



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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Business Recorder, 16-03-19

S&P 500 eases amid US-China trade uncertainty

NEW YORK: The S&P 500 slipped on Thursday, snapping a three-day streak of gains, as uncertainty over when a trade deal between the United States and China would be reached left investors on edge.

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.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping had been expected to hold a summit in Florida this month, but no date has been set. A person familiar with the matter told Reuters there “were rumblings” about a possible meeting late next month.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday that a meeting between the two was more likely to take place in April at the earliest.

Chipmakers, which rely on China for a large portion of their revenue, lost ground, with the Philadelphia SE chip index off 0.6 percent.

“The good news is mildly negative news on China trade doesn’t tip the apple cart over anymore,” said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at National Securities in New York.

“But breaking out of the next level of resistance has been a wall to get through. It shows we’re probably range-bound 2,750 to 2,800 until we get answers to China trade, Brexit etc.,” he said, referring to the level of the S&P 500.

In the latest of a series of votes, British lawmakers voted overwhelmingly on Thursday to seek a delay in Britain’s exit from the European Union.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 7.05 points, or 0.03 percent, to 25,709.94, the S&P 500 lost 2.44 points, or 0.09 percent, to 2,808.48, and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 12.50 points, or 0.16 percent to 7,630.91.

Boeing Co, the single largest US exporter to China, slipped 1 percent. The world’s largest planemaker had its own troubles this week after its money-spinning 737 MAX jets were grounded globally following a fatal crash in Ethiopia on Sunday.

Facebook Inc shares fell 1.8 percent to \$170.17 after the world’s largest social network suffered a major outage that frustrated users across the globe for about 24 hours. Facebook said it had restored the service to its main app and Instagram.

After the bell, Facebook's stock was down 1.5 percent after Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg said in a blog post that chief product officer Chris Cox will leave the social media network.

Shares of Adobe were down 2.1 percent in extended trading after the company gave a disappointing revenue forecast for the current quarter as it reported quarterly results.

During the regular session, General Electric shares rose 2.8 percent to \$10.30 after Chief Executive Larry Culp set conservative profit targets for this year and vowed for a better 2020 and beyond.

Apple Inc rose 1.1 percent to \$183.73, extending recent gains, after brokerage Cowen and Co started coverage with an "outperform" rating. An Apple-led technology rally has propped up markets recently.

On the economic front, a US Commerce Department report showed sales of new single-family homes fell more than expected in January, suggesting that housing market weakness persisted early in the first quarter.

The PHLX housing index dipped 0.5 percent on the news.

The downbeat housing data followed tame inflation reports this week, which underscored the Federal Reserve's patient stance on future interest rate hikes.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 1.24-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.33-to-1 ratio favored decliners.

The S&P 500 posted 42 new 52-week highs and no new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 66 new highs and 46 new lows.

Volume on US exchanges was 6.69 billion shares, compared to the 7.37 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 16-03-19

China stocks climb

SHANGHAI: The Chinese stock market closed higher on Friday after Premier Li Keqiang vowed strong measures to boost slowing economic growth.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was up 1 percent at 3,021.75, while the blue-chip CSI300 index was up 1.3 percent. The Shanghai index rose 1.7 percent this week, while the CSI300 gained 2.4 percent.

SI300's financial sector sub-index was higher by 1.2 percent, the consumer staples sector was up 1.3 percent, and healthcare shares rose 1 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 1.4 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 0.8 percent.

China will not let economic growth slip out of a reasonable range amid downward pressure on its economy, Li said on Friday at a press conference marking the end of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress.

The Chinese premier pledged strong measures to support growth, saying that the government could use tools such as reserve requirements and interest rates. Li added that China would cut value-added tax (VAT) for manufacturing and other sectors on April 1 and social security fees from May 1. The measures are coming after China lowered its growth target to 6 to 6.5 percent for 2019, down from around 6.5 percent last year.

But signs of economic stress kept the stock market's gains in check. Li's remarks came after China reported its slowest monthly industrial output growth in 17 years, and jobless rates rose month-on-month.

The market expects prudent measures to support growth, not a benchmark interest rate cut, said Zhang Qi, an analyst with Haitong Securities in Shanghai. "We've just been through a few tough years of deleveraging. I don't think there will be full-on loosening," he said. But the market could ride on fresh support if the Sino-US trade talks produce a positive outcome, YunnanChenye, head of China equity research at Harvest Global Investments, said in a note. "Any market correction would be a good opportunity to accumulate China shares," said the analyst.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He spoke by telephone with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, making further substantive progress on trade talks, Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.7 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 0.8 percent. So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 21.2 percent and the CSI300 has risen 24.4 percent.

About 34.12 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange. The volume in the previous trading session was 37.31 billion. The Shanghai stock index is above its 50-day moving average and above its 200-day moving average.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 16-03-19

China's iron ore hits over one week high

MANILA: Benchmark iron ore futures in China climbed to their highest in more than a week on Thursday as steel mills continued to buy raw materials, but the uncertain outlook for the country's steel demand capped further gains.

Steel prices fell, with construction steel rebar retreating after two days of gains.

The May 2019 iron ore contract, the most active on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, ended the session up 2.7 percent at 626.5 yuan (\$93.33) a ton, the highest close since March 4 and just below the day's high of 628 yuan.

"Steel mills in China have started ramping up their sintering utilization," said Darren Toh, a data scientist with Singapore-based steel and iron ore data analytics company Tivlon Technologies.

Sintering machines have reportedly been allowed to restart in some areas in China's top steelmaking city of Tangshan, which has imposed production restrictions on mills to improve air quality, but this could not be immediately verified.

"Our data analytics model is suggesting that iron ore prices are starting to firm from the second half of March onwards," Toh said, adding that Tivlon is maintaining its \$120 a ton target price by August this year.

Coke edged up 0.6 percent to 2,012 yuan a ton, but coking coal ended little changed at 1,234 yuan.

Some of the macroeconomic data in China is "quite supportive of the commodities market", said metals and mining analyst Helen Lau of Argonaut Securities.

"If you look at the property investment, it's accelerating. The fixed asset investment is stronger also and the number is in line with some market expectations, reflecting government support," she said.

Data on Thursday showed growth in China's industrial output fell to a 17-year low in the first two months of the year, pointing to further weakness in the world's second-biggest economy.

However, fixed-asset investment growth quickened to 6.1 percent as the government fast-tracked more road and rail projects.

Lau said more data is needed "to feel the pulse of the economy".

"We do not have enough data that will give a clue (on the economy's direction), that will guide the outlook," she said. "(Prices are) mainly driven by news flows, such as developments in the (US-China) trade talks."

The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange fell 0.6 percent to 3,795 yuan a ton. Hot rolled coil, used in cars and home appliances, dropped 1.3 percent to 3,713 yuan.

China's average daily steel output rose in January and February, as mills in the world's top producer ramped up production amid firm steel margins and easier environmental restrictions.—
Reuter

Business Recorder, 16-03-19

Most metals fall on uncertainty over China, global growth

LONDON: Most industrial metals prices fell on Friday as uncertainty about trade talks and global growth outweighed Chinese plans to use government levers to underpin growth.

News of a tax cut for China's industrial sector sent zinc prices and spreads lurching in Shanghai.

Premier Li Keqiang promised broad policy steps to prevent a sharper slowdown for the world's second-biggest economy, the biggest consumer of base metals.

"I think that has helped to stabilize the sentiment and calm the market, but there is still some macro uncertainty lingering, so we're not seeing a massive rally in the metals prices," said Xiao Fu, head of commodity market strategy at Bank of China International in London. "Although the trade talks are progressing, we still don't know the outcome and there's some worry about the general weaker global GDP outlook."

Benchmark aluminum on the London Metal Exchange fell into the red and shed 0.3 percent to \$1,897 a ton in closing open outcry activity. It earlier touched \$1,914, the strongest since Mar 4.

Zinc prices fluctuated wildly and Shanghai Futures Exchange (ShFE) spreads ballooned after Li said a planned cut in value-added tax (VAT) on China's manufacturing sector, which includes non-ferrous metals, would take effect from April 1.

Some speculators on the ShFE had previously bet that the planned cut in VAT would be implemented on May 1, increasing the backwardation on metals, including copper and aluminum.

The backwardation between the March and April ShFE copper contracts spiked to over 1,000 yuan a ton, the highest since May 2014, after Li's comments. The spread between April and May, previously in a steep backwardation, immediately flipped into a deep contango.

LME zinc spiked 2 percent to \$2,882 a ton, the highest since July 2, immediately after Li's comments, before profit-taking saw the metal used to galvanize steel drop 1.2 percent to close at \$2,790 a ton.

It still managed a 3 percent gain this week, its best week in six, as investors worry about tight stocks.

Low inventories and fears of production outrages have spurred a strong backwardation in LME zinc, Jinrui Futures said in a note.

There was also a dominant position in LME zinc, with one participant controlling over 90 percent of available inventories, LME data showed.

The premium for cash zinc over the three-month LME contract stood at \$45.15 on Friday, after it hit \$55 a ton a day earlier, the highest since early January.

LME copper inventories have surged 67 percent over the past two days. LME copper finished 0.4 percent firmer at \$6,432 a ton.

LME nickel finished 0.4 percent firmer at \$12,930 a ton, lead slid 2.5 percent to \$2,062 and tin fell 0.5 percent to \$21,075.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 16-03-19

Pakistan wants to improve trade ties with China: Umar RECORDER REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Asad Umar has said that Pakistan wants to improve trading relationship with China and is in the process of implementing grand long-term economic partnership China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to further strengthen these economic relations.

Speaking as chief guest at the graduation ceremony of 27th Advanced Diplomatic Course for foreign diplomats here on Friday, the finance minister stated that Pakistan has just developed a strategic framework with Turkey and draft of the framework has been exchanged between the two countries, adding Economic Strategic Council with Saudi Arabia has also been set up.

The minister further stated that Pakistan has to reach out and improve the relationship with Iran, adding that it is unfortunate that Iran has faced global isolation. He expressed the hope that Pakistan will be part of the process that would end the isolation of Iran.

The finance minister said that Pakistan is looking for South Asia to be the centre of global economic growth because 40 percent of the global population resides in China and South Asia. He said that this particular area can drive global growth for the entire world.

Asad Umar said that he is glad that although tension between Pakistan and India has eased, explaining that he used these words cautiously, yet the government is of the viewpoint that Pakistan requires to be on guard until the Indian elections are held.

“We see what happened in Balakot is directly linked to domestic Indian politics,” the finance minister said and added that the government is still committed to improving relationship not just with India but with the whole region.

The minister also stated that Prime Minister Imran Khan in his very first televised address offered India if it takes one step forward, Pakistan will take two steps and the government is still committed to that and despite the incident of Balakot, Pak extended hand of friendship to India.

“We have demonstrated that Pakistan has the capacity and will to defend itself; however in case of any adventurism by India, Pakistan would not take time that hand of friendship will be converted into a fist.”

The minister said that Pakistan over the last couple of decades owing to the circumstances thrust upon it, was relatively isolated and travelling to Pakistan was not an easy thing. However, he added that things have changed now and taking advantage of far better security conditions, the government wants to make up for the lost by opening up the country to the world.

The government is working to open up Pakistan to the world so as to share its incredible heritage of history and sacred places and things of various religions, said the minister, adding that Pakistan is full of multicultural history and society. Therefore, it belongs to the world and the government wants to make this unique history accessible to the world, Umar further stated.

He said Pakistan wants peace to return to Afghanistan and is paying role for making the ongoing dialogue constructive and successful. The Prime Minister’s stance has always been that dialogue is the only solution to the Afghan and other issues.

Later, the minister distributed certificates among 23 participants of the course from 18 countries.

Business Recorder, 16-03-19

Slow pace of CPEC projects irks Senate body

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Special Committee on Projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has expressed serious concern over slow progress as well as no timeframe for completion and inauguration of development projects under the CPEC.

The committee asked the Ministry of Development and Reform to give concrete information on the CPEC projects with groundwork, progress and timelines in next meetings instead of providing open source information.

The committee met with Senator Sherry Rehman in the chair at the Parliament House on Friday. The committee discussed the progress on the 18th JCC meeting held in Beijing, industrial zones and development projects in Gwadar.

During the briefing on projects of CEPC, Sherry Rahman and other members raised questions about the timeline and new agreements with China under phase-II of the CPEC, while the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform could not give satisfactory answers.

An official of Board of Investment (BOT) told the committee that the agreement on Rashakai Economic Zone has not been signed so far between Pakistan and China. She said BOI has settled some conditions with a Chinese company so far.

“Why is the committee not being apprised of the details of the projects? We come across more information in the newspapers compared to what’s imparted to us during the committee meetings. It is the ministry’s responsibility to address the queries of committee members, they have serious reservations that need to be heard and responded,” former Senate opposition leader Sherry Rehman said.

She expressed reservations as neither the timeline nor the terms and conditions of the CPEC projects are furnished by the government. Saying that nothing can be kept hidden from a parliamentary committee, the chair said “We are leading delegations into China, and China is asking questions. It is asking about the progress being made on the CPEC projects and here we are, kept in the dark by our government.”

The senator expressed concern on communication gaps. She said a general understanding among Pakistani people, especially regarding Special Economic Zones (SEZs), is that China would single-handedly make CPEC work. She suggested, “It would be better if Pakistan did at least half the work here and takes road shows to China to attract investors. We need the jobs and growth generated by this opportunity. Our inability to coordinate responses and streamline frameworks or build consensus should not stand in the way of momentum.”

Taking the climate impact of the CPEC into consideration, the chair asked when the issue of cleaner and greener technology would be included in the list of Pakistan’s strategic objectives. “There has been no mention of it despite the fact that Pakistan is the seventh most vulnerable country to climate change,” Rehman said.

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Khusro Bakhtyar told the committee that a total portfolio of CPEC is \$49 billion including \$28 billion for ongoing projects and \$ 21 billion for energy projects.

He said the previous government has budgeted allocation for CPEC projects under Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP). He said the PTI government has prioritized the projects and funds for these projects would be allocated in coming budget-2019-20. He said the previous government did not focus on Gwadar but now the government is going to groundbreaking of Gwadar International Airport.

He said, “We are also going to start the construction of Western Route with local funding under PSDP.” He said that the road would be constructed and work on Quetta-Zhob section at cost of Rs 65 billion would be started this year.

He said that ML-I Pakistan Railways project to be implemented in phases and its preliminary design is in final stage. He said that Eastern Corridor (Sukkur-Hyderabad) section would be constructed through BOT mode. He said that joint study on traffic density and all weather opening of Thakot -Havelian section is under process.

About the progress on socio-economic development cooperation, the minister said six areas of cooperation included agriculture, poverty alleviation, education, medical treatment, water supply and vocational training. He said that China would give \$ 1 billion grant to Pakistan for development projects for three years. He said that most of the projects would be launched in less-developed areas of the country. He said that fast track projects would be completed in one year and remaining to be completed in two to three years.

He said 300 MW power plant is in the phase of tariff determination. He said that JCC encouraged the Joint Working Group on Energy to carry out joint studies on the current power status, future needs as well as the potential of power market in Pakistan.

An official of National Highway Authority (NHA) told the committee that 90 percent work has been done on Thakot – Havelian Road and this project would be completed within four to five months.

CPEC project director Hassan Daud Butt also briefed the committee on development projects. The meeting was also attended by Senators Muhammad UsmanKakar, NuzhatSadiq, Mian Muhammad AteeqShaikh, Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi, Muhammad Akram, Aurangzeb Khan, Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shah, SaminaSaeed, SitaraAyaz and Muhammad JavedAbbasi.

Business Recorder, 17-03-19

China officially bids for 2023 Asian Cup

SHANGHAI: China has formally submitted a bid to host the 2023 Asian Cup, state media said, another sign of the country’s determination to eventually stage a football World Cup.

China has hosted the Asian Cup once before, in 2004, but its latest attempt is significant because of President Xi Jinping’s stated desire for the country to hold a World Cup.

The World Cup tournaments for 2030 or 2034 have regularly been mooted as the most likely that China will go for.

Staging the 2023 Asian Cup would help prepare China for a World Cup, but it faces stiff competition from South Korea.

Having the Asian Cup again on Chinese soil will “promote the popularization and development of football” in the country, Xinhua news agency said.

China reached the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup in the UAE at the start of this year, before going down 3-0 to Iran.

Fabio Cannavaro was named Marcello Lippi’s successor as coach of the national team on Friday.—AFP

Business Recorder, 17-03-19

Emotional Pato quits China

SHANGHAI: Brazilian forward Alexandre Pato on Saturday bid an emotional farewell to Chinese football after reportedly buying himself out of his contract at Tianjin Tianhai.

The 29-year-old former AC Milan starlet failed to appear in Tianjin’s first two games of the new Chinese Super League (CSL) season and had used social media to hit out at what he called “lies”, without naming the supposed culprit.

But Chinese media said that the former Brazil international, who joined Tianjin from Villarreal in Spain two years ago for 18 million euros, had fallen out with the club and was desperate to leave.

He has now got his wish, bringing a sour end to a spell that brought 36 goals in 60 games and saw him widely praised by Chinese football fans for seemingly settling well in the country and embracing local culture.

Pato — who has been strongly linked with a return to Brazil — is now a free agent after paying up the remainder of his contract at Tianjin, Chinese media said.

Pato has been a regular user of Weibo, China’s equivalent of Twitter, and on Saturday posted a good-bye message to “my dear Chinese friends”.

“I’d like to inform you that my adventure in China has come to an end,” he wrote in Chinese and English, saying that his arrival in 2017 in Tianjin, in China’s northeast, “was love at first sight.

“The city of Tianjin, the people, my fans: all people (are) incredible and very kind!

“I will miss them so much.

“I am quite sure that China made me grow up as a man, I visited new cities and places, I learnt new different culture and habits of this great country.”

Pato began his career at International in Brazil, attracting comparisons to Pele and the attention of Italian giants AC Milan.—AFP

Business Recorder, 17-03-19

BMW, Mercedes-Benz lower prices in China

SHANGHAI: BMW AG and Mercedes-Benz said on Saturday they will lower their prices in China, after the government announced it will reduce the country's value-added tax (VAT) starting on April 1.

The German automobile companies each published posts on Chinese social media announcing immediate price cuts for several models. The discounts come as China endures a shrinking market for automobiles as the economy slows.

BMW said it would reduce prices for both domestically produced and imported models, including the locally-made BMW 3 series and BMW 5 series, along with the BMW X5 and BMW 7 import models. The BMW 320Li M model will sell for a suggested retail price of 339,800 yuan (\$50,620), a drop of 10,000 yuan from its original price.

The reductions mark the company's "active response to the national VAT adjustment notice," BMW said in a post on WeChat, China's popular messaging app.

Daimler AG-owned Mercedes-Benz announced similar price cuts on a range of its cars, also effective immediately, in advance of the upcoming VAT drop. The cuts shown on its social media page range from 10,000 yuan to 40,000 yuan on selected models.

On March 5, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang announced that China will cut VAT across a range of industries, with the tax set to drop in the manufacturing sector from 16 percent to 13 percent and in the transport sector from 10 percent to 9 percent.

The carmakers' cuts come as China's automobile industry faces a major slowdown. In 2018, China's car market shrank 5.8 percent, marking its first contraction in over two decades.

Policymakers have introduced a range of policies to stimulate demand for cars. In January, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said it would loosen restrictions on the second-hand car market and provide subsidies to boost purchases in rural areas.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-03-19

Wall Street gains; S&P posts best week since Nov

- China's Xinhua says trade talks making progress
- Boeing gains after it says software upgrade for 737 MAX coming
- Chip stocks rally on trade optimism, Broadcom results

NEW YORK: US stocks rose on Friday, led by technology companies, as a report on progress in US-China trade talks lifted sentiment, pushing the S&P 500 to its best week since November.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency said Washington and Beijing were making substantive progress on trade talks, providing relief after news that a summit to seal a deal between the two sides would not happen at March-end.

Chipmakers, which tend to derive a large portion of their revenue from China, rose. The Philadelphia SE chip index climbed 2.9 percent while the S&P 500 technology index rose 1.2 percent.

Despite the mixed news recently on the trade front, many investors expect a deal will eventually happen, said Paul Nolte, portfolio manager at Kingsview Asset Management in Chicago. In addition, he said, "Investors are warming up to the idea that central banks have taken a huge step backward in terms of tightening."

US data showed manufacturing output fell for a second straight month in February and factory activity in New York state was weaker than expected this month.

That followed a batch of weak data this week that lent support to the Federal Reserve's dovish stance on future interest rate hikes, which has helped to lift stocks this year.

Boeing Co closed up 1.5 percent, lifting the Dow, after the world's largest planemaker said a software upgrade for the 737 MAX aircraft will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

Even so, Boeing's shares for the week lost 10.3 percent. The company's 737 MAX jets were grounded globally following a fatal crash involving one of its planes in Ethiopia on Sunday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 138.93 points, or 0.54 percent, to 25,848.87, the S&P 500 gained 14 points, or 0.50 percent, to 2,822.48 and the Nasdaq Composite added 57.62 points, or 0.76 percent, to 7,688.53.

The S&P 500 posted its best weekly gain since the end of November and NASDAQ had its best weekly gain so far this year. For the week, the S&P 500 was up 2.9 percent, the NASDAQ was up 3.8 percent, and the Dow was up 1.6 percent.

Broadcom Inc jumped 8.2 percent and was among the biggest boosts to the S&P 500 and NASDAQ, after the company late on Thursday reported a quarterly profit that beat analysts' estimates.

Photoshop maker Adobe Inc, which also reported results late Thursday, fell 4 percent after its current-quarter revenue forecast missed analysts' estimates.

Facebook Inc shares were down 2.5 percent after the social media giant said late on Thursday that Chief Product Officer Chris Cox would be leaving the company.

The stock briefly added to losses and Google-parent Alphabet lost ground after the Washington Post reported that US state attorneys general are signaling they are willing to take action against those and other companies.

Qualcomm shares climbed 2.2 percent after it won a legal victory against Apple Inc, with a jury in federal court in San Diego finding that Apple owes Qualcomm about \$31 million for infringing three of its patents.

Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 1.63-to-1 ratio; on NASDAQ, a 1.54-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

The S&P 500 posted 61 new 52-week highs and no new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 92 new highs and 41 new lows.

Volume on US exchanges was 10.8 billion shares, compared to the 7.5 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-03-19

China exchanges relax LGFV bond refinancing requirements

SHANGHAI: China's securities exchanges have relaxed requirements for local government financing platforms to roll over maturing corporate bonds, state-run China Securities Journal reported, in a move aimed at relieving debt burdens.

The exchanges communicated the less-stringent rules to market participants through verbal instructions, known as "window guidance."

Previous screening criteria which had prevented issuers that derived more than 50 percent of their revenue from government sources from issuing new bonds have been relaxed. The instructions, reported in the China Securities Journal Wednesday, were confirmed by a broker.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange declined to comment, while officials at the Shenzhen exchange weren't immediately available for comment. The broker noted that it primarily concerns local government financing vehicle (LGFV) bonds that mature within six months or that can be sold

back to issuers within that period. The move to allow LGFVs to roll over maturing bonds likely reflects a desire to ease repayment pressure and guard against default risks given significant LGFV debt maturities this year, the broker said.

Despite the relaxed rules, exchanges will strictly limit the use of funds raised to repaying maturing debt, and the companies will not be allowed to apply for new projects, a Beijing-based trader said.

“We believe this is an interim measure to help LGFVs manage refinancing risk, while also supporting infrastructure investment to shore up the economy,” S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Gloria Lu said in a statement.

“In the longer run, we believe LGFVs will continue to transform their business model, and China will rely on more transparent means to finance local government spending.”

S&P said the move signaled that Beijing is for now choosing to priorities financial stability and fiscal expansion over local-government funding reform.

A record number of Chinese issuers defaulted on bond payments last year amid a broad crackdown on shadow financing, and default risks remain high this year.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 17-03-19

Fuelled by China fears, Russians protest Baikal bottling plant

Maria Antonova

A China-funded project to bottle water from Russia’s Lake Baikal has caused a backlash in Siberia, where people are increasingly angry about what they see as a Chinese land-grab.

Ecologists and local authorities have previously touted bottling the water of the world’s largest lake as a “green” way of profiting from Siberia’s natural resources.

But a petition calling on Russian “patriots” to demand the removal of an under-construction “Chinese plant on the shores of our Lake Baikal” has gathered almost a million signatures.

The water “will be shipped to China,” the petition says, warning that the facility will block local access to the lake and “inflict irreparable damage” to the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The campaign to shut down the project has spread across social media in recent months without involvement by major environmental NGOs.

The plant was already under construction on the southern tip of the lake, which holds one-fifth of the planet’s fresh water.

But on Friday, following the backlash, a Russian court ordered that building work be halted until complaints of violations could be investigated.

The company building the plant, previously lauded by the regional government, says it is surprised by the criticism.

The plant in question, in the village of Kultuk, is built by the Russian AkvaSib company, which had plans to start production later this year.

But the financial backing comes from a company called “Baikal Lake” based in China’s Daqing, according to a statement from the Irkutsk authorities in 2017, when they gave the \$21-million project priority status.

AkvaSib representative Alexei Azarov said it passed through necessary hearings and got the green light after an environmental assessment.

“Nobody was against it” at the time, he told AFP.

Azarov said the facility would not close off village access to the lake, and would provide the locals with 150 jobs, and authorities with tax revenue.

Siberian environmentalist Alexander Kolotov said there were some problems with the plant’s location, but that the “anti-China factor is very clear” in the current protest.

The case “hits the bullseye of the fears and stereotypes of modern Russians that ‘China will gulp down our national heritage’.”

It follows similar protests against China cutting down forests across Siberia, which have led some regions to cancel agreements with Chinese companies.

Chinese presence in the region exploded after the ruble crashed in 2014 and the Russian government eased tourist visa restrictions.

As tourism and business grew, so did local distrust.

Last week a state TV report “Baikal on Tap” focused on a Chinese hotel for Chinese tourists officially listed as a private home.

The TV crew unsuccessfully tried to interview the man in charge who did not speak Russian.

“Where is your food permit?” the presenter shouted as the tourists consumed their lunch, ignoring her.

“What kind of food is this?” she asked, opening pots.

“For Siberians, there are two things that are like a red rag to a bull and cause an immediate reaction,” said Svetlana Pavlova, chief editor of Irkutsk-based IRK.ru news website.

“One is the Chinese which ‘have taken over everything and leave trash’ and the second is encroachment on the lake. And here it so happens that the company building the plant is 99%-owned by Chinese nationals.”

She said the construction boom of often illegal hotels infuriates locals because they themselves cannot get permission to build anything on protected shore.

Locals also don’t earn money from Chinese tourists who are serviced by Chinese firms on Baikal, she said.

“There has been a cumulative effect” which resulted in the anti-plant backlash, Pavlova added. “People are tired of government inaction.”

Denis Bukalov, a campaigner against the project based in Irkutsk, however said “it’s not important that it’s the Chinese”.

Construction had “ruined” the shoreline in Kultuk after the “illegal” portioning off of land, according to the campaigner.

He said the plant set a dangerous precedent.

“You can see on the map of registered land ownership that seven parcels of land are set aside for bottling water” nearby, he said.

“They will turn Baikal into a swamp,” he told AFP.

Ecologists point out the project has not accounted for its location on wetlands important for birds.

The area is a key feeding ground during migration seasons, with 130 different bird species recorded there.

Some of those have protected status, said biologist Igor Fefelov of Russian Bird Conservation Union.

This “was not even mentioned” in the plants environmental assessment, he said.

Irkutsk region governor Sergei Levchenko, who backed the plant in 2017, has flipped 180 degrees in the face of growing protest.

“The site is environmentally protected land on all sides,” he said this week. “I think this is insurmountable. I don’t see the potential for bottling water there.”

Environmentalist Kolotov said the project would likely turn off others from efforts to experiment with green businesses on the lake.

“It’s as if the project was designed especially to discredit the idea of bottling Baikal water,” he said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 18-03-19

CPEC optimism on hiatus

Sales numbers are confirming fears that commercial vehicles are reversing the growth trends that began post-2016, and the headwinds in the economy are finally explaining it. When truck sales started declining in the first half of the fiscal year, both exports and imports were up. Not anymore. In 8MFY19, trade deficit is down by 11 percent year on year, exports only up by 2 percent while in Feb-18, imports are hitting their 29-month low. Cross-border with India and Afghanistan has cooled down. Trucks sales are now down a massive 27 percent in 8M, pickups by 12 percent while CBU imports of trucks and buses have fallen by 29 percent in rupee terms (down 42% in dollar value).

Greater economic activity overall, bolstered by trade, is a trigger for commercial vehicles (CV) sales, especially in the past few years when new heavy and light CVs are being favored over old/used ones. While trade is evidently on a steep decline, another measure are petroleum product sales which have plunged by 27 percent year on year in 8MFY19 led by furnace oil decline of 60 percent and high speed diesel decline of 20 percent.

So whatever happened to all that CPEC over-optimism? Looks like it is officially on a break- at least for now (read more: “The anti-boom”, Mar 13, 2019). Fitch Solutions have forecasted a drop of 18 percent in heavy commercial vehicles sales in the upcoming year as Chinese investment decline (in 7M down 28%).

But reconcile that with this: over the past two or so years, several commercial vehicle ventures have announced investment plans in Pakistan vying for that elusive CPEC demand, or what they anticipate will happen once CPEC is here. Some of these vehicles are meant to be high strength and tenacious, fit for longer routes, offering more sophisticated logistics solutions, rather than merely to transport goods from one place to another. Renault’s Ghandhara venture and Changan’s partnership with Master Motors to assemble Italian trucks comes to mind. Meanwhile others like JW Forland’s are making cargo and dump trucks. Then there are those in the grapevine like Volkswagen or Mercedes-Benz trucks, the latter of who have signed a MoU with the National Logistic Cell (NLC).

These plans are legitimate and long term so did investors bet the wrong horse? Logistics players claim that transportation demand under CPEC is real. In one interview with BR Research, Chairman of Megamovers said that least 25,000 additional commercial vehicles are needed (based on only 75% of the total value of CPEC related goods movement), expecting 55,000 containers to flow back and forth between China and Gwadar once Gwadar Port becomes operational.

He believes the existing vehicles of the same quality in the market are only 4000 (read his interview here: Feb 4, 2019). But based on Ministry of Communication numbers, there are over 280,000 trucks on the roads of Pakistan. By that estimate, only 1 percent of the current fleet is acceptable. It is clear that the existing fleets will need to be overhauled, modernized and standardized for them to be able to cater to the demand. But until fleet managers, freight forwarders and logistic companies are ready to do that, sales will remain restrained.

Business Recorder, 18-03-19

Air pollution raises diabetes risk in China

HONG KONG: Long-term exposure to harmful smog particles increases the risk of diabetes; a new study in China has shown, providing evidence for a link between the country's air pollution and the disease.

China is facing the largest diabetes problem in the world with around 11 percent of its population suffering from the metabolic illness, according to a United States study published in 2017.

Increased prosperity has brought changing diets and lifestyles, along with an air pollution crisis that the World Health Organization estimates causes over a million premature deaths every year.

The risk of diabetes rose by about 16 percent for an increase of 10 micrograms per cubic meter in long-term PM2.5 particle exposure, researchers from Fuwai Hospital in Beijing and Emory University in the US found in a study published online by Environment International last week.

"Sustained improvement of air quality will help decrease the diabetes epidemic in China," Lu Xiangfeng, one of the study's authors, told AFP in an email. Researchers collected data from over 88,000 subjects across 15 provinces, estimating their exposure to PM2.5 based on satellite data from 2004 to 2015. PM2.5 includes toxins like sulfate and black carbon, which can penetrate deep into the lungs or cardiovascular system, and have been linked to higher rates of lung cancer, chronic bronchitis and heart disease.

While similar studies in North America, Europe, Hong Kong and Taiwan have linked air pollution with diabetes, researchers say this is the largest study of its kind in mainland China.

"Due to high levels of PM2.5, different exposure pattern and population susceptibility, results from developed countries with low PM2.5 levels were not applicable in China," Lu said.

His team adjusted for factors such as age, body mass index, smoking status, family history of

diabetes and work-related physical activity levels, but did not directly factor in dietary habits and other types of pollutants.

Ho Kin-fai, a professor at the Chinese University in Hong Kong who studies air pollutants and is not involved in the study, told AFP the study shows air pollution is a factor in the diabetes epidemic “that we cannot ignore”.

But scientists still need to find evidence showing how PM2.5 particles work in the human body to increase risk of the disease,” Ho said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 18-03-19

US-owned GPS: Military reliance will be reduced after use of China’s Beidou satellite

TAHIR AMIN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani military reliance on the US-owned Global Positioning System (GPS) will be reduced after the use of China's Beidou satellite navigation system which is projected to achieve global coverage by 2020.

This was the crux of background discussions with former military officials and telecom experts while talking to Business Recorder here on Saturday.

Beidou is the world's fourth space-based navigation system, following GPS by the United States, GLONASS by Russia and Galileo by the European Union. According to experts the satellite-based system plays a vital role in the modern world especially in war time.

According to reports when the Pakistani troops took positions in Kargil in 1999, one of the first things the Indian military sought was GPS data for the region. The space based navigation system maintained by the US denied it to India.

Chinese's Beidou has covered nearly 30 countries, including Pakistan, Egypt and Indonesia and will send six third-generation Beidou satellites into medium Earth orbits, three to inclined geosynchronous satellite orbits and two to geostationary orbits in 2019 and 2020.

A report prepared by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission states that China's Beidou satellite navigation system is projected to achieve global coverage by 2020, providing position accuracies of under ten meters (one meter or less with regional augmentation) using a network of 35 satellites.

The report further states while the U.S has provided GPS signals to users worldwide since the 1980s, China has sought to field its own satellite navigation system in order to: (i) address national security requirements by ending military reliance on GPS; (ii) build a commercial

downstream satellite navigation industry to take advantage of the quickly expanding market; and (iii) achieve domestic and international prestige by fielding one of only four such global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) yet developed, cementing China's status as a leading space power and opening the door to international cooperation opportunities.

Beidou will likely bring enhanced prestige and diplomatic opportunities for China. The system could provide Beijing with leverage to obtain more influence in several international and regional organizations that deal with global satellite navigation issues. Further, China plans to expand Beidou coverage to most of the countries covered in its "One Belt, One Road" initiative, indicating it sees the system as playing a role in its economic diplomacy efforts.

Lieutenant General ® TalatMasood said that China is a more trusted and dependable ally of Pakistan especially during periods of turmoil and conflict. Both countries want to further cement bilateral strategic relations in sensitive and security matters.

"No doubt U.S has advanced technology, but China is catching-up now which would be helpful for Pakistan as well", said Masood, adding that Chinese satellite system would reduce Pakistan's reliance on US-owned GPS.

A former Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) chairman said that currently mobile phones are not Beidou-compatible and it would take some time after the global launch expected in 2020. He maintained that the Chinese satellite system could be used for military purposes on a limited scale and once mobile handsets are Beidou-compatible, the coverage would increase dramatically.

Chinese government has set a goal that all new cars will be Beidou-guided by 2020. Domestic phone brands such as Huawei, Xiaomi and OnePlus are now Beidou-compatible, although Apple did not add the Chinese system to its new line-up of iPhones.

UniStrong Science and Technology Co, a Beijing-headquartered global navigation satellite system, positioning and timing service provider, has established a regional Beidou navigation satellite system network consisting of five base stations and one processing center in Karachi on May 21, 2014.

Pakistan has become the first foreign country to use China based GPS system made by Beidou. While speaking to the annual China satellite navigation conference in Nanjing, Chief Scientist of UniStrongShen Jun had stated that the first stage of Pakistan's geographic positioning network has been completed with the network covering Karachi.

The company claimed that the GPS can provide positioning with accuracy of up to two centimeters. However, it added that the accuracy can extend up to five millimeters after post-processing.

GPS can help with urban planning, surveying and mapping environmental supervision, disaster relief efforts, and traffic monitoring.

Beidou satellites will cover all nations involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, the satellite officer said. The Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt, which will link China with Europe through Central and Western Asia, and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The initiative is estimated to benefit about 4.4 billion people in 65 nations.

Business Recorder, 18-03-19

US, UK, China top in export of country's 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 \$2.364 billion against the exports of \$2.237 billion 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 \$1.039 billion against the exports of \$1.010 billion last year, showing growth of 2.82 percent.

China was the at third where Pakistan exported products worth \$1.032 billion 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 were recorded at \$596.619 million against \$619.427 million whereas 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 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.

Pakistan's exports to Indonesia were recorded at \$162.224 million during the current fiscal year compared to \$939.58 million last year, the exports to Singapore stood at \$156.999 million against \$158.231 million, to Kenya \$127.398 million against \$175.809 million whereas the exports to Japan stood at \$126.958 million during the current year against \$132.060 million during last year.—APP

Business Recorder, 19-03-19

EU trade surplus with US expands, deficit with China up

BRUSSELS: The European Union's trade surplus with the United States and its deficit with China both increased in January, serving as potential fuel for trade conflicts between the world's largest economies.

The EU surplus in goods trade with the United States expanded to 11.5 billion euros (\$13.0 billion) in January, from 10.1 billion in January 2018, EU statistics office Eurostat said. With China, the EU deficit also increased to 21.4 billion euros, from 20.8 billion euros a year earlier.

US President Donald Trump has complained repeatedly about Europe's trade surplus with his country, imposing tariffs to curb imports of EU steel and aluminum and threatening to do the same for the much larger trade in cars and car parts. China's trade surplus with the European Union is also a source of tension between the two, with the bloc taking a firmer line towards Beijing, for example setting out a 10-point plan to balance economic ties and pushing China to open up.

As a whole, the EU trade deficit in goods was 24.9 billion euros in January from 21.4 billion euros in January 2018. For the euro zone, its trade surplus dropped to 1.5 billion euros from 3.1 billion euros.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the euro zone's overall surplus rose slightly on the month and the EU's trade deficit dipped in January compared with December 2018.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 19-03-19

China hits out at ‘abnormal, immoral’ attacks on Huawei

BRUSSELS: China’s foreign minister lashed out Monday at “abnormal, immoral” attacks on Huawei amid growing concern, led by the US that the telecom giant poses a security risk to the West.

Wang Yi demanded a “fair and just competition environment” for Chinese firms as he met EU foreign ministers and officials for talks in Brussels.

His call comes as Washington steps up pressure on allies, particularly in Europe, to shut Huawei out of tenders for fast fifth-generation, or 5G, telecom networks, because of the firm’s ties to the Chinese government.

“China hopes all countries will create a fair and just competition environment for companies of all countries,” Wang told reporters.

“What we oppose is groundless accusations out of political purposes and attempts to bring down a foreign company. We think such practices are abnormal, immoral and have no support from other countries.”

Huawei strenuously denies allegations its equipment could be used for espionage and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang insisted Friday that Beijing would “never” ask its firms to spy on other nations.

A law recently enacted by Beijing obliging Chinese companies to aid the government on national security has added to concerns about Huawei just as European countries begin planning 5G infrastructure.

The US has said the company poses a “threat” to Europe and last week NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance took these concerns seriously. Several Western countries have followed the US lead in barring Huawei from bidding for 5G tenders but Wang urged Europe not to be swayed by US pressure.

“We hope and we believe European countries and other countries will have independence in making their own choice and their own judgment,” he said.

Wang also hit back at a new EU policy document published last week outlining a shift to more assertive relations with Beijing.

The 10-point plan called for more balanced ties, warning that China was a “rival” to the bloc as well as its biggest trading partner.

In response Wang insisted China and the EU were “comprehensive strategic partners” and laid out his own 10-point plan for greater cooperation.

His comments found an echo in EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini, who stressed common ground between the two sides and insisted that last week's policy document was primarily aimed at informing internal debate in Brussels.—AFP

Business Recorder, 19-03-19

Xi to visit Italy, France as Rome joins 'new Silk Road'

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to Italy, Monaco and France this week, the foreign ministry said Monday, with Rome expected to join his global trade infrastructure programme despite reservations in other European countries.

Beijing has financed infrastructure, maritime, rail and road projects in Asia, Africa and Europe, but critics warn that it mainly benefits Chinese firms while setting up a "debt trap" in more financially vulnerable countries.

Xi will pay state visits from Thursday to March 26, according to the foreign ministry.

An Italian official said last week Rome would sign a non-binding memorandum of understanding with Beijing to officially support Xi's massive \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the New Silk Road.

In Italy, Xi will hold talks with President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, as well as parliamentary leaders, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing.

"The cooperation between China and Italy under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative is mutually beneficial," Geng said when asked about US criticism of BRI.

Following Italy's announcement, French President Emmanuel Macron said European Union countries should have a "coordinated approach" to Beijing.

"It's a good thing that China is participating in the development of many countries, but I believe in the spirit of equality, reciprocity. The spirit of equality means respecting the sovereignty of nations," Macron said.

Xi will be the first Chinese president to visit Monaco and will hold talks with Prince Albert II during the trip, Geng said.

The visit to the Mediterranean principality is of "historic significance to the development of China-Monaco relations," he added.

In France, Xi will meet with Macron, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe and parliamentary leaders, Geng said.

“The two sides have been maintaining close communication and coordination on maintaining multilateralism, improving global governance, and addressing major issues such as climate change,” he added.—AFP

Business Recorder, 19-03-19

China stocks near 6-1/2 months high

SHANGHAI: China’s major stock indexes closed near their 6-1/2-month highs on Monday, as sentiment was bolstered by high expectations of the US Federal Reserve taking a dovish stance at its policy meeting this week and Beijing’s policy boost for growth.

At the close, the blue-chip CSI300 index settled 2.9 percent higher at 3,851.75 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index ended up 2.5 percent at 3,096.42 points.

At close, both indexes were within sight of their highs since late May, 2018.

There is much talk Fed policymakers will lower their interest rate forecasts, or “dot plots”, to show little or no further tightening this year.

The Chinese government has additional monetary policy measures that it can take to support economic growth this year, and will even cut “its own flesh” to help finance large-scale tax cuts, Premier Li Keqiang said on Friday.

Li’s comments suggest Beijing is ready to roll out more stimulus measures to ensure the economy grows within a targeted range of 6.0 to 6.5 percent.

“Overall we are very optimistic about China’s stock market and continue to be bullish after the recent recovery,” Laura Wang, China equity strategist at Morgan Stanley, said at a media briefing, citing improvement in corporate earnings, Beijing’s policies to bolster growth and progress in Sino-US trade talks.

There is a 10-15 percent potential upside for the A-share market, she said, recommending that global investors further hike their exposure to Chinese stocks.

Consumer firms led the advance on the mainland, with the CSI consumer staples index closing 6.0 percent higher, as those companies are widely seen as beneficiary of Beijing’s measures to boost domestic consumption.

The sub-index marked its best session since July 10, 2015.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.82 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 0.62 percent.

At 07:06 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7106 per US dollar, 0.05 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.714.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Xining Special Steel Co Ltd, up 10.1 percent, followed by Xinjiang Ba Yi Iron & Steel Co Ltd, gaining 10.09 percent and Zhengzhou Coal Industry & Electric Power Co Ltd, up by 10.09 percent.

The largest percentage losses in the Shanghai index were Zhonglu Co Ltd down 9.97 percent, followed by Zhonglu Co Ltd losing 6.91 percent and Shanghai Feilo Acoustics Co Ltd down by 6.13 percent. So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 24.2 percent and the CSI300 has risen 27.9 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 14.8 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.29 percent this month.

About 39.78 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 118.0 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 33.72 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 34.12 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 19-03-19

Trade war cuts US LNG exports to China

WASHINGTON: Only one liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessel that left the United States in 2019 went to China, Reuters shipping data show, as the eight-month trade war between the two nation's starts to cool.

The governments of the world's two largest economies have been locked in a tariff battle as Washington presses Beijing to address longstanding concerns over Chinese practices around technology transfers, market access and intellectual property rights.

The countries are working to achieve a trade deal that matches their interests, including eliminating tit-for-tat tariffs.

The only vessel to head to China from the United States this year was the Adam LNG, which left Chinese Energy Inc's Sabine Pass export terminal in Louisiana on Jan. 30, according to the shipping data.

The data shows a handful of LNG vessels from the United States in the Pacific Ocean, some of which could end up in China.

In 2018, 27 LNG vessels went from the United States to China, down from 30 in 2017. Most of those, however, left US ports before the trade war started in mid-2018, with 18 tankers going to China in the first half of the year and just nine during the second half.

The United States and China started imposing tariffs on each other's goods in July. As the dispute heated up, China added LNG to its list of proposed tariffs in August and imposed a 10-percent tariff on LNG in September.

The United States is the world's fastest-growing exporter of LNG, while China is the fastest-growing importer of the fuel as the government weans the country off coal to reduce pollution.

In 2017, China imported about \$447 million, or about 15 percent, of the LNG shipped from the United States, making it the third biggest buyer of the US fuel.

Prior to the slowdown, China was on track to import 141.6 billion cubic feet (bcf) of US LNG in 2018, up from 103.4 bcf in 2017 and 17.2 bcf in 2016. It imported no US LNG in 2015.

In total, however, China bought just 93.9 bcf of US LNG in 2018, worth about \$426 million.

One billion cubic feet of gas is enough to fuel about 5 million US homes for a day.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 19-03-19

China's iron ore futures rise to two-week high

MANILA: Iron ore prices in China rose on Friday, with the benchmark futures contract extending a modest rally to close at the highest in two weeks, after some steel mills were reportedly allowed to resume sintering operations.

But steel futures dropped further, with steel rebar falling 0.6 percent for the week, the first weekly decline in four weeks, as concerns persist over a weak demand outlook amid high Chinese output.

The May 2019 iron ore contract, the most active on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, rose 1.5 percent to 627 yuan (\$93.32) a ton.

Spot iron ore for delivery to China, with 62 percent iron content, rose for a second day on Thursday to \$87 a ton from \$85.50 the day before, according to Steel Home consultancy.

“The Chinese steel hub of Tangshan removed emergency restrictions on sinter plants, which had been in place since the start of the month,” ANZ said.

Sintering is a process where raw iron ore is heated and compressed into larger mass before smelting into steel.

Tangshan had last week extended a level 1 smog alert that was due to be lifted on March 6 due to unfavorable weather. That level is the highest in China's four-tier pollution warning system.

Under such alert level, steel mills are required to curb output by 40 percent to 70 percent or even stop production, depending on the scale of their emissions.

Coking coal futures were also higher, with the benchmark contract up 0.4 percent at 1,237 yuan a ton. But coke edged down 0.3 percent to 1,994 yuan.

The most-active rebar contract, also expiring in May, on the Shanghai Futures Exchange dropped 0.8 percent to 3,763 yuan a ton. Hot rolled coil fell 1.4 percent to 3,673 yuan.

While near-term steel demand in China is expected to pick up as construction activity resumes after winter, the overall outlook is uncertain as the latest data suggests weakness in the world's second-biggest economy.

"Investors continue to fret about Chinese demand," ANZ said in a note.

Average daily steel output in China in January and February reached 2.54 million tons, up from 2.46 million tons in December and 2.32 million tons in the same months last year, according to Reuters calculations based on official data.

Data on Thursday also showed growth in China's industrial output fell to a 17-year low in the first two months of the year and the jobless rate rose, but property investment picked up.

Premier Li Keqiang, speaking at his annual news conference on Friday, said China's economy is facing additional downward pressure but Beijing will not let economic growth slip out of a reasonable range.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 20-03-19

Commitment to CPEC reaffirmed

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing on Tuesday. The dialogue was co-chaired by China's State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Pakistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

During the Dialogue, the two sides undertook in-depth discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, trade, investment and economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts and regional and international issues, says a press release issued here.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their time-tested and All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and agreed to maintain regular two-way high-level political and official exchanges.

They expressed commitment to translate the vision of the leadership into building a closer China-Pakistan community of Shared Future in the New Era.

The two sides reaffirmed support to each other on all core issues of their national interest. They underlined that state sovereignty and territorial integrity are cardinal principles of UN Charter and international law. Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for de-escalation of tensions in South Asia and underlined the need for dialogue and peaceful means to resolve all outstanding disputes.

The two sides also agreed to further intensify cooperation with regular meetings of all bilateral mechanisms to take forward practical cooperation in respective fields. They agreed to strengthen people-to-people contacts, cultural cooperation and tourism. It was noted that China and Pakistan are celebrating 2019 as the year of sister-cities exchanges.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed the commitment to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and agreed to continue the smooth implementation of CPEC projects, especially its Special Economic Zones. While rejecting the negative propaganda against the CPEC, they expressed a strong resolve to safeguard CPEC from all kinds of threats.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation against terrorism by strengthening communication and coordination in relevant fields. The Chinese side highly appreciated Pakistan's commitment and efforts to counter terrorism. The foreign minister of Pakistan expressed appreciation for Chinese support for Pakistan's efforts.

The two foreign ministers discussed the situation in Afghanistan and expressed support for the ongoing efforts for peace and reconciliation. Both sides reiterated support for an Afghan-owned Afghan-led inclusive peace process and called on all stakeholders in Afghanistan to become part of an intra-Afghan dialogue. They also urged all sides to show flexibility to find a durable solution to the Afghan conflict.

The two sides agreed to continue their mutual collaboration at the regional multilateral and international forums. They expressed their support for consensus-based reform of the United Nations so that it responds to the interests and concerns of all Member States.

Business Recorder, 20-03-19

China briefed about deteriorating situation in IoK

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told his Chinese counterpart on Tuesday of the rapidly deteriorating situation and rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir, and called for India to look again at its policies there.

Speaking in Beijing standing alongside the Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councilor Wang Yi, Qureshi said his country appreciated the role China played once again "in standing by Pakistan in these difficult times".

“I also briefed the foreign minister on the rapidly deteriorating situation on the Indian side of Kashmir, intensification of human rights violations, especially after Pulwama,” he said, referring to where the attack took place. “This is a concern because that leads to a reaction and that reaction at times creates tensions in the region which must be avoided,” Qureshi added.

“I think there’s a need for a new assessment on how the situation on the Indian occupied Kashmir should be handled by the Indians. There are now voices within India that are questioning the efficacy of the policy that they’ve followed for the last so many years,” he said, without elaborating. Wang, who is also China’s foreign minister, said China has always believed that peace and stability in South Asia is in the joint interests of countries in the region and is what the international community wishes. “China appreciates Pakistan’s constructive efforts to ease the situation and calls on Pakistan and India to continue to exercise restraint and resolve the differences that exist via dialogue and peaceful means.”

The sparring after the Pulwama attack had threatened to spiral out of control and only interventions by US officials, including National Security Adviser John Bolton, headed off a bigger conflict, five sources familiar with the events have told Reuters.

At one stage, India threatened to fire at least six missiles at Pakistan, and Islamabad said it would respond with its own missile strikes “three times over”, said Western diplomats and government sources in New Delhi, Islamabad and Washington.

In a faxed statement to Reuters late on Monday, responding to a question on China’s role in reining in the crisis, its foreign ministry said peaceful coexistence between Pakistan and India was in everyone’s interest.

“As a friendly neighbor of both India and Pakistan, China pro-actively promoted peace talks and played a constructive role in easing the tense situation,” it said.

“Some other countries also made positive efforts in this regard,” the ministry added.

China is willing to work with the international community to continue to encourage the neighbors to meet each other half way and use dialogue and peaceful means to resolve differences, it said, without elaborating. China and Pakistan call each other “all-weather” friends, but China has also been trying to improve ties with New Delhi.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held an informal summit in China last year agreeing to reset relations, and Xi is expected to visit India sometime this year, diplomatic sources say.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 20-03-19

US accuses Russia, China of undermining space peace push

GENEVA: The US on Tuesday accused Russia and China of raising the risk of conflict in space, notably by developing anti-satellite weapons, as diplomats held talks on a treaty to keep space peaceful.

The closed-door negotiations in Geneva involving experts from 25 governments — including the US, China and Russia — are aimed at laying the groundwork for a legally-binding text to prevent an arms race in outer space. Beijing and Moscow pushed for the discussions that run through March 28, which experts have said may show results despite the grim climate for disarmament diplomacy. But addressing the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, US assistant secretary of state Yleem Poblete questioned whether China and Russia were sincerely committed to the talks. “How can we believe (Russia is) serious about preventing an arms race in outer space when they are the ones that are developing ground-launched anti-satellite weapons?” Poblete asked.—AFP

Business Recorder, 20-03-19

Chinese iron ore futures rise to 2-week high

BEIJING: Chinese iron ore futures rose by more than 3 percent to a two-week high on Monday, supported by concerns over tight supply of the steel-making raw material after Vale SA announced further production cuts.

The Brazilian miner said on Saturday that it would cut production at an iron ore mine in the state of Minas Gerais with annual capacity of 12.8 million tons and will also suspend operations at its Doutor dam.

This comes on top of the temporary closure of its Brucutu mine and other mines in southern states, which were expected to affect 70 million tons a year of production capacity.

“(The new closures) were not expected,” analysts from Jefferies said in a note. “It takes total expected gross capacity closures from Vale to a run rate of 83 million tons per year, which equates to a significant 5.7 percent of the seaborne iron ore market.”

The most-active iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange jumped as much as 3.6 percent to 645 yuan a ton, their highest since March 4, before closing up 1.6 percent at 632.50 yuan.

The impact of supply disruptions has been partly offset by falling demand at Chinese steel mills after local governments stepped up environmental restrictions ahead of the end of the winter anti-smog campaign in late-March.

Utilization rates at steel mills across the country continued to fall last week, easing to 62.29 percent as of March 15, their lowest level in a year, data compiled by consultancy Mysteel

showed. Benchmark construction steel rebar prices on the Shanghai Futures Exchange closed down 0.4 percent at 3,781 yuan a ton, while hot-rolled coil futures for May delivery climbed 0.5 percent to 3,697 yuan.

Among other steel-making raw materials, coke fell for a third session, closing down 1.1 percent at 1,968 yuan a ton and coking coal finished 0.9 percent lower at 1,231 yuan a ton.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 20-03-19

Indexes pare gains sharply after report of China pushback on trade

NEW YORK: Wall Street's main indexes pared gains sharply on Tuesday following a Bloomberg report that US officials are concerned China is pushing back against American demands in trade talks.

US stocks were much higher earlier as investors anticipated a more accommodative policy stance from the Federal Reserve at the end of its two-day meeting this week.

At 12:58 p.m. ET the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 63.01 points, or 0.24 percent, at 25,977.11, the S&P 500 was up 8.30 points, or 0.29 percent, at 2,841.24 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 25.39 points, or 0.33 percent, at 7,739.87.

Moments before the report, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 145.46 points, or 0.56 percent, at 26,059.56. The S&P 500 was up 14.68 points, or 0.52 percent, at 2,847.62 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 45.53 points, or 0.59 percent, at 7,760.01.

A flurry of downbeat economic data this month has supported market expectations that the Fed may reinforce a halt to further interest rates hikes. The meeting concludes its deliberations with a news conference on Wednesday.

Of particular interest to investors are the individual interest rate forecasts of policymakers, as well as any details on plans to reduce Fed's holdings in bonds.

"We're seeing stocks run up a little bit in anticipation of the Fed announcing no hike in 2019 and a curtailment of the balance sheet runoff," said Bryan Reilly, managing director at CIBC US Private Wealth Management in Boston.

The consumer discretionary sector provided the biggest boost to the benchmark S&P 500 as Amazon.com Inc rose 1.9 percent.

Also supporting markets were technology stocks.

Rate-sensitive financial stocks rose 0.24 percent, boosted by the big US lenders. The bank sub-sector gained 0.26 percent, up for the fifth straight session.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 20-03-19

China shares lower

SHANGHAI: China's main stock indexes ended lower on Tuesday, pulling back from near 6-1/2-month highs in the previous session, on profit taking, but losses were limited by hopes for continued government support for the economy and a dovish US Fed.

The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.18 percent to 3,090.98.

The blue-chip CSI300 index was down 0.46 percent, with its financial sector sub-index lower by 0.54 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 0.18 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index added 0.11 percent.

China's housing ministry said it would slash the time needed to obtain approvals for housing projects, in line with China's intent to speed up infrastructure spending this year and have a construction boom as part of its efforts to lift domestic demand and economic growth, which has slowed.

Investors are also looking to the policy meeting of the US Federal Reserve this week for signs of dovishness, including whether policymakers have lowered their interest rate forecasts to more closely align their "dot plot", a diagram showing individual policymakers' rate views for the next three years.

In contrast to broader market declines, nuclear power-related stocks surged after environmental impact assessments (EIA) for two nuclear power plant projects were submitted for approval to regulators on Monday, a vital stage in the resumption of China's atomic energy programme after a three-year halt in new approvals.

State-owned China National Nuclear Power jumped as much as 10 percent to its highest since April 2018, before trimming gains. It closed up 2.94 percent.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index eased 0.02 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed down 0.08 percent.

At 07:15 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7188 per US dollar, 0.08 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.7135.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Lanzhou LS Heavy Equipment Co Ltd, up 10.09 percent, followed by Hunan Chen Dian International Development Co Ltd, gaining 10.04 percent and Jiangsu Rutong Petro-Machinery Co Ltd, up by 10.04 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Huayi Electric Co Ltd, down 8.15 percent, followed by Eastern Communications Co Ltd that lost 7.83 percent and Zhonglu Co Ltd which fell 5.91 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 23.9 percent and the CSI300 has risen 27.3 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 15.1 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.1 percent this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 21-03-19

Qureshi co-chairs first meeting of political parties forum on CPEC

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said the Political Parties Forum on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would further enhance mutual understanding and reinforce collective commitment to create a favorable environment for CPEC.

He expressed these remarks in his keynote speech at the first meeting of the Political Parties Forum on CPEC held here.

The meeting was organized by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee at Diaoyutai State Guest House here.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood co-chaired the forum along with Minister International Department of the CPC Central Committee Song Tao. The Foreign Minister and the IDCPC minister also delivered their keynote speeches.

Addressing the forum, Shah Mahmood said the platform would further strengthen the consensus between the two countries and reinforce our time-tested bilateral relations.

Welcoming the Foreign Minister, Song Tao said CPEC is the flagship project of BRI and the Forum would enhance people-to-people contacts and apprehend new trends for people-centric development in the region.

National Assembly of Pakistan Deputy Speaker Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, and Senate CPEC Committee chairman Senator Sherry Rehman led delegations of PTI, PML-N, and PPP respectively. Balochistan Governor Amanullah Khan led a combined delegation of political parties from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including representatives of ANP, NP, JUI-F, BAP, BNP, PPP, PTI and PkMAP. Representatives from IDCPC, NDRC, EXIM Bank, SOEs, think tanks and media also attended the forum from Chinese side. During the forum, stakeholders from both sides exchanged in-depth views on the development of CPEC and its future trajectory.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Muhammad Qasim Khan Suri, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator Sherry Rehman, Governor Balochistan Amanullah Khan, Jan Mohammad, Province Omar Ahmadzai, Shagufta Malik, Mohammad Akbar, Nasrullah Khan Barach, and Mahmood Ahmad shared their views from Pakistan side.

Participants of the Forum expressed fullest support to the upcoming second Forum of the Belt and Road Initiative that will be held in Beijing next month.

At the end of forum, all stakeholders unanimously adopted ‘Beijing Declaration’.

The participants reiterated their unwavering commitment to CPEC. They agreed to further enhance intra-party exchanges, discussions and cooperation.

They rejected negative propaganda against CPEC, which is an inclusive project of win-win cooperation, mutual development and prosperity.

The next meeting of the Forum would be held in Pakistan.—APP

Business Recorder, 21-03-19

China market: coal out in the cold

Though China maintains there is no ban, China-bound Australian coal shipments are looking for a new home. For the past few months, coal cargoes are being re-routed to other Asian countries open for business; but at lower prices. Traders have complained that custom clearances times are dramatically up on the Chinese ports, taking on average 45 days to offload, compared to 10-12 days earlier with volumes limited to a few thousands of tons. What appears to be a Chinese indirect restriction on Australian coal in particular—Australia being second biggest exporter of coal to China—the Australian dollar dropped by 1 percent following news of the apparent ban with prices under pressure in the overall market. Too bad for coal miners but great news for coal importers.

According to a Reuters report, Australian Thermal Coal price per ton was \$92.53 the past week, down from prior week’s \$95.18. In the week of Feb 17, 2019 last month, the price was \$89.46 at a 19-month low. Month-end data of Feb-19 shows that coal prices are down 10 percent since this month last year, and by 19 percent since Aug-18. Though some mysterious Chinese sources have told the media that China has put a cap on Australian coking coal and thermal coal imports which in 2018 stood at 39 million tons and 49 million tons respectively—both over 20 percent of Australian global exports in the commodities. Meanwhile, there are no such barriers on Indonesian or Russian coal. Analysts believe the ban may be politically inclined (Australian government has recently put a ban on Huawei from building a 5G network) but Chinese official word is that the policy is targeting “environmental protection”, not any particular country. According to officials, China is running safety and quality checks—which include radioactivity tests—at the ports which is causing the delays. This is apparently to safeguard the environment and coal importers in the country, though it doesn’t make sense why coal from other countries are getting a free pass. In fact, analysts believe this move is simply to safeguard the interests of domestic Chinese coal miners who are battling Australian imports which are preferred in the market due to their higher productivity. The move may even backfire since importers will be racing to the doors of other higher-grade coal producers like Indonesia.

It has been argued by Wood Mackenzie's Research Director to the Financial Review that a prolonged ban may have adverse implications. It could raise Chinese steel makers' prices since they will be using domestic coal whereas excess volumes of Australian coal will flood the markets that would depress coal prices. However, the restriction is limited to a few ports so far. According to Refinitiv, the financial markets arm of Reuters, the pricing is not indicative of a massive slowdown in China's coal imports. There aren't dramatic changes in volumes either, though the speed of vessel offloading in March may be foretelling a challenging future.

Business Recorder, 21-03-19

Chinese iron ore prices rise for sixth day

BEIJING: Chinese iron ore prices rose for a sixth straight session on Tuesday as Brazil's Vale faced further restrictions at its iron ore operations, adding to concerns about tight supply of the steelmaking raw material.

A Brazilian court on Monday ordered Vale, the world's largest iron ore miner, to halt operations at two more dams, adding pressure on the miner to prove that its remaining dams are safe.

Analysts expect restrictions at Vale's operations following January's deadly dam collapse that killed some 300 people will reduce its iron ore output by 64 million to 83 million tons on an annual basis.

"Iron ore prices will continue to stay strong, driven by both supply disruption and firm demand," analysts from CITIC Futures said in a note in Mandarin.

"Steel mills in China are expected to replenish their stocks as their inventory has fallen to a low level," they added.

Vale, meanwhile, said it is now able to resume iron ore shipping operations at the IlhaGuaiba port terminal in Rio de Janeiro state, from where it ships around 40 million tons of iron ore per year.

Brazil's iron ore shipments for the first two weeks of March averaged 1.29 million tons per day, below 1.44 million tons in February and 1.42 million tons in March last year, according to trade ministry data.

The most-traded iron ore contract for May delivery on the Dalian Commodity Exchange closed up 0.2 percent at 636 yuan (\$94.66) a ton.

Prices of rebar, a construction steel product widely used in the property and infrastructure sector, rose as Beijing vowed to speed up construction project approvals to push for growth.

It closed 0.3 percent higher to 3,788 yuan a ton.

Manufacturing-grade steel hot-rolled coil stayed little changed at 3,699 yuan.

Other steel-making raw materials fell on Monday, curbed by weak demand as steel mills were ordered by local governments to trim output.

Coking coal prices dipped 0.5 percent to 1,277.5 yuan, while coke futures lost 1.1 percent to 1,964 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 21-03-19

China tariffs may remain for ‘substantial period’: Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said Wednesday that US tariffs on Chinese imports could remain in place for a “substantial period,” dampening hopes that a new trade agreement would see them lifted soon.

Top American trade negotiators are due to travel to Beijing next week for a fresh round of talks.

And US officials said this month they were in the final stages of negotiations on resolving the eight-month trade war with China but neither country has predicted a successful outcome.

Washington and Beijing are battling over the final shape of an agreement that both sides have said they would like to reach, with American officials demanding profound changes to Chinese industrial policy.

“We are talking about leaving them for a substantial period of time,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “We have to make sure that if we do the deal with China, that China lives by the deal.”

Trump also said the trade talks were “coming along nicely.”

But American officials have insisted that any agreement have teeth — including the ability to impose tariffs unilaterally should China begin backsliding on any commitments to end alleged unfair trade practices.

Over the last eight months, the United States and China have slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way goods trade, weighing on the manufacturing sectors in both countries.

On Friday, China’s rubber-stamp parliament approved a foreign investment law to strengthen protections for intellectual property — a central US grievance — but critics said the bill was rammed through without sufficient time for input from businesses.

China has expressed willingness to increase purchases of American commodities such as energy and soybeans but analysts say they will be reluctant to accede to American demands that could weaken the communist party’s hold on power — such as fully exposing state enterprises to market forces.

Trump initially said he expected to seal any final bargain at a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping later this month but that expectation has faded as momentum in the talks has slowed.

Despite Trump's trade wars, the US trade deficit with China last year hit a fresh all-time record, as avid US consumers drew in foreign-made goods while weakened US sales of agricultural commodities weighed on American exports.

Wall Street shuddered at the news, with the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average down 0.7 percent on the day toward 1730 GMT, with markets also heavily focused on the outcome of the latest policy meeting of the Federal Reserve.—AFP

Business Recorder, 21-03-19

China stocks flat

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks were little changed on Wednesday ahead of the Federal Reserve's interest rate decision later in the day and on uncertainty surrounding Sino-US trade negotiations. The Shanghai Composite index was flat at 3,090.64 points. The blue-chip index was also unchanged.

CSI300's financial sector sub-index rose 0.7 percent, the consumer staples sector slipped 0.2 percent, while the healthcare shares slid 0.3 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index fell 0.2 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index declined 1.2 percent.

The US Federal Reserve is due to announce its interest rate decision later on Wednesday. The central bank will remain patient for a little longer than thought just last month, waiting until the third quarter before raising rates once more, and then stay on the sidelines, a Reuters poll of economists showed.

But "there is the risk of a communication mistake... that the Fed accidentally sends the message that it is very worried about the US and global outlook, and that the next move is in fact a rate cut," Thomas Costerg, a senior US economist at Pictet Wealth Management, said in a note this week.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin plan to travel to China next week for a new round of trade talks with Chinese vice Premier Liu He, a White House official said on Tuesday. But a Bloomberg report on Tuesday said that progress in the talks was slowing as Chinese officials have "stepped back" from some initial promises they made on improving intellectual property protections demanded by the United States. That contrasted with a Wall Street Journal report claiming Liu would travel to Washington in the week of April 1 as the two sides aim for a deal by the end of the month, and cited unnamed administration officials as saying that the trade talks were in the final stages.

Technical also limited A-shares' upward room. The Shanghai index had faced pressure in previous sessions above 3,100 points and "may continue to stay volatile," Galaxy Securities' analysts wrote in a note on Wednesday. "(Investors) should pay attention to the strength of relevant policy (support)." 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 23.9 percent and the CSI300 has risen 27.4 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.1 percent this month.

About 35.86 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, slightly higher than the previous session's 35.09 billion. The largest percentage gainer in the main Shanghai Composite index was Xinjiang Tianfu Energy Co Ltd, up 10.1 percent, while the largest percentage loser was Shenzhen Sunxing Light Alloys Materials Co Ltd, down 8.2 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-03-19

China's iron ore futures fall nearly 6pc

BEIJING: China's iron ore futures plunged nearly 6 percent on Wednesday, their biggest intraday fall in three months, on expectation of higher supply as Vale SA is set to resume work at its largest iron ore mine in Minas Gerais state.

The Brazilian miner said on Tuesday a local court had cleared the way for it to resume operations at the Brucutu mine, which has been halted since early February after the collapse of a dam killed 300 people.

The mine has an installed capacity of 30 million tons of iron ore, or around 8 percent of Vale's planned annual production in Brazil. The miner now needs approval from local authorities to resume work.

"It is not clear to us whether a restart is now imminent... if this mine does come back online, it would alleviate some of the expected tightness in the iron ore market," analysts from Jefferies said in a note.

Market was expecting at least 64 million tons of output reduction after Vale said last week it would cut production further.

The most-traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange slumped as much as 5.7 percent when the market opened. It settled down 3.8 percent at 613.5 yuan (\$91.40). Meanwhile, Australian iron ore miners increased shipments while their Brazilian rival was struggling to cope with operation disruptions.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-03-19

Shanghai stocks rises on dovish Fed stance

SHANGHAI: Shanghai stocks edged higher on Thursday, after the US Federal Reserve took a more accommodative stance at its policy meeting.

The blue-chip CSI300 index was unchanged at 3,836.89 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed up 0.3 percent at 3,101.46 points.

In comments at the end of a two-day policy meeting on Wednesday, the Fed abandoned projections for any interest rate hikes this year amid signs of an economic slowdown, and said it would halt the steady decline of its balance sheet in September.

Meanwhile, there are concerns about valuations as major Chinese stock indexes trade near nine-month highs, amid lingering concerns about trade talks with the United States.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned that Washington may leave tariffs on Chinese goods for a “substantial period” to ensure Beijing’s compliance with any trade deal.

China-US trade talks are set to resume next week.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.4 percent.

At 07:07 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.6794 per US dollar, 0.22 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.6943.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite index were Gansu Yasheng Industrial Group Co Ltd, up 10.14 percent, followed by Aurora Optoelectronics Co Ltd, gaining 10.1 percent and Chengdu B-ray Media Co Ltd, adding 10.09 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Guangzhou Restaurant Co Ltd, down 7.53 percent, followed by Wuxi Hongsheng Heat Exchanger Manufacturing Co Ltd, which lost 6.52 percent and Shanghai Greencourt Investment Group Co Ltd that declined 6.31 percent. So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 24.4 percent and the CSI300 has risen 27.4 percent, while China’s H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 14.4 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.46 percent this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 22-03-19

China agrees to grant zero-rated facility: Qureshi

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Thursday that China has agreed on granting zero-rated facility to Pakistani export of agricultural products and started

buying the country's sugar which is expected to boost exports to China by an additional \$ 1 billion this year.

Qureshi was speaking at a joint news conference with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood and chairman Board of Investment (BOI) upon his return from China. The foreign minister said that during his talks with the Chinese authorities, he was told that they have agreed on zero-rated facility on export of Pakistani agricultural products, adding that China has already started buying sugar from the country and modalities are being worked out on other agricultural products including cotton and wheat.

“After this facility, we are expecting an additional \$ 1 billion exports to China this year,” Qureshi said. He further said that Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China next month and the two sides will hold discussions on all issues of mutual interests, including further deepening the trade and economic ties.

He said that China will hold the Belt and Road Forum on April 25, which besides heads of state and government of 36 countries, will also be attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan, adding that Pakistan will have a key role in the conference because China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He said that it was for the first time that he held Strategic Dialogue with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during his recent visit to Beijing, with the objective to upgrade political consultations between the two countries.

He said he also briefed the Chinese leadership about the ongoing talks for restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

In the aftermath of the Pulwama attack, Qureshi said that China has once again proved to be an ‘everlasting’ friend who stood behind Pakistan like a ‘rock.’

Referring the Christchurch attack, the foreign minister appreciated the response given by the government of New Zealand, particularly Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, in the wake of the terror attacks on mosques that resulted in martyrdom of 50 people, including 9 Pakistanis.

He also appreciated the courage and bravery of the New Zealand national of Pakistani origin, Naeem Rashid, who tried to save fellow Muslims by laying down his life.

The foreign minister described the India's response to the Christchurch attacks as its double standard by not mentioning Muslims as the victims and mosques as the targets. “Like rest of the world, India also condemned the incident, but without mentioning ‘mosques and Muslims’ as being the target of the terrorist,” he said.

“This is your double standard...you [India] are desiring a membership of the OIC on the grounds that millions of Muslims are living in India, but you’re not even ready to mention the word ‘Muslims’ being the victims and ‘mosques’ being the targets in the Christchurch incident,” Qureshi said while referring to the letter of condolence sent by Indian Prime Minister Modi to his New Zealand’s counterpart after the attack.

He said that the world should also take notice of the ‘double standard’ with regard to terrorism, adding if Muslims are target, it is being underplayed to have undertaken by a mentally retarded individual, but if it is an act against others, then it is described as the well thought-out conspiracy.

He pointed out that Pakistan has been saying that terrorism has nothing to do with any religion and country.

To discuss the growing Islamophobia, analyses the reasons for increasing hatred against Muslims in many European countries and chalk out a joint strategy to deal with these challenges, Qureshi said and added that Pakistan and Turkey have taken an initiative by convening an emergency meeting of OIC Executive Committee in Istanbul. He said he will leave for Istanbul on Thursday night to represent Pakistan in the meeting.

He further stated that due to the double standard, the world community is not giving any value to the Indian narrative on the post-Pulwama incidents.

However, it made it clear that it does not mean that Pakistan is not taking the Pulwama incident seriously, adding that Pakistan has received a ‘dossier’ from India which is being examined and it will show to the world whatever its findings would be. He recalled that Pakistan has condemned the Pulwama attack and described it as an unfortunate in which 44 Indian paramilitary troops were killed.

Referring to the acquittal of four accused in Samjhauta Express terror attack, Qureshi said that on one hand India is blaming Pakistan for the Pulwama incident without any proof while on the other its National Investigation Agency (NIA) court has acquitted all the four accused in the Samjhauta Express attack, in which 44 innocent Pakistanis were killed.

“It was a shocking decision as the main accused, Swami Aseemanand, had himself confessed to his crime,” he said, adding that Pakistan strongly protested on this development and gave a demarche to India.

To a question about US President Trump’s remarks about Pakistan-US ties, the foreign minister said that it is encouraging that President Trump, ZalmayKhalilzad and other senior US officials are speaking of improvement in relationship with Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan-US relations which were once on a ‘point of no return’ are showing ‘improvement’ and there is a ‘corrective mechanism’ in place to further improve the ties.

To another query, he said that during his visit to China, the stance of China on Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar was also discussed.

However, he said findings of UN Sanctions Committee are confidential and cannot be commented upon.

He said there is a complete consensus on National Action Plan (NAP) and a 20-point agenda was agreed upon. He said the NAP was agreed and signed by all parliamentary leaders, adding that the opposition leaders should keep their individual interests apart when there is a larger national interest.

“Many forces are trying to isolate Pakistan internationally...efforts are being made to report Pakistan to the Sanction Committee and [bringing] the resolution against Pakistan in the UN Security Council. So, this is the collective responsibility of all political parties to play their role in national interest,” he said while referring to letter of the opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif and statements by others declining to attend the conference of the parliamentary parties leaders on NAP.

He further said that the government is also ready to accept the opposition’s demand to take the Parliament into confidence on the NAP.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Razak Dawood said that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China is likely to be signed during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s upcoming visit to China at the end of next month.

He said that newly posted Finance Secretary Younus Dagha will visit China on April 2 to discuss the second phase of FTA with Chinese officials and hoped that the work will be finalized during his visit while the deal will finally be signed during the Prime Minister’s visit.

Dawood said, “The visit of Malaysian Prime Minister will open a window of opportunities to our economy as our trade and investment with the Far East will increase.” He said this visit will prove the beginning of the ‘Look East’ approach of the present government.

Speaking on the occasion Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry strongly condemned the statement of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, adding that Pakistan will never allow India to take action against any group or individual on its soil.

“Both Bilawal and Maryam Nawaz are currently pursuing Abbu Bachao [save father] movement,” he said, adding that leaders of both the parties are facing inquiries which are free of the government’s influence.

Business Recorder, 23-03-19

China protests US sanctions on shipping firms

BEIJING: China has lodged a diplomatic protest with the United States after Washington sanctioned two Chinese shipping companies for doing business with North Korea, the foreign ministry said Friday.

Beijing said it has consistently enforced all UN resolutions on North Korea after the US Treasury Department added two Chinese firms to a sanctions list on Thursday.

The US Treasury sanctioned Dalian Haibo International Freight Co. Ltd. for shipping cargo from the Chinese port of Dalian to North Korea on behalf of the Paeksol Trading Corporation, which in the past has sold metal and coal to earn money for Pyongyang.

It also blacklisted Liaoning Danxing International Forwarding Co., saying it had assisted North Korean officials based in Europe in procuring goods for the regime.

“We firmly oppose any country imposing unilateral sanctions and taking long-arm jurisdiction against any Chinese entity according to their own domestic laws,” said foreign ministry spokesman GengShuang.

Any Chinese company or individual found to be violating sanctions will be “dealt with according to laws and regulations,” Geng said.

“China has already made solemn representations to the US on this matter and urged the US to immediately stop its mistaken actions to prevent affecting bilateral cooperation on related issues,” Geng told reporters. Washington’s move comes less than a month after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in Hanoi with President Donald Trump for a second summit that broke down in part over Pyongyang’s demands for immediate sanctions relief.

Trump, while walking away from the talks, has been eager to reach a potentially landmark agreement on North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme.—AFP

Business Recorder, 23-03-19**Six dead as car hits crowd in China, police kill driver**

BEIJING: A man rammed a car into a crowd in central China Friday, killing six people and injuring eight others before he was fatally shot by police, said local officials.

The suspect, a 44-year-old named Cui Lidong, wounded his wife and daughter at home before ploughing a car into pedestrians, said the Zaoyang City government in Hubei province in an online statement.

The case is under investigation and the injured are being treated, it added.

A video, published by Shanghai-based news outlet The Paper, shows a body covered in a blanket left on the roadside and a group trying to lift someone onto a stretcher. China has suffered a spate of similar incidents in recent months.

Last September, 11 people died and dozens were injured when a car struck a crowd in a public square in the central Hunan province city of Hengdong. Police detained the driver, a man in his 40s, and described him as a “vengeful repeat offender” who had daggers in his car and intended to “cause serious damage”.—AFP

Business Recorder, 23-03-19

China stocks flat

SHANGHAI: China stocks ended almost flat on Friday ahead of a new round of Sino-US trade talks next week, but posted weekly gains of about 2.5 percent on expectations of more policy measures to spur growth in the world’s second-largest economy.

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 0.1 percent, to 3,833.80, while the Shanghai Composite Index was flat, at 3,104.15 points.

For the week, CSI300 rose 2.4 percent, while SSEC gained 2.7 percent.

With hopes for a Sino-US trade deal largely priced in, news of a new round of talks failed to excite the market.

A US trade delegation headed by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will visit China on March 28-29 for the next round of negotiations, China’s commerce ministry said on Thursday.

The CSI300 financial sector sub-index dipped 0.7 percent, while the healthcare sub-index gained 1.2 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 0.2 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was weaker by 0.586 percent.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.15 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed up 0.09 percent.

At 07:05 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7025 per US dollar, 0.04 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.6998.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Jinzhou Port Co Ltd, up 10.14 percent, followed by Shandong Jiangquan Industry Co Ltd, gaining 10.08 percent, and Zhejiang Golden Eagle Co Ltd, up by 10.07 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Liaoning Fu-An Heavy Industry Co Ltd, down 9.18 percent, followed by Sichuan Minjiang Hydropower Co Ltd, losing 6.61 percent, and Wuhan DDMC Culture Co Ltd, down by 6.58 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 23-03-19

Chinese iron ore prices fail to hold early gains

BEIJING: Chinese iron ore prices failed to hold onto early gains on Thursday as the potential restart of a large Vale mine outweighed the shutdown of one of the Brazilian firm's smaller projects.

Vale said on Wednesday it had decided to halt operations at its Alegria mine in Minas Gerais state after a stress test failed to guarantee stability. It said the impact on iron ore production is seen at 10 million tons per year.

“We do not expect an extended closure at Alegria, but this announcement is further evidence of the risk and uncertainty around Brazilian iron ore supply,” Jefferies said in a note, putting Vale's announced or anticipated mine closures since a deadly accident in January at over 90 million tonnes per year.

Vale said on Tuesday that a local court had cleared the way for it to resume operations at its Brucutu mine, where production has been halted since the collapse of a dam that killed some 300 people.

The most traded iron ore contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange rose as much as 1.4 percent to 622 yuan (\$93.18) a ton in opening trade before closing down 0.2 percent at 612 yuan, its lowest close since March 13.

It closed 3.7 percent lower on Wednesday on news that Vale was set to resume operations at the 30-million-tonnes-per-year Brucutu mine, its largest in Minas Gerais.

“The previous day's news is still having an impact,” said Zhao Xiaobo, an analyst with Sinosteel Futures in Beijing.

Dalian iron ore has gained 24.4 percent this year on fears of supply constraints after the dam collapse on January 25.

Meanwhile, the most-active steel rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose as much as 1.2 percent to a one-week high of 3,826 yuan a ton before closing down 0.3 percent at 3,772 yuan a ton, while hot-rolled coil closed down 0.3 percent at 3,692 yuan.

“In accordance with the end of the heating season and environmental restrictions, steel mills are continuing to restore production and steel product output is steadily rising,” Zhao said.

The peak winter heating season in northern China runs from Nov. 15 to March 15.

Among the other steelmaking raw materials, coke and coking coal both closed up 0.3 percent at 1,971.50 yuan and 1,233.50 yuan, respectively.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 23-03-19

Xi says new Silk Road runs both ways as Italy signs up

ROME: Chinese President Xi Jinping sought to allay Western unease over his new Silk Road initiative on Friday by emphasizing the vast infrastructure project's two-way nature as he kicked off a whistle-stop European tour in Rome.

Italy has rolled out the red carpet for Xi, who will on Saturday sign a memorandum of understanding for Rome to join the \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative despite misgivings in Washington and Brussels.

Italy will be the first Group of Seven most-developed nations to sign up for the Asian giant's new Silk Road, which critics say is "predatory" and overwhelmingly favors China and Chinese companies.

"Between us, there is no fundamental conflict of interest," Xi told journalists after talks with his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella.

"China wants commercial exchanges to go both ways and for investment to flow in both directions," Xi said.

Mattarella said that business must go "in both directions... with fair competition, respecting intellectual property rights and while fighting counterfeit goods."

Around 1,000 extra police have been deployed around Rome for the state visit before Xi heads to the Sicilian city of Palermo, where his singer wife PengLiyuan reportedly wants to see the Teatro Massimo opera house.

In what some perceived as a snub, Italy's far-right Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said he would not attend Saturday's state dinner for Xi at Mattarella's Quirinal Palace.

Salvini has said Italy would be "no-one's colony" and urged caution about using telecom Chinese giant Huawei's next generation 5G mobile technology, while his coalition partner Luigi Di Maio is keener for Chinese partnerships.

The United States has warned European allies that Huawei could use its 5G technology as a "backdoor" for spying, a claim that China has strongly rejected, calling them "abnormal, immoral" attacks.

NATO member Italy's plan to join China's ambitious maritime, rail and road venture has raised eyebrows among Western allies and within Italy.

“Today we say ‘Italy first’ in trade relations, while remaining US allies, in NATO and in the EU,” Deputy Prime Minister Di Maio of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement said on the sidelines of a China-Italy business forum on Friday.

Debt-ridden Italy is technically in recession and keen to have more business with China.

White House official Garrett Marquis last week tweeted that there was “no need” for Italy to endorse “China’s infrastructure vanity project”.

Xi’s visit comes a week after the European Union released a 10-point plan outlining a shift to more assertive relations with Beijing, warning that China was a “rival” to the bloc as well as its biggest trading partner.

France on Thursday announced that President Emmanuel Macron will hold trade and climate talks on Tuesday with Xi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker.

As Macron arrived for an EU summit in Brussels, he welcomed what he called Europe’s “awakening” to the challenge posed by China.

But his office struck a more conciliatory tone in announcing Tuesday’s talks, saying it was an opportunity to explain Europe’s strategy and seek “points of convergence between Europe and China”.

The meeting comes ahead of a China-EU summit in Brussels next month, as the bloc struggles to forge Europe-wide China policies.

Beijing is particularly interested in investing in Italian ports to help funnel its products into Europe, amid warnings that Rome must avoid the model of the Greek port of Piraeus, which was taken over by Chinese shipping giant Cosco in 2016.

Supporters of the non-binding memorandum of understanding said that it will lead to China complying with European Union standards, including on the environment and intellectual property, and cannot be compared to debt-inducing deals Beijing has signed with developing countries.

Despite apparent warming ties, Xi is not expected to meet Pope Francis. The Vatican has diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not Beijing, so the encounter would be unlikely despite an agreement on appointing bishops in China signed last year.

Xi heads to Monaco on Sunday and then on to France to cap his European tour.—AFP

Business Recorder, 24-03-19

China dumped steel wheels on US market

WASHINGTON: The US Commerce Department has found China unfairly subsidized steel wheels exported to the United States and sold them at prices below fair value, the department announced on Friday in its final determination.

If the US International Trade Commission issues a final finding that US producers are being harmed, then tariffs on the products will go into effect for five years.

The United States made its initial determination in October. It opened the investigation after receiving complaints from Accuride Corporation of Evansville, Indiana, and Maxion Wheels Akron LLC of Akron, Ohio.

US imports of steel wheels from China were valued at \$388 million in 2017, the Commerce Department said.

The department's finding comes on the eve of the latest trade talks between US and Chinese negotiators seeking to ease eight months of tensions between the globe's two largest economies.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 24-03-19

Canada optimistic about making progress to end China canola ban: PM

OTTAWA/CHICAGO: Canada is optimistic it can make progress this year in talks to persuade China to allow imports of Canadian canola seed to resume, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday, even as tensions between Ottawa and Beijing reach new highs.

Trudeau spoke hours after an industry group said Chinese importers had stopped buying Canadian canola, adding that purchases from the major customer were not expected to resume anytime soon.

Canada and China are locked in a dispute over trade and telecoms technology that has mushroomed since police in Vancouver arrested Huawei Technologies Co Ltd Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou on a US warrant in December. She is awaiting an extradition hearing. "We're going to roll up our sleeves and work with the Chinese officials to demonstrate that canola should continue to flow safely from Canada to China," Trudeau told a televised news conference in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

"This is something we take very seriously ... we are optimistic we are going to be able to make headway this year."

China said this month it had suspended the clearance of canola imports from Richardson International, Canada's largest exporter of canola to China. The Canola Council of Canada now says no imports are getting through.

“We are finding that Chinese importers are unwilling to negotiate new sales for canola seed at a time when we would anticipate they would normally be doing do,” said Jim Everson, the group’s president.

Canola futures sank 3.1 percent on Friday their biggest daily decline since July 2018, to a two-week low.

A spokeswoman for Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said plant health experts from Canada and China had discussed the matter this week and exchanged technical information. “Officials from both countries will continue to engage in order to find a science-based solution to this issue as quickly as possible,” Katie Hawkins said in an email.

China has been a major market for Canadian canola, accounting for approximately 40 percent of all of the country’s canola seed, oil and meal exports, the council said.

“We think that market will continue to grow but we have a current circumstance that is very challenging,” Everson said in a phone interview from Winnipeg, Manitoba, saying it would be “a real challenge” to find other alternative purchases.

