bit,” said Stephen Huang, vice president of Shanghai See Truth Investment Management Co.

“The market rise has been too hasty.”

The official Securities Times said on Friday China’s banking watchdog has punished two lenders for illegally channeling money into the stock market.

Also, China’s securities regulator said its Guangdong branch was closely monitoring grey-market margin financing and has banned brokerages from cooperating with shadow lenders.

In addition to the “sell” rating on PICC, another was issued on Friday, by Huatai Securities, for Shanghai-traded shares of China Securities. The stock also fell 10 percent.

Allen Wong, strategist at China Investment Securities (HK), also attributed the market slide to sluggish overseas market, after the European central bank indicated economic uncertainty ahead. However, he said that the overall Chinese market is not yet in bubble, despite frothy valuations in some sectors.

“China’s easing policies would translate into economic improvements in the second half of the year, which will support the stock market.”

But if exports do not improve after February’s bracing number, worries about China’s economy are likely to increase.

“Today’s trade figures reinforce our view that China’s trade recession has started to emerge,” Raymond Yeung, Greater China chief economist at ANZ, wrote in a note.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

CBOT soyabean futures rise on Chinese deal

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) soyabean futures inched upward on Thursday on news that Chinese state-owned firms bought at least 500,000 tonnes of US soyabeans, traders said.

CBOT May soyabeans settled up 1/2 cent at \$9.02-1/2 per bushel on Thursday.

CBOT May soyameal ended up 20 cents at \$306.30 per short ton. May soyaoil fell 0.11 cent at 29.67 cents per pound, after dipping to 29.48 cents, the contract’s lowest since January 24.

Chinese state-owned firms bought the US soyabeans for shipment primarily from Pacific Northwest grain export terminals from June to September, two traders with knowledge of the deals said.

The purchases were the first since US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue tweeted that China had committed to buying an additional 10 million tonnes of US soyabeans during trade talks on February 22. US export sales of old and new soyabean crop totaled 383,400 tonnes for the week ended Feb. 28, according to US Department of Agriculture (USDA) data released on Thursday.

Ahead of Thursday's US Department of Agriculture weekly export sales report, traders expected the government to report weekly US soyabean sales at 600,000 to 1,150,000 tonnes.

Dealers continued to keep a close watch on trade talks between the United States and top soyabean buyer China. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the talks were moving along well and predicted either a "good deal" or no deal between the world's two largest economies.

Port terminals at Miritituba and Barcarena in the Pará State, Brazil, could run out of soyabeans by Friday due to blockades on the BR-163 highway, a key artery connecting the country's crop belt to northern ports, the oilseeds group Abiove said Thursday. Abiove said the Brazilian government is expected to free up soyabean truck traffic in the direction of northern ports by Friday.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

China's steel futures edge higher

MANILA: Benchmark steel futures in China edged higher at the close of a choppy session on Thursday, after the country's top steelmaking region of Hebei announced capacity reductions in 2019 and 2020 as it seeks to improve air quality.

Hebei will cut 14 million tonnes of annual steelmaking capacity both this year and next year, the province's Communist Party head said on Thursday.

The province, home to major steel hubs such as Tangshan and Handan, produced more than a quarter of last year's output in China, the world's biggest steelmaker. The most-active construction steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose 1.1 percent to 3,821 yuan (\$569.50) a tonne. It fell as much as 1.2 percent earlier in the day, before news about the planned capacity reductions came out.

"It's a reflection of the 'weak-demand, high-output' situation (in the Chinese market)," said analyst Richard Lu of CRU in Beijing. But construction activities in China are likely to increase later this month, which may spur a rebound in steel prices, he said, citing March as the peak season for steel demand.

Hot rolled coil also rebounded, inching up 0.1 percent to 3,752 yuan a tonne.

The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange fell as much as 1.4 percent, before edging up 0.7 percent to 623.5 yuan by the end of the session, amid rising supply and the extended smog alert in Tangshan. “Investors weigh the impact of extensions to steel mill output restrictions as heavy pollution remains prevalent in key production hubs,” said John Meyer, an analyst at London-based broking and corporate finance firm S.P. Angel.

Iron ore inventory at Chinese ports continued to rise, reaching 146.05 million tonnes on March 1, the highest since September last year, from 145.05 million tonnes as of Feb. 22, SteelHome data showed. Tangshan has extended a level 1 smog alert that was due to be lifted on Wednesday as unfavorable weather conditions persist.

The level 1 alert the highest in China’s four-tier pollution warning system, has been in place since March 1 and requires steel mills to curb output by 40 percent to 70 percent or even stop production, depending on the scale of their emissions.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

Base metals fall on weak trade data from China

LONDON: Copper fell to a two-week low on Friday after trade data from top consumer China pointed to a slowing economy despite recent stimulus measures, denting demand expectations for base metals.

China’s exports fell by the most in three years in February while imports fell for a third straight month, pointing to a further slowdown in an economy which is at its weakest in almost 30 years.

“The optimism that has been built up from an upcoming trade war deal has dissipated as underlying data shows that the picture isn’t as optimistic as everybody expected,” said BMO Capital Markets analyst Kash Kamal.

US President Donald Trump said this week that talks aimed at ending a long-standing trade conflict with China were moving along well after he postponed a sharp US tariff hike slated for early March.

The optimism had flowed into base metals, with nickel climbing the most among metals so far this year.

But on Friday, three-month copper ended 0.4 percent lower at \$6,395 per tonne, after touching its lowest since Feb. 20.

China’s unwrought copper imports fell year-on-year in February to their lowest in 11 months, while copper concentrate imports rose to tie with the all-time monthly record, signaling that the world’s top copper consumer is churning out more metal itself.

China this week sought to shore up its slowing economy through billions of dollars in planned tax cuts and infrastructure spending, with economic growth hit by softer domestic demand and a trade war.

“Today’s (Chinese) trade data is just further confirmation that the outlook is tentative and (the stimulus) is going to take a while to flow through,” said BMO’s Kamal.

Inventories in LME-registered warehouses stood at 116,725 tonnes, the lowest since 2008.

The premium of cash LME copper over the three-month contract was at \$35.50 a tonne after touching its highest since January 2015 at \$70 earlier this week.

Chinese bonded copper stocks have risen to 530,000 tonnes, according to the latest data as assessed on Friday by SMM.

The Indonesian government has approved one-year export allowances for copper concentrate for miners PT Freeport Indonesia and PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara, officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said.

Investors dumped “risky” assets such as metals and world stocks in the wake of the weak Chinese data, a day after European policymakers slashed growth forecasts for the bloc. Aluminium ended 0.4 percent higher at \$1,872 a tonne, zinc finished 0.9 percent lower at \$2,711, lead fell 0.7 percent to \$2,091, tin slipped 0.5 percent to \$21,375 while nickel closed 1.1 percent lower at \$13,090.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

China buys Indian cotton as prices at home jump

MUMBAI: Indian traders have signed contracts to ship 800,000 bales of cotton to China as demand surged from the world’s biggest consumer of the fiber due to a rally in prices in China, industry officials told Reuters.

The exports from the world’s biggest cotton producer will help China in augmenting supplies, but could weigh on global prices.

“Chinese buyers were very active in the market in last few days,” said Atul Ganatra, president of the Cotton Association of India (CAI).

The cotton was sold at around 80 to 81 cents per pound on a cost and freight basis (C&F) to China, for shipments in March and April, he said on the sidelines of a Cotton India conference in Mumbai.

India has already shipped around 600,000 bales to China so far in the 2018/19 marketing year that started on Oct. 1, he said. The United States, the world's biggest exporter of the fiber, has cornered the bulk of Chinese imports for at least a decade. But China's decision to impose a 25 percent import tax on cotton, in retaliation for tariffs enacted by the administration of US President Donald Trump, has allowed India to grab a bigger share of the Chinese market.

"Imports are nearly 10 cents (per lb.) cheaper than domestic supplies for Chinese buyers," said a London-based cotton dealer with a global trading firm.

China has also been buying cotton from Brazil in the last few days due to depleting stocks, he said.

Cotton ending stocks in China are forecast at 6.58 million tonnes in 2018/19, down from 7.43 million tonnes.

India's cotton sales to neighboring Pakistan have slowed in the last few days amid rising tensions between the nuclear armed nations, said Mohit Shah, director at Gill & Co., a leading exporter.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

USDA confirms sales of 664,000 tonnes of soya to China

CHICAGO: China bought 664,000 tonnes of US soybeans, the US Agriculture Department said on Friday, confirming a sale that marked the top oilseed buyer's first purchase of US supplies since promising to buy 10 million tonnes as part of trade talks.

The USDA, in its daily reporting system, said that private exporters said the deal was for the 2018/19 marketing year, which ends on Aug. 31.

Traders on Thursday had said that Chinese state-owned firms had bought at least 500,000 tonnes of US soybeans.

The market has been waiting for a sale since Feb. 22, when US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue wrote on Twitter that China had committed to buying soybeans as a "show of good faith."

The two nations have levied tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's goods since last summer in a bruising trade war that has riled commodities markets and shifted global trade flows. Washington and Beijing have been negotiating a trade agreement since December.

Chicago Board of Trade May soybean futures opened trading on Friday down 3/4 cent at \$9.01-3/4 a bushel.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

China tightens rules on wealth management

SumeetChatterjee

China's efforts to tighten oversight of its \$20 trillion-plus wealth management industry are spurring foreign banks to speed up plans to enter the local market or expand there, six people involved in the discussions said.

China's wealth-management industry is the fastest-growing in the world but has historically been linked to the sale of high-risk, illiquid products and lax regulatory oversight.

Recently, however, officials have begun forcing domestic banks to separate their wealth-management businesses, a move sources said was aimed at improving governance as part of Beijing's broader push to reduce debt and limit the sale of risky products.

This comes as Japan's Nomura is awaiting a license to launch a wealth business in China, while JPMorgan and Bank of Singapore, a unit of Asian lender Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp are among others considering entries, the people said.

At stake is access to a market where personal assets for investment rose from \$11 trillion in 2012 to \$22 trillion by 2017, according to consultancy Oliver Wyman. It expects that figure to reach \$37 trillion in the next five years.

Of that, only 5 percent, or \$1.1 trillion, was invested offshore in 2017, according to Oliver Wyman.

"China has long been considered the Wild West by the foreign private banks," said an executive at a leading wealth manager in China, declining to be named as he was not authorized to speak to the media. "With the market moving towards more regulated environment, onshore business is going to be the most important pie."

The private banking units of top Chinese commercial banks, including China Merchants Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and Bank of China dominate the local market, according to Asian Private Banker.

China's five major banks have so far gotten the regulatory nod to set up wealth management units, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) said last month.

The units must maintain separate books and accounts and "perform the duties of entrusted wealth management honestly, diligently, and responsibly," the regulator wrote in its December guidelines.

The rules are aimed at strengthening local wealth managers' risk-management practices, including those related to client background checks and the sale of investment products, which often imply a guaranteed return, industry sources said.

Francois Monnet, Credit Suisse private banking head in North Asia, said onshore investors' "normalizing" expectations of returns had created a more level playing field for foreign banks. Credit Suisse in 2016 hired a senior banker in China to prepare a roadmap for an onshore private banking business.

"We are at an early stage of strategic readiness in terms of developing what will make sense to increase that presence, and to be ready to deploy that aggressively," Monnet said.

Credit Suisse will compete with Goldman Sachs and UBS on advising wealthy clients in China. China is a "strategic priority" for UBS and billionaires are being created at a faster pace there than anywhere else in the world, said UBS Wealth Management's China business head Marina Lui.

Bank of Singapore plans to set up an office to promote its brand in China as a first step, Samuel Tsien, chief executive of parent company OCBC, said at an earnings briefing last month, adding that it was not looking to operate a "full-blown" private banking business.

JPMorgan has started discussing how to set up an onshore private banking business in China, two people with knowledge of the matter said. A JPMorgan spokeswoman declined to comment.

Nomura, which is said to be in line for regulatory approval this year for the securities joint venture that will allow it to offer wealth management services, also declined to comment. In the mass affluent market - clients with investable assets of between \$100,000 and \$1 million - in China, foreign banks are gearing up to boost growth as a shadow banking crackdown brings such investors into the mainstream.

Citigroup expects its China wealth-management client base to grow faster in 2019 than last year, at more than 30 percent, its country CEO Christine Lam said in January.

HSBC aims to grow its Asia revenues by at least \$1 billion by 2020 from retail and private banking wealth, asset management and insurance, with the China business set to be a big contributor, the bank said in a statement to Reuters.

"China's new wealth management regulations will remove implicit guarantees, set stricter investment standards and standardize the rapidly growing wealth management industry," it said.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 09-03-19

Women trafficking

Govt takes up issue with Chinese govt thru MoFA

FAZAL SHER

ISLAMABAD: The government has taken up the matter related to reports that Chinese men sell Pakistani women for prostitution in China after marrying them.

Secretary Interior Major Azam Suleman Khan (retired) told National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior that some cases regarding the said matter came into the notice and the Ministry of Interior has taken up the issue with the Chinese government through Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA Nafeesa Inayat Ullah Khan Khattak said there are reports that Chinese men in Pakistan marry with Pakistani women and later use them as prostitutes in their country.

MNA Muhammad Yousaf Talpur said he has information that a large number of Chinese prisoners have been brought into Pakistan and they are working on different projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

On this, Khan said that the Chinese companies working on CPEC project are state-owned companies and Pakistan embassy in China grants work visa to their employees. "This is not in our knowledge whether or not Chinese employees working on CPEC projects are prisoners," he said, adding, "We keep an eye on these people with respect to security point of view."

The secretary further said Ministry of Interior is setting up its own complaint cell which will receive and resolve public complaints regarding the attached departments of the ministry.

Ministry of Interior's Additional Secretary Abdul Aziz while briefing the committee which met with MNA Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz in the chair, about affairs and functions of the ministry, told that the Ministry of Interior has set up Special Security Division (SSD) consisting of six civilian wings for protection of Chinese nationals working on the CPEC projects.

He said CPEC security committee constituted under National Coordinator (NC) National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) is in process of formulation of strategy document.

Aziz said the Ministry of Interior signed agreement, treaties and memoranda of understanding including readmission case management system (RCMS) to digitize the flow of readmission cases from European Union Members States (EUMS), treaty on transfer of sentenced persons with China and protocol on prisoner transfer agreement with the United Kingdom (UK).

Agreement on transfer of offenders with Jordan and agreement on transfer of convicted individuals with Saudi Arabia are negotiated at expert level and are ready for signing, he said.

He further informed the committee that the ministry has framed various policies including Visa Free Entry Policy, National Internal Security Policy, Private Security Companies Policy, Bullet-proof Vehicles Policy, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) Policy and Arms Policy.

Aziz said Pakistan Citizen Portal has received 36,505 complaints so far and out of the complaints, 31,351 have been resolved, he said.

State Minister for Interior Shehryar Afridi said his ministry will provide complete assistance to the committee. His ministry will submit its reports on quarterly basis about its performance before the committee, he added.

The meeting was also attended by MNAs Sher Akbar Khan, Malik Sohail Khan, Nawab Zada Shahzain Bugti and Raza Nasrullah, senior officials of Ministry of Interior, Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Usman Mobeen, Director General (DG) Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Bashir Ahmed Memon and DG Immigration and Passport (I&P) Ishrat Ali.

Business Recorder, 10-03-19

China hopeful on US trade talks

BEIJING: Beijing is hopeful about its next round of trade talks with the US, China's vice minister for commerce said Saturday, after revealing that top negotiators had tried to hammer out a deal over burgers and eggplant chicken.

China and the United States have been locked in a bruising trade war since last year, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has left global markets reeling. Top-level negotiators have met three times in an attempt to reach an agreement before next week, when additional tariffs could be levied on Chinese goods entering the US as a truce period expires.

“When you ask about the prospects for the next Sino-US economic and trade consultation, I feel that there is hope,” Vice Minister for Commerce Wang Shouwen told journalists at a press briefing on the sidelines of China's National People's Congress.

He added that Beijing's top economic official Liu He and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer held talks over a packed lunch of burgers and eggplant stir-fried with chicken — a common Chinese dish — in Washington last month.

“Vice Premier Liu ate a beef burger, and Lighthizer ate eggplant and chicken (with rice),” Wang said.

“Throughout the consultation process, there was coffee and tea... but both drank plain water.”

“This was to find common ground,” he added.—AFP

Business Recorder, 10-03-19

Chinese group buys Finnish sports firm for 4.6bn euros

PARIS: A consortium led by Chinese companies, including internet giant Tencent, has bought Finnish firm Amer Sports for 4.6 billion euros (\$5.15 billion), acquiring leading ski brands Salomon and Atomic as Beijing looks forward to hosting the Winter Olympics in 2022.

Amer Sports said in a statement that the offer, announced in September and launched in December, had been successful with some 94 percent of its shares sold to the group.

Besides China’s Anta Sports, the consortium — set up to conduct the bid — includes Tencent, Asian investment fund FountainVest Partners and Anamerred Investments which is run by Canadian businessman Chip Wilson. Anta Sports, estimated to be worth \$12.5 billion, has been stepping up efforts to acquire foreign brands.

Amer Sports, ranked among the world’s largest sports firms, was founded in 1950 originally a tobacco company, before diversifying in the 2000s.—AFP

Business Recorder, 10-03-19

China makes biggest US sorghum purchase

CHICAGO: China bought US sorghum for the first time since August last week, U.S Department of Agriculture data showed on Thursday, fueling hopes for more deals as Beijing and Washington seek to resolve their trade dispute.

The sale of 65,000 metric tonnes of US sorghum marked China’s biggest purchase since Beijing imposed a 25 percent tariff on imports of American grains in July.

It was also China’s first purchase since the autumn US harvest brought new sorghum supplies into the market and came as traders said state-owned Chinese companies had separately purchased at least 500,000 tonnes of US soybeans.

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that trade talks with China were moving along well and predicted either a “good deal” or no deal between the world’s two largest economies.

China, the world's top sorghum buyer, bought about \$839 million of US sorghum in 2017, most of which was shipped in the months after the autumn harvest.

But Beijing's tariffs last summer nearly halted US shipments to Chinese buyers, who use sorghum to feed livestock and make fiery Chinese liquor called baijiu.

Wayne Cleveland, executive director of Texas Sorghum Producers, an industry group, said he was fielding calls from sorghum growers and grain elevators seeking to confirm the USDA report of China's purchase. "This has generated a tremendous amount of excitement for our growers and the folks that sell grain," he said. "There's nothing like having China back buying?"

Tight supplies of sorghum in China may be behind the latest purchase, said Don Bloss, past chairman of the trade group National Sorghum Producers and a Nebraska farmer.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 10-03-19

China's Liu sets 50km walk world record

BEIJING: China's Liu Hong on Saturday set a new world record for the women's 50km race walk, becoming the first woman to complete the event in less than four hours.

The Olympic gold medalist completed the Chinese Race Walk Grand Prix in the eastern city of Huangshan in just 3hr 59min 15 sec, the International Association of Athletics Federations said.

She shaved more than five minutes off the previous record set by compatriot Liang Rui. It is the first 50km outing for the 31-year-old, who has just returned from two years of maternity leave in 2019, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

A two-time World Championships winner, she also holds the women's 20km world record of 1hr 24min 38sec set in Spain's La Coruna in 2015.

Liu pipped Mexico's Maria Gonzalez by just two seconds to win the Olympic women's 20km race walk in a nail-biting finish in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Chinese athletes dominated Saturday's Huangshan race, with Li Maocuo shaving 11 minutes off her personal best to finish second at 4hr 3min 51sec and Ma Faying coming in third at 4hr 7min 30sec.—AFP

Business Recorder, 10-03-19

China forecasts rising soya bean imports to make up for less canola

BEIJING: China on Friday raised its forecast for soyabean imports during the 2018/19 crop year to 85 million tonnes, up from 83.65 million in last month's outlook, after the country's customs agency suspended some imports of rival oilseed canola.

China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said in its monthly forecast on Friday that even though African swine fever was reducing demand for soyameal in pig feed, canola imports were expected to fall, which would benefit soyameal consumption.

Canola imports are likely to drop after the General Administration of Customs suspended the clearance of canola imports from Canadian agribusiness Richardson International on March 1.

It said on Thursday it will also step up inspections of all Canadian canola cargoes until further notice.

Like soyabeans, canola, or rapeseed, is crushed into oil and meal, with the meal used to feed China's huge herd of livestock as well as farmed fish.

The agriculture ministry did not give a forecast for canola imports. However, China's canola oil production would be 5.7 million tonnes, slightly lower than earlier forecast, as a result of increased customs inspections reducing canola supplies available for crushing, the ministry said.

Canola oil imports are forecast to fall slightly to 900,000 tonnes, versus 1 million tonnes forecast last month, the ministry said.

Corn consumption is forecast to fall to 283 million tonnes, down from 285 million tonnes in last month's outlook, the ministry said, as African swine fever continued to spread and forced farmers to slaughter their livestock, reducing demand for corn-based feed.

China has reported 111 outbreaks of African swine fever, a fatal pig disease, in 28 of its provinces and regions since August 2018.

The ministry added however that the disease is "generally controllable" and prevention and control is "gradually improving".—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-03-19

CPFTA-II may be finalized prior to PM's China visit

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are holding 11th round of second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA-II) on March 12-13, 2019 in Beijing, hoping positive outcome of the much supported parlays, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

Pakistan's negotiation team will be headed by Shafiq Shahzad Baloch (Chief Negotiator). Other members of the team will be Yasmin Abdul Wahab, Consultant, MoC, Ghulam Qadir, Trade Economist, MoC, Khuda Bukhsh Rind, EDB, and one representative each from Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Textile Division and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The agenda of talks will be market access of trade in goods, claw back investment text and customs data exchange.

The sources said, both countries want to finalize CPFTA-II prior the second visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China scheduled in April 2019.

China has indicated that the items under zero tariffs have been agreed and rice, yarn and sugar have been included in the items prior to implementation of FTA-II, and given an assurance to Islamabad that it would procure additional products worth \$ 1 billion.

“China has conveyed that it is ready to work out the final details and modalities of second phase of FTA during 11th round of talks,” the sources continued.

The first phase of CPFTA was completed in 2012 and the two sides are presently negotiating the second phase for further liberalization. Both sides were almost ready to sign the FTA-II during Abbasi-led government, but it was deferred at the eleventh hour on the request of the business community. The then government's action was appreciated by the business community and Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) visited the office of the then Commerce Minister, Pervaiz Malik to applaud his efforts to safeguard local industry.

Pakistan maintains that China must extend unilateral concessions on its priority export items to restore eroded Margin of Preference (MoP) which was the result of subsequent China's FTA's with other countries especially Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2011.

Pakistan had sought unilateral concessions on 313 items but China was willing to give concessions on only around 55 items. However, now the situation is far different due to Pakistan's stiff stance.

“We want a win-win situation for both the countries in the second phase, as the outcome of first phase has been asymmetrical resulting in huge trade deficit,” said an official on condition of anonymity.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Business Recorder, 11-03-19

Pakistan, China & Afghanistan to meet tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Officials from Pakistan, China and Afghanistan will meet in Kabul on Monday to discuss cooperation in various fields, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said in Kabul on Sunday.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Idrees Zaman will preside over the trilateral meeting to follow-up the agreements on practical cooperation mechanism between the three countries.

Official sources in Islamabad confirmed the meeting and said that Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Zahid Nasrullah Khan will represent the country.

The trilateral forum at the level of foreign ministers was launched in 2017 at the initiative of China when relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan was at lowest ebb.

Pakistan wants to improve relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan as part of its efforts for economic development in the region.

An official source in Islamabad told NNI that the trilateral meeting will review progress on agreed projects.

In December last year, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi joined his Afghan and Chinese counterparts Salahuddin Rabbani and Wang Yi at the 2nd Afghanistan-China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in Kabul who reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their relations, deepening cooperation, and advancing connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) and other regional economic initiatives.

The three sides had agreed to promote China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral cooperation under the framework of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative.

Pakistan and China support the Afghan-owned, and Afghan led inclusive peace process and have assured Kabul to facilitate the process. China has expressed its readiness to support Afghanistan and Pakistan in building immigration reception center and drinking water supply schemes at each side of the Ghulam Khan Khel crossing point, and to explore cold storages at Chaman and Spin Boldak. China supports enhanced coordination between Afghanistan and Pakistan on major energy and connectivity projects, including the construction of Quetta-Kandahar railway and Kabul-Peshawar Motorway and Railway. In the December talks, the three countries had also agreed to counter terrorist' logistical capabilities including financing, recruitment, training, and strengthen trilateral cooperation for counter-terrorism capacity building, deny terrorist use of the internet and to take joint steps for radicalization, as well as work together to break the nexus between narco-trade and terror financing.

To advance their cooperation in the fields of Counter-Terrorism, the three sides had also signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Counter-Terrorism.—NNI

Business Recorder, 11-03-19

China will not devalue renminbi to spur exports: central bank chief

BEIJING: China has gone to great lengths to support its currency and would not devalue the renminbi to spur exports or combat trade frictions, the governor of the central bank said Sunday. Speaking on the sidelines of China's annual parliamentary session, Yi Gang said Washington and Beijing had discussed exchange rates in recent trade talks and reached a consensus on many "crucial" issues.

US President Donald Trump has long accused Beijing of manipulating its currency to gain a trade advantage and Washington has been seeking assurances on the exchange rate in the ongoing trade talks between the two nations.

"Let me stress here that we will never use the exchange rate for the purpose of competition, nor will we use the exchange rate to increase China's exports or as a tool in handling trade frictions," said Yi.

"We have committed not to do this," Yi told reporters.

He noted the US Treasury Department had declined many times to label China a currency manipulator in its semi-annual report on international exchange rates.

Beijing and Washington have been locked in a bruising trade war since last year, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has left global markets reeling.

"The two sides reached consensus on many crucial and important issues," Yi said, without specifying which issues.

China's banking regulator told reporters earlier this week that the two sides would reach a consensus on the exchange rate and indicated it would not be a sticking point in the way of a larger trade agreement.

"China's efforts and achievements in maintaining the basic stability of the renminbi exchange rate at a reasonable and balanced level are recognized by the whole world," Yi said.

In the past three or four years the exchange rate had been under market pressure to depreciate, Yi said, adding that Beijing had used up \$1 trillion of China's foreign currency reserves to stabilize the currency.

There have been conflicting comments from Washington and Beijing on the progress of negotiations.

Beijing is hopeful about its next round of trade talks with the US, China's vice minister for commerce Wang Shouwen said Saturday, after revealing that top negotiators had tried to hammer out a deal over a lunch of burgers and eggplant chicken in a recent round of talks.

Donald Trump on Friday said he remains optimistic but will not sign a pact unless it is a "very good deal", and a top economic advisor said the US president could walk away from a bad deal.

The two sides were thought to be readying for a Trump-Xi meeting at the end of March, but the US ambassador to China said Friday that the two countries were not yet ready to bring together the two leaders for a summit and deal signing.—AFP

Business Recorder, 11-03-19

Dollar to slip, no lift expected from any China trade deal

NEW YORK: The US dollar will lose strength against a basket of other major currencies over the coming year, according to a Reuter's poll of strategists who also said a positive outcome to US-China trade negotiations was already priced in to their outlook and will not likely give the greenback a lift.

Last year, the US currency was propped up by sweeping tax cuts championed by President Donald Trump, with the economy expanding above its long-term trend for most of the year, but falling short of 3 percent for 2018 as a whole.

Now a slowing US economy, a widening fiscal deficit and a dovish Federal Reserve are limiting the dollar's strength against other major currencies compared with 2018. With all those factors in play, the currency is forecast to give back some gains over the coming year.

"As we pointed out at the start of this year, we see the relative cyclical support for the dollar being less favourable this year than last and that suggests to us some dollar depreciation ahead. The end of balance sheet shrinkage will reinforce a much less active Fed on raising the fed funds rate," said Lee Hardman, currency strategist at MUFG.

"In addition, there is already evidence of foreign investors being more reluctant to invest in US portfolio securities and we view this reduced appetite as partly a consequence of the level of the US dollar and partly on concerns over the deteriorating budget deficit outlook."

But with global economic growth slowing and central banks expected to lean towards extending their easy monetary policy, any gains for other major currencies against the dollar will be limited.

The dollar is expected to weaken, with the euro forecast at \$1.19 in a year, over a 5 percent rise from \$1.13 on Wednesday, according to the poll of over 70 currency strategists taken Feb 28-March 6.

But that outlook for 12 months ahead was a downgrade for the single currency against the dollar compared with last month.

That is largely driven by a widely held view the European Central Bank will dole out new cheap loans to banks, also known as Targeted Long-Term Refinancing Operations (TLTROs), something economists in a separate Reuters poll predicted could happen by July.

“We are not anticipating there will be lot of wind in the (dollar’s) sails,” said Jane Foley, head of FX strategy at Rabobank, the top FX forecaster for 2018.

“But if you get to an environment where the market really is anticipating more TLTROs from the ECB, I don’t think the euro is going to be on a firm footing. And in that environment, there is just perhaps more incentive for the dollar to remain well-supported - no huge gains, but supported.”

Any resolution to an ongoing trade dispute between the United States and China is also unlikely to change the fortunes of the dollar, according to analysts who provided an answer to a separate question.

If the two countries do achieve a trade deal within the next month or so, the dollar is expected to make no significant move, while in a no-deal scenario, the greenback was forecast to rise by 1 percent.

“The dollar should correct if there is an agreement between China and the US due to the reduction of safe-haven flows. Nevertheless, the market is already pricing in a high probability of an agreement. Thus, the depreciation should be limited,” said Roberto Cobo Garcia, FX strategist at BBVA.

“If there is no agreement, the dollar could at least trade back towards the recent highs. The negative impact of this scenario on global risk appetite and the Chinese economy would definitely favour flows into safe-haven assets.”—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-03-19

China Feb new bank loans fall but policy support still on track

BEIJING: New bank loans in China fell sharply in February from a record the previous month, but the drop was likely due to seasonal factors, while policymakers continue to press lenders to help cash-strapped companies stay afloat.

Analysts say China needs to revive weak credit growth to help head off a sharper economic slowdown this year, but investors are worried about a further jump in corporate debt and the risk to banks as they relax their lending standards.

Chinese banks made 885.8 billion yuan in net new yuan loans in February, according to data released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) on Sunday.

That was down sharply from a record 3.23 trillion yuan in January, when several other key credit gauges also picked up modestly in response to the central bank's policy easing.

But February's tally was still 5.5 percent higher than 839.3 billion yuan a year earlier.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted new yuan loans of 975 billion yuan in February.

A pull-back in February's tally had been widely expected as Chinese banks tend to front-load loans at the beginning of the year to get higher-quality customers and win market share.

Broad M2 money supply grew 8.0 percent in February from a year earlier, missing forecasts, the central bank data showed. Analysts had expected a 8.4 percent rise in M2 - unchanged from January.

Outstanding yuan loans grew 13.4 percent from a year earlier, matching expectations and unchanged from January's rise.

China's central bank is widely expected to ease policy further this year to spur lending and lower borrowing costs, especially for small and private firms vital for growth and job creation.

But policymakers have repeatedly vowed not to open the credit floodgates in an economy already saddled with piles of debt - a legacy of massive stimulus during the global financial crisis in 2008-09 and subsequent downturns.

Corporate bond defaults hit a record last year, while banks' non-performing loan ratio notched a 10-year high.

Premier Li Keqiang told parliament on Tuesday that Beijing will step up targeted cuts in the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for smaller and medium-sized banks with an aim to boost lending to small companies by large banks by more than 30 percent.

He also said monetary policy would be "neither too tight nor too loose". Li also pledged to push for market-based reforms to lower real interest rates.

The central bank has already cut RRR - the amount that banks need to set aside as reserves - five times over the past year, most recently in January. Further cuts are widely expected.

Sources have told Reuters the central bank is not ready to cut benchmark interest rates just yet, but is likely to cut market-based rates.

Growth of outstanding total social financing (TSF), a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, slowed to 10.1 percent in February from January's 10.4 percent, versus a record low of 9.8 percent in December.

TSF growth is a rough gauge of credit conditions.

TSF includes off-balance sheet forms of financing that exist outside the conventional bank lending system, such as initial public offerings, loans from trust companies and bond sales.

In February, TSF fell to 703 billion yuan from 4.64 trillion yuan in January.

Analysts note there is a time lag before a jump in lending will translate into growth, suggesting business conditions may get worse before they get better. And, there is a risk that more firms are borrowing merely to refinance existing debt, rather than for fresh investment needed to fuel an economic turnaround.

Past credit spreads have also invariably led to speculation in property and financial markets. The country's banking watchdog has punished two lenders for illegally channeling money into the stock market, the official Securities Times said on Friday.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 11-03-19

LETTERS

China praises Pakistan's restraint that China has always acted with a lot of prudence – a hallmark of the former 'Middle Kingdom' – is a fact. Asking both India and Pakistan to refrain from taking actions that aggravate the situation, China has heaped a lot of praise on Pakistan. It has praised Pakistan's "restraint" and willingness to talk with India to ease tensions between the two countries.

China maintains that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected and does not want to see acts that violate the norms of international relations. China has impliedly censured India for its growing belligerence against Pakistan.

Karachi Hamid Khan

Business Recorder, 12-03-19

China stocks rebound

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares rebounded on Monday, after suffering heavy losses in the previous session, after the central bank governor pledged more support for a slowing economy.

The Shanghai Composite index closed up 1.92 percent at 3,026.99 points. The blue-chip CSI300 index was up 1.98 percent, with its financial sector sub-index higher by 0.64 percent. Gains were driven by statements from People's Bank of China (PBOC) Governor Yi Gang, who said on Sunday that the PBOC's "prudent" monetary policy will emphasize counter-cyclical adjustments, using a phrase that implies the need to fight an economic slowdown.

China's factory-gate inflation in February stayed flat from a month earlier, while gains in consumer prices slipped to the lowest level in more than a year as muted price pressures point to lackluster demand in the world's second-largest economy.

Yi said there is still some room for the PBOC to cut reserve requirement ratios, and said the bank will work on lowering risk premiums that have kept lending rates for small firms relatively elevated.

Weak data coming after recent gains means the market is still facing pressure, analysts at Dongguan Securities said in a note. "But during the two sessions (of parliament) period, policy will remain positive," they said.

Chinese banks made 885.8 billion yuan (\$131.77 billion) in net new yuan loans in February, down sharply from a record 3.23 trillion yuan in January, though the drop was likely due to seasonal factors.

"Considering that the main external central banks are all turning toward loosening, and that domestic credit growth still requires government support, monetary policy will continue to be relatively loose," analysts at Zheshang Securities said in a note. The analysts said that weakness in loan data indicates that companies have weak interest in expanding production or investment.

Adding to hopes over talks to end a damaging trade war with the United States, Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said on the weekend that China and the United States are still working day and night to achieve a trade deal that matches the interests of both sides and the hopes of the world, including eliminating tit-for-tat tariffs.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 3.9 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 4.431 percent.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were China XD Electric Co Ltd, up 10.1 percent, followed by Tianjin Hi-Tech Development Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and Ningbo Zhoushan Port Co Ltd, up by 10.1 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Shanghai DZH Ltd down 10.02 percent, followed by Eastern Communications Co Ltd losing 9.99 percent and HualingXingma Automobile Group Co Ltd down by 9.96 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 21.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 23.9 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 11.3 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 2.93 percent this month.

About 42.62 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 145.8 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 29.24 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 57.79 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 12-03-19

China's steelmaking raw materials fall on demand concern

MANILA: Prices of steelmaking raw materials in China fell on Friday, with both coke and coking coal posting their worst week since December, pressured by worries over demand for steel as the nation's economic growth cools further.

Steel futures also ended the choppy trade lower after data on Friday showed China's exports tumbled the most in three years in February, while imports fell for a third straight month, pointing to a further slowdown in the economy.

The weak trade data added to concerns of a market already edgy about steel production curbs in China, aimed at tackling air pollution, and the outcome of US-Sino trade talks. "Market participants are liquidating their positions from the ferrous complex" as doubts remain whether China's economic stimulus measures could avert a sharper slowdown, said Darren Toh of Singapore-based steel and iron ore data analytics company Tivlon Technologies. The most-traded coking coal on the Dalian Commodity Exchange fell for a fifth straight day, losing as much as 2.9 percent to 1,233.5 yuan (\$183.49) a tonne, before ending at 1,237 yuan.

Coke extended its losses into a fourth day, falling as much as 2.7 percent to 2,018 yuan a tonne, before closing at 2,023.5 yuan.

Dalian iron ore was down 0.6 percent at 613 yuan a tonne.

China's iron ore imports fell to a 10-month low in February, customs data showed on Friday, curbed by a slowdown in trade during a week-long national holiday and a steep run-up in prices. Iron ore demand at Chinese steel mills may wane, with the country's top steelmaking region of Hebei setting capacity reductions in 2019 and 2020 as it seeks to improve air quality. The top steelmaking city of Tangshan, meanwhile, has indefinitely extended the highest level of smog alert, in place since March 1, forcing mills to cut output by 40 percent to 70 percent or even stop production.

The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange edged down 0.1 percent to 3,772 yuan a tonne, while hot rolled coil slipped 0.5 percent to 3,712 yuan.

"The market has become jittery again while waiting for the conclusion of the (US-China) trade talks," said analyst Helen Lau of Argonaut Securities.

"Some of the gains that we've seen this year were driven by progress in the trade talks but there's still uncertainty there, so now we're seeing some profit-taking," she said.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 12-03-19

Chinese investors ready to invest in energy projects: minister

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Energy DrAkhtar Malik has said on Monday that Chinese are ready to invest in several energy projects initiated by the Punjab government.

Huge investment is expected in other provincial departments, he disclosed after having a meeting with Chinese delegation of investors on Monday. Wang Tong Le and Jiang Li Dong besides officers of Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab were also present on the occasion. The Minister said that foreign investors were interested for investment in Pakistan more than ever. Chinese investment in the energy sector will help bring employment for thousands of unemployed workers.

The Vice Chairperson OPC Punjab said that our Chinese brothers have always stood by us through thick and thin and the PTI-led government is committed to strengthening this friendship further.

DrAkhtar Malik assured full cooperation to Chinese delegation. The delegation visited different sections of the office of OPC and lauded the efforts made by Overseas Pakistanis Commission.

Business Recorder, 12-03-19

China banking regulators tell banks to boost support for rural economies

BEIJING: China's banking and insurance regulators have issued a notice to commercial banks to boost financial support for the country's rural areas.

In a notice issued on March 8, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission told commercial banks to fulfill special lending targets, including those for achieving faster increases in loans to farmers and other businesses in rural areas. The notice did not refer to specific targets.

The notice said banks need to direct more funds to poverty-stricken regions and ensure more rapid lending growth.

Outstanding loans to rural areas totaled 33 trillion yuan at the end of 2018, up 5.6 percent from a year ago, it said.

The new requirements come as part of Beijing's broader effort to reboot China's rural economy as local populations rapidly age and productivity slumps.

As the Chinese economy began slowing last year, China's economic policymakers stepped up monetary policy support for rural areas - comprising mostly small farm holdings and low-end industries - to encourage local firms to raise funds in the capital markets.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC), the country's central bank, has cut the amount of cash that commercial banks need to set aside as reserves five times in the past year to spur lending to small businesses in the private sector.

China has also been looking to develop new industries like eco-tourism as well as encouraging the planting of cash crops in poor rural regions.

Critics say the campaign is narrowly-focused and does not address the root problems facing China's poor, as efforts in improving health care and education - crucial to their long-term well-being - are lacking.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 12-03-19

SHC rejects bail plea of china-cutting suspects

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday rejected bail pleas of two suspects involved in China cutting in Lines Area Development Authority.—INP

Business Recorder, 13-03-19

Chinese envoy discuss CPEC with secy planning

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China in Pakistan Yao Jin called on Zafar Hasan, Secretary Planning, and Development & Reform on Tuesday and discussed the progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Prime Minister's visit to China in the month of April. Project Director CPEC Hasaan Daud was also present on the occasion. Both the sides agreed to further expedite implementation of projects in the field of socio-economic development following the Chinese experts visit to Islamabad. Development initiatives in the six identified areas; health, education, drinking water, vocational training, agriculture and poverty alleviation would be implemented in 3-year time with special focus on less developed remote regions of Pakistan. Breakthrough is expected on the implementation of this sector during the high level visit, says a press release issued here. —PR

Business Recorder, 13-03-19

China's March iron ore futures hit lowest

MANILA: Steelmaking raw materials fell in China on Monday, with the benchmark iron ore contract hitting its lowest for this month so far and coke extending its losses into a fifth session, as demand waned amid restrictions on steel production.

The drop in futures mirrored weakness that has prevailed in the physical market since last week, as steel mills reduced output to comply with anti-smog measures while China's National People's Congress (NPC) holds policy meetings in Beijing.

"The air pollution situation in many areas in China is not that good. I believe there will be another round of restrictions on production for the steel industry," a Shanghai-based trader said. During the meetings of NPC, China's parliament, the trader said a lot of construction projects in big cities are usually temporarily stopped, and "this could have some impact on the demand". The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, with May expiry, fell as much as 3.6 percent to 594.5 yuan (\$88.42) a tonne, the lowest since Feb. 27, and stood at 598 yuan by the end of trading at 0700 GMT.

Other raw materials for steel production fell as well, with Dalian coke dropping as much as 3.8 percent to 1,965 yuan, before ending at 1,966.5 yuan. Coking coal slid 2.3 percent to 1,226 yuan.

China's top steelmaking city of Tangshan has indefinitely extended the highest level of smog alert, in place since March 1, forcing mills to cut output by 40 percent to 70 percent or even stop production.

Wu'an, another major steelmaking city in Hebei province, has stepped up production restrictions on heavy industries, with output reduced by an additional 10 percent in March.

Officials in 28 northern Chinese cities, including in the top steelmaking city of Tangshan, face central government evaluations at the end of March on their performance in curbing air pollution over the past winter.

The most-active construction steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange, also with May expiry, fell 1.6 percent to 3,723 yuan a tonne. Hot rolled coil edged down 0.6 percent to 3,692 yuan.

Hebei, which includes Tangshan, will cut 14 million tonnes of annual steelmaking capacity both this year and next year as it strives to improve air quality, the province's Communist Party head said last week. As demand for iron ore remained weak throughout February, supply at Chinese ports continued to rise, reaching more than 147 million tonnes as of March 11, the highest since September, based on data compiled by Steel Home consultancy.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 13-03-19

US, China within 'weeks' of accord; deal not guaranteed

WASHINGTON: Washington's top trade official on Tuesday said the United States and China were likely within "weeks" of ending their trade negotiations — but a successful outcome was not assured.

"Our hope is that we're in the final weeks of an agreement but I'm not predicting one," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in Senate testimony.

"We can't predict success at this point but we are working hard." Eight months into their sprawling trade war, US and Chinese officials have alternated between projecting optimism and warning that they have much to do before reaching a final outcome.

The two sides have exchanged tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, but Lighthizer on Tuesday declined to state publicly whether Washington would lift the tariffs it has so-far imposed if both sides reach a deal.

US officials are demanding far-reaching changes to Chinese industrial policy — including an end to massive state intervention in markets, subsidies and the alleged theft of American technology — and insist that any agreement be enforceable.

Lighthizer refused to say whether the United States planned to lift any existing tariffs as part of the current talks, but said Washington would reserve the right to impose them should China fail to keep up its end of the bargain.

“We have to maintain the right to be able to — whatever happens to the current tariffs — to raise tariffs in situations where there are violations of the agreement,” he said.

“That’s the core. If we don’t do that, then none of it makes any difference.”

Democrats have accused President Donald Trump of going soft in the trade talks and moving toward a superficial agreement rather than tackling long-standing problems in trade with China. But Lighthizer said Tuesday the agreement would either have teeth “or the president won’t agree to the agreement.” During four rounds of shuttle diplomacy since December, officials announced that China had agreed to resume or increase purchase of US agricultural goods, with Trump announcing he would likely seal any deal at a “signing summit” with Chinese President Xi Jinping late this month.

But the White House has since said there is no date yet for such a meeting.—AFP

Business Recorder, 13-03-19

China stocks climb, economic concerns cap gains

SHANGHAI: China stocks ended higher on Tuesday as Beijing and Washington appeared to edge closer to a trade deal, but worries about economic headwinds at home tamed the market’s rise.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 1.1 percent at 3,060.31 points, while the blue-chip CSI300 index was up 0.7 percent.

CSI300’s financial sector sub-index was higher by 0.6 percent, the consumer staples sector fell 0.4 percent, and healthcare shares rose 0.1 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 1.7 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 2.6 percent. Chinese Vice Premier Liu He held a telephone call with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on key issues in their trade talks on Tuesday, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported in early trade.

Aided by optimism around the trade talks, valuations of Chinese stocks have ticked up this year, though the market remains one of the cheapest in Asia, Refinitiv data showed.

“The major driver (for rally) is the recovery in valuations,” analysts at Huatai Securities, who see the Shanghai Composite Index steady between 2,800 and 3,000 points, wrote in a note on Tuesday. “But for the index to go further, (economic) fundamentals need to co-operate.”

China will release a slew of economic data on Thursday, including industrial output, retail sales and fixed-asset investment for the combined period of January and February.

Data on Monday showed China's automobile sales fell 13.8 percent in February from the same month a year earlier, marking the eighth consecutive month of decline. Sources told Reuters that the People's Bank of China was studying the potential impact of interest rate overhaul to loan pricing, just as speculation grows over whether the central bank will cut interest rates soon to support the slowing economy.

China may increase its tolerance for non-performing loans at small companies in order to help spur their growth, the state-backed Securities Times newspaper quoted a senior official from the banking regulator as saying on Tuesday.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were JiShi Media Co Ltd, Huayi Electric Co Ltd and Shenyang Jinshan Energy Co Ltd, all up by 10.1 percent. The Shanghai stock index is above its 50-day moving average and above its 200-day moving average. ** So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 22.7 percent and the CSI300 has risen 24.7 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 4.1 percent this month. About 51.1 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 42.6 billion.— Reuters

Business Recorder, 13-03-19

PCJCCI compiles proposals for int'l CPEC conference-2019

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry has compiled proposals for second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will be presented at the International CPEC Conference 2019.

The proposals were derived by holding a seminar, which was addressed by MueenBatlay, a distinguished strategist and analyst of an international organization; "Obortunity". PCJCCI Vice President Ahmad Hasnain and PCJCCI Standing Committee on Research's Chairman Dr Muhammad IqbalQureshi also addressed the seminar.

The speakers were of the unanimous opinion that the local industry should endeavour to adopt contemporary ways to come at par with the modern world for production value added goods.

MueenBatlay shared his current informative work focusing on different projects related to CPEC and the international CPEC Conference 2019 and said that his organization-Obortunity was focusing on six different dimensions, revolving around the trillion-dollar Chinese-led

development, mainly in the field of Mandarin (Chinese) language and vocational training, education technology, business tourism, policy and commercial research, media, youth and public-private sector engagement platforms and project-oriented consulting.

“We have trained more than 1,000 students and professionals in the fields of entrepreneurship, Chinese language, Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC and are engaged with institutions under the triple helix model of innovation on various fronts such as journalists’ trainings, Belt and Road workshops, CPEC consultancy, business and academic tourism and research” he added.

DrIqbalQureshi said the seminar on International CPEC Conference is part of the series of PCJCCI awareness campaign to explore the manifestations of CPEC. He asserted that such discussions were required to share contemporary techniques and innovative ideas among the business community to bring reforms in doing business in our country. We should take initiatives to understand the importance of emerging technologies in order to improve different sectors of economy including product and services, he added.

Ahmed Hasnain said that PCJCCI would submit its proposals in the International CPEC Conference 2019 which is going to be held from 17th April till 3rd May, 2019. Through this conference both nations will get chance to strengthen their trade relations in more successful way by evolving policies for second phase of CPEC, he added and hoped the conference would also devise viable policy for the intensive learning of BRI in order to relocate industries from China to Pakistan.

Business Recorder, 13-03-19

Xinjiang camps will ‘gradually’ disappear: China

BEIJING: A Chinese official on Tuesday rejected international criticism of internment camps in the restive Xinjiang region, calling them job training centers that will “gradually disappear” if “one day society no longer needs it”.

Nearly one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic minorities are being held in detention centers in Xinjiang, according to estimates cited by a UN panel.

A US official described the situation in Xinjiang as “horrific”. But Beijing has denied the accusations, saying people are attending “vocational education centers” to rid them of any extremist thoughts in a region that was hit by deadly riots and attacks in recent years.

“Our education and training centers have been set up according to our needs. The students that come in to learn, it’s a dynamic number that changes,” ShohratZakir, the chairman of Xinjiang’s government, told journalists on the sidelines of China’s annual parliamentary meeting. “As a

whole, the number of people in the education centers should be less and less, and if one day society no longer needs it, these education centers can gradually disappear,” he said, without providing the number of people at the facilities.

In an 18-minute-long reply to a journalist’s question, Zakir defended the centers, saying that they taught Xinjiang residents Chinese, helped them gain awareness of the law, improved vocational skills, and were vital in the region’s fight against extremism. “When (students) are able to distinguish between right and wrong and able to resist the infiltration of extreme thoughts... they have a strong desire to get rid of poverty and get rich, actively pursuing a better life,” he added.—AFP

Business Recorder, 14-03-19

US slams rights record of China and Iran, goes easier on North Korea

WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday denounced China and Iran as Washington offered its annual human rights report, while going easier on other countries like North Korea in the name of “US interests.”

China, often seen as the main strategic adversary of the United States in the long term and locked in thorny trade talks with Washington, “is in a league of its own when it comes to human rights violations,” he said.

“In just 2018, China intensified its campaign of detaining Muslim minority groups at record level,” Pompeo told reporters, referring to Beijing’s campaign of repression in the restive Xinjiang region.

“Today, more than one million Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs and other Muslims are interned in re-education camps designed to erase their religious and ethnic identities.”

As for Iran, President Donald Trump’s favouritebete noire, Pompeo alleged that last year, “the regime killed over 20 people and arrested thousands without due process just for protesting for their rights.”

The State Department’s annual human rights report, which is presented as a factual, country-by-country description of the situation on the ground, usually does not offer comparisons with past years.

But on Tehran, it says: “The government’s human rights record remained extremely poor and worsened in several key areas.”

As for North Korea, with which Trump is trying to negotiate a deal on denuclearization, a reference in last year's report to "egregious" rights violations has been replaced with a damning, if somewhat more neutral, assessment.

It cites Pyongyang for "unlawful or arbitrary killings by the government; forced disappearances by the government; torture by authorities..."

Trump has repeatedly said he has a good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Rights experts consider Pyongyang one of the worst offenders in the world, but the Republican president barely speaks about rights violations when he talks about the North these days.

"The policy of this administration is to engage with other governments, regardless of their record, if doing so will further US interests," Pompeo writes in the report's preface.

On Saudi Arabia, while the report mentions the assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which cast a shadow on US ties with its ally Riyadh, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — considered by the US Senate to be behind the killing — is not mentioned by name.—AFP

Business Recorder, 14-03-19

China's steel, iron ore prices rise on restocking demand

MANILA: China's steel and iron ore prices rose on Tuesday, supported by expectations that many halted construction activities in the country will resume and new ones will kick off soon, boosting restocking demand for the commodities.

The most-active construction steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange climbed as much as 2.5 percent to hit 3,820 yuan (\$568.88) a tonne, before ending the session at 3,815 yuan to post its biggest daily gain in four weeks.

Hot rolled coil ended 2.4 percent higher at 3,776 yuan a tonne.

"Steel prices should rise after we saw less output last week, and with demand expected to improve, especially in the construction sites, because the weather is getting better," said analyst Richard Lu of CRU in Beijing.

"Demand for steel flat products has been particularly robust now maybe because of some restocking, as inventories have fallen," he said.

The benchmark rebar contract dropped 10 percent since hitting a five-month closing peak of 3,856 yuan on Feb. 11, with China's slowing economic growth amid a trade war with the United States clouding the outlook for its steel demand.

The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange jumped 1.9 percent to 612.5 yuan a tonne.

Iron ore prices in Dalian have been volatile since hitting a record intraday high of 657.5 yuan a tonne on Feb. 12, lifted by concerns about supply disruptions in the wake of top miner Vale SA's tailings dam disaster in January.

High prices and restrictions on China's steel production aimed at tackling air pollution were seen dampening demand for iron ore recently, while inventories at Chinese ports continued to rise. "It's been debates about the prospects of Chinese steel demand that have kept investors cautious," ANZ said in a note. "That places a big emphasis on data later this week, including fixed asset investment and industrial output."

Dalian iron ore's gains on Tuesday also followed news that the town of Mangaratiba, in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state, fined Vale and closed its Ilha da Guaiba port terminal for the second time this year.

Around 40 million tonnes of iron ore go through Vale's Ilha da Guaiba terminal yearly, according to Brazil's port regulator. The terminal was ordered to be closed on Monday due to pollution problems and the alleged lack of an operating license.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 14-03-19

China is overtaking US in artificial intelligence

WASHINGTON: China is poised to overtake the United States in artificial intelligence with a surge in academic research on the key technology, an analysis published Wednesday showed.

The analysis by the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence showed China has already surpassed the US in published papers on AI — although many of these were considered "medium-quality" or "low-quality."

But the researchers said China is likely to top the US in the most-cited 50 percent of papers this year, the most-cited 10 percent of papers next year, and in the top one percent by 2025.

The findings highlight concerns in Washington and Silicon Valley that China is racing ahead of the US in key areas of technology such as autonomous vehicles, virtual reality and fifth-generation wireless networks.

Allen Institute researchers Field Cady and Oren Etzioni said the surge in AI investment in China began more than a decade ago, well before the 2017 announcement by Beijing that it planned to become the world leader in the sector by 2030.

“By most measures, China is overtaking the US not just in papers submitted and published, but also in the production of high-impact papers,” the researchers said in a blog post.

They added that new US measures that tighten immigration could make it harder for the US to keep up.

“Recent US actions that place obstacles to recruiting and retaining foreign students and scholars are likely to exacerbate the trend towards Chinese supremacy in AI research,” they wrote.

US think tanks and researchers have recently called on Washington to develop a national AI strategy to encourage more work in the private and public sectors on the technology.

Last month, President Donald Trump signed an American AI Initiative executive order calling for the administration to “devote the full resources of the federal government” to help fuel AI innovation, although analysts said it fell short of a comprehensive strategy.—AFP

Business Recorder, 14-03-19

China urges Europe not to turn competition into rivalry

BEIJING: China on Wednesday urged the European Union not to turn “beneficial competition” between the two partners into a “rivalry” after Brussels outlined a shift to more assertive relations with Beijing. Top European policymakers on Tuesday released a 10-point plan for addressing relations with Beijing as fears grow about Chinese investment and influence on critical infrastructure, including new communication technology.

China is both a cooperative partner and an “economic competitor in pursuit of technological leadership, and systemic rival promoting alternative models of governance,” the EU said, outlining its plan.

On Wednesday, China’s foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang responded, saying: “In the era of globalization, benign competition will exist between different economic systems.

“We don’t want competition to turn into a rivalry type of competition.”

The EU is concerned about China’s failure to open up its markets to foreign competitors and the distorting influence of subsidies for state-run enterprises, among other issues.

European leaders will be asked to sign off on the 10-point plan when they meet next week in Brussels, with senior officials urging them to take action to protect EU values and standards.—AFP

Business Recorder, 14-03-19

China orders banks to boost financial support to small firms

BEIJING: China's banking and insurance regulator on Wednesday urged banks to continue increasing lending to smaller firms and further cut their financing costs, as policymakers work to avert an economic slowdown.

Banks should work hard to achieve targets on increasing loans for small companies and keep the lending rates on a reasonable level, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) said in a statement on its website.

Big state-owned commercial banks should increase outstanding loans to smaller companies by more than 30 percent in 2019, the CBIRC said, adding that it would also increase its tolerance for non-performing loans at small companies.

The regulator reiterated its demands for state-owned banks to target faster growth in loans to small businesses as economic growth slowed to its weakest in nearly three decades in 2018. Chinese banks have been wary of lending to smaller firms with higher credit risks, preferring state-backed customers. But authorities have been urging lenders to help keep cash-strapped private firms afloat, sparking concerns that looser lending standards will expose banks to more bad loans.

China's central bank chief said on Sunday that lending rates for small firms were still relatively elevated due to high risk premiums and that the country will push ahead with interest rate reforms to resolve the issue.

Commercial banks are also encouraged to issue special financial bonds, and ensure that proceeds raised are used for loans to small and micro firms.

The regulator also said it would support insurers to provide credit-boosting support for smaller firms if the risks are manageable.

Insurance companies are encouraged to invest in financial products including securitization products backed by loans to smaller firms to ensure more flexible support for those companies.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 14-03-19

China stocks drop

SHANGHAI: China stocks ended lower on Wednesday, as caution prevailed ahead of yet another make-or-break parliamentary vote on Brexit, while investors awaited more news on the progress of Sino-US trade negotiations.

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.8 percent, to 3,724.19 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed down 1.1 percent at 3,026.95 points.

Risk appetites had soured after British lawmakers crushed Prime Minister Theresa May's European Union divorce deal, forcing the parliament to decide within days whether to back a no-deal Brexit or seek a last-minute delay.

The United States and China may be in the final weeks of discussions to hammer out a deal to ease their tit-for-tat tariffs dispute, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said on Tuesday.

Signs that industrial capital is exiting equities after the rebound also weighed on the market. Major shareholders and top managers at leading firms announced a raft of stake-cut plans recently, including those of telecommunications giant ZTE and Wens Foodstuff Group Co Ltd. Shares of Wens Foodstuff, the biggest start-up in terms of market value, tumbled the maximum allowed 10 percent, sending the tech-heavy start-up board ChiNextP sharply lower.

The start-up index lost 4.5 percent for the day, its worst in five months.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Hubei Chutian Smart Communication Co Ltd, up 10.13 percent, followed by Zhejiang Hugel leaf Co Ltd, gaining 10.12 percent, and Shanghai Fudan Forward S&T Co Ltd, up by 10.06 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Zhejiang Daily Digital Culture Group Co Ltd, down 10.03 percent, followed by Inspur Software Co Ltd, losing 10.01 percent, and Fujian Apex Software Co Ltd, down by 10 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 21.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 23.7 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 12.6 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 2.92 percent this month. About 45.32 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 144.7 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 31.31 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 51.12 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 15-03-19

China's rebar futures rise on demand recovery

MANILA: China's rebar futures rose on Wednesday as demand for construction steel increased but they ended off the day's highs, causing a fall in steelmaking raw materials such as iron ore and coke.

The most-active construction steel rebar contract, expiring in May, on the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose for a second day by as much as 1.6 percent to 3,842 yuan (\$572.55) a tonne, before ending just 0.2 percent higher at 3,790 yuan.

Hot rolled coil fell 0.5 percent to 3,731 yuan a tonne, after climbing as much as 1.1 percent to 3,793 yuan.

"There's recovery in end-users' steel demand, particularly in the construction sector," said a Beijing-based steel trader. "As a result, stocks at steel mills have declined."

China's "weather is getting warmer", allowing many construction projects, halted in recent months due to cold weather, to resume and new ones to roll out, the trader said.

The peak season for steel products demand in China usually begins in March when the weather gets better after winter.

The May 2019 iron ore contract, the most active on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, had risen as much as 1.7 percent during the day to 616 yuan a tonne, but surrendered its gains to close 0.3 percent lower at 603.5 yuan.

Dalian iron ore has struggled to keep its footing since hitting a record intraday high of 657.5 yuan a tonne on Feb. 12 in the wake of top miner Vale SA's tailings dam disaster in January.

High prices, steel production restrictions amid China's anti-smog campaign, and a clouded outlook for steel consumption as China's economy slows were seen dampening demand for iron ore recently, while inventories continued to rise.

Iron ore prices rebounded on Tuesday, with supply issues back in the spotlight after the town of Mangaratiba in Brazil closed Vale's Ilha da Guaiba port terminal again due to pollution problems and the alleged lack of an operating licence.

Around 40 million tonnes of iron ore go through the terminal yearly, according to Brazil's port regulator.

Coking coal edged up 0.3 percent to 1,232 yuan a tonne, but coke ended 0.3 percent lower at 1,985.5 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 15-03-19

Trump still optimistic on China trade talks

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump expressed optimism again Thursday about reaching an agreement to resolve a trade war with China, saying talks are “moving along very well.”

“We are doing very well with China talks,” he told reporters. “We are getting what we have to get.”

Despite Trump’s upbeat assessment, the two sides continue to lock horns on the hugely complex dispute between the world’s biggest economies. Earlier this week, Trump said there was still no plan for him to hold a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Trump said Wednesday he is “in no rush” for a deal but that there is “a very good chance” for one.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told a congressional committee earlier Thursday that he expects the deal to be finalized soon, but cautioned that the process is complex.

“We are working diligently but there are 150 pages documents that we are working on,” Mnuchin said in response to a question.

The accord will include “very clear enforcement provisions and we want get the agreement right,” he said. “That’s more important that the exact timing.”

Trump had said he expected to hold a summit with Xi Jinping late this month at his Florida golf resort. However, Bloomberg reported that the “signing summit” had been pushed back a month as negotiators struggled to resolve their eight-month trade war.—AFP

Business Recorder, 15-03-19

Bleak output data, trade concerns dent China shares

SHANGHAI: Shares in China ended lower for a second consecutive session on Thursday after data underscored concerns about slowing growth in the world’s second-largest economy, amid ongoing uncertainty over a deal to end the Sino-US trade dispute.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was down 1.2 percent at 2,990.69. The blue-chip CSI300 index was down 0.69 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended down 2.31 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was weaker by 2.58 percent. The imminent launch of a highly anticipated new tech board is seen as putting pressure on the ChiNext board amid fiercer competition for listing resources.

China's industrial output rose 5.3 percent in the first two months of the year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, less than expected and the slowest pace since early 2002. However, investment picked up speed as the government fast-tracked more road and rail projects, and more monetary policy support is expected this year.

The People's Bank of China on Thursday reiterated its intention to strike a balance between stabilizing growth and preventing risks, and to step up counter-cyclical adjustment of monetary policy.

However, adding to trade worries, US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he was in no rush to complete a trade pact with China, including protection for intellectual property, a major sticking point between the two sides during months of negotiations.

A sub-index tracking securities firms dropped 3.33 percent after China's securities regulator said it has tightened scrutiny over grey-market margin financing, barring brokerages from facilitating shadow lending and warning against risks of another credit-fuelled bubble.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was weaker by 0.25 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed down 0.02 percent.

At 0714 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.713 per US dollar, 0.09 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.707.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were CitychampDartong Co Ltd, which ended up 10.11 percent, followed by Hunan Tyen Machinery Co Ltd, which closed 10.09 percent firmer and Changchun Sinoenergy Corp, which ended up by 10.06 percent.

The largest percentage losses in the Shanghai index were Shanghai Jielong Industry Group Corp Ltd, which ended down 10.06 percent, followed by Shanghai Xinhua Media Co Ltd, which closed down 10.05 percent and HualingXingma Automobile Group Co Ltd, which ended 10.04 percent lower.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 19.9 percent and the CSI300 has risen 22.8 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 12.8 percent. Shanghai stocks have climbed 1.69 percent this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 15-03-19

Copper drops on weak Chinese data and surge in LME stocks

LONDON: Copper prices dropped on Thursday as industrial output in top metals consumer China fell to a 17-year low in the first two months of 2019, while LME stocks of the metal used in power and construction rose.

Other Chinese data showed a mixed picture as the jobless rate climbed but property investment strengthened.

Deutsche Bank metals strategist Nick Snowden said the delivery of copper metal into LME warehouses “has been taken as a signal that we are seeing the softness we saw in China feed into ex-China market”.

“China data also disappointed and pointed to relatively sluggish growth,” Snowden said.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange closed 1.1 percent lower at \$6,404 per tonne, its lowest in nearly a week.

US President Donald Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Thursday that discussions with China to end a months-long trade war are progressing quickly, though Trump said he could not say whether a final deal would be reached.

There were reports earlier saying a meeting between Washington and Beijing scheduled for later this month could be pushed back to at least April.

Hopes for a resolution of the long-standing trade conflict have helped propel the LME index of six major base metals up nearly 9 percent so far this year.

On-warrant stocks of copper, those not earmarked for delivery, in LME-approved warehouses jumped 34,900 tonnes to 66,325 tonnes.

The premium of cash copper over the three-month LME contract eased to \$20 a tonne from a discount of \$70 last week, indicating worries over tight supply were easing.

China’s Yangshan copper import premium rose to \$59 from \$52.5 registered a week ago, which was a level not seen since April 2017.

China’s daily steel output rose in January and February, as mills in the world’s top producer raised production amid firm steel margins and easier environmental restrictions. Vedanta’s Skorpion zinc refinery in Namibia has suspended operations for five weeks due to lack of raw feed material. The refinery has a capacity of 100,000 tonnes annually.

“This comes with available LME inventories in zinc extremely low, and while demand conditions remain subdued (as evidenced by low physical premiums), ongoing supply issues may see further aggressive backwardation in the coming weeks,” said BMO Capital Markets analyst Colin Hamilton.

Headline LME inventories of zinc fell 250 tonnes to 58,700 tonnes, their lowest since October 2007.

Aluminium fell 0.2 percent to \$1,903 per tonne, zinc shed 0.8 percent to \$2,825, lead ceded 0.7

percent to \$2,114, tin eased 0.7 percent higher at \$21,170 and nickel lost 2.5 percent to \$12,880.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 15-03-19

LETTERS

Excellent Chinese move

China has taken the right approach to a move seeking to blacklist Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) leader MaulanaMasoodAzhar. Obviously, a wave of gloom pervades in the camps of Hindutva or ultra-right political parties in India. For all the right reasons, China put on hold a request by Britain, France and the United States to add to the UN terror blacklist the leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad. It was the third time that the UN Security Council was considering a request to put MasoodAzhar on the UN sanctions blacklist, which would subject him to a global travel ban and assets freeze.

China has plausibly contended that it needed more time to examine the issue while underscoring the need for talks to resolve issue. Once again the Chinese have demonstrated the prudence of the former ‘Middle Kingdom Chanakya mindset checkmated?

Quetta SaleemBaloch

Daily Times, 01-03-19

Chinese embassy donates medical equipment to Quetta hospital

Medical equipment donated by the Chinese embassy worth Rs 6 million has reached a hospital in Quetta.

Provincial Minister for Health Rahmat Saleh Baloch visited the hospital and inspected all the equipment, including ICU ventilator, auto clave and dialysis machine, etc. Speaking to media on the occasion, Baloch expressed his gratitude to the Chinese embassy and stressed that the provincial government will continue to cooperate with friendly countries to promote cooperation in the health sector.

The donation is another big step of the Chinese embassy to implement the consensus reached between Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing and Balochistan government. During Ambassador Yao Jing’s visits to Quetta in May and October last year, he had stated that Balochistan, as the largest province of Pakistan, was critical to China-Pakistan cooperation. “Balochistan is of great significance to the connectivity of CPEC and the region. It is necessary to take into consideration the various regions of Pakistan, so that the fruits of development benefit all the people from Pakistan,” he had said. “China will like to further deepen cooperation in the fields of agriculture, human resources training and healthcare, and support the local livelihood, so as to further tap the economic potentials of Balochistan.

Daily Times, 01-03-19

China keen to accelerate development of agriculture sector

A Chinese delegation on Pak China Socio-Economic Joint Working Group headed by DU ZHENLI, Director / Prof. of Engineering, Overseas Economic Cooperation Dept. visited Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

Chinese delegation held meeting with Dr. Munir Ahmed, Acting Chairman, and PARC for Pak-China Collaboration in Agriculture Sector under CPEC.

On the occasion, Dr. Munir Ahmed, The Chairman, PARC acknowledged the support of China in various projects of PARC. In a meeting with Chinese Delegation, he gave a detailed presentation about PARC, its mission and vision to achieve sustainable food security and poverty alleviation through knowledge and innovation.

Dr. Munir Ahmed, Chairman, PARC also briefed the delegation about presence of PARC in the Country, National Agricultural System of Pakistan, PARC discipline of in-house research, i.e. Plant Sciences, Natural Resources, Animal Sciences, Agricultural Engineering and Social Sciences. He also highlighted the Pakistan Agricultural Scenario and PARC major achievements. Chairman, PARC further added that agriculture and socio economic development are also included in Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In the meeting, Pak- China experts also exchanged the agricultural information and discussed the areas of mutual interest to accelerate the development of Agriculture sector in Pakistan. Director / Prof. of Engineering, Overseas Economic Cooperation Deptt China, DU ZHENLI discussed the mutual priorities for development in agriculture sector under Pak-China Socio Economic joint Working Group.

The Chinese delegation appreciated the PARC's role of collaboration with international partners for the development of agricultural sector in Pakistan. The Chinese delegation was of the view that this meeting would definitely prove fruitful to further strengthen existing collaboration between the both countries. Chinese delegation also stated that China intends to provide help in different agri. Research projects being carried out at NARC and also aims assistance for training of NARC's agri. Scientists according to their field. Dr. Munir Ahmed, acting Chairman, PARC also presented a PARC Shield to the head of Chinese delegation on the occasion.

Daily Times, 02-03-19

Global economy: growing China downdraft chills Asia factory activity

Weak demand in China and growing global fallout from the Sino-US trade war took a heavier toll on factories across much of Asia in February, business surveys showed on Friday. Activity in China's vast manufacturing sector contracted for the third straight month, pointing to more strains on its major trading partners and raising questions over whether Beijing needs to do more to stabilize the slowing economy.

In many cases, business conditions were the worst Asian companies have faced since 2016, with demand weakening not only in China but globally.

Japan's factory gauge fell at the sharpest pace in 2-1/2 years as slumping orders prompted plants to cut production, while separate data from South Korea showed its exports plummeted.

"The weakening trend in Chinese import demand weighed heavily on exports across the rest of the region," said Sian Fenner, lead Asia economist at Oxford Economics. "We expect exports to remain under pressure," Fenner said.

In China, both private and official factory gauges showed activity levels remained mired near three-year lows, with a government reading on Thursday pointing to the weakest export orders since the global financial crisis.

Factories also continued to shed jobs, a trend Beijing is closely watching as it weighs more support measures.

While there was a marginal pick-up in domestic orders in China, analysts said it was too early to tell if it was due to

growth-boosting measures announced by Beijing in recent months or seasonal distortions linked to the long Lunar New Year holidays early in the year.

"The upshot is that it is probably too soon to call the bottom of (China's) current economic cycle," Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a note after the survey. "Indeed, we expect growth to continue to come under pressure until the middle of this year."

China watchers are looking to Premier Li Keqiang's work report to the annual meeting of parliament next week for clues on further stimulus plans. Li will set out the government's economic targets for the year on Tuesday.

Sources have told Reuters Beijing will set a 2019 growth target of 6.0-6.5 percent, down from around 6.5 percent in 2018. China reported economic growth cooled to 6.6 percent last year, its weakest pace since 1990, but some analysts believe actual activity is much weaker.

Trade War

For most of Asia, however, the parliamentary session may be largely overshadowed by headlines from US-China talks aimed at ending their costly trade war.

The United States will need to maintain the threat of tariffs on Chinese goods for years even if Washington and Beijing strike a deal, President Donald Trump's chief trade negotiator told lawmakers on Wednesday.

That could point to further collateral damage for Asia's other export powerhouses Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

In Japan, the Markit/Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) fell into contraction territory as both domestic and foreign orders slumped.

"We need to be mindful that uncertainty over the global economic outlook is heightening," Bank of Japan board member Hitoshi Suzuki said on Thursday, after data showed the biggest drop in industrial output in a year in January.

Readings from South Korea — the first economy in Asia to report trade data each month — were equally grim. Its exports contracted 11.1 percent in February from a year earlier; their biggest drop in nearly three years, with shipments to major buyer China slumping 17.4 percent.

Daily Times, 02-03-19

US vows Philippines aid against 'armed attack' in China-claimed Sea

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday vowed to defend the Philippines against "armed attack" in the disputed South China Sea in Washington's starkest warning yet against Chinese claims to most of the strategic waterway.

Speaking in Manila after meeting with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Pompeo said Beijing's building of artificial islands in waters also claimed by Manila and other neighbors were potential threats to the two allies.

"China's island-building and military activities in the South China Sea threaten your sovereignty, security and therefore economic livelihood, as well as that of the United States," he said at a joint news conference with Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin. "As the South China Sea is part of the Pacific, any armed attack of Philippine forces, aircraft or public vessels in the South China Sea will trigger mutual defense obligations under Article 4 of our Mutual Defense Treaty?" Pompeo's comments marked the first time any US official had publicly stated Washington's intent to defend its ally in the flashpoint sea.

A 1951 US-Philippine mutual defense treaty committed Manila and its former colonial master to come to each other's aid in case of an "armed attack in the Pacific area" on either party. Senior Duterte officials have called for a review of the mutual defense pact with the US because they were unsure whether it applied to the South China Sea row. Philippine troops, as well as fishermen, have frequently complained about harassment by Chinese maritime security forces around some of the islands and reefs occupied by Filipino troops.

It marked the first time any US official had publicly stated Washington's intent to defend its ally in the flashpoint sea

The United States has said it is not taking sides in the disputes over South China Sea islands and waters claimed by China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. Beijing claims most of the sea. However, Washington has asserted its right to freely sail its military and merchant vessels over waters through which trillions of dollars in global trade pass through each year and which reputedly contain vast mineral and oil reserves. The Philippines was previously one of the staunchest critics to China's island-building and militarization of the islands. But Duterte put the dispute on the back burner when he was elected president in 2016 in favor of chasing Chinese trade and investment.

He threatened a split with the United States and called then US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore." Relations are being rebuilt under US President Donald Trump, who has hailed Duterte's actions — including a drugs crackdown that has claimed thousands of lives — as a sign of toughness.

Foreign Secretary Locsin on Friday downplayed his government's suggestions for a review of the US defense pact, saying in it's "vagueness lies the best deterrence." "They (US forces) will respond depending on the circumstances but we are very assured, we are very confident that United States has, in the words of Secretary Pompeo and words of President Trump to our president: we have your back," Locsin said.

Daily Times, 03-03-19

Huawei plans billions in dividends for staff despite row with US — sources

China's Huawei is set to reward employee shareholders with a 3 percent rise in cash dividends that are worth billions of dollars, according to company sources and Reuter's calculations – a move expected to boost morale as it battles a US-led drive against its telecom gear. The payout also appears to indicate profit growth as well as confidence the company can survive US accusations that its telecoms network equipment may enable espionage by the Chinese government, analysts said.

Known for its so-called “wolf culture” that demands high levels of dedication from employees in return for high pay, Huawei Technologies Ltd boasts that some 80,000 of its workers own nearly all of the company’s shares – a scheme viewed as unique for a firm of its size.

The cash dividend per share for 2018 is expected to rise to 1.05 yuan per share from 1.02 yuan, six employee-shareholder sources told Reuters, citing internal notices handed down over the past month. Total returns per share dropped 7 percent to 2.61 yuan, they added. That follows a stock split. There will also be a 1 to 1.56 stock split for 2018, the sources said.

“I am satisfied with the number given the macro environment,” said one of sources. Like the other employee shareholders, the source was not authorized to speak to the media and asked not to be identified.

A spokesman for Huawei, the world’s largest telecommunications equipment maker and no. 2 manufacturer of smartphones, said the company does not publicly disclose its dividend policy.

The payout comes amid an unprecedented crisis for Huawei as Washington calls on governments around the world to stop using its gear, particularly in 5G networks.

The United States has also charged Huawei with bank fraud related to sanctions against Iran and is seeking to extradite Meng Wanzhou, its CFO and the daughter of founder Ren Zhengfei, from Canada on related charges. Canada on Friday authorized an extradition hearing.

Huawei has repeatedly denied its equipment represents a security risk and Meng has said she is innocent of the allegations made against her.

Strong Performance

Unlisted Huawei discloses very little about its employee shareholder scheme beyond the number of participants and the 1.14 percent holding of founder Ren.

But the state-owned Securities Times in February 2018 reported a figure for outstanding shares and a stock split, citing a Huawei internal memo. That implies 20.3 billion shares currently outstanding, which would translate to a cash dividend of 21.3 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion).

“The dividend shows business fundamentals are good,” said Zhou Zhanggui, an independent Huawei analyst, adding that profits for its smartphone business are likely to come in ahead of expectations.

Analysts said the calculations of total dividend payouts seemed accurate based on available information.

Huawei said in December it expects 2018 revenue to rise 21 percent to \$109 billion, its fastest pace in two years. The company, which made a net profit of 47.5 billion yuan in 2017, is due to announce figures for last year in late March. According to the Securities Times report, its total dividend payout for 2017 was 16.8 billion yuan, equivalent to 35 percent of net profit.

It's The Money That Counts

Huawei's hard-driving culture calls for all employees to work every last Saturday of the month, albeit for double pay. Tough postings in remote locations are also not uncommon.

Even so, the employee shareholder scheme, a legacy of 1990s reforms in China, is the big draw for many and enables Huawei to rank as the biggest employer of fresh graduates from China's top two universities.

The cash dividend can be as much as annual salary or even more, the sources said.

Huawei employs some 180,000 people globally and the shareholder scheme is not open to all, with staff usually only able to take part after three years of strong performance.

Before joining the scheme, workers also need to sign a 'declaration of dedication' that they voluntarily give up benefits such as paid annual leave, which some jokingly describe as a "slave contract".

"It is a bit like joining the Communist Party or the Youth League at school – it is half voluntary, half mandatory. If you're practical-minded you'd want to join," said a former employee, who left after two years because he did not like the work culture.

Daily Times, 03-03-19

China to send special envoy to Pakistan, India

ISLAMABAD: China has decided to send a special envoy to Pakistan and India amid rising tensions between the neighboring countries, Radio Pakistan reported.

The Chinese envoy will meet the leadership of the two countries in a bid to ease the ongoing conflict in the region.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan has also invited United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres to mediate in this regard.

Tensions between Pakistan and India escalated rapidly following a suicide car bombing on February 14 that killed at least 40 Indian paramilitary police in Indian-held Kashmir. New Delhi

accused Islamabad of harboring the Jaish-e-Mohammad group behind the attack, which Islamabad denied.

Daily Times, 04-03-19

China's currency becomes key issue in US trade talks

US officials have said any trade deal with China will include a provision to prevent manipulation of the exchange rate to help exporters but Beijing's currency regime reflects a complex reality. US President Donald Trump, who has accused the Asian giant of artificially undervaluing its currency for competitive purposes, last week said "we have a deal" with China on the currency. And White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow on Thursday (Feb 28) said the draft documents would prohibit currency manipulation and obliges authorities in Beijing "to report any interventions in the market." But at the center of the issue is a paradox: China does not necessarily want a weak currency, and the downward pressure on the yuan is in large part caused by US economic conditions, like rising interest rates. The yuan or renminbi (RMB) is not freely convertible and the government limits its movement against the US dollar to a two percent range on either side of a central parity rate which the People's Bank of China sets each day to reflect market trends. That managed float system limits volatility: the currency has remained confined in the last five years between 6.2 and 6.8 yuan to the dollar, a historically high level, compared to 8.28 fixed rate in the 2000s. While the RMB strengthened 6.3 per cent in 2017, it depreciated by 5.7 per cent last year, falling to its lowest level in a decade, which was enough to spur speculation Beijing was putting its foot on the currency scale again.

Daily Times, 04-03-19

China's historical destiny as Middle Kingdom

An interesting article titled, 'What China Threat?', by Kishore Mahbubani, a professor in the practice of public policy at the National University of Singapore, takes issue with the widely held view that China's rise poses a threat to the US and rest of the Western world. In his long article, Mahbubani disagrees with this view and propounds his alternative narrative.

According to him, "In American eyes, the contest between America's and China's political systems is one between a democracy, where the people freely choose their government and enjoy freedom of speech and of religion, and an autocracy, where the people have no such freedoms."

But, as he puts it, "To neutral observers [like him, obviously], however, it could just as easily be seen as a choice between a plutocracy in the United States, where majority public policy decisions end up favoring the rich over the masses, and a meritocracy in China, where major public policy decisions made by officials chosen by Party elites on the basis of ability and performance have resulted in such a striking alleviation of poverty."

All through his article, and there is more of it as we will see, Mahbubani makes no secret of his preference, which is for the Chinese model of “meritocracy”. He doesn’t however, explain what makes the Party elites have this uncanny ability to pick up winners among officials who administer for “masses” and produce the right results.

What he seems to be suggesting is that the Chinese political system of the Party control and governance is way superior to the much-touted Western democracy? And to him, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, which is that China is racing ahead with its economy likely to surpass America’s in about fifteen years– to become the largest in the world.

In other words, if you accept the underlying assumptions of this thesis, China’s system is proving its superiority and is likely to prevail and become the governing model for much of the world.

This thesis is akin to the one that American political philosopher, Francis Fukuyama, propounded to declare the end of history with the supposed victory of liberal democracy after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In his book, “The End of History And the Last Man”, Fukuyama explained how he came to this conclusion, starting with an article, “The End of History” that he wrote for the journal, The National Interest, in 1989, which developed into his book-length study.

To quote Fukuyama: “I argued that a remarkable consensus concerning the legitimacy of liberal democracy as a system of government had emerged throughout the world over the past few years, as it conquered rival ideologies like hereditary monarchy, fascism, and most recently communism.”

And he further argued that, “liberal democracy may constitute the ‘end point of mankind’s ideological evolution’ and the ‘final form of human government’ and as such constituted the ‘end of history.’”

And we know now, as did Fukuyama later, that history is constantly evolving; and China’s system has too many unresolved issues arising from creating a monolithic society with very little scope for political, social, cultural and religious diversity.

Recent history shows that all such systems, with centralized control and tied to ultra-nationalism as in pre-WW11 Germany, Italy and Japan, only ended in disaster; even though they seemed to be producing economic results until everything came collapsing.

Even Mahbubani concedes there are blemishes here and there in China’s system, which need to be ironed out like, for instance: “Human rights violations-such as the detention of hundreds of thousands of Uighurs-remain a major concern.”

In a broader context, Mahbubani says, “that American policymakers have to accept the undeniable reality that the return of China (and India) is unstoppable.” India just pops in here, without any reference or analysis elsewhere in the article.

However, if China’s “meritocracy” fostered and “chosen by Party elites on the basis of ability and performance” is a prerequisite for success, then India’s democracy would hardly qualify for it with its competing political parties in the midst of a federal system seeking to manage extraordinary social, cultural and religious diversity.

However, Mahbubani argues that China (and India’s) unstoppable march will happen because, “From the year 1 to 1820, China and India had the world’s two largest economies. The past two hundred years of Western domination of global commerce have been an aberration...”

In that case, China and, for that matter, India’s political systems might not be so relevant. It is just that history will be righting its wrongs to restore China and India’s central position in the world.

The writer is a senior journalist and academic based in Sydney, Australia

Daily Times, 05-03-19

Oil rises as US-China trade deal appears close, OPEC further cuts supply

Oil prices rose on Monday as supply tightened amid output cuts by producer club OPEC and as the United States and China were reported to be close to signing a trade deal that would end a tariff row that has slowed global economic growth. International Brent futures were at \$65.46 a barrel at 0135 GMT, up 39 cents, or 0.6 percent, from their last close. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$56.16 per barrel, up 36 cents, or 0.6 percent. The rally came on reports that the United States and China are close to ending their trade disputes, which have weighed on global economic growth. US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping could reach a formal trade deal at a summit around March 27 given progress in talks between the two countries, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. The news added support to a market that has been rallying for the past two months on cuts to production. Supply from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fell to a four-year low in February, a Reuters survey found, as top exporter Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies over-delivered on the group’s supply pact while Venezuelan output registered a further involuntary decline. “OPEC exports are off by over 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) since November,” Barclays bank said in a note released on Sunday. Oil prices have been further pushed up by US sanctions against

OPEC-members Iran and Venezuela, which Barclays bank estimates to have resulted in a reduction of around 2 million bpd in global crude supply.

Daily Times, 05-03-19

Rolling back tariffs: US and China close to a deal

The US and China appear close to a deal that would roll back US tariffs on at least \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods, as Beijing makes pledges on structural economic changes and eliminates retaliatory tariffs on US goods, a source briefed on negotiations said on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping could seal a formal trade deal at a summit around March 27 given progress in talks between the two countries, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday.

In an eight-month trade war, the United States has imposed punitive tariffs on \$250 billion worth of imports from China, while Beijing has hit back with tariffs on \$110 billion worth of US goods, including soybeans and other commodities. The actions have roiled financial markets, disrupted manufacturing supply chains and reduced US farm exports.

Trump administration officials have said they expect the two presidents to “close” a deal at a summit in coming weeks at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

The source briefed on the talks said that no dates for a summit had been determined, but that Beijing had reserved a 10-day window from around March 20 for a possible summit.

Many details still needed to be worked out, including the terms of an enforcement mechanism to ensure that Beijing follows through on pledges to make changes to policies to better protect US intellectual property, end forced technology transfers and curb industrial subsidies.

Another source familiar with the talks said that Washington and Beijing were close to agreement on non-enforcement issues, including China’s pledges to increase purchases of farm, energy and manufactured products, as well as six agreements on structural policy changes.

The Wall Street Journal said that in the pending agreement, China would lower tariffs on US-made goods including agricultural products, chemicals and cars in exchange for sanctions relief from Washington, citing people briefed on the matter on both sides.

The newspaper’s sources cautioned that hurdles remain and each side face possible resistance at home that the terms are too favorable to the other side.

As a part of the deal there would be a \$18 billion purchase of natural-gas from Houston-based Cheniere Energy, the report said.

Cheniere declined to comment on the potential for a new LNG supply deal with China, a spokesman said. It last year signed a 20-year deal to supply state-run Chinese National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) with natural gas from its Louisiana export terminal through 2043.

The United States is working to hammer out a detailed trade agreement with China that will include specific structural commitments, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC on Thursday.

Daily Times, 06-03-19

China says ‘still lots left to do’ in US trade talks

US-China trade talks have been “very difficult and taxing” and negotiators still have “lots left to do”, but breakthroughs have been made in some areas, China’s commerce minister said Tuesday.

The comments came as President Donald Trump voiced confidence that he could soon sign a deal with President Xi Jinping to end a trade war that led to bruising tit-for-tat tariffs on goods from each country.

Recounting top economic official Liu He’s recent trip to Washington for trade talks, commerce minister Zhong Shan said the “negotiation process was very difficult and taxing”.

The content under discussion was very hard, Zhong stressed, “requiring our team to work overtime, day and night”.

“Two days of negotiations had been agreed to, and then two days were added, and this was still very tense,” Zhong told reporters on the sidelines of the opening session of the National People’s Congress.

“The bilateral talks have been highly effective — through 90 days of talks the two sides have achieved step by step, important results and breakthroughs in some areas,” he said.

“Right now both teams are still negotiating because there are still lots left to do,” Zhong said.

To reach an agreement “both sides need to walk towards each other and work hard together”, he said.

The head of the China Banking Regulatory Commission said substantial breakthroughs had been reached in six areas, including technology transfer, intellectual property protection, non-tariff barriers, agricultural, services and exchange rates, according to local news site The Paper.

“This progress is substantial. I think it will be further expanded. There is no doubt about it,” banking regulator Guo Shuqing said, according to The Paper.

Trump has for years railed against China's unfair trade practices, singling his ire on what he calls deliberate devaluation of its currency, the renminbi, also called the yuan.

"Some officials of the US government, including President Trump, accuse China of manipulating the exchange rate and promoting the devaluation of the renminbi to gain a competitive advantage," said Guo.

"There is no such thing, and everyone knows this," Guo said, adding it would be easier to reach a consensus on the exchange rate in future negotiations.

"It is certain that in the opening of the financial sector, China and the US are fully capable of reaching an agreement," he said

Daily Times, 07-03-19

South Korea proposes rain project with China to clean Seoul air

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has proposed a joint project with China to use artificial rain to clean the air in Seoul, where an acute increase in pollution has caused alarm. Moon also on Wednesday instructed government officials to quicken the retirement of old coal-burning power plants, according to his spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom. Seoul has been struggling to tackle the rise in air pollution that experts have linked to China's massive industrial activity and emission from South Korean cars. Fine dust levels in South Korea have hit new highs over the past week, leaving people wearing masks while commuting under thick-gray skies online users have compared to the scenes of the movie "Wall-E." In a meeting with government officials, Moon noted that China was "much more advanced" than South Korea in technologies for initiating rain and expressed hope that creating rain over waters between the countries would help mitigate air pollution, Kim said. In January, South Korea's weather agency failed on an experiment to create artificial rain, which involved an aircraft releasing chemicals into the clouds over the sea.

Daily Times, 07-03-19

Communism is returning to China

“Dynasties begin with the very virtuous and noble founder, and then they continue through a series of rulers until they come to a bad last ruler, and he is so morally depraved that he is overthrown.” These are the famous words of Famous grand Chinese historian Sima Qian. After, British colonization China suffered from opium epidemic until the Communist revolution in 1949, when Mao Zedong banned Opium and annihilated opium edicts. Back then China was the most backward and agrarian country in Asia. With revolution, then Chinese leader Mao Zedong forged a “Great leap forward Policy” to modernize the Chinese economy based on soviet model. The Great leap forward plan staunchly failed and Chinese economy failed to get stable in accordance with communist policies. With the death of Chairman Mao, his prime minister, Deng Xiaoping became new ruler of China and initiated new economic reforms by opening Chinese market to western companies. The west celebrated Deng Xiaoping reforms as a hope for capitalist revolution in china while ordinary Chinese celebrated these reforms as the end to poverty and economic marginalization. But with the ascension of Xi Jinping to Chinese throne, it seems that the end of Chinese economic prosperity has begun.

According to western commentators, the Chinese economic growth has slowed down since Xi Jinping came to power in China. According to some analysts, Mr. Xi ignored the advice of Deng Xiaoping “Hide your Capabilities and bide your time” by showing off his plans of vision China 2025, that attracted the attention of the western economies. Because, with Deng’s economic reforms, the most backward nation has uplifted itself to the global stage as economic giant. Since 1980, the economic growth has been 10% and more than quarter half of the Chinese population lifted them out of poverty.

But with ascension of Xi Jinping, the private sector has been stifled and the state has tightened its control over business and market. The state regulators are now interfering both in stock market and in the banking sector, where the flow of money is tightly regulated. The loans offered by the Chinese banks have reached a record high and investment has slowed down in the last five years. Moreover, the Chinese working population is gradually shrinking and the performance of inefficient firms has slowed down the productivity growth leaving debt at a record high too.

China, which became the global center of the world economy in 2000, is now suffering from recession and the trade war with US can be blamed for the turbulence. And, now it seems that the glorious years of Deng’s era are coming to an end because under Xi Jinping, the state has gained the upper hand both in business and economy. Mr. Xi’s slogan “socialism with Chinese characteristics” is bringing back the tumultuous days of the Maoist era in China. To be more precise, it can be said that the shadow of old communism is again returning to China.

Though, during China’s early prosperous economic years, scholars deemed the 21st century as Chinese century but with a gradual slow economic growth and decline of Capitalism in China, they shifted their discussion towards economic recession. Moreover, the fact cannot be denied that since 2000, Chinese economic model was an alternative to western Capitalism but now, this

model is crumbling. There are four factors in this model that have contributed largely to China's economic growth.

China, which became the global center of the world economy in 2000, is now suffering from recession and the trade war with US can be blamed for the turbulence. And, now it seems that the glorious years of Deng's era are coming to an end because under Xi Jinping, the state has gained the upper hand both in business and economy

Firstly, land, which is state owned, that puts all the assets at the disposal of local officials and these officials on cheap rents attract businesses. Secondly, Cronyism, the few influential figures within the Communist party are controlling every affair of the economy. Perhaps, they have a firm hold over sales and purchases. Thus, the vibrant cronyism built a nexus between government and business. The third major feature of Chinese economic model is the model of debt. The state-owned companies are borrowing the money from the state-controlled banks for large-scale construction projects that increases the burden of debt. Lastly, the fourth major characteristics of Chinese model are strict regulation-the Chinese government strictly regulates the Chinese economy that gives the government an upper hand to control the economy.

But it is a fact that under Xi Jinping's rule, the old days of Maoism are returning, though he himself is a victim of Cultural Revolution but is still an admirer of the Maoist era. With this admiration Xi Jinping has launched his own version of culture revolution in the form of anti-graft crackdown through which he is purging political opposition within his own party. When Deng Xiaoping came to power, he embraced the Keynesian economic model by allowing the interest rate to flow into the economy. For Keynes, the interest rate has another role-its task is to persuade people to part with money and hold fewer liquid assets.

On the other hand, what Keynes understood was that sometimes-purchasing power with differing decisions can bring chaos in terms of spending and investment. As, we can see the size of Chinese middle class differs from 100 million to 600 million and so does their purchasing power. And, for Keynes, if the private entrepreneurs would not invest heavily to maintain high employment and production then government must take responsibility. But, in case of China, this remedy has not been followed because entrepreneurs are suffering from stiff regulation, while government has tightened its hold instead of filling the gap.

In contrast, it is likely to assume that by gradual tightening hold over the private businesses, purging on opposition, and by suppressing free voices, Mr. Xi Jinping is reviving Maoist version of communism in China-he seems the last bad ruler.

The writer is a postgraduate student of Politics and International studies, and a freelance writer

Daily Times, 08-03-19

Hyundai may suspend production at oldest China plant as slowdown bites

Hyundai Motor Co. is considering plans to suspend production at its oldest plant in China as it reels from tumbling sales and massive overcapacity in its biggest market.

The move by Hyundai, which together with affiliate Kia Motors was the No.3 automaker in China until 2016, highlights the reversal of fortunes in the world's biggest auto market that suffered its first contraction in decades last year.

Hyundai and Kia face major risks from the slowdown with the duo already grappling to fend off competition from local rivals and global players in China.

Hyundai "is reviewing production to enhance competitiveness and profitability," the South Korean company said in a statement on Wednesday. The plan includes "suspension, not closure of Plant 1 in Beijing," it added.

The company, which has three manufacturing plants in Beijing, said it has yet to decide when a suspension would start. However, the Korea Economic Daily newspaper reported that suspension could start as early as next month.

All of Hyundai's five factories in China are operated by its Chinese joint venture with BAIC Motor Corp, at which about 2,000 employees have taken voluntary retirement or transferred to other factories, the statement said.

BAIC said that the joint venture, Beijing Hyundai, was currently discussing internally how to use existing capacity to build new energy vehicles. It did not comment on the possible suspension of the plant.

"In the next few years, Beijing Hyundai will continue to increase the proportion of new energy vehicles," a BAIC spokeswoman said.

"My view is that Hyundai is taking steps to closing the plant. It has been dragging its feet over a shutdown, and it is positive that they are finally taking action," Samsung Securities analyst Esther Yim said.

Hyundai's redesigned Sonata sedan, which was unveiled on Wednesday, has also sparked hopes that the automaker would be able to regain ground in its mainstay sedan segment, she said.

Hyundai's sales in China amounted to only half its total production capacity in the country last year.

China's auto industry has been slowing after a period of strong growth, hit by a weakening economy and the fallout of trade frictions with the United States.

For Hyundai, its troubles have been exacerbated by a diplomatic row between Seoul and Beijing that hit demand for South Korean products in China over the past few years.

A lack of attractive models and strong branding also makes Hyundai vulnerable to competition, analysts and dealers say.

Hyundai will start to produce its new ix25 SUV at its latest plant in Chongqing from September, according to an internal document seen by Reuters.

Daily Times, 08-03-19

China prosecutes 11 people in \$119 million totoaba fish bust

Chinese authorities have prosecuted 11 people for smuggling \$119 million worth of Mexican totoaba fish swim bladders, one of the country's biggest busts related to the trafficking of an endangered species used in traditional medicine.

Mexico has urged China for years to crack down on totoaba smuggling over fears that illegal fishing operations in the Gulf of California are also killing off the world's smallest porpoise, the near-extinct vaquita marina.

The Jiangmen city procuratorate in southern Guangdong province said the 11 people are suspected of smuggling nearly 20,000 swim bladders worth more than 800 million yuan (\$119 million) from Mexico.

The group of smugglers, led by an individual named Liang Weihua, transported the fish parts in "large quantities" and sold them to consumers in China.

"This crime lasted for more than three years," said the Guangdong-based procurator ate, a legal supervision agency, on its website.

The smuggling route involved a number of neighboring countries, including Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, it said, adding that the case is currently under further investigation.

The critically endangered totoaba fish has been in steep decline since the 1940s, largely because of its reputed healing powers in Chinese medicine.

The fish's swim bladder can fetch up to \$20,000 on the black market in China, where it is believed to have beautifying properties and cure a host of ailments, from arthritis pain to discomfort during pregnancy.

In fact, they are so prized that some Chinese simply display them in fancy cases in their homes.

The Mexican navy and environmentalists patrol the Gulf of California to detect illegal fishing. Environmental group Sea Shepherd said its sea patrols were attacked this earlier this year, with one ship getting hit with rocks and firebombs thrown by dozens of people in 20 boats in February.

The nets are believed to claim a collateral victim, the vaquita marina, which like the totoaba is endemic to the Gulf of California and is near extinction.

Though China has made efforts to crack down on the sale of illegal wildlife products, smuggling continues as demand is still fuelled by a thriving black market.

Daily Times, 09-03-19

China warns of repeating history's mistakes with Venezuela

The Chinese government's top diplomat issued a stern warning on Friday against interfering in Venezuela or imposing sanctions on the South American nation, saying history offered a clear lesson about not "following the same old disastrous road". China has repeatedly called for outsiders not to interfere in Venezuela's internal affairs and has stuck by the embattled President Nicolas Maduro. Most Western nations have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate head of state. The United States has pledged to "expand the net" of sanctions on Venezuela, including more on banks supporting Maduro's government. State Councilor Wang Yi, responding to a question on whether China still recognized Maduro or had had contacts with the opposition, said the sovereignty and independence of Latin American countries should be respected. "The internal affairs of every country should be decided by their own people. External interference and sanctions will only exacerbate the tension situation, and allow the law of the jungle to once again run amuck," Wang said at his annual news conference on the sidelines of China's parliament meeting. "There's already enough of such lessons from history, and the same old disastrous road should not be followed."

Daily Times, 09-03-19

Chinese re-education: myths and realities

Yasir Habib Khan

Senior diplomats from permanent missions of eight countries to the United Nations Office at Geneva visited the Chinese Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to get first-hand information about the religious freedom, human-right situation and skill development programs in the region last month. Diplomats from Venezuela, Cuba, Egypt, Cambodia, Russia, Senegal and Belarus

and Pakistan toured Xinjiang on the special invitation of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. This was the second such delegation to visit Xinjiang.

Earlier, diplomats from 12 countries including Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Thailand, and Kuwait visited Xinjiang's Hetian district on January 8, 2019 to witness de-radicalization programs on the invitation of Governor of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Shohrat Zakir, who is also deputy secretary of CPC Xinjiang Committee.

These diplomatic visits are truly eye-opening, and aim to sensitize the world about Xinjiang's ground realities and help fizzle out uncalled for speculations. Unfortunately, there are many myths surrounding these programs, even though they are needed to fight terrorism and extremism in the Xinjiang province. Ironically, most people who have been criticizing Chinese deradicalization camps for violating human rights have never even visited the country. The situation has become exacerbated because instead of making heads or tails of ground realities by paying official visits, media personnel they have been releasing reports entirely based on half-truths.

Frankly speaking, most of these make-believe stories are being churned out with the help of Uyghur's self-exiled diaspora sponsored by western powers. These reports badly fail to produce clear evidence and substantial proof of human rights violations in these rehabilitation facilities. What they illustrate and portray are based on the verbal statements of self-exiled Uyghur people or those who spent some time in these centers. Their stories have not been verified so far by any independent sources.

If analyzed critically, links and sources of these reports originate from the Munich-based World Uyghur Congress, Australian East Turkestan Association, Australian Uyghur Association, Viktoria Uyghur Association, Belgium Uyghur Association, Uyghur Canadian Association, East Turkistan Association in Finland, France Uyghur Community, East Turkistan Union in Europe (Germany), Uyghur Women's Committee in German, Japan Uyghur Union, Uyghur Youth Union in Kazakhstan, Society Union of Uyghur National Association (Kazakhstan), "Ittipak" Uigur Society of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan), Eastern Turkistan Uyghur Association in Netherlands, Norway Uyghur Committee, Swedish Uygur Committee, Sweden Uyghur Education Union, Switzerland East Turkestan Association and Uighur U.K. Association and the International Uyghur Human Right and Democracy Foundation.

Xinjiang is currently fighting an insurgency by the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, which is allied with the TTP

They also come from Islamic country Turkey with Eastern Turkistan Foundation, East Turkistan Culture and Solidarity Association, Eastern Turkistan Culture and Solidarity Association –

Ankara Section Euro-Asia Foundation in Turkey, East Turkistan Youth and Cultural Association.

Given the situation, it can be easily traced out that the reason behind the recent criticism sparked out by Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy against VETCs in the second week of February, 2019.

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) has been founded by the Uyghur American Association (UAA) with a supporting grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). America is trying to set its score by playing with the sentiments of misled Uyghur people. The US-led UAA is funding anti-China groups by providing good space to their engineered stories in print and electronic media around the world. Human rights watch, Amnesty International and the UN share the same sources.

It appears highly illogical and quite funny that none of these organizations have gone to see VETCs themselves to get to the bottom of the matter. Just on the basis of assumptions and disinformation, these centers have been labeled internment camps. Anti-China lobbyists claim that these centers involve intensified use of traditional policing measures, the deployment of high-tech surveillance and monitoring systems, the involuntary collection of DNA and other biometric data, restrictions on travel, and curbs on religious practices. The claims further say that detainees, barred from interacting with their families, have been living in isolation with constant threats of getting killed.

However, in order to help the international community distinguishes between falsehoods and truth, China has begun arranging tours of UN relevant experts' to the VETCs. On January 6, 2019, Shohrat Zakir stated that Xinjiang was an open region and said China welcomed anyone who wanted to come could listen to the voice of a majority of people in an objective and unbiased manner.

Besides, China has also taken onboard mainstream media to present the truth to the world. It also arranged a fact-finding trip to reporters at three centers in Kashgar, Hotan and Karakax, all in the heavily Uighur-populated southern part of Xinjiang, where much of the violence erupted in recent years.

Reporters were exposed to the fact that students received a graduate degree when they were assessed to have reached a certain level with their Mandarin, deradicalisation and legal knowledge. "They are allowed phone calls with family members, but no mobile phones. They are provided halal food," reporters sought information from various students.

Kashgar deputy party chief Zark Zurdun, a Uighur from Ghulja in northern Xinjiang, where many ethnic Kazakhs live, said that "stability is the best human right".

Xinjiang is currently facing an insurgency from the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). It is allied with the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan along with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Al-Qaeda and ISIS. ETIM, which has claimed responsibility for attacks in Xinjiang, has been identified as a terrorist organization by the governments of China, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and the United States, as well as the UN.

The writer is a senior analyst and journalist on foreign affairs and President of Institute of International Relations and Media Research

Published in Daily Times, March 9th 2019.

Daily Times, 10-03-19

Australia admits failings in Pacific, as China looms

Australia has admitted it had not focused enough attention on its Pacific backyard but vowed to make “long overdue” amends, amid growing Chinese influence in the region.

“I think we would have to accept some criticism,” Australia’s minister for international development and the Pacific, Anne Ruston, told AFP on Friday.

“We have perhaps not put as much attention and effort into our own region as we should of.”

In recent months, Ruston has been at the sharp end of trying to fix that — jetting to-and-fro between Australia and far-flung Pacific Islands, as part of Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s “step-up” in the region.

The policy includes more aid, more security assistance, more diplomats working in the region and, crucially, more face-to-face contacts.

It is, in large part, a response to Beijing’s growing economic, political and military activity in the region.

“I think we’ve had our focus gazed much further afield for a very long time,” said Ruston. “It has certainly, more recently, been forced to be refocused back onto our own region.”

“That’s a good thing. And it was certainly long overdue.”

While Australia was more focused on Fallujah than Fiji, China has been doling out loans and investment in the region and scooping up natural resources and telecoms contracts.

Still, Ruston rejected suggestions that Australia, by moving to develop security facilities in Papua New Guinea and Fiji is causing the type of militarization many complain China is embarking on.

“This is our region, this is our area, this is where we live,” she said. “However you see the security and sovereignty of our region the Pacific is extremely important to Australia.”

Daily Times, 11-03-19

China banking regulators tell banks to boost support for rural economies

China’s banking and insurance regulators have issued a notice to commercial banks to boost financial support for the country’s rural areas. In a notice issued on March 8, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission told commercial banks to fulfill special lending targets, including those for achieving faster increases in loans to farmers and other businesses in rural areas. The notice did not refer to specific targets. The notice said banks need to direct more funds to poverty-stricken regions and ensure more rapid lending growth. Outstanding loans to rural areas totaled 33 trillion yuan at the end of 2018, up 5.6 percent from a year ago, it said. The new requirements come as part of Beijing’s broader effort to reboot China’s rural economy as local populations rapidly age and productivity slumps. As the Chinese economy began slowing last year, China’s economic policymakers stepped up monetary policy support for rural areas – comprising mostly small farm holdings and low-end industries – to encourage local firms to raise funds in the capital markets. The People’s Bank of China (PBOC), the country’s central bank, has cut the amount of cash that commercial banks need to set aside as reserves five times in the past year to spur lending to small businesses in the private sector. China has also been looking to develop new industries like eco-tourism as well as encouraging the planting of cash crops in poor rural regions.

Published in Daily Times, March 11th 2019

Daily Times, 11-03-19

China protests US criticism of policies on religion

China has issued a protest over remarks the US ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom made criticizing Beijing’s policies toward Muslim and Tibetan Buddhist minorities and saying the country was “at war with faith.”

The foreign ministry’s office in Hong Kong said the speech Sam Brownback gave Friday “slandered” China’s religious policies. It said it had registered its dissatisfaction Saturday with the US Consulate in the semi-autonomous Chinese region, where the speech was given.

China's constitution and laws protect freedom of religion and critics should "cease their slander of China's policies on religion and the situation with freedom of faith and cease using religious issues to interfere in China's internal affairs," the office said in a statement.

The foreign ministry's office in Hong Kong said the speech Sam Brownback gave Friday "slandered" China's religious policies

US officials and UN experts say China is believed to be holding 1 million Uighurs, Muslims and members of other majority Muslim ethnic groups in political education camps in Xinjiang. The US and other governments have criticized the crackdown. The Chinese government says those camps are vocational training centers designed to rid the region of extremism.

Brownback said President Donald Trump's administration is "deeply concerned and considered it a deliberate attempt by Beijing to redefine and control these Muslim minority groups, (their) identity, culture and faith." He urged Beijing to grant free access to the camps to investigate claims of abuse of inmates. More generally, Brownback said, China is "at war with faith."

"It's a war they will not win," he said. "The Chinese Communist Party must hear the cry of its people for religious freedom." Brownback was expected to meet local religious leaders and religious studies students and instructors while in Hong Kong. The territory enjoys freedom of speech and religion far beyond that in mainland China, where the officially atheist government keeps tight control over any potential challenges to its authority.

Published in Daily Times, March 11th 2019.

Daily Times, 11-03-19

Pakistan is China's Iron Brother: Wang Yi (Chinese Foreign Minister)



Daily Times, 11-03-19

China sets aside crops for wild elephants to spare farmers

China said it plans to grow crops specifically for wild elephants to graze on in an effort to spare the livelihoods of local farmers. The southwestern province of Yunnan will set up the special farm in a habitat protection area in Menghai County where 18 of the animals frequently raid the crops of farmers from villages in the area. The 51-hectare (126-acre) farm will grow corn, sugarcane, bamboo and bananas. The official Xinhua News Agency quoted an unidentified official with the local forestry bureau as saying protecting local residents was key to Asian elephant conservation.

Published in Daily Times, March 11th 2019.

Daily Times, 12-03-19

CENTCOM is taking S-CPEC+ real seriously

The Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) told the House Armed Services Committee just how “concerned” he is about China projecting its Silk Road influence from Gwadar to Africa through S-CPEC+ and consequently establishing a permanent naval presence in the western end of the Afro-Asian Ocean.

CPEC is increasingly being appreciated as the game-changing geostrategic megaproject that it is after the Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) told the House Armed Services Committee just how “concerned” he is about its terminal port of Gwadar being used as China’s launching pad for expanding its Silk Road influence into Africa and consequently establishing a permanent naval presence along the routes connecting several Sea Lines Of Communication (SLOC) between them. This outlook isn’t a unique one and was most recently elaborated upon by the author last week in his piece about how “Pakistan’s Indian Sub Interception Proves The Importance Of The Country’s Navy”, but it appears to be the first time that a high-level American military official publicly confirmed the likelihood of this scenario unfolding and expressed “concern” about it. According to reports, Joseph Votel told the Committee that:

“As they develop that land route what they are attempting to do and then we expect then be looking for ports they can connect that to ports in southern Pakistan leading to ports in AFRICOM (US Africa Command), and for us it’s going to lead to a permanent presence of Chinese maritime military activity in the region that we will need to be concerned with.” (Author’s note: reproduced exactly as reported by The Times of India, grammatical errors and all)

This brief statement is loaded with a lot of strategic significance. Firstly, it implies that the joint Indian-American Hybrid War on CPEC has failed and that the Chinese-built megaproject is proceeding apace in turning Pakistan into the global pivot state for facilitating transcontinental multipolar integration. Secondly, it draws attention to the southern branch of CPEC’s logical expansion that the author earlier coined S-CPEC+. Thirdly, Votel is convinced that this will also take on military dimensions as China is compelled to defend its SLOCs all along this route, possibly through the clinching of LEMOA-like deals with Pakistan and coastal African countries. And finally, the fourth main point that can be drawn from the CENTCOM Commander’s statement is that China’s CPEC-assisted expansion of influence into the western Afro-Asian Ocean poses a multidimensional cross-theater challenge to American hegemony in the Eastern Hemisphere.

What’s less clear, however, is how the US intends to counter this after the failure of the Indian-American Hybrid War on CPEC. Resorting to similar measures against the Horn of Africa and

East African states might backfire for several reasons, not least of which is that the interests of the US' partners overlap with China's own in this space and would therefore be adversely affected by regional destabilization. It's possible that the US might weaponize comparatively low-level chaos dynamics such as those embodied by al Shabaab but this could inadvertently create opportunities for Russia to export its "Democratic Security" model from the Central African Republic to the African coastland and actually safeguard the long-term strategic viability of S-CPEC+, hence why non-kinetic methods will probably be relied upon at this point in time.

It's very likely that the US will intensify its info war against China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), with specific focus being given to the narrative that Beijing is more interested in extracting resources through so-called "debt trap diplomacy" than in sincerely developing its partners' economies. There might also be more underhanded efforts to incite mob violence against Chinese citizens in order to bait the People's Republic into costly "mission creep" that it's both militarily unprepared for and which could exacerbate some of the angry locals' negative perceptions about it. In addition, the US could use economic pressure to dissuade African governments from signing LEMOA-like deals with China and entice them into embracing "Trumpism" instead of Silk Road-led Globalism. Fear mongering about China's speculative military motives, the US might use this as the pretext for launching Indian-led multilateral "freedom of navigation" patrols.

The most likely outcome that the US hopes to achieve is to encourage "friendly competition" between BRI and the nascent Indo-Japanese "Asia-Africa Growth Corridor" while manipulatively working behind the scenes to influence the "rules of the game" in such a way as to favor its proxies and their French and Emirati partners prior to using their multilateral economic platform as the basis for the creation of a new African-centric security bloc for more comprehensively "containing" China. Accordingly, it would be to the benefit of the emerging Multipolar World Order if China partnered with Pakistan, Turkey, and Russia to preemptively thwart this scenario, with the first protecting S-CPEC+'s SLOCS, the second sharing its widespread soft power in sub-Saharan Africa, and the last using its "Democratic Security" model to safeguard everything in the most ideal win-win arrangement between them all.

Published in Daily Times, March 12th 2019.

Daily Times, 13-03-19

China calls for serious discussions ahead of UN meet on JeM

China has said that 'responsible and serious discussions' are needed ahead of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)'s sanctions committee meet this week, which is due to take up the case of designating Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar a terrorist.

During his weekly briefing, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang on Tuesday responded to a question which asked what Beijing's position would be at the meet after India's appeal that all permanent members of UNSC should declare Azhar a terrorist.

"We already stressed China's position on the listing of terrorist organizations and individuals in the UN Security Council 1267 Committee on many occasions. China has all along participated in relevant discussions in a responsible manner and in strict accordance with the rules of procedure and provisions of the 1267 committee. China will continue to communicate and work with relevant parties in a responsible manner so as to properly resolve this matter. Only by making a decision through responsible and serious discussions can we find a lasting solution," said Kang. In 2017, China had blocked an Indian attempt to place the JeM chief on the global terrorist list on grounds that New Delhi had failed to provide any substantial evidence.

Responding to a question regarding India-Pakistan ties, Kang said that the recent series of incidents were "not conducive to the peace and stability in South Asia." "China has been mediating between the two sides, engaged in dialogues and working very hard to promote talks, ease tensions and improve their relations. In our exchanges of views on the regional situation, the security issue features in our discussion with Indian and Pakistan. We have had extensive and in-depth talks with both sides," he added.

Published in Daily Times, March 13th 2019

Daily Times, 13-03-19

US, China negotiators talk but no date for Trump-Xi trade summit

Top US and Chinese officials held phone talks Tuesday to discuss the next steps in trade negotiations, Chinese state media said, as the White House said no date has been set for a summit.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer spoke with Beijing's top economic official Liu He over the phone to discuss "key issues" on trade, the official news agency Xinhua reported.

The top negotiators also discussed the "next steps" in their talks, the brief report said, without providing details.

China and the United States have been locked in a trade war since last year, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of mutual trade, spooking global markets.

Top-level negotiators are trying to hammer out an agreement before a truce expires, potentially triggering additional US tariffs on Chinese goods.

A possible summit between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping remains up in the air, the White House said Monday.

Trump has previously expressed optimism that he will meet with Xi, probably at his Florida golf club Mar-a-Lago this month, to finalize an eventual trade deal.

But Trump spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said it was too early to announce a meeting.

“In terms of whether or not we have a date set, not yet. We’re continuing negotiations with China,” she said at the White House. “When we have an announcement for the two leaders to sit down, we’ll let you know.”

The press secretary also said she was unaware of any plan for Xi and Trump to speak by phone.

Sanders said Trump will not agree to anything short of a deal beneficial to the United States.

She denied that the breakdown of Trump’s attempts to negotiate with North Korea over the country’s nuclear weapons had weakened his standing in Beijing.

“I would say that’s absurd. He’s going to make a deal if it’s a good deal, if it’s in the best interest of America, and if he doesn’t feel like it’s a good deal, it’s not worth just signing a piece of paper,” Sanders said.

“The president’s gonna make sure whatever deal we get is in our best interest, that it’s fair and reciprocal trade, that it protects our intellectual property and has safeguards.”

Daily Times, 13-03-19

Kazakhstan puts campaigner against Chinese camps under house arrest

A Kazakh court has placed an activist who campaigned on behalf of ethnic Kazakhs in China under house arrest on the charge of calling for a “jihad” against the Chinese, state prosecutors said.

Serikzhan Bilash, a naturalized Kazakh citizen born in the Chinese region of Xinjiang, leads Atajurt, a group that has worked for the release of ethnic Kazakhs from “re-education” camps where activists say more than a million ethnic Uighurs and other Muslims are held.

Police detained Bilash in Almaty, Kazakhstan’s biggest city, last weekend and brought him before a court in Astana, the Central Asian nation’s capital.

In a statement issued late on Monday, the Astana prosecutor’s office said Bilash is suspected of making the jihad comment at a public event last month. He has yet to make a plea.

Prosecutors said the court placed Bilash under house arrest for two months while they prepare for trial.

Daily Times, 14-03-19

Afford me not: soaring bride prices in China should be curbed, says parliament delegate

Runaway “bride prices” are making marriage unaffordable in rural China and need to be capped, and professional matchmakers should be stopped from overcharging, says a village delegate to China’s parliament.

China’s rapid economic growth in the past decade has sharply raised parental expectations, pushing up the cost of pre-wedding gifts that now commonly include a brand new home.

In the past, a suitor would offer the parents of his bride about 11,000 yuan (\$1,639). Now, future in-laws demand at least three “jin” (1.5 kg) of hundred yuan bills, a car and a house, said Zhang Qingbin, a delegate to the annual National People’s Congress from Hebei province.

“In the south of northern China, a young man looking to get married would need to spend around 700,000 yuan (\$104,275),” Zhang wrote in a proposal to NPC.

“This is a huge financial burden, with steep bride prices becoming a key reason behind rural poverty,” he added.

In rural areas, where annual per capita incomes of about 15,000 yuan (\$2,234) are just a third of earnings in cities, a groom’s need for cash is relatively acute.

With the economy facing a further slowdown this year, the chances of finding a bride are more remote, aggravating a rural phenomenon known as “leftover men” who cannot afford marriage.

Zhang blamed the parents of prospective brides who want to elevate their standard of living by demanding a high price from suitors.

Marriage subsidies could be one way to wedded bliss, he said, pointing to a pilot subsidy programme in Taiyuan city in neighboring Shanxi province.

Taiyuan set up a Marriage Consumption Subsidy Fund in 2017 which offers newlyweds rebates on wedding pictures, the banquet, honeymoon travel and even white goods to furnish a new home.

Unaffordable marriages are also a factor in China’s bigger demographic problem – falling birth rates.

Many NPC delegates called for improved maternity benefits to encourage couples to have more babies as the country faces an ageing population and shrinking workforce.

Daily Times, 15-03-19

Global Implications of the Two Sessions

Yasir Habib Khan

Events that hold the center of global attention and set the course of changes taking place on a global scale are few in number, and the international community follows their proceedings and conclusions with full attention. Among them, China's Two Sessions, the NPC and CPPCC annual sessions have qualified for the status of global attention in true letter and spirit.

The world wishes to understand China's economic, political, and social philosophy to discover new pathways to success. Because these two sessions offer fresh and deep insight into China's national policy, governance system, and empirical vision to interact with foreign countries, they appear to be the apple of the world's eye.

Iconic gatherings known as annual meetings of the national legislature and political advisory body are big events on the world's stage. They address a wide spectrum of topics ranging from internal to external issues relating to new laws, regulations, policies, and reforms that matter a lot to China and the rest of the world.

The world is abuzz with the influence of globalization and its benefits. The attendance and attention around NPC and CPPCC are good evaluations of the global sway of the Belt and Road Initiative. Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the Second Session of the 13th National People's Congress, said that 152 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation documents with China on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — an important platform for building a community with a shared future on the principle of extensive consultations and joint contributions for benefits shared by all. The goods trade volume between China and countries along the Belt and Road exceeded \$5 trillion between 2013 and 2017, total direct Chinese investment in those countries surpassed \$70 billion, and more than 200,000 jobs were created, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The world is attracted by the Two Sessions, knowing that the economic resilience and indicators that signify progress throughout the year are the results of deliberations made during sessions of the NPC and CPPCC every year.

Keeping in mind the rules and regulations adopted yearly by the two sessions, the international community is watchful of China's fresh economic upswing. According to the Ministry of Commerce, China attracted RMB 84.18 billion (US \$12.41 billion) in foreign direct investment

(FDI) in January 2019. Sizable amounts of foreign capital flowed to the country's hi-tech service industry, more than double compared with the same period in 2018, reaching RMB 15.77 billion.

At international forums, Chinese leaders have repeatedly said China will strengthen cooperation on law enforcement with other countries to combat cross-border corruption and dissuade other jurisdictions from offering a "safe harbour" to fugitives

The international community appears fascinated by the two sessions this year. One reason is that they are taking stock of the final draft of the Foreign Investment Law. Amendments or innovative points added to the proposed law will determine rules of business for foreign companies operating in China.

All eyes are fixed on the connotations of the policy measure. Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, says the draft demonstrates China's determination to open wider to the world. "China will not close its door to the world, but will only become more and more open," said Li, adding that the law's formulation and implementation would further boost the confidence of foreign businesses to invest in China.

Kenneth Jarrett, senior adviser with Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategic advisory and commercial diplomacy firm in the United States, said the draft law has elements that will be welcomed by foreign businesses — affirmations of "national treatment," better intellectual property rights protection, prohibition of forced technology transfer, and the ability to compete for government procurement contracts, to give some examples. At the same time, he urged policymakers to take steps to further reduce barriers for foreign companies and step up financial sector liberalization.

China's business environment is a widely debated issue at the annual meetings of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC and the 13th National People's Congress (NPC). This topic has drawn much global attention as global trade hinges on its outcome.

With the passing of the law, besides those falling in the negative list, all enterprises, foreign or private, will be treated equally in the attainment of resources, market access, license application, and every aspect of the operation process.

He Weiwen, a senior research fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, said, "Preferential policies for state-owned enterprises will no longer be available after the passage of the law," He stressed that this is a huge step forward, creating a friendlier business environment for both private and foreign enterprises. China also piloted a business environment evaluation in 22 cities. Businesses around the world also applaud the new impetus to shrink the negative list, allowing foreign firms to operate on a level playing field.

The Chinese government has introduced a slew of monetary and fiscal policies to support small and medium-sized private enterprises as well. In this year's government work report, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged to boost support for private enterprises. During the Two Sessions, Beijing also announced a cut of three percentage points in value-added tax rate (VAT) for manufacturers and one percentage point for construction and transport companies. Combined together, the VAT cuts are equivalent to as much as RMB 800 billion, and will boost corporate earnings.

After the United States pulled out from Paris Climate Agreement, the world's eyes are on China and its policies on climate issues. After the Two Sessions began their proceedings and talked about environmental challenges at length, relief and contentment prevailed among global climate campaigners.

Premier Li Keqiang pledged in the government work report at the opening of the second session of the 13th NPC that the government has stepped up efforts to reform and refine its systems to facilitate the country's pursuit of high-quality development and environmental protection as green development is a critical element in modernizing the economy and a fundamental solution to pollution.

The government will unveil a series of measures to strengthen green and environmental industries, including quickening the pace of upgrading thermal power, steel, and other industries to achieve ultra-low emissions and enforce upgrades in sectors causing high pollution to achieve compliance with standards, Li said.

"Promoting green development is down to every last one of us; its success hinges on action and commitment. We must all work together to create a beautiful and livable environment for our people," Li said.

China is the second largest economy of the world. Developed and developing nations want to comprehend how China is becoming a role model in uplifting the lives of people despite financial and social odds. The Two Sessions have provided an opportunity to the world to peer into China and its vision.

About 13.86 million rural residents in China were lifted out of poverty in 2018. Chinese President Xi Jinping called for perseverance in the fight against poverty as there are only two years left for the country to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020. "There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won," said Xi.

The world was not very well informed about China's legal system in the past. With the Two Sessions, a great deal of information is readily available and accessible. There are currently about 400,000 lawyers in China. Forty years ago, the country had hardly any. China began its

reform and opening-up in the late 1970s, during which the legal system began to see significant changes.

According to China's Ministry of Justice, there are over 40,000 public legal service centers or stations nationwide. The centers and stations cover a vast majority of urban and rural areas, where people can get free legal advice from lawyers. China's Ministry of Justice estimates that the number of Chinese lawyers will increase to 620,000 by 2022.

During the annual Two Sessions, NPC deputies are supposed to submit motions or suggestions which can pave the way for legislation or policy adjustments, and political advisers – members of the National Committee of the CPPCC, China's top political advisory body – will put forth proposals and lay down suggestions and opinions to the people's congresses and government agencies. All these motions, suggestions, and proposals will influence decisions that will affect the daily lives of Chinese citizens.

The anti-corruption drive is another important topic that always attracts a global audience. The Supervision Law and an amendment to the Constitution adopted by the first session of the 13th National People's Congress in March last year laid a solid legal foundation for an upgraded anti-graft task force, with the National Supervisory Commission and its local branches set up across the country in the past year. Establishment of supervisory commissions at all levels is considered a major political reform. They are at the same level as the government, court, and procuratorate.

At international forums, Chinese leaders have repeatedly said China will strengthen cooperation on law enforcement with other countries to combat cross-border corruption and dissuade other jurisdictions from offering a "safe harbor" to fugitives.

The National Supervisory Commission says anti-graft officers will focus on investigating corruption that harms people's vital interests in education, medical care, ecological protection, and food and drug safety. They will also investigate corrupt behaviors at the grassroots level, uprooting the "protective umbrellas" that facilitate and cover up the activities of organized criminal gangs and other "evil forces."

The writer is a senior journalist and president of the Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR)

Published in Daily Times, March 15th 2019.

Daily Times, 15-03-19

China is overtaking US in artificial intelligence: researchers

China is poised to overtake the United States in artificial intelligence with a surge in academic research on the key technology, an analysis published Wednesday showed.

The analysis by the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence showed China has already surpassed the US in published papers on AI.

But the researchers said China is likely to top the US in the most-cited 50 percent of papers this year, the most-cited 10 percent of papers next year, and in the top one percent by 2025.

The findings highlight concerns in Washington and Silicon Valley that China is racing ahead of the US in key areas of technology such as autonomous vehicles, virtual reality and fifth-generation wireless networks.

Allen Institute researchers Field Cady and Oren Etzioni said the surge in AI investment in China began more than a decade ago, well before the 2017 announcement by Beijing that it planned to become the world leader in the sector by 2030.

“By most measures, China is overtaking the US not just in papers submitted and published, but also in the production of high-impact papers,” the researchers said in a blog post.

They added that new US measures that tighten immigration could make it harder for the US to keep up.

“Recent US actions that place obstacles to recruiting and retaining foreign students and scholars are likely to exacerbate the trend towards Chinese supremacy in AI research,” they wrote.

US think tanks and researchers have recently called on Washington to develop a national AI strategy to encourage more work in the private and public sectors on the technology.

Last month, President Donald Trump signed an American AI Initiative executive order calling for the administration to “devote the full resources of the federal government” to help fuel AI innovation, although analysts said it fell short of a comprehensive strategy.

Published in Daily Times, March 15th 2019.

Dawn News, 01-03-19

US wins dispute over China grain subsidies before WTO

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization on Thursday sided with Washington in a dispute it filed three years ago over `unfair` Chinese subsidies to producers of wheat and rice. Back in 2016, the United States alleged that China doled out \$100 billion in `market price support` for wheat and rice as well as corn production, above levels agreed at the Geneva-based

WTO.

A panel established by the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body to rule on the matter found on Thursday that the grain subsidies provided by Beijing exceeded the accepted level, and that China had 'acted inconsistently with its obligations' under international trade rules.

The experts said they had found that each year from 2012 to 2015, China's market price support for wheat, Indica rice and Japonica rice 'exceeded its 8.5 per cent de minimis level of support for each of these products.

The WTO panel said it had not considered whether China had also exceeded the acceptable subsidies for corn producers, since it found China had removed the challenged subsidy before the US launched its complaint.

Both sides have up to 60 days to appeal Thursday's ruling.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue hailed the ruling in a statement as a 'significant victory for US agriculture that will help American farmers compete on a more level playing field'. -AFP

Dawn News, 02-03-19

China says it doesn't recognize Pakistan, India as nuclear powers

NEW DELHI: As India and Pakistan remain entangled in their gate-crashed nuclear power status, China reminded the world again on Friday that they were not legitimate members of the exclusive club, and it did not recognize them as such.

The comments came in Beijing through the foreign ministry spokesperson who was saying that China had no intention to recognize North Korea as a nuclear power.

'China has never recognized India and Pakistan as nuclear countries. Our position on this has never changed,' Chinese spokesman Lu Kang told a media briefing in Beijing, Press Trust of India said.

The United States has helped India in acquiring a degree of legitimacy as a nuclear power, but the Chinese objection has stalled any outright legitimacy.

Saying China never recognized India and Pakistan as nuclear powers, he ruled out extending such a status to North Korea following the unsuccessful second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Vietnam.

He was replying to a question whether China would recognize North Korea as a nuclear state like India and Pakistan as talks between Trump and Kim at the second summit in Hanoi broke down over Pyongyang's refusal to give up two nuclear processing plants.

China's comments on the nuclear status of South Asia rivals come in the wake of global fears of a war breaking out between the two countries.

Pakistan on Friday returned to Indian Air Force pilot who was arrested after his plane was shot down over Pakistan on Wednesday.

China has been blocking India's entry into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) on the ground that New Delhi has not signed the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty (NPT).

India has said it has dropped bombs on 'terror camps' inside Pakistani territory and killed a 'very large number of terrorists'. But, Pakistan says that's not the case.

After India applied for NSG membership, Pakistan too applied for the same following that China has called for a two-step approach which states that NSG members first need to arrive at a set of principles for the admission of non-NPT states into the NSG and then move forward discussions of specific cases.

Dawn News, 02-03-19

Fraud case against Chinese businessman

FAISALABAD: The Madina Town police have registered a cheque dishonor case against a Chinese businessman on charges of depriving a furnace oil trader of Rs8 million about one year ago.

An additional district and session's judge had ordered police on Oct 22 last to book Chinese national Li Yimin but police did not comply with the order for about four months. The accused had already been booked in another forgery case with the Gulshan-i-Iqbal police, Lahore. The accused had purchased 163 tons of furnace oil amounting to Rs8 million from Faisalabad trader Touseef Bari and issued him a cheque (12480965) on Aug 20, 2017. The cheque was deposited with a private bank in Madina Town on Aug 21 and it was dishonored. The accused had sought time till March 5, 2018 for the payment, however, he did not honor his word, the applicant said. The Madina Town police did not register any case against the accused when an application had been submitted on Sept 15 last.

Owing to the lethargic approach of police, he said a petition had been submitted in court for registration of a case. He said the judge ordered police to register a case.

In the decision of the petition, the judge mentioned that `the petitioner annexed photocopies of cheque and cheque return memo and produced original at the time of arguments which were returned to him after comparison with the photocopies.

`Apparently, as per annexed cheque, it belongs to account of proposed accused which was subsequently dishonored by the concerned bank on presentation thereof. Admittedly document of cheque is negotiable instrument as per law which carries presumption of correctness in favor of its bearer.

Police finally registered a case under section 489-F of PPC on Wednesday last.

Dawn News, 04-03-19

China`s fledgling junk bond market spawns new breed of vulture funds

WHEN the Shanghai-traded bonds of conglomerate China Minsheng Investment Group plunged 40 per cent over two days in January after news it had missed a repayment, Beijing-based hedge fund manager Jash Zhang smelled blood.

As the private investors in the bond rushed to sell, Zhang snapped up CMIG`s dumped bonds at about 50 yuan (\$7.48) apiece, or half their face value, betting that the 300-billion-yuan company would eventually repay the debt.

The strategy, she said, is simply to pounce when faint-hearted investors are wavering.

`When bad news breaks about an issuer, some funds will scramble to sell the bonds,` said Liu Xiaofang, head of investment research at Shanghai Fengshi Asset Management Ltd, which launched its first vulture fund in September. But the bonds` underlying problem might be `not that big,` creating opportunities.

Zhang and Liu are among a new flock of vulture investors that have emerged in China`s corporate bond market in the last year, seeking to profit from steep selloffs.

The risky but potentially lucrative business of trading in bonds on the verge of default is in its infancy in China, almost as new as the phenomenon of corporate defaults in the state-run economy.

A regulatory source said only a handful of other hedge funds have entered the trade, including Lanjing Investment, Colight Asset Management, Jing Tang Investment and Yongle Fund Management.

The source declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

By some estimates, the market in such distressed bonds is worth just 10 billion yuan(\$1.5bn), a tiny fraction of the \$472bn corporate bond market.

But analysts expect it to grow rapidly as the country's default wave, driven by funding squeezes in the private sector, claims more victims.

'Fallen angels' The strategy of trading in distressed bonds is more commonplace in mature markets, with recognizable names such as Elliot Management and Aurelius Capital known for their aggressive recovery tactics.

The emergence of vultures in China, spurred by a record number of delinquencies in 2018, could help improve liquidity in a corporate bond market that has traditionally been dominated by low-risk investors such as mutual funds, brokers and insurers.

In all, 45 companies in sectors ranging from real estate to industrials and mining defaulted on 117 bonds with a total principal amount of 110.5bn yuan in 2018, according to ratings agency Fitch.

That is more than all the previous years' sums combined. China's first bond default occurred in 2014.

'The (Chinese) government did not really allow defaults to happen until about four years ago,' said Ben Zhu, a Hong Kong-based distressed debt investor. 'As defaults spread, the bad apples get picked out. These companies will lose access to financing, and that's a good thing.' For Liu of Fengshi Asset Management, the game of hunting for 'fallen angels' has been highly profitable.

Last November, when Kangmei Pharmaceutical Co's debt instruments dived on a wave of negative reports suggesting reckless fundraising and insider trading by the firm, Liu bought for 70 cents on the dollar one of its bonds that would mature soon.

'The market consensus was that this company was cooking books. But we didn't think the problem was big enough to lead to an imminent default,' Liu said.

Kangmei paid investors in full the next month.

'On an annualized basis, it's a return of several hundred percent. On an absolute basis, it was a gain of around 40pc.

And we bet heavily,' he said.

More audacious investors like to buy bonds that have failed to repay investors on time.

'There's too much panic around defaults,' said Zhou Li, president of Rationalstone Investment. 'Whenever a company defaults, people would assume the (bond) value would be wiped out to

naught. But that's not the case.' He added that not all technical defaults -such as a delay in payment -would lead to genuine defaults. And some or all of the money can be recovered, he said, making bargain hunting profitable.

'Luck required' Distressed asset specialists previously active only in lending markets are now venturing into troubled bonds. Guoho AMC, a bad-loan company in eastern Anhui province, is one example.

'We see mutual funds dumping them in the market. They have to. For them, it's toxic,' said Liu Zhenhua, Guoho's Shanghai general manager. 'But as a bad-loan company, we're good at assessing its value. You need an eye to spot gold in a junk market.' Sceptics say this money-making model will falter in China.

Desmond Kuang, portfolio manager at Income Partners Asset Management in Hong Kong, said the typical strategy would be to buy into cheap bonds after thorough research and with some conviction that the investment can be recovered. That may not work in China, he said, where there is a lack of transparency in company disclosures.

'There will be a lot of luck required onshore,' he said.

Fengshi Asset Management's Liu said the risks could be big, and such a strategy would typically require clients with strong nerves to commit their funds for three to five years. 'It's a gamble. And you're betting against professional institutions, not layman retail investors,' Liu said. 'This game is very demanding in your ability to identify and assess risks.'

-Reuters

Dawn News, 05-03-19

China accuses detained Canadians of stealing state secrets

TORONTO: China accused two detained Canadians on Monday of acting together to steal state secrets; just days after Canada announced it will proceed with a US extradition request for a senior Chinese tech executive.

China arrested the two Canadians on Dec 10 in what was widely seen as an attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies, who was arrested in Vancouver on Dec 1 at the request of US authorities. Meng's arrest set off a diplomatic furor and has severely strained Canadian relations with China. The US is seeking the extradition of Meng, who is also the daughter of Huawei's founder, to face charges she misled banks about the company's business with Iran. China's official Xinhua News Agency cited unidentified Chinese authorities as saying former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig violated Chinese laws by acting as a spy and stealing state

secrets and intelligence with the help of Canadian businessman Michael Spavor. It was the first time the two men's cases have been linked. It said Kovrig often entered China using an ordinary passport and business visas, and acquired information from Spavor, his 'main contact'. 'Authorities stressed that China is a country ruled by law and will firmly crack down on criminal acts that severely undermine national security,' Xinhua said.

No other details were given and Xinhua said further judicial proceedings would 'take place based on the case's progress'.

'We are obviously very concerned by this position that China has taken, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. 'It is unfortunate that China continues to move forward on these arbitrary detentions.

Kovrig is a former diplomat who was working as an expert on Asia for the International Crisis Group think tank.

Spavor is an entrepreneur known for contacts with high-ranking North Korean officials, including leader Kim Jong-un.

Canada said on Friday that it will allow court hearings for the US extradition request for Meng to proceed.

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said the new allegations against Kovrig and Spavor are a response to that action.

'Every step in the process will be matched by a step by China. The desire is to raise the raise the pressure to extent that we simply give in,' Mulroney said.

Meng is due in court on Wednesday to set a date for the extradition proceedings to start. It could be several months or even years before her case is resolved.

Guy Saint-Jacques, also a former Canadian ambassador to China, said Beijing is clearly putting additional pressure on Canada.

'It's a predicable escalation in the crisis,' he said. 'They are probably hoping it will convince the prime minister to free Meng.

Lawyers for Meng, who is staying at a property she owns in Vancouver after her release on bail, said on Sunday she is suing the Canadian government, its border agency and the national police force, alleging she was detained, searched and interrogated before she was told she was under arrest.-AP

Dawn News, 06-03-19

KFC dedicates China restaurant to memory of Communist hero

BEIJING: Fast-food chain KFC is memorializing a popular Chinese Communist hero with restaurant decor extolling his deeds, in a rare matching of an iconic American brand with Communist propaganda.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the company launched its first 'Lei Feng Spirit' restaurant in Lei's home province of Hunan on Sunday, ahead of Tuesday's official remembrance day for the soldier who died in 1962 at the age of 21.

Lei's example of selfless service to the Communist Party and his comrades was popularized in 1963 by former leader Mao Zedong and remains a rallying point for party unity and public service. Critics question the facts surrounding his alleged good deeds, saying most were based on accounts in a diary reportedly found after his death.

The KFC restaurant in the provincial capital of Changsha is decorated with Lei's writings and image. The company did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

'Lei Feng has been the role model for generations of Chinese. As the KFC (outlet) in his hometown, we will spare no effort to promote his spirit,' He Min, general manager for KFC's Hunan region, was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

In addition to opening the themed restaurant, KFC plans to 'promote the Lei Feng spirit in its over 250 outlets in the province and encourage its staff to learn from the role model,' Xinhua said.

Lei Feng day is marked annually by acts of public service such as clearing garbage and visiting the elderly. Communist leaders revived his memory more than a decade ago to stir support for the party among the younger generation born after the abandonment of orthodox Marxism in the 1980s and the crushing of pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.-AP

Dawn News, 06-03-19

China raises defense spending by 7.5 percent

BEIJING: China announced on Tuesday a 7.5 per cent increase in military spending in 2019, lower than last year as the country faces an economic slowdown, but still likely to make Asian neighbors nervous.

It is working to provide the two million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA) with state-of-the-art hardware, spending heavily on stealth warplanes, aircraft carriers and other weaponry. Beijing has also stepped up its rhetoric against any independence movements in self-ruled

Taiwan and continues to assert its vast territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea and East China Sea.

The government will spend 1.19 trillion yuan (\$177.6 billion) on defense in 2019, after it increased its outlay by 8.1pc to 1.11 trillion yuan in 2018, according to a government report presented at the start of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC). Boasting the world's largest army, China's military spending is second only to the United States, which budgeted \$716 billion for defense in 2019. Beijing has not posted double-digit spending increases since 2015.

The Communist-led government will make 'further efforts to ensure the political loyalty of the armed forces,' Premier Li Keqiang said in a speech to the nearly 3,000 members of parliament, stressing the 'absolute party leadership' over the military.

Li said the government will 'strengthen military training under combat conditions, and firmly protect China's sovereignty, security, and development interests.' The lower spending increase comes as the country's economy is slowing, with the government setting a lower growth target of 6.06.5pc.

'China's military expenditure is coordinated with annual Chinese GDP growth, said James Char, a military expert at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

'China has other national priorities and an over-militarized national economy can deprive the government of much-needed resources, as what had happened to the former USSR,' Char said. Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has vowed to turn the PLA into a 'world class' military by mid-century, has repeatedly called on the army to be combat-ready.

'In Taiwan, you can legitimately worry about the Chinese budget increases, because they coincide with a more aggressive posture towards Taipei,' said Barthelemy Courmont, Asia researcher at the Institute for Strategic and Foreign Relations in Paris.

China also faces competing claims in the South China Sea from Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Beijing also has territorial dispute with historic rival Japan in the East China Sea.

But NPC spokesman Zhang Yesui said China's military spending 'doesn't pose a threat to other countries' and is aimed at maintaining sovereignty and security.

The Communist Party has focused on catching up with technology used by armed forces in the United States and Western Europe.

Premier Li said China will `speed up efforts to make innovations in defense-related science and technology.` China has built a second aircraft carrier its first domestically manufactured one and has put it through sea trials in recent months as it prepares to put it into operation.

Beijing is also building new generation destroyer vessels, higher jets and ballistic missiles, while research is ongoing for the development of electromagnetic railguns and anti-satellite lasers.

Authorities, experts and state media say the PLA needs to improve the pay and living conditions of its troops.

Efforts to professionalize the army and make it ready for warfare require more military exercises, which mean more spending on munitions and fuel.

While Beijing`s military spending lags behind the US, it still far surpasses that of other nations in 2018, China spent more than twice as much as the third biggest spender, Saudi Arabia (\$82.9 billion), and even more than Russia (\$63.1 billion) and India (\$57.9 billion), according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).-AFP

Dawn News, 06-03-19

Chinese envoy hopes situation improves between Pakistan, India

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing on Tuesday expressed the hope that the situation between India and Pakistan would not escalate further and instead move towards peace and stability.

Ambassador Yao said during a meeting with Minister for InterProvincial Coordination (IPC) Dr Fehmida Mirza that China was hopeful that the situation between India and Pakistan would move towards peace, according to a statement issued by the IPC ministry.

It said Dr Mirza appreciated the ambassador`s principled stance on the recent escalation between the two nuclear powers.

The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the minister`s forth-coming visit to China regarding the Pak-China Year of Friendship Sister Cities 2019.

Ambassador Yao highlighted the importance of the minister`s visit and said 2019 has been declared the Year of Local Friendship. The minister`s visit will mark the formal beginning of cooperation and relations at the provincial and local government level.

He said provincial and local government from either side is coming together for the first time under the IPC umbrella.

DrMirza said initiatives taken at the local government level in both countries would be very helpful in establishing people to people contact in real terms.

She noted that despite many memorandums of understanding being signed in the past, very little has been tangibly achieved so far. She said the government was focused on results-oriented ideas and it is important that local governments are engaged in practical and doable projects.

According to the statement, both sides agreed to develop a channel of communication and exchange the list of areas of interest for further cooperation, along with project details including timeframe and budget through the Ministry of IPC.

Once these linkages are established, provincial and local governments will be dealing directly according to their own peculiarity and requirements.

The ambassador noted sports as an important aspect of youth development and also gave a commitment to facilitating technical assessments to upgrade the Pakistan Sports Board.

Dawn News, 06-03-19

NAB chief transfer's Chinese firm case to Rawalpindi

MULTAN: National Accountability Bureau Chairman Retired Justice Javed Iqbal has transferred the investigations in connection with tracking/trailing of financial transactions into accounts of Chinese firm M/s Yabaite Technology Company Limited from Multan to Rawalpindi, Dawn has learnt.

Sources said a decision to the effect was made after the NAB chairman expressed his displeasure over the way the investigations into the Multan Metro Bus corruption case were going on. NAB Rawalpindi Deputy Director Mubashir Kareem has been made investigation officer, who, during his visit to Multan a couple of months back, collected the record from the officials of Multan Development Authority and NAB investigation officer in Multan.

An inquiry into the Multan Metro Bus Project was authorized on Sept 11, 2017 which was converted into investigations on June 8, 2018 and officials of Multan Development Authority, Punjab Mass Transit Authority, consultant and contractors of the project were declared accused of committing embezzlement of funds.

Muhammad Ilyas Qamar was the case officer (CO) while Deputy Director Muhammad Shahid was the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

The first investigation [into the case covered three major aspects including tracking/trailing of financial transactions into accounts of Yabaite Technology Company Limited, approvals of the project and evaluation of feasibility study and evaluation of tendering process, award of

contracts, execution of works, procurement and payments made to contractors, sub-contractors, vendors and others.

In October last, a NAB team consisting of Director General NAB Rawalpindi Irfan Naeem Mangi and IO Shahid went to China in order to interrogate president/director Yabaite Technology Company Limited in connection with tracking of financial transactions into accounts of his company.