China’s foreign ministry has said it had discovered pests in canola imports from Canada. Richardson International said its canola met regulatory requirements.

Everson said “often these issues around science are not that clear and objective”, adding “it can sometimes take time to determine” the right protocols for tests. The development is another headache for Trudeau, who has been under pressure since February in a political crisis that threatens his chances of re-election in October.

Trudeau denies that he or his officials interfered in the judicial system amid allegations officials leaned on his former justice minister to help ensure a construction company avoided a corruption trial. “Justin Trudeau’s government is in chaos and he isn’t addressing the real issues facing Canadians. Time for the Liberals to act and stand up for our proud canola industry,” said Andrew Scheer, leader of the opposition Conservative Party.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 24-03-19

Pakistan Resolution Day celebrated in China

BEIJING: The National Day of Pakistan was celebrated with national spirit and great fervor at Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing in a ceremony to mark the passing of Pakistan Resolution on 23rd March, 1940.

The Pakistan Day ceremony commenced with the recitation of verses from Holy Quran. Ambassador of Pakistan Masood Khalid raised the national flag and hoisted it to the mast’s summit, with the invigorating tune of the national anthem.

Ambassador Masood Khalid read out messages of the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan. He urged the Pakistani community to unite in order to achieve the national milestones.

Ambassador shed light on the recent situation between India and Pakistan, and lauded the united response of the Pakistani nation and armed forces in foiling the naked aggression. Ambassador also reiterated Pakistan's unflinching diplomatic moral and political support to the people of Kashmir in their quest for the right to self-determination.

Ambassador highlighted the importance of Pakistan-China friendship and said that both countries share the dream of development, peace and security in the region. He said that the friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time through mutual trust and support.

Students from Pakistan Embassy College, Beijing presented national songs. The ceremony was attended by Pakistani community in China.—INP

Business Recorder, 24-03-19

Apple's CE urges China to continue to open up its economy

BEIJING: Apple chief executive Tim Cook on Saturday urged China to keep opening up its economy as local rivals bit into the profits of the US tech giant caught in the crosshairs of a trade spat between Beijing and Washington.

"We have seen China continue to change and evolve... We encourage China to continue to open up," he said during a speech at the annual China Development Forum in Beijing on Saturday. "We see that as essential not only for China to reach its full potential, but also for the global economy to thrive."

The dip had been expected following the company's revenue warning in December, where Apple admitted that iPhone sales and overall earnings would be below most forecasts, citing economic weakness in China and trade frictions between Washington and Beijing.—AFP

Business Recorder, 25-03-19

Xi arrives on French Riviera as Macron seeks united EU front on China

MONACO: Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Monaco on the French Riviera Sunday seeking to press ambitious commercial goals ahead of talks with France's Emmanuel Macron who is trying to forge a united European front to contend with Beijing's advances. Xi arrived at the airport of the resort city of Nice accompanied by his wife PengLiyuan to be welcomed by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and an guard of honor.

Prior to meeting with Macron, Xi went to the nearby principality of Monaco, where he was received by Prince Albert II and where a government spokesman said bilateral talks would "address economic and environmental issues".

Xi, who has made establishing China as a global player central to his government, travelled from Italy, whose government became the first G7 state to sign up to his landmark new “Silk Road” infrastructure project, a massive undertaking to join Asia to Europe.

Washington and some EU states fear the huge project will give China too much sway. But Xi says it would be a two-way street of investment and trade.

Germany criticised Rome over its participation in the new Silk Road project.

“In a world with giants like China, Russia or our partners in the United States, we can only survive if we are united as the EU. And if some countries believe that they can do clever business with the Chinese, then they will be surprised when they wake up and find themselves dependent,” Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told Welt am Sonntag newspaper.

The EU’s German budget commissioner, Gunther Oettinger, told the Funke newspaper group that Europe should ensure it retains its autonomy and sovereignty when dealing with China.

He expressed concern that already “infrastructure of strategic importance ... is no longer in European but in Chinese hands.

French Finance Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian had remarked Friday that “Silk Road cooperation had to go “in both directions.”

Amid tight security, Xi and his wife were Sunday evening to join Macron and his wife for a private dinner at nearby Beaulieu-sur-Mer overlooking the Mediterranean during which they would have what a Chinese official termed “a deep exchange of views on Sino-French, Sino-European relations and international and issues of mutual interest.”

Xi’s official visit to Paris on Monday will mark 55 years since Charles de Gaulle established diplomatic relations with Beijing.

A series of cooperation deals on nuclear power, aerospace and clean energy initiatives, some involving lucrative contracts, are expected to be signed.

On Tuesday, Macron and Xi will be joined by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker to explore “points of convergence” ahead of an EU-China summit in Brussels next month.

As well as addressing commercial cooperation and strategic issues with Xi, Macron has also been urged to deal with the case of Chinese former Interpol head MengHongwei.

Meng’s wife has had no news of her husband since his arrest in China nearly six months ago and it emerged Sunday she has written to Marcon asking him to bring up his disappearance with Xi.

He is believed to be facing corruption charges.

But Xi's visit poses a particular challenge for Macron, who wants to deepen EU ties with China while also pushing back against Beijing's growing global clout.

Europe's distrust of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which is poised to become the dominant player in next-generation 5G mobile technology worldwide, is emblematic of the increasingly rocky relationship.

Monaco, which notably is eyeing a share of Chinese luxury tourism and has its own foreign policy, only last year signed an accord with Huawei to make the principality the first country entirely covered by the company's 5G mobile network by year end.

Macron has lauded the EU's "awakening" to the challenges posed by China, which the bloc now labels a "rival" despite being Europe's biggest trading partner.

"The reality is that the world has changed significantly — China is not the country it once was, and we are dealing with a very major partner," a Macron aide said ahead of Xi's visit.

The US is pressuring European allies to not use the Huawei technology, saying it creates a security risk by potentially letting Beijing snoop on sensitive communications.

But France has not ruled out using Huawei gear.

Beijing has accused Washington of trying to escalate President Donald Trump's trade battle with China.

Despite the many sources of friction, France wants to engage China as a closer partner as Washington makes a pointed withdrawal from global affairs under Trump's "America First" policy. For example, Macron may seek more Chinese support of the French-backed G5 Sahel force fighting Islamist extremists in Western Africa.

China has been investing heavily in a diplomatic offensive across Africa, promising to help build infrastructure projects as part of the new Silk Road initiative. Aides say Macron will press Xi to ensure such projects are fair and explore the participation of French companies amid allegations the deals could load African countries with unsustainable debt.—AFP

Business Recorder, 25-03-19

Asia firms spend less and save more as China economy slows

- Real estate, tech, materials firms most frugal
- Cash flow position up, highest in five years

BENGALURU: Corporate spending in Asia is likely fall for the first time in three years, a Reuters analysis of Refinitiv data showed, as businesses conserve cash in the face of a stalling Chinese economy, an unresolved trade dispute and Brexit uncertainty.

Capital expenditure (capex) at 2,137 Asian companies is likely to slip an average 4 percent this year, according to the data, which is based on analyst estimates. The pace of revenue growth is likely to be flat at 3.3 percent, the data showed.

By comparison, capex - or money spent on maintenance and investment - at the same firms grew nearly 8 percent last year.

“We are seeing several factors working against capex growth,” said Joseph Devine, chief investment officer, global ex-US equity at Macquarie Investment Management.

“Credit conditions have tightened and the US dollar is strong. In India and some other markets, the bank lending cycle may have peaked. Auto demand in China is slowing.”

Capex refers to money used to acquire or upgrade equipment, buy property or build plants, in order to aid expansion or stay competitive. Cutting capex could slow future revenue growth but is often considered prudent at times of economic uncertainty.

In Asian engine China, the world’s second-biggest economy, growth slowed to a near three-decade low last year and is widely expected to further decelerate this year as the government continues a campaign against excessive corporate debt and works to resolve a trade dispute with the United States.

Meanwhile, its tumbling imports and exports has tempered optimism toward factory output in neighboring Japan where private-sector machinery orders - a capex barometer - fell in January at the fastest pace in four months.

“Uncertainty in trade and policy makes companies cautious while investing,” said Herald Van der Linde, head of Asia equity strategy at HSBC. Yet Asia needs more “hard infrastructure” so low investment is not sustainable in the longer term, he said.

INCREASED CASH FLOW

Real estate companies and those that depend on government infrastructure spending will likely be most frugal, the data showed, while technology firms allocate less on upgrading equipment as global demand for smartphones falters.

Capex is likely to be lower than last year by 7 percent at industrial materials suppliers and 9 percent at tech firms.

“We are seeing a sharp slowdown in electronic exports over the past year and that is likely to pass through to investment growth as well,” said senior economist Gareth Leather at Capital Economics.

Some tech firms including SK Hynix Inc and Nanya Technology Corp have already axed capex budgets.

On the flip side, falling capex is likely to raise Asian firms’ median cash flow position to its

highest in at least five years, at \$1.80 per share versus \$1.30 last year. Companies with high cash reserves are, for instance, attractive to investors seeking steady dividends in times of economic turmoil.

(For an interactive graphic on the performance of Asian firms, click here

<https://tmsnrt.rs/2FhrKvO>.)

A breakdown by economy showed firms in China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are likely to cut capex by 2 to 9 percent.

China's government is shoring up its economy through tax cuts and infrastructure spending, and on Friday announced steps to prevent a sharper slowdown. Analysts, however, said the measures are unlikely to lift corporate spending this year.

"We must recall China is coming from the back of a deleveraging stint," said Vishnu Varathan, head of economics and strategy at Mizuho Bank in Singapore. "Any monetary relief we see is purely to take away some of the pain.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 25-03-19

PetroChina plans biggest capital Expenditure

BEIJING: PetroChina, Asia's largest oil and gas producer, plans to boost capital spending to 300 billion yuan (\$45 billion) in 2019, up 17 percent from last year, a company filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange showed.

The surge in expenditure to a near-record level came as PetroChina pledged to ramp up oil and gas production and reserves to answer Beijing's call for greater energy security.

The group expects crude oil output this year at 905.9 million barrels and gas output of 3,811.0 billion cubic feet, it said in its earnings statement, with the total oil and gas equivalent of 1,541.2 million barrels. Its crude oil processing output will reach 1,170 million barrels, it said, up from 1,123 million barrels last year. But growth in crude runs slowed, reflecting competition from upcoming refineries. PetroChina's fourth-quarter net earnings fell 18 percent from the same period the previous year to 4.46 billion yuan, making it the worst quarterly performance since the third quarter of 2016, Reuters calculations showed.

Over the fourth quarter, global benchmark Brent crude futures lost nearly 35 percent.

The Chinese producer's fourth-quarter revenue, meanwhile, rose to 644 billion yuan, compared to 558 billion yuan a year earlier.

Brent prices touched four-year highs in October at nearly \$87 a barrel, before plunging to just below \$50 towards the end of 2018. The values, though, were still much higher overall than a \$56-\$64 range for the last quarter of 2017.

PetroChina also plans to buy high-end chemical products and technical equipment from the United States, in addition to liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports already underway, and increase collaboration on oil and gas investment, company president HouQijun told reporters on Thursday.

“The two countries can further improve the trade structure, and especially with the progress in Sino-US trade negotiations, we have full confidence in expanding cooperation,” Hou said. For the whole of 2018, PetroChina’s net earnings more than doubled to 52.6 billion yuan, the best since 2014. Revenue expanded to 2.35 trillion yuan, up 17 percent from 2017.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 25-03-19

Xiaomi beats profit view, sees more global expansion

SHANGHAI: Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp said on Tuesday its fourth-quarter net profit more than tripled to 1.85 billion yuan (\$275.59 million), on stronger revenue.

That exceeded the 1.7 billion yuan average estimate of 10 analysts, according to Refinitiv data.

Revenue for the period increased 27 percent to 44.4 billion yuan, lower than the 47.4 billion yuan average estimate of 13 analysts, according to Refinitiv data.

The results show Xiaomi is weathering fairly well a slowing Chinese smartphone market, the world’s biggest, by increasing its focus on markets such as India and Europe.

For the full 2018 calendar year, Xiaomi brought in revenue of 174.9 billion yuan and made a net profit of 8.6 billion yuan. This marks the third set of financial results for the company since its IPO in Hong Kong. Xiaomi shares have rallied nearly 30 percent since their 2019 lows in January, though they remain well below their July listing price

To compensate for its slowing home market, the company has aggressively expanded in Europe. After broadly rolling out in the continent in early 2018, the company now ranks as the region’s fourth-largest phone vendor.

Speaking on a call with reporters, Xiaomi CFO ShouZi Chew said that sales from outside of China made up 40 percent of the company’s revenue in 2018, adding that global expansion would be a priority for 2019. “We will continue to explore the global markets and replicate the success in India in other key markets such as Indonesia and Western Europe,” he said. “We will also expand into more new international markets in 2019.”

Xiaomi has also revamped its smartphone lineup, paving the way to sell more expensive devices that can raise profit margins. In China, the average selling price of the company’s phones

increased 17 percent, while overseas they increased 10 percent, according to the company's earnings report.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 25-03-19

‘China’s Huawei hinders carriers from shifting suppliers for 5G’

WASHINGTON: AT&T Inc Chief Executive Randall Stephenson said Wednesday that China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd is making it very difficult for European carriers to drop the company from its supply chain for next-generation 5G wireless service.

“If you have deployed Huawei as your 4G network, Huawei is not allowing interoperability to 5G — meaning if you are 4G, you are stuck with Huawei for 5G,” said Stephenson at a speech in Washington. “When the Europeans say we got a problem — that’s their problem. They really don’t have an option to go to somebody else.”

The United States has been pressuring other countries to drop Huawei from their networks. Stephenson said the U.S. government could do a better job explaining the security risks of Huawei. “The biggest risk is not that the Chinese government might listen in on our conversations or mine our data if we use their equipment,” Stephenson said.

Within a decade, 5G will drive all U.S. factories, utilities, refineries, traffic management and help underpin autonomous vehicles. “If that much of infrastructure will be attached to this kind of technology do we want to be cautious about who is the underlying company behind that technology. We damn well better be,” Stephenson said.

The United States warns that next-generation 5G equipment, which some telecoms experts see as more vulnerable to attack than previous technology, could be exploited by the Chinese government for spying if supplied by Huawei.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

China stocks follow global markets lower

SHANGHAI: Chinese stocks fell on Monday tracking a global sell-off, as sentiment for equities soured on growing fears about a US recession, and on caution ahead of fresh US-China trade talks.

The blue-chip CSI300 index fell 2.4 percent to 3,742.83 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed down 2 percent to 3,043.03 points.

On Friday, all three major US stock indexes marked their biggest one-day percentage losses since Jan. 3. The Dow slid 1.8 percent, the S&P 500 was off 1.9 percent and the Nasdaq dropped 2.5 percent.

“For the short term, some foreign money could retreat from mainland’s consumer firms as the Wall Street selloff could lead to lower overall equity exposure of foreign investors,” TF Securities said in report.

The net outflows via the northbound legs of the Stock Connect programme linking mainland and Hong Kong reached about 10.4 billion yuan (\$1.55 billion) on Monday, data from Refinitiv showed.

“Though in the long run, it would help the overall A-share market, in particular the recovery in the valuations of growth stocks, as the unexpected US economic slowdown offers room for further global easing, and for China to lower its domestic interest rates,” the brokerage said.

There was also caution ahead of the latest round of trade talks.

United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will travel to Beijing for talks scheduled to start on March 28, while a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Liu He will visit Washington next week, the White House said on Saturday. The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Jiangsu Sunshine Co Ltd, up 10.06 percent, followed by Harbin Dongan Auto Engine Co Ltd and Shanghai Pudong Road & Bridge Construction Co Ltd, both up 10.05 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Flat Glass Group Co Ltd, down 10 percent, followed by Shanghai Phoenix Enterprise Group Co Ltd and Shanghai Xintonglian Packaging Co Ltd, both losing 9.99 percent. So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 22 percent and the CSI300 has risen 24.3 percent, while China’s H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 10.9 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 3.47 percent this month.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

Chinese iron ore futures edge up in choppy trade

MANILA: Chinese iron ore futures edged higher in choppy trade on Friday amid conflicting signals about supply from the world’s top producer Vale SA, but posted their first weekly loss in four weeks.

A Brazilian court in Minas Gerais state ordered Vale to halt operations at the iron ore complex of Dique III, according to a court document seen by Reuters on Thursday. But its impact on production remains unclear.

Vale has been targeted by several court verdicts related to mines that use dams similar to the one that burst in January, killing over 300 people.

Operations at Vale’s Alegria mine in Minas Gerais have also been halted after a “stress test” failed to guarantee stability, with the impact to iron ore production seen at 10 million tons per year.

However, the miner has been allowed to resume operations at its Brucutu mine, its largest iron ore complex in Minas Gerais.

The May 2019 iron ore contract, the most active on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, rose as much as 0.7 percent before ending the session 0.5 percent higher at 615.5 yuan (\$91.86) a ton. The contract dipped 1.6 percent for the week, after rising for the past three weeks, buoyed by increased demand at steel mills.

“Reports of further disruptions in the iron ore market should see prices well supported,” ANZ said in a note, adding that a cyclone in Australia added to concerns about supply.

Pilbara Ports, operator of Australia’s key iron ore exporting ports, said on Thursday it was preparing to clear the ports due to a severe tropical cyclone heading towards the coast. Commodities broker MarexSpectron said tight spot iron ore supplies in China, amid a slowdown in shipments into the country, should support prices in the short term, even as “demand conditions are marginally bearish”.

“This should go on to support prices that were dragged down by poor re-stocking efforts by end-users as various sintering cuts...continue to plague part of northern China,” said HuiHeng Tan, research analyst at MarexSpectron.

The most-active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange edged down 0.8 percent to 3,768 yuan a ton, but hot rolled coil was slightly up at 3,712 yuan, from the previous session’s 3,710 yuan.

China’s eastern Jiangsu province will launch inspections on chemical producers and warehouses, which could include iron and steel enterprises, after a deadly blast in the city of Yancheng, according to an emergency notice published by official media on Friday. Coking coal ended 1.4 percent higher at 1,248.5 yuan a ton, while coke rose 1.2 percent to 1,999 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

CBOT corn futures rise on export to China

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) corn futures rose to 3-1/2-week highs on Friday, lifted by a large export purchase by China and US Midwest flooding that has fueled concerns about stalled spring planting, traders said.

CBOT May corn settled up 2 cents at \$3.78-1/4 per bushel. The contract hit chart resistance at its 50-day moving average.

May futures gained 1.3 percent in the week, its second straight weekly advance.

A firmer US dollar and spillover pressure from a broader commodities market selloff limited gains in corn.

Chinese importers booked their largest US corn purchase in at least 5-1/2 years, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said on Friday, a rare sale of the grain in the middle of the US-China trade war.

Commodity funds hold a near-record large net short position in CBOT corn futures, leaving the market vulnerable to bouts of short-covering.

Record flooding in the western Corn Belt, including Iowa and Nebraska, two of the top three corn producers, is fueling worries about late planting and reduced acreage. The USDA is due to release its prospective plantings report next Friday.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

Macron, Xi call for increased EU-China cooperation

PARIS: Chinese President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Monday called for increased cooperation between the European Union and China, at a time of growing nervousness over Beijing's massive investments on the continent.

Speaking at the Elysee Palace following talks with Xi, Macron called for a "strong Europe-China partnership", adding that this must be based on "strong multilateralism" and "fair and balanced" trade.

Xi's, for his part, stressed that "a united and prosperous Europe fits in with our vision of a multipolar world".

"China will always back European integration and its development," he added in a statement to the press.

The statements followed the signing of a dozen of deals on nuclear power, cultural exchanges, clean energy, and a huge contract which will see China buy 290 Airbus A320s and 10 A350 airliners from Europe's Airbus conglomerate.

The order, originally for 184 A320s for 13 Chinese airlines, was first announced during Macron's state visit to China in January 2018. All the deals, including one on French exports to China of frozen chicken, amount to a total of some \$40 billion. Monday's talks come a day ahead of another meeting in Paris, this time between Macron, Xi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker to explore "points of convergence" between the two trading giants.

An EU-China summit will take place in Brussels next month.

Earlier on his trip, Xi visited Italy, which became the first G7 state to sign up to China's vast "New Silk Road" infrastructure project that has sparked unease in the US and the European Union.

Macron also announced that France and China will cooperate on a number of investment projects in some of the countries providing stepping stones on this new Silk Road.

Monday morning, Macron and Xi had met at the Arc de Triomphe where they placed a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, notably to honour the 140,000 Chinese workers who contributed to the World War I efforts in France.

Talks at the Elysee Palace later touched on issues such as climate change, cooperation and business deals, officials in the French presidency said.

Monday evening Macron was to host a state dinner for Xi with some 200 guests, including the French actor Alain Delon, who is widely known in China.

In an interview with the Nice-Matin newspaper after hosting Xi at a dinner on the French Riviera, Macron had suggested that the joint talks "would allow us to establish a common definition for a new international order.

'Silk road' reservations

Xi arrived in France on Sunday from Italy, whose government's involvement in the New Silk Road project comes despite misgivings over the huge venture by other European nations wary of China's growing influence. Xi insisted the project — a massive undertaking to link Asia to Europe — will be a two-way street of investment and trade.

EU Budget Commissioner Gunther Oettinger in a newspaper interview Sunday expressed "concern that in Italy and other European countries, infrastructure of strategic importance like power networks, high speed rail lines or Harbours are no longer in European but in Chinese hands." German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also voiced concern in an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper. "In a world with giants like China, Russia or our partners in the United States, we can only survive if we are united as the EU," he said.

"And if some countries believe that they can do clever business with the Chinese, then they will be surprised when they wake up and find themselves dependent."

Xi's visit poses a particular challenge for Macron, who wants to deepen EU ties with China while pushing back against Beijing's growing global clout.

Europe's distrust of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which is poised to become the dominant player in next-generation 5G mobile technology worldwide, is emblematic of the increasingly rocky relationship.

The US is pressuring European allies not to use Huawei technology, saying it creates a security risk by potentially letting Beijing snoop on sensitive communications.

France has so far not ruled out using Huawei technology.

As well as addressing commercial cooperation and strategic issues with Xi, Macron has also been urged to deal with the case of MengHongwei, Chinese former head of the France-based Interpol police agency.

Meng's wife has had no news of her husband since his arrest in China nearly six months ago. It emerged Sunday she had written to Macron asking him to bring up his disappearance with Xi. Meng is believed to be facing corruption charges.

Despite the many sources of friction, France wants to engage China as a closer partner as Washington makes a pointed withdrawal from global affairs under Trump's "America First" policy. For example, Macron may seek more Chinese support for the French-backed G5 Sahel force fighting Islamist extremists in Western Africa, French presidential aides said.—AFP

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

US-China trade war poses biggest risk to global stability: IMF's Lipton

LISBON: The US-China trade war poses the biggest risk to global stability and fiscal stabilization is needed to respond to economic shocks in Europe, IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton said on Monday.

"Obviously, this is not a matter for Europe alone. The United States needs to get its fiscal house in order as well. US-China trade tensions pose the largest risk to global stability," Lipton said during a conference in Lisbon.

The trade dispute, which began some eight months ago, has affected the flow of billions of dollars of goods between the biggest and second biggest economies in the world. Lipton said he believed fiscal-stabilization capacity must be at the heart of risk reduction in Europe, describing it as crucial to "respond to macroeconomic shocks and improve the fiscal-monetary policy mix".

"In its absence, the euro area will remain over-reliant on monetary policy for stabilization and too much of the burden of crisis response will fall on individual countries, with their ability to respond depending on each country's fiscal space."—Reuters

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

Uruguay win China Cup

SHANGHAI: Stand-in forward Cristhian Stuani scored his third goal in two games as Uruguay taught Thailand a footballing lesson to win the China Cup with a 4-0 victory on Monday.

The 2018 World Cup quarter-finalists hardly missed the injured star striking duo of Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani as they made it seven goals in two games.

Uruguay, comfortable 3-0 victors over Uzbekistan on Friday in the four-team tournament, profited from some poor Thailand defending in the Chinese city of Nanning.

Unmarked Inter Milan midfielder Matias Vecino headed home after just six minutes — Thai goalkeeper Siwarak Tedsungnoen should have done better — and it was 2-0 on 38 minutes when Gaston Pereiro prodded in after the Thai defence went AWOL.

Stuani, starting because of the absence of PSG's Cavani and Barcelona's Suarez, made it 3-0 just before the hour with a close-range bullet header from a corner.—AFP

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

Loan from China – welcome change

Yesterday was a dull day at stock market - shares traded were at 12 months low, the only good news come in after hours i.e. Government of Pakistan got 15 billion RMB [\$2.2bn] loan from China. Well, the inflow was accepted, and priced in. The subtle difference a few might have ignored or overlooked is that the loan is to the government, not the central bank, and that has a few positive implications.

The first and foremost is in the Net International Reserves [NIR] calculation. The number is getting ugly (read “Scary NIR - don't look at it”). This loan is worth looking at. Unlike, the deposits from UAE or KSA which were parked with SBP, the Chinese loan is secured by government and it can be used for budgetary borrowing. That is why, the NIR will be improved by the same amount - hence, the negative NIR would now be around \$9-10 billion.

This transaction is probably at similar rates as deposits from other friendly countries, but with better implications. The number will also be reflected in net foreign reserves [NFA] of SBP which have been falling for some time now. It started falling in FY17, as the outflow was \$204 million and sharply declined to \$814 million outflow in FY18. This year so far is even more miserable - the decline is \$880 million till 15th March.

The SBP has started computing and publishing this number since FY09 and the stock has remained positive since then. But, in FY19, the stock position, for the first time in the history is in negative territory. That is a big concern as the decline in NFA is resulting in spike in SBP's Net domestic assets (NDA).

The deteriorating NFA to NDA ratio is not a good indicator as it has inflationary consequences in the medium to long term, and in Pakistan empirical evidences suggest that NFA to NDA ratio and CPI are inversely correlated. The argument is intuitive - in days of falling NFA, government

budgetary borrowing pressures fall on domestic banking system. Since the domestic liquidity is limited, the onus of borrowing eventually - directly or indirectly, falls on the central bank.

This means the domestic supply is not growing in proportion to demand - enhanced due to money creation, demand driven inflation is an undesired consequence. When the money flows in from external sources, for government borrowing, the onus on domestic banking borrowing is reduced, and that may help improve private sector credit - enticing producers to enhance supply for higher demand.

Chinese money is a welcome change. But it may be a little too less, and a little too late. Government has to relentlessly work on improving NIR and NFA positions through more direct borrowing. The loan from IMF or deposits from friendly countries do not cut the deal.

Yes, these are important for window dressing and for foreign payment in days of abysmally low reserves, but these are short lived. The government needs to now knock the international capital market - \$1 billion Euro Bond is expiring next month and \$1 billion Sukuk is retiring at the end of calendar year. The need is to replace these with bigger inflows.

That said, it is pertinent to note that, these debt flows are not the best option, the only way to sustain is to buy time, and churn sustainable foreign exchange through enhanced exports, remittances and services inflow.

Business Recorder, 26-03-19

Chinese inflows push reserves to \$17.58bn

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: After receiving \$2.2 billion from China, the liquid foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) rose to \$10.67 billion as on March 25, 2019. With the net foreign reserves held by commercial banks at \$6.91 billion, the country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves increased to \$17.58 billion on March 25, 2019.

Business Recorder, 27-03-19

CPEC and manpower

A lot has been said about CPEC's ability in generating new employment avenues in the country. No doubt; as China Pakistan Economic Corridor enters the second phase especially once the special economic zones (SEZs) are developed. But very little attention has been paid to what these new jobs would demand. What has remained neglected is the changing nature of jobs and hence, the skills required from the labor force. SBP's second Quarterly Report highlights some key issues and policy recommendations that have been talked about time and again in this space. (Read: 'Human Capital 2.0', "The vocational challenge").

Dr Ishrat Husain in his article ‘Policy Imperatives for CPEC say that If there is one lasting legacy for which CPEC should be remembered that is the investment in producing skilled and trained technical manpower of different levels of expertise.” In its special section on the importance of human capital in the of CPEC, the central bank also talks about the changing nature of jobs, and that the human capital in the country needs to upgrade its skill set to meet the changing requirements of the evolving nature of work.

The existing level of human capital development in the country does not meet the increasing requirement from these new jobs, and the authorities and the stakeholders need to realize that they need to upgrade and ready the workforce before China inundates all available jobs and employment opportunities with its skilled workers. Already, Chinese workers have dominated many projects in the first phase of CPEC. The SBP highlights that as per the working paper by the CPEC Center of Excellence, energy, road and rail projects have resulted in the creation of around 124,470 direct jobs across the country between FY15 and FY18. It also points out that while it’s common for China to bring its workers, some of it has to do with the lack of skilled workers in Pakistan for all the new jobs. The ratio of Chinese to Pakistani workers during construction and operational phases of some of these projects remained tilted towards the Chinese: 58:42 and 37:63, respectively-to be exact.

And now that the country has moved from the road and energy infrastructure to more specialized sectors and knowledge-intensive fields such as mechanization in agriculture, and digital and technological advancements, the jobs are likely to become more intense when it comes to the skilled needed. 1.2 million Jobs by FY31 are what the central bank puts forth after factoring in the development of nine proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Three issues with the existing human capital that SBP highlights are inadequate education; very low labor force productivity over the last 20 years versus its peers like India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bangladesh and China; and poor technical capabilities.

A very obvious yet less flashy solution is working aggressively on skills development. Besides the much needed reforms in the education sector, the government not only has to take up skills development up its priority ladder but also revamp the entire vocational and training system. In a recent interview with BR Research, Jawad Khan – CEO PSDF said that it is important to understand that the existing models don’t work at the national level and they have to be radically changed whether it is governance; industry engagement; the kind of program being offered; and funding mechanism, etc. the Chinese to capitalize on CEPC and SEZs ha to be complemented with efforts to increase financial and digital.

Business Recorder, 27-03-19

China's Feb US soyabean imports rise

BEIJING: China's imports of soyabeans from the United States in February surged from January as the cargoes booked following a truce in the trade war between the two countries arrived, according to customs data published on Monday.

China brought in 907,754 tons of US soyabeans in February, up from 135,814 tons in January, the General Administration of Customs said.

However, that was just a fraction of the 3.35 million tons imported in February 2018 as Beijing's hefty tariffs on US shipments curbed purchases.

China, the world's biggest oilseed importer, agreed to resume some US soyabean purchases after US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on Dec. 1 to a 90-day truce in their trade dispute.

China typically buys soyabeans from the United States in the last quarter and the first couple of months of the year, when the US harvest dominates the market. But Chinese buyers have steered clear of US produce amid the tit-for-tat trade dispute and scooped up Brazilian beans instead. Chinese imports of the oilseed from America, its second-largest supplier, fell sharply last year and ground to a halt in November.

Limited buying resumed after the two countries agreed to the truce, but China only bought 9.4 million tons of US soya beans through the end of February, down from 27.7 million tons at the same time a year earlier.

It committed to buy an additional 10 million tons during talks in Washington last month, US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on Twitter on Feb. 22.

Meanwhile, China brought in 1.986 million tons of Brazilian soyabeans in February, up 13 percent from the 1.75 million tons in the same month last year, customs data showed. China crushes soyabeans to produce soyameal for its massive livestock herds, but an African swine fever epidemic has dampened Chinese demand for animal feed.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-03-19

China's iron ore futures reverse gains

BEIJING: China's iron ore futures reversed gains on Monday tracking a broader selloff, but market still expects strong demand at steel mills after winter production curbs are lifted by the end of this month.

The most-traded iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange dipped 0.2 percent to 611 yuan (\$91.05) a ton when market closed at 0700 GMT.

That followed a 2-percent drop at China's Shanghai Composite as sentiment for equities soured on growing fears about a US recession.

However, market generally believes the fundamental situation for iron ore remains firm. "We expect steel mills to resume operations in April, which brings optimistic outlooks for iron ore market," said analysts from Jinrui Futures in a note.

Steel makers in smog-prone northern regions were ordered to trim output by as much as 50 percent from November to March to reduce toxic emissions and improve air quality. Some cities have already removed the restrictions, and more are expected to lift by the end of this week.

Utilization rates at steel mills across the country climbed 1.1 percentage points to 63.4 percent in the week to March 22, snapping two weeks of decline, according to data compiled by Mysteel consultancy.

Meanwhile, mining giants Rio Tinto, BHP and Fort rescue Metals said their Australian operations had suffered some impact after two cyclones hit the country over the weekend, intensifying the concerns of tight iron ore supply from the country.

Prices of benchmark Shanghai rebar contract fell 1.8 percent to 3,692 yuan a ton, as market worries about abundant supply amid climbing utilization rates.

Hot-rolled coil, a flat-steel product mainly used in manufacturing sectors, dipped 1.1 percent to 3,659 yuan a ton.

Other steel-making raw materials also fell on Monday, as steel mills intended to reduce production costs.

Coking coal contract for May delivery lost 0.6 percent to 1,233 yuan a ton, while coke futures slid 0.3 percent to 1,973.5 yuan.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-03-19

China shares fall

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares fell on Tuesday, extending the previous session's sharp losses as investors remained concerned over the outlook for global growth and the next round of China-US trade talks.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was down 1.51 percent at 2,997.10 points.

The blue-chip CSI300 index was down 1.13 percent, with its financial sector sub-index lower by 0.76 percent, the real estate index down 0.42 percent and the healthcare sub-index down 1.59 percent. But consumer staples firms rebounded from heavy losses on Monday, gaining 0.57 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended down 2.18 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was weaker by 2.316 percent.

The US Federal Reserve should consider raising the proportion of short-term Treasury bonds it holds to give itself more options to respond to economic pullbacks, as an inverted US yield curve sparked concerns of a recession in the world's largest economy. Investors are also looking ahead to the next round of trade talks as a US trade delegation visits China March 28-29. The US-China trade war poses the biggest risk to global stability and fiscal stabilization is needed to respond to economic shocks in Europe, IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton said on Monday.

Analysts at China Fortune Securities said foreign investors' eroding sentiment was likely to continue to drag on mainland markets.

"In the near term, the risks of further market drops have not been fully released, and the index still has potential for further drops," they said in a note. "Recent sustained net outflows of foreign capital also show that offshore investors' risk appetite has fallen ahead of onshore investors."

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Monday reaffirmed Beijing's pledge to further open up to foreign investment as he met with global business executives, and sought to assure them that the rights of foreign firms would be protected.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.06 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 2.15 percent.

At 07:15 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.713 per US dollar, 0.06 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.709.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were DuoLun Technology Corporation Ltd, up 10.06 percent, followed by Hunan Huasheng Co Ltd, gaining 10.03 percent, and Dalian BIO-CHEM Co Ltd, up by 10.02 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Shandong Jiangquan Industry Co Ltd, down 10.07 percent, followed by Xinjiang Talimu Agriculture Development Co Ltd, losing 10.04 percent, and Beijing Airport High-Tech Park Co Ltd, down by 10.03 percent. So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 20.2 percent and the CSI300 has risen 22.9 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 10.6 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 1.91 percent this month.

The sharp rally in Chinese stocks this year has been driven more by investor optimism than fundamentals.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 27-03-19

European leaders demand win-win relationship with China

PARIS: China's President Xi Jinping on Tuesday attempted to dispel concern about his country's growing presence in Europe at a meeting with French, German and EU leaders who stressed their desire for a more balanced relationship.

French President Emmanuel Macron was joined by Germany's Angela Merkel and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker for talks in Paris with the visiting Chinese leader which took place against a backdrop of growing tensions caused by Donald Trump's America. "Of course there are differences and competition, but it's positive competition," Xi told a joint press conference of EU-China relations. "We are advancing together. We shouldn't let suspicions lead us to be constantly looking backwards."

The EU and China have both been on the receiving end of Trump's "America first" nationalism, protectionist trade policies and attacks on international agreements covering global warming, trade and Iran's nuclear programme.

"Cooperation pays better than confrontation," Macron declared.

In a joint statement at the end of Xi's three-day trip to France, the Chinese and French leaders both committed to working together to promote a rules-based international order. Merkel sounded a note of caution about how much the EU and China could achieve on their own however.

"There can't be multilateralism without the United States," she said.

Though the leaders emphasized multiple areas where China, France and the EU would work together, there remain underlying tensions in the relationship — the source of the "suspicions" that Xi referred to.

Ahead of an EU-China summit on April 9, the European Commission this month labeled China a "systemic rival" and presented a 10-point plan proposing a more assertive relationship with Beijing, which Macron has welcomed as a belated awakening.

Among other risks, the commission warned about the distorting effects of Chinese subsidies to its industrial groups, and European firms being forced to transfer technology to their Chinese subsidiaries.

Juncker felt compelled to start his public comments at the joint press conference in Paris by saying: "I am a friend of China". But both he and Merkel raised the vexed issue of "reciprocity" in terms of trade and investments, meaning China should offer more opportunities to European firms in its domestic market and in Chinese-funded projects abroad.

Europe wants pledges from China that its vast “Belt and Road” project — huge investments in rail and road infrastructure in countries from Asia to Europe, also known as the new “Silk Road” — will be carried out in partnership with the EU.

The initiative is a “very important project” and “we, Europeans, want to play a role,” Merkel said at the joint press conference.

“That must lead to reciprocity and we’re having a bit of trouble in finding it,” Merkel added. EU Budget Commissioner Gunther Oettinger warned in a newspaper interview over the weekend that infrastructure in the EU “of strategic importance like power networks, high speed rail lines or harbours are no longer in European but in Chinese hands”.

Another point of contention is the use of telecom giant Huawei’s next generation 5G mobile technologies, which the United States sees as a “backdoor” for spying.

Analysts were divided on Europe’s bid to rebalance the scales with Beijing.

“I really think that Europe is getting its act together,” Philippe Le Corre, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think-tank, told AFP.

But Steven Blockmans, EU foreign policy expert at the Centre for European Policy Studies, said that while EU members seemed aware of the need to stand together “everyone is trying to strike their best bilateral deal with China”.

Macron’s decision to invite Merkel and Juncker to the talks with Xi underlined his desire to see all EU member states adopt a common approach to relations with Beijing.

On the first leg of his five-day Europe trip, Xi visited Italy, which became the first G7 state to sign up to the “Belt and Road” initiative.

Macron urged his Chinese counterpart to “respect the unity of the European Union” on Tuesday, underlining concerns that Beijing was seeking to divide members.

While in France, Xi has inked a dozen deals on nuclear power, cultural exchanges and clean energy, while Beijing also committed to a huge order for 290 A320s and 10 A350 airliners from Europe’s Airbus conglomerate.

The total amount of the deals, including one on the construction by French energy giant EDF and a Chinese partner of offshore wind farms, amounted to over 40 billion euros (\$45 billion).—AFP

Business Recorder, 27-03-19

China expands ban on Canadian canola imports to second firm

BEIJING: China has banned imports from a second Canadian canola firm, its customs administration said Tuesday, and the latest escalation in a burgeoning row between the two

countries.

Following the detection of harmful organisms in canola shipments from Viterra Inc., China's customs authority has decided to revoke the firm's company registration and suspend imports of its canola seeds, it said in an online statement.

China's customs administration will "continue to strengthen the on-site quarantine and laboratory testing and identification of imported Canadian canola seeds," it added. The ban comes less than a month after Beijing removed the export permit of major Canadian canola firm Richardson International, which was blocked following the discovery of "hazardous pests" in its shipments.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland decried the decision, and said that were "no scientific reasons for this action." Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also weighed in, saying on Tuesday that his government is "taking very seriously the situation around canola" and would "continue to work with (China) to resolve this dispute."

He added that Ottawa is considering sending a high-level delegation to China to press the issue. China defended its ban as "completely reasonable and legal", and said that it had to protect the health and safety of its citizens. Canada exported more than can\$5 billion (US\$3.75 billion) worth of canola last year, with almost half of it, or about five million tons, going to China, according to industry figures.

Relations between Ottawa and Beijing have been thrown into crisis by the December arrest in Vancouver of Meng Wanzhou — the chief financial officer of telecoms giant Huawei — at the request of the United States.

Washington wants to put Meng on trial on fraud charges for allegedly violating Iran sanctions and lying about it to US banks, and the case has become a major headache for Ottawa.—AFP

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

US sets up UN clash with China over bid to blacklist JeM leader

UNITED NATIONS: The United States on Wednesday circulated a draft resolution to the UN Security Council that would blacklist the leader of a Pakistan-based group as a terrorist, setting up a potential clash with China over the move.

China earlier this month put on hold a request to put Masood Azhar, leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) on the UN sanctions list, over his alleged ties to Al-Qaeda.

That request stalled in a UN sanctions committee, prompting the United States to turn directly to the Security Council with the proposed resolution blacklisting Azhar.

The draft resolution obtained by AFP condemns the suicide bombing and decides that Azhar will be added to the UN Al-Qaeda and Islamic State sanctions blacklist.

That would subject Azhar, considered the founder of JeM, to a global travel ban, an assets freeze and an arms embargo.

It remained unclear when a vote would be held on the draft resolution which could face a veto from China, one of the five permanent council members along with Britain, France, Russia and the United States.

There have been four attempts through a UN sanctions committee to add Azhar to the blacklist. China blocked three previous requests and put a technical hold on the latest one, which could last up until nine months.

JeM itself has been on the UN terror list since 2001.

Azhar is linked to terrorism for “participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities” carried out by JeM, according to an annex to the draft.—AFP

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

China stocks gain

SHANGHAI: China stocks closed higher on Wednesday following two straight sessions of losses, as a rebound on Wall Street aided sentiment, while weak industrial profit data fuelled hopes for more stimuli.

The blue-chip CSI300 index ended up 1.2 percent at 3,743.39, while the Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.9 percent to 3,022.72 points.

China’s industrial firms posted their worst slump in profits since late 2011 in the first two months of this year, data showed, as increasing strains on the economy in the face of slowing demand at home and abroad took a toll on businesses.

Beijing is beefing up measures to support the manufacturing industry by cutting the value-added tax, increasing infrastructure spending and reducing direct government intervention.

Foreigners resumed their net buying of A-shares on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, after selling a bit more than 10 billion yuan (\$1.49 billion) worth of stocks on Monday via the Stock Connect.

“The short-term foreign outflows, a rebalancing act of global asset allocation amid concerns over world economic growth, will not change the secular trend of foreign investors’ buying into A-shares,” domestic brokerage CITIC Securities said in a report.

The CSI300 financial sector sub-index was higher by 1.07 percent, the consumer staples sector up 2.69 percent, the real estate index up 1.71 percent and the healthcare sub-index up 3.37 percent.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended up 0.9 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was higher by 0.465 percent.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.06 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed down 0.23 percent.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were North China Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, up 10.1 percent, followed by Chongqing Gangjiu Co Ltd, gaining 10.08 percent and Jiangsu Lianyungang Port Co Ltd, up by 10.08 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Beijing Airport High-Tech Park Co Ltd down 8.33 percent, followed by Yangzhou Yaxing Motor Coach Co Ltd losing 8.2 percent and Hunan Tyen Machinery Co Ltd down by 8.02 percent.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

US trade deficit drops as imports from China fall

WASHINGTON: The US trade deficit dropped nearly 15 percent in January compared to December, largely due to declining imports from China, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

Economists say the decline could help support growth in the first three months of the year, which would be a welcome development amid signs the world’s largest economy has peaked.

The drop reversed most of the expansion in the trade gap posted in the final month of 2018, a year that saw the deficit surge to a 10-year record, despite President Donald Trump’s aggressive tariff policies.

The trade gap in December surged nearly 19 percent to \$59.9 billion but fell back to \$51.1 billion in January, the report said.

Analysts had been expecting a much more modest narrowing of the January deficit, which also was 3.7 percent smaller than it was a year earlier.

US imports fell 2.6 percent to \$258.5 billion while exports rose just under 1 percent to \$207.3 billion, according to the data.

And the deficit in goods alone with China — the primary foe in Trump’s trade wars — fell by \$5.5 billion in the month to \$33.2 billion, according to the report, almost entirely due to declining American purchases of Chinese goods.

The falling average price for oil, which hit the lowest point in three years, also helped narrow the trade gap by \$1.4 billion.

In addition to the impact of tariffs on trade with China, the stronger-than-expected decline in the trade deficit could reflect the slowing in the US and global economies.

However, some economists say the smaller trade gap should add to first quarter growth.

“The data look consistent with net exports adding at least a few tenths to the growth rate in Q1,” said Jim O’Sullivan of High Frequency Economics.

Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said it is too early to tell the exact impact, but “we’re penciling-in a 0.3 percentage point contribution to GDP growth.”

“The record December deficit always looked like an outlier, and data on container movements at major ports pointed clearly to a reversal in January,” said Shepherdson, who unlike his counterparts correctly forecast the trade gap.

However, others caution that a cooling global economy means export momentum likely will be subdued, which could lead to a continued rise in the deficit, especially as a strong US dollar makes imports cheaper, despite the impact of tariffs.

US goods exports to China fell to just \$7.1 billion, not adjusted for seasonal factors, the lowest since September 2010. The goods balance with Canada shifted to a surplus of \$1.4 billion, while the deficit with Mexico narrowed more than \$1.5 billion to \$7.2 billion, and with the European Union fell more than \$2.5 billion to \$13.1 billion.

But in services, where the US is a dominant force, exports were the highest on record at \$70 billion, according to the report.—AFP

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

China says ‘pests’ found in blocked Canadian canola shipments

BEIJING: China’s removal of the export permit of a major Canadian canola company followed the discovery of “hazardous pests” in shipments, the foreign ministry said Wednesday in a move that has stoked diplomatic tensions.

Canada’s largest agricultural handler, Winnipeg-based Richardson International, had its licence to ship canola to China revoked on March 1, which risks leaving Canadian farmers with a glut on their hands.

“Chinese customs recently detected dangerous pests in canola seeds imported from Canada,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing.

“Canola seeds exported from one company had particularly serious issues leading to (stocks being) quarantined,” he said.

Lu said the decision to suspend imports was taken to minimize the “serious threat to agriculture and ecology” from harmful pests and was “completely reasonable and legal”.

“Like any other country, the Chinese government also needs to protect the health and safety of its own citizens,” he added.

Canada exported more than \$5 billion (US\$3.75 billion) worth of canola last year, with almost half of it, or about five million tons, going to China, according to industry figures.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said Tuesday she was “greatly” concerned about the move, saying there were “no scientific reasons for this action”.

Relations between Ottawa and Beijing have been thrown into crisis by the December arrest of Meng Wanzhou — the chief financial officer of telecoms giant Huawei — at the request of the United States.

Washington wants to put Meng on trial on fraud charges for allegedly violating Iran sanctions and lying about it to US banks, and the case has become a major headache for Ottawa.

China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor in what observers see as retaliation just days after Canada arrested Meng.

Meng is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday to set a start date for extradition hearings.—
AFP

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

Tesla’s Chinese rival NIO scraps factory plan after losses

SHANGHAI: Chinese electric vehicle start-up NIO has abandoned plans to build a manufacturing plant in Shanghai after net losses doubled to \$1.4 billion last year.

US-listed NIO has been working with state-owned automaker JAC Motors in eastern Anhui province to make its ES8 model but wanted to add its own factory in Shanghai.

The company, which is backed by Chinese tech giants Baidu, Tencent and JD.com, said in a statement Tuesday that it was dropping the plans after posting losses of 9.6 billion yuan in 2018 while generating revenue of 5.0 billion yuan.

Launched in 2014, NIO went public on the New York Stock Exchange in September 2018 after filing for a \$1.8 billion initial public offering.

NIO produced 8,000 ES8 models in the fourth quarter last year, double from the previous three-month period, with quarterly revenue rising by 133.8 percent.

But the company said it experienced a “greater than anticipated slowdown” in sales in the first two months of this year to around 2,600 units.

The drop was attributed to a reduction in a subsidy for the purchase of electric vehicles, the seasonal slowdown around the Lunar New Year holidays and a sluggish Chinese economy, notably in the auto sector.

NIO signed framework agreements with the Shanghai government in 2017 to build the factory, hoping to complete it by the end of 2020.

The end of the factory plans comes as competition in the electric car sector is heating up, with China’s government having announced plans to ban fossil fuel vehicles by a yet-to-be-decided date.

Tesla chief Elon Musk was in China in January for the groundbreaking of a factory in Shanghai.

The new plant will eventually have an annual production capacity of 500,000 vehicles, the California-based company has said, dramatically increasing its output.

But Tesla faced problems of its own as misprinted labels on certain Model 3 vehicles caused a hiccup at Chinese customs.

The company said it had “already reached a resolution” with Chinese customs to resume clearance procedures for the vehicles and that sales in China were not impacted.—AFP

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

China boosts coal mining capacity in 2018

BEIJING: China added 194 million tons of coal mining capacity in 2018, data from the energy bureau showed on Tuesday, despite vows to eliminate excess capacity in the sector and to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

Total coal mining capacity in the country was at 3.53 billion tons per year by the end of 2018, according to a statement from the National Energy Administration (NEA). That compares to 3.34 billion tons at the end of 2017.

The NEA said that excludes 1.03 billion tons per year of approved coal capacity currently under construction and 370 million tons per year under trial operation.

Additionally, the NEA has approved another seven coal mining projects with a combined capacity of 22.5 million tons per year since the beginning of 2019.

However, the total amount of coal mines in China declined to 3,373 in 2018 from 3,907 in 2017, the NEA said in the statement, as Beijing has been phasing out small and ineffective coal mines in eastern regions and expanding capacity in the west.

The increasing coal capacity has stirred concerns it will undermine efforts to cut the share of coal in total energy use, and that China will be unable to keep its commitment of capping climate-warming carbon emissions by around 2030.

China produced 3.55 billion tons of coal in 2018, up 5.2 percent from a year ago, while generating 4.979 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity from coal-fired power plants, up 6 percent from the 2017 level, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 28-03-19

Bundesliga opens office in China

BERLIN: The Bundesliga has opened its first office in China, the German Football League (DFL) announced in a statement on Wednesday. The new representative office was opened in Beijing on Wednesday, and is intended to improve communication between the German league and its fans and partners in China, the statement said. One of its first acts will be to organize a four-day visit to Beijing in April by former Germany and Bayern Munich coach Juergen Klinsmann as part of the “Bundesliga Legends Tour”.

“This is a big and important step for us, and we hope to deepen our good relationship to fans in China,” said Robert Klein, CEO of DFL subsidiary Bundesliga International. This is the second representative office that the DFL have opened in Asia. —AFP

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

China shares fall

SHANGHAI: Chinese shares ended weaker on Thursday as lingering concerns over the economy and trade weighed on investor sentiment, despite government pledges to open markets and indications of progress in Sino-US trade talks.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index was down 0.92 percent at 2,994.94.

The blue-chip CSI300 index was down 0.4 percent, with its financial sector sub-index lower by 0.86 percent and the real estate index down 1.3 percent.

Bucking the broader trend, healthcare shares ended up 0.26 percent and a sub-index tracking the consumer staples sector rose 1.86 percent, as distiller Wuliangye Yibin climbed to a 14-month high on robust profit growth.

Investor concerns over US-China trade continued to drag on markets despite a Reuters report that the United States and China have made progress in all areas under discussion in trade talks, with unprecedented movement on the touchy issue of forced technology transfers.

China has also pledged to “sharply” expand opening of its financial market amid the simmering Sino-US trade war. China will allow greater market access for foreign banks and insurance companies, especially in its financial services sector, Premier Li Keqiang said on Thursday.

Li’s remarks, made in a speech at the annual Boao forum held on China’s southern island of Hainan, added to speculation that China might soon announce new rules that will allow foreign banks and insurance firms to increase their presence in China.

The smaller Shenzhen index ended down 0.9 percent and the start-up board ChiNext Composite index was weaker by 0.669 percent.

Around the region, MSCI’s Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.15 percent, while Japan’s Nikkei index closed down 1.61 percent.

At 07:24 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7289 per US dollar, 0.04 percent weaker than the previous close of 6.7265.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were China United Travel Co Ltd, up 10.06 percent, followed by Chongqing Gangjiu Co Ltd, gaining 10.05 percent, and Beijing Jingcheng Machinery Electric Co Ltd, up by 10.04 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Fujian Furi Electronics Co Ltd, down 10.04 percent, followed by Zhejiang CONBA Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, losing 10.02 percent, and China National Software & Service Co Ltd, down by 10.01 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 20.1 percent and the CSI300 has risen 23.8 percent, while China’s H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 11.7 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 1.84 percent this month.

About 28.81 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 73.6 percent of the market’s 30-day moving average of 39.12 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 29.14 billion.

As of 07:25 GMT, China's A-shares were trading at a premium of 21.35 percent over the Hong Kong-listed H-shares.

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

The price-to-earnings ratio of the Shanghai index was 12.56 as of the last full trading day, while the dividend yield was 2.5 percent.

So far this week, the market capitalization of the Shanghai stock index has declined by 2.62 percent to 32.96 trillion yuan (\$4.90 trillion).—Reuters

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Ex-PM lauds China's support under BRI

BOAO: The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) creates a new window of opportunity for developing countries like Pakistan to improve their infrastructure and will be a game-changer for Pakistan, former Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Thursday.

“The BRI is a great opportunity to improve Pakistan's infrastructure. It has a very positive impact on the countries that are part of the programme. Eventually, I think more and more countries are willing to join the programme,” said Aziz on the sidelines of the ongoing Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) held in China's southern island province of Hainan.

He said the BRI projects developed jointly between his country and China will bring further benefits to the people of Pakistan by creating more jobs, promoting transport connectivity and boosting trade and investment.

“For any developing country like Pakistan to grow, investment and infrastructure is the key.

So what Pakistan needs fits perfectly with what China is providing,” Aziz said, adding that the BRI “will be a game-changer for Pakistan.”

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major pilot project under the BRI framework “is a key infrastructure initiative between the two countries to create win-win results.”

Projects under the CPEC — a corridor linking Karachi and north-western Peshawar and running through the populous provinces of Punjab and Sindh involve energy, transportation, industrial cooperation and the construction of the Gwadar port.

He said that the rapid development of CPEC, which will also see cooperation in finance, education and poverty alleviation, has played a significant role in the expansion of the Belt and Road.—INP

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Pompeo ‘saddened’ as Italy joins China’s mega-project

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced disappointment Wednesday after Italy joined China’s “Silk Road” network of transport and trade links, saying it was not in the ally’s long-term interest.

Rome’s populist government signed a “non-binding” protocol with visiting President Xi Jinping on Saturday that made Italy the first nation in the Group of Seven major economies to become part of the signature Chinese project.

“It’s disappointing anytime any country begins to engage in behavior and commercial interactions with China that aren’t straight up,” Pompeo told the House Foreign Affairs Committee in response after a lawmaker asked about the Italian decision.

“We’re saddened because we think the people of those countries ultimately lose,” Pompeo said.

Under the Silk Road initiative, named for the ancient trading route across Eurasia, China is funding major rail, road and sea infrastructure as it seeks a big boost in international trade.

Pompeo, however, said that China practiced “debt-trap diplomacy” with its state-owned or state-controlled enterprises looking after only their own interests.—AFP

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Hainan province to end fossil fuel car sales in 2030

BEIJING: China’s southern Hainan Island will end sales of fossil fuel-only cars in 2030, officials said, becoming the first province to announce a target end date for a transition away from gas guzzlers.

Beijing announced plans in 2017 to phase out petrol vehicles across the nation, but it did not set a date, as the country aims to cut pollution and reduce its dependence on imported oil.

Starting in 2030, sales of fossil fuel cars will be prohibited in Hainan, the provincial government said Tuesday, with officials saying they aim to hit President Xi Jinping’s goal for the island to become a “civilized ecology test zone.”

Known as China’s Hawaii thanks to its resorts and tropical beaches, Hainan is set to become the country’s largest free trade zone.

It also hopes to serve as a test area for some of Beijing’s ambitious policies like fostering hi-tech industries and attracting international tourist dollars. China remains at the forefront of the electriccar revolution, with hundreds of homegrown electric automakers sprouting and ample government subsidies to push consumers into new energy vehicles.—AFP

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Gas demand fuels profit surge at Chinese oil giants

SHANGHAI: Chinese energy giant Sinopec, the world's largest oil refiner, said its annual profit for 2018 soared by almost a quarter thanks to growing domestic demand for natural gas.

Sinopec's profit grew 23.4 percent to 63.1 billion yuan (\$9.4 billion) in 2018, the company said in a report submitted to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Sinopec, whose official name is China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation, said domestic consumption of natural gas rose 18.1 percent to 280.3 billion cubic metres as the country's environmental regulations became "more stringent".

The company has benefited from a policy shift under President Xi Jinping aimed at raising natural gas consumption and reducing reliance on heavily polluting coal.

"We will make vigorous efforts in pollution prevention and environmental protection to raise the level of our green development," Sinopec chairman Dai Houliang said in the annual report.

Demand for chemicals "kept strong momentum" in 2018 while refined oil products such as gasoline, diesel and kerosene consumption gained 6.0 percent.

China surpassed Japan in 2018 to become the largest natural gas importer in the world, the official People's Daily newspaper said Saturday, citing an industry report.

PetroChina, the country's biggest oil producer, also benefited from strong natural gas demand along with rising crude oil prices as it reported on Friday a 130.7 percent increase in profit to 52.6 billion yuan in 2018.

Sinopec proposed a 0.42 yuan per share dividend for 2018 and its chairman Dai said the company's capital expenditure for 2019 will increase 15.5 percent to 136.3 billion yuan.

However, some analysts doubt whether increased spending will lead to reasonable returns.—
AFP

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Bond market dog fight: An upstart takes on China's official rating agencies

SHANGHAI: By day, Yao Yu heads up risk control for an investment firm in the southern metropolis of Shenzhen. By night, he goes on the prowl for his own business, Ratingdog, sniffing out data that could bring clarity to China's notoriously opaque bond market.

Yao and a team of about a dozen part-time analysts scour information from China's exchanges and clearing houses to produce ratings, analyses and pricing models for new bonds. Their

findings are then posted to a public WeChat account that bears Ratingdog's logo - a smiling, sunglasses-wearing border collie.

Since Yao founded the service in 2017, Ratingdog's free YY Rating, YY Valuation and YY Pricing products have become widely used points of reference for investors and analysts wary of unreliable credit ratings provided by official agencies in the world's third-largest bond market.

"In China, for fixed income, we need these kinds of services," said Shen Yi, chief executive officer of Shanghai ShenYi Investment Co, referring to companies such as Ratingdog. "There's a lot of space in the market for good information."

Two defaults this year highlight the gap between official ratings and the Shenzhen upstart, which investors say is the country's leading provider of free, independent credit research.

On Jan. 29, China's state-backed Minsheng Investment Group, a private investment conglomerate, missed a deadline for a maturing 3 billion yuan onshore bond, belying its rock-solid AAA rating from Shanghai Brilliance Credit Rating, one of China's four big agencies.

Ratingdog, however, had flagged Minsheng's heavy debt burden and limited profit potential as early as 2017.

Then on Feb. 22, Qinghai Provincial Investment Group (QPIG), rated AA by three agencies including Dagong Global Credit Rating Co Ltd, became the first state-owned enterprise in decades to miss a deadline for an offshore bond coupon payment.

Ratingdog, however, had warned in 2017 of QPIG's "very large susceptibility" to a downturn, giving it a speculative-grade rating of 7 out of 10.

Both Minsheng and QPIG subsequently made delayed payments.

While quantifying Ratingdog's reach is difficult, Josh Sheng, chief investment officer at Shanghai Tongshengtonghui Asset Management, said a "large proportion" of domestic mutual funds and securities companies refer to its ratings and pricing.

In contrast, many investors all but ignore official ratings, which rank most issuers as AA or higher, implying little default risk and giving little guidance on pricing.

That is despite efforts by Beijing to improve the quality of ratings and strengthen oversight, including freezing Dagong's core ratings business last August for violating industry rules.

One reason for the preponderance of highly rated firms in China is an implicit assumption of state backing.

Jean-Charles Sambor, deputy head of emerging market debt at BNP Paribas Asset Management, said analysis of issuing companies has tended to focus on the likelihood of government support, rather than balance sheets.

“We basically don’t use official ratings for our investment decisions, and they’re not even very meaningful as a reference,” said Liu Xiaofang, head of investment research at Shanghai Fengshi Asset Management Ltd.

More than a month after Minsheng Investment’s technical default, and with the yield on a Shanghai-traded 4.88 percent Minsheng bond hovering above 13 percent, the company continues to boast an untarnished AAA issuer rating.

Ratingdog has rated Minsheng bonds at 7/10 since December, a level indicating “many credit issues” and a recommendation to avoid.

Shanghai Brilliance and Dagong did not respond to Reuters’ requests for comment.

Drawn in part by the imminent inclusion of Chinese bonds in global indexes, foreign rating agencies have been racing to set up shop in China.

S&P Global Ratings recently became the first global agency to receive a license to rate Chinese onshore bonds. Fitch Ratings, which has established a domestic entity, and Moody’s Investors Service have also applied for licenses.

Some investors hope that the international agencies will encourage greater ratings transparency.

However, S&P Global will follow an “issuer-pay” model in China, similar to the one that domestic agencies currently use. Many investors in China have been wary of the practice, whereby ratings are given to issuers enlisting the agency’s services.

S&P provides issuer-pay ratings in other markets and says it has measures in place to guard against potential conflicts of interest. Its ratings of some Chinese issuers of both onshore and offshore debt, including QPIG, are notably different from those of domestic agencies.

But, says Ratingdog’s Yao: “There’s a problem here, and it’s a problem with overseas agencies, too, and that is: In the end, who are you serving? Is it investors or issuers?”

While interest is high for Ratingdog’s products, monetizing that demand may prove difficult.

Only companies officially licensed to rate securities are permitted to charge for rating services in China.

But Yao plans to press ahead anyway, by introducing investor-paid customised research alongside its free analysis.

“Charging for services is meant to help speed up our development and expansion, but it’s also to understand real market demand,” he said. “After all, the only real demand is demand that’s willing to pay.”

Ratingdog’s growth could pose problems for it in what Hayden Briscoe, head of Asia Pacific fixed income at UBS Asset Management, calls “a very licensed regime”.

“I would suspect that he wouldn’t last for very long unless he had a proper license,” Briscoe said of Yao.

A senior rating industry source, who follows Ratingdog on WeChat, said that regulatory requirements are “very strict”, including annual audits with on-site checks conducted by regulators.

“If you give a rating, you also need to bear responsibility for it,” he said.

Yao said he is following a “different road” and not seeking a rating license, but how to operate legally is “a long-term consideration.”

Ratingdog is not alone in looking to feed the market’s hunger for information. Domestic brokerages and investment banks offer sell-side credit research, often bundled for free alongside equity research.

One bank even uses a Ratingdog-like canine theme for bond analysis in its proprietary app.

BNP’s Sambor said the rise of these alternatives indicates a broader shift.

“What policymakers are trying to achieve is to make sure that investors are looking at credit research from a bottom-up perspective rather than a top-down perspective,” he said.

A “massive repricing” of onshore corporate bonds in the past 18 months has followed attempts to introduce more credit risk into the market, encouraging differentiation and better price discovery, Sambor said.

The spread of riskier 5-year AA corporate debt over AAA debt of the same tenor was 101 basis points on March 12, 56 basis points wider than at the end of 2017. Still, even after 2018 saw a record level of corporate defaults, Chinese issuers remain relatively unlikely to default.

The marginal default rate - the proportion of the value of defaulting bonds to that of total outstanding credit bonds - was just 0.07 percent in December, according to China Central Depository and Clearing Co. With defaults comparatively rare, developing reliable ratings will take time, said Yao, noting that global agencies and markets have had more than a century of competition and experience.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Chinese investor weighs sale of Toulouse airport stake

PARIS: A Chinese firm that holds the largest stake in southern France's Toulouse airport is considering selling out and has already received interest from potential investors, its chief said.

"Maybe a new shareholder or a new operator can bring better value to the airport," Mike Poon told AFP in an interview on Monday, adding the company was "studying opportunities".

Poon heads Casil Europe, the holding company created by China's state-owned Shandong Hi-Speed Group and the Hong Kong-based Friedmann Pacific Asset Management, which bought 49.99 percent of the airport for 300 million euros (\$340 million) in 2015.

Last year the French government opted against selling Casil an additional 10 percent, which would have given it a controlling stake in the fast-growing regional hub.

It was a victory for local governments and the Toulouse Chamber of Commerce, which own a combined 40 percent stake and who had accused Casil of under-investing in order to extract as much profits as possible.

But Poon countered that the airport had invested more than 84 million euros (\$94 million) since Casil acquired its stake — 30 percent more than required under the development plan signed with the state.

Earlier this year Casil said it was considering bids for its stake, though Poon said no final decision on a sale has been made.

"We continually received a lot of solicitations from different potential investors," he said.

Press reports have suggested that French infrastructure group Eiffage would be a candidate, as would Vinci, which is also hoping to purchase the state's stake in Paris airports operator ADP.

In 2017, President Emmanuel Macron launched efforts to privatise state-owned businesses to raise funds for helping new technology ventures.

Traffic at the Toulouse airport has grown rapidly, reaching 9.6 million people last year, when the number of foreign passengers surpassed domestic travellers for the first time.

The increase has been driven mainly by low-cost European airlines like EasyJet and Ryanair.

"After we arrived, we have done a lot, changed the airport a lot," Poon said. "There is only one thing we are still working on, to directly fly from China into Toulouse. We trust it will happen soon, no matter if Casil is staying or not," he said.

Casil has said it aims to boost traffic to 18 million passengers by 2046, in large part by developing connections between Chinese destinations and Toulouse, a city with an extensive range of industries, which is also the headquarters of European planemaker Airbus.

Poon's comments came ahead of a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to France starting Sunday.—AFP

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

China's Sun Art profit misses estimates, store sales fall

HONG KONG: Chinese hypermarket operator Sun Art Retail Group Ltd reported on Sunday a 7.3 percent fall in 2018 profit, missing market expectations after fierce competition including from online rivals.

The company, which is backed by China's biggest e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, also announced a change of leadership.

Huang Ming-Tuan, currently chairman of Sun Art's subsidiaries operating under the "RT Mart" banner in China, has been appointed chief executive. He replaces Ludovic Frédéric Pierre Holinier who resigned to devote more time to specific operational activities at the company, Sun Art said.

The retailer said its full-year net profit fell to 2.59 billion yuan (\$386 million) from 2.79 billion.

That was below the 2.70 billion yuan expected on average by 15 analysts whose estimates were compiled by Refinitiv.

Turnover fell 2.9 percent to 99.36 billion yuan and same-store sales fell 1.72 percent, versus a 0.26 percent decline a year prior.

"2018 was a year where the digitalization of our retail business began, and also a year to plan future development," the company said in a statement. "Through digital management, supply will be closely tied with demand to provide customers with the right product offering, good prices..." The group's gross profit margin increased 1.2 percentage points from a year earlier to 25.3 percent.

Consumption growth in China is "very likely" to slow further this year as the economy cools, the commerce ministry said on Tuesday, underlining rising risks facing the Asian giant as it navigates a trade war with the United States.

Sun Art has 484 hypermarkets in China, including 24 complexes opened during the year and one closure. Its original plan was to add 35 stores in 2018 to the 461 it had at the end of 2017.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Russia, China sent home more than half of North Korean workers in 2018: UN reports

UNITED NATIONS: Russia sent home nearly two-thirds of some 30,000 North Koreans working there during 2018 and China repatriated more than half of those employed there but did not specify a figure, according to unpublished reports by Moscow and Beijing to the United Nations Security Council.

The one-page reports, seen by Reuters on Tuesday, were submitted to the council's North Korea sanctions committee in compliance with a 2017 resolution that demanded the repatriation of all North Korean workers by the end of this year to stop them earning foreign currency for leader Kim Jong Un's government.

The United States has said it believed Pyongyang was earning more than \$500 million a year from nearly 100,000 workers abroad, of which some 80,000 were in China and 30,000 in Russia.

The UN Security Council has steadily toughened sanctions on North Korea since 2006 to choke off funding for Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. US President Donald Trump and Kim have met twice in the past year in a bid to negotiate denuclearization.

The December 2017 UN resolution required countries to report to the sanctions committee this month on all North Korean workers repatriated during 2018 "including an explanation of why less than half of such" workers were repatriated if applicable.

Russia reported that in 2018 the number of North Koreans "with valid work permits in the Russian Federation decreased from 30,023 to 11,490 persons."

Key North Korean ally China said it had repatriated "more than half of the total DPRK nationals earning income."

"China will continue earnestly implementing its international obligations, carry out the repatriation work in an orderly manner and complete the repatriation on time," wrote China's Mission to the United Nations, adding it did not want the report to be made public.

The United Arab Emirates told the Security Council committee it had sent home more than half of the North Koreans earning money in the country during 2018, repatriating 823 people. It did not say how many North Koreans were still in the country.

Poland reported that in December 2017, 451 North Koreans were working there and that number had dropped to 37 by the end of last year. Some of those 37 might have already left Poland by crossing the European Union's external border in another country, it added.

In 2015, Marzuki Darusman, a UN human rights investigator, said the North Koreans abroad worked mainly in mining, logging, textile and construction. The reports submitted by Russia and

China to the sanctions committee did not specify what industries had employed the North Koreans.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a 2017 report that “the treatment of North Korean workers overseas falls short of international labor standards, with no right to freedom of association or expression, control by minders who limit freedom of movement and access to information from the outside world, long working hours and no right to refuse overtime.”

North Korea has said its laborers were working abroad legally and were not mistreated or forced to go.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Ningbo becomes first local govt in China to issue bonds to individuals

SHANGHAI: China’s eastern city of Ningbo will become the country’s first municipality to sell bonds to retail investors, as Beijing broadens financing channels for local governments whose fiscal conditions are under pressure from a slowing economy.

The government of Ningbo said over the weekend it plans to issue up to 840 million yuan (\$125 million) worth of three-year bonds later this month, including 300 million yuan to be distributed via bank counters, targeting individuals and small institutions.

This would be the first time local government bonds have been sold outside China’s interbank market and stock exchanges, underscoring Beijing’s desire to expand the investor base beyond institutional investors.

The move comes at a time when many local governments are facing increased budgetary pressure amid a slowing economy and the central government is planning more tax cuts. Finance minister Liu Kun said this month that some regions have had difficulties paying salaries, as well as maintaining operations and social security.

Agricultural Bank of China (AgBank), one of the underwriters for the Ningbo bonds, said in an advertisement on its website, that the government bonds will bring “new investment opportunities” to individual investors.

The lender said it is answering the call from the central government and actively preparing for retail distribution so as to help lower financing costs for local governments.

In addition to Ningbo, five other regional, or local governments, including Zhejiang, Sichuan, Shaanxi, Shandong and Beijing will also issue bonds via banks’ counters this month in a pilot scheme, according to AgBank.

Beijing is encouraging local governments to rely on the bond market for funding, while restricting less transparent channels such as local government financing vehicles (LGFVs) in an effort to prevent a credit crisis.

The Finance Ministry said during this month's parliamentary meeting that it will grant local governments a quota of 2.15 trillion yuan for special bond issuance this year, sharply higher than the 1.35 trillion yuan quota it granted in 2018. Special bonds are issued for purposes such as highway projects and shanty town redevelopment.

The Ningbo bonds, to be issued on March 22 by tender, are special bonds used to fund the purchase of land reserves, according to the prospectus, posted on the website of the Interbank market.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Copper rises as US-China trade talks begin in Beijing

LONDON: Copper prices rose on Thursday as the threat of disruption at a mine in Peru underlined fears that the market is undersupplied, while investors waited for news from US China trade talks starting in Beijing.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) did not trade but was bid 0.4 percent higher at \$6,360 a ton at the close, edging up towards last week's 8-1/2 month high of \$6,555.50.

Protests at Las Bambas in Peru showed no sign of abating, days after the mine's operator, China's MMG, warned it could declare force majeure on contracts.

Stockpiles of copper in LME-registered warehouses, meanwhile, at 169,950 tons slipped back towards 11-year lows below 120,000 tons reached earlier this month.

However, in China, the world's largest consumer of industrial metals, stockpiles in Shanghai Futures Exchange warehouses were sharply higher at 269,172 tons following a seasonal lull in demand.

A Reuters poll showed factory activity likely contracted for a fourth straight month in March, suggesting weaker Chinese demand for raw materials.

"The LME looks tight but the Chinese market is looking pretty well supplied for the moment," said ING analyst Warren Patterson.

Any resolution of the US-China trade talks could push prices higher, he added. Metals prices fell sharply last year when the dispute began.

China has made proposals in talks with the United States on a range of issues that go further than it has before, including on forced technology transfer, as the two sides work to overcome obstacles to a trade deal.

The US economy slowed more than initially thought in the fourth quarter, keeping growth in 2018 below the Trump administration's 3 percent annual target. China aims to cut solid waste imports to zero by next year.

One entity held more than 90 percent of copper warrants on the LME. But a \$5.50 premium for cash copper over the three-month contract suggested traders were having little difficulty accessing metal. China's top copper smelters lowered their floor treatment and refining charges for the second quarter of 2019 by more than 20 percent, sources said, indicating a tighter copper concentrate market. Chinese copper import premiums fell to \$55.50, nearing a two-year low of \$52.50 reached earlier in March.

The 24 million ton a year copper market saw a deficit of 387,000 tons last year, the International Copper Study Group (ICSG) said. Analysts expect another shortfall this year.

LME aluminum finished down 0.4 percent at \$1,903 a ton, zinc fell 0.7 percent to \$2,867, lead ended up 0.6 percent at \$2,019 and tin closed 0.3 percent higher at \$21,420. Nickel did not trade but was bid down 1.4 percent at \$12,880.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

Chinese firm to invest \$1bn in garment sector

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese Lahore-based company, Challenge Apparels, is planning to invest \$1 billion in different phases in expansion and establishment of state-of-the-art garment manufacturing facility in Lahore.

This has been conveyed by the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan who met with Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood. The company CEO also accompanied the ambassador.

An official told Business Recorder that the Chinese company came to Pakistan about four years ago and was now running a factory exporting multimillion Adidas and Puma garments to the high end world markets (USA and European) with a label 'made in Pakistan.' "This is one of key evidences that Chinese companies are relocating to Pakistan," the official added.

The company claims that it would create 5,000 jobs during the first phase which will increase with the passage of time. However, the company is facing problems in acquiring 400 acres of land in Lahore for expansion of its supply chain. The company will acquire required land on commercial basis.

According to an official statement, both the PM's advisor and Chinese ambassador discussed ways and means to promote investment in Pakistan. Razak Dawood informed the ambassador that the incumbent government was facilitating investors due to which foreign investment was coming to Pakistan.

He stated that more steps would be taken to facilitate investors.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Business Recorder, 29-03-19

MoC says country has good potential to export donkeys to China

ISLAMABAD: Expressing surprise at shelving the donkeys' farm project by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government, Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday that Pakistan has a good potential to export donkeys to China which uses its hides and meat. This issue came under discussion at a meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile.

Director General Trade Policy (Commerce Division) Muhammad Ashraf argued that since the provincial governments were unable to deal with donkey's meat they recommended export ban on donkey's hides.

"If you start looking at the commercial aspect, our failure is with enforcement issues on the ground with respect to donkey's meat, which authorities reckon is sold in our supply chain, and hence the easy way appeared to be to impose a ban on other byproducts," he added.

Muhammad Ashraf argued that since the provincial authorities failed to ensure that donkey's meat did not enter into domestic supply chain they asked Commerce Division to impose a ban on export of hides.

"Somebody needs to rise above the incompetence which is a snag and to disengage from making silly jokes because I think it was a good initiative by the provincial government three years back. But people joked about it on social media, after which the provincial government shelved it," Mohammad Ashraf stated.

KP government had planned donkey farming on the basis of which they developed good social interaction with the Chinese which would have encouraged our exports and benefited the Chinese coming to Pakistan under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He requested the Standing Committee to recommend Commerce Division to lift the ban on export of hides, adding that it is a commercial product and we should think about it commercially.

Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak stated that India where cows are worshipped is a big exporter of its meat, adding that donkeys' export should be treated commercially as it is not against our

religion. He suggested that the committee should recommend that all by products of donkeys be exported as export of live animals is banned in Pakistan.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

US, China set to resume ‘candid’ trade talks in Washington

WASHINGTON: US and Chinese trade negotiators will reconvene in Washington next week following “candid” and “constructive” talks in Beijing, but it may take time for the economic superpowers to settle a bruising tariffs battle.

The officials are working to find a binding agreement to address President Donald Trump’s complaints about the years of unfair treatment of US companies by China that would allow them to roll back the tariffs hitting businesses in both countries.

“The two parties continued to make progress during candid and constructive discussions on the negotiations and important next steps,” the White House said in a statement Friday.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the latest round of trade discussions yielded “new progress,” without elaborating.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will resume negotiations with China’s Vice Premier Liu He.

Mnuchin wrote on Twitter that he and Lighthizer “concluded constructive trade talks in Beijing” but he did not provide more details.

“I look forward to welcoming China’s Vice Premier Liu He to continue these important discussions in Washington next week,” he said.

The two negotiating teams, including China’s central bank chief Yi Gang, posed for pictures in front of Chinese and American flags at the conclusion of the latest round of talks, but they did not make statements to the media. Officials are seeking to iron out major differences over US accusations that China has been using unfair trade practices for years by heavily subsidizing its companies while snatching the technological know-how of American firms.

Trump has said the two sides were close to a deal, repeatedly saying the talks are going “very well,” but officials have played down expectations of an imminent agreement.

In Washington, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Thursday the talks were not “time-dependent” and could last weeks or even months if necessary.

The talks are “policy and enforcement dependent”, Kudlow said.

The Chinese commerce ministry said a “large amount of work” remains to be done.

The two sides have imposed tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade since last year but Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed to a truce in December to refrain from further escalation.

Trump suggested last week that some of those tariffs should stay in place even after a deal is reached to ensure China keeps its end of any bargain.

“We have to see what the track record is and we’re not going to give up our leverage,” said Kudlow.

“It doesn’t necessarily mean that all the tariffs will be kept in place, some of the tariffs will be kept there,” he told Bloomberg TV.

US insistence on keeping the first tranche of 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports could be a sticking point for a deal, analysts say.

It is hard to predict if China will accept a deal leaving some tariffs in place, said economist Cui Fan of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.—AFP

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

China stocks post 3rd monthly gain on market opening, trade talk hopes

SHANGHAI: China stock closed higher on Friday to clock the third straight month of gains, as investors cheered Beijing’s pledge to further liberalize financial markets, and on renewed hopes of progress in US-China trade talks.

The blue-chip CSI300 index ended up 3.9 percent to 3,872.34 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed up 3.2 percent at 3,090.76 points.

For the week, CSI300 edged up 1 percent, SSEC slipped 0.4 percent. For the month, CSI300 was up 5.5 percent, while SSEC gained 5.1 percent, both posting their third month of rises in a row.

China will sharply expand market access for foreign banks and securities and insurance companies, especially in its financial services sector, Premier Li Keqiang said on Thursday, as senior US officials arrived in Beijing for more trade talks.

China has pledged to further open its massive financial markets to foreign investors amid a trade war with the United States. Foreign businesses have long complained that liberalization has been too narrow and implementation spotty.

The Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index will start including China’s onshore bonds starting next Monday, a milestone in China’s capital markets opening.

The CSI300 financials index shot up 4.9 percent on Friday.

Encouraged by Beijing's stance foreigners on Friday bought more than 10 billion yuan (\$1.49 billion) worth of A-shares via the Stock Connect linking mainland and Hong Kong.

Hopes of progress in Sino-US trade talks also lifted sentiment.

The mood was brightened after US officials said China has made proposals in trade talks with the United States on a range of issues that go further than it has before, including on forced technology transfer.

Sectors spiked across the board, led by consumer firms.

The CSI300 consumer staples index surged 5.2 percent to the highest level since its launch in 2006, led by liquor giant Kweichow Moutai, which scaled a new peak after posting robust profit growth in 2018.

"Chances are high that the A-share market has entered into an early stage of a bull run," domestic brokerage Fortune Securities said in report.

"Interest rate and reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cuts as well as supply-side reforms in the financial sector are expected if the downside pressure on China's economy increases as a result of weaker-than-expected previous economic policy stimulus, or in case of relatively significant external shocks," the brokerage added.

Around the region, MSCI's Asia ex-Japan stock index was firmer by 0.79 percent, while Japan's Nikkei index closed up 0.82 percent.

At 0715 GMT, the yuan was quoted at 6.7166 per US dollar, 0.34 percent firmer than the previous close of 6.7398.

The largest percentage gainers on the main Shanghai Composite index were Sundry Land Investment Co Ltd, up 10.09 percent, followed by Shanxi Coal International Energy Group Co Ltd, gaining 10.08 percent and Shanghai Hongda Mining Co Ltd, up by 10.06 percent.

The largest percentage losers on the Shanghai index were Suzhou Jin Hong Shun Auto Parts Co Ltd down 10 percent, followed by Orient International Enterprise Ltd losing 9.96 percent and Hunan Huasheng Co Ltd down by 9.08 percent.

So far this year, the Shanghai stock index is up 23.9 percent and the CSI300 has risen 28.6 percent, while China's H-share index listed in Hong Kong is up 12.5 percent. Shanghai stocks have risen 5.09 percent this month. About 37.51 billion shares were traded on the Shanghai exchange, roughly 95.1 percent of the market's 30-day moving average of 39.42 billion shares a day. The volume in the previous trading session was 28.81 billion.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

China buys more US soyabeans as trade talks kick off

CHICAGO: Chinese state-owned firms bought about 1.5 million tons of US soyabeans on Thursday for shipment in July and August, in their second major purchase of US supplies this month, three traders with knowledge of the deals said.

The purchases come as US and Chinese officials meet in Beijing for negotiations aimed at ending a protracted trade war between the two economic giants that has slashed US commodity exports to China, most notably soyabeans.

In a positive sign for the talks, US officials told Reuters that China had made proposals on a range of issues that go further than before, including on forced technology transfer, a particularly large obstacle in talks thus far.

Thursday's soya purchases were mostly for shipment from the US Gulf Coast, two of the traders said.

They were also the latest in a string of goodwill US commodity purchases by Chinese state-owned firms since December, when the United States and China agreed to a trade war detente as the two sides attempted to negotiate.

Most recently, Chinese buyers booked about 1.7 million tons following US-China trade talks in Washington, during which US officials said Beijing vowed to buy an additional 10 million tons of the oilseed.

Accelerated Chinese buying of US soyabeans helped to narrow the US trade deficit by the most in 10 months in January, according to US Commerce Department data on Wednesday.

Still, US soyabean sales to the world's top soyabean importer were well behind their usual pace after Beijing slapped steep tariffs on US shipments last summer, effectively halting purchases by China's private crushers.

Thursday's deals bring China's total purchases of the latest US soyabean crop to around 12.7 million tons, compared with more than 28.5 million tons sold at the same point last year, to according to US Department of Agriculture data.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

CBOT soyabean futures firm on China's demand

CHICAGO: Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) soyabean futures firmed on Thursday in a mild rebound as traders squared positions ahead of US Department of Agriculture plantings and stocks reports and as China booked fresh import purchases, traders said.

CBOT May soyabeans settled up 2 cents at \$8.89-1/2 per bushel. The contract held chart support at the four-month low of \$8.86 posted on Wednesday.

CBOT May soyameal ended up \$2.10 at \$306.50 per short ton and May soyaoil fell 0.19 cent to 28.63 cents per pound.

Chinese state-owned firms bought about 1.5 million tons of US soyabeans on Thursday as the latest round of US-China trade talks kicked off in Beijing.

The USDA said export sales of soyabeans last week were just 198,800 tons, well below analysts' forecasts that ranged from 500,000 to 1 million tons.

Traders squared positions ahead of USDA plantings and stocks reports due on Friday.

Analysts expect the USDA report to show that farmers plan to seed 86.169 million acres of soyabeans, up from the government's February forecast for 85.000 million acres but down from 89.196 million acres last year.

Soyabean plantings could be larger than previously thought as record flooding in the western Corn Belt may delay or prevent growers from seeding corn.

Analysts also expect the USDA report to show that US soyabean stocks as of March 1 stood at 2.683 billion bushels, the biggest ever for that time of year.

Soyabeans were also anchored by expectations for bumper crops in Argentina and Brazil.—
Reuters

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

China's iron ore futures slip to over two-week low

MANILA: China's iron ore futures dipped to their lowest in more than two weeks on Thursday as investors remained cautious amid continued volatility in prices and rising inventory at Chinese ports, while construction steel rebar surrendered earlier gains.

The May 2019 iron ore contract, the most traded on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, was down 1.1 percent at 607 yuan (\$90.22) a ton at the end of a mostly listless session.

"Investors remain on edge in the iron ore market as they await guidance from Vale regarding recent disruptions to its Brazilian mines," ANZ bank said in a note.

Brazilian iron ore miner Vale on Wednesday announced a series of writedowns and provisions related to the Brumadinho tailings dam collapse that killed some 300 people two months ago.

The company's quarterly results provided little information about the ultimate cost of its second deadly dam disaster in less than four years.

“Vale didn’t provide any guidance in its quarterly production report. But it indicated that it had shut operations producing almost 93mt/y (93 million tons a year) in the wake of January’s dam disaster,” ANZ said.

Notwithstanding supply disruptions, inventory of the steelmaking ingredient at Chinese ports continued to rise, hitting a six-month high of 148.6 million tons as of March 22, according to data tracked by SteelHome consultancy.

Other steelmaking raw materials also erased earlier gains, with coking coal ending steady at 1,228.5 yuan a ton while coke edged up just 0.2 percent to 1,965 yuan, after hitting a session-high 1,976 yuan.

The most active rebar contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange ended down 0.5 percent at 3,690 yuan a ton. It rose as much as 0.7 percent to 3,734 yuan earlier in the day, supported by a pick-up in steel demand from the construction sector, but supply also remained plentiful.

Hot rolled coil, used in automobiles and household appliances trimmed gains to end 0.2 percent higher at 3,675 yuan a ton.

“With the expected expiry of winter restrictions on production...we could see output begin to ramp up,” said Edward Meir, a consultant at INTL FCStone Financial Inc, referring to output curbs imposed during the cold months starting November aimed at improving air quality.

Despite the production curbs, Chinese steel production in February rose by 9.2 percent from a year earlier, after a 4.3 percent increase in the previous month, figures from the World Steel Association showed.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

Daimler and China’s Geely join forces to build next-gen Smart car

BERLIN: Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler and Chinese auto giant Geely announced plans Thursday to develop the next generation of electric Smart cars to be made in China in a joint venture.

Under the agreement, expected to be finalized by the end of the year, the new vehicle will go on global sale in 2022, the German and Chinese car giants said in a statement.

The 12-strong board of directors of the new venture will be made up of six executives from each company.

The new Smart cars will be styled by the Mercedes-Benz Design network with engineering provided by Geely.