In the first investigation, the IO stated that the China Security Regulatory Commission (CSRC) informed Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan that Yabaite China claimed that it remained involved in Multan Metro Bus Project through M/s Habib Rafiq Limited wherein it provided deliverables through Capital Engineering and Construction Company (CECC).

Yabaite further claimed that CECC paid it \$19.58 million whereas \$17.08m were paid through 16 third-party companies from Hong Kong, USA, Malaysia and other regions including Middle East countries.

The [NAB] IO collected record from SECP, Federal Investigation Agency, Punjab police, MDA and quizzed all concerned officials including senators while the NAB investigation team also interrogated two persons namely Shaikh Ijaz Asghar and Salman Iqbal in judicial custody who were imprisoned in Central Jail, Lahore, and arrested by the Punjab police in another case.

The team also through SBP scrutinized the bank accounts of 16 companies to verify the transactions besides requesting the NAB headquarters to obtain record pertaining to investigation conducted by the CSRC against Yabaite China while it has also examined the accounts holders who deposited various amounts with the accounts of two companies AG International and Horizon International.

According to initial report, Mr Asghar had been working with different Chinese companies since 2001 and could speak and understand Chinese language comfortably. In 2014-15, he was working with M/s Yabaite China and was being paid \$5000 per month by the company and his assignments were to arrange meetings with Pakistani businessmen and dignitaries.

It stated that President/Director of Yabaite China Yang Lu visited Pakistan in 2015 and tasked Mr Asghar with obtaining some letters of appreciation regarding work done by the Yabaite China in the Multan bus project.

It stated that meanwhile Salman Iqbal, who used to introduce himself as worker of PML-N also, joined Asghar and they both facilitated Yang Lu in preparing three forged letters which were used by Yang Lu in order to justify his suspected income declared in China.

It said that both Asghar and Iqbal were promised a partnership by Yang Lu in a company to be registered in Pakistan and initially documents were submitted to the SECP for the registration of a company in the name of Capital Engineering and Construction Company; however due to non-availability of name with SECP for registration Yabaite Construction Company Pakistan was registered in October 2016 with 70 per cent share of Yang Lu and 30pc of Asghar.

However, the record of the company collected from SECP revealed that no business work was carried out by the Yabaite Construction Company Pakistan.

The report stated that none of the three companies Yabaite China, Capital Engineering and Construction Company and Yabaite Construction Company Pakistan-executed any kind of work being contractor or sub-contractor while CSRC also forwarded name of 16 companies located in Middle East from where supposedly funds were transferred.

‘As per record collected, it has been found that these 16 companies have no link with the contractor companies who were awarded contract of Multan Metro Bus Project and no remittance was made from the contractor companies to said companies; however it has been revealed that only two companies AG International and Horizontal International remitted amount to one company M/s London Silk Trading Company which has no link to Multan Metro Bus Project,’ it stated.

NAB spokesman Nawazish Ali Asim confirmed that the investigation has been shifted to Rawalpindi.

Dawn News, 07-03-19

Two Chinese groups to invest \$2bn in housing sector

ISLAMABAD: Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group (XCMG) and HSS Group of China on Wednesday expressed their commitment to invest \$2 billion in Pakistan’s housing and manufacturing sectors.

The announcement was made during a meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and General Manager XCMG Dr Hanson Liu and Chairman HSS Group Syed Saman Hashmi, who called on the prime minister here at PM Office.

XCMG is the leading total solution provider for global construction industry equipment and machinery and intends to set up heavy equipment manufacturing assembly line in Pakistan.

The prime minister welcomed the HSS and XCMG’s commitment and interest in Pakistan’s housing and manufacturing sector.

He highlighted the steps taken by the government to provide maximum facilitation to the investors, reducing cost of doing business and improving ease of doing business.

The prime minister said that providing conducive and business friendly environment to investors was top priority of the government. He also informed the meeting of the government's plan to build five million housing units across the country terming it the flagship program, which he added, would open up new opportunities for the allied industries and the youth of country. Special Assistant to PM Zulfiqar Bukhari was also present in the meeting.

Dawn News, 07-03-19

Why a meaningful US-China trade deal could be hard to reach

WASHINGTON: Under President Donald Trump, America's trade deficit with China has so far worsened to a record high. That gap represents an unfulfilled Trump pledge just as talks between the world's two largest economies may be nearing a potential deal to suspend their trade war.

Despite signals from Chinese and US officials that some truce could soon be at hand, there are few signs of any truly transformed trade relationship. Beijing's longstanding policy of subsidizing its own businesses and charges that it illicitly obtains US technology remain key obstacles.

In 2018, America's trade deficit in goods with China the gap between the value of US goods that China buys and the higher value of what it sells to the US swelled to a record \$419.2 billion, according to a Commerce Department report Wednesday.

A senior Trump administration official asserted that progress had been made during trade talks over the past two weeks, only to acknowledge that the eventual outcome remains a mystery and that China faced no timetable for responding to the US priorities. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations.

US and Chinese officials have hinted that some kind of agreement could be finalized by the end of March, with Trump and President Xi Jinping possibly meeting to formalize the deal at Trump's private club in Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

For its part, Beijing is publicly expressing its intent to crack down on policies that have long enabled Chinese companies and local government officials to force American and other foreign businesses to share their technology as the price of admission to the vast Chinese market. But such public pledges represent far less than the enforceable commitments to reform such policies that US negotiators are seeking.

Last year, Trump imposed a series of tariffs on Chinese goods in hopes of pressuring Beijing to support more favorable terms for the United States. In June, the White House levied import taxes of 25 per cent on \$50bn of Chinese imports.

It followed in September with 10pc duties on an additional \$200bn. All told, the US tariffs covered roughly half of what the US buys from China.

But the blowback (from the Trump tariffs and China's retaliatory import taxes on US goods) has been steady, at home and abroad. Many businesses are now paying higher costs to import electrical components and other goods from China that aren't made in the United States. The duties cost consumers \$1.4bn a month and businesses \$3bn a month by the end of last year, according to research released last week by Mary Amiti, an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and economists from Princeton and Columbia universities.

And a survey led by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta found that the tariffs had caused US companies to cut their spending on large equipment by 1.2pc, or \$32.5bn, last year.

Both figures are relatively modest, given that the US economy produces \$20 trillion of goods and services a year. But there are also secondary effects. The stock market plummeted 19pc last fall, partly on fears that the trade war would inflict severe damage.

Nor have the tariffs provided the negotiating leverage that Trump sought. Many of China's concessions appear designed to appease some US concerns, rather than establish guidelines for trade that each country would be bound to follow.

Beijing has offered to buy more American farm goods and energy a pitch that Xi made to Trump when they met during a December dinner at a global conference in Buenos Aires with the idea of narrowing the US trade gap with China.

China's ceremonial legislature was poised this week to back a law that would discourage officials in the country from pressuring US companies to hand over technology. It was a response to concerns about Chinese disrespect for intellectual property that Trump had raised when he first imposed import taxes on Chinese goods. -AP

Dawn News, 07-03-19

Chinese FDI in Europe drops on investment screening

BERLIN: Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in Europe fell 40 per cent in 2018, hitting its lowest level in four years, and stricter European Union rules are likely to curb Chinese M&A activity even further, a survey showed on Wednesday.

China has introduced capital controls and tightened investment rules for state firms in an effort to stop money moving out of the country and to stabilize its currency.

At the same time, policymakers in Europe have become increasingly concerned that state-backed companies in China are gaining too much access to key technologies and sensitive infrastructure while Beijing still shields its own economy.

A survey by Germany's Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) and the New York research firm Rhodium Group (RHG) showed that Chinese firms completed FDI transactions worth 17.3 billion euros in 2018.

This marked a drop of more than 50 per cent from the peak of 37bn euros in 2016, researchers said. 'This decline is very much in line with a further drop in China's global outbound FDI, a trend that can be attributed to continued capital controls and tightening of liquidity in China as well as growing regulatory scrutiny in host economies,' the researchers said in their study.

Europe's three biggest economies received the lion's share of Chinese FDI in 2018, with Britain coming first (4.2bn euros) followed by Germany (2.1bn euros) and France (1.6bn euros), the survey showed.

However, their share in total Chinese FDI slumped to 45pc in 2018 from 71pc in the previous year as smaller countries such as Sweden and Luxembourg received more money.

Chinese FDI declined in transport, utilities and infrastructure. The biggest increases were recorded in financial services, health and biotech, consumer products and services, and the automotive sector, it added.

Germany last year lowered the threshold for screening and even blocking purchases of stakes in German firms by non-Europeans, in a move to fend off unwanted Chinese investments in sensitive technologies and critical infrastructure.

Berlin is also mulling the creation of a state investment fund that could take stakes in key domestic companies to prevent foreign takeovers.

The European Union will start screening foreign direct investment into the 28-nation bloc from April to safeguard Europe's security, public order and strategic interests.

The screening aims to give EU countries a tool to intervene in cases of foreign direct investment in strategic assets, in particular if carried out by state-controlled or state-financed enterprises.-
Reuters

Dawn News, 07-03-19

China revokes Canadian canola permit as dispute escalates

BEIJING: China said on Wednesday that it is blocking some imports of the agricultural product canola from Canada because of fears of insect infestation.

The move, which comes amid heightened tensions over Canada's arrest of a Chinese tech executive, is seen by some as a new tactic to seek leverage over Ottawa.

China suspended canola imports from a Canadian company 'in accordance with laws and regulations and international practice' foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily news briefing.

He cited 'harmful organisms' that he did not identify further, and said China's government 'needs to protect the health and safety of its own people'.

'I can tell you responsibly that the Chinese government's decision is definitely well-founded,' Lu said.

'Upon verification, China customs has recently detected dangerous pests in canola imported from Canada many times.

One of Canada's largest grain processors, Richardson International Ltd., said on Tuesday that China had revoked its permit to export canola there.

Some saw that as retaliation for Canada's arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the CFO of Chinese tech giant Huawei.

Canada announced recently that it is going ahead with an extradition hearing for Meng, the daughter of Huawei's founder. Canada arrested her at the request of the US, where she is wanted on fraud charges for allegedly misleading banks about the company's dealings with Iran. Canadian Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said in a statement that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency conducted investigations after China issued notices of noncompliance on canola seed imports, including nine since January. She said the agency had not identified any pests or bacteria of concern.

China, whose rapid growth has made it an important market for many countries, has a history of using commercial retaliation against those at odds with Beijing.

The most recent high-profile target was South Korean retailer Lotte, which sold land to the Seoul government for a US anti-missile system opposed by Beijing.

Authorities closed most of the company's 99 supermarkets and other outlets often alleging safety violations and a theme park project.

China suspended a trade deal with Norway and restricted imports of Norwegian salmon after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Chinese political prisoner Liu Xiaobo in 2010. It stopped buying fruit from the Philippines during a dispute over territory in the South China Sea.

Britain and other countries also faced retaliation over meetings with Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, considered a dangerous separatist by Beijing.

China receives about 40 per cent of Canada's canola exports, and the revocation of Richardson's permit hurts the entire chain of industries involved in the market, the Canola Council of Canada has said.

Canola prices already have been hit by China's retaliatory tariffs on US agricultural exports. Further cutbacks on Chinese buying would deal a major blow to what is a lifeline for agriculture in western Canada.

'We are working very, very hard with the Chinese government on this issue, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said on Tuesday.

China has warned of serious consequences if the Huawei executive is not released.

China arrested two Canadians on Dec 10 in what was widely seen as an attempt to pressure Canada.

After Meng's arrest, a Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier.-AP

Dawn News, 08-03-19

Chinese varsity sets up facility at KMU

PESHAWAR: The Nanjing Medical University (NMU), China, has established a collaboration center for global health at the Khyber Medical University, Peshawar, in order to help resolve major scientific issues in the field of global health and jointly cultivate innovative talents with an international perspective.

According to a statement, the center was inaugurated in the light of a MoU signed by KMU vice-chancellor Prof Dr Arshad Javaid and dean school of public health, NMU, Prof Dr Jianming Wang. Besides others, provincial health minister Hisham Inamullah was also present on this occasion.

It was stated that both the parties would carry out regular academic exchange activities, including holding workshops and seminars.

They will cooperate to apply for grants, implement researches and jointly publish scientific papers.

Besides student exchange programme, the KMU and NMU will select excellent faculties and provide them shortterm training or continuing education opportunities at each other's schools. Bureau Report

Dawn News, 08-03-19

China commits \$1bn for 20 social sector projects

ISLAMABAD: A 13-member expert group from China has shortlisted around 20 projects for implementation within a year in all the four provinces and special areas Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan to be funded with Chinese grant under socioeconomic cooperation.

The Chinese government has agreed to provide up to \$1 billion grant for socioeconomic development and poverty reduction projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the request of Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf government.

The socioeconomic development and poverty reduction initiatives were earlier part of the CPEC long-term plan.

The expert group, led by Du Zhenli, has been in Pakistan since Feb 26 to explore possible areas of grant assistance and held a wrap-up session at the Planning Commission on Thursday. The two sides agreed to select 20-23 projects in the first phase which could be implemented in the first year.

For this, the two sides decided to priorities interventions where infrastructure was already in place, a senior official told Dawn.

Therefore, it was agreed to have six burn centers across the country in four provinces and two special areas where space and infrastructure could be made available at the existing hospital buildings so that Chinese grant could be utilized to install equipment and modern ventilators etc. The project is easy to execute and can be completed within few months since the infrastructure is already available in the hospitals.

Responding to a question, the official said the burn centers already exist in major hospitals of Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar and hence it was decided to have one in Hyderabad or Sukkur in Sindh, Bawalpur in Punjab and Dera Ismail Khan or Swat in KP. The center for Balochistan will be developed in Quetta as patients with burn injuries were currently being transported to Karachi.

Besides health sector, other projects for grant assistance were shortlisted in areas of water supply, education and fisheries and agriculture. The four provinces and AJK and GB had come up with more than 100 projects in various sectors but the two sides decided to focus on around two dozen with shortest possible gestation.

The expert group visited various parts of Punjab and KP and held meetings with other provincial governments in Islamabad as their field visits to Sindh and Balochistan had to be cancelled owing to the closure of airspace. The Chinese side would submit their input on project concepts and estimated costs on their return to Beijing before finalizing formal agreements for implementation, a senior official said.

According to the officials, projects proposed by the provinces and AJK included those in agriculture, fisheries, health, solarisation of water supply schemes, telemedicine, smart schools etc. However, the shortlisted projects were mostly smaller in size involving \$3-10 million because the Chinese wanted to move to the next phase on the basis of success of the first phase.

The Chinese expert group discussed the implementation of the newly introduced socioeconomic sector under CPEC in detail, the sources said, adding the two sides' finalization of action plan to help launch pilot projects in the selective districts of the country. China has agreed to extend Pakistan a grant for socioeconomic development through China International Development Cooperation Agency.

During the 8th Joint Coordination Committee meeting of CPEC held in Beijing during last December, a joint working group (JWG) on socioeconomic development was established to devise an action plan. A memorandum of understanding in this regard as well as on poverty reduction was signed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China in November last year.

The JWG had identified six areas for future cooperation including education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, skill development, healthcare, water supply and vocational training projects. The action plan will provide guidelines in the development of these six areas. The initiative will be focused on less developed parts 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 recommendations of the provinces regarding the identifications of districts, areas of cooperation that were then shared with Chinese socioeconomic development expert team.

Dawn News, 09-03-19

China tightens rules on wealth management, boosting prospects for foreign banks

CHINA'S efforts to tighten oversight of its \$20 trillion-plus wealth management industry are spurring foreign banks to speed up plans to enter the local market or expand there, six people involved in the discussions said.

China's wealth-management industry is the fastest-growing in the world but has historically been linked to the sale of high-risk, illiquid products and lax regulatory oversight.

Recently, however, officials have begun forcing domestic banks to separate their wealthmanagement businesses, a move sources said was aimed at improving governance as part of Beijing's broader push to reduce debt and limit the sale of risky products.

This comes as Japan's Nomura is awaiting a license to launch a wealth business in China, while JPMorgan and Bank of Singapore, a unit of Asian lender Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp are among others considering entries, the people said.

At stake is access to a market where personal assets for investment raised from \$11tr in 2012 to \$22tr by 2017, according to consultancy Oliver Wyman. It expects that figure to reach \$37tr in the next five years. Of that, only five per cent, or \$1.1tr, was invested offshore in 2017, according to Oliver Wyman.

'China has long been considered the Wild West by the foreign private banks,' said an executive at a leading wealth manager in China, declining to be named as he was not authorized to speak to the media. 'With the market moving towards more regulated environment, onshore business is going to be the most important pie.

The private banking units of top Chinese commercial banks, including China Merchants Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of China, dominate the local market, according to Asian Private Banker.

Level playing field China's five major banks have so far gotten the regulatory nod to set up wealth management units, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) said last month.

The units must maintain separate books and accounts and 'perform the duties of entrusted wealth management honestly, diligently, and responsibly,' the regulator wrote in its December guidelines.

The rules are aimed at strengthening local wealth managers' risk-management practices, including those related to client background checks and the sale of investment products, which often imply a guaranteed return, industry sources said.

Francois Monnet, Credit Suisse private banking head in North Asia, said onshore investors' 'normalizing' expectations of returns had created a more level playing field for foreign banks.

Credit Suisse in 2016 hired a senior banker in China to prepare a road map for an onshore private banking business.

'We are at an early stage of strategic readiness in terms of developing what will make sense to increase that presence, and to be ready to deploy that aggressively,' Monnet said.

Credit Suisse will compete with Goldman Sachs and UBS on advising wealthy clients in China. China is a 'strategic priority' for UBS and billionaires are being created at a faster pace there than anywhere else in the world, said UBS Wealth Management's China business head Marina Lui.

Bank of Singapore plans to set up an office to promote its brand in China as a first step, Samuel Tsien, chief executive of parent company OCBC, said at an earnings briefing last month, adding that it was not looking to operate a 'full-blown' private banking business.

JPMorgan has started discussing how to setup an onshore private banking business in China, two people with knowledge of the matter said. A JPMorgan spokeswoman declined to comment.

Nomura, which is said to be in line for regulatory approval this year for the securities joint venture that will allow it to offer wealth management services, also declined to comment.

Stricter standards In the mass affluent market clients with investable assets of between \$100,000 and \$1 million in China, foreign banks are gearing up to boost growth as a shadow banking crackdown brings such investors into the mainstream.

Citigroup expects its Chinawealth-management client base to grow faster in 2019 than last year, at more than 30pc, its country CEO Christine Lam said in January.

HSBC aims to grow its Asia revenues by at least \$1 billion by 2020 from retail and private banking wealth, asset management and insurance, with the China business set to be a big contributor, the bank said in a statement.

-Reuters

Dawn News, 10-03-19

Trump team has no plan to go to China for trade talks: official

WASHINGTON: Trump administration officials have not made any new plans to send a team to China for face-to-face trade talks although there is much work left to be done to reach a deal, White House trade adviser Clete Willems said.

‘We’re talking to them (Chinese officials) every day, but no one’s got any trip plans,’ Willems told reporters on the sidelines of a Georgetown Law School event on Friday. When asked about the prospect for future face-to-face meetings, he said: ‘Maybe. But there are no plans right now.’

The governments of the world’s two largest economies have been locked in a tit-for-tat tariff battle for months as Washington presses Beijing to address long-standing concerns over Chinese practices and policies around industrial subsidies, technology transfers, market access and intellectual property rights.

Advances in talks drove the White House to indefinitely delay hikes in tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports that were set to kick in on March 2.

Willems said the two countries had made progress in talks but that there was still much more to be done. He declined to say whether Trump would set a new tariff deadline should the talks stall. Members of Congress and the business community have expressed concerns that Trump is so eager for a deal ahead of presidential elections next year that he may accept an agreement that falls short of addressing key structural issues.

Willems pushed back against such concerns, saying the notion that Trump will settle for a ‘bad deal’ is ‘totally inaccurate.’

US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad told The Wall Street Journal on Friday that Washington and Beijing have yet to set a date for Trump to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping a sign that neither side sees a deal as imminent.

‘Both sides agree that there has to be significant progress, meaning a feeling that they’re very close before that happens, Branstad told the newspaper in Beijing. ‘We’re not there yet. But we’re closer than we’ve been for a very long time.’ One complicating factor has been Xi’s plans to visit Europe after a meeting of the National People’s Congress ends next week.

The Journal, citing people familiar with China’s thinking, also reported that after Trump’s failed meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month, Beijing officials won’t commit to a summit until they are sure of a deal.-Reuters

Dawn News, 10-03-19

Govt has diverted CPEC funds to other projects: Fazl

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman claimed on Saturday that the government had diverted Rs24 billion of the Rs27 billion CPEC funds to other development projects in the country and suspended the corridor project for one year.

Speaking at a press conference here, he also said that the government borrowings had reached Rs15 billion a day in order to run its day-to-day affairs.

The JUI-F chief said that the government was deceiving the people by saying that terrorism had been eliminated.

He said that the law and order situation had deteriorated to the point that innocent people were being killed in targeted shootings in the country.

He said that the National Accountability Bureau had degenerated into an institution of victimization of political opponents. He said that due to inefficiency of the present government all its institutions had started deteriorating. He said that the government's wrong policies and misplaced priorities had caused discontent in the bureaucracy.

He said that JUI-F workers had always offered sacrifices for defense of the country's ideological and geographical frontiers. He alleged that the present government and its ministers were out to destroy the ideological identity of the country.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman claimed that the government's ministers were spoiling unity among the people in the face of aggressive designs of India by issuing irresponsible statements.

He said that the entire nation stood by the country's armed forces and would foil the designs of anti-Pakistan forces.

JUI-F parliamentary party leader in the KP Assembly, Maulana Lutfur Rehman, was also present on the occasion. Correspondent

Dawn News, 11-03-19

China tightens rules on wealth management, boosting prospects for foreign banks

CHINA'S efforts to tighten oversight of its \$20 trillion-plus wealth management industry are spurring foreign banks to speed up plans to enter the local market or expand there, six people involved in the discussions said.

China's wealth-management industry is the fastest-growing in the world but has historically been linked to the sale of high-risk, illiquid products and lax regulatory oversight.

Recently, however, officials have begun forcing domestic banks to separate their wealthmanagement businesses, a move sources said was aimed at improving governance as part of Beijing's broader push to reduce debt and limit the sale of risky products.

This comes as Japan's Nomura is awaiting a license to launch a wealth business in China, while JPMorgan and Bank of Singapore, a unit of Asian lender Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp are among others considering entries, the people said.

At stake is access to a market where personal assets for investment rose from \$11tr in 2012 to \$22tr by 2017, according to consultancy Oliver Wyman. It expects that figure to reach \$37tr in the next five years. Of that, only five per cent, or \$1.1tr, was invested offshore in 2017, according to Oliver Wyman.

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-Reuters

Dawn News, 12-03-19

PM approves CPEC-style security force, incentives to spur investment in petroleum exploration

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday gave a go-ahead for the creation of a dedicated security force for petroleum exploration on the pattern of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) security arrangement in order to offer lucrative incentives for enhanced production of domestic oil and gas resources.

While presiding over a meeting of the energy sector, the prime minister also approved a proposal of the Petroleum Division to shift the existing exploration and development policy from `approval regime` to `information regime` providing greater freedom to oil and gas companies in operations beyond discovery stage.

On top of that, the premier also agreed to allow mid-tier exploration and production firms to enter exploration sector besides reducing timelines and stages for processing and approvals for all investors to push for aggressive search and development of local hydrocarbon reserves.

This was part of a proposed new petroleum exploration and production policy under which the prime minister was informed that the costs of imported oil, gas and LNG were 'prohibitively expensive and unsustainable' and the recent gas price shock that created a public outcry was just the beginning of tough times coming. Only LNG imports for the current year are estimated to consume \$3-4 billion compared to significantly high domestic cost of gas production, besides oil imports of about \$13-14bn.

A statement said the meeting decided to set up a special force to provide foolproof security to exploration companies in view of prevailing security environment in the country so as to comfort local and foreign investors. An official said the prime minister desired further finetuning of the revised policy before it could be formally launched with the approval of the Council of Common Interests in second or third quarter with aggressive marketing.

This would also mean more details on raising a special force of about 50,000 personnel to ensure unhindered exploration of oil and gas reserves in the country's troubled areas, particularly Balochistan, where highly prospective zones have remained inaccessible so far due to challenging security situation. Special incentives would be offered to operators of existing petroleum producing fields for enhanced production after a certain stage where companies do not find more investments conducive and give up more production say, after 60pc production of the total reserves, leaving 40pc remaining resources unutilized.

The new policy, an official said, seeks to upgrade Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Policy, 2012 with the creation of an entirely new exploration zone for high-risk frontier regions with better returns to tap prospects of more hydrocarbon finds and production.

Under the existing policy, there are three zones for onshore, defined on the basis of risks and investment opportunities. Zone-I covers Western Balochistan, Pishin and Potohar, Zone-II comprises Kirthar, Eastern Balochistan, Punjab and Suleman basins while the Lower Indus Basin is described as Zone-III.

The wellhead prices to investors are offered at the rate of \$6 per mmBtu for Zone-III, \$6.3 for Zone-II and \$6.6 for Zone-I.

Now a new zone is being created to be called Zone-I (F), covering Khara and Pishin in Balochistan and some border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with its new tribal districts which are reported to have good potential of hydrocarbons estimated to be over 20 trillion cubic feet (TCF). The Petroleum Division has proposed on the request of exploration companies to

treat this new zone at par with offshore exploration by offering them \$7 per mmBtu wellhead price.

To encourage offshore exploration activities, they said, the government had exempted additional customs duty on import of offshore drilling equipment to tap unexplored hydrocarbon reserves in the country. In future, there will be clearance of vessels, drill ships and helicopters without any levy, duty or charges whatsoever including customs duty. This dispensation is extended to all companies and joint venture partners who are party to any Production Sharing Agreement with the government for offshore petroleum exploration and production activities.

The meeting was informed that some highly promising areas like Block-28, Zarghon and Kohlu remained under force majeure for decades but could change Pakistan's energy land-scape if provided full security. The matter had been discussed with the army's southern command, the Frontier Constabulary and the provincial government and now required formal processing through PM office.

It was agreed that after the initial confirmation of a discovery, the firms should not be made to wait like at present for the approval of well development plan and instead would be free to go ahead with field development and just keep filing updates to the government for monitoring and follow-up to reduce steps of interface and approvals involved and result in the bureaucratic red tape.

A databank of working and available rigs and other equipment required for petroleum exploration would be updated so as they could be quickly mobilized where needed the most once security clearance ensured. At present, the companies were bearing about Rs14bn expenditure on security which would be facilitated to be utilized for hiring more rigs and seismic and exploration equipment after the government takes over its responsibility of providing security through the proposed special force.

Dawn News, 12-03-19

China wants serious talks before UNSC body takes up JeM case

ISLAMABAD: Beijing on Monday emphasized 'responsible and serious discussions' as diplomacy picked pace ahead of the date for UN Security Council's sanctions committee to take up a fresh resolution for listing of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief MasoodAzhar.

'China will continue to communicate and work with relevant parties in a responsible manner so as to properly resolve this matter.

Only by making a decision through responsible and serious discussions can we resolve the issue in a sustainable manner,' Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in a media briefing in Beijing while responding to a query about China's position on the issue.

China has thrice in the past blocked on technical grounds bids for designation of Azhar as a terrorist by the UNSC. The United States, the United Kingdom and France have once again moved for Azhar's listing after Feb 14 Pulwama attack, which was claimed by JeM. The resolution moved on Feb 28 has to be taken up by the 1267 Sanctions Committee by March 13.

According to Mr Kang, Beijing sees recent escalation between India and Pakistan as 'not conducive to the peace and stability in South Asia' and it mediated to defuse the situation. 'In our exchanges of views on regional situation, the security issue features in our discussion with Indian and Pakistan. We have had extensive and in-depth talks with both sides,' he said in a reference to China discussing Azhar listing with both sides.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, meanwhile, spoke to US National Security Adviser Ambassador John Bolton over phone to share with him 'Pakistan's perspective on the recent regional developments', Pakistan's Foreign Office said.

Mr Qureshi's called the American NSA as Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale began a three-day trip to US for 'strategic and security' related discussions. Although, the Indo-US talks are taking place under a regular high level discussion on 'security and strategic issues', but it is expected that Azhar blacklisting and other issues related to recent tense events between India and Pakistan would be high on the agenda during those parleys.

Mr Bolton recalled his and Secretary Pompeo's efforts for de-escalation despite their commitments related to talks with DPRK in Hanoi. 'He appreciated Pakistan measures which had helped lowering the tension and urged continued restraint on both sides, the FO said, adding that the need for dialogue between Pakistan and India to find peaceful resolution to all outstanding disputes was also emphasized.

Dawn News, 13-03-19

Chinese company to build schools in Gwadar using prefab technology

QUETTA: The Balochistan government and Chinese company CMEC agreed to build new schools in Gwadar and Ziarat using prefabrication technology under a public-private partnership programme.

The agreement was reached on Tuesday between the provincial government and the Chinese company after a meeting between Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani and CMEC General Manager Li Kan.

During the meeting, the Chinese company's leader briefed Mr Alyani on his company's projects and said that his company had expertise in constructing homes and buildings through

prefabrication technology in a short period of time besides having experience in agriculture production through minimum use of water.

‘Because of shortage of water, Balochistan can shift its agriculture sector to modern technology and the CMEC is ready to help the Balochistan government in this sector under the private-public partnership programmer,’ the Chinese company’s GM said.

Later, Mr Alyani and Mr Li Kan agreed to use prefab technology initially for building new schools in Gwadar and Ziarat.

The chief minister said that the Balochistan government would provide land for cultivation of vegetables and cotton plants in Lasbela University.

The Chinese company’s general manager agreed to train students of the Lasbela University in modern agriculture techniques besides awarding them scholarships for higher studies in China.

Dawn News, 13-03-19

US, China within `weeks of trade accord

WASHINGTON: Washington’s top trade official on Tuesday said the United States and China were likely within `weeks` of ending their trade negotiations but a successful outcome was not assured.

‘Our hope is that we’re in the final weeks of an agreement but I’m not predicting one,’ US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in Senate testimony. ‘We can’t predict success at this point but we are working hard.’ Eight months into their sprawling trade war, US and Chinese officials have alternated between projecting optimism and warning that they have much to do before reaching a final outcome.

The two sides have exchanged tariffs on more than \$360 billion in twoway trade.-AFP

Dawn News, 13-03-19

West using Christianity to subvert Chinese state: official

BEIJING: A Chinese official accused ‘anti-China forces’ in the West of using Christianity to subvert the country’s political power and said worshippers must follow a Chinese form of religion.

China’s officially atheist government, which oversees religious groups through state-sponsored institutions, has tightened its grip on all faiths in recent years.

`Anti-China forces in the West are attempting to continue to influence the social stability of our country through Christianity, and even subvert the political power of our country,' Xu Xiaohong, chairman of the state-backed National Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee, which oversees the Protestant churches, said on Monday.

Speaking at the annual gathering of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a largely ceremonial advisory body, Xu described the introduction of Christianity in China as `accompanying the intense colonial aggression by the West`.

Only by incorporating Chinese culture into Christianity would the religion become something Chinese people could identify with, said Xu.

For those who `subvert national security in the name of Christianity, we support the country in bringing them to justice, he added.-AFP

Dawn News, 13-03-19

Xinjiang camps will gradually disappear, says China

BEIJING: A Chinese official on Tuesday rejected international criticism of internment camps in the restive Xinjiang region, calling them job training centers that would `gradually disappear` if `one day society no longer needs it`.

Nearly one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic minorities are being held in detention centers in Xinjiang, according to estimates cited by a UN panel.

A US official described the situation in Xinjiang as `horrific`. But Beijing has denied the accusations, saying people are attending `vocational education centers` to rid them of any extremist thoughts in a region that was hit by deadly riots and attacks in recent years.

`Our education and training centers have been set up according to our needs. The students that come in to learn, it's a dynamic number that changes, `Shohrat Zakir, the chairman of Xinjiang's government, told journalists on the sidelines of China's annual parliamentary meeting.

`As a whole, the number of people in the education centers should be less and less, and if one day society no longer needs it, these education centers can gradually disappear,` he said, without providing the number of people at the facilities.

In an 18-minute-long reply to a journalist's question, Zakir defended the centers, saying that they taught Xinjiang residents Chinese, helped them gain awareness of the law, improved vocational skills, and were vital in the region's fight against extremism.

`When (students) are able to distinguish between right and wrong and able to resist the infiltration of extreme thoughts... they have a strong desire to get rid of poverty and get rich, actively pursuing a better life,' he added.

Former inmates have reportedly said they found themselves incarcerated for transgressions such as wearing long beards and face veils or sharing Islamic holiday greetings on social media.

Critics allege that Uighurs in the camps are being brainwashed in a massive campaign to enforce conformity with Chinese society and the abandonment of Islam.

Zakir also hit out at `certain individuals`, whom he says `sensationalized` the number of people in these centers.

`It's not like that,` he said, calling on reporters to visit Xinjiang.

Xinjiang, which shares a border with several countries including Pakistan and Afghanistan, has long suffered from violent unrest, which China claims is orchestrated by an organized `terrorist` movement seeking the region`s independence.

It has reportedly implemented a massive, high-tech security crackdown, which it says has prevented any violent incidents in over two years.

But many Uighurs and Xinjiang experts say the violent episodes stem largely from spontaneous outbursts of anger at Chinese cultural and religious repression, and that Beijing plays up terrorism to justify tight control of the resource-rich region.

While it previously denied the existence of the camps, Beijing has moved towards acknowledging their existence but insists they are for `vocational education` and are vital in the fight against separatist sentiments and religious extremism.-AFP

Dawn News, 14-03-19

China thwarts move to declare JeM chief global terrorist

WASHINGTON: China blocked a move on Wednesday to turn India`s military embarrassment into a diplomatic advantage by declaring Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief MasudAzhar a UN-designated global terrorist.

The Al Qaeda sanctions committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) took up the proposed measure but China`s objection prevented India from taking advantage of the move.

The committee has the same 11 members as the UNSC, including the permanent five the US, Russia, China, Britain and France, which also have veto powers. If a UNSC member objects, the

move ends. If not, it is considered adopted, binding all UN members, including Pakistan, to take punitive actions against the targeted individual or outfit.

There is no formal voting and the members usually express their opinions by email, either endorsing or rejecting the move.

This year, Kuwait and Indonesia are also in the UNSC, which makes them members of this body as well, known as the Committee 1267, after a resolution that created it.

It was not yet clear whether they endorsed or rejected the move, but in the past Kuwait had endorsed the proposed designation.

The United States said earlier that it would continue to work with the sanctions committee to ensure that Masud Azhar was declared a global terrorist, even if he escaped the designation on Wednesday.

The United States, Britain and France jointly moved the measure in the sanctions committee on Feb 27 allowing India to turn the military embarrassment it faced after its disastrous violations of Pakistani airspace late last month, when the Pakistan Air Force brought down two Indian Air Force planes.

China hinted earlier on Wednesday that it might once again block the move as it had done on three previous occasions.

'We'll continue to work with the (UN) sanctions committee to ensure that the designation list is updated and accurate,' said the US State Department's spokesperson Robert Palladino when asked to react to an expected Chinese veto.

A Chinese official told journalists in Beijing that China would support a 'solution that is acceptable to all sides' and 'is conducive' to resolving the issue.

'I could reiterate that China will continue to adopt responsible attitude and participate in the deliberations in the UNSC 1267 Committee,' Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a media briefing.

At a similar briefing in Washington, Mr Palladino told journalists that the United States and India 'work closely together' on counterterrorism efforts, and that includes at the United Nations.

'Our views on Jaish-e-Mohammad and its founder are well known. JeM is an UN-designated terrorist group. Azhar is the founder and the leader of JeM, and he meets the criteria for designation by the United Nations,' he said.

The US official also said that JeM was responsible for numerous terrorist attacks and Washington considered it 'a threat to regional stability and peace'.

Addressing a question about China's voting pattern on this issue, MrPalladino said: 'The United States and China share a mutual interest in achieving regional stability and peace, and that a failure to designate Azhar would run counter to this goal.'

The US counter-terrorism cooperation with India was also highlighted in a joint statement issued in Washington after a Tuesday afternoon meeting between Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and his American counterpart Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale. 'Both sides called on Pakistan to meaningfully address the concerns of the international community on terrorism, including cross-border terrorism,' it said.

Dawn News, 14-03-19

S Punjab to get major share of uplift schemes under CPEC

LAHORE: Majority of the socioeconomic development projects to be implemented in Punjab with Chinese money under the multibillion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be carried out in South Punjab, a senior official told Dawn on Wednesday.

China has shown interest in financially supporting 16 projects related to education and vocational training, healthcare, poverty alleviation, agriculture and drinkable water supply sectors in Punjab as part of Beijing's commitment to include socio-economic development schemes valuing \$1 billion in the CPEC portfolio across Pakistan.

Although China is yet to finalize the list of projects it plans to support in Punjab and elsewhere in the country, the 16 schemes its experts have selected for implementation in the province include up gradation of the Mir Chakar Khan Rind University in DG Khan, a burn unit in Bahawalpur, an integrated development programme for the poor and vulnerable on the CPEC route, and innovative housing for the poorest in Lahore and Faisalabad. Besides, it will solarize tubewells and filtration plants, and support high-value agriculture along the CPEC's western route and Barani areas in the province.

'South Punjab will get almost half of the total funds that are to be spent (by China) on the socioeconomic projects in Punjab under the CPEC initiative,' Punjab's chief economist Dr M Aman Ullah told Dawn when reached for details.

He said the cost of the selected projects was yet to be worked out.

The exact size of the investment China will make in socio-economic schemes in the province will depend on the projects that Beijing will finalize to support towards the end of April. CPEC project director Hasan Daud Butt has already written the provinces to provide complete details of their proposed schemes including project scope, cost estimates, technical parameters, location, etc to Islamabad for sharing them with China for finalization of the list.

China had agreed to finance socio-economic development projects with a grant of \$1 billion as part of the CPEC investment portfolio during Prime Minister Imran Khan's trip to Beijing in November.

Priority is to be given to schemes to be executed in the lesser developed or backward areas of each province like South Punjab, newly merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and North Sindh.

The scope of cooperation under the socio-economic development grant will be for implementation of high-impact, short gestation and high-visibility projects covering major cooperation areas of agriculture, medical treatment, poverty alleviation, water supply, education and vocational training.

Dawn News, 14-03-19

Senate body to review CPEC projects tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: A Senate special committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will meet here on Friday (tomorrow) to review a number of projects. The committee will also get a briefing on investments being made by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Gwadar.

According to the agenda of the meeting, the special committee, headed by Senator Sherry Rehman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), will also receive a briefing on 'laying of fiber-optic cable along the CPEC routes'.

The committee members will receive a briefing from the officials concerned on the 'latest position of investment by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in Gwadar's Oil City,' according to the agenda.

During the visits of UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in January and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman last month, the two countries had made pledges to make investment in the oil sector, particularly in Balochistan. Saudi Arabia plans to set up a petrochemical complex at Gwadar's Oil City.

A Saudi delegation, headed by Energy Minister Khalid Abdul Aziz Al Falih, had visited Gwadar in January to inspect the site for the proposed oil refinery.

Ghulam Sarwar Khan, the federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, had met the Saudi delegation in Gwadar.

Describing the proposed refinery as a 'state-of-the-art facility', Ghulam Sarwar Khan had reportedly stated that it would be the biggest investment by Saudi Arabia in Pakistan.

The members of the Senate special committee are also set to receive a 'comprehensive briefing on SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and SEZs (special economic zones) to be set up as part of CPEC projects'.

Chairing a meeting to review progress on CPEC projects on Jan 18, Prime Minister Imran Khan had prioritized four key areas under CPEC for the next couple of years and ordered the groundbreaking of at least three special economic zones before the end of June.

The meeting had been told that four SEZs Rashaki in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabeji in Sindh and M-3 Faisalabad and one in Islamabad would be developed in the first phase and three of them Rashakai, Dhabeji and Faisalabad would be ready for ground-breaking by June.

Dawn News, 14-03-19

Momentum again building behind CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to revert to the original plan of undertaking \$8.2 billion Karachi to Peshawar Main Railway Line (ML-1) on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode under previously agreed loan as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Speaking to media persons after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC, Minister for Planning and Development Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar said the committee decided to undertake the ML-1 project on the previously agreed terms of agreement, instead of Build, Own and Transfer (BOT) basis it considered earlier.

Mr Bakhtyar had announced in October last year that the PTI government would adopt a new model on the basis of financial viability of the ML-1 on BOT model so that its loan repayment did not become a responsibility of the government like the previous government which procured loans and built projects on EPC contracts.

Responding to a question, the minister said it had now decided that the project will be completed on EPC basis under the terms that had been agreed earlier. Regarding the mode and terms of

Chinese loan, the minister said the final decision in this regard would be made in the light of the implementation committee recommendations.

The minister said an implementation committee on ML-I project headed by the railways minister was constituted to identify financial savings, phasing out the project, scope etc, within two weeks in order to fast-track the project. Presided over by the planning minister the cabinet meeting was attended by members of the committee and secretaries of the federal ministries.

Originally, the previous government had agreed to China's offer for a concessionary loan \$8.2bn for ML-I project. China did not agree to change the ML-1 implementation model from EPC to BOT.

The minister further informed that the Cabinet Committee on CPEC has decided to launch an important road project of Western Route in Balochistan soon. He said previously no work was undertaken and people of those areas had developed feeling of deprivation.

Mr Bakhtyar said the committee also decided Sukkur-Hyderabad section on Eastern Route through built-operate and transfer (BOT) mode and National Highway Authority will complete its design as well as feasibility study and the project contract would be awarded within the current year with saving of around \$2-2.5bn.

The minister said a team of Chinese experts that visited Pakistan a few days ago had discussions at different levels of the federal and provincial governments. List of the projects in agriculture, education, health, poverty alleviation, water supply and vocational training was being finalized and would be shared with China soon.

A memorandum of understanding on socio-economic development would be signed to ensure early implementation of the projects with the cost of \$400 to \$500m in first phase, he said.

The minister also highlighted the significance of agricultural cooperation with China and said the newly established joint working group will meet in the first week of April in order to expedite cooperation for modernizing the agriculture sector and utilize potentials for export maximization.

It envisaged cooperation in meat, food supply chain, processing and co-branding, livestock and fisheries, enhancement of seeds quality, irrigations system and technology transfer, he added.

Bakhtyar said no headway was made in industrial cooperation sector over the last five years but the government prioritized this field by ensuring speedy implementation wherein concession agreement of Special Economic Zones at Rashakai, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be signed by March 25 while groundbreaking would be held next month.

He said the ground-breaking of New Gwadar International Airport would be made by end of this month for which arrangements were being finalized. The Cabinet Committee also accorded approval to CPEC Business Forum in order to create an interface with the business community.

The minister said that a link between government institutions and business community was missing since the inception of CPEC. 'The newly established forum, comprising of leading businessmen from different sectors, would work as a bridge between the government and business sectors,' he added.

He clarified that none of the funds allocated for CPEC projects were diverted to any other purpose; rather allocation for other initiatives in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) were re-appropriated for sustainable development goals.

The minister, however, didn't reply the question of releasing SDGs funds only to the ruling coalition MNAs.

Dawn News, 14-03-19

Terrorists held in Mansehra were planning to target CPEC, police say

MANSEHRA: The police claimed that the five terrorists arrested in Mansehra district had planned to target the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

'High-profile' terrorists Mohammad Talah and Tayyab Shah and their accomplices, including Ahmad Shah, Aizaz Shah and Salahuddin, were produced in a news conference here.

District police officer Zaibullah Khan said the terrorists were held in an operation jointly carried out by the police, security forces and counter-terrorism department in a village near Baffa area. He said the terrorists were wanted for attacking a US charity, World Vision.

He, however, said he couldn't share the details of the CPEC attack plans with the media due to their sensitive nature. He said the terrorists killed eight staff members of INGO World Vision, including four women, in Dogai area in 2010.

'The terrorists belonging to the banned militant outfit, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, were also wanted for attacking the Pakistan Army's convoy in Shinkiari, targeting an imambargah in Palas area, assaulting police in different parts of the district, and committing targeted killings,' he said.

MrZaibullah said the terrorists, who were expert at the making and blasting of indigenous explosive devices, had undergone a training session in Waziristan.

He said the arrested men also exploded CD shops and target killed a man in Mansehra and Torghar districts.

KILLED: A man and his son were killed over a petty issue in Safada area here on Tuesday night.

Family members of Mohammad Niaz and his neighbor Mohammad Saleem held heated exchanges over the throwing of stones at the latter`s house.

Mohammad Niaz and his son Abdul Rehman indiscriminately fire bullets on Mohammad Saleem and his son Mohammad Rizwan, who suffered critical injuries.

The injured were shifted to the King Abdullah Teaching Hospital, where the doctors declared both of them dead.

Also in the day, Afghan woman SadiaBibi and her daughter, HaleemBibi, were buried alive when their house collapsed in Madni area. The residents retrieved both of them and shifted them to the hospital, where the doctors pronounced SadiaBibi dead. Correspondent

Dawn News, 15-03-19

China saved Pakistan from defeat at UN

WASHINGTON: China was the only member of the UN Security Council`s sanctionscommitteethatobjected to the proposal to declare Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief an UN-designated global terrorist on Wednesday.

Three of the five permanent UNSC members the United States, Britain and France and a non-permanent member, Belgium, had jointly co-sponsored the proposal. They made the move on Feb 27; days after a JeMclaimed suicide bombing in India-held Kashmir killed 40 Indian troops. The committee had 10 working days to raise any objections to the proposal.

Just before the deadline, China put a `technical hold` on the proposal seeking `more time to examine` it.

This was China`s fourth `technical hold` in a row.

The committee included two other permanent members of the UNSC, China and Russia, and 10 non-permanent members Belgium, Ivory Coast, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa.

France, a co-sponsor of the proposal, is the president of the current session.

The committee is also known as the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee after an Oct 15, 1999, resolution that established the body to monitor terrorist activities and sanction those responsible for committing these acts.

There is no formal voting on a proposal. Members can either endorse or reject it by emails too. If a member chooses not to oppose a proposal, after it is formally circulated, it is seen as endorsement.

So, among the 15 members, only China raised an objection by putting a `technical hold` on the suggested move to declare Masood Azhara UN-designated global terrorist. Others are considered to have endorsed the proposal because they did not oppose it.

Usually, when any of the five permanent members blocks a move, other members do not express their opinion as a `no` by a permanent member kills the proposal.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a news briefing in Beijing that China had blocked the proposal because it believed `only a solution that is acceptable to all sides could fundamentally provide a chance for a lasting solution to the issue`.

Dunya News, 01-03-19



چین کے تعاون سے ٹویٹ سیکٹر کی ترقی میں اضافہ ہوگا، ای ڈی نیویٹک

سی پیک کے سماجی ماہرین کا نیویٹک ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا دورہ، تعاون بڑھانے پر گفتگو

اسلام آباد (دنیا رپورٹ) چین کے سی پیک کے سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے ماہرین کے گیارہ رکنی وفد نے ڈا ٹریکٹر جنرل ڈوشین لی (Du Zhenli) کی قیادت میں نیویٹک ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا دورہ کیا اور نیویٹک کے چیئرمین سید جاوید حسن اور ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ناصر خان سے ملاقات کی۔ ڈاکٹر ناصر خان نے بریفنگ دی اور کہا کہ چین کے تعاون کی بدولت پاکستان کے ٹویٹ سیکٹر کی ترقی میں اضافہ ہوگا اور سی پیک سہولتیں اکٹامک زونز اور اسی طرح کے دوسرے منصوبوں کے لئے تربیت یافتہ ہنرمندوں کی فراہمی کا ہدف بخوبی پورا ہو سکے گا۔ میٹنگ میں چین اور پاکستان کے مابین TVET سیکٹر میں تعاون، کالج و یونیورسٹیز کے درمیان علمی تبادلہ اور چین سے پاکستان کو ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی، مشترکہ ڈگری و طلبا تبادلہ پروگرام جیسے امور کیلئے تعاون بڑھانے پر غور و خوض کیا گیا۔

Dunya News, 02-03-19



پاکستان اور بھارت فوری مذاکرات شروع کریں: چین

اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر کی خلاف ورزی کی کسی کو اجازت نہیں ہونی چاہئے: ترجمان وزارت خارجہ بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے پاکستان اور بھارت کو کشیدگی ختم کرنے کیلئے فوری مذاکراتی عمل شروع کرنے پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ تمام ممالک کی سالمیت اور حاکمیت کا احترام کیا جانا چاہئے، اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر اور بین الاقوامی قوانین کی خلاف ورزی کی کسی کو اجازت نہیں دی جانی چاہئے، بھارت اور پاکستان کشیدگی میں کمی کیلئے مذاکرات کا راستہ اختیار کریں، جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و استحکام کیلئے دونوں ممالک میں بات چیت ناگزیر ہے، چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے پاک بھارت کشیدگی کے بارے میں کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے مابین کشیدہ صورتحال پر چین کو فکرا لاحق ہے، چین چاہتا ہے کہ تمام ممالک ایک دوسرے کی حاکمیت اور علاقائی سلامتی کا خیال رکھیں، پاکستان بھارت چین کے مسائل ہیں اور چین ہمیشہ سے امن کا خواہاں رہا، واضح رہے کہ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے ازبکستان میں بھی بھارتی وزیر خارجہ سسما سوراج سے اپنے تحفظات کا کھل کر اظہار کیا تھا جبکہ پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ سے بھی ٹیلی فون پر کشیدہ صورتحال پر تبادلہ خیال کیا تھا، ترجمان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ چین امید کرتا ہے کہ بھارت اور پاکستان حالات کو مزید خراب کرنے کے بجائے صورتحال میں بہتری لائیں گے۔

چین

Dunya News, 02-03-19



امریکی فضائیہ کے جنوبی جزائر میں داخلے پر چین کی مخالفت

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) امریکی حکام نے کہا ہے کہ امریکی فوج بحیرہ جنوبی چین میں "آزادانہ نیویگیشن" کا آغاز کرے گی، اس حوالے سے چین کی وزارت دفاع کے ترجمان رن گو چھیا نگ نیکو نے بیجنگ میں کہا کہ چین اس کی سخت مخالفت کرتا ہے اور نیویگیشن "مرضی" کے مطابق نہیں بلکہ قانون کے مطابق ہونی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بحیرہ جنوبی چین کے جزائر اور اس کے قریبی پانیوں میں چین خود مختار ہے۔ اس صورتحال کے تحت، امریکہ کے جہاز "بلا جواز" بار بار بحیرہ جنوبی چین کے جزائر کے قریب سمندر اور فضائی حدود میں داخل ہوئے، جس سے نہ صرف چین کی خود مختاری و سلامتی کو نقصان پہنچا بلکہ یہ بین الاقوامی قانون کی خلاف ورزی بھی ہے۔ اس عمل سے علاقائی امن اور استحکام کو خطرہ لاحق ہوتا ہے اور چین اس کی سخت مخالفت کرتا ہے۔

چین، مخالفت

Dunya News, 02-03-19

سینیٹ: سی پیک پارلیمانی کمیٹی کیلئے ارکان کی نامزدگی بارے تحریک منظور
 اسلام آباد (وفاقی ڈگر) سینیٹ نے پارلیمانی کمیٹی برائے سی پیک کے لئے ارکان کی نامزدگی سے متعلق تحریک کی منظوری
 دیدی۔ ایوان بالا کے اجلاس میں قائد ایوان شلی فراز اور قائد حزب اختلاف راجہ ظفر الحق نے تحریک پیش کی جس میں کہا گیا کہ
 یہ ایوان قومی اسمبلی سیکرٹریٹ کے نوٹیفکیشن کے مطابق پارلیمانی کمیٹی کے لئے سینیٹ سے چار ارکان کی نامزدگی کا چیئرمین کو
 اختیار دیتا ہے اور وہ اس میں ضرورت پڑنے پر رد و بدل بھی کر سکتے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں سینیٹ میں ریئل اسٹیٹ ریگولیشن اینڈ
 ڈویلپمنٹ بل 2017ء پر قائمہ کمیٹی کی رپورٹ سمیت متعدد رپورٹس پیش کر دی گئیں۔

Dunya News, 03-03-19

”پاک چین اقتصادی تعاون“ کے

موضوع پر قومی کانفرنس 6 مارچ کو ہوگی

اسلام آباد (سٹی رپورٹر) انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز اسلام آباد میں چائنہ پاکستان سٹڈی سینٹر کے زیر
 اہتمام ”پاک چین اقتصادی تعاون“ کے موضوع پر قومی کانفرنس 6 مارچ کو منعقد ہوگی۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی
 اس موقع پر مہمان خصوصی ہونگے۔

Dunya News, 03-03-19

تجارتی مذاکرات آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں چین امریکی زرعی مصنوعات پر ٹیکس ختم کرے ٹرمپ

امریکی زرعی مصنوعات پر چینی محصولات ختم کرنے کا عمل ہمارے کسانوں اور خود میرے لئے بہت

اہم ہے: امریکی صدر کا ٹوئٹ

واشنگٹن (دنیا مانیٹرنگ، اے ایف پی) امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے کہا ہے کہ تجارتی مذاکرات مثبت سمت میں آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں چین امریکی زرعی مصنوعات کی درآمد پر عائد ٹیکس ختم کرے۔ اپنے ٹوئٹ میں امریکی صدر نے گزشتہ روز لکھا کہ امریکی زرعی مصنوعات پر چینی محصولات ختم کرنے کا عمل ہمارے کسانوں اور خود میرے لیے بہت اہم ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا زرعی مصنوعات بشمول بڑے گوشت پر عائد ٹیکس کے جلد خاتمے کی درخواست دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان جاری تجارتی مذاکرات میں مثبت پیش رفت اور امریکہ کی طرف سے چینی مصنوعات کی درآمد پر اضافی ٹیکس کا نفاذ موخر کرنے کے تناظر میں کی گئی ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان کئی مہینوں تک جاری تجارتی کشیدگی کے بعد امریکی صدر نے چینی مصنوعات کی درآمد پر اضافی محصولات کا نفاذ 90 دن کے لیے موخر کر دیا تھا جسے یکم مارچ سے لاگو ہونا تھا تاہم گزشتہ ہفتے اسے ایک دفعہ پھر موخر کر دیا گیا ہے۔

ٹرمپ

Dunya News, 03-03-19

چین: قدرتی گیس کی درآمدات

میں 29.3 فیصد اضافہ

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین کی قدرتی گیس کی درآمدات میں جنوری کے دوران 29.3 فیصد اضافہ ہوا جس کی وجہ حکومت کی جانب سے سرد موسم کے دوران ماحول دوست توانائی کے استعمال کی ترغیب ہے۔ قومی ترقی و اصلاحات کمیشن کی رپورٹ کے مطابق جنوری کے دوران قدرتی گیس کی درآمد کا حجم 13.7 ارب مکعب میٹر رہا جو جنوری 2017 کے مقابلے میں 29.3 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔

Dunya News, 05-03-19



پاک بھارت کشیدگی میں کمی کیلئے کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہیں: چین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے کہا ہے کہ پاک بھارت کشیدگی میں کمی کیلئے تعمیری کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہیں، خطے میں امن و امان کے قیام کیلئے پاکستانی اقدامات قابل تعریف ہیں، چین خطے میں امن و استحکام اور پاک بھارت کشیدگی میں کمی کیلئے روس سمیت تمام ممالک کے اقدامات کو سراہتا ہے چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لوکھانگ نے پیر کو معمول کی پریس بریفنگ میں کہا خطے میں کشیدگی کے خاتمے اور امن کیلئے جس ملک کی جانب سے بہتری کے اقدامات کئے گئے ہیں چین سب کو خوش آمدید کہتا ہے۔ ترجمان نے مزید کہا امن کیلئے تمام وسائل بروئے کار لائے جانے چاہئیں، خطے میں استحکام کو برقرار رہنا چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا او آئی سی کی جانب سے چینی مسلمانوں کی آزادانہ زندگی بارے اور چین کے ساتھ بہتر تعلقات استوار کرنے کے بیان پر چین کھلے دل سے خوش آمدید کہتا ہے۔

چین

Dunya News, 05-03-19

چینی سفارتخانہ نے بلوچستان کیلئے

60 لاکھ روپے کا طبی سامان عطیہ کر دیا

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چینی سفارتخانہ نے بلوچستان کے محکمہ صحت کے لئے 60 لاکھ روپے کا طبی ساز و سامان عطیہ کر دیا ہے، طبی ساز و سامان میں آئی سی یو، وینٹی لیٹر، آنوکلیو، ڈائلائسز مشین و دیگر سامان شامل ہے۔

Dunya News, 05-03-19

10 طاقت ور ممالک میں امریکہ کا پہلا، روس کا دوسرا نمبر

تیسرا چین، چوتھا جرمنی، پانچواں برطانیہ، چھٹا فرانس، ساتواں جاپان، آٹھواں اسرائیل

چین آبادی کی کثافت کے لحاظ سے دنیا میں پہلے نمبر پر، روس رقبے کے لحاظ سے بڑا ملک

واشنگٹن (آن لائن) امریکی اخبار نے سال 2019 کے لیے دنیا کے 10 طاقت ور ترین ممالک کی فہرست جاری کر دی۔ فہرست میں امریکہ کا پہلا، روس کا دوسرا چین کا تیسرا اور جنوبی کوریا کا دواں نمبر ہے۔ دنیا بھر میں 80 ممالک میں ہونے والے سروے میں 20 ہزار افراد کی رائے معلوم کی گئی۔ ہر ملک کے بین الاقوامی اتحاد، عسکری قوت اور بین الاقوامی امور کے حوالے سے انتظامی حکمت عملی کو بھی مد نظر رکھا گیا ہے۔ یہ فہرست امریکی اخبار نے پینسلوینیا یونیورسٹی کے تعاون سے تیار کی۔ فہرست کے مطابق دنیا کا 10 واں طاقت ور ترین ملک جنوبی کوریا ہے۔ سعودی عرب کو مشرق وسطیٰ کا عظیم الجثہ وجود قرار دیا گیا۔ امریکی اخبار کے مطابق آٹھویں نمبر پر براجمان اسرائیل دنیا کی طاقت ور ترین معیشتوں میں سے ایک ہے۔ ساتویں نمبر پر جاپان ہے، اس کا شمار ٹیکنالوجی اور تعلیم کے میدان میں دنیا میں سب سے زیادہ برتری رکھنے والے ممالک میں ہوتا ہے۔ جاپان دنیا کی تیسری طاقت ور ترین معیشت رکھتا ہے۔ فرانس کی معیشت دنیا کی طاقت ور ترین معیشتوں میں سے ہے۔ پانچویں نمبر پر برطانیہ، معیشت، سیاست، سائنس اور تہذیب کے میدان میں بڑے پیمانے پر اثر و رسوخ رکھتا ہے۔ چوتھے نمبر پر جرمنی یورپی یونین کے ممالک میں آبادی کی سب سے زیادہ کثافت کا حامل ملک ہے۔ تیسرے نمبر پر چین ہے، چین آبادی کی کثافت کے لحاظ سے دنیا میں پہلے نمبر پر ہے۔ وہ دنیا کی دوسری بڑی معیشت رکھتا ہے۔ دوسرے نمبر پر روس ہے، روس رقبے کے لحاظ سے دنیا کا سب سے بڑا ملک ہے۔

طاقت ور ملک

Dunya News, 06-03-19

سی پیک کے تحت انڈسٹریل زونز پر
ورکنگ تیز کی جائے، راجہ عامر اقبال

راولپنڈی (خصوصی نامہ نگار) راولپنڈی چیمبر آف کامرس کے سابق صدر راجہ عامر اقبال نے چیمبر میں منعقدہ OBOR موضوع پر آگاہی سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک پاکستان کی وسطی ایشیا، یورپ اور افریقی منڈیوں تک رسائی کا موجب بنے گا، ہمیں ٹیکنالوجی ٹرانسفر پر زور دینا ہوگا، سی پیک کے تحت انڈسٹریل زونز پر ورکنگ تیز کی جائے، اس موقع پر سینئر نائب صدر محمد بدر ہارون، نائب صدر فیاض قریشی، سابق صدر، مجلس عاملہ کے اراکین اور دیگر چیمبر ممبران بھی موجود تھے۔

Dunya News, 07-03-19

پائیدار ترقی اہداف کیلئے 27 ارب مختص، سی پیک منصوبوں میں کٹوتی نہیں کی گئی: حکومت
 اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) حکومت کا کہنا ہے کہ پبلک سیکنڈ ڈویلپمنٹ پروگرام کا ستمبر 2018 میں جائزہ لیا گیا جس میں
 وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے سی پیک سمیت دیگر ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے لئے 27 ارب روپے مختص کئے تھے تاکہ پائیدار ترقی کے
 اہداف کے حصول کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے، وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے حکام نے کہا ہے کہ 2018-19 میں سرکاری شعبہ کے
 ترقیاتی پروگراموں کے لئے 800 ارب روپے مختص کئے گئے تھے جبکہ حکومت نے نظر ثانی کے بعد 675 ارب روپے مختص
 کئے جس میں سی پیک پراجیکٹس کیلئے کوئی کٹوتی نہیں کی گئی۔ ترجمان وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے بتایا کہ یہ پروگرام مقامی لوگوں
 کی امنگوں کے مطابق پائیدار ترقیاتی اہداف کے حصول میں مدد دے گا۔

Dunya News, 07-03-19

سی پیک: 70 ہزار ملازمتیں فراہم

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سے اب تک مقامی سطح پر 70 ہزار سے زائد ملازمتیں فراہم کی ہیں جبکہ 2030 تک اس میں مزید کئی گنا اضافہ ہوگا، چین سوشل سیکٹر کی ترقی غربت کے خاتمے اور انسانی ترقی میں سرمایہ کاری کا خواہاں ہے، وہ ”پاک چین اقتصادی تعاون اگلا مرحلہ“ کے موضوع پر قومی کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔

جینا نیوز

Dunya News, 08-03-19



پاکستان کی طرف سے تحمل کا مظاہرہ قابل تعریف ہے: چین
دونوں ممالک ایسے اقدامات سے گریز کریں جو صورتحال کی سنگینی کا باعث بنیں
بھارت کیساتھ بات چیت پر آمادگی کا اظہار خوش آئند ہے: وزارت خارجہ کا بیان

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین نے بھارت کیساتھ کشیدگی کے دوران تحمل کا مظاہرہ کرنے پر پاکستان کی تعریف کی ہے، چینی وزارت خارجہ کی طرف سے جاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پلوامہ میں ہونے والے دھماکے میں بھارتی فوجیوں کے مارے جانے کے بعد دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان پیدا ہونے والی کشیدگی کو کم کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کی طرف سے تحمل کا مظاہرہ اور بھارت کیساتھ بات چیت پر آمادگی کا اظہار قابل تعریف ہے۔ بیان میں مزید کہا گیا ہے چین تمام ممالک کی خود مختاری اور علاقائی سلامتی کو قابل احترام قرار دیتا ہے اور بین الاقوامی تعلقات کے اصولوں کی خلاف ورزی پر مبنی اقدامات کو نہیں دیکھنا چاہتا۔ چین بھارت اور پاکستان پر زور دیتا ہے کہ وہ ایسے اقدامات سے گریز کریں جو صورتحال کی سنگینی میں اضافے کا باعث بن سکتے ہیں، خیر سگالی اور ٹپک کا مظاہرہ کریں، جس قدر جلد ہو سکے بات چیت شروع کریں اور خطے کے امن و استحکام کیلئے ملکر کام کریں، چین اس حوالے سے کوئی بھی تعمیری کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار

ہے۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ

Dunya News, 08-03-19



نیوٹیک اور سی پیک ایسوسی ایشن میں جلد تعاون کا معاہدہ ہوگا، چینی سفیر

سی پیک پلان پاک چین دوستی کی زندہ مثال ہے، جاوید حسن، ڈاکٹر ناصر خان

یاؤ جنگ کی چیئر مین نیوٹیک اور ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر سے ملاقات، دو طرفہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (دنیا رپورٹ) چائنہ پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور سی پیک اور نیشنل اینڈ ووکیشنل ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ کمیشن (نیوٹیک) پاکستانی ورک فورس کے لئے مشترکہ میکانزم بنائیں گے۔ چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے یہ بات نیوٹیک ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں نیوٹیک کے چیئر مین اور ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر سے ملاقات کے دوران کہی۔ چین کے سفیر نے کہا کہ جلد نیوٹیک اور سی پیک ایسوسی ایشن تعاون کے معاہدہ پر دستخط کریں گے۔ نیوٹیک کے چیئر مین سید جاوید حسن نے کہا کہ سی پیک کا پلان پاک چین دوستی کی زندہ مثال ہے جو پورے خطے کیلئے مفید ثابت ہوگا۔ ہم ہر سال 400,000 افراد کو تربیت دے رہے ہیں جو اگلے 18 ماہ میں 1 ملین تک ہو جائیں گے۔ نیوٹیک کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ناصر خان نے نیوٹیک کے TVET ریفارم ایجنڈا کے اقدامات پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔

Dunya News, 09-03-19

پاکستان، بھارت مذاکرات سے مسائل حل کریں: چین

دونوں ملکوں میں کشیدگی کو کم کرنے کیلئے ہم نے تعمیری کردار ادا کیا: وزیر خارجہ

بیجنگ (دنیا نیوز) چین نے پاک بھارت کشیدگی کم کرانے کے لیے کردار ادا کرنے کا اعتراف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں نیوکلیر ممالک مذاکرات کے ذریعے مسائل کو حل کریں، خطے میں جاری کشیدگی کو کم کرنے میں چین کا کردار ہے، چینی وزیر خارجہ نے اعتراف کیا ہے کہ پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان کشیدگی کو کم کرنے کے لیے چین نے تعمیری کردار ادا کیا، چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ یی نے نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کی تقریب سے خطاب میں کہا کہ اسلام آباد اور نئی دہلی کو مل بیٹھ کر معاملات حل کرنے چاہئیں، چین نیوکلیر ہتھیاروں سے لیس ہمسایہ ممالک پر زور دیتا ہے کہ وہ جلد از جلد مسائل حل کر کے لمبے عرصے تک بہتر تعلقات کو مضبوط بنائیں، چینی وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ بیجنگ، پاکستان اور بھارت کا کشیدگی کو ختم کر کے مذاکرات کی میز پر آنے کا خیر مقدم کرے گا۔

چین

Dunya News, 09-03-19**چینی سرحد کے قریب تائیوان****میں 5.3 شدت کا زلزلہ**

بیجنگ (دنیا مانیٹرنگ) تائیوان میں چینی سرحد کے قریب زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کیے گئے۔ ریکٹر سکیل پر زلزلے کی شدت 5.3 ریکارڈ کی گئی۔ چین کے زلزلہ پیمائشی مرکز کے مطابق زلزلہ گزشتہ روز دن 10:32 پر آیا۔ زیادہ شدت تائی ٹنگ کاؤنٹی میں محسوس کی گئی جو سمندر کے قریب ہے۔ زلزلے کے مرکز 22.6 ڈگری شمال میں عرض بلد اور 121.34 ڈگری مشرق طول بلد میں تھا۔

Dunya News, 09-03-19

گوادریں سہ فریقی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے حالات سازگار: سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت گوادریں سہ فریقی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے حالات سازگار ہیں۔ گوادریں منصوبوں بشمول گوادریں پورٹ، ہسپتال، ووکیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹ اور پاور پلانٹ کی تعمیر سے ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا۔ سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ کے حکام کے مطابق یہ منصوبے نہ صرف یہاں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے سازگار ماحول فراہم کرنے میں معاون ہوں گے بلکہ مقامی آبادی کو بنیادی سہولیات کی فراہمی بھی ممکن ہوگی۔ گوادریں ماسٹر پلان پر تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز کا اتفاق رائے حاصل ہو گیا ہے، جلد اس پلان کو حتمی شکل دی جائے گی۔

سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ

Dunya News, 09-03-19

حوالہ ہنڈی وزانہ کروڑوں کپڑوں سے چین بھجوانے کا انکشاف

چین سے درآمد اشیا کی 35 فیصد تک ادائیگی بینک سے، باقی رقم حوالہ ہنڈی کے ذریعے بھجوائی جاتی

ہے، تا جرم لوٹ ہیں: ذرائع

لاہور سے پیسے پہلے پشاور بھیجے جاتے ہیں: گرفتار ملزم کا انکشاف، کئی افراد کے فون نمبر ٹریس، مٹی چیخڑز

کے گرد بھی گھیرا تنگ

لاہور (راہیل سید) حوالہ ہنڈی کے غیر قانونی کاروبار میں ملوث مافیا کا روزانہ کی بنیاد پر کروڑوں روپے پشاور کے ذریعے چین بھجوانے کا انکشاف ہوا ہے۔ ایف آئی اے نے اس کاروبار میں ملوث مٹی چیخڑز کے گرد بھی گھیرا تنگ کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق ایک روز قبل ایف آئی اے نے میکوڈروڈ میں کارروائی کرتے ہوئے ایک ملزم رفیق کو گرفتار کیا جس نے دوران تحقیقات انکشاف کیا کہ حوالہ ہنڈی کا زیادہ تر کاروبار پشاور سے چلایا جا رہا ہے اور اظہر نامی شخص اس نیٹ ورک کا حصہ ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چین سے کاروبار کرنے والے افراد زیادہ تر اس دھندے سے ملوث ہیں چین سے آٹو پارٹس سمیت دیگر جو چیزیں درآمد کی جاتی ہیں ان کی ادائیگی کے لئے زیادہ تر حوالہ ہنڈی کا طریقہ استعمال کیا جاتا ہے۔ کل انوائس کا 30 یا 35 فیصد بینک کے ذریعے بھجوا یا جاتا ہے جبکہ باقی رقم حوالہ ہنڈی کے ذریعے بھجوائی جاتی ہے جس کی وجہ سے ملکی معیشت کو روزانہ کروڑوں روپے کا نقصان پہنچ رہا ہے۔ ایف آئی اے ٹیم نے ملزم کے موبائل فون سے متعدد افراد کے ٹیلی فون نمبر بھی ٹریس کئے اور جن کو ادائیگی کی جاتی رہی ہیں انکے ناموں کی فہرست بھی مرتب کر لی ہے۔ ملزم نے انکشاف کیا کہ پشاور سے اظہر نامی شخص کے ساتھ ٹیلی فون پر رابطہ رہتا ہے جو لاہور میں جتنے پیسوں کی ادائیگی کا کہتا ہے وہ کر دی جاتی ہے جبکہ لاہور سے چین بھجوانے کے لئے پیسے پہلے پشاور بھجوائے جاتے ہیں اور پھر وہاں سے آگے ٹرانسفر کئے جاتے ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق اس کاروبار میں بعض مٹی چیخڑز بھی شامل ہیں جو اپنے لائسنس کا غلط استعمال کر رہے ہیں۔ ایف آئی اے کی ٹیم نے ملزم رفیق کا موبائل فون فرانزک کے لئے بھجوا دیا ہے جبکہ اس کے بینک اکاؤنٹس کی تفصیلات بھی اکٹھی کی جارہی ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق اس کاروبار میں ملوث دیگر افراد کے خلاف بھی کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی جبکہ پشاور میں جو لوگ موجود ہیں ان کی گرفتاری کے لئے بھی اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں۔

حوالہ ہنڈی

Dunya News, 10-03-19

لاہور: اپوزیشن رہنما شہباز شریف سے
چینی توئصل جنرل ملاقات کر رہے ہیں



سی پیک قیمتی تحفہ، شہباز شریف

سے چین کے توئصل جنرل کی ملاقات

لاہور (سیاسی نمائندہ) قائد حزب اختلاف شہباز شریف سے چین کے توئصل جنرل لانگ ڈنگ بن نے ملاقات کی، اس موقع پر شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کے لئے قیمتی تحفہ ہے۔ چین کی قیادت اور عوام نے سچے دوست کی طرح پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا، عوام اس دوستی کی قدر کرتے ہیں مسلم لیگ (ن) پاکستان کی مرکزی سیاسی جماعت ہونے کی حیثیت سے کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی دوستی اور باہمی تعاون کی پیشکش کا خیر مقدم کرتی ہے۔ چین سے دوستی اور تعاون کے فروغ کے لئے کمیونسٹ پارٹی سے مل کر کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں دونوں جماعتوں کے اشتراک عمل اور تعاون سے چین پاکستان دوستی مزید گہری ہوگی، اس موقع پر چینی توئصل جنرل نے کہا کہ سی پیک سے عوامی سطح پر روابط کو فروغ اور عوام کا معیار زندگی بہتر ہوگا، چین اور پاکستان سدا بہارا آرمودہ دوست اور سٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں۔

شہباز شریف/ملاقات

Dunya News, 10-03-19

پاکستان آئرن برادر چین قوتورترین میزائل 150 کلومیٹر تک فضا کی ہدف کو نشانہ بنا سکتا ہے اور اسے کوئی حفاظتی نظام

لاگ رینج گائیڈڈ میزائل 150 کلومیٹر تک فضا کی ہدف کو نشانہ بنا سکتا ہے اور اسے کوئی حفاظتی نظام نہیں روک سکتا

پاکستان عالمی ثالثی کا خیر مقدم اور بھارت گریز کرتا ہے، اسلام آباد، ہم اتحادی ہے اور ہمیشہ رہے

گا: چینی وزیر خارجہ

بیجنگ (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک، آن لائن، اے این این) پاکستان نے چین سے طاقتور ترین ایئر ٹو ایئر چینی ساختہ میزائل PL-15 کا معاہدہ کیا ہے، یہ میزائل لانچ ہونے سے پہلے ہدف کی معلومات اور اس طیاروں کے علاوہ زمین پر موجود ریڈار اور سٹلائٹ سے بھی لے سکتا ہے۔ ادھر چین نے ایک بار پھر پاکستان کو اپنا آئرن برادر قرار دیا ہے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ٹھی نے بیجنگ میں میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت کو بحران حل کرنے کے لیے ایک دوسرے کے موقف کو سمجھنا چاہیے۔ پاکستان عالمی ثالثی کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے لیکن بھارت گریز کرتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین شروع سے ضبط و تحمل کا رویہ اپنانے، کشیدگی کو بڑھانے سے روکنے اور معاملہ بات چیت سے حل کرنے پر زور دیتا رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے پلوامہ حملے کے بعد پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان کشیدگی کم کرانے میں تعمیری کردار ادا کیا اور بیجنگ دونوں ممالک کی جانب سے کشیدگی میں کمی اور مذاکرات کی بحالی کے اشاروں کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ پاکستان اور بھارت اس بحران کو مسئلہ سلجھانے کے ایک موقع میں تبدیل کریں گے۔ انہوں نے مشورہ دیا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت یہ صفحہ پلٹیں اور اپنے تعلقات میں بنیادی اور طویل مدتی بہتری لے کر آئیں۔ چین اور بھارت کے تعلقات سے متعلق سوال پر وانگ ٹھی کا سکر اتے ہوئے کہنا تھا کہ چینی ڈرگین اور بھارتی ہتھی لڑیں گے نہیں بلکہ مل کر ڈانس کریں گے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے پاکستان کے قیام امن اور کشیدگی کے خاتمے کیلئے اقدامات کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان عالمی ثالثی کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے لیکن بھارت گریز کرتا ہے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان ہمارا اہم ترین اتحادی ہے اور ہمیشہ رہے گا۔ میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق چین جلد پاکستان کو PL-15 میزائل فراہم کرے گا۔ لاگ رینج گائیڈڈ میزائل 150 کلومیٹر تک فضا کی ہدف کو انتہائی درست نشانہ لگانے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے اور راکٹ کی طاقتور موٹر سے لمبے فاصلے تک ماگ 4 کی رفتار سے پرواز کر سکتا ہے۔ ان میزائلوں کو JF-17 بلاک ٹو یعنی موجودہ طیاروں میں بھی نصب کیا جائے گا۔ یہ میزائل بھارت کی دفاعی صلاحیت میں مشکلات پیدا کر سکتا ہے اور اسے ہدف تک پہنچنے سے کوئی حفاظتی نظام روک نہیں سکتا۔

چین

Dunya News, 11-03-19

سی پیک: گوادری پورٹ میں 25 کروڑ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری

اقتصادی زونز سے پاکستان میں صنعتی انقلاب کی راہ ہموار ہوگی: سیکرٹریٹ حکام

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت گوادری پورٹ میں اب تک 25 کروڑ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی ہے۔ سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ کے حکام کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے مابین تعاون سے گوادری پورٹ کو بین الاقوامی اور جدید بندرگاہ بنانے میں مدد ملے گی، اقتصادی زونز کو عملی شکل دے کر پاکستان میں صنعتی انقلاب کی راہ ہموار ہوگی۔ دستاویزات کے مطابق گوادری ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے منصوبے میں 9.18 کلومیٹر چار لین شاہراہ کی تعمیر کی جارہی ہے، یہ شاہراہ گوادری بندرگاہ کو کمران کوشل ہائی وے، فری زون اور مستقبل کے کنٹینر ڈرمینٹل سے ملائیگی۔

گوادری پورٹ

Dunya News, 11-03-19

سی پیک: گوادری پورٹ میں 25 کروڑ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری

اقتصادی زونز سے پاکستان میں صنعتی انقلاب کی راہ ہموار ہوگی: سیکرٹریٹ حکام

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گوادری پورٹ

Dunya News, 12-03-19

چائنہ انٹرنیشنل انجینئرنگ کنسلٹنگ کارپوریشن کے وفد کا دورہ نمل

اسلام آباد (دنیا رپورٹ) چائنہ انٹرنیشنل انجینئرنگ کنسلٹنگ کارپوریشن کے 14 رکنی وفد نے نیشنل یونیورسٹی آف ماڈرن لینگویجز (نمل) کا دورہ کیا اور ڈائریکٹر جنرل نمل بریگیڈر محمد ابراہیم سے ملاقات کی، وفد کی قیادت کارپوریشن کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ڈو ڈیمینلی کر رہے تھے، اس موقع پر رجسٹرار نمل بریگیڈر (ر) رضا المنعم، ڈین لینگویجز ڈاکٹر سفیر اعوان، ڈائریکٹر کنفیو شس انسٹیٹیوٹ بھی موجود تھے، وفد کے سربراہ نے ڈی جی نمل کو لینگویج سینٹر کیلئے اپنے بھرپور تعاون کا یقین دلایا، آخر میں وفد نے کنفیو شس انسٹیٹیوٹ کا دورہ بھی کیا۔

Dunya News, 14-03-19

بیجنگ کا نفرنس: عمران خان کی روسی صدر سے ملاقات متوقع

وزارت خارجہ نے ہمہ دوک شروع کر دیا، ایڈیشن ارکان پارلیمنٹ بھی کانفرنس میں مدد

اسلام آباد (علاقہ مزید) گئی صدر شی جن پنگ کے زیر صدارت "ان پلٹ این رو" کانفرنس 25 سے 27 اپریل کو بیجنگ میں ہوگی جس میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان، روسی صدر پوٹن، ڈاکٹر ہما نیر گو سمیت 20 سے زائد ممالک کے سربراہان شرکت فرمیں گے، کانفرنس کی سہ ماہی لائن پر وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی روسی صدر پوٹن سے ملاقات متوقع (دہلی 15 مارچ 19)	برطانیہ: تھریسا سے کانوولڈیل بریگزٹ ٹیل بھی مسترد، وزیر ساروہینڈن مستغنی لندن (آخری بار) اور حالیہ ارکان پارلیمنٹ نے وزیر اعظم تھریسا سے کانوولڈیل بریگزٹ ٹیل بھی مسترد کر دیا، حکومتی ذریعہ ساروہینڈن نے اسٹیلی اسے دیا جبکہ متحدہ ذراہ کا اگلے چوتیس (دہلی 15 مارچ 19)
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Dunya News, 14-03-19

یوم پاکستان کی پیدائش کی چیدنی کڑیاں بھی آئیں گی

ماہنامہ وزیر اعظم مہمان خصوصی آذربائیجان کے وزیر دفاع، کرنل ایوانی دکامگی مہمان اہستہ وزیر اور وزیر دفاعی امور میں کے آئی ایس پی آر نے نئے کپڑے پہنوائی کر دیا

راہنوی (خصوصی نذر پارہ) اور پاکستان (2018ء) پر اسلام آباد میں کھیلوں کی پریڈ میں ملانے کے دن اعظمی اور وزیر مہمان خصوصی ہو گئے۔ ان کے ساتھ ساتھ ملک کے اہم رہنما اور قریبی رہتے ہوئے خاص طور پر شریک ہوئے۔ (جے ایم ایف) (ایس پی پی) ایب نے وزارت امور خارجہ اور این ایف کے ساتھ ساتھ حکومتوں کے

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پاکستان زندہ باد
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یوم پاکستان کے ۱۶ لے سے آئی ایس پی آر کی جالپت سے جاری کیا گیا خصوصی پروگرام

Dunya News, 14-03-19

چینی عدلیہ سماجی استحکام کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے کوشاں، سالانہ رپورٹ جاری

سابق اعلیٰ افسران سمیت رشوت اور بدعنوانی کے جرم میں ہزاروں افراد کو سزا میں دی گئیں

فضائی آلودگی اور منظم جرائم کے ہزاروں مقدمات بھی نمٹائے گئے، عدلیہ کی رپورٹ میں انکشاف
بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی عدلیہ سماجی استحکام کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے عظیم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے، عدلیہ نے قانون کی
خلاف ورزیوں، رشوت ستانی، مقامی مافیا، کاپی رائٹ میں مداخلت، انصاف کے تحفظ سماجی استحکام اور ترقی کیلئے
دباؤ برقرار رکھا ہے، ان خیالات کا اظہار ایک رپورٹ میں کیا گیا ہے جو 13 ویں نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کے تیسرے
مکمل اجلاس کے دوسرے سیشن میں یہاں عظیم عوامی ہال میں پیش کی گئی، یہ ورک رپورٹ سپریم پیپلز کورٹ
(ایس پی سی) اور سپریم پیپلز پروکیوریوریٹ (ایس پی پی) نے قومی قانون سازوں کے سالانہ اجلاس میں
جاری کی، چیف جسٹس ڈوکیانگ اور پروکیوریٹری جنرل ڈینگ جن نے رپورٹ جاری کرتے ہوئے گزشتہ برس کی
پیشرفت پر تفصیل سے روشنی ڈالی، ایس پی سی نے 2018 کے دوران 34794 مقدمات کی سماعت کی
اور 31883 مقدمات نمٹائے جو 2016 اور 2017 کے مقابلے میں 22.1 اور 23.5 فیصد زیادہ تھے
، چینی عدالتوں نے رشوت اور بدعنوانی کے خلاف 28000 مقدمات نمٹائے جس میں 18 سابق صوبائی
افسران سمیت 33000 لوگ ملوث تھے اسی دوران اعلیٰ عہدوں کے حامل 32 سابق افسران کے خلاف بھی
کارروائی کی گئی ان میں سن ڈینگ کائی اور وانگ سن یں بھی شامل ہیں، سن چانگ کنگ میونسپلٹی کے سابق پارٹی
سربراہ تھے، فضائی آلودگی اور منظم جرائم کے ہزاروں مقدمات بھی نمٹائے گئے، منظم جرائم اور مقامی مافیا کے
خلاف بھرپور مہم شروع کی گئی اور 2018 کے دوران ایسے 5489 مقدمات نمٹائے گئے جن میں 29 افراد
ملوث تھے جبکہ ملک بھر سے ایسے جرائم کے مرتکب 73385 مشتبه افراد کو گرفتار کیا گیا۔ جن میں سے
61188 کو سزا میں دی گئیں۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ فضائی آلودگی کے خلاف 42195 افراد کو ماحول اور
وسائل کو نقصان پہنچانے کے الزام میں عدالتی کٹہرے میں لایا گیا۔ اور 2204 افراد کو سزا میں دی گئیں۔

Express News, 01-03-19**پاکستان اور بھارت کے ساتھ قریبی رابطے میں ہیں: چین**

بیجنگ (اے ایف پی) چین نے کہا ہے اس کا موجودہ صورتحال میں پاکستان اور بھارت دونوں ملکوں سے قریبی رابطہ ہے اور ہم دونوں ملکوں میں کشیدگی کم کرنے اور انہیں مذاکرات کی میز پر لانے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ چینی دفتر خارجہ کے ترجمان نے گزشتہ روز صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی نے اپنے پاکستانی اور بھارت ہم منصبوں کے ساتھ فون پر بات کی ہے اور دونوں ملکوں پر موجودہ صورتحال میں تھل سے کام لینے اور مذاکرات کرنے پر زور دیا ہے کیونکہ اس موقع پر خطے میں امن و استحکام کا قیام دونوں ملکوں کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا ہم نے پاکستان اور بھارت دونوں سے رابطوں کے دوران یہ محسوس کیا ہے کہ دونوں ہی خطے میں کشیدگی بڑھانا نہیں چاہتے۔ ہم دونوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کر رہے ہیں کہ باہمی اختلافات کو مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کریں۔ اس کیلئے چین اپنا تعمیر کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کو ایک دوسرے کی خود مختاری اور علاقائی سلامتی کا احترام کرنا چاہیے۔ پاکستان اور بھارت خطے کے اہم ممالک ہیں دونوں کو خطے کی سلامتی کیلئے باہمی تعلقات میں ہم آہنگی کی فضا قائم کرنی چاہیے۔ امید ہے دونوں ملک صورتحال کو مزید خراب نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل میں امریکہ، برطانیہ اور فرانس کی طرف سے جمیش محمد کے سربراہ مسعود اظہر پر پابندیاں لگانے کے حوالے سے دی گئی درخواست کے بارے میں سوال کے جواب میں چینی دفتر خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ ہم پابندیاں لگانے سے متعلق کمیٹی کے اجلاسوں میں شرکت کر کے بحث میں ذمہ دارانہ انداز میں بھرپور حصہ لیں گے۔

Express News, 01-03-19

پاکستان میں زرعی شعبہ پر کام کرنے کے خواہش مند ہیں: چینی وفد
 پلانٹ سائنسز، حیوانیاتی علوم، سوشل سائنسز نیز پولٹری کی صنعت میں تعاون کی ضرورت ہے
 وفد کا دورہ زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل، قائم مقام چیئرمین پی اے آر سی ڈاکٹر منیر احمد سے ملاقات کی

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل کے دورے پر آئے چین کے وفد نے سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں پلانٹ سائنسز، حیوانیاتی علوم، سوشل سائنسز اور پولٹری کی صنعت میں تعاون بڑھانے پر زور دیا ہے۔ چائینہ کے ایک وفد نے پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل کا دورہ کیا۔ دورے کے دوران چائینہ وفد نے قائم مقام چیئرمین پی اے آر سی ڈاکٹر منیر احمد سے ملاقات کی۔ چیئرمین پی اے آر سی نے پاکستان میں زراعت کے مختلف منصوبہ جات میں چائینہ کی مدد کو بہت سراہا۔ انہوں نے چائینہ کے وفد کو پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل کے بارے میں بریف کیا۔ انہوں نے کونسل کی پلانٹ سائنسز، قدرتی وسائل، حیوانیاتی علوم، زرعی اور سوشل سائنس کے شعبہ میں کارکردگی بارے میں بھی بتایا۔ اس موقع پر دونوں ممالک کے اعلیٰ عہدیداران نے پاکستان میں زراعت کی مزید ترقی اور پیداوار میں بڑھوتی کے حوالے سے بات چیت کی۔ ڈاکٹر منیر احمد نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک کا کردار زرعی ترقی کے حوالے سے بہت اہم ہے۔ چائینہ وفد نے بین الاقوامی اداروں کے اشتراک سے پی اے آر سی کی ملک میں زراعت کی ترقی کے لیے کی جانے والی کوششوں کو سراہا۔ چائینہ وفد نے اجلاس کے دوران مزید بتایا کہ سی پیک کے تحت چائینہ مختلف زرعی منصوبوں پر کام کرنے کا خواہشمند ہے تا کہ پاکستان میں زراعت ایک پائیدار ترقی کی جانب گامزن ہو سکے۔ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں پلانٹ سائنسز، حیوانیاتی علوم، سوشل سائنسز نیز پولٹری کی صنعت میں تعاون کی ضرورت ہے۔

Express News, 01-03-19

چین، بلوچستان کے ہسپتالوں کو 6 ملین روپے کے طبی آلات عطیہ

آئی سی یو، ڈائلاسز مشین شامل، چینی تعاون سے شعبہ صحت کو فروغ ملے گا، صوبائی وزیر صحت

کوئٹہ (آئی این پی) چین نے پاکستان کو 6 ملین روپے کے طبی آلات عطیہ کئے ہیں طبی آلات حوالیکر نیکی تقریب کوئٹہ میں ہوئی جس میں صوبائی وزیر صحت بلوچ نے کی۔ عطیہ کئے گئے طبی آلات میں آئی سی یو، وینٹی لیٹر، آٹو کلیو، ڈائلاسز مشین وغیر شامل ہیں۔ اس موقع پر بلوچستان کے وزیر صحت صالح بلوچ نے میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ شعبہ صحت کی ترقی و ترویج کیلئے باہمی تعاون کو بتدریج بڑھایا جائے گا، یہ طبی عطیہ چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ اور بلوچستان حکومت مابین شعبہ صحت کی ترقی و ترویج بارے اتفاق رائے کی نشاندہی کرتا ہے۔ چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ کے مئی، اکتوبر 2018 کے دورہ کے دوران اتفاق رائے پایا گیا کہ بلوچستان جو رقبے کے لحاظ سے پاکستان کا بڑا صوبہ چین کے تعاون کیلئے اہم ترین صوبہ ہے، بلوچستان سی پیک کے حوالے سے بھی چین کے لئے خصوصی اہمیت کا حامل صوبہ ہے، اس لئے ضروری ہے کہ پاکستان کے دیگر علاقوں کی طرح بلوچستان کے عوام کو بھی زیادہ سے زیادہ فائدہ پہنچایا جائے۔ چین بلوچستان کے ساتھ مختلف شعبہ جات میں گہرے روابط جس میں زرعی شعبہ، ہیول ریسورسز اور صحت شامل ہیں رکھنا چاہتا ہے۔

Express News, 02-03-19

چین کی بحیرہ جنوبی چین کے لئے خطرہ نہیں دینگے امریکہ؟

اگر امریکی فوج کو بحیرہ جنوبی چین میں نشانہ بنایا گیا تو واشنگٹن اپنے دفاع میں فوری جوابی کارروائی کرے گا:
وزیر خارجہ مائیک پومپو کی فلپائن میں گفتگو

نیوا، بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز، اے پی پی) امریکی وزیر خارجہ مائیک پومپو کے مطابق امریکہ چین کو بحیرہ جنوبی چین کیلئے خطرہ نہیں بنے دیگا۔ امریکہ یہ بات یقینی بنائے گا کہ بحیرہ جنوبی چین ہر قسم کی آمدورفت کیلئے کھلا رہے۔ پومپو نے یہ بیان گزشتہ روز اپنے فلپائن کے ایک دورے کے دوران دیا۔ پومپو نے مزید کہا کہ بحیرہ جنوبی چین میں اگر امریکی فوج کو نشانہ بنایا گیا، تو امریکہ اپنے دفاع میں فوری کارروائی کریگا۔ بحیرہ جنوبی چین پر خطے کے کئی ممالک اپنی ملکیت کے دعوے کرتے ہیں۔ امریکی حکام کے یہ کہنے پر کہ امریکی فوج بحیرہ جنوبی چین میں نام نہاد آزادانہ نیویگیشن کا آغاز کرے گی، اس حوالے سے چین کی وزارت دفاع کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ چین اس کی سخت مخالفت کرتا ہے۔ نیویگیشن قانون کے مطابق ہونا چاہیے۔ بحیرہ جنوبی چین کے جزائر اور اس کے قریبی پانیوں میں چین خود مختار ہے۔ اس صورتحال کے تحت امریکہ کے جہاز بلا جواز بار بار بحیرہ جنوبی چین کے جزائر کے قریب سمندر اور فضائی حدود میں داخل ہوئے، جس سے نہ صرف چین کی خود مختاری و سلامتی کو نقصان پہنچا بلکہ یہ بین الاقوامی قانون کی خلاف ورزی بھی ہے۔ اس عمل سے علاقائی امن اور استحکام کو خطرہ لاحق ہوتا ہے اور چین اس کی سخت مخالفت کرتا ہے۔

Express News, 04-03-19

جنوبی چین میں آئندہ ہفتے موسلا دھار بارشوں کے دو دور ہونگے

ہونان، جیانگ ژی، فوجیان اور گوانگ ڈانگ میں بارشیں ہونگی، چینی محکمہ موسمیات

بیجنگ، تیان جن، ہبی، شن ژی اور شن ڈانگ شدید دھند کی لپیٹ میں رہیں گے

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کے محکمہ موسمیات نے امکان ظاہر کیا ہے کہ جنوبی چین کے مختلف علاقوں میں آئندہ ہفتے کے دوران موسلا دھار بارشوں کے دو دور ہونگے۔ ان میں چینی علاقے ہونان، جیانگ ژی، فوجیان اور گوانگ ڈانگ شامل ہیں۔ جن میں آج (پیر) سے بارشوں کا سلسلہ شروع ہو جائے گا جو دو دن جاری رہے گا۔ بعد ازاں وقفے کے بعد پھر بارشیں شروع ہو جائیں گی۔ قومی موسمیات مرکز کے اعلان کے مطابق بارشوں کا دوسرا دور بدھ کو شروع ہو گا اور تین دن تک جاری رہے گا۔ ان بارشوں سے دریائے یانگٹز اور جنوبی چین متاثر ہونگے۔ دریں اثناء بیجنگ، تیان جن، ہبی، شن ژی اور شن ڈانگ آئندہ دو روز تک شدید دھند کی لپیٹ میں رہیں گے۔ منگل سے بدھ تک سردی کی شدید لہر کے باعث شمالی سے جنوبی علاقوں تک دھند کم ہونا شروع ہو جائے گی۔

Express News, 05-03-19

دفاعی اخراجات سے کسی ملک کو خطرہ نہیں ہو سکتا: چین

بیجنگ پر امن طور پر ترقی کے راستے پر چل رہا ہے، خود مختاری کا تحفظ کریں گے: ڈیگ نی سوئی

بیجنگ (آئی این پی، ش نہوا) چین کے محدود دفاعی اخراجات اس کی قومی سلامتی، خود مختاری اور علاقائی یکجہتی کے تحفظ کیلئے ہیں۔ جن سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ اس سے کسی اور ملک کو کوئی خطرہ نہیں ہو سکتا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار یہاں قومی قانون سازوں کے سالانہ اجلاس کے ترجمان ڈیگ نی سوئی نے ایک پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم پر امن طور پر ترقی کے راستے پر چل رہے ہیں۔ اور دفاعی حکمت عملی اختیار کی ہے جو قدرتی طور پر دفاعی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کسی ملک کے بارے میں یہ سمجھنا کہ وہ دوسروں کیلئے فوجی خطرہ ہے یا نہیں اس کے بڑھتے ہوئے دفاعی اخراجات سے طے نہیں کیا جاتا ہے بلکہ اس کی سفارتی اور قومی دفاعی پالیسیوں سے دیکھا جاتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کا 2016 سے اب تک اپنے دفاعی اخراجات میں اضافہ ایک ہندسے تک رہا ہے۔ اور گزشتہ پانچ سال سے اس میں صرف دوہرے ہندسے کا اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ 2016 میں دفاعی بجٹ میں اضافے کی شرح 7.6 فیصد 2017 میں 7 فیصد جبکہ 2018 میں 8.1 فیصد رہی۔ جبکہ قومی دفاعی اخراجات بڑے ترقی پذیر ممالک کی طرح ہی رہے ہیں۔

Express News, 05-03-19

میک اپ کا کمال، چینی لڑکی نے خود کو جونی ڈیپ بنا لیا



بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین کی 26 سالہ ہی یونگ ایک ایسی ہی ایک میک اپ آرٹسٹ ہیں جو میک اپ کی مدد سے اپنے چہرے کو تبدیل کر کے کسی کا بھی روپ اپنا لیتی ہیں۔ حال ہی میں انہوں نے ایک تصویر شہر کی ہے جس میں وہ معروف ہالی ووڈ اداکار جونی ڈیپ کے روپ میں ہیں۔ ہی یونگ اب تک مائیکل جیکسن، مونا لیزا، ٹیلر سوٹ جیسی شخصیات کا روپ اپنا چکی ہیں۔ اور ان کے انسٹاگرام پر فالورز کی تعداد 5 لاکھ ہو چکی ہے۔



Express News, 05-03-19

چینی شخص نے اڑنے والی پہلی سکوٹر تیار کر لی



ڈونگ یونگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین میں ایک ماہر انجینئر نے دنیا کی ایسی پہلی سکوٹر تیار کر لی ہے جو جہاز کی طرح آسمان پر اڑان بھر سکے گی۔ چین کے شہر ڈونگ یونگ کے رہائشی ڈیلی ژو ہونامی انجینئر نے اپنی تیار کردہ فلائنگ سکوٹر پر سوار ہو کر کامیاب اڑان بھری اور اپنی دو سال کی محنت لانے پر خوشی کا اظہار کیا۔ واضح رہے 70 کلو وزنی یہ فلائنگ سکوٹر مزید جدت کے بعد باقاعدہ فروخت کیلئے پیش کی جائے گی۔

Express News, 06-03-19

سی پیک پاکستان کیلئے گیم چینجر ثابت ہوگا: راولپنڈی چیئرمین

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت انڈسٹریل زونز پر ورکنگ تیز کرے، سیمینار

راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت انڈسٹریل زونز پر ورکنگ تیز کرے، پاکستان میں جتنے جلدی مشترکہ منصوبے لگیں گے اتنا ہی جلدی صنعتی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ راولپنڈی چیئرمین آف کامرس کے صدر ملک شاہد سلیم نے چیئرمین میں منعقدہ OBOR موضوع پر آگاہی سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کے لیے گیم چینجر ثابت ہوگا۔ پاکستان میں بے روزگاری میں تیزی کے ساتھ اضافہ ہو رہا ہے کارخانے لگنے سے روزگار کے مواقع بڑھیں گے۔ سی پیک سٹی میں انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر اور سرمایہ کاری کے حوالے چیئرمین آف کامرس کو معلومات دی جائیں۔ ملک شاہد سلیم نے کہا صنعتی زونز پر توجہ مرکوز کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ نیز وہاں بنیادی انفراسٹرکچر کی فراہمی خاص طور پر بجلی گیس اور پانی کی سہولیات برقت پہنچانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

Express News, 06-03-19

فہمیدہ مرزا سے چینی سفیر کی ملاقات، باہمی امور پر تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (سپورٹس رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر برائے بین الصوبائی رابطہ ڈاکٹر فہمیدہ مرزا سے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یا جینگ نے ملاقات کی جس کے دوران وزیر بین الصوبائی رابطہ کے آئندہ دورہ چین سے متعلقہ امور کے بارے میں خیال کیا گیا۔ ڈاکٹر فہمیدہ مرزا نے کہا کہ لوکل گورنمنٹ اور صوبائی سطح پر تعاون سے حقیقی معنوں میں لوگوں کے درمیان حقیقی روابط مضبوط ہوں گے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چائنہ کے موقع پر سال 2019 کو دوستی کا سال قرار دیا گیا۔ اس حوالے سے وفاقی وزیر کا دورہ نہایت اہم ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ لوکل گورنمنٹ صوبائی حکومت کی سطح پر تعلق اور تعاون کے فروغ کا باقاعدہ آغاز ہوگا۔

Express News, 07-03-19

آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے چینی نائب وزیر خارجہ، جرمنی کے چیف آف ڈیفنس سٹاف کی ملاقات اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار، نیوز ایجنسیاں) پاکستان کے دورے پر آئے چینی نائب وزیر خارجہ کانگ یو آن نے جی ایچ کیو راولپنڈی میں آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے ملاقات کی جس میں باہمی دلچسپی، خطے کی سکیورٹی صورتحال اور دو طرفہ تعاون سمیت پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان حالیہ کشیدگی پر بھی بات چیت کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران چینی نائب وزیر خارجہ نے علاقائی امن و استحکام کے لئے پاکستان کی کاوشوں کو سراہا، جرمنی کے چیف آف ڈیفنس سٹاف جنرل ایبر ہارڈ زورن نے بھی جی ایچ کیو کا دورہ کیا اور چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے ملاقات کی، آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق ملاقات کے دوران خطے کی سلامتی کی صورتحال، پاک جرمنی دو طرفہ دفاعی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، ملاقات میں پاک بھارت کشیدگی، بھارتی کے جنگی جنون پر بھی بات چیت کی گئی، جرمنی کے چیف آف ڈیفنس سٹاف نے خطے میں امن و استحکام کیلئے پاکستان کے کردار کی تعریف کی اور کہا پاکستان کے امن دستوں کی اقوام متحدہ میں کارکردگی نہایت اہمیت کی حامل ہے، جرمنی کے چیف آف ڈیفنس سٹاف جنرل ایبر ہارڈ زورن نے یادگار شہدا پر حاضری بھی دی، پاک فوج کے چاک و چوبند دستے نے انہیں طرف گارڈ آف آنر پیش کیا۔

Express News, 08-03-19

نیو ٹیک سے ملکر پاکستانی ورک فورس کیلئے میکانزم بنائیں گے: چینی سفیر

سی پیک چین دوستی کی زندہ مثال، پورے خطے کیلئے مفید ثابت ہوگا: چیئر مین نیو ٹیک جاوید حسن

اسلام آباد (پ ر) چائنہ پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور سی پیک اور نیشنل اینڈوو کیشنل ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ کمیشن (نیو ٹیک) چائنیز کمپنیز ہزاروں مہارت کے حامل پاکستانی ورک فورس کیلئے مشترکہ میکانزم بنائیں گے۔ چائنیز سفیر ڈاؤ ٹنگ نے یہ بات نیو ٹیک ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں نیو ٹیک کے چیئر مین اور ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر سے ملاقات میں کہی۔ چین کے سفیر نے کہا کہ مستقبل قریب میں نیو ٹیک اور چائنہ پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور (سی پیک) ایسوسی ایشن میمورینڈم آف انڈر سٹینڈنگ پر دستخط کریں گے۔ نیو ٹیک کے چیئر مین سید جاوید حسن نے کہا کہ چائنہ پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور (سی پیک) کا پلان پاک چین دوستی کی زندہ مثال ہے جو پورے خطے کیلئے مفید ثابت ہوگا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ نوجوان نسل کی تربیت میں سرمایہ کاری ہی آگے بڑھنے کا واحد راستہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس وقت ہم ہر سال 400,000 افراد کو تربیت دے رہے ہیں جو اگلے 18 ماہ میں 1 ملین تک ہو جائیں گے۔ نیو ٹیک کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ناصر خان نے نیو ٹیک کے TVET ریفارم ایجنڈا کے اقدامات پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔ انہوں نے کہا اس وقت ہماری ترجیح گورنمنٹ کے سٹرکچر میں ربط، TVET سسٹم کے استعداد میں اضافہ، معیار کو بہتر بنانے، انڈسٹری کی شرکت کو با مقصد بنانا، ہر ایک کو مہارت کے برابر مواقع فراہم کرنا اور عالمی منڈی میں ورک فورس کی ضرورت کو پورا کرنا اور TVET کی شہرت میں اضافہ کر کے مزید نوجوانوں کے لئے اس میں رغبت پیدا کرنا ہے۔ چین کے سفیر نے کہا کہ سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت ”سوشیو اکنامک ڈیولپمنٹ گروپ پاکستان کے نوجوانوں کو پیشہ ورانہ تربیت فراہم کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے راستوں کے ساتھ ساتھ معیاری تربیتی ادارے قائم کئے جائیں گے جن میں عالمی منڈی اور مقامی کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کے لئے ہزاروں لوگوں کو تربیت فراہم کی جائے گی۔ چیئر مین نے اس تعاون پر چینی سفیر کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے انہیں می منٹو پیش کیا۔

Express News, 09-03-19

پاکستان کے سدا بہار دوست ہیں، چینی وزیر خارجہ

اس وقت عالمی توجہ پاکستان اور بھارت کے تعلقات پر مرکوز ہے، نیوز کانفرنس سے خطاب

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین مذاکرات کے ذریعے خطے میں امن و استحکام کو فروغ دینے کے سلسلے میں اپنے سدا بہار دوست پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے، چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے 13 ویں نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کے دوسرے اجلاس کے موقع پر ایک نیوز کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ حالیہ واقعات نے ایک بار پھر عالمی توجہ پاکستان بھارت تعلقات پر مرکوز کرادی ہے۔ چین نے شروع میں ہی کشیدگی سے باز رہنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا تھا۔ اس نے کشیدگی کو بڑھنے سے روکا اور مسائل مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے پر زور دیا اسی دوران ملک کی خود مختاری علاقائی سالمیت کا بھی پورا پورا احترام کیا جانا چاہیے۔ چین نے اپنی ثالثی کی کوششوں میں بھی اسی اصول کی پیروی کی ہے اور گزشتہ کئی دنوں کے دوران پیدا ہونے والی کشیدگی کم کرنے میں مثبت کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک پاکستان اور بھارت نے صورتحال میں شدت کم کرنے اور بات چیت شروع کرنے کی خواہش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ جس کا ہم خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت ہمسائے ہیں اور انھیں ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ ہی رہنا ہے۔

Express News, 09-03-19**چین 20 ترقیاتی منصوبوں کیلئے پاکستان کو ایک ارب ڈالر دیگا**

برادر ملک ترقی، غربت خاتمہ کے منصوبے 1 سال میں مکمل کرنے پر رضامند، وزارت منصوبہ بندی

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) چین سماجی شعبہ کے 20 ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے لئے پاکستان کو مجموعی طور پر ایک ارب ڈالر کی گرانٹ فراہم کرے گا اس ضمن میں منصوبہ بندی حکام نے بتایا کہ چین کے تعاون سے سوشل سیکٹر کے یہ منصوبے چاروں صوبوں بشمول آزاد جموں کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان میں ایک سال کے دوران مکمل کئے جائیں گے وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے حکام کا مزید کہنا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ (سی پیک) کے تحت سماجی شعبہ کی ترقی کے مختلف منصوبے طویل المدتی پالیسی کا حصہ تھے تاہم پاکستان تحریک انصاف کی حکومت کی خواہش پر چین نے سماجی شعبہ کی ترقی اور غربت کے خاتمہ کے 20 مختلف منصوبہ جات کو ایک سال میں مکمل کرنے پر رضامندی کا اظہار کیا ہے اور اس حوالے سے ایک ارب ڈالر کی گرانٹ فراہم کی جائے گی ان منصوبوں میں تعلیم، صحت، پینے کے صاف پانی کی فراہمی سمیت سماجی شعبہ کی ترقی کے مختلف منصوبے شامل ہیں۔

Express News, 09-03-19

دلچسپ و عجیب

چین میں روبوٹ سیاحوں کے گائیڈ بن گئے



تائی یوآن (آئی این پی) سیاحوں کی رہنمائی کے لیے روبوٹ ٹورز گائیڈ کے 26 روبوٹ پر مشتمل پہلے گروپ نے چین کے قدرتی شہر پنگ یاؤ میں کام شروع کر دیا۔ پنگ یاؤ چین کے شمالی صوبے شیزی کا 27 سو سالہ عظیم ثقافتی ورثے کا حامل شہر ہے۔ سیاح ان روبوٹ گائیڈ سے مدد حاصل کر سکتے ہیں انھیں 30 منٹ کے لیے 3.6 امریکی ڈالر کی ادائیگی کرنا ہوگی۔ یہ روبوٹ کھانے، رہائش اور مقامی طور پر خریداری کے لیے بھی رہنمائی کر سکتے ہیں۔ یہ روبوٹ 200 کلوگرام وزن اٹھا کر 6.4 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ کی رفتار سے چل سکتے ہیں۔ یہ گائیڈ روبوٹ لوگوں سے 50 سنتی میٹر دور خود بخود رک جائیں گے۔ پنگ یاؤ کو یونسکو کی طرف سے 1997 ثقافتی ورثے کی فہرست میں شامل کیا گیا تھا۔

Express News, 10-03-19

پاک چین دوستی ہر آزمائش پر پوری اتری: قونصل جنرل، شہباز سے ملاقات

لاہور (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر اور قائد حزب اختلاف شہباز شریف سے چین کے قونصل جنرل لانگ ڈنگ بن نے ملاقات کی۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے خوشگوار اور دوستانہ گرمجوشی کے ماحول میں چین پاکستان مثالی دوستی، سی پیک، دو طرفہ تعلقات میں مزید قربت، عوامی سطح پر رابطوں، دو طرفہ دوستانہ دوروں کے فروغ سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ لانگ ڈنگ بن نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان سدا بہار، آزموہ و گہرے دوست اور سٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں، دونوں ممالک کی دوستی وقت کی ہر آزمائش پر پوری اتری، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی ترقی اور دونوں ممالک کا مختلف شعبہ جات میں تعاون عوامی مفاد میں ہے، سی پیک سے عوامی سطح پر روابط کو فروغ دینے اور عوام کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنانے میں مدد ملے گی، کمیونسٹ پارٹی چین پاکستان کی تمام سیاسی جماعتوں سے دوستانہ اور تعاون پر مبنی تعلقات استوار کرنے کی خواہاں ہے۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر اور اپوزیشن لیڈر شہباز شریف نے قونصل جنرل کو چین کی قیادت اور عوام کیلئے نیک تمناؤں کا پیغام دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کی مسلسل حمایت پر دل کی گہرائیوں سے شکر گزار ہیں، چین کی قیادت اور عوام نے سچے دوست کی طرح پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا، پاکستانی عوام اس دوستی کی انتہائی قدر کرتے ہیں، چین سے دوستی اور تعاون کے فروغ کیلئے کمیونسٹ پارٹی سے ملکر کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں، دونوں جماعتوں کے اشتراک عمل اور تعاون سے پاکستان چین دوستی مزید گہری اور مضبوط ہوگی۔ انہوں نے یقین دلایا کہ سی پیک کی تعمیر، دو طرفہ تعلقات کی ترقی اور فروغ میں اپنا مثبت کردار ادا کرتا رہوں گا۔ چین کے قونصل جنرل نے شہباز شریف کے چین کی قیادت اور عوام کے لئے خیر سگالی کے جذبات پر شکریہ ادا کیا۔

Express News, 10-03-19

چین جلد ہی پاکستان کو نیا میزائل پی ایل 15 فراہم کرے گا

میزائل کو ہدف تک پہنچنے سے کوئی حفاظتی نظام نہیں روک سکتا، جے ایف 17 میں نصب کیا جائیگا

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) پاکستان نے چین سے طاقتور ترین ائر ٹو ائر چینی ساختہ میزائل PL-15 کا معاہدہ کیا ہے، تفصیلات کے مطابق یوں تو پاکستان نئی جزییشن کیلئے بہت سے میزائل خریدے گا مگر ایک خاص میزائل بہت اہمیت کا حامل ہے، میزائل لانچ ہونے سے پہلے ہدف کی معلومات اوکیس طیاروں کے علاوہ زمین پر موجود ریڈاروں اور سیٹلائٹ سے بھی لے سکتا ہے۔ میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق چین جلد ہی پاکستان کو یہ میزائل فراہم کرے گا اس میزائل کو چین نے اپنے جدید طیاروں کے لیے بنایا تھا، یہ میزائل 150KM تک کسی بھی فضائی ہدف کو انتہائی درستگی سے نشانہ لگانے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے، میزائل طاقتور راکٹ موٹر کی وجہ سے لمبے فاصلے تک ماگ کی رفتار سے پرواز کر سکتا ہے۔ پاکستان کو JF-17 طیاروں کے بلاک 3 میں استعمال کا خواہش مند تھا لیکن اب ان میزائلز کو JF-17 کے بلاک ٹو یعنی موجودہ طیاروں میں بھی نصب کیا جائیگا یہ میزائل بھارت کے جدید دفاعی صلاحیت کی راہ میں مشکلات پیدا کر سکتا ہے واضح رہے یہ ایک ایسا میزائل ہے جسے ہدف تک پہنچنے سے دشمن کا کوئی بھی حفاظتی نظام نہیں روک سکتا ہے۔

Express News, 10-03-19

چین نے قطب جنوبی میں اپنا 35 واں تحقیقی مشن مکمل کر لیا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی، ش نہوا) چین نے قطب جنوبی میں اپنا 35 واں تحقیقی مشن مکمل کر لیا ہے۔ جس کے بعد چین کا آکس بریکر ٹولانگ واپس پہنچ گیا ہے۔ چین نے اپنے اس مشن کے ذریعے برف میں قطب جنوبی میں تائی شن سٹیشن قائم کرنا تھا جو آکس بریکر ٹولانگ کے ذریعے مکمل کر لیا گیا۔ تحقیقاتی ٹیم کی طرف سے تائی شن سٹیشن کا قیام اس کی کامیابیوں میں ایک بڑی کامیابی ہے۔ جس نے اس علاقے میں بجلی پیدا کرنے کے لیے نئی عمارتیں اور نظام قائم کر دیا ہے۔

Express News, 10-03-19

چینی فنکارہ کاریت پر تھری ڈی تصاویر بنانے کا مظاہرہ

ہر بین (نیٹ نیوز) یوں تو صحراء میں ہر سو پھیلی ریت آپ نے دیکھی ہی ہوگی لیکن جناب اسی ریت سے بنے فن پارے شاید ہی کبھی دیکھے ہوں۔ چین کے صوبے ہیلانگ جیانگ کے شہر ہیر بین سے تعلق رکھنے والی یو مونا می خاتون نے اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے ریت کا استعمال کیا۔ چینی فنکارہ نے ریت کو مختلف رنگوں میں بدل کر پلاسٹک کی بوتل میں بھر اور فرش پر یوں بکھیرا کہ خوبصورت تھری ڈی تصاویر بن گئیں۔ واضح رہے یو مونا می اس مہارت کی بنا پر کئی تصاویر تیار کر چکی ہے اور انہی فن پاروں کو لمحوں میں مٹانے کی ہمت بھی خوب رکھتی ہے۔ چینی فنکارہ کی ماہرانہ صلاحیتوں سے بھرپور ویڈیوز سوشل میڈیا پر مقبول ہو چکی ہیں جسے اب تک لاکھوں افراد دیکھ چکے ہیں۔

Express News, 11-03-19

پاک، چین، افغان مشاورتی اجلاس آج کابل میں ہوگا

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاکستان، چین اور افغانستان کا مشاورتی اجلاس آج کابل میں ہوگا۔ افغان وزارت خارجہ کے مطابق نائب وزیر خارجہ اور لیس زمان اجلاس کی صدارت کریں گے۔ اجلاس میں پاکستان کی نمائندگی کابل میں پاکستان کے سفیر زاہد نصر اللہ خان کریں گے، اجلاس میں تینوں ممالک کے مشترکہ منصوبوں پر پیشرفت کا جائزہ جائیگا۔

Express News, 11-03-19

امریکہ سے تجارتی مذاکرات کیلئے پر امید ہیں: چین

بیجنگ (صبح نیوز) چین نے کہا ہے کہ امریکہ کے ساتھ تجارتی معاہدے کیلئے دن رات کام کر رہے ہیں۔ چینی نائب وزیر تجارت نے کہا ہے کہ امریکہ کیساتھ تجارتی مذاکرات کیلئے پر امید ہیں، دونوں فریقین ٹیرف میں کمی کیلئے کام کر رہے ہیں، تجارتی مذاکرات میں طے کیا جانے والا ٹریڈ میکنزم شفاف اور برابری کی بنیاد پر ہونا چاہئے۔

Express News, 11-03-19

چینی رواں برس دوسرا مصنوعی سورج بھی تیار کر لے گا

مصنوعی سورج سے سستی اور لامحدود توانائی کا حصول باآسانی ممکن ہوگا، چینی سائنسدان

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چینی رواں برس اپنا دوسرا مصنوعی سورج بھی تیار کر لے گا۔ غیر ملکی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق چینی سائنسدانوں نے بتایا کہ مصنوعی سورج سے سستی اور لامحدود توانائی کا حصول ممکن ہوگا، مصنوعی سورج کی مشین HL-2MTokamak ہے، جس کی تیاری رواں برس میں مکمل ہو جائے گی۔ 100 ملین ڈگری سے زیادہ درجہ حرارت تک جانے والی اس مشین کے ذریعے ہائیڈروجن کو شفاف توانائی میں تبدیل کیا جاسکے گا۔ ایک پروجیکٹ لیڈر نے کہا کہ توقع کی جارہی ہے کہ نیا سورج 100 ملین ڈگری سیل سیس سے زیادہ درجہ حرارت تک جائے گا یا ہمارے قریب ترین ستاروں کی گرمی سے چھ گنا زیادہ گرم ہوگا۔ یاد رہے کہ گزشتہ سال بھی چائنا نے ایک مصنوعی سورج بنایا تھا۔

Express News, 11-03-19

چین میں مرد ٹیچرز کے درمیان ہائی ہیل ریس کا انعقاد



بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین میں دلچسپ مقابلے کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں مردوں نے خواتین کیلئے تھائف حاصل کرنے کی کوشش میں ہیل پہن کر خوب دوڑ لگائی۔ چین کے ایک اسکول کے مرد اسٹاؤ نے اپنی ساتھی خواتین ٹیچرز کو خراج تحسین پیش کرنے کی ٹھانی اور ہائی ہیل ریس میں بھرپور حصہ لیا۔ مردوں نے آٹھ سینٹی میٹر اونچی ہیل والی سینڈل پہن کر 1 ہزار میٹر کا فاصلہ طے کرتے ایک دوسرے پر سبقت لے جانے کی کوشش کی۔

Express News, 12-03-19

پاک چین دوستی ضرب المثل بن چکی ہے: بریگیڈئیر ابراہیم

14 رکنی چینی وفد کا نمل یونیورسٹی کا دورہ، ملاقات، کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ کا دورہ

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) چائینہ انٹرنیشنل انجینئرنگ کنسلٹنگ کارپوریشن کے 14 رکنی وفد نے نیشنل یونیورسٹی آف ماڈرن لیگوبیجر (نمل) کا دورہ کیا اور ڈائریکٹر جنرل نمل بریگیڈئیر محمد ابراہیم سے ملاقات کی، وفد کی قیادت کارپوریشن کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ڈوڈہ بنلی کر رہے تھے جبکہ اس موقع پر جنرل نمل بریگیڈئیر (ر) رضا انعم، ڈین لیگوبیجر ڈاکٹر سفیر اعوان، ڈائریکٹر کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ اسلام آباد اور دیگر بھی موجود تھے، اس موقع پر ڈائریکٹر جنرل نمل بریگیڈئیر محمد ابراہیم نے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی ضرب المثل بن چکی ہے دونوں ممالک کے عوام آپس میں وابہانہ عقیدت رکھتے ہیں، اور نمل میں 2005 سے قائم کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ ادارے کا فخر ہے جو مسلسل 4 مرتبہ بہترین انسٹیٹیوٹ کا ایوارڈ جیت چکا ہے، نمل نے سی پیک کی اہمیت کے پیش نظر گوادرن میں نمل کیپس قائم کیا ہے جہاں چینی زبان کا سنٹر بنایا جا رہا ہے تاکہ چینی زبان کو خطے میں فروغ دیا جاسکے، وفد کے سربراہ نے ڈی جی نمل کو لیگوبیجر سنٹر کیلئے اپنے بھرپور تعاون کا یقین دلایا، آخر میں وفد نے کنفیوشس انسٹیٹیوٹ کا دورہ بھی کیا۔

Express News, 12-03-19

چین اور ایتھوپیا نے بوئنگ 737 کی پروازیں معطل کر دیں

دونوں ممالک کی ایئرلائنز نے مسافروں کی حفاظت کے پیش نظر اقدام کیا ہے

بیجنگ (خبر ایجنسیاں) چین کے شہری ہوابازی ریگولیشن نے ایتھوپیا میں حادثے کا شکار ہونے والے بوئنگ 737.8 ہوائی جہاز کی کمرشل پروازیں معطل کرنے کا حکم جاری کر دیا ہے۔ دریں اثناء ایتھوپین ایئرلائنز نے بھی بوئنگ 737 کے تمام طیارے گراؤنڈ کر دیئے ہیں۔ ایئرلائنز نے اپنے ایک ٹویٹ پیغام میں کہا ہے کہ ابھی تک ہمیں حادثے کی وجوہات کا علم نہیں ہے تاہم ہم نے حفاظت کے مد نظر تمام طیارے گراؤنڈ کر دیئے ہیں۔

Express News, 13-03-19**چینی سفیر کی سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی ظفر حسن سے ملاقات**

سی سی پیک منصوبوں پر جاری پیش رفت، اگلے ماہ عمران خان کے متوقع دورہ چین پر گفتگو

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی ظفر حسن نے کہا ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت کے ویرٹن کے مطابق اقتصادی زونز کا قیام یقینی بنایا جائے گا، پاکستان و چین کے مابین ایک جامع میکانزم تشکیل دیا جائے گا تاکہ اقتصادی زونز کی شروعات کی جاسکے۔ چین کے سفیر یاوجنگ نے سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات ظفر حسن سے ملاقات کی ملاقات میں سی سی پیک منصوبوں پر جاری پیش رفت اور اگلے ماہ وزیراعظم پاکستان کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے گفتگو ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر حسان داوود نے بھی شرکت کی۔ ملاقات میں فریقین نے سماجی و معاشی شعبے میں رواں ماہ چینی ماہرین کے دورے کے تناظر میں نئے منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ اس شعبے میں پہلے سے منتخب چھ سیکٹرز بشمول صحت، تعلیم، تکنیکی تربیت، زراعت، غربت کے خاتمے اور آبپاشی کے منصوبے تین سالوں میں پاکستان کے دور افتادہ و کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں میں مکمل کئے جائیں گے، وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے موقع پر اس شعبے کے منصوبوں کے حوالے سے پیش رفت متوقع ہے۔ سیکرٹری پلاننگ ظفر حسن نے اس موقع پر سی پیک صنعتی تعاون کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت کے وٹن کے مطابق اقتصادی زونز کا قیام یقینی بنایا جائے گا، پاکستان و چین کے مابین ایک جامع میکانزم تشکیل دیا جائے گا تاکہ اقتصادی زونز کی شروعات کی جاسکے۔ فریقین نے گواہر منصوبوں بشمول نئے اڑپورٹ، ہسپتال، ووکیشنل انسٹی ٹیوٹ اور سٹی ماسٹر پلان پر کام تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ ان منصوبوں پر منصوبہ بندی کا کام کافی حد تک مکمل کیا جا چکا ہے، سال رواں کے وسط تک ان منصوبوں کا سنگ بنیاد رکھا جائے گا۔ سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی نے ایم ایل ون کی ڈیزائننگ کو حتمی شکل دینے پر زور دیا تاکہ اسکے مالی معاملات پر بات چیت کا آغاز کیا جائے، ملاقات کے دوران فریقین نے وزیراعظم پاکستان کے ماہ اپریل میں متوقع دورہ چین کے ایجنڈہ کو حتمی شکل دینے کیلئے روابط تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔

Express News, 13-03-19

حویلیاں تھاکوٹ موٹروے ٹھیکہ چینی کمپنی کو بغیر اشتراک دیدیا

سی پیک پر معاہدہ ہوا کہ چینی، پاکستانی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ مشترکہ ٹھیکے لیں گی، آڈٹ حکام

اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگر) حویلیاں تھاکوٹ موٹروے سیکشن کا ٹھیکہ چینی کمپنی کو اشتراک کے بغیر دے دیا گیا۔ پی اے سی کی ذیلی کمیٹی کا اجلاس کنوینر نور عالم خان کی زیر صدارت ہوا، اجلاس میں آڈٹ حکام نے بتایا سی پیک پر پاک چین معاہدہ ہوا کہ چینی کمپنیاں پاکستانی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ مشترکہ ٹھیکے لیں گی تاہم حویلیاں۔ تھاکوٹ سیکشن کا ٹھیکہ چینی کمپنی کو دے دیا گیا، این ایچ اے دو حکومتوں کے درمیان معاہدہ کیسے تبدیل کر سکتا ہے؟ بلوم برگ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چینی کمپنیاں مشترکہ منصوبے کے تحت بہترین نتائج دیتی ہیں۔ رکن کمیٹی خواجہ آصف نے دعویٰ مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا نوے فیصد چینی کمپنیاں منصوبوں پر اکیلے کام کر رہی ہیں۔ چیئرمین این ایچ اے نے کہا حویلیاں۔ تھاکوٹ منصوبہ 192 ارب کا تھا، چینی کمپنی کو 133 ارب تک لے آئے، مذکورہ منصوبے کے لئے چینی ایگزیم بینک نے سرمایہ دیا جو ان منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرتا ہے جن کا ٹھیکہ چینی کمپنیوں کے پاس ہو۔

سلامتی کونسل چین مسعود اظہر کو بخلا قرار داد پھر کوادی؟

امریکہ، برطانیہ اور فرانس نے کالعدم تنظیم جیش محمد کے سربراہ کانام دہشتگردی کی فہرست میں شامل کرنے کی قرارداد پیش کی تھی پابندی کیلئے مزید جائزے کی ضرورت ہے: چین

ہمیشہ ذمہ دارانہ رویے کا مظاہرہ کیا، قرارداد پر فریقین سے رابطے میں رہے ہیں، تمام فریقین کے لیے قابل قبول حل مسئلے کا مناسب حل ہوگا، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ کا بیان

نیویارک (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) چین نے اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل میں کالعدم تنظیم جیش محمد کے سربراہ مولانا مسعود اظہر کو دہشتگرد قرار دینے کی قرارداد کوادی۔ فرانس، امریکہ اور برطانیہ نے مولانا مسعود اظہر کانام اقوام متحدہ کی دہشت گردی کی بلیک لسٹ میں شامل کرنے کی قرارداد سلامتی کونسل میں جمع کرائی تھی۔ چین پہلے بھی 3 بار مولانا مسعود اظہر کے خلاف قرارداد ویٹو کر چکا ہے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کے مطابق چین نے سلامتی کونسل میں مسعود اظہر کے خلاف قرارداد پر اپنا موقف جمع کراتے ہوئے کہا کہ مسعود اظہر پر پابندی کیلئے مزید جائزہ لینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ اس حوالے سے چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے اپنے رد عمل میں کہا ہے کہ چین نے ہمیشہ ذمہ دارانہ رویے کا مظاہرہ کیا ہے۔ قرارداد پر فریقین سے رابطے میں رہے ہیں۔ ہمیشہ مناسب موقف اپنایا۔ اس سلسلے میں متعلقہ اداروں کو قوانین اور طریقہ کار کی پابندی کرنی ہوگی۔ تمام فریقین کے لیے قابل قبول حل مسئلے کا مناسب حل ہوگا۔ قبل ازیں 17-2016 میں بھی چین نے مولانا مسعود اظہر پر پابندیوں کی قراردادیں ویٹو کر دی تھیں تاہم کالعدم تنظیم 2001 سے اقوام متحدہ کی دہشتگردی کی فہرست میں شامل ہے۔

Jang News, 01-03-19**چینی سفیر کی آصف زرداری سے ملاقات**

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے سابق صدر آصف علی زرداری سے جمعرات کو زرداری ہاؤس اسلام آباد میں ملاقات، ملاقات میں خطے کی تازہ ترین صورتحال کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر سینیٹ کے ڈپٹی چیئرمین سلیم مانڈوی والا بھی شریک تھے۔

Jang News, 01-03-19**سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے چینی ماہرین کے وفد کا نیوٹیک ہیڈ کوارٹر کا دورہ**

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) سی پیک کے سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے چینی ماہرین کے گیارہ رکنی وفد نے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ڈوشین لی کی قیادت میں نیوٹیک ہیڈ کوارٹر کا دورہ کیا اور نیوٹیک کے چیئرمین سید جاوید حسن ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر ناصر خان سے ملاقات کی، ملاقات میں پہلے مشیز کہ سماجی و معاشی ترقی گروپ کے اجلاس کی سفارشات کی روشنی میں پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم و تربیت کے اہداف کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچانے کا لائحہ عمل زیر بحث لایا گیا، ڈاکٹر ناصر خان نے اس ضمن میں لئے گئے اقدامات پر بریفنگ دی اور کہا کہ چینی تعاون کی بدولت پاکستان کے TVET سیکٹر کی ترقی اور آسان ہو جائیگی، اس کی بدولت سی پیک پیشہ اکٹماک زونز اور اسی طرح کے دوسرے منصوبوں کیلئے تربیت یافتہ ہنرمندوں کی فراہمی کا ہدف بخوبی پورا ہو سکے گا، چینی ماہرین نے نیوٹیک کی پاکستان کے TVET سیکٹر کی فعالی کیلئے اقدامات کو سراہا اور کہا وہ اپنی جدید ترین تکنیک اور کامیاب تجربات کو پاکستان سے بانٹنے میں گہری دلچسپی رکھتے ہیں تاکہ پاکستان کی نوجوان آبادی ملکی ترقی میں بھرپور کردار ادا کر سکیں۔

Jang News, 06-03-19

بھارت سے سی پیک کی ترقی اور پاک چین تعلقات، ہضم نہیں ہو رہے، رحمن ملک، چینی نائب سفیر کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چین کے نائب سفیر اور سی پیک بیڈ لی جیان ژاؤ نے سینٹ داخلہ کمیٹی کے چیئرمین سینیٹر رحمان ملک سے اگلے گھر پر ملاقات کی۔ سینیٹر رحمان ملک اور لی جیان ژاؤ نے پاک چین تعلقات سمیت موجودہ علاقائی صورتحال پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ سینیٹر رحمان ملک اور لی جیان ژاؤ نے پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان بڑھتی کشیدگی پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ جنگ کسی مسئلے کا حل نہیں، دونوں ممالک آپس کے مسائل مکالمے کے ذریعے حل کریں۔ لی جیان ژاؤ نے کہا کہ چین کی ہمیشہ خواہش رہی ہے کہ خطے میں امن و امان اور ترقی ہو۔ چین پاکستان و بھارت کے درمیان موجودہ کشیدگی ختم کرنے میں مثبت کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امن و امان کے بغیر ترقی ممکن نہیں، جنگ پورے خطے کو بری طرح متاثر کرے گی۔ سینیٹر رحمان ملک نے کہا کہ سی پیک جس انداز سے ترقی کر رہا ہے و پاک چین دو تہی بڑھتی جا رہی ہے دشمن سے برداشت نہیں ہو رہا ہے۔ پاک چین تعلقات مثالی ہیں جس پر دونوں ملکوں کے حکومتوں اور عوام کو فخر ہے۔ ملاقات کے بعد میڈیا سے بات چیت میں سینیٹر رحمن ملک نے کہا کہ بھارتی سینیٹر سیاست دان چید مریم نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان سے بات چیت کرنا ہوگی۔ بھارتی سیاست دان اور سول سوسائٹی مودی کے جنگی عزائم کے خلاف کھڑے ہو چکے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارت کہتا ہے پاکستان نے ایف سولہ طیارے استعمال کئے بھارت جو ایف 16 کا کھرا دکھا رہا ہے وہ تائیوان سے اسکرپ میں لایا گیا۔

Jang News, 07-03-19

چینی تعمیراتی گروپ 280 ارب کی سرمایہ کاری کرینگے

سرمایہ کاروں کو دوستانہ ماحول کی فراہمی اولین ترجیح، عمران خان کی چینی گروپوں کے سربراہان سے گفتگو

وزیراعظم کی زیر صدارت اجلاس، پہلی قومی ٹیرف پالیسی کی منظوری، مسودہ کا بیسٹ میں پیش کیا جائیگا

اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر) چین کے ایکس سی ایم جی (XCMG) اور ایچ ایس ایس ایس گروپ (HSS) پاکستان میں دو ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کریں گے۔ یہ یقین دہانی ایس سی ایم جی کے گلوبل سلیز صدر اور جنرل مینجر ڈاکٹر ہین لیو اور ایچ ایس ایس گروپ کے سید من ہاشمی نے وزیراعظم عمران خان سے ملاقات میں کرائی۔ دونوں گروپ یہ سرمایہ کاری ہاؤسنگ اور مینوفیکچرنگ سیکٹر میں کریں گے۔ ایکس سی ایم جی گلوبل کنسٹرکشن انڈسٹری ایکویٹمنٹ اینڈ مشینری کے شعبہ کی نمبر ون کمپنی ہے۔ گروپ پاکستان میں جہوی ایکویٹمنٹ مینوفیکچرنگ پلانٹ لگانے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔ یہ گروپ ہائی رائر بلڈنگز اور ہاؤسنگ یونٹس کی تعمیر میں مہارت رکھتا ہے اور

وزیراعظم کے 50 لاکھ مکانوں کی تعمیر کے منصوبہ میں شراکت داری کا خواہش مند ہے۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاروں کو دوستانہ بزنس ماحول کی فراہمی حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ دریں اثنا وزیراعظم عمران خان نے ملک کی پہلی قومی ٹیرف پالیسی کی اصولی منظوری دیدی ہے جس کا مقصد ملک کے ٹیرف نظام کے پورے ڈھانچے میں شفافیت، پیشگوئی کو یقینی بنانا اور اسے ادارہ جاتی شکل دینا ہے۔ وزیراعظم کا منظور کردہ مسودہ پالیسی غور کیلئے وفاقی کابینہ کے روبرو پیش کیا جائے گا۔ یہ منظوری وزیراعظم کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں دی گئی۔

Jang News, 08-03-19

سی پیک سے 24 ارب روپے کی منتقلی پر وزارت خزانہ کا اعتراض

سی پیک منصوبوں کیلئے فنڈز کو تحفظ فراہم کیا گیا ہے۔ ترجمان وزارت منصوبہ بندی

ارب روپے منظور کئے لیکن میڈیا کی جانب سے تنقید کے بعد اس بارے میں زیادہ گرجوشی کا مظاہرہ نہیں کیا گیا۔ وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے اس تاثر کو غلط قرار دیا گیا کہ سی پیک سے فنڈز ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے صوابدیدی منصوبوں کو منتقل کئے گئے۔ سی پیک منصوبوں کے لئے مختص فنڈز ضرورت اور طلب کے مطابق ہیں۔ پی ایس ڈی پی میں 800 ارب سے کٹوتی کر کے 675 ارب روپے کرنے کے باوجود سی پیک منصوبوں کیلئے فنڈز کو تحفظ فراہم کیا گیا ہے۔ وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ اچیومنٹ پروگرام کے ذریعہ ایس ڈی چیز کے حصول میں مدد ملے گی۔

کراچی (رپورٹ، مہتاب حیدر) وزارت خزانہ نے سی پیک کے لئے مختص 24 ارب روپے ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے صوابدیدی منصوبوں کو منتقل کئے جانے پر اعتراض کیا ہے جس کے بعد وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے ایک سرکاری اعلامیہ کے ذریعہ نظر ثانی شدہ پی ایس ڈی پی کی تصدیق کی۔ منصوبہ بندی کمیشن کے ایک اعلیٰ افسر نے بتایا کہ 27 ارب میں سے 24 ارب روپے سی پیک اور دیگر کے تحت خصوصی اقدامات کے لئے منتقل کئے گئے۔ سی پیک کے خصوصی منصوبوں کے لئے صرف تین ارب روپے محفوظ تھے جو جاری نہیں ہوئے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ حکومت نے گو کہ ایس ڈی چیز اچیومنٹ پروگرام کے لئے ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے دباؤ پر 24

Jang News, 08-03-19

سی پیک منصوبوں کیلئے فنڈز میں

کمی نہیں کی گئی، صداقت عباسی

اسلام آباد (طارق بٹ) ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے لئے فنڈز مختص کئے جانے کے خلاف سپریم کورٹ کا فیصلہ ہے۔ حکومت کہتی ہے کہ اس مد میں 24 ارب روپے مختص کرنے سے عدالتی حکم کی خلاف ورزی نہیں ہوتی۔ یہ رقم پاک چین اقتصادی راہ داری کے لئے رکھی گئی رقم سے نکال کر ارکان پارلیمنٹ کے سفارش کردہ ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے لئے رکھی گئی ہے۔ مالی سال کے شروع میں مختلف ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے لئے رکھے گئے یہ 24 ارب روپے مالی سال کے اختتام پر بے مصرف ہو جانے تھے۔ رابطہ کرنے پر تحریک انصاف کے رہنما صداقت عباسی کے مطابق اس رقم کو تب سوشل سیکٹرا سکیموں کے لئے رکھ دیا گیا ہے۔ اس طرح سی پیک کے تحت منصوبوں کے لئے فنڈز میں کوئی کمی نہیں کی گئی۔

Jang News, 09-03-19

24 ارب کی منتقلی، حکومت سی پیک کو پس پشت ڈال رہی ہے، رضاربانی

خارجہ پالیسی میں اتنی سڑجک تبدیلی پر پارلیمنٹ میں بحث ہونی چاہیے تھی، ایوان پر مشتمل کمیٹی بنائی جائے

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) سابق چیئرمین سینیٹ رضاربانی نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت کی جانب سے سی پیک کے 24 ارب روپے دیگر پروگرامز میں منتقل کرنا واضح نشانی ہے کہ حکومت سی پیک کو پس پشت ڈال رہی ہے سابق چیئرمین سینیٹ میاں رضاربانی نے اپنے بیان میں کہا کہ حکومت کی جانب سے سی پیک کے 27 ارب میں سے 24 ارب روپے کو دوسرے پروگرامز میں منتقل کر دیا گیا ہے۔ مشیر تجارتی امور نے بیان دیا تھا کہ سی پیک کو ایک سال کے لیے روک دیا جائے۔ پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا مغربی دارالحکومتوں اور ان کے اتحادیوں کی جانب سے بدلتا، اس کی تصدیق کرتا ہے۔ خارجہ پالیسی میں اتنی سڑجک تبدیلی پر پارلیمنٹ میں بحث ہونی چاہیے تھی۔ پاک بھارت تنازع کے دوران وزیر خارجہ سینیٹ میں ایک بار بھی نہیں آئے۔ اس معاملے پر پورے ایوان پر مشتمل کمیٹی قائم کی جائے۔

Jang News, 10-03-19

چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کی مسلسل حمایت پر شکر گزار ہیں، شہباز شریف

چینی قونصل جنرل کی ملاقات، عالمی حالات کچھ بھی ہوں، پاک چین دوستی آگے بڑھے گی، لانگ ڈنگ بن

لاہور (یوز ایجنسیاں) صدر پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) اور قائد حزب اختلاف قومی اسمبلی شہباز شریف سے چین کے قونصل جنرل لانگ ڈنگ بن نے لاہور میں ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے قائد حزب اختلاف شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کی مسلسل حمایت پر دل کی اتھاہ گہرائیوں سے شکر گزار ہیں۔ چین کی قیادت اور عوام نے سچے دوست کی طرح پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا۔ اس دوستی کی قدر کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) پاکستان کی مرکزی سیاسی جماعت ہونے کی حیثیت سے کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی دوستی اور باہمی تعاون کی پیشکش کا خیر مقدم کرتی ہے اور مل کر کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں۔ دونوں جماعتوں کے اشتراک عمل اور تعاون سے چین پاکستان دوستی مزید گہری ہوگی اور دوطرفہ تعاون کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ سی پیک چین کا پاکستان کے لئے بیش قیمت تحفہ ہے۔ سی پیک کی تعمیر دوطرفہ تعلقات کی ترقی اور فروغ میں اپنا مثبت کردار ادا کرتا رہوں گا۔

پاک چین دوستی کے لئے مسلم لیگ (ن) اور شہباز شریف ہر خدمت کو اعزاز سمجھتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر چینی قونصل جنرل نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان سدا بہار آزمودہ دوست اور سٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کی دوستی وقت کی ہر آزمائش پر پوری اتری۔ عالمی سطح پر حالات کچھ بھی ہوں، پاک چین دوستی آگے بڑھتی رہی گی۔ سی پیک کی ترقی کی صورت دونوں ممالک کا مختلف شعبہ جات میں تعاون عوامی مفاد میں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک سے عوامی سطح پر روابط کو فروغ اور عوام کا معیار زندگی بہتر ہوگا۔ زراعت اور صنعتی پارکس قائم ہوں گے۔ صنعتی پارکس کے قیام سے مستقبل کی راہداری کی تعمیر پر توجہ مرکوز کی گئی۔ چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی پاکستان کی تمام سیاسی جماعتوں سے دوستانہ اور تعاون پر مبنی تعلقات استوار کرنے کی خواہاں ہے۔ لانگ ڈنگ بن نے کہا کہ سی پیک کی ترقی اور فروغ سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان روایتی دوستانہ تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی۔

Jang News, 10-03-19

چینی سائنسدان دوسرا مصنوعی سورج

رواں سال مکمل کر لیں گے

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) یہ کہا جا رہا ہے کہ چینی سائنس دانوں نے سستی اور تقریباً لامحدود قابل تجدید توانائی کی تلاش میں ایک اور نیا مصنوعی سورج بنا رہے ہیں۔ ایک پروجیکٹ لیڈر نے کہا کہ توقع کی جا رہی ہے کہ نیا سورج 100 ملین ڈگری سیلسیس سے زیادہ درجہ حرارت تک جائے گا یا ہمارے قریب ترین ستاروں کی گرمی سے 6 گنا زیادہ گرم ہوگا۔ یہ سورج اس سال بنا لیا جائے گا۔ گزشتہ سال بھی چائنا نے ایک مصنوعی سورج بنایا تھا۔ نیا سورج ساؤتھ ویسٹرن انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف فزکس کے سائنس دان بنا رہے ہیں۔

Jang News, 11-03-19



چین نے جرمنی پر برتری حاصل کر لی

تحریر: ولنگنگ منچا

شاید یورپی یونین کیلئے اور خاص طور پر جرمنی کے لئے سب سے بڑا جغرافیائی مسئلہ چین کے ساتھ مستقبل کے تعلقات ہیں۔ گزشتہ نصفے جرمنی کے برنس میگزین نے رپورٹ دی کہ چانسلر ہینکلہ مرکل کے سینئر حکام نے انسداد جاسوسی معاہدے کی کوشش کیلئے چین کا دورہ کیا۔ اس طرح کے معاہدوں کی عموماً کاغذ پر تحریر اتنی اہمیت کی حامل نہیں ہوتی۔ اس دورے کا سیاق و سباق چین کی ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سامان ساز کمپنی ہواوے کی جانب سے جرمنی میں فیسفہ جزییشن موبائل لائسنس کیلئے درخواست تھی (جس کا فیصلہ رواں ماہ کسی تاریخ کو ہونا ہے)۔ جاسوسی نہ کرنے کا معاہدہ جرمنی کو یہ ظاہر کرنے کی اجازت دے گا کہ اسے چین سے سکیورٹی کے حوالے سے کوئی خطرہ نہیں ہے۔

دونوں ممالک کے مابین اقتصادی تعلقات کافی دلچسپ ہیں۔ چین کے بارے میں جرمنی تذبذب کا شکار ہے۔ اسے چین کی ہواوے ٹیکنالوجی کی ضرورت ہے۔ جرمنی کے موبائل فون آپریٹرز ہواوے کی فائوجی درخواست پر خاص طور پر کافی آرزو مند ہیں کیونکہ وہ پہلے ہی اپنے نیٹ ورکس میں چین کمپنی کے ہارڈ ویئر استعمال کر رہے ہیں۔ تاہم جرمنی بھی اس کی ٹیکنالوجی حاصل کرنے والی چین کمپنیوں کے بارے میں گہرے انداز میں گزشتہ دہائی کے قانون نے ایک نئی اسٹیج کی حد کی کردی جو خود کار طریقے سے تحقیقات کو متحرک کرتا ہے۔ وزیر اقتصادیات پیٹر ایلبر نے چینی مہارت سے ایئر کرافٹ، فائس، ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن برزین، انرجی اور روبوٹکس سمیت تمام شعبوں کی حفاظت کیلئے حال ہی میں نئی صنعتی حکمت عملی پیش کی۔