Prior to the launch of the next generation, Daimler will continue to produce the current “fortwo” model of the Smart car at its plant in Hambach, northeastern France.

The Smart car will then leave its historic home in France to be manufactured in China, but Daimler insists no jobs will be lost.

“None of our colleagues at Smart will lose their jobs as a result of these decisions,” said Daimler boss Dieter Zetsche in a statement.

“On the contrary We need the passion and creativity of the Smart team more than ever.

“After all, these changes are no ending for Smart — but a new beginning.”

Daimler says 500 million euros (\$562 million) will be invested in the Hambach plant, which will assume “an additional role” producing a compact electric vehicle under the new ‘EQ’ product brand.

“All jobs will be sustained through our new project which will consist of creating a new assembly line for the construction of a Mercedes-Benz electric SUV in Hambach,” Serge Siebert, CEO of Smart France, told the Le Republican Lorrain newspaper on Wednesday.

Geely is owned by Chinese billionaire Li Shufu, who is also Daimler’s main shareholder having acquired nearly 10 percent in the German manufacturer in February 2018.

Li’s investment, reportedly worth around 7.2 billion euros, in the Stuttgart firm raised political concerns about Beijing’s ambitions in Germany.

Last year, Germany’s economy minister warned Berlin would be “especially watchful” over the new major investor.

However Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed the move, saying “we are open to trade partners and at first glance do not see any violations”.

The rise of the Chinese car giant has been swift.

Founded in 1986, Geely was originally a low-cost home appliance manufacturer before founder and boss Li transformed it into an auto group in the late 1990s, becoming one of China’s leading private manufacturers.

In 2010, while Geely and its entry-level vehicles represented only a few percent of the Chinese market, the group paid \$1.5 billion to buy Volvo Cars.

The bold move saw the Chinese company acquire a premium Swedish brand, known for the safety and the robustness of its models.

The following year, Geely invested \$11 billion in Volvo to launch a new line of cars, which saw the brand take off in China.

Last week, Geely reported worldwide sales of 2.15 million vehicles (up 18.3 percent year on year) and announced a net profit for 2018 of 1.66 billion euros (up 18 percent on 2017) on a turnover of 14.1 billion euros (up 15 percent).

Daimler can boast similar sales figures, with Mercedes Benz shifting 2.4 million vehicles in 2018, including 130,000 Smart cars in 40 markets worldwide.

The German group's net profits last year were 7.6 billion euros, down 30 percent on 2017, with sales of 167 billion euros, up two percent.

Following the 2013 acquisition of British taxi manufacturer, 'The London Taxi Company', Geely made a burst of investments in 2017 to strengthen itself, particularly in Europe. It snapped up iconic English sports car Lotus and American start-up Terrafugia, designer of futuristic flying cars, while Geely also became the largest shareholder in the Volvo group with a reported investment of 3.25 billion euros.

"I want the whole world to hear the cacophony generated by Geely and other made-in-China cars," Li told Bloomberg in 2011.—AFP

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

US, Chinese trade negotiators face 'large amount of work'

BEIJING: Beijing said Thursday US and Chinese negotiators still face a "large amount of work" as they meet for fresh talks aimed at resolving a months-long trade war. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin arrived for two days of meetings in Beijing with China's top economic official Liu He, the first since China put into law new measures seen as an olive branch in their high-stakes stand-off. While US President Donald Trump has voiced hope that he could soon hold a signing ceremony with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, negotiations have dragged on, suggesting substantial differences remain.

Liu, Mnuchin and Lighthizer have "made some progress" after holding several phone calls recently, commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said at a weekly press briefing.

"But there is still a large amount of work remaining to finish," he said, adding both sides are "going all out to earnestly negotiate" following the truce struck by Xi and Trump in December.

The negotiators will have a working dinner on Thursday before a full day of talks on Friday, Gao said. Liu He will head to Washington next week for more talks.

“Ambassador Lighthizer and myself are pleased to be back here in Beijing. We look forward to productive meetings,” Mnuchin said ahead of the dinner.

Lighthizer has sought to play down expectations. “I’m hoping but not necessarily hopeful,” he told National Public Radio earlier this week.

“If there’s a great deal to be gotten, we’ll get it — if not, we’ll find another plan.”

The two sides have slapped tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods since last year, hitting a slew of businesses.

Trump suggested last week some of those tariffs should stay in place after a deal is reached to ensure China follows through.

Beijing has taken steps to address some US complaints. Earlier this month, China’s rubber-stamp parliament rushed through a law that seeks to protect foreign firms from the forced transfer of technology.

Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday repeated his pledge to step up punishment for intellectual property infringers to ensure they “bear an unplayable cost”, addressing a major bone of contention in Washington.

“We will again widen foreign firms’ market access,” Li pledged at the Boao Forum for Asia, a Davos-like annual meeting hosted by China.

While the US has hit out at Chinese practices, Lighthizer told NPR “the kinds of things that we’re asking for are not anti-Chinese at all”.

“Protection of intellectual property is not anti-Chinese. Stopping people from forcing transfer of technology is not anti-Chinese. In fact, the reformers would say it’s pro-Chinese. It will help their economy, not hurt their economy,” he added.

Negotiators hope to iron out remaining differences on other issues including Beijing’s subsidies to state-owned firms and policies to build up Chinese companies in strategic sectors.

“In our conversations with the US government, they’ve indicated that subsidies which create an uneven playing field between foreign and domestic companies are most definitely something that continues to be negotiated,” said Jacob Parker, vice president of the US-China Business Council.

“I suspect this is one of the areas China is pushing back on, (and) it remains a core of the negotiations.”

When Li presented the government’s 2019 policy plans earlier this month, he made no mention of its controversial Made in China 2025 industrial policy, which had called for Chinese firms to take control of many strategic industries.

Still, analysts say Beijing's push for self-reliance and indigenous innovation will continue in practice.

Foreign tech companies have also long been locked out of China's market with many like Google, Facebook and Amazon blocked or facing restrictions.

Beijing has yet to give in to demands for greater market access to foreign cloud computing providers or loosen restrictions on overseas data transfer, the Financial Times reported this week.

The two sides also need to resolve when to remove the punitive tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of goods and how to enforce any deal.

"The question will be the details and enforceability," Lighthizer said, outlining a mechanism for US companies facing problems in China to bring cases to the US Trade Representative for discussion with Chinese officials.

"They're committed to do this, but it's going to be a question of whether they can get all the layers of government, I think, to follow through."—AFP

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

Huawei vows to 'shake off' pressure as network business takes a hit

SHENZHEN: Chinese telecom giant Huawei vowed on Friday to "shake off outside distractions" as it announced that its telecom infrastructure business contracted slightly in 2018 amid a global US campaign to blacklist the company over espionage fears.

Huawei said net profit rose to 59.3 billion yuan (\$8.8 billion) last year, up 25 percent.

But its carrier business, which supplies telecom infrastructure to much of the world, posted a rare decline, suggesting that the US pressure could be having an impact.

The company's carrier business was down 1.3 percent on the year, compared to growth of 2.5 percent in 2017 and annual increases typically in excess of 20 percent in years past.

Huawei is the leading manufacturer of equipment for next-generation 5G mobile networks that will bring near-instantaneous connectivity for smartphones, but faces pushback in some Western markets over fears Beijing could gain access to critical infrastructure.

"Security concerns are having an impact on Huawei, as more and more countries place restrictions on the firm's network gear," said Brock Silvers, managing director of Kaiyuan Capital. "Moreover, the US-led global movement has only just begun and is unlikely to quickly recede even in the event of a trade war agreement."

Huawei's annual report, released at corporate headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen, did not detail what caused the carrier business decline or make clear reference to the global pressure. But the company vowed to press ahead.

"Moving forward, we will do everything we can to shake off outside distractions, improve management and make progress towards our strategic goals," rotating Chairman Guo Ping said.

Huawei also is grappling with the December arrest by Canada of chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, daughter of company founder Ren Zhengfei, on US charges that she and Huawei circumvented sanctions against Iran.

Two affiliates also were charged this year with stealing trade secrets from telecom group T-Mobile in a separate case.

Guo reiterated Huawei's insistence that it poses no security risk and sought to play up the company's trustworthiness.

"No government or any third party holds shares in our company or intervenes in our operations and decision-making," he said.

He also hinted that Huawei's market dominance made it a crucial player in the global 5G rollout that could not be sidelined.

"We are confident that the companies that choose to work with Huawei will be the most competitive in the 5G era," he said.

"Countries that choose to work with Huawei will gain an advantage for the next wave of growth in the digital economy."

He said Huawei signed more than 30 commercial contracts for 5G in 2018 and shipped more than 40,000 5G base stations to markets around the world. Overall revenue grew 19.5 percent while sales in Huawei's consumer business, consisting largely of smartphones, surged 45 percent. Huawei hit back at Washington earlier this month by suing the United States over a law barring US government agencies from engaging with Huawei or with third parties that use the company's products, which has crippled Huawei in that lucrative market.

Washington has long considered Huawei a potential threat due to the background of founder Ren, a former Chinese army engineer.—AFP

Business Recorder, 30-03-19

China will fend off cross-border capital flow risks: FX regulator

BEIJING: China will fend off cross-border capital flow risks and keep the yuan exchange rate basically stable in 2019, the country's foreign exchange regulator said on Friday.

Cross-border capital flows will be adjusted via "market-based counter cyclical measures", the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said in a report, without elaborating.

Since 2016, China has imposed stringent curbs to prevent capital flight, a move made in the aftermath of a spectacular stock market collapse during the last economic downturn. Regulators will continue to crack down on illegal foreign exchange activities, SAFE added. While China's economy has continued to cool, analysts believe the risk of strong capital outflows has greatly diminished in recent months, as the yuan regained its footing and foreign investors piled back into battered Chinese stock markets.

On March 24, central bank governor Yi Gang said China has basically exited from regular interventions in the foreign exchange market, and that Beijing will push for reforms which enhance the yuan's exchange rate flexibility.

China will push forward capital account convertibility in an orderly way this year, with further opening-up in its equity and stock markets, SAFE said on Friday.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 31-03-19

China banks post profits but warn of instability

BEIJING: Chinese banks have posted profits for 2018 but warned that domestic and global uncertainty could put downward pressure on the sector in the coming year. Bank of China (BOC) posted a profit of 192.44 billion yuan (\$28.67 billion), up four percent from the previous year, which the company credited to a stable economy and "prudent monetary policy" from the Chinese government.

But the sector "will face a complicated operating environment in 2019", BOC said in its annual report filed to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange late Friday.

"The growth drivers of the global economy will weaken, international financial markets will remain at risk of fluctuation, and the functioning of the economy will be subject to a number of uncertainties."

The Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) — the country's largest bank — posted a net profit of 297.68 billion yuan in 2018, a 4.1 percent increase.

China's second largest lender by assets, China Construction Bank, posted a net profit of 254.66 billion yuan for 2018, a gain of 5.11 percent.

The company credited the “steady growth” to, among other factors, the central bank’s reserve requirement cut, in a filing on Thursday.

Beijing has been locked in a bruising trade war with Washington for most of 2018, rocking global markets. Trade negotiators are seeking to iron out major differences over US accusations that China has been using unfair trade practices for years by heavily subsidizing its companies while snatching the technological know-how of American firms.—AFP

Business Recorder, 31-03-19

New Silk Road critics are ‘prejudiced’, says China’s top diplomat

BEIJING China has never forced debt upon participants of its new Silk Road project as “prejudiced” critics have suggested, the country’s top diplomat said on Saturday in a strongly worded defense of a key policy platform of President Xi Jinping

Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative, as it is formally called, envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with massive infrastructure spending.

But it has proved controversial in many Western capitals, particularly Washington, which views it as merely a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt through nontransparent projects.

The United States has been particularly critical of Italy’s decision to sign up to the plan this month, during Xi’s visit to Rome, the first for a G7 nation.

Speaking to the ruling Communist Party’s official People’s Daily, Yang Jiechi, who runs the party’s foreign affairs committee, said he had noted that some in the international community believed this was a geopolitical tool and would only bring debt traps for participating countries.

“This obviously shows a lack of objectivity and fair understanding of the Belt and Road initiative. It is a misunderstanding, misjudgment and is even prejudiced,” wrote Yang, a former foreign minister and ambassador to Washington.

China has stressed many times that the Belt and Road is to promote joint development, he added.

“The Belt and Road is open, inclusive and transparent. It does not play little geopolitical games. It does not engage in the exclusion of exclusive small circles.”

Yang noted that many countries, companies and ordinary people participating in the Belt and Road project had “publicly refuted rumors” about it being a debt trap. ??Belt and Road projects, from their selection to their financing, go through careful risk assessments and the initiative’s principles stress sustainable development, he said.

“For cooperative partners who have debt difficulties, China’s principle is to appropriately resolve this through friendly consultations, and has never pushed or forced debt” on anyone, Yang added.

To date no participating country has faced a debt crisis - to the contrary many countries have been able to escape the “no development trap”, he wrote.

China will hold its second Belt and Road summit in Beijing in late April.

Yang said almost 40 foreign leaders would take part, but did not name them.

Some of China’s closest allies have already confirmed they will come, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 31-03-19

China airlines post mixed results, warn of headwinds

BEIJING: Chinese carriers posted mixed results for 2018 but have warned of stronger headwinds in the coming year, which could continue to put a damper on profits.

China Southern Airlines, the country’s largest carrier by passenger numbers, reported a 3.71 percent decrease in net profit, posting 8.82 billion yuan (\$1.31 billion). This was mainly due to increased operating expenses from higher passenger volume and rising jet fuel prices, the company said in an earnings report filed to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange late Friday.

It also warned that big fluctuations in the yuan this year, along with an ongoing increase in oil prices, are likely to weigh down profits. Net profit for the country’s second-largest airline by passengers, China Eastern Airlines, slumped 56.98 percent to 2.93 billion yuan in 2018, it reported Friday evening.

The airline put this down to an increase in operational costs, chiefly due to the 25 percent jump in jet fuel costs, resulting in additional spending of 6.72 billion yuan. “China’s civil aviation industry is expected to continue to maintain a relatively fast pace for development, but (the) domestic and international macro-economic situation and changes in trade relations, oil prices and exchange rate fluctuations will bring uncertainties to the development of the industry,” it said. But rival Air China reported a net profit of 7.35 billion yuan, a 1.47 percent increase, in a filing on Wednesday, crediting its push to upscale operations despite the impact of “unfavorable factors” like higher oil prices.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China reported in January that the country’s aviation sector saw a 10.9 percent jump in passenger traffic in 2018 to 610 million and a 4.6 percent increase in cargo and mail transportation, with the trend set to continue in 2019.—AFP

Business Recorder, 31-03-19

China Feb soyabean imports from US rise

BEIJING: China's imports of soyabeans from the United States in February surged from January as the cargoes booked following a truce in the trade war between the two countries arrived, according to customs data published on Monday.

China brought in 907,754 tons of US soyabeans in February, up from 135,814 tons in January, the General Administration of Customs said.

However, that was just a fraction of the 3.35 million tons imported in February 2018 as Beijing's hefty tariffs on US shipments curbed purchases.

China, the world's biggest oilseed importer, agreed to resume some US soyabean purchases after US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on Dec. 1 to a 90-day truce in their trade dispute.

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

Chinese imports of the oilseed from America, its second-largest supplier, fell sharply last year and ground to a halt in November.

Limited buying resumed after the two countries agreed to the truce, but China only bought 9.4 million tons of US soyabeans through the end of February, down from 27.7 million tons at the same time a year earlier.

It committed to buy an additional 10 million tons during talks in Washington last month, US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on Twitter on Feb. 22.

Meanwhile, China brought in 1.986 million tons of Brazilian soyabeans in February, up 13 percent from the 1.75 million tons in the same month last year, customs data showed.

China crushes soyabeans to produce soyameal for its massive livestock herds, but an African swine fever epidemic has dampened Chinese demand for animal feed.—Reuters

Business Recorder, 31-03-19

Pak-China border via Khunjerab top to re-open

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China Border via Khunjerab top will re-open for trade and travel from Monday.

According to protocol signed between both the friendly countries, the border remains closed from 1st of December to 1st of April every year due to heavy snowfall, Radio Pakistan reported.

The Khunjerab Pass is the highest paved international border at an altitude of 15,500 feet; a daily bus service runs between the Sost valley of Gilgit-Baltistan and Xinjiang province of China.—
NNI

Daily Times, 16-03-19

Sherry Rehman demands ‘concrete information’ on CPEC

Senate Special Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Friday took notice of the cloudiness surrounding CPEC related projects.

The committee, chaired by Senator Sherry Rehman, directed the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms to give concrete information on CPEC projects with groundwork,

progress and timelines from the next meeting onwards instead of providing open source information.

“Why is the committee not being apprised about the details of the projects? We come across more information in the newspapers compared to what’s imparted to us during the committee meetings. It is the Ministry’s responsibility to address the queries of committee members as they have serious reservations that need to be heard and responded to,” the former senate opposition leader said as the committee was briefed regarding CPEC projects.

Members from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan especially, were unanimous in protesting the lack of groundwork in their respective provinces including Gwadar, which is supposed to be the centerpiece of the CPEC maritime Silk Road linkage.

The committee was further briefed on the 8th JCC held in Beijing in December 2018 and members sought details into the current situation of various projects under CPEC as well as about further negotiations with the Chinese government. Rehman expressed reservations as neither the timeline nor the terms and conditions of the CPEC projects were furnished by the government. Saying that nothing can be kept hidden from a parliamentary committee, the Chair of the CPEC Committee in Senate said “We are leading delegations into China and China is asking questions. It is asking about the progress being made on the CPEC projects and here we are, kept in the dark by our government”.

The Committee was told that during the 8th Joint Coordination Committee, a Memorandum of Understanding on industrial cooperation was signed and Pakistan has succeeded in securing a separate \$1 billion grant for socio-economic development which will come in three years and will be spent in less developed areas of the country. The committee was told that the project of M-1 will be implemented in phases and that finalization of preliminary design was in its final stage. It was told that the desalination plants in Gwadar are now a part of the socio-economic development projects. Component of agricultural investment has also been added in CPEC projects which will include co-branding, value chain food processing, fisheries and livestock.

The senator expressed concern regarding gaps in communication. She said a general understanding among Pakistani people, especially regarding Special Economic Zones is that China would singlehandedly make CPEC work.

She suggested, “It would be better if Pakistan did at least half the work here and took road shows to China to attract investors. We need the jobs and growth generated by this opportunity. Our inability to coordinate responses and streamline frameworks or build consensus should not stand in the way of momentum.”

Daily Times, 17-03-19**US business groups encouraged by prospect of US-China deal**

US business groups said Friday they are encouraged by China's approval of a new law that loosen restrictions on foreign investment and said it could help smooth the way to a substantive trade agreement between the two countries.

China's ceremonial legislature passed a measure Thursday seeking to prevent Chinese officials from forcing US and other foreign companies to turn over proprietary technology, a key sticking point in the trade fight between the two countries.

The US has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods in an effort to force changes to a range of China's economic policies. China has retaliated by slapping duties on most US imports.

"It's one of those confidence building measures," Erin Ennis, senior vice president of the US-China Business Council, said of the move by Chinese legislators. It suggests "the two sides are talking the same language."

US companies have long complained that Chinese officials informally push them to turn over trade secrets in order to access China's market. In some cases US businesses are required to form a joint venture with a Chinese partner, and share technology with them. In other cases US companies are forced to provide trade secrets to win regulatory approval from local officials, who then turn over those secrets to Chinese firms.

The Trump administration also wants China to reign in subsidies for state-owned firms and for companies that are focused on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and self-driving cars.

The new law would bar Chinese officials from leaking technology to Chinese firms, and would also make it easier for more US companies to do business in China without a partner.

Still, it's not clear how close the two sides are to an agreement. Earlier this week, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told a Senate committee that "there still are major, major issues that have to be resolved."

And Ennis said China needs to publish regulations that would implement the new law, a step they have delayed taking in the past.

Lighthizer has emphasized that the agreement must include enforcement provisions that would allow the US to impose tariffs or other sanctions if China doesn't follow through on its promises. That remains a key sticking point between the two sides, business lobbyists have said.

Lighthizer sketched out how the United States wants to enforce the deal in his testimony Tuesday. US companies that are forced to turn over technology, for example, could bring that concern to US officials, who would raise them in monthly meetings with their Chinese counterparts. Lighthizer and his Chinese counterpart would meet every six months and seek to resolve the toughest cases.

If they were unable to do so, Lighthizer said, the US could “unilaterally act to enforce change,” which would likely mean tariffs. The Trump administration wants China to agree to not retaliate, but that is a major sticking point.

Still, both presidents want a deal, business lobbyists say.

“We are cautiously optimistic that the two sides are going to get there,” said Jeremie Waterman, president of the US Chamber China Center. “They’re clearly whittling the number of outstanding issues down.”

Some business groups think an agreement, if it is reached, won't happen until the end of April.

President Donald Trump said on Thursday at the White House, “We’ll have news on China probably one way or the other over the next three or four weeks.”

Daily Times, 17-03-19

Energy projects under CPEC

Saud bin Ahsen

Pakistan has exhibited a volatile and cyclical economic growth pattern over the past 70 years; going from bust to boom and back to bust again. In 2013, Pakistan was economically at an ebb with macroeconomic indicators at their worst, resulting in poor service deliverables. One of the manifestations was load shedding which had reached unprecedented levels both in the urban and rural areas. Pakistan was looking for a way out of the economic mess and for a way to end load shedding. In 2013, almost concurrently with the installation of the Nawaz Sharif government, President Xi of China announced the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), for infrastructure and economic development in Asia, Europe and Africa, including transportation, energy, and industry.

One of the key land-based strategies under BRI is the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has been called a game changer for Pakistan. This partnership connects China's Xinjiang Uygur Region to the deep-water Gwadar Port, through significant infrastructure development, including energy. This focus on energy stems from Pakistan's deep-rooted energy crisis, which has caused persistent blackouts and debt.

In Pakistan, the task of formulating and implementing the CPEC related energy projects was assigned to the Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), which is a statutory organization operating under the Ministry of Energy. PPIB has been directed to bridge the demand-supply gap using the opportunity of investments under CPEC. Currently, there are 26 CPEC energy specific projects. Of these, twenty are considered "Priority Projects" that range from operational to still in the permitting stage. The remaining six projects are considered "Actively Promoted" or "Potential" projects. As per research conducted for Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University in 2018, coal capacity makes up about 69 percent of planned CPEC energy ventures. The remaining capacity comes from renewables, mostly hydropower, with smaller portions of wind and solar.

The energy projects under CPEC have both positive and negative externalities. Overcoming the energy crisis in the country would definitely help strengthen the industrial sector of the country and hence boost economic activity and exports from Pakistan. This will have a substantial effect on the economic growth of Pakistan. According to leading economists, overcoming the power crisis is likely to increase the GDP of Pakistan by two percent per annum. Secondly, it will also have a positive effect on the balance of payment issue. According to Dr. Ishrat Husain, the entire energy portfolio will be executed in the Independent Power Producer (IPP) mode and the loans would be taken by Chinese companies and they would service the debt from their own earnings without any obligation on the part of the Pakistani government. Therefore, where the balance of payments is concerned, there will not be any future liabilities for Pakistan about Energy Projects of the CPEC.

On the negative externalities front, while supporting coal projects in Pakistan, China is shutting down coal projects at home to combat carbon emission. This freed up capacity is being used up in Pakistan. So far, CPEC coal investments are a combination of sub-critical and supercritical plants, with no ultra-supercritical plants. Additionally, much of the coal projects are mine-to-mouth, meaning domestic coal reserves will be tapped. This coal has high sulfur and ash content. Supercritical coal plants require higher capital costs, but also reduce the amount of coal needed per unit of electricity generated. Besides the type of technology and quantity of coal used, health impacts of coal also depend on other factors, such as topography and distance to populated regions. The shorter distance from plants to populated areas, the greater the health and environmental impacts.

While the CPEC has been focused on coal primarily the PPIB has not been sitting idle. It facilitated the setting up of three (03) LNG based power plants in Punjab with a cumulative capacity of approximately 3600 MW. Pakistan's natural gas reserves are depleting fast and therefore LNG currently Pakistan's primary energy source, natural gas accounts for 45% of installed electricity capacity and about half of the country's Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES).

It has been estimated that Chinese companies and Pakistani cosponsors have benefitted from at least \$1.35 billion in tax exemptions through CPEC. Such exemptions ultimately cause a loss to the government exchequer

Pakistan has offered exceptionally high internal rates of return (IRRs) to CPEC projects, thus causing high upfront tariffs, which makes electricity expensive for the consumer. Levelized tariff of the 1320 MW Port Qasim Coal Power Project i.e. \$0.0836/kWh is higher than similar projects in Bangladesh involving Chinese sponsors, such as the 1224MW Banshkahli Coal Power Project with a tariff of \$0.08259/kWh.

It has been estimated that Chinese companies and Pakistani cosponsors have benefitted from at least \$1.35 billion in tax exemptions through CPEC. Such exemptions ultimately cause loss to the government exchequer. CPEC energy projects are solely funded by Chinese Banks at market rates or even higher, usually such development projects are funded by development banks at a low cost such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). This means that the Chinese Government is not only taking Return On Equity (ROE) but also cost of financing from the Pakistani Consumer through electricity tariff. Moreover, CPEC projects have a "Take or Pay" tariff, which means that even if the power purchaser does not purchase electricity, capacity payments are made to the power producer. This causes a burden on the national exchequer and on the consumer tariff.

Through CPEC, Pakistan currently serves as a centrepiece for BRI. The total value of CPEC projects is currently estimated at \$62 billion, with at least \$33 billion of this amount expected to be invested in energy projects and China will reportedly finance roughly 80 percent of that amount. Most of the financing for CPEC projects is in the form of loans, rather than unconditional grants by the Chinese government. Unlike the 2-2.5 percent "concessional rate" given to some China Exim Bank customers, reports indicate that some of Pakistan's loans reflect rates as high as 5 percent.

The risk for the central government is quite real as many of the power projects are under the umbrella of sovereign guarantees. Failure on the part of these companies to meet their debt obligations would directly weaken the government's economic position, as it would have to bear the responsibility of making good on its sovereign guarantee. The IMF notes that adverse shocks will keep public debt ratios well above 70 percent, whereas this ratio must not exceed 60% as per

amended Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act 2016. Thus, dangers stemming from Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio can pose significant dangers to the economy. As a country that has requested six debt treatments from the Paris Club, Pakistan's massive amount of borrowing from China raises concerns that it will need to return a seventh time.

Nevertheless, Pakistan has embarked on wide-ranging initiatives including CPEC energy projects and so far PPIB has also remained partially successful in attracting foreign companies to undertake new exploration and production activities. CPEC will contribute to being a source of coordination for developing energy-related projects through indigenous energy resources such as coal, hydro and renewable sources. However, CPEC is not the panacea for all ills unless state institutions also get restructured in a new manner with sharp bargain maneuvering. Undoubtedly, Pakistan has been given a financial lifeline through CPEC. It remains for the government and the implementation agencies to use this opportunity in the best long-term interests of Pakistan.

Daily Times, 18-03-19

Chinese Air Force aerobatics team arrives for Pakistan Day parade

A Chinese military aerobatics team arrived in Pakistan Saturday for a scheduled performance on March 23, Global Times reported. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force's August 1st aerobatics team was invited to participate in a national day air show, which will further deepen the practical cooperation between the air forces of the two countries, the report stated. Pakistan military spokesperson last week tweeted that contingents from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Turkey will participate in the parade.

Daily Times, 18-03-1

Over 7,000 Pakistani students studying on scholarships in China

Figures show that China has become the top education destination for Pakistanis as out of 25,000 students enrolled in Chinese universities; around 7,034 are studying on scholarships.

Pakistani students' number has risen from 9,630 in 2013 to 25,000 in China last year mainly because of a series of preferential policies after the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative, according to official sources here on Sunday, March 17, 2019.

At present, 6,156 Pakistani students are studying in Ph.D., 3,600 in Masters, 11,100 in Bachelors and 3,000 in Short Term Exchange Programs across China. Pakistani students are studying Chinese language, engineering, medical, computer science and various other fields.

China is a popular destination for international students particularly Pakistanis for studying Chinese language and science and technology.

Official figures show that about 489,200 international students studied in China in 2017 – an indicator of the country’s increasing popularity as a destination among foreign students – according to the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Sixty-four percent of the students were from countries including Pakistan taking part in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

A Pakistani student, Ali Imran after finishing his Ph.D. with a major in Physical Electronics from School of Optics and Photonics, Beijing Institute of Technology last year, joined the School of Physics at Peking University which is top ten in whole and is carrying out research with other fellows.

Hailing from a small village of Faisalabad, Ali Imran completed his Masters in digital electronics from University of Engineering and Technology Lahore.

He did his M.Phil. in Semiconductor Physics from Centre of Excellence in Solid State Physics, University of the Punjab, Lahore and remained for the next one year as a Physics lecturer at University of Management and Technology, Lahore.

“I got a very good research opportunity on advanced solar cell technology for future energy harvest at Beijing Institute of Technology. In my Ph.D. research, I proposed a new concept of Flat Intermediate Band Quantum Dot solar cell.

Currently, the proposed solar cell structure has been fabricated in various labs worldwide and is under the optimization process to achieve its maximum efficiency,” he told media.

About his future plans, Ali Imran shared that he intended to spend more time in the field of Semiconductor Technology with different top-level research groups around the globe.

“I hope this journey of research will be interesting and will finally lead to some impressive discovery, which will be a small contribution to the progress of humanity,” he added.

Another Pakistan student Muhammad Ahmad Amin is currently working on his Ph.D. in China and his latest project in finger vein detection, a technology supposed to be safer than fingerprint detection is expected to hit the public market soon.

“There is a great relationship between Pakistan and China. We call it like ‘iron brothers.’ The other reason is in China you can see a great amount of progress in the field of technology development. If you go anywhere in the world, in any house, you will find one product made in China, so it exhibits that China has made a tremendous amount of progress,” said Amin.

A Pakistani student Muhammad ZainSiddiqi from Multan joined prestigious Tsinghua University, Beijing on scholarship and he would be completing Electronic Engineering in 2021.

About his future, he said he intends to join a university as a professor after he returns to the homeland after completing his study.

It is worth mentioning that various scholarships are provided by the Chinese government to lure international students over – most notably, students from the Belt and Road Initiative participating countries and regions have been facilitated to obtain scholarships under the Chinese Government Scholarship – Silk Road Program.

Daily Times, 18-03-19

As Xi heads to Italy, Vatican says China should not fear Church

A top Vatican official says China’s government should not fear “distrust or hostility” from the Roman Catholic Church, writing amid speculation over whether President Xi Jinping will meet Pope Francis this week.

Senior Vatican sources have said Francis is willing to meet Xi and that intermediaries had made overtures to the Vatican, but the Chinese side had not yet formally asked for a meeting. Any encounter would be the first between a Chinese leader and a pope.

Xi’s visit, starting Thursday, is his first to Italy following a historic agreement in September between the Vatican and the Chinese government on the appointment of bishops in China. Beijing cut diplomatic ties with the Vatican in 1951 and has remained concerned that an independent Church in China could threaten its authority.

“The Holy See (nurtures) no distrust or hostility toward any country,” Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal PietroParolin writes in the introduction of a new book on China to be published on Tuesday. An advance copy of Parolin’s comments in the book, “The Church in China – A Future Yet to be written” – were made available to Reuters.

Parolin, second only to the pope in the Vatican hierarchy, said the Catholic Church’s work in China “cannot be separated from a stance of respect, esteem, and trust toward the Chinese people

and their legitimate state authorities.” This appeared to be another attempt by the Vatican to allay Beijing’s concerns. While the historic September agreement initiated an unprecedented direct dialogue between the Vatican and China, Beijing and the Holy See have not resumed diplomatic relations.

Parolin wrote that the previously “inextricable knots” in relations between China and the Vatican could be untied through a new, unified approach involving a mix of “theology, law, pastoral work, and even diplomacy.”

It is routine for heads of state and government visiting Italy to also meet the pope. A Vatican source said it could be inserted into Xi’s schedule “at the last minute”. A Vatican spokesman said it is not on the pope’s schedule.

The September deal, in the making for more than 10 years, gives the Vatican a long-sought say in the choice of bishops in China. Critics, particularly conservative Catholics, have labeled it a sellout to the Communist government. China’s approximately 12 million Catholics have been split between an underground Church swearing loyalty to the Vatican and the state-supervised Catholic Patriotic Association. Now both sides recognize the pope.

Many believe the September deal is a precursor to resumption of diplomatic ties with Beijing. That would mean severing relations with Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province. The Vatican is the self-ruled island’s last remaining diplomatically in Europe.

Daily Times, 18-03-19

CPEC and Gwadar fishermen

It is far too often that the weakest and most impoverished amongst us are further marginalized in the name of development and prosperity. Alas, this is what seems to be happening right now in Gwadar, where the development of the Eastbay Expressway — a component of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that is to connect the Makran Coastal Highway with the Free Trade Zone of the Gwadar port — is threatening to deprive local fishermen of access to the sea.

This is not an issue that has emerged recently. Gwadar’s fishermen were protesting against the current Eastbay Expressway model as far back as October 2018. Leaders of the Fishermen Alliance had expressed concerns back then that the project would prevent them from fishing on Gwadar’s eastern port, which had been the only source of income for many members of the community for centuries. This protest continued for several days, and eventually culminated in a two-day strike on December 27 and 28. Apart from impacting the fishermen’s own livelihoods,

the strike had impacted the country's whole fishing industry as daily shipments overseas, including to Riyadh, Dubai and Kuwait, could not be sent. The protest was eventually called off after successful negotiations with the Balochistan government and the Gwadar Port Authority. However, development of the Expressway has continued since then according to its original design. Now the Fishermen Alliance has announced that its protests will continue.

The authorities must honor the commitments made during the fishermen's initial protest and redesign the Expressway model in a manner that allows the fishermen community access to the sea. It must be noted that all local political parties in Balochistan are supporting the fishermen, and failure to address the fishermen's problems will result in more grievances in the province.

CPEC will be a failure if it fails to accommodate all concerned parties, especially Gwadar's local population. The project cannot be executed successfully if the local populace views it with mistrust. Furthermore, local communities will not derive economic benefit from the project for several years to come, which is why old sources of livelihood must be protected while CPEC projects are under construction. The Balochistan government and the Gwadar Port Authority must make good on their commitment to ensuring the fishermen's access to the Arabian Sea is preserved.

Daily Times, 19-03-19

EU trade surplus with US expands, deficit with China grows

The European Union's trade surplus with the United States and its deficit with China both increased in January, serving as potential fuel for trade conflicts between the world's largest economies. The EU surplus in goods trade with the United States expanded to 11.5 billion euros (10 billion pounds) in January, from 10.1 billion in January 2018, EU statistics office Eurostat said. With China, the EU deficit also increased to 21.4 billion euros, from 20.8 billion euros a year earlier. US President Donald Trump has complained repeatedly about Europe's trade surplus with his country, imposing tariffs to curb imports of EU steel and aluminium and threatening to do the same for the much larger trade in cars and car parts. China's trade surplus with the European Union is also a source of tension between the two, with the bloc taking a firmer line towards Beijing, for example setting out a 10-point plan to balance economic ties and pushing China to open up. As a whole, the EU trade deficit in goods was 24.9 billion euros in January from 21.4 billion euros in January 2018. For the euro zone, its trade surplus dropped to 1.5 billion euros from 3.1 billion euros. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the euro zone's overall surplus rose slightly on the month and the EU's trade deficit dipped in January compared with December 2018.

Daily Times, 19-03-19**Senator Sherry assures Beijing of PPP support in CPEC**

BEIJING: A delegation led by Pakistan People Party (PPP) deputy president, Senator Sherry Rehman, on Monday, held a meeting with International Department of Chinese Communist Party (CPC) Central Committee, Vice Minister, GuoYezhou.

Yezhou welcomed the PPP delegation and remarked, “PPP is an important force in Pakistani politics since it was launched by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto; the party has made a great contribution to the development of China-Pakistan friendship at different historical stages.”

He expressed confidence in further strengthening of his party’s friendship with PPP in the new era.

Senator Sherry Rehman headed a six-member PPP delegation to China on the invitation of CPC. Syed Naveed Qamar, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Senator Rubina Khalid, Faisal KarimKundi and Sindh Minister for the environment, TaimurTalpur is also included in the commission.

Thanking the vice minister for organizing the multi-party constitution, Senator Sherry Rehman asserted, “We are very appreciative of CPC’s efforts and outreach to the people of Pakistan, and are in the frontline of creating and collaborating in the great CPEC venture that is President Xi Jinping’s dream.

“President Zardari’s vision to give Gwadar port to China led to momentum on building a collaborative platform like CPEC,” she added.

She extended warm wishes from PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and recalled that he was the son of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, who had curated the relationship between the two parties as a pillar of policy.

The Senator maintained, “For PPP and Pakistan, a strong relationship with CPC and the People’s Republic of China is the cornerstone of our policy.”

Rehman said that Pakistan recognized China as its iron brother through good and bad times and pointed towards the important lessons that the country could learn from all that China had done during the last three decades.

“It has, for instance, taken 700 million people out poverty and we would like to achieve similar goals,” she said.

The senator talked of her party's attempts to build consensus on national goals and commitment to transform Pakistan's growth and job trajectory. For which, she believed that they strongly stood behind the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“Eight per cent of our GDP can grow if we are able to consolidate gains from this opportunity. We are looking forward to building consensus and infrastructure that will enable investors and bring some energy initiatives of the Chinese government to Pakistan,” Sherry added.

The PPP leader directed attention towards three important aspects in CPEC: job creation for locals with skill training, sharing knowledge on best practices to green technology and energy projects, and assistance in agriculture growth, energy, infrastructure, the digital economy and generating momentum on job-creation.

“We look forward to an endeavoring and stable relationship and seek to enhance Pakistan-China ties and the PPP-CPC bilateral relationship. We clearly understand the obvious benefits and massive opportunities that CPEC represents for the people of Pakistan,” she concluded.

Senator Sherry Rehman also extended an invitation to GuoYezhou on behalf of the PPP Chairman and former president. Asif Ali Zardari to visit Sindh.

Daily Times, 19-03-19

US-Pakistan differences: beyond Afghan issue-II

Mashhood Hassan AzamAwan

China and Russia seem to have been emerging as powerful bloc in Indo-pacific region and US does not like this emerging hegemony of the revisionist bloc. The document as aforesaid outlines US strategy to make India as its new partner to take such measures as are necessary to reverse the growing influence of China in this region in particular.

Pentagon's Report to Congress on China further underscores that China has formulated broader foreign policy goals and that is why Beijing's growing exports of arms especially sale of arms to Pakistan may prove to be hazardous to the existing world order in the long run because US still consistently and persistently pursues clear policy of preserving the unipolar world and to protect the free and open international order. The re-emergence of any other bloc, whether in this region or anywhere else, might give way to bi-polarity and/or ultimate multi-polarity. The emphasis in such US document was much on statistical data which would show that during the period 2011-2016, China had emerged as the fifth largest supplier of arms in the world and it had completed \$20 billion in sales. Out of these, military equipment worth \$8 billion had gone to

Indo-Pacific region especially Pakistan. The report underlines that this capability of Chinese government is hinging upon two major premises: firstly, its continued sale of arms to Pakistan; and secondly, its demands for its armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). China has, it further highlights, entered into an agreement with Pakistan for sale of 8 submarines way back in 2015. The document quoted it as a part of empirical support.

A recent development in consequence of Imran Khan's five-day visit to China from 2nd to 5th November 2018 is a pointer to the stark fact that number agreements and MoUs have been executed between two neighbors. In recent past, China has been able to bring Pakistan and Russia together because Russia had serious reservations as to involvement of Pakistan in US war at soil of Afghanistan against Soviet Union during 1979-1989 which resulted in fall of Soviet Union. Misunderstandings between Russia and Pakistan seem to have, to some extent, come to an end with active collaboration and coordination of Chinese government. Besides, Pakistan and Russia's Armed Forces have also jointly conducted certain military exercises in recent past. The détente brokered by Chinese leadership between Russia and Pakistan is apparently another matter of serious concern for US policy-makers. Regional state actors, namely: – China, Russia, Pakistan, Turkey and Iran are trying to make this region powerful and united in terms of economic and military strategies at the world stage but India being regional actor is playing in the hands of United States to reverse the influence of China in this region. Efforts are underway to bring paradigm shift in relation to knowledge and technology by strengthening universities in the East so that there is little need for going to West for education. Pakistan and China have decided to conduct inter-state trade and commerce through Yuan, Chinese currency from now onward instead of dollar. This event will have direct effect of corroding the monopoly of dollar in this region. This is, thus, yet another setback to the American politics of dollarization on chessboard of international political economy.

US and its allies have virtually lost the game in Afghanistan

Thus, to state that the discordance between US and Pakistan is because of something in Afghanistan, is a cliché. It is as such an incorrect assumption of the extant politico-economic scenario at political chessboard of the world. US and its allies have virtually lost the game in Afghanistan. Things have changed, as the world is presenting a new picture. It does not want to quit this area for its other objectives, as pointed out hereinbefore. US and its think tanks are not oblivious to the changed scenario. Dollarization is at stake. Russia-Pakistan détente is also an eye sour for US policy-makers. Regional state actors in Asia seem to be on the one page for regional prosperity and security to make US role irrelevant in relation to Afghanistan in particular and Asia in general. They are accordingly adjusting and redesigning their new economic policies and military strategies in line with that perspective. CPEC, and China and Russia's re-emergence and détente between Russia and Pakistan in this region for politico-economic policies and other strategic missions are being taken by US not as new trend setters but as eye-openers demanding

corresponding change in its international policies, as China and Russia in their joint venture pose a central threat to US prosperity and security, i.e., free and open international order.

Even Pakistan's strategic position in the world politics is now accepted worldwide. America and its allies are in quest of mechanism for withdrawal from Afghanistan. For that purpose, they have realized that it is only Pakistan which can bring US, Taliban, other groups and Afghan government on table to find out a workable solution. Efforts in this direction are, at international level, underway. Other regional state actors except India support this move. India has few days back violated air space of Pakistan twice and Pakistan Air Force shot down two Indian fighter jets and a pilot was caught but Pakistan of its own released him. It was an eye opener for world that it is India which is responsible for want of peace in this region. In view of foreigner women being at risk of harassment in India, America has warned American women not to travel to India. But US still needs India as its ally in this region for purposes highlighted above.

Daily Times, 20-03-19

Pakistan, China agree to 'smooth' implementation of CPEC projects

China and Pakistan Tuesday held strategic dialogue and undertook in-depth discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations, including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, investment and economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts and regional and international issues, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office.

The dialogue was co-chaired by State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi for China and Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi for Pakistan.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their time-tested and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and agreed to maintain regular two-way high-level political and official exchanges.

They expressed commitment to translate the vision of the leadership to build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era. The two sides reaffirmed support to each other on all core issues of their national interest. They underlined that state sovereignty and territorial integrity are the cardinal principles of UN Charter and the international law.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for de-escalation of tensions in South Asia and underlined the need for dialogue and peaceful means to resolve all outstanding disputes. The two sides also agreed to further intensify cooperation with regular meetings of all bilateral mechanisms to take forward practical cooperation in respective fields.

Beijing pledges unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and socio-economic development

They agreed to strengthen people-to-people contacts, cultural cooperation and tourism. It was noted that China and Pakistan are celebrating 2019 as the year of sister-cities exchanges. The two foreign ministers reaffirmed the commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and agreed to continue the smooth implementation of CPEC projects, especially its Special Economic Zones. While rejecting the negative propaganda against CPEC, they expressed a strong resolve to safeguard the initiative from all kinds of threats. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation against terrorism by strengthening communication and coordination in relevant fields. The Chinese side highly appreciated Pakistan's commitment and efforts to counter terrorism.

The two foreign ministers discussed the situation in Afghanistan and expressed support for the ongoing efforts for peace and reconciliation. Both sides reiterated support for Afghan-owned and Afghan-led inclusive peace process and called on all stakeholders in Afghanistan to become part of an intra-Afghan dialogue.

They also urged all sides to show flexibility to find a durable solution to the Afghan conflict. The two sides agreed to continue their mutual collaboration at the regional multilateral and international forums. They expressed their support for consensus-based reform of the United Nations so that it responds to the interests and concerns of all member states. Separately, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan and briefed him on the progress in development of CPEC.

Qureshi said Prime Minister Imran Khan was looking forward to visit them during the next month to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum.

Reaffirming the time-tested and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, the vice president expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of bilateral ties since the visit of the prime minister to China in November 2018. He assured Foreign Minister Qureshi of China's unwavering support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and for its socio-economic development.

Daily Times, 20-03-19

All parties standing on one page for CPEC: Senator Sherry

"There is complete unanimity in Pakistan on the (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) CPEC opportunity" said Pakistan People's Party Vice-President, Senator Sherry Rehman, on Tuesday, while adding that all of the country's political parties had unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration.

She was speaking at the first meeting of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism.

Highlighting the significance of CPEC, she added, Political parties are taking responsibility for Pakistan's future and making sure that CPEC, as an opportunity, reaches its full potential."

The senator called the project a platform that was beyond parties and provinces because it guaranteed Pakistan an entry into the 21st century as a viable economy. CPEC was also said to provide the citizens of Pakistan with basic economic benefits.

The former Leader of Opposition was heading a delegation of other senior PPP members and claimed that her party truly appreciated the opportunity to join the multi-party consultation on CPEC.

Such exchanges were beneficial for everyone, Sherry added.

Senator Sherry then invited the hosts to visit Pakistan and all provinces, including Sindh, to build upon their communication and relationship.

'For the PPP, CPEC is our project': Sherry

She maintained, "I would like to make three points; we are here to take stock of our progress on realizing joint goals on CPEC. One is the creation of consensus, something we always talk about; the second is the building of clarity on joint roles as we proceed together; and third is the importance and power of communication both internally and externally about how important and transformational CPEC can be for the people of Pakistan and for the future of the region's peace, stability and our joint progress,"

She took great pride in the close bond her party enjoyed with China and remarked, "Both Pakistan and the PPP hold the People's Republic of China as our iron brothers from the 1950s, from the days of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was the last leader to see Chairman Mao before his death."

She noted, "For the PPP, CPEC is our project."

Sherry relayed that the PPP took unambiguous ownership of CPEC because it was shepherded by the grunt of Gwadar to China by former president and PPP co-chairperson, Asif Ali Zardari, who had visited China eleven times during his tenure for the realization of this dream.

While expressing hopes for China to consider her party as key stakeholders in making CPEC work for the people of Pakistan, she established PPP as a party totally invested in the outcome of jobs, growth, energy provision and regional stability.

The senator underlined the importance of working alongside China and stated, “Learning from China will be crucial to deepening the skill base of our people, one million of which enter the job market every year.”

She continued, “China boasts a digital economy of \$3.8 billion. We will be using the digital platforms for connectivity, jobs, development, marketing and communication”.

Those present on the occasion included Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Qasim Suri from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI); Mushahid Hussain from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N); Balochistan Governor, Amanullah Khan; Jan Muhammad from National Party; Nasrullah Khan Barach from Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP); Omar Ahmadzai from Balochistan Awami Party (BAP); Mehmood Ahmad from Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F) (JUI-F); Shagufta Malik from Awami National Party (ANP) and Muhammad Akbar from Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M).

Daily Times, 20-03-19

Asia firms spend less and save more as China economy slows

Corporate spending in Asia is likely fall for the first time in three years, a Reuter’s analysis of Refinitiv data showed, as businesses conserve cash in the face of a stalling Chinese economy, an unresolved trade dispute and Brexit uncertainty.

Capital expenditure (capex) at 2,137 Asian companies is likely to slip an average 4 percent this year, according to the data, which is based on analyst estimates. The pace of revenue growth is likely to be flat at 3.3 percent, the data showed.

By comparison, capex – or money spent on maintenance and investment – at the same firms grew nearly 8 percent last year.

“We are seeing several factors working against capex growth,” said Joseph Devine, chief investment officer, global ex-U.S. equity at Macquarie Investment Management.

“Credit conditions have tightened and the U.S. dollar is strong. In India and some other markets, the bank lending cycle may have peaked. Auto demand in China is slowing.”

Capex refers to money used to acquire or upgrade equipment, buy property or build plants, in order to aid expansion or stay competitive. Cutting capex could slow future revenue growth but is often considered prudent at times of economic uncertainty.

In Asian engine China, the world's second-biggest economy, growth slowed to a near three-decade low last year and is widely expected to further decelerate this year as the government continues a campaign against excessive corporate debt and works to resolve a trade dispute with the United States.

Meanwhile, its tumbling imports and exports has tempered optimism toward factory output in neighboring Japan where private-sector machinery orders – a capex barometer – fell in January at the fastest pace in four months.

“Uncertainty in trade and policy makes companies cautious while investing,” said Herald Van der Linde, head of Asia equity strategy at HSBC. Yet Asia needs more “hard infrastructure” so low investment is not sustainable in the longer term, he said.

Daily Times, 20-03-19

Pakistan's corridors: economic and transit hub

Hassnain Javed

In an era where geostrategic and geopolitical maneuvering of states are giving way to ‘geo-economics’ pursuits, Pakistan's advantageous location offers promising future prospects for its economy. Apart from inheriting the fertile Indus Valley, Pakistan sits on territory which has had historical significance as a transit hub for trade caravans, marching armies and wandering saints. Parts of the Ancient Silk Route, which passed through its mountains in the North, have been modernized into the Karakoram Highway.

The various mountain passes on Pakistan's insurmountable peaks allowed passage to conquerors and invaders from Afghanistan, Iran and beyond, ushering the establishment and intermingling of entire civilizations in the subcontinent. Sufi saints travelled such ancient routes and trails, eventually settling in areas that became hubs of cultural and commercial activity.

For hundreds of years, the region of present-day Pakistan enjoyed a “central position in relation to the rest of the world, a place where different societies mingled, sharing cultural ties and making economic transactions. Cities such as Lahore, Multan and Peshawar, and those in Upper Sind lay on trade routes connecting lands to their west? Iran, Central Asia and China? And those to the east? India? And as such became centers of trade, commerce and culture and brought prosperity to regions they commanded.”

In the present-day and age, with states' borders fixed according to the modern international legal framework, it is not difficult to see that Pakistan's strategic location is more beneficial than ever

for economic trade. And in this context, the various trade corridors, routes and projects available to Pakistan can also offer significant economic returns for the regional and global economies.

Within Pakistan's vicinity lie Iran to its West; Afghanistan to the North-West; India to the East and China to the North. Its Southern coast, which boasts the celebrated port of Gwadar, grants access to the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The importance of this maritime access cannot be stressed enough, especially in light of the assertions of eminent scholars who argue that the 21st century world politics will revolve around the Indian Ocean.

Regional trade will enable Pakistan to establish modern special economic zones. Pakistan has a huge young labor force, as well as business-friendly policies which enhance competitiveness. Thus, regional integration would allow Pakistan to become a major manufacturing hub.

Thus, it is clear that Pakistan is part of a region that is demonstrating immense economic vitality. China's populous and emerging middle class offers a "huge consumer market for Pakistan's products"; and with a high savings rate, could also serve as "a deep pool of investment for Pakistan". India too has seen a consistent high growth trajectory. The Central Asian Republics are "engaged with the world to exchange their mineral wealth for goods and services that satisfy growing consumption and rising living standards of their citizens." Iran's fossil fuel reserves can be channeled to power the "energy poor South Asia in exchange for skilled manpower and consumption goods."

Even as sub-regional units, Pakistan's environs have shown promising economic activity and regeneration with booming economic growth rates. Among these engines of growth, the Central Asian Republics as a sub-region have shown around 5% growth rate over the past five years. For China, "GDP growth has averaged nearly 10 % a year – the fastest sustained expansion by a major economy in history – and has lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty". South Asia has shown a growth rate of 6.5% over the past five years.

Thus, there is emerging consensus that the decades ahead will usher in an Asian century. Within this milieu of a Rising Asia, Pakistan with its central location can serve as an economic and transit hub, by utilizing both its North-South and East-West trade potential through trade routes and corridors. From a practical standpoint, the ancient trade routes would help link the energy-rich states of Central Asia with the emerging economies of South Asia, and promise much benefit to Pakistan which would play the role of a regional trade-hub.

International trade opens up "sustained welfare improvements for citizens" as the economy moves from being a transit hub, to a manufacturing economy – which is marked by high productivity and high wages for its populace. This transition requires a skilled labor, modern infrastructure, efficient governance policies and promotion of investment over short-term consumption.

Such reforms will only be holistically achieved for Pakistan if it is able to develop the land-based trade routes across a full spectrum, i.e. in multiple directions and sub-regions. Trade via transportation on land routes is a common feature of the imports and exports between neighboring countries. Yet despite having a common border with both China and India, Pakistan's trade potential via land with these two booming economies has not been tapped to a

significant degree. With China this has primarily been due to an absence of well-developed land-based infrastructure in the past. “Until recently, there were no feasible low cost land routes for transportation of goods between the two countries.”

However, this is an area where the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will offer considerable remedies. “Western China is closer to Pakistan than the coastal provinces and can be accessed if highways, railways, pipelines are built to link the two countries. But Pakistan has yet to fit itself into China’s huge supply chain as other Asian countries have done.”

The reutilization of the historic trade corridors would expand the population base which is searching for avenues to maritime trade in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan promises easy access to the Arabian Sea via its strategic coastline, and thus can become a major transit hub in the region. Trade via Pakistan’s land routes can act as a driver of growth which can lead to substantial growth rates that result in a persistently rising GDP and per capita income.

Regional trade will enable Pakistan to establish modern special economic zones. Pakistan has a huge young labor force, as well as business-friendly policies which enhance competitiveness. Thus, regional integration would allow Pakistan to become a major manufacturing hub. Economic prosperity will eventually lead to social and political stability. One can find extensive work on trade corridors within the context of regional geographical divisions such as Asia, South Asia, etc. For instance, the Asian Development Bank has conducted extensive research on connectivity prospects between South and South-East-Asia. The effects of the regional connectivity will be far beyond the localized infrastructure; and it is through dialogue, engagement and investment that these projects will bear fruit for the regional and global economies.

Daily Times, 22-03-19

China’s economic dilemma and the US

SP Seth

China is set for a lower growth rate for its economy. Looking at the new official target growth range of 6 to 6.5 percent from last year’s actual growth rate of 6.6 percent, it doesn’t look too bad. However, two things need to be pointed out here.

Firstly, it will be the lowest growth target since 1990. This will have an impact on the employment situation in the country, with likely adverse effects on social stability.

Secondly, notwithstanding the target growth rate figure of 6 to 6.5 percent that doesn’t seem too bad, Premier Li Keqiang’s annual work report sent to the recent National People’s Congress highlighted the problems that China will be facing.

The following is worth quoting from Premier Li's report. "Growth in global economy is slowing, protectionism and unilateralism are mounting, and there are drastic fluctuations in the prices of commodities... Instability and uncertainty are visibly increasing, and externally generated risks are on the rise", refers apparently to the trade conflict with the United States (US).

Domestically, he highlighted that the growth in consumption was slowing and China's business environment fell short of market expectations. At the same time, the public was "dissatisfied in many areas", including education, healthcare, housing and food safety.

The economy, therefore, faced "severe challenges" as it tried to balance the new risks with the "growing pains" of transforming the country's economy, with, among other things, added pressures on job creation.

The unemployment rate is expected to rise to 5.5 percent, up from 5 per cent last year. The official unemployment rate seems to underestimate the real situation. Whatever might be the case, slowing growth in the manufacturing industries is affecting jobs, with exports suffering because of the trade conflict with the US.

The jobs are also hit by reforms to shut down "overcapacity" in state industries, such as steel and coal.

To deal with the situation, the government would cut taxes to encourage manufacturing and small business, combined with new loans to small businesses by state banks; though "refraining from using a deluge of stimulus policies" and continuing with structural reform.

The stimulus policies are not cost-free, as these have created overcapacity and created a mountain of internal debt estimated at more than 200 percent of China's GDP.

This is causing distortions in the economy, like unoccupied housing apartments waiting for buyers. But the government will go ahead with large spending on railway construction and roads and waterways.

Trade confrontation with the US is acknowledged as a factor in lower growth expectations.

Slowing growth in China's manufacturing industries is affecting jobs, with exports suffering because of the trade conflict with the US

China attaches considerable importance to settling the ongoing trade issues with the US. The continuing dialogue between the two countries tends to raise expectations of a mutually agreed solution. Beijing is willing to buy a lot more from the US to ease the situation.

But so far, there is no breakthrough.

The problem is multidimensional, which includes intellectual property theft, the character of the Chinese economy subject to state direction and control thus undermining competition, and its headlong ambition to be the world's technology giant, raising fears of backdoor spying through telecommunications corporations like Huawei.

The case of the telecommunication giant, Huawei, has added to the complexity of the relationship not only between the US and China but also with other Western countries. Australia has taken the lead to ban Huawei in the rolling of 5G technologies, as this would make its telecommunications susceptible to Chinese spying.

The US too has imposed a ban, which reportedly prevents US agencies, private companies that deal with the US and recipients of US loans or grants from using Huawei's gear.

It would effectively ban national and international businesses and agencies from using Huawei and allied technology products, at a time when China's dominance in 5G technologies is widely acknowledged. Huawei has said that it was 12 to 18 months ahead of its competitors on 5G development.

China strongly denies that the government forces its technology companies to spy on other countries. Only the other day, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told his annual press conference that, "This [spying by Chinese technology companies] is not consistent with Chinese law. This is not how China behaves; we did not do that and will not do that in the future."

In the meantime, Huawei is suing the US government in a Taxes court to overturn the ban on the use of its gear.

Even though the US is taking a tough stand on trade and technology issues, President Trump reportedly said recently that he might consider intervening in the US Justice Department's legal action against Huawei's chief financial officer, MengWanzhou, who is going through the Canadian judicial process on an extradition request from the US.

It would seem that China is trying to avoid any rash reaction to all that is plaguing the two countries' trade ties.

Premier Li reportedly struck a moderate tone on US-China relations at his press conference, saying that their shared interests outweighed their differences; noting that the Chinese and US economies were closely entwined. It was, therefore, not realistic, he said, to decouple these two economies.

It would thus appear that both China and the US are keen to avoid a headlong clash.

Will this lead to a mutually satisfying solution? Only time would tell, as there are too many variables, including geopolitical and strategic issues.

Daily Times, 22-03-19

China clones 'Sherlock Holmes' police dog to cut training times — state media

Scientists in southwest China's Yunnan province have cloned what they called the "Sherlock Holmes of police dogs" in a programme they hope will help cut training times and costs for police dogs, state media reported on Wednesday.

The dog, named Kunxun, was cloned from a police sniffer dog by the Beijing-based Sinogene Biotechnology Company and the Yunnan Agricultural University, with support from the Ministry of Public Security, the state-owned tabloid Global Times reported.

Sinogene is hoping to make it possible to achieve "volume production" of cloned police dogs in order to significantly reduce training times, the company's deputy general manager Zhao Jianping told the Global Times, but he added that cloning costs remain a major obstacle.

Kunxun, now three months old, will undergo extensive training in drug detection, crowd control and searching for evidence, and will become a fully-fledged police dog when it is about 10 months old, the official China Daily said.

Training usually takes about five years and costs as much as 500,000 yuan, with no guarantee of success, the paper said, citing an animal expert at the Yunnan Agricultural University. The paper did not say how much a cloned dog would cost.

South Korean scientists created the world's first cloned dog in 2005, and two years later the country began employing cloned Labrador retrievers to sniff out drugs for the customs service, China Daily said.

Daily Times, 23-03-19

Explosion at Chinese chemical plant kills 47, injures 640

An explosion at a pesticide plant in eastern China has killed 47 people and injured more than 600, state media said on Friday, the latest casualties in a series of industrial accidents that has angered the public.

The blast occurred on Thursday at the Chenjiagang Industrial Park in the city of Yancheng, in Jiangsu province, and the fire was finally brought under control at 3 a.m. on Friday (1900 GMT), state television said.

Survivors were taken to 16 hospitals with 640 people being treated for injuries. Thirty-two of them were critically injured, it said.

The fire at a plant owned by the Tianjiayi Chemical Company spread to neighboring factories. Children at a kindergarten in the vicinity were also injured in the blast, media reported.

The cause of the explosion was under investigation, but the company — which produces more than 30 organic chemical compounds, some of which are highly flammable — has been cited and fined for work safety violations in the past, the China Daily said.

President Xi Jinping, who is in Italy on a state visit, ordered all-out efforts to care for the injured and to “earnestly maintain social stability,” state television said.

Authorities must step up action to prevent such incidents from happening and find out the cause of the blast as quickly as possible, Xi added.

“There have recently been a series of major accidents, and all places and relevant departments must fully learn the lessons from these,” the report cited Xi as saying.

The blast occurred on Thursday at the Chenjiagang Industrial Park in the city of Yancheng, in Jiangsu province

The Jiangsu environmental protection bureau said in a late Thursday statement the environmental monitoring station in the area had found no abnormal concentrations of toluene, xylene or benzene.

Concentrations of acetone and chloroform outside the perimeter of the explosion zone were also within normal limits, it added.

Jiangsu will launch inspections on chemical producers and warehouses, according to an emergency notice published by official media on Friday.

The notice, published on the news website of Jiangsu province's Communist Party, said the government would shut down any chemical firms found not complying with regulations on dangerous chemicals.

Public anger over safety standards has grown in China over industrial accidents ranging from mining disasters to factory fires that have marred three decades of swift economic growth.

In 2015, 165 people were killed in a series of explosions at a chemical warehouse in the northern city of Tianjin.

The explosions at Tianjin, one of the world's busiest ports and not far from the capital, Beijing, were big enough to be seen by satellites and register on earthquake sensors.

Despite repeated pledges by the government to tighten safety, chemical plants in particular have been plagued by disasters.

In November, a series of blasts during the delivery of a flammable gas at a chemical manufacturer killed 23 people.

Daily Times, 23-03-19

CPEC to bring about peace, development in region: Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will not only bring concrete benefits to the people of the two countries but also make positive contribution to the regional peace and development.

“China-Pakistan relations maintain a good momentum. The two countries have been cooperating in all fields under the Belt and Road Initiative. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor not only

brings concrete benefits to our people, but also makes positive contribution to regional peace and development,” the Chinese president said in a message sent to President ArifAlvi on the occasion of Pakistan Day. “I attach high importance to the development of China-Pakistan relations, and would like to join hands with you to upgrade the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a higher level, and to build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era,” he stated.

“Currently, Pakistan is making efforts to maintain stability, expedite economic development and improve people’s livelihood. We are pleased that tangible outcomes have been achieved in this regard. I am sure that under the leadership of you and the Pakistani government, new progress will be made continuously in building your country,” he said. “On the occasion of the 80th Pakistan Day, on behalf of the government and people of China and also in my name, I would like to express my warm congratulations and best wishes to you and through you to the government and people of Pakistan,” he added. “May I wish Pakistan prosperity and her people happiness and wealth,” he concluded. In a separate message sent to Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang extended warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of the Pakistan Day. “In recent years, China and Pakistan have worked together in promoting the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership towards a higher stage. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is steadily forging ahead, with fruitful results in various fields. Both sides have agreed to develop CPEC with higher quality in order to better benefit the two countries and the two peoples,” he said.

Daily Times, 24-03-19

Apple’s Cook to China: keep opening for sake of global economy

Apple chief executive Tim Cook nudged China on Saturday to open up and said the future would depend on global collaboration, as the United States and China remained locked in a bitter trade dispute. “We encourage China to continue to open up, we see that as essential, not only for China to reach its full potential, but for the global economy to thrive,” Cook said at a China Development Forum in Beijing. Despite official pledges and repeated assurances that China would continue to open its markets, some analysts worry that its reform project has slowed or even stalled under President Xi Jinping, who has sought greater control over the economy and a bigger role for state-owned firms at the expense of the private sector. Cook’s comments come as Apple weathers sinking sales in China because of a contracting smartphone market, increasing pressure from Chinese rivals, and slowing upgrade cycles. The company reported a revenue drop of 26 percent in the greater China region during the quarter ending in December. Before those results came out, in a January letter to investors, Cook blamed the company’s poor China performance on trade tension between the United States and China, suggesting that pressure on the economy was hurting sales in China.

.Daily Times, 25-03-19**China refuses to concede on US demands to ease curbs on tech firms — FT**

Ahead of fresh high-level trade talks this week, China is not conceding to US demands to ease curbs on technology companies, the Financial Times reported on Sunday, citing three people briefed on the discussions. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are scheduled to travel to Beijing for talks starting on March 28, the White House said on Saturday. The FT report said Beijing had yet to offer “meaningful concessions” to US requests for China to stop discriminating against foreign cloud computing providers, to reduce limits on overseas data transfers and to relax a requirement for companies to store data locally. China made an initial offer on digital trade that the United States judged as insufficient, the report said, citing a source. China then retracted the offer after the United States demanded stronger pledges, the report said, without giving further details. The White House and China’s Commerce Ministry did not respond to requests from Reuters for comment on Sunday. US President Donald Trump said on Friday that the talks aimed at resolving the trade dispute were progressing and a final agreement seemed probable.

Daily Times, 25-03-19**Italy endorses China’s Belt and Road plan in first for a G7 nation**

Italy endorsed China’s ambitious “Belt and Road” infrastructure plan on Saturday, becoming the first major Western power to back the initiative to help revive the struggling Italian economy.

Saturday’s signing ceremony was the highlight of a three-day trip to Italy by Chinese President Xi Jinping, with the two nations boosting their ties at a time when the United States is locked in a trade war with China.

The rapprochement has angered Washington and alarmed some European Union allies, who fear it could see Beijing gain access to sensitive technologies and critical transport hubs.

Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio played down such concerns, telling reporters that although Rome remained fully committed to its Western partners, it had to put Italy first when it came to commercial ties.

“This is a very important day for us, a day when Made-in-Italy has won, Italy has won and Italian companies have won,” said Di Maio, who signed the memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Italian government in a Renaissance villa.

Taking advantage of Xi's visit, Italian firms inked deals with Chinese counterparts worth an initial 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion). Di Maio said these contracts had a potential, future value of 20 billion euros.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) lies at the heart of China's foreign policy strategy and was incorporated into the ruling Communist Party constitution in 2017, reflecting Xi's desire for his country to take a global leadership role.

The United States worries that it is designed to strengthen China's military influence and could be used to spread technologies capable of spying on Western interests.

Daily Times, 25-03-19

CPEC is a key to cultural relations between China and Pakistan

China and Pakistan are exchanging their cultural values, norms and patterns with the initiative of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is the latest venture in the history of bilateral economic cooperation. Culture refers to the ways of life of a society or of groups within a society. It includes how they dress, their marriage customs, language, family life, their patterns of work, religious ceremonies and leisure pursuits. Cultural relations are more neutral and comprehensive between China and Pakistan. This has been especially true under President Xi Jinping, marking the revival of the Silk Road, that the cultural exchanges between the 'iron brothers' have met new momentum. The Belt and Road Summit held in Beijing in May 2017 as well as the 19th plenary session of the Communist Party of China emphasized the need for cultural exchange and people to people ties. CPEC, as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), both countries have once again embarked on a journey for colorful cultural exchange.

The purpose of cultural relations is not necessarily to seek a one-sided advantage. The most effective purpose of this project is to achieve understanding and co-operation between national societies for their mutual benefit. Chinese and Pakistanis are exchanging socio-economic patterns to promote mutual understanding, exchanging both material and non-material culture. In material culture China and Pakistan are exchanging products, commodities and resources with each other. In non-material culture involves food, language, dress, religion and living patterns. So, this proves that economic development also gave strength to the social ties and bounds between two nations and their friendship become flourishing.

Pakistan has also actively participated in different cultural activities. Jamal Shah, the director of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), came with their delegation and participated in

Xinjiang Cultural festival, PNCA given numerous performances which reflected the rich culture of Pakistan.

Chinese and Pakistanis are exchanging socio-economic patterns to promote mutual understanding, exchanging both material and non-material culture

The tendency of sharing cultural activities between China and Pakistan is increasing day by day like a storm. During a field survey, a respondent had the view, “He is too much inspired by Chinese work ethics and working hours. They care for the life security of the local labour, working hours are the same as Chinese labour, if they work extra time, they are paid extra money for the extra work”. Pakistani students are making progress in China’s best universities and carrying their cultural traits, patterns, norms and values. Every year on cultural days, Pakistani student present their culture. Similarly, in China everyone knows about Pakistan, a local shopkeeper or taxi driver know about China-Pakistan friendship. When they know, we are from Pakistan, the first word they use in Chinese (haopengou) meaning good friends. Local people from both countries take pride in this friendship.

Food is a pillar in cultural and people to people relation between China and Pakistan. Chinese who are living in Pakistan, enjoy Pakistan food and spices. During the interviews, “A Chinese respondent said, they are in love with chicken biryani, chapati and chicken. Pakistani most of the time bring food from their homes for their Chinese co-workers. Chinese are of the view that Pakistanis are very hospitable people. Even they have not enough earning resources, but they are always ready to feed people in a good way. As contrast to Pakistani workers are working with Chinese has view, they always share their food and introduce Chinese food to them. At larger scales there are some Chinese restaurants opened in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. These restaurants provide the same taste food which is available in China. Similar, Pakistani food restaurants are also found in the big cities of China where we can find the same Pakistani food. Another positive affect of CPEC that Chinese and Pakistani individuals are marrying each other. Before initiation of CPEC, Pakistani male students married to Chinese girls. Most of the couples lived in China and earning money together. But now Chinese males are working in Pakistan in different projects marrying Pakistani women and living with them in Pakistan. It is taking a beginning of new bond between two diverse cultures. This is new cultural wave taken place in China and Pakistan. Even, when we visit the big cities in Pakistan, we do not see the faces of Americans, but we see Chinese people everywhere in Pakistan.

Chinese language has replaced English as the language of job opportunities in Pakistan. Chinese language and history are also getting strong attention in Pakistani academic courses. The University of Agricultural Faisalabad opened a Chinese language institute attract the number of students to learn Chinese language. Even most of the students passed their HSK score and then applied in Chinese universities, which enhanced their chances of admission in China. Even at

local areas, the workers who learnt Chinese language from their employees teach language at their small towns or villages. And same thing is happening with Chinese workers that they are learning Urdu and other local languages of Pakistan.

We cannot understand culture without knowing their material and non-material aspect of each other's culture. With the CPEC both countries interact with each other and understand their lives, motivations, concerns and interests. CPEC is a powerful human tool to inherit both cultures, develop a new pattern of society and add new knowledge in Pakistan and Chinese societies.

Daily Times, 26-03-19

Yao Jing delivers emergency relief aid to Balochistan

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has delivered emergency relief assistance to Balochistan on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China in the wake of recent floods across province. Baluchistan Governor AmanUllah Khan Yasinzai and Secretary General of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khalid Bin Majeed received the assistance on behalf of the province and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

On the occasion, Governor Yasinzai extended heartfelt thanks to the Chinese government and the Red Cross Society of China for their generous assistance for the province. He said the recent snow and rainstorm had caused heavy casualties and property losses in Balochistan, and that China's assistance, which reflects the noble spirit of humanitarianism and deep friendship towards the province, is an important manifestation of brotherly relations between the two countries. Balochistan is fully committed to post-disaster resettlement and reconstruction and will make proper use of the assistance, he stated.

Ambassador Yao said as a close neighbor and an all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China attaches huge importance to friendly exchanges and cooperation with Balochistan and will do what it can to help the province develop and improve people's livelihood. The Chinese people feel the pain of Baluchistan and hope the assistance can help mitigate the impact of the disaster, he said, and believed that under the leadership of Governor AmanUllah Khan Yasinzai and the provincial government, people in the province can certainly prevail over the disaster and rebuild their homes soon.

Daily Times, 27-03-19**Pakistan needs to revise academic curriculum to reap CPEC benefits: SBP**

In order to maximize returns from the opportunities arising out of the implementation of CPEC projects, Pakistan would have to take serious notice of its human capital deficiency, said State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The government needs to devise a framework focusing on skill-development of the workforce and adequate provision of associated services in order to stand on an equal footing with the rest of the regional economies, who are intently focusing on re-skilling, digitization and technological advancements to gain a competitive advantage, added the Central Bank.

A significant overhaul of the education system of the country is required to address the dearth of adequately skilled graduates entering the labor force. As the findings from the Human Capital Index reveal, the effectiveness of the primary education needs to be enhanced significantly in order to improve the level of knowledge-absorption and increasing the level of enrollment in schools. Of equal importance is the need for revising the curriculum of academic institutions to better reflect the needs of current and future occupations, it added.

Secondly, focus on vocational and skills training of the work force is critical in ensuring that the employability levels of the domestic workers remain intact, or ideally increase, during the transitional stage of job transformation and technical advancement. A welcome development in this regard is that the Chinese firms are already involved in technical skill building of the Pakistani youth to enable them to be prepared for work under the CPEC programs. This includes emphasis on vocational training (such as the construction of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar), scholarships and exchange programs for university and college students as mentioned in the Joint-Statement, and collaborative efforts with Pakistani technological platforms (such as the AliBaba founders Fellowship program with NIC Karachi).

However, as stressed in previous reports, there needs to be an overarching policy to govern the skill-building process from the public domain to keep the progress aligned with the national objectives. The devolution of labor administration to provinces under the 18th Amendment, though, means that provinces must also facilitate the center in this regard. Recently, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all have launched labor policies with the objective of increasing jobs, providing a safe and healthy work environment, ensuring gender parity in employment, and training their respective labor force according to the needs of a transitioning economy, the SBP's State of Pakistan Economy – Second Quarterly Report 2018-19 reads.

Another encouragement development is that the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTEC) of Pakistan is in the process of introducing officially defined skill-set

categorizations to help improve the placement and skill matching in the domestic labor market. Under the revised National Vocational Qualifications Framework (NVQF), an assessment criterion is being developed to classify workers according to skill-sets and to facilitate their gradual promotion to higher levels.

On parallel terms, the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) sector institutions would also be assessed based on indicators such as affiliation/accreditation with relevant bodies; adequacy of training facilities; teaching staff quality; type of trades being offered; employability of graduates; alignment with NVQF; and health and safety requirements, etc. The objective is to foster a sense of healthy competition amongst the training institutes to bring overall improvement in the sector.

The report further added that emphasis on digital and financial literacy and inclusion would be vital to enable both individuals and businesses to take advantage of the ICT in e-commerce, Fintech and BPO segments of the market. Finally, a strong focus on higher-level education pertaining to the complementary services sector (such as accountancy, consultancy, legal, etc.) would be needed so that the domestic labor force can fulfill the associated requirements of new industries enacted under the proposed SEZs.

Daily Times, 27-03-19

Russia, China tell UN they sent home over half of their North Korean workers in 2018

Russia sent home nearly two-thirds of some 30,000 North Koreans working there during 2018 and China repatriated more than half, but did not specify a figure, according to unpublished reports by Moscow and Beijing to the United Nations Security Council.

The one-page reports, seen by Reuters on Tuesday, were submitted to the council's North Korea sanctions committee in compliance with a 2017 resolution that demanded the repatriation of all North Korean workers by the end of this year to stop them earning foreign currency for leader Kim Jong Un's authorities.

The United States has said it believed Pyongyang was earning more than \$500 million a year from nearly 100,000 workers abroad, of which some 80,000 were in China and 30,000 in Russia.

The U.N. Security Council has steadily toughened sanctions on North Korea since 2006 to choke off funding for Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have met twice in the past year in a bid to negotiate denuclearization.

The December 2017 U.N. resolution required countries to report to the sanctions committee this month on all North Korean workers repatriated during 2018 "including an explanation of why less than half of such" workers were repatriated if applicable.

Russia reported that in 2018 the number of North Koreans "with valid work permits in the Russian Federation decreased from 30,023 to 11,490 persons." Key North Korean ally China said it had repatriated "more than half of the total DPRK nationals earning income."

"China will continue earnestly implementing its international obligations, carry out the repatriation work in an orderly manner and complete the repatriation on time," wrote China's mission to the United Nations, adding that it did not want the report to be made public.

In 2015, U.N. human rights investigator Marzuki Darusman said that the North Koreans abroad worked mainly in mining, logging, textile and construction. The reports submitted by Russia and China to the sanctions committee did not specify what industries had employed the North Koreans.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a 2017 report that "the treatment of North Korean workers overseas falls short of international labor standards, with no right to freedom of association or expression, control by minders who limit freedom of movement and access to information from the outside world, long working hours and no right to refuse overtime."

North Korea has said its laborers were working abroad legally and were not mistreated or forced to go.

Daily Times, 27-03-19

Pakistan-China strategic partnership

Relationship between China and Pakistan further cemented into higher level of strategic partnership with a unified vision of shared future for the regional peace and progress as Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi concludes his official visit to Beijing this week to attend the first ever Pakistan-China Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue. As Prime Minister Imran Khan will be visiting China to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing in the last week of April, the talks hold important place in the

overall ongoing developments between Pakistan and China. Currently also a large political representation from all political parties from Pakistan are in conversation with their counterparts in Beijing to develop understanding with each other. The second such forum will be held in Islamabad next time. These watershed talks on strategic cooperation between two iron brothers further cemented the relations to a unified higher level and especially keeping in view the recent India and Pakistan skirmish, the talks at such higher level pose meaningful in the larger regional and global context. With reaffirming the support to each other on all the core issues of the national interests, both sides during the dialogue also highlighted the state sovereignty and territorial integrity. China has also assured Pakistan for standing by the country for any foreign aggression which is a loud and clear message to India as to avoid any further misadventure in the future. With having no territorial and political dispute or clash of interest with no competition between the two is providing much impetus to the thriving relations hence making headway to build the strategic rapport with each other. With recent engagement reads the statement to uphold the bilateral engagement with mutual bilateral approach towards regional issues.

In the wake of economic development, security has been a major concern of China and Pakistan in the region wherein terrorism threats remain high

The strategic partnership between Pakistan and China was not built in a day, however, there's decades old struggle and leadership from both sides that have made this possible. For Pakistan, China holds a very important position in its foreign policy outlook especially in its building of the strategic partnership with China is a strong pillar towards Pakistan's quest for dealing with its regional insecurities. This fragile environment especially the Indian threat posed to Pakistan, China has always stood firm with Pakistan and provided assistance to build a robust defense mechanism. The China-Pakistan partnership is momentous in the South Asia and larger Eurasian region political milieu. India has remained as one common factor that has further brought together to build together the strategic ties including cooperation in the defense cooperation, military to military contacts and other multidimensional horizons of cooperation between Pakistan and China. China also provided technological and defense production assistance to Pakistan as well including being the largest defense equipment supplier apart from assisting building the two important nuclear reactors of Pakistan. The strategic alliance is also manifested from the regular military exercises between Pakistan and China.

Pakistan and China support each other in their regional outlook as well. With recent India and Pakistan conflict, China lauded Pakistani efforts to deescalate the conflict with India according to the norms of international law saying, "The Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law should be earnestly observed". China ardently aspires to have a normalized relation between Pakistan and India to have a peaceful region specially when the larger economic development projects including Belt and Road Initiative and CPEC are building and progressing day by day. With recent Indian led UN Security Council resolution to declare JeM chief Masood Azhar as the global terrorist put on hold by China to give enough time for the dialogue. Apart

from India, Afghanistan came under deliberation in the wake of ongoing Afghan Peace process as Afghanistan shares land border with both, China and Pakistan. Both foreign ministers expressed satisfaction and agreed to support “Afghan led and Afghan owned” peace process implying no foreign design can bring stability to Afghanistan. Moving one step ahead in mutual peace building efforts, both sides agreed to strengthen Pakistan- China-Afghanistan Foreign Ministers Dialogue Mechanism in order to assist Afghanistan amid peace, economy and sustainable development.

Over the years, much has been done in the strategic sectors between the two and there was a normal and steady development in the economic spheres. However, after the advent of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation as part of the larger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) the economic dimension has increased to manifold too. During the ongoing dialogue, there was a shared resolve to protect CPEC from any aggression from outside. As CPEC enters in most crucial stage of infrastructure development, both sides have also agreed to joint contribution and extensive consultations. CPEC is not only economically viable but also strategically important too for Pakistan as the Corridor is providing the much need uplift to its unique geographical location. Currently, CPEC has the second phase of its development with building of Special Economic Zones apart from building socio-economic development projects. CPEC has been the pivot of the strategic dialogue and both parties agreed to further advancement of projects along the corridor to make it operational at earliest possibility. The development of infrastructure will not only help Pakistani economy to boost but offer China a transit route and industrial capacity towards the regional and global markets. China and Pakistan further agreed to plan well though industrial parks framework and social development projects in Pakistan aimed at sustainable social development and employment maximization.

In the wake of economic development, security has been a major concern of China and Pakistan in the region wherein terrorism threats remain high. China acknowledged the sacrifices Pakistan has made to combat terrorism and admired steps taken to curb this evil while extending Chinese support to Pakistan in combating terrorism of any kind within the state. Meanwhile, Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, urged the world to acknowledge Pakistani commitment to counter terrorism and “treat Pakistan in an impartial manner”.

In this strategic dialogue, comprehensive issues pertaining to regional peace and stability are of unique importance. Both partners appeared to be concerned about whole region and not only towards bilateral issues covering Afghanistan and India. It is the manifestation of shared philosophy of multilateralism, be it economy, security or politics in which China believes and Pakistan acknowledges. The new government in Pakistan envisions an open economy based on shared development and a political entity which adheres all international norms and statutes. Pakistan offers India to negotiate on core issues including Kashmir and Terrorism, facilitating Afghan Peace Process, inviting other countries to join hands in CPEC to mutually coexist,

develop and prosper. China appears to be an iron brother in supporting the agenda of development, peace and prosperity in Pakistan. Both China and Pakistan have much to offer to the region with support to peace and prosperity in the region.

Daily Times, 27-03-19

CPEC contains the seeds of transformation

It is evident beyond the shred of doubt and a well-established fact that China has emerged as a bigger economy in the arena of world stage. In the meantime, China has also fractured ascendancy of the USA among the comity of nations. According to the IMF, China shares 17% of total world's GDP. So, it can easily be palpable that China is ready to step up into take the mantle and become an economic giant. CPEC is the key example of China's bigger plan to revitalize the traditional Silk Road and to bring into vogue OBOR. On April 20, 2015, the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Xi of China inked down and laid the foundation of this flagship project by giving birth to new era of friendship between the two countries. It is a 3,218 km network of roads, railways and pipelines that will connect Gwadar with the Xinjiang province of China. It is evident beyond the realm of doubt that this 62 billion USD project can not only bring peace and prosperity in the Pakistan but also in the entire region.

There is no denying the impression that Pakistan is energy deficient country due to which country is unable to take off both economically and socially. CPEC also includes the 30 billion USD worth of energy projects which after getting mature would add 10,400 MW of electricity in the national grid. So, for Pakistan, CPEC is of immense significance and it will enable country to redress the grievances of the country. The energy projects under CPEC include Gwadar power plant, HUBCO power plant, HUB BALOCHISTAN, RAHIM YAR KHAN coal power plant, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, 50MW Dawood Wind Farm in Bhambore, 100MW wind farm in Jhimpir, 50MW wind farm in Sachal, Suki Kinari power plant (KPK), Karot Hydropower Project (AJK) and Kohala Power Project (AJK).

It is evident that CPEC can easily unleash the process of meaningful development in the country to disentangle it from the fabric of a plethora of quandaries

Similarly, roots and heart of the CPEC lies in Balochistan. As a matter of fact, this province has been neglected from many decades owing to multiple reasons. As a result, Baloch have plunged into the trap of extremism, insurgency, poverty, backwardness, and most importantly mutiny. It is a matter of deep sorrow and needs some serious attention and contemplation of policy makers to dismantle Baloch from the fold of above-mentioned stymies. Gwadar port is located in the region, so, it is a well-established fact that CPEC would create thousands of jobs and ancillary opportunities to overcome the resentments of Pakistani people.

It is evident that CPEC can easily unleash the process of meaningful development in the country to disentangle it from the fabric of a plethora of quandaries, and can smoothly steer the nation ship from the troubled waters to the safe shores.

However, it is a matter of deep concern that its ultimate fate will depend on whether Pakistani side is able to fulfill its side of the bargain. It is a well-documented fact that multiple constraints are obstructing the smooth sailing of the CPEC. Nonetheless, it is the need of the hour that Prime Minister Imran Khan has to chalk out holistic approach on war footing to remove the obstacles.

In the first place, India is a major threat to this project. Additionally, India has shown its concerns over the CPEC route and said that it is passing through an allegedly disputed territory. Similarly, US President Donald Trump is reiterating the same mantra of India. The prime minister holds a vanguard position as well as a torch bearer of this nation, so, he has to mend fences with the neighbors. In addition to this, uproot corruption from every domain of life since this menace has permeated to every nook and corner of the country as well as a major obstacle for foreign direct investment.

In a similar way, the PM must ensure the availability of efficient human resource by investing more on vocational training institutes.

In a nutshell, CPEC contains the seeds of transformation that can easily bring into vogue an era of prosperity in Pakistan for the prosperous future of our younger generations.

Daily Times, 28-03-19

China: Preparing for the Future

The times are changing fast and countries need to change faster for their survival. The future battlegrounds would be fields like Artificial Intelligence and other branches of Science that'd be deciding, more than ever, a countries' political future and economic prowess. China, realizing this has already started to act: increasing the size of spending on R&D and providing official support to the ambitious and dynamic entrepreneurs. In 2018, China's total spending on R&D increased by 12.3 percent, at 1.76 trillion Yuan (\$254 billion), second to U.S. only.

A recent Bloomberg documentary, "Hello World" by Ashlee Vance, explores themes like China's Future Factory, High-Stake Robot Wars and High-Tech Dystopia. The three-part documentary not only shows the amount of time, money and effort being spent by China to become the next world superpower but also depicts a mindset and an approach that is incumbent in this ever-changing contemporary world. Take for example Shenzhen, a global hub of

manufacturing and technology, where life is so fast that there is a word for it: Shenzhen speed. Companies from all around the world have setups in the city due to its cost-effectiveness: the mind-boggling variety and availability of different parts and components. According to one of the entrepreneurs in the video, the speed of availability of parts is 7 times faster than anywhere in the world.

It is not only the amenities that attract foreigners. Take Robo-Masters for example, an intense robotics competition where engineering students from around the world come to compete. Held inside a huge metal stadium the event catches much media blitz. But once again there is more than just meets the eye, the sponsors of the event are DJI, one of the world's largest drone makers, and the winners land a job in the company—a dream for many!

What is important here is to note that DJI is spending millions of dollars not only to amuse the masses and create a few jobs but also to attract and harness the best intellectual resources from around the world. This competition is one of the many examples through which countries like China, conscious of the significance of human development, are investing to become future technology leaders; to have their own Silicon Valley. Speaking of the Silicon Valley, China is building one, the Greater Bay Area is set to rival U.S.' Silicon Valley.

China's emphasis on R&D riding on the back of an entrepreneurial wave that will gain more momentum in posterity and its vast spending on logistics, trade infrastructure, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, is expected to give the country a launching pad to make further leaps

China is leading from the front in AI, EV and 5G, many will be surprised to know that by 2025 there will be 1.2 billion users of 5G and a third i.e. 400 million are expected to be from China alone. Similarly, in the EV market a 70 percent market share will be controlled by China. Tech-savvy labor force is the key for future progress along with huge investments in AI-something China is doing and in the coming 3-4 years, China will become one of the most tech-savvy countries in the world" says Shan Saeed, Chief Economist at IQI Global Malaysia.

Connect the dots and you'll see a bigger picture emerging, that of a country which is set to stand amongst the future tech-leaders. China's emphasis on R&D riding on the back of an entrepreneurial wave that will gain more momentum in posterity and its vast spending on logistics, trade infrastructure, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, is expected to give the country a launching pad to make further leaps. Though there are issues such as the government's strict control of the economy and certain other restrictions; however, this does not seem to hinder its progress.

In conclusion, there are lessons here for our own country. What Pakistan needs the most, besides loans, foreign investment and political stability, is a shift in its narrative; to divert all effort to

convert the human resource into human capital and hence setting our own house in order, a prerequisite for any country to make progress in future.

The writer is a freelance columnist

Daily Times, 29-03-19

Wooden Cabinets: US launches another trade investigation against China

Washington launched yet another trade investigation against China on Wednesday, claiming the country dumps wooden cabinetry into the US market, competing unfairly with domestic producers.

The US Commerce Department said Chinese producers receive “unfair subsidies” and the products range from 177 to 262 percent below their value. If the department determines that the complaint from the American Kitchen Cabinet Alliance is valid, it could impose massive tariffs on the goods to compensate for the artificially low price.

However, that decision would be reviewed by the autonomous International Trade Commission. The process could take several months to reach a final decision.

In 2018, imports of wooden cabinets and vanities from China were valued at an estimated \$4.4 billion, the Commerce Department said in a statement.

President Donald Trump’s aggressive trade and tariffs policies have focused primarily on China, and have included numerous dumping cases against many steel and aluminum products, among others.

The Commerce Department has initiated a total 157 antidumping investigations against many countries, including goods like Spanish olives, Canadian lumber and rubber bands from Sri Lanka.

China makes unprecedented proposals on tech, trade talks progress — US officials

China has made unprecedented proposals in talks with the United States on a range of issues including forced technology transfer as the two sides work to overcome remaining obstacles to a deal to end their protracted trade war, US officials told Reuters on Wednesday.

US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese imports last year in a move to force China to change the way it does business with the rest of the world and to pry open more of China’s economy to US companies.

Among Trump's demands are for Beijing to end practices that Washington alleges result in the systematic theft of US intellectual property and the forced transfer of American technology to Chinese companies.

China put proposals on the table in the talks that went further than in the past, including on technology transfer, said one of four senior US administration officials who spoke to Reuters.

Negotiators have made progress on the details of the written agreements that have been hashed out to address US concerns, he said.

"If you looked at the texts a month ago compared to today, we have moved forward in all areas. We aren't yet where we want to be," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They're talking about forced technology transfer in a way that they've never wanted to talk about before – both in terms of scope and specifics," he said, referring to Chinese negotiators. He declined to give further detail.

Reuters reported previously that the two sides were working on written agreements in six areas: forced technology transfer and cyber theft, intellectual property rights, services, currency, agriculture and non-tariff barriers to trade.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin arrive in Beijing on Thursday for a new round of talks with Chinese officials to work on a deal that would end a months-long trade war that has cost both sides billions of dollars and hurt global economic growth.

The in-person talks, which will be followed by a round in Washington next week, are the first face-to-face meetings the two sides have held in weeks after missing an initial end-of-March goal for a summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to sign a pact.

Talks would continue as long as progress is being made on the core issues, the official said.

"It could go to May, June, no one knows. It could happen in April, we don't know," another administration official said.

The two sides still have differences over intellectual property and how to enforce a deal, he said.

'Some Tariffs Will Stay'

China wants the United States to lift its tariffs as part of a deal. Washington, which is cognizant that the tariffs give it leverage to ensure Beijing follows through on any commitments it makes, is wary of lifting them right away.

Trump said last week the United States may leave tariffs on Chinese goods for a “substantial period” to ensure compliance.

“Some tariffs will stay,” the second official said. “There’s going to be some give on that, but we’re not going to get rid of all the tariffs. We can’t.”

The topic will be addressed in upcoming talks.

“Obviously that is an issue that we need to resolve ... and will be an important part of a final deal,” the first official said. He said there was some agreement on enforcement on what he termed the “backend” once a deal was in place: a structure in which both sides could raise grievances and implement tariffs if there were violations to the agreement.

Since July 2018, the United States has imposed duties on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports, including \$50 billion in technology and industrial goods at 25 percent and \$200 billion in other products including furniture and construction materials, at 10 percent.

China has hit back with tariffs on about \$110 billion worth of US goods, including soybeans and other commodities.

The first official said the focus of talks had shifted from Chinese purchases of US goods to the trickier structural issues, which he said Trump wanted as part of a “great” deal.

Bipartisan support at home for his tough stance on China as well as from the business community have emboldened Trump as he pushes for a deal that addresses long-standing complaints on trade, the source said.

Some officials have expressed concern that Trump would accept a deal involving big-ticket Chinese purchases of US goods and falling short on structural issues.

“Who would he be pleasing by selling out?” the source said.

He expressed optimism that a deal would be reached.

“I’m still confident, but it takes time,” he said.

“Until any deal is finalized, it can always go either way. And the president has made clear, both in word and in action that he’s going to walk away from deals if they’re not good deals.”

Daily Times, 30-03-19**US, Chinese negotiators resume ‘productive’ trade talks**

Top negotiators from China and the United States resumed a fresh round of trade talks in Beijing on Friday aiming to settle the bruising spat that has threatened the global economy. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were greeted by Vice Premier Liu He at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse as the three men seek to resolve the long-running trade war between the world’s top two economies.

As the US delegation left its hotel for a full day of talks, Mnuchin told reporters the officials had a “very productive” working dinner on Thursday.

“It’s a pleasure to see you again,” Mnuchin told Liu as they exchanged pleasantries before Friday’s meeting.

Officials are seeking to iron out major differences over US accusations that China has been using unfair trade practices for years by heavily subsidizing its companies while snatching the technological know-how of American firms.

Daily Times, 30-03-19**Huawei vows to ‘shake off’ pressure as network business takes a hit**

Chinese telecom giant Huawei vowed on Friday to “shake off outside distractions” as it announced that its telecom infrastructure business contracted slightly in 2018 amid a global US campaign to blacklist the company over espionage fears.

Huawei said net profit rose to 59.3 billion yuan (\$8.8 billion) last year, up 25 percent.

But its carrier business, which supplies telecom infrastructure to much of the world, posted a rare decline, suggesting that the US pressure could be having an impact.

The company’s carrier business was down 1.3 percent on the year, compared to growth of 2.5 percent in 2017 and annual increases typically in excess of 20 percent in years past.

Huawei is the leading manufacturer of equipment for next-generation 5G mobile networks that will bring near-instantaneous connectivity for smartphones, but faces pushback in some Western markets over fears Beijing could gain access to critical infrastructure.

“Security concerns are having an impact on Huawei, as more and more countries place restrictions on the firm’s network gear,” said Brock Silvers, managing director of Kaiyuan Capital.

“Moreover, the US-led global movement has only just begun and is unlikely to quickly recede even in the event of a trade war agreement.”

Huawei’s annual report, released at corporate headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen, did not detail what caused the carrier business decline or make clear reference to the global pressure. But the company vowed to press ahead. “Moving forward, we will do everything we can to shake off outside distractions, improve management and make progress toward our strategic goals,” rotating Chairman Guo Ping said.

Huawei also is grappling with the December arrest by Canada of chief financial officer MengWanzhou, daughter of company founder RenZhengfei, on US charges that she and Huawei circumvented sanctions against Iran.

Two affiliates also were charged this year with stealing trade secrets from telecom group T-Mobile in a separate case.

Guo reiterated Huawei’s insistence that it poses no security risk and sought to play up the company’s trustworthiness.

Daily Times, 31-03-19

Five killed in factory explosion in eastern China

Five workers were killed and three injured in a factory explosion caused by a gas leak in eastern China, local authorities said Saturday.

The blast happened Friday night at a perlite workshop in Shandong province, city officials said in a statement.

All five victims were night shift workers inside the Qingzhou city factory during the explosion. Three others outside the workshop suffered mild injuries and are still in hospital under observation.

“The cause of the accident was initially found to be a liquefied natural gas leak, and the specific cause is under further investigation,” the statement said.

A company official from the Yongli Perlite Plant has also been detained by local authorities, it added. Perlite is a form of volcanic glass that is mined and processed, often used in horticulture, insulation and plastics production.

The incident came barely a week after one of China's worst recent industrial accidents, in which an explosion at a chemical plant killed 78 people and injured hundreds.

The powerful explosion in the eastern city of Yancheng toppled several buildings in the industrial park, blew out windows of nearby homes and even dented metal garage doors.

It prompted the State Council, China's cabinet, to order a nationwide inspection of chemical firms.

Deadly industrial accidents are common in China, where safety regulations are often poorly enforced.

In November, a gas leak at a plant in the northern Chinese city of Zhangjiakou, which will host the 2022 Winter Olympics, killed 24 people and injured 21 others.

Leaked chloro ethylene came in contact with a fire source causing the explosion authorities said in a February report that revealed the Chinese chemical firm responsible for the accident had concealed information and misled investigators.

In December, three students were killed in a blast at a Beijing university laboratory during a research experiment on wastewater treatment.

Last July, a blast at a chemical plant in southwest Sichuan province left 19 dead and 12 injured. It was later revealed the company had undertaken illegal construction which did not pass safety checks.

In 2015, China saw one of its worst industrial accidents when giant chemical blasts in the northern port city of Tianjin killed at least 165 people. The explosions caused more than \$1 billion in damage and sparked widespread anger at a perceived lack of transparency over the accident's causes and its environmental impact.

Daily Times, 31-03-19

When China rules the world-a book review

In his researched and far-reaching book when China rules the world published in the United States of America in 2009, Martin Jacques argues that we have only barely begun to understand what life will be like when China rules the world. Being modern is not necessarily being Western. Based on his extensive research work focused on Chinese history and comparative studies in Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and some Asian study centers and his experience of writing columns for The Guardian and The Times of London, etc, Martin Jacques developed an insight into a frame of reference and a vision of the end of the western world and the birth of a new Global Order. He has been visiting senior fellow at the London School of Economics (LSE ideas) a center for the study of international affairs, diplomacy and grand strategy. Martin Jacques has been a visiting professor at the Renmin University, Beijing, the International Centre for Chinese studies, Aichi University and Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, and the senior visiting research fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. “When China rules the world” is the first book to explain how China’s meteoric rise will extend far beyond the economic realm, unseating the west and creating an entirely new global order. The role of economic and cultural relevance will, in our lifetimes, begin to pass from New York and London to cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. The West is deeply mistaken in believing that China is becoming more like the west. And increasingly powerful China will seek to shape the world in its own image, believes the author of this book. In a way Martin Jacques book is a groundbreaking investigation of how China’s rise as an economic superpower will alter the cultural, political and ethnic balance of global power in the 21st-century.

“When China rules the world”, an important book, full of historical understanding and realism, is about more than China. As suggested by the author, the ideas and assumption will be different, unlike that of the north Atlantic power. And that difference will define the influence of the expected new world order. The book is a look beyond China: full of bold but credible predictions. Only time will tell how prophecies pan out. Food for thought is plenty and hence the credit goes to the author for the foresight and insight. There is, however, need to follow the lines and accept the challenge to go in for serious research-based studies to formulate propositions and hypotheses that follow objectivity, data and assumptions that could be scientifically tested for unbiased and realistic workable conclusions. If assumptions are wrong, we cannot arrive at objective, workable and realistic conclusions. The taste of pudding is in the eating. The end of the western world and the birth of the new global order depend on the quality of the world leadership and their concern for the people and the need for security, peace and justice, over and above basic human needs.

It is important to seriously attend to the content of the book to get a real feel of what the writer intends to communicate to the reader. One must get knowledge of major periods in Imperial

China. One must understand the meaning of China's Ignominy. One must grasp the concept of "contested modernity". That mostly covers what the author has to communicate on the changing of the guard. Theme then takes the reader to the age of China: i.e, China as an economic superpower; the civilization-state; the middle kingdom mentality; China's own backyard; and China as a rising global power. Systematically preceding the next theme is the main idea- when China moves the world. Questions like "how sustainable is China's economic growth?" and "what is the environmental dilemma?" have been discussed in the book.

The reason for China's transformation has been the way it has succeeded in combining what it has learnt from the West, and also its Asian neighbors, with its own history and culture, thereby tapping and releasing its native sources of dynamism

There are many differences that define China. Economic change, fundamental as it may be, can only be part of the picture. This view, blind as it is, to the importance of politics and culture, rests on an underlying assumption the China, by virtue of its economic transformation will, in effect, become Western. Consciously or unconsciously, it sounds like Fukuyama's 'end of history' view: that since 1989 the world has been converging on western liberal democracy. The other response, in contrast, is persistently skeptical about the rise of China, always half expecting it to end in failure. In the light of Maoism, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the suppression of the students in the Tiananmen Square, the argument runs, it is impossible for China to sustain its transformation without fundamental political change: unless it adopts the western model, it will fail. This book is predicated on a very different approach. It does not accept that the "western way" is the only viable model. It should be borne in mind that the West has seen off every major challenge it has faced, culminating in the defeat after 1989 of its greatest adversary, Soviet communism. It has formidable track record of growth and innovation, which is why it has proved such a dynamic force over such a long period of time.

The reason for China's transformation has been the way it has succeeded in combining what it has learnt from the West, and also its Asian neighbors, with its own history and culture, thereby tapping and releasing its native sources of dynamism. We have moved from the era of either/or to one characterized by hybridity. Central to the book is the contention that far from there being a single modernity, they will in fact be many. Over the last half century we have witnessed emergence of quite new modernity's, drawing on those of the West but ultimately dependent for their success on their ability to mobilize, build upon and transform the indigenous. These new modernity's are no less original for their hybridity; indeed, their originality lies partly in that phenomenon.

The problem, as Paul A Cohen has pointed out, is that the Western mentality- nurtured and shaped by its long-term ascendancy- far from being imbued with cosmopolitan outlook as one might expect, is in fact highly parochial, believing in its own universalism: or in other words, its

own rectitude and eternal relevance. If we already have the answers, and these are universally applicable, then there is little or nothing to learn from anyone else. While the west remained relatively unchallenged, as it has been for the best part of two centuries, the price of such arrogance has overwhelmingly been paid by others, as they were obliged to take heed of Western demands. But when the west comes under serious challenge, as it increasingly will from China and others, then such a parochial mentality will only serve to increase its vulnerability, weakening its ability to learn from others and to change accordingly.

Most of what is China today –it's social relations and customs, its ways of being, its sense of superiority, it's belief in the state, its commitment to unity– are all products of Chinese civilization rather than its recent incarnation as a nation-state. On the surface it seems like a nation state, but its geological formation is that of a civilization state. As China once again becomes the center of the world, it will luxuriate in its history and feel that justice has finally been done, that it is restoring it's the rightful position and status in the world. China is increasingly likely to conceive of its relationship with East Asia in terms of Tributary state, rather than nation state, system. The Tributary state system had lasted for thousands of years and finally came to an end at the conclusion of the 19th century. The rise of the developing world was only made possible by the end of colonialism. For the non-industrial world the colonial era overwhelmingly served to block the possibility of their industrialization. The land of colonialism was a precondition for what we are witnessing, the growth of multiple modernity's and the world in which they are likely to prove at some point decisive. Chinese modernity will be very different from western modernity, and that China will transform the world far more fundamentally than any other new global power in the last two centuries. The West End powers cannot, however, comprehend that the change is on its way. On the other hand, what looks obvious also needs to be researched and subjected to scientific investigation. Facts must be identified and verified, and sociology of science must be understood.

The writer is a former director, National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Government of Pakistan, a political analyst, a public policy expert and a published author. His book "Post 9/11 Pakistan" was published in the United States. His latest book "Existential Question for Pakistan" discusses a large range of important issues related to governance and policy, having importance and implications for a variety of professionals, policymakers, academics, politicians and administrators.

The writer is a Formerly Director NIPA, Govt of Pakistan.

Dawn News, 16-03-19

Senate panel tells govt to demystify CPEC details

ISLAMABAD: A Senate committee on Friday asked the federal government to demystify details of projects and negotiations under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), criticizing it for withholding key information that could affect coordinated response to the opportunities they offer.

The Senate special committee on CPEC, which met here at the Parliament House with Senator Sherry Rehman in the chair, voiced its concern over opaqueness surrounding the CPEC projects.

Besides senators, Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Khusro Bakhtiar, secretary and other officers of the planning ministry, Board of Investment and National Highway Authority attended the meeting.

The committee directed the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms to give concrete information on the projects with groundwork, progress and timeline at the next meeting instead of providing open source information.

‘Why is the [Senate] committee not being apprised about details of the projects? We come across more information in newspapers compared to what’s imparted to us during the committee meetings. It is the ministry’s responsibility to address the queries of committee members. They have serious reservations that need to be heard and responded,’ said the former opposition leader in the Senate as the committee was briefed on the CPEC projects.

Members from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan especially were unanimous in protesting the lack of groundwork in their respective areas, including Gwadar, which was supposed to be at the center of the CPEC Maritime-Silk Road linkage.

The committee was further briefed on the eighth CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting held in Beijing in December 2018, but the Senate committee members sought details of the current situation of various projects under CPEC, as well as about further negotiations with the Chinese government.

Ms. Rehman regretted that neither timeline nor terms and conditions of the CPEC projects had been furnished by the government. Saying that nothing could be kept hidden from a parliamentary committee, the chair of the CPEC committee in the Senate stated: ‘We are leading delegations to China, and China is asking questions. It is asking about the progress being made on the CPEC projects and here we are, kept in the dark by our government.’

Dawn News, 17-03-19

CPEC transparency

THE Special Committee of the Senate on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor has raised the demand for greater transparency in the execution of work under CPEC. The government would be well advised to heed its words. The chair of the committee, Senator Sherry Rehman, said that her committee gets more information from the media than it does from the government, a state of affairs that is entirely unacceptable. The ruling party, while it was in opposition under the previous government, used to regularly join in the chorus of demands for greater transparency on CPEC, and its representatives in parliament used to make the same demands at the time. Now when they are in power they seem to have reverted to the same practice as their predecessor of keeping the country in the dark as large-scale work progresses under the CPEC banner.

Only last week, for example, Planning Minister KhusroBakhtiar announced a series of decisions taken by the cabinet committee on CPEC from which it was quite evident that major changes will be made to Pakistan's policy environment in order to take the corridor project forward. He mentioned that a series of projects in agriculture, education, health, poverty alleviation, water supply and vocational training is about to be finalized and will be shared with Chinese counterparts soon. Apparently, Chinese experts have been consulted extensively in drawing up this list. Sadly though, Pakistan's own parliament remains unaware of what is being planned and how the projects will be paid for.

In addition, the minister also revealed that plans to shift the financing of the massive railway up gradation project known as ML1, which is the largest under the CPEC umbrella at \$8.2bn, have gone back to where the previous government had left them.

The then PML-N government intended to finance the project through a Chinese grant which would be repaid with interest from the government of Pakistan's resources. The PTI, upon coming to power, said it would like to renegotiate these terms to Build-OperateTransfer instead, so that the repayment burden does not fall on the government and the Chinese can be asked to finance the project with their resources and recover their investment by operating the railway line themselves for a specified period of time. It seems like the Chinese have refused this offer. Naturally, the government now has to consider the terms of repayment carefully, given the size of the project, and figure out how to manage them at a time when it is going to the IMF for balance-of-payments support. Under an IMF programme, the government's economic priority would be to build foreign-exchange reserves and narrow the fiscal deficit, which could become a challenge if massive projects are launched with borrowed money. The Senate committee is right to emphasize its stake in the enterprise, and the government should move to allay its concerns.

Dawn News, 18-03-19

China can use interest rates, other policy steps to help economy

CHINA can use reserve requirements and interest rates to support economic growth, Premier Li Keqiang said on March 15, promising broad policy steps to prevent a sharper slowdown for the world's second-biggest economy.

Li's comments suggest Beijing is ready to roll out more forceful stimulus measures to ease strains on businesses and consumers.

China has so far promised billions of dollars in tax cuts and infrastructure spending, as economic momentum is expected to cool further due to softer domestic demand and the trade war with the United States.

Shares in China climbed on March 15 after the government reiterated its commitment to boosting growth.

The yuan recovered from a three-week low against the dollar after Li's comments.

China is targeting economic growth of 6-6.5 per cent this year, down from 6.6pc in 2018 the slowest pace in 28 years.

'Of course, we are faced with many uncertain factors this year. We have to prepare more and we have reserved policy room (to address uncertainties), Li told a news conference after the annual parliament meeting ended.

'Moreover, we can deploy quantity-based or price-based policy tools such as reserve requirements and interest rates. This is not monetary easing but to more effectively support the real economy.' Li's comments 'reconfirm a consistent pro-growth stance, with clarity on fiscal easing and an earlier-than-expected effective date for tax cuts,' Morgan Stanley said in a note, adding that it expects improved growth from the second quarter.

The support measures rolled out so far are taking time to kick in and most analysts believe activity may not convincingly stabilize until the middle of the year.

The central bank has cut banks' reserve requirement ratios (RRR) five times over the past year, with a two-stage RRR cut in January releasing a total of 1.5 trillion yuan (\$223.23 billion) into the financial system.

Further cuts in RRR had been widely expected this year, after fresh data pointed to persistently soft demand in the Asian economic giant, raising fears of a sharper slowdown.

Sources told Reuters in February that the central bank is not yet ready to cut benchmark interest rates to spur the slowing economy, but is likely to cut market-based rates.

An across-the-board cut in borrowing costs could also risk another flare-up in debt and speculative activity like that in the wake of the 2008-09 global financial crises.

Tax and fee cuts Promised cuts in value-added tax (VAT) for manufacturing and other sectors will take effect from April 1, while social security fees will be reduced from May 1, Li said. The premier announced on March 5 that the VAT for the manufacturing sector would be cut to 13pc from 16pc. VAT for the transport and construction sectors will be reduced to 9pc from 10pc.

Li on Friday sought to soothe concerns that the tax cuts will weigh on local finances, promising the central government will offer support to provinces in central and western China via payment transfers.

The premier said the government would take multiple measures to lower funding costs for small and micro-firms by one percentage point this year.

Beijing's tax cut efforts have focused on the manufacturing sector and small businesses that are vital for economic growth and employment. Li said the government hopes to create 13 million jobs this year, the same as last year.

'Not allowing the economy to slip out of a reasonable range, that is to say we will not allow waves of layoffs' said Li, adding the government will provide support to firms creating the most jobs.

Data on March 14 showed that China's surveybased jobless rate rose to 5.3pc in February, from 4.9pc in December, partly due to job shedding by export-oriented companies.

Trade war China is still negotiating with the United States to resolve their trade frictions, Li said, adding both sides have far more shared interests than conflicts, and it would be 'unrealistic' to decouple the world's two largest economies.

'We hope that the consultations will be fruitful and will achieve mutual benefit and win-win. I believe that this is also the expectation of the world,' Li said.

A summit to seal a trade deal between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping will not happen at the end of March as previously discussed, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on March 14.

Washington and Beijing have been locked in a tit-for-tat tariff battle as the United States presses China for an end to practices and policies it argues have given Chinese firms unfair advantages, including subsidizing of industry, limits on access for foreign companies and alleged theft of intellectual property.

On March 15, China's parliament approved a new foreign investment law that promises to create a transparent environment for foreign firms, though there is skepticism about its enforceability. The law, designed to ease concerns among foreign companies about the difficulties they face in China, will ban forced technology transfer and illegal government `interference` in foreign business practices.

Li stressed that China did not, and would never, ask Chinese companies to spy on other countries.

His comments came after increased international scrutiny of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, which has been caught in the crossfire as trade tensions ratcheted up.-Reuters

Dawn News, 20-03-19

Chinese firm to expand metal mining projects

QUETTA: President of the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) He Xuping said here on Tuesday that the company was working on expanding Saindak copper-cumgold and Dhodar lead-zinc projects, adding that the expansion would pave for foreign investment in metal mining in Balochistan.

He said this during a meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani. MCC Vice President Ma Welqing was also present.

He Xuping said that the MCC was fulfilling its responsibilities under the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility by improving local economy and investing in the social sector. `The MCC is providing maximum jobs to local people in both the projects and efforts are underway to induct more local people into the Saindak and Dhodar mining projects,` He Xuping said.

The chief minister told He Xuping that his government would soon announce a new mineral policy to develop the mineral sector and increase provincial revenues.

He said that the government would take concrete steps for providing better infrastructure in the mining sector and local and foreign investors would be offered incentives to invest in the sector.

`The Balochistan government will launch projects in the mining sector with the MCC and other companies on the basis of public-private partnership,` CM Alyani said.

The head of the Chinese company lauded the chief minister's vision and the provincial government's efforts for development of the mining sector.QUETTA: President of the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) He Xuping said here on Tuesday that the company was working on expanding Saindak copper-cumgold and Dhodar lead-zinc projects, adding that the expansion would pave for foreign investment in metal mining in Balochistan.

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Dawn News, 20-03-19

CPEC projects for Hunza demanded

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Rabta Committee of Hunza on Tuesday sought development projects for their area under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, representatives of the committee retired Col Ubaidullah Baig, Noor Mohammad, Fida Karim and Naiknam Karim said under CPEC projects were underway in various parts of Pakistan but there was none for Hunza.

They said people of Hunza played an important role in cementing Pakistan-China friendship and they also contributed in the construction of Karakorum Highway. Under CPEC, development projects should be started in Hunza.

They said at present their area had no representation in the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA) as the member elected on the only seat was disqualified in April 2018 and a by-election is yet to be held.

They said a second seat for the area had been sanctioned about 20 years ago but the delimitation for the constituency could not be carried out.

They demanded that the delimitation process should be started and completed without further delay.

People of Hunza, they added, had also been facing electricity crisis which was hampering development activities in the area.

They demanded the government look into the issues of the area and take step to resolve them.

Dawn News, 22-03-19

Pakistan gets \$1bn Chinese market access for rice, sugar, yarn

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese government has finally offered Pakistan market access for three commodities rice, sugar and yarn worth \$1 billion for the current calendar year, an official in the Commerce Division confirmed to Dawn on Thursday.

The official said rice shipments to China have already begun as part of the deal which was agreed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's four-day visit to Beijing and Shanghai in the first week of November last year.

Under the agreement, exporters have been allowed to ship 200,000 tonnes of rice and 300,000 tonnes of sugar total value of \$300 million to China in the ongoing calendar year. Moreover, the agreement also includes preferential market access for around \$700m worth of yarn but it seems highly unlikely that Pakistan will have adequate surplus quantity of yarn to export to China as cotton production remains lack luster.

The Chinese authorities were unwilling to increase the total quantity of these items despite multiple requests, the official added.

Another Commerce Division official said exporters will only have nine months to avail the facility as it will expire by Dec 31, adding that the government is working to get access for wheat and other agriculture commodities as well.

Moreover, this agreement will also be extended to calendar 2020. Pakistan's exports to China are expected to reach \$2.2bn in the ongoing calendar year and \$3.2bn in the next.

Breakthrough in PCFTA The official also said that a major breakthrough is expected in the stalled negotiations between Beijing and Islamabad on the second phase of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (PCFTA) and the outcome will be announced on April 2.

He said a delegation led by the secretary commerce will leave for China later this month.

Sharing the progress made in PCFTA negotiations, he informed that Islamabad will get market access for 301 tariff lines, which will cover most of its exports and allow export of commodities which are currently negligible.

The PCFTA covers nearly 7,000 tariff lines at the eight-digit level of the HS code.

Both sides reduced tariffs on almost 36 per cent of the tariff lines to zero during Krst three years of PCFTA`s Phase-1.

Moreover, second phase was supposed to commence from the sixth year of the agreement i.e. 2013, but was delayed as officials from both countries failed to reach an agreement despite meeting for more than 11 times.

As per the initial agreement, at the end PCFTA`s second phase, both sides were to reduce tariffs on 90pc of the tariff lines to zero.

The negotiations on the Phase-II of PCFTA began in 2011.

YARN exports to China are unlikely to reach \$700m as analysts expect total cotton production is expected to decline in the ongoing season due to decrease in area under cultivation, use of poor quality seed and pesticides

Dawn News, 22-03-19

FWMC, Chinese firm to install power plant

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Waste Management Company (FWMC) is holding talks with a Chinese company to install a plant in Faisalabad for converting municipal solid waste into energy.

FWMC Chief Executive Officer Kashif Raza stated this while addressing the business community at the Faisalabad Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Thursday. He said the project would help Faisalabad get more electricity. A representative of the Chinese company had held talks with him (Raza) a couple of days ago and he had also visited the dumping site where the plant would be installed, he added.

Mr Raza said the dwellers of Faisalabad were producing 1,600 metric tonne waste daily and the FWMC had a capacity to lift only 1,250 metric ton waste.

“The capacity of the company is being enhanced which would help it lift 1,350 to 1,400 metric ton waste daily and new machinery would also be purchased, coupled with recruitment of workers.

He said an application had also been submitted to the deputy commissioner to increase the number of machinery and dumpers.

FCCI President Syed Zia Alamdar said condition of cleanliness was going from bad to worse in the city areas for a couple of years. He said the business community was taking keen interest in the Clean and Green Pakistan Programme launched by the government.

Dawn News, 23-03-19

Xi insists new Silk Road runs both ways as Italy signs up

ROME: Chinese President Xi Jinping sought on Friday to allay Western unease over his new Silk Road initiative by emphasizing the vast infrastructure project's two-way nature as he kicked off a whistle-stop European tour in Rome.

Italy has rolled out the red carpet for Xi, who will on Saturday sign a memorandum of understanding for Rome to join the \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative despite misgivings in Washington and Brussels.

Italy will be the first of the Group of Seven most-developed nations to sign up for the new Silk Road, which critics say is 'predatory' and overwhelmingly favors China and Chinese companies. 'Between us, there is no fundamental conflict of interest, Xi told journalists after talks with his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella.

'China wants commercial exchanges to go both ways and for investment to flow in both directions, Xi said.

Mattarella said that business must go 'in both directions... with fair competition, respecting intellectual property rights and while fighting counterfeit goods. Around 1,000 extra police have been deployed around Rome for the state visit before Xi heads to the Sicilian city of Palermo, where his singer wife PengLiyuan reportedly wants to see the Teatro Massimo opera house.

In what some perceived as a snub, Italy's far-right Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said he would not attend Friday's state dinner for Xi at Mattarella's Quirinal Palace.

Salvini has said Italy would be 'no one's colony' and urged caution about using telecom Chinese giant Huawei's next generation 5G mobile technology, while his coalition partner Luigi Di Maio is keener for Chinese partnerships.

The United States has warned European allies that Huawei could use its 5G technology as a 'backdoor' for spying, a claim that China has strongly rejected, calling them 'abnormal, immoral' attacks.

Nato member Italy's plan to join China's ambitious maritime, rail and road venture has raised eyebrows among Western allies and within Italy.

'Today we say 'Italy first' in trade relations, while remaining US allies, in Nato and in the EU, Deputy Prime Minister Di Maio of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement said on the sidelines of a China-Italy business forum on Friday.

Debt-ridden Italy is technically in recession and keen to have more business with China.

White House official Garrett Marquis last week tweeted that there was `no need` for Italy to endorse `China`s infrastructure vanity project. Xi`s visit comes a week after the European Union released a 10-point plan outlining a shift to more assertive relations with Beijing, warning that China was a `rival` to the bloc as well as its biggest trading partner.

France on Thursday announced that President Emmanuel Macron will hold trade and climate talks on Tuesday with Xi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker.

In Brussels, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Friday briefed EU leaders about Italy`s Silk Road MoU, where Merkel said: `As he (Conte) described it, I don`t think I have anything to criticize, for now.

`But we have of course already said that it`s better to act uniformly, she said.

Macron, who is at loggerheads with Italy`s populist government, said: `It`s not a good method to discuss new Silk Road agreements bilaterally.

Friday`s Brussels summit also laid the foundations for Europe-wide policies ahead of a much-anticipated China-EU summit on April 9 in the Belgian capital. `For the first time there is a will to coordinate, Macron said. The European Commission will before the end of the year come up with a broad proposal for the EU`s `industrial future`, including measures on commerce, competition and hi-tech.

Beijing is particularly interested in investing in Italian ports to help funnel its products into Europe, amid warnings that Rome must avoid the model of the Greek port of Piraeus, which was taken over by Chinese shipping giant Cosco in 2016.

Supporters of the non-binding memorandum of understanding said that it will lead to China complying with European Union standards, including on the environment and intellectual property, and cannot be compared to debt-inducing deals Beijing has signed with developing countries.

Despite apparent warming ties, Xi is not expected to meet Pope Francis.

The Vatican has diplomatic relations with Taiwan and not Beijing, so the encounter would be unlikely despite an agreement on appointing bishops in China signed last year.

Xi heads to Monaco on Sunday and then on to France to cap his European tour.-AFP

Dawn News, 24-03-19

Italy, China sign new `Silk Road protocol

ROME: Italy signed on Saturday a `non-binding` protocol with China to take part in Beijing`s new `Silk Road` of transport and trade links stretching from Asia to Europe.

In doing so, Italy became the first G7 country to sign up for the massive project which has sparked unease in the US and the European Union as China aspires to a greater world role.

Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte attended a ceremony held for the signing of 29 memorandums of understanding which Italian media said were worth \$5.6 billion to \$8bn.

Also signing the accords were the chairman of China`s chairman of the National Development Commission He Lifeng and Italian deputy prime minister and Minister of Economic Development Luigi Di Maio.

Italian financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore said the value of the Chinese investments could rise substantially but would for now be limited to the strategic ports of Genoa and Trieste.

Italy has rolled out the red carpet for Xi, who on Friday sought to allay Western unease over his transformational infrastructure initiative by emphasizing the \$1 trillion project`s mutual benefits. Italian firms to benefit include the Ansaldo group, which wins a contract for making turbines, and the Danieli group, which lands a 1.1billion euro deal to build an iron and steel plant in Azerbaijan.

The accords also foresee the opening up of the Chinese market for Italian oranges as well as a partnership for Chinese tourism giant Ctrip, notably with Rome`s airports.

Cultural tie-ups are also on the agenda while Beijing is pushing to have several Series. A football matches played in China although that would currently contravene regulations of the game`s governing body FIFA.

`We are well aware, with this memorandum of understanding, that there is risk as well as opportunity,` said secretary of state for the economy Michele Geraci, who spent a decade working in China. Italy has made a point of giving a full welcome to Xi, despite the misgiving in Washington and Brussels.

Critics say Beijing`s ambitious maritime, rail and road venture is `predatory` and overwhelmingly favors China and Chinese companies.

But Xi has rejected any idea of a conflict of interest after talks with his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella.

`China wants commercial exchanges to go both ways and for investment to flow in both directions, he said

Mattarella responded that business must go `in both directions...with fair competition, respecting intellectual property rights while fighting counterfeit goods`. -AFP

Dawn News, 24-03-19

US imports of Russian, Chinese aluminium slump

LONDON: US trade policies caused significant shifts in the composition of the country`s aluminum imports last year.

The stand-out in terms of primary metal was the sharp drop in imports from Russia, reflecting the imposition of sanctions on Oleg Deripaska and his Rusal companies.

China was hardest hit in the semi-manufactured products (`semis`) segment of the supply chain, with imports from the largest supplier to the US market in the previous three years almost halving in 2018.

Tariffs have undoubtedly played a part in that drop-off, but product-specific anti-dumping duties and a mutual loosening of supply-chain dependence were likely more powerful drivers.

Nor have tariffs done anything to halt either Russian or Chinese flows into international markets. They have merely diverted them. Indeed tariffs may actually be working to stimulate Chinese exports.

Russian Imports Hit By Sanctions Total US imports of primary aluminium fell by 18 per cent last year to 4.08 million tonnes, according to the US Census Bureau.

It was the lowest import level since 2015 and in part reflects rising US production after the imposition of `Section 232` tariffs of 10pc in March last year.

In part, though, the slide was due to the pre-emptive movement of metal into the United States in 2017, when imports hit a record 5m tons.

Much of that surge came from Russia, with imports running in excess of 700,000 tonnes in both 2016 and 2017 before slumping by 51pc to 347,000 tons in 2018.

The sanctions on Rusal, imposed in April last year and only lifted in January, evidently caused significant diversion of Russian metal into other regions.

The tariff impact on other suppliers of primary metal was limited.

Only two countries have been granted exemption from the aluminum tariffs.

Australian imports duly increased by 44pc last year, but those from Argentina actually fell by 34pc.

If any supplier can be said to have won from the post-tariff s market landscape, it is India. Imports last year totaled 184,000 tons.

Five years ago they were just eight tons. Canada remained the number one shipper of primary metal to its neighbor last year, accounting for an unchanged 51pc of all imports.

US buyers are currently paying 10pc more for their Canadian metal as a tariffs deal between the two countries remains elusive.

Imports of Chinese Products Drop Canada also re-emerged as the top supplier of `semis` to the US market last year, to the tune of 434,000 tonnes of bar, rod, sheet, plate, foil and tube. Imports from China, number one supplier in the 2015-2017 period, crashed by 48pc to 325,000 tons.

It's questionable to what extent tariff s had anything to do with this sharp year-on-year drop.

The number of tariff exclusions granted to specific forms of Chinese product grows ever longer and as of December the volume of exclusions was not far off actual imports in 2017.

Rather, falling Chinese import penetration is more down to US anti-dumping measures against specific products such as foil.

Imports of Chinese foil fell 57pc last year to 66,900 tonnes after swinging duties were imposed on some Chinese companies in February.

A similar anti-dumping decision on Chinese common alloy sheet in December can be expected to restrict further this year's import flows. Also at work is a less quantifiable unpicking of mutual supply dependency by Chinese sellers and US buyers.

This theme is playing out across the full spectrum of industrial commodities as both sides rethink their trading relationship under the shadow of broader trade-war threats. Lower Chinese imports didn't dent US dependency on imports last year. Total `semis` imports were unchanged, up 0.3pc at just less than 2m tons.

Filling the gap left by China's retreat are countries such as Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea and, particularly for plate, sheet and strip, Oman.

Saudi Arabia is also emerging as a major supplier of this form of `semi`, imports rising from zero a couple of years ago to 33,000 tonnes in 2018. This is down to the ramp-up of the Ma'aden Aluminum operations, which include a 380,000tonne per year rolling mill.

Redirected Flows Nor has US action against imports of Chinese `semis` in any way slowed China's export flows.

Outbound shipments hit an all-time record of 5.3m tonnes last year and were up another 10pc in the first two months of this year, according to China's customs department.

This, as ever with China, is a sign of weak domestic demand. National output has dropped by an annualized 732,000 tonnes so far this year, according to the International Aluminium Institute.

Smelters have shuttered capacity on a combination of structural reform, environmental regulation and weak margins.

Demand, however, appears to have fallen even harder, particularly from the automotive sector.

Moreover, US tariffs have worked counter intuitively to make Chinese aluminium `semis` more attractive, according to analysts at research and consultancy house Wood Mackenzie.

Higher prices in the United States are sucking in material from other suppliers across the rest of the world. That is leaving a supply gap, which Chinese products are now filling.

`We expect this dynamic to remain a feature of the market so long as the United States continues to restrict imports of Chinese foil and common alloy material, Wood Mackenzie said. This ripple effect exposes the limitations of unilateral trade action.

The Donald Trump administration will no doubt hail as a success the drop in Chinese import penetration. But the country is still dependent on imports, just from a different list of suppliers.

Moreover, tariffs have not only failed to stem the flow of Chinese exports, the source of so much grief in the rest of the world. They may actually be incentivizing it further.-Reuters

Dawn News, 24-03-19

China to give Sri Lanka \$989m to build new highway

COLOMBO: China has agreed to provide a loan of \$989 million to Sri Lanka to build an expressway that will connect the island nation's tea-growing central region to a China-run seaport on the southern coast, the island's finance ministry said.

The Export-Import Bank of China has agreed to provide a loan covering 85 per cent of the contract price for Central Expressway Project Section 1, whose total cost is \$1.16 billion. The loan is the single largest loan approved by the bank for Sri Lanka, according to a statement from the finance ministry.

The loan agreement was signed on Friday by finance ministry Secretary R H S Samaratunga and Cheng Xueyuan, China's ambassador in Sri Lanka on behalf of the Export-Import Bank, at the Ministry of Finance in the capital Colombo.

The expressway will create `an uninterrupted connectivity` among Hambantota district towns with the China-run port, an airport near Colombo, and Kandy in the central region, where the famed Ceylon tea grows.

The statement said the proposed highway will improve the interregional connectivity and efficiency of the entire expressway network and added that it will link `several provinces and economically important ports, airports and commercial cities.

The loan comes as Sri Lanka struggles to repay \$5.9bn in foreign loans this year, of which 40pc must be paid by the end of this month. The country used its reserves to repay a \$1bn sovereign bond loan in January.

Much of Sri Lanka`s foreign debt is from China, with loans obtained to build highways and other infrastructure projects, including some that have become white elephants, deepening the country`s debt burden. Sri Lanka leased the Chinese-built port in Hambantota, which is near the world`s busiest east-west shipping route, to a Chinese firm in 2017 for 99 years in a bid to recover from the heavy burden of repaying a loan obtained the country received to build the facility.

The port is part of Beijing`s so-called string-of-pearls plan for a line of ports stretching from Chinese waters to the Persian Gulf.

China`s influence in Sri Lanka makes neighboring India anxious because it considers the Indian Ocean region to be its strategic backyard. The Sri Lankan government has been trying to balance its relationship with the Asian giants.

Sri Lankan officials have reiterated that the port`s security will be handled by the government in an attempt to allay fears that the port could be used by China as a military hub.

China says about 150 countries have signed Belt and Road related agreements since the program`s launch more than five years ago. A major conference is planned next month in Beijing, marking further expansion of the initiative.

Beijing has marketed the initiatives a way to give some of the world`s neediest countries a leg up, helping them gain access to more trade and investment. But it also helps Chinese companies tap new markets for their products while helping Beijing amass greater global influence. Some governments, including the United States, Japan and India, worry that Beijing is trying to build a China-centered sphere of influence that would undermine their own sway, pulling developing nations into so-called `debt traps` that would give China ever-more control over their territories and economies.-AP

Dawn News, 25-03-19

Lanka begins work on refinery near China-run port

HAMBANTOTA: Sri Lanka began construction on Sunday of a nearly \$4 billion oil refinery it hopes will revive foreign interest in its shipping facilities after Beijing's takeover of a nearby port spooked international investors.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said Hambantota, a district in Sri Lanka's south which lies on one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, would become a global investment hub with the addition of the oil refinery and storage complex.

The \$3.85 billion project is the single largest foreign investment in Sri Lanka's history.

It is jointly funded by Oman and Singapore-registered Silver Park International, a company owned by an Indian business family.

The oil facility is near the port of Hambantota, which was controversially leased to a Chinese state-owned firm in 2017 for 99 years after Sri Lanka failed to service a loan from Beijing.

The circumstances surrounding China's acquisition of the port generated concern in India and beyond over Beijing's expanding presence in the Indian Ocean

But the government pointed to this new line of cash pouring into the region as proof foreign investors were not deterred by that experience

'The interest shown by the Oman government, the interest shown by many other investors from other parts of the world shows that Hambantota will become a truly international investment zone,' Wickremesinghe said on Sunday.

Wickremesinghe also said he hoped to strike a deal within three months with Indian airport authorities to revive a \$210 million airport in Hambantota dubbed the 'world's emptiest' international terminal for its lack of flights.

The oil storage tanks are expected to be completed within two years while the refinery is due to be up and running by 2023.

Once fully operational the refinery the second in Sri Lanka is to export nine million tonnes of petroleum products annually.

The Indian Ocean island nation does not have oil of its own. It refines imported crude, but the existing refinery is unable to meet demand.

The Hambantota port was built by former president Mahinda Rajapakse, but like many of his ambitious infrastructure projects it ended up a white elephant.

Unable to service the loan, the Wickremesinghe government in 2017 leased the Chinesebuilt port to a Beijing company for \$1.12 billion.

This stoked controversy, with Beijing rejecting suggestions it ensnared Sri Lanka in a `debt trap` to acquire the port.

Several major foreign-backed projects were put on hold last year amid a constitutional crisis after President MaithripalaSirisena`s aborted bid to remove Wickremesinghe.-AFP

Dawn News, 25-03-19

Xi visits Monaco as Macron seeks united EU front on China

MONACO: Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Monaco on the French Riviera on Sunday seeking to press ambitious commercial goals ahead of talks with France`s Emmanuel Macron who is trying to forge a united European front to contend with Beijing`s advances.

Xi arrived at the airport of the resort city of Nice accompanied by his wife PengLiyuan to be welcomed by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and a guard of honor.

Prior to meeting with Macron, Xi went to the nearby principality of Monaco, where he was received by Prince Albert II and where a government spokesman said bilateral talks would `address economic and environmental issues`.

Xi, who has made establishing China as a global player central to his government, travelled from Italy, whose government became the first G7 state to sign up to his landmark new `Silk Road` infrastructure project, a massive undertaking to join Asia to Europe.

Washington and some EU states fear the huge project will give China too much sway. But Xi says it would be a two-way street of investment and trade.

Germany criticized Rome over its participation in the new Silk Road project. `In a world with giants like China, Russia or our partners in the United States, we can only survive if we are united as the EU. And if some countries believe that they can do clever business with the Chinese, then they will be surprised when they wake up and find themselves dependent, ` Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told Welt am Sonntag newspaper.Xi`s official visit to Paris on Monday will mark 55 years since Charles de Gaulle established diplomatic relations with Beijing. A series of cooperation deals on nuclear power, aerospace and clean energy initiatives, some involving lucrative contracts, are expected to be signed.

On Tuesday, Macron and Xi will be joined by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker to explore `points of convergence` ahead of an EU-China summit in Brussels next month.

China as EU `rival` But Xi`s visit poses a particular challenge for Macron, who wants to deepen EU ties with China while also push-ing back against Beijing`s growing global clout.

Europe`s distrust of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which is poised to become the dominant player in nextgeneration 5G mobile technology worldwide, is emblematic of the increasingly rocky relationship.

Monaco, which notably is eyeing a share of Chinese luxury tourism and has its own foreign policy, only last year signed an accord with Huawei to make the principality the first country entirely covered by the company`s 5G mobile network by year end.

Macron has lauded the EU`s `awakening` to the challenges posed by China, which the bloc now labels a `rival` despite being Europe`s biggest trading partner. The reality is that the world has changed significantly China is not the country it once was, and we are dealing with a very major partner, a Macron aide said ahead of Xi`s visit.

The US is pressuring European ales to not use the Huawei technology, saying it creates a security risk by potentially letting Beijing snoop on sensitive communications.

Despite the many sources of friction, France wants to engage China as a closer partner as Washington makes a pointed withdrawal from global affairs under Trump`s `America First` policy.

For example, Macron may seek more Chinese support of the French-backed G5 Sahel force fighting Islamistextremists in Western Africa.-AFP

Dawn News, 25-03-19

CPEC: When the alarm goes off

THERE is no doubt that successful completion of CPEC will revolutionize the power sector making it highly efficient. There are added benefits in the growth of GDP, export and balance of payments. However, its successful completion requires substantial policy making and enormous planning.

Publicly available policy related documents include CPEC Long Term Plan (LTP) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC consists of numerous agreements, however these agreements are not available to conduct a cost and benefit analysis of CPEC.

All publicly available documents discuss the benefits CPEC will generate and policy measures Government of Pakistan should take to ensure these benefits materialize.

However, the benefits discussed are quite generic.

Extensive research shone light on the absence of any documents which specifically identified benefits with reference to original agreements. This veil of secrecy over CPEC raises serious concerns when state institutions like the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) disclose lack of access to CPEC related agreements. A research on the financial and legal aspects of CPEC turns on alarm bells for the following matters First, Pakistan's attempt to make Saudi Arabia one of the strategic partners for CPEC has failed on account of presumably China's reluctance to accept Saudi Arabia as a partner. There is no transparency to justify China reasons for doing this.

Second, IMF raised concerns over whether potential funding would be used to repay CPEC related debt to China. IMF requiring assurance from the government over the use of its funds also brings to question the financial structures applicable to CPEC.

Third, numbers available on the Board of Investment website indicate CPEC's worth to be around \$45 billion in investment that serves two sectors energy and infrastructure. Energy sector consumes around \$34bn of the investment whereas the infrastructure sector accounts for approximately \$10bn.

However, the capital structures of CPEC related agreements are not available publicly. It is not possible to identify the exact amount of borrowing, and the cost of borrowing, the government has accepted from China. Therefore, CPEC related Chinese debt cannot be compared to debt available in international money markets to gauge whether it is cheaper or more expensive.

Fourth, SBP is unable to identify the source of finance for the import of machinery from China for CPEC related projects.

DrIshratHussain, former governor SBP, explained that the only reason SBP has been unable to trace the source of funds is that the Chinese machinery is being financed by Chinese banks. In other words, Pakistan banking industry does not benefit through CPEC. Instead Pakistan's import bill is increasing along with borrowings from Chinese banks. It is rather like Pakistan is borrowing from China to invest into Chinese machinery to carry out CPEC related projects.

Fifth, the capital requirement for foreign banks to open a bank head office in Pakistan is Rs3bn. However, there is a question of parity between capital requirements to open a bank in China versus opening a bank in Pakistan. Moreover, Habib Bank Limited has opened a bank branch in China two years back but the details of the operations of the branch are not available publicly (just like its branch operations in the UK, US and other parts of the world are available on the main website). Therefore, it is not possible to examine the benefits the bank is deriving through its China branch, particularly in the context of CPEC.

Finally, non-availability of actual agreements signed under CPEC is the reason there is no clarity regarding dispute resolution mechanism. It is not known what choice of law and jurisdiction are applicable to CPEC, nor is it possible to figure out potential venue for resolution of dispute. This

is a serious issue since SBP has warned that in the past, trade agreements between Pakistan and China have always been more beneficial for the latter than the former.

It is high time for the government to engage the Finance Ministry and SBP to conduct a cost benefit analysis of CPEC agreements in terms of finance and law. This analysis has to be made public to ensure transparency as well as credibility of CPEC. •

The writer is an Assistant Professor at Lums Law School

Dawn News, 29-03-19

Chinese firm upset over delay in KE acquisition plan

ISLAMABAD: The Shanghai Electric Power (SEP) of China appears to be getting upset over inordinate delays in its K-Electric acquisition plan and has indicated it cannot be expected to stay on forever.

A delegation led by Vice Chief Economist of the SEP Mingwei Shi called on Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms MakhdoomKhusru Bakhtyar here on Thursday and complained that its \$1.77 billion takeover plan of the KE continued to face roadblocks.

Informed sources told Dawn that the delegation complained to the planning division's team that also included the member energy, member private sector and other senior officials that relevant ministries remained unmoved even after passage of seven months of the new government in place.

The delegation said that Privatization Minister Mian Mohammed Soomro had constituted a committee around five months ago for speedy settlement of matters relating to the transactions and since then the SEP had been running from one ministry to another, but the bureaucracy appeared to have adopted hands-off approach to the issue.

As a consequence, the SEP's plans for \$9bn investment for improvement of K-Electric system remained stuck up, the delegation said. 'Imagine the results of implementation of even parts of the proposed investment by now had the deal materialized two years ago, a source quoted Mingwei Shi as telling the minister.

It was reported that the government had not yet issued national security certificate for formal execution of the deal.

At the heart of problem are the unsettled liabilities of KE payable to public sector gas and power companies on account of gas and electricity supplies. The amounts involved are reported to be around Rs100bn while KE has claims against entities of the Sindh government.

Officials said the Planning Commission had no direct role in the SEP-KE deal but being focal point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Chinese investors had taken up the matter with the planning minister.

The sources said the planning minister also invited the SEP for investments in coming major hydropower projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a statement issued by the Planning Commission, Mingwei Shi said the SEP's `investment in purchasing K-Electric is only the beginning and the company is interested to further expand its investment portfolio in power sector of Pakistan`. It said the minister was briefed about the latest status and issues in finalizing the transaction for purchase of the KE and `Mr Mingwei Shi requested the minister to facilitate the process for early completion of transaction`.

The minister told the delegation that there was a huge potential for private and foreign direct investment in the power value chain, including generation, transmission and distribution. He said the government was committed to resolve the issues affecting the viability of power sector.

Finance Minister Asad Umar and the Prime Minister's Adviser on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood had held several meetings in the past with the Chinese firm on the deal.

The KE, formerly the Karachi Electric Supply Company, is partially owned by the KES Power Limited, previously a consortium member of the `original` sale and purchase agreement (SPA) of November 14, 2005 and a company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands now comprising Abraaj Entity (50 per cent), Al Jomaih Power Limited (30pc) and Denham Investment Limited (20pc).

The KES's total shareholding of K-Electric is 66.40pc and it entered into a sale and purchase agreement with the Shanghai Electric Power Company Ltd on Oct 28, 2016.

Dawn News, 29-03-19

Three Chinese towns named sister cities to Karachi, Gwadar, Multan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese cities Urumqi, Puyang and Xian were declared as sister cities to Karachi, Gwadar, and Multan, respectively, at a forum held in Beijing on Thursday to strengthen the bond of friendship between the two countries.

According to a press release issued here, federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza headed a Pakistani delegation at the event during which Pakistani and Chinese officials signed separate agreements in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mirza said Pakistan highly valued its relationship and mutual cooperation with China.

She expressed the hope that people-to-people contact and diplomatic visits between the two countries would further deepen bilateral relations at political, social, cultural and economic levels. She underscored the importance of the One Belt One Road project and termed it a milestone initiative for regional connectivity. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor(CPEC) project was a basic pillar of Belt and Road Initiative under which most of the early harvest projects had been completed, especially in the fields of infrastructure and energy, she added.

The minister, on behalf of the people of Pakistan, acknowledged and appreciated China`s support for Pakistan in the recent situation and playing a role in de-escalating tension in South Asia.

She observed that the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China had given a new impetus to PakistanChina friendship and opened up several new avenues of cooperation.

It was informed at the event that the forum would facilitate cooperation in province-city management, public health, environmental protection, poverty alleviation, trade and investment, tourism cooperation, urbanisation and vocational/professional education. It will enhance mutual understanding between enterprises of the two countries and boost economic and trade ties.

Pakistan`s Ambassador to China Masood Khalid and the Executive Vice Governor of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Zhang Chunlin, also addressed the forum.

Dawn News, 29-03-19

US, Chinese trade negotiators face `large amount of work`

BEIJING: Beijing said on Thursday US and Chinese negotiators still face a `large amount of work` as they meet for fresh talks aimed at resolving a months-long trade war.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin arrived for two days of meetings in Beijing with China`s top economic official Liu He, the first since China put into law new measures seen as an olive branch in their high-stakes stand-off.

While US President Donald Trump has voiced hope that he could soon hold a signing ceremony with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, negotiations have dragged on, suggesting substantial differences remain.

Liu, Mnuchin and Lighthizer have `made some progress` after holding several phone calls recently, commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said at a weekly press briefing.

But there is still a large amount of work remaining to finish, he said, adding both sides are going all out to earnestly negotiate following the truce struck by Xi and Trump in December. And White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said the negotiations are not time dependent and could be extended.-AFP

Dawn News, 30-03-19

Pakistan, China warn against politicizing UN anti-terrorism regime

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has warned that politicizing the UN counterterrorism machinery would only compromise the integrity of the regime, as China also warned against forcefully moving a resolution in the UN Security Council.

Speaking in a Security Council debate on Preventing and Combating the Financing of Terrorism on Thursday afternoon, Pakistan's Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi said that current structures like FATF and the 1267 Sanctions regimes should not be used as political tools by some to advance their geopolitical goals.

There is also a need to make these institutions more inclusive of the wider membership in their decision-making processes, she added.

On Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a media briefing in Beijing that forcefully moving a resolution directly in the UNSC undermined the authority of the UN anti-terrorism committee.

This is not in line with resolution of the issue through dialogue and negotiations. This has reduced the authority of the Committee as a main anti-terrorism body of the UNSC and this is not conducive to the solidarity and only complicates the issue, he said.

On Wednesday, the United States directly moved a resolution in the UNSC, seeking to list Jaishe-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a UN-designated global terrorist.

On March 13, the US, Britain and France had moved a similar resolution in a forum known as the 1267 or the Islamic State and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee.

Since members of this committee are the same as those of the UN Security Council, China used its discretionary powers to put a technical hold on the resolution. China also promised to review the situation, including Indian allegations against Masood Azhar, and reconsider its position on the resolution.

But instead of waiting for the final Chinese decision, the United States moved the resolution in the Security Council. China, as one of the Permanent Five, can veto the resolution but this will put Beijing in a direct confrontation with the other four. Both Washington and New Delhi hope that China will avoid a direct confrontation and let the resolution pass.

Speaking in the general debate, Ambassador Lodhi pointed to the several gaps that existed in the international community's counterterrorism strategy.

She identified the lack of international attention given to foreign intervention and foreign occupation, denial of the right to self-determination to peoples living under foreign occupant and condoned violations of international law and the UN Charter as examples of such gaps.

She pointed out those continued and persistent violations of human rights contributed to violent extremism. Yet killings continue in India-held Kashmir and Palestine.

Ambassador Lodhi said that brutalization and oppression of people struggling for their legitimate right to self-determination constituted state terrorism, which should also be the focus of international attention.

'Pakistan has been the principal victim of terrorism, including that supported, sponsored and financed from abroad, she said. 'But this has not diminished my country's resolve to eliminate this scourge.

Ambassador Lodhi also told the Security Council that Pakistan had criminalized terrorist financing in accordance with the Terrorism Financing Convention and had enacted laws to eliminate terrorism financing risks and implement its international obligations, including those arising from FATF recommendations and 1267 Sanction Regime.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng said China put a technical hold on the US move because it wanted to conduct an in-depth assessment and was 'in communication with all parties to seek a settlement through dialogue. We hope this will be a common goal of all the members of the UNSC.

Asked about Pakistan rejecting the evidence put forward by India on the Pulwama terrorist attack, he said, the 1267 committee had detailed and clear stipulation and requirements on the listing issue.

'What China has done is in line with the requirement of the UNSC and rules and procedures of the committee. We are always working in a constructive manner and stay in communication with the relevant parties and seek a proper solution, he said.

Mr Geng said that moving a resolution directly in the UNSC undermined the authority of the UN's antiterrorism committee.

'This has reduced the authority of the Committee as a main anti-terrorism body of the UNSC and this is not conducive to the solidarity and only complicates the issue,' he said.

'We urge the US to act cautiously and avoid forcefully moving forward this draft resolution.

Dawn News, 30-03-19**US, China to resume `candid` trade talks**

WASHINGTON: US and Chinese trade negotiators will reconvene in Washington next week following `candid` and `constructive` talks in Beijing, but it may take time for the economic superpowers to settle a bruising tariffs battle.

The officials are working to find a binding agreement to address President Donald Trump's complaints about the years of unfair treatment of US companies by China, that would allow them to roll back the tariffs hitting businesses in both countries.

`The two parties continued to make progress during candid and constructive discussions on the negotiations and important next steps,' the White House said in a statement Friday.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the latest round of trade discussions yielded `new progress, without elaborating.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will resume negotiations with China's Vice Premier Liu He.

Mnuchin wrote on Twitter that he and Lighthizer `concluded constructive trade talks in Beijing` but he did not provide more details.

`I look forward to welcoming China's Vice Premier Liu He to continue these important discussions in Washington next week, he said.

The two negotiating teams, including China's central bank chief Yi Gang, posed for pictures in front of Chinese and American flags at the conclusion of the latest round of talks, but they did not make statements to the media.

Officials are seeking to iron out major differences over US accusations that China has been using unfair trade practices for years by heavily subsidizing its companies while snatching the technological know-how of American firms.

Trump has said the two sides were close to a deal, repeatedly saying the talks are going `very well,' but officials have played down expectations of an imminent agreement.

In Washington, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Thursday the talks were not `time dependent` and could last weeks or even months if necessary.

The talks are `policy and enforcement dependent`, Kudlow said.

The Chinese commerce ministry said a `large amount of work` remains to be done.-AFP

Dawn News, 30-03-19

Huawei vows to `shake off` pressure

SHENZHEN: Chinese telecom giant Huawei vowed on Friday to `shake off outside distractions` as it announced that its telecom infrastructure business contracted slightly in 2018 amid a global US campaign to blacklist the company over espionage fears.

Huawei said net profit rose to 59.3 billion yuan last year, up 25pc.

But its carrier business, which supplies telecom infrastructure to much of the world, posted a rare decline, suggesting that the US pressure could be having an impact.

The company`s carrier business was down 1.3pc on the year, compared to growth of 2.5pc in 2017 and annual increases typically in excess of 20pc in years past.

Huawei is the leading manufacturer of equipment for next-generation 5G mobile networks that will bring near-instantaneous connectivity for smartphones, but faces pushback in some Western markets over fears Beijing could gain access to critical infrastructure.

`Security concerns are having an impact on Huawei, as more and more countries place restrictions on the firm`s network gear,` said Brock Silvers, managing director of Kaiyuan Capital.

`Moreover, the US-led global movement has only just begun and is unlikely to quickly recede even in the event of a trade war agreement.` Huawei`s annual report, released at corporate headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen, did not detail what caused the carrier business decline or make clear reference to the global pressure.

But the company vowed to press ahead.

`Moving forward, we will do everything we can to shake off outside distractions, improve management and make progress towards our strategic goals,` rotating chairman Guo Ping said.-
AFP

Dawn News, 31-03-19

New Silk Road critics are `prejudiced`: Chinese official

BEIJING: China has never forced debt upon participants of its new Silk Road project as `prejudiced` critics have suggested, the country`s top diplomat said on Saturday in a strongly worded defense of a key policy platform of President Xi Jinping Xi`s Belt and Road Initiative, as it is formally called envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with massive infrastructure spending.

But it has proved controversial in many Western capitals, particularly Washington, which views it as merely a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt through nontransparent projects.

The United States has been particularly critical of Italy's decision to sign up to the plan this month, during Xi's visit to Rome, the first for a G7 nation.

Speaking to the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, Yang Jiechi, who runs the party's foreign affairs committee, said he had noted that some in the international community believed this was a geopolitical tool and would only bring debt traps for participating countries. 'This obviously shows a lack of objectivity and fair understanding of the Belt and Road initiative. It is a misunderstanding, misjudgment and is even prejudiced,' wrote Yang, a former foreign minister and ambassador to Washington.

China has stressed many times that the Belt and Road is to promote joint development, he added.

'The Belt and Road is open, inclusive and transparent. It does not play little geopolitical games.

It does not engage in the exclusion of exclusive small circles.' Yang noted that many countries, companies and ordinary people participating in the Belt and Road project had 'publicly refuted rumors' about it being a debt trap. Belt and Road projects, from their selection to their financing, go through careful risk assessments and the initiative's principles stress sustainable development, he said.

'For cooperative partners who have debt difficulties, China's principle is to appropriately resolve this through friendly consultations, and has never pushed or forced debt' on anyone, Yang added.

To date no participating country has faced a debt crisis to the contrary many countries have been able to escape the 'no development trap', he wrote.

China will hold its second Belt and Road summit in Beijing in late April.

Yang said almost 40 foreign leaders would take part, but did not name them.

Some of China's closest allies have already confirmed they will come, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.-Reuters

Dawn News, 31-03-19

'China sees CPEC as a way of creating free market'

KARACHI: 'Eight years ago when I had entered the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies at the University of Oxford, the focus there was on India but today our focus is truly on South

Asia where the study on India is not possible without knowing about Pakistan, said Prof Dr Mathew McCartney at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs on Saturday.

Dr McCartney, who teaches political economy and human development of South Asia at Oxford University, was speaking on the subject of `China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Sustainable Economic Growth and Industrial Policy in Contemporary Pakistan` here.

The research scholar said that it was also why he decided to come to Pakistan to research CPEC while on a sabbatical.

`When I look back some 15 years, I have observed that the International Monetary Fund [IMF] was discussed more here in Pakistan when you talked about economic growth but now that focus too has moved to China, he said.

`A resilient economy` `If you look at the economic story of Pakistan from the time of independence, you can see that Pakistan is not a miracle economy but it has moderate economic success, first through agriculture exports and then, after the 1980s, through the export of manufactured goods. This country has not had an economic recession since 1960. It is more of a resilient economy with a size of over \$300 billion, he said.

He added that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize China in 1950 and later during the 1960s China helped Pakistan in the construction of the Karakoram Highway. `CPEC really does seem like the culmination of a much longer economic cooperation with China for Pakistan. So here is a long-term committed China Pakistan relationship unlike what the USA is criticized of,` he said. `Still, there may be a lot more going on other than China`s `One Belt, One Road` initiative outside Pakistan that is happening inside it, which is crucial to know for a big project of \$60bn, that is CPEC. He added that despite a lot of concerns over CPEC`s motivation and liability, and Pakistan not known to complete most of its donor-funded agreements, the last four administrations in Pakistan have remained committed to it.

Still, he reminded that CPEC was only agreed in 2015 so we are still in its early stages and it is quite difficult to evaluate the success of big projects when different groups within it are after different things.

`The big infrastructure projects such as the energy projects, highways and railways are still in their development stages,` he said. `Big infrastructure projects can help economic growth with predictable as well as unpredictable outcomes.

Then he questioned whether the economies of western China and Pakistan were complementing each other or competing with each other? `The more complementary they are the more potential there is for economic gains, he said. `But if they are competitive ... they don`t seems to promise economic gains,` he said.

`CPEC would make transport lines more effective, naturally with shorter routes also being created for greater efficiency so exporters in China will find it easier to send out their goods while using Pakistan as a transport link. China sees CPEC not really as a commitment to industry but a way of creating a free market where exports from China will see a surge while exports from Pakistan will be stagnated,` suggested Dr McCartney.

Still, he said, though he was pessimistic about CPEC, he felt optimistic about Pakistan.

`Because CPEC will have a positive effect on Pakistan, better than the IMF programmes could do. And although the financial impacts of CPEC are still not very clear, China`s commitment to creating trade routes is, which may also help Pakistan in long term he concluded.

Dunya News, 16-03-19

چین: حکومت نے فارن انویسٹمنٹ قانون کی منظوری دیدی

نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کے سالانہ اجلاس پر ووٹنگ، قانون 2029 ووٹوں سے منظور

بیجنگ (اے ایف پی) چین نے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے قانون ”فارن انویسٹمنٹ لا“ کی منظوری دیدی گئی۔ نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کے سالانہ اجلاس کے اختتام پر فارن انویسٹمنٹ قانون کی منظوری کیلئے رائے شماری ہوئی، اس قانون کے حق میں 2029 ووٹ آئے جبکہ 8 مخالفت اور 8 بی ووٹ غیر حاضر شمار کیے گئے۔ یہ قانون ایک ایسے وقت میں منظور کیا گیا ہے جب چین کے امریکہ کیساتھ تجارتی کشیدگی کے خاتمے کیلئے مذاکرات اہم دور میں داخل ہو گئے ہیں۔ اس قانون کی منظوری سے غیر ملکی انٹرپرائز کیلئے چینی مشترکہ شراکت دار کو اپنی ملکیتی ٹیکنالوجی منتقل کرنا ضروری نہیں ہوگا اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار کو چینی اداروں کی طرف سے کاروبار میں ’غیر قانونی‘ مداخلت سے تحفظ بھی فراہم ہوگا۔ مسودہ قانون میں کہا گیا ہے کہ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے مرحلہ وار یا کیس ٹو کیس منظوری کے عمل کو ختم کر دیا جائے گا، اس سے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار کو چین کی ’ہیکٹیو لسٹ‘ کے شعبے چھوڑ کر بہت سے دوسرے شعبوں میں وہ فائدے اور سہولیات حاصل ہو جائیں گی جو اس کے چینی شراکت دار کو حاصل ہوگی۔ امریکی چمبر آف کامرس نے چین کے اس قانون کی منظوری کو خوش آئند قرار دیا ہے۔

چین، قانون منظور

Dunya News, 16-03-19**امریکہ انسانی حقوق کے نام پر مداخلت بند کرے، چین****تعصب کی عینک اتار کر چین میں انسانی حقوق کی صورتحال دیکھی جائے: وزارت خارجہ**

بیجنگ (ایجنسیاں) چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا ہے امریکہ انسانی حقوق کے نام پر چین کے اندرونی معاملات میں مداخلت بند کرے، امریکہ تعصب کی عینک اتار کر زمینی حقائق کے مطابق منصفانہ انداز میں چین میں انسانی حقوق کی صورتحال کو دیکھے۔ چائینہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق امریکی سٹیٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی جانب سے پیش کردہ "دوسرے ممالک کے انسانی حقوق کی رپورٹ 2018" میں چین میں انسانی حقوق کی صورتحال کی مذمت کی گئی ہے۔ اس کے پیش نظر چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لوکھانگ نے رکی پریس کانفرنس میں کہا چین اس بات کی سخت مخالفت کرتا ہے اور امریکہ سے مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ وہ تعصب کی عینک اتار کر زمینی حقائق کے مطابق منصفانہ انداز میں چین میں انسانی حقوق کی صورتحال کو دیکھے اور چین کے اندرونی معاملات میں مداخلت بند کرے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ چینی حکومت انسانی حقوق کے تحفظ کو بے حد اہمیت دیتی ہے، گزشتہ چالیس برسوں میں اس شعبے میں حاصل ہونیوالی زبردست کامیابیاں پوری دنیا نے دیکھی ہیں۔

مداخلت بند کرے

Dunya News, 16-03-19**سی پیک فنڈ دینے کیخلاف درخواست دائر**

اسلام آباد (اپنے نامہ نگار سے) مسلم لیگ (ن) کے رکن قومی اسمبلی بیرسٹر محسن شاہنواز رانجھانے سی پیک کا 24 ارب روپے کا فنڈ ارکان اسمبلی کو دینے کے خلاف اسلام آباد ہائی کورٹ میں درخواست دائر کر دی، جس میں استدعا کی گئی ہے کہ ارکان اسمبلی کو فنڈ کی فراہمی روک کر وزارت منصوبہ بندی کو تفصیلات فراہم کرنے کا کہا جائے۔ آئین کے آرٹیکل 19 کے تحت وزارت منصوبہ بندی معلومات فراہم کرنے کی پابند ہے مگر وزارت نے انکار کر دیا۔

سی پیک فنڈ / درخواست

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گواہ میں زبردستی زمینوں کی الاٹمنٹ کی جارہی ہے، سینیٹر اکرم، بلوچستان میں ایک روپے کا کام نہیں

ہوا، کبیر احمد شاہ

رہنمائی اقتصادی زون پر کام روک دیا جائے، سینیٹر اورنگزیب، بریٹنگ میں کوئی نئی بات نہیں، چیئر پر

سن کیٹی شیری رحمان

اسلام آباد (جہڑا بجٹیاں) سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے سی پیک نے منصوبوں سے متعلق وزارت منصوبہ بندی و ترقی کے حکام کی بریٹنگ مسٹر وکرتے ہوئے اس پر عدم اطمینان کا اظہار کر دیا، اس موقع پر وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ کچھلی حکومت نے ریلوے کے ایم ایل ون منصوبہ کو ترجیح نہیں دی، موٹروے کی نسبت اسے ترجیح دینی چاہیے تھی، اور ٹیج لائن منصوبے کے مقابلے میں سافروں کو ایک ایک گاڑی بھی فراہم کرتے تو بہتر تھا، اور ٹیج لائن منصوبے ہمارے وارے میں نہیں، ہم کو چیئر پر سن کیٹی سینیٹر شیری رحمان کی زیر صدارت سی پیک کمیٹی کا اجلاس ہوا جس میں وزارت منصوبہ بندی و ترقی کے حکام نے بریٹنگ دی، سینیٹر محمد اکرم نے کہا کہ گواہ میں جس طریقے سے زمینیں دیکر محمد اکرم کے سر بایہ کا روڈ کوڈی جاری ہیں اس پر مقامی آبادی کو تشویش ہے، زبردستی زمینوں کی الاٹمنٹ کی جارہی ہے، سینیٹر کبیر احمد شاہ نے کہا کہ میں یہ ریکارڈ پر لاتا چاہتا ہوں کہ بلوچستان میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے آج تک ایک روپے کا کام نہیں ہوا، اس موقع پر وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ کڑھہ حکومت نے ریلوے کے ایم ایل ون منصوبہ کو ترجیح نہیں دی، کمیٹی ارکان سے متعلق ہوں کہ بلوچستان کے حوالے سے یا مغربی راہداری کے حوالے سے کسی بڑے منصوبے پر کام نہیں کیا گیا، ایم ایل ون سڑک منصوبہ ہے، موٹروے کی نسبت اسے ترجیح دینی چاہیے تھی، اس موقع پر سینیٹر زہرا بختیار نے کہا کہ ہم اس حکومت کے سی پیک کے تحت سنے اقدامات کو خوش آمدید کہتے ہیں تاہم یہ کہنا کہ کچھلی حکومت میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے کوئی کام نہیں ہوا یہ غلط بات ہے، سینیٹر عثمان کاکڑ نے کہا کہ پشاور میں ٹی آر ٹی منصوبے کے مقابلے میں ایک 1600 سی سی گاڑی بھی سافروں کو دی جائے تو وہ سستی ہے، سینیٹر اورنگزیب خان نے کہا کہ ریلوے خصوصی اقتصادی زون کے حوالے سے ہمارے شدید تحفظات ہیں، یہ منصوبہ شاہراہ سے دور بننا چاہئے تھا، منصوبہ سے زرعی زمینوں کو تباہ کیا جا رہا ہے، سینیٹر ستارہ ایاز نے کہا کہ حکومت خصوصی اقتصادی زون کیلئے زرعی شعبہ کو تباہ کر رہی ہے، آپ موٹروے کے ساتھ اس منصوبہ کو بنا رہے ہیں، خصوصی اقتصادی زون کے پائس بھی الاٹ کئے جا رہے ہیں، منصوبہ پر کام روک دینا چاہئے، اسے موٹروے سے اور زرعی زمینوں سے تقریباً 15 سے 20 کلومیٹر کے فاصلے پر بنانا چاہئے، سینیٹر شیری رحمان نے کہا کہ وزارت کے حکام کو اپنی بریٹنگ میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے تازہ ترین پیش رفت سے آگاہ کرنا چاہئے تھا جو بریٹنگ دی جارہی ہے اس کے بارے میں پہلے سے لوگ آگاہ ہیں، اس موقع پر وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ ریلوے خصوصی اقتصادی زون کیلئے جگہ صوبائی حکومت نے کڑھہ دور میں مختص کی تھی، اس کا موجودہ حکومت سے کوئی تعلق نہیں۔

بریٹنگ مسٹر

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وزارت منصوبہ بندی، سی پیک بزنس فورم کے ممبران کا اعلان

وفاقی وزیر خسر و بختیار فورم کے چیئرمین، صدر ایف پی سی آئی و دیگر ممبرز میں شامل

ای سی او اہداف یقینی بنانے کیلئے موثر مانیٹرنگ نظام کی ضرورت: وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے سی پیک بزنس فورم کے ممبران کا اعلان کر دیا، نوٹیفکیشن کے مطابق وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی مخدوم خسرو بختیار سی پیک بزنس فورم کے چیئرمین ہوں گے، ممبران میں سیکرٹری پلاننگ کمیشن، صدر ایف پی سی آئی، پریذیڈنٹ ایمپلائز فیڈریشن آف پاکستان مجید عزیز، چیئرمین پاکستان ہوزری مینوفیکچررز اینڈ ایکسپورٹ ایسوسی ایشن جاوید بلوانی، پاکستان کیمیکل مینوفیکچررز ایسوسی ایشن کے چیئرمین، سی ای او ایچ بی ایل محمد اورنگزیب، چیئرمین ملت ٹریڈنگ سکندراہم خان، سی ای او نیشنل فوڈز ابراہار حسن، فوجی فاؤنڈیشن کے ایم ڈی، سی ای او ہائیر اینڈ رو با جاوید آفریدی، چیئرمین ٹیسٹ پاکستان سید یاور علی، گوبند جیمیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر، چیف ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر پاکستان ٹرانسپورٹ سروس لمیٹڈ شہریار چشتی، چیئرمین آف جعفر برادر نصیر این ایس جعفر، سی ای او پاکستان بزنس کونسل احسان اے ملک، ہیڈ آف انفراسٹرکچر ڈویژن ڈسکون عدنان بختیار، ممبر پاکستان زرعی ترقیاتی کونسل ادا علی نظامانی، گلگت بلتستان کا نمائندہ، ممبر پلاننگ کمیشن عاصم سعید اور پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹری پیک حسن داؤد بٹ شامل ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے پی پی ایم آئی میں 3 روزہ ای سی او ایسینار کے اختتامی سیشن سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان ای سی او کے وژن کی تکمیل کیلئے پرعزم ہے، ای سی او اہداف یقینی بنانے کیلئے موثر مانیٹرنگ نظام کی ضرورت ہے، سی پیک علاقائی روابط کے فروغ کیلئے بھرپور مواقع فراہم کرتا ہے، سی پیک پاکستان کو خطے کا تجارتی مرکز بنائے گا۔

بزنس فورم

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چین کی مسعود اظہر کے معاملے پر بھارت کو مذاکرات کی پیشکش

معاملے پر غور کیلئے مزید وقت درکار، مشترکہ مرتب کیا گیا کوئی طویل المدتی پلان ہی فائدہ مند ہو سکتا

ہے

سلامتی کونسل کی کمیٹی کے اقدامات کشیدہ صورتحال میں کمی کیلئے مفید ثابت ہو سکتے ہیں: وزارت

خارجہ

بیجنگ (رائٹرز، مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) چین نے مسعود اظہر کے معاملے پر بھارت کو مذاکرات کی پیشکش کر دی۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وہ مسعود اظہر کے معاملے پر بھارت سمیت تمام فریقوں کے ساتھ بات چیت کے لیے تیار ہے۔ بیجنگ کو مسعود اظہر پر پابندیاں عائد کرنے کے معاملے پر غور کرنے کے لیے مزید وقت درکار ہے۔ اس معاملے پر مشترکہ مشاورت کے ساتھ مرتب کیا گیا کوئی طویل المدتی پلان ہی فائدہ مند ہو سکتا ہے۔ بیان میں کہا گیا کہ چین کو امید ہے کہ سلامتی کونسل کی ذیلی کمیٹی کے اقدامات علاقائی سلامتی کے تحفظ اور کشیدہ صورتحال میں کمی کیلئے مفید ثابت ہو سکتے ہیں۔ جرمن خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق مسعود اظہر کو بلیک لسٹ کرنے کا یہ معاملہ تقریباً نو ماہ کے لیے لٹک کر رہ گیا ہے۔ ایسی خبریں بھی سامنے آئی ہیں کہ یہی تینوں ملک امریکہ، برطانیہ اور فرانس ایک اور ایسی ہی قرارداد سلامتی کونسل میں پیش کرنے کی تیاری میں مصروف ہیں۔

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یوم پاکستان پریڈ: چینی فضائیہ کی ٹیم پہنچ گئی، ٹریفک پلان جاری

چینی فضائیہ کی ٹیم یوم پاکستان کی پریڈ کے موقع پر فضائی مظاہرہ میں شرکت کرے گی

4 روز کیلئے ہیوی ٹریفک کا اسلام آباد میں داخلہ بند، ضلع بھر میں سخت سیوریج کی ہدایت

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے، آئی این پی) یوم پاکستان میں شرکت کیلئے چینی فضائیہ کی ایک ٹیم پاکستان پہنچ گئی ہے، ٹیم یوم پاکستان پر فضائی مظاہرہ کرے گی۔ چائینہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق 23 مارچ یوم پاکستان پر فضائی مظاہرہ میں شرکت کیلئے چینی فضائیہ کی ایک ٹیم پاکستان پہنچ گئی ہے۔ ادھر یوم پاکستان 23 مارچ کی پریڈ کی تقریب کیلئے اسلام آباد ٹریفک پولیس نے ٹریفک پلان جاری کر دیا، ٹریفک پولیس کے ایس پی، 2 ڈی ایس پیز اور 22 انسپکٹرز سمیت 600 افسران اور جوان ڈیوٹی دیں گے۔ اسلام آباد میں ہیوی ٹریفک کا داخلہ 17، 19، 21 اور 23 مارچ کو رات 12 بجے سے دن 2 بجے تک بند ہوگا، لاہور سے آنے والی چھوٹی ٹریفک روات ٹی کراس سے راولپنڈی صدر روڈ سے پشاور GT روڈ اور موٹروے پر جاسکے گی، انیر پورٹ راولپنڈی سے آنے والی ٹریفک ایکسپریس وے سے کھنڈل لہتر اڈو استعمال کرتے ہوئے کیپٹن نعیم طفیل شہید چوک (ٹراموئی چوک) سے پارک روڈ اور راول ڈیم چوک سے گزر کر کشمیر ہائی وے پر جاسکے گی۔ اسلام آباد انیر پورٹ اور لاہور جانے والی ٹریفک ٹانکھہ ایونیو اور مری روڈ راولپنڈی سے راول روڈ سے ہو کر کورال کی جانب جاسکے گی۔ موٹروے سے ٹریفک کشمیر ہائی وے استعمال کرتے ہوئے بہارہ کہو اور مری جاسکتی ہے۔ مذکورہ تاریخوں میں فیض آباد تمام قسم کی ٹریفک کیلئے بند ہوگا، چھوٹی ٹریفک 17، 19، 21 اور 23 مارچ کو صبح 5 بجے تا 2 بجے دن تک بند رہے گی۔ ماسوائے جن کے پاس اجازت نامہ ہوگا۔ دریں اثنا ایڈیشنل ایس پی اسلام آباد وحسام بن اقبال نے تمام ایس ڈی پی اوز، ایس ایچ اوز، آپریشنز ڈویژن کو ہدایت کی کہ ضلع بھر میں سیوریج کی سخت اقدامات کریں۔ چیکنگ موٹر بنائی جائے، ہوائی فائرنگ، پتنگ بازی اور کبوتر بازی کرنے والوں کے خلاف ایکشن لیا جائے، ہوٹلز، موٹلز، گیسٹ ہاؤسز کی چیکنگ یقینی بنائیں۔ دیہاتی اور جنگل کے علاقوں میں گھڑسواروں کی اور موہاٹل، اینگلو، فالکن گاڑیوں کو پیٹرولنگ پر مامور کر دیا گیا ہے۔ جوائنٹ پکٹس اور روف ٹاپ ڈیوٹی بھی لگائی گئی ہے۔

چینی فضائیہ

Dunya News, 18-03-19

چینی توانائی ایجنسی کے سربراہ کو کمیونسٹ پارٹی سے نکال دیا گیا

نور باکری نے عہدہ ملازمتیں دلانے، ناجائز طریقوں سے مدد کیلئے استعمال کیا، انضباطی کمیٹی
 بیجنگ (اے این این) چین کی توانائی منصوبہ بندی ایجنسی کے سربراہ کو عہدے سے ہٹا دیا گیا جبکہ انہیں ملک کی حکمران
 جماعت کمیونسٹ پارٹی سے بھی نکال دیا گیا۔ غیر ملکی خبر رساں ایجنسی کے مطابق چین کی انضباطی کمیٹی نے اعلان کیا کہ نور باکری
 نے اپنے اختیارات دوسروں کو ملازمتیں دلانے اور دیگر ناجائز طریقوں سے مدد فراہم کرنے کے لیے استعمال کیے جس کے
 عوض انہوں نے بھاری رقوم اور جائیدادیں حاصل کیں۔ نور باکری، چین کے صوبے سکینانگ میں ایغور مسلم اکثریت کے
 انتہائی سینئر عہدیداروں میں سے ایک تھے۔ نور باکری کو عہدے سے ہٹائے جانے کے ملک کے مغربی خطے میں سیوریٹی
 کریک ڈاؤن سے کوئی تعلق ہونے کے اشارے نہیں ملے کہ جہاں تقریباً 10 لاکھ ایغورز اور قازقوں کو حراست میں رکھا گیا
 ہے۔ انضباطی کمیٹی کا کہنا تھا کہ ان کے کیس کی اب کڑمئل پراسیکیوٹرز تحقیقات کریں گے۔ نظم و ضبط کے جائزے کے لیے
 وسطی کمیشن کے بیان میں کہا گیا کہ نور باکری نے اپنے اہلخانہ کے لیے لکڑی گاڑیوں میں مفت سفر، خصوصی ڈرائیورز اور دیگر
 سہولیات کا انتظام کر کے اپنے اختیارات کا ناجائز استعمال کیا۔

Dunya News, 18-03-19



روان مالی سال پاکستانی برآمدات کیلئے امریکہ خطیہ چین سرفہرست

زیادہ برآمدات امریکہ کو کی گئیں جن کا حجم 2363.579 ملین ڈالر رہا جو گزشتہ سال کے مقابلے میں 5.68 فیصد زیادہ ہے

برطانیہ کو برآمدات میں 2.82 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ، چین کو برآمدات سے 1031.816 ملین ڈالر زرمبادلہ حاصل، سٹیٹ بینک

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) سٹیٹ بینک نے کہا کہ رواں مالی سال کے دوران امریکہ، برطانیہ اور چین پاکستانی برآمدات کیلئے سرفہرست ممالک رہے ہیں۔ سٹیٹ بینک کی رپورٹ کے مطابق مالی سال کے ابتدائی 7 مہینوں میں پاکستان سے سب سے زیادہ برآمدات امریکہ کو ریکارڈ کی گئیں، برطانیہ اور چین اس فہرست میں بالترتیب دوسرے اور تیسرے نمبر پر رہے۔ سٹیٹ بینک کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق جولائی سے جنوری 2019 تک امریکہ کو برآمدات سے پاکستان نے 2363.579 ملین ڈالر زرمبادلہ کمایا جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصہ کے مقابلے میں 5.68 فیصد زیادہ ہے، گزشتہ مالی سال برآمدات سے پاکستان نے 2236.507 ملین ڈالر کا زرمبادلہ کمایا تھا۔ برطانیہ کو برآمدات میں 2.82 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا۔ برطانیہ کو برآمدات سے پاکستان نے 1038.963 ملین ڈالر کا زرمبادلہ حاصل کیا جبکہ گزشتہ مالی سال برطانیہ کو پاکستانی برآمدات سے ملک کو 1010.179 ملین ڈالر زرمبادلہ حاصل ہوا تھا۔ اسی طرح مالی سال کے ابتدائی 7 ماہ میں چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات میں 5.4 فیصد اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا، 7 ماہ میں چین کو برآمدات سے پاکستان نے 1031.816 ملین ڈالر زرمبادلہ حاصل کیا جبکہ گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصہ میں چین کو برآمدات سے پاکستان نے 978.227 ملین ڈالر کا زرمبادلہ کمایا تھا۔ اس عرصہ میں جرمنی اور افغانستان کو برآمدات میں معمولی کمی دیکھنے میں آئی۔