پرننگل کے سابق یورپی وزیر نے اپنی حالیہ کتاب میں نوٹ کیا کہ چین اور جرمنی کے تعلقات بدرجہ غایت بدل گئے ہیں۔ جرمنی جو پہلے کبھی چین کو اپنی مشینری کی برآمدات کے لئے ایک مارکیٹ کے طور پر دیکھتا تھا جس کے ساتھ چین اپنی صنعتی بنیاد تیار کرے گا۔ آج، چین تعلقات میں ایک سینئر پارٹنر بن رہا ہے۔

کارکی صنعت اہمیت کی حامل بننے جارہی ہے۔ یہ جرمنی کی ماضی کی کامیابی اور چین کی مستقبل کی خوشحالی کا ذریعہ ہے۔ تاہم دونوں اطراف مخالف مفادات رکھتے ہیں۔ ڈیزل ٹیکنالوجی پر حد سے زیادہ انحصار نے جرمنی کو کار انڈسٹری میں برقی بیٹریوں اور مصنوعی ٹیلی فون میں تاخیر سے سرمایہ کاری کرنے والا بنا دیا۔ بروڈویکس نے نوٹ کیا کہ چین نے ایک مختلف گھیل کیلئے ہے۔ چین ابتدائی طور پر پیداواری

پائس کو محفوظ بنانے میں دلچسپی نہیں رکھتے ہیں۔ وہ پوری ایکٹریک کار ویلیو چین کو کنٹرول کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ ایسا کرنے کے لئے چین نے بیٹریوں کی تیاری میں استعمال ہونے والی لازمی دھات کوبالٹ کی عالمی سپلائی کے بڑے حصے کو اپنے قبضے میں کر لیا ہے۔

جرمنی اپنے دفاعی شعبے میں بھی سرمایہ کاری کرتا ہے۔ وزیر دفاع ارسولا وین ڈیر لین نے حال ہی میں دفاعی بجٹ 2023 تک چھوٹی مگنی پیداوار کا موجودہ 1.3 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 1.5 فیصد بڑھانے کا منصوبہ پیش کیا ہے۔ لیکن وزیر خزانہ اولف شولڈ نے اس پر اعتراض کیا۔ یہ تخمینہ واقعہ بنیادی یورپی مسائل کا علاقائی مظہر ہے۔ چین کے برعکس اقتصادی پالیسی صنعتی پالیسی دونوں ممالک میں کافی کچھ مشترک ہے۔ دونوں بڑے پیمانے پر بیرونی بچت کے اضافے

اور خارجہ دیکھو رٹی پالیسی ایک دوسرے سے آزادانہ طور پر کام کر رہی ہیں۔ ہواوے کی فائوجی کی درخواست ظاہر کرتی ہے کہ یورپی یونین سکیورٹی اور صنعتی پالیسی کے درمیان رابطہ کے ساتھ بننے کے لئے اچھی طرح سے تیار نہیں ہے۔ اور نہ ہی یورپ نے ان کے مالیاتی قوانین کے اثرات پر بہت توجہ دی ہے اور نہ ہی کم از کم دفاعی اور سکیورٹی پالیسیوں پر۔ اس کے برعکس چین کا اقتصادی

خارجہ پالیسی کے ساتھ مربوط کٹین نظر ہے۔ چین تجارتی اشیاء کی مارکیٹوں کی کرسی کے طور پر ڈالر کی اجارہ داری کو چیلنج کرنے کے حتی مقصد کے ساتھ رینجمنی کو بطور عالمی کرسی کے فروغ دے رہا ہے۔ یورپی سیاستدان اس طرح کی پالیسیوں کے بارے میں سوچنے کے عادی نہیں ہیں۔ خاص طور پر جرمنی بھی نہیں چاہتے تھے کہ یورپ زون یورو کو عالمی کرسی کے طور پر فروغ دے۔ ماضی میں جرمنی کی انتہائی قدامت پسند

میکرو اکنامک سوچ کم یا زیادہ اپنے صنعتی مفادات کے ساتھ مطابقت رکھتی تھی۔ یہ اب نہیں رہی، یورپی یونین دو مخالف اقتصادی طاقتوں کے درمیان دب چکا ہے اور بحران کا شکار کرسی والی حکومت ہے۔

عوامی شعبے کے قرض میں کمی ایک سیاسی انتخاب تھا۔ اگر جرمنی اس کی بجائے دفاع اور مستقبل کے صنعتی فوائد میں سرمایہ کاری کرے، مالیاتی حیثیت جہاں جانا چاہتی اسے وہاں جانے کی اجازت دے تو ہم آج ایک مختلف جگہ پر ہوں گے۔ لیکن اس کیلئے جغرافیائی حکمت عملی کی ضرورت ہوگی جو یورپی یونین بھر میں پالیسی کے مباحثوں میں غائب ہے۔

شاید یورپی گزشتہ دس سال سے اپنے معاملات میں اتنے غرق رہے کہ انہوں نے یہ نہیں دیکھا کہ کیا آ رہا ہے۔ اب بھرتی ہوئی تحفظ پسندی، چین کے کاروبار پر قبضے کے خلاف تحفظ کی ضرورت کا اچانک ادراک، نشانیاں ہیں کہ اطمینان گھبراہٹ میں تبدیل ہو گیا ہے۔

پرننگل کے سابق یورپی وزیر نے اپنی حالیہ کتاب میں نوٹ کیا کہ چین اور جرمنی کے تعلقات بدرجہ غایت بدل گئے ہیں۔ جرمنی جو پہلے کبھی چین کو اپنی مشینری کی برآمدات کے لئے ایک مارکیٹ کے طور پر دیکھتا تھا جس کے ساتھ چین اپنی صنعتی بنیاد تیار کرے گا۔ آج، چین تعلقات میں ایک سینئر پارٹنر بن رہا ہے۔

اور خارجہ دیکھو رٹی پالیسی ایک دوسرے سے آزادانہ طور پر کام کر رہی ہیں۔ ہواوے کی فائوجی کی درخواست ظاہر کرتی ہے کہ یورپی یونین سکیورٹی اور صنعتی پالیسی کے درمیان رابطہ کے ساتھ بننے کے لئے اچھی طرح سے تیار نہیں ہے۔ اور نہ ہی یورپ نے ان کے مالیاتی قوانین کے اثرات پر بہت توجہ دی ہے اور نہ ہی کم از کم دفاعی اور سکیورٹی پالیسیوں پر۔ اس کے برعکس چین کا اقتصادی

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چینی قونصل خانے نے کراچی میں مقیم
شہریوں کو محتاط رہنے کی ہدایت کر دی
 کراچی (امداد سومرو) چینی قونصل خانے نے کراچی میں مقیم شہریوں کو محتاط رہنے کی ہدایت کر دی۔ جاری سیکورٹی الرٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ بہت سے جرائم پیشہ عناصر نے چین کے شہریوں پر حملہ کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کی ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق، ڈیفنس میں چینی شہری پر ہونے والے حملے کے تناظر میں کراچی میں چین کے قونصل خانے نے اپنے شہریوں کے لیے ایمر جنسی سیکورٹی الرٹ جاری کیا ہے۔ جس میں کہا گیا ہے کہ کراچی میں رہائش پذیر چینی شہری عوامی مقامات پر جانے کے دوران احتیاطی تدابیر اور سیکورٹی کو ملحوظ خاطر رکھیں۔ سیکورٹی الرٹ میں مزید کہا گیا ہے کہ چینی قونصل خانے کو ملنے والی معلومات کے مطابق بہت سے جرائم پیشہ عناصر نے چین کے شہریوں پر حملہ کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کی ہے، جس کے سبب تمام شہریوں سے محتاط رہنے کا کہا گیا ہے۔ دریں اثناء ڈی آئی جی ساؤتھ، شرنیل کھرل نے دی نیوز کو بتایا ہے کہ ہفتے کے روز چینی شہری پر ہونے والا حملہ ٹارگیٹڈ نہیں تھا بلکہ چھینا چھٹی کی ایک واردات تھی، جس میں موٹر سائیکل سواروں نے دوسرے موٹر سائیکل سوار پر مزاحمت پر فائرنگ کی تھی اور اس کی زد میں وہاں سے گزرنے والے چینی شہری کی کار آگئی تھی۔ ڈی آئی جی کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ پولیس ملازمین کو گرفتار کرنے کی پوری کوشش کر رہی ہے۔

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امریکی سفیر کے چینی مذہب کے حوالے
سے پالیسیوں پر ریمارکس؛ بیجنگ کا احتجاج
 بیجنگ (آن لائن) امریکی سفیر برائے بین الاقوامی
 آزادی مذہب کی جانب سے بیجنگ کی مسلمانوں اور تبت
 کے بدھ مت اقلیتوں کے حوالے سے پالیسیوں پر
 ریمارکس پر چین نے احتجاج کیا۔ غیر ملکی خبر رساں
 ادارے کی رپورٹ کے مطابق ہانگ کانگ میں دفتر
 خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ سیم براؤن بیک کی تقریر میں چین کی
 مذہبی پالیسیوں کو بدنام کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انہوں
 نے چین کے نیم خود مختار خطے جہاں یہ تقریر کی گئی تھی، میں
 امریکی سفارت خانے سے بد اعتمادی ظاہر کر دی ہے۔

امریکہ، برطانیہ اور فرانس نے کالعدم تنظیم جیش محمد کے سربراہ کا نام دہشتگردی کی فہرست میں شامل کرنے کی
 قرارداد پیش کی تھی، پابندی کیلئے مزید جائزے کی ضرورت ہے: چین

ہمیشہ ذمہ دارانہ رویے کا مظاہرہ کیا، قرارداد پر فریقین سے رابطے میں رہے ہیں، تمام فریقین کے لیے قابل قبول
 حل مسئلے کا مناسب حل ہوگا، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ کا بیان

نیویارک (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) چین نے اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل میں کالعدم تنظیم جیش محمد کے سربراہ مولانا
 مسعود اظہر کو دہشتگرد قرار دینے کی قرارداد کوادی۔ فرانس، امریکہ اور برطانیہ نے مولانا مسعود اظہر کا نام اقوام
 متحدہ کی دہشت گردی کی بلیک لسٹ میں شامل کرنے کی قرارداد سلامتی کونسل میں جمع کرائی تھی۔ چین پہلے بھی
 3 بار مولانا مسعود اظہر کے خلاف قرارداد ویٹو کر چکا ہے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کے مطابق چین نے سلامتی کونسل میں
 مسعود اظہر کے خلاف قرارداد پر اپنا موقف جمع کراتے ہوئے کہا کہ مسعود اظہر پر پابندی کیلئے مزید جائزہ لینے کی
 ضرورت ہے۔ اس حوالے سے چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے اپنے رد عمل میں کہا ہے کہ چین نے ہمیشہ
 ذمہ دارانہ رویے کا مظاہرہ کیا ہے۔ قرارداد پر فریقین سے رابطے میں رہے ہیں۔ ہمیشہ مناسب موقف اپنایا۔ اس
 سلسلے میں متعلقہ اداروں کو قوانین اور طریقہ کار کی پابندی کرنی ہوگی۔ تمام فریقین کے لیے قابل قبول حل مسئلے کا
 مناسب حل ہوگا۔ قبل ازیں 17-2016 میں بھی چین نے مولانا مسعود اظہر پر پابندیوں کی قراردادیں ویٹو کر دی
 تھیں تاہم کالعدم تنظیم 2001 سے اقوام متحدہ کی دہشتگردی کی فہرست میں شامل ہے۔

Jang News, 13-03-19

چینی سفیر کی سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی

ظفر حسن سے ملاقات، سی پیک

منصوبوں پر پیشرفت پر تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کے سفیر ژاؤ جینگ نے سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات ظفر حسن سے منگل کو ملاقات کی جس میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر جاری پیش رفت اور اگلے ماہ وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، ملاقات میں پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر حسان داؤد نے بھی شرکت کی، سیکرٹری پلاننگ ظفر حسن نے اس موقع پر سی پیک صنعتی تعاون کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت کے وژن کے مطابق اقتصادی زونز کا قیام یقینی بنایا جائے گا،

Jang News, 14-03-19

سی پیک کا کوئی فنڈ کسی دوسرے شعبے کو منتقل نہیں کیا گیا، خسرو بختیار

28 منصوبوں پر کام جاری ہے، کراچی تا پشاور ML1 ریلوے منصوبے کیلئے کمیٹی قائم کردی

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ کراچی سے پشاور تک ایم ایل ون ریلوے منصوبے کیلئے وفاقی وزیر ریلوے کی سربراہی میں کمیٹی قائم کر دی گئی جو اس کا جائزہ لے گی۔ چین سی پیک کے تحت سماجی ترقی کیلئے ایک ارب ڈالر گرانٹ دے گا۔ سی پیک کمیٹی اجلاس کے بعد صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے کہا کہ چینی گرانٹس سے صوبوں کے پسماندہ علاقوں میں تعلیم صحت پینے کے پانی فراہمی سمیت ووڈ کیشنل ٹریننگ کے منصوبے شروع کیے جائیں گے۔ سی پیک کے تحت زراعت اور اسکی مارکیٹنگ کو فروغ دیئے۔ رواں ماہ مغربی روٹ کے بڑے منصوبے شروع ہونگے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت صنعتی تعاون سے برآمدات کو فروغ دیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک بزنس فورم کے قیام کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ بزنس فورم میں چیئرمین آف کامرس سمیت مختلف ادارے شامل ہونگے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ رواں ماہ کے آخر میں گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کا سنگ بنیاد رکھیں گے۔ سی پیک کا کوئی فنڈ کسی اور شعبے کو منتقل نہیں کیا گیا۔ سی پیک کے تحت 28 ارب ڈالر کے منصوبوں پر کام جاری ہے۔ قبل ازیں

کابینہ کمیٹی برائے سی پیک کے اجلاس میں فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ بلوچستان میں مغربی روٹ کے اہم منصوبوں کو جلد شروع کیا جائے گا۔ اجلاس میں یہ بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ ریلوے کے ایم ایل ون منصوبے کے مختلف مراحل کو جلد شروع کیا جائے گا۔ کابینہ کمیٹی نے مشرقی روٹ کے سکھر، حیدرآباد سیکشن کو BOT موڈ میں تعمیر کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔ اس منصوبے پر دو سے ڈھائی ارب ڈالر لاگت آئے گی۔ منصوبے کی فزیبیلٹی اور ایوارڈ رواں برس مکمل ہو جائے گا۔ ایم ایل ون منصوبے کے لئے وفاقی وزیر ریلوے کی سربراہی میں بنائی گئی کمیٹی دو ہفتے میں اپنی سفارشات پیش کرے گی۔ کمیٹی کو بتایا گیا کہ چین ماہرین کی ٹیم نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا اور سماجی و معاشی شعبے کے منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دے دی گئی۔ اس حوالے سے پہلے مرحلے میں 400 سے 500 ملین ڈالر کے منصوبے کے ایم او یو پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے۔ زراعت سے متعلق نو تشکیل شدہ مشترکہ تعاون گروپ کا اجلاس اپریل کے پہلے ہفتے میں ہوگا۔ رھکنی اقتصادی زون کے لئے رعایتی معاہدہ رواں ماہ کی 25 تاریخ سے قبل اور سنگ بنیاد اپریل میں رکھا جائے گا۔

Jang News, 15-03-19

بھارت میں چینی مصنوعات کے بائیکاٹ کی مہم حکومت اور ایجوکیشن کے ایک دوسرے کے سہارا بنانا

کمزور مودی چین کے صدر سے ڈرتے ہیں، سلامتی کونسل میں ناکامی پر راہول گاندھی کی تنقید، پنڈت جواہر لال نہرو نے ہی بیجنگ کو اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل میں بطور "تحفہ" جگہ دلائی تھی، بی جے پی تازہ چینی مصنوعات خریدیں نہ فروخت کریں، کنفیڈریشن آف آل انڈیا ٹریڈرز، اقدام سے بھارت میں مہنگائی کا طوفان آئیگا، رپورٹ، بحسرت میں چین کی بڑھتی موجودگی پر بھارتی بحسرت

پراکھار کرتا ہے، سولر سائز سامان کا 90 صد چین سے آتا ہے، صحافی راجد یپ سر دیسانی کا کہنا ہے کچھ شور مچانے والے چینلز چاہتے ہیں کہ بھارت چینی مصنوعات کا بائیکاٹ کرے، کوئی نہیں بتائے کہ تمہارے شو بھی چینی کمپنیاں سپانسر کرتی ہیں جیسا کہ آئی پی ایل، بہتر ہے جھولا ڈیپوشی کے خاتمے کا مطالبہ کیا جائے، چین اور بھارت کی تجارت کا حجم مارچ 2018 تک تقریباً 90 ارب ڈالر سالانہ ہے، کچھ صارفین نے بائیکاٹ کی مہم کو تنقید کا نشانہ بناتے ہوئے کہا کہ پہلے اپنے سارے فونز چھینیں، پھر ہم چلائیں، لوگ چین کے تیار کردہ اپنے موبائل فونز اور لیپ ٹاپ سے بائیکاٹ چاہتے پروڈکٹس کی مہم چلا رہے ہیں، تسلی رکھیں، اپنے کرکٹرز سے کہیں کہ وہ چین کی سپانسر کردہ ٹی شرٹس پہن کر میدان میں نہ اتریں، اصل حب الوطنی کا مظاہرہ کریں، مزید برآں بحر ہند میں چین کی بڑھتی موجودگی سے بھارت پریشان ہو گیا، بھارتی بحریہ کے سربراہ نے چینی جہازوں اور آبدوزوں کی موجودگی پر خدشات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بھارت کی ان پر گہری نظر ہے، ایڈمرل سنیل لنبا برطانیہ کی 4 روزہ دورے پر ہیں انہوں نے لندن میں ایک تھمک ٹیک سے خطاب میں کہا کہ بحر ہند کے شمالی حصے میں چین کی بڑھتی ہوئی موجودگی بھارت کیلئے چیلنج ہے لیکن نئی دہلی علاقے میں چینی جہازوں اور آبدوزوں پر گہری نظر رکھے ہوئے ہیں، انہوں نے بحر ہند کے شمالی علاقے میں 6 سے 8 نیول جہاز اور آبدوزوں کی موجودگی کا حوالہ دیا۔

کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے چینی مصنوعات کے بائیکاٹ کا مطالبہ کیا ہے، انہوں نے مودی کو لکھا کہ بھارت بلند شرح ٹیرف سے بیجنگ کو نشانہ بنا سکتا ہے اور اسے تمام چینی مصنوعات کی ڈیوٹی میں اضافہ کرنا چاہئے، گرو بابا رام دیو نے بھی بھارتیوں سے چینی مصنوعات کا سو فی صد بائیکاٹ کا مطالبہ کیا ہے، انہوں نے کہا چین کو سبق سکھانے کیلئے موثر طریقہ اس کی مصنوعات کا بائیکاٹ ہے، چین بھارت سے ٹیس لاکھ کروڑ روپے کا کاروبار کرتا ہے، اس سے چین کیلئے معاشی خوف پیدا ہوگا، مرکزی وزیر ہرمت گور نے کہا کہ چینی مصنوعات کا بائیکاٹ کر کے چین کو پیغام دیں کہ اگر تم ڈشنگروڈی کی حمایت کرتے ہو تو ہم نے بھی ذہن بنالیا ہے اور ہونی سے ایک بھی چینی شے کو ہاتھ نہیں لگائیں گے اگر مہاتما گاندھی انگریزوں کا نکال سکتے ہیں تو ہم چینی مصنوعات کو بھی نکالیں گے، وزیر خزانہ ارون جملی کا کہنا ہے یہ ایک سفارتی مسئلہ ہے اور بھارت بہت سوچ بچار کے بعد فیصلہ کرے گا، ہم عالمی سطح پر کوئی معمولی کھلاڑی نہیں لیکن خارجہ امور کے فیصلے بڑے تلے انداز میں کئے جاتے ہیں، ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق اگر بھارت چینی مصنوعات کا بائیکاٹ کرتا ہے تو مشینری، الیکٹرانکس، کیمیکل اور اس کی دیگر اہم پورٹ متاثر ہوں گی یہ اہم پورٹ ادویات، گجٹ سازی اور متعدد دیگر انڈسٹریز کو متاثر کرے گی، بھارت کو چین سے خام مال سستا ملتا ہے اس کی بندش سے عام صارفین پر مہنگائی کا طوفان آنے لگا، بھارت کی 18 ارب ڈالر کی سارٹ فون مارکیٹ میں چینی کمپنیوں کا 51 حصہ ہے، پاور تکٹر میں بھارت چین

متحدہ سلامتی کونسل کا کرن نہیں ہوتا اگر آپ کے نظریہ نانا نہرو نے اسے بھارت کی قیمت پر متحدہ کے طور پر چین کو نہیں سونپا ہوتا، بھارت نے آپ کے خاندان کی تمام غلطیوں کو معاف کیا، یہ یقینی بنائیں کہ بھارت ڈشنگروڈی کیخلاف لڑائی جیت سکے۔ علاوہ ازیں کانگریس کے ترجمان رندیپ سر جیوالا نے کہا کہ آج پھر ڈشنگروڈی کیخلاف جنگ کو چین پاک اتحاد نے صدمہ پہنچایا، 156 گھنٹے کی ہڈ ڈیپوشی اور جھولا جھلانے کے عمل کے بعد بھی چین پاکستان کا جوڑ بھارت کو سرخ آکھ دکھا رہا ہے، ایک بار پھر ایک ناکام مودی حکومت کی ناکام خارجہ پالیسی اجاگر ہوئی، چین نے چوٹی بار اس تجویز پر ویٹو کیا ہے، ادھر وزارت خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین کے اس رویہ سے بے حد مایوسی ہوئی، ڈشنگروڈی کیخلاف ہماری کوششیں جاری رہیں گی، مرکزی وزیر رومی شکر پرشاد نے کہا کہ راہول گاندھی کا ٹویٹ پاکستان میں سرخی بننا چاہئے، دوسری جانب بھارتی شہری چین کیخلاف ہو گئے اور انہوں نے سوشل میڈیا پر 'بائیکاٹ چائینیز پروڈکٹس' بائیکاٹ چائینیز، ٹویٹر پر ٹیرٹاپ ٹریڈرز میں رہے، سات کروڑ بھارتی تاجروں کی نمائندہ ہاڈی کنفیڈریشن آف آل انڈیا ٹریڈرز نے بھی چینی مصنوعات کے بائیکاٹ کا مطالبہ کر دیا، انہوں نے ملکی سطح پر اس کیلئے مہم کا آغاز کر دیا، انہوں نے اپنے بیان میں تاجروں سے کہا کہ وہ چینی مصنوعات نہ خریدیں اور نہ فروخت کریں، ہندو اہم پند جماعت سوادیشی جگراں مچ کے رہنمائے مہاتما گاندھی کی سوادیشی تحریک

کراچی (جنگ نیوز) سلامتی کونسل میں مسودہ اظہار کوڈ شکر قرار دینے کی تجویز پر چین کی جانب سے ویٹو کئے جانے کے بعد بھارت میں شدید ناراضی دیکھی جا رہی ہے، بھارت میں چینی مصنوعات کے بائیکاٹ کی مہم شروع کر دی گئی ہے، کنفیڈریشن آف آل انڈیا ٹریڈرز نے تاجروں سے کہا کہ تازہ چینی مصنوعات خریدیں نہ فروخت کریں تاہم ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق اقدام سے بھارت میں مہنگائی کا طوفان آئیگا، دوسری جانب حکومت اور ایجوکیشن نے ایک دوسرے پر شدید الزامات بھی لگانا شروع کر دیے ہیں، سلامتی کونسل میں ناکامی پر راہول گاندھی نے تنقید کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کمزور مودی چین کے صدر سے ڈرتے ہیں جبکہ بی جے پی نے کہا کہ پنڈت جواہر لال نہرو نے ہی چین کو اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل میں بطور "تحفہ" جگہ دلائی تھی، ادھر بحر ہند میں چین کی بڑھتی موجودگی سے بھارت پریشان ہو گیا، چینی جہازوں اور آبدوزوں کی موجودگی پر خدشات کا اظہار کر دیا، سلامتی کونسل میں ناکامی پر راہول گاندھی نے مودی پر تنقید کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مودی کی چین کے حوالے سے پالیسی ناکام ہو گئی، سلامتی کونسل میں قرارداد کی ناکامی پر مودی جی کے منہ سے ایک لفظ بھی نہیں نکلا، راہول نے ٹویٹ کیا کہ کیا ٹی وی جن پنگ سے ڈرتے ہیں مودی؟ راہول گاندھی کے تلخ تبصرے کے رد عمل میں بی جے پی نے جواب میں کہا کہ پنڈت جواہر لال نہرو نے ہی چین کو اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل میں بطور "تحفہ" جگہ دلائی تھی، بی جے پی کے ٹویٹر پیڈل سے راہول گاندھی پر سخت حملہ کرتے ہوئے کہا گیا کہ چین اقوام

Jang News, 15-03-19

شاہ محمود اتوار کو دورہ پر چین جائیں گے
 اسلام آباد (فاروق اقدس/نامہ نگار خصوصی)
 مصدقہ ذرائع سے معلوم ہوا ہے کہ وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ
 محمود قریشی اتوار کو دورہ سرکاری دورے پر چین جائیں
 گے جہاں وہ اپنے چینی ہم منصب کے علاوہ چین کی اعلیٰ
 قیادت سے بھی ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق
 پاکستان کے وزیر خارجہ کے دورہ چین کا مقصد پاک
 بھارت کشیدگی اور خطے میں امن کی صورتحال کیلئے
 سٹریٹجک مشاورت کرنا ہے۔

Jang News, 15-03-19

چین کا مسعود اظہر سے متعلق موقف، بھارت
 اور امریکا کا سلامتی کونسل میں اوپن ڈسکشن پر غور
 کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل
 میں مسعود اظہر سے متعلق چین کی جانب سے قرارداد ویٹو
 کرنے پر بھارت فرانس اور امریکا کے ساتھ مل کر ایک
 اوپن ڈسکشن کرنے پر غور کر رہا ہے۔ بھارتی میڈیا کے
 مطابق امریکا اور دیگر سلامتی کونسل کی 1267 سینکشنز
 کمیٹی میں ایک بحث و مباحثہ کرانا چاہتے ہیں کہ آیا کیوں
 چین ہر بار مسعود اظہر کو عالمی دہشتگرد کی فہرست میں
 ڈالنے کی قرارداد ویٹو کر دیتا ہے۔ بھارت کے سرکاری
 ذرائع کے حوالے سے بھارتی میڈیا نے کہا کہ مودی
 حکومت چین کی جانب سے مسعود اظہر کے حوالے سے
 موقف پر گلوبل اسکرڈینی کروانا چاہتا ہے۔

K2 News, 10-03-19

پاکستان کا ہمہ گیر ایشیائی اور ہمیشہ کا چین

پاکستان عالمی طاقتی کا خیر مقدم کرتا ہے لیکن بھارت گریزاں ہے، کشیدگی کے خاتمے کیلئے پاکستان کے اقدامات قابل ستائش ہیں

بھارت اور پاکستان کو ماضی کی تھنیاں بھلا کر اچھے تعلقات استوار کرنے چاہئیں، چینی وزیر خارجہ کی صحافیوں سے گفتگو

جنگ (آئی این پی) چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ کیوئی کی کے خاتمے کیلئے قابل ستائش اقدامات کے، جنگ میں پھیل چڑھ کر کرپس کے دورے چین کی اے نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان عالمی طاقتی کا خیر مقدم کرتا پاکستان اور بھارت کو ماضی کی تھنیاں بھلا کر اچھے ساڈا لاکڑ پر معاملوں سے بات کرتے ہوئے چینی ہے لیکن بھارت گریزاں نظر آتا ہے، پاکستان نے تعلقات استوار کرنے چاہئے۔ جانکر یو کے مطابق وزیر خارجہ نے پاکستان (ہائی سطر 77 جی نمبر 48)

K2 News, 11-03-19

سی پی کے کوئی خطرہ نہیں چین کیسٹیر معائنے کا بدلتا رویہ

یورپی یونین سے نیا معاہدہ ہونے جا رہا ہے، پاکستان کا امتحان ابھی ختم نہیں ہوا سفارتی سطح پر تباہ کرنے کی سازش کی جا رہی ہے

بھارت سے امن کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ ہم کشمیر کا سودا چاہتے ہیں، روس کے ساتھ تعلقات میں خوشگوار تبدیلی آ رہی ہے

مقامی آئی این پی اے کے ذریعہ ریکارڈنگ کی گئی ہے، وہاں میں جہاں آئے ہیں سفارتی سطح پر پاکستان کو دیکھنا کہ ہمارے کمرشل اور مالیاتی امور کی صورت
کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کا امتحان ابھی ختم نہیں ہوا، آئی اے کے ختم کرنے کی کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں، بھارت نے ہمارے (آئی اے) کو 77 نمبر (2)

K2 News, 11-03-19

سی پیک منصوبوں پر تیزی سے کام جاری ہے، مسعود خالد

پاکستان اپنے دفاع کیلئے مکمل طور پر تیار ہے، ہمیں کسی قسم کی کوئی پریشانی نہیں

بجگ (آئی این پی) پاکستان میں پاکستان کے فوجی ادارے ہاں اپنے دفاع کی مکمل صلاحیت اور
 سید مسعود خالد نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اپنے دفاع کیلئے ہے دشمنی میں مکمل آگے سے نہیں دیکھ سکتا لیکن ہمیں
 مکمل طور پر تیار ہے ہمیں کسی قسم کی کوئی پریشانی ہو گا اور ہوشیار رہنے کی (ہائی سٹیٹس 8 اپریل نمبر 42)

K2 News, 12-03-19

پاکستان چین کے لانگ مارچ کیریٹراکٹ کی خدمات حاصل کریگا

چین لانگ مارچ کے 300 سیٹلائٹ لانچ کامیابی سے مکمل کرچکا ہے

پہلے 100 لانچ 37 دسمبر 75 اور تیسرے صرف 4 سال مکمل کیے گئے، دو باران ٹھگ

بجگ (آئی این پی) پاکستان چین کے لانگ مارچ لانگ کیریٹراکٹ کی خدمات حاصل کرے گا اور منصوبے کے
 3۔ نی کیریٹراکٹ کی خدمات حاصل کریگا جس کے شراکت دار ملک کوئی اور ملک کی خدمات فراہم کرنے
 (رہے) گزشتہ دیکھ لیکن سیٹلائٹ لانچنگ کی ہے۔ میں مدد سے گاہن خدمات (ہائی سٹیٹس 7 اپریل نمبر 20)

K2 News, 14-03-19

واپس سی پیک مغزنی لٹ کے منصوبے شروع جائیں گے خود مختار

سی پیک کا کوئی فنڈ کسی اور شعبے کو منتقل نہیں کیا، 28 ارب ڈالر کے منصوبوں پر کام جاری ہے، میڈیا سے گفتگو

برنس فورم میں چیئرمین سمیت مختلف ادارے شامل ہو گئے، سکسٹا حیدرآباد منڈوے پراگٹے ۱۶ میں کام شروع ہوگا

K2 News, 15-03-19

بھارت مستعدا ظہر کا معاملہ مشاورتی عمل کے ذریعے حل کرے، چین

سلاخی ٹنسل میں ہمیشہ ذمہ دارانہ رویے کا مظاہرہ کیا، سکھائی ٹنسل میں فضل کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے

دہشتگردی پر چین کا موقف اصولی اور واضح ہے، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ

یوگہ (آئی این بی) چین نے مولانا مسعود اظہر کے ذریعے حل کرنے مسئلے پر مختلف اداروں کو قائلین اور اپنے فیصلے کا دعویٰ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مختلف فریقین طرفہ کاری بیرونی کرنا ہوگی، ایسا مل جائے گا جو اس مسئلے کو پیچھے ہٹانے کی بجائے مذاکرات اور مشاورت فریقین کیلئے قابل قبول ہو۔ (ہائی سطر 7 بجیہ نمبر 8)

Nawaiwaqt News, 10-03-19

چینی سفارتخانے ، قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی کے اطراف اور نواحی علاقوں میں سرچ آپریشن

Mar 10, 2019

اسلام آباد(اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) وفاقی پولیس اور سیکورٹی اداروں نے ہفتہ کے روز تھا نہ سیکر ٹریٹ کے علاقوں چینی سفارتخانے ، قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی کے اطراف اور بری امام کے نواحی علاقوں میں گرینڈ سرچ آپریشن کیا اس دوران آپریشن کے دوران 309 گھروں، 149 افراد، تین ہوٹلوں ، پانچ دکانوں ، تین سکولوں اور ایک فیکٹری کی سرچنگ کی گئی اس دوران پانچ مشتبہ افراد کو حراست میں لے کر تھانے منتقل کر دیا گیا اسلحہ و ایمونیشن برآمد کر کے مزید تحقیقات شروع کر دی گئی ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز اسلام آباد وقار الدین سید نے کہا کہ اس سرچ آپریشن کا مقصد اسلام آباد میں سکیورٹی کو فول پروف بنانا ہے تاکہ کوئی شریک نہ ہو سکے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 10-03-19

سی پیک منصوبہ ایک سال کیلئے معطل، 24 ارب روپے دیگر منصوبوں پر خرچ کر کے ڈاکہ ڈالا گیا: فضل الرحمن

Mar 10, 2019

ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان (نامہ نگار) جے یو آئی کے مرکزی امیر مولانا فضل الرحمان نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبہ کو ایک سال کے لئے معطل کر دیا گیا ہے اور سی پیک کے 27 ارب روپے میں سے 24 ارب روپے ملک میں دیگر ترقیاتی کاموں پر خرچ کر کے دن دہاڑے ڈاکہ ڈالا گیا ہے وہ اپنی رہائش گاہ پر پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے اس موقع پر ان کے ہمراہ جے یو آئی کے پی کے اسمبلی کے پارلیمانی لیڈر مولانا لطف الرحمان بھی موجود تھے مولانا فضل الرحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی نظر یاتی شناخت کو ختم کیا جا رہا ہے موجودہ حکومت خود پر تنقید برداشت نہیں کرتی ملک میں 90 فیصد دہشت گردی ختم کرنے کا حکومتی دعویٰ بچکا نہ ہے ملک میں امن و امن کی صورتحال ایسی ہے جیسی کہ ڈی آئی خان کی ہے جہاں پر آئے روز ٹارگٹ کلنگ کے ذریعے لوگوں کو قتل کیا جا رہا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ نیب احتساب کا ادارہ نہیں رہا بلکہ یہ ایک سیاسی انتقامی ادارہ بن چکا ہے جو گرفتار یاں اب ہو رہی ہے ذوالفقار علی بھٹو سے لیکر اب تک جتنی حکومتیں آئی ہیں سب میں ہوئی ہیں لیکن کسی کا نتیجہ نہیں نکلا انہوں نے کہا کہ پندرہ ارب روپے کا حکومت روزانہ قرض لے کر اپنی حکومت چلا رہی ہے یہ قرضے ہماری آئندہ نسلیں اتارے گی ٹیکس دینے والی عوام کا اب حکومت پر کوئی اعتماد نہیں رہا پیسہ ملک سے واپس چلا گیا ہے اور ملک کے اندر کوئی سرمایہ کار کاروبار کرنے کیلئے تیار نہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارتی پائپلنٹ کی عجلت میں واپسی نے پاکستان کی فتح کو شکست میں تبدیل کر دیا جب عالمی سطح پر پاکستان اور بھارت کی جنگ ڈیکلیئر ہوئی تو جنوبی کنونشن کے تحت قیدیوں کی واپسی کی پابندی پاکستان پر لاگو ہوئی انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے تمام ادارے حکومت کی نااہلی کی وجہ سے شکست و ریخت کا شکار ہو چکے ہیں بیوروکریٹس حکومتی پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے بددل نظر آ رہے ہیں تعلیمی اداروں کے اندر بھی ایک سیاسی ماحول بنا دیا گیا ہے جس کی وجہ سے تعلیم کا معیار بھی دن بدن گر رہا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم نے ہمیشہ ملک کا دفاع کیا ہے اور بیرونی حملہ آور کے مقابلے میں ایک ہوئے ہیں لیکن حکومت کے منہ پھٹ وزیراء کی وجہ سے ہمارا اتفاق بھی ختم ہوتا جا رہا ہے جو انہیں کی بات

کریں اس کو غدار کہا جاتا ہے فیصل ووڈا نے جن الفاظ میں عمران خان کو بڑا کہا ہے وہ پیغمبروں کی توہین ہے فیصل ووڈا کے خلاف ہماری جماعت کو پارلیمنٹ میں قرار داد پیش کرنے کی اجازت نہیں دی گئی جو کہ مسلمانوں کے جذبات کو مجروح کرنے کے مترادف ہے ہم اقلیتوں کا احترام کرتے ہیں اور ہر مسلمان کیلئے اسلام کا یہی پیغام ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ اس وقت ہماری جماعت کے حوالے سے حکومت نے میڈیا بلیک آؤٹ کیا ہوا ہے ہمارے ملین مارچ کو پرنٹ اور الیکٹرانک میڈیا میں دیکھا نے اور شائع کرنے سے روک دیا گیا ہے ہم کوئی غلط کام نہیں کر رہے یہ ملین مارچ ناموس رسالت کے حوالے سے ہیں آئندہ بھی جاری رہینگے جو آئی ملک کی سب سے بڑی مذہبی قوت ہے اور ہماری اس قوت کو کوئی حکومت ختم نہیں کر سکتی اور اس کا اندازہ ملین مارچ میں لوگوں کی شمولیت سے لگایا جا سکتا ہے انہوں نے ایک سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ اس ملک کے اندر فوج کے علاوہ کسی کو مسلح قوت نہیں ہونا چاہیے حکومت انڈیا کے دبانوں میں آنے کے بجائے بھارت کے مقابلے میں اپنی عوام اور سیاسی جماعتوں کو اعتماد میں لے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 11-03-19

بھارت ہمیں تنہا کرنا چاہتا ہے: چین کے ساتھ سی پیک ٹو کامعاہدہ کر لیا: شاہ محمود ملتان (ایجنسیاں، نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کا امتحان ختم نہیں ہوا، ابھی جاری ہے، آنے والے دنوں میں مزید امتحان ہیں، بھارتی وزیر اعظم کہہ چکے ہیں کہ پاکستان کو سفارتی طور پر تنہا کرنا ان کی پالیسی ہے۔ بھارت ہمیں تنہا کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ ملتان میں تقریب سے خطاب میں شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ جب وزارت خارجہ کا منصب سنبھالا تو ہر طرف سے مسائل درپیش تھے، چین سے سی پیک ٹو کا معاہدہ کر لیا، سی پیک اگلے مرحلے میں جا چکا ہے، سی پیک کو کوئی خطرہ نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان دنیا کے ہر فورم پر اپنی ساری قباحتیں پاکستان کے کھاتے میں ڈال رہا تھا، مودی کہتے ہیں پاکستان کو سفارتی طور پر تنہا کرنا بھارت کی سوچی سمجھی پالیسی ہے شاہ محمود قریشی نے مزید کہا کہ تبدیلی کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے، عمران خان نے ہمیشہ کہا کہ افغان مسئلہ مذاکرات سے حل ہو گا، عمران خان کے اس بیان پر انہیں طالبان خان کا طعنہ دیا گیا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ آج امریکہ، افغانستان دوحہ میں مذاکرات کر رہے ہیں، آج عمران خان کے موقف کو تسلیم کیا گیا، پاکستان کا مقصد افغانستان میں امن و استحکام ہے، ہم پر اعتماد طریقہ سے آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک فیزون کے بہت بڑے منصوبے ہیں، میٹروز ہیں، اورنج ٹرین ہے، دیگر ممالک کو بھی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دیتے ہیں۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے انکشاف کیا کہ سی پیک ٹو میں ہم نے چین کے ساتھ نئے راستے کا تعین کیا ہے، سی پیک ٹو کے پروگراموں میں چین کے ساتھ مل کر غربت کا خاتمہ کرنا، زرعی اور انڈسٹری کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کرنا اور 4 4 سپیشل اکنامک زون بنانا شامل ہے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کا امتحان ابھی ختم نہیں ہوا، آنے والے دنوں میں مزید امتحان آنے ہیں۔ بھارت نے بنگلادیش کا سہارا لے کر سارک کو یرغمال بنا لیا۔ سابق حکومت کے دور میں پاکستان گرے لسٹ میں آیا، پڑوسی ممالک بنا تحقیق پاکستان پر انگلی اٹھا دیتے ہیں۔ ہم بھارت کیساتھ لڑائی نہیں، امن چاہتے ہیں۔ بھارت کو یہ سمجھنا ہوگا کہ امن کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ ہم کشمیر کا سودا چاہتے ہیں۔ کشمیر میں جنازے اٹھ رہے ہیں، ششما کی جگہ بھارت کا وزیر خارجہ ہوتا تو مجھے رات کو نیند نہیں آتی۔ سی پیک کو کوئی خطرہ نہیں ہے، جرمنی کے وزیر خارجہ رواں ماہ پاکستان آئیں گے، ہمارا یورپی یونین سے نیا معاہدہ بھی ہونے جارہا ہے۔ دوسری جانب افغانستان دنیا کے ہر فورم پر اپنی مشکلات کا ملبہ پاکستان پر ڈالتا ہے۔ افغانستان کہتا تھا پاکستان سے دہشت گرد وہاں آ کر دہشت گردی کرتے ہیں، ایک پڑوسی ایران کا کہنا ہے کہ جند اللہ تحریک سے لوگ ایران میں آکر فساد کرتے ہیں، چین کہتا ہے کہ ای ٹی ائی ایم تنظیم چین آ کر کارروائیاں کرتی ہے، صورتحال یہ ہے کہ کوئی بھی بنا تحقیق پاکستان پر انگلی اٹھا دیتا ہے۔ امریکہ اب پاکستان کے بجائے بھارت کو اپنا سٹریٹیجک اتحادی سمجھتا ہے۔ افغانستان میں ایک ہزار ارب ڈالر خرچ ہو چکا ہے جب کہ 17 سال سے امریکہ کہ فوج وہاں لڑ رہی ہے تاہم آج دوحہ میں امریکہ اور طالبان مذاکرات کی میز پر بیٹھے ہیں۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 11-03-19

امریکہ کی یغور مسلمانوں ، بدھ مت سے متعلق پالیسیوں پر تنقید چین کا احتجاج

Mar 11, 2019

واشنگٹن (نیٹ نیوز) امریکی سفیر برائے بین الاقوامی آزادی مذہب کی جانب سے بیجنگ کی یغور مسلمانوں اور تبت کے بدھ مت اقلیتوں سے متعلق پالیسیوں پر ریمارکس پر چین نے احتجاج کیا ، غیر ملکی خبر رساں ادارے ایسوسی ایٹڈ پریس (اے پی) کی رپورٹ کی مطابق ہانگ کانگ میں دفتر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ سیم برائون بیک کی تقریر میں چین کی مذہبی پالیسیوں کو 'بدنام ' کیا گیا، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انہوں نے چین کی نیم خود مختار خطے جہاں یہ تقریر کی گئی تھی میں امریکی سفارتخانے سے بداعتمادی ظاہر کر دی ہے ، امریکی حکام اور اقوام متحدہ کے ماہرین کا کہنا تھا کہ چین لاکھ یغور مسلمانوں اور دیگر مسلم گروہوں کے اراکین کو سنکیانگ کے سیاسی تعلیمی کیمپوں میں قید کرنے کا 10 الزام ہے حکومت کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ کیمپ وکیشنل ٹریننگ سینٹرز ہیں جنہیں انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کیلئے قائم کیا گیا ہے برائون بیک کا کہنا تھا چینی حکومت ایمان سے جنگ میں ہے اور انہوں نے مذہب پر قید کیے گئے افراد کی رہائی کا مطالبہ کیا تھا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 11-03-19

چین کے خلاف تبتوں کی جدوجہد کے 60 سال مکمل

Mar 11, 2019

بیجنگ (نیوز ڈیسک) تبتوں کی چین کے خلاف جدوجہد کو آج اتوار کو ساٹھ برس مکمل ہو گئے ہیں۔ ذرائع کے مطابق اس موقع پر بھارتی شہر دھرم شالہ میں تبتوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد اکٹھی ہوئی۔ اس موقع پر تبتوں کے روحانی پیشوا دلانی لامہ موجود نہیں تھے۔ دس مارچ 1959ء کو چینی حکومت کی خلاف تحریک شروع ہوتے ہی دلانی لامہ نے بھارت میں پناہ لی تھی۔ انہوں نے دھرم شالہ میں جلا وطن حکومت قائم کی تھی۔ کمیونسٹ دستوں نے 1950ء میں ایک مختصر سی فوجی کارروائی کے بعد تبت کا انتظام اپنے ہاتھوں میں لے لیا تھا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 11-03-19

چین عالمی امن اور انسانی ترقی کیلئے مزید خدمات سر انجام دے گا، روسرے ممالک کا پورا احترام کرتے ہیں: چینی

وزیر خارجہ

Mar 11, 2019

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے کہا ہے کہ چین عالمی امن کے تحفظ اور بنی نوع انسان کی ترقی کے لیے مزید اہم خدمات سرانجام دے گا، چین کا سفارتی تصور دراصل " جیت جیت " پر مبنی ہے ، یہ دوسرے ممالک کا پورا احترام کرتا ہے، اس کا مقصد باہمی مفادات کی بنیاد پر مشترکہ ترقی کرنا ہے۔ چائے ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے تیرہویں قومی عوامی کانگریس کے دوسرے اجلاس کے انعقاد کے دوران منعقدہ ایک پریس کانفرنس میں چین کے امور خارجہ کے بارے میں چینی و غیر ملکی صحافیوں کے سوالات کے جوابات دیئے۔ بیرونی ممالک کے ماہرین اور دانشوروں نے چین کے سفارتی تصورات اور کامیابیوں کو بے حد سراہا۔ ترکی، امریکہ ، روس اور جنوبی کوریا کے دانشوروں نے اپنے بیانات میں دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا ذکر کیا اور کہا کہ دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو سے مختلف ممالک کے درمیان اقتصادی تعاون کو فروغ ملا اور اس کے ساتھ ہی افرادی و ثقافتی تبادلوں میں بھی اضافہ ہو گیا ہے ۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سے نئے پلیٹ فارمز اور نئے مواقع لوگوں کے

سامنے آئے ہیں۔ جبکہ روس کے تھنک ٹینک "روس-چین سینٹر" کے سربراہ سناکوئیف کا کہنا تھا کہ چین دوسرے ممالک کے ساتھ نئے بین الاقوامی تعلقات کے قیام کی کوشش کر رہا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 11-03-19

راتنا زاہد اقبال

پاکستانی سرحد سے متصل چین کا مغربی علاقہ چھ سو یوں اور پانچ خود مختار ریاستوں پر مشتمل ہے۔ چین کے مغرب میں واقع ان علاقوں کی پسماندگی پاکستان کے مغربی علاقوں فانا، خیبر پختونخوا اور بلوچستان جیسی نئی نئی۔ 1978ء میں چین نے اپنے پسماندہ مغربی علاقوں کو ترقی دینے کے لئے گریڈ ویسٹرن ڈیولپمنٹ اسٹریٹجی کے نام سے طویل المیعاد منصوبے کا آغاز کیا۔ چین نے شنگھائی، بیجنگ، مشرق وسطیٰ اور دیگر علاقوں کے صنعت کاروں کو بے تحاشا مراعات دے کر اپنے ان پسماندہ مغربی علاقوں میں صنعتوں کا جال بچھایا۔ چارہ پائیاں نکل شروع کیا گیا یہ منصوبہ اب چین کے قریب قریب پکا ہے۔ جبکہ چین کے اس معاشی حب میں تیار ہونے والے مال کو عرب ممالک اور مغربی دنیا تک پہنچانے اور ان صنعتوں کیلئے درکار خام مال لانے کے لئے چین سے براستہ پاکستان روٹ کا انتخاب کیا گیا ہے۔

کاشغر سے شنگھائی کا فاصلہ پانچ ہزار کلومیٹر جب کہ گواہر سے کاشغر تک کا فاصلہ دو ہزار کلومیٹر جتنا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کی سال سے بلوچستان میں بندرگاہ اور کاشغر سے گواہر، کراچی اور ملتان تک سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے منصوبوں پر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ بڑی سڑکوں، توانائی کے منصوبوں، آبی ٹی پارکس اور انڈسٹریل پارکس پر مشتمل ہے۔ تین مختلف سڑکیں کاشغر سے شروع ہوں گی۔ ان کے پنی کے، پنجاب، سندھ اور بلوچستان کے مختلف شہروں سے ہونی ہوئی خضدار میں ایک دوسرے سے شملک ہوں گی۔

اس منصوبے سے چین کو گواہر کی بندرگاہ کے ذریعے مشرق وسطیٰ، یورپ، امریکہ تک اپنا سامان پہنچانے کا قریب ترین راستہ میسر آئے گا۔ یہ راستہ ہر موسم میں کھلا رہے گا اور اس راستے کے اطراف معیشتی علاقے قائم ہوں گے اس طرح ترقی کے نکل کا سہیزم ہوگا۔

آج جب کہ پوری دنیا اعتراف ہے کہ گواہر پورٹ تک اقتصادی راہداری دینے کے لئے چین کے تعاون سے شروع کئے گئے منصوبوں کی تکمیل سے

اس کی کوشش ہے کہ یہ منصوبہ ناکام ہو جائے جس کے لئے اس نے اپنے ملک میں کئی ٹاسک فوز بنا رکھے ہیں جو دن رات اس منصوبے کی ناکامی کے لئے کام کر رہی ہیں۔ بعض اطلاعات میں یہ واضح کیا گیا تھا کہ بھارت کی خفیہ ایجنسی "را" اس منصوبے کو ناکام بنا چاہتی ہے اور اس مقصد کے لئے اس نے بھرپور انداز سے کام شروع کر رکھا ہے۔ اس سے بڑھ کر یہ کہ بعض شہرہ اموز لوگوں نے ملک میں بھی تنازعہ بنا کر پیش کیا جا رہا ہے۔ انہیں اس منصوبے کو کامیاب بنانے کے لئے دشمن قوتوں کی سازشوں سے بچنا ہوگا۔

میں حکومتی سطح پر "را" کی کاروائیوں کی نشاندہی کی گئی اور سلامتی کے اداروں کے اہم عہدیداروں نے کھل کر "را" کی سرگرمیوں سے پردہ اٹھایا۔ بھارت پاکستان کے اندر بھی صوبوں کے درمیان منافرت پھیلانے کے لئے فٹنگ کر رہا ہے تاکہ یہ منصوبہ پاکستان کے اندر بھی نا اتفاقی کا شکار ہو کر ناکام ہو جائے۔ بھارت کے مفاد کے اس پس منظر میں سیاسی قوتوں کو یہ سمجھنا چاہئے کہ وہ کسی کے آلہ کار تو نہیں بن رہے ہیں۔ اس منصوبے کے

شرارت سے ملک کا کوئی حصہ محروم نہیں رہے گا بلکہ آزاد خیبر اور گلگت بلتستان کے لوگ بھی اس سے استفادہ کریں گے۔ بھارت کو اس حوالے سے ہر محاذ پر ناکامی کا سامنا کرنا پڑ رہا ہے، حالیہ دنوں بھارت کو اپنی جارحیت کے جواب میں منہ کی منہ لڑنی ہے، لیکن بھارت کو جس بات پر تکلیف پہنچ رہی ہے وہ ہمارے معاشی استحکام سے دکھنا ہوتی ہے۔ ہمارے معاشی اسی میدان میں اسے خرابی سے دوچار رکھنا ہوگا جتنی سبب ہوتی ہے۔

پاکستان ہی نہیں، اس پورے خطے کا مقدر بدل جائے گا اور ترقی و خوشحالی کا دور شروع ہوگا۔ ان اقدامات کے نتیجے میں دہشت کے سامورے بھی حوام کو فوجاٹل جائے گی۔ ایسے میں بڑی ممالک اور دیگر بیرونی قوتوں کو پاکستان کا اہم ترین ٹانگہ بننا کسی طور گوارا نہیں۔ بھارت اس منصوبے کا بڑا مخالف ہے جس کے لئے پاکستان کا پہلا زینہ بھی ناقابل برداشت ہے۔ اس لئے وہ پاکستانی اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ کی بھی کھل کر اور کئی پھیلوں طور پر مخالفت کر رہا

چین کی معاشی ترقی سے جڑے اقدامات
خطے میں عمل اور مالک کے درمیان راہداری کا مشروغ

Nawaiwaqt News, 12-03-19

چین: چھبرسکے دوران 85
فیصد آبادی کو غربت سے نجات دلا دی گئی

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین میں غربت کی لکیر سے نیچے زندگی بسر کرنے والے 85 فیصد افراد کو غربت سے نجات دلا دی گئی ہے۔ چین نے غربت میں کمی کے لیے نمایاں کامیابی حاصل کی ہے۔ اور اس نے گزشتہ چھ سال کے دوران 80 ملین افراد کو غربت سے نجات دلائی ہے۔ 2012 میں کم آمدنی والے لوگوں کی تعداد 98.99 ملین تھی جو کم ہو کر 2018 کے اختتام تک صرف 16.60 ملین رہ گئی۔ اس طرح چین نے اوسطاً 13 ملین افراد کو ہر سال غربت سے نجات دلائی اور ان کا اظہار غربت میں کمی کے محکمے کے ڈائریکٹر لیو یانگ نے گزشتہ روز 13 ویں نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کے دوسرے اجلاس کے دوران ایک پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہ 6 سال قبل 2012 میں ملک سے غربت کے خاتمے کا ہدف مقرر کیا گیا تھا۔ چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی مرکز کی کمیٹی کے طے کر دہ ہدف کے مطابق چین نے 2020 تک ملک سے غربت کے خاتمے کا عزم مکرر رکھا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 13-03-19

پاکستان چین کا سینیٹ کے نئے منصوبہ کو نپیر کامیٹیز کرنے کا فیصلہ
اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین کے سفیر یو جنگ نے سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و
اصلاحات ظفر حسن سے منگل کو ملاقات کی جس میں سینیٹ کے نئے منصوبہ کو نپیر جاری پیش رفت اور اگلے ماہ وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے دور چین کے حوالے
سے گفتگو ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں فریقین نے سماجی و
معاشی شعبے میں و انما چین میں ماہرین کے دورے کے تناظر میں نئے منصوبہ کو نپیر عملدرآمد تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا۔
اس شعبے میں پہلے سے منتخب چھ سیکٹرز بشمول صحت، تعلیم، تکنیکی تربیت، زراعت،
غربت کے خاتمے اور آب و ہوا کے منصوبے تین سالہ نمین پاکستان کے دور افتادہ و کمتر قیافتہ علاقوں میں مکمل کئے جائیں گے۔
فریقین نے گواہر منصوبہ کو نپیر اٹری پورٹ، ہسپتال،
ووکیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹ اور سٹیٹ ماسٹر پلان پر کام تیز کر نیکہ فیصلہ کیا۔ سیکرٹری منصوبہ بندی نے ایم ایلو نیکیڈیز اننگ کو حتمی شکل دینے پر زور دیا
اتحاد کے مالی معاملات پر بات چیت کا آغاز کیا جائے۔
بیلٹ اینڈر وڈ منصوبہ کو بہتر فیڈر ممالک پر قرضوں کا دباؤ بڑھانے کے بجائے انکیسور مایہ کار ی ضروریات کو پورا کرتا ہے۔
اعداد و شمار سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ پاکستان اسمیٹکنی ممالک کے قرضوں میں اضافہ ان کے طویل المدتی قرضوں کے انبار کی وجہ سے ہے۔
پاکستان کے کل قرضوں کا نصف چین قرضوں پر مشتمل ہے۔ یہ اعداد و شمار چین کے نائیز برتار تکیان کی منگنے کی پیش کیے ہیں۔
انہوں نے کہا کہ چین بیلٹ اینڈر وڈ سے وابستہ ممالک میں اقتصادی اور تجارتی تعاون و نز قائم کرنے کی کوشش کرے گا۔
اور ایسے منصوبہ کو فروغ دے گا جس سے تمام فریقین کو فائدہ ہو سکے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 13-03-19



نوائے وقت

نوائے چین

中国之声

78 سالہ
جینا شامعہ

سنگ برقرار رکھنے کی کوشش کی جائے گی۔ چین حکومت نے کہا ہے کہ کئی حکومت رواں سال صحتی کاروباری اداروں کو ننگ میں درپیش مشکلات کو حل کرنے کی بھرپور کوشش کرے گی۔ بڑے کرشل بینکوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کی جائے گی۔ جبکہ قومی ملکیت کے بڑے کرشل بینکوں کی جانب سے چھوٹے کاروباری اداروں کے لیے قرض کی فراہمی میں تیس فیصد سے زیادہ اضافہ ہوگا۔

رواں سال چین کھلے پن اور مسابقت پر مبنی منڈی کے جدید نظام کے قیام اور قانونی کاروباری تنظیم، بین الاقوامی کھلے پن سمیت بہتر سہولیات پر مشتمل تجارتی ماحول پیدا کرنے کی کوشش کرے گا۔ اس مقصد کی تکمیل کے لئے حکومت منڈی تک رسائی کے لئے قومی بھرپور اور حکومت کی جانب سے وسائل کی براہ راست تقسیم میں کمی کی جائے گی۔ سرکاری اداروں کے منتقلی کے جانے والے معاملات میں بھی کمی کی جائے گی تاکہ منتقلی کے ذریعے منڈی کی ماحول دوست ترقی

وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ نے کہا کہ رواں سال چینی حکومت کا عزم ہے کہ وہ آؤدی کی روک تھام کے سلسلے میں مزید اقدامات کرے گی اور اس حوالے سے حاصل کردہ نتائج بھی برقرار رکھے گی۔ اس کے علاوہ، ہائو وین آؤدی کے اخراج کی مقدار میں بھی حد تک کمی کی جائے گی۔ آؤدی کے اخراج کی مقدار میں بھی حد تک کمی کی جائے گی۔ آؤدی کے اخراج کی مقدار میں بھی حد تک کمی کی جائے گی۔

چین کی قومی عوامی کانگریس میں تاریخ کو پیش کی جانے والی حکومت کی ورکنگ رپورٹ میں غور کی گئی ہے۔ خرابی سے کہا گیا ہے کہ رواں سال بیہوشی میں کم از کم مزید ایک کروڑ غریبوں کی کمی ہوگی۔ غربت سے چھٹکارا دلانے کے ہدف کی تکمیل کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کے کسانوں کا معیار زندگی بھی مسلسل خوشحالی کے معیار تک پہنچ جائے گا۔ چین میں سالانہ معیار عمر سے زائد افراد کی تعداد چھپوس کروڑ تک پہنچ گئی ہے، اس لیے چینی حکومت بزرگوں کی دلچسپی بھالنے کی سوز میں ترقی کو تیز کر رہی ہے۔ چین کو عالمی اقتصادی چیلنجز کا اور ایک ہے جہاں شرح ممالک کی تکمیل کے نظام کو بہتر بنانا چاہئے۔ آئی ایم ایف کی شرح ممالک کو آئندہ مستقبل متوازن سطح پر مستحکم بنانا چاہئے گا۔ چینی وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ نے کانگریس کو ورکنگ رپورٹ میں تیار کی گئی تھی کہ معیشت کو مناسب حد میں بڑھانے کے لیے چین رواں سال مثبت مالیاتی پالیسی اور منظم سرگرمی کی پالیسی پر عمل درآمد جاری رکھے گا۔ مالیاتی شرح خسارہ دو اعشاریہ آٹھ فیصد سے بڑھے نہیں دی جائے گا۔ اس میں گزشتہ سال سے صفرا اعشاریہ دو فیصد کا اضافہ ہوگا۔

زیریں شہر
(چائینیز پریس ایجنسیوں)

تجارت کو فروغ دے گا اور چینی خصوصیات کی حامل آزاد تجارتی بندرگاہوں کی تعمیر کے لیے طریقہ کار تلاش کیا جائے گا۔ رواں سال چینی حکومت روایتی صنعتوں کی اصلاحات اور بہتری کو آگے بڑھانے کے ساتھ ساتھ نئی پھرتی ہوئی صنعتوں کی ترقی کو تیز کرے گی اور کھلی تہی اور مشینری میں بہتری کے لئے کاروباری اداروں کی حمایت کرے گی تاکہ کھلی صنعتوں کا معیار جدید ترین بین الاقوامی معیار سے مطابقت حاصل کر سکے۔ وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ کی جانب سے پیش کی گئی اس ورکنگ

ساتھ ہی ملکی آئین اور بنیادی قوانین پر مبنی سے عمل درآمد ہوگا۔ "دی پبلک اینڈر روڈ" اور گولڈ ڈوگ-ہانگ کا ننگ-مکاؤ کرپٹے اریا کی تعمیر کے مواقع کا فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے خصوصی اقتصادی علاقوں کی حمایت کی جائے گی۔ تائیوان کے لیے بین لیڈر کی پالیسی کا اعادہ کیا گیا ہے اور آہٹاے تائیوان کے دونوں کناروں کی ترقی کے لئے اقتصادی و ثقافتی تعاون میں مسلسل وسعت لانے پر بھی زور دیا گیا ہے۔

چین کے وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ نے پانچ تاریخ کو کئی حکومت کی معیشت کی ترقی کے لئے ماحول کی بہتری پر زور دے گی۔ منڈی تک رسائی، سرکاری خریداری اور فنڈ و بولی کے حصول کے سلسلے میں مختلف ملکیت کے تمام کاروباری اداروں کے ساتھ یکساں سلوک اختیار کیا جائے گا۔ ملکی انڈسٹریوں کا تعلق رکھنے والے

صدر شی جن پین اور وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ کی افتتاحی اجلاسوں میں شرکت

چین میں 13 ویں 10 روزہ عوامی کانگریس جاری

عالمی اقتصادی چیلنجز، ماحولیات، دی ہیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فنڈنگی شعبہ سمیت خارجہ امور پر بحث



چین کی طرف سے کہا گیا ہے کہ اور منڈی تک رسائی کو آسان بنایا جائے گا۔ ہائو وین آؤدی کے لئے متعدد اقدامات جو بڑے پیمانے پر پالیسی میں بہتری آؤدی جائے گی اور منڈی کی بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کے صنعتی و کاروباری اداروں کے لیے ایک مستقل اور منفرد ماحول تشکیل دیا جائے گا۔ چین حکومتی اداروں کی ترقی اور ڈیجیٹل سازی کو فروغ دینے اور کاروباروں کی کھپت کی

کا اور اس کی خلاف ورزی کی صورت میں سزا دی جائے گی تاکہ صنعت کار آزادی اور احساس تنہد کے ساتھ اپنا کاروبار کر سکیں۔ دی پبلٹ اینڈر روڈ کی مشترکہ تعمیر کو تیز کر دیا جائے گا اور اس کیلئے عالمی تعاون کے دوسرے سربراہی فورم کا انعقاد کرے گا۔ چین میں تھوڑے پیمانے پر اقتصادی عالمگیریت اور آزاد تجارت کے تنہد کی کوشش کرے گا اور عالمی تجارتی تنظیم کی

چین کی تیسویں قومی عوامی کانگریس (پین ایچ سی) کا دس روزہ اجلاس کل و بین الاقوامی سیاست سے متعلق بحث و تجویز کے ساتھ جاری ہے۔ اجلاس میں چین کے مستقبل کے سلسلے میں مختلف امور پر مشاورت اور منظوم بندی کی جائے گی۔ صدر شی جن پین ہنگ سمیت چینی تمام اعلیٰ قیادت نے کانگریس کے افتتاحی اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر شروعاتی طور پر چھپوس چین کے وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ نے سال 2018 کے دوران حکومت کی ورکنگ رپورٹ پیش کی۔ جس میں چین میں خرابی معاش کی تعمیر میں اہم پیش رفت کے بارے میں تفصیلات اور کہا گیا کہ چین دو ہزار افراد ہر بین چین میں چین کی بی ڈی پی کی شرح اضافہ ہے۔ اعشاریہ چھ رہی ہے اور نتیجہ طور پر چین کے باوجود چین نے اپنی معاشی و سماجی ترقی کے لئے طے کردہ اہم اہداف کو کامیابی سے حاصل کیا ہے۔ کانگریس کے دوران بتایا گیا کہ بی ڈی پی کا مجموعی حجم 90 ٹریلین چینی یوان تک پہنچا۔ شیوں میں روزگار کے مواقع میں ایک کروڑ چھپوس لاکھوں ہزار کا اضافہ ہوا۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ دینی علاقوں کی غریب آبادی میں ایک کروڑ آٹھ لاکھ ساٹھ ہزار کی تعداد بھی ہوئی ہے۔ اس دوران لوگوں کی کسی آمدنی میں بھی اضافہ یا پانچ فیصد کا اضافہ ہوا۔ اسی طرح کیریئر پر اس اینڈرس (سی آئی آئی) میں دو اعشاریہ ایک فیصد اضافہ ہوا۔

چین میں سال 2018 کے دوران غربت اور ماحولیاتی آؤدی کے خلاف نمایاں کامیابی ہوئی ہے۔ چین کے وزیر اعظم لی کھہ چھیا گنگ نے 5 تاریخ کو حکومت کی ورکنگ رپورٹ پیش کرتے ہوئے ملک کے مستقبل اہتمام بیان کیا اور کہا کہ تیار ہوا، مناسب اور مناسب پیمانے پر پانچ ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن رہے گا۔ چین خارجہ امور میں باہمی مفادات کی بنیاد پر کھلے پن کی حکمت عملی پر کاربند رہتے ہوئے ثابت قدمی سے غیر ملکی تعلقات اور اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر کے مطابق عالمی نظام کا تنہد کرے گا۔ طرز سخنرانی میں اصلاحات کے ذریعے کھلے پن کا عالمی معیشت کو تنہد پانچ اور بی ڈی پی کے انسانی کے ہم تنہد معاشرے کی تعمیر کو تیز کرے گا۔

چین اپنے پارٹی ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کو مزید وسعت دے کر ترقی پزیر ممالک کے ساتھ باہمی مفادات کی بنیاد پر تعاون کو فروغ دے گا اور عالمی چیلنجز اور اہم علاقائی مسائل کے حل کے لیے مزید تعمیری کردار ادا کرے گا۔ چین علاقائی جامع شراکت داری کے معاہدے (آر

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غیرملکی طلبہ کیلئے چینی ثقافت میں سیروسیاحتی مواقع

کیسپس کے قریب پارٹنٹ اور ریسٹورنٹ کی باآسانی سہولتیں پائی جاتی ہیں

اگرچہ دنیا کو ایشیا کی تینوں میں ایک زبردست اٹانڈا کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے، چین میں رہنے والے کی قیمت دیگر تین ممالک کے مقابلے میں نسبتاً سستی اور سہل ہے۔ یہاں تک کہ مفت پینے پر چینی کھانا پکانا کسی غیر ملکی کے لئے اس کی ضرورت نہیں۔ چین میں آٹھ اہم کھانا پکانے والے ہیں اور ہر ایک کی اپنی خصوصیت ہے، یا تو ان کھانا تازہ اور پکا ہے جبکہ سوچاؤ کھانا ڈاکٹ میں گرم اور بھاری ہے۔ شہر سے قطع نظر، آپ اس میں مطالعہ کریں گے، آپ کو کم سے کم ایک حمل جانے کی جو آپ کو مناسب ہے۔ چین میں خوراک بہت سستی ہے یا بڑے پیمانے پر ریسٹورانوں میں کھانے کے لئے پونڈوں کی کمیوں اور چھوٹے ریسٹورانوں اور 2 سے 5 امریکی ڈالر کے کھانے کے لئے اوسط کم از کم 1 امریکی ڈالر کی لاگت کرتا ہے۔

چین کے چھ بڑے شہروں میں مختلف بین الاقوامی ریسٹورانوں کی موجودگی ہے۔ آپ جینگ، چنگھائی، قوانگ، ڈالین اور کچھ دوسرے شہروں میں ترکی، بھارتی، اطالوی، کوریائی، جاپانی اور فرانسیسی ریسٹورانوں تلاش کریں گے۔ اس کے علاوہ، مغربی فاسٹ فوڈ فرینڈز جیسے ہی McDonald کی، پڑا ہٹ، سب وے، سٹار بکس کافی اور برگرنگ ملک بھر میں کھولے گئے ہیں۔ چین میں سبز یوں کا مزاج متفقہ پیمانے پر نہیں ہوتا لیکن بوجھت کے شیفٹ والوں کیلئے ریسٹورانوں موجود ہیں اور آپ چینی مینو پر ہمیشہ گھومتے وقت کے اشتہارات تلاش کر سکتے ہیں۔

چین میں رہائش کیسے ہو؟ ظہار کا انتخاب کرنے کا اختیار ہے۔ شاید آپ اس بات کا تعجب کرتے ہوں کہ چین میں بین الاقوامی طالب علموں کی رہائش کیسی ہے۔ اس بارے میں فکر کرنے کی کوئی ضرورت نہیں۔ اسکول کے قوانین اور قواعد پر منحصر ہے آپ اس میں داخل ہونے والے ہوں گے، آپ اسکول کے میں چھوڑ دیں گے، کمپنوں کے باہر قریبی اپارٹمنٹ یا کسی چینی خاندان کے ساتھ بھی رہا جاسکتا ہے۔ زیادہ تر چینی یونیورسٹی بین الاقوامی طالب علموں کے لئے آرام دہ اور سستا رہن کن فراہم کرتے ہیں۔ اگرچہ کچھ چینی یونیورسٹیوں کے طلباء کو کیسپس سے دور رہنے کی بھی اجازت ہوتی ہے۔

(اے سی اے ایسی)

وزیر اعظم ہائو سنگسکیم :
چینی ماڈلیر مینی ہائیر ڈسٹنٹ متعار فکر انے کافی صلہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر)
وزیر اعظم ہائو سنگسکیم کے تحت پاکستان کیتار یخ مینی ہائیر تہ صو بہ پنجاب مینی ہائیر ہائو سنگسکیم متعار فکر ایجا رہا ہے۔
باو ثوقر انے کے مطابق پنجاب کو متہائیر ڈہائو سنگسکیم کے تخلیق ماڈل کا تفصیلی جائزہ بخوبی لے چکی ہے اور اس منصوبے کو عملی شکل دینے کے مرحلے گزر رہے۔
اس ضمن میں مشہور چینی کمپنی سنر انز شو گانگ کنسٹرکشن کمپنی کے ساتھ باقاعداہر ابھریا گیا ہے جو کہ اس طرز کے رہائشی نظام کو دنیا میں متعار فکر انے والی سب سے پہلی اور واحد کمپنی ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ہانگ کونگ و بوروئی الیکٹرک کمپنی سے بھی معاہدے جاری ہیں۔
سنر انز شو گانگ کنسٹرکشن کمپنی اور ہانگ کونگ و بوروئی الیکٹرک کمپنی درحقیقت ایک بہت بڑے چینی گروپ شو گانگ کونگ و پکیما تحت کمپنی ہانگ کونگ سکا اور بار چین، امریکا اور یورپ میں 17 سے زائد ممالک تک پھیلا ہوا ہے۔
خوش آئند بات یہ ہے کہ شور گانگ گروپ نے پاکستان میں وزیر اعظم کے ہائو سنگسکیم و گرام کے تحت 5 ملین گھروں کی تعمیر کے منصوبے میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔
ذرائع کے مطابق تین پاکستانی ماڈل اپارٹمنٹس کو عملی شکل دینے میں پنجاب اور ڈیفنس ٹاؤن ڈیولپمنٹ اور پنجاب ہائو سنگسکیم ڈیولپمنٹ پارٹنر شپ میں شریک ہونے کا ارادہ کر رہے ہیں۔ تاہم پاکستانی ماڈل ہائیر ڈیولپمنٹس کیلئے کیشن کا باقاعداہر اعلان نہیں کیا گیا۔

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فوج کے ترقیاتی اہداف مکمل کئے جائیں : چینیا صدر
Mar 14, 2019

بیجنگ (اٹلی نیپی)
چینیا صدر شی جن پنگ نے فوجی اہداف اور عسکریت ترقیاتی اہداف کے بروقت حصول پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ بیس سالہ معاشرے کو برو لحاظ سے خوشحال بنانے کے عمل کو مکمل کرنے کیلئے کلیدی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، پورے فوج کو تیرہویں سالہ عسکریت ترقی کے منصوبے پر عملدرآمد کیا جائے، اس مقصد کے لیے اپنی عزم کو پختہ بنائیں، مشن کو گہرائی کے ساتھ سمجھیں،
زیر دست انداز میں آگے بڑھیں اور پورے انہماک کے ساتھ مقررہ اہداف کو بروقت مکمل کرنے کے لیے سرگرم عمل ہو جائیں۔
صدر شی جن پنگ نے ترقیاتی اہداف کے دو سرے سیشن کے دوران بیجنگ لبریشن آرمی اور مسلح پولیس کے ایک وفد کیساتھ ملاقات میں کہا ہے۔

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چین :

برفاریکے باعثہلسنسے کئیگاڑیا ناپس میتھرا اگنیں

Mar 14, 2019

بیجنگ (صباح نیوز) چین میں برفاریکے باعثہلسنسے کئیگاڑیا ناپس میتھرا اگنیں۔
 سرد موسم کے باعث سیسہ ہمیشہ مشکل کا سامنا چین میں ڈرائیورز کو اس وقت پیش آیا۔ خوش قسمتی سے کوئی جانینی نقصان نہ ہوا۔
 تاہم کئیگاڑیوں کا کباڑ بضرور نکل گیا۔ پاکستان سمیت دنیا کے مختلف ممالک اس وقت سخت سرد دیکھ رہے ہیں۔ چین میں بھی جیسے کہ ہم نے دیکھا ہے۔
 متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ بلکہ کئی حادثات بھی پورے ہو رہے ہیں۔ سرد موسم کے باعث سیسہ ہمیشہ مشکل کا سامنا چین میں ڈرائیورز کو اس وقت پیش آیا۔
 خوش قسمتی سے کوئی جانینی نقصان نہ ہوا۔ تاہم کئیگاڑیوں کا کباڑ بضرور نکل گیا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 14-03-19

چین کیساتھ انسداد بدعنوانی معاہدہ کی پیک پر اعتماد بڑھے گا: چیئر مین نیب

نام نہا ہونے کے کاروبار کے کنٹرول میں ملوث مضمحل (ر) ماٹف کو نیب راپہنڈی نے گرفتار کر لیا

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) قومی احتساب بیورو (نیب) کے کمرے میں لانے کیلئے احتساب سب کی پالیسی پر
 کے چیئر مین جنس رجاوید اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ نیب عمل کر رہا ہے۔ یہ بات انہوں نے نیب ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں
 بدعنوان عناصر، مفروضوں اور اشتہاری مجرموں کو قانون نیب کی کارکردگی کے جائزہ سے مطلع پر پتہ نمبر 57

Nawaiwaqt News, 14-03-19

چین سی پیک کے تحت سماجی ترقی کیلئے ایک ارب ڈالر گرانٹ دیگا: خسر و مختیار

گرانٹ سے تعلیم، صحت، صاف پانی سمیت 10 کوشش ترقی کے منصوبے شروع کئے جائیں گے

اسی ماہ گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ، ریلوے اقتصادی زون کا سنگ بنیاد رکھیں گے وفاقی وزیر
اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ ارب ڈالر گرانٹ دے گا، کراچی سے پٹنور تک ایم ایل
بندی ترقی و اصلاحات و شہاریات خدمت خسر و مختیار نے دن ریلوے منصوبے پر وزیر ریلوے کی سربراہی میں
کہا ہے کہ چین سی پیک کے تحت سماجی ترقی کے لئے ایک کھلی قائم کر دی گئی ہے، رواں ماہ 6 مارچ 2019

Nawaiwaqt News, 15-03-19

امریکہ میں انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیاں: چین نے رپورٹ جاری کر دی

Mar 15, 2019

بیجنگ (آئی این پی)

چین نے امریکہ کے انسانی حقوق ریکارڈ اور امریکہ میں ہونے والے انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کی رپورٹ جاری کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ گزشتہ سال امریکہ میں فائبر نگیسے متعلقستاو نیز اراکسو تینکیسسامنے آئے جسے چودہ ہزار ساتسو ستر ہافرا ادبلاکاور اٹھائیس ہزار ایکسو ہنڈ ر افر ادز خمیہوئے،

علاوہ ازیں گزشتہ سال امریکہ کے سکولوں میں فائبر نگیسے چور انوے واقعات پیش آئے جسے ایکسو تریسٹھ ہافرا ادبلاکاور زخمیہو گئے، جمعرات کو چائنہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق چین کی ریاستی کونسل کے دفتر اطلاعات نے امریکہ کے انسانی حقوق ریکارڈ اور امریکہ میں ہونے والے انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کی رپورٹ جاری کی جس میں امریکہ میں انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کی حقیقی صورت حال کا انکشاف کیا گیا ہے۔ انسانی حقوق کے ریکارڈ میں کہا گیا کہ دو ہزار اٹھارہ ہزار امریکہ میں فائبر نگیسے متعلقستاو نیز اراکسو تینکیسسامنے آئے جسے چودہ ہزار ساتسو ستر ہافرا ادبلاکاور اٹھائیس ہزار ایکسو ہنڈ ر افر ادز خمیہوئے،

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Pakistan Observer, 01-03-19

Pak-China at peace with the world?