Dunya News, 18-03-19

چین سے درآمدات

میں 10.28 فیصد کمی

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) رواں مالی سال کے ابتدائی 7 مہینوں میں چین سے درآمدات میں 10.28 فیصد کمی ریکارڈ کی گئی ہے۔ سٹیٹ بینک کے مطابق جولائی سے جنوری تک پاکستان نے چین سے 5.93 ارب ڈالر مالیت کی درآمدات کیں جو گزشتہ مالی سال کے اسی عرصہ کے مقابلے میں 10.28 فیصد کم ہیں۔ گزشتہ مالی سال پاکستان نے چین سے درآمدات پر 16.54 ارب ڈالر مالیت کا زرمبادلہ خرچ کیا تھا۔

Dunya News, 18-03-19

کراچی میں چین کے قونصلیٹ پر حملے کی تفتیش میں پیشرفت

سی ٹی ڈی نے نادرا سے ہلاک دہشت گردوں کی تفصیلات جاننے کیلئے خط لکھ دیا

ہلاک دہشت گردوں کا شناختی کارڈ ہلاک اور خاندان کی تفصیلات طلب کر لی گئیں

کراچی (این این آئی) کراچی میں چین کے قونصلیٹ پر حملے کی تفتیش میں اہم پیشرفت ہوئی ہے۔ سی ٹی ڈی نے نادرا سے ہلاک دہشت گردوں کی تفصیلات جاننے کے لیے خط لکھ دیا ہے، خط میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ہلاک دہشت گردوں کے خاندان کی تفصیلات دی جائیں اور ہلاک دہشت گردوں کا شناختی کارڈ بھی ہلاک کیا جائے۔ خط میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ ہلاک دہشت گرد عبدالرزاق کا شناختی کارڈ جانے وقوعہ سے برآمد ہوا تھا، کالعدم تنظیم کے دہشت گرد علی احمد نے بھی شناختی کارڈ بنا رکھا تھا، دہشت گرد علی احمد کا اصل نام ہاشم تھا۔ اس کے علاوہ کالعدم تنظیم کے حفیظ پندرائی نے بھی جعلی شناختی کارڈ بنا رکھا تھا۔ جعلی شناختی کارڈ کے ذریعے جعلی اکاؤنٹس کی بھی چھان بین کی جائے گی۔ واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ سال 23 نومبر کو کراچی میں چینی قونصلیٹ پر دہشت گردوں نے حملہ کیا تھا جس میں 4 افراد شہید ہوئے تھے۔

پیشرفت

Dunya News, 18-03-19**2 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری، 2 چینی کمپنیوں کا خط: ذوالفقار بخاری**

رہنمائی میں بھاری ٹرک تیار کرنے والا پلانٹ بھی نصب کیا جائیگا: مشیر وزیراعظم

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے سمندر پار پاکستانیز و ترقی انسانی وسائل سید ذوالفقار بخاری نے کہا ہے کہ چین کی دو کمپنیوں ایکس ای ایم اور ایچ ایس ایس گروپ نے پاکستان میں ہاؤسنگ اور مینوفیکچرنگ کے شعبوں میں 2 ارب ڈالر مالیت کی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے اظہار دلچسپی کا مکتوب جاری کر دیا۔ اتوار کو ایک گفتگو میں انہوں نے کہا یہ اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں نے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کار دوست پالیسیوں پر اعتماد کرنا شروع کر دیا، رہنمائی اقتصادی زون میں بھاری ٹرک تیار کرنے والا پلانٹ بھی نصب کیا جائیگا، اس سے مقامی آبادی کو روزگار کے بے شمار مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا قبل ازیں دونوں چینی کمپنیوں کے وفد نے وزیراعظم عمران خان کو پاکستان میں کم لاگت گھروں کی تعمیر کے منصوبہ سے پیدا ہونے والے مواقع سے استفادہ کرنے کے ضمن میں سرمایہ کاری کے ارادے سے آگاہ کیا، چینی کمپنیوں نے اپنے مکتوب میں چار نکاتی سرمایہ کاری ایجنڈا واضح کیا۔ چینی کمپنیاں وزیراعظم عمران خان کے ویژن کے مطابق کم لاگت گھروں کی تعمیر کے منصوبہ میں حصہ لیں گی اور کم سے کم 10 لاکھ گھروں کی تعمیر میں تکنیکی اور مالی معاونت فراہم کریں گی، معاونت میں ڈیزائننگ، بلڈنگ، فنشنگ اور پری پھر یکویڈ سٹیل و کنکریٹ سنبھلنگ ہاؤس ٹیکنالوجی شامل ہیں۔

ذوالفقار بخاری

Dunya News, 18-03-19

پنجاب سرکاری سکولوں کی درسی کتب چین سے چھپوانے کا فیصلہ

منابلی توڑنے کیلئے تیسری جماعت کے اردو قاعدہ کے نمونہ جات لے لئے گئے، مقامی پبلشرز نے

قیمت 89 روپے طے کی

چین نے وزن 68 کے بجائے 80 گرام، قیمت 44 روپے دی، 2 ارب کی بچت ہوگی، فائدہ اٹھانا

ضروری: پی سی ٹی بی

لاہور (سید سجاد ظہری سے) پیچہ ملز مافیا کی منابلی توڑنے کے لئے سرکاری سکولوں کے لئے درسی کتب چین سے چھپوانے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا۔ پہلے مرحلہ میں تیسری جماعت کا اردو قاعدہ (پرائمری) کے نمونہ جات حاصل کر لئے گئے۔ چین سے 80 گرام وزن کے کاغذ پر درسی کتب کا ریٹ 100 فیصد کم ملا ہے جبکہ مقامی پبلشرز 68 گرام کاغذ استعمال کر کے ڈبل رقم وصول کر رہے ہیں۔ پنجاب کریکولم اینڈ ٹیکسٹ بک بورڈ سرکاری ونجی سکولوں کے لئے پونے چار ارب روپے کی سالانہ درسی کتب شائع کراتا ہے اور ہر سال مقامی پیچہ ملز مافیا تعلیمی سیشن کے قریب آتے ہی کاغذ کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ کر دیتا ہے، رواں سال تعلیمی سیشن 2019/20 میں بھی ڈالر مہنگا ہونے کا بہانہ بنایا گیا مگر مقامی ملز کا ڈالر کی قیمتوں سے براہ راست کوئی تعلق تو نہیں مگر اس کے باوجود کاغذ کی قیمت 86 روپے سے بڑھا کر 105 روپے تک کر دی گئی۔ پنجاب کریکولم اینڈ ٹیکسٹ بک بورڈ نے پیچہ زکی بے جا قیمتوں، پرنٹنگ اور دیگر اخراجات کو کنٹرول کرنے کے لئے چین سے اردو قاعدہ (پرائمری) کی قیمت اور قاعدہ کا مکمل نمونہ حاصل کر لیا ہے، اس وقت اردو کے اس قاعدہ کی قیمت مقامی پبلشرز سے چھپوانے کے بعد 89 روپے طے کی گئی ہے اور اس کاغذ کا وزن 68 گرام ہے مگر اس کے برعکس چین سے حاصل کئے جانے والے اردو قاعدہ کا وزن 80 گرام اور اس کی قیمت 44 روپے ہے جو مقامی مارکیٹ سے 100 فیصد کم ہے۔ اس طرح 2 ارب روپے کی بچت کی جا سکے گی جو کہ بہت زیادہ ہے اور اس عمل سے مقامی مارکیٹ میں کاغذ کی قیمت میں بے جا اضافہ میں بھی کمی واقع ہوگی۔

درسی کتب

Dunya News, 19-03-19

چینی کمپنی نے ہسٹل ملازمین کی بجالی کا پلان دیکھا
پہلا 30 لاکھ روپے
سن سالانہ کی جائیگی

ایم سی سی کی ہسٹل ملازمین کا انتظام سنبھالنے کی پیشکش، کسی ملازم کو کوکری سے ٹکالا نہیں جائیگا، مئی 15 ہزار روپے ملازمین بھرتی کرے گی

مئی 30 سال کے لیے آپریٹ فرانسز کی بنیاد پر ہسٹل ملازمین کا انتظام سنبھالے گی، 2050 میں حکومت کے حوالے کر دے گی

اسلام آباد (دن نیوز خصوصی) حکومت کے لیے کیا مئی مئی ایم سی سی نے ہسٹل ملازمین کا انتظام سنبھالنے کی کوٹیشن خیر کی دعوت کا چاہا، مئی 30 لاکھ روپے کا پاکستان ہسٹل ملازمین کے لیے کوٹیشن کر رہا ہے، ہسٹل ملازمین کی کارپوریشن نے حکومت میں ملے فی ماہ کی جائیگی، (ہائی سٹور 5 نمبر 40)

ایک نیا دور ویناسیاسی ارثیت

ہی پیک روپیہ کی کہیں اور نہیں جانا چاہیے

چینی سرمایہ کار بے دھڑک پاکستان آئیں، تحفظ دیئے: شاہ محمود
 راجہ غلامی ایئر پور عمارت سے اترتے ہیں مسجد، مسلمان کا ذکر کب تک نہیں کیا اور غلامی
 راجہ (خبر پاکستان) اور غلامی راجہ کا ذکر نہیں کیا ہے کہ پاکستان سے
 کہا ہے پاکستان عمارت کی جگہ کو کراٹ کیلئے تیار ہے۔ غلامی راجہ سے ان کا احوال میں (آئی سٹوڈیو 50)

Dunya News, 22-03-19**Dunya News, 23-03-19**

چین سے 2 ارب 10 کروڑ

ڈالر 25 مارچ کو ملیں گے

اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) پاکستان میں معاشی استحکام کے لیے چین بھی میدان میں آ گیا۔ وزارت خزانہ کے ترجمان خاقان حسن نجیب نے کہا کہ چین سے پاکستان کو دو ارب دس کروڑ ڈالر ملیں گے۔ تمام کارروائیاں مکمل کر لی گئیں، رقم 25 مارچ تک سٹیٹ بینک کے اکاؤنٹ میں جمع ہوگی۔ انہوں نے یہ خوش خبری ٹویٹر پر سنائی۔

وزارت خزانہ

Dunya News, 23-03-19

چین: زرعی ادویات کی فیکٹری میں

دھماکے سے 50 ہلاکتیں، 600 زخمی

بیجنگ (اے ایف پی) چین میں زرعی ادویات کی فیکٹری میں ہونے والے دھماکے سے مرنیوالوں کی تعداد 50 ہو گئی، 600 زخمیوں میں سے 90 کی حالت نازک بیان کی جا رہی ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق چینی شہر ژانگ چنگ کے انڈسٹریل پارک میں ایک روز قبل ہونیوالے دھماکے سے 12 افراد کی ہلاکت کی تصدیق کی گئی تھی مگر بعد ازاں بتایا گیا کہ اس خوفناک دھماکے میں ہلاکتیں بڑھ کر 50 ہو گئی ہیں جبکہ 600 افراد زخمی ہیں۔ حکام کے مطابق ہسپتالوں میں زیر علاج 90 افراد کی حالت تاحال تشویشناک ہے۔ واقعے کی تحقیقات شروع کر دی گئی ہیں اور اس ضمن میں کئی افراد کو حراست میں لیا گیا ہے۔ اطلاعات کے مطابق دھماکے سے کیمیکل فیکٹری کی عمارت منہدم ہو گئی۔ زہریلا دھواں پھیلنے سے شہریوں کو شدید پریشانی کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ امدادی کارکنوں نے رات گئے تک کئے جانے والے آپریشن میں 3 ہزار افراد کو اس علاقے سے نکال کر محفوظ مقامات پر منتقل کیا۔

50 ہلاکتیں

Dunya News, 23-03-19

پاکستان سے تعلقات نئی بلندیوں پر لیجانے

کے خواہاں، چین کا یوم پاکستان پر پیغام

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ، وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ژی نے یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر پاکستان کے عوام اور حکومت کو مبارکبادی اور نیک خواہشات کا پیغام دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ سدا بہار سٹریٹجک تعاون اور تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں پر لے جانے کا خواہاں ہے، جمعرات کو چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان کے قومی دن کے موقع پر اپنے صدر عارف علوی کے نام پیغام میں پاکستان کے عوام اور حکومت کو مبارکبادی، چین کے وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے نام اپنے پیغام میں پاکستان کے قومی دن کے موقع پر کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان نے سدا بہار تعاون کو اعلیٰ سطح پر پہنچانے کے لئے کام کیا۔ چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ژی نے وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کو

مبارکباد دی۔

چین پیغام

Dunya News, 23-03-19**سی پیک کیلئے الگ ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل بنانا چاہتے ہیں، آڈٹ حکام**

ہم پر چار ارب خرچ، جواب میں 90 ارب تک واپس کرتے ہیں، ذیلی کمیٹی کو بریفنگ اسلام آباد (واقعہ نگار خصوصی) پارلیمنٹ کی پبلک اکاؤنٹس کمیٹی کی ذیلی کمیٹی کو آڈٹ حکام نے آگاہ کیا کہ ہم سی پیک کے لیے ایک الگ ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل بنانا چاہتے ہیں، ہمارا چار ارب کا سالانہ بجٹ ہوتا ہے جس کا 70 فیصد سے زائد ہماری تنخواہوں پر مبنی ہوتا ہے، ہم پر چار ارب خرچ ہوتا ہے جس کے جواب میں ہم کبھی 80 اور کبھی 90 ارب واپس کرتے ہیں، اگر ہم پرائویٹ کیا جائے تو ہم اس سے بہتر نتائج دے سکتے ہیں۔ ذیلی کمیٹی کا اجلاس کنوینر شاہدہ اختر علی کی زیر صدارت ہوا، آڈٹ حکام نے کہا کہ رولز آف بزنس میں ترمیم کی جائے ہم شیڈول تھری سے شیڈول 2 میں آنا چاہتے ہیں، ہمارے پاس آٹھ پی ایچ ڈی، 1841 ایم بی اے فنانس، آئی ٹی افسران، 1627 ایم ایس سی اور ایم اے، 2064 پاکستان انسٹیٹیوٹ آف پبلک فنانس اکاؤنٹنٹس (پنفا) کو ایفائیڈ ملازمین اور 8 فراڈ ایگزامینر، فرانزک آڈیٹرز ہیں، آڈٹ کے دوران ہمیں شکایات بھی آتی ہیں۔

آڈٹ حکام

Dunya News, 25-03-19



بیجنگ: وزیراعظم بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم میں شرکت کریں گے

چینی صدر نے دعوت دی، چینی قیادت اور دیگر عالمی رہنماؤں سے بھی ملاقاتیں کریں گے

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) وزیراعظم عمران خان آئندہ ماہ بیجنگ میں منعقد ہونے والے دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم برائے تعاون میں شرکت کریں گے، انہیں فورم میں شرکت کی دعوت چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے دی ہے، توقع ہے کہ اس موقع پر وہ چینی رہنماؤں کے ساتھ دیگر عالمی رہنماؤں سے بھی ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔

بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ

Dunya News, 25-03-19



سی پیک معاشی و کمرشل منصوبہ، کوئی بھی شامل ہو سکتا ہے: چینی سفیر

چینی ریڈ کریسنٹ سوسائٹی کی طرف سے بلوچستان حکومت کو 2 لاکھ ڈالر کا امدادی چیک دیا گیا پاکستان ترقی کی جانب گامزن، یاؤ جنگ، امداد پر چینی حکومت کے شکر گزار ہیں، گورنر بلوچستان اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا کہ سی پیک معاشی و کمرشل منصوبہ ہے جس میں کوئی بھی شامل ہو سکتا ہے، بھارت سی پیک منصوبے پر کچھ تحفظات رکھتا ہے، کچھ روٹس کو متنازعہ کہتا ہے، گورنر بلوچستان کو امدادی چیک دینے کے موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی ریڈ کریسنٹ سوسائٹی کی طرف سے بلوچستان حکومت کو دو لاکھ ڈالر فراہم کئے گئے ہیں، سی پیک کے بعد بلوچستان نے خاصی توجہ حاصل کی، بلوچستان کی تمام جماعتوں کے شکر گزار ہیں، گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی گرانڈ بریکنگ آئندہ مہینے کر دی جائے گی، انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان خوشحالی ترقی اور امن کی جانب گامزن ہے، سی پیک کے تحت کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کی ترقی ممکن ہوگی، چینی سفیر بلوچستان ہاؤس پہنچے جہاں انہوں نے بارشوں سے متاثر ہونے والوں کے لئے گورنر بلوچستان جسٹس (ر) امان اللہ خان کو امدادی چیک دیا، اس موقع پر گورنر بلوچستان نے کہا کہ بلوچستان میں حالیہ بارشوں سے بعض علاقے کافی متاثر ہوئے ہیں، چین کی اس امداد سے متاثرین کو کافی مدد ملے گی، ہم چینی حکومت کے شکر گزار ہیں۔

چینی سفیر

Dunya News, 25-03-19**چینی صدر فرانس پہنچ گئے**

پیرس (اے پی پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اٹلی کا تین روزہ دورہ مکمل کرنے کے بعد فرانس پہنچ گئے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق یہ ان کے موجودہ دورے کی آخری منزل ہے۔ صدر شی جن پنگ پیرس میں اپنے میزبان صدر ایمانوئل میکرواں سے ملاقات کریں گے۔ دونوں صدور کی ملاقات چین اور فرانس کے روابط استوار ہونے کی 55 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر ہو رہی ہے۔ (کل) منگل کو فرانسیسی و چینی صدور کے ساتھ جرمن چانسلر انگلیا مرکل اور یورپی کمیشن کے صدر ژاں کلود یونکر ایک میٹنگ میں شریک ہوں گے۔

چینی صدر

Dunya News, 25-03-19

چین کا دلہا، دلہنیا لے

جانے کیلئے جہلم پہنچ گیا

جہلم (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) فیس بک دوستی محبت میں تبدیل ہو گئی۔ چین کا دلہا، دلہنیا لے جانے کیلئے جہلم پہنچ گیا، مقامی ہوٹل میں شادی کی تقریب ہوئی جس میں دلہے اور دلہن کے عزیز واقارب، دوستوں نے شرکت کی، شادی روایتی انداز میں ہوئی، لڑکی نے سرخ جوڑا پہنا۔
جہلم پہنچ گیا

Dunya News, 25-03-19



سی پیک: قوم پرست رہنماؤں کے تحفظات کافی حد تک دور

بیجنگ مشاورتی کانفرنس میں معترض جماعتوں کی شرکت کو چین نے سراہا

اب یہ تاثر ختم ہو گیا کہ بلوچ اور پشتون قوم پرست منصوبے بخلاف ہیں

اسلام آباد (طارق عزیز) پاکستان اور چین کی حکومتیں سی پیک بارے بلوچ اور پشتون قوم پرست رہنماؤں کے تحفظات دور کرنے میں کافی حد تک کامیاب ہو گئیں، بیجنگ میں حالیہ مشترکہ مشاورتی کانفرنس میں منصوبے پر معترض جماعتوں پشتون خوا ملی عوامی پارٹی، پیشل پارٹی، بلوچستان پیشل پارٹی، عوامی پیشل پارٹی اور سب یو آئی کی نمائندگی سے یہ تاثر ختم ہو گیا کہ بلوچ اور پشتون قوم پرست منصوبے بخلاف ہیں، کانفرنس میں محمود اچکزئی کی نمائندگی نصر اللہ بڑیج، میر حاصل بزنجو کی نمائندگی جان بلیدی، اختر مینگل کی نمائندگی اکبر مینگل، مولانا فضل الرحمن کی نمائندگی محمود جینی، اسفند یار ولی کی نمائندگی گلشن ملک نے کی جبکہ نواب آف قلات کے بھائی پرنس عمر خان، قوم پرست رہنماؤں اگر کاشی نے بھی کانفرنس میں شرکت کی، یہ پہلا موقع ہے کہ بلوچ، پشتون قوم پرستوں اور سب یو آئی کے رہنماؤں نے کیونٹ پارٹی آف چائنہ کے ہیڈ آفس کا دورہ کیا اور چینی تھنک ٹینک کے سامنے تحفظات اور غدرشات کا اظہار کیا، اس موقع پر انٹرنیشنل ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف کیونٹ پارٹی چائنہ کے سائیک تائو نے انہیں بریفنگ دی اور مغربی روٹ بارے تحفظات دور کرنے کی یقین دہانی کرائی، وفد کی قیادت وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کر رہے تھے، لیگی وفد کی قیادت مشاہد حسین سید نے کی، چین نے مشترکہ مشاورتی کانفرنس میں تحفظات رکھنے والی جماعتوں کی نمائندگی کو سراہا، سازگار ماحول پر چین نے اطمینان کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ 29 مارچ کو گوادر ایئر پورٹ افتتاح کے بعد بلوچستان میں دیگر منصوبے بھی شروع کئے جائیں گے، کوشل ایریاز میں مقامی آبادی کو روزگار کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔

سی پیک

Dunya News, 27-03-19

[illegible]

Dunya News, 27-03-19

وقت آگیا پاکستان کی صنعت فعل کرنے میں مدد کی جائے چینی سفیر
 قومی حکومت دواؤں کی قلت کے سہارے ملک میں تعاون کو دینا چاہتی ہے، اور جنگ
 پاکستان میں داخلہ کرنا چینی کمپنی مشترکہ منصوبہ بنائیں شہابہ علیہ السلام نے خطاب
 دہلائی (خصوصی رپورٹر) پاکستان میں صنعت
 کی سطح پر اور جنگ نے کہا کہ ایک میں صنعتی تعاون
 کو دینا چاہتی ہے، دواؤں کی قلت کے سہارے ملک میں
 دہلائی (خصوصی رپورٹر) پاکستان میں صنعت
 کی سطح پر اور جنگ نے کہا کہ ایک میں صنعتی تعاون
 کو دینا چاہتی ہے، دواؤں کی قلت کے سہارے ملک میں

Dunya News, 27-03-19**چین کے دورہ پر روانہ**

راولپنڈی (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر قانون و بلدیات پنجاب بشارت راجہ وفد کے ہمراہ چین کے تین روزہ دورے پر روانہ ہو گئے۔ صوبائی وزیر لاہور، ملتان، راولپنڈی اور ٹیکسلا کو چین کے مختلف شہروں کے ساتھ جڑواں شہر قرار دینے کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کریں گے۔ اسلام آباد ایئرپورٹ پر میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے بشارت راجہ نے کہا کہ پنجاب کے شہروں کو چین کے اہم شہروں کے ساتھ جڑواں شہر قرار دینے سے معاشی، سماجی اور سیاسی روابط مزید مضبوط ہوں گے۔

بشارت راجہ

Dunya News, 27-03-19

مودی الیکشن جیتنے کیلئے پاک چین کارڈ استعمال کر رہے: گلوبل ٹائمز

مودی کی مقبولیت کم ہوئی ہے اسلئے مودی پاکستان سے تنازع جاری رکھنا چاہتے ہیں

بعض مغربی ذرائع ابلاغ نے مسعود اظہر کو بڑھا چڑھا کر عالمی دہشتگرد پیش کیا: چینی اخبار

جینگ (آئی این بی) بھارت کے وزیر اعظم نریندر مودی الیکشن جیتنے کیلئے پاکستان چین کارڈ استعمال کر رہے ہیں۔ بھارت میں 11 اپریل سے 19 مئی تک ہونے والے عام انتخابات سے قبل فروری میں بھارتی سیورٹی فورسز پر خودکش حملے کے باعث دونوں ممالک میں کشیدگی بڑھ گئی تھی جس کے باعث اب مودی انتخابات جیتنے کیلئے پاک چین کارڈ استعمال کر رہے ہیں، بھارت نے حال ہی میں جیش محمد انتہا پسند گروپ کے رہنما مسعود اظہر کو عالمی دہشتگرد اور بلیک لسٹ قرار دینے کی تجویز اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل کو دی تھی، جس سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم مودی اور اس کی بھارتیہ جنتا پارٹی پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنا تنازع جاری رکھنا چاہتی ہے تاکہ اس سے مودی کی مقبولیت ملے اور وہوں میں اکثریت حاصل ہو سکے چین کا بااثر اخبار گلوبل ٹائمز اپنی تازہ ترین اشاعت میں لکھتا ہے کہ دوطرفہ مسائل کو عام طور پر بھارت یا دیگر ممالک میں استعمال نہیں کیا جاتا جب تک کشیدگی بڑھ کر نو بت جنگ تک نہ پہنچ جائے، حقیقت یہ ہے کہ جینگ اور نئی دہلی کے درمیان تعلقات میں بھی بعض مسائل ہیں لیکن یہ تعلقات ایک بحران سے بہت دور ہیں۔ چین کو بھارت کے عام انتخابات سے کچھ لینا دینا نہیں۔ اخبار کے مطابق مودی کی مقبولیت کم ہوئی ہے۔ بعض مغربی ذرائع ابلاغ نے اپنے پالیسی ایجنڈے کے مطابق مسعود اظہر کو بڑھا چڑھا کر عالمی دہشتگرد کے طور پر پیش کیا ہے امریکہ اور دوسرے کچھ مغربی ممالک یہ نہیں چاہتے کہ چین اور بھارت کے درمیان دوستانہ تعلقات ہوں، امریکی حکام اور دانشور اس بات پر یقین رکھتے ہیں کہ دونوں ممالک مستقل طور پر ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ تصادم رہیں اور وہ اپنی پالیسیاں اسی مفروضے کی بنیاد پر تیار کریں۔

گلوبل ٹائمز

Dunya News, 29-03-19



رہنمائی اقتصادی زون کیلئے چینی کمپنی سے معاہدے پر اتفاق

چائنا روڈ اینڈ برج سے معاملات طے پا گئے ہیں، معاہدے پر دستخط اپریل میں ہونگے
اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: الماس حیدر نقوی) پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت پہلے خصوصی اقتصادی زون رہنمائی کیلئے خیبر پختونخوا
حکومت اور چینی تعمیراتی کمپنی چائنا روڈ اینڈ برج کے درمیان معاہدے پر اتفاق رائے ہو گیا، چین نے حکومت پاکستان سے سرمایہ
کاری کے حوالے سے فہرست مانگ لی، حکومت جن صنعتوں کو اجازت دے گی وہی کمپنیاں اقتصادی زون میں سرمایہ کاری کر سکیں گی
، ابتدائی طور پر رہنمائی اقتصادی زون میں لاجسٹک کمپنیاں سرمایہ کاری پر آمادہ ہیں، سندھ میں دھاتی اور فیصل آباد میں اقتصادی زونز
کی بھی فیڈ بک مل کر لی گئی ہے، باوثوق ذرائع نے روزنامہ دنیا کو بتایا کہ دوسرے مرحلے کی تیاریاں بھی مکمل کر لی گئی ہیں، سی پیک
کے تحت پہلے اقتصادی زون رہنمائی کیلئے خیبر پختونخوا حکومت اور چینی تعمیراتی کمپنی چائنا روڈ اینڈ برج کے درمیان معاملات طے پا گئے،
معاہدے پر دستخط اپریل میں ہونگے، سنگ بنیاد اپریل کے آخری ہفتے میں رکھا جائے گا، چینی سفارتخانہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اور وزارت
منصوبہ بندی و اصلاحات کے ساتھ رابطے میں ہے، دوسرے مرحلے میں تین اقتصادی زونز کے حوالے سے کام شروع کیا جائے گا۔
معاہدہ اتفاق

Dunya News, 29-03-19

صنعتوں کا قیام تیز کرنے کیلئے سی پیک بزنس کونسل قائم، عبدالرزاق داؤد سربراہ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) سی پیک کے ذریعے ملک میں صنعتوں کے قیام کے عمل کو تیز کرنے کے لئے جوائنٹ ورکنگ گروپ برائے صنعتی تعاون کے سلسلہ میں وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے ٹیکنالوجی صنعت و پیداوار و سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد کی سربراہی میں سی پیک بزنس کونسل قائم کر دی گئی۔ وزیر پلاننگ ڈویلپمنٹ شریک چیئرمین ہوں گے۔ ممبران میں سرکاری طرف سے چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اور سیکرٹری بورڈ، سیکرٹری وزارت پلاننگ، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر جنرل، وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے سی پیک پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر جبکہ نجی شعبہ سے وفاق ایوان ہائے صنعت و تجارت کے صدر، ایمپلائز فیڈریشن کے صدر ماجد عزیز، پاکستان ہوزری مینوفیکچرنگ اینڈ ایکسپورٹرز ایسوسی ایشن کے چیئرمین جاوید بلوانی، پاکستان کیمیکل مینوفیکچرنگ ایسوسی ایشن کے چیئرمین، حبیب بینک لمیٹڈ کے سی ای او محمد اورنگزیب، ملت ٹریڈنگ کے چیئرمین سکندر محمد خان، چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر نیشنل فوڈز، فوجی فاؤنڈیشن کے ایم ڈی، ہائیر اینڈروبا کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر فیصل آفریدی، ٹیسٹے پاکستان کے چیئرمین یاور علی، کوئٹہ جیمبر کے صدر، ڈائیو ایکسپریس بس سروس لمیٹڈ کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر شہریار، جعفر برادرز کے چیئرمین نصیر ایم ایس جعفر، پاکستان بزنس کونسل کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر احسان ملک، ڈیسکون کے عدنان بختیار، ممبر پی اے آر سی، امداد علی، گلگت بلتستان کے نمائندے، ممبر مشرقی آف پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ عاصم سعید ممبران کے طور پر شامل ہوں گے۔

کونسل

بزنس

Dunya News, 29-03-19

ایکٹک : سی پیک مغربی روٹ دورویہ کرنے کی منظوری

منصوبے کے تحت 305 کلومیٹر ویسٹرن الائنمنٹ کو دورویہ بنایا جائے گا

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) نیشنل اکنامک کونسل کی ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی (ایکٹک) نے سی پیک کے تحت ویسٹرن روٹ، ویسٹرن الائنمنٹ کو دورویہ کرینکی منظوری دیدی، وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کی زیر صدارت ایکٹک اجلاس کو بتایا گیا کہ منصوبے کے تحت 305 کلومیٹر ویسٹرن الائنمنٹ کو دورویہ کیا جائے گا، منصوبے پر کوئی اضافی لاگت نہیں آئے گی بلکہ پبلک سیکٹر ڈیولپمنٹ پروگرام سے ہی اس کی لاگت پوری کی جائیگی، اجلاس کو بتایا گیا کہ منصوبے سے ٹروپ، کچلاک، مسلم باغ، پشین، اور خیبر پختونخوا کے عوام کو فائدہ ہوگا، اجلاس میں منصوبے کیلئے زمین کی خریداری کی بھی منظوری دی گئی، اجلاس کے دوران بتایا گیا کہ ویسٹرن روٹ پر حادثات کو روکنے کیلئے فوری اقدامات کی ضرورت ہے۔

منظوری

Dunya News, 29-03-19

امریکہ مسعود اظہر کے معاملے

پر احتیاط سے کام لے: چین

بیجنگ (دنیا مانیتورنگ) امریکہ نے فرانس، برطانیہ کی مدد سے مسعود اظہر پر پابندی کی قرارداد کمیٹی کو بائی پاس کرتے ہوئے سلامتی کونسل میں پیش کردی، اس معاملے پر چین نے امریکہ پر زور دیا کہ وہ مولانا مسعود اظہر کو بلیک لسٹ قرار دینے پر احتیاط سے کام لے، اور اس حوالے سے قرارداد کا ڈرافٹ مسلط کرنے سے گریز کرے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے الزام لگایا کہ امریکہ نے مسعود اظہر کو بلیک لسٹ قرار دینے کی قرارداد براہ راست پیش کر کے 1267 پابندی کمیٹی کو بائی پاس کیا ہے۔ امریکی اقدام کی وجہ سے کمیٹی کی اتھارٹی متاثر ہوئی، جو کہ سکیورٹی کونسل کا انسداد و ہشت گردی کا اہم ادارہ ہے۔ امریکہ کے اس اقدام سے معاملہ مزید پیچیدہ ہو گا۔ وہ امریکہ پر زور دیتے ہیں کہ وہ احتیاط کو ملحوظ خاطر رکھے اور بزور قرارداد کا ڈرافٹ پیش کرنے سے گریز کرے۔ یہی کمیٹی کے قواعد و ضوابط کے عین مطابق ہے۔ مسعود اظہر کو دہشت گرد قرار دینے میں کئی پیچیدہ عوامل کارفرما ہیں، چین ڈائلاگ اور اتفاق رائے کے ذریعے مناسب قرارداد پر کام کر رہا ہے۔

چین

Dunya News, 29-3-19



کاروبار میں آسانیوں کیلئے مزید اقدامات کریں گے، عبدالرزاق داؤد

مشیر تجارت سے چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ کی ملاقات، سرمایہ کاری کے حوالے سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت، ٹیکسٹائل و صنعت عبدالرزاق داؤد سے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے ملاقات کی۔ جمعرات کے روز ہونے والی ملاقات کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینے پر تبادلہ خیال ہوا۔ اس موقع پر چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنی چینلج اپیرلز لمیٹڈ موجودہ سرمایہ کاری میں غیر معمولی اضافہ کرنے کی خواہشمند ہے جس سے روزگار کے ہزاروں مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ مشیر تجارت نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنی کی مزید سرمایہ کاری خوش آئند ہے۔

Dunya News, 29-03-19



چین؟ پاکستان گدھے در آمد کرنیکا خواباں فارمزنانے میں بھی دلچسپی

دوست ملک کو برآمد کی اجازت ہونی چاہیے، معاملہ سرد خانے کی نذر ہو گیا ہے: سینیٹ قائمہ کمیٹی
تجارت کو بریفنگ

سینیٹ لائف میں 4 ارب 80 کروڑ کے گھپلے، ڈمی ایجنٹس کے نام پر کمیشن وصول کی جاتی
رہی: سیکرٹری خزانہ یونس ڈھاگہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) سینیٹ قائمہ کمیٹی تجارت اینڈ ٹیکسٹائل انڈسٹری میں حکام نے انکشاف کیا کہ چین پاکستان سے گدھے درآمد کرنا چاہتا ہے دوست ملک نے پاکستان میں گدھوں کے فارمزنانے میں بھی دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے، مگر چین گدھے درآمد کرنے کا معاملہ سرد خانے کی نذر ہو گیا ہے برآمد کی اجازت ہونی چاہیے، سیکرٹری خزانہ نے سینیٹ لائف میں 4 ارب 80 کروڑ روپے گھپلوں کا انکشاف کرتے ہوئے کہا ڈمی ایجنٹس کے نام پر کمیشن وصول کیا جاتا رہا، سینیٹ لائف نے واجب الادا 10 ارب روپے سرمایہ کاری میں لگا دیئے، جس پر کمیٹی نے برہمی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا واجب الادا ادائیگی کے عمل کو تیز کیا جائے۔ چیئر مین مرزا محمد آفریدی کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں وزارت تجارت کے حکام نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں گدھوں کا بڑا پویشٹل ہے گدھوں کی برآمدات کو کمزور بنیادوں پر دیکھنا ہوگا، اچھی قیمت مل سکتی ہے، کمیٹی نے فی ڈیپ کا ہیڈ آفس کراچی سے اسلام آباد منتقل کرنے کی سفارش کر دی۔

گدھے

قرنی روٹ سے ڈی آئی خان، کوئٹہ کا قسملہ 8 کیلئے کم روٹ سے پہنچو گا کہ اگر اپنی بندرگاہ سے تیز
 رابطہ قائم: آئی ایس پی آر دوزیر اعظم کراچی پہنچ گئے، آج شہرہ کو کیلئے کھینچ کا اعلان موقع، گھنٹی
 میرا جیسا، لاہور بھی اٹھیں گے

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Dunya News, 30-03-19

پاکستان، چین کا مزید چار شہروں کو سسرٹی قرار دینے پر اتفاق

دسمبر سے پہلے دونوں ممالک کی منظوری کے بعد عملدرآمد شروع ہو جائے گا

اسلام آباد (طارق عزیز) پاکستان اور چین نے مزید چار شہروں کو ”سسرٹی“ کا درجہ دینے پر اصولی اتفاق کیا ہے، رواں سال دسمبر سے پہلے دونوں ممالک کی کابینہ سے منظوری کے بعد عملدرآمد شروع ہو جائے گا، اس سے قبل دونوں ممالک کے درمیان 28 شہروں کو یہ درجہ حاصل ہے، (پیونگ، گوادر)، (ارچی اور کراچی) کو ”سسرٹی“ کا درجہ حاصل ہونے کے بعد یہ تعداد 32 ہو جائے گی، رپورٹ کے مطابق پیونگ اور گوادر، ارچی اور کراچی کو سسرٹی قرار دینے بارے چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان اصولی طور پر اتفاق ہو گیا ہے، چاروں شہروں کے میئر، انتظامیہ سربراہوں اور وفد کا تبادلہ ہوگا، وزیراعظم پاکستان عمران خان نے متعلقہ حکام کو ہدایت کی ہے کہ ان یادداشتوں کو معاہدوں میں تبدیل کرنے کیلئے کام تیز کیا جائے، اس معاہدے سے دونوں ممالک کے مذکورہ شہروں کے طلباء، تاجروں اور دیگر پیشہ ورانہ قابلیت کے حامل افراد کو اپنے اپنے شعبوں میں سہولتیں حاصل ہوں گی، ویزوں کے اجراء میں بھی آسانی پیدا کی جائے گی۔

سسرٹی

Dunya News, 30-03-19

چین: پولیس سٹیشن میں

دھماکہ، حملہ آور مارا گیا

بیجنگ (دنیا مانیٹرنگ) چین کے شہر شنیانگ میں پولیس سٹیشن پر دھماکہ خیز مواد سے حملے میں تین افراد زخمی ہو گئے۔ آتشزدگی کے باعث حملہ آور ہلاک ہو گیا۔ مقامی حکام کے مطابق حملہ آور نے پہلے ٹریفک پولیس کے شنیانگ پبلک سیورٹی بیورو کو آگ لگائی بعد ازاں ایک دھماکہ خیز ڈیوائس چلا دی، آتشزدگی کے باعث حملہ آور موقع پر ہی ہلاک ہو گیا جبکہ تین افراد معمولی زخمی ہوئے جنہیں ہسپتال منتقل کر دیا گیا ہے۔

چین دھماکہ

Dunya News, 31-03-19

راول ایکسپو، چینی کمپنیوں کا الگ پولین مختص کرنے کا فیصلہ

نمائش میں مقامی مینوفیکچررز، دس سے زائد ممالک کی تجارتی کمپنیاں شرکت کریں گی

راولپنڈی (اے پی پی) راولپنڈی چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹریز کے زیر اہتمام 17 اپریل سے منعقدہ “راول ایکسپو انٹرنیشنل” میں چینی کمپنیوں کے لیے الگ پولین مختص کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا۔ اپنی نوعیت کی منفرد نمائش میں رواں برس مقامی مینوفیکچررز کی شرکت کے ساتھ ساتھ خواتین انٹرپرائیوز اور گھریلو دستکاروں کی شرکت بھی یقینی بنائی جائے گی۔ راولپنڈی چیمبر کی ایگزیکوشن کمیٹی کے وائس چیئرمین وریجنل ٹریڈ کمیٹی کے چیئرمین خورشید برلاس نے بتایا کہ راولپنڈی کے شہریوں کیلئے “راول ایکسپو انٹرنیشنل” اپنی نوعیت کی منفرد نمائش ثابت ہوگی اور اسے کارپوریٹ سطح پر آرگنائز کرنے کی تیاریاں جاری ہیں۔ خورشید برلاس نے بتایا کہ نمائش 17 سے 21 اپریل تک ٹوپی رکھ آڈیٹوریم ایوب پارک راولپنڈی میں منعقد ہوگی۔ نمائش میں مقامی مینوفیکچررز کے ساتھ ساتھ 60 سے زائد چینی کمپنیاں اور دس سے زائد ممالک کی تجارتی کمپنیاں شرکت کریں گی۔

Express News, 16-03-19**پاک بھارت کشیدگی پر سٹریٹجک مشاورت: شاہ محمود کل چین جائینگے**

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی پاک بھارت کشیدگی پر اسٹریٹجک مشاورت کیلئے 3 روزہ دورے پر اتوار کو چین جائیں گے۔ میڈیا رپورٹ کے مطابق دورے کے دوران وزیر خارجہ ہم منصب وانگ ژی سمیت چینی قیادت سے ملیں گے، پیر اور منگل کو دو طرفہ سٹریٹجک مشاورت میں حصہ لیں گے۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی بھارت کیساتھ کشیدگی کے خاتمے کیلئے کوششوں کا احاطہ کریں گے اور داخلی سطح پر جاری اقدامات سے بھی چینی قیادت کو آگاہ کریں گے۔

Express News, 16-03-19

مولانا مسعود اظہر کے بارے بھارت ٹھوس شواہد پیش کرے، چین

مودی نے بالا کوٹ پر مبینہ فضائی حملہ کے بعد سربراہ جیش محمد کو استعمال کرنا چاہا، رندیپ سنگھ

چین پاکستانی حمایت بند نہیں کریگا، راجیو، اوے بھاسکر، فرانس کا اٹاٹے منجمد کر نیکا اعلان

نئی دہلی (این این آئی) مودی حکومت دوبارہ اقتدار میں آنے کے لیے بالا کوٹ پر مبینہ فضائی حملہ کے بعد مولانا مسعود اظہر کو عالمی دہشتگرد قرار دینے کے معاملے سے سیاسی فائدہ اٹھانے کی ہر ممکن کوشش کر رہی تھی لیکن تازہ پیش رفت سے اسے مایوسی ہاتھ لگی ہے۔ بھارتی ٹی وی کی مطابق کانگریس نے اسے حکومت کی سٹریٹجک اور سفارتی ناکامی قرار دیا۔ پارٹی کے اعلیٰ ترجمان رندیپ سنگھ سر جے والا نے اپنے ایک ٹویٹر پیغام میں لکھا کہ دہشتگردی کیخلاف جنگ میں آج پھر ایک مایوس کن دن ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں سٹریٹجک امور کے بھارتی ماہر کیپٹن اوے بھاسکر نے کہا ہے کہ سلامتی کونسل میں جیش محمد کے سربراہ کیخلاف بھارتی قرارداد کو چین کی جانب سے ویٹو کرنا کوئی غیر متوقع پیش رفت نہیں ہے، چین پاکستان کے لیے اپنی حمایت بند نہیں کرے گا۔ راجیو شرمانے کہا کہ چین طویل المدتی سفارت کاری کر رہا ہے۔ مزید برآں فرانسیسی حکومت نے مسعود اظہر کے تمام تراٹاٹے منجمد کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا ہے اور کہا ہے کہ مسعود اظہر کو یورپی یونین کی مشتبہ دہشت گردوں کی فہرست میں بھی شامل کر نیکی کوشش کی جائیگی۔ چین کو مولانا مسعود اظہر کو عالمی دہشتگرد قرار دینے کیلئے ٹھوس ثبوت کی ضرورت ہے، چین کو ابھی اس معاملہ پر فیصلہ لینے کیلئے مزید وقت درکار ہے، مسعود اظہر کو بلیک لسٹ کرنے کے معاملے پر بھارت اور چین مابین اختلاف پایا جاتا ہے، چین اس معاملہ پر کوئی دباؤ قبول نہیں کرے گا، بھارت چھوٹے سے معاملہ کو عالمی سطح پر بغیر کسی ثبوت کے بڑھا چڑھا کر پیش کرتا ہے، پلوامہ حملے میں نقصان پر چین کو بھی دکھ اور ہمدردی ہے۔ لیونوگنگی کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کی ٹیکنیکل حکمت عملی ہے کہ بھارت بتائے کہ اسکی نظر میں دہشتگردی کیا ہے۔

Express News, 16-03-19

سینیٹ کمیٹی کو سی پیک منصوبوں بارے مطمئن نہ کیا جاسکا

اسلام آباد (نیوز ایجنسیاں) پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری پر سینیٹ کی خصوصی کمیٹی کو سی پیک منصوبوں کے ٹائم فریم، فریم ورک، اعداد و شمار سے مطمئن نہیں کیا جاسکا۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی خسرو بختیار نے ساری ذمہ داری سابق حکومت پر عائد کر دی اور کہا کہ مغربی روٹ سمیت پسماندہ علاقوں پر توجہ نہیں دی گئی۔ اورنج ٹرین اتنا مہنگا منصوبہ ہے کہ اگر لاہور کے ہر شہری کو آٹو گاڑی اور 20 ہزار ماہانہ پٹرول کیلئے پیسے بھی دیئے جائیں تو یہ اورنج ٹرین انتہائی سستا ہوگا۔ کمیٹی نے آئندہ اجلاس میں رپورٹ مانگ لی۔

Express News, 16-03-19

سی پیک کے 24 ارب روپے کے فنڈز ارکان اسمبلی کو دینے کیخلاف اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ میں رٹ

اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر) سی پیک کا 24 ارب روپے کا فنڈز ارکان اسمبلی کو دینے کیخلاف اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ میں درخواست دائر کر دی گئی، درخواست میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ارکان اسمبلی کو فنڈز کی فراہمی روک کر وزارت منصوبہ بندی سے ارکان اسمبلی کو جاری کیے جانے والے فنڈز کی تفصیلات فراہم کرنے کا کہا جائے، لیگ کے ایم این اے محسن شاہ نواز راجھوانے اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ میں درخواست دائر کی جس میں وزارت منصوبہ بندی کو فریق بناتے ہوئے موقف اختیار کیا گیا ہے کہ سی پیک کے 24 ارب روپے کے فنڈز ارکان قومی اسمبلی کو دینے کے معاملے پر پاکستان مسلم لیگ ن نے وزارت منصوبہ بندی سے تفصیلات مانگیں، آئین کے آرٹیکل 19 کے تحت وزارت منصوبہ بندی یہ معلومات فراہم کرنے کی پابند ہے مگر وزارت نے تفصیلات فراہم کرنے سے انکار کر دیا، عدالت سے استدعا ہے کہ فنڈز دینے کا عمل روکا جائے۔

Express News, 17-03-19

چینی فضائیہ ٹیم پاکستان پہنچ گئی، یوم پاکستان پر فضائی مظاہرہ کریگی

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) یوم پاکستان میں شرکت کیلئے چینی فضائیہ کی ایک ٹیم پاکستان پہنچ گئی، چینی فضائیہ کی ٹیم یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر فضائی مظاہرہ کرے گی۔ چائنہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق 23 مارچ یوم پاکستان میں شرکت کیلئے چینی فضائیہ کی ایک ٹیم پاکستان پہنچ گئی ہے۔ چینی فضائیہ کی ٹیم یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر فضائی مظاہرہ کریگی۔

Express News, 17-03-19

چین: ٹرانسفارمر روبوٹ کی سڑک پر چہل قدمی



بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین سے تعلق رکھنے والے 42 سالہ ٹرانسفارمر کے دیوانے نے کچھ انوکھا کرینکی ٹھانی اور مشہور سائنس فکشن فلم بمیل بی کے کردار میں خود ڈھال لیا۔ اور ٹرانسفارمر کا روپ دھارنے کے بعد سڑک پر چہل قدمی شروع کر دی۔ 2.8 میٹر اونچے روبوٹ کو دیکھ کر لوگ حیران ہو گئے اور ٹرانسفارمر کے ساتھ تصاویر بنوانے لگے۔

Express News, 18-03-19

تَابَنَّاكَ مُسْتَقْبَلُ كِلَيْهِ پَاك بھارت تینا زعمائیں كردار ادا كرنے كو تیار ہیں چین؟

دونوں ممالك عوامی فلاح و بہبود اور اقتصادی ترقی پر توجہ دیں، چین ہمسائیہ ممالك کیساتھ بہتر تعلقات کا خواہشمند ہے، وزیر خارجہ

بیجنگ، نیویارک (آئی این پی) چین نے زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ مستقبل میں عوامی فلاح و بہبود امن و استحکام اور اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے پاک بھارت مابین امن کیلئے چین ہر مدد کرنے کو تیار ہے، چین کا ترقی کیلئے ایک واضح موقف ہے جو امن ہے، چین اپنے ہمسائیہ ممالك کے ساتھ ہر سطح پر بہتر تعلقات کا خواہشمند ہے، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کا انعقاد اپریل میں بیجنگ میں ہوگا جس میں 100 ممالك کے ہزار ہا نمائندگان شرکت کریں گے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی نے 13 ویں نیشنل کانگریس کے دوسرے سیشن کے دوران میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے مختلف سوالات کے جوابات دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ تابناک مستقبل کیلئے چین پاک بھارت تعلقات میں امن و آشتی کیلئے ہر ممکن مدد اور تعاون کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ عالمی ترقی کیلئے چین کی سفارتکاری اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہے جس کا واحد مقصد باہمی مفادات پر مبنی ترقی ہے۔ چین کی ہمیشہ سے یہ خواہش رہی ہے کہ چین کے اپنے ہمسائیہ ممالك کے ساتھ بہترین تعلقات ہوں۔ پاک بھارت تنازعات اور شمالی کوریا تنازعہ کو بھی پرامن طریقے سے حل کیا جائے۔ اقوام متحدہ میں بھارت کے مستقل مندوب نے کہا کہ بھارت صبر و تحمل کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے چین کے ساتھ تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔

Express News, 18-03-19

چینی لڑکی کی اسلام لانے کے بعد ڈی آئی خان کے نوجوان سے شادی

ایک اور چینی لڑکا پاکستانی دلہن بیاہنے قصور پہنچ گیا، مسلمان ہو کر اپنا نام فرحان رکھ لیا

ڈی آئی خان، قصور (نمائندہ ایکسپریس) ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان کے نوجوان اور چینی لڑکی قبول اسلام کے بعد رشتہ ازدواج میں منسلک ہو گئے، ملک عمر فاروق ڈیال چین سے تعلق رکھنے والی بیلا عمر کیساتھ شادی کے بندھن میں بندھ گئے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان کی سیاسی شخصیت ملک ارشد ڈیال کے فرزند ملک عمر فاروق ڈیال اور بیلا عمر چائے سٹیٹ کنسٹرکشن کمپنی میں کام کرتے ہیں جہاں دونوں نے ایک دوسرے کو پسند کیا۔ شادی سے قبل بیلا عمر نے اسلام بھی قبول کیا۔ پہلا ولیمہ اسلام آباد میں منعقد کیا گیا جس میں وفاقی وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید، مختلف ممالک کے سفیروں اور چائے سٹیٹ کنسٹرکشن کمپنی کے ذمہ داران سمیت متعدد سیاسی شخصیات نے شرکت کی۔ بعد میں ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان میں بھی ایک ولیمے کا اہتمام کیا گیا جس میں بڑی تعداد میں معززین علاقہ، رشتہ داروں، سرکاری اداروں کے سربراہان اور صحافیوں نے شرکت کی دریں اثناء فیس بک پر دوستی ہونے کے بعد چینی لڑکا دلہن بیاہنے قصور پہنچ گیا، مسلمان ہو کر اپنا نام فرحان رکھا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق فیس بک پر دوستی ہونے کے بعد چینی لڑکا کھدیاں خاص شہر کی لڑکی مقدس سے شادی کرنے پاکستان پہنچ گیا۔ شادی میں اہل علاقہ کے معززین نے چینی دلہا اور ان کے دوستوں کو خوش آمدید کہا۔

Express News, 19-03-19

سی پیک دوسرے مرحلہ سے اقتصادی ترقی کا نیا دور شروع ہوگا، قریشی

امہ واقعہ کے بعد بھارت کو حوصلے اور بردباری سے جواب دیا، چائنا انسٹیٹیوٹ فار سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز میں خطاب بیجنگ (خبر ایجنسیاں) وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلہ کے آغاز سے پاکستان میں سماجی اور اقتصادی ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا، پاکستان امن کا داعی ہے اور خطے میں تمام ہمسایوں کے ساتھ پر امن تعلقات کا خواہاں ہے۔ اے پی پی کے مطابق وہ پیر کو دورہ چین کے دوران بیجنگ میں چائنا انسٹیٹیوٹ فار انٹرنیشنل سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز (سی آئی آئی ایس ایس) میں چینی سکالرز سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین نہ صرف گہرے دوست ہیں بلکہ دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات سٹریٹجک شراکت داری کی بنیاد پر استوار ہیں، پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلہ کے آغاز سے پاکستان میں سماجی اور اقتصادی ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد بھارتی جارحیت کا جواب پاکستان نے حوصلے اور بردباری سے دیا، پاکستان خطے میں قیام امن کا داعی ہے اور جنوبی ایشیاء میں اپنے تمام ہمسایوں کیساتھ پر امن تعلقات کا خواہاں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان بھارت کے ساتھ بھی تمام تصفیہ طلب امور مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ نے خطاب کے بعد انسٹیٹیوٹ فار انٹرنیشنل سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز کا دورہ بھی کیا اور وزیر بک میں اپنے تاثرات قلمبند کئے۔ قبل ازیں کاتین روزہ دورے پر چین پہنچنے پر شاندار استقبال کیا گیا۔

Express News, 19-03-19

پارلیمانی معاملات عدالت لانا پارلیمنٹ اور عدالت دونوں کے لئے ٹھیک نہیں جسٹس اطہر من اللہ

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے 24 ارب اراکین قومی اسمبلی کو دینے کیخلاف (ن) لیگی رکن اسمبلی کی درخواست پر فیصلہ محفوظ

اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر) اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ نے سی پیک منصوبے سے 24 ارب روپے نکال کر ارکان قومی اسمبلی کو ترقیاتی فنڈز کی مد میں فراہم کرنے کیخلاف درخواست کے قابل سماعت ہونے پر فیصلہ محفوظ کر لیا، چیف جسٹس اطہر من اللہ نے ریمارکس دیئے کہ پارلیمنٹ کے معاملات کو عدالتوں میں نہ لائیں، ایسی درخواست سننے سے پارلیمنٹ کی بالادستی پر حرف آئیگا، پارلیمانی معاملات عدالت میں لانا پارلیمنٹ اور عدالت دونوں کیلئے ٹھیک نہیں، جو کام پارلیمنٹ سے ہونا چاہیے وہ کام آپ عدالت سے نہ کرائیں، چیف جسٹس اطہر من اللہ نے ن لیگ کے رکن قومی اسمبلی بیرسٹر محسن شاہ نواز راٹھور کی درخواست پر سماعت کی جس میں موقف اختیار کیا گیا تھا کہ سی پیک کے منصوبے سے 24 ارب روپے نکال کر ارکان اسمبلی کو ترقیاتی فنڈز کی مد میں یہ رقم جاری کی جا رہی ہے، وزارت منصوبہ بندی کو تفصیلات فراہم کرنے کا کہا مگر جواب نہیں دیا گیا، عدالت احکامات جاری کرے، چیف جسٹس نے ریمارکس دیئے آپ رکن قومی اسمبلی ہیں، یہ عدالت چاہتی ہے پارلیمنٹ کی بالادستی برقرار رہے، یہ تفصیلات آپ پارلیمنٹ کے ذریعے بھی حاصل کر سکتے تھے، درخواست گزار نے کہا 18 روز گزر گئے مگر وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے تفصیلات فراہم کرنے کی درخواست پر جواب نہیں دیا، چیف جسٹس نے کہا ایسی درخواست عدالت سنتی ہے تو پارلیمنٹ کی بالادستی پر حرف آئے گا، رکن قومی اسمبلی کے پاس بہت اختیارات ہیں، رکن اسمبلی اپنے اختیارات استعمال کرے تو وہ پارلیمنٹ کیلئے اچھا ہے، جو اختیارات رکن اسمبلی کو حاصل ہیں وہ اس عدالت کے پاس بھی نہیں۔

Express News, 19-03-19

چین: لینڈ سلائڈنگ سے 10 افراد ہلاک، 10 لاپتہ، متعدد عمارتیں متاثر

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چین کے صوبے شانزی میں لینڈ سلائڈنگ سے 10 افراد ہلاک جبکہ دس تاحال لاپتہ ہیں۔ لینڈ سلائڈنگ سے کئی عمارتوں کو بھی نقصان پہنچا، حادثے کے مقام پر ملبہ ہٹانے کا کام اور امدادی کارروائیاں جاری ہیں، چینی میڈیا کے مطابق پیش آنے والے لینڈ سلائڈنگ کے حادثے میں 10 افراد اب تک لاپتہ ہیں۔ لینڈ سلائڈنگ سے کئی عمارتوں کو بھی نقصان پہنچا، حادثے کے مقام پر ملبہ ہٹانے کا کام اور امدادی کارروائیاں جاری ہیں۔

Express News, 19-03-19

گیم نہیں جیت سکتے ہیں 24 ارب روپے کے ارکان اسمبلی کو دینا قمار کی طرح ہے؟

نئی گج ڈیم کی لاگت 16.5 ارب سے 47 ارب روپے تک جا پہنچی، سندھ حکومت کو خطوط لکھے، جواب نہ ملا، ٹھیکیدار نے جعلی ضمانتیں جمع کرائیں

کے فور 15.8 ارب میں منظور ہوا، 12 برسوں میں 40 فیصد کام، لاگت 25 ارب سے بڑھ گئی، ڈیزائن میں پل نہ ٹرانسمیشن لائن، ذمہ داروں کو سزا دیں

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر، آئی این پی) سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے منصوبہ بندی نے سی پیک فنڈز کے 24 ارب روپے ارکان اسمبلی کو نہ دینے جبکہ نئی گج ڈیم اور کے فور کی لاگت بڑھنے پر تحقیقات کی ہدایت کر دی۔ آغا شہزیب درانی کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں منصوبہ بندی حکام نے بتایا نئی گج ڈیم کی لاگت 16.5 ارب سے بڑھ کر 47 ارب روپے تک جا پہنچی، اس میں 50 فیصد سندھ اور باقی رقم وفاق نے مہیا کرنی ہے۔ صوبائی حکومت کو اس ضمن میں یاد دہانی کے تین، چار خطوط لکھے گئے مگر جواب نہ ملا، ٹھیکیدار نے جعلی ضمانتیں جمع کرائیں، کمیٹی نے لاگت بڑھنے پر تفتیش کی ہدایت کر دی۔ کے فور کے پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر نے بتایا پلوں کی تعمیر اور واٹر پمپنگ کیلئے 50 میگاواٹ بجلی درکار ہے۔ 2007ء میں کے فور منصوبہ 15.8 ارب میں منظور ہوا جو 2014ء میں 25.5 ارب تک جا پہنچا تاہم اس پر ابھی تک 40 فیصد کام ہوا ہے، واٹر پمپنگ سسٹم کیلئے 50 میگاواٹ پاور پلانٹ چاہیے، جس کیلئے جسکو نے رضامندی ظاہر کی ہے تاہم تاحال ٹرانسمیشن لائن ہی نہیں، 121 کلو میٹر پر مشتمل منصوبے کیلئے پلوں کی نشاندہی کی ہے۔ چیئرمین نے ٹوکا، آپکے ڈیزائن میں پل نہیں جو بڑا مسئلہ ہے، حکام نے جواب دیا نظر ثانی کی ضرورت ہے، منصوبہ 25 ارب سے کہیں زیادہ لاگت کا ہے، جس پر کمیٹی نے برہمی ظاہر کرتے ہوئے پاکستان انجینئرنگ کونسل کو تفتیش کی ہدایت کی کہ بڑے منصوبے میں شدید بدانتظامی کی گئی، ذمہ داروں کو سزا ملنی چاہیے۔ آئی این پی کے مطابق کمیٹی نے سی پیک کے فنڈز میں سے 24 ارب روپے ارکان قومی اسمبلی کی سیکم کو منتقل کرنے پر تحفظات ظاہر کئے۔ رکن کمیٹی کہہ رہے ہیں کہ لوگ پانی کیلئے ترس رہے ہیں، شہر میں ٹینکر مافیا کا راج ہے۔ قائم مقام چیئرمین عثمان کاکڑ نے کہا ایچ ای سی کیلئے بہت زیادہ کٹوتی کی گئی۔ اسد اشرف نے کہا ارکان اسمبلی کیلئے 24 ارب کے فنڈز سیاسی رشوت ہے، کاکڑ نے کہا یہ گیم چیخہ نہیں، جیب چیخہ ہے، سارے پیسے سی پیک کیلئے جاری کریں، ایک روپیہ بھی کہیں اور نہیں جانا چاہیے۔

Express News, 20-03-19

پاک چین پہلے وزیر خارجہ اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات قیام میں سمیت اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال

کشیدگی کے خاتمے، بحالی امن کیلئے چین کی کاوشیں قابل تحسین، شاہ محمود قریشی پاکستان کا موقف قابل ستائش،
وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی

بیجنگ (اے پی پی، صباح نیوز) بیجنگ میں پہلے پاک چین وزیر خارجہ اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے، مذاکرات میں خطے میں امن و امان کی صورتحال سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے اہم امور زیر بحث آئے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان خطے میں امن و استحکام کا خواہاں ہے۔ کٹھن حالات میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دینے پر چین کی عوام اور حکومت کے تہہ دل سے شکر گزار ہیں۔ خطے میں کشیدگی کے خاتمے اور بحالی امن کیلئے چین کی کاوشیں قابل تحسین ہیں۔ دونوں وزراء خارجہ نے افغان امن عمل کے حوالے سے بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے مشترکہ کوششیں جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے جبکہ چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی نے کہا کہ خطے میں قیام امن اور کشیدگی کے خاتمے کیلئے پاکستان کا موقف قابل ستائش ہے۔ اس سے قبل وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے بیجنگ میں چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کیشان (Wang Qishan) سے ملاقات کی اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پر پیشرفت سمیت دوطرفہ تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ اپنے کلمات میں شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان تمام ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات چاہتا ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ قریشی نے 70 کروڑ افراد کو خط غربت سے نکالنے اور کرپشن کی روک تھام سے متعلق چین کی کامیاب کوششوں کو سراہا۔ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ ایک مضبوط معاشی شراکت داری کا خواہاں ہے۔ پاکستان غربت اور بدعنوانی کے خاتمے کیلئے چین کے تجربات سے فائدہ اٹھائے گا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے پاک چین سٹریٹجک تعاون کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔

Express News, 20-03-19**پاک بھارت مذاکرات کریں، چین**

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: کامران یوسف) چین نے پاکستان اور بھارت پر زور دیا ہے کہ تمام متنازع معاملات کو مذاکرات کے ذریعے طے کیا جائے۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کی چینی حکام سے بیجنگ میں ملاقاتوں میں جہاں باہمی تعاون پر غور کیا گیا اور پاک چین تعلقات کو مزید مستحکم کرنے پر اتفاق ہوا وہیں چینی حکام نے جنوبی ایشیا کے خطے میں امن و استحکام کے لیے روایتی حریفوں پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان حل طلب مسائل و معاملات کو گفت و شنید سے طے کرنے پر زور دیا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ حال ہی میں پاک بھارت کشیدگی کے دوران چین نے معاملات کو سلجھانے اور کشیدہ صورتحال کو ختم کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا تھا۔

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خطے کے دیگر ممالک کو سی پیک کا حصہ بنانے سے پاکستانی معیشت مضبوط بنانے میں مدد ملے گی، عالمی ادارہ، رپورٹ "100 سال کا پاکستان" میں پاک انڈیا جوائنٹ جیمبر آف کامرس کو فعال اور تجارت کیلئے مذاکرات پر

زور

کراچی (رپورٹ رکاشف حسین) ورلڈ بینک نے بھارتی چار حانہ عزائم اور مسئلہ کشمیر پر بھارتی ہٹ دھرمی کو نظر انداز کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کو بھارت کے ساتھ تجارتی چیلنجیں بڑھانے کی تجویز دی ہے۔ ورلڈ بینک کا کہنا ہے کہ جنوب ایشیا اور وسط ایشیائی ریاستوں کے مابین علاقائی تجارت کو آسان بنانے کے لیے بھارت سمیت خطے کے دیگر ملکوں کو بھی چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے میں شامل کرنے سے پاکستان کی معیشت کو مضبوط بنانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ معاشی اور سماجی اہداف اور سفارشات پر مشتمل "سوسال کا پاکستان" رپورٹ میں ورلڈ بینک نے علاقائی تجارت میں پائے جانے والے امکانات کی نشاندہی کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان جنوبی ایشیا کے ممالک، وسط ایشیائی ریاستوں اور چین کے ساتھ اپنی مجموعی تجارت کو 18 ارب 48 کروڑ ڈالر کی موجودہ سطح سے 2047 تک 58 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھا سکتا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق سی پیک کے تحت انفراسٹرکچر کی بہتری کے بعد وسط ایشیائی ریاستوں اور افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ میں پاکستان کے لیے بھرپور مواقع دستیاب ہوں گے تاہم خطے میں کشیدہ تعلقات معاشی اشتراک کی راہ میں رکاوٹ بنے ہوئے ہیں۔ پاکستان کیلئے یورپی یونین، متحدہ عرب امارات اور امریکا کی نسبت بھارت، چین اور بنگلہ دیش سے تجارت کرنا زیادہ دشوار ہے، چین کے علاوہ خطے کے دیگر ملکوں سے پاکستان کی تجارت برائے نام ہے۔ وسط ایشیائی ریاستوں اور مشرق وسطیٰ جیسی توانائی کے قدرتی وسائل سے مالا مال اہم خطوں کی گزرگاہ اور چین و بھارت جیسی دنیا کی 2 تیزی سے بڑھتی معیشتوں کے درمیان واقع ہونے کے باوجود پاکستان خطے میں تجارت کا مرکز اور تجارتی گزرگاہ بننے کے لیے معاون اپنی جغرافیائی اہمیت سے فائدہ اٹھانے میں ناکام ہے۔ ورلڈ بینک نے جنوبی ایشیائی ممالک کے مابین معاشی اشتراک سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے پاکستان کے لیے 2 مراحل پر مبنی لائحہ عمل تجویز کیا ہے۔ ورلڈ بینک کے مطابق پاکستان کی سول اور عسکری قیادت کو مثبت علاقائی تعلقات کو معاشی مسابقت بہتر بنانے اور ترقی کے لیے بروئے کار لانے پر اتفاق رائے پیدا کرنا ہوگا۔ تجارت اور لاجسٹک کو آسان بنانے کے علاوہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کو خطے کے دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کی بہتری کے لیے استعمال کرنا ہوگا جن میں ایران، افغانستان اور وسط ایشیائی ریاستیں شامل ہیں۔ ورلڈ بینک نے بھارت کے ساتھ تعلقات کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے پاکستان انڈیا جوائنٹ جیمبر آف کامرس کو فعال بنانے، عوام اور تاجروں کے لیے ویزا کے عمل کو آسان بنانے اور تجارت کو آسان بنانے کے لیے مذاکرات کے آغاز پر زور دیا ہے۔ پڑوسی ملکوں سے مضبوط تعلقات کے لیے بھارت سمیت خطے کے دیگر ملکوں کو سی پیک سے استفادہ کے لیے مدعو کرنے کی بھی تجویز دی ہے۔ ورلڈ بینک کے مطابق بھارت کو تجارت کے لیے افغانستان تک زمینی رسائی فراہم کر کے خود پاکستان وسط ایشیائی ریاستوں تک رسائی حاصل کر سکتا ہے اسی طرح کراچی اور گوادر کی بندرگاہوں کو بھی خطے کے تمام ملکوں کے لیے استعمال کرنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے، ورلڈ بینک کے مطابق گوادر اور ایران کی چاہ بہار بندرگاہوں کے درمیان اشتراک عمل کے لیے ایران کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

Express News, 21-03-19

چین میں اصلاحات غیر متزلزل انداز میں آگے بڑھائیں گے، صدر

ترقی کی درست سمت برقرار رکھنے کیلئے کٹھن محنت کی ضرورت ہے، شی جن پنگ

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چینی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کے جنرل سیکرٹری، صدر مملکت، مرکزی فوجی کمیشن اور مرکزی اصلاحاتی کمیٹی کے سربراہ شی جن پنگ نے مرکزی اصلاحاتی کمیٹی کے ساتویں اجلاس کی صدارت کی اور اہم خطاب کیا۔ انہوں نے پرزور الفاظ میں کہا کہ اس وقت مختلف شعبوں میں کی جانے والی اصلاحات بہت اہم اور کلیدی مرحلے میں داخل ہو گئی ہیں۔ اصلاحات کو مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ اس صورتحال کے پیش نظر ہمیں ترقی کی درست سمت کو برقرار رکھتے ہوئے حقیقی عمل سے مشکلات کو دور کرنے کیلئے کٹھن محنت کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اصلاحات کے ذریعے مختلف سرکاری اداروں میں فارملزم کا خاتمہ ہو گا اور اس کی جگہ حقیقی کارکردگی کی حامل طریقہ کار کو پروان چڑھایا جائے گا۔ اس کے علاوہ عوام کے مفادات کے حصول، خوشحالی اور سلامتی کے احساس کو ترجیح دی جائے گی اور اصلاحات کو آگے بڑھانے کے لئے اقدامات کئے جائیں گے۔ اجلاس مین نئے عہد میں مغربی چین کی شاندار ترقی کے حوالے سے رہنما تجاویز سمیت متعدد دستاویزات کی نظر ثانی کرتے ہوئے ان کی منظوری دی گئی۔

Express News, 23-03-19

پاکستان کیساتھ شراکت داری بلندیوں پر لیجانے کے خواہاں ہیں، چینی قیادت کا پیغام

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ، وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ژی نے پاکستان کے 80 قومی دن کے موقع پر مبارکباد اور نیک خواہشات کا پیغام دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات کو خارجہ پالیسی میں ہمیشہ اولین ترجیح دی ہے، اس کے ساتھ تعاون و شراکت داری کو بلندیوں پر لے جانے کے خواہاں ہیں۔ اقتصادی راہداری سے نہ صرف دونوں ممالک کے عوام کو فائدہ ہو گا بلکہ خطے کے امن و ترقی میں بھی مثبت کردار ہو گا، یہ متعدد شعبوں میں ثمر آور نتائج کیساتھ ثابت قدمی سے آگے بڑھ رہا ہے۔

Express News, 24-03-19**پاک چین تعلقات کو بے حد اہمیت دیتا ہوں: چینی صدر**

بیجنگ، اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے یوم پاکستان پر صدر عارف علوی اور چینی وزیر خارجہ کا شاہ محمود قریشی کے نام پیغام میں کہا ہے کہ میں چین پاکستان کے بے حد اہمیت دیتا ہوں، پاکستان کی شاندار کامیابیوں پر ہمیں بے حد خوشی محسوس ہوتی ہے، نئے دور میں مضبوط چین پاکستان ہم نصیب معاشرے کی تعمیر کیلئے مشترکہ کوشش کروں گا، پاکستان استحکام کے قیام، معیشت کی ترقی اور عوام کے معیار زندگی کو بلند کرنے کیلئے کوشاں ہے، دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے مرکزی مفادات سے متعلق مسائل کی باہمی حمایت کرتے ہیں، سی پیک کی بہترین تعمیر اور دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کی ترقی کے فروغ کیلئے چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مشترکہ کوشش کرنا چاہتا ہے، چائنہ ریڈیو کے مطابق چینی صدر نے کہا کہ ہمیں یقین ہے کہ آپ اور پاکستانی حکومت کی قیادت میں پاکستان کو قومی تعمیر کے سلسلے میں مزید کامیابیاں حاصل ہوں گی، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری سے دونوں ممالک اور ان کے عوام کو بھرپور فوائد حاصل ہو رہے ہیں جبکہ علاقائی امن و استحکام کو بھی تقویت ملی ہے، چینی ریاستی کونسلر اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی کے نام تہنیتی پیغام میں کہا کہ پاکستان چین کے چار موسموں کے سٹریٹجک تعاون کا ساتھی ہے، چین پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات کے فروغ پر بڑی توجہ دیتا ہے، دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے مرکزی مفادات سے متعلق مسائل کی باہمی حمایت کرتے ہیں، سی پیک کی بہترین تعمیر اور دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کی ترقی کے فروغ کیلئے چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مشترکہ کوشش کرنا چاہتا ہے، یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر سعودی عرب کی قیادت نے بھی مبارکباد کا پیغام دیا ہے، سعودی فرماں روا شاہ سلمان اور ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد نے صدر عارف علوی کو مبارکباد کا پیغام بھیجا جس میں سعودی قیادت کی جانب سے پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا گیا۔

Express News, 24-03-19

سی پیک پولیس فورس کیلئے بجٹ میں 2.89 ارب مختص کر دینا مطالبہ
وزارت نے آزاد کشمیر کیلئے 42.77 کروڑ، گلگت بلتستان کیلئے 1.66 ارب روپے مانگ لئے
ملکی و غیر ملکی انجینئرز، مزدوروں اور روٹ پر تجارتی سامان کا تحفظ یقینی بنایا جائے گا

اسلام آباد (شبیر حسین سے) وفاقی حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبہ کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے گلگت بلتستان اور آزاد کشمیر میں سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کے نام سے پولیس فورس بنانے کیلئے عملی اقدامات شروع کر دیئے، وزارت امور کشمیر و گلگت بلتستان نے دونوں علاقوں میں سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کے قیام کیلئے آئندہ مالی سال 2019-20 کے وفاقی بجٹ میں مجموعی طور پر 2 ارب 89 کروڑ 70 لاکھ 90 ہزار روپے مختص کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے، دستاویز کے مطابق آزاد کشمیر کیلئے 42 کروڑ 77 لاکھ 90 ہزار جبکہ گلگت بلتستان کیلئے 1 ارب 66 کروڑ 20 لاکھ روپے مختص کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا گیا ہے، سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کے قیام کے ذریعے سی پیک منصوبہ اور اس میں کام کر نیوالے ملکی و غیر ملکی انجینئرز، مزدوروں اور روٹ پر تجارتی سامان کا تحفظ یقینی بنانے کیلئے بڑی تعداد میں سپیشل پولیس فورس بھرتی کی جائیگی جبکہ اس کے علاوہ مشینری، گاڑیاں اور دیگر ضروری آلات بھی خریدے جائیں گے، دونوں علاقوں میں سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کے قیام پر مجموعی طور پر 3 ارب 70 کروڑ 65 لاکھ 60 ہزار روپے کا تخمینہ لگایا گیا ہے جس میں سے گلگت بلتستان میں کل 2 ارب 66 کروڑ 80 لاکھ جبکہ آزاد کشمیر میں سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کے قیام پر 1 ارب 3 کروڑ 85 لاکھ 60 ہزار روپے لاگت کا تخمینہ لگایا گیا ہے۔

Express News, 25-03-19

سی پیک معاشی و کمرشل منصوبہ کوئی بھی ملک شامل ہو سکتا ہے چینی سفیر؟

بھارت کو سی پیک منصوبے پر کچھ تحفظات ہیں، گوادر ایئر پورٹ کی گراؤنڈ بریکنگ آئندہ ماہ کر دی جائیگی: یاؤ جنگ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک معاشی و کمرشل منصوبہ ہے کوئی بھی ملک اس میں شامل ہو سکتا ہے۔ گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی گراؤنڈ بریکنگ آئندہ مہینے کر دی جائے گی۔ چینی سفیر اتوار کو بلوچستان ہاؤس پینچے جہاں انہوں نے بارشوں سے متاثر ہونے والوں کے لیے گورنر بلوچستان امان اللہ خان کو امدادی چیک پیش کیا۔ یاؤ جنگ نے مزید کہا کہ چینی ریڈ کریسنٹ سوسائٹی کی طرف سے بلوچستان حکومت کو دو لاکھ ڈالر فراہم کئے، چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان خوشحالی ترقی اور امن کی جانب گامزن ہے سی پیک کے تحت کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کی ترقی ممکن ہوگی۔ سی پیک کے بعد بلوچستان نے خاصی توجہ حاصل کی، بلوچستان کی تمام جماعتوں کے شکر گزار ہیں بلوچستان کی تمام قوم پرست پارٹیز نے بیجنگ کانفرنس میں شرکت کی۔ بھارت سی پیک منصوبے پر کچھ تحفظات رکھتا ہے۔ سی پیک کے کچھ روٹس کو بھارت متنازعہ کہتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر گورنر بلوچستان نے کہا کہ صوبے میں حالیہ بارشوں سے بعض علاقے شدید متاثر ہوئے ہیں چین کی اس امداد سے متاثرین کو کافی مدد ملے گی۔

Express News, 25-03-19

پاکستان کو آج چین سے 2 ارب 10 کروڑ ڈالر ملیں گے

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان کو آج (پیر کو) چین سے 2 ارب 10 کروڑ ڈالر مل جائیں گے۔ اس کے بعد ملکی ادائیگیوں کے توازن کی صورتحال مزید مستحکم ہوگی۔ وزارت خزانہ کے مشیر اور ترجمان ڈاکٹر خاقان نجیب نے ایک بیان میں کہا کہ یہ رقم اسٹیٹ بینک میں جمع کرائی جائے گی اور اس سے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر بہتر ہوں گے۔

Express News, 26-03-19

چین سے دو ارب 10 کروڑ ڈالر پاکستان کو موصول

زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر 18 ارب ہو گئے، ملکی معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہو گئے، ذرائع

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) چین سے دو ارب 10 کروڑ ڈالر پاکستان کو موصول ہو گئے جس سے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر اٹھارہ ارب کے لگ بھگ ہو گئے، سٹیٹ بینک نے رقم منتقل ہونے کی تصدیق کر دی۔ ترجمان وزارت خزانہ خاقان نجیب کی جانب سے سماجی رابطوں کی ویب سائٹ پر جاری کردہ اپنے ٹوئٹ میں کہنا تھا کہ چین کی جانب سے دو ارب دس کروڑ ڈالر گزشتہ روز مرکزی بینک آف پاکستان کے اکاؤنٹ میں منتقل ہو گئے جس کے بعد ملک کے مجموعی زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر سترہ ارب اکیاسی کروڑ ڈالر ہو گئے ہیں۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کو کمرشل لون کی مد میں مذکورہ رقم ملی ہے جس سے ملک کی ادائیگیوں کے توازن میں بہتری آئے گی اور روپے کی قدر بھی مستحکم ہوگی جس کے ملکی معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہو گئے۔

Express News, 26-03-19

چین: آزمائشی فضائی میڈیکل سروس شروع کرنے کا فیصلہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی، ش نہوا) چین میں فضائی میڈیکل سروس آزمائشی طور پر شروع کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ پروگرام چینی محکمہ شہری ہوابازی اور صحت حکام مشترکہ طور پر شروع کر رہے ہیں۔ فضائی سروس کے ذریعے ہنگامی طبی امداد اور میڈیکل ٹرانسپورٹ فراہم کی جائیگی۔ ابتدائی طور پر یہ پروگرام 12 صوبوں اور میونسپلٹیوں میں شروع کیا جائیگا۔ جن میں بیجنگ، ہبی اور لیاننگ شامل ہیں۔

Express News, 26-03-19

امریکہ، چین کشیدگی جنگ میں بدل سکتی ہے: عالمی تجزیہ کار

رقابت فیصلہ کن موڑ پر آگئی، ماضی میں ایک طاقت کو دوسری سے خطرہ ہوا تو جنگ ہوئی

لندن (نیٹ نیوز) کچھ عرصہ پہلے تک چین کی ترقی کو بے ضرر کہا جاتا تھا لیکن اب دن بدن چین کو ایک خطرے کے طور پر دیکھا جا رہا ہے اور ایسے خدشات بڑھ رہے ہیں کہ امریکہ اور چین کے درمیان کشیدگی دونوں طاقتوں کے درمیان ایک ایسی جنگ کی صورت میں بدل سکتی ہے جس کے اثرات پوری دنیا پر مرتب ہوں گے۔ بی بی سی نے تجزیہ کاروں کے حوالے سے اپنی ایک رپورٹ میں بتایا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ کشیدگی کے معاملے پر امریکہ میں ایک ایسے ماڈل کا ذکر ہو رہا ہے جسے یونانی تاریخ دان تو سیڈائڈز کے نام کی مناسبت سے 'تو سیڈائڈز ٹریپ' کہا جاتا ہے۔ ہارورڈ یونیورسٹی کے انٹرنیشنل افیئرز کے پروفیسر گراہم ایلین کا کہنا ہے کہ تو سیڈائڈز ٹریپ ایک ایسے خطرناک عمل کا نام ہے جس میں ایک پرانی طاقت یہ خطرہ محسوس کرتی ہے کہ ابھرتی ہوئی طاقت اس کی جگہ لے لے گی۔ قدیم یونان میں جب سپارٹا کو ایتھنز سے خطرہ محسوس ہوا تو جنگ ہوئی۔ انیسویں صدی میں برطانیہ کو جرمنی سے خطرہ محسوس ہوا تو جنگ، آج چین امریکہ کو چیلنج کر رہا ہے۔ پروفیسر ایلین نے پانچ سو برس کی تاریخ کو چھان کر سولہ ایسی مثالوں کی نشاندہی کی ہے جس میں ابھرتی ہوئی طاقتوں نے پہلے سے موجود طاقت کا سامنا کیا اور سولہ میں سے بارہ کا نتیجہ جنگ کی صورت میں نکلا۔ وہ کہتے ہیں کہ امریکہ اور چین کی رقابت عالمی تعلقات کا ایک فیصلہ کن مرحلہ ہے۔

Express News, 26-03-19

اسٹاک مارکیٹ میں مندی 79 سے زائد ڈوب گئی

انڈیکس کی 4 حدیں بیک وقت گر گئیں، چین سے قرض کی وصولی اور تیل و گیس کے ذخائر کی متوقع خوشخبری بھی مندی دور نہ کر سکی

روہاری سرگرمیوں کا دائرہ کار 322 کمپنیوں تک محدود، 241 کے داموں میں کمی، 20 کی قیمتوں میں استحکام کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) چین کی جانب سے 2 ارب 20 کروڑ ڈالر کے قرضوں کی وصولی، ملک میں ایشیا کے سب سے بڑے تیل و گیس کے ذخائر دریافت ہونے جیسی مثبت خبروں کے باوجود پاکستان اسٹاک ایکس چینج میں پیر کو بھی مندی کا تسلسل قائم رہا جس سے انڈیکس کی 38500، 38400، 38300 اور 38200 پوائنٹس کی 4 حدیں بیک وقت گر گئیں۔ مندی کے سبب 75 فیصد حصص کی قیمتیں گر گئیں جبکہ سرمایہ کاروں کے مزید 79 ارب 56 کروڑ ایک لاکھ 23 ہزار 845 روپے ڈوب گئے۔ کاروباری حجم گزشتہ جمعے کی نسبت 33.27 فیصد کم رہا اور مجموعی طور پر 5 کروڑ 64 لاکھ 74 ہزار 750 حصص کے سودے ہوئے۔ کاروباری سرگرمیوں کا دائرہ کار 322 کمپنیوں کے حصص تک محدود رہا جن میں 61 کے بھاؤ میں اضافہ 241 کے داموں میں کمی اور 20 کی قیمتوں میں استحکام رہا۔ ماہرین کا کہنا تھا کہ مزید ڈی ویلیویشن کی افواہوں اور رواں ہفتے کے اختتام پر نئی مانیٹری پالیسی میں شرح سود بڑھنے کے خدشات نے سرمایہ کاری کے بیشتر شعبوں کو اضطراب سے دوچار کیا اور یہی عوامل مندی کا سبب بنے۔

Express News, 27-03-19

چین اور یورپی یونین ساتھ ساتھ ترقی کر رہے ہیں صدر شی جن پنگ

دونوں کو باہمی تعلقات میں پائے جانے والے شکوک و شبہات سے چھٹکارا حاصل کرنا ہوگا: پیرس میں پریس کانفرنس

پیرس (نیٹ نیوز) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ ان کا ملک چین اور یورپی یونین ساتھ ساتھ ترقی کر رہے ہیں تاہم ان دونوں کو باہمی تعلقات میں پائے جانے والے شکوک و شبہات سے چھٹکارا حاصل کرنا ہوگا۔ پیرس میں پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور یورپی بلاک میں اختلافات بھی ہیں اور مقابلے کی فضا بھی قائم ہے۔ انہوں نے فرانسیسی دارالحکومت میں جرمن چانسلر انجیلا مرکل اور یورپی کمیشن کے صدر ژاں کلود یونکر سے بھی ملاقات کی۔

Express News, 27-03-19

5 سال میں سی پیک اب ایک حقیقت بن چکا: چینی سفیر

دونوں ملکوں میں صنعتی تعاون کے فروغ سی پیداواری لاگت میں کمی آئے گی

راولپنڈی چیئرمین آف کامرس کے زیر اہتمام پاک چین بزنس کانفرنس سے خطاب

راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر یاؤ جگ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک میں صنعتی تعاون کے فروغ کا وقت ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کے نجی شعبوں کے درمیان تعاون سے پیداواری لاگت میں کمی آئے گی۔ راولپنڈی چیئرمین آف کامرس کے زیر اہتمام اسلام آباد میں پاک چین بزنس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ پانچ سال میں سی پیک اب ایک حقیقت بن چکا ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کے نجی شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ چینی حکومت دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان سرمایہ کاروں کے تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہتی ہے۔ اب وقت ہے کہ ہم مارکیٹ کے اصولوں پر تعاون کو فروغ دیں۔ ہماری خواہش ہے کہ کاروباری افراد کے درمیان تعاون اور روابط مثبت ثابت ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ تجارتی تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کاروباری سرگرمیوں کے فروغ اور نمائندوں کے انعقاد پر راولپنڈی چیئرمین کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔ کانفرنس سے ساوتھ ساوتھ کارپوریشن کی کونسل کے چیئرمین لیوشنوا نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کی کاروباری برادری کے درمیان جتنے زیادہ رابطے ہوں گے۔ اس موقع پر دونوں ملکوں کے نجی شعبے سے تعلق رکھنے والے نمائندوں کی آپس میں بی ٹی بی میٹنگز بھی ہوئیں۔ مختلف شعبوں سیمنٹ، کنسٹرکشن، فارما، جیمز اینڈ جیولری سمیت کئی دیگر شعبے سے رکھنے والے افراد نے بھی کانفرنس میں شرکت کی۔ اور چین کی ایک سیمنٹ کمپنی نے مقامی سیمنٹ کمپنی کے ساتھ ایم او یو پر بھی دستخط کیے گئے۔

Express News, 27-03-19

چین کے بزنس وفد کا سیف سٹی کیپٹیل کمانڈ کنٹرول سنٹر کا دورہ

پاکستان میں انوسٹمنٹ کیلئے ہمیشہ تیار ہیں، چیئر مین کونسل فار پرومونگ ساؤتھ کو آپریشن

اسلام آباد (جنرل رپورٹر) چین کے کونسل فار پرومونگ ساؤتھ کو آپریشن کے چیئر مین لیو زنبو کی سربراہی میں بزنس وفد نے سیف سٹی پروجیکٹ کے کیپٹیل کمانڈ کنٹرول سنٹر اسلام آباد کا دورہ کیا۔ وفد نے سیف سٹی پراجیکٹ اسلام آباد کے مختلف شعبوں کا دورہ کیا اور پراجیکٹ کو سراہا۔ چین کے کونسل فار پرومونگ ساؤتھ کو آپریشن کے چیئر مین لیو زنبو کا اس موقع پر خطاب میں کہنا تھا ہم پاکستان میں انوسٹمنٹ کے لیے ہمیشہ تیار رہتے ہیں، اسلام آباد پولیس سے بھی رابطے میں ہیں کہ کس طرح سے معاشرے میں بڑھتے جرائم کو روکا جاسکے۔ ہم ٹیکنالوجی انویشن پر یقین رکھتے ہیں اور دور جدید میں ٹیکنالوجی کے ذریعے پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر میں کرائمز کی شرح میں کمی لاسکتے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر سیف سٹی پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر کا شان احمد کا کہنا تھا کہ اسلام آباد میں جگہ جگہ جدید سی سی ٹی وی کیمرے لگائے گئے ہیں جو اسلام آباد کنٹرول سینٹر سے آپریٹ ہوتے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اس وقت اٹھارہ سو سات کیمرے کام کر رہے ہیں جبکہ کچھ تکنیکی بنا پر آپریشنل نہیں لیکن ان پر بھی کام جاری ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ شہر میں کہیں بھی کوئی کرائمز نہیں ہوئی ہے تو ہمارا سسٹم فوراً الارمنگ الرٹ کا سگنل دے دیتا ہے جسکی وجہ سے اسلام آباد پولیس موقع پر پہنچ کر ہوتی واردات کو روک لیتی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ آئندہ مستقبل میں بھی جرائم کی شرح میں کمی لانے کی کوششیں جاری رکھیں گے۔

Express News, 28-03-19

وزیراعظم 27 اپریل کو 3 روزہ دورے پر چین جاکینگے، شیڈول طے

چین کے صدر، وزیراعظم سمیت اعلیٰ قیادت سے ملاقاتیں، راہداری منصوبے پر بات چیت ہوگی

اسلام آباد (اپنے شاف رپورٹر سے) وزیراعظم عمران کا آئندہ ماہ دورہ چین کا شیڈول طے کر لیا گیا، وزیراعظم 27 اپریل کو تین روزہ دورے پر بیجنگ روانہ ہوں گے، وزیراعظم دوسرے دن بیلٹون روڈ فورم میں شرکت کریں گے۔ وزیراعظم آفس کے ذرائع کے مطابق وزیراعظم عمران خان چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کی دعوت پر آئندہ ماہ چین کا دورہ کریں گے، دورے کے دوران وزیر خارجہ اور وزیر خزانہ سمیت کابینہ اراکان بھی وزیراعظم کے ہمراہ ہوں گے۔ ون بیلٹون روڈ فورم میں دنیا بھر سے سو سے زائد ممالک کے سربراہان اور مندوبین شرکت کریں گے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان فورم کی سائیڈ لائن پر عالمی رہنماؤں سے ملاقاتیں بھی کریں گے، وزیراعظم دورہ چین کے دوران صدر، وزیراعظم سمیت اعلیٰ قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کرے گے، ملاقاتوں میں پاک چین راہداری منصوبے پر بات چیت ہوگی۔

Express News, 28-03-19

چین سرحد کیم مئی کو کھولنے کا فیصلہ، دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تجارتی و سیاحتی سرگرمیاں دوبارہ شروع ہو گئی
 گلگت (آئی این پی) پاک چین سرحد کیم مئی کو کھولنے کا فیصلہ، چار ماہ کی بندش کے بعد براہِ ہمسایہ ممالک کے
 درمیان تجارتی و سیاحتی سرگرمیاں دوبارہ شروع ہو گئی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق سطح سمندر سے 16 ہزار فٹ کی بلندی پر
 خنجراب ٹاپ پر واقع پاک چین سرحد کیم مئی کو تجارتی و سیاحتی مقاصد کے تحت کھولی جائے گی۔ سرحد کے دونوں
 اطراف بارڈر کو کھولنے کے حوالے سے تیاریاں مکمل کر لی گئی ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ہونے والے
 بارڈر پر وٹو کول معاہدے کے تحت سرحد کو چار ماہ کے لیے شدید موسمی دشواریوں کے باعث ہر سال بند کی جاتی
 ہے۔ خنجراب ٹاپ پر شدید برفباری کے باعث سرگرمیاں بند کر دی جاتی ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اس
 سرحد کے ذریعے سالانہ اربوں روپے مالیت کی تجارت ہوتی ہے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ کے آغاز
 کے بعد سرحدی تجارت سے وابستہ تاجروں کا کہنا ہے کہ پاک چین سرحد کو سال بھر کھلا رکھنے کے لیے اقدامات
 کیے جائیں۔

Express News, 28-03-19

پاکستان میں تیل کا بڑا ذخیرہ جلد دریافت ہو نیکا امکان ہے، چینی جریدے کی رپورٹ

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین کے ممتاز جریدے گلوبل ٹائمز نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں تیل کا بڑا ذخیرہ جلد دریافت ہونے کا امکان ہے اور یہ نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ پورے جنوبی ایشیا اور خلیجی ممالک کیلئے بھی اچھی خبر ہوگی۔ جریدے میں شائع ہونے والی رپورٹ کے مطابق سمندر میں تیل کا بڑا ذخیرہ دریافت ہونے کے واضح امکانات ہیں اور اگر اس سلسلے میں اندازے درست ثابت ہوئے تو یہ دریافت پاکستان کو اقتصادی مسائل سے نمٹنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ امریکی کمپنی ایگزم موئل اور اٹلی کی کمپنی ای این آئی سمیت جوائنٹ وینچر جنوری سے سمندر میں ڈرلنگ کر رہا ہے، اگر تیل کا یہ بڑا ذخیرہ دریافت ہوتا ہے تو اس سے پاکستان میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری بڑھ سکتی ہے، کئی بین الاقوامی کمپنیاں تیل اور گیس کی تلاش، تیل صاف کرنے اور تیل کی ترسیل جیسے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرنا چاہتی ہیں اور اس سرمایہ کاری سے پاکستان کو اپنی ترقی کا مقصد حاصل کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ توانائی کے شعبہ میں بھرپور تعاون کر رہا ہے اور تیل کا ذخیرہ دریافت ہونے سے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے چینی کمپنیوں کی دلچسپی مزید بڑھے گی۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت سکینگ، اوغر خود مختار علاقے اور گوادار پورٹ کے درمیان تیل اور گیس کی پائپ لائن کا سٹریٹجک منصوبہ بھی شامل ہے، پاکستان میں اتنے بڑے پیمانے پر تیل دریافت کے بعد ہمسایہ ممالک کے لئے بھی پاکستان پائپ لائن نیٹ ورک بڑھانے میں مدد ملے گی اور پاکستان سعودی عرب جیسے خلیجی ممالک کے ساتھ توانائی کے شعبہ میں تعاون کو فروغ دے گا۔ تیل کے ذخائر کی دریافت سے بنیادی ڈھانچے کے شعبہ میں سرمایہ کاری بیرون ملک سے سرمایہ کاری، توانائی کی تجارت اور عوام کی سطح پر رابطے فروغ پائیں گے اور خطہ تیل کے ذخائر کی ترقی اور استعمال اقتصادی رابطے اور استحکام کے ستون کے طور پر استعمال کرے گا اور پاکستان میں تیل کے متوقع ذخائر خطے میں گیم چینجر ثابت ہو سکتے ہیں۔

چین کے بے 10 طیارے 23 مارچ کو 21 برس کے ہو گئے

طیاروں کی یوم پاکستان پریڈ میں کارکردگی نے ذہنوں میں امنٹ نقوش چھوڑے

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین کے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشنرلی چیان چاؤ نے کہا ہے کہ 23 مارچ کو یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر پریڈ میں شرکت کرنے اور ناقابل یقین کر تب دکھانے والے چینی لڑاکا جہازوں 10-J کو بنے ہوئے 21 سال مکمل ہو گئے ہیں، اتوار کو لی چیان چاؤ نے اپنے ٹویٹر اکاؤنٹ پر 10-J طیاروں کی یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر خوبصورت فارمیشنز کی تصاویر شیئر کیں۔ اس موقع پر انہوں نے کہا کہ بے 10 طیاروں نے اپنی پہلی اڑان 23 مارچ 1998ء کو بھری تھی۔ اور 23 مارچ کے دن ہی یوم پاکستان کی پریڈ کے موقع پر 16 منٹ کے ایئر شو میں 10-J کی کارکردگی نے سب کے ذہنوں میں یادگار لمحات محفوظ کر دیئے ہیں۔

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چین کی کمپنی نے حب کو پاور پلانٹ کو پہلی اسٹیم ٹربائن فراہم کر دی

پاکستان کو بجلی پیدا کرنے کیلئے مہنگے فیول پر انحصار نہیں کرنا پڑے گا، سی ای او ٹراؤ یونگ گانگ

اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) چائنا پاور حب جرنیشن کمپنی لمیٹڈ، حکمو اور جی کے اسٹیم پاور برزنس نے بلوچستان کے ضلع لسبیلہ میں واقع سی پی ایچ جی سی پاور پلانٹ کو شیڈول سی قبل پہلی اسٹیم ٹربائن فراہم کر دی اور شیڈول سے تین ماہ قبل ہی یعنی پراجیکٹ کو کام شروع کرنے کا نوٹس ملنے کے محض 29 ماہ بعد اسے گرڈ سے ملانے میں مدد دی۔ سی پی ایچ جی سی کے سی ای او ٹراؤ یونگ گانگ نے کہا کہ کونکہ سے چلنے والا یہ پاور پراجیکٹ، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت ایک ترجیحی منصوبہ ہے۔ یہ پراجیکٹ پاکستان کو مہنگے درآمدی فیول پر انحصار کم کرنے میں مدد دے گا جس سے پاکستان میں بجلی پیدا کرنے کی لاگت میں خاطر خواہ کمی ہوگی۔ حب کو کے سی ای او خالد منصور نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی بجلی کی مانگ مسلسل بڑھتی رہے گی اور یہ اس امر کا تقاضا کرتی ہے کہ اسٹیم ٹربائن یونٹس کی پیداوار بڑھانے اور طویل المدت ریلانٹ کے لیے ان کی ٹارگٹڈ ریٹرو فٹس کی جائیں جبکہ ان کی مینٹی نینس کے وقفوں کو وسیع کیا جائے۔

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سی پیک پر تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کا اتفاق ہے: شاہ محمود قریشی

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں تمام سیاسی جماعتوں میں اس بات پر اتفاق رائے قائم ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت کن شعبوں میں اور کن جگہوں پر کتنی سرمایہ کاری کرنی ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع بڑھے ہیں، روزگار کے مواقع میں اضافہ ہوا، معاشی ترقی ممکن ہوئی ہے۔ چینی سرکاری ٹی وی چائے گلوبل ٹیلی ویژن نیٹ ورک کو انٹرویو میں وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو اور سی پیک دونوں ایک دوسرے کو مضبوط کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی قیادت کی جانب سے چین کے کم ترقی یافتہ مغربی علاقوں کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر اپ گریڈ کرنا توجہ حاصل کر چکا ہے اور یہی عمل پاکستان میں حوصلہ افزا قدم بن چکا ہے۔ چین سے پاکستان کی جانب ٹیکنالوجی منتقل ہوئی ہے، پاکستان اور خطے میں استحکام آیا ہے، افغانستان میں قیام امن علاقائی ممالک کے مفاد میں ہے، افغانستان میں تعمیر و ترقی کے مواقع سب کے لئے اہم ہیں۔

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ہیومن کینٹیل کے لحاظ سے پاکستان 137 ویں نمبر پر اور علاقائی ممالک میں سب سے نیچے، انسانی سرمائے کی قلت سنجیدہ نوٹس کی منتقاضی

دوسری سہ ماہی معاشی جائزہ رپورٹ میں حکومت پر اوسط اور اعلیٰ صلاحیتوں کی حامل افرادی قوت تیار کرنے کیلئے ہنگامی اقدامات پر زور

کراچی (رپورٹ: کاشف حسین) ٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ افرادی قوت کی بہتری پر توجہ نہ دی گئی تو سی پیک منصوبوں سے پیدا ہونے والے روزگار کے وسیع مواقع ضائع ہو جائیں گے، اب تک مکمل ہونے والے چینی منصوبوں میں چینی مزدوروں کا تناسب پہلے ہی زیادہ ہے، اگلے مرحلے میں زراعت، صنعت، سیاحت، ہائی ٹیک فنانس، بندرگاہوں کی ترقی سمیت ڈیجیٹل اور ٹیکنالوجی کے میدان میں روزگار کے وسیع مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، علم و ہنر کے فقدان سے ان منصوبوں میں چینی اور مقامی مزدوروں کی تعداد میں پایا جانے والا فرق مزید بڑھ سکتا ہے۔ رواں مالی سال کی دوسری سہ ماہی معاشی جائزہ رپورٹ کے خصوصی باب میں ٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان نے ملک میں انسانی سرمایے (ہیومن کینٹیل) میں پاکستان کی پستی پر تشویش کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے حکومت پر اوسط اور اعلیٰ صلاحیتوں کی حامل افرادی قوت تیار کرنے کے لیے ہنگامی اقدامات پر زور دیا ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق ورلڈ بینک کے 2018 کے ایک سروے میں شامل دنیا کے 157 ممالک میں ہیومن کینٹیل کے لحاظ سے پاکستان کا شمار 137 ویں نمبر پر کیا گیا جو ہم عصر اور علاقائی ممالک میں سب سے پست ہے۔ اس کمزوری کی نشاندہی اقوام متحدہ کے انسانی ترقی کے اشاریے کے مشاہدات میں بھی کی گئی جس میں پاکستان 189 ملکوں میں 150 نمبر پر شمار کیا گیا۔ پست خواندگی کی وجہ سے پاکستانی لیبر فورس کا بڑا حصہ تکنیکی نوعیت کی ملازمتوں کی مطلوبہ اہلیت پر پوری نہیں اترتا۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ 1998 سے 2018 تک بھارت، سری لنکا، بھوٹان، ویت نام اور بنگلہ دیش میں افرادی قوت کی پیداواری سطح میں بھی 100 فیصد اضافہ ہوا، تاہم اس عرصے کے دوران پاکستانی ورکرز کی پیداواری صلاحیت میں صرف 20 فیصد اضافہ ہوا جس میں ٹیکنالوجی سے استفادہ کرنے کے رجحان اور سرمایہ کاری میں کمی جیسے عوامل نے بنیادی کردار ادا کیا۔ مرکزی بینک نے اس ضمن میں اپنی سفارشات میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کو سی پیک منصوبوں سے پیدا ہونے والے روزگار کے مواقع سے زیادہ سے زیادہ استفادہ کرنے کے لیے انسانی سرمائے کی قلت کا سنجیدگی سے نوٹس لینا ہو گا۔ مرکزی بینک نے اس ضمن میں ایک فریم ورک تشکیل دینے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا دوسری جانب نظام تعلیم کی اصلاح، نصاب کی بہتری کی ضرورت پر بھی زور دیا ہے۔ ٹیٹ بینک نے نوجوانوں میں تکنیکی مہارت پیدا کرنے کے لیے چین کی معاونت سے ووکیشنل ٹریننگ کو فروغ دینے کی حمایت کی ہے، ٹیٹ بینک نے سی پیک سے پیدا ہونے والے امکانات سے بھرپور استفادہ اور ای کامرس، مالیاتی ٹیکنالوجی، بزنس پرائسز آؤٹ سورسنگ سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے ڈیجیٹل اور مالی خواندگی اور شمولیت بڑھانے کو بھی ناگزیر قرار دیا جبکہ تکنیکی خدمات کے شعبوں اکاؤنٹنسی، مشاورت اور قانون کے شعبوں میں بھی افرادی مہارت کو فروغ دینے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے۔

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سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کیلئے اصلاحات کر رہے ہیں: رزاق داؤد

کاروبار میں آسانیاں پیدا کرنے کیلئے مزید اقدامات کئے جائیں گے، چین کے سفیر کی ملاقات

کمپنی کے کاروبار میں وسعت سے اگلے برسوں تک ہزاروں روزگار مواقع پیدا ہونگے، یاؤ جنگ

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) مشیر صنعت و تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت کاروبار میں آسانیاں پیدا کر رہی ہے جس سے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان آرہی ہے، سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینے کیلئے مختلف معاشی اصلاحات کیں، کاروبار میں آسانیاں پیدا کرنے کے لئے مزید اقدامات کئے جائیں گے۔ مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد سے چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے ملاقات کی، ملاقات میں تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، اس موقع پر چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنی چینلج اپیرلز لمیٹڈ چار سال قبل پاکستان آئی، کمپنی موجودہ سرمایہ کاری میں غیر معمولی اضافہ کرنے کی خواہشمند ہے، کمپنی کے کاروبار میں وسعت سے اگلے چند سالوں تک ہزاروں روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہونگے اور چینلج اپیرلز لمیٹڈ ایڈڈ اس سمیت مختلف برینڈز کو اشیاء ایکسپورٹ کرتی ہے۔ اس موقع پر مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنی کی اضافی سرمایہ کاری خوش آئند ہے۔

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اسلام آباد: سی پیک بزنس کونسل، نیا تنازع جنم لے سکتا ہے

عبدالرزاق داؤد چیئرمین اور انکی کمپنی ڈیسکون کے ایگزیکٹو کونسل کے رکن نامزد

یہ مشیر تجارت اور وزیر منصوبہ بندی کا انتخاب ہے، چیئرمین بی او آئی ہارون شریف

اسلام آباد (شہباز رانا) وفاقی حکومت نے وزیراعظم کے مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کو سی پیک بزنس کونسل کا چیئرمین جبکہ ان کی کمپنی ڈیسکون انجینئرنگ کے ایک ایگزیکٹو افسر کو مذکورہ کونسل کا رکن نامزد کیا ہے، یہ ایک ایسا اقدام تصور کیا جا رہا ہے جو کسی نئے تنازع کو جنم دے سکتا ہے، عبدالرزاق داؤد کو سی پیک بزنس کونسل کا چیئرمین بنانے کا فیصلہ وفاقی کابینہ کی سی پیک کمیٹی کے فیصلے سے بھی متصادم ہے، کابینہ کمیٹی نے اپنے 12 مارچ کے اجلاس میں وزیر منصوبہ بندی خسرو بختیار کو سی پیک بزنس کونسل کا چیئرمین بنانے کا فیصلہ کیا تھا، کابینہ کمیٹی نے بزنس کونسل کے 21 ارکان کی منظوری دی تھی جبکہ بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کے نوٹی فکیشن کے مطابق ارکان کی تعداد 25 ہے، ان میں سات پبلک سیکٹر جبکہ 18 پرائیویٹ سیکٹر سے ہیں، اس نوٹی فکیشن کے مطابق پرائیویٹ سیکٹر سے لیے گئے ایک رکن عدنان بختیار ہیں جو ڈیسکون انجینئرنگ میں انفراسٹرکچر ڈویژن کے سربراہ ہیں، بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف کا اس بارے میں کہنا ہے کہ بزنس کونسل کی رکنیت سازی مشیر تجارت اور وزیر منصوبہ بندی کا مشترکہ انتخاب ہے، بی او آئی نے صرف اس کا نوٹی فکیشن جاری کیا ہے، سی پیک بزنس کونسل کے دیگر ارکان میں ڈائیو بس سروس کے سی ای او، ملت ٹریڈر کے چیئرمین، نیشنل فوڈز کے سی ای او اور فوجی فاؤنڈیشن کے ایم ڈی شامل ہیں۔

Express News, 30-03-19

سی پیک سے پاکستان کی ترقی کا خواب پورا ہوگا: عرفان الحسن بھٹی

سانگلہ ہل (نمائندہ ایکسپریس) پاکستان مسلم لیگ ن مرکزی رہنما حاجی عرفان الحسن بھٹی نے کہا ہے کہ جعلی حکمران سمندر سے تیل نکالنے کے منصوبے کو بھی اپنی کھاتے میں ڈالنے کی ناکام کوشش کر رہے ہیں، جبکہ یہ منصوبہ ن لیگ کی سابق حکومت 2017ء میں شروع کر چکی ہے، پارٹی قائد میاں نواز شریف کا یہ شروع کردہ سی پیک منصوبہ ایک کامیاب حقیقت بن چکا ہے، جس نے پاکستان کا امتیج تبدیل کر دیا، سی پیک نے وفاق، صوبوں، سیاسی جماعتوں اور پارلیمنٹ کو یکجا کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے، سی پیک سے پرامن اور ترقی کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کا خواب پورا ہوگا۔

Express News, 31-03-19

پاک چین جنگلات ورکنگ گروپ اجلاس، ترجیحی شعبوں کی نشاندہی

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین کے مشترکہ جنگلات ورکنگ گروپ نے باہمی تعاون کے لئے ترجیحی شعبوں کی نشاندہی کرتے ہوئے جھیلوں کی بحالی، زمین کے بنجر ہونے کی روک تھام، جنگلی حیات کا تحفظ اور دیگر متعلقہ امور میں تعاون کے امکانات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا ہے۔ ہفتہ کو چین پاکستان جنگلات ورکنگ گروپ کا پہلا اجلاس بیجنگ میں ہوا جس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان جنگلات میں تعاون کے لئے ترجیحی علاقوں کی نشاندہی کی گئی۔ اجلاس میں چین کے قومی جنگلات اور گراس لینڈ بیورو کے بین الاقوامی تعاون کے محکمے اور پاکستان موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے محکمے کے حکام نے شرکت کی۔ دونوں فریقین نے جھیلوں کی بحالی، زمین کے بنجر ہونے کی روک تھام، جنگلی حیات کا تحفظ اور دوسرے متعلقہ امور میں تعاون کے امکانات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ یہ اجلاس گزشتہ سال نومبر میں دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشت کا حصہ تھا جس میں جنگلات کے فروغ میں تعاون کیلئے ترجیحی شعبوں کی نشاندہی پر زور دیا گیا۔

Jang News, 16-03-19

امارات کی ادھارتیل دینے سے معذرت، چین سے 2 ارب ڈالر لینے کی کوشش

چین سے بات چیت کامیاب، دو ارب ڈالر کے ڈپازٹ کا معاہدہ تیار، امارات سے تحریری معاہدہ نہیں تھا

ڈپوزٹ سہولت 5 فیصد سے کم ملک کے لئے بہتر ہوگی، بہت جلد حیران کن خبر ملے گی، اعلیٰ سرکاری افسر

فیلینی پانچ فیصد سے کم ملک کے لئے بہتر ہوگی سرکاری ذرائع نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ معاہدے میں گارنٹی کے مراحل چل رہے ہیں اور کچھ ہی دنوں میں معاہدہ ہو جائے گا۔ چین پہلے ہی دو ارب کے ڈپوزٹ موجودہ حکومت کے قیام سے قبل دے چکا ہے، سرکاری ذرائع نے یو اے ای کی طرف سے معذرت کی وجوہات پر سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ یو اے ای کا پاکستان کے درمیان کوئی تحریری معاہدہ نہیں ہوا تھا صرف سفارتکاری کی وجہ سے یو اے ای نے مجبور ہو کر ایک ارب ڈالر کی سہولیات کا معاہدہ کیا مگر بقیہ دو ارب کے معاہدے کے موقع پر یو اے ای نے پاکستان سے سعودی عرب سے کیے گئے معاہدے کی نقل مانگی ایسی صورتحال میں ہمیں زمینی حقائق کو ذہن میں رکھ کر منصوبہ بندی کرنی چاہئے یو اے ای کی معذرت کی اصل وجہ سمجھنا مشکل ہے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے مشیر اور ترجمان ڈاکٹر خاقان نجیب کا کہنا تھا کہ سعودی عرب سے 3.2 ارب ڈالر کی تیل میں سہولیات اپنی جگہ موجود ہیں اور عملاً یہ شروع ہونے والی ہیں۔ ان کا مذید کہنا تھا کہ (ITFC) کی جانب سے کئے گئے معاہدے پر عمل درآمد شروع ہو چکا ہے جس کے بعد کسی بھی مشکل سے نمٹا جاسکتا ہے، سرکاری افسر کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت مالی معاملات میں استحکام کے لئے ٹھوس اور دور رس نتائج دینے والے منصوبوں پر کام کر رہی ہے اس کے لئے مختلف زاویوں پر کام کیا جا رہا ہے۔

اسلام آباد (مہتاب حیدر) متحدہ عرب امارات کی طرف سے پاکستان کو تین ارب ڈالر کی پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی رعایت دینے سے معذرت کے بعد پاکستان نے چین سے دو ارب ڈالر کے ڈپوزٹ کے لئے کوششیں تیز کر دی ہیں اور ممکن ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان دو ارب ڈالر ڈپوزٹ کا معاہدہ رواں مہینے ہو جائے۔ اعلیٰ سرکاری ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان کا چین سے یہ معاہدہ بڑی حد تک طے ہو چکا ہے اور جلد ہی فائنل ہو جائے گا۔ اس نمائندے نے یو اے ای کی طرف سے رعایت اور سہولیات دینے سے معذرت کے بارے متعلقہ اداروں کے درجنوں اعلیٰ افسران سے رابطہ کیا اور یہ بھی جاننے کی کوشش کی کہ ہنگامی صورتحال سے نمٹنے کے لئے کی جانے والی کوششوں کی تفصیلات کا بھی پتہ چلے حکومت پاکستان نے رواں ماہ غیر ملکی قرضوں کی صورت میں بھاری ادائیگیاں کرنی ہیں اس کے لئے ضروری ہے اسٹیٹ بینک کی طرف سے ملک میں ڈالر کی ترسیل میں تیزی لائے تاکہ غیر ملکی زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں اضافہ ہو، ایک اعلیٰ سرکاری افسر کا کہنا تھا کہ ”ہم آپ کو اس معاملے میں حیران کر دیں گے“ یہ جواب اعلیٰ افسر نے اس معلومات حاصل کرنے کے لئے کیا کہ چائنہ کی طرف سے مکند ڈپوزٹس ریٹس چھ سے سات فیصد تھے جو کہ شنگھائی انٹرنیٹ کی طرف سے تھے اور وہ چینی کرنسی یو آن میں تھے بعد میں اسے امریکی ڈالر میں تبدیل کر دیا گیا۔ موجودہ صورتحال میں کسی بھی قسم کی ڈپوزٹ

Jang News, 16-03-19

حکومت سی پیک بارے اپنا ترقیاتی پلان اگلے مالی سال کیلئے دیگی، خسرو بختیار

آئندہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر اعداد و شمار اور تکمیل کی مدت و پیشرفت پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی جائے، سینٹ خصوصی کمیٹی

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) سی پیک سے متعلق سینٹ کی خصوصی کمیٹی کے اجلاس میں وزارت منصوبہ بندی کی جانب سے سی پیک منصوبوں پر دی گئی بریفنگ پر چیئر پرسن کمیٹی سینیٹر شیریں رحمن اور ارکان کمیٹی نے عدم اطمینان کا اظہار کیا اور ہدایت کی آئندہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر اعداد و شمار اور منصوبوں کی تکمیل کی مدت سمیت پیش رفت پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی جائے، وفاقی

وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقی مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ سی پیک کا موجودہ ترقیاتی و عملدرآمد پلان سابق حکومت کا بنایا ہوا ہے، موجودہ حکومت اپنا ترقیاتی پلان اگلے مالی سال کیلئے دے گی۔ کمیٹی نے ہدایت آئندہ سی پیک منصوبے پر اعداد و شمار تکمیل کی مدت و پیش رفت بریفنگ دی جائے۔

Jang News, 17-03-19

پاک چین فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پر بات چیت جاری ہے، رزاق داؤد

بزنس کمیونٹی سرمایہ کاری، نئی منڈیوں تک رسائی کیلئے کردار ادا کرے، لاہور میں سیمینار سے خطاب

لاہور (این این آئی) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت و سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے پاک چین فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ کے معاملہ پر بات چیت جاری ہے اور اس سلسلہ میں سیکرٹری تجارت جلد چین کا دورہ کریں گے، انڈسٹریل ایزیشن کی روک تھام کیلئے کمیٹی بنا دی گئی ہے، نئی ٹریڈ پالیسی پر بھی کام جاری ہے جس کا اعلان جلد کیا جائے گا، بزنس کمیونٹی نہ صرف ملک میں سرمایہ کاری اور اپنی مصنوعات کی دنیا کی نئی منڈیوں تک رسائی کیلئے کردار ادا کرے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے ایکسپو سنٹر میں وزارت تجارت اور ٹریڈ ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی پاکستان کے زیر اہتمام امریکہ، چین اور انڈونیشیا میں تجارت کے مواقع کے موضوع پر منعقدہ سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر

سیکرٹری تجارت محمد یونس ڈھاگہ، ڈائریکٹر جنرل منڈیپ میاں ریاض احمد سمیت دیگر بھی موجود تھے۔ سیمینار میں مختلف چیئرمین آف کامرس کے صدور، فارماسیوٹیکل ایسوسی ایشن، سرجیکل ایسوسی ایشن، کاشن پاور لومز ایسوسی ایشن، ریڈی میڈ گارمنٹس ایسوسی ایشن، شوگر ایکسپورٹ ایسوسی ایشن، ایس ایم ای سیکرٹریسمت دیگر کاروباری تنظیموں کے عہدیداران نے شرکت کی۔ عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا معیشت میں بہتری کیلئے تجاویز مرتب کرنے کی غرض سے تمام کاروباری برادری کو مشاورت کیلئے بلایا گیا ہے تاکہ بزنس کمیونٹی سے حتیٰ تجاویز لی جائیں۔ کل (پیر) کے روز کراچی میں سیمینار منعقد ہوگا جہاں پر چیئرمین آف کامرس اور تاجروں و صنعتکاروں سے بھی تجاویز لیں گے۔

Jang News, 18-03-19**وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی****سرکاری دورے پر چین روانہ**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی اتوار کی شب سرکاری دورے پر چین روانہ ہو گئے جہاں وہ اپنی دیگر مصروفیات کے علاوہ اپنے چینی ہم منصب کے ساتھ پاک چین سٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ میں حصہ لیں گے۔ یہ پہلا موقع ہو گا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان وزرائے خارجہ کی سطح پر سٹریٹجک مذاکرات ہو رہے ہیں۔ روانگی سے قبل اپنے ویڈیو پیغام میں انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا ایک قابل اعتماد ملک ہے جو ہر آڑے وقت میں ہمارے کام آیا ہے۔ حالیہ فیصلہ بھی ہمارے سامنے ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کی قیادت سے مشورے کے بعد ایک مشترکہ لائحہ عمل بنایا جائے گا۔ چین میں قیام کے دوران چین کی اعلیٰ قیادتوں سے ملاقات ہوگی اور چینی تھنک ٹینکس اور میڈیا سے بھی بات چیت ہوگی۔

Jang News, 18-03-19

مسعود ظہر معاملہ حل کر لیا جائیگا بھارت میں تعینا چینی سفیر کی یقین دہانی

چین بھارتی تحفظات سمجھتا ہے، یہ محض 'ٹیکنیکل ہولڈ' کی بنیاد پر روکا گیا، مقصد مشاورت کیلئے وقت تھ، لوٹاؤ ہوئی

گزشتہ ہفتے فرانس نے مسعود ظہر کے اثاثے محمد کردیے اور کہا کہ وہ یورپی یونین کے ساتھ اس معاملے پر بات چیت کرے گا۔ بیجنگ کی پوزیشن واضح کرتے ہوئے چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لو کیٹنگ کا کہنا تھا کہ وہ اس بات کو یقینی بنانا چاہتے تھے کہ کمیٹی کے پاس اس معاملے کے مطالعے کا کافی وقت ہوتا کہ متعلقہ فریقین کے پاس بات چیت اور مشاورت کیلئے وقت ہو۔ ترجمان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین ان درخواستوں کا مکمل اور گہرائی سے جائزہ لیتا ہے اور ہمیں اب بھی مزید وقت چاہئے، اس لئے ہم نے ٹیکنیکل طور پر اس معاملے کو روک دیا۔

رکتے ہیں، ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ چین بھارتی تحفظات سمجھتا ہے اور انہیں یقین ہے کہ یہ معاملہ حل ہو جائے گا۔ 2017ء میں چین نے اقوام متحدہ کے ذریعے امریکا، برطانیہ اور فرانس کی جانب سے مسعود ظہر کو عالمی دہشت گرد نامزد کرنے کے اقدام کو روک دیا تھا۔ اقوام متحدہ میں اس وقت ایک غیر معمولی سخت پیغام میں ایک امریکی سفارتکار کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر بیجنگ دہشت گردی سے نمٹنے کے اس کے ریاستی مقصد کے حوالے سے سنجیدہ ہے تو اسے پاکستان یا کسی بھی ملک کے دہشت گردوں کو نہیں بچانا چاہئے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر یہ سلسلہ جاری رہا تو ارکان کو دیگر کارروائیوں کی پیروی کیلئے زور دیا جاسکتا ہے تاہم انہوں نے ان کارروائیوں کی وضاحت نہیں کی۔

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) بھارتی میڈیا کا کہنا ہے کہ چینی سفیر لوٹاؤ ہوئی نے یقین دلایا ہے کہ جیش محمد کے سربراہ مسعود ظہر کو عالمی دہشت گرد کی حیثیت سے نامزد کرنے کا معاملہ حل کر لیا جائے گا۔ بیجنگ کا کہنا تھا کہ ایسا انہوں نے ٹیکنیکل بنیاد پر وقت حاصل کرنے کیلئے کیا تھا تا کہ معاملے پر بات چیت کی جاسکے اور سوچ سمجھ کر قدم اٹھایا جائے۔ اپنی رہائش گاہ پر ہولی کی تقریب میں چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ مسعود ظہر کا معاملہ حل ہو جائے گا، یہ محض 'ٹیکنیکل ہولڈ' کی بنیاد پر روکا گیا ہے جس کا مطلب ہے کہ جاری مشاورت کیلئے وقت چاہئے، یقین مانے یہ حل ہو جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مسعود ظہر کے حوالے سے ہم مکمل طور پر سمجھتے ہیں اور مکمل طور پر اس معاملے پر یقین

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روزنامہ جنگ، اپنی 18 مارچ 2019ء

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کچھ جتنی ظلم جس سے اس نے کامیابی کو سبوتاژ کر کے دہشت گردوں کے ہاتھ چابی سنبھال لی ہے، دہشت گردوں کو ملوث کر کے انہوں نے امن و امان کے ماحول کو برباد کر دیا ہے۔

آج کے دن کی دنیا میں امن و امان کے ماحول کو برباد کر دیا ہے۔

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چین کے ساتھ مذاکرات ناکام بھی ہو سکتے ہیں ٹرمپ کے تجارتی نمائندے کا انتباہ

واشنگٹن:

جیمس ہولی

امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے چینی سربراہ رابرٹ لائتھور نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارتی مذاکرات ناکام ہو سکتے ہیں۔

ٹرمپ نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارتی مذاکرات ناکام ہو سکتے ہیں۔

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واشنگٹن: امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارتی مذاکرات ناکام ہو سکتے ہیں۔

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سی پیک، سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے منصوبوں کی ابتدائی فہرست 21 مارچ کو چین کو فراہم کر دی جائیگی

اسلام آباد (تنویر ہاشمی) سی پیک کے سماجی و معاشی شعبے کی ترقی کے مجوزہ منصوبوں کی ابتدائی فہرست 21 مارچ کو چین کو فراہم کر دی جائیگی، دسمبر میں بیجنگ میں ہونیوالے آٹھویں جے سی سی اجلاس میں سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے شعبے کیلئے جوائنٹ ورکنگ گروپ کے قیام کیلئے ایم او یو پر دستخط کیے گئے تھے جس کے بعد چینی ماہرین کی ٹیم نے 27 فروری سے 7 مارچ تک پاکستان کے چاروں صوبوں، آزاد کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان کا دورہ کیا اور مجوزہ منصوبوں کے حوالے سے پاکستانی حکام کے ساتھ مشاورت کی اور اپنی تجاویز دیں اور منصوبوں اور ان پر عملدرآمد کے حوالے سے ایکشن پلان مرتب کیا گیا، سماجی و معاشی ترقی کیلئے چھ مختلف شعبوں کے منصوبوں کو شروع کیا جائے گا ان میں زراعت، تعلیم، صحت، غربت میں کمی، آبی وسائل، فنی تربیت کے منصوبے شامل ہیں، ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان مجوزہ منصوبوں کی ابتدائی فہرست 21 مارچ کو چین کو فراہم کرے گا چین 24 اپریل تک ان منصوبوں کو حتمی شکل دے جس کے بعد ان منصوبوں پر کام کے آغاز کے لیے وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے موقع پر ایم او یو پر دستخط کیے جائیں گے، پہلے مرحلے کے منصوبوں کو ایک سال میں مکمل کیا جائے گا جبکہ دیگر منصوبوں کو دو سے تین سال میں مکمل کیا جائے گا، وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے حکام کے مطابق پاکستان کے پسماندہ علاقوں بلوچستان، فانا، جنوبی پنجاب، جنوبی خیبر پختونخوا، شمالی سندھ کے علاقوں کو ترجیح دی جائیگی، چین سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد کیلئے ایک ارب ڈالر گرانٹ فراہم کریگا۔

Jang News, 19-03-19

آسی ٹیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ پاکستان میں ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا

پاکستان خطے میں قیام امن کا داعی ہے، پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد بھارتی جارحیت کا جواب حوصلے اور بردباری سے دیا، بیجنگ میں خطاب

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کا کہنا ہے کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے دوسرے مرحلے کے آغاز سے پاکستان میں سماجی اور اقتصادی ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔ بیجنگ میں چائنائی ٹیوٹ فار انٹرنیشنل اسٹریٹیجک اسٹڈیز (سی آئی آئی ایس ایس) میں چینی اسکالرز سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین نہ صرف گہرے دوست ہیں بلکہ دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات اسٹریٹیجک شراکت داری کی بنیاد پر استوار ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد بھارتی جارحیت کا جواب

پاکستان نے حوصلے اور بردباری سے دیا، پاکستان خطے میں قیام امن کا داعی ہے اور جنوبی ایشیا میں اپنے تمام ہمسایوں کے ساتھ پر امن تعلقات کا خواہاں ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا پاکستان، بھارت کے ساتھ بھی تمام تصفیہ طلب امور مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے خطاب کے بعد انسٹی ٹیوٹ فار انٹرنیشنل اسٹریٹیجک اسٹڈیز کا دورہ کیا اور مہمانوں کی کتاب میں اپنے تاثرات قلمبند کیے۔ قبل ازیں وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی تین روزہ دورے پر پیر کی صبح چین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ پہنچے تو ایئر پورٹ پر پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ جن، چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر مسعود خالد اور دیگر چینی و پاکستانی حکام نے اُن کا استقبال کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ کے اس دورے کے دوران طرفین باہمی تعلقات بشمول چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پر جامع تبادلہ خیال کریں گے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی دورے کے دوران سی پیک پر پولیٹیکل پارٹنر فورم سے خطاب کریں گے۔ وہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف اور کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کے درمیان رولنگ پارٹیز ڈائیلاگ میں بھی شرکت کریں گے۔

Jang News, 19-03-19

درسی کتب کی چھپائی بھی چین سے؟

پپر ملز مافیا کی اجارہ داری کا خاتمہ کرنے کیلئے درسی کتب چین سے چھپوانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے، جہاں اعلیٰ معیار کی کتب کا ریٹ 100 فیصد کم ملا ہے۔ کاروباری دانشمندی تو یہی ہے کہ کم قیمت میں اعلیٰ معیار کی شے حاصل کی جائے۔ تاہم جب یہ لین دین مقامی مارکیٹ کی بجائے غیر ملکی تجارت یعنی بین الاقوامی سطح پر ہو تو اس حوالے سے سوچ بچار اور عواقب پر غور کرنا لازم ہے۔ کوئی شک نہیں کہ چین کی مصنوعات نے پوری دنیا کے ممالک بشمول ترقی یافتہ ممالک کی صنعت پر اجارہ داری حاصل کر لی ہے جس سے وہ ممالک بھی صارف ممالک بننے چلے جا رہے ہیں۔ اس سے نقصان یہ ہوتا ہے کہ کسی ملک کی اپنی صنعت کی چولیس ہل کر رہ جاتی ہیں اور کاروباری سرگرمیاں ماند پڑ جاتی ہیں۔ ہمارے متعدد دانشور اسی خدشے کا ایک عرصے سے برملا اظہار بھی کرتے آئے ہیں۔ پنجاب کریکولم اینڈ ٹیکسٹ بک بورڈ نے چین سے درسی کتب چھپوانے کیلئے پہلے مرحلے میں تیسری جماعت کے اردو قاعدے کا نمونہ حاصل کر لیا ہے۔ مقامی سطح پر چھپائی کے بعد قاعدے کی قیمت 89 روپے ہے اور اس کاغذ کا وزن 68 گرام ہے جبکہ چینی قاعدے کے کاغذ کا وزن 80 گرام اور قیمت 44 روپے ہے۔ ایم ڈی پنجاب کریکولم اینڈ ٹیکسٹ بک بورڈ کا کہنا ہے کہ کم ریٹ اور بہترین کوالٹی سے فائدہ اٹھانا ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے غلط نہیں کہا لیکن وہ شاید یہ بھول گئے کہ اس سے نہ صرف کاغذ بنانے کی صنعت اور اس کے مزدور متاثر ہوں گے بلکہ کاغذ کے کاروبار سے منسلک افراد بھی۔ حکومت کو ٹیکس بھی کم ملے گا اور سرمایہ بھی بیرون ملک جائے گا اور خود ان کا محکمہ بھی اپنے وجود کا جواز ڈھونڈنے لگے گا! چین سے مدد ضرور حاصل کی جائے لیکن دو باتوں کو یقینی بنایا جائے کہ ملکی صنعت و کاروبار متاثر نہ ہو اور زر مبادلہ بھی ملک سے باہر نہ جائے، بہتر تو یہ ہے کہ چین سے تکنیکی معاونت حاصل کی جائے اور بیروزگاری کو بڑھنے سے روکا جائے۔

ادارہ پرائس ایم ایس اور وائس ایپ رائے دیں 00923004647998

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بیجنگ، پاکستانی بزنس کمیونٹی کی ڈپٹی سپیکر سے ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) ڈپٹی سپیکر قومی اسمبلی قاسم خان سوری سے بیجنگ میں پاکستانی بزنس کمیونٹی کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ وفد میں کمائن گروپ کے سی ای او ایم آمین ناتھانی، فیلپا گلوبل کنسلٹنٹس کے سی ای او عدنان حفیظ و دیگر شامل تھے۔ وفد نے ڈپٹی سپیکر قومی اسمبلی کو بتایا کہ وہ پاک-چائنا چیمبر آف کامرس بنانا چاہ رہے ہیں اور اس حوالے سے ڈپٹی سپیکر قومی اسمبلی سے تفصیلی بات چیت کی۔ قاسم خان سوری نے کہا کہ انہیں پاک-چائنا تجارت بڑھانے کے لیے ساری تجاویز اور مواد دیں اور پاکستان میں انویسٹمنٹ لانے کے لیے تجاویز بھی دیں، ان تجاویز کو عملی جامہ پہنانے کی ہر ممکن کوشش کی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے وفد کو یقین دلایا کہ وہ پاکستان واپس جا کر کے تجارت، ٹیکسٹائل، صنعت، پیداوار اور پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے مشیر رزاق داؤد کو وفد کی ساری تجاویز دیں گے، پوری کوشش کروں گا کہ چین میں موجود پاکستانی بزنس کمیونٹی کے لوگوں کو زیادہ سے زیادہ سہولیات دی جاسکیں۔ انہوں نے پاکستانی بزنس کمیونٹی سہولیات کا استعمال کر کے پاکستان میں بھی انویسٹمنٹ لانے پر کام کرے۔

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سی پیک کی وسطی ایشیا، مشرق وسطیٰ تک توسیع اقتصادی استحکام لاسکتی ہے، ماہرین

پاکستان بجائے کسی ایک اقتصادی پارٹنر پر انحصار کرنے کے تعلقات کو وسیع کرے، سیمینار سے خطاب

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) ماہرین معیشت نے کہا ہے کسی پیک کی وسطی ایشیا اور مشرق وسطیٰ تک توسیع سٹریٹجک اور اقتصادی استحکام لاسکتی ہے، پاکستان کو چاہیے کہ وہ بجائے کسی ایک اقتصادی پارٹنر پر انحصار کرنے کے اپنے تعلقات کو دوسرے ممالک تک وسیع کرے۔ پاکستان کو اپنے دروازے دنیا کے لیے کھولنا چاہئے، ماہرین نے ان خیالات کا اظہار پالیسی ادارہ برائے پائیدار ترقی (ایس ڈی پی آئی) کے زیر اہتمام ”جنوبی ایشیا میں کوریڈورز سٹریٹجک استحکام کے لیے مشکل راستے“ کے عنوان سے ایک سیمینار کے دوران کیا، پیپلز پارٹی کی سابق سینیٹر سحر کامران نے کہا کہ بیرونی خطرات سے نمٹنے کے لئے اور یلوا کاؤمی کے ممکنہ فوائد کو حاصل کرنے کے لئے ایک جامع سٹریٹجک فریم ورک کے ساتھ قومی میری ٹائم پالیسی پر مؤثر عمل درآمد کی ضرورت ہے۔ تجزیہ کار زاہد حسین نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو اپنی سٹریٹجک سیکورٹی اور استحکام حاصل کرنے کے لئے سب سے پہلے اپنی اقتصادی، خوراک اور ماحولیاتی

سیکورٹی کو یقینی بنانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ اگر ہم امن کو یقینی بنائیں تو، یہ جنوبی ایشیا دنیا کے سب سے تیزی سے ابھرتی ہوئی اقتصادی زون کے طور پر سامنے آئے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جیواسٹریٹجک استحکام حاصل کرنے کے لئے ہم سب کو افغانستان میں امن کے لیے کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، جو کہ بہت اہم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں چین کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات پر فخر ہونا چاہئے، لیکن ہم کو یہ بھی سمجھنا ہوگا کہ چین یہاں اپنا سٹریٹجک اور اقتصادی مفاد بھی رکھتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں چار بہار بندرگاہ کو گوادربندرگاہ کے لیے ایک خطرہ کے طور پر نہیں دیکھنا چاہئے۔ سابق ڈائریکٹر جنرل، اے سی ڈی اے، خالد بنوری نے کہا کہ ہتھیار، خاص طور پر جوہری ہتھیار، تنازعات سے بچنے کے لئے آپ کو کچھ پیس فراہم کرتے ہیں، لیکن تمام مسائل کا حل نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو اپنی کوششیں تیز کرنے اور دنیا کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

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پاکستان چین کا اہم دوست بننا مشترکہ دشمنی کی بنیاد پر اتفاق کی جنگ کو قدر سے دیکھنے

دہشتگردی کیخلاف مہم میں اسلام آباد کی مکمل حمایت کرتے ہیں، وانگ ڈی، مشکل وقت میں ساتھ دینے پر چین کے شکرگزار ہیں، شاہ محمود

پاک چین سٹریٹجک مذاکرات، افغانستان میں امن کیلئے مشترکہ کوششوں پر اتفاق، شاہ محمود کی چینی نائب صدر سے بھی ملاقات

قرارداد اور کہا کہ اسلام آباد نے اہم مسائل پر ہمیشہ لوہے کی طرح بیجنگ کی حمایت کی ہے، اور یہ حقیقت ہے چین بھی ایسا ہی کرتا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں شاہ محمود قریشی نے پاکستان کیلئے چین کی مسلسل حمایت پر نائب صدر کا شکریہ ادا کیا انہوں نے نائب صدر کو خطے میں ہونے والی حالیہ تبدیلیوں کے بارے میں بتایا اور کشیدگی کم کرنے میں چین کے اہم کردار کا بھی شکریہ ادا کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی نیک خواہشات بھی چین کے نائب صدر تک پہنچائیں۔ شاہ محمود قریشی اور بیجنگ میں کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کے بین الاقوامی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے وزیر سونگ تاؤ سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی جس میں فریقین نے پارٹیوں کی سطح پر دوطرفہ وفد کے تبادلوں پر اتفاق کیا۔ تحریک انصاف اور کمیونسٹ پارٹی چائنا کے مابین مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط بھی کئے گئے۔

امن کیلئے مشترکہ کوششیں جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا، چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی نے شاہ محمود قریشی سے ملاقات کے بعد صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی جانب سے دہشتگردی کیخلاف حالیہ محسوس اقدامات کی تعریف کرتا ہے، ہم دہشتگردی کیخلاف جاری مہم میں پاکستان کی مکمل حمایت کرتے ہیں، ہم عالمی برادری سے بھی مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ وہ دہشتگردی کیخلاف جاری پاکستان کی جنگ کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی کا کہنا تھا کہ ہم مشکل وقت میں ایک بار پھر ساتھ دینے پر چین کے کردار کی کوسراہتے ہیں۔ ہم دہشتگردی کے خطرے کیخلاف تعاون کر رہے ہیں اور ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ اس سے متعلق شعبوں میں اس میں اضافہ ضروری ہے۔ ہم نے دہشتگردی سے متعلق قابل ذکر پیش رفت کی ہے اور ہم نے اس کی بھاری قیمت چکانی ہے جسے ہر کوئی تسلیم کرتا ہے۔ قبل ازیں وانگ ڈی نے شاہ محمود کا استقبال کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کو اپنا آہنی دوست

اسلام آباد، بیجنگ (نامہ نگار خصوصی، اے ایف پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان آئندہ ماہ چین کا دورہ کریں گے۔ سی پیک پر تمام سیاسی جماعتیں ایک صفحہ پر ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ جو تین روزہ چین کے سرکاری دورے پر ہیں انہوں نے اپنی مصروفیت کے دوسرے روز پاک چین وزیرائے خارجہ میں اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات میں حصہ لیا۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ QISHAN سمیت دیگر اہم چینی رہنماؤں سے ملاقاتیں کیں۔ پاک چین وزیرائے خارجہ کے درمیان پہلے اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات میں شاہ محمود قریشی اور چینی ہم منصب وانگ ڈی شریک ہوئے۔ مذاکرات میں خطے کی امن وامان کی صورتحال اور افغان مفاہمتی عمل میں ہونے والی اب تک پیشرفت پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان خطے میں امن و استحکام کا خواہاں ہے۔ پاکستان کا ساتھ دینے پر چین کے شکرگزار ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں قیام

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پاکستان چین کا آہنی دوست بننا دہشتگردی کی بجائے جنگ کو قدر سے دیکھنے

دہشتگردی کیخلاف مہم میں اسلام آباد کی مکمل حمایت کرتے ہیں، وانگ ڈی، مشکل وقت میں ساتھ دینے پر چین کے شکرگزار ہیں، شاہ محمود

پاک چین سٹریٹجک مذاکرات، افغانستان میں امن کیلئے مشترکہ کوششوں پر اتفاق، شاہ محمود کی چینی نائب صدر سے بھی ملاقات

قرار دیا اور کہا کہ اسلام آباد نے اہم مسائل پر ہمیشہ لوہے کی طرح بیجنگ کی حمایت کی ہے، اور یہ حقیقت ہے چین بھی ایسا ہی کرتا ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں شاہ محمود قریشی نے پاکستان کیلئے چین کی مسلسل حمایت پر نائب صدر کا شکریہ ادا کیا انہوں نے نائب صدر کو خطے میں ہونے والی حالیہ تبدیلیوں کے بارے میں بتایا اور شیدگی کم کرنے میں چین کے اہم کردار کا بھی شکریہ ادا کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی نیک خواہشات بھی چین کے نائب صدر تک پہنچائیں۔ شاہ محمود قریشی اور بیجنگ میں کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کے بین الاقوامی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے وزیر سونگ تاؤ سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی جس میں فریقین نے پارٹیوں کی سطح پر دوطرفہ وفد کے تبادلوں پر اتفاق کیا۔ تحریک انصاف اور کمیونسٹ پارٹی چائنا کے مابین مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط بھی کئے گئے۔

امن کیلئے مشترکہ کوششیں جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا، چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی نے شاہ محمود قریشی سے ملاقات کے بعد صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی جانب سے دہشتگردی کیخلاف حالیہ ٹھوس اقدامات کی تعریف کرتا ہے، ہم دہشتگردی کیخلاف جاری مہم میں پاکستان کی مکمل حمایت کرتے ہیں، ہم عالمی برادری سے بھی مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ وہ دہشتگردی کیخلاف جاری پاکستان کی جنگ کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی کا کہنا تھا کہ ہم مشکل وقت میں ایک بار پھر ساتھ دینے پر چین کے کردار کی کو سراہتے ہیں۔ ہم دہشتگردی کے خطرے کیخلاف تعاون کر رہے ہیں اور ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ اس سے متعلق شعبوں میں اس میں اضافہ ضروری ہے۔ ہم نے دہشتگردی سے متعلق قابل ذکر پیش رفت کی ہے اور ہم نے اس کی بھاری قیمت چکانی ہے جسے ہر کوئی تسلیم کرتا ہے۔ قبل ازیں وانگ ڈی نے شاہ محمود کا استقبال کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کو اپنا آہنی دوست

اسلام آباد، بیجنگ (نامہ نگار خصوصی، اے ایف پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان آئندہ ماہ چین کا دورہ کریں گے۔ سی پیک پر تمام سیاسی جماعتیں ایک صفحہ پر ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ جو تین روزہ چین کے سرکاری دورے پر ہیں انہوں نے اپنی مصروفیت کے دوسرے روز پاک چین وزیرائے خارجہ میں اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات میں حصہ لیا۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ QISHAN سمیت دیگر اہم چینی رہنماؤں سے ملاقاتیں کیں۔ پاک چین وزیرائے خارجہ کے درمیان پہلے اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات میں شاہ محمود قریشی اور چینی ہم منصب وانگ ڈی شریک ہوئے۔ مذاکرات میں خطے کی امن وامان کی صورتحال اور افغان مفاہمتی عمل میں ہونے والی اب تک پیشرفت پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان خطے میں امن و استحکام کا خواہاں ہے۔ پاکستان کا ساتھ دینے پر چین کے شکرگزار ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں قیام

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تھر کول پاور پلانٹ 330 میگاواٹ بجلی کی فراہمی شروع

ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی بار تھر کول سے پیدا ہونے والی بجلی نیشنل گرڈ میں شامل، بجلی تیار کرنے کا یہ منصوبہ سی پیک کے ابتدائی منصوبوں میں سے ہے

پاور پراجیکٹ سے ملک کو اوسطاً 6 ارب 10 کروڑ ڈالر کے قیمتی زر مبادلہ کی سالانہ بچت ہوگی 660 میگاواٹ پاور پلانٹ میں کونکے کو جلانے کیلئے کمپنی سی ایف ڈی کا استعمال کریگی۔ کمرشل آغاز کے بعد پلانٹ 282 کلومیٹر طویل اور 500 کلواٹ کی ڈبل کوڈ بنڈل ٹرانسمیشن لائن کے ذریعے نیاری میں موجود نیشنل گرڈ کو بجلی کی فراہمی کا باقاعدہ آغاز کر دیگا، اینگرو کارپوریشن کے صدر غیاث خان نے کہا ہے کہ تھر کے کونکے سے بجلی کی پیداوار کا آغاز پورے ملک کیلئے فخر کا باعث ہے، اینگرو انرجی لمیٹڈ اور اینگرو پاور جین لمیٹڈ کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر احسن ظفر سید نے کہا کہ یہ ہمارے لئے ایک تاریخی لمحہ ہے۔

ہوئے بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے غیر ملکی ایندھن پر پاکستان کے انحصار کو ختم کر دے گا تھر میں کونکے سے بجلی تیار کرنے کا یہ منصوبہ سی پیک کے ابتدائی منصوبوں میں سے ہے جس نے اپریل 2016 میں مقامی کونکے سے چلنے والے 660 میگاواٹ پاور پلانٹ کی تعمیر کا آغاز کیا۔ اس منصوبے میں چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ اور ایچ بی ایل اینگرو پاور جین لمیٹڈ کے اہم شراکت دار ہیں۔ اینگرو پاور جین تھر لمیٹڈ بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے سالانہ 83 لاکھ ٹن کونکے استعمال کرے گی جو اس کو سندھ اینگرو کول مائننگ کمپنی کی جانب سے فراہم کیا جائیگا۔ کمپنی کے 330 میگاواٹ کے دونوں یونٹس جون 2019 میں کمرشل آپریشن شروع کر دیں گے۔ اینگرو انرجی کے دونوں منصوبوں مائننگ اور

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر، خصوصی نمائندہ) اینگرو پاور جین تھر لمیٹڈ نے ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی بار تھر کے کونکے سے بجلی پیدا کر کے کامیابی سے نیشنل گرڈ میں شامل کر دی۔ سی پیک کے تحت قائم کیے گئے اینگرو پاور جین تھر لمیٹڈ کے تھر بلاک ٹو میں 660 میگاواٹ پاور پلانٹ میں سے 330 میگاواٹ کے پہلے یونٹ نے کام کرنا شروع کر دیا۔ اس موقع پر کمپنی کے سینئر عہدیداروں اور منصوبے کے کنٹریکٹر چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ لمیٹڈ کے عہدیداروں کی موجودگی میں پلانٹ کو کامیابی سے نیشنل گرڈ کیساتھ منسلک کیا گیا، تھر میں 175 ارب ٹن کونکے کے ذخائر نے ملک کے انرجی کے منظر نامے کو یکسر تبدیل کر دیا جو پاکستان میں توانائی کے مستقبل کو محفوظ بناتے

Jang News, 22-03-19**چین پاکستان کو 300 سے زائد اشیاء پر آسین****ممالک کی طرز پر رعایت دینے پر راضی**

اسلام آباد (تنویر ہاشمی) چین پاکستان کو 300 سے زائد اشیاء پر آسین ممالک کی طرز پر رعایت دینے پر رضامند ہو گیا ہے آئندہ دونوں ملکوں کے مابین دوسرے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کو حتی شکل دے دی جائیگی اور وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ماہ اپریل میں دورہ چین کے موقع پر معاہدے پر دستخط موقع ہیں، وزارت تجارت کے معتمد ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے مابین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر بیجنگ میں مارچ کے وسط میں مذاکرات ہوئے اور پاکستان کی جانب سے ٹیرف میں کمی کے مطالبے پر چین نے اتفاق کیا، سیکریٹری تجارت دوا پرل کو چین کا دورہ کریں گے اور آزاد تجارت معاہدے کو حتی شکل دی جائیگی، پہلے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت چین پاکستان کی 57 ٹیرف لائنز (اشیاء) پر صفر ڈیوٹی تھی جس پر پاکستان نے چین سے نظر ثانی کا مطالبہ کرتے ہوئے 300 سے زائد مصنوعات پر ڈیوٹی کو صفر یا کم ترین کرنے کا کہا تھا، چین کے جانب سے 300 اشیاء پر ڈیوٹی صفر یا کم ترین ہونے سے پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوگا اور دونوں ملکوں کے مابین تجارتی خسارے کو کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی، پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دوسرے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے لیے گزشتہ سات سال سے مذاکرات کے گیارہ دور ہوئے اور بالآخر چین پاکستان کو آسین ممالک کو دی گئی رعایتیں دینے پر رضامند ہو گیا، پاکستان چین کو رواں سال ایک ارب ڈالر کے چاول اور چینی برآمد کرے گا، وزیر اعظم کے مشیر امور تجارت رزاق داؤد نے بھی اس کی قائمہ کمیٹی تجارت کے اجلاس میں تصدیق کرتے ہوئے بتایا چین کے ساتھ ایک ارب ڈالر چینی اور چاول برآمد حوالے سے آرڈر موصول ہو گئے ہیں پاکستان چین کو ساڑھے تین لاکھ ٹن چاول اور اڑھائی لاکھ ٹن چینی برآمد کرے گا، انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان سے یارن، نمائند اور گندم بھی برآمد کے لیے بھی بات ہو رہی ہے۔

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چین سے اگلے ہفتے 2.1 ارب ڈالر زائیمنگے
 اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) چین دو ارب
 10 کروڑ ڈالر پاکستان کو فراہم کرے گا اور یہ فنڈ زپیئر
 25 مارچ کو سیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے اکاؤنٹ
 میں منتقل کر دیئے جائیں گے، وزارت خزانہ کے
 ترجمان ڈاکٹر خاقان حسن نجیب نے کہا ہے کہ چین
 سے دو ارب 10 کروڑ ڈالر کی سہولت کے لیے
 ضابطے کی کارروائی مکمل کر لی گئی ہے اس رقم سے غیر ملکی
 زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں اضافہ اور ادائیگیوں کے
 توازن میں مزید استحکام آئے گا، چین سے دو ارب
 10 کروڑ ڈالر موصول ہونے سے پاکستان کے غیر ملکی
 زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر 17 ارب 80 کروڑ ڈالر سے
 بڑھ جائیں گے۔

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سی پیک کا تحفظ، چین نے پاک۔ بھارت
 سرحد کے قریب فوجی دستے تعینات کر دیئے
 کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) چین نے سی پیک منصوبے
 کو تحفظ دینے کے لیے پاک۔ بھارت سرحد کے قریب
 فوجی دستے تعینات کر دیئے ہیں۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا رپورٹس
 میں کہا گیا ہے کہ چین نے مقامی افراد کی جانب سے
 کونسل کی کانوں کو ممکنہ طور پر درپیش خطرات کے باعث
 یہ اقدام اٹھایا ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ بھارت کی
 بارڈر سیکورٹی فورسز نے بھی سرحد کے قریب چین کے فوجی
 دستوں کی نقل و حرکت دیکھی ہے۔

Jang News, 24-03-19

گوا در میں پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا ایئر پورٹ تعمیر کرنے کی تیاریاں مکمل

وزیراعظم عمران خان 29 مارچ کو سنگ بنیاد رکھیں گے، منصوبہ تین سال میں مکمل ہوگا

گوا در (آن لائن) گوا در میں پاکستان کا ایک نیا، سب سے بڑا اور حال میں تعمیر کیے جانے والے اسلام آباد ایئر پورٹ سے زیادہ جدید ایئر پورٹ تعمیر کرنے کی تیاریاں مکمل کر لی گئی ہیں۔ سی پیک منصوبے کے تحت بنایا گیا ہے کہ گوا در ایئر پورٹ تعمیر کے منصوبے کا سنگ بنیاد وزیراعظم عمران خان 29 مارچ کو رکھیں گے۔ منصوبے کی تعمیر کیلئے چین کی جانب سے سی پیک منصوبے کے تحت قرضہ فراہم کیا جائے گا۔ اس حوالے سے مزید بتایا گیا ہے کہ گوا در ایئر پورٹ پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا اور جدید ایئر پورٹ ہوگا، گوا در ایئر پورٹ پر دیو پیکل بونگ 380 جہاز بھی لینڈ کر سکے گا۔ ڈی جی گوا در ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی ڈاکٹر سجاد بلوچ نے بتایا ہے کہ گوا در کا جدید ترین ایئر پورٹ 4800 ایکڑ کے بڑے رقبے پر بنایا جا رہا ہے۔ منصوبے پر ابتدائی طور پر تقریباً 22 ارب روپے لاگت آئے گی۔ ڈی جی گوا در ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے مطابق ایئر پورٹ پر بڑے جہازوں کے اترنے کی بھی گنجائش رکھی جا رہی ہے۔ ڈاکٹر سجاد کے مطابق اکنامک کوریڈور اور چین کی مالی امداد سے منصوبہ تین سال میں مکمل ہو جائے گا۔

Jang News, 24-03-19

پاکستان کی شاندار کامیابیوں پر ہمیں

بے حد خوشی محسوس ہوتی ہے، چینی صدر

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ میں چین پاکستان کے قیام، معیشت کی ترقی اور عوام کے معیار زندگی کو بلند کرنے کے لیے کوشاں ہے، اس کی شاندار کامیابیوں پر ہمیں بے حد خوشی محسوس ہوتی ہے، نئے دور میں مضبوط چین پاکستان ہم نصیب معاشرے کی تعمیر کے لیے مشترکہ کوشش کریں گے، جبکہ چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے کہا ہے کہ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے مرکزی مفادات سے متعلق مسائل کی باہمی حمایت کرتے ہیں، سی پیک کی بہترین تعمیر اور دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کی ترقی کے فروغ کیلئے چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مشترکہ کوشش کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ چائینر پیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق اپنے پیغام میں چینی صدر نے کہا کہ اس وقت پاکستان ملک میں استحکام کے قیام، معیشت کی ترقی اور عوام کے معیار زندگی کو بلند کرنے کے لیے کوشاں ہے اور اس سلسلے میں شاندار کامیابیاں بھی حاصل ہوئی ہیں۔

Jang News, 25-03-19

چین نے سی پیک پر بھارتی تحفظات پھر مسترد کر دیے

بلوچستان کی تمام سیاسی جماعتوں نے سی پیک کی منفقہ حمایت کی ہے، چینی سفیر، گورنر بلوچستان سے گفتگو

سی پیک کی گراؤنڈ بریکنگ آئندہ ماہ ہوگی، کوئی بھی شامل ہو سکتا ہے، گورنر کوڈولا کھڈا لار کا چیک بھی دیا اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین نے سیلاب زدگان کیلئے امدادی چیک گورنر بلوچستان کے حوالے کر دیا جبکہ چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے ایک بار پھر سی پیک پر بھارت کے تحفظات کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے واضح کیا ہے کہ سی پیک ایک معاشی اور کمرشل منصوبہ ہے اس میں کوئی بھی شامل ہو سکتا ہے، پاکستان ترقی کی جانب گامزن ہے، بلوچستان کی تمام سیاسی جماعتوں نے مکمل اتفاق رائے کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے سی پیک کی حمایت کی ہے بھارت کو اس منصوبے پر کچھ تحفظات ہیں لیکن اقتصادی راہداری کے کچھ روٹس کے حوالے سے اس کے

خداشات ہیں جنہیں وہ متنازعہ قرار دیتا ہے۔ یہ بات پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نے اسلام آباد میں گورنر بلوچستان سے ملاقات کے دوران کہی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک کی گراؤنڈ بریکنگ آئندہ ماہ کر دی جائے گی۔ یہ معاشی اور اقتصادی منصوبہ ہے جس کے ثمرات کسی ایک ملک تک محدود نہیں اس میں کوئی بھی ملک شامل ہو سکتا ہے۔ ملاقات کے دوران چینی سفیر نے گورنر بلوچستان کوڈولا کھڈا لار کا چیک بھی دیا جو بلوچستان میں سیلاب سے متاثر ہونے والوں کی بحالی کے کاموں کیلئے تھا جس پر گورنر بلوچستان نے چین کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

Jang News, 26-03-19

چین اور اٹلی میں سلک روڈ معاہدہ، بعض یورپی ممالک کے تحفظات

اٹلی دن بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا حصہ بننے والا جی سیون کا پہلا ملک، دونوں ملکوں میں 5 سے 8 بلین ڈالر کے معاہدے

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چینی شاہراہ ریشم اب ایشیا سے نکل کر یورپ میں پھیلنا شروع ہو گئی ہے۔ اس کی نئی مثال یہ ہے کہ چین اور اٹلی نے تجارت اور ٹرانسپورٹ کے سلک روڈ معاہدے پر دستخط کر دیئے ہیں۔ یہ دستخط چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے دورہ اٹلی کے موقع پر کیے گئے۔ جو اٹلی کا تین روزہ دورہ مکمل کرنے کے بعد فرانس پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ واضح رہے کہ چین کے ساتھ سلک روڈ پروٹوکول پر دستخط کرنے سے اٹلی ترقی یافتہ اقوام کے گروپ جی سیون کا وہ پہلا ملک بن گیا ہے جو چین کے 'ون بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سلسلے کا حصہ بنا ہے۔ اس سمجھوتے پر بعض یورپی ممالک نے تحفظات کا اظہار بھی کیا ہے۔ اٹلی کے میڈیا کے مطابق چینی صدر کے ساتھ طے پانے والے معاہدوں کا حجم پانچ سے آٹھ بلین امریکی ڈالر کے درمیان ہے۔ چینی صدر کے دورے کے دوران دونوں لیڈروں کی موجودگی میں اتنی نکات پر مشتمل اقتصادی تعلقات کو بہتر بنانے کی تفصیلی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے۔

Jang News, 27-03-19

سی پیک کا علاقائی ترقی مڈل اہم کردار پر سب سے زیادہ خوشخبردار مجبور باجوہ

دھرتی کے دفاع سے کوئی چیز مقدس نہیں، مستحکم اور پر امن پاکستان کیلئے پر عزم ہیں، پاک برطانیہ استحکام کانفرنس سے خطاب

آرمی چیف سے برطانوی فوج کے کمانڈر جنرل پیٹرک سینڈرز اور چینی سفیر کی بھی ملاقات، علاقائی سلامتی کی صورتحال، باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر گفتگو

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کا علاقائی ترقی میں اہم کردار ہے پاکستان پر امن ریاست ہے، اپنی دھرتی کے دفاع سے بڑھ کر کوئی چیز مقدس نہیں، اپنا فرض نبھانے کیلئے ہمیشہ تیار رہنے والی فوج کی قیادت پر فخر ہے۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق منگل کو آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی کا دورہ کیا۔ نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی آمد پر لیفٹیننٹ جنرل عامر ریاض نے ان کا استقبال کیا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف نے چوٹی پاک برطانیہ استحکام کانفرنس کے شرکا سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ملک کی اندرونی اور بیرونی سیوری صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا جبکہ پاکستان اور خطے میں مستقل استحکام کے وژن کا بھی اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک فوج کی قیادت کرنے پر فخر ہے، پاک فوج مادر وطن کے دفاع کیلئے ہر دم تیار ہے، پاکستان امن دوست ریاست ہے، ہم نہ تو کسی سے خوفزدہ ہیں اور نہ ہی مجبور ہیں۔ آرمی چیف نے جیو پبلیکس کی صورتحال اور خطے کی معاشی ترقی کیلئے سی پیک کے کردار پر بھی روشنی ڈالی،

آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ پر امن اور مستحکم پاکستان کے قیام کیلئے پر عزم ہیں، آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی میں آرمی چیف سے برطانوی فوج کے کمانڈر لیفٹیننٹ جنرل پیٹرک سینڈرز نے ملاقات بھی کی جس میں علاقائی سلامتی کی صورتحال اور باہمی دلچسپی کے پیشہ وارانہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ دریں اثنا جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے چین کے سفیر نے ملاقات کی۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

Jang News, 27-03-19

سی پیک میں صنعتی تعاون کے فروغ کا وقت ہے، چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ

پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے ماحول سازگار ہے، چینی کمپنیاں مشترکہ منصوبے لگائیں، ملک شاہد سلیم

راولپنڈی (اپنے رپورٹر سے) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک میں صنعتی تعاون کے فروغ کا وقت ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کے نجی شعبوں کے درمیان تعاون سے پیداواری لاگت میں کمی آئے گی۔ راولپنڈی جیمبر آف کامرس کے زیر اہتمام اسلام آباد میں پاک چین بزنس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ پانچ سال میں سی پیک اب ایک حقیقت بن چکا ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کے نجی شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ چینی حکومت دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان سرمایہ کاروں کے تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہتی ہے۔ اب وقت ہے کہ ہم مارکیٹ کے اصولوں پر

تعاون کو فروغ دیں۔ ہماری خواہش ہے کہ کاروباری افراد کے درمیان تعاون اور روابط مثبت ثابت ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ تجارتی تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کاروباری سرگرمیوں کے فروغ اور نمائشوں کے پرومپٹنڈی جیمبر کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔ کانفرنس سے ساتھ ساتھ کارپوریشن کی کونسل کے چیئرمین لیو شنوا نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ اس سے پہلے صدر جیمبر ملک شاہد سلیم نے خطاب میں کہا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے ماحول سازگار ہے۔ چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں مشترکہ منصوبے لگائیں۔ جس سے روزگاری کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔

Jang News, 29-03-19

اسلام آباد (محمد صالح ظافر) ایک ایسے وقت میں کہ جب عالمی ادارے کی سینکشن کمیٹی میں مولانا مسعود اظہر کے حوالے سے معاملہ زیر غور ہے امریکا کی جانب سے اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل میں ایک قرارداد پیش کی گئی ہے جسے فرانس اور برطانیہ کی حمایت حاصل ہے، اس قرارداد پر چین اور پاکستان نے اعتراضات کا اظہار کیا ہے، چینی ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ امریکا سینکشن کمیٹی کی اہمیت کو کم کر رہا ہے جبکہ دفتر خارجہ پاکستان کے ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ واشنگٹن متنازع اقدام سے گریز کرے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق امریکا نے اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل میں پیش کی گئی اپنی حالیہ قرارداد میں مولانا مسعود اظہر کو بلیک لسٹ کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے جس پر جمہوریت کو بیچنگ اور اسلام آباد نے اپنے اپنے دفتر خارجہ

امریکا سینکشن کمیٹی کی اہمیت کو کم کر رہا ہے، گینگ شوانگ، واشنگٹن متنازع اقدام سے گریز کرے، ڈاکٹر فیصل

مذمت کی کہ جب یہ معاملہ پہلے ہی سینکشن کمیٹی میں زیر غور ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امریکی اقدام سے سینکشن کمیٹی کی اہمیت میں کمی آئیگی، ہم مسعود اظہر کے معاملے کو سینکشن کمیٹی میں مشاورت کے ذریعے دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں اور اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی اقدام سینکشن کمیٹی کی سالمیت کو نقصان پہنچائے گا جس سے لازمی طور پر گریز کرنا چاہیے، انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ پاکستان اقوام متحدہ کی سینکشن کمیٹی کے تحت اپنی تمام تر ذمہ داریوں کی ادائیگی کے حوالے سے سنجیدہ ہے۔ سفارتی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ بھارت متنازع امریکی قرارداد پر پاکستان اور چین کے موقف کے جواب میں کوئی تبصرہ کرنے میں ناکام ہو گیا ہے جبکہ ڈونیز پر بھی پاکستان کے جواب کے بعد بھارت کے پاس کچھ کہنے کو نہیں۔

کے ذریعے اعتراضات کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی دفتر خارجہ نے کہا ہے کہ امریکا اقدام متحدہ کی انسداد دہشت گردی کمیٹی کی اہمیت کو کم کر رہا ہے، طاقت کے ذریعے اقوام متحدہ سلامتی کونسل میں مولانا مسعود اظہر کو عالمی دہشت گرد قرار دینے کی کوشش معاملے کو صرف پیچیدہ بنا دیگی۔ ترجمان چینی دفتر خارجہ گینگ شوانگ نے میڈیا بریفنگ میں کہا کہ ہم امریکا پر زور دیتے ہیں کہ وہ احتیاط سے کام لے اور طاقت کے زور پر قرارداد پیش کرنے سے گریز کرے۔ ادھر ترجمان دفتر خارجہ ڈاکٹر محمد فیصل نے امریکی قرارداد پر واضح کیا ہے کہ یہ ایک تکنیکی مسئلہ ہے اور اس پر بحث کے لئے مناسب فورم اقوام متحدہ سیکورٹی کونسل کی 1267 سینکشن کمیٹی ہے، انہوں نے امریکا کی جانب سے ایک ایسے وقت میں قرارداد پیش کرنا

اسلام آباد (محمد صالح ظافر) ایک ایسے وقت میں کہ جب عالمی ادارے کی سینکشن کمیٹی میں مولانا مسعود اظہر کے حوالے سے معاملہ زیر غور ہے امریکا کی جانب سے اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل میں ایک قرارداد پیش کی گئی ہے جسے فرانس اور برطانیہ کی حمایت حاصل ہے، اس قرارداد پر چین اور پاکستان نے اعتراضات کا اظہار کیا ہے، چینی ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ امریکا سینکشن کمیٹی کی اہمیت کو کم کر رہا ہے جبکہ دفتر خارجہ پاکستان کے ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ واشنگٹن متنازع اقدام سے گریز کرے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق امریکا نے اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل میں پیش کی گئی اپنی حالیہ قرارداد میں مولانا مسعود اظہر کو بلیک لسٹ کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے جس پر جمہوریت کو بیچنگ اور اسلام آباد نے اپنے اپنے دفتر خارجہ

Jang News, 29-03-19

سکیانگ، امریکا اور چین میں الزامات کا تبادلہ
 بیجنگ (ایجنسیاں) چین نے سکیانگ میں حراستی
 کیمرپ سے متعلق امریکی وزیر خارجہ کے متنازع بیان کو
 داخلی امور میں مداخلت قرار دیا ہے۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا کے
 مطابق امریکی وزیر خارجہ مائیک پومپو نے حراستی کیمرپ
 کی سابق قیدی سے ملاقات کے بعد چین پر کڑی تنقید
 کرتے ہوئے کہا تھا کہ بیجنگ مسلمانوں کے خلاف
 'شرمناک منافقت' رکھتا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے
 ترجمان گین شینگ نے پریس بریفنگ میں کہا کہ
 مائیک پومپو کا بیان انتہائی مایوس کن اور خالصتاً چین کے
 داخلی امور میں مداخلت کے مترادف ہے۔

Jang News, 29-03-19

چین پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے مضبوط شراکت جاری رکھے گا، چینی سفیر

چینی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کو مزید توسیع دینے کی خواہاں ہے، عبدالرزاق داؤد سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کے پاکستان
 میں سفیر ڈاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کی ترقی
 کیلئے مضبوط شراکت جاری رکھے گا، چین کا نجی شعبہ
 بہت متحرک ہے اور نجی شعبہ کی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری
 کیلئے وسیع پیمائش ہے، چینی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنی چینلچ اپریلز
 لمیٹڈ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کو مزید توسیع دینے کی
 خواہاں ہے اور لاہور میں جدید ترین گارمنٹس مینوفیکچرنگ

یونٹ قائم کرنا چاہتی ہے، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے
 مشیر امور تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد سے ملاقات کے موقع
 پر کیا، ملاقات میں تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینے
 پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ کمپنی کے
 کاروبار میں وسعت سے اگلے چند برسوں تک ہزاروں
 روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہونگے

Jang News, 30-03-19

پاک چین درہ خنجراب تجارتی روٹ پیر سے کھل جائیگا
 اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) پاک چین سرحد درہ
 خنجراب کے راستے پیر سے تجارت اور سفر کیلئے دوبارہ
 کھل جائے گی۔ دونوں دوست ملکوں کے درمیان
 معاہدے کے مطابق یہ سرحد ہر سال یکم دسمبر کو بند اور یکم
 اپریل کو کھلتی ہے۔ اس عارضی بندش کی وجہ موسم سرما میں
 شدید برف باری ہے۔ جس کی وجہ سے آمدورفت تقریباً
 بند ہو جاتی ہے۔

Jang News, 31-03-19

چین پاکستان جنگلات ورکنگ گروپ
کا اجلاس، جھیلوں کی بحالی، جنگلی حیات
کا تحفظ اور دیگر امور تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین پاکستان
 جنگلات ورکنگ گروپ کا پہلا اجلاس ہفتہ کو بیجنگ میں ہوا
 جس میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان جنگلات میں تعاون
 کے لئے ترجیحی علاقوں کی نشاندہی کی گئی۔ اجلاس میں چین
 کے قومی جنگلات اور گراس لینڈ بیورو کے بین الاقوامی
 تعاون کے محکمے اور پاکستان موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے محکمے کے
 حکام نے شرکت کی۔ دونوں فریقین نے جھیلوں کی بحالی،
 زمین کے بخر ہونے کی روک تھام، جنگلی حیات کا تحفظ اور
 دوسرے متعلقہ امور میں تعاون کے امکانات پر تبادلہ
 خیال کیا۔ یہ اجلاس گزشتہ سال نومبر میں دونوں ملکوں
 کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشت کا حصہ تھا جس میں
 جنگلات کے فروغ میں تعاون کے لئے ترجیحی شعبوں میں
 نشاندہی پر زور دیا گیا۔

K2 News, 18-03-19

چین ہر آڑے وقت میں ہمارے کام آیا، وزیر خارجہ

ماہ فیصلہ کی قوم کے سامنے ہے، کئی مرتبہ دونوں وزراء خارجہ کا سرٹھک ڈانٹا گیا ہے

دورہ کا مقصد کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائینہ اور پی پی پی آئی کے مابین مذاکرات کو وسیع کرنا بھی ہے

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ چین ہر آڑے وقت میں ہمارے کام آیا، وزیر خارجہ
ماہ فیصلہ کی قوم کے سامنے ہے، کئی مرتبہ دونوں وزراء خارجہ کا سرٹھک ڈانٹا گیا ہے
دورہ کا مقصد کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائینہ اور پی پی پی آئی کے مابین مذاکرات کو وسیع کرنا بھی ہے

K2 News, 20-03-19

پاک بھارت پر امن تعلقات دنیا کے مفاد میں ہیں، چین

چین دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مذاکرات اور امن کے فروغ کیلئے کوششیں کر رہا ہے

کتابچہ بھارتی دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات کے فروغ کیلئے قائم و مند ثابت ہوگی، چینی وزارت

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے کتابچہ بھارتی کے ہونے کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ ہے کہ چین بھارت پاکستان کے
معاہدے پر عملدرآمد کے لئے طریقہ کار کو آگے بڑھانے کیلئے
پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان اہم کامیاب قدم کرتے ہوئے بھارت کی بھارتی تعلقات (بائی ملٹری 83) (83)

پاکستان نے چینی شہریوں کیلئے آن لائن ویزا شروع کر دی

نے نظام کے تحت 186 ممالک کے شہری 3 ماہ کیلئے پاکستان کا وزٹ حاصل کر سکتے ہیں

[illegible]

ہی ایک نایاب تجارت کیلئے مثلاً انوغرم کریم صلی

کومت سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے عوام پر مرکوز ایجنڈے کے تحت اپنی خارجہ پالیسی کو آگے بڑھائے گی

اسلام خطے میں امن کا مضبوط دھاری ہے، خطے میں ملوثی اور اقتصادي ترقی کیلئے امن ضروری ہے، ہندوستان کے گمنام

[illegible]

چینی وزیراعظم کی زیر صدارت
اجلاس، سالانہ ترقیاتی اہداف
حاصل کرنے کی ہدایت

جنگ (آئی ایم بی) جیٹو نڈر ہاسٹم لی
کی چٹا گئے، غلام ہر زور دیا ہے کہ ۱۰ سالانہ
ترقی کیلئے مقرر کیے گئے اہداف حاصل کرنے کے لیے
فیس کی کٹوتی کریں، تمام تعلیمی محلوں کو اس سطح میں
جلد داخلہ فیصلی اقدام متعارف کرانے چاہیے۔ جن
میں اصلاحات، کھیلے ہو اور کھیلوں اور فیسوں میں کمی
وغیرہ کے اقدامات بھی شامل ہے۔ ان خطبات کا
اظہار انہوں نے سٹیٹ (ہفتی صفحہ 6) 28 نومبر 2018

K2 News, 23-03-19

بھارتی جارحیت کو کبھی حد نہ چینی سہا ایئر ڈیفنس سسٹم نصب

زمین سے فضا میں مار کرنے والے میزائل اور ریڈار کے پانچ ٹیسٹ شامل، جدید ڈرون بھی سرحدوں پر پہنچائے گئے

جدید نظام کے ذریعے بھارت کے کسی بھی جہاز کی آمد کا پیشگی پتہ لگایا جاسکے گا، دفاع کو مزید مضبوط بنادیا گیا

اسلام آباد (آئی این این) پاکستان نے پاک بھارت ایئر ڈیفنس سسٹم نصب کر دیا ہے، ایئر ڈیفنس سسٹم میزائل مار کرنے والے میزائل، گمراہی کرنے والے ریڈار اور سرحد پر ایئر ڈیفنس اور زمینی حدود کی حفاظت کے لیے نیا سامان ہے جس میں کم رینج والے زمین سے فضا میں (اور ان شامل ہیں) دفاع کو مزید مضبوط بنادیا گیا (7 جی نمبر 3)

K2 News, 26-03-19

پاکستان کیلئے چین کا کردار

چین سمیت عالمی برادری سمجھتی ہے کہ بھارت اور پاکستان کے مابین کشیدگی کی وجہ سے مسئلہ کشمیر حل نہیں ہو سکتا۔ اسی لیے اس پر کام جاری ہے۔ چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانجی وانجی نے پاکستان کے وزیر خارجہ خواجہ محمد حنیف سے ملاقات کی۔ ان کے ملاقات کے دوران انہوں نے پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال پر تبادلہء خیال کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے لیے چین کی حمایت اور معاونت ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے لیے چین کی حمایت اور معاونت ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے لیے چین کی حمایت اور معاونت ضروری ہے۔

یہ چاقو صاف ہے جب چین نے موزامبیق اور انگوگیا کے خلاف چین کی حمایت اور معاونت کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے لیے چین کی حمایت اور معاونت ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے لیے چین کی حمایت اور معاونت ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی موجودہ صورتحال کے لیے چین کی حمایت اور معاونت ضروری ہے۔