THIS month of February, 2019 has brought to Pakistan enormous opportunities of fortune and development. Pakistan has successfully conducted sixth multinational naval exercise Aman 2019. The purpose of this exercise is to enhance maritime cooperation among the participating countries to meet multifaceted non-traditional maritime threats and challenges. These threats include piracy, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking etc. These all nations have come together for peace on Pakistan's first call to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding.

Exercise AMAN has been organized

by Pakistan Navy biennially since 2007. It was scheduled on 08-12 Feb 2019 and was the sixth of Multinational Exercise AMAN series. Navies from nearly 50 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, Combined Anti-Submarine Exercise, Communications, Boarding and Air Defence. The principle objectives of this exercise are 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 would be enhanced.

It is the significant achievement of Pakistan Navy which would pave the way for further cooperative environment in the South Asian region. In contemporary international political environment, Pakistan is attracting other countries realizing its geostrategic importance in accurate sagacity 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. Pak 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 maritime security.

A multifaceted approach is needed to meet all the security challenges by beefing up 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 U.S. started backing India, noting that CPEC passes through a disputed area. This is a new challenge ahead of this mega project. Up till now, world is well familiar with this mega China Pakistan bilateral project. So, what kind of incentives both states (China and Pakistan) are getting through this project?

Pakistan with its all elements of national power such as geography, population, military preparedness and information etc has immense potential to add transit economy because of its strategic location. Maritime sector holds a significant place in this project. China, an emerging economy (second world's 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 would reduce the time and distance giving an alternative route through the Strait of Hormuz.

Gwadar port with its deep waters attracts the trade 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 Gwadar Port to sustain its uninterrupted trade with other countries. Approximately, more than 95% of Pakistan's trade is routed through sea. Aman exercise has added a value to Pakistan's efforts to meet the challenges in the maritime domain for smooth international trade flow too.

It is pertinent to remind here 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 the international trade will be increased. To conclude, Pakistan's approach towards development and multilateral cooperation with world will be increased in future years. Pakistan's Gwadar deep Sea port would be the hub of international trade. As Pakistan has huge economic potential in maritime domain because of its unique geostrategic position, the regional and extra regional states would rely on Pakistan (Pakistan's sea trade routes). In the long run, Pakistan's political position would be enhanced in international community with the regional integration. In this context, Pakistan's efforts to bring peace and stability in South Asia are being well acknowledged in the world community. One of the paramount examples is the Aman Exercise 2019.

— The Author's Biography is an independent journalist based in Islamabad.

VIEW



ASIA MAQSOOD

Pakistan Observer, 01-03-19Pakistan
OBSERVER**ECONOMY WATCH****China keen to accelerate dev of agri sector in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Dr Munir Ahmed, Acting Chairman, PARC is holding a meeting with a Chinese delegation of Pak-China Socio-Economic joint group headed by DU ZHENLI, director/ Prof of engineering, overseas economic cooperation Deptt. China on his visit at PARC H&Qs.

STAFF REPORTER**ISLAMABAD**

A Chinese Delegation on Pak China Socio-Economic Joint Working Group headed by DU ZHENLI, Director / Prof. of Engineering, Overseas Economic Cooperation Deptt. China has visited Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Head Quarters, Islamabad and held meeting with Dr. Munir Ahmed, Acting Chairman, PARC for Pak-China Collaboration in Agriculture Sector under CPEC.

On the occasion, Dr. Munir Ahmed, The Chairman, PARC acknowledged the support of China in various projects of PARC. In a

meeting with Chinese Delegation, he gave a detailed presentation about PARC, its mission and vision to achieve sustainable food security and poverty alleviation through knowledge and innovation.

Dr. Munir Ahmed, Chairman, PARC also briefed the delegation about presence of PARC in the Country, National Agricultural System of Pakistan, PARC discipline of in-house research, i.e. Plant Sciences, Natural Resources, Animal Sciences, Agricultural Engineering and Social Sciences. He also highlighted the Pakistan Agricultural Scenario and PARC major achievements. Chairman, PARC

further added that agriculture and socio economic development are also included in Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In the meeting, Pak- China experts also exchanged the agricultural information and discussed the areas of mutual interest to accelerate the development of Agriculture sector in Pakistan.

DU ZHENLI, Director / Prof. of Engineering, Overseas Economic Cooperation Deptt. China discussed the mutual priorities for development in agriculture sector under Pak-China Socio Economic joint Working Group. The Chinese delegation appreciated the PARC's role of collaboration with interna-

tional partners for the development of agricultural sector in Pakistan.

The Chinese delegation was of the view that this meeting would definitely prove fruitful to further strengthen existing collaboration between the both countries. Chinese delegation also stated that China intends to provide help in different agri.

Research projects being carried out at NARC and also aims assistance for training of NARC's agri. Scientists according to their field. Dr. Munir Ahmed, acting Chairman, PARC also presented a PARC Shield to the head of Chinese delegation on the occasion.

Pakistan Observer, 01-03-19

Chinese Experts' team visits NAVTTC to uplift TVET sector

An 11 member Socio-economic Development Experts group of the Joint Working Group of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) headed by Director General CIECC, Mr. Du Zhenli, visited NAVTTC HQs to finalize the action plan on vocational training.

The members also discussed for the 1st Socio Economic Development Joint Working Group meeting and met NAVTTC Chairman Syed Javed Hassan and Executive Director Dr. Nasir Khan, a press release said on Thursday.

The Executive Director NAVTTC, Dr. Nasir Khan briefed the team about initiatives taken by NAVTTC and said Chinese intervention would enhance the quality of Pakistan's TVET system and serve as catalyst to attain desired objectives of TVET reforms to prepare skilled workforce for CPEC initiatives, Special Economic Zones and other

projects of such nature.

The Chinese experts' team showed keen interest in contributing towards the efforts of NAVTTC to enhance the quality of skill sector. They were also agreed to share their advanced techniques and successful experience to help Pakistan transform its human resource into advantage.

In the meeting, collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese TVET institutes, colleges and universities for transfer of technology from China to Pakistan in the shape of equipments, machinery for labs and workshops, capacity building programs, joint degree and student exchange programs, training of trainers, etc. was discussed in detail.

The head of the team assured to give high priority to NAVTTC projects and provide maximum assistance and facilitation in this regard.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 01-03-19**China for urgent Pak-India talks****OUR CORRESPONDENT****BEIJING**

The China has consistently advocated that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be earnestly respected and that they do not wish to see any violation of the UN Charter and the norms of international law.

According to the Spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang, China is worried about the current tension between India and Pakistan.

Everyone has already seen that State Councilor and Foreign Minister



Wang Yi has repeatedly expressed China's concerns when he talked with the Indian Foreign Minister in

Uzbekistan and during a telephone conversation with the Pakistani Foreign Minister. "

Commenting on the prevailing tense situation between Pakistan and India, the spokesman said at a regular news briefing here on Thursday, "We urge both India and Pakistan to exercise the utmost restraint and conduct dialogue as soon as possible. Control the situation and jointly safeguard peace and stability in South Asia.

The Chinese side has been maintaining close communication with the
Continued on Back Page

Pakistan Observer, 04-03-19

Gwadar oil facility has potential to capture China, Central Asian markets

ISLAMABAD

A state-of-the-art oil refinery and petrochemical complex, being established at Gwadar deep seaport city, has tremendous potential to capture markets in China and Central Asian landlocked states where fuel supply takes weeks to reach through other routes.

Under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the fuel transportation to China via

Pakistan would take just seven days as import through western China takes almost 40 days, an official source privy to the Petroleum sector developments told APP. He said the mega oil facility was being constructed with around US \$11 billion Saudi investment at the Gwadar deep seaport, an ultimate destination of the CPEC, would also help refine and store imported oil for onward transportation to China and develop fuel supply chain for the landlocked Central Asian states.

Besides, the official said the facility, having capacity to refine 200,000 to 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) oil, would help bring down the country's oil import bill by US \$ 1.2 billion annually.



Pakistan's average annual oil consumption is around 26 million tons (MT), out of which 13.5 MT was met through local production of eight existing oil refineries. "While, 50 per cent crude oil is imported to meet the energy needs."

Answering a question, he said soon after signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the refinery and petrochemical complex, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) to ensure timely and smooth execution of the multi billion dollars project.

The official said the JWG would hold regular interaction to exchange information needed for carrying out feasibility studies of the project on a fast track.

Saudi Arabia, he said, was keen to set up the facilities at the earliest, which was reflected by four visits of Saudi technical teams and Energy Minister to Pakistan to inspect the project site and discuss other modalities, prior to signing of the MoU.

Replying to another question, the official said the government was making all-

out efforts to upgrade existing oil refineries and establish new deep conversion facilities to achieve self-sufficiency in this sector.

For the purpose, he said, the government had recently banned import of furnace oil and announced unprecedented incentives package for setting up new deep conversion oil facilities, advising the existing oil refineries to enter into commercial agreements with power producers for utilization of their capacity for furnace oil storage and modernization of their facilities. The official said an unprecedented incentives package was in place for setting up new deep conversion oil refineries, under which interested parties were exempted from all duties, taxes, surcharges and levies on import besides a 20-year income tax holiday.

"The exemption will be applicable on all machinery, vehicles, plants and equipment, other materials and consumables for setting up, operation, maintenance and repair of a refinery," he said. The package, the official said, would also be applicable on existing facilities where refining capacity was expanded by installing deep conversion units with capacity of at least 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) oil.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 04-03-19

China's mobile-payment users reach 583m

BEIJING

About 583 million people used mobile payment in China in 2018, up 10.7 percent over 2017, according to a report from the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC). A total of 600 million people used online payment in 2018, up 13 percent year on year, said the statistical report from the CNNIC, published earlier this week. When people shopped offline, they also preferred to use mobile wallets. About 67.2 percent of China's Internet users used mobile payments offline, up from 65.2 percent in 2017. About 406 million people ordered food online, 18.2 percent up over 2017, 397 million of whom did it on mobiles, up 23.2 percent year on year. China-based online payment platforms extended their business beyond the border.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 04-03-19

China economy more globally integrated

KABUL

China's growth is experiencing structural changes and is moving toward greater integration with the global economy, said one economist.

Signs indicate that China's role in the global economy is growing, with the market playing an increasingly bigger role in relocating resources across the country, Kabul University Vice Rector Reza Farzam said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

China's opening-up policy will have far-reaching, long-term effect on the country's economic stability and growth, the expert said.

Despite data showing that China's economy continues to slow, it remains the world's second largest economy, said Farzam.

He also said that China's policies are having a positive impact on the global economy.

China-proposed development endeavors, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative, will have a long-term effect on both China and other nations along the routes, said Farzam.

China is trying "to give a firm guarantee that the Belt and Road Initiative would provide sure economic development for both the country and those nations living around the (Belt and Road) route," said Farzam, also

professor at Kabul University's Faculty of Economy.

Other sub-projects, like the Lapis Lazuli road connecting to the Chinese transit and trade belt and the Aqina Port railway, would play a vital role in Afghanistan's economic growth, he added.

The Lapis Lazuli road refers to the Lapis Lazuli international transit corridor, a joint project by Turkey, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Aqina Port railway is a railway section linking Imamnazar in Turkmenistan and Aqina in northern Afghanistan, which is a part of a 400-km railway project linking Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Regarding China's fight against poverty, Farzam said the country's economic growth is its best weapon to beat poverty as well as pollution and to tackle other economic problems.

He said due to growing living standards in China, public awareness about the negative consequences of environmental pollution is improving.

Farzam said China has prioritized minimizing pollution in order to "lessen the negative environmental outcomes that are feared to affect not only China but the world as well."—Xinhua

Pakistan Observer, 04-03-19

China to host 2021 Asian Youth Games in Shantou

SHANTOU, CHINA,

China's Shantou has been awarded the hosting right to the 2021 Asian Youth Games as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Bangkok on Sunday.

The MoU was signed between the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the Shantou municipal government on the hosting of the third Asian Youth Games in 2021, following its previous two editions in Singapore in 2009 and in Nanjing, China in 2013.

"It is the first time for Shantou to host

such a large sports event, we believe it will help improve infrastructures in the city and promote the image of the city internationally," said the municipal government in a press release.

The Asian Youth games, the second largest multi-sports event after the Asian Games, is to be held every four years for athletes aging 14 to 17 years old from all over the continent.

Located in the eastern part of Guangdong Province, Shantou is one of China's seven special economic zones with a population of 5.6 million.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 05-03-19

Xi calls for improved governance, studying

OUR CORRESPONDENT**BEIJING**

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, has called on members of the CPC Central Committee's Political Bureau to fulfill their historical responsibilities given by the Party and the people, to remain enterprising and to enhance clean governance.

According to an official statement released on Thursday, Xi made the remark after he recently reviewed the work reports

of the members, a move that is in line with a Party regulation adopted in October 2017.

Under the regulation, which aims to enhance the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, Political Bureau members should submit their work reports annually to the CPC Central Committee and to Xi.

Xi called on the members to forever preserve the political character and revolutionary spirit of Communists and conduct solid work for the Party and the people.



He also called for more efforts from members to tackle tough issues and more courage to shoulder responsibilities to set an example for the whole Party. In their work reports, the Political Bureau members gave accounts of how they fulfilled their duties over the past year, summarized their experiences, analyzed problems and put forward measures

to improve their performance. Safeguarding the authority of the CPC Central Committee with Xi at the core and its centralized and unified leadership must be the highest political principle and fundamental political rule, said the officials. They also made efforts to implement important instructions made by Xi as well as decisions from the CPC Central Committee, think about worst-case scenarios and protect against dangers in time of peace. They have endeavored to solve pressing

problems, worked to ensure the implementation of tasks related to stabilizing growth, promoted reform, adjusted structure, benefited public livelihood and guarded against dangers. The officials also vowed to practice clean governance and exercise self-control. They also made efforts to implement important instructions made by Xi as well as decisions from the CPC Central Committee, think about worst-case scenarios and protect against dangers in time of peace. They have endeavored to solve pressing

country. The CPC has made history through learning, and must rely on learning to move toward the future, Xi said. He also underscored the importance for Party members and officials to seek self-improvement. Xi said that great development in the Party's course cannot be achieved without a learning campaign within the Party and widespread training for officials, and the textbooks should be put to good use during various training sessions for officials.

Pakistan Observer, 05-03-19**China helped Pakistan in difficult times****NEWS & VIEWS****MOHAMMAD JAMIL**

A day after the Pulwama attack, China declined to back India's appeal to designate Jaish-e-Mohammad's (JeM) leader Masood Azhar as a terrorist by the UN. However, China's Foreign Ministry condemned the attack. "China has noted the reports of suicide terrorist attack. We are deeply shocked by this attack. We express deep condolences and sympathy to the injured and bereaved families," Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuang said at the regular ministry briefing a day after the Pulwama attack. When asked about China's stand on the listing of Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council, Geng repeated what he and his MFA colleagues have said many times before that UN protocols were being followed in this particular case. Indian daily Economic Times, however, commented that "between the lines, the message is clear: Beijing will not allow Islamabad to be humiliated in a multilateral forum".

China, a veto-wielding member of the UNSC and a close ally of Pakistan, has repeatedly foiled India's bid to list Azhar as a global terrorist, saying there is no consensus in the top organ of the world body on this issue. Now, the US, UK and France are trying to convince China not to veto it this time. The JeM, founded by Masood Azhar, had already been in the UN's list of banned terror outfits. And it is banned in Pakistan also. In 2018, France and UK-backed proposal to list Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN was blocked by China (putting on technical hold) at the United Nations. In 2017, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua

Chunying had told a media briefing: "we raised a technical hold so as to allow more time for the Committee and its members to deliberate on this matter."

A few relationships in the history of international relations have endured so long as that between Pakistan and China, and even fewer have been described as "higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans". This description of the all-weather friendship is not just rhetoric; it is based on shared principles and interests, and forms the foundation of cooperation in diverse fields. During his four-day visit to China, Prime Minister Imran Khan had met President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang. He discussed matters of mutual interest and sought Beijing assistance in tackling financial crisis. Reviewing with satisfaction the historical development of China-Pakistan relations and the great strides made both sides in the joint statement agreed to further strengthen the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership in line with the principles set forth by the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-neighbourly Relations signed in 2005.

The Chinese side had reiterated that China's relationship with Pakistan was always a matter of highest priority in its foreign policy. China appreciated the consistent and strong support by Pakistan to China's issues of core interest, and reaffirmed its support and solidarity with Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and security. It appreciated Pakistan's important role in promoting regional peace, stability and security and efforts for the peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues with its neighbors. The Pakistani side stressed that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy, and friendship with China represents national consensus and the common desire of all Pakistani people. Pakistan appreciated the strong support and assistance provided by the government and people of China to Pakistan in its economic development. It unequivocally upholds the one-China policy and supports all efforts made by the Chinese government to realize national reunification.

Though China has business and reasonably good relations with India, but Chinese leadership understands India's shenanigans and is aware that for every terror act in India, Pakistan's premier agency is accused of supporting the terrorists before any initial investigation.

Even when the police could not find involvement of the ISI, yet India continues with the propaganda to malign Pakistan. In 2009, the Mumbai Crime Branch had filed a charge-sheet comprising thousands of pages with regard to terrorists' attack of 26th November 2008 in a Mumbai court. Mumbai's Joint Commissioner of Police had told newsmen that investigations had not thrown up anything about the involvement of ISI. That was enough to vindicate Pakistan's position that Pakistan as a state was not involved. Secretary External Affairs S. Jai Shankar was also on record having said, "We have no evidence of ISI's involvement in Mumbai mayhem".



India continued litany of Pakistan's involvement in terror acts in India, whereas there is incontrovertible evidence of Indian RAW's involvement in stirring terror acts in Balochistan, KP and elsewhere in Pakistan."

terror acts in India, whereas there is incontrovertible evidence of Indian RAW's involvement in stirring terror acts in Balochistan, KP and elsewhere in Pakistan. On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bangladesh, had confessed that his country had helped anti-Pakistan elements during the events of 1971 that led to break up of Pakistan. Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar had advocated the use of terrorists to counter a terrorist threat. After Indian military raid in Myanmar in a hot pursuit of those involved in Manipur terror attack, Junior Minister for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had said, "Based on intelligence, we will carry out surgical strikes at the place and time of our own choosing". The then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and COAS General Raheel Sharif had responded that any adventurism will be met with full force. —The writer is a senior journalist based in Lahore.

Pakistan Observer, 05-03-19**Highlights of CPPCC National Committee news conference****Cooperation is best choice for China, US: Guo Weimin****OBSEVER REPORT****BEIJING**

China and the United States reaching a mutually beneficial agreement in trade in a timely manner will be conducive to both sides and the world economy, Guo Weimin, spokesman of the Second Session of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, said on Saturday.

In accordance with the instructions of the two countries' top leaders, China and the US have achieved substantial progress on such specific issues as technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights, non-tariff barriers, service industry, agriculture and exchange rates, Guo said.

China and the US, as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the world's two biggest economies, play a tremendous role in promoting global prosperity, Guo said at the news conference of the Second Session of the 13th CPPCC National Committee.

It is a solid fact that cooperation is the best choice for both sides instead of standing against each other, Guo added.

Belt and Road construction brings benefits to participants. China's Belt and Road construction has nothing to do with regional hegemony, Guo Weimin, spokesman for the second session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference said on Saturday.

It is also unreasonable to blame China for creating debt traps in

other countries by promoting the Belt and Road, he said, adding that more than 100 countries and international organizations had expressed support and participated in the initiative by the end of last year.

Debts in developing countries have historical reasons and China's investment in these countries only accounts for a small portion of the debts, Guo said.

He also said that China's investment projects are mainly about infrastructure, which are beneficial for long-term development.

China is making more friends with the construction of the Belt and Road, and the country stands ready to work with related countries to

“China and US reaching agreement on trade in timely manner will be conducive to both sides and world economy”
—Guo Weimin, CPPCC National Committee spokesman

bring our cooperation to a new level, he added.

Common interests between China, US outweigh differences. China and the United States should work together to expand cooperation and manage differences to promote a co-ordinative, cooperative and stable bilateral relationship, Guo Weimin, spokesman for the second session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference said on Saturday.

Common interests and the need for cooperation between China and the US far outweigh differences, Guo said at a news conference.

It has been proved that the two

countries will gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation, he said, adding that cooperation is the best choice for both.

Sino-US relations are at a crucial stage, Guo said. Maintaining a sound and stable development of bilateral relations, which requires joint efforts by the two countries, is in line with the fundamental interests of both countries and their people, as well as the common expectation of the international community, he added.

70th anniversary of CPPCC founding to be celebrated this year

Commemorations will be held this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a spokesman for China's top political advisory body said on Saturday afternoon.

Relevant meetings will be held to mark the anniversary, and more theoretical research will be done to summarize the practical experience of the CPPCC over the past 70 years, said Guo Weimin, spokesman for the second session of the 13th CPPCC National Committee.

“We'll step up publicity efforts to tell the stories about the CPPCC,” he said, adding that this year the CPPCC will collect history materials, issue a series of publications, shoot feature films and hold exhibitions to mark the anniversary.

“The CPPCC plays an increasingly important role in carrying out its functions of political consultation, democratic supervision and participation in politics,” he said.

The CPPCC is an important or-

gan for multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, as well as an important means of promoting socialist democracy in China's political activities.

In practice, CPPCC members serve as advisers for government, legislative and judicial organs and put forward proposals on major political and social issues in the world's most populous nation and second-largest economy.

Challenges remain as fight against pollution carries on. Guo Weimin, spokesman for the national political advisory body said Saturday.

Curbing pollution is not contradictory to achieving economic development, and in fact a better environment is conducive for industrial upgrading and achieving high-quality growth, Guo Weimin, spokesman for the second session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said at a press conference.

China has made great achievements in recent years in fighting pollution and the public is seeing more days with blues skies, yet smoggy days sometimes return.

In 2018, the average concentration of PM2.5 - particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter that can be dangerous to humans - in 338 cities across the country was re-

duced by 9.3 percent from 2017 levels, down to 39 micrograms per cubic meter, he said, adding that achievements also have been made in improving water and soil quality.

The government will carry out more inspections and avoid a “one-size-fits-all” method in curtailing the output of polluting industries, he added.

Private economy focus of CPPCC

China's private economy will embrace a bright future, as long as the country continues to push forward favorable policies and entrepreneurs seek careful management, Guo Weimin, spokesman for the Second Session of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, said on Saturday.

Boosting the private economy has been a focus of the CPPCC, Guo said at the news conference of the Second Session of the 13th CPPCC National Committee. He urged local governments to ensure the implementation of pro policies for the private sector.

The private economy is a vital part of a socialist market economy, and is irreplaceable in improving people's quality of life and increasing employment. China couldn't have created such an economic miracle without the private economy, he stressed.

Guo added that a number of CPPCC members come from private companies. As favorable measures are gradually implemented, they have felt the central government's determination to support the development of private enterprises, he said.

China's development path wins international admiration. China's development path has been praised by the international community, Guo Weimin, spokesman for the second annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said at a press conference on Saturday.

China's private economy will em-



Pakistan Observer, 05-03-19**China ready to play role in easing Indo-Pak tension****BELING**

A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang said that the Chinese government is ready to play constructive role, easing tension between the Pakistan and India.

"The Chinese side has maintained close communication with India and Pakistan and has been doing the work of persuading and promoting talks. We are willing to continue to play such a constructive role," he said while speaking at a regular news briefing here on Monday.

About Russian government's statement on the situation, the spokesperson said, "We welcome all positive measures that will help ease the current regional situation and promote regional peace and stability.

Lu Kang added, "We have said many times that India and Pakistan are important countries in South Asia. We very much hope that the two sides can maintain good-neighborliness and friendship and resolve their mutual problems through friendly consultations."

China's principled position is that we encourage the relevant parties in the international community to make all constructive efforts that are conducive to



promoting the relaxation of the regional situation and maintaining peace and stability in the region." To a question, the spokesperson told reporters that on March 2, the 46th meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers' Council (OIC) in Abu Dhabi adopted a resolution to positively evaluate and fully affirm the Chinese government's efforts to care for Chinese Muslims and expressed its willing-

ness to strengthen Cooperation with China. The Chinese side highly appreciates this. "Not long ago, when the OIC delegation came to China to hold political consultations with China, they also went to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to visit and witnessed the local Muslims living and working in peace and freedom of religious belief.

The delegation highly appreciated the Chinese people's religious freedom policy pursued by the Chinese government and actively affirmed China's preventive counter-terrorism and de-extremization efforts. In fact, China has long maintained traditional friendship with Islamic countries, and China has maintained close communication and exchanges with OIC.

Under the current situation, China is willing to work with OIC to further deepen China's mutually beneficial cooperation with the Islamic world and OIC, and to make the relationship between the two sides a model for civilized exchanges and a model for South-South cooperation." He added.—INP

Pakistan Observer, 06-03-19**China to
promote steady
growth in
consumption****BEIJING**

China will use a combination of measures to increase urban and rural personal incomes and boost capacity for consumption, says a government work report.

The report was available to the press on Tuesday morning ahead of the annual legislative session.

China will use multiple avenues to increase the supply of quality products and services, and act faster to resolve problems and difficulties blocking the entry of private investment, according to the report.

The country will take significant steps to develop elderly care, especially community elderly care services, as the number of people in China aged 60 and above has reached 250 million, the report says.

China will move faster to develop various types of infant and child care services, encourage private actors to run childcare and early childhood education agencies.

It will also develop and strengthen the tourism industry and maintain steady automobile consumption, according to the report.—Xinhua

Pakistan Observer, 06-03-19**Highlights of 2019 China Govt work report**

THE 13th National People's Congress, China's national legislature, opens its second session at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2019.

Premier Li Keqiang delivered the Government Work Report to the second session of the 13th National People's Congress in Beijing on Tuesday morning. Here are the highlights:

GDP growth target
China set its GDP growth target for this year at between 6 percent and 6.5 percent as the country pursues higher-quality development amid mounting uncertainties in the international economic landscape.

The country will face a complicated situation this year and while taking measures to stabilize the economy, China will continue to pursue comprehensive

economic opening-up.

Fiscal deficit ratio
China will raise its fiscal deficit target to 2.76 trillion yuan, or 2.8 percent of GDP, this year from 2.6 percent in 2018. Total government expenditure is budgeted at over 25 trillion yuan, up by 6.5 percent from last year.

The measure is being taken to stabilize economic growth by enlarging government spending. As a major measure to tackle economic risks, the proactive fiscal policy in 2019 will become stronger and more efficient.

Corporate burdens

China aims to reduce the tax burdens and social insurance contributions of enterprises by nearly 2 trillion yuan (\$298.3 billion) in 2019, as part of its broader push to promote manufacturing and fuel the growth of small and micro businesses. The government will deepen the value-added

tax reform, reducing the current rate of 16 percent in manufacturing and other industries to 13 percent, and lower the rate in the transportation, construction, and other industries from 10 to 9 percent.

Broadband, mobile internet rates

China will further cut the rates for broadband and mobile internet services, as the nation steps up push to nurture innovation and speed up the growth of emerging industries.

This year, average broadband service rates for small and medium enterprises will be lowered by another 15 percent, and average rates for mobile internet services will be further cut by more than 20 percent.

High-tech sector

China will continue to upgrade its traditional industries, support the emerging high-tech sector, and increase

support for basic and applied



research.

The country will strengthen its innovation capabilities, boost the integrated development of advanced manufacturing and modernized services, and create industrial internet platforms to facilitate the transformation and upgrading in manufacturing.

Green measures

China will pursue both

high-quality development and environmental protection by reforming and refining relevant systems. Green development is a critical element of modernizing an economy and a fundamental solution to pollution.

China plans to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 3 percent in 2019, while making continuous effort to decrease the density of PM 2.5, a major particle pollutant, in key locations, including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the Fenhe-Weihe River Plain area.

Elderly care sector
China will take significant steps to develop the elderly care sector, especially community services, in 2019 as the number of people aged 60 and above has reached 250 million. The country will provide support to institutions offering services in communities, like day care, rehabilitation, assisted meals and assisted mobility, by using measures such as tax reductions, fee cuts and exemptions, funding support, and reduced charges for water, electricity, gas and heating.

Rural students

China will beef up efforts to cut the dropout rates of rural students and improve their college enrollment numbers to stop poverty from passing down to the next generation. A quota system will also be used to boost attendance of rural students at top universities.

Vocational education
The country will take strong moves to develop modern vocational education to help ease current employment pressure and address the shortage of highly-skilled personnel. A vocational

skills training initiative will be implemented with 100 billion yuan (\$14.9 billion) from the surplus in unemployment insurance funds allocated to provide training for the 15 million targeted attendees, helping jobseekers to upgrade skills or switch jobs or industries.

Opening-up

China will open more sectors and improve the process of opening-up. The country will continue to promote opening-up based on flows of goods and factors of production, and give greater emphasis to opening-up based on rules and related institutions. China will continue to push forward China-US trade negotiations. The country is committed to mutually beneficial cooperation and aiming to settle trade disputes through discussions in an equal manner.

Pakistan Observer, 06-03-19



Wednesday, March 06, 2019

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Collaborative disaster risk reduction in CPEC

Zeenia Sult

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the six planned corridors that form part of Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Launched in 2013, the other five corridors include Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIMEC), China-Indonesia-Penninsula Economic Corridor (CICPEC), China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor (CWAEC), China Mongolia Russia Economic Corridor (CMREC) and New Eurasian Land Bridge (NELB).

The BRI vision is a paradigm shift in commerce. The pivot of high finance is shifting from the west to the east and the BRI is an embodiment of this evolving revolution. CPEC, BRI's pilot project, has a comparative advantage over the other five corridors, which pass through more than two countries involving longer terrains and complex negotiations. CPEC is more 3000 kilometers long (making it the shortest of the six corridors) that begins at China's Kashgar in Xinjiang and ends at Pakistan's Gwadar at the Arabian Sea.

The BRI vision is a paradigm shift in commerce. The pivot of high finance is shifting from the west to the east and the BRI is an embodiment of this evolving revolution. CPEC, BRI's pilot project, has a comparative advantage over the other five corridors, which pass through more than two countries involving longer terrains and complex negotiations. CPEC is more 3000 kilometers long (making it the shortest of the six corridors) that begins at China's Kashgar in Xinjiang and ends at Pakistan's Gwadar at the Arabian Sea.

CPEC is the pivot of the new course Pakistan is taking to become a regional commercial hub. The collaborative priorities, as described in the November 2017 agreement between Pakistan's minister for Planning, Development and Reform and his Chinese counterpart, earmark energy, transportation, IT networks, medical services, poverty alleviation, tourism, and rural development sectors.

A serious omission in CPEC priorities is China-Pak collaboration in disaster risk reduction. In an agreement titled "Long Term Plan for China-Pak Economic Corridor, 2017-2030", consisting of thirty-eight pages and approximately seven and a half thousand words, disaster risk reduction is not mentioned even once. Despite the neglect, joint disaster risk reduction inevitably became a preoccupation of CPEC planners as the Pakistani and Chinese scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography and the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, respectively, teamed up in early 2018 to study Gwadar's seismic risk. Funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the expedition was necessitated by heightened seismic activity in the region, instead of being the outcome of a well thought out joint plan for disaster risk reduction.

The region of Pakistan and China constituting CPEC are known as disaster prone areas. Most of the higher than an MMI scale earthquakes in China since 1980 happened in Western China. According to the data from China Earthquake Network Centre (CENC), since 1980, there have been 130 earthquakes between MMI 6 and 7, sixteen earthquakes between MMI 7 and 8, and two earthquakes higher than MMI 8 in China. Most of the earthquakes higher than MMI 6 took place in western China, consisting of Yunnan, Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, Xizang (Tibet) and Xinjiang. Western China is, therefore, an earthquake-prone area.

Gwadar's topography makes it vulnerable to the hazards of flooding, cyclones, tsunamis and earthquakes. Gwadar lies on the head of a peninsula surrounded by ocean on three sides, which makes it vulnerable to tsunamis. When and if a tsunami happens, it would hit Gwadar straight on, which is the worst kind of human impact for urban infrastructure.

Gwadar is located right next to the epicentre of the 1945 earthquake that devastated the region at MMI 8.1. The Makran Trench is where the Arabian plate (which contains the Arabian Peninsula) is subducting under the Eurasian Plate at a continuous per year. It is not quaking for several decades, the Makran Trench is building up elastic energy. Subduction zones produce up almost earthquakes, which are the most intense type of earthquakes, causing large tsunamis. It should be borne in mind that the earthquake of 1945, only part of the Makran Trench ruptured, comprising eastern half under Pakistan, not the part under Iran. If the entire Makran Trench was to quake, the earthquake could be a magnitude 9.2, similar to the 2011 earthquake that devastated Japan, the second most disaster-prone country in the world.

The Long Term Plan for China-Pak Economic Corridor states that "The CPEC will greatly speed up the industrialization and urbanization process in Pakistan and help it grow into a highly inclusive, globally competitive and prosperous country capable of providing high-quality life to its citizen."

Despite covering leading need for disaster risk reduction in CPEC, in this vision of prosperity of Asian high-speed regional collaboration in disaster risk reduction does not once appear as a priority. In "Restraint of Natural and Geographical Factors", Xinjiang's "weak industrial base" is listed, "cost of construction and management of operations in difficult terrain" is listed, "energy, infrastructure and governance deficiency" is mentioned, DRR appears nowhere on the document as one of CPEC's challenges.

The risk of extreme weather phenomena, including major cyclones, is higher. As a consequence of carbon emission, earthquakes is a clear and present danger. The main CPEC is built on a disaster prone. Alongside these hazards, CPEC gives Pakistan an unprecedented opportunity of utilizing Chinese expertise in collaborative disaster risk reduction. Pakistan's deficiencies in financial and technological resources can be compensated if China partners actively in managing potential and real disaster in CPEC. It is better for Pakistan to seek foreign collaboration in well-planned manner than to leave it to develop on its own.

Pakistan's legislature needs to make relevant laws and government needs to sign treaties on controlling water pollution, solid waste pollution, noise pollution, livestock epidemics, emergencies and transportation and food security hazards. Disaster risk reduction along CPEC needs to be made a priority area of bipartite collaboration between China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the third major investor in CPEC. Collaboration in DRR technologies, including early warning systems and remote sensing, is a dire need of CPEC - a project mainly consisting of infrastructure development for unimpaired commerce. Not just the infrastructure, but the commerce along the CPEC also need to be safeguarded against natural and man-made disaster through collaborative awareness, awareness, mitigation and management of disasters.

The vision of a University of Gwadar, laid out in the CPEC agreement, must be revised to create an international centre of excellence in disaster risk reduction and disaster management studies, harbouring a climate change and earth sciences resource centre, equipped with state-of-the-art technology and online connectivity to other Universities in Pakistan with similar programs. Scientists from China, Eurasia, and the larger international community of disaster and climate scholars should be visiting faculty, conducting joint research and imparting knowledge to Pakistan.

CPEC needs to be built as a "model" of disaster risk reduction and the sooner Pakistan and China pay attention to the importance of this joint venture, the better CPEC will serve its purpose.

Solid steps forward

Imtiaz Rafi Butt



China-Pakistan Economic Corridor began as a landmark project for Pakistan. In the earlier stages, there was much skepticism regarding the practicality and feasibility of an economic enterprise worth 46 Billion US Dollars. As the world took a small pace in realizing the potential of Gwadar and CPEC, the investment quantum was raised to 62 Billion US Dollars. Soon after, when Xi Jinping made an official visit to Pakistan in April 2015, he wrote the following words in an official editorial on CPEC, "This will be my first trip to Pakistan, but I feel as if I am going to visit the home of my own brother."

From that point onwards, Mr. Jinping proved that he meant every word he wrote. Pakistan was to become a second home to Chinese counterparts. Although CPEC was initiated as an economic venture, in its entirety, it now encompasses social, cultural, technical and ethical ties between China and Pakistan. As of 2019, there are concrete milestones that have been achieved.

CPEC, in its regional context, is a part of a larger plan that is termed OBOR (One Belt One Road Project). OBOR consists of two routes, one maritime and the other land based trade pathway. CPEC is the first and the most essential part of the land part of OBOR. It is by far the largest investment that has ever made it into Pakistan since 1947. Even better is the fact that this investment is not arriving in the form of loan or financial aid, rather, it is making its way into the Pakistan economy through industrial development, energy sufficiency, road and rail network, cultural exchange, technology transfer and capital.

The term CPEC denotes a physical Corridor meant to boost trade through the traditional silk route but in its regional context, it binds the futures of China and Pakistan as one entity.

CPEC circles all the major impediments to Pakistan's economy. One of the first hurdles was the energy shortage. In early 2017, Pakistan had a 4500MW power deficit. With exemplary dedication and cooperation, as of 2019, out of 8600 total electricity feeders across the country, power cuts have been ended in over 5200 feeders. It is important to note that Pakistan was losing 2.5% of its overall GDP in terms of industrial growth due to power shortage which is being added to the national growth percentage. The textile industry saw a sharp decline in production and profits due to rising power tariffs and unannounced cuts, with the availability of over 10000 MW of additional power, it is expected that the revival of textile will add a major chunk of progress to the national economy.

With the advent of CPEC, there has been a consensus in the national politics and among the forces that first and foremost, CPEC can only be implemented through concrete security measures. After a handful of unfortunate events in which Chinese engineers were targeted by militants, the Pakistan Army devised a comprehensive strategy in collaboration with provinces and Federal Ministry of Interior to plan and implement a security framework for CPEC. Prior to this, the Pakistan Army had already completed Rad-ul-Fasad which brought confidence of Chinese authorities to go ahead with plans in Pakistan on CPEC. In the future context, it is evident that infrastructure development and job creation on such a massive scale as this, in sectors like railways, industry, construction, technical skills, power and production will discourage militancy and exploitation of the masses by extremist elements. In the larger picture, it is believed that CPEC will completely wipe out extremism in the long run.

The fruits and forecasts of this scheme have already been observed in 2018, which saw a drop in terrorist activities by more than 60%. If Pakistan and its people continue with the same zest and zeal, it is only a matter of time when hardliners and terrorists will not be able to find any fertile ground for their infatuation.

Another facet of CPEC is its financial element. Pakistan has been struggling to gather foreign direct investment due to security and terrorism concerns. More so, for many years, there was massive flight of capital. The announcement of Chinese investment worth 46 billion US Dollars raised the stakes for

opportunities in Pakistan for the international community. Many countries have shown interest in becoming a part of CPEC. Gwadar is already under the limelight. International Corporations like Moody International are ranking Pakistan as one of the major investment avenues in Asia. Liquidity is improving day and day. Many a nations which looked towards Pakistan as a country ravaged with corruption and terrorism, are now changing their perspectives for the better. This is an indicator of positive progress being made in CPEC and development of Gwadar as a jewel of Pakistan-China co-operation.

In a significant development, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, initially announced their interest in CPEC. As a pre-cursor to better relations, the Saudi Government announced fuel subsidies for Pakistan and opened dialogues on investment opportunities. Later on, these interests were converted into a reality when Gwadar became the key focus as the recipient of a state-of-the-art oil refinery. Further, China did not raise any anti-semitisms and welcomed inclusion of Saudi Arabia as an oil rich country to join the enterprise of CPEC. Recent visit of Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman added new dimensions to economic co-operation between the two countries with an investment of over 20 billion US Dollars in Pakistan. It will raise the confidence of international businesses in Pakistan and add value to the already 62 billion US Dollars investment in the pipeline for the nation. More so, the interest of the Saudi Government in Pakistan and its commitment went far enough to conceding to release of 2000 Pakistani prisoners in Saudi jails. The investors are looking at Pakistan as an attractive avenue while the country will certainly reap the benefits in the process. A similar scenario is building up in the UAE, where major companies have shown interest in investing in telecom and refineries in Gwadar and across Pakistan.

Imran Khan's visit of China was a phenomenal success. He came back with 25 MoUs and the projects are only a little short of their intended timelines. The Joint Co-ordination Committee under Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtyar has managed to find the right mix of politicians backed by technocrats to perform as per requirements. The second phase of CPEC is at hand, as the sizeable milestones are being achieved. The World Bank stated in a recent report that at this pace, CPEC will create more than one million jobs in Pakistan by 2030. Without a doubt, this is an economic leap the country has not seen since its inception.

The writer is Chairman of Imtiaz Rafi Foundation, Lahore, earth sciences resource centre, equipped with state of the art technology and online connectivity to other Universities in Pakistan with similar programs. Scientists from China, Eurasia, and the larger international community of disaster and climate scholars should be visiting faculty, conducting joint research and imparting knowledge to Pakistan.

CPEC needs to be built as a "model" of disaster risk reduction and the sooner Pakistan and China pay attention to the importance of this joint venture, the better CPEC will serve its purpose.

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Pakistan Observer, 07-03-19




**Pakistan
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Collaborating to further
strengthen Friendship
between

PAKISTAN & CHINA

The daily Pakistan Observer, being in forefront in strengthening Pakistan-China friendship, has reached an agreement on cooperation with the China Daily, the leading English Daily of the People's Republic of China. The Pakistan Observer has started printing and distributing China Daily in Pakistan.

On
===== 02 Jan 2019 =====

Message from

Chaudry Fawad Hussain
Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting

“ I congratulate the two Media houses for this cooperation that augurs well to help promote greater understanding among peoples of the two countries and in highlighting the essence of their time-tested friendship. Cooperation between China Daily Global Edition and Pakistan Observer is a positive step, I wish them every success in their future endeavours”.







Pakistan Observer, 07-03-19

China reaffirms support to Pakistan for regional peace

STAFF REPORTER**RAWALPINDI**

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou called on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ and appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and stability.

Matters of mutual interest, regional security, bilateral cooperation and current situation between Pakistan and India discussed, Inter Services Public Relations said in a statement.

China's Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou, during his two-day visit to Pakistan, also called on Prime Minister Imran

Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. He also held talks with Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Kong reiterated China's support to Pakistan for peace and stability in the region. He also acknowledged Pakistan's measures against terrorism.

Kong Xuanyou, who concluded his two-day official visit to the country on Wednesday, also underscored Pakistan and China are close friends and partners, said a statement issued by the Foreign Office.

The two countries reaffirmed their time-tested and all weather strategic

cooperative partnership during the meetings, said the FO statement, adding that Islamabad thanked Beijing for its steadfast support.

The Chinese vice foreign minister was briefed on Pakistan's efforts to resolve all issues with India through dialogue. Both sides noted with satisfaction the strong bonds in their bilateral relations and agreed to further enhance cooperation and coordination at all levels.

Earlier, Chief of Defence Staff, Federal Republic of Germany General Eberhard Zorn also called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest

were discussed including defence and security cooperation and overall regional security situation, particularly standoff between India and Pakistan.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's positive role for peace and stability in the region. He also mentioned Pakistan's services in United Nations Peacekeeping and expressed the desire to enhance bilateral relations.



Pakistan Observer, 07-03-19

More than 70,000 jobs created for Pakistanis, socio-economic uplift secured: Yao Jing

PM's Beijing visit gave further impetus to CPEC projects: Qureshi**ZUBAIR QURESHI**

Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing last year gave a further push to projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and both the countries agreed to complete the projects well in time for the greater good of their peoples.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi made these reassuring remarks while addressing a National Conference on 'Pakistan-China Economic Cooperation: Next Level' organized by China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) here Wednesday.

Ambassador of China Yao Jing also addressed on the occasion. Qureshi called Beijing a tested friend and central pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy.

"Bilateral ties between both countries were enhanced through CPEC projects," said Qureshi. He said Islamabad wanted to expand cooperation with Beijing in science, technology and agriculture sectors as well.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing a national conference on 'Pakistan-China Economic Cooperation: Next Level' organized by China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.—Photo by Sultan Bashir

"CPEC is evidence for desires of both countries for regional development, whereas the mega project promotes cooperation in various sectors."

"China has played a positive role in recent escalation between Pakistan and India. Beijing has asked Islamabad and New Delhi to resolve issues through dialogues," said Qureshi. About Pakistan's foreign policy he said Pakistan was committed to conducting country's foreign policy with honour, dignity, national interest and as per the aspirations of the people of Pakistan.

Qureshi said dialogue and exchange of views were imperative to address all issues to achieve the goal of peace and tranquility of the region.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan and China were iron brothers and bond of friendship between the two countries was based on shared values. He said both the countries were for peace and sought stability in the region. Referring to Saudi Crown Prince's visit to Pakistan he said it was a testimony of grow-

ing international confidence in Pakistan.

Qureshi was of the view that Pakistan was also collaborating with foreign partners to exploit the real potential of Pakistan. FM Qureshi said that the prime minister played statesman's role after Pulwama attack and the foreign policy was moved forward in a constructive way. He clarified the federal government was making foreign policies complying with national expectations. Ambassador Yao Jing said CPEC had acquired central role in development of Pakistan and that Pakistan and China were enjoying China bilateral relations. Jing reiterated that Pakistan and China were enjoying

all-weather friendship while CPEC was a social and economic revolution project that would shower its benefits across the region.

The envoy said that the project created 70,000 employments for locals and development work was underway on four special economic zones under CPEC.

He said that Pakistan would be made trade centre of the South Asia region after completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

Pakistan Observer, 09-03-19

China calls on Pakistan, India to end differences with goodwill

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BEIJING

China hopes Pakistan and India will replace confrontation with dialogue, settle disagreement with goodwill and create a better future with cooperation, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Friday.

When responding to a question about the recent tension between Pakistan and India, Wang said that China welcomes the willing-



ness expressed by the two countries in recent days to de-escalate the situation and start talks.

"China has stressed from the beginning the need to exercise calm and restraint and prevent escalation," Wang said at a press conference on the sidelines of the second session of the 13th National People's Congress.

Pakistan Observer, 10-03-19

Pakistan OBSERVER

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Diversion of CPEC funds

FORMER Chairman Senate and PPP leader Mian Raza Rabbani has expressed serious concern over reported diversion of a hefty amount of Rs. 24 billion from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) allocations for discretionary spending on parliamentarians' schemes. In a statement, he said the move as putting the vitally important CPEC on back-burn describing it as a silent but strategic shift in the foreign policy which should be debated thoroughly in Parliament.

The report about diversion of CPEC funds for politically motivated schemes appeared a few days back and the denial issued by the Ministry of Planning was, in fact, a confirmation of the move. The Ministry claimed that no funds of the CPEC projects have been diverted but the block allocation, which was going to lapse in June, has been shifted to SDGs. Shifting of the entire allocation and the acknowledgement that the amount remains unspent (and was therefore, was going to lapse on June 30) is itself admission of the guilt. Funding of a number of projects under CPEC was withheld by the incumbent Government and the development work remains suspended because of stoppage of payments to contractors. It is strange that instead of releasing the funds for on-going and new projects, which were to contribute immensely to the socio-economic development of the country, the authorities concerned thought it appropriate to divert the funds and that too to parliamentarians' schemes, which were, previously, declared by the leadership as political bribe. Mian Raza Rabbani has pointed out that the move seems to be in line with the suggestion made by Advisor to the Prime Minister Razak Daud, who proposed suspension of CPEC projects for one year. This is a serious development, which raises questions about our commitment to a project that was directly linked to the prosperity of the country. Some countries have been pressurizing Pakistan to abandon this strategically important project and it seems we are succumbing to the pressure. Mian Raza Rabbani has rightly demanded debate in Parliament and we hope leaders of PML(N) who are in the knowledge of all information relating to CPEC would raise the issue in the right earnest. Instead of wasting energies on petty politics, the Opposition ought to focus on such important issues that have a bearing on the welfare of the people.

Pakistan Observer, 10-03-19

Pakistan to participate in China's major diplomatic event this year

BEIJING

World leaders including those from Pakistan will attend the second forum on the Belt and Road cooperation here in late April.

It will be the most important diplomatic event China will host this year and international gathering that will capture the world's attention.

Pakistan avail the opportunity to apprise the international community about the fast and smooth implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, that is the pilot project of the BRI.

According to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, President Xi Jinping will deliver a keynote speech during the opening ceremony and cheer a leaders' round table. It will include a series of events, such as leaders' round table, high-level meeting, thematic forum, CEO conference, under the theme of Belt and Road cooperation shaping a brighter shared future.



The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, or BRF will have more foreign heads of state and government than the previous forum and thousands of delegates from over a hundred are expected to attend.

It will be much better gathering with thousands of delegates from hundred countries expected to attend there will also be more side events, including 12 thematic forums focusing on practical cooperation and for the first time a conference organized specifically for the business community.

Wang Yi said the second forum aims to bring about a high quality Belt and Road cooperation, and China looks forward to a full exchange of views on the future cooperation plans.

China will build consensus with parties on high quality cooperation followed the principle of consultation, cooperation and shared benefits; champion

an open, transparent and inclusive approach to Belt and Road cooperation, and thrive for green and sustainable development.

China and the participating countries will seek a greater complementarity between the BRI and their development strategies, align up the key projects from the implementations of the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development and pay more attention to improving the lives of the ordinary people.

Wang Yi further said, "China will act the spirit of win-win, focus on improving physical connectivity, build a stronger momentum for common development, and forge an even closer partnership. China will champion openness and cooperation, support economic globalization, uphold multilateralism, and work with all to make the world economy an open one.

We have reasons to hope and believe the second BRF will be a greater success and another milestone in BRI cooperation." —INP

Pakistan observer, 11-03-19**Latest News****8 Chinese to
be conferred
civilian awards****OBSERVER REPORT****ISLAMABAD**

President Dr Arif Alvi would confer eight Chinese nationals with Pakistan civilian awards on March 23 for showing excellence in their respective fields.

The investiture ceremony of these awards would take place on March 23, the Pakistan Day, a Cabinet Division press release said here. President Alvi will confer 'Hilal-e-Pakistan' to Xu Shaoshi, while 'Hilal-e-Quaid-i-Azam' award will be given to Kong Xuanyou, Wang Xiaotao and Hu Xiaolian. According to the details, Long Yuxiang and Lin Yi to be decorated with 'Sitara-e-Pakistan'; Lou Ronghuai will be awarded 'Sitara-e-Imtiaz' award, while 'Tamgha-e-Pakistan' would go to Li Xuedon.

Pakistan Observer, 11-03-19

US, China driving oil demand: Saudi oil Minister

No April OPEC policy change

LONDON

Saudi oil minister Khalid al-Falih said on Sunday that China and the U.S. would lead healthy global demand for oil this year but that it would be too early to change OPEC+ output policy at the group's next meeting in April.

He said total global oil demand is set to grow by around 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd). "If you look at Venezuela alone you would panic, if you look at the U.S. you would say the world is awash with oil. You have to look at the market as a whole. We think 2019 demand is actually quite healthy," Falih told Reuters.

In Venezuela, suffering from a political and economic crisis, oil exports have

plunged by 40 percent to around 920,000 bpd since Washington slapped sanctions on its petroleum industry on Jan. 28. On the other hand, production in U.S. hit a record of more than 12 million bpd in February.



The International Energy Agency in a report last month left its demand growth forecast for 2019 unchanged from January at 1.4 million barrels per day. Falih said Chinese demand was breaking

records month after month and estimated the country would breach 11 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2019. For Saudi Arabia, he said oil output in April was expected to remain at this month's level of 9.8 million bpd.—Reuters

Pakistan Observer, 11-03-19**No diversion of CPEC projects' funds allocated under PSDP FY19****ISLAMABAD**

The ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform said that the government had not diverted the funds allocated for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2018-19.

"The allocations made for CPEC



projects were as per requirement and demand of executing agencies for FY 2018-19 and despite rationalization of PSDP from Rs 800 billion to Rs 675 billion, allocations of ongoing CPEC projects were pro-

tected," the spokesperson of the ministry said in a statement.

Referring to a recent news published by local newspaper under the caption "Government diverted Rs 24 billion to Lawmakers Schemes", the official said the news was misleading and deviation from the facts.

He said while reviewing PSDP 2018-19 in September, 2018, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform kept an allocation of Rs 27 billion for CPEC and other initiatives which was meant to undertake new initiatives mainly for the betterment of the population by improving quality of life.

The sectors include education, health, clean drinking water, and sanitation, farm to market roads, gas, electricity and other interventions leading to achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This programme is community driven and the execution will be governed by adhering to strict rules

and managed by a Steering Committee.

It is wrong to give an impression that funds have been diverted from CPEC projects to law makers' schemes, the spokesperson said.

He said the SDGs Achievement Programme would help achieve SDGs since the programme was responsive in nature and make intervention as per demand of the people of area and region.

In fact, he said from next financial year the government would start another programme to be called as Regional Equalization Programme in consultation with the Provincial Governments to ensure balance and equitable regional growth by starting programmes and projects in the less developed districts of the country.

The SDGs Achievement Programme is a tool to meet the demand of people on one hand and on the other it will fulfill the commitment made by Pakistan to the Community of Nations, he added.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 12-03-19**USA, UK, China top export destinations of Pakistani products****ISLAMABAD**

The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products during the first seven months of the current fiscal year, followed by United Kingdom and China.

The total exports to the USA during July-January (2018-19) were recorded at \$2363.579 million against the exports of \$2236.507 million during July-January (2017-18), showing an increase of 5.68 percent during the period, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by United Kingdom, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1038.693 million against the exports of

\$1010.179 million last year, showing growth of 2.82 percent.

China was the at third where Pakistan exported products worth \$1031.816 million during the current fiscal year against the exports of \$978.887 million during last fiscal year, showing increase of 5.4 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$766.825 million against \$809.421 million during last year, showing decline of 5.2 percent while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$676.335 million against \$845.068 million last year, the data revealed.

The exports to United Arab Emirates (Dubai) were recorded at \$596.619 million against \$619.427 million where as the exports to

Netherlands (Holland) were recorded at \$545.384 million against \$437.204 million last year.

During the period under review, the exports to Spain were recorded at \$532.829 million against \$544.694 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$448.194 million against \$422.696 million.

Pakistan's exports to Bangladesh were recorded at \$451.183 million against \$378.801 million last year where as the exports to Belgium stood at \$356.712 million against \$364.539 million and exports to France stood at \$268.500 million against \$260.044 million.

Similarly, the exports to India during the period under review were recorded at \$249.840 million against \$240.073 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$179.851 million against \$191.662 million.—APP



Pakistan Observer, 12-03-19

China mediating for early Pakistan, India talks

OUR CORRESPONDENT**BEIJING**

A spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang said that his country was trying to mediate between Pakistan and India for early start of dialogue process, so that they could address their certain grievances and overcome the prevailing tense situation.

Replying to a question at a regular news briefing here on Monday, he said, recently a series of events have taken place between the two countries.

“We believe that this is indeed not conducive to peace and stability in South Asia. China has used its mediation between India and Pakistan to make a lot of efforts to promote dialogue, work hard to cool the situation and promote the improvement of relations between the two sides.

In the process of exchanging views with India

and Pakistan on the situation in the region, security



is an important issue.

We have conducted extensive and in-depth communication with both parties,” he added.

Responding to another question about forthcoming discussion by the 13th, the UN Security Council 1267 Committee on issue of Masood Azhar’s listing, the spokesperson said, “To this effect, there are strict regulations on the relevant operations of the UN Security Council and

its affiliates.

You just quoted what the reports said about how the relevant discussions went inside the UN subsidiary body, which is quite dubious. I’m afraid no judgment should be based on the information gathered through an inappropriate channel.

We already stressed China’s position on the listing of terrorist organizations and individuals in the UN Security Council 1267 Committee on many occasions. China has all along participated in relevant discussions in a responsible manner and in strict accordance with the rules of procedure and provisions of the 1267 Committee. China will continue to communicate and work with relevant parties in a responsible manner so as to properly resolve this matter. Only by making a decision through responsible and serious discussions can we resolve the issue in a sustainable manner.

Pakistan Observer, 13-03-19**PCJCCI holds seminar for international CPEC workshop 2019****KHALID BUTT****LAHORE**

Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry has compiled proposals for second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (SPEC), which will be presented at International CPEC Conference 2019.

The proposals were derived by holding a seminar, in which Mr. Mueen Batlay, a distinguished Strategist and analyst of the international organization; "Obortunity". The Seminar was also addressed by a number of the local experts including Mr. Ahmad Hasnain, Vice President and Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Qureshi, Chairman Standing Committee of PCJCCI on Research. The speakers were of the unanimous opinion that the local industry should endeavor to adopt contemporary ways to come at par with the modern world for production value added goods.

Mr. Mueen Batlay, in his address, shared his current informative work focusing on different projects related to CPEC and the international CPEC Con-

ference 2019. He told that his organization; Obortunity, was focusing on six different dimensions, revolving around the trillion-dollar Chinese-led development, mainly in the field of Mandarin (Chinese) language and vocational training, education technology, business tourism, policy and commercial research, media, youth and public-private sector engagement platforms and project-oriented consulting.



He further added that we have trained more than 1,000 students and professionals on fields of entrepreneurship, Chinese language, BRI and CPEC and are engaged with institutions under the triple helix model of innovation on various fronts such as journalists' trainings, Belt and Road Workshops, CPEC consultancy, business and academic tourism and research.

Dr. Iqbal Qureshi, Chairman Standing Committee PCJCCI, in his address, said that the seminar on International CPEC Conference is part of the series

of PCJCCI awareness campaign to explore the manifestations of CPEC. He asserted that such discussions were required to share contemporary techniques and innovative ideas among the business community to bring reforms in doing business in our country. We should take initiatives to understand the importance of emerging technologies in order to improve different sectors of economy including product and services, he added.

Mr. Ahmad Hasnain, Vice President PCJCCI, while expressing his views on this occasion said that PCJCCI will submit its proposals in the International CPEC Conference 2019 which is going to be held from 17th April till 3rd May, 2019. Through this conference both nations will get chance to formulate their trade relations in more successful way by formulating policies for second phase of CPEC, he added and hoped the conference would also devise viable policy for the intensive learning of BRI in order to relocate industries from China to Pakistan. People will get the chance to interact with the political leaders and government officials involved in the development of CPEC during the conference, he said.

Pakistan Observer, 13-03-19**Russia, China significant players of region: Tehmina****Pak playing important role to eliminate terrorism****STAFF REPORTER**

Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua on Tuesday said that Russia and China are the significant players of the region and Pakistan was playing important role in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the region.

She was speaking as chief guest an International conference "Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Future Prospects and Regional Connectivity" organised by Center for Global and Strategic Studies. The conference had the participation of the SCO member and observer States.

Talking about Indo-Pak relations, she stated that the upcoming elections in India cannot determinate the future of this region. Furthermore, Pakistan has taken several peace initiatives and has taken US, China and Russia on board and has forced the international powers to start peace dialogues.

Prof Sun Zhuangzhi, Director of the

instability and conflict zones which can be resolved from the platform of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies Centre, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad said that there is need to establish SCO centric Think Tank, civil society and bank. We must sign trade agreements to remove trade barriers and ease in the visa regimes.

Mr. Bakhtiyor Mustafayev, Head of The Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, stated that it was important to determine the main areas of cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of regional security.

Mr. SeitghanApyshv, Adviser to Director, National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic stated that cooperation in the field of culture is one of the most

Pakistan Observer, 13-03-19



Wednesday, March 13, 2019

cpec@pakobserver.net

CPEC Boosting Tourism in Pakistan

Schriish Ajmal

Pakistan is a bonanza country; blessed with natural resources like four seasons, prodigious mountain ranges, luscious rivers, vast deserts and an evergreening landscape from north to south. Since its inception no serious effort has been made to make it lucrative and rich for tourism industry. Terrorism and regional instability have made the situation even worse. But fortunately, recent geo-political advancements have injected fresh blood in tourism industry of Pakistan. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has given a hope to the tourism industry apart from its other financial and economic aspects.

Under the canopy of 65 years of diplomatic relationship, China has played vital role in the economic development of Pakistan. CPEC is a colossal collection of infrastructure projects, wherein a vast network of highways and railways are to be built under the aegis of CPEC that will span the length and breadth of Pakistan. And this will ultimately bloom Pakistan's tourism industry leading to a better impact on the country's economy.

Ever since the inception of CPEC in 2013, the number of tourists embarking on a visit to Pakistan has increased enormously. According to a statistics, around 140 million visits have been recorded by Chinese and tourists from around the world in Pakistan, which augurs well for Pakistan. Pakistan is now a premier destination for tourists, and Forbes magazine has rated Pakistan as a top-10 destination for tourists. Pakistan is not only a welcome tourist spot but also much cheaper if compared to any other tourism country.

The number of tourists travelling to Pakistan has increased as the Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan has chalked out an elaborated calendar of events for the season and skiing competition is one of them. Prominent international skiers from across the world arrived to participate in different ski racing categories. Besides international athletes, top level national skiers also took part in these races to showcase their talents in this exciting sport. For tourists around the world, it is easy to travel to Pakistan and moreover, it is economical as the prices in Pakistan are still much more affordable as compared to other global destinations.

The growing ties between the two countries are because of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), of CPEC is a key component. Since the launch of the initiative, Chinese travellers are often visiting Pakistan. With the construction of the Karakoram Highway named Friendship Highway connecting China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Province with Gilgit-Baltistan, the two countries share road links. Since the inception of CPEC, a luxury bus service is running from Lahore to Kashii in Xinjiang. Pakistan offers less costly services and accommodations on a sharing basis for tourists, for those who can't afford luxurious services.

Pakistan's unparalleled bio-diversity has an incarnation of its own. Coming down from the vast wilderness of the mighty Karakoram we can reach the historical cities of Taxila, Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. These cities have a history of a few thousand years and hold a fascination for history lovers. Gandhara civilization is a special attraction for the Chinese and for tourists around the world as it is the cradle of Buddhism. Going further down south are the coastal areas of Karachi and Gwadar. Karachi being a cosmopolitan city with lots of economic activity offers a wide range of urban opportunities. Travelling

According to a statistics, around 140 million visits have been recorded by Chinese and tourists from around the world in Pakistan, which augurs well for Pakistan. Pakistan is now a premier destination for tourists, and Forbes magazine has rated Pakistan as a top-10 destination for tourists.

to the west of Karachi we can find beautiful natural beaches and amazing topographical structures. Peshawar and Lahore are historic cities of Pakistan and depicts Pakistani culture and civilization. Pakistan is blessed with deserts too like the Cholistan in Punjab and Thar in Sindh. CPEC is connecting all these tourist spots with roads network which would not only shorten the distance but also make it easier to travel safely.

Hence this boost in tourism industry would automatically improve Pakistan's economy. Due to the CPEC, frequent movement of people would take place from one province to another for employment and tourism. This would enable the people of poor areas of Pakistan to avail the opportunity of employment, thus increasing the household incomes that would contribute towards the welfare of the poor sections of the Pakistani society. Because of cheaper regional products being traded the poor sections of society would also be able to enjoy better amenities of life.

CPEC will ultimately generate a cycle of enhanced economic activity, increase in the production, trade, incomes, consumption, more savings and investment, and all would contribute towards Pakistan's economic development in a major way. However, to achieve this objective, the Pakistan Government would need to focus on quality construction and timely completion of the CPEC clearing all hindrances.

There are several factors that are trying to sabotage CPEC. The Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee, Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat, alleged that India had established a Cell in 2015 dedicated to sabotaging the CPEC projects in Pakistan. Furthermore the intentional or not, U.S. counter-terror operations are pushing militants into Balochistan, the heart of CPEC. Although all these factors, running in back door, are trying to sabotage CPEC but Pakistan won't let them succeed in their heinous ends.

The tourism industry anywhere can be improved by providing safety to the people (foreigners as well as the locals) who want to visit a specific location. That's the very basic step. Secondly, by positive publicity of the places where people will definitely want to go. There comes the Tourism Department in Pakistan, they must work for it and run advertisements on television and in newspapers. Pakistan is blessed with a beautiful landscape and has a lot to offer to the tourists. But for the past two decades, we have lost tourism industry due to the war on terror, and so many beautiful places and buildings have been destroyed. The Tourism Department must now improve the infrastructure over there and work on the tourist-visiting spots, to counter the losses been done. With all these reforms implemented, the future of tourism in Pakistan is bright with CPEC as a major booster.

CPEC: Where the Opportunities Begin

Muhammad Muzamil Zia



A multibillion-dollar bilateral project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) intends to provide a structural transformation in the region of Pakistan. Before the initiation of the CPEC, it has never been considered as a "Trade Corridor" rather a developed structure of business cycle has been envisioned to make it an "Economic Corridor". It is regarded as a 1+4 portfolio, which includes upgradation in the prevailing infrastructure followed by development in the energy sector to help facilitate industrial expansion and eventually export the produced goods through the port of Gwadar. Therefore, CPEC project starts from the production, transportation and eventually exports of goods produced under the "Industrial Estates" referred to as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC. As any country moves on to untap the benefits inherent in the Industrial Development, this transition is considered as a core element for an economy to grow sustainably. Such economic activities are not limited to upsurge the values of GDP rather an uplift of the society in terms of developed life standard is the real picture, one could depict. Based on this discussion, these projects will certainly support shrinking the unemployment rate, which currently persists at 5.9 percent.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), CPEC is estimated to create 400,000 jobs in the country, while according to the estimates of Applied Economic Research Centre and Deloitte, the mega-initiative would provide around 70,000 direct jobs between 2015 and 2030. Centre of Excellence for CPEC has also conducted a study in which 1.2 million jobs have been projected from 2013 to 2030. However, there are reservations, opposing statements and articles in this regard which report ineffectiveness of CPEC projects in the labour market of Pakistan.

In the early harvest projects, an employment nostalgia was observed through various sources that "Chinese would bring in their own labor", whereas, the ground reality reported in contrary to the proposed accusation. A field survey conducted by CoE-CPEC concluded that almost 75,000 direct jobs have been generated in the early harvest projects of CPEC. From the 75,000 direct jobs, CPEC and related infrastructure projects have reported to generate almost 51,000 jobs (68% from which 97% of the labors were local in contrast to 3% of whom were categorized as Chinese labors. Moreover, a field survey of energy projects, although reported more skilled Chinese labors inducted in its construction phase, however, in the operational phase the proportion of figures changed drastically due to the intervention of Chinese companies in the labor market of Pakistan. This led to employ a more domestic skilled workforce in these projects. The domestic workforce employed in the energy project up till now is more than 22,000 and are further increasing.