K2 News, 26-03-19

روزنامہ ”کے 2“ گلگت بلتستان



سی پیک اور بھارتی سازشیں

بھارت میں جتھیں چلتی سفير سے سی پیک پر بھارتی اغراض و اسات مسٹر دکر سے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبہ خوش اسلوبی سے جاری ہے، بھارتی مابعد آرائی سے باز رہے۔ بھارتی خدشات بے بنیاد ہیں۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کا منصوبہ اب مملو آمد کے سرے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں توانائی کے سڑو میں سے گیارہ منصوبوں پر کام شروع کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ان منصوبوں کی تکمیل سے ملک میں بجلی کی قلت پر قابو پانے میں مدد ملے گی اور پاکستان کے عوام کو ہر لیفٹ ملے گا۔ چین امن اور ترقی کا دلیل ہے۔ شلے میں بالادستی حاصل کرنے کی کوشش نہیں کرے گا۔ سی پیک پر بھارتی مابعد آرائی سے باز رہے۔ اس منصوبے کی بدولت سی ایشیا اور یورپ میں منڈیوں تک رسائی کے مختلف ذرائع برک اور میل اور بندرگاہ جیسے منصوبوں کو بروہ کرنے کیلئے چین مسلسل کام کر رہا ہے۔ چین سی پیک منصوبے کے ذریعے اقتصادی تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہتا ہے۔ اس کا پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان خود بخاری اور علاقائی تنازعات میں مداخلت کرنے کا کوئی منصوبہ نہیں ہے۔ بھارتی کئی حکام سی پیک سے علاقائی خود بخاری کے معاملات پر کوئی اثر نہیں پڑے گا۔ چین نے بھارت کے اس اقدام کو مسترد کر دیا کہ چین اس منصوبے میں پاکستان کی زیادہ معاونت کر رہا ہے۔ چائیک کے اقدامات دوسروں کی حمایت کی بجائے زیادہ سے زیادہ اپنے مفادات پر مبنی ہیں۔ ہم نے ہمیشہ چین کو ترقی دینی ہے اور تمام مسائل کو ترقی پسندانہ حل پر حل کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی۔ واضح رہے کہ بھارت نے سی پیک منصوبے میں آزاد پیمبر کو شامل کرنے پر مختلف کا اظہار کیا تھا اور ان کا دعویٰ ہے کہ آزاد کشمیر ان کا حصہ ہے۔ تاہم چینی سفیر نے بھارتی حکام پر واضح کیا کہ چین دونوں ملک کے مابین ایسے تنازعات کا حصہ نہیں بنے گا دونوں ملکوں کو باہمی معاملات میں جھگڑا کر مل کرنا ہوں گے۔ جب سے پاک چین سی پیک منصوبہ شروع ہوا بھارت کے پیٹ میں اٹھنے والے مرد میں اضافہ ہوتا جا رہا ہے۔ بھارت نے یہ منصوبہ کرانے کیلئے اپنی سی کوششیں اور سازشیں ہی میں کرنا کافی اس کا مقصد روسی ہے۔ بھارت کے ذراؤ جبریل اور بیورو کریمت چین کے دور سے پر جا کر ایک ہی راگ الاچتہ ہیں کہ سی پیک پر انجیکٹ قسم کیا جائے۔ وزیر اعظم مودی خصوصی طور پر چینی قیادت سے مل کر سی پیک پر اپنے بے جا مختلف کا اظہار کر چکے ہیں مگر چین کی طرف سے اس منصوبے کی ہر پروردگاری اور حمایت کی جاتی ہے۔ بھارتی دشمنی کی بھی کوئی حد نہیں ہے انکی طرف سے منصوبے کی بدستور مخالفت جاری ہے۔ اس نے سی پیک کو رد یک کرانے کیلئے سازشوں کا جال بھی بنا۔ پاکستان میں انکی لوگوں پر پھر سرمایہ کاری کرنے کی کوشش کی جو کالاباغ ڈیم پر بھارتی پروودہ ہونے کا حق اور کر رہے ہیں۔ اس نے بے جا اظہار و سختی پر اپنی پکڑ کر کے اسے ماسکو کرانے کی کوشش کی جس سے امن و اطمینان بھی متاثر ہو گیا۔ بھارت نے ”را“ کے اندر سی پیک کی تلاش ایک ڈیک ڈیک قائم کیا جس کیلئے اربوں روپے کے فنڈز و شخص کے کھمگر پاکستان میں سی پیک پر قوم اس قدر توجہ اور حکومت کو ملے ہے کہ چین کو کوئی مخالفت کرنے والے کا ڈانگ نہیں مل رہے اور یہاں گریں ہیں تو بھی قیمت وصول کر کے دیک کے پیسے ہوئے ہیں جو مناسب موقع پر بھارت کی ملک عطائی کر سکتے ہیں۔ حکومت اور اداروں کو ان سے خبردار رہنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ بھارت ایک طرف آزاد کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان میں راہداری گزرنے پر تیار ہے اس کا عیاری و مکاری اپنی موقف ہے کہ یہ تنازعہ علاقے ہیں اس لئے سی پیک کو ان علاقوں سے نہ گزرا جائے۔ دوسری طرف انکی سائنیکری خداجہ کنول سہلی تکی ہیں کہ راہداری منصوبہ یوں شمیر سے گزرا جائے کہ بھارت بھی اس میں شامل ہو۔ جو واقعی تنازعہ علاقے ہیں وہاں سے راہداری گزرنے کو قطعاً مٹھا ہے۔ پاکستان کے غیر تنازعہ علاقوں سے گزرنے کو آزاد کشمیر چین نے بھارت کے

مانٹنگ لیز اور ایکسپو ریشن لائنس کا اجراء

آرڈر 2018 کے تحت گلگت بلتستان میں تین درجن سے زائد مقامی اور قومی کمپنیوں کو مانٹنگ لیز اور ایکسپو ریشن لائنس جاری کر دیئے گئے، مانٹنگ کیلئے لیز 30 سال جبکہ ایکسپو ریشن لائنس تین سال کیلئے دیا گیا ہے، محکمہ عیادت کے ذرائع کے مطابق لیز اور لائنس جاری ہونے کے بعد گلگت بلتستان میں سونا، چاندی، ماسل اور قیمتی پتھروں کی عطائی کی جائے گی، ذرائع کے مطابق مانٹنگ لیز اور لائنس کیلئے ایک ہزار سے زائد درخواستیں آئی ہیں لیز اور لائنس کی 70 لاکھ روپے کی آمدنی حاصل ہوئی ہے، محکمہ عیادت کے ذرائع نے لائنس جاری ہونے کے بعد روزگاری کے مواقع پیدا ہونے کی امید بھی ظاہر کی ہے، واضح رہے کہ سی لیز آرڈر 2018 کے تحت مانٹنگ لیز اور ایکسپو ریشن لائنس سے اسٹیبل کو منتقل ہوا تھا جس کے بعد سیکری کی سربراہی میں اتھارٹی بن گئی تھی۔ گلگت بلتستان کو اللہ تعالیٰ نے قدرتی وسائل کی دولت سے مالا مال کر رکھا ہے لیکن بدقسمتی سے ان وسائل سے مکافہ حاصل نہیں کیا جا سکا۔ گلگت بلتستان کی سر زمین میں قیمتی خزانوں کی پھر مار ہے اگر ان خزانوں سے پھر پور فائدہ اٹھایا جائے تو گلگت بلتستان کچھ عرصے میں خوشحال ہو سکتا ہے۔ مانٹنگ ایک تکنیکی کمر پیچہ کام ہے اس کے لیے ترقی اداروں کی ضرورت ہے تا کہ روزگار کے حوالے سے بھی مثبت و اثرات ہو سکے البتہ حکومت نے مانٹنگ کے لائنس جاری کر کے ایک مثبت و اثرات کی ہے اس طرح گلگت بلتستان کے وسائل کا بہتر استعمال کیا جائے گا خوش آمد بات ہے کہ اس ضمن میں مقامی و قومی کمپنیوں کو لائنس جاری کیے گئے ہیں، ہم دیکھتے ہیں کہ قدرتی کمپنیاں معاہدے کرتے ہوئے زیادہ حصہ چروٹے جاتی ہیں اور وسائل رکھنے والوں کو اس سے کچھ خاص فائدہ نہیں ہوتا اس لیے حکومت کا مقنا ہے کہ وسائل کی مانت سے اس کے لیے شیلی اور تربیت یافتہ افرادی قوت ملک کی سے حاصل کی جائے۔

ملکستان بیندین و بیندین کلمہ؟

آزاد کشمیر میں ایس پی یو کے قیام کے لئے 42 کروڑ 77 لاکھ روپے کا مطالبہ کیا گیا، سرکاری دستاویز

یہاں تک کہ یہ بھی خطرے سے نمٹنے کیلئے تیار ہے، بنیول چیف

قیمت کی حد ادائیگی پر حکومت گھروں کو سپانسر کرے گی کچی آبادیوں کو سکول اور کھانا جائے گا وزیر اعلیٰ

50 لاکھ گھروں کی تعمیر آئندہ ماہ شروع

عالمی بینک نے تعاون کی یقین دہانی کروائی، چین اور ملائیشیا کی منصوبہ میں دلچسپی، کثیر المذاہب عمارتیں بنائی جائیں گی، ہر کاری زمین پر قبضے کرانے والے لافران جیل جائیں گے

نوجوان اپنی کمپنیاں بنائیں اور کام کریں، سرکاری ادارے اپنی زمینیں چھپا رہے ہیں، قبضہ کو جرم قرار دینے کے لئے قانون بنارہے ہیں، عمران خان کا خطاب

[illegible]

K2 News, 29-03-19

سی پیک پر قومی اتفاق رائے ہے، شاہ محمود

منصوبے سے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری اور روزگار کے مواقع بڑھے ہیں

افغانستان میں قیام امن علاقائی مفاد میں ہے، چینی ٹی وی کو انٹرویو

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع بڑھے ہیں اور روزگار کے مواقع میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ چینی ٹی وی کو انٹرویو کرتے ہوئے ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں قیام امن علاقائی مفاد میں ہے۔

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پاور سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع ہیں، خسرو مختار

اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت توانائی کے کئی منصوبوں پر کام ہو رہا ہے جنہی ذمہ سے گفتگو

شنگھائی ایکسپوز پاکستان توانائی شعبے میں مزید سرمایہ کاری کرنے میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہے، چنگو شی

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی اور توانائی خسرو مختار نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع ہیں اور روزگار کے مواقع میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ چینی ٹی وی کو انٹرویو کرتے ہوئے ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں قیام امن علاقائی مفاد میں ہے۔

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بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ کسی بھی ملک کیلئے قرضوں کا جال نہیں، چین

منصوبہ کیلئے تھان مشین کڑی کے سلی مین فرم کرتا ہے بعض ممالک نہیں دیکھ کر ہے جس

دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ تجارتی حجم میں اس سال 117 ارب ڈالر کا اضافہ ہوگا

جنگ (آئی این بی) کیلئے ایڈ روڈ منصوبہ پاکستان 21 ویں صدی کی نئی شاہراہ ہے اور اسے دیکھ کر ممالک
سمیت کی بھی رکھ کر ملک کیلئے کی گئی اسلئے سے قرضوں کے درمیان 100 فیصد مزید چیک اچھڑ میں اضافہ کرتا ہے اور
کا جال نہیں ہے حقیقت میں یہ شاہراہی قرضہ اقتصادی حالت ایسے اقتصادی صورتحال ہے (آئی سٹر 77 بجیر نمبر 47)

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مسعود اظہر معاملہ، امریکہ کو دانشمندی سے کام لینے کا چینی مشورہ

امریکہ کا سائنسی کونسل سے رجوع کرنا معاملے کو مشکل بنا دیا کہ قرار دیا گئی بنیادوں پر روکی

معاملے جامع تحقیق کے ذریعے جائزہ لیا جائے متعلقہ فریقوں کو بات چیت کرنی چاہیے ترجمان

جنگ (آئی این بی) کہتا ہے کہ امریکہ سائنسی کونسل سے رجوع کرنا معاملے کو مشکل بنا دیا کہ قرار دیا گئی بنیادوں پر روکی
نوسل مسعود اظہر کے معاملے پر دانشمندی سے کام لیں کہتے ہوئے نیکیٹیل ہولڈی۔ جائیداد پر امریکہ کے
امریکا کا رولہ راست سائنسی کونسل میں ہوا معاملے کو مشکل متعلقہ فریقوں کو بات چیت کرنی چاہیے ترجمان (آئی سٹر 77 بجیر نمبر 8)

K2 News, 30-03-19**جاپان کو آزاد تجارت کیلئے اپنے وعدے پر کاربند رہنا چاہیے، چین****قومی سلامتی کے بھانے چین کی مختلف کمپنی کی حسیبیت کی خریداری پر پابندی عائد کر دی**

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی وزارت تجارت نے کہا ہے کہ جاپانی حکومت نے قومی سلامتی کے بھانے سے چین کی مختلف کمپنی کی حسیبیت کی خریداری پر پابندی عائد کر دی ہے۔ اس حوالے سے چین نے جاپان کے ساتھ بار بار رابطے کیے ہیں اور چین نے مختلف اور خیالات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ چانکر ریلوے انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق کے چینی وزارت تجارت کی ترجمان کا دفتر نے کہا ہے کہ جاپان کو آزاد تجارت کی حمایت کے لیے اپنے وعدے پر کاربند رہنا چاہیے۔ ہم یٹس دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں کہ جھٹکا پندرہ جاپان جیسے ملک میں سرانجام لے۔ امید ہے کہ جاپان آزاد تجارت کے لیے اپنے وعدے پر کاربند رہے گا۔ جاپان کی جانب سے چینی صنعتی و کاروباری اداروں کے ساتھ مطلق اور مصفاہ سلوک اختیار کیا جائیگا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہم امید کرتے ہیں کہ جاپان میں قسم صنعتی و کاروباری اداروں کے لیے معمول کے مطابق، باہمی ملاقات پر باہمی تعاون، مصفاہ مصافحہ خلاف اور توقعات کے مطابق تجارتی ماحول فراہم کیا جائے گا۔ گورننگ نے کہا کہ اگر جاپانی حکومت کا اقدام نمایاں طور پر مصفاہ یٹس، تو چین اور جاپان کے مابین باہمی اعتماد اور صنعتی اداروں کے درمیان تعاون کے ۱۵۰ پر حتمی اثرات مرتب (باقی صفحہ ۶ پیج نمبر 7)

K2 News, 30-03-19**چینی اور قازق وزرائے خارجہ کی بیجنگ میں ملاقات**

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای اور قازق وزیر خارجہ ہائی بولہ ام کوکوف کے درمیان ملاقات ہوئی ملاقات کے دوران دونوں وزرائے اعظم نے مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے اس موقع پر بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ قازقستان دارالحکومت بیجنگ اور جامع طرح بیجنگ شراکت دار ہے۔ صدر نور سلطان نزار بائیو کی قیادت میں ملک نے قومی قبر میں شاندار کامیابی حاصل کی ہیں اور اب وہ قومی اور علاقائی سطح پر اہم کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں۔ قازقستان کے ساتھ دوئی کوئی قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے، اور اسے صدر بھی چینی تمام کے پروردگار ہیں۔

K2 News, 30-03-19

بیجنگ عالمی زرعی نمائش 29 اپریل کو منعقد ہوگی 110 ممالک کی 120 سے زیادہ غیر سرکاری شخصیات کی شرکت کی تصدیق	
بیجنگ (آئی این پی ڈی) بیجنگ عالمی زرعی نمائش 29 اپریل 2019 کو منعقد ہوگی۔ نمائش 162 دن تک جاری رہے گی اور قیغ ہے کہ 16 دن سے زائد فرہنگی اور بیرون ملک سے نمائش دیکھنے کے لیے آئیں گے۔ 110 ممالک اور بین الاقوامی تنظیموں کی 120 سے زیادہ غیر سرکاری شخصیات نے اب تک نمائش میں شرکت کی تصدیق کر دی ہے۔ نمائش کی تاریخ میں یہ سب سے زیادہ تعداد ہوئی۔ نمائش میں سال لگائے گئے 530 تنگہ راجہ قلعہ کیا گیا ہے۔ جو بیجنگ کے ضلع ٹانگ ملک میں قائم ہو اور جہاں کے ماسے میں خصوصی کیا گیا ہے۔ نمائش کے وسط میں جتنی پیمائیں ہوگا نمائش میں شرکت کرنے والے پھولوں، مہمانت اور زراعت سے متعلق اپنی کامیابیوں کا اظہار کریں گے۔	جنوبی کوریا کے صدر 10 اپریل کو واشنگٹن پہنچیں گے مسل (آئی این پی ڈی) ان کی پناہ گزین کو کوریا کے صدر مون جائے ان آئندہ ماہ امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ سے ملاقات کیلئے واشنگٹن جائیں گے اس کامیابی میں جنوبی کوریا کے صدر کی ٹیم ہاؤس سے کیا گیا ہے۔ بیرو ہاؤس کے پیکر پر کسی بکری کی جان اڑان سے پریمی بریجنگ میں بنایا ہے کہ صدر مون اور سابقین اہل لائیو کم پیجنگ ملک 10 اپریل سے امریکا کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ ان کی ٹیم میں اس دورے کی دعوت صدر ٹرمپ اور ان کی اہلیہ میلانیا ٹرمپ نے دی ہے۔ ملاقات کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات اور کورین جزائر کی صورت حال پر بات چیت کی جائے گی۔

روزنامہ ”کے ٹو“ گلگت بلتستان

[illegible]

K2 News, 31-03-19

چین امریکہ اعلیٰ سطح اقتصادی مذاکرات آئندہ ہفتے واشنگٹن میں ہونگے

چینی نائب وزیراعظم اپنے وفد کی قیادت کریں گے، مذاکرات میں دعوت ملی گئی

بجنگ (آئی این پی) واشنگٹن اور امریکہ کے کیڈٹ پارٹی مرکزی کمیٹی کے چابی دور کے رکن
دو مہینے اعلیٰ سطح اقتصادی اور تجارتی مذاکرات کا دوراں نائب وزیراعظم اور چین امریکہ جامع اقتصادی
دور آئندہ ہفتے واشنگٹن میں ہوگا سالانہ سطح میں چینی مذاکرات میں چینی وفد (ہائی سطح 8 رکنی وفد)

مد کے فریمور کاور ٹائملائن پر پور ٹمان گلی ہے۔ معابد و نان پر عملدر آ
 ارکان نے تحفظات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چار سال قبل وزیر منصوبہ بندی جو بیان دے رہے تھے آج بھی موجود ہوزیر سے اس قسم کے بیانات
 سہرے ہیں۔ ری فنگم یڈ بھ یڈ سلاڈ یڈر شوکے علاوہ کچھ نہیں ہے۔
 ڈس پی پی کے سڈ یڈ ٹڈ صوص صوص یڈ یڈ کا اجلا سجمعہ کوچ یڈر یڈر سڈش یڈر رحمان کے یڈ صدارت یڈ پارل یمن
 ہائوس مین ہوا۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے اعتراف کیا کہ سیپیک کے رُوب، ڈیر ہاسما علی خان سیکیشن کیلئے فنڈز دستیاب نہیں ہیں۔
 اس حوالے سے مشترکہ رکن گمٹی مین ہا تاجپتہور بیہے کہ ہاں سے سرمایہ کاری ہوگی، سینیٹر عثمان کاکڑ، سینیٹر
 میرک یڈر شادی، ژوبرو ٹکیلئے پیش رفتہور بیہے ایک ماہ مینمز یڈ پیش رفت سے آگاہ کر دیں گے۔ سینیٹر
 اورب لوچ سڈ تان سے تعلق رکھنے والے دی گرا رک ان نے مغرب یروڈ کے یڈ تعہ یرم یڈ تان یرک امعام لہاڈ ہا یا
 2002 میرک یڈر نے کہہ
 مینضلع یڈ ناظم کی یڈ یڈ تے مین نے یڈ لوچ سڈ تان مینا یڈ کم نصوص کے کالف تان کی یڈ ہا سے یڈ یاب
 سڈ یڈ یڈ کم یڈ ناظرک یاجار ہا ہے۔
 اڈ ہاچ کے مین نمعام لہ سڈ یڈ کے کھوالے سے یڈ لوچ سڈ تان مینا یڈ کروپ یڈ خرچ نہ یڈ نہوام تعددک مین یڈ یونم
 یں۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 17-03-19

مشد یروزی راعظم: چین کیساتھ آزادانہ تجارت تیر بات چیت جاری ہے

Mar 17, 2019

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت (و
 را سڈ سڈ لہم یڈ نس سرمایہ کاری یڈ عبدالرزاق دائود نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین آزادانہ تجارت کے معاملہ پر بات چیت جاری ہے او
 یڈ کرڈری تجارت جلد یڈ کادورہ کریڈنگے،
 انڈسٹری لائزی شڈن کی یروک تھام کیڈلئے کم یڈ یڈ بنادی گڈیہے،
 نڈی ٹریڈ ڈیال یڈ یڈر یڈ کام جاری ہے، جس کا اعلان جلد کیاجائے گا۔ انڈیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے ایڈ کس
 یڈ وسڈ ٹرم یڈ نوزارت تجارت اورڈریڈ ڈیو یڈ پمڈ تان ہارڈیڈ پاک سڈ تان کے یڈر راب تماماری کہ،
 موافقے کے موضوع پر منعقدہ سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کے یڈ یڈر ناواران ڈیو یڈ ش یام یڈ تجارت کے

Nawaiwaqt News, 17-03-19

صدر شیک یق یاد تہم یڈ مذہب یڈان تہا یڈ سندی سے نمٹا جائے یگا، چین

Mar 17, 2019

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کے آزاد اور خود مختار علاقے سنکیانگ کی علاقائی حکومت کے چئیرمین شہر تذاکر نے کہا ہے کہ مذہب یا انتہا
 یڈ سندی یڈ ک عالم یڈ سڈ لہ ہے،
 یڈ شہوارانہ تعلیم کے سڈن کی یڈان گم یڈن مراک زاسد پر قابو پانے مینا ہم کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں، مراک زمل کی
 زب ان پر مفاہکلا سڈن دے رہے ہیں، شرعی علوم،
 دی سیم تان ربا رادک یڈن سازی کی جارہی ہے، یڈ شہوارانہ ہمارتہ اوران تہا یڈ سن
 کچھ لوگ مذہب یڈان تہا یڈ سندی کو روغدی کرک رعوام یڈ جذب اتہ کو ابھارتے ہیں،
 چین یڈ صدر شیک یڈن گم یڈ مذہب یڈان تہا یڈ سندی پرک نڈرول کرنے کیڈلئے ووک یڈن لٹریڈنگان س

ٹیڈیوٹ کے مراکز قائم کئے ہیں،
شہر کی بقیہ یاد تازہ مہینوں سے معاملات سے نکلنے والے گاہکوں کو رتے ہوئے مزید دیکھا
یہ اندازہ کہ یہ مضبوطی سے پاکستان، افغانستان، قازقستان سمیت پڑوسیوں کے
بہمیدار سے تھک چکے ہیں۔
سڑکوں پر گاڑیوں کی صفوں میں کھڑی گاڑیوں کے مالکان نے ہلکا ہلکا احتجاج کیا ہے۔
نہایت ہی شدید صورتحال ہے۔ عوام کو اس سے بچنا پڑے گا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 17-03-19

ایڈیٹر کوئی ایجنسی کے ذریعہ نہیں دیا گیا ہے
Mar 17, 2019

بیجنگ (این این آئی) چین میں خطرناک اینڈسلائیڈنگ سے لوگوں میں خوف
ہراس پھیل گیا۔ اینڈسلائیڈنگ کے نتیجے میں خوش قسمتی سے کئی ایجنسیوں کے ذریعہ
مہینوں سے جاری ہو رہی ہے۔ قومی اور مقامی سطح پر کئی شہر گریوے میں پڑ چکے ہیں۔
ایندسلائیڈنگ کے باعث تھریڈ اور پورے تھریڈ کے ہلکے سے ہلکے سے ہلکے سے
کے خراب صورت حال اور اینڈسلائیڈنگ کے باعث امن کے امور کے لیے ہلکے سے ہلکے سے
یہ سب کچھ ایجنسیوں کے ذریعہ نہیں دیا گیا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 17-03-19

کراچی پسرک لری کے لیے منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے۔

Mar 17, 2019

کراچی (سال کمجیڈ)
کراچی پسرک لری کے لیے منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے۔
ہے اور اسے ایک عہد کے خلاف سے تھریڈ کے لیے۔
سرکاری ذرائع کے مطابق قجائی (ACIJ)
کے ایجنسیوں کے ذریعہ منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے۔
حکومت سندھ کے ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے لیے کراچی پسرک لری کے لیے
ورہانہ کے لیے ایجنسیوں کے ذریعہ منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے۔
بہت ہی تیز رفتاری سے۔
بہت ہی تیز رفتاری سے۔
بہت ہی تیز رفتاری سے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 19-03-1

یوں، وہ ساتھ کے چین کے پلانے امن میں خطے

قریبی شہی محمود شاہ ہے میں تعاقب اور چکا کر وار ایک دشمن رہے گی، جاری مشاورت

Mar 19, 2019

اسلام

آباد(سٹاف رپورٹر) وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی تین روزہ دورے پر چین پہنچ گئے۔ دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق جنگ، چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر مسعود خالد اور سفارتخانے کے اعلیٰ حکام نے بیجنگ ہوائی اڈے پر چینی سفیر یاؤ وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ دورہ چین کے دوران پاک چین وزرائے خارجہ اسٹریٹجک مذاکرات میں شرکت کریں گے جن میں پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری ورپرتبادلہ خیال کیا جائے گا۔ دونوں وزرائے خارجہ کے مابین خطے میں سمیت دوطرفہ اہم امن و امان کی صورت حال اور کثیرالجہتی امور میں دوطرفہ تعاون پر بھی گفتگو ہوگی۔ وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی چین کی اہم قیادت سے ملاقاتیں بھی کریں گے۔ موجودہ صورت حال جہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی کا دورہ چین انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ دریں اثناء شاہ محمود کے ت ناظر میں وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلے کے آغاز سے پاکستان سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے نئے میں دور میں داخل ہو گا۔ دفاتر خارجہ کے مطابق بیجنگ میں انٹرنیشنل سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک سستان اور چین مضبوط دوست ہیں اور ان کے تعلقات سٹریٹجک اشد تراز عمل پر مبنی ہیں۔ پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد بھارتی جارحیت کے جواب میں کھاکہ پاک سستان نے ہر ممکن صبر اور ضبط و تحمل کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ پاک سستان خطے میں امن ارت سمیت جنوبی ایشیاء کے تمام ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ اچھے تعلقات کا چاہتا ہے اور بھ خواہشمند ہے اور بھارت کے ساتھ تمام تصفیہ طلب امور کا مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل چاہتے ہیں۔ واضح رہے کہ شاہ محمود قریشی تین روزہ دورے پر چین میں ہیں، وہ چین پاک سستان اقتصادی کے اہم معاملات پر تبادلہ خیال کے پلانے پاک سستان چین راہداری سمیت باہمی دلچسپی تظویراتی مکالمے میں شرکت کریں گے۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی چائنائز سٹریٹجک یوٹ فار انٹرنیشنل سٹریٹجک اسٹڈیز کا دورہ کیا اور مہمانوں کی کتاب میں اپنے تائثرات اپلوامواقفہ کے قلم بند کئے۔ چینی اسکالرز سے خطاب میں شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہہ بعبھارتی جارحیت کے اجواب حوصلے، بردباری سے دیا، پاک سستان خطے میں قیام امن کا داعی ہے، جنوبی ایشیاء میں تمام ہمسایوں کے ساتھ پرامن تعلقات کے خواہاں ہیں۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے پلوامہ واقعے کے بعد بھارتی جارحیت کے جواب میں کھاکہ پاک سستان نے ہر ممکن صبر اور ضبط و تحمل کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک سستان خطے میں امن چاہتا ہے اور بھارت سمیت جنوبی ایشیاء کے تمام ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ اچھے تعلقات کا خواہشمند ہے۔ انہوں نے کھاکہ ہم بھارت کے ساتھ تمام تصفیہ طلب امور کا مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل چاہتے ہیں۔ بعد خارجہ نے ادارے کے مختلف شعبے دیے رکھے اور مہمانوں کی کتاب میں اپنے تائثرات میں وزیر قلم بند کئے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی تین روزہ دورے پر چین میں ہیں، وہ چین پاک سستان اقتصادی راہداری سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے اہم معاملات پر تبادلہ خیال کے پلانے پاک سستان چین عہوہ چین کے سینئر رہنماؤں اور چینی وزیر خارجہ سے بھی تظویراتی مکالمے میں شرکت کریں گے ملاقاتیں کریں گے، آج پہلے پاک چین وزراء خارجہ سٹریٹجک ڈائیلاگ ہوں گے ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ کے مطابق چینی وزیر خارجہ اپنے پاک سستانی ہم منصب کے ساتھ اجلاس کی صدارت کریں گے پاک دیئے کے خواہاں ہیں اجلاس میں پاک چین تعلقات، باہمی بھارت پر امن بات چیت کو فروغ دلچسپی کے امور، عالمی و علاقائی صورت حال پر بات چیت ہوگی، پاک بھارت حالیہ کشیدگی کو کم کرنے میں چین نے تعمیری کردار ادا کیا پاک سستان، بھارت پر زور دیتے رہیں گے، ثناء نجی چینل کو انٹرویو میں کہا شاہ محمود کے مسائل کا حل مذاکرات سے نکالیں۔ دریں ا محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ چین نے ہمیشہ مشکل وقت میں پاک سستان کا ساتھ دیا خطے میں امن و استحکام کے پلانے ہم نے ملکر چلنا ہے دشمن ایک وار کر چکا اب بھی تعاقب میں ہے شاہ

اڈب صدر اور چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقات محمود قریبی شی نے کہا کہ چین دو روزہ دورے پر آیا ہوں ہوگی چین کے ساتھ مشاورت کا عمل جاری رکھنا چاہتے ہیں اپریل میں وزیراعظم عمران خان بھی چین کا دورہ کریں گے شاہ محمود قریبی شی نے کہا کہ نیشنل ایگیشن پلان کے تحت ہم نے کیشن پلان پر تمام ایگیشن لائے اس پر قومی اتفاق رائے دسمبر میں ہو چکا تھا نیشنل ای لائٹروں کے دستخط ہیں۔ دریں اثنا کہینائی وزیر خارجہ نے ہم منصب شاہ محمود قریبی شی کو ٹیلی فون کر کے نیشنل پلانٹ میں پاکستانیوں کی شہادت پر اظہار آفسوس کیا جبکہ شاہ محمود قریبی شی نے کہینائی جانے والے مسافر طیارے حادثے پر تعزیت کرتے ہوئے طیارے قیمتی جانوں کے نقصان پر رگہ ہرے دکھ کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود حادثے میں قریبی شی نے گزشتہ دنوں ای تھوپ یا سے کہینائی جانے والے مسافر طیارے بوئنگ 737 کو پیش آنے والے حادثے پر اپنی کہینائی ہم منصب سے تعزیت کی اور اس حادثے کے نتیجے میں دکھ اور رنج کا اظہار کیا کہینائی وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ قیمتی جانوں کے نقصان پر رگہ ہرے نہیں دورہ کہینائی کی دعوت بھی دی محمود قریبی شی کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور

Nawaiwaqt News, 19-03-19

چین، دریامیں کشتی ڈوبنے کے باعث 6 افراد ہلاک

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آئی این پی/شہنوا)چین کے شمالی صوبے بیبی کے شہر چنگ ژو کے قریب ایک کشتی دریا شی جیا ژوانگ (میں ڈوبنے کے باعث 6 افراد ہلاک ہوگئے مقامی حکام کے مطابق ایک شخص موقع پر ہلاک اف رادنے بس پتال میں دم توڑ دیا ہوگا یا تھا جبکہ دیگر پانچ

Nawaiwaqt News, 19-03-19

کیلئے بہترین نتائج کا توازن ادا دیگیوں مقرر، امکان کا ڈالر ملنے ارب 3 مزید دکان واپس آگے
گی ہوا سے تعمال

Mar 19, 2019

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاکستان کو مزید 3 ارب ڈالر ڈی پازٹ ملنے کا امکان ہے، یہ رقم دیگی، معاہدہ رواں ماہ مالی سال ادا دیگیوں کا توازن بہترین نتائج کیلئے اس تعمال کی جا کے اختتام تک مکمل ہونے کا امکان ہے۔ نجی ٹی وی کے مطابق پاکستان کے چین اور انٹرنیشنل اسلامک ڈیڈ ایٹف نانس کارپوریشن کے ساتھ مذاکرات جاری ہیں، انٹرنیشنل اسلامک ڈیڈ ایٹف نانس کارپوریشن سے 1 ارب ڈالر ملے گئے، یہ رقم رواں مالی سال ارب ڈالر زرمبادلہ ذخائر کو بہتر بنانے 2 کاتوازن بہتر بنانے کیلئے استعمال کی جائیگی۔ چین سے مزید ادا دیگیوں کیلئے لئے جائیں گے، پاکستان کے چین سے مذاکرات آخری مراحل میں ہیں، معاہدہ رواں ماہ کے اختتام تک مکمل ہونے کا امکان ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 20-03-19

بہداری: پاک ستان بھارت میں ت کنڈیکی امور طے، چین کا ذخیر مقدمہ رتہ رتہ اور را

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لاہور (ایجنسیاں) ک رتہ رتہ اور راہداری پر پاک ستان اور بھارت کے ت کنڈیکی ماہرین کے درمیان مذاکرات میں ت کنڈیکی امور سمیت راہداری کے نقشے، سڑک میں اور دیہات کے امور پر بات چیت کا یہ کی امور طے پاگئے ہیں۔ میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق دونوں ممالک دور ختم ہوگیا جس میں ت کنڈیکی ماہرین کے درمیان زیرو پوائنٹ پر ہونے والی یہ ملاقات 3 گھنٹے تک جاری رہی، دونوں ملکوں کے ماہرین پر مشتمل وفد نے شرکت کی۔ ڈیہرہ بابا نازک کے اس مقام کو زیرو پوائنٹ قرار دیا گیا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے بھارت کی طرف سے ک رتہ رتہ اور راہداری کے لیے تھاکہ دونوں ممالک نے سڑک کی اونچائی سمیت دیہات کے ت کنڈیکی امور طے کر لیے، جس کے بعد پاک ستان اور بھارت کے درمیان ک رتہ رتہ اور راہداری پر مذاکرات کا اگلے دو دن 2 اپریل کو ہونے کا ک رتہ رتہ اور راہداری کے ہول نے واپس گئے ہیں۔ رجمن ڈاکٹر خارجہ نے فیصلہ کیا کہ ہا کاف فیصلہ جنوبی ایشیا کی تاریخ میں ایک سنگ میل ہے، امید ہے ک رتہ رتہ اور راہداری منصوبہ جلد مکمل ہو جائے گا۔ عالمی ثقافتی ورثہ میں پاک ستان کے 6 تاریخی مقامات شامل ہونگے ہیں۔ چین نے پاک ستان اور بھارت کے درمیان اجلاس کا ذخیر مقدمہ کیا ہے۔ بیج رین فنگ کے دوران چینی وزارت خارجہ کے رجمن گنگ شو انگ نے امید ظاہر کی کہ اس پر شرف سے بھارت اور پاک ستان کے درمیان کشیدگی مزید کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی اور رات کے ذریعے خطے کی صورت حال بہتر ہوگی۔ انہوں نے دونوں ممالک پر زور دیا کہ وہ مذاکرات ختم کریں۔ اختلافات

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چین، شن ڈانگ صوبے کے سابق نائب گورنر کی 41 سالہ قید کی سزا

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آئی این پی/شینہوا) چین کے مشرقی صوبے شن ڈانگ کے سابق نائب گورنر جی ژیانگ کی کو کرپشن کے (تائی یوآن الزام میں 41 سال کی قید کی سزا سنائی گئی ہے مجرم کے خلاف جن ژونگ کی انٹرمیڈیٹ اسے 41 سال قید کی پاپلز کورٹ میں مقدمہ چلایا گیا یا مقدمے کی کاروائی مکمل ہونے کے بعد گئی سزا سنائی

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وقت چین 中国

بلکہ طلبہ کی کارکردگی کو دیکھتے ہوئے آئندہ سٹوڈنٹ ایوارڈ شوگرائے کامند یہ بھی دیا۔ بینک میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں پہلی بار طلبہ کیلئے فورم کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ تقریب میں 400 طلبہ طالبات نے شرکت کی اور درپیش مسائل اور تجاویز پیش کیں۔ پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد نے سفارتخانے کے حکام کو طلبہ کی تجاویز کی روشنی میں آئیں قابل عمل بنانے کی ہدایت کی۔ اس موقع پر انکوشن اتاشی سلمان مسعود، کیونٹی ایگزیکٹو کے علی صابری، بی بی ٹی سیکرٹری فار چھجرا شیل طارق اور سائنس قونسلر ڈاکٹر عطا الرحمن نے طلبہ کو سفارتخانے کی جانب سے کئے گئے اقدامات اور ضروری معاملات سے متعلق بریفنگ دی۔

تقریب میں بریفنگ کے دوران بتایا گیا کہ اس وقت چین میں 25 ہزار سے زائد طلبہ زیر تعلیم ہیں جن میں 3600 ماسٹر، 11100 ٹیچر، اور 3000 شارٹ ٹرم اسٹینڈیج پروگرام کر رہے ہیں۔ جبکہ 7 ہزار میڈیکل، 6 ہزار انجینئرنگ، 1900 سائنس کی تعلیم اور 2200 چائینز لئنگویج کورسز میں تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ بریفنگ میں یہ بھی بتایا گیا کہ پاکستانی طلبہ کی چین میں تعلیمی کارکردگی بہت اچھی ہے۔ چینی اساتذہ کی جانب سے رپورٹ

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ہی بیک کے تحت جہاں ترقیاتی کاموں کا چال بچھایا جا رہا ہے وہاں ہی دیگر شعبوں میں اصلاحات بھی جاری ہیں۔ جس کے نتیجے میں پاکستان کے روشن مستقبل کی نوید سنائی دے رہی ہے۔ کسی بھی شعبہ میں ترقی کا بھانوی ذہنہ تعلیم ہے اور پاکستانی طلبہ کی اکثریت نے اسے اپنی منزل تک پہنچنے کا بڑا مقصد بنا لیا ہے۔ بینک میں



سے ملنے والی حالات میں بدترجی اور پائیدار بہتری آئے گی۔ مسعود خالد نے اس موقع پر پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان حالیہ دہائی میں جو سماجی و تعلیمی بریف کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ بھارت نے پلوامہ حملہ کی آڑ میں دراندازی کر کے پاکستان کی خود مختاری کو چیلنج کیا جو عالمی قوانین کی سنگین خلاف ورزی ہے جیسے ہی پاکستانی طلبہوں نے تعاقب کیا تو انہیں طلبہ سے بھاگ نکلے لیکن اگلے روز پاکستانی حدود کی دوبارہ خلاف ورزی پر پاکستانی فضائیہ نے بھرپور جواب دیا اور 22 بھارتی طیارے مار گرائے جبکہ ایک کے پائلٹ کو گرفتار کر لیا۔ بھارت نے یہ دراندازی ایسے واقعہ کی بنیاد پر کی جس کا پاکستان یا کسی پاکستانی شہری سے کوئی تعلق نہیں۔ جو واقعہ بھارتی سکیورٹی اور ایئر فورس کی مکمل ناکامی کی وجہ سے پیش آیا اس کا احترام سوچے سمجھے منصوبے کے تحت پاکستان پر لگایا گیا۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان کی جانب سے جذبہ خیر سگلی اور قیام امن کیلئے بھارتی پائلٹ کو چھوڑنے سمیت دیگر اقدامات کو دنیا بھر میں سراہا جا رہا ہے۔ عالمی میڈیا نے بھی اس اقدام پر پاکستان کی بھرپور تعریف کی ہے۔

خاور عباس مسعود

چین میں 6 ہزار پاکستانی پی ایچ ڈی میں مصروف

سفارتخانے میں سٹوڈنٹ فورم کی تقریب

پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد کا طلباء پر برادرانہ احترام و محنت پر زور



میں پاکستانی طلبہ کی خوب تعریف کی گئی ہے۔ جس کے نتیجے میں طلبہ کیلئے مزید سکا لرشپ حاصل کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین ہمارا سب سے بہترین دوست ملک

پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق اس وقت چین میں زیر تعلیم طلبہ کی تعداد 25 ہزار سے بڑھ گئی ہے، جو 2013 میں صرف 9630 تھی۔ قبل ازیں ان طلبہ میں 1069 طلبہ سکا لرشپ سے مستفید ہو رہے تھے جن کا تناسب 2018 میں 11 فیصد سے بڑھ کر 28 فیصد ہو چکا ہے۔

اس وقت چین میں 6 ہزار طلبہ پی ایچ ڈی کی تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ جبکہ سکا لرشپ حاصل کرنے والے طلبہ کی تعداد 7034 تک پہنچ گئی ہے۔ گزشتہ دو بینک میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے میں پاکستانی طلبہ فورم کے زیر اہتمام تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد نے پاکستانی طلبہ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ان کی کارکردگی کو نا صرف سراہا

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بصورت دیگر دونوں ملکوں کیلئے ایسی سہولتیں پیش کرنا ممکن ہوگی۔ پاکستان اور بھارت تباہی و فساد کے اندر علاقائی سلامتی کو یقینی بنانے، مشکل چیلنجوں سے مشترکہ طور پر نبرد آزما ہونے اور پائیدار سماجی اقتصادی ترقی کی غرض سے کام کیلئے تیار ہیں۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 22-03-19

پاکستان سے چینی کوگوشہ تائی کس پورٹ کرنے کا منصوبہ،
پوریوکریسٹین کوگوشہ تائی کس پورٹ کرنے لگی

Mar 22, 2019

لاہور (معین ناظر سے) پاکستان میں پوریوکریسٹین کوگوشہ تائی کس پورٹ کرنے کا منصوبہ، پوریوکریسٹین کوگوشہ تائی کس پورٹ کرنے لگی۔
ریسے فریقار دینا تھا۔ بیماری کے خاتمے کے جا رہی وگرا ماسحوالے سے ہاول پور اور چولہا تانہ کو منہ کھڑکے دیا
76 کروڑ روپے مانگے تھے لیکن سیکرٹری خزانہ نے اعتراضات لگادیے۔
98 کیلئے محکمہ لائیو سٹاک نے
2 انہوں نے کہا کہ پہلے سے جاری شدہ
کروڑ روپے جو ماضی کی حکومت میں جاری ہوئے تھے کاتھریٹ پارٹی ڈاکٹر وایا جائے اسکے بعد تمام اضلاع میں سرورے کیا جائے کہاسی بیمار
کے یوجہ سے سڈلہم پرنک یاٹ رات ہوئے ہیں۔ تاہم محمد کمہزرا نے تانہ ہاتھ ہاک ہا سوقہ ترحیمہ یارخان، ی
ہاول پور، ہاولنگر، چولہا تانہ، وہاڑی، ساہیوال اور شہ یخوپورہ ڈویژن میں 05
فیصدی کس پرنک چاکے ہیں جبکہ موجودہ سال کے دوران 1 ارب 58
کروڑ روپے کے فٹڈرمان گئے تھے لہذا پرنک بجٹ میں صرف 1 ارب 5 کروڑ ڈیے گئے تھے۔
یہ رقم جاری نہ کی گئی تھی تو جو منصوبہ شروع کیا گیا تھا وہ ضائع ہو جائے گا۔ افسر
تفصیلات کے مطابق قومی حکومت پرنک سے گوشہ تائی کس پورٹ کام عائد کرنے جارہے ہیں جس میں
ہاول پور اور چولہا تانہ سے گوشہ تائی کس پورٹ کالپماویہ سائڈ ہونے والا ہے جس کے تحت پرنک
کے ہاتھ ہاک ہانہ علاقہ کو منہ کھڑکے بیماری سے فوری قرار دیا جائے۔
76 برا 2 مینسرو ع کیا گیا تھا جس پر تقریباً 2015 میں پہلے بینجابسے ایکٹر امنصوبہ تاہم ساہی قنورد کو مت
کروڑ روپے اس پر خرچ کیے جائے ہیں۔
لائسٹسٹاک ڈی پارٹمنٹ کے مطابق قاسم بیماری کے لئے پوٹیاہی فسیہ ماویہ سائڈ نکیا گیا تھا۔
مدکمہ خزانہ کے ذرائع کے مطابق قسٹیکرٹری خزانہ نے رقم پر اعتراض نہ کیا ہے انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ
1 پہلے
اربروپیہ اسپروگرام کے لئے جاری کیا تھا جس پر اس وقت وزیراعلیٰ نے کہا تھا کہ جوویکسینیشن خرید جائے گی اس کاتھریٹ پارٹی ڈاکٹر وایا جائے
اس کے بعد وزیراعلیٰ نے شارٹ ٹرم، لانگ ٹرم پلان کی منظوری دی تھی جس پر ابھی تک 2 ارب 67
کروڑ روپے جاری کیے جائے ہیں۔

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Mar 23, 2019

بہجنگ (ن یوزڈ سک) چہنم ینطوف ان یہار شلورہواؤن کے باعث 2 اف رادہلاک ہوگئے۔
 مہڈی ارپ ورڈ سکے مطاب قچہ ین کے صوبے ان ہون یم ین ہار شکے ساتھ
 اوہ یک لومہ ٹرف یگھ نہ ٹھہک یرف نار سے چلنے والے یطوف ان یہواؤن نے جہان نظامزدگ یدرہم برہم کردی
 ڈری فکک یروان یہ یم تاڈ رہوئے یہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 23-03-19

د کمراندونک په پيښه کې ياد شوي څه کم ياد نه دي نه پوښه گي: پيروي زملي، خواجه، مهران، نذير

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[illegible]

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انڈر ڈسٹنل کے مطابق اپنی پے پیغام میں چینی صدر نے کہا کہ اس وقت پاکستان ملک میں بلندہ رنے کے لیے کوشاں اسد تحکام کے قیام، معیشت کی ترقی اور عوام کے معیار زندگی کو بے اور اس سلسلے میں شاندار کامیابیوں حاصل ہوئی ہیں جس پر ہمیں بے حد خوشی محسوس ہوتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان تعلقات خوشگوار ہیں۔ دی پلٹ اپ نڈ روڈ انڈیشیڈ ٹو کے تحت دونوں ممالک کے مابین ہمہ گیر تعاون جاری ہے۔ پاکستان اقتصادی سونے دونوں ممالک اور ان کے عوام کو بھرپور فوائد حاصل ہو رہے ہیں اور علاقائی امن و راہداری اسد تحکام کو بھتی ترقیت ملی ہے۔ چینی وزیر اعظم لی کی کی یادنگ نے کہا ہے کہ چینی حکومت ہمیشہ پاکستان کو اپنی خارجہ تعلقات میں ترجیح دیتی ہے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی داز میں آگے بڑھ رہی ہے۔ یوم پاکستان سونے کے موقع پر چینی وزیر اعظم نے تعمیر مسد تحکم ان وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے نام تہنیتی پی پیغام بھیجا جس میں چینی وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ گزشتہ برسوں میں دونوں ملکوں کی مشد ترکہ کوشدشوں کی بنا پر چار موسموں کے چین پاکستان اتائی بلندی تک پہنچ چکے ہیں۔ چین پاکستان اسڈریڈجک تعاون و شراکت داری کے تعلق اقتصادی راہداری کی تعمیر مسد تحکم انداز میں آگے بڑھ رہی ہے اور مخد تلف میدانوں میں دو بھرپور نتائج برآمد ہو رہے ہیں۔ طرفہ تعاون میں

Nawaiwaqt News, 24-03-19

چین کا تہیتی علاقہ تیزی سے ترقی خوشحالی کی جانب گامزن ہو گیا

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ختار علاقے سے منسلک ہے بیجنگ (خصوصی رپورٹ) چین کا جنوب مشرقی علاقہ جو تبت کے آزادانہ خودمختار علاقے سے منسلک ہے، چینی مرکزی حکومت انسداد غربت کے لئے تیزی سے ترقی اور ڈیولپمنٹ کی فیصد سے زائد 9 کی شرح میں GDP مجموعی جانب گامزن ہے، اس حوالے سے گزشتہ سال اس علاقے کے م کا اضافہ بھی ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے۔ علاقے کے حوالے سے گزشتہ سال جاری اعدادوشمار کے مطابق حکومتی پالیسیز اور وک وگول 1,81,000 انسداد غربت کے جاری عوامل کی وجہ سے گزشتہ ایک سال میں اس علاقے کے مجموعی کامیابی سے انکے معیار زندگی میں اضافہ یقینی بنایا گیا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ غربت کی سطح سے باہر نکال کر وکنا رک لاکن رہا ہے اس عطف کی تبرغی ہب وک زیٹنوی اک 25 ساتھ اس سرحدی آزادانہ علاقے میں ترقی و خوشحالی کی راہ پر اسد توار کیا جا چکا ہے۔ اس حوالے سے شمالی تبت کے نیگقوا ویں نیشنل پیپلز کانگریس کے لیے منتخب ڈپٹی تسیرنگ ٹیرون کا 13 بن کی شہر کی کاؤنڈیز بیرو سے چ بلندی پر واقع ہے اور قدرتی آفات کی وجہ سے گزشتہ کئی 4300 کہنا ہے کہ یہ سرحدی گائوں سطح سمندر سے سہولیات سے عشروں سے سخت حالات کا سامنا کرتا رہا ہے۔ آج گائوں پکی سڑک، واٹر لائن اور بجلی جیسی تمام جدید مزین و آراستہ ہے۔ اسی طرح سے گزشتہ سال اس گائوں میں موجود کسانوں کی فی کس آمدنی میں ماضی کے برعکس ے یئگ کی ڈراکی رلاڈ 1981 سی 2018 تیزی سے اضافہ ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے اور اس علاقے کی فی کس آمدنی د غربت کا عملی سطح پر خاتمہ یقینی بنایا جا جس سے اندازہ لگایا جا سکتا ہے کہ اس علاقے میں اند سدا زرعی 80 ماہر کاشتکاری بشمول ماہرین پولٹری، 200 میں اس تبتی خودمختار علاقے میں 2018 چکا ہے۔ گزشتہ سال انٹر پرائسز اور ایک ہزار کے قریب ہنر مند لوگ دیگر علاقوں سے اس گائوں میں آئے ہیں، اس ضمن میں تبت کی جانب سے ان مقامی تین ہزار کسانوں کو کاشتکاری اور دیگر فارمنگ کے عوامل سے روشناس گورنمنٹ کی کرانے میں ان لوگوں کو سہولیات فراہم کی گئیں اور تکنیکی رہنمائی فراہم کی گئی۔ اس طرح سے اس تبتی خودمختار مہکنہ اضافے کے حوالے سے علاقے میں مقامی سطح پر کسانوں کی آمدن میں فی کس آمدن میں تیرہ فیصد تک بھتی کوشدشیں کی جارہی ہیں۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 24-03-19

اٹلی: چین کی نئی شاہراہ ریل شہر میں شامل پہلا یورپی ملک، معاہدے پر دستخط

Mar 24, 2019

روم (صباح نیوز) اٹلی نے چین کے ساتھ اس کی نئی شاہراہ ریل شہر کا حصہ بننے کے لیے دیے ہیں۔ اٹلی جی 7 کا پہلا ملک ہے جو چین کے متنازعہ بیلٹ ایئر وڈ معاہدے پر دستخط کر سرمایہ کاری پر روگ رام کا حصہ بننا ہے۔ چین کے صدر جمہوریت کو اٹلی کے دارالحکومت روم پہنچے تھے اور امید ظاہر کی جارہی تھی کہ وہ اٹلی کے ساتھ ہموار صلاحات کے شعبے میں ایک نئے گے جسے اٹلی کے مغربی اتحادی شک کی نظر سے اسے تاریخی معاہدے پر دستخط کریں دیں۔ کھربوں کے لیے مل کر 8.2 ارب ڈالر کے 92 معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے گئے ہیں۔ صدر شی جنگ پنگ کا منصوبہ ایک نئی شاہراہ ریل شہر بنانے کا ہے جو چین کو یورپ سے جوڑ دے۔ اس دروازے کھل سکتے ہیں اور نئی تجارتی راہداری سے اٹلی کے لیے بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کے اسے نہ صرف چینی مارکیٹ تک رسائی حاصل ہو سکتی ہے بلکہ چین سے خام مال درآمد کرنے کے نئے مواقع بھی ہاتھ آ سکتے ہیں۔ چین کی اس نئی شاہراہ ریل کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو یا بی آر آئی بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت لائیاں انفراسٹرکچر کا ایک جال بن چکا ہے اور اس کے لیے تحت چین دنیا بھر میں مواصلاتی بھاری رقم فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ چین کے بقول اس سرمایہ کاری کا بڑا مقصد چینی مصنوعات کو دنیا بھر سے دور دراز کی منڈیوں تک پہنچانا ہے۔ تاہم، ناقدین کہتے ہیں کہ چین نے پناؤ و روسوخ لاوہ عالمی سیاست میں بھی اسمندری اور زمینی راستوں سے تجارت کے عرصے بڑھانا چاہتا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 25-03-19

سی پی پی کمپن کوئی بھی یا سکرتا ہے، بلوچستان کی تمام جماعتوں کے شرکاء: چین سے فیر

Mar 25, 2019

اسلام آباد (صباح نیوز) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر ایڈمز نے کہا ہے کہ سی پی پی کے معاشرتی و سماجی مسائل کو حل کرنے کے لیے ہمارے سی پی پی کے منصوبے پر رکھ کر چھ تہذیبیاتی رکھتا ہے، نہ ہی ہیشام کچھ روٹس کو متنازعہ کہتا ہے۔ انہوں نے گورنر بلوچستان کوامدادی چیک دیے مگر فوٹو کے ساتھ پرگ فوٹو کے ہاک ہجہ پیرٹک ریسنڈسوسائڈ ٹیک پٹرف سے بلوچستان حکومت کوڈولاک ہڈالرفراہم کئے، سی پی پی کے بلوچستان لوچسٹان نے خاصہ توجہ حاصل کی، بلوچستان کی تمام اینسٹپارٹیز نے بیجنگ کانفرنس میں شرکت کی، بلوچستان کی تمام جماعتوں کے شک گوادر انٹرنیشنل پورٹ کی گرانڈ پریکٹس گائیڈ لائنیں دی گئیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان خوشحالی اور امن کی جانب گامزن ہے، سی پی پی کے معاشرتی و سماجی مسائل کو حل کرنے کے لیے ہمارے سی پی پی کے منصوبے پر رکھ کر چھ تہذیبیاتی رکھتا ہے، سی پی پی کے کچھ روٹس کو متنازعہ کہتا ہے، سی پی پی کے کچھ روٹس کو متنازعہ کہتا ہے۔ چین سے فیر بلوچستان ہڈاوس پینچے جہانانہ ہڈاوس ہڈاوس سے متاثر ہڈاوس کے لیے گورنر بلوچستان کی جسٹس ٹیریٹوریل ڈیٹا مانڈا لہخاند کوامدادی چیک دیے۔ قے کافیم تاڈرہاسموقہ پرگورنر بلوچستان نے ہاکہ بلوچستان تانڈینحالہ ہڈاوس سے ہڈاوس کے ملے گی، وڈے ہیں، چین کی پناہ دہے اسامداد سے متاثر ریڈکوکافیم ہڈاوس کے شرکاء ہیں

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Nawaiwaqt News, 27-03-19

پرامن پاک سدان کے لئے پرعزم ہیں، جنرل باجوہ: برطانوی کمانڈر، چینی سفیر کی ملاقات

Mar 27, 2019

آباد(سٹاف رپورٹر) چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ یہ ملک ایک مستحکم پرامن اور اسلام نارمل پاکستان کی منزل کی حصول کیلئے پرعزم ہے۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے اس سے خطاب کے دوران ان خیالات کا اظہار کیا اور ملک کی اندرونی و بیرونی سلامتی کی صورتحال پر روشنی ڈالی۔ انہوں نے شرکاء کو خطے کی مجموعی صورتحال اور سکیورٹی چیلنجز سے آگاہ کیا اور خطے کی معاشی ترقی کے لیے سی پیک کے کردار پر بھی نرس کے شرکاء کو ملک اور خطے میں امن کیلئے اپنے ویژن سے آگاہ کیا۔ نیشنل روشنی ڈالی۔ آرمی چیف نے کانفر ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی میں آرمی چیف سے برطانوی فوج کے کمانڈر لیفٹیننٹ جنرل پیٹرک سینڈرز نے ملاقات بھی کی جس میں علاقائی سلامتی کی صورتحال اور باہمی دلچسپی کے پیشہ ورانہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے پاک سدان میں چینی کی سفیر نے بھی ملاقات کی جس میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر دوطرفہ تعلقات اور خطے کی صورتحال پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 27-03-19

بین جانیہ نگے وزیراعظم آج سی پیک فورم میں شرکت کیلئے چ

Mar 27, 2019

اسلام

نیچے نئی ایک تکرش می مروف کی پی سوک چرام 27آباد(مسعود ماجد سید) وزیراعظم عمران خان آج جائینگے دورہ میں ایم ایل ون کی اپ گریڈیشن کے معاہدہ طے پا گئے اس دوران دیگر اہم معاہدوں اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ کا اذتھاڑی اہم میں وزارت ریڈیوے کا ایم ایل ون منصوبہ پاک چین معاہدہ ہوگا جس کے تحت پشاور تا کراچی کی مین ریڈیوے لائن ون کو دورویہ کرنے کے لئے اس کی اپ گریڈیشن بھی کی جائے گی۔ ذرائع سے ملنے والی معلومات کے مطابق ”پاک سدان روڈ میپ“ کے پہلے مرحلے ریڈیوے کی موجودہ ایم ایل ون لائن کی مرحلہ وار اپ گریڈیشن کے ڈیزائن کا پی سی ون مارچ 8102 میں ایکنک میں پیش کیا گیا تھا اس وقت اس کی لاگت باسجی یوگیدی وروطنم کی نیازیڈین اشرفین اشرف ڈرہٹ کے سچ یوگیدی انتہا رلڈ برا 3.400 مراحل میں کھلی بولی میں کنٹریکٹربائریک یاجاڈیگا۔ چین اور پاک سدان نے ایم ایل ون کو دو آئندہ پانچ سال میں مکمل کرنے پر اتفاق کیا ہے لیکن اس کے پہلے مرحلے کیلئے جن سیکشن کو ترجیحی بنیاد پر مکمل رٹی مولک 160 سے 120 رپ نیالے ولیر لی وطرٹی مولک 118 کیا جائے گا اس میں راولپنڈی لالہ موسیٰ (شن پر 381 تا 0611 لومیٹری لائن کا حصہ)، کالوال پ نڈورہ 25 لومیٹری اور ذواب شاہ روپڑی سیک کی اپ گریڈیشن، انھیں دورویہ کرنا اور پشاور تا کراچی مین لائن کے دونوں اطراف باڈل گانے کا منصوبہ شامل ہے۔

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ہائوس میں ہوئی۔ چیئرمین واپڈا لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) مزمل حسین اور اعلیٰ حکام تقریب میں شریک ہوئے۔ تقریب کے شرکاء سے گفٹگو کرتے ہوئے چیئرمین واپڈا نے کہا کہ مہمند ڈیم پاکستان کی واٹر، فوڈ ادا کرے گا۔ واپڈا کی کوشش ہوگی کہ منصوبے کو جلد از اور اندرجی سکوریٹی میں اہم کردار جلد مکمل کیا جائے تاکہ ملک میں پانی اور بجلی کی تیزی سے بڑھتی ہوئی ضروریات کو پورا کیا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ مہمند ڈیم سے ہماری آقتصادی صورت حال مسدود نہ ہوگی۔ سال اور آٹھ ماہ میں مکمل ہوگا۔ جیکٹ پلانچ ہوگی، لوگوں کو روزگار کے مواقع ملیں گے پورا

Nawaiwaqt News, 27-03-19

چینی صدر شی جی مناکو کے شہزادہ البرٹ دوم سے ملاقات

Mar 27, 2019

مناکو (آئی این پی/شہنوا) چین کے صدر شی جن پھنگ نے مناکو کے پرنس البرٹ دوم کے ساتھ ملاقات کی جس میں قات کو مضبوط بنانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ صدر شی یورپ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کے دورے کے پہلے مرحلے میں شہزادہ البرٹ دوم اور دیگر رہنماؤں سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بیس سال قبل جب چین اور مناکو کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہونے کے دوسرے سال کے ساتھ رابرٹی، خلوص اور بعد ان میں مسلسل اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کی ساتھ کام کر رہے ہیں، دونوں ممالک نے دوسرے تبادلہ خیالات کی اچھی مثالیں پیش کی ہیں۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 27-03-19

چین، 815 ملین سال پرانی 02 ہزار سے زائد سمندری دیات کی دنوط شدہ باقیات دریافت

Mar 27, 2019

اقسام مختلف علاقے ساحلی کے ہوئے صوبے کے چین (پی این ڈی) بیجنگ کے دیات ہیں، سمندری پوئی دریافت باقیات شدہ دنوط زائد سے ہزار 20 کی دیات سمندری دیات سمندری ایسی کچھ بات خاص سے بس، ہیں شامل اعضا اندرونی اور آنکھیں جلد، جیسے اعضا تجربہ نہ یا بالکل کیلئے سائنس یہ ملتا، نہیں تذکرہ کہ ہیں قبل سے اس کا جن ہے مناکو ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 27-03-19

تبادلہ پر منصوبے پیلٹ اپ نڈروڈ، ملاقات کی دفاع وزیر چینی سے صدر مصری: قاہرہ خیال

Mar 27, 2019

قاہرہ (اے پی پی) چین کے وزیر دفاع واڈی فینگ ہی نے قاہرہ میں مصری صدر عبدالفتاح السیسی سے ملاقات کی، جس میں مصری صدر نے پیلٹ اپ نڈروڈ منصوبے میں معاونت کی یقین دہانی کی رائی ہے۔ العربیہ ٹی وی کے مطابق مصری ایوان صدر کے ترجمان بسمام راضی دفاع نے قاہرہ میں صدارتی محل میں صدر السیسی سے ملاقات کی۔ نے بتایا کہ چینی وزیر

ملقات میں دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تجارتی تعلقات کے فروغ سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے دیہ امور، خطے کی صورت حال اور اہم عالمی مسائل پر تفسیری بات چیت کی گئی۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 27-03-19

نوائے وقت



اٹلی نے چین کے ساتھ اس کی نئی شاہراہ ریشم کا حصہ بننے کے لیے معاہدے پر دستخط کر دیے ہیں۔ اٹلی کی 7 کا پیلا ملک ہے جو چین کے اس پلیٹ اینڈ روڈ سرمایہ کاری پروگرام کا حصہ بنا ہے۔ چین کے صدر بمبرات کو اٹلی کے دارالحکومت روم پہنچے تھے اور امید ظاہر کی جا رہی تھی کہ وہ اٹلی کے ساتھ مواصلات کے شعبے

نہایت پرکشش تھیں۔ اٹلی نے چین کی کمپنیوں کو دیے گئے جن کے لیے چینی کمپنیوں نے آسان شرائط پر قرض فراہم کیے۔ مغربی ملک کہتے ہیں کہ ان منصوبوں کی وجہ سے افریقہ اور جنوبی ایشیائی ممالک پر قرضوں کا بوجھ بہت بڑھ گیا ہے، لیکن اس سے انکا نہیں کیا جاسکتا کہ اگرچہ چین یہ سرمایہ

یورپ میں چینی کمپنیاں انجنیئر کے قریب ایک بندرگاہ کو چلانے والی تھی کے 51 فیصد حصہ خرید چکی ہیں۔ لیکن اٹلی امیر ترین ملکوں کے اتحاد جی سیون میں شامل وہ پیلا ملک ہوگا جو چین سے امداد لینے جا رہا ہے۔ اگرچہ اٹلی دنیا کی دس بڑی معیشتوں میں



معیشت کی اس بد حالی کا آغاز سنہ 2018 میں اس وقت ہوا تھا جب دیکھتے ہی دیکھتے اٹلی یورپی یونین کے سب سے زیادہ مفرور ممالک میں شامل ہو گیا۔ پھر جون 2018 میں ایک نئی حمایت پسند حکومت نے جب اقتدار سنبھالا تو وہ سرمایہ کاری کے بڑے بڑے منصوبے پھر آئی لیکن جلد ہی اسے یورپی یونین کے ساتھ اختلافات کی وجہ سے ان منصوبوں کو پس پشت ڈالنا پڑ گیا۔ تاہم دوسری جانب اٹالوی حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان جو معاہدے ہو رہے ہیں وہ کوئی ایسے بین الاقوامی معاہدے نہیں ہیں جن پر عمل درآمد ضروری ہے۔

اٹلی کے نائب وزیر برائے تجارت و سرمایہ کاری مسٹر گراسی کہتے ہیں کہ ہم خاص منصوبوں کی بات نہیں کر رہے ہیں، بلکہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان جو معاہدے ہو رہے ہیں وہ سرمایہ کاری کے لیے ایک ہم کی نظر رکھتے ہیں۔ تاہم وہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان کسی قسم کا تعاون ہو سکتا ہے۔ وزیر کے بقول دیگر یورپی ممالک پہلے ہی چینی سرمایہ کاری کو قبول کر چکے ہیں، مثلاً برطانیہ چین کے اسٹیشن انفراسٹرکچر انولسٹمنٹ بینک سے مالی مدد پر رضامند ہوئے، والا پیلا یورپی ملک تھا اس کے بعد فرانس، جرمنی اور اٹلی سمیت ہر ملک اسی راستے پر چل رہا ہے۔ میرا خیال ہے کہ اس مزید اٹلی اس معاملے میں دیگر یورپی ملکوں سے آگے ہے، شاید یہی وجہ ہے کہ سب کو حیرت ہو رہی ہے۔

(ملی نی ایرو)

صدر شی جن پنگ کے روم میں سرمایہ کاری کے 29 معاہدوں پر دستخط

چین اور اٹلی کے درمیان نئی شاہراہ ریشم کی بنیاد

جی سیون کے رکن ملک کیلئے تجارتی رسائی اور معیشت کی بحالی ممکن ہوگی



کاری نہ کرتا تو ان ممالک میں نہ ریل کے نئے راستے بنتے اور نہ ہی سڑکیں۔ یونیکوڈ میں بین الاقوامی ایئر پورٹ تک رسائی کے لیے چین نے 50 کلومیٹر طویل سڑک پر لاکھوں ڈالر خرچ کیے۔ سترائیں میں واقع ایک چھوٹا سا ساحلی شہر اب براعظم کی سب سے بڑی بندرگاہ میں تبدیل ہو سکتا ہے۔

میں ایک ایسے تاریخی معاہدے پر دستخط کریں گے جسے اٹلی کے مغربی اتحادی ملک کی نظر سے دیکھتے رہے ہیں۔ کل مل کر 2.8 ارب ڈالر کے 29 معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے گئے ہیں۔ صدر شی جن پنگ کا منصوبہ ایک نئی شاہراہ ریشم بنانے کا ہے جو چین کو یورپ سے جوڑ دے۔ اس کی تہائی راہداری سے اٹلی کے لیے ہر دو سرمایہ کاری کے دروازے کھل سکتے ہیں اور اسے نہ صرف چینی مارکیٹ تک رسائی حاصل ہو سکتی ہے بلکہ چین سے خام مال درآمد کرنے کے نئے مواقع بھی ہاتھ آ سکتے ہیں۔ لیکن چین کے اس بڑے ہوئے اثر و رسوخ سے امریکہ اور یورپی یونین میں شامل اٹلی کے دوسرے اتحادی ٹرمینڈ ہیں اور وہ چین کے منصوبوں پر بھی سوال اٹھا رہے ہیں۔

چین کی اس نئی شاہراہ ریشم کو پلیٹ اینڈ روڈ ایشیاء یا نی آ آئی بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت چین دنیا بھر میں مواصلات یا انفراسٹرکچر کا ایک جال بچھا رہا ہے اور اس کے لیے ہماری رقم فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ چین کے بقول اس سرمایہ کاری کا بڑا مقصد چینی مصنوعات کو نہایت تیزی سے دور دراز کی منزلوں تک پہنچانا ہے۔ تاہم، ناقدین کہتے ہیں کہ چین نے سمندری اور زمینی راستوں سے تجارت کے علاوہ عالمی سیاست میں بھی اپنا اثر و رسوخ بڑھانا چاہتا ہے۔ اب چین ملک ریل کی پٹریوں، سڑکوں اور بندرگاہوں پر ہماری رقم خرچ کر چکا ہے اور یہ

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بے شک اشاعت
79 سال
وقت
چین
中国

کرنے کے لیے ایک کھڑکی کی مانند ہے۔ اس کتاب میں چین اور دنیا کی ترقی کو درپیش چیلنجز کا صحیح معنوں میں ذکر کیا گیا ہے۔ زیادہ سے زیادہ ممالک اور عوام یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ چین ایک دوست ملک ہے۔ چین کی ترقی عالمی استحکام کی ضامن ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کی جانب سے پیش کردہ "نئی نوع انسان کے ہم نصیب معاشرے کے تصور" اور "دی ہیلت اینڈ روڈ" انیشیٹیو کو دنیا بھر میں بڑی پذیرائی حاصل ہوئی ہے۔

(چائینر ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل)

صدر شی جن پنگ کا طرز حکمرانی

چینی صدر کی کتاب کی دوسری جلد عالمی برادری کیلئے آگہی کا باعث

ہے جنہیں دیکھنے والے غیر ملکی ناظرین کی تعداد دس کروڑ سے زائد ہے۔ روم میں "شی جن پنگ کا طرز حکمرانی" کے قارئین کی ایک سرگرمی کے دوران اطلاعی قارئین کی اکثریت نے کہا کہ اس کتاب نے چین کی ترقی کو سمجھنے کے لیے عالمی برادری کے لیے ایک کھڑکی کھولی ہے۔ دنیا کے مختلف ممالک کے لیے چین ایک حلیف ہے یا حریف ہے؟ یہ سمجھنے کے لیے یہ کتاب پڑھنا ضروری ہے۔ اس حوالے سے ایک تبصرے میں سابق امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہینری کسٹنر نے کہا کہ یہ کتاب ایک صدر، ایک ملک اور ہزاروں سال پر محیط ثقافت کے حوالیے سے معلومات حاصل

صدر شی جن پنگ کے طرز حکمرانی کے حوالے سے تصنیف کی گئی کتاب "شی جن پنگ کا طرز حکمرانی" کی جلد اول اور جلد دوم میں چینی اور عالمی امور کے حوالے سے چینی صدر کے نئے نظریات اور نئے تصورات شامل کئے گئے ہیں۔ اس کتاب کا چوبیس زبانوں میں ترجمہ کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ کتاب دنیا کے ممالک یا علاقوں میں تیزی سے مقبول عام ہو رہی ہے۔ چین میں اصلاحات و کھلے پن پر عمل درآمد کے چالیس سالوں میں کسی بھی چینی رہنما کی جانب سے اس کتاب کو اب تک کی سب سے مقبول اور مؤثر کتاب سمجھا جا رہا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ چائنا میڈیا گروپ کی طرف سے تیار کی جانے والی "شی جن پنگ کی پسندیدہ کہانیاں اور محاورات" کے عنوان پر سلسلہ وار ویڈیوز کو بھی برطانوی، جاپانی، کوریائی، ہسپانوی اور اطلاعی زبانوں میں ترجمہ کیا گیا

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چین نے اروناچل پردیش کو بھارت کا حصہ دیکھانے والے 03 ہزار نقشے ضائع کر دیئے

Mar 28, 2019

بیجنگ (ای پی پی) چین نے ایسے 03 ہزار عالمی نقشوں کو ضائع کر دیا ہے جس میں اروناچل قدام اروناچل پردیش پر اس کے سخت پردیش کو بھارت کا حصہ دیکھا گیا تھا۔ چین کا یہ موقف کا واضح ثبوت ہے۔ چینی کے سٹمز حکام نے شانگ ڈونگ صوبے کے شہر کنگ ڈوم میں کارروائی کر کے ایک دفتر پر چھاپہ مار کر 8 سو سے زائد صندوقوں کو وقفہ بڑے میں لے لیا۔ بھارت کی ریاست دیکھا گیا تھا جن میں اروناچل پردیش کو

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زلزلہ کا شدت 5.4 میں جزیرے ساحلی کے چین

Mar 28, 2019

بیجنگ (ای این پی/شینہوا) ٹوکیو کے جنوب مشرقی ساحلی جزیرے کائی شو میں زلزلے کے جھٹکے محسوس کیے گئے، رپورٹس کیل پر زلزلے کی شدت 4.5 ریکارڈ کی گئی، جاپان کے زلزلہ پر ہمارے مرکز کے گہرائی 01 کلو میٹر بتائی گئی ہے۔ مشرق میں واقع تھا، اور مطابق زلزلے کا مرکز شمال

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چین اور اٹلی میں 2020ء وٹ قافلات اور سیاحت کا سال منانے کا معاہدہ

Mar 28, 2019

بیجنگ (ای این پی/شینہوا) اٹلی نے پچلے دنوں چین کے ساتھ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کی تعمیر میں مشترکہ طور پر پیشرفت کیلئے مفاہمت کی دستاویز (ایم او یو) پر دستخط کیے ہیں جس کے تحت دونوں ممالک 2020ء وٹ قافلات اور سیاحت کے سال کے طور پر منائیں گے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 28-03-19

ہے: سہولتوں کے خلاف ہمارے لئے نہ اسلحہ کو بھارت، ہو شامل میں ایک سیروس
مجموعہ ہمینہ

Mar 28, 2019

اسلام آباد (صباح نیوز) سپیکرٹری خارجہ ہمینہ مجموعہ نے کہا ہے کہ پاک روس

تعلقات میں بہتری آرہی ہے پاکستان بھارت کے شہیدگی کم کرنے میں روس نے اہم کردار ادا مضبوط کیے۔ یاد ابھی تہ جارت میں اضافہ اور عوام کے درمیان رابطے سے پاکستان روس تعلقات مزید ہونگے روسی سفیر الیگزے واڈی ویڈوف نے کہا کہ پاکستان روس کا اہم اتحادی ہے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان بینکنگ معاہدے کی وجہ سے تہ جارت میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ تاریخ میں پہلی بار پاکستان نے 32 مارچ پر روسی جنگی ہیلی کاپٹر پر ریڈم میں شامل کیے۔ مقررین نے کہا کہ تعلقات کی مضبوطی کے لیے ابھی تہ جارت بڑھنا انتہائی ضروری ہے۔ افغانستان امن پاکستان روس عمل میں روس کا کردار اہم ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کو ایک ایک دوسرے کے تہ جارت سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ دھک و سٹریٹجک ویژن ان سٹیٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام پاکستان روس دفاعی تعلقات انعقاد کیا گیا۔ انفرنس سے پاکستان کی سیکرٹری کے حوالے سے عالمی کانفرنس کا خارجہ تہمینہ جنوعہ، روسی سفیر الیگزے واڈی ویڈوف صدر ایس وی ڈاکٹر ظفر اقبال چیمہ و دیگر نے خطاب کیا۔ وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ تعلقات مضبوط ہوں گے۔ تہمینہ ہنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ دونوں ممالک جنوعہ نے کہا۔ دونوں ممالک میں تہ جارت بہت کم ہے اس کو بڑھانے کے درمیان فریڈ ریڈیو گریمنٹ کی ضرورت ہے۔ عوام کے درمیان رابطے کو بڑھایا جائے اور سکالر شپ دی جائے۔ دفاعی معاہدوں کے ساتھ بھارت کو مخصوص جنگی سامان نہ دیا جائے جو بیے اور شنگھائی کہ پاکستان کے خلاف اسد تعمال ہو سکتا ہے سی پی کے میں روس کو شامل ہونا چاہیے۔ کارپوریشن کے تحت رابطوں کو مزید موثر بنایا جائے انہوں نے کہا کہ روس کا افغانستان کے حوالے سے نمائندہ خصوصی جلد پاکستان آئیں گے۔ پاکستان روس سے ہیلی کاپٹر اور دیگر جنگی سامان خریدتا ہے پاکستان وسطی ایشیاء میں اپنی ابھی تہ جارت مزید بڑھانی ہوگی۔ روسی کے لیے گیت وے کا درجہ رکھتا ہے۔ ہمی سفیر الیگزے واڈی ویڈوف نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور روس اہم اتحادی ہیں۔ پاکستان بھارت ایران گیس پائپ لائن پر بھی کام ہو رہا ہے پاکستان کی جنگی ہیلی کاپٹر اور صوبہ ہنے کے کہا کہ روس اور پنجاب اور بلوچستان کو بھی ہیلی کاپٹر فروخت کیے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان بینکنگ کے حوالے سے سے معاہدہ 8102ء میں ہوا ہے جس سے دونوں ممالک کے بینکنگ کے ذریعے رقم منتقل کی جا سکتی ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 29-03-19

چین: کرئے خالی پہاڑیاں کی گولان اسرائیل تہ نقید، شدید پرامریہ کہ میں کونسل سلامتی

Mar 29, 2019

نیویارک (نیوز ایجنسیاں) گولان کی پہاڑیوں پر اسرائیلی قبضہ تسلیم کرنے پر سکریورٹی کونسل کے 41 ممالک نے امریکہ کو شدید تہ قصد کا نشانہ بنایا ہے، شام کی درخواست پر سکریورٹی کونسل کا بینکنگ اجلاس طلب کیا گیا تھا۔ سفیر جنوبی افریقہ نے اقدام سے مشرق وسطیٰ کے مسائل کا حل نہیں نکالا جاسکتا۔ روسی سفیر نے کہا گولان کی پہاڑیوں کو کہا یہ کطرفہ مقبوضہ علاقہ سمجھا جائے۔ فرانسیسی سفیر نے کہا عالمی قانون کی مخالفت میں اٹھایا گیا اقدام ناکام ہوتا ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ اقوام متحدہ کی قرارداد کے مطابق گولان کی پہاڑیاں مقبوضہ علاقہ ہے۔ ہر اقدام کی مخالفت کریں گے جو عالمی قانون کے برعکس ہوگا۔ گولان کی پہاڑیاں متنازعہ علاقہ جسے عالمی برادری تسلیم کرچکی، سلامتی کونسل نے اس بارے میں کوئی قراردادیں بھی منظور کی ہیں اس لیے اسرائیل کو یہ علاقہ فوری طور پر س پر اس نے 7691 کی جنگ میں قبضہ کیا تھا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار اقوام خالی کی ردیہ چاہیے جہ متحدہ میڈنائب نمائندے وو پیٹاؤ نے گولان پہاڑیوں کے بارے میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین غیر قانونی طریقے سے حقائق کو بدلنے کے خلاف ہے چین خطے میں شام اور اسرائیل کے درمیان جنگ بندی تھی جس کی اب شہیدگی میں مزید اضافہ نہیں چاہتا۔ خلاف ورزیاں جاری ہیں اس لیے فریقین کو سکریورٹی کونسل کی قراردادوں پر عمل کرنا چاہیے اور ایسے کسی بھی معاملے سے باز رہنا چاہیے جس سے شہیدگی میں اضافہ

ہ نے کہا ہے وادی ہولہ بناندی مزاحمتی تنظیم ”حزب اللہ“ کے سپیکر ڈری جرنر حسن ذ صر الل گ ولان پر صہ یونی ریاست کی حاکمیت تسلیم کرنے کا امریکہ کی اعلان عالمی اجماع اور بین الاقوامی قراردادوں کی کھلی توہین ہے مرکز اطلاعات فسطین کے مطابق ایک بیان میں حسن ذ صر اللہ نے کہا کہ عرب اسرائیل کے شمشک کی تاریخ میں شام کے وادی گ ولان پر اسرائیلی خود مختاری تسلیم کرنا غیر معمولی واقعہ ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ امریکہ نے مقبوضہ وادی گ ولان کو اسرائیل کا حصہ تسلیم کر کے بین الاقوامی فیصلوں اور قراردادوں کی کھلم کھلا توہین کی ہے حسن ذ صر اللہ نے فسطین کے علاقے غزہ کی پٹی پر اسرائیلی جارحیت اور کہا کہ غزہ پر حملے کی صہ یونی کے ارروائی کھلم کھلا دہشت گردی کی شدید مذمت کی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صہ یونی ریاست فسطینی قوم کے بنیادی حقوق کی سنگین پامالیوں کی مرتکب ہے۔ دوسری جانب امریکہ کا صرف صہ یونی حکومتوں کے مفادات کے لیے کام کرتا وادی قوانین کی کھلم عام پامالی جاری ہے اور صہ یونی ریاست کے مفادات کے لیے بین الاقوامی حسن ذ صر اللہ کا کہنا تھا کہ القدس اور وادی گ ولان کے حوالے سے امریکہ کی ناقص اقدامات وشی ناقابل قبول ہے۔ اور ان پر عالمی برادری کی خام

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امریکا اور چین کے مابین تجارتی مذاکرات کے نئے دور کا آغاز

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بیجنگ (نیوز ڈیسک) امریکی تجارتی مذاکرات کاروں پر مشتمل ایک وفد چین پہنچ گیا وفد کی قیادت امریکی تجارتی مندوب رابرٹ لائٹ ہائزر اور وزیر خزانہ مشترکہ طور پر کر رہے ہیں۔ وفد نے اپنے مذاکرات کا آغاز کر دیا، آج بھی اترت جارت کے ایک ترجمان کے مطابق فریقین کے مذاکراتی نشستیں ہوں گی۔ چینی وزارت باہر وقت ضائع کیے پیچیدہ معاملات کا حل تلاش کرنے کی کوشش میں ہیں۔ اس مذاکراتی سلسلے کے حوالے سے امریکہ کی صدر ٹوڈلڈ ٹرمپ نے گذشتہ ہفتے اطمینان ظاہر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سمجھوتے کے قریب پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ ہونے کے ہاتھ ہاکہ دونوں ملک ای

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پاک چین جوائنٹ چین برکے زیراب تمام سرمایہ کاری ترغیب بات کے موضوع پر سیمینار

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لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پیکش کاروباری مواقع اور بہتر نظام حکومت کی وجہ سے بیرونی سرمایہ مت کو چاہیے کہ اس صورتحال سے استفادہ کے لیے کارپوریشن کی طرف تیزی سے راغب ہو رہے ہیں اور حکومت کو کیلئے سرمایہ کاری کی پالیسیوں کو سازگار بنانے کیلئے ہنگامی اقدامات کرے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار پاک چین جوائنٹ چینمیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری (پی سی جے سی سی آئی) کے زیر اہتمام منعقدہ ایک سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے نے کیا۔ لینڈ لیز اور سرمایہ کاری ترغیبات کے موضوع پر منعقدہ ایک روزہ سیمینار سے پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے نائب صدر احمد حسنین اور چیئرمین فنانشل سروسز کمیٹی ڈاکٹر اقبال قریشی کے علاوہ کلیدی بر فیہ اللہ قریشی نے خطاب کیا۔ یامقرر کے طور پر رم تازمالا یاتی ما

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ایک کنک کا اجلاس، کچلاک سے ژوب تک سی پیک روٹ کے دورویہ کرنے کی منظوری

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خان کے شکرگزار ہیں کہ آج سی پی ایک کے مغربی روٹ پر حقیقی معنوں میں کام شروع ہوا۔ جام کمال نے مزید کہا کہ بلوچستان یقین ہے کہ سی پی ایک خطے میں گیم چینجر ثابت ہوگا۔ یہاں تک کہ مپلیکس کا افتتاح طبی مسائل کے حل کے لئے اہم ہے۔ وزیراعظم بلوچستان کی محرومیاں دور کرنے کے لئے اقدامات کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ماضی میں بلوچستان کے لئے صوبائی مسائل حل کرنے کے لئے بجائے ذاتی مفاد کو ترجیح دی گئی۔ بلوچستان کی حکومت سمت کا تعین کیا ہے وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ پرانا پاکستان ترقی کی راہ پر نہ چل سکتا تھا، فاسودہ نظام بدلے گا، حکومت اگر الیکشن جیتنے کے لئے فیٹے کاٹنے کی بجائے ملک کی ترقی کے لئے کام کر رہی ہے اس کا وہی منصوبہ شروع نہیں کر رہے جو لئے ہو۔ قبل ازیں کوئٹہ کی اینٹ پر ہنچنے پر آرمی چیف صرف الیکشن میں ووٹ لینے کے جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے وزیراعظم عمران خان کا اس تعہد کا اڈی ایس پی آر کے مطابق وزیراعظم نے پاک فوج اور بلوچستان حکومت کے جوائنٹ ویمنجر کے تحت میگا پروجیکٹ کا وٹروے منصوبوں میں شامل ہیں۔ سنگ بنیاد رکھا۔ کارڈیک سینٹر، کوئٹہ ژوب این 05 م کوئٹہ ژوب موٹروے سے سماجی اقتصادي سرگرمیوں کو فروغ ملے گا۔ کوئٹہ سے ڈی آئی خان کا سفر 21 گھنٹے سے کم ہو کر 4 گھنٹے ہو جائے گا۔ شاپراہ کی تعمیر سے مقامی تاجروں کو خرید و فروخت کی سہولت ہوگی۔ ای این 05 کی تعمیر سے خیبر پختونخوا اجناس جلدی کراچی پورٹ تک پہنچ سکیں گی۔ ای این 05 موٹروے مغربی سرحد کے متوازی علاقائی راہداری ہوگی۔ اس شاپراہ کے ذریعے افغانستان اور ایران کو پاکستان سے ملایا جائے گا۔ کارڈیک سینٹر کوئٹہ میں عوام کو جدید سہولیات میسر ہوں گی۔ خوشحال بلوچستان کوئٹہ میں یہاں تک کہ مپلیکس تعمیر کیا جائے گا۔ مزید دہرائی وزیراعظم نے پروگرام کے تحت نیوگ وادر اور انڈرڈیشنل اینڈرپورٹ کا سنگ بنیاد بھی رکھ دیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ وادری ترقی کے لئے خطے کو فائدہ ہوگا، گ وادر کو بجلی کی ڈیشنل گوں کو فائدہ دینے بغیر ترقی ممکن نہیں، گ وادر میں ڈی گریڈ سے جوڑا جائیگا، مقامی لو سہیلی ڈیشن پلانٹ لگانے کی تیاری کر رہے ہیں، پانی کی ریسائی کالنگ کے لئے بھی پلانٹ لگائے گئے، کراچی میں کچرا دی کھکرت کالیف ہوتی ہے، دنیامیں ریپوڈیز بڑھ رہی نالوجی میں بہتری کے لئے ہیں، ہمارے ملک میں بدقسمتی سے کم ہوئی ہیں، ریپوڈیز ایک چین سے بھرپور مدد لے رہے ہیں وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ ہمیں اپریل میں چین کا دورہ کرونگا، ریپوڈیز پلانٹ لگانے میں چین سے بھرپور مدد لے رہے ہیں، گ وادر سے کوئٹہ ریپوڈیز گئی۔ وزیراعظم ٹریک بنائے گئے۔ گ وادر اور کراچی کے درمیان فیری سروس بھی شروع کی جائے گی۔ کہا کہ مقامی لوگوں کو فائدہ دینے بغیر ترقی ممکن نہیں۔ گوادر سے کوئٹہ ٹرین سروس شروع کریں گے، وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید منصوبے کے لئے گوادر آئے ہیں گوادر کے لوگوں کو ہیلتھ کارڈ دیں گے، یہاں کے ماہی گیروں وزیراعظم کراچی پہنچ گئے جہاں گورنر کے لئے خصوصی گرانڈس رکھی گئی ہیں۔ بعد ازاں سندھ نے اینڈرپورٹ پر ان کا اس تعہد کا اڈی ایس پی آر کے وزیراعظم عمران خان سے کراچی میں ایم کیو ایم کے وفد اور گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل نے الگ الگ ملاقاتیں کیں۔ ایم کیو ایم کے وفد میں صوبائی وزیر اور وزیراعظم عمران اسماعیل نے گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل کی جانب سے وفد کے لئے رپورٹس کے مطابق ملاقات میں حکومت و اتحادیوں کے تعلقات کار، سندھ کے سیاسی حالات اور ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا ایم کیو ایم وفد نے وزیراعظم کو اپنے حل کرنے اور تحفظات سے آگاہ کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے کراچی کے مسائل ترجیحی بنیادوں پر وفاقی حکومت کی جانب سے فنڈز فراہم کرنے کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔ مزید دہرائی وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ ہمیں بہت مشکل معاشی حالات ورڈے میں ملی مگر اب حالات بہتری کی طرف جا رہے ہیں، حکومت وفاق کی طرف سے سندھ میں مختلف ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے لئے فراہم کر رہی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار وزیراعظم نے گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل کی جانب سے وفد سے تحریک انصاف کے سندھ سے قومی اور صوبائی اسمبلی کے اراکین کے اعزاز میں گورنر ہاس میں دیے گئے عشائے میں اراکین اسمبلی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مشکل حالات میں حکومت سنبھالی، چند ماہ میں کراچی وزیراعظم عمران خان نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے تبدیلی نظر آئے گی، مضبوط معیشت اور روزگار کی فراہمی ترجیح ہے، ملکی معیشت کا پیہ بھی چلے گا اور نوجوانوں کو روزگار بھی ملے گا، آئندہ چند ماہ میں واضح بہتری دیکھنے میں آئے گی۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان آج ایک روزہ

ورے پر لاہور پہنچیں گے۔ عمران خان گورنر ہائوس میں گورنر پنجاب سے ون ٹو ون ملاقات کریں گے جبکہ وزیر د اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے الگ ملاقات میں اپنی صوبائی کابینہ کے ارکان کی ی تبدیلی کے کارکردگی کی جائزہ رپورٹ پیش کریں گے اور بعض صوبائی وزراء کے حوالے سے وزیر اعظم سے منظوری حاصل کریں گے۔ سہ پہر 3 بجے وزیر اعظم لاہور ریوے سٹیشن پہنچیں گے جہاں عمران خان لاہور اور کراچی کے درمیان چلانے والی جناح ایکسپریس مسافر ٹرین کا افتتاح کریں گے۔ خزانہ کے مطابق پی ٹی آئی ارکان سے ملاقات میں کے کراچی ترقیاتی پیکج کو 201 ارب روپے کا فیصلہ کر لیا۔ ڈسٹرکٹ وزیر اعظم ون سٹ اور کورنگی میں یونیسکو ورلڈ بائیو سٹائی ب نائے کی تجویز وزیر اعظم نے مان لی۔ ملاقات میں رمضان گھانچی اپنا معاملہ بتاتے ہوئے روپڑے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ وہ معاملہ خود دیکھیں اور قومی اسمبلی اراکین فون اٹھانے کے پابند ہوں گے۔ وزیر اعظم نے ہدایت کی کہ صوبائی کے وزیر اعظم نے تمام اراکین کو گھوڑکی جلسہ میں شرکت کی ہدایت کی۔ کراچی ڈرائیو فارمیشن کمیٹی نے کراچی پیکج وزیر اعظم کو پیش کر دیا۔ گرین لائن بس راجی کامنصوبہ فعال کرنے کے لئے آٹھ ارب روپے جاری کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے کہ نہ یا ماسٹر پلان ب نائے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا یا ماسٹر پلان کو 7402 کا نام دیا گیا ہے کراچی کے ڈرائیو پورٹرز کے لئے نئی ڈرائیو پورٹ سکیم متعارف کروانے کا فیصلہ ہوا ہے سکیم کے تحت ڈرائیو پورٹرز بنک سے آسان قرضے حاصل کر سکیں گے 005 کے لئے قرضہ دیا جائیگا قرضے کی مدت 6 سال ڈرائیو پورٹرز کو 005 نئی ب سی خریدنے ہوگی قرض پر سود وفاق ادا کرے گا لیاری ایکسپریس وے کو بیوی ڈریفک کے لئے کا خصوصی کھولنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا۔ یا ڈریفک کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے دو ارب روپے کا فنڈ جاری کیا جائے گا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 30-03-19

سے گدھے پر آمد کرنے کی اجازت مانگ لی وزارت تجارت نے سینٹ کمیٹی

Mar 30, 2019

وزارت ہے۔ خواہشمند کہ اب نائے فارم میں پاکستان چین پی، پرائیکٹ کے مرشل گدھے (نیوز نیٹ) کراچی معاملہ کا پرآمد کی گدھوں کر دیا۔ مطالعہ کا کرنے پرآمد گدھے زندہ سے کمیٹی سینٹ نے تجارت کو چین کے کہ ہا ہونے دیے بریفنگ نے حکام کے تجارت زارتوگ۔ یا پھنچ میں کمیٹی قائمہ سینٹ فارم میں پاکستان نے چین ہوگ۔ یا نذر کی سرخاندے معاملہ کا کرنے پرآمد گدھے

Nawaiwaqt News, 31-03-19

مکمل سرنگ لائن پائپ گیس پر قدرتی روٹ مشرقی کے روس چین

Mar 31, 2019

مشرقی روٹ پر قدرتی گیس کی دو ٹنل پائپ لائنز مکمل ہو گئی ہیں۔ ان دو ٹرین (آئی این پی/شینہوا) چین اور روس کے سرنگوں کے ذریعے چین کے شمال مشرقی صوبے ہیلانگ جیانگ کے شہر ہائی بی اور روسی شہر بلاگووچ چنسک نے کو ملا دیا گیا ہے، زیر آب یہ سرنگ دریائے ہیلانگ جیانگ سے گزر کر چین روس سرحد تک پہنچتی ہے، کارکنوں اس سرنگ کی تعمیر کیلئے شدید سرد موسم اور کئی پیچیدگیوں کے باوجود اسے مکمل کیا ہے۔ زیر آب سرنگ آزمائش ننگ کے بعد قابل اسد عمل قرار دے دی گئی ہے جسے چائنہ پٹرولیم پائپ لائن انجینئر کمپنی لمیٹڈ نے تعمیر کیا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 31-03-19

ہوگا اڈا ہوائی دو سرا پڑا کا پاک ستان پورٹ انڈیر انڈر ٹرنڈیشنل گواڈر

Mar 31, 2019

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) گواڈر میں چین کی مالی معاونت سے تعمیر ہونے والا انٹرنیشنل انڈرپورٹ اٹھارہ مربع کلومیٹر پر تعمیر ہوگا۔ گواڈر انڈر ٹرنڈیشنل انڈیر پورٹ پاک ستان کا دوسرا پڑا انڈیر پورٹ ہوگا۔ چین ملین ڈالر کی رقم فراہم کرے گا۔ چینی اخبار پیپلز ڈیلی کی رپورٹ کے مطابق 230 ورٹ کی تعمیر کے لیے اس انڈیرپ 737 بوٹنگ، 747 بوٹنگ، 777 بوٹنگ، انڈیر بس 380 گواڈر انٹرنیشنل انڈیر پورٹ دنیا کا سب سے بڑا مسافر طیارہ اے ارے لینڈ اور ٹیک آف کرسکیں گے۔ یطےک مسق 72 اور اے ٹی آر

انے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ اگر کوشش کی جائے تو گدھوں کی اچھی قیمت مل سکتی بن ہے۔ نعمان وزیر سمیت حکام کا مزید کھانا تھا کہ پاک ستان میں زندہ جانوروں کی درآمد پر عائد پابندی ہٹانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

Pakistan's achievements under CPEC

SHAHID JAMEEL

THE World Bank has recently stated in a report that with the current pace, CPEC will create more than one million jobs in Pakistan by 2030. No doubt, this is an economic leap the country has not seen since its inception. CPEC project is providing skills to the local labors. CPEC is an attractive project for bringing foreign investor's interest to invest in Pakistan. Recently, Saudi Arabia signed an investment agreement of more than \$20 billion. With the second phase of CPEC about to proceed, the country will take a huge economic leap moving forward.