It is evident from a bulk of studies that, the production units in order to maximize their profits follow certain policies to minimize their costs, especially associated with the inputs a firm requires. For this, one study found that Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, China Power Hub Generation Company and other renowned energy projects are replacing their highly paid Chinese technicians with the relatively economical domestic skilled workforce. To make this possible, keeping in view the fact that the prevailing engineering graduate skill-set was insufficient to some extent, in order to meet the requirements for technical personnel, Chinese companies began to focus on the employment of graduates from local universities in Pakistan. The first batch of engineers was completely hired from the Pakistan universities including University of Engineering and Technology Lahore (UET) and the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) Islamabad in Sahiwal coal power plant. The graduates hired from UET numbered 50 to 90 out of 124 engineers, while the rest were from NUST. However, the next recruitment cycle in 2016 was derived from almost all accredited engineering institutes of Pakistan. The employees, soon after recruitment, were sent to China for 6 months of technical training and later sent to UET to complete a 12-module

training program specifically designed for the operational phase of the Sahiwal plant. These modules were designed to improve the technical skills of the candidates along with their capacity building in order to make them capable enough to work on managerial positions. Currently, foreign workers are mostly employed in the maintenance department and have an exit window from the Pakistani labour market by three years. In this regard, around 100 domestic labourers on a managerial level have been hired in the maintenance department, whereas, with a hundred more expected for this fiscal year. Moreover, the mentioned plants have initiated vocational and training centers at their site areas to provide free of cost training to the local semi-skilled workforce that will help them to equip with the sophisticated skill sets.

Subsequently, after considering the relocation of foreign industries in the 9 SEZs of Pakistan, drastic escalation in the labour market of Pakistan is anticipated. Keeping in view the global SEZs employment performance, International Labor Organization's (ILO) database reported 3,500 zones in 130 countries and today one can find more than 4300 SEZs around the globe and the number is increasing rapidly. According to an estimate, SEZs, all over the world, have generated approximately 66 million jobs out of which 30 million are solely located in China (see ILO 2003, 2007 and Aggarwal, 2010). Based on the employment opportunities created in 4300 SEZs all over the globe, a study has been conducted by the Centre of Excellence for CPEC after taking into account the relocation of potential industries in CPEC SEZs. Scenario-based analysis of employment projections was made utilizing certain analytical tools in order to project the probable jobs in 9 SEZs only after identifying the potential relocation of industries in these areas based on the available local endowments. Keeping in view the feasibility reports of SEZs, the representatives of Dhabaji and Rashkari SEZs have reported 70,000 to 80,000 direct employment opportunities followed by 150,000 indirect job creation in the respected SEZs. As per the economic practices in the global SEZs, it is pertinent to note that the relocation of foreign industries will certainly not be of the same capacity as existing in Pakistan; rather, the industries will be focused towards value addition in the domestically produced goods. Such industries in an abundant labour nation are more likely to be labour-intensive, which will provide massive opportunities to the domestic workforce.

Centre of Excellence for CPEC has collaborated with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) to conduct a research study in which the future demand of workforce on different trade levels will be identified. Furthermore, to streamline the data, a National Job Portal for CPEC is underway to be launched in order to register the Chinese companies so that the companies list down their future demand and thereby, provide enough time span to the skill development institutions to train the available domestic youth for the upcoming employment opportunities in mega projects.

The Express Tribune, 01-03-19

Talks with China on ML-1 still under way, says minister

Senate sub-committee to look into CPEC projects related to Pakistan Railways

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Thursday said Pakistan Railways would restore rail service between Nowshera to Dargai within two months.

Informing the Senate Standing Committee on Railways, which met at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of Muhammad Asad Ali Junejo, he said Pakistan Railways had started repair work on Nowshera- Dargai railway track.

Regarding the Main Line-I (ML-I) project was very much important for Pakistan Railways and expressed hope that soon it would be finalised as negotiations were under way with China.

The committee was briefed

by officials of Pakistan Railways about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and the Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) for the next financial year.

It was apprised that the estimated cost of the ML-I project and establishment of dry port near Havelian were \$8.2 billion and would be completed in five years as part of CPEC.

The body was informed that the scope of the project was induction of 50 locomotives, 300 passenger coaches and 2,000 freight wagons and up-gradation of Walton Training Academy.

About the objectives of the ML-I, the official said it will increase speed from 65-105 km/h to 120-160km/h,

The estimated cost of ML-I project and establishment of dry port near Havelian is \$8.2b and it would be completed in 5 years as part of CPEC

increase freight volumes from 6 to 35 tons per annum by 2025 and increase the railway's share in freight transport from less than 4% to 20%.

It was informed that the journey time from Karachi to Lahore would be reduced from 18 to 10 hours, Lahore-Multan from 5 to 3 hours, Islamabad to Lahore from 4:30 to 2:30 hours, Peshawar to Islamabad from 3:45 to 1:45 hours and

Karachi to Hyderabad from 2 to 1:20 hours.

The committee was informed that the project would create 150,000 direct and indirect jobs in the country which would accommodate the youth.

About the PSDP 2019-2020, the official informed about the total cost of the 36 ongoing projects and seven new projects of Pakistan Railways, adding that Rs39.232 billion would be spent on these projects.

Asad Ali Junejo formed a sub-committee chaired by Senator Brig (ret'd) John Kenneth Williams and its members include Hafiz Abdul Karim, Gianchand and Khushbakht Shujat which would look into CPEC projects of Pakistan Railways. APP

The Express Tribune, 02-03-19

Gwadar refinery to feed China, C Asia markets

Project developed with Saudi investment to have storage services

ISLAMABAD

A state-of-the-art oil refinery and petrochemical complex, being established at Gwadar deep seaport city, has tremendous potential to capture markets in China and Central Asian landlocked states where fuel supply takes weeks to reach through other routes.

Under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), fuel transportation to China via Pakistan would take just seven days as opposed to the western route that takes almost 40 days, an official source privy to petroleum sector developments told APP.

He said the mega oil facility was being constructed with around \$11 billion Saudi investment at the Gwadar deep seaport, the ultimate destination of the CPEC, and that it would also help refine and store imported oil for onward transportation to China and develop fuel supply chain for the landlocked Central Asian states.



CENTRE POINT: A view of Gwadar port. PHOTO: FILE

Besides, the official said the facility, having capacity to refine 200,000 to 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) oil, would help bring down the country's oil import bill by \$1.2 billion annually.

Pakistan's average annual oil consumption is around 26 million tons (MT), out of which 13.5 MT was met through local production of eight existing oil refineries.

"While, 50 per cent crude oil is imported to meet the energy needs."

Answering a question, he said soon after signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the refinery and petrochemical complex, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a Joint Working Group (JWC) to ensure timely and smooth execution of the multi-billion

dollar project.

The official said the JWC would hold regular interaction to exchange information needed for carrying out feasibility studies of the project on a fast track. Saudi Arabia, he said, was keen to set up the facilities at the earliest, which was reflected by four visits of Saudi technical teams and energy minister to Pakistan to inspect the project site and discuss other modalities, prior to signing of the MoU.

Replying to another question, the official said the government was making all-out efforts to upgrade existing oil refineries and establish new deep conversion facilities to achieve self-sufficiency in this sector.

For the purpose, he said, the government had recently banned import of furnace oil and announced unprecedented incentives package for setting up new deep conversion oil facilities, advising the

existing oil refineries to enter into commercial agreements with power producers for utilisation of their capacity for furnace oil storage and modernization of their facilities.

The official said an unprecedented incentives package was in place for setting up new deep conversion oil refineries, under which interested parties were exempted from all duties, taxes, surcharges and levies on import besides a 20-year income tax holiday.

"The exemption will be applicable on all machinery, vehicles, plants and equipment, other materials and consumables for setting up, operation, maintenance and repair of a refinery," he said.

The package, the official said, would also be applicable on existing facilities where refining capacity was expanded by installing deep conversion units with capacity of at least 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) oil. APP

The Express Tribune, 03-03-19

'US, China, Turkey were on board over pilot's release'

Sheikh Rashid says India is 'now well aware of our military capability'

SHAHRAM HAQ
LAHORE

Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said that all stakeholders, including some world powers, were on board as Pakistan decided to release Indian Air Force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman.

Rashid claimed during a press conference here on Saturday that India initially planned to fire rockets on all important airports of Pakistan, but the armed forces were ready to stop such attacks.

"This is the difference of leadership. Modi, the Indian Prime Minister, thinks after action whereas Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan thinks ahead."

He added that the opposition, armed forces and government, as well as the United States, China and Turkey were on board when the

country decided to hand over the pilot back to India.

"Every inch of Indian territory is in range of our missiles as our technology is superior," warned the railways minister.

He further said that Indian Prime Minister Modi has been badly exposed before the world after the recent incidents as he neither has the intelligence level of Gandhi or Nehru nor of Vajpayee and his adventure has resulted in declining investments in India and damaged his image in the world.

The Awami Muslim League chief said some people, including some opposition leaders, were opposing the government's decision, but former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had also sent back an Indian pilot a few days after the Kargil war.

"Currently Imran and Chief of

"We can capture their pilot anytime"

Federal Minister for Railways
Sheikh Rashid Ahmad

Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa ate on one page, however, the situation was different during the Kargil conflict," he said.

Rashid added the attack on Taj Mahal hotel back in 2009 was a much bigger issue than Pulwama attack, however, the premier has played a great stroke and placed himself among those deserving the Nobel Peace Prize.

As per the minister, the Indian Air Force is around four times bigger than PAF in size. "PAF's level is much higher when it comes to quality, not quantity, and India knows it well."

He said after the shooting down of Indian fighter planes, disappointment and frustration was "evident from their face and body language". Talking about the Kashmir issue, Rashid said Kashmiris don't need Pakistan's support as they are now fighting for freedom on their own.

"The Kashmir issue has once again become a hot topic due to this incident. I am not in favour of war as I believe that war is the result of failed foreign policies but if it happens this would be the last and final war between the two neighbouring countries and this will be due to the Kashmir issue," he added.

"Every child of Kashmir is ready for martyrdom," he went on to say. He appreciated Pakistan's media for covering all the incidents responsibly, while criticising Indian media for promoting warmongering be-

tween the two countries.

Samjhauta Express to resume

Meanwhile, the railways minister has announced that the Samjhauta Express train service will resume its operations according to schedule.

He said an emergency has been declared in Pakistan Railways and it has sufficient stock of fuel to meet at least one month's requirements. He warned India against creating instability in the region and asserted, "India is well aware of military capability of Pakistan and its air force."

He expressed annoyance over Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Khursheed Shah's criticism against PM Imran Khan and said, "We can capture their pilot anytime." He announced that the prime minister will inaugurate the VIP Jinnah Express on March 20. DNA

The Express Tribune, 05-03-19

Govt diverts Rs24 billion from CPEC to lawmakers' schemes

Money is being given to Cabinet Division under SDGs Achievement Programme

SHAHBAZ RANA
ISLAMABAD

The government has diverted Rs24 billion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other initiatives for discretionary spending on parliamentarians' schemes as the process to dole out taxpayer money for politically motivated projects begins.

The Rs24 billion has been diverted from grant number 137, which is related to CPEC and other initiatives, showed official documents of the Ministry of Planning and Development. The money has been moved to the Cabinet Division's grant number 108, which already has an allocation of Rs5 billion.

With additional Rs24 billion, the total spending on parliamentarians' schemes would be Rs29 billion this year. In its last year, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government spent Rs32.6 billion under the PM's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Achievement Fund. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration has begun the journey with a Rs29-billion spending plan for its first year in power.

Both the PML-N and the PTI have used the name of SDGs to push ahead with their political agendas.

The CPEC and other initiatives have a total approved allocation of Rs27 billion and diversion of Rs24 billion suggests that CPEC projects will be adversely affected. This also shows that the PTI government gives less priority to CPEC and is keen to win and retain political loyalties of members of the National Assembly by doling out taxpayer money.

The discretionary spending is also a violation of the Supreme Court's judgement in the discretionary spending case of former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf.

The money has been diverted



BREACH: The discretionary spending is a violation of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's judgement in the discretionary spending case of former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf. PHOTO: FILE

without parliament's approval. Parliament's ex-post facto approval, as per practice, will be taken along with the new fiscal year's budget, which will deprive the legislature of the scrutiny of expenditures.

The response of Federal Minister for Planning and Development Makhdum Khusró Bakhtyar was awaited till the filing of the story.

The planning ministry issued the adjustment order in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2018-19 on January 16, just a day after the Cabinet Division made a request for the money.

"The approved funds of Rs24 billion will be surrendered in favour of the Cabinet Division's Development Grant Number 108,

out of the allocation for CPEC and other initiatives available in the development grant of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform in PSDP 2018-19," read the official memorandum.

On February 19, the Ministry of Planning surrendered Rs24 billion from its demand number 137 (CPEC and other initiatives) for the current fiscal year. The money was surrendered in favour of the Cabinet Division for the scheme titled "Sustainable Development Goals Achievement Programme (SAP)". This has now enabled the Cabinet Division to take technical supplementary grant of Rs24 billion from the finance ministry.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had

vowed that he would not use taxpayer money to lure voters. But he had to make yet another compromise to retain his thin majority in the National Assembly.

During a meeting with Planning Minister Khusró Bakhtyar, a member of the National Assembly belonging to the PTI cautioned that if the money was not given for parliamentarians' schemes, the government might lose next elections.

The last PML-N government had spent over Rs130 billion in about three years in over 100 constituencies and yet it could not win the general elections.

The Cabinet Division has now sought technical supplementary grant to distribute money for the

parliamentarians' schemes. In the Cabinet Division's budget, the money will be shown as "general expenditures", according to the documents reviewed by *The Express Tribune*.

Once the finance ministry sanctions the technical supplementary grant, the money will be released to the Cabinet Division for onward spending on the politically motivated projects.

CPEC and other initiatives have a total approved allocation of Rs27b and diversion of Rs24b suggests CPEC projects will be adversely affected

"CPEC funds have not been diverted," claimed Hasan Daud Butt, the official spokesman for CPEC affairs, in a terse response. He did not provide breakdown of the Rs27-billion grant to prove his claim.

Spending mechanism

Following in the footsteps of its arch rival PML-N, the PTI government has also set up a steering committee, headed by Special Assistant to PM on Political Affairs Naeemul Haq, for approving development schemes recommended by MNAs for their respective constituencies. In the PML-N's tenure, this job was performed by the then minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad.

The steering committee on Monday held its first meeting to approve the schemes of parliamentarians, according to the government officials. The schemes are being forwarded to the committee from district levels - a mechanism designed by the PML-N to hide real motives of the spending.

The Express Tribune, 07-03-19

Chinese firms donate relief goods for flood victims

Laud govt and rescue teams' work during meeting with Lasbela DC

QUETTA

Lasbela Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shabir Ahmed Mengal on Wednesday said efforts were being carried on to ensure provision of better facilities, including rehabilitation and compensation, to people affected by floods in the district.

He was talking to China Power Hub Generation Company (CPHGC) CSR Manager Atif Khan and Saindak Project's MCC Resources Development Limited (MRDL) Deputy Director Masood Hussain who, on behalf of their organisations, handed over to him truckloads of goods donated for the flood-affected people.

The DC said the ongoing relief operations and camps for the affected people were being supervised by Bela Assistant Commissioner Jameel Ahmed Baloch and officials of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

"Surveys are being carried out by teams in different flood-

Restoration work under way: QESCO

NEWS DESK. Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) spokesperson has said efforts were being made to restore electricity in areas where the power supply was suspended due to snow-fall. He said electricity had however temporarily been restored in areas including Ziarat, Khanozai, Qilla Abdullah and Gulistan while power remains suspended in areas like Zarghon gar, Quas, Zandra, Warchum, Kan Mehtarzai and other rural areas. He further added several 11 KV feeders in Mangchar, Qalat, Naal, Khanozai, Gulistan, Panjpai, Kardgap Loralai, Sorab, Ali Zai, Haramzai has been temporarily reinstated and till now 70 per cent of these areas have been provided electric supply. The official also told repair work is underway on feeders in Turbat, Panjgor and Balida and work is being done on fallen poles and electricity will soon be reinstated.

” Surveys are being carried out by teams in different flood-hit areas, including Adora, Orgai, Lahkara, Retalara and Gadri

Lasbela DC
Shabir Ahmed Mengal

hit areas, including Adora, Orgai, Lahkara, Retalara and Gadri, to ensure rehabilitation,” he said.

Mengal said directives had been issued to officials of the agriculture and livestock departments to conduct surveys

to estimate the losses caused by the floods.

He appreciated the army, administration, PDMA, rescue teams and non-governmental organisations that were helping the affected people.

The DC lauded efforts of the CPHGC and Sandak Project officials for donating goods for the victims.

The PDMA would distribute the goods among flood victims, he said.

Both officials also praised the DC and rescue teams. They said the administration had saved precious lives in submerged areas after hectic efforts. APP

The Express Tribune, 09-03-19

Trump confident about getting trade deal with China

But says US will do very well with or without an agreement

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday said he is confident the United States can forge a trade deal with China, but added that he thinks his country will do very well with or without an agreement with the world's second-largest economy.

When asked if he was still confident he could get a deal with China, Trump said, "Sure, I'm confident, but if we don't make a very good deal for our country, I wouldn't make a deal."

Responding to a report that China was not positive about a trade deal and that a meeting with President Xi Jinping might not happen, Trump said, "I haven't heard that. I think we're doing well ... We'll do very well either way, with or without a deal."

Speaking on Bloomberg TV, White House Economic



TRADE DATA: China's exports tumbled the most in three years in February while imports fell for a third straight month. (PHOTO: REUTERS)

Adviser Larry Kudlow said the two countries could meet soon to continue hammering out a deal.

"It could go into April ... We made a lot of agreements here in Washington two weeks ago ... Now, it has to go back and clear the top level of President Xi and the politburo in Beijing ... That's the key - not the timing, not even the place - we have to get it right so it's in America's interest," Kudlow said.

China's exports tumbled the most in three years in

February while imports fell for a third straight month, pointing to a further slowdown in the economy and stirring talk of a "trade recession", despite a spate of support measures.

The increasingly weak China data comes amid months of intense negotiations between Washington and Beijing aimed at ending their trade dispute. On Wednesday, the US reported its goods trade deficit with China surged to an all-time high last year, underlining one of the key sticking points. (REUTERS)

The Express Tribune, 11-03-19

CPEC project shelved for a year, claims JUI-F chief

Rehman says NAB is not an accountability body but a political tool to carry out victimisation

A OUR CORRESPONDENT
DERA ISMAIL KHAN

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Fazlur Rehman has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has been shelved for a year adding that the government had committed a theft by spending Rs24 billion out of Rs27 billion meant for the Belt and Road Initiative on other development projects.

He was talking to delegations who had come to meet him at his residence.

Rehman said that the ideological identity of Pakistan was being attacked and the government had no patience to tolerate criticism.

He termed the government's claim of eliminating ninety percent terrorism as childish and maintained that the law and order situation in the country was similar to that of the Dera Ismail Khan where people are being killed every

day through target killing.

He noted that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was not an accountability body but a political tool to carry out victimization. He said that the arrests had been a norm since the time of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto but they yielded no results.

Criticising the government, he said that PTI was borrowing a loan of Rs15 billion every day which will be paid by the next generations. He said that the taxpayers had no confidence in the government and no one was ready to invest in the country while money had been shifted abroad.

The JUI-F leader added that the return of Indian pilot in haste had converted Pakistan's victory into defeat. He observed when the war between India and Pakistan had not been declared on international level, the condition of return of prisoners under the Geneva Convention did not apply to Pakistan. He said that all institutions in the country had failed to deliver due to the government's incompetence.

He said that bureaucrats were disappointed with the government policies while

a political atmosphere had been created in the educational institutes due to which the standard of education was falling every day.

He reminded that he had always defended the country and stood united in the face of a foreign attack but due to the blunt ministers of the government, the unity was at stake. He said that those who talk of constitution were being dubbed traitors. He maintained that he and his party had respect for the minorities as this was the message of Islam.

The JUI-F chief alleged that the government had ensured a complete media blackout of JUI-F and its million march had not been covered in the print and electronic media.

He claimed that JUI-F was the largest religious party in the country and no one could bring an end to its power. Responding to a question, Rehman said no one in the country should be armed except the army and added that instead of succumbing to Indian pressure, the government should take the people and political parties into confidence.

The Express Tribune, 12-03-19

China, Indonesia ground Boeing 737 MAX 8 fleets after Ethiopia crash

Black box discovery can shed light on cause of Ethiopian Airlines crash

ADDIS ABABA/BEIJING

China and Indonesia grounded their fleets of Boeing's 737 MAX 8 aircraft on Monday, and investigators recovered the black box from a crash that killed 157 people, the second disaster in less than five months involving the new model.

At the crash site, men in Red Cross jackets and face masks picked through a large crater, putting items in black paper bags. Clothing, boarding passes, serviettes and other personal effects were scattered over the field along with charred bodies and debris from the shattered jet.

The Ethiopian Airlines jet plunged into an arid field minutes after take-off from Addis Ababa for Nairobi on Sunday, killing all on board. The victims came from more than 30 nations and included 22 United Nations' staff.

The crash follows one of the same aircraft model operated by Indonesia's Lion Air, which went down in October shortly after take off, killing all 189 people on board.

Boeing's share price plunged at the prospect that two such crashes in such a short time could reveal flaws in its new plane. The com-

pany has already accepted orders for more than 5,000 of the new, high fuel economy planes, which entered service less than two years ago and are set to be the workhorses for airlines around the globe for decades.

The discovery of the black box with both the cockpit voice recorder and digital flight data, reported by Ethiopian state TV, should shed light on the cause of the crash.

Ethiopia's parliament declared Monday a day of mourning. The dead included aid workers, doctors, professors of literature and botany, a law student, a newly-wed woman, a father soon expecting a child, and a couple who recently had a baby.

In Nairobi, a major hub for aid workers and diplomats in Africa, a summit opened with a moment of silence and tears for the UN members killed.

"It is one of the biggest catastrophes we have had in years," said Michael Moller, UN head in Geneva.

The 737 line, which has flown for more than 50 years, is the world's best-selling modern passenger aircraft and viewed as one of the industry's most reliable.

The new MAX 8 variant, with bigger engines designed to use less fuel, entered service in 2017. By the end of January this year, Boeing had delivered 350 of the new jets

to customers, with another 4,661 on order.

Boeing's shares slid almost 10 percent in early trading on Monday. The move, if maintained through normal trading hours, would be the biggest fall in Boeing's stock in nearly two decades, halting a surge that has seen it triple in value in just over three years to a record high of \$446 last week.

Two crashes in such a short period involving the same model prompted countries to take swift action.

Ethiopian Airlines, which has four other 737 MAX 8 jets, said it was grounding them as a precaution, although it did not yet know the cause of the crash.

China on Monday ordered its airlines to suspend operations of their 737 MAX 8 jets by 6 PM. The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said it would notify airlines when they could resume flying the jets, after contacting Boeing and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The CAAC noted that the accidents involving newly delivered planes both had taken place shortly after take-off.

Cayman Airways grounded both of its new 737 MAX 8 jets temporarily too, while India announced a safety review and new instructions later on Monday or Tuesday for local carriers.

A senior U.S. official said it

was too early to tell if there was any direct connection between the two accidents but assessing that was a priority for investigators.

Ethiopian Airlines said its pilot Yared Getachew, who was a dual Ethiopian-Kenyan national, had a "commendable record" and more than 8,000 hours of flying experience.

The airplane was received in November 2018, had flown more than 1,200 hours, and returned from Johannesburg earlier on Sunday, Chief Executive Tewolde GebreMariam. Nevertheless, Getachew had mentioned difficulties and wanted to return.

It crashed near the town of Bishoftu, 62 km (38 miles) southeast of the capital Addis Ababa, with 149 passengers and eight crew aboard.

The flight had unstable vertical speed after takeoff, the flight tracking website Flightradar24 tweeted.

Data released by the Sweden-based service suggested the aircraft had climbed almost 1,000 feet after taking off from Addis Ababa, a hot and high-altitude airport whose thinner air requires extra effort from an aircraft's engines.

It dipped about 450 feet before rapidly climbing another 900 feet until the point where satellite tracking data was lost. REUTERS

The Express Tribune, 13-03-19**China urges
'responsible talks'
ahead of UNSC meet****NEWS DESK**

China has said that 'responsible and serious discussions' are needed ahead of the UNSC's sanctions committee meet this week, which is due to take up the case of designating JeM chief Masood Azhar a terrorist.

During his weekly briefing, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang responded to a question which asked what Beijing's position would be at the meet after India on Saturday appealed that all permanent members of UNSC should declare Azhar a terrorist.

"We already stressed China's position on the listing of terrorist groups and individuals in the UN SC 1267 Committee on many occasions.

The Express Tribune, 13-03-19

US, China within weeks of accord but deal not guaranteed: official

WASHINGTON

Washington's top trade official on Tuesday said the US and China were likely within "weeks" of ending their trade negotiations -- but a successful outcome was not assured. "Our hope is that we're in the final weeks of an agree-

ment," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in Senate testimony.

"We can't predict success at this point but we are working hard." Eight months into their sprawling trade war, US and Chinese officials have alternated between projecting optimism and warning that

they have much to do before reaching a final outcome. The two sides have exchanged tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, but Lighthizer declined to state publicly whether Washington would lift the tariffs it has so-far imposed if both sides reach a deal. AFP

The Express Tribune, 13-03-19

China's investment law to improve business environment

Draft targets transparency in foreign investment policies

BEIJING

China's draft foreign investment law has been well received among foreign investors, who believe it will further improve the country's business environment.

A new draft of the law was submitted to China's national legislative session for a third reading last week, and has been deliberated by lawmakers and discussed by political advisers over the past few days. The draft aims to improve the transparency of foreign investment policies and ensures that foreign-invested enterprises participate in market competition on an equal basis.

Stephan Kothrade, president functions Asia Pacific of German chemicals giant BASF, said the company welcomes the draft law, with the belief that it will help effectively address issues foreign investors face in China.

"For foreign companies in China, I think everyone is waiting for the draft law to be passed, as the law will create a level playing field where ev-

eryone can participate," said Harley Seyedin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China.

With unified provisions for the entry, promotion, protection, and management of foreign investment, the law is "a new and fundamental law" for China's foreign investment and an innovative improvement of China's foreign investment legal system.

The draft stresses more investment promotion and protection than the three existing laws, a positive signal for foreign firms in China, said Ma Zheng, vice president of the China subsidiary of the agricultural commodities trader Cargill. Ma believes the law would provide stronger legal guarantees for foreign investors and companies to safeguard their interests. "It's going to make China's business environment more open, equitable and transparent for foreign firms," he said.

By the end of 2018, about 960,000 foreign-invested enterprises had been set up in China, with the accumulated foreign direct investment exceeding \$2.1 trillion.

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The Express Tribune, 15-03-19

China says put 'technical hold' on UN terror outfits sanctions committee

ISLAMABAD

A Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson on Thursday said that Kashmir was an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan and hoped that the two countries would engage in friendly dialogue and consultation to resolve this and other outstanding issues.

"China's position on Kashmir issue is clear and consistent. This is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan," Lu Kang said during his routine briefing while responding to a question.

"We hope that the two sides will engage in friendly dialogue and consultations and resolve this and other

relating issues," he added.

The spokesperson was asked to comment that the youngster who carried out the Pulwama attack was born and raised in Indian Occupied Kashmir and was subjected to torture and detention by Indian troops, deployed in Occupied Kashmir which was a disputed territory and the people were fighting for their right to the self-determination, granted by the United Nations Security Council's Resolutions.

To a question, he said that China put a technical hold on the UN Security Council 1267 Committee on Wednesday to properly handle the listing issue, adding the committee

had clear standards and procedures on the issue.

He explained that China had conducted a thorough and in-depth assessment of the application moved by France, the UK, and the US and added, "We still need more time so that we put a technical hold and this is in line with the new rules of the committee."

The spokesperson remarked that China sincerely hoped that relevant actions taken by this committee would help relevant countries engage in dialogue and consultation to resolve this problem and prevent adding more complicated factors into regional peace and stability.

"China will continue to adopt a con-

structive and responsible attitude and communicate and coordinate with all sides to properly handle this issue," he added.

When asked that there were expectations in India from China, particularly after a meeting between President Xi and PM Modi in Wuhan last year, he said China with full sincerity, was ready to work with India to move on the consensus of the two leaders for great progress in bilateral relations.

"As to technical hold on the 1267 Committee, our action is to make sure the committee will have enough time to study the matter and relevant sides could have enough time to hold dialogue and consultation," he added. AFP

The Express Tribune, 15-03-19

China to allow its cities to set own property taxes

Lawmaker says tax to be levied at current prices of properties

BEIJING

China will allow cities to set their own property taxes instead of requiring them to conform to one tax regime, a senior lawmaker said on Thursday, in one of the most detailed official comments on how the long-mooted tax could be implemented.

China's residential property market is deeply segmented and polarised, with prices many times higher in so-called tier-one cities such as Beijing and Shanghai compared with markets in hinterland cities.

The huge price variations make it hard to create one tax regime that can apply to all markets. Allowing local governments to decide their own property tax rates will also minimise their potential impact on housing prices, said Yin Zhongqing, deputy director of the financial and economic affairs committee at the National People's Congress.

China has considered a property tax for more than a decade, with market speculation of its implementation rearing its head every few years. But the idea of a tax has run into resistance, with stakeholders fearing it would erode property values, trigger a sell-off in the market, or cause a correction resulting in systemic risks.

Work on a draft property tax in China is "steadily advancing", senior Chinese parliamentary officials said last week during the country's annual parliament meeting. The comment sparked speculation that Beijing may be looking at submitting a draft tax proposal for review this year, triggering a drop in the share prices of Chinese property developers.

Yin gave no indication on when such a tax could be implemented. He also did not say if all cities in China would implement the tax at the same time, or it would be rolled out in certain cities in phases.

The central government will set a few tax rate brackets for local governments to choose from, Yin was quoted as saying by state media, with the tax to be levied at the current prices of the properties.

"Property tax is a local tax... so when it is introduced, local governments should have a large degree of autonomy regarding to when it is levied and at what rate," Yin told the 21st Century Business Herald in an interview. Yin stressed that the tax was not aimed at adjusting property prices, and when it would be implemented was key as it "certainly has a considerable impact on the real estate market and people's expectations". Chinese policymakers have vowed to maintain the stability of the property market and avoid sharp price fluctuations. REUTERS

The Nation, 02-03-19

China appreciates US return of Chinese relics, artifacts

BEIJING - China appreciates the return of 361 Chinese relics and artifacts by the United States, said a Foreign Ministry spokesperson Friday.

The remarks came as Lu Kang, the spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry, responded to a query about the return of the Chinese relics and artifacts by the United States.

The United States announced the return of 361 Chinese relics and artifacts to China at a ceremony held Thursday in the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, the U.S. state of Indiana.

The repatriation will lead to the return of the largest batch of relics and artifacts to China from the United States since 2009, when the two nations signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation in this regard.

“Cooperation in preservation of relics is an important part of people-to-people, cultural exchanges between China and the United States,” Lu said. “We’re willing to make concerted efforts with the United States to enhance exchange and cooperation in preservation of relics, and to make greater contribution to advancing preservation efforts of cultural heritage in the world.”

The Nation, 02-03-19

China establishes environment court



NANJING -East China's Jiangsu Province will establish nine courts to handle environment-related cases in nine different ecological zones within the province.

Different from traditional courts dealing with cases in specific administrative divisions, each of these courts will take charge of one ecological zone, such as the Yangtze River basin, Taihu Lake basin and Hongze Lake basin, according to the higher people's court of Jiangsu.

These courts will be responsible for first instance environmental cases, which are currently handled by the primary level courts, set up at the county or district level.

Environmental cases related to the administrative management of land will still be within the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts.

“Environmental issues in different places are mutually affected. Trials on many environmental crimes are in need of cooperation of different courts and related departments,” said Zhao Li, a judge with the environmental division of the higher people’s court of Jiangsu.

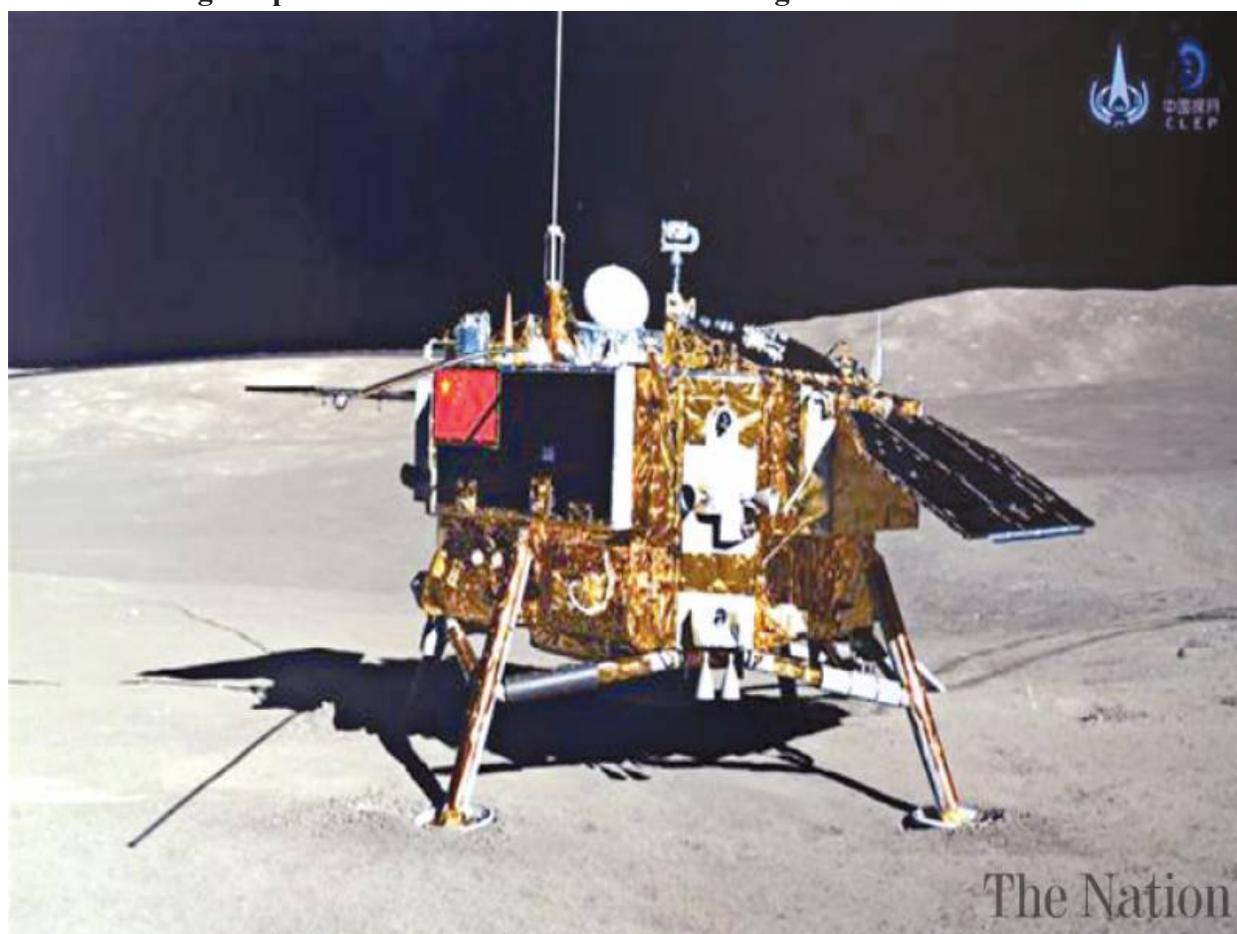
Zhao said the new establishment is more in line with reality, and it is important to set up a more practical trial mechanism for environment-related cases by breaking down administrative barriers.

China has been intensifying efforts to protect the environment. The number of environmental cases has been growing in recent years.

The new courts will also work with public security and procuratorial organs to handle crimes against environmental protection.

The Nation, 02-03-19

China’s Chang’e-4 probe resumes to work after lunar night



BEIJING- The rover and the lander of the Chang'e-4 probe have resumed work after "sleeping" during their second lunar night on the far side of the moon.

The lander woke up at 7:52 a.m. Friday, and the rover, Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2), awoke at about 10:51 a.m. Thursday. Both of them are in normal condition, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration.

China's Chang'e-4 probe, launched on Dec. 8 in 2018, made the first-ever soft landing on the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon on Jan. 3. A lunar day equals 14 days on Earth, and a lunar night is the same length.

The Chang'e-4 probe switched to a dormant mode during the lunar night due to the lack of solar power.

As a result of the tidal locking effect, the moon's revolution cycle is the same as its rotation cycle, and it always faces Earth with the same side. The far side of the moon has unique features, and scientists expect Chang'e-4 could bring breakthrough findings.

The scientific tasks of the Chang'e-4 mission include low-frequency radio astronomical observation, surveying the terrain and landforms, detecting the mineral composition and shallow lunar surface structure, and measuring neutron radiation and neutral atoms.

The Chang'e-4 mission embodies China's hope to combine human wisdom in space exploration, with four payloads developed by the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Saudi Arabia.

The Nation, 04-03-19**China's mobile-payment users reach 583m in 2018**

BEIJING - About 583 million people used mobile payment in China in 2018, up 10.7 percent over 2017, according to a report from the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC).

A total of 600 million people used online payment in 2018, up 13 percent year on year, said the statistical report from the CNNIC, published earlier this week.

When people shopped offline, they also preferred to use mobile wallets. About 67.2 percent of China's Internet users used mobile payments offline, up from 65.2 percent in 2017.

About 406 million people ordered food online, 18.2 percent up over 2017, 397 million of whom did it on mobiles, up 23.2 percent year on year.

China-based online payment platforms extended their business beyond the border. Alipay and WeChat pay, two leading ones, have been used in more than 40 foreign countries and regions respectively, while some Chinese firms launched local mobile wallets in nine Asian countries and regions.

China's Internet users totaled 829 million at the end of last year, up 7.3 percent from the previous year.

The Nation, 05-03-19

China keen to secure Pak-India peace to save Asia

ISLAMABAD - China is 'desperate' to ensure peace between Pakistan and India to 'save Asia' and its own multi-billion-dollar projects in Pakistan and neighboring countries, officials said.

Senior officials at the foreign ministry told The Nation, that China had assured to play a 'leading role' as it was 'more concerned than anybody' for peace in South Asia.

"They want to save Asia and their own investment. They (China) cannot continue the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects in a war-like situation," one official said, citing contacts with the counterparts in Beijing.

Another official said China had been in regular contact with the nuclear armed Pakistan and India after the tensions escalated, resulting in clashes. "They (China) have told us that they are speaking to India also. We accept their intervention as we want peace. They want us (Pakistan and India) to engage in talks," he said.

In Beijing yesterday, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang said Pakistan and India - as two important countries in South Asia - should enjoy good neighborliness and friendship and resolve their issues through friendly consultations.

"I have said that in order to alleviate recent tensions between India and Pakistan, China is in close communication with both to facilitate reconciliation and dialogue. China will continue to play a constructive role in its own way in whatever that will help ease the situation and promote regional peace and stability," he added.

About Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's proposal to use the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for resolution of Pak-India issues, Lu Kang said: "Our principled position is that we encourage all constructive efforts towards easing tensions and promoting peace and stability in the region by relevant parties of the international community."

China, he said, welcomed "all positive measures towards easing tensions and promoting regional peace and stability. In fact, China has been in close contact with both India and Pakistan and making efforts to promote peace and facilitate talks. We will continue to play such a constructive role."

The escalation of tensions in relations between Pakistan and India was caused by an attack on an Indian military car convoy in held Kashmir on February 14, which killed 45 soldiers.

The Jaish-e-Mohammed group claimed responsibility for the attack. Later, India carried out an air strike across the Line of Control. Pakistan Air Force hit back and downed two India jets. One pilot was also captured but was released after brief detention.

The situation in held Kashmir - where Muslims constitute a majority - has been tense for years. The territory of the ancient principality of Kashmir has been a matter of dispute between Pakistan and India since 1947.

Defense analyst Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi (retd) said India's jingoism was at its peak threatening the regional peace after the Palwama attack.

India, he said, had failed to control the situation in held Kashmir and wanted to divert the attention of the world from the main issue.

"Kashmiris are fighting for their legitimate right to self-determination. India must realize that any clash between two nuclear armed neighbors can result into massive catastrophe. Indian accusations would further escalate tension in the region. Indian political leadership has alienated the Kashmiris youth due to its oppressive policies over the decades," he said.

General Lodhi said the intervention of the regional and global powers for peace vindicated Pakistan's point of view. "We were not the ones to start the confrontation. We want peace," he added.

International relations expert DrZafar Nawaz Jaspal said Indian Prime Minister NarendraModi was threatening the regional peace by uncalled for aggression. "It's good that China and other countries are supporting the peace efforts. Even India cannot afford war. Peace is the only option and we have to resolve all the issues through talks. We are ready to accept mediation of the global powers," he said.

The Nation, 05-03-19

Huawei's MengWanzhou sues Canada authorities over arrest



BEIJING - The chief financial officer of China's tech giant Huawei is suing Canada over her arrest at the request of the US.

MengWanzhou was held in December at Vancouver airport on suspicion of fraud and breaching US sanctions on Iran. On Friday MsMeng filed a civil claim against Canada's government, border agency and police for "serious breaches" of her civil rights.

It came on the same day that Canada officially launched MengWanzhou's extradition process to the US. China has attacked MsMeng's arrest and the extradition process as a "political incident". She denies all the charges against her.

MsMeng's claim - filed in British Columbia's Supreme Court on Friday - seeks damages against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the federal government for allegedly breaching her civil rights under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

She says CBSA officers held, searched and questioned her at the airport under false pretences before she was arrested by the RCMP.

Her detention was "unlawful" and "arbitrary", the suit says, and officers "intentionally failed to advise her of the true reasons for her detention, her right to counsel, and her right to silence".

Nicholas Dorion, a spokesman for the Canada Border Services Agency, said it's not a practice of the agency to comment on legal matters that are before the courts. A justice department spokesman referred comment to the border agency and a spokesman of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they were unlikely to comment Sunday.

Julian Ku, senior associate dean for academic affairs at Hofstra Law, noted the civil action is separate and apart from Meng's extradition proceeding. He said the lawsuit will allow her to argue she is being unfairly treated and support her broader public relations claim that the detention is part of a US and Canadian political conspiracy against Huawei.

Lynette Ong, an associate professor of political science at the University of Toronto who focuses on China, quipped that the detained Canadians should take Beijing to court for violation of basic human rights, taking a leaf from the Meng lawsuit.

"The violation of their human rights is so much graver than violation of her constitutional rights," Ong said. "But that's not even possible for them. The fact that they were denied a lawyer in the first place means they are not entitled to any justice."

The Nation, 05-03-19**China, US ‘should step up’ economic, trade consultations**

BEIJING - China and the United States should step up economic and trade consultations to reach a mutually beneficial agreement, a spokesperson for the annual session of China’s national legislature said Monday.

Economic and trade teams from both sides have recently carried out intensive and productive consultations and made important progress on many issues of common concern, Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the second session of the 13th National People’s Congress, said at a press conference. Both countries and the international community have responded positively to the progress, he said.

“We believe the China-U.S. economic and trade relations are mutually beneficial in essence, so we hope the two sides can continue to step up consultations to reach a win-win agreement,” Zhang said.

At present, the most important thing to do for both sides is to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state during their Argentina meeting, and manage and

control differences on the basis of expanding cooperation to ensure that the bilateral relations develop along the right track, he added.

The Nation, 05-03-19

China preparing for space station missions



BEIJING- The China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) announced Monday that the core module of the country's space station, the Long March-5B carrier rocket and its payloads will be sent to the launch site in the second half of this year, to make preparations for the space station missions.

China is scheduled to complete the construction of the space station around 2022. It will be the country's space lab in long-term stable in-orbit operation.

The space station will have a core module and experiment modules, which are under development and will be launched into space by the Long March-5B. Joint exercises will be carried out in the Wenchang Space Launch Center at the end of 2019.

for the maiden flight of the Long March-5B.

China is committed to making the country's space station an international platform for scientific and technological cooperation, according to the CMSEO.

In June this year, the CMSEO will work with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to complete the application selection of China's space station and launch a number of cooperation projects.

The Nation, 05-03-19

Palace Museum drawing more young visitors



BEIJING- The nearly 600-year-old Palace Museum is attracting more and more young visitors, according to statistics made public on Monday.

Among over 17 million visitors to the museum last year, 40 percent were under 30, while those aged between 30 and 40 also accounted for 24 percent, showed statistics from the museum announced at a press conference. In the meantime, visitors are staying longer in the museum and paying more attention to various exhibitions inside the former imperial palace. New exhibitions also drew more visitors during the museum's traditional off-season, which last from Nov. 1 to March 31. For example, with the introduction of activities themed on the Spring Festival, the number of visitors during the first two months of 2019 grew by over 50 percent year on year.

The Nation, 05-03-19

China debuts robot woman anchor



BEIJING -It was a massive breakthrough in the field of technology when Sophia the robot made its debut globally. It was not that people were unaware of humanoid robots but it was more of an exhilarating feeling to see an artificial intelligence (AI) robot to get involved in natural conversations with the human.

After Sophia, XinXiaomeng, the first-ever humanoid robotic news anchor, made its debut on a Chinese news channel.

China's Xinhua state news has used the artificial intelligence robot to present a story about delegates attending an annual parliament meeting arriving in Beijing on Sunday.

The robot simply mimicked human facial expressions and mannerisms to present a story.

The Nation, 05-03-19**Chinese scientists develop new material for water purification**

BEIJING-Chinese scientists have developed a new material that can use light to efficiently and safely purify water. Photocatalytic methods offer environmentally safe water purification, but the catalysts required in the process are usually metal-based, which can cause second pollution.

Scientists from the Institute of Process engineering under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yangzhou University have designed an efficient metal-free catalyst for photo catalytic water purification. They utilize nano sheets of graphitic carbon nitride, an ultra-thin two-dimensional material with the right electronic properties to absorb the light and generate reactive oxygen. Its structure helped to facilitate the reaction by generating plenty of hydrogen peroxide, which efficiently kills bacteria.

Results showed that with this catalyst, pathogen-rich water can be rapidly purified in 30 minutes with a disinfection efficiency of over 99 percent under visible-light irradiation. It can also avoid secondary pollution or heavy metal ion residues.

The research team intends to improve the material before it is ready for commercial use. They plan to expand the material's ability to absorb photons, develop antibacterial fibers and refine the nanosheet preparation process. The research was published in the journal Chem.

The Nation, 06-03-19

China unveils report setting socio-economic targets

INP
BEIJING

BEIJING (INP): China on Tuesday issued its annual work report that carries a road-map for raising people's living standard and giving further boost to the national economy.

The report was presented by Premier Li Keqiang at the 13th National People's Congress that opened its second session here at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the opening meeting.

In its report, China has set its GDP growth target at 6-6.5 percent for 2019. China aims to maintain consumer inflation level at around 3 percent and create over 11 million new urban jobs.

The projected targets are ambitious but realistic--they represent our aim of promoting high-quality development, are in keeping with the current realities

of China's development, and are aligned with the goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects," the report says.

China's economy outperformed the official 2018 goal of "around 6.5 percent" by expanding 6.6 percent. A range target was also set for 2016 at 6.5-7 percent.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It will be a crucial year for China as it endeavors to achieve the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the report says.

"A full analysis of developments in and outside China shows that in pursuing development this year, China will face a graver and more complicated environment as well as risks and challenges, foreseeable and otherwise, that are greater in number and size," the report said.

The Nation, 06-03-19

Chinese envoy, IPC minister discuss cooperation at provinces, LGs level



ISLAMABAD-Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing called on Inter Provincial Coordination Minister DrFahmidaMirza at her office on Tuesday.

Matters pertaining to the forthcoming visit of the Minister for IPC to China regarding Pak-China Year of Friendship Sister Cities 2019 were discussed.

DrFahmidaMirza warmly welcomed the guest and said that Pak-China friendship was deep rooted.

She also appreciated the ambassador for Chinese principled stance on recent escalation between Pakistan and India.

The ambassador expressed the hope that situation between the two countries would not escalate further and would move towards peace and stability.

Yao Jing underscored the importance of the IPC minister DrFahmida's China visit and said that the year 2019 had been declared as Year of Local Friendship and the visit of the minister would mark the formal beginning of cooperation and relations at provincial/local government level. The provincial/local governments from both sides are coming together for the first time under the umbrella of the IPC, he added.

DrFahmida said that the initiatives taken at local government's level from both the countries would be very helpful in establishing people-to-people contacts in real terms.

She highlighted the fact that in the past, despite many MoUs in different areas, very little tangible had been achieved so far.

The incumbent government is focusing more on result oriented ideas and it is important that we engage our local governments in practical and doable projects, she added.

Both sides agreed to develop a channel of communication and exchange the list of areas of interest for further cooperation, along with project details including timeframe and budget through the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination.

It was told that once these linkages are established, provincial/local governments will be dealing directly according to their own peculiarity and requirements. The ambassador regarded sports as an important aspect of youth development and also gave commitment to facilitate technical assessment for up-gradation of Pakistan Sports Board.

ISLAMABAD:

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing meeting Inter Provincial Coordination Minister DrFahmidaMirza on Tuesday.-APP

The Nation, 07-03-19

KP seizes 50 bags of China salt

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority on Wednesday recovered fifty bags of China salt from a van at GT Road in Peshawar.

Director Operations Khalid Khattak providing details told that his team received a complaint that fifty bags of China salt apparently packed in flour and rice bags are being supplied from PepleMandi through GT Road.

He added that a team led by Assistant Director Asad Ali was deployed to curb this supply.

Assistant Director Asad Ali told that his team searched a van carrying flour and rice sacs, where they found China salt inside these sacs.

He said the driver and his helper upon investigation revealed the suppliers and customers addresses and the team rushed to their venues to get them arrested.

“The owner of the salt was arrested and is under investigation to get further details. We are about to identify this chain of suppliers and then will intercept the supply chain,” the official claimed

The Nation, 07-03-19

No funds of CPEC project diverted: Ministry



ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Planning has said that no funds of the CPEC project have been diverted but the block allocation, which was going to lapse in June, has been shifted to SDGs.

The recent news published by local newspaper under the caption “Government diverted Rs 24 billion to Lawmakers Schemes” is misleading and deviation from the facts, said a spokesman of the Ministry of Planning.

While reviewing Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2018-19 in September, 2018, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms kept an allocation of Rs 27 billion for CPEC and Other Initiatives which was meant to undertake new initiatives mainly for the betterment of the population by improving quality of life. The sectors include education, health, clean drinking water, and sanitation, farm to market roads, gas, electricity and other interventions leading to achievement of SDGs goals, said the spokesman.

This programme is community driven and the execution will be governed by adhering to strict rules and managed by a Steering Committee. It is wrong to give an impression that funds have been diverted from CPEC projects to lawmakers’ schemes.

The allocations made for CPEC projects were as per requirement and demand of executing agencies for FY 2018-19. Despite rationalization of PSDP from Rs 800 billion to Rs 675 billion, allocations of on-going CPEC projects were protected.

The official spokesperson from Planning Ministry stated that SDGs Achievement Programme will help achieve SDGs since the programme is be responsive in nature and make intervention as per demand of the people of area/region. In fact from next financial year the government would start another programme to be called as Regional Equalization Programme in consultation with the provincial governments to ensure balance and equitable regional growth by starting programmes/projects in the less developed districts of the country.

The spokesman further clarified that there is no diversion of resources from CPEC related projects. The SDGs Achievement Programme is a tool to meet the demand of people on one hand and on the other it will fulfill the commitment made by Pakistan to the community of nations.

No funds of the CPEC project have been diverted but the block allocation which was going to lapse in June has been shifted. Block allocation is something on the discretion of the federal govt under some head and the head is CPEC and other projects. If this is not spent, it would lapse, better to utilize it for good.

The spokesman said that if any of the ministries needs extra funds for any of the projects of CPEC, those funds would be made available under urgency.

The Nation, 07-03-19

Xi stresses enhancing building of ecological civilisation



BEIJING - President Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed efforts to maintain strategic resolve in enhancing the building of an ecological civilization and to protect the country's beautiful scenery in the northern border areas.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks when attending a panel discussion with his fellow deputies from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

The president called for intensified protection of the ecological system, urging people to fight resolutely against pollution.

The Party's theory on an ecological civilization has been constantly enriched and improved since the 18th CPC National Congress in late 2012, Xi said.

All localities and departments should earnestly implement the Party's arrangement and requirements for building an ecological civilization, pushing it to a new level, Xi said.

Building Inner Mongolia into an important shield for ecological security in northern China is a strategic position set with full consideration of the country's overall development and a major responsibility the region must shoulder, Xi said.

Fundamentally speaking, environmental protection and economic development are closely integrated and complement each other, Xi said.

In the Chinese economy's transition from the phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development, pollution control and environmental governance are two major tasks that must be accomplished, he added.

The country should explore a new path of high-quality development that prioritizes ecology and highlights green development, Xi said.

With its diversified natural forms including forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, lakes and deserts, Inner Mongolia features a comprehensive ecological system formed over a long period of time. Integrated measures should be taken in ecological protection and rehabilitation in the region, he said.

Xi underlined a resolute and effective fight to prevent and control pollution, saying prominent environmental issues the people are strongly concerned about must be addressed properly.

The Nation, 07-03-19

Chinese scientists find “ant-man” genes to regulate size of mice



NANJING-A Chinese research team used two critical genes to regulate the size of mice organs and bodies as similarly seen in the sci-fi movie “Ant-man.”

The research team, led by Professor XuYujun of the Nanjing Medical University in eastern China’s Jiangsu Province, said the research could lead to new methods of human tumor therapy.

Xu said they removed two genes called “Pum1” and “Pum2” in the mice’s embryonic periods and observed the newborn mice bodies were integrally and proportionally smaller than normal ones. Researchers can exclude the effects of other factors like feeding and growth hormones.

Further study showed that mice embryos without Pum1 were already smaller than others during the 13.5 days of their embryonic periods.

“Knocking out the Pum1 gene did not affect the lifetime or health conditions of the mice,” said Xu. He pointed out that the research team observed the mice over 96 weeks, which is equivalent to the human age of 70. No significant defects were shown in the mice.

“We believe without the Pum1 gene, the growth speed of cells slows, which led to a reduction of cell quantity,” said Xu. He explained that the genes play a regulatory role in the process of RNA producing proteins, so as to control the proliferation of cells.

Xu said another member of Pum gene family, Pum2, can affect the mice’s weight, but its effect was less significant than Pum1.

His team has achieved a precise control over the size of mice after they found any reduction of Pum1 or Pum2 can lead to the reduction of size.

“The mechanism has great potential to be used for treating human tumors,” Xu said. “A tumor is an abnormal mass of cells that proliferate uncontrollably. We are looking forward to opening a new road for human tumor therapy using gene technology for regulating the speed of cell proliferation.

The research result was published in the latest issue of Cell Press, a top international journal in the field of bioscience.

The Nation, 08-03-19

China spends over 1tr yuans on poverty relief annually

BEIJING (INP): China says it spends over one trillion yuan on poverty-stricken areas and relief projects annually.

The figures were released during a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing Two Sessions of the Chinese Parliament.

Director of the country's top poverty relief agency, Liu Yongfu says massive programs are being carried out to channel financial support to those in need.

"We are implementing micro-credits for poverty relief, re-lending programs for poverty relief and financial bonds for poverty relief, and through these measures, over one trillion yuan are being provided annually to poverty-stricken areas and relief projects directly related to China's fight against poverty."

The micro-credits program for poverty relief was adopted in 2015.

It ensures officially registered poverty-stricken households get a three-year loan of up to 50,000 yuan for their start-ups without any guarantee or mortgage.

As of January, a total of 550 billion yuan loans have been granted this way.

China aims to eradicate poverty by 2020.

Last year, it lifted nearly 14 million rural people out of poverty and is planning to help another 10 million this year.

The Nation, 08-03-19

24 projects to be funded with Chinese grant under CPEC



ISLAMABAD - Chinese experts have shortlisted around two dozen projects to be funded with the Chinese grant in the provinces and regions under CPEC, it was learnt reliably here.

After meeting with the officials from all the provinces and regions, the Chinese experts have decided to shortlist around two dozen projects, for socio economic development, in six designated areas of education, agriculture, poverty alleviation, skill development, healthcare, water supply and vocational training projects, official source told The Nation here Thursday.

The Chinese delegation headed by Du Zhenli, comprising of 13 experts from socioeconomic development field, arrived here during last week of February and was here for around 12 days. China is likely to extend a grant of one billion dollars for the socio economic development under CPEC and the projects in six identified areas will be funded through China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

During its stay in Pakistan, the Chinese experts have held meetings with the federal, provincial, GB and AJK officials. The delegations also visited Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to get on the ground briefing about some of the proposed projects by the provinces. The provinces and regions had submitted around 100 projects to the Chinese experts to secure grant for the socioeconomic development under CPEC. The projects submitted by the provinces and AJK include, in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, health, solarization of water supply schemes,

telemedicine, smart schools etc, said the source. However all of them are small projects which are worth Rs 100 million to Rs 300 million, the source said.

The expert group discussed the implementation of newly introduced sector of socioeconomic development under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The experts also discussed 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).

After due consideration, the expert group has shortlisted some projects and it has decided that in first phase it will start the execution of projects with shortest implementation time. For example, the source said, there was a demand of establishing burn centers from all the provinces and regions; therefore it was decided to execute these projects in the first phase. The project is easy to execute and can be completed within few months, said the source. Since the infrastructure is already available in the hospitals and it will require only equipment's therefore can be completed in short term, said the source.

The other shortlisted in six different areas includes, upgrading veterinary centers to fight diseases in livestock particularly foot and mouth disease, training of Pakistanis in China as well as up gradation of vocational institutions, establishment of fruit processing centers, dates processing center, help in fisheries sector, solarization of water schemes, smart schools, poverty alleviation etc. These projects will be executed in phases within a span of three years.

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, GilgitBaltistan, 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 Nation, 08-03-19

Xi stresses perseverance in fight against poverty



BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday called for perseverance in the fight against poverty as there are only two years left for the country to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020.

“There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won,” said Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

He made the remarks when joining deliberation with deputies from Gansu Province at the second session of the 13th National People’s Congress, China’s national legislature.

The Nation, 08-03-19

Self-driving tours increasingly popular in China



SHANGHAI - The Chinese made 580 million self-driving trips across domestic destinations in 2018, a year-on-year increase of 35.6 percent, according to the China Tourism Academy (CTA).

According to data from the CTA, around 70 percent of domestic road trips in 2018 were excursions with a driving distance of no more than 200 kilometers and a travel period between 2 and 3 days. However, the number of long-distance and outbound self-driving trips saw expansion in 2018.

The self-driving market was expanding, said Dai Bin, head of the CTA.

The development and application of new technologies such as mobile Internet, big data and artificial intelligence changed people's way of traveling and promoted the development of relevant industries, including car renting, caravan manufacturing and campground development, Dai said. Car-renting platforms such as eHi, CAR Inc. and Ctrip not only offer domestic services but also those overseas.

Last year, Chinese made more than 5.5 billion domestic trips and 150 million overseas trips.

The CTA predicts a continuous increase of self-driving trips in China in 2019.

Dai advocates more attention on environmental protection during road trips. He said that the massive usage of private cars, cross-country vehicles, caravans and recovery vehicles may cause greater impact on the natural and human environment, compared to hiking, cycling or bus tours.

“Associations, companies and travelers should pay more attention to protecting the environment along the trips,” Dai said.

BLUB_ “Associations, companies and travelers should pay more attention to protecting the environment along the trips,” Dai said.

The Nation, 08-03-19

Chinese reveal factors for maximum plant height



GN BEIJING - A latest Chinese research has shown that hydraulic traits can serve as important predictors of maximum plant height and species distribution patterns.

Based on 11 dataset of 1,281 plant species from 369 sites worldwide, researchers from South China Botanical Garden built multiple models linking plant height, hydraulic traits and water.

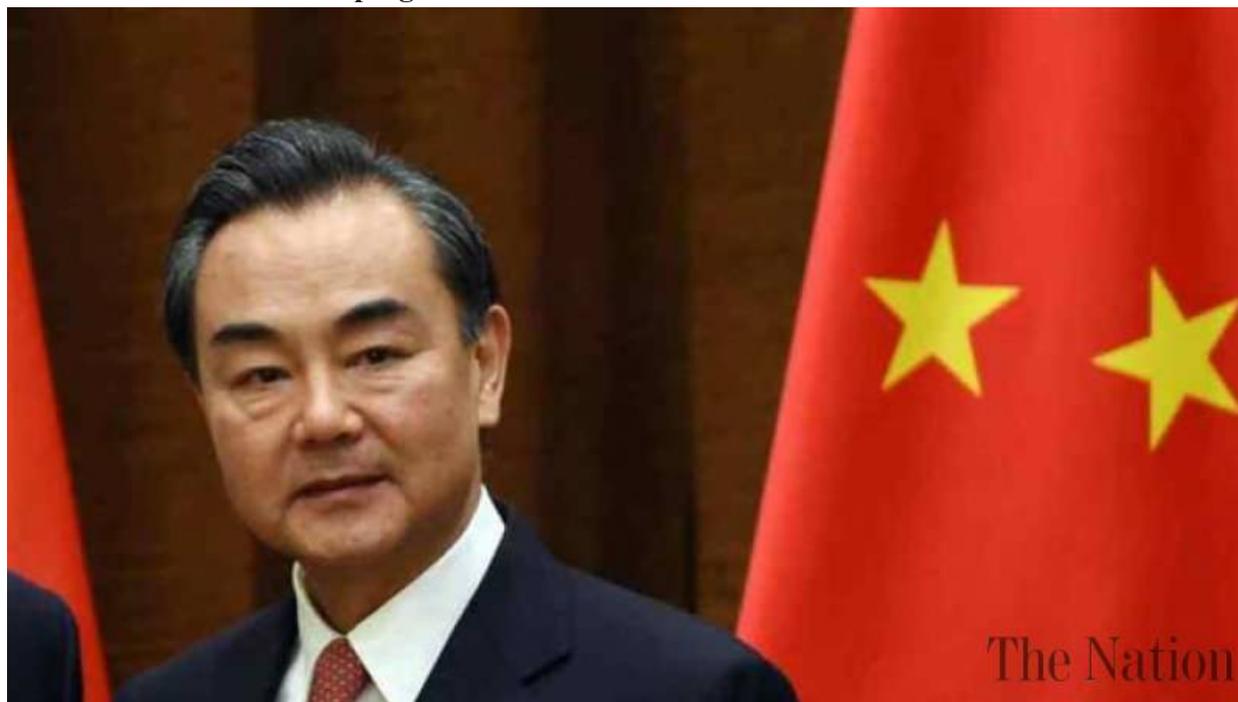
The researchers said people used to think taller plants might transport water less efficiently because of the longer distances. Instead, according to the study, taller plants have a higher hydraulic conductivity across species, a main strategy used to compensate for the high evaporation demand by leaves and the increased height.

According to the researchers, the study, supported by funding sources including the National Natural Science Foundation of China, revealed different hydraulic patterns between within and across species, as most of the hydraulic theories on plants were based on data within species.

They said coordination between plant height and xylem hydraulic traits was aligned with habitat water availability across the Earth's terrestrial biomes, noting that such coordination could be useful in predicting future species distribution under climate change.

The Nation, 09-03-19

China takes credit for helping in de-escalation



Beijing - China has said that it played a “constructive role” in defusing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pulwama attack.

On the sidelines of the annual National People's Congress legislative meetings, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday that New Delhi and Islamabad should “meet each other halfway” to de-escalate the crisis, portraying China's role as a balancing act between its nuclear-armed neighbors.

“China has stressed from the beginning the need to exercise calm and restraint, prevent an escalation, find out what has happened, and resolve the matter through dialogue,” Wang said at a press briefing after being asked about Pakistan, which he cheerily referred to as “China's iron brother”.

“China hopes that Pakistan and India will transform the crisis into an opportunity and meet each other halfway,” he said. “We advise both parties to quickly turn this page and seek fundamental, long-term improvement in their relations.”

The comments by China's top diplomat came as strained ties between the two South Asian countries eased after they stood at the brink of war following reciprocal air attacks. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Quereshi said on Wednesday that private diplomacy from the United States in particular, as well as countries such as China and Russia, eased the rising tensions.

Wang said China welcomed indications that New Delhi and Islamabad would de-escalate the situation and return to talks, adding, "We can create a better future through cooperation, when confrontation gives way to dialogue and disagreements are settled by goodwill."

Earlier this week, China's Vice-minister Kong Xuanyou met with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad to discuss the India-Pakistan conflict, but noticeably did not make a similar trip to India.

Wang also took a question on promoting the development of relations between Beijing and New Delhi, likening their potential to two major rivers in their respective countries.

"Over the past year, government departments on both sides have done a lot and made considerable progress in following through on many of the understandings reached by our leaders," Wang said.

"China will work with India to comprehensively strengthen sectorial cooperation and our people-to-people ties, which are of vital importance in the current context, so that our friendship and cooperation will surge ahead like the Yangtze and the Ganges, giving strong and sustained impetus to our relationship."

During last year's briefing, Wang used a similarly colorful, if awkward metaphor to describe China-India relations, saying that "the Chinese dragon and Indian elephant must not fight, but dance together."

The Nation, 09-03-19



CHINA:
People perform during the opening ceremony of a cultural festival which is part of the 2019 China-Laos Tourism Year in Kunming.-Xinhua

The Nation, 10-03-19

China to expand ownership reform to more than 100 SOEs



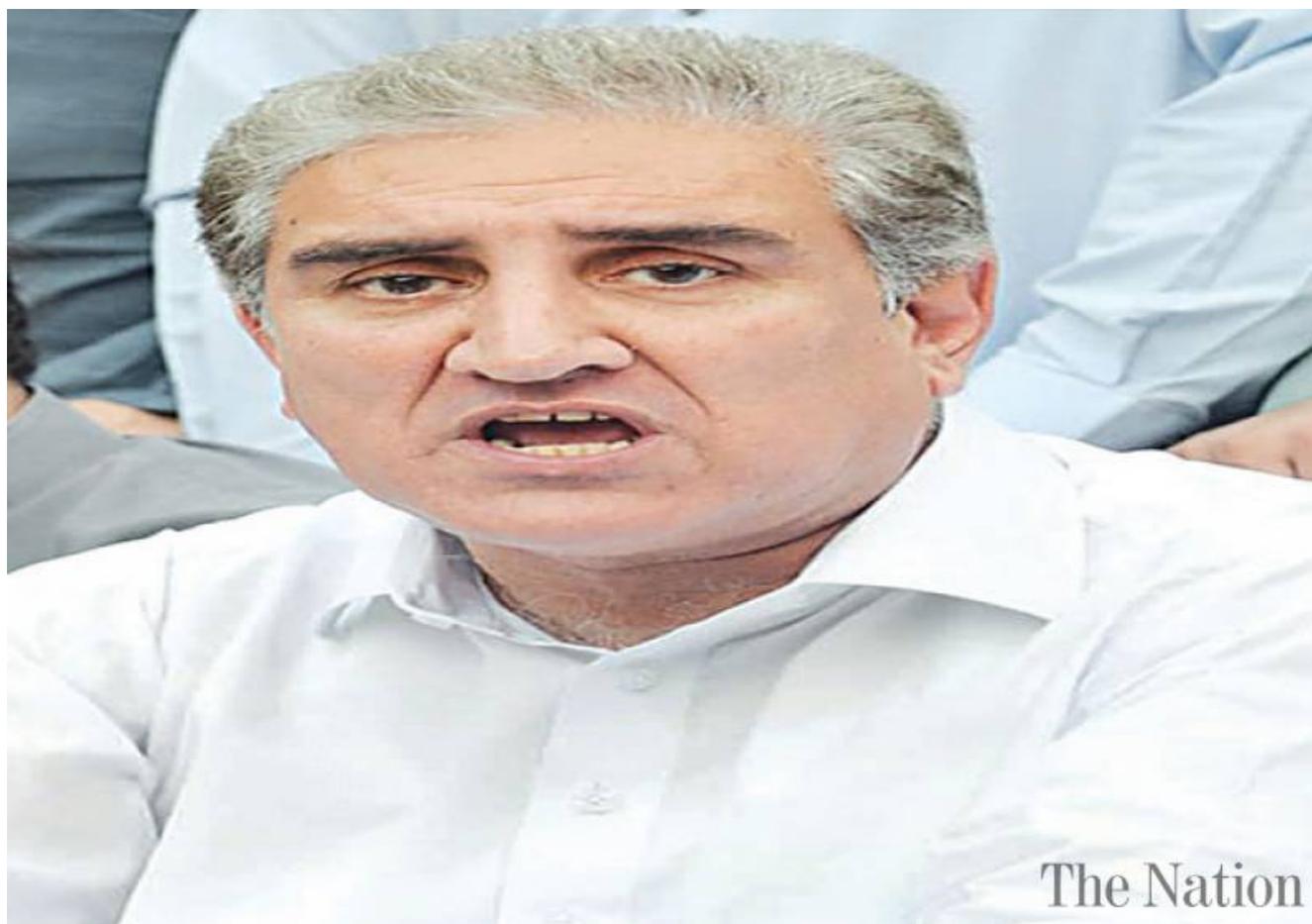
BEIJING - China will expand the mixed ownership reform to more than 100 state-owned enterprises (SOEs), an official with the country's state-asset regulator said Saturday.

“There will be more than 100 SOEs in the fourth batch of mixed ownership reform, which will be pushed ahead in key areas,” Xiao Yaqing, head of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, said at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual legislative session.

Since 2016, China has selected 50 SOEs in three batches to conduct the pilot reform in fields including power, energy, civil aviation, telecommunications, and defense.

The first three batches have done a good job in exploring and experimenting with the means, equity ratio and governance structure of mixed ownership, Xiao said.

Next, China will create a sound environment for the reform so that enterprises of all kinds of ownership can realize integrated and common development, he added.

The Nation, 11-03-19**Pakistan entering CPEC Phase-II**

Multan - Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi disclosed on Sunday Pakistan is going to enter the second phase of CPEC with China.

“There is no threat to CPEC [China Pakistan Economic Corridor]. Our government considers it a game changer,” he told the participants of a function here at the Tea House.

“We’ll ink agreements with China for poverty alleviation, agri research and production, relocation of labor and establishment of new economic zones under CPEC phase-II,” the foreign minister revealed.

Giving some details, he said that four economic zones would be set up in the country under the second phase of this mega development project, which is part Beijing’s One Belt One Road initiative.

Qureshi said that when the current government came into power some quarters launched a propaganda campaign that the CPEC had come into danger. “But I publicly declare here that the CPEC has no threat, rather we’re moving forward [on it].”

He told the participants that Pakistan was also going to sign a Strategic Enhancement agreement with the European Union.

The minister added that the agreement would be signed in ongoing month as German foreign minister was due in Pakistan this month. He added that the EU was the largest trade market of the world and a new trade agreement would deliver great benefits to Pakistan.

On relations with India, he said Pakistan did not want fight with the neighboring country despite their belligerence.

“We want peace but India needs to understand that peace doesn’t mean we want to strike a deal on Kashmir,” he said. Kashmir issue was not limited to just the valley rather it had become an international issue, he added.

Qureshi said that Pakistan raised voice against Indian violations of human rights in the occupied state at all international forums including British House of Commons, UNO and European Union on which India got infuriated. He said that it was a big diplomatic

Success of Pakistan that despite Indian participation in meeting, the OIC termed Indian atrocities in Kashmir as state terrorism. “It is our stance that if you raise the hand of peace, we’ll hold it but if you show us the first of war, we’ll crush it,” he warned.

The foreign minister said that there were funeral processions everywhere in Kashmir and he would surely be having sleepless nights if he were the foreign minister of India.

He said that Pakistan’s tough time had not ended and “we had to face even tougher situations” in coming days. The previous government did not appoint a foreign minister for four and a half years, creating a big diplomatic vacuum which resulted into deterioration of relations with USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China and other countries.

Qureshi said the incumbent government not only defended country on all diplomatic fronts in its first six months but also improved relations with the above mentioned countries. He said that despite difficulties we were moving forward confidently.

Talking of the challenges Pakistan faces, the foreign minister said that India wanted to isolate Pakistan on international level and a number of plans were made for this purpose. He maintained that India took SAARC hostage with the support of Bangladesh.

“On the other hand, Afghanistan blames Pakistan at all international forums for all of its failures. Whatever happens anywhere, our neighboring countries start pointing fingers at us without any investigation,” he lamented.

Stressing the need for talks with India, Qureshi said that over \$1,000 billion had been spent in Afghanistan and American forces were fighting there for 17 years. “Despite this all, America and Taliban are sitting on negotiations table in Doha,” he added.

He pointed out that Pakistan was put in FATF Grey List during the era of previous government [and still remains of that list]. He warned that the country was on verge of bankruptcy while many institutions had already gone bankrupt. He said that we have to come out of this crisis and [God willing] this state will exist forever.

The minister revealed that the foreign office had summoned foreign envoys many weeks before Palwama incident and they were briefed that Islamabad feared that Modi could stage this kind of drama before the elections in India. He said that India should think that why the situation in Kashmir had deteriorated to the present level.

He said that former president Zardari asked him that he should have attended the OIC meeting. “I told him that we have bowed down our head before the parliament and the parliament has adopted this resolution [which urged government to keep out of the meeting]. I showed him [PPP co-chairman] the resolution which also bore the signatures of PPP’s parliamentarians,” he added.

Qureshi said that the relations with Russia have witnessed a pleasant change in recent months. He disclosed that India asked Russia to bash Pakistan after Palwama incident but Moscow refused to do so. “Instead they offered to give platform [to the two sides] to sit together and settle the issues through talks,” he added.

He said that China was “with us yesterday and it is with us today”. He declared that Pakistan’s relations with the US were also going to take a new turn. Citing US President, he said that Trump had stated that Pakistan was playing an important role in Afghan reconciliation process.

The foreign minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan always reiterated that the Afghan issue could only be resolved through talks and he had been called Taliban Khan for his stance. “It has always been the stance of our leadership that there was no military solution to Afghan issue. Today, the world has acknowledged our viewpoint,” he added.

He said that peace in Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan. If the Turkmenistan route was opened, it would help resolve Pakistan’s energy crisis, he held.

Qureshi said that good relations with Iran are an important need of Pakistan, adding that Islamabad foiled all attempts at deteriorating its relations with Tehran.

He said that when the PTI came into power Saudi Arabia was “not ready to even listen to us” while the relations with UAE were not pleasant either. “But we improved our relations with both the brotherly countries and adopted a neutral stance on Yemen issue.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said in clear words that we can play a bridge or the role of mediator in this dispute but cannot become part of it, he added.

The Nation, 11-03-19

Chinese leaders stress reform, legislation, poverty relief



BEIJING - Senior Chinese leaders on Saturday stressed reform, legislation and poverty alleviation at the annual legislative session.

Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu and Zhao Leji, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks when they separately joined deputies to the National People’s Congress (NPC) in group deliberations.

Premier Li Keqiang called for efforts to deepen reform and opening up, improve business environment, unleash the vitality of state-owned and private enterprises, and strengthen the real economy to promote stable and healthy economic development.

Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, called for high-quality legislation to promote high-quality development. He said legislation should better contribute to economic and social development and help accomplish major reform tasks.

Zhao Leji, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said disciplinary inspection and supervision organs should strengthen efforts to deal with corruption and misconduct in poverty alleviation, so as to provide a strong guarantee for winning the battle against poverty.

The Nation, 11-03-19

China defends Tibet policies after Dalai Lama fled



BEIJING - China is defending its often-criticized rule in Tibet 60 years after the Dalai Lama fled into exile amid an abortive uprising against Chinese control, saying those who question its policies are merely showing their anti-Chinese bias. The statements in official media came as Tibetans and their supporters marked the anniversary Sunday and called for greater international support. Despite decades of such calls, however, the Himalayan region appears no closer to gaining greater autonomy, particularly as China's global influence grows.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said in an editorial dated Saturday that economic growth, increases in lifespan and better education in the region refute the claims of critics that Tibetans suffer oppression from Beijing.

On Sunday, an editorial in the Communist Party-run Tibet Daily attacked the Dalai Lama, Tibet's traditional Buddhist leader, for what it said are his efforts to "sow chaos in Tibet."

His "separatist plots are doomed to total failure," the paper said.

The Dalai Lama has been living in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala since he fled from Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. Beijing accuses him of seeking to separate Tibet from China, which he denies.

Tibet is enveloped in smothering layers of Chinese security and many Tibetans abroad say the Himalayan region's resources are being exploited for Beijing's benefit while Tibet's language and unique Buddhist culture is gradually being destroyed.

In India's capital, New Delhi, at least 3,000 Tibetans marched about 3 kilometers (2 miles) through the center of the city on Sunday carrying Tibetan and Indian flags. Invoking India's concerns over China's expansive power in Asia and beyond, the marchers shouted slogans including "Tibet's freedom is India's security" and "India-China friendship is a sham." They also carried a portrait of the Dalai Lama while occasionally chanting slogans wishing him a long life and calling for freedom for Tibet.

"We have come here to remind the new generation that China snatched our country ... that's why we got together and started this movement," said one marcher, Sonam Yougyal, 52.

Hundreds of Tibetans and Taiwanese rallied in Taipei, the capital of the self-governing island democracy that China also claims as its territory.

Tashi Tsering, chair of the Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan, recalled what he called China's history of renegeing on agreements to Tibetans and others.

"We should not trust the Communist Party of China whatever it says," he said.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, although many Tibetans say they were essentially independent for most of that time. Communist troops took control of the region in 1950 after a brief military struggle. Conditions in the region are difficult to independently ascertain because foreign travelers must get special permission to enter the region. Access is rarely given to foreign journalists, and the region is closed to foreigners entirely during sensitive anniversaries.

The Xinhua editorial did not directly mention Sunday's uprising anniversary, referring to the events of 1959 instead as the inauguration of "democratic reform" that saw the dismantlement of the Buddhist hierarchy and feudal structures.

"Sixty years since the epoch-making democratic reform in Tibet, people in the plateau region have enjoyed unprecedented human rights in history," Xinhua said.

"Undeniable facts and figures" related to development "debunk the repeated lies and accusations that aim to smear Tibet's human rights with vile motives," it said. "Anyone without bias will recognize Tibet's tremendous progress in human rights."

Among the figures it cited were a rise in life expectancy of 35.5 years in the 1950s to nearly 70 now; a double-digit growth in regional GDP over the last quarter-century; and reduction of poverty by 80 percent.

China has refused to meet with the Dalai Lama or his representatives until they surrender their conditions for a greater degree of autonomy and submit to Beijing's authority unequivocally.

On Wednesday, China's Communist Party chief in Tibet insisted that the Tibetan people feel more affection toward the government than to the Dalai Lama, who fled following the abortive uprising against Chinese.

The Dalai Lama hasn't done a "single good thing" for Tibet since he left, Tibet Party Secretary Wu Yingjie said during a meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

Chinese rule in Tibet has grown harsher since anti-government protests in 2008 culminated in attacks on businesses and individuals of Han Chinese ethnicity, the country's ethnic majority.

The government says rioters killed 18 people. An unknown number of Tibetans were killed by security forces in the aftermath.

More recently, traditionally Tibetan regions of western China have been racked by a series of self-immolations by Buddhist clergy and lay people calling for the return of the Dalai Lama, now 83 years old.

Also, on a visit to Prague on Wednesday, the prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile said he was heartened to see support for his people in the Czech Republic.

"Each time I come here, I get encouraged, I get the fuel to go back and say 'There are people around the world who support us, who believe us,'" said Lobsang Sangay.

The Nation, 11-03-19

China's Long March rockets complete 300 launches



XICHAN-With a Long March-3B rocket putting a new communication satellite into orbit on Sunday, China's Long March carrier rocket series completed 300 launches, having sent more than 500 spacecraft into space since 1970.

"This is a milestone for China's space industry development," said Wu Yansheng, board chairman of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

The Long March carrier rocket series, developed by CASC, is responsible for about 96.4 percent of all the launch missions in China. It took 37 years for the Long March rockets to complete the first 100 launches, 7.5 years to complete the second 100 launches, and only about four years to

accomplish the final 100, with the average number of launches per year increasing from 2.7 to 13.3 and then to 23.5.

“Intensive launches have become normal in China, indicating the rapid development of the space industry, the progress of science and technology and the enhancement of national strength,” said Shang Zhi, director of the Space Department of the CASC.

China joined the space club on April 24, 1970, when the Long March-1 carrier rocket launched the country’s first satellite, Dongfanghong-1, into orbit. At that time, the carrying capacity of the Long March rocket was only 300 kg.

On November 3, 2016, China’s current largest carrier rocket, the Long March-5, made its maiden flight, with its carrying capacity reaching 25 tonnes for low-Earth orbit and 14 tonnes for geosynchronous orbit. The success rate of the 300 launches of the Long March rockets stood at 96 percent, according to CASC.

During the third 100 launches, the Long March rockets sent a total of 225 spacecraft, weighing about 240 tonnes, into space, with a success rate of 97 percent, reaching a high level in the world, said Shang.

From October 1996 to August 2011, the Long March rockets set a world record for 15 years of successful consecutive launches. In 2018, the Long March rockets completed 37 consecutive successful launches, ranking a global first for the highest number of successful launches.

A total of 17 types of Long March carrier rockets have been developed and put into use since 1970, ensuring the implementation of a series of key space projects including manned space program, lunar exploration, BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and the Gaofen Earth observation project.

In addition, the Long March carrier rockets also launched a large number of meteorological satellites, resource satellites and oceanographic satellites, as well as several innovative science satellites including DAMPE to search for dark matter, the world’s first quantum satellite, and an electromagnetic satellite to study earthquakes, playing an important role in promoting the economic, social and scientific development in China.

Since the 1990s, the Long March rockets have been designed to be compatible with satellites manufactured in the United States, Europe and other countries and regions.

So far, Chinese rockets have launched 56 international commercial satellites and carried more than 20 small satellites or payloads into space for international customers.

The Long March carrier rockets helped provide launch services for countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, including Algeria, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The services have been extended from launching satellites to the construction of ground facilities, and management and application of the satellites.

From 2015 to 2016, four types of new generation Long March carrier rockets, using non-toxic and non-polluting propellants, were put into use, greatly improving China's capacity of entering outer space.

New technologies such as 3D printing and intelligent manufacturing have been introduced in the development of China's new generation carrier rockets.

For instance, the Long March-7 is China's first carrier rocket completely designed using digital and virtual reality technology -- no paper blueprint was used throughout the design and production process.

The management and production efficiency of the launching vehicles have also been improved. China is now capable of manufacturing more than 40 carrier rockets every year. The new generation rocket Long March-6 does not require a fixed launch pad and can be ready for takeoff within seven days. The preparation time to launch a Long March-11 rocket can be as short as several hours.

The Nation, 11-03-19

Red tourism booms in China



BEIJING- China has stepped up efforts to promote “red tourism” which features visits to sites with significance of revolutionary history, said the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

More revolutionary museums will be open to the public for free and more creative cultural products of revolutionary relics will be developed, said the ministry.

Meanwhile, the red tourism sites are encouraged to increase cooperation with surrounding schools, the Communist Party of China (CPC) committees and government institutions, to attract more students and party members to learn about the country’s revolutionary history.

China has 33,315 revolutionary sites and relics on record. Statistics show that more than 800 million red tourism trips are made on average every year.

In recent years, red tourism has gained great popularity in China. In the city of Jinggangshan in east China's Jiangxi Province, the center of early revolutionary activities of the CPC, tourists clad in Red Army uniforms visit places where revolutionary figures once lived and worked.

In the first 10 months of 2018, Jinggangshan received more than 10 million tourists, generating tourism revenue of more than 10 billion yuan (1.49 billion U.S. dollars), up almost 10 percent year on year, according to local government figures.

The Nation, 12-03-19

Xi for eradicating of extreme poverty by 2020

BEIJING (INP): Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for perseverance in the fight against poverty as there are only two years left for the country to meet its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020.

"There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won," said Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

He made the remarks when deliberating with deputies from Gansu Province at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

Decisive progress has been achieved in the country's tough fight against poverty over the past years, marking a new chapter in the poverty reduction history of mankind, said Xi, stressing that the goal to eradicate extreme poverty must be achieved on time.

He warned that the tasks ahead remain arduous and hard as those still in poverty are the worst stricken.

Explaining the criteria of lifting people out of poverty, Xi said they should no longer need to worry about food and clothing while enjoying access to compulsory education, basic medical care and safe housing. The practices of formalities for formalities' sake and bureaucratism hamper the effective advancement of poverty reduction, he said, stressing a firm hand in rectifying malpractices in poverty relief.

The Nation, 12-03-19

HEBEI, CHINA
Children plant trees at Wuzhong Village in Qiaoxi District of Xingtai City, north China. Students from Guoshoujing Primary School took part in the activity to greet the upcoming Tree Planting Day.-Xinhua

The Nation, 12-03-19

China to build industrial Internet standard system



BEIJING - China will establish a standard system for the industrial Internet by 2020, according to a guideline jointly released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Standardization Administration.

By integrating information technology and the manufacturing industry, the industrial Internet will have a comprehensive and profound influence on industrial development, the guideline said.

The industrial Internet combines the Internet, platforms and security, constituting the Internet infrastructures that connect people, devices and things, according to the guideline.

To fulfill the 2020 target, China will focus on formulating technical standards for crucial elements of the industry, including Internet resource management and industrial big data.

The country has also vowed to formulate more than 100 standards and build a more integrated and open standard system by 2025, the guideline added.

The Nation, 12-03-19

Chinese corporation's delegation visits NUML

ISLAMABAD- A 14-member delegation of China International Engineering Consulting Corp on Monday visited National University of Modern Languages where both sides vowed strengthening the working relationship

A statement said that the delegation led by director general CIECC Du Zhenli visited NUML and met DG Brig Muhammad Ibrahim.

Registrar NUML Brig (R) Raza-ul-Muneem briefed the delegation about NUML, while Dean Languages DrSafeerAwan, Director Confucius Institute and others also attended the ceremony.

Director General NUML Brig Ibrahim in his welcoming speech said that Pakistan and China friendship was most cherished friendship and people of both the nations were proud to have such friendship.

He said that Confucius Institute Islamabad is our pride and won 4 times institute of the year award from Chinese government. Confucius Institute is playing vital role in promoting Chinese language and culture in the region, he said.

The Director General said that NUML was playing its part to promote Chinese language in the country and established a campus in Gwadar to teach Chinese to locals.

Later, Director General CIECC Du Zhenli said that visiting NUML was a wonderful experience and there were huge opportunities in which both the institutes could work together.

He said that all measures would be taken to assist Chinese language center in Gwadar as it had huge significance regarding CPEC. Later the delegation visited Confucius Institute which is situated in NUML.

The Nation, 12-03-19

China's new manned submersible completes mission



HAIKOU-China's science ship Tansuo-1 loaded with the manned submersible ShenhaiYongshi (Deep Sea Warrior) returned to its home harbor in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on Sunday, after finishing its first expedition in the Indian Ocean. The manned submersible can reach a depth of 4,500 meters. The 121-day expedition trip organized by the Chinese Academy of Sciences began Nov. 10, 2018. Scientists from 10 Chinese and foreign research institutes were invited to join the deep-sea research trip.

The ship traveled 17,000 nautical miles on the expedition during which scientists surveyed five deep-sea hydrothermal areas and collected a trove of samples for ecological environment research.

The submersible ShenhaiYongshi conducted 62 dives. Scientists succeeded in retrieving it in a variety of conditions including stormy waves and during the night.

The development of the submersible took eight years and involved over 90 Chinese organizations and companies. It conducted deep-sea testing missions in 2017 and 2018.

The Nation, 14-03-19

Cabinet body decides to set up CPEC Business Forum



ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar said the Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has decided to establish CPEC Business Forum to tap true potential of this important corridor.

Talking to media after the committee meeting, the minister said that the formation of the forum was being deliberated since long and now its establishment has formally been decided.

Going back on its earlier decision of constructing Karachi to Peshawar Railway (ML-I) on build-operate-transfer (BOT) mode the government has announced to undertake \$8.2 billion project on previously agreed loan basis (EPC mode).

Govt to undertake \$8.2b ML-I project on EPC mode now

“An implementation committee on ML-I Project (Karachi to Peshawar Railway), headed by Minister Railways was constituted to identify financial savings, phasing of the project, scope etc. within two weeks in order to fast-track the project,” MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform said while briefing the media on decisions of the Cabinet Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Cabinet Committee on CPEC met here with MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar, Minister for Planning, Development& Reform in chair. The meeting was attended by members of the committee and secretaries of the federal ministries.

The minister said that cabinet committee on CPEC has decided to undertake the ML-I project on the previously agreed terms of agreement, instead of BOT. Replying the query the minister said that now the project will be completed on EPC basis under the terms that had been agreed earlier. Regarding the mode and terms of Chinese loan he said that final decision in this regard would be made in the light of the implementation committee recommendations.

It is pertinent to mention here that soon after coming into power the PTI government while criticizing the previous regime for choosing the EPC mode for ML-I project and said that wants to change the funding mode of ML-I Project from loans to Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) mode. Earlier it was agreed that China will provide concessionary loan for \$ 8.2 billion for ML-I project. However after the government decision to undertake the project on BOT mode, china refused to join.

The minister further said that the Cabinet Committee on CPEC has decided to launch an important road project of Western Route in Balochistan soon.

He said previously no work was undertaken on the Western Route and people of those areas have developed feeling of deprivation. The incumbent government attaches priority to the construction of Western Route; therefore one of its important projects in Balochistan would be launched soon.

Bakhtyar said that the committee has decided to develop Sukkur-Hyderabad section on Eastern Route through built-operate and transfer (BOT) mode and National Highway Authority will complete the design as well as feasibility and award of the contract will done in 2019. The project will yield savings of billions of dollars, he estimated.

The planning minister informed that a Chinese experts’ team visited Pakistan and different level of discussions were held at federation and provinces. List of the projects in sectors including agriculture, education, health, poverty alleviation, water supply and vocational training is being finalized and would be shared with China soon.

A memorandum of understanding on socioeconomic development would be signed to ensure early implementation of the projects with the cost of \$ 400 to 500 million in first phase, he intimated.

Minister while highlighting the importance of agriculture cooperation under CPEC, informed that the newly established joint working group will meet in the first week of April in order to expedite cooperation for modernizing Pakistan Agriculture sector and utilize potentials for export maximization. It envisages cooperation in meet, food supply chain, processing and cobranding, livestock and fisheries, enhancement of seeds quality, irrigations system and technology transfer, he added.

Bakhtyar said that no headways were achieved in industrial cooperation sector over the last five years; however, present government prioritized this field by ensuring speedy implementation wherein concession agreement of Special Economic Zone at Rashakai, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be signed till 25th of this month, while groundbreaking would be made in April next.

Minister announced that groundbreaking of New Gwadar International Airport would be made till end of this month.

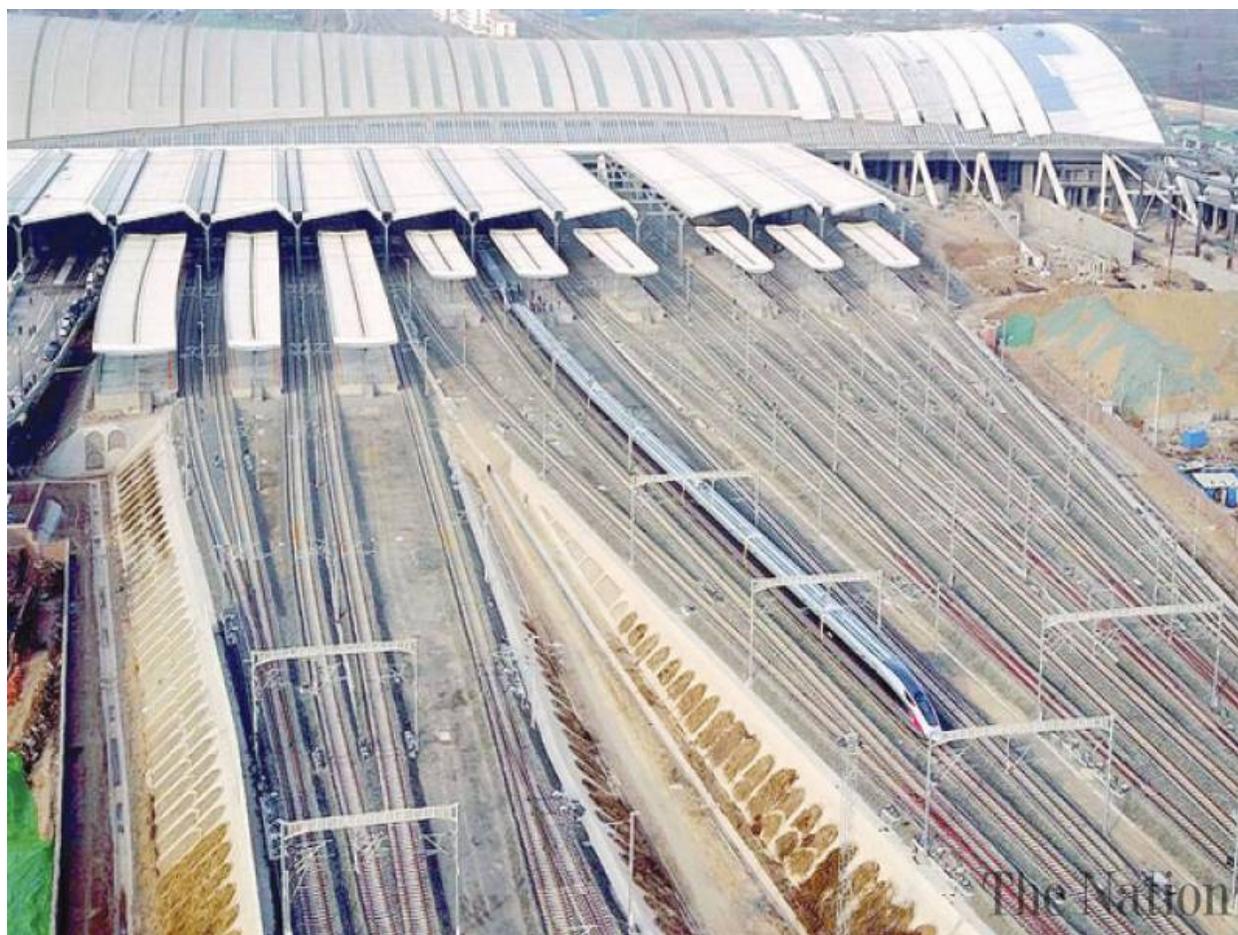
The Cabinet Committee also accorded approval to CPEC Business Forum in order to create an interface with the business community.

Minister said that a link between government institutions and business community was missing since the inception of CPEC. “The newly established forum, comprising of leading businessmen from different sectors, would work as a bridge between the government and business sectors”, he added.

Minister clarified that none of the funds allocated for CPEC projects were diverted to any other purpose; rather allocation for other initiatives in public sector development program (PSDP) were re-appropriated for sustainable development goals. The minister however didn't reply the question of releasing SDGs funds only to the ruling coalition MNAs.

The Nation, 14-03-19

China's Shandong province unveils billion-dollar plan



JINAN - Transport authorities in east China's Shandong Province announced that it plans to invest 162.2 billion yuan (about 24.2 billion U.S. dollars) on roads, railways, ports and airports this year.

The investment is aimed at building an integrated infrastructure network in the province, said Jiang Cheng, head of the provincial transport department.

Last year, fixed asset investment in Shandong's transportation sector reached 160 billion yuan, among which 115.8 billion yuan was spent on roads, highways and waterways, up 28 percent year on year. This year, 61 percent of the investment will be on roads, Jiang said.

Shandong has set a target for its expressway mileage to reach 7,400 km by 2020. By the end of this year, the total will hit 6,400 km, he said. More roads, bridges, and stations will be built in rural areas, he added.

About 10 railway projects are under construction in the province this year, with a total planned investment of 32 billion yuan (4.7 billion dollars). Upon completion, the province will be better connected with big cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

Shandong had a permanent population of 100.4 million at the end of 2018. It is one of the most populous provinces in China. An improved infrastructure network will better meet economic and social needs.

The Nation, 14-03-19

Mercury mine sites unearthed in southwest China



GUIYANG - Archaeologists have found a number of centuries-old mercury mine sites, including mining pits and smelting furnaces, in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

The sites were unearthed in WuchuanGelao and Miao Autonomous County, famous for its cinnabar production since ancient times, said the provincial cultural relics and archaeological institute.

Mercury was used in ancient China for making cinnabar, or mercuric sulfide, an important ingredient in the ancient production of paints and in the alchemic pursuit of an "immortality elixir."

Some mine sites were confirmed to date back to the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911), archaeologists said, while the rest await further verification.

The sites were found during an archaeological research in the county, which also led to the discovery of ancient tombs, roads, buildings and industrial sites.

The Nation, 15-03-19

Cautious China

With the latest manoeuvre of China to delay the request by Britain, France and the United States (US) to add Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) leader to the UN terror blacklist may have arguably raised many eyebrows. However, the Chinese approach in this regard is not without merit. The Chinese approach can be seen as a cautious one as compared to the one that Britain, France and the US have taken against terrorism.

Nevertheless, Chinese action is consistent with its stance that it had expressed two days earlier before the resolution taken up by the 1267 Sanctions Committee on March 13th. However, China does not support terrorism of any sort. She is just suggesting the world to engage in “responsible and serious discussions to resolve the issue in a sustainable manner.”

It is unfortunate to note that instead of assessing the ground realities and bone of contention between India and Pakistan, some of the influential members of the international community have fallen for Indian propaganda over Kashmir. The recent move can also be seen as an Indian effort to isolate Pakistan internationally. The dominant states like France, Britain and the US have turned a blind eye to Indian atrocities in the vale of Kashmir.

Contrary to these three countries, who are more after their narrow national interests, China wants to secure the interests of the region, and precisely, for this reason, it wants to take a holistic view of the case. For China, a comprehensive picture is not complete without taking Kashmir into consideration where India has violated the human rights of Kashmiri people with impunity while occupying Kasahmir militarily.

While Indian media is in rows over Chinese move, the major powers need to measure all kinds of terrorism with the same yardstick which is not the case as the US stated that “we will continue working with sanctions committee to ensure the designation list is updated and accurate.” However, we have seen that the US and its allies in the war on terror do not stick to consistency when declaring a person or an organization a terrorist one. We have seen in recent history how the US delisted several proscribed persons and organizations from the UN terror blacklist to end the stalemate in Afghanistan.

Therefore, instead of bashing China all the countries that want JeM’s leader on UN terror blacklist should consider Chinese advice and resort to a “responsible and serious discussion” on the issues of terrorism and a peaceful solution to Kashmir. As long as Kashmir issue is not solved India will see its soldiers vulnerable to attacks like the one carried out in Pulwama.

The News, 01-03-19

All countries' sovereignty, territorial integrity must be respected: China

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang says India and Pakistan must exercise maximum restraint and come back to the negotiating table

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang says China always believes all countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity shall be respected, and it does not wish to see any violation against the UN Charter and the norms of international law.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday when a reporter asked what could China do to alleviate tension between India and Pakistan; he said China was concerned about the escalating tension between India and Pakistan.

“You may notice that State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed China's worries and concerns when talking with the Indian foreign minister and holding a phone call with the Pakistani foreign minister. We urge India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint and come back to the negotiating table at an early date so that the situation will be effectively brought under control and regional peace and stability will be jointly upheld. China has been in close communication with both India and Pakistan on the current situation and making efforts to promote peace. We noted that neither Pakistan nor India want to see a deterioration or escalation of the situation. We encourage the two sides to meet each other halfway and resolve the issue through dialogue. China stands ready to continue with its constructive role in this regard.

Asked if China will block Britain, France and the US request to the UN Security Council to put Masood Azhar on the UN terror blacklist as it had done in the past, Lu Kang said the United Nations Security Council 1267 Committee has detailed criteria for the listing and designation procedures for terrorist entities or individuals. China will continue to participate in the discussions of the relevant UN sanctions committee and its subsidiary bodies in a responsible manner.

When a questioner asked if he could elaborate on Wang Yi's statement on a phone call that he made to the Pakistani foreign minister last night, the spokesman said China released information on this phone call very timely last night, or more accurately, early this morning.

Through this urgent phone call, the Pakistani foreign minister briefed State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the current situation and the Pakistani government's assessment and considerations.

He also expressed Pakistan's hope that China will continue to play an active role in easing tensions. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated China's view on the current situation. We are truly concerned about the current tensions in India-Pakistan relations. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated China's hope that India and Pakistan could exercise restraint and earnestly fulfill their commitment to preventing escalation. He stressed explicitly that sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi also talked about China's recent efforts in facilitating reconciliation and dialogue. You may read our press release for more information.

Answering a question, Lu Kang said India and Pakistan were all important countries in South Asia and it's very important for them to keep a harmonious relationship and jointly uphold regional peace and stability.

“The escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan following the recent events is not what we wish to see and is a cause of great concern to us. We hope that India and Pakistan will honor their pledge of preventing the situation from further deterioration or escalation and come back to the negotiating table at an early date so that the situation will be effectively brought under control and regional peace and stability will be restored. This serves the interests of all countries.

Asked if all countries should adopt and practice the Geneva Convention in times of military conflict, he said, ”Not just the Geneva Convention. Like I just said, China believes that in international relations, all countries need to respect all the international law and the basic norms guiding international relations, including the UN Charter.”

The News, 02-03-19

Leaders from 30 countries visit Xinjiang

URUMQI: Around 200 representatives of 50 political parties from 30 countries including Pakistan attended a meeting held here aiming to see the China's ethnic policy in Xinjiang and the peace and harmony, being enjoyed the people of this region.

Before the meeting, through various visits - to the grand bazaar downtown, an Islamic institute, mosques, neighborhood committees and enterprises under the Belt and Road Initiative - they were able to observe the landlocked region more directly.

Their arrival at an activity in the Guyuanxiang residential community coincided with enthusiastic dancing and singing by residents, including Uygur and Han people. "I can tell how happy and comfortable they are from their smiling faces and hopeful expressions," said Marwan Sudah of Jordan.

He said people and media making false and biased remarks concerning China's governance of Xinjiang should face objective facts. "As a Muslim, I am pleased to see Muslims here worshipping inside tidy mosques and Islamic institutes," said AizazAsif from Pakistan.

Respect for ethnic diversity and a commitment to protect ethnic tradition is what are behind China's successful ethnic policy, he added. Chandra PrakashMainali, chief of the Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist-Leninist), also said he was impressed by the different ethnic people's hospitality and friendship, stressing that it exceeded his expectations and imagination.

Saying he believes substantial improvement of people's livelihoods correlates with the harmonious coexistence of different ethnic groups, Peruvian Communist Party member Luis Alberto Villanueva Carbajal added, "It is not easy for China, a vast country with complex situations, to achieve both."

Last year, the per capita disposable income of Xinjiang's rural and urban residents increased by 8.4 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.

During the meeting, Chen Quanguo, regional secretary of the Communist Party of China, said various ethnic groups in Xinjiang and others around China had fostered a community with a shared future.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee, with Xi Jinping as the core, has attached great importance to Xinjiang. Chen said Xinjiang comprehensively implements the Central Committee's ethnic policy, firmly upholds ethnic unity and completely respects and protects freedom of religious belief of the people of all ethnic groups.

Emphasizing the importance of promoting high-quality development and improving people's livelihoods, Chen promised to fully implement the Central Committee's strategy for governing Xinjiang, and to strive for a united, harmonious, prosperous, culturally advanced and secure Xinjiang.

The News, 02-03-19

Chinese experts visit NAVTTC

Islamabad: An 11-member socio-economic development experts group of the Joint Working Group of CPEC on Social Economic Development headed by Director General CIECC Du Zhenli visited the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission headquarters to finalize the action plan on vocational training, discussed for the 1st Socio-Economic Development Joint Working Group meeting, and met NAVTTC Chairman Syed Javed Hassan and Executive Director Dr. Nasir Khan.

The NACTTC Executive Director briefed the team about initiatives taken by NAVTTC and said that Chinese intervention will enhance the quality of Pakistan's TVET system and serve as a catalyst to attain desired objectives of TVET reforms to prepare a skilled workforce for CPEC initiatives, Special Economic Zones and other projects of such nature.

The Chinese team showed a keen interest in contributing towards the efforts of NAVTTC to enhance the quality of skill sector and agreed to share their advanced techniques and successful experience to help Pakistan transform its human resource into an advantage.

In the meeting, a collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese TVET institutes, colleges and universities for transfer of technology from China to Pakistan in the shape of equipment, machinery for labs and workshops, capacity building programmes, joint degree and student exchange programs, training of trainers etc was discussed in detail.

The News, 03-03-19

Venice-themed ship cruises to burgeoning China market

Trieste, Italy: A huge liner designed entirely for Chinese tourists around the ever-romantic theme of Venice sets sail from Italy this week hoping to consolidate Costa Cruises in the vast and burgeoning Chinese tourism market.

The Costa Venezia left the Fincantieri shipyard in northeastern Italy on Thursday for neighboring Trieste. From there, it will head for China where it will carry up to 5,260 Chinese tourists on cruises from Shanghai to Japan, along with a healthy dose of Venetian kitsch, gondolas and all.

In a sign of the gap to be filled in the Chinese market, a sister ship will be launched next year by Italy's Costa Cruises, part of the huge Carnival Corporation.

The launching of Costa Venezia "is a very important moment in the history of Costa in China," said the company's Asia president Mario Zanetti.

"This is the first ship we're putting on the market, conceived since the start for Chinese tourists," he told AFP.

Italy-based Costa was the first to offer cruises to the Chinese 13 years ago.

"It was really Costa Cruises that started this type of tourism in China, in 2006, and now the Chinese market has become the second in the world, after North America," said Giuliano Noci, lecturer in strategy at Milan Polytechnic business school.

"From 2013 to 2016, the Chinese cruise market grew by 70 percent year-on-year, an impressive figure compared to Western markets," Noci told AFP.

After a slight drop in 2017 when China cut South Korean cruise destinations because of tensions over the deployment of a US anti-missile system, numbers are set to take off again.

Over the last 10 years the Chinese market has reached 2.5 million cruise passengers while a total of around 140 million Chinese are travelling abroad, said Zanetti.

"Cruises represent only around two percent of those (Chinese) going to foreign countries for their holidays. That shows you the potential for this market, which could become the world's biggest," he said.

But, warns Noci, "Growth will also depend on what's on offer, especially how they can attract tourists from central China with innovative marketing. Shanghai inhabitants alone currently account for 40 percent of Chinese cruise ship customers."

Companies will also have to target the wealthy 25-40 year-old age group "which doesn't want just a cultural experience but a real adventure," said Noci.

Even as it cruises the high seas, the Costa Venezia takes passengers on a journey through Venice, via the central Saint Mark's Square bar to original gondolas and waiting staff dressed as gondoliers.

The ship also offers 11 karaoke rooms and plenty of gambling opportunities. Alongside Italian cuisine, the restaurants will serve authentic Chinese dishes to accommodate guests' dietary requirements.

Costa Cruises is investing six billion euros (6.8 billion dollars) from 2018 to 2023 to buy seven ships, after which it will have a fleet of 34, including five cruise ships in Asia.

Costa's owner Carnival is also working with Fincantieri and the China State Shipbuilding Corporation to build vessels in China, despite worries that technology transfers will enable Chinese shipbuilders to take over.

But Zanetti dismisses those concerns, saying they are working "in a spirit of partnership and in a market that has such a low penetration. The more cruise companies are present in the market, the more there are opportunities for growth."

The News, 03-03-19

Canada approves Huawei extradition proceedings, China seethes

OTTAWA: The Canadian government, as expected, on Friday approved extradition proceedings against the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, prompting a furious reaction from China, Reuters reported.

MengWanzhou, the daughter of Huawei's founder, was detained in Vancouver last December and is under house arrest. In late January the U.S. Justice Department charged Meng and Huawei with conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Meng is due to appear in a Vancouver court at 10 a.m. Pacific time (1800 GMT) on March 6, when a date will be set for her extradition hearing.

"Today, department of Justice Canada officials issued an authority to proceed, formally commencing an extradition process in the case of Ms. MengWanzhou," the government said in a statement.

China, whose relations with Canada have deteriorated badly over the affair, denounced the decision and repeated previous demands for Meng's release.

U.S. Justice Department spokeswoman Nicole NavasOxman said Washington thanked the Canadian government for its assistance. "We greatly appreciate Canada's steadfast commitment to the rule of law," she said in a statement.

Legal experts had predicted the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau would give the go-ahead for extradition proceedings, given the close judicial relationship between Canada and the United States.

But it could be years before Meng is sent to the United States, since Canada's slow-moving justice system allows many decisions to be appealed.

A final decision will likely come down to the federal justice minister, who will face the choice of angering the United States by rejecting the extradition bid, or China by accepting it.

Professor Wesley Wark of the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs said "the Canadians will take a beating throughout this whole process" from China.

"I suspect the Trudeau government is desperately hoping that the Americans reach a deal with the Chinese," he said by phone.

U.S. President Donald Trump told Reuters in December he would intervene if it served national security interests or helped close a trade deal with China, prompting Ottawa to stress the extradition process should not be politicised. Last week Trump played down the idea of dropping the charges.

After Meng's detention, China arrested two Canadians on national security grounds, and a Chinese court later sentenced to death a Canadian man who previously had only been jailed for drug smuggling.

Brock University professor Charles Burton, a former Canadian diplomat who served two postings in China, said Beijing was likely to retaliate further.

"They're not going to take this lying down ... one shudders to think what the consequences could be," he told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp, saying Beijing might crack down on Canadian canola shipments or stop Chinese students from going to Canada.

Ottawa rejects Chinese calls to release Meng, saying it cannot interfere with the judiciary.

"The Chinese side is utterly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes the issuance of (the) authority to proceed," the embassy in Ottawa said in a statement.

Beijing had earlier questioned the state of judicial independence in Canada, noting the government faces accusations that it tried to intervene to stop a corruption trial.

Canadian Justice Minister David Lametti declined to comment. Huawei was not immediately available for comment.

Meng's lawyers said they were disappointed and described the U.S. charges as politically motivated.

The News, 03-03-19

Trump asks China to remove agricultural tariffs

Washington: US President Donald Trump urged China to abolish tariffs on agricultural products imported from the United States -- adding that trade talks between the rival powers were going well.

"I have asked China to immediately remove all Tariffs on our agricultural products (including beef, pork, etc.)," the president wrote on Twitter. He said his request was based on the fact that negotiations with China were "moving along nicely" -- and his delay last week of a planned tariff increase on Chinese exports. "This is very important for our great farmers - and me!" he added.

It's unclear what effect Trump's demand could have on ongoing talks, which the president signaled earlier this week were moving toward an agreement. American officials are preparing a final trade deal that Trump and China's President Xi Jinping could sign within weeks, people familiar with the matter have said, even as a debate continues in Washington over whether to push the Beijing government for more concessions. If China were to remove the tariffs, it would likely be a huge boon to U.S. crop markets that have been caught in the trade war crossfire. Soybean, pork and ethanol shipments have all languished amid the duties. China is a key destination for most of the world's biggest agriculture markets.

After months of trade war, the US and China agreed to a 90-day truce to work out their differences. It was scheduled to end Friday, but Trump eventually lifted the ultimatum to increase tariffs, satisfied by progress made in several rounds of talks in Beijing and Washington. Top White House economic official Larry Kudlow said Thursday the two countries were on the brink of a "historic" trade agreement. A meeting between Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, is also expected this month.

After the latest round of talks in February, US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue tweeted that China had committed to buying "an additional" 10 million metric tons of soybeans as a "show of good faith." US farmers rely greatly on such trade with China: in 2017, around a third of US soybean production -- worth \$14 billion -- was exported there, where it is used to feed pigs. Those exports plummeted last summer, when China imposed tariffs on US soybeans and other agricultural products. Previously, in a gesture of goodwill at the start of the countries' truce, China in December resumed soybean purchases. But Chinese tariffs had already hit America's farming regions hard -- areas where Trump has enjoyed plentiful support.

The News, 05-03-19

China lauds OIC's resolution on Xinjiang

BEIJING: A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang has lauded the resolution on Xinjiang, adopted at the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Minister of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The resolution commends China's efforts for the well-being of the Muslims. It vindicated China's position on Xinjiang, rejecting the negative propaganda of some Western countries to this effect.

The spokesperson said at the regular news briefing here on Monday that the resolution adopted OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on March 2 in Abu Dhabi speaks highly of and fully recognizes the efforts China has made for Chinese Muslims and expressed its willingness to strengthen cooperation with China.

“The Chinese side appreciates that very much. Not long ago, an OIC delegation visited Xinjiang when they were in China for a political consultation. They saw for themselves that local Muslims live a happy life with good employment and full freedom of religion.

They spoke highly of China's ethnic and religious policies and recognized China's efforts for preventive counter-terrorism and de-radicalization. In fact, China enjoys traditional friendship with Islamic countries and has close communication and exchanges with the OIC.

Under the current circumstances, China stands ready to work with the OIC to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with the OIC and the Islamic world and forge the relationship into a model for cultural exchanges and South-South Cooperation, “he added.

Replying to a question about the prevailing tension situation between Pakistan and India, the spokesman said that the Chinese government is ready to play constructive role, easing tension between the two sides.

"The Chinese side has maintained close communication with India and Pakistan and has been doing the work of persuading and promoting talks. We are willing to continue to play such a constructive role,” he added.

About Russian government's statement on the situation, the spokesperson said, “We welcome all positive measures that will help ease the current regional situation and promote regional peace and stability.

Lu Kang added, “We have said many times that India and Pakistan are important countries in South Asia. We very much hope that the two sides can maintain good-neighborliness and friendship and resolve their mutual problems through friendly consultations.”

China's principled position is that we encourage the relevant parties in the international community to make all constructive efforts that are conducive to promoting the relaxation of the regional situation and maintaining peace and stability in the region."

The News, 07-03-19

China proud of giving equal opportunities to minorities

BEIJING: The Chinese government is determined to "develop more equitable and higher-quality education" for the country's ethnic minority people to promote concord between different ethnic groups and harmonious development, according to the Government Work Report that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivered to the second session of the 13th National People's Congress.

The promotion of investment in education for ethnic minority people is a systematic task of Chinese government. The effort not only ensures these people's right to be educated, but also entirely increases their capability of participating in the development of the whole country and modern community.

Ethnic minority people should be participants in the country's development, but due to lack of educational resources and limited quality of education, some feel marginalized when the country is rapidly developing.

Some Western media irrationally condemned the Chinese government's increasing investment in education for ethnic minority people and maliciously suggested that the effort in education for ethnic minority people was intended to make them forget their diverse culture.

Modern education is an important aspect of secularization. The West should understand China's efforts in education - they are in line with the times - for ethnic minority people with a broader perspective of globalization. China's moves are not just about China. They will also influence the world.

Such boarding schools not only give pupils access to a higher-quality education with better hardware and software conditions, but also let them interact with different cultures to feel personally the harmony of differences.

The Chinese government has presented these students a wider platform to chase their dream and laid a solid foundation for ethnic harmony.

"We believe traditional culture should not be bondage that constrains them from receiving modern education, which is also a way out for them to rid themselves of backwardness. This is the best respect for traditional cultures."

When criticizing China, these Western media also choose to ignore the problems in fusion of different ethnic groups and immigrants that linger in the West.

The News, 08-03-19

Finance Ministry objects to diversion of Rs24b CPEC funds

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance has raised objections to diversion of Rs24 billion funds from China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other initiatives towards discretionary programme for parliamentarians under SDGs achievement programme and sought certification from the Planning Division for not revising upward the development budget.

After objections by the Finance Ministry over diversion of the funds, the Ministry of Planning certified through official communication that the revised allocated amount of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) as well as sectorial allocation for the current financial year would be fully protected. “Yes we have certified in writing that the revised allocation of PSDP and sectorial allocation would be fully protected during the current fiscal year,” top official sources told The News on Thursday.

An official of Planning Commission claimed that they diverted Rs24 billion out of Rs27 billion for head of special initiatives of CPEC and others. There was only Rs3 billion earmarked for CPEC special initiatives which were protected, but so far it was not yet released. They said that they created fiscal space of Rs24 billion through abandoning un-approved projects and scrapped almost 300 schemes.

“We guarantee you that the allocation of Rs181 billion for CPEC published in to pink book of Finance Ministry with marginal increase of Rs200 million will be fully protected,” said the sources, but they did not share details that how much utilization was so far done on CPEC projects during the current fiscal year so far.

“Although, the government has formally approved Rs24 billion for sustainable development goals (SDGs) achievement programme due to the pressures of the parliamentarians, but there is not much enthusiasm at top levels after witnessing criticism in the media,” said the sources.

The Ministry of Planning in its official statement argued that while reviewing PSDP for 2018-19 in September, 2018, the Ministry of Planning kept an allocation of Rs27 billion for CPEC and other initiatives which were meant to undertake new initiatives. The sectors include education, health, clean drinking water and sanitation, farm to market roads, gas, electricity and other interventions leading to achievement of SDGs goals.

The News, 09-03-19

China February exports tumble most in 3 years

BEIJING China's exports tumbled the most in three years in February while imports fell for a third straight month, pointing to a further slowdown in the economy and stirring talk of a "trade recession", despite a spate of support measures.

China's trade numbers added to worries about slowing growth in the world's number two economy as it fights a trade war with the US.

It's politically sensitive trade surplus with the US narrowed to \$14.7 billion for the month from \$27.3 billion in January, the data from China's customs administration showed.

China's total overseas shipments sank 20.7 percent on-year and imports fell 5.2 percent, much worse than the 5.0 percent and 0.6 percent drops forecast in a Bloomberg News poll.

"Today's trade figures reinforce our view that China's trade recession has started to emerge," said Raymond Yeung of ANZ bank in a note.

"Looking ahead, we find little reason to expect a rebound in the near term on the back of a sluggish global electronics cycle," said Yeung, adding it would weigh on China's first quarter GDP growth.

Recent economic data point to the difficulties China faces with growth in the last three months of 2018 clocking in at 6.4 percent.

In January, an important barometer of prices in the country's industrial sector neared contraction territory while manufacturing activity saw its worst performance in three years in February.

China's premier on Tuesday laid out a lower growth target of 6.0 to 6.5 percent this year in a report to the country's annual parliamentary session underway in Beijing, down from 6.6 percent growth in 2018. The government outlined major tax cuts, fee reductions and looser monetary policy to combat the slowdown.

Worries have grown about slowing global growth with the European Central Bank slashing its 2019 eurozone growth and inflation forecasts on Thursday, citing "uncertainties" around geopolitical risks and trade rows.

However, analysts caution it is difficult to compare trends in China's data at the start of the year due to the Chinese New Year holiday, which came in early February this year and can affect business activity. China's exports for the first two months fell 4.7 percent, and imports were down 3.1 percent, estimated Yeung of ANZ.

An end to the months-long US-China trade dispute would help China's hurting exporters -- shipments to the US fell about 29 percent last month.

Washington and Beijing last year exchanged punitive tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade but have recently indicated they are close to coming to terms.

America's trade deficit with China hit a record \$419.2 billion last year, US data released this week showed. China put its surplus at a lower but still record \$323.3 billion. Exports of soybeans, a crucial crop across vast expanses of the US, fell 18 percent for the year as the tit-for-tat tariffs sent Chinese buyers elsewhere.

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday negotiations were making progress, telling reporters at the White House that the talks were "moving along pretty well".

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi noted Friday that the two sides had made "significant progress" recently and blasted hawks in Washington who have advocated a "decoupling" between the two countries' economies. "To decouple from China is to decouple from opportunities, decouple from the future, and in a sense, to decouple from the world," Wang said at a news conference in Beijing.

The News, 10-03-19

Australia admits failings in Pacific, as China looms

SYDNEY: Australia has admitted it had not focused enough attention on its Pacific backyard but vowed to make "long overdue" amends, amid growing Chinese influence in the region.

"I think we would have to accept some criticism," Australia's minister for international development and the Pacific, Anne Ruston, told AFP on Friday.

"We have perhaps not put as much attention and effort into our own region as we should of."

In recent months, Ruston has been at the sharp end of trying to fix that -- jettisoning to-and-fro between Australia and far-flung Pacific Islands, as part of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's "step-up" in the region.

The policy includes more aid, more security assistance, more diplomats working in the region and, crucially, more face-to-face contacts. It is, in large part, a response to Beijing's growing economic, political and military activity in the region.

"I think we've had our focus gazed much further afield for a very long time," said Ruston. "It has certainly, more recently, been forced to be refocused back onto our own region."

"That's a good thing. And it was certainly long overdue." While Australia was more focused on Fallujah than Fiji, China has been doling out loans and investment in the region and scooping up natural resources and telecoms contracts. Still, Ruston rejected suggestions that Australia, by moving to develop security facilities in Papua New Guinea and Fiji is causing the type of militarization many complain China is embarking on.

"This is our region, this is our area, this is where we live," she said.

"However you see the security and sovereignty of our region the Pacific is extremely important to Australia."

Australian re-engagement has been hampered by deep disagreements with Pacific nations over the conservative government's skeptical stance on climate change -- an existential threat to many island nations. Fiji Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has been among those accusing Australia of putting its coal industry "above the welfare of Pacific peoples".

"It is a very, very real issue for them," Ruston acknowledged. In places like Kiribati -- where the average height of the land is a few feet above sea level -- it is "singularly the biggest issue that they have at the moment".

To square the circle, Canberra diplomats have tried to separate climate policy writ-large from day-to-day work to temper its impact.

The mitigation and infrastructure needs are enormous, "we talking tens of billions of dollars to be able to get the Pacific up to the kind of development standard, that I think Pacific aspires to have for itself", said the minister.

Australia has committed to some ambitious projects, like helping Papua New Guinea bring electricity to 70 percent of the population by 2030. Today the percentage stands in the low double digits. But even that is another issue that has been complicated by Australian domestic politics -- which sees Papua New Guinea almost exclusively as the location of a deeply controversial offshore detention facility.

The News, 10-03-19

China hopeful on US trade talks: official

Beijing: Beijing is hopeful about its next round of trade talks with the US, China's vice minister for commerce said on Saturday, after revealing that top negotiators had tried to hammer out a deal over burgers and eggplant chicken.

China and the United States have been locked in a bruising trade war since last year, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, which has left global markets reeling.

Top-level negotiators have met three times in an attempt to reach an agreement before next week, when additional tariffs could be levied on Chinese goods entering the US as a truce period expires.

"When you ask about the prospects for the next Sino-US economic and trade consultation, I feel that there is hope," Vice Minister for Commerce Wang Shouwen told journalists at a press briefing on the sidelines of China's National People's Congress.

He added that Beijing's top economic official Liu He and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer held talks over a packed lunch of burgers and eggplant stir-fried with chicken -- a common Chinese dish -- in Washington last month.

"Vice Premier Liu ate a beef burger, and Lighthizer ate eggplant and chicken (with rice)," Wang said.

"Throughout the consultation process, there was coffee and tea... but both drank plain water."

"This was to find common ground," he added.

Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan had on Tuesday said the negotiation process was very "difficult and taxing" with "lots left to do", but that breakthroughs had been made in several areas.

But there have been conflicting comments from Washington and Beijing on the negotiations.

Donald Trump on Friday said he remains optimistic but will not sign a pact unless it is a "very good deal", and a top economic advisor said the US president could walk away from a bad deal.

Some of the issues being worked out are what US trade officials call unfair trade practices, including Chinese subsidies to major industries, preferential treatment for Chinese firms and theft of US technology.

The subsidies were denied by China's state-assets watchdog, which manages the country's 102 state-owned giants.

"There are no institutional special arrangements or additional subsidies for state-owned enterprises," State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission chief Xiao Yaqing said at a Saturday press briefing.

He added that state enterprises were "very concerned" with trade negotiations and hoping for a positive outcome leading to a "good environment for business development".

Commerce officials also said a foreign investment law -- widely expected to be passed by China's rubber-stamp parliament next Friday -- will allow foreign companies to take part in government tenders.

Only 48 sectors remain on a "negative list" where foreign investment is either prohibited or requires special approval, Wang told journalists.

"The (whole process) is open and provides important legal protection for foreign investors."

Aimed at assuaging concerns about China's business environment for foreign firms, Beijing sees the law as a tool to attract more foreign investment as its economy slows.

The bill will ban the illegal transfer of technology and "illegal government interference" in foreign businesses, a key complaint from Washington.

The News, 11-03-19

China to follow policy of dialogue in state-to-state ties

BEIJING: China has reiterated that it will continue to follow policy of dialogue instead of confrontation in settling disputes and promoting state-to-state relations.

A key part of President Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is developing a new path of state-to-state relations featuring dialogue instead of confrontation, partnership instead of alliance," said Ruan Zongze, executive vice president of the China Institute of International Studies, while commenting on the recent statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a news conference.

He said, in the wake of the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress, China elaborated its foreign policy championing peace, development, cooperation and multilateralism, providing certainty to a world full of uncertainties.

Responding to a question on the recent tension between Pakistan and India, Chinese Foreign Ministry Wang Yi reiterated China's call for calm and restraint. Disagreement should be settled by goodwill, he asserted.

Ruan said, a centerpiece of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is to build a community with a shared future for humanity, experts said. This vision put forth by Xi has won broad support from

the international community. "We rise and fall together," Wang said at the press conference. "Instead of minding our own business, we should treat each other as passengers in the same boat." More and more countries are stepping forward to resist the disturbing trend of unilateralism and protectionism, he said. China will work with all nations under the principle of multilateralism to resolutely uphold an international system centered on the United Nations and an international order underpinned by international law.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by Xi in 2013, has brought countries and regions together through enhanced trade, infrastructure development, and investment, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

A total of 152 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation documents with China on the initiative over the past six years, official statistics show. In April, Xi will host foreign heads of state and government at the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. Wang revealed that thousands of delegates from over 100 countries are expected to attend.

Refuting the "debt trap" claim, Wang said the BRI is instead an "economic pie". Wang said the fundamental guideline for China's diplomatic work in the new era is Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, which points the way for navigating through a complex array of issues in today's world.

"We still have a positive outlook on China-U.S. relations. The two countries will not, and should not descend into confrontation," he said. Xu Xiujun, a research fellow with the Institute of World Economy and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said cooperation remains the main theme of China-U.S. ties.

The News, 12-03-19

China not to pick sides in Pak-India dispute

BEIJING: According to Chinese media, the Indian high commissioner came back to Pakistan due to the efforts of China and other countries for de-escalation and a massive military conflict was averted.

A state media opinion piece says China will not pick sides in the Pakistan-India dispute as its primary aim is to develop the "poor and backward" Kashmir, adding that Beijing is willing to be the mediator to defuse tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi.

The editorial dismissed India's concerns about China's consistent support to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, by not allowing him to be listed as a terrorist in the UN Security Council UNSC).

“The disputed Kashmir region is not destined to be poor and backward forever. This is China’s goal and should also be the goal of both India and Pakistan. If the two countries can meet each other halfway, it would help them to build mutual trust, lay the foundation for peaceful negotiations and especially strengthen their cooperation on anti-terrorism together with China,” nationalistic tabloid Global Times said in an opinion piece.

“China will not pick sides in India-Pakistan disputes. Aiming at easing the two countries’ conflicts and improving the anti-terrorist situation, China will play the role of a mediator and facilitator amid the ongoing tensions,” the opinion piece said.

The editorial said it was “irresponsible” to blame China for protecting alleged terrorists.

“However, some Indians doubt China’s efforts. Some Indian experts blamed China for ‘continued protection’ of terrorists who were allegedly based in Pakistan and launched the Pulwama terror attack in February. And many Indian analysts regard China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a geopolitical threat,” it said.

“Such irresponsible statements are not supported by facts. Foreign ministers of China, Russia, and India held the 16th trilateral meeting on February 27. During the meeting, they vowed to eradicate breeding grounds of terrorism and extremism. In fact, China, Pakistan, and India share common interests in combating terrorism. It is time for India to stop the groundless accusations,” it said.

The editorial however said that India should overcome its prejudices against the BRI as it would boost cooperation and help bring stability to the region.

“And India should also understand this: Although China supported Pakistan in alleviating poverty and wiping out terrorism, Beijing is not an enemy of New Delhi. Just the opposite: China proposed and launched the BRI, which not only meets India’s needs for infrastructure construction but also helps ease India-Pakistan tensions,” it said.

“We believe that political consultation must be the only channel to resolve the disputes. This is China’s consistent policy, and nothing will change China’s firm stand in promoting peaceful negotiations between India and Pakistan,” it said.

Meanwhile, China said it was only through discussions that a “responsible solution” could come out on the issue of listing MasoodAzhar as a terrorist at the UNSC.

The Chinese foreign ministry’s comment comes in the backdrop of the US, the UK and France moving a fresh proposal at the UNSC to list MasoodAzhar as a global terrorist in the aftermath of the JeM claiming responsibility for the suicide attack in Kashmir’s Pulwama on February 14.

According to reports, the resolution was expected to be taken up by the 1267 committee of the UNSC on March 13. China has thrice blocked the move by India and other UN members.

“First I would like to say that the UNSC as a main body of the UN has strict standards and rules of procedures... China’s position on the designation of a terrorist by the 1267 Sanctions Committee is consistent and clear,” foreign ministry Lu Kang said on Monday when asked about the upcoming proposal.

“China (has) adopted a responsible attitude, follows the rules of the procedure of the committee and participated in the discussions in a responsible manner. Only through discussions can we come up with a responsible solution,” Lu said.

To a second question whether the issue of MasoodAzhar’s ban figured in China’s talks with Pakistan, Lu said: “Recently, India and Pakistan has experienced a lot. We think those indents are not in the interest of peace and stability in the region. We have engaged in mediation efforts with both sides and held talks to promote the easing of tensions. We made enormous efforts. While exchanging ideas security is an important topic and I can say that our talks were wide ranging and quite deep,” he said.

The News, 12-03-19

New generation of Chinese driverless trains in 2020

BEIJING: A new, faster generation of driverless magnetic levitation trains is set to debut in China as early as 2020, according to state media. But those dreaming of eye-wateringly fast, record-breaking bullet trains will have to sit tight. These trains are medium-low-speed maglev, though still impressively quick. Built and developed independently in China by CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotives Co. Ltd., they will be the company's third generation of medium-low-speed maglev trains.

The newly developed maglev prototype will run at a speed of 200 kph -- 40 kph faster than the 2.0 version and double the speed of the 1.0 version. When finished, the trains will be the fastest commercial maglevs developed and built completely by Chinese firms.

The News, 13-03-19

‘Xinjiang camps will ‘gradually’ disappear’

BEIJING: A Chinese official on Tuesday rejected international criticism of internment camps in the restive Xinjiang region, calling them job training centers that will "gradually disappear" if "one day society no longer needs it".

Nearly one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic minorities are being held in detention centers in Xinjiang, according to estimates cited by a UN panel. A US official described the situation in Xinjiang as "horrific".

But Beijing has denied the accusations, saying people are attending "vocational education centers" to rid them of any extremist thoughts in a region that was hit by deadly riots and attacks in recent years.

"Our education and training centers have been set up according to our needs. The students that come in to learn, it's a dynamic number that changes," ShohratZakir, the chairman of Xinjiang's government, told journalists on the sidelines of China's annual parliamentary meeting.

"As a whole, the number of people in the education centers should be less and less, and if one day society no longer needs it, these education centers can gradually disappear," he said, without providing the number of people at the facilities.

Former inmates have said they found themselves incarcerated for transgressions such as wearing long beards and face veils or sharing Islamic holiday greetings on social media. Critics allege Uighurs in the camps are being brainwashed in a massive campaign to enforce conformity with Chinese society and the abandonment of Islam.

Shohrat also hit out at "certain individuals", whom he says "sensationalized" the number of people in these centers. "It's not like that," he said, calling on reporters to visit Xinjiang. Journalists are harassed and surveilled by local authorities when reporting in the western Chinese region.

"There's just a very tragic, and I think, a horrific situation there," US envoy on religious freedom Sam Brownback told reporters in a conference call. Xinjiang, which shares a border with several countries including Pakistan and Afghanistan, has long suffered from violent unrest, which China claims is orchestrated by an organised "terrorist" movement seeking the region's independence.

It has implemented a massive, high-tech security crackdown, which it says has prevented any violent incidents in over two years. But many Uighurs and Xinjiang experts say the violent episodes stem largely from spontaneous outbursts of anger at Chinese cultural and religious repression, and that Beijing plays up terrorism to justify tight control of the resource-rich region.

The News, 13-03-19

Two pilots die in Chinese fighter jet crash

BEIJING: A Chinese navy fighter jet crashed during training on the southern island province of Hainan on Tuesday, killing two pilots, the defense ministry said. There were "no casualties on the ground," the ministry said in a statement, adding that the cause of the accident was under investigation.

China's military, which is undergoing a well-funded modernization drive, has had other accidents in recent years.

An air force plane crashed in Guizhou province during a training exercise in January 2018, killing crew members on board, the air force said, without revealing the number. State media reported the crash of an aircraft carrier-based J-15 fighter in April 2018 during training, resulting in the death of the pilot. In 2015, two pilots died during a training session when their plane engine caught fire shortly after takeoff, state media reported at the time.

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14 Wednesday, March 13, 2019 THE NEWS 13th March 2019 主管: 巴基斯坦华商报 主办: 《华商报》报社 社长: 耿思萌 总编: 朱家磊 编辑: 苏珊



两会上, 习近平反复要求这件事抓紧做

During the two session, Xi Jinping emphasized upon overcoming poverty



在主席台上, 着力抓重点、补短板、强弱项, 要深化供给侧结构性改革, 增强发展内生动力, 加大扶贫攻坚力度, 让贫困人口和贫困地区同全国一道进入全面小康社会。

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国内一周事件摘要

Weekly Briefs in China

王毅: “一带一路”不是债务“陷阱”, 而是惠及“陷阱”

十三届全国人大二次会议新闻中心13日召开记者会, 国务委员兼外交部长王毅就“中国外交政策和对华关系”相关问题回答了中外记者提问。

GDP总量被深圳反超

经济放缓的香港还有哪些发展机遇?

香港2018年GDP增长3.3%, 创历史新高, 在2016年录得负增长后, 2018年录得正增长。

巴基斯坦中巴经济走廊能力建设中心副主任: “一带一路”将成和平与稳定的促进剂

Deputy Director of Capacity Building Center of CPEC in Pakistan: "One Belt One Road" will promote peace and stability



人民在经济增长和区域发展方面对中巴经济走廊建设寄予厚望。中巴经济走廊是连接亚洲、非洲、欧洲三大板块的重要通道。

华为起诉美国政府限制法案违宪: 限制市场缺乏竞争

Huawei sues the U.S. government for unconstitutional sales restrictions that impede fair competition



美国国会立法, 还试图通过行政手段限制华为在美国的销售, 这违反了美国宪法。华为表示, 这些限制措施是不公平的。

美国2018年贸易逆差创新高

专家: 未来或更高



美国贸易逆差在2018年创下历史新高, 达到1,814亿美元。专家认为, 随着全球贸易保护主义的抬头, 未来贸易逆差可能会进一步扩大。

宁吉喆谈“一带一路”建设: 进一步凝聚合作共识

Ning Jizhe talks about "One Belt One Road": To build consensus for cooperation, we need to move forward step by step



宁吉喆表示, “一带一路”建设已经进入高质量发展的新阶段。要进一步加强政策沟通、设施联通、贸易畅通、资金融通、民心相通。

三项“丝路”工程获建设工鲁班奖

Three "silk road" projects won the Luban Prize, the highest award in the field of China Construction Engineering



三项“丝路”工程荣获2018年度中国建设工程鲁班奖。这些工程在技术创新、工程质量等方面取得了显著成就。

小教编教汉语和维吾尔语

Editor teaches you Chinese and Urdu



本栏目旨在帮助读者学习汉语和维吾尔语。通过日常对话和语法讲解, 提高语言应用能力。

看待中国国防预算, 莫要太“敏感”!

Ways to treat defense budget of China



看待中国国防预算, 莫要太“敏感”。中国国防预算的增幅远低于美国, 且主要用于现代化建设和维护地区稳定。

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If you are interested in sending in contributions, please email to huashangnews@gmail.com

The News, 13-03-19

Proposals for CPEC Phase II compiled

LAHORE: Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has compiled proposals for second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will be presented at the International CPEC conference 2019, a statement said on Tuesday.

The proposals were derived in a seminar, in which MueenBatlay, a distinguished strategist and analyst of the international organization; “Obortunity” spoke.

The seminar was also addressed by a number of local experts, including Ahmad Hasnain, vice president and Dr Muhammad IqbalQureshi, chairman standing committee of the PCJCCI on research, it added.

The speakers were of the unanimous view that the local industry should endeavour to adopt contemporary ways to come at par with the modern world for the production of value-added products.

The News, 14-03-19

Beijing reaffirms earlier stance: China blocks India at UNSC

NEW YORK: China blocked on Wednesday India’s bid to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed chief MasoodAzhar as a global terrorist in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1267 list.

China on Wednesday hinted that it may once again block the move, saying only “the solution that is acceptable to all sides” is conducive to resolve the issue.

China put a technical hold on a proposal in the UN Security Council to ban MasoodAzhar just before the close of the deadline. The request was moved by Britain, France and the United States, while Germany also joined as co-sponsor of the move on Wednesday.

China has blocked the move by India and others states three times in the past. In a note sent to the Council, China said it needed more time to examine the sanctions request targeting MasoodAzhar, diplomats said.

In case of implementation, a UNSC designation would have subject MasoodAzhar to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. Earlier in the day, China had signaled that it was not yet prepared to step aside and allow the UNSC to list terror the JeM founder as an international terrorist.

In response to a question on China's stance on banning MasoodAzhar at the 1267 committee of the UNSC, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said Beijing wanted a closure of the issue, based on consensus achieved through dialogue. "I want to say that China always adopts a responsible attitude, engage in consultations with various parties and properly deal with this issue," Lu said.

"The discussions, I want to say must follow the rules and procedures of the relevant bodies and only the solution that is acceptable to all sides is conducive for resolving the issue," he added.

Lu said the Chinese position on MasoodAzhar was delinked from the immediacy of the Wednesday's vote at the 1267 committee of the UNSC. "First, I want to clarify that I don't recall saying anything about the deadline about the UNSC committee and other UN subsidiary bodies," he stated.

India has expressed disappointment in the outcome and said it will continue to pursue "all possible avenues to ensure terrorist leaders are brought to justice".

"We are disappointed by this outcome. We will continue to pursue all available avenues to ensure that terrorist leaders who are involved in heinous attacks on our citizens are brought to justice," said the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

The Indian opposition, particularly the Congress, took a dig at Prime Minister NarendraModi for failing at diplomatic levels.

"A sad day in the global fight against terrorism. China blocking MasoodAzhar's designation as global terrorist reaffirms Chinese position of being an inseparable ally of Pakistan. Sadly, Modiji's foreign policy has been a series of diplomatic disasters," Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

The News, 14-03-19

Civilians trapped as Myanmar rebels squabble over expected China boom

NARMAKHOR, Myanmar: With artillery exploding around her village in Myanmar's northeast, 70-year-old Nan Nyunt fled to a monastery, one of thousands of civilians trapped between rebel groups who are fighting for influence as a China-driven economic boom looms.

"Houses were on fire and a buffalo died," she told AFP, huddled on the floor with other elderly displaced people.

She is one of several thousand forced to flee their homes, many multiple times, since fighting flared up in November in this normally peaceful area popular with tourists, who arrive by train from Mandalay to explore the hills.

"I'm still scared but I just want to go back home," she said. Swathes of Shan state, like many of the country's restive borderlands, have been embroiled in conflict for decades.

The unrest is fiendishly complex, with a web of ethnic armed groups fighting Myanmar's military for land, resources and autonomy.

Shan is also the hub of Myanmar's multi-billion dollar drug trade.

Beijing, which already invests heavily in ports, pipelines, dams and mines across Myanmar, is now looking at scaling up projects in the border area of Shan. Special economic zones are planned, while a high-speed rail link and expressway are expected to bisect the country, reaching the Chinese-built port of Kyaukphyu in Rakhine State on the Bay of Bengal.

The potential riches of controlling the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) is a "huge factor" behind the current clashes, said Yangon-based independent analyst David Mathieson. "(It) is going to be astonishingly lucrative and they (ethnic armed groups) all want their cut," he explained. There have been cyclical attempts by Shan rebel factions to encroach on rivals' territory, but now they are turning on each other with increased ferocity.

China is pumping investment into infrastructure schemes across the region and all the way to Europe as part of its "One Belt, One Road" project.

But Myanmar, one of Southeast Asia's least developed countries, has a complicated relationship with investment from its northern neighbour. A Chinese-funded dam at Myitsone on the Ayeyarwady River in northern Kachin state was mothballed in 2011 after widespread protests over the environmental damage likely to be wrought while returning little to local people. But Myanmar is now under pressure to revive the scheme. If completed, the \$3.6 billion project would flood an area twice the size of Singapore and displace thousands. The Kyaukphyu port also riled locals fearing Myanmar debt would pay for a project beneficial to China.

The News, 14-03-19

China pledges to do more to attract foreign investment

BEIJING: China expects to see wider opening-up as it pledges to do more to attract foreign investment and promote global cooperation at the annual two sessions of the elected representatives.

"We will promote all-round opening-up and foster new strengths in international economic cooperation and competition," Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said while delivering the government work report to the legislative session of the NPC.

At the session, further relax of controls over market access has been announced, a draft foreign investment law will be deliberated, and the Belt and Road cooperation has been promoted.

The government will further shorten the negative list which outlines fields off-limits to foreign investors, NingJizhe, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission, told a press conference on the sidelines of the annual legislative session.

China will roll out more opening measures to the agriculture, mining, manufacturing and service sectors, and allow wholly foreign-funded enterprises to operate in more sectors, Ning said.

China saw a record foreign direct investment of 135 billion U.S. dollars in 2018 despite a global economic downturn and rising protectionism. Along with the efforts to attract foreign businesses, China is also stepping up the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to benefit more participants.

To date, a total of 152 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation documents with China on the BRI. "Many countries along the Belt and Road have shown their intention to cooperate with Chinese manufacturers," said Wu Gang, a national political advisor and chairman of wind power firm Xinjiang Goldwind Science & Technology. "We are more confident in going global under the government's favorable policies related to the BRI," said Wu, whose business has gained great market shares in Pakistan and Australia. According to the government work report, China will continue to "promote the joint pursuit" of the BRI, aiming at "shared growth through discussion and collaboration."

The News, 15-03-19

China introduces HR progress in Xinjiang at UN level

BEIJING: Chinese delegates attending a UN side-event in New York introduced to foreign diplomats the progress in human rights promotion in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

As part of the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council, the side-event was sponsored by China's Permanent Mission to the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the China Society of Human Rights Studies.

According to the official sources here, Yu Jianhua, head of the China's Mission to the UNOG, said at the side-event that today's Xinjiang enjoys faster development and greater stability than ever before, and all ethnic groups in the region have full protection for their economic, political, social, cultural, and environmental rights.

Yet for political purposes, some have spread rumors and told lies about what happens in Xinjiang in the hope of defaming China and the Chinese government. Saying that the vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang are the right choice, the Chinese diplomat stressed that China will never allow terrorism and extremism to drag Xinjiang back or to take away what the people have earned for a happy life.

The News, 15-03-19

Chinese presence in Indian Ocean a challenge: India

LONDON: Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba said that China's growing presence in the northern part of the Indian Ocean is a challenge for India but New Delhi is keeping a close eye on the deployment of Chinese ships and submarines in the region.

Admiral Lanba, who is on a four-day visit to Britain, also said that no nation has invested as much as China in shipbuilding, international media reported.

The growing presence of the Chinese navy in the Indian Ocean where it already acquired a logistic base at Djibouti has aroused concerns in India besides acquisition of the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka on a 99-year lease.

“No nation has invested as much as China in shipbuilding. It is a challenge; we keep a close eye on their presence and deployments... it is here to stay,” he said during a conversation at the Institute of Strategic Studies in London on Wednesday.

He referred to the presence of an estimated six to eight Chinese naval ships in the northern part of the Indian Ocean at any given time as well as submarines.

Admiral Lanba, during a discussion on ‘Maritime strategy and its contribution to the Indo-Pacific and global commons’, said India sees “no post-Brexit challenges” but only opportunities for greater synergies with the UK in naval cooperation.

“Over the years, our multi-faceted bilateral relations have grown from strength to strength to a sustained and mutually beneficial friendship.

We have a common perspective on maritime challenges and agree to develop a cooperative framework to face them,” Admiral Lanba said.