During its initial stages, there were much ambiguities regarding the practicality and feasibility of an economic enterprise worth 46 Billion US Dollars. But gradually, with the passage of time, the potential of CPEC and Pakistan has been exposed to the world and the investment quantum was rapidly

raised to 62 Billion US Dollars. Soon after, when the Chinese President, Xi Jinping made an official visit to Pakistan in April 2015, he wrote these 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." There is no doubt, Mr. Jinping proved that he meant every word he wrote. From onwards to his speech, Pakistan became a second home to Chinese counterparts. Even though, CPEC was initiated as an economic venture, in a whole

sum, it now encompasses social, cultural, technical and ethical ties between China and Pakistan. As of 2019, there are concrete milestones that have been achieved.

OBOR is a project and CPEC, in its regional context, is a part of that 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. Reportedly, with the 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 percentile. 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 industry 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 defense forces that first and foremost, CPEC can only be implemented through concrete security measures. After

"CPEC is an attractive project for bringing foreign investor's interest to invest in Pakistan."

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 made impressive progress in the ongoing operation; 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 infestation.



Pakistan Observer, 24-03-19Pakistan
OBSERVER**ECONOMY WATCH****Pakistan gets \$1b Chinese market access for rice, sugar, yarn****ISLAMABAD**

The Chinese government has finally offered Pakistan market access for three commodities — rice, sugar and yarn — worth \$1 billion for the current calendar year, an official in the Commerce Division confirmed.

The official said rice shipments to China have already begun as part of the deal which was agreed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's four-day visit to Beijing and Shanghai in the first week of November last year.

Under the agreement, exporters have been allowed to ship 200,000 tonnes of rice and 300,000 tonnes of sugar — total value of \$300 million — to China in the ongoing calendar year.

Moreover, the agreement also includes preferential market access for around \$700m worth of yarn but it seems highly unlikely that Pakistan will have adequate surplus quantity of yarn to export to China as cotton production remains

lacklustre.

The Chinese authorities were unwilling to increase the total quantity of these items despite multiple requests, the official added.

Another Commerce Division official said exporters will only have nine months to avail the facility as it will expire by Dec 31, adding that the government is working to get access for wheat and other agriculture commodities as well.

Moreover, this agreement will also be extended to calendar 2020. Pakistan's exports to China are expected to reach \$2.2bn in the ongoing calendar year and \$3.2bn in the next.

The official also said that a major breakthrough is expected in the stalled negotiations between Beijing and Islamabad on the second phase of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (PCFTA) and the outcome will be announced on April 2. He said a delegation led by the secretary commerce will leave for

China later this month.

Sharing the progress made in PCFTA negotiations, he informed that Islamabad will get market access for 301 tariff lines, which will cover most of its exports and allow export of commodities which are currently negligible.

The PCFTA covers nearly 7,000 tariff lines at the eight-digit level of the HS code. Both sides reduced tariffs on almost 36 per cent of the tariff lines to zero during first three years of PCFTA's Phase-1.

Moreover, second phase was supposed to commence from the sixth year of the agreement ie 2013, but was delayed as officials from both countries failed to reach an agreement despite meeting for more than 11 times.

As per the initial agreement, at the end of PCFTA's second phase, both sides were to reduce tariffs on 90pc of the tariff lines to zero.

The negotiations on the Phase-II of PCFTA began in 2011.

Pakistan Observer, 26-03-19

China supports Pak economic revival thru projects like CPEC: Envoy

Pakistan provides ideal investment opportunities to Chinese businessmen, companies

ZUBAIR QURESHI

ISLAMABAD

Ambassador of China Yao Jing on Monday reiterated China's commitment in Pakistan's bright future saying Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of 'Naya Pakistan' aims at making the country a stronger economy in future and China supports Pakistan in its economic revival through projects like China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said this while addressing the Pakistan-China Trade & Investment Forum here on Monday.

Chairman of Council for Promotion South-South Cooperation (CPSSC) of China Lv Xinhua who is leading a delegation representing 28 Chinese business enterprises and a total of 40 entities was the chief guest on the occasion. He is in Pakistan to assess and interact with the local business companies, officials of the BoI and Ministry of commerce & trade etc.

Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Haroon Sharif presided over the forum. In his welcome address FPCCI senior vice president said FPCCI is the apex body of entire trade and industry of Pakistan and is actively



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation of China, Lv Xinhua, Chairman BOI Haroon Sharif, Ambassador of China Yao Jing attending Pakistan-China Investment & Trade Forum here on Monday.

pursuing CPEC Development Agenda. The forum was participated by a large number of Chinese business companies and entities working in China as well as Pakistan.

Chairman BOI Haroon Sharif while welcoming the Chinese business and trade delegation said Pakistan a young market of 200 million offered much promise to the Chinese companies. Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said, himself is taking feedback on CPEC and its various stages. BOI has set up a dedicated unit only to look after the Chinese

friends, traders and businessmen, he announced. Admitting there are some difficulties in starting business but he assured very soon they (Chinese companies) would see a marked difference.

He said Pakistan offers huge trade, business and investment opportunities to Chinese business companies and enterprises and its special economic zones (SEZs) are open to foreign companies and entrepreneurs who can safely invest there with tax exemptions and other concessions by the government of Pakistan.

He said there were im-

mense opportunities and countless incentives under CPEC that include one-time exemption from duty and taxes on import of plant and machinery for developers and enterprises. It also includes five-year tax holiday on income accruable in relation to the development and operation of the SEZ for the developer. The tax exemption also includes ten-year tax holiday for enterprises on income accruable in relation to the production and operations started by June 30, 2020 and thereafter tax holiday for enterprises would be admissible.

Pakistan Observer, 26-03-19

Chinese business companies seek better investment environment

CPEC to help both countries discover new avenues of bilateral cooperation, says Chairman CPSSC Lv Xinhua

ZUBAIR QURESHI

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers immense trade and business opportunities to the enterprises and business entities of both countries and through this mega project more incentives and initiatives will keep flowing for the good of the entire region.

This was said by Chairman of Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation (CPSSC), a non-government organization (NGO) of China entrusted to promote overseas trade and investment opportunities Mr Lv Xinhua during an interview with media persons here Monday.

Mr Xinhua who is currently visiting Pakistan leading a delegation of 28 business enterprises and a total of 40 entities briefed the me-

dia persons at his hotel room about the purpose of his two-and-a-half day stay in Pakistan saying it is to better investment environment between the two countries and hold meetings with officials and businesses for the ease of doing business for Chinese companies.

During this period, Chinese business companies will have close interaction with their Pakistani counterparts to learn from each other's experience and strike a common cord of interest.

"I am in Pakistan to meet the officials as well as local companies' representatives, trade and investment regulatory bodies so that business between the two countries could flourish in a hassle-free environment," he said. To a question about CPSSC, he said all progress in trade and investment between China and Pakistan

can be defined as South-South Cooperation and it covers all the energy and electricity projects, roads



and infrastructure, port and industry etc. Belt & Road cooperation has strengthened Pak-China cooperation and Chinese business companies are looking towards this market for investment and trade purposes.

Mr Xinhua made it clear

that he was not in Pakistan to sign a deal or an MoU, however he said there was some possibility of the same in future. Chinese investors are keen to invest in energy, electricity, environment protection, textile and chemical sectors, he said. Since Chinese investors are interested in making investment in Pakistan I am here to create good business environment for them, said Mr Xinhua.

To a question, he said Pakistan has recently announced a number of incentives for foreign investors and I hope the government takes care of the needs of the Chinese investors. To a question, Mr Xinhua said he saw Pakistan on the same path that China has treaded during last 40 years of opening up and reform.

About South-South Cooperation and its role in boosting bilateral trade, he said the CPSSC works under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and around 120 enterprises are its members while more than 100 senior retired Chinese diplomats are serving to make the council watch interests of the Chinese business companies overseas and generate smooth trade and investment environment.

About doing business in Pakistan, he said when we mention Pakistan in China people think of a country that is friendly and close to their hearts. About business problems for Chinese companies, he said there is no country where you don't face problems but with discussion and consultation you come over them.

China deposits \$2.2 billion in State Bank account

Inflow will help Pakistan make international payments, ease pressure on reserves

OUR CORRESPONDENT
KARACHI

China, the all-weather friend of Pakistan, deposited \$2.2 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) foreign currency reserves on Monday to help Islamabad make international payments mainly related to imports and debt servicing.

With this, Pakistan has so far received a total of \$9.2 billion from friendly countries in the current fiscal year, including \$4.2 billion from China, \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia and \$2 billion from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The central bank tweeted, "the State Bank of Pakistan has received RMB 15 billion equivalent to \$2.2 billion as proceeds of the loan obtained by the government of Pakistan from China."

The SBP reserves stood at \$8.84 billion as on March 15, 2019, according to the central bank's weekly report. Following the fresh deposit, the foreign exchange reserves held by the SBP went into double digits at \$10.67 billion, finance ministry spokesman Khaqan Najeem tweeted. The reserves have gone into double digits after a gap of almost one



ASSISTANCE: Riyadh has promised \$3 billion worth of petroleum oil supply on deferred payment to Pakistan. PHOTO: FILE

year. "Net foreign exchange reserves held by commercial banks stand at \$6.91 billion. Implementation of a successful strategy has ensured total foreign exchange reserves of the country rise to a comfortable level of \$17.58 billion," the spokesperson added.

Sharply higher imports compared to exports and debt obligations did not allow the SBP reserves to stay stable as the government partially financed such international payments through the reserves. This came despite notably higher remittances sent home by overseas Pakistani workers in first eight months (Jul-Feb) of the current fiscal year.

Apart from this, Riyadh has also promised \$3 billion worth of petroleum oil supply on deferred payment to Pakistan.

Finance Minister Asad Umar

had estimated a financing gap of around \$12 billion for the ongoing fiscal year 2019 and another \$7-8 billion for FY20.

Friendly countries have deposited the money in the SBP reserves at an interest rate ranging from 2.5% to 5% in order to shore up the foreign currency reserves and help stave off default on external payments.

Earlier, the UAE had announced a \$6-billion package for Pakistan in December 2018 including \$3 billion in cash deposit and a credit line of another \$3 billion for petroleum oil supply on deferred payment. However, Pakistan has not been able to secure oil supply on credit.

Earlier, Finance Minister Asad Umar confirmed to *The Express Tribune* "most probably, the UAE oil facility will not

materialise." The UAE has provided the soft loan at an interest rate of 3%, he disclosed. Abu Dhabi released the first tranche of \$1 billion in January and the second tranche of another \$1 billion in March.

"We will let you know as and when the third and last tranche arrives," said the SBP spokesman.

"Deposits are coming at a very critical time as Islamabad is set to make a large external debt payment next month - April, while its reserves remain under pressure," Arif Habib Limited Head of Research Samiullah Tariq said recently.

"Pakistan is scheduled to pay off \$1 billion for a maturing Eurobond in April...this will be in addition to other external debt payments during the month," he said.

The increased international payment pressure led to the depletion of Pakistan's foreign currency reserves to almost five-year low at \$6.63 billion as on January 18, 2019.

In December 2018, the UAE offered exactly the same bailout package as that announced by Saudi Arabia in October 2018 to shore up Islamabad's foreign currency reserves. Riyadh has already deposited \$3 billion in cash in three equal monthly tranches by January 2019. Besides, the two countries have also decided on the modalities for oil supply on deferred payments from March 2019.

Pakistan Observer, 27-03-19**Latest News****China
opposes
Trump's
Golan move****OUR CORRESPONDENT****BEIJING**

A Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson on Tuesday said the Chinese side opposed US



President Donald Trump's move of formally recognizing Golan Heights as Israeli territory and opposed the change of facts through unilateral acts.

"The international community recognizes that the Golan Heights is an occupied territory," Geng Shuang said during his routine briefing.

The spokesperson said the UN Security Council had repeatedly passed resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

"China opposes the change of facts through unilateral acts and does not want to see further escalation of tensions in the regional situation," he added.

Pakistan Observer, 27-03-19

Chinese govt stresses on more economic, commercial ties with Pakistan

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI

Chinese government stressed on more economic and commercial ties with Pakistan. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now been translated into a physical form. The more cooperation between private sectors of the two countries will lower the manufacturing cost. This was stated by Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing while addressing Pak China business opportunity conference being organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Tuesday.

The ambassador said that the time has come for joint ventures and cooperation between the private sectors of the countries. Both countries are enjoying great friendly relationships and we need to explore more opportunities. Chinese government is encouraging its private sector for more collaboration with Pakistanis companies. He appreciated RCCI efforts for promoting trade and business activities in the region. He expressed hope for more business to business meetings in near future.

Ly Xinhua, Chairman of the Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation (CPSSC) and Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China also addressed the conference. Chinese investors are keen to invest in energy, Cement, electricity, environment protection, textile and

chemical sectors, he said.

CPEC offers immense trade and business opportunities to the enterprises and business entities of both countries

and Pakistani companies will increase the ownership of the key stakeholders, he added. The more we have local ownership in the projects the more it will be



and through this mega project more incentives and initiatives will keep flowing for the good of the entire region, he added.

Earlier, President RCCI Malik Shahid Saleem in his address said that we recognize CPEC as a game changer and we strongly believed that joint ventures with Chinese Companies will usher new avenues of cooperation and improve our trade ties.

The joint ventures between Chinese

successful. He said Pakistan's economy offered great potential to Chinese investors for joint ventures and investments. He said CPEC would be mutually beneficial for Pakistan and China and would ensure level playing field for the businessmen and investors of both countries.

B2B meetings were also organized on the occasion where business representatives from the private sectors got a chance to meet their counterparts in respective fields.

Pakistan Observer, 27-03-19

First Pak-China Investment Summit to be held in Dalian

ISLAMABAD

A day-long first IEC Pakistan-China investment summit to update the Chinese entrepreneurs about the investment-friendly climate in Pakistan will be held on Sunday in Dalian, China.

"Over 150 potential Chinese companies and investors, as well as 20 Pakistani companies, government, and media personnel, will attend the event," Felpa Global Consultants (FGC) Chief Adnan Hafeez told APP here on Tuesday.

During the first half of the summit, Pakistani and local government officials will deliver key speeches about investment opportunities, policies, and incentive offered by the present government in Pakistan. In the second half, there will be a forum for mutual discussion followed by company to company or investors to government meeting sessions enabling the interested parties to work on some real projects.

The organizers will arrange a visit of potential companies and investors to Pakistan in the coming month to view the investment opportunities there.

"The summit will provide a platform to the potential investors for the exchange of ideas and discussion about the policies of Pakistan as well as the promotion of investment opportunities offered in recent

years in Pakistan," he said.

About the launch of "International Entrepreneurs Corridor (IEC)" which is named after CPEC, he informed that it is providing an opportunity to the young graduates from all over the world to start their entrepreneurship with one window services by acting as a bridge, connecting them with the government and investors. The project has been approved by the municipal government of Dalian. Human Resource and Social Security Bureau of Dalian and other relevant departments.

Since its launching, IEC has successfully incubated more than 10 entrepreneur projects from all over the world including Pakistan, US, France and Canada, he added.

Adnan Hafeez claimed that FGC has brought Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of over US\$ 50 million to Pakistan in the past three years.

Dalian Municipal Government, Pakistan Chamber of Commerce in China Initiating Committee, Peking University, Pakistan China Research Institute, Liaoning Federation of Chambers of Commerce, China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Returned Overseas Chinese Federation, Dalian Bureau of Investment and over 20 local chambers and associations will support the event, he added.—APP

Pakistan Observer, 29-03-19

ECNEC approves project for CPEC's western route



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister chairing ECNEC meeting.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Thursday approved different projects for power and communication sectors. The meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Asad Umar, also approved construction of 305-kilometer Kuchlak-Zhob section of the Western route.

The ECNEC said the route completion would help Zhob, Kuchlak, Muslim Bagh, Pashin and the entire Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa.

The funds for western route will be acquired through allocations for the development programme.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) had last week approved the Kuchlak-Zhob Section of the route, worth Rs 11.3 billion. The route plan was then forwarded for approval to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council.

The Committee meeting was chaired by the Minister of Planning, Development and Reform, Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar.

The minister said that the 305 km long project upon completion will facilitate streamlined flow of traffic and logistics. Bakhtiar said that completion of project would contribute to smooth and efficient movement of goods and traffic in relatively shorter time.

Overall CDWP accorded approval of two projects worth Rs 913 million and recommended three projects costing Rs 96 billion to ECNEC. However, concept clearance was also granted for two environment related projects for negotiations with the donors.

Pakistan Observer, 29-03-19**Chinese private textile
company intends to expand
investment in Pakistan: Yao Jing**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing called on Advisor to the PM on Commerce, Textile, Industry, Production Investments, Abdul Razak Dawood.

STAFF REPORTER**ISLAMABAD**

"Ease of Doing Business, pro-investment initiatives and restructuring of taxation system will greatly help promote investment and exports of Pakistan" said Advisor to the PM on Commerce, Textile, Industries & Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador

to Pakistan Yao Jing.

Advisor said that current government is focusing on boosting exports and investment in the country. He said that through various reforms government is facilitating investors and in response various multinational companies have started coming to Pakistan in different sectors of the economy.

Yao Jing said that China will continue to be a strong partner for Pakistan's develop-

Pakistan Observer, 31-03-19

Festival of Australia to be held in Chinese cities

ADELAIDE

A Festival of Australia is to be held in 10 Chinese cities between May and June, announced Simon Birmingham, the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, on Saturday.

The festival, which runs between May 20 and June 2, will showcase Australia's food, aged care, innovation, education, investment, culture, tourism and sport. It spans 10 cities from Tianjin to Shenzhen with

the last leg in Shanghai where Port Adelaide will play St Kilda at the premiership match at the Jiangwan Stadium.

Other highlights include a Tmall Global online promotion, the annual Australia-China Business Awards Dinner, consumer and alumni competitions, business delegations promoting sports technology, asset management and aged care, and Australian photography exhibitions, Indigenous music performances and film screenings.

"China and Australia have deep commercial and cultural ties, built over many years, but there is (still) an significant opportunity to grow exports of quality Australian products and services to the world's biggest consumer market," said Birmingham. "As well as promoting premium Australian food and beverages, the Festival will highlight Australia's capability in healthcare, culture, tourism, sports, education, financial services, business and innovation spheres,"

he said. "We are committing up to 250,000 (Australian) dollars (about 177,355 U.S. dollars) of annual government support towards this initiative, in addition to 400,000 (Australian) dollars recently announced for Tourism Australia to be the official tourism sponsor of the 2019 Toyota AFL (Australian Football League) premiership game," said Birmingham. Port Adelaide Chairman David Koch said the announcement is "an incredible vote of confidence for what Port

The Express Tribune, 16-03-19

FDI drops 23% after completion of many CPEC projects

Amounts to just \$1.62b in Jul-Feb of current fiscal year

SALMAN SIDDIQUI
KARACHI

Foreign investment in different sectors of Pakistan's economy slowed down by 23% to \$1.62 billion in first eight months (Jul-Feb) of the current fiscal year 2018-19 following completion of several early harvest projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"A shift in government's policy towards attracting new foreign investment in export and import substitution sectors rather than continuing to welcome capital injection into import-dependent sectors caused the slowdown in foreign investment in the country," an analyst commented while talking to *The Express Tribune*.

According to him, the economic slowdown and lack of clarity whether Pakistan will agree on a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also contributed to the decline in foreign investment.

Despite a notable drop in cumulative investment from China, the all-season friend still remained the largest foreign investor in Pakistan in Jul-Feb FY19. On the other hand, construction and power sectors emerged as the

top two sectors in terms of drawing foreign investment.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) stood at \$2.09 billion in the corresponding eight months of the previous fiscal year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Friday.

"China has completed several early harvest projects in areas of infrastructure and electricity production in Pakistan under CPEC, which has caused a slowdown in foreign investment inflows," Arif Habib Limited Head of Research Samiullah Tariq said. "Pakistan is expected to utilise most of the local resources for hydroelectric power projects in the second phase of CPEC."

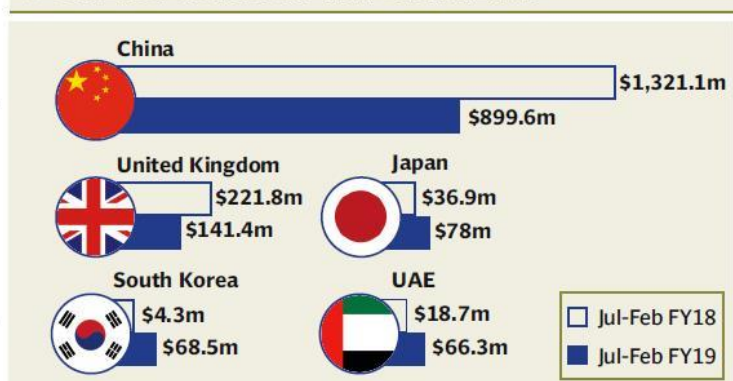
Additional causes which forced foreign investors to keep new projects on hold in Pakistan were prolonged political uncertainty, economic slowdown in the country and around the world and delay in finalising an IMF bailout programme, Tariq said.

He also pointed out that a sharp shift in government's policy towards attracting new foreign investment mostly in export and import substitution sectors also squeezed the flow of foreign investment.

Sector-wise investment

The construction sector (mostly buildings and apartments) attracted the largest investment of \$348 million

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT



in Jul-Feb FY19, but it was 26% lower than \$472.4 million in the same period of previous year.

The power sector got the second largest inflow of \$236.8 million, which was 67% lower than \$714.9 million in the same period of last year.

In the last fiscal year, the power sector had attracted the largest foreign investment, followed by the construction sector. The drop this year could be attributed to completion of several power projects under CPEC.

The financial sector received \$234.6 million in foreign investment in Jul-Feb FY19 compared to \$329.1 million in the corresponding period of last year.

The communications industry saw divestment of \$136.5 million compared to divestment of \$15.5 million last year.

Country-wise investment

China invested a net \$899.6 million in Jul-Feb FY19, which constituted over 55% of the total FDI during the period. It was, however, 32% lower than the investment of \$1.32 billion by China in the same period of previous year, the central bank reported.

The United Kingdom remained the second largest foreign investor on the back of injection of a net \$141.4 million. It was, however, 36% lower than \$221.8 million in the same period of last year.

Japan ranked third with net

investment of \$78 million, which was more than double the \$36.9 million injected in the corresponding period of last year.

Malaysia, which was the third largest investor last year with injection of \$139.6 million, invested only \$20.3 million in first eight months of FY19.

Malta withdrew \$93.3 million against no investment or divestment last year. Norway, which withdrew the largest amount of \$114.7 million in Jul-Feb FY18, appeared as a net investor of \$1.2 million this year.

Breakdown of the figure suggested it invested \$111.2 million and divested \$110 million during the period under review.

The Express Tribune, 18-03-19

Pakistan should leverage CPEC, GSP Plus to attract investment

Investors require competitive business environment, safeguarded from uncertainties such as war

AADIL NAKHODA
KARACHI

The recent military escalation between Pakistan and India raises warning flags that the South Asian region is still very much susceptible to war.

Although recent events may have been triggered by a combination of domestic politics in India and a reaction to the Pulwama attack, it is important to note that given the challenges being faced by Pakistan on the economic front, a war would only have exacerbated them. Efforts to avert the war at this critical time are commendable. It is essential that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government strives for economic stability in Pakistan. Today, Pakistan faces a balance of payments crisis that requires financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The current account deficit coupled with a volatile exchange rate has led to economic uncertainty. It is crucial that Pakistan steps up efforts to maintain peace in the region by ensuring greater investments and enhancing trading relationships.

The current government is making strides to improve business environment in Pakistan. The Finance Supplementary (Second Amendment) Bill 2019 includes incentives to increase cost com-

petitiveness. The importance of increasing exports cannot be understated. In a recent address to a business delegation, the prime minister correctly identified trade and investment as important pillars of foreign policy. Focusing on establishing export-oriented industries will not only help tackle the balance of payments crisis but will also strengthen diplomatic relations with global and regional powers.

A closer look at Pakistan's recent trade patterns indicates a reduction in the trade deficit. According to data extracted from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the trade deficit was 20% lower in February 2019, relative to the gap reported for February 2018. The push came from a fall in imports as they decreased more than 12%.

Exports from July 2018 to February 2019 were 1.85% higher than the amount in the previous corresponding period while imports were 6.13% lower. During the same period, the trade deficit decreased 11%.

In essence, the reduction in the trade deficit is mainly driven by a fall in imports of machinery, transportation equipment and petroleum products. This is determined by import demand and fluctuation in global prices.

It is imperative that the government instead focus on increasing exports in order to make the reduction in trade deficit more sustainable.

Impact of trade disputes on Pakistan's deficit

Uncertainty in global trading relationships, such as between the US

TRADE

\$279m

was the value of raw cotton Pakistan imported from the US in 2017, which replaced India as the top supplier

and China, can have an impact on Pakistan's trade deficit. In a recent development, the US and China have agreed to ease tensions as it is expected that Washington may roll back tariffs on a significant proportion, approximately \$200 billion worth, of imports while Beijing may reduce tariffs on major imports from the US such as automobiles.

However, on the other hand, the Trump administration has ended preferential treatment for more than \$5.6 billion worth of US imports from India as a result of a lack of equitable access for US goods in the Indian market. Affected products include food and beverages, textile, leather, metal and plastic.

According to the Global Trade Alerts, the US introduced a large number of harmful interventions to limit trade, particularly in the iron and steel sector. On the other hand, it liberalised imports of wearing apparels, particularly men's and boy's suits.

Pakistan is likely to have benefited from the trade liberalisation as its exports of men's and boy's suits increased by more than \$800

million between 2015 and 2017. Furthermore, imports of base metals into Pakistan increased by \$1.26 billion, mainly driven by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-related demand.

Major export markets for Pakistan include the US, China and the UK. According to data extracted from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), export receipts from both the US and China increased more than 5% between July 2018 and January 2019 over the same period of previous fiscal year. Exports to the three markets constituted more than 31% of total exports from Pakistan.

Exports to the US and the UK mostly comprise finished textile products while exports to China are heavily focused on cotton yarn. In 2017, cotton yarn contributed more than 40% of total exports to China from Pakistan, according to data borrowed from ITC's Trademap.org.

Export receipts for knitwear increased more than 12.7% between July 2018 and January 2019 relative to the same period of previous fiscal year. On the other hand, import payments on raw cotton increased more than 52% between July 2018 and January 2019 relative to the same period of last year.

Imports from the US

In recent years, the textile industry has increased its dependence on imported raw cotton. Pakistan imported \$279 million worth of raw cotton from the US in 2017, which replaced India as the top origin country. In 2016, Pakistan im-

ported \$86 million worth of cotton from the US.

Pietra Rivoli's "Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power and Politics of World Trade" documents the resistance from textile lobbies in the US when Pakistan requested relief in tariffs on finished textile products and apparel in the mid-2000s. However, a recent spike in trade with the US should help meet contract requirements between the US and Pakistani producers necessary for preferential treatment.

Imports from the US increased in 2017 by more than \$800 million, a growth rate of 42% from the previous year. Apart from raw cotton, Pakistan imported more than \$346 million worth of soybean seeds for sowing from the US, up from \$123 million in 2016. This increase in imports of soybean seeds should help create new opportunities for Pakistan.

In 2018, the export of soybeans from the US to China was almost a quarter of the value of soybeans exported in 2017.

Therefore, it is essential that Pakistan leverage CPEC and the GSP Plus status awarded by the European Union to attract investment, both domestic and foreign, to improve economic conditions in the country. It is imperative that investors are provided a competitive business environment, safeguarded from uncertainties such as war, to increase exports and reduce the trade deficit.

THE WRITER IS THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH FELLOW AT CBER, IBA

The Express Tribune, 19-03-19**CPEC facilitation centre set up at civil secretariat**

ISLAMABAD. To facilitate local and foreign investors, the provincial government has established China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) one stop facilitation centre at the Balochistan Civil Secretariat in Quetta.

The facilitation centre was aimed at providing information to intending investors about the method of how to invest in CPEC-related projects in the province.

Talking to APP on Monday, Balochistan Minister for Commerce and Industries Haji Muhammad Khan said the provincial government had also allocated a land to set up an expo centre in Quetta to provide a platform to industrialists and traders to introduce their products in the market, he said.

The feasibility report for Bostan Industrial Zone had been finalised and an increase of 1,000 acres of land was also approved by the concerned authorities in the already allocated land, APP

The Express Tribune, 19-03-19**Apple building
first data centre in
north China**

BEIJING. US technology giant Apple has started building its first data centre in north China and a Chinese analyst said such databases would appear more frequently in the country with the arrival of 5G.

The new data centre, located in Ulanqab, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, will be the company's second data centre in China.

Construction work on Apple's data centre in southwest China's Guizhou province started in May 2018, according to a report of local news site gywb.cn.

The Ulanqab-based project is expected to go into operation in 2020. It will provide iCloud services for Apple users in China, according to a Xinhua report.

The creation of data centres can help solve many problems that domestic iPhone users have encountered, such as internet connection errors and data synchronisation failures, domestic news portal ce.cn quoted Lisa Jackson, an Apple senior executive, as saying in a report published in July 2017.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED
ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

The Express Tribune, 19-03-19**Chinese companies
to build advanced
solar module plant**

NANJING Chinese solar panel manufacturer Jiangsu Seraphim Solar System will launch a 1GW half-cell solar module factory in May.

The company, based in east China's Jiangsu Province, has more than 6GW of PV products applied in over 40 countries. Seraphim's new plant is built in northern China's Shanxi Province, in partnership with Shanxi Lu'an Photovoltaics Technology.

Lu'an, a subsidiary of China's state-owned Shanxi Lu'an Mining Industry Group, boasts 4.3GW of PV production capacity. "Seraphim and Lu'an will introduce highly automated facilities to produce cost-effective and reliable products in the new plant," said Li Gang, general manager of Seraphim, APF

The Express Tribune, 20-03-19

CM makes pitch to China mining investors

Kamal assures MCC team of provision of facilities

● MOHAMMAD ZAFAR

QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday assured the Chinese investors during a meeting that the provincial government was working on a new policy to upgrade the mineral resources sector in order to boost revenue generation.

"The provincial government is taking solid measures to upgrade the infrastructure of the mining sector and provide all facilities to the investors," said the chief minister while talking to Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) President He Xuping.

MCC Vice President Ma Weiqing and other officials were present.

CM Kamal said, "Positive steps will attract investors to the mining sector while ensuring proper security arrangements for them."

Briefing the CM, the MCC officials said, "The MCC is expanding the Saindak project while work on Dhodar project is in progress."

They apprised the CM of the initiatives taken by their company for the upgradation

of the mining and social sectors. "Local people have been given employment by the company," the officials said.

The Chinese authorities appreciated the chief minister's vision and provincial government's steps for the development of the mining sector.

CM Kamal assured the Chinese investors of the federal and provincial governments' full cooperation in both Saindak and Dhodar projects, urging the MCC officials to work on more projects in collaboration with the provincial government, so the people of the province could benefit.

"The Balochistan government is working with MCC and seeks investment from other companies in development projects to generate more revenue," the CM added.

Peaceful environment

Separately, in a meeting with the chief minister, Hub Pak Salt Refinery Chief Executive Officer Ismail Hussain expressed his company's interest in investing in the salt preparation sector in the



INVESTMENT MATTERS: Balochistan CM Jam Kamal in a meeting with MCC president He Xuping and others at the CM Secretariat in Quetta. PHOTO: EXPRESS

Kamal accepts Hub Pak Salt Refinery's offer to invest in the salt preparation sector of Kalamat

coastal area of Kalamat.

Minerals, energy and industries' secretaries were also present.

The CM said Balochistan's long beach had tremendous opportunities for invest-

ment in fishing and tourism sectors.

Kamal assured them that the government would provide a peaceful environment and all the facilities to the investors in the province.

He said, "In preparation of salt in coastal areas, protection of marine life and promotion of tourism are connected with each other."

CEO Hussain said, "There will be job opportunities also for the people of Balochistan.

Approximately 24 metric tons of salt annually would be obtained from the project, which will be used for different industries except food."

He offered partnership to the Balochistan government in the project.

Showing interest in the project, the CM directed the concerned departments to review the project from all aspects in partnership, especially under public-private partnership.

The Express Tribune, 21-03-19

Multi-country involvement in CPEC to boost trade, says WB report

Advises Pakistan to push for timely completion of connectivity projects

ISLAMABAD

A new World Bank report has said that a multi-country involvement, including India, in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can help achieve greater regional integration.

Suggesting various steps to be taken towards greater integration with the region to liberalise trade and improve logistics, the report titled "Pakistan@100: Shaping the Future" said CPEC can be used to improve relations with other countries that could benefit from it, including Iran, Afghanistan and those in Central Asia.

"Other efforts to increase regional integration as relations with neighbours strengthen might include offering India an overland route to Afghanistan in return for gaining access to Central Asia for itself; offer both Karachi and Gwadar ports for use to all neighbours; and work with

Iran to develop synergies and complementarities between the Gwadar and Chabahar ports," the report added.

Pakistan should push for the timely completion of connectivity projects already committed to by all countries in the region, it said.

The process of unlocking Pakistan's regional promise must start with a consensus across the country's leadership to use constructive regional relations to support economic competitiveness and growth.

To improve relations with India, the two countries could revitalise the Pakistan-India Joint Chamber of Commerce, normalise visa processing, including for business people, and enter into a dialogue on trade liberalisation measures, the report said.

In the medium term, the report added, Pakistan could deepen some of the reforms undertaken in the short term, including opening up other border points with India, such as Khokhrapar-Munabao in Sindh and Sialkot in Punjab.

Border infrastructure such

as warehouses and improved cold-storage facilities would be necessary to facilitate increased trade between the two countries.

Railway links to carry both passengers and freight from borders and ports to Pakistan's major cities are needed to reduce transportation costs, it said.

Pakistan can deepen some of the reforms undertaken in the short term

On the western border with Afghanistan, similar investments in improved border infrastructure, customs procedures, and road and rail connectivity would expand trade capacity and foster domestic manufacturing growth in Pakistan.

The report also suggested establishing a transparent tariff structure with reduced tariffs, and with clear and transparent rules governing the use of discretionary provisions, including a uniform, less

discretionary duty exemption scheme for exporters.

Identifying and implementing key regulatory reforms in the services sector could improve Pakistan's international competitiveness in the tradable services and manufacturing sectors that are increasingly reliant on professional services inputs, such as logistical and financial services.

Improving trade logistics through procedural facilitation and infrastructural improvement will also be critical, it said.

An automated internet-based processing system for border management has already been rolled out. The roll-out should be completed and extended to all relevant regulatory agencies, the report said.

Assessing and subsequently upgrading the biggest infrastructural bottlenecks at borders, such as inadequate weighbridges and scanners, sheds and warehouses, customs facilitation centres, and quarantine and phytosanitary facilities, should be undertaken, the report added. APP

The Express Tribune, 22-03-19

CPEC funds used for uplift work

Senate panel informed 480 schemes initiated

● RIZWAN GHILZAI
ISLAMABAD

The Senate Standing Committee for Cabinet Secretariat has revealed that funds for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been withdrawn for development schemes.

The committee meeting was held here under the chairmanship of Senator Talha Mehmood and was attended by senators and representatives from Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Cabinet Secretariat.

The session was told that funds for CPEC were being designated for development schemes which could affect the One Belt One Road initiative. Committee chairman termed CPEC a game changer and said it was not appropriate to spend the money meant for the mega project on development schemes. The meeting

discussed the status of development schemes — from 2012 to 2018 — in the country. The session was informed that a total of 480 schemes had been initiated out of which 110 were still incomplete.

The committee was briefed that Cabinet Secretariat had not taken any vehicles on rent and had provided its own 17 protocol vehicles during Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Pakistan. Meanwhile, MBS had brought his own vehicles during his trip.

Cabinet additional secretary told that the secretariat owned 68 protocol vehicles whereas 102 were produced for auctioned, out of which 80 were not serviceable.

He briefed that out of 102 vehicles around 55 were for Cabinet Secretariat, 19 for Intelligence Bureau, 18 for Prime Minister Secretariat,

“PTDC is a burden on the govt as it has no earning despite having assets worth billions of rupees

Senate Standing Committee for Cabinet Secretariat
Chairman Talha Mehmood

nine for Foreign Office whereas one was for Federal Board of Revenue.

It was informed that 24 vehicles were not auctioned due to higher prices but could be put for bidding soon.

The committee was informed that Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) had to close six of its motels across the country due to lack of revenue. PTDC officials told that these six motels would be leased out in future.

Committee Chairman Talha

Mehmood said that PTDC was a burden on the government as it had no earning despite having assets worth billions of rupees.

The chairman suggested PTDC to run the motels on public-private partnership rather than leasing them out as it would benefit the government. The committee directed the tourism department to write a letter within 15 days and inform in how many days the issue would be resolved.

The members of the committee also raised the issue of lack of facilities at the tourism spots and added that the government should provide public access to these sites.

The committee members said that government should take necessary steps for the promotion health, religious, education and sports tourism in the country as these areas had enough space.

The Express Tribune, 22-03-19

CPEC promises better future for Pakistan's women workers

Employee hails Chinese firm for non-discriminatory policies; says 30% of workforce is female

ISLAMABAD

Ambreen Shah was confident of a better future when she joined the Chinese company working on a power project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Balochistan.

Shah joined the China Power Hub Generation Company (CPHGC) as head of the legal department and was later promoted to vice president for legal and corporate affairs for her hard work and expertise.

Shah told Xinhua that working in the Chinese company not only enabled her to excel, but also allowed her, a mother, to strike a better balance between her work and personal life than in a transnational company where she was previously employed.

"Their differences are from the Chinese culture. So, this is what makes it easy to work with them because they want to understand others and they want to adjust to that too," Shah added.

The power plant project with an estimated cost of \$2 billion and cutting-edge environment-friendly technology is expected to generate enough electricity to meet the needs of some four million households.

Women learn skills

Shah said that over 30 per cent of the employees at CPHGC were women, some of them in important positions.

"There is absolutely no gender discrimination by (the) Chinese when they hire workers. They'd rather look at qualifications and competence levels," said Shah.

For her and many other Pakistani women, CPEC provides an opportunity for them to learn skills and values which will not only help them excel in work, but also help them become stronger in facing challenges in life.

Official data shows CPEC has provided over 70,000 direct jobs to Pakistanis since it was launched in 2013

The corridor's highlights include energy, transport and industrial co-operation along with the Gwadar port construction. Seeking to expand co-operation to such sectors as finance, science and technology, education, poverty alleviation and urban planning, the corridor is a major pilot project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"The women who are working here, have not just gained knowledge and expertise on the technical side of project management, but they have also learned teamwork," Shah said.

She said that there was focus on employee development as well. "I think this is something that I really like about CPEC projects. They make you strong," Shah added. According to official data, CPEC has provided over 70,000 direct jobs for Pakistanis since it was launched in 2013.

Addressing a seminar earlier, Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari said job opportunities for women would increase tremendously in the forthcoming industrial cooperation under CPEC.

CPEC is also a boon to Pakistan's blue-collar women workers, who can enjoy health care, education and a better work environment in Chinese companies.

The Thar region is considered as one of the most underdeveloped areas in Pakistan, which is hard hit by droughts and people there are largely engaged in animal husbandry and agriculture.

Krishna Kumari, a Senator from the Thar desert, said hope had increased for women in her district when Chinese companies under CPEC brought them jobs.

The senator said locals who had been trained under CPEC projects could take home a handsome amount of money every month. In many households, women can now earn more than men, thus reducing their financial dependence on men and enabling them to pursue their dreams through hard work, she said. XINHUA

The Express Tribune, 22-03-19

CDWP clears Rs80b project for CPEC's western route

Clearance comes amid difficulties in arranging funds for new schemes due to paucity of resources

SHAHBAZ RANA
ISLAMABAD

The government on Thursday cleared a Rs80-billion project for western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) amid difficulties in arranging funds for new schemes due to paucity of resources.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) recommended the doubling of track on the Kuchlak-Zhob section of N-50 highway for approval of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne), according to a statement issued by the planning ministry.

However, the project was cleared in haste as the Ministry of Planning had received PC-I of the scheme just 12 hours before its approval, denying it time to critically review the mega project. The Kuchlak-Zhob section was cleared amid uncertainty over the fate of another western route project, Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob section of N-50, due to lack of funding.

The CDWP approved Rs67.6 billion for the construction of road and another Rs11.4 billion for the procurement of land. The project involves doubling tracks and upgrading the existing two lanes, which have 305km length on the Kuchlak-Zhob section of N-50, to four lanes.

The proposed road is part of the western alignment of CPEC that will connect Kuchlak, Muslim Bagh and Qilla Saifullah cities.

The previous government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had preferred the eastern route of CPEC over western alignment. "The PTI government gives priority to construction of the western route and improving socio-economic conditions in neglected areas," re-



COMPLAINT: The transport section of the planning ministry has objected to the cost estimate of the National Highway Authority (NHA) which, according to it, is on the higher side. PHOTO: FILE

marked Federal Minister for Planning Makhdum Khusró Bakhtyar. The minister said completion of the project would contribute to a smooth and efficient movement of goods and traffic in a relatively shorter time. The government wants to perform ground-breaking ceremony of the project by the end of March.

The CDWP constituted a committee comprising different stakeholders to confirm and rationalise the cost and scope of the 305km road project in two separate parts, said the planning ministry.

There is no allocation for both the projects in the current fiscal year's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) but the government has indicated that it will allo-

cate resources from next fiscal year. In 2019-20, Rs19.2 billion will be required for the Kuchlak-Zhob section. In the second year of implementation, the financial requirement is estimated at Rs23.6 billion, which will increase to Rs24.8 billion.

The annual maintenance cost of the project has been estimated at Rs67.6 million. However, the authorities also want to purchase 28 vehicles for the project at a cost of Rs57 million. The transport section of the planning ministry has objected to the cost estimate by the National Highway Authority (NHA) which, according to it, is on the higher side.

The transport section also raised questions over the availability of funds. It argued that another west-

ern route project, Dera Ismail Khan-Yarik-Zhob section of N-50 was approved by Ecne two years ago at a cost of Rs72.5 billion. After a lapse of two years, work on the project could not start due to unavailability of funds from the Chinese side under CPEC, it added.

The transport section stated that without dualisation of the Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob section first, there was no rationale for the dualisation of Kuchlak-Zhob section.

Although the finance ministry has not yet officially indicated the size of the development budget, the planning secretary said last week that the allocation would be almost at this year's level of Rs675 billion. This leaves little room for the initiation of

work on any mega scheme.

If the government also decides to finance the Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob section from the PSDP due to absence of Chinese financing, the cumulative annual requirement of Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob and Kuchlak-Zhob section would be around Rs50 billion, said an official of the planning ministry.

The traffic flow on N-50 is very low estimated at only 4,353 vehicles per day. However, it has been projected to increase to 11,322 vehicles per day by 2038. The transport section has also objected to the allocation of Rs3.5 billion in PC-I for an intelligent transportation system. It called the Rs7-billion proposed allocation for various types of culverts on the higher side.

Overall, the CDWP accorded approval to two projects worth Rs913 million and recommended three projects costing Rs96 billion to Ecne for its approval. The projects presented for approval were related to governance, physical planning, housing and transport and communication.

In the energy sector, the Power Division presented the 'Interconnection of Isolated Gwadar/Mekran with National Grid System of Pakistan' project worth Rs17.4 billion, which was referred to Ecne.

Bakhtyar called it an important project for Gwadar's development connecting the southern remote region with the national grid. He highlighted that availability of electricity was one of the major hurdles in the way of Gwadar's development.

The project is expected to be completed through the Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) in three years.

The Express Tribune, 22-03-19

Sinotruk expands product range to benefit from CPEC

Chinese truckmaker introduces six new models with Euro-3 engine technology, LPG fuel option

SHAH RAM HAQ
LAHORE

Sinotruk, a sister company of state-owned China National Heavy Duty Truck Group, has expanded its product range for Pakistan's market in a bid to take maximum benefit of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and similar project investments.

In this regard, the company recently rolled out six new vehicle variants equipped with Euro-3 engine technology besides having the option of consuming liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a third fuel.

Sinotruk - a truck manufacturer - has maintained its presence in Pakistan since 2013. Its local partner is Dysin Automobiles which acts as its distributor in the country.

Prior to rolling out new models, the two companies have launched seven heavy-duty commercial variants since 2013 while working as joint-venture partners.

According to officials, roughly 5,000 vehicles of Sinotruk are currently running in the country. Following the addition of new variants, the company's total product range for Pakistan has swelled to

13 models. The decision to launch the new variants came after the management noted that the country's landscape was transforming under CPEC in terms of motorways, high-speed roads, etc.

"This is a new era for Pakistan's truck and allied industry which is opposite of the traditional truck industry," commented Dysin Automobiles General Manager Sales and Marketing Tanzeel Khan while talking to *The Express Tribune*.

Sharing that the company enjoyed a wide product range, he disclosed that several new variants were in the pipeline for Pakistan which would modernise the country's truck industry.

"We have faced some serious challenges in the past because people preferred scrapped or used trucks from abroad, but now the government has imposed restriction on this," he said, voicing hope that annual demand for heavy commercial vehicles would now rise significantly.

The general manager revealed that in past years, the annual demand for trucks was nearly 10,000 units.

Though the parent company China National Heavy Duty Truck Group is controlled by the Chinese government, Germany's MAN group has almost 25% stake in it.

A spokesperson for Sinotruk

"Apart from China, we enjoy a huge advantage in export markets, which has enhanced our market share to 50% in the past three years

Sinotruk spokesperson

said out of every two units sold in China, one was of China National Heavy Duty Truck Group.

"We are the biggest Chinese commercial vehicle company possessing technological expertise of the MAN group," he pointed out. "Apart from China, we enjoy a huge advantage in export markets which has enhanced our market share to 50% in the past three years."

Globally, the company has presence in 100 markets and its export volume touched 35,000 units in 2018.

In Pakistan, the company is expected to raise its sales volume on the back of initiatives taken under CPEC.

According to the local partner, it was not just CPEC which will fuel demand for heavy commercial vehicles, but also investment initiatives from Saudi Arabia, Gulf states, Russia and other countries.

Khan was of the view that the company's products were price-competitive compared to Japanese manufacturers.

The Express Tribune, 22-03-19

CPEC likely to contribute 3.5% to Pakistan's GDP

Early harvest projects are expected to be completed in current calendar year

SALMAN SIDDIQUI
KARACHI

China's investment of over \$60 billion in Pakistan's infrastructure and power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to increase Pakistan's economic growth by around 3.5 percentage points, said Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) CEO Shahzad Dada on Thursday.

"CPEC projects are estimated to contribute around 3.5 percentage points to Pakistan's GDP (gross domestic product) growth once they are fully delivered," he emphasised while speaking at an event in Karachi.

Dada noted that most of the Chinese companies investing in Pakistan under CPEC were clients of the bank and Standard Chartered was itself involved in financing some of the projects as well.

Early harvest projects under CPEC are expected to be completed in the current calendar year. Later, short-term projects are anticipated to be completed by 2022, medium-term projects by 2025 and long-term projects by 2030 and beyond.

Pakistan achieved a 13-year high GDP growth of 5.8% in FY18. However, the growth is expected to slow down to around 4.4% in the current fiscal year and 4.1% in FY20, according to Fitch Solutions.

Dada highlighted that China and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding for investment of over \$60 billion, of which infrastructure and power projects worth over \$30 billion were under way. CPEC is part of China's wider Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"We have discussed trade amounting to almost \$2.5 trillion which is going to be routed through various corridors and Pakistan sits at the epicentre of all this activity," he pointed out. "With the Belt and Road Initiative, there is expectation that trade is going to double, quadruple or rise even further."

The Express Tribune, 29-03-19

🗞 Editorial

‘Ehsas’ and China’s turnaround

China’s dramatic rise from poverty is truly inspirational. According to World Bank, 500 million people were lifted out of extreme poverty in China over the last three decades so much so that today poverty in China refers mainly to the rural poor. Poverty rate in China — as measured by the percentage of people living on the equivalent of \$1.90 or less per day in the 2011 purchasing price parity terms — fell from 88% in 1981 to 6.5% in 2012. From there onwards, the percentage of people living below the international poverty line continued to fall to 4.1% in 2014 to 2% in 2018 — with President Xi Jinping upbeat about completely eradicating poverty by 2020.

Imran Khan’s admiration of China’s poverty alleviation efforts is well known. Time and again has the Prime Minister, in his speeches, quoted the miraculous rise from poverty of the Chinese population, accounting for more than three-quarters of global poverty reduction. Eyeing a similar turnaround, Prime Minister Imran has launched *Ehsas* (meaning compassion) — an ambitious social safety and poverty alleviation programme meant to ensure five things to the public as their fundamental right. These five things are food, shelter, clothing, education and healthcare. Under the programme, the Prime Minister says, the money spent on underprivileged segments of society will be increased by an ‘unprecedented’ Rs120 billion by the year 2020.

The PM talks of amending Article 38(D) of the Constitution and creating a new ministry for social protection and poverty alleviation to ensure the five fundamental rights — with the former measure aimed at enabling people to approach the courts in case of the government’s failure to protect these rights. While that shows the PM’s *Ehsas* for public welfare, his idea of poverty alleviation can only work if it is backed by a comprehensive economic reforms programme. In case of China too, it was a protracted period of high economic growth that helped its people get rid of poverty. And the high economic growth was achieved under a wide-ranging reforms programme highlighted by measures to attain trade surplus, attract foreign investment and improve human capital.

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Imran Khan’s admiration of China’s poverty alleviation efforts is well known. Time and again has the PM, in his speeches, quoted the miraculous rise from poverty of the Chinese population

The Express Tribune, 29-03-19

Shanghai Electric interested in expanding investment

Vice chief economist says investment in K-Electric is just the beginning

● OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

There exists a huge potential for private and foreign direct investment in the power sector value chain including generation, transmission and distribution, said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar.

Talking to a delegation led by Shanghai Electric Power Vice Chief Economist Mingwei Shi on Thursday, the minister reaffirmed that the government was committed to resolving the issues affecting viability of the power sector.

Bakhtiar pointed out that under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a number of energy projects were being executed and a handful of more schemes were in the pipeline.

Mingwei stressed that Shanghai Electric's invest-

ment to purchase a majority stake in K-Electric was only the beginning and expressed additional interest in the company to expand its investment portfolio in the power sector of Pakistan.

Mingwei requested the minister to facilitate early completion of the K-Electric transaction

The minister was briefed about the current status and issues standing in the way of finalising the transaction for the purchase of KES Power's stake in K-Electric. Mingwei requested the minister to facilitate early completion of the transaction.

Earlier in December 2018, Shanghai Electric Power got a nine-month extension for the acquisition of majority stake in K-Electric from Dubai-based Abraaj Group and had yet to determine the final price at which the

long-pending deal would be executed. This marked the fourth time the Chinese firm submitted a public announcement of intention (PAI) to acquire the Karachi-based integrated power company since October 2016.

In October 2016, the Abraaj Group had announced that a deal had been struck at \$1.77 billion. Several quarters have speculated a downward revision in the final price after the power-sector regulator made a less-than-expected increase in power tariff for end-consumers.

"The deal may be executed at a 15-20% discount from the earlier price (\$1.77 billion) agreed in October 2016," said an official involved in negotiations on the Shanghai Electric Power and K-Electric deal last year.

However, he dismissed speculation suggesting that the price may go as low as \$1 billion. The announcement once again provided nine months to Shanghai Electric Power to get the required approvals, he said.

The Express Tribune, 29-03-19

Chinese firm intends to establish modern garment factory

Envoy insists this investment will create thousands of jobs in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

The ease of doing business, pro-investment initiatives and restructuring of the taxation system would greatly help promote investment and exports from Pakistan, said Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries, Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, he stressed that the current government was focusing on boosting exports and investments in the country.

"The government is facilitating investors through various reforms and as a result, several multinational companies have started entering Pakistan in different sectors of the economy," he pointed out.

Yao assured the PM adviser that China would continue to remain a strong partner in Pakistan's development.

Saying that China had a vi-

brant and active private sector, he stressed it was yet another potential area for cooperation with Pakistan.

Challenge Apparels is among leading exporters to top brands around the world, especially in developed countries

The ambassador revealed that Chinese private textile company Challenge Apparels Limited intended to expand its investment and establish a state-of-the-art garment manufacturing facility in Lahore.

"This will enhance Pakistan's exports and help generate thousands of new jobs in the country over the next couple of years," he said.

Challenge Apparels is among leading exporters to top brands around the world, especially in developed countries.

Dawood welcomed the company and assured it of full support and cooperation from the government. APP

The Express Tribune, 30-03-19

US, China wrap up 'constructive' trade talks

Officials seek to iron out differences over Washington's allegations of unfair trade practices

BEIJING

US and Chinese negotiators wrapped up "constructive" trade talks in Beijing on Friday ahead of another round next week, a top American official said as the economic superpowers aim to settle a bruising tariffs battle.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin held negotiations with China's Vice Premier Liu He at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse after a working dinner on Thursday.

Mnuchin wrote on Twitter that he and Lighthizer "concluded constructive trade talks in Beijing" but he did not provide more details.

"I look forward to welcoming China's Vice Premier Liu He to continue these important discussions in Washington next week," he said.

The two negotiating teams, including China's central bank chief Yi Gang, posed for pictures in front of Chinese and American flags, but they did not make statements to the media.

Officials are seeking to iron out major differences over US accusations that China has been using unfair trade practices for years by heavily subsidising its companies while snatching the technological know-how of American firms.

US President Donald Trump has said the two sides were close to a deal, but officials have played down expectations of an imminent agreement.

In Washington, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Thursday the talks were not "time-dependent" and could last weeks or even months if necessary.

The talks are "policy and enforcement dependent", Kudlow said.

The Chinese commerce ministry said a "large amount of work" remains to be done and both sides confirmed before this round of talks that another face-to-face negotiation was scheduled for Washington next week. The two sides have imposed tariffs of \$360 billion on two-way trade since last year but Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed to a

The two sides have imposed tariffs of \$360 billion on two-way trade since last year

truce in December.

Trump suggested last week that some of those tariffs should stay in place after a deal is reached to ensure China keeps its end of any bargain.

"We have to see what the track record is and we're not going to give up our leverage," said Kudlow.

"It doesn't necessarily mean that all the tariffs will be kept in place, some of the tariffs will be kept there," he told Bloomberg TV.

US insistence on keeping the first tranche of 25 per cent tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports could be a sticking point for a deal, analysts say.

It is hard to predict if China will accept a deal leaving some tariffs in place, said economist Cui Fan of the University of International Business and

Economics in Beijing.

The truce agreed by Xi and Trump called for "reaching a deal as soon as possible in the direction of mutually cancelling the punitive tariffs slapped on by both sides", Cui said.

Beijing has taken steps to address some US complaints, rushing through a law this month that promises to protect foreign firms from the forced transfer of technology.

It also includes language on protecting foreign companies' commercial secrets, and fleshes out criminal penalties for officials who leak confidential information they obtain from overseas businesses.

Chinese state-owned companies have also stepped up purchases of American agricultural goods such as soybeans.

Massive purchases of American goods are expected to be part of any deal, in order to lower the politically sensitive US trade deficit with China, which reached a record high of \$419.2 billion last year, AFP

The Express Tribune, 30-03-19

Dawood appointed CPEC Business Council chairman

Decision may stir controversy as earlier it was decided planning minister will be the head

SHAHBAZ RANA
ISLAMABAD

In a move that may stir another controversy, the government has appointed Abdul Razak Dawood as chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Business Council and an executive of his company - Descon Engineering - as member of the council.

The decision to appoint Dawood as chairman is also contrary to the original decision of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC. In its meeting held on March 12, the committee had decided that Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar would be the chairman of the CPEC Business Council.

Dawood is Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry, Production and Investment.

The adviser will be the chairman of the CPEC Business Council and the minister for planning will be the co-chairman, according to a notification issued by the Board of Investment (BOI) this week.

The Cabinet Committee on CPEC had approved a 21-member CPEC Business Council. However, the BOI has notified a 25-member council. There are seven members from the public sector and 18 from the private sector, showed the notification.

One of the private-sector members is Adnan Bakhtiar, Head of Infrastructure Division of Descon, according to the notification.

Descon is owned by Dawood and has recently won contract for the construction of Rs309-billion Mohmand Dam. After criticism by political parties and the civil society, Dawood had said he was neither chairman nor director of Descon, but was only a shareholder.

The BOI's decision to appoint Descon's head of infrastructure division as a member could stir another controversy for the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"The CPEC Business Council membership list was jointly prepared by the adviser to PM on commerce and the federal planning minister," said BOI Chairman Haroon Sharif, while distancing himself from the list.

The government had constituted the CPEC Business Forum in order to create an interface with the business community. Addressing a press conference after meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC, the planning minister said a link between government institutions and business community had been missing since the inception of CPEC.

In the same press conference, Bakhtiar while responding to a question by *The Express Tribune* had said that the Business Forum would be chaired by the federal minister for planning.

During the Cabinet Committee on CPEC meeting, some members had raised the questions over the need for constituting yet another business forum when there was already PM's Business Leaders Council, according to the government sources who had attended the meeting. The multiple bodies set up by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government were creating confusions among the investors.

According to the Rules of Business 1973, the industry is the subject of the Ministry of Industries and Production. Since the BOI and National Development and Reforms Commission of China are co-chairmen of Industrial Cooperation, the BOI is dealing with the issue.

Initially, the planning ministry did not take the BOI into confidence before proposing the CPEC Business Forum for the approval of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC. Now, in the revised list, the BOI chairman and BOI secretary are the members of the Council.

The Express Tribune, 31-03-19

Rising Gwadar opens new avenues for businesses, entrepreneurs

GPA chairman says development efforts made during last few years have started paying back

GADAR

Witnessing increasing business for his bank at Gwadar port, which used to be a remote fishing village in Balochistan, Shakeeb Yusuf says he made the right choice at the beginning as the robust business growth helped pave the way toward his promotion.

Yusuf has been promoted as the full-time manager of the bank branch at the port's free zone after he managed to sign contracts with some international business groups to handle their finances in Gwadar.

The manager, who was introducing his bank's products and services at a booth set up at the second international exposition held in the port's free zone, told Xinhua on Friday that his branch has opened at least seven active company accounts and

over 500 individual accounts during the past year after they entered the free zone in the first quarter of 2018.

"We started business here after our analysis saw a great potential following the speedy development in Gwadar during last five years, which turned a barren place into a proper port city," said Yusuf, adding that the development of the port and its free zone is leading it towards industrialisation and making it to become a regional trade hub, a prospect which can boost their business many times.

Gwadar, the small fishing town along the Arabian Sea, has achieved several development milestones of having regular departure and arrival of shipments at the port, a business centre, a free zone and others under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Prime Minister Imran Khan broke ground on Friday for the construction of the China-funded New Gwadar International Airport. He appreciated the speedy and quality work by

the Chinese companies and individuals in the port city, adding that Gwadar has become an engine of growth for the country.

The new airport project, which would be completed in a period of three years, will have the capacity to handle the world's largest planes like Airbus A380

The new airport project, which would be completed in a period of three years and have the capacity to handle the world's largest planes like Airbus A380, is further opening Gwadar's doors to the rest of the world.

Shakil Hashmi, global business manager for a US-based technology firm, told Xinhua during the Gwadar Expo that his company has decided to set up a permanent office in Gwadar to grab the opportunities emerging

out of several ongoing and future development projects to sell their water desalination solutions.

Being in talks with several other companies to provide them solutions, Hashmi said his company has already set up a water treatment plant in Gwadar and has signed another agreement on the sidelines of the expo.

"Water is the basic need of life and industry. When we see a lot of companies rushing to Gwadar to establish their industries, our belief further gets strengthened that our business will flourish quickly and for a long time," he said.

According to the China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), the operator of Gwadar port, dozens of companies in different businesses such as hotel, bank, logistics, food, steel, fish processing and renewable resources have entered the free zone.

COPHC Chairman Zhang Baohong said that several Chinese investors and

Pakistani businessmen have reached cooperation agreements on the sidelines of the expo in different fields, which would bring mutual benefits.

Zhang said that there is a lot of scope to invest in Gwadar and he was told by Chinese investors that they can import a large number of goods, such as marble and seafood, from Gwadar.

A Chinese company dealing in urban ecological and industrial investment also participated in the expo and offered its services and modern technology to improve the environment through garden engineering, landscaping, maintenance and management, seedlings planting and investment in development of fields.

A representative said that the company sees opportunities in Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan as they look barren with too little greenery. "We shall provide the best suitable solutions to Balochistan and especially to Gwadar so that a sound environment will be formed

Dozens of companies in different businesses have entered the free zone, according to the COPHC, the operator of Gwadar port

with all business sectors organically combined with and mutually supporting each other."

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani said the development efforts made in different sectors during the last few years have started paying back with the participation of foreign and local investors.

Kashani promised to speed up the development pace of Gwadar by providing the best facilities to investors and traders, including the best available tax exemptions, which he believes would create an ideal atmosphere for investors to do their businesses at the hub of Pakistan's future development. XINHUA

The Express Tribune, 31-03-19**China's top diplomat slams BRI critics**

BEIJING

China has never forced debt upon participants of its new Silk Road project as "prejudiced" critics have suggested, the country's top diplomat said on Saturday in a strongly worded defence of a key policy platform of President Xi Jinping Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Speaking to the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, Yang Jiechi, who runs the party's foreign affairs committee, said he had noted that some in the international community believed this was a geopolitical tool and would only bring debt traps for participating countries.

"This obviously shows a lack of objectivity and fair understanding of the BRI. It is a misunderstanding, misjudgement and is even prejudiced," wrote Yang, a former foreign minister and ambassador to Washington.

China has stressed many times that the Belt and Road is to promote joint development, he added. REUTERS

The Nation, 18-03-19

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) will today take up a petition challenging the government's decision to divert Rs24 billion of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for discretionary spending on parliamentarians' schemes.

A single bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice of IHC Justice Attar Minallah will conduct hearing of the petition filed by PML-N MNA Mohsin Ranjha.

He filed the petition seeking to freeze the transfer of funds, and to seek details from the Ministry of Planning and Development that how they would be utilized.

Ranjha stated that he is aggrieved of the refusal of the Ministry of Planning to divulge key information of public importance on diversion of funds to the tune of Rs 24 billion from grant No 137 i.e. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to grant No 108 i.e discretionary spending on parliamentary schemes.

He mentioned that Rs 27 billion were allocated to CPEC out of which Rs24 billion have been diverted which can only be seen as an attempt to undo the hard work that has gone into CPEC and the same was done illegally and in violation of the mandate of Articles 78-84 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Therefore, he prayed to the court to direct the respondents to immediately furnish information requested by the petitioner and also suspend the diversion of Rs.24 billion from China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) allocation till the final adjudication of the present petition.

The Nation, 19-03-19

BEIJING - China yesterday said that no conspiracy by opponents can undo the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. A senior Chinese official here said no power can stop the positive impact of the CPEC on the region, especially Pakistan. In a meeting with a Pakistan People's Party delegation led by Senator Sherry Rehman here, Vice Minister Guo Yezhou said CPEC was a win-win project for all the partners.

"Sometimes there are reports in the media (against the CPEC) and some people also give their opinion but a large majority knows it is for the betterment of the whole region," he said.

He said that PPP founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto laid the foundation of the Pak-China friendship and PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari continued to cement the partnership through the Gwadar Port and CPEC. Under the CPEC, \$62 billion will be added to the economy, 20 per cent of the total Gross Domestic Product of Pakistan.

Guo Yezhou said that 75 per cent of the total employees working in CPEC projects are Pakistanis, contrary to the belief that the Chinese have a higher representation. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Sherry Rehman said China does not need to think about any conspiracies against the CPEC as Pakistanis knew the CPEC projects were aimed at their bright future.

She said the PPP had always promoted friendship with China and will continue to enhance ties with the Communist Party of China.

The PPP Vice President said Pakistan wanted to learn a lot from China which successfully dragged out 700 million people out of poverty.

Sherry Rehman said the ‘anxiety’ of some powers against the CPEC was understandable as it was aimed at changing the destiny of the region.

She urged China to contribute more towards the development of the Gwadar Port to make it even more beneficial for the region.

“We recognize that China has been our iron brother through good and bad times, we feel the same way for China. We have important lessons to learn from all that China has done in last three decades, it has taken 700 million people out of poverty; we would like to achieve similar inspiring goals. PPP builds consensus, we are ambitious to transform Pakistan and for that purpose we stand strongly behind CPEC, 08 per cent of our GDP can grow if we are able to consolidate gains from CPEC. We are looking forward to building consensus and infrastructure that will enable both investors and green initiatives of Chinese government,” Sherry Rehman said. She added: “We would like see three important aspects in CPEC, firstly; job creation for locals with skill training. Thirdly, we would like assistance in agriculture growth & generating motor capacity.”

She said the PPP looked forward for an endeavoring and stable relationship and seek to enhance Pakistan-China ties and PPP-CPC bilateral relationship. “We clearly understand the obvious benefits and massive opportunities that CPEC represents for the people of Pakistan,” shr said.

On behalf of Sindh government and former President Asif Ali Zardari, head of the delegation Senator Sherry Rehman also invited Guo Yezhou, to visit Sindh and Pakistan. Members in the delegation include, Syed Naveed Qamar, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Senator Rubina Khalid, Faisal Karim Kundi and Taimur Talpur. Ealier, a Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) delegation also called on the Chinese vice Minister. They discussed the CPEC and Pak-China ties. The PML-N delegation was headed by Mushahid Hussain Syed.

The Nation, 19-03-19

NANJING - Chinese solar panel manufacturer Jiangsu Seraphim Solar System will launch a 1GW half-cell solar module factory in May.

The company, based in east China's Jiangsu Province, has more than 6GW of PV products applied in over 40 countries.a

Lu'an, a subsidiary of China's state-owned Shanxi Lu'an Mining Industry Group, boasts 4.3GW of PV production capacity.

"Seraphim and Lu'an will introduce highly automated facilities to produce cost-effective and reliable products in the new plant," said Li Gang, general manager of Seraphim.

"The partnership with Seraphim marks the cooperation between the state-owned and private enterprises in the PV production sector, and the plant's production of high-efficiency solar products can link upstream and downstream supply chains," said Deng Ming, chairman of Lu'an Photovoltaic Technology.

The Nation, 19-03-19

ANKARA (AA) The United States has sought Chinese help to resume talks with North Korea aimed at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, claiming that Pyongyang was unwilling to take required steps to go back to the negotiation table. Appearing on a radio interview, US National Security Adviser John Bolton asked China, North Korea's chief ally and trading partner, "to help put talks back on track". "The idea that there's a role for China in the negotiations is something that we would be willing to consider if we could see some movement on North Korea's part," Bolton said. He claimed that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was "unwilling to take the necessary steps to reach" a nuclear deal with US. "The North Koreans were unfortunately not willing to do what they needed to do. Just last night, they issued an unhelpful statement that they're thinking of going back to nuclear and ballistic missile testing, which would not be a good idea on their part," Bolton told radio host John Catsimatidis on AM 970 in New York. Bolton was referring to remarks by North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Chloe Son who last Friday said Kim might be reconsidering denuclearization talks with the US. "We have no intention to yield to the US demands in any form, nor are we willing to engage in negotiations of this kind," Choe Son had told foreign diplomats and reporters in Pyongyang.

Bolton responded: "President Trump wants this threat resolved through negotiations. He wants North Korea to be free of nuclear weapons." The US and North Korea failed to strike a deal on denuclearization even after their leaders met twice since June 2018.

Last month, Trump and Kim unexpectedly cut short their summit meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. After exiting Hanoi, Trump had said that he could not agree to the North's request for a complete lifting of sanctions.

However, North Korea contradicted Trump saying Pyongyang insisted only on a partial lifting of sanctions.

The Nation, 19-03-19

SAN FRANCISCO- More than 500 Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners, including representatives from China and North California Chinese Medicine communities, held an event to observe the 90th Chinese Medicine Day in downtown San Francisco Sunday evening. The celebration of the event, which falls on March 17, focused on the main theme of carrying on the heritage of TCM.

Chinese Consul General in San Francisco Wang Donghua said TCM reflects a wealth of important experience and wisdom that the Chinese people have accumulated in practice for more than 1,000 years.

"TCM provides a holistic approach in the diagnosis and treatment of illness by addressing the root cause," he said, calling TCM a treasure of the brilliant Chinese civilization and part of the valuable assets of world medicine.

TCM is also an important carrier of the cultural exchanges between China and other countries, including the United States, Wang said.

The annual celebration of Chinese Medicine Day is an important platform to promote exchanges, friendship, and understanding between Chinese and American people, Wang told a jubilant crowd of TCM practitioners, scholars, and entrepreneurs in TCM industry.

Hu Jun, president of American Association of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture, the celebration is to commemorate the predecessors of TCM practitioners for their "immortal feat" in defending the heritage of Chinese medicine.

"Chinese medicine originates from China. When it ventures abroad, it has become the wealth of all ethnic groups in the world," she said.

Hu urged the TCM communities to constantly absorb new knowledge of medical science of other ethnic groups in the United States, so that TCM can be better integrated into the U.S. multi-cultural society.

Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament early last month said learning the Chinese language would open up opportunities for locals to work in Chinese companies and also do business in China.

“I am encouraging Ugandans to learn more languages, specifically the Chinese, because we have many Chinese investors in the country that will need translators as they carry on their businesses in the country,” Kadaga said.

“I am focusing on Chinese language because I know Chinese are here to offer our people jobs and people who know their language will be the first people to have those jobs,” she added.

The Nation, 19-03-19

LOS ANGELES-Google denied “working with the Chinese military” on Saturday after President Donald Trump publicly criticized the company in an evening message posted on Twitter. “Google is helping China and their military, but not the U.S.,” Trump said. “Terrible!”

“We are not working with the Chinese military. We are working with the U.S. government, including the Department of Defense, in many areas including cyber security, recruiting and healthcare,” a spokesperson said. Trump’s criticism came just days after Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made similar comments in testimony before Congress.

“The work that Google is doing in China is indirectly benefiting the Chinese military,” Dunford said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

“We watch with great concern when industry partners work in China knowing that there is that indirect benefit,” he said. “Frankly, ‘indirect’ may be not a full characterization of the way it really is, it is more of a direct benefit to the Chinese military.”

Google has faced external and internal criticism over the censored search engine it developed to comply with the country’s information restrictions, which is codenamed “Project Dragonfly.”

In December, CEO Sundar Pichai appeared before Congress, where he stated that there were no plans to launch the search engine “right now” but refused to rule it out in the future.

In June, the company said it would not renew a contract to help the U.S. military analyze aerial drone imagery when it expires, as the company sought to defuse internal uproar over the deal.

The Nation, 20-03-19

BEIJING - Pakistan and China yesterday issued a unanimous ‘Beijing Declaration’ on President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The declaration

was adopted by all majorly Pakistani political parties and the Chinese government at the First Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism here.

Dozens of representatives from the Communist Party of China, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), Pakistan People's Party, National Party, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awarni Party, Jamiat Ulema-e Islam (Fazl), Balochistan Awami Party, Awami National Party, and Balochistan National Party (Mengal), as well as from think tanks, business community, the media, and non-governmental organizations of China and - Pakistan met in Beijing to discuss the mega projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who is in China on an official visit, said Pakistan and China's friendship, and was unparalleled.

He said the two countries had seen many rainy days together but worked shoulder to shoulder. He said the country's political parties may have differences in the domestic issues but they were all united on friendship with China and CPEC.

Qureshi said there was no security issue in Pakistan and CPEC projects will be completed in time. He said friendship with China was the main priority of the PTI-led government. The FM said all the parties had shown maturity and proved that they were united on the national issues.

In her speech, PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman said "There is complete unanimity in Pakistan on the CPEC opportunity", as all the political parties of Pakistan unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration. She was leading a delegation of other senior PPP members.

Underlining the significance of CPEC for Pakistan, the Senator said, "Political parties are taking responsibility for Pakistan's future and making sure that CPEC, as an opportunity, reaches its full potential. It is a platform that goes beyond parties and provinces. It guarantees Pakistan's entry into the 21st century as a viable economy that is able to provide its citizens basic economic benefits".

The former leader of opposition said that her party truly appreciates the opportunity to join the multi-party consultation on CPEC and that such exchanges were beneficial for everyone. She then invited the hosts to visit Pakistan and all provinces including Sindh for enhanced communication and relationship.

"I would like to make three points; we are here to take stock of our progress on realizing joint goals on CPEC. One is the creation of consensus, something we always talk about; the second is the building of clarity on joint roles as we proceed together; and third is the importance and power of communication both internally and externally about how important and transformational CPEC can be for the people of Pakistan and for the future of the region's peace, stability and our joint progress," Rehman said.

Celebrating the close bond between her party and China, Rehman added “Both Pakistan and the PPP hold the People’s Republic of China as our iron brothers from the 1950s from the days of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who was the last leader to see Chairman Mao before his death. For the PPP, CPEC is our project. We take unambiguous ownership of it as it was shepherded by the grunt of Gwadar to China by President Asif Ali Zardari who visited China eleven times during his presidency to make this dream a reality.”

She expressed that she hopes China would see the PPP as key stakeholders in making CPEC work for the people of Pakistan as it is a party that is invested totally in the multi-sectorial outcome of jobs, growth, energy provision and regional stability that CPEC brings.

Highlighting the importance of working alongside China the Senator stated, “Learning from China will be crucial to deepening the skill base of our people, one million of which enter the job market every year. China boasts a digital economy of \$3.8 billion. We will be using the digital platforms for connectivity, jobs, development, marketing and communication”.

PML-N leader Mushahid Hussain Syed said Pakistan and China should march forward in the month of March as both countries were united.

He said that the PML-N leadership had laid the foundation for the CPEC and the party was determined to keep the Pak-China friendship higher than Himalayas.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri, Governor Balochistan Amanullah Khan, ANP’s Shagufta Malik and others also took part in the discussions and vowed to support the CPEC for the welfare of the region.

The Beijing Declaration reads: “We are of the view that the CPEC, as a flagship BRI project, has contributed positively to peace, stability and prosperity of the region.”

The parties agreed to “continue to render firm support to the building of the CPEC so as to promote the development of the China-Pakistan All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership in depth and width towards an even closer community with a shared future for China and Pakistan.”

They agreed to “undertake to shoulder the due responsibilities as political parties towards creating favorable conditions for the building of the CPEC through providing effective political guidance and forging stronger consensus among different sectors of society in both countries.

The parties vowed to “facilitate closer party-to-party communications and stronger friendly consultations in the spirit of sincerity and candidness to build up trust and clarify doubts for the steady and sustainable development of the CPEC.” They welcomed the launch of the CPEC

Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism, which, “by our agreement, shall remain open to all political parties and stakeholders in Pakistan.”

The Nation, 20-03-19

BEIJING - China and Pakistan on Tuesday held strategic dialogue and undertook in-depth discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations, including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, investment and economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts and regional and international issues.

The dialogue was co-chaired by State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi for China and Minister of Foreign Affairs Makhdum Shah Mahmood Qureshi for Pakistan.

The two Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their time-tested and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and agreed to maintain regular two-way high-level political and official exchanges.

They expressed commitment to translate the vision of the leadership to build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

The two sides reaffirmed support to each other on all core issues of their national interest. They underlined that State sovereignty and territorial integrity were cardinal principles of UN Charter and international law.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for de-escalation of tensions in South Asia and underlined the need for dialogue and peaceful means to resolve all outstanding disputes. Cooperation against terrorism to be enhanced

The two sides also agreed to further intensify cooperation with regular meetings of all bilateral mechanisms to take forward practical cooperation in respective fields.

They agreed to strengthen people-to-people contacts, cultural cooperation and tourism. It was noted that China and Pakistan were celebrating 2019 as the year of sister-cities exchanges.

The two Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and agreed to continue the smooth implementation of CPEC projects, especially its Special Economic Zones. While rejecting the negative propaganda against CPEC, they expressed a strong resolve to safeguard CPEC from all kinds of threats.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation against terrorism by strengthening communication and coordination in relevant fields.

The Chinese side highly appreciated Pakistan’s commitment and efforts to counter terrorism.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan expressed appreciation for Chinese support for Pakistan's efforts. The two Foreign Ministers discussed the situation in Afghanistan and expressed support for the ongoing efforts for peace and reconciliation.

Both sides reiterated support for Afghan-owned Afghan-led inclusive peace process and called on all stakeholders in Afghanistan to become part of an intra-Afghan dialogue. They also urged all sides to show flexibility to find a durable solution to the Afghan conflict.

The two sides agreed to continue their mutual collaboration at the regional multilateral and international forums.

They expressed their support for consensus-based reform of the United Nations so that it responds to the interests and concerns of all member States.

The Nation, 21-03-19

BEIJING-The China-developed new energy battery-powered demonstration unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), known as LQ-H, has conducted a successful maiden flight, according to its developer Wednesday.

LQ-H, the technical demonstration UAV, conducted the flight at an airport in Zhengzhou in central China's Henan Province, said its developer Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), which is also the developer of China's C919 large passenger airplane. Powered by a hydrogen fuel battery, LQ-H had a smooth flight with all systems in good condition. And its battery power system has been fully validated, COMAC said.

COMAC said it was substantial progress for them in terms of exploring new energy aircraft.

The Nation, 22-03-19

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is expecting to receive \$2.1 billion from China shortly that would help in building the foreign exchange reserves of the country, which are under pressure due to massive repayment against previous loans.

"We may receive the amount next week," said an official of the ministry of finance. He further said that Pakistan is hoping to receive around \$2.1 billion from China. Pakistan had requested China to deposit some amount in State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s account to boost the country's foreign exchange reserves. The reserves are under pressure due to the massive repayment against previous loans and interest payment.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have increased to \$15.7 billion after receiving one billion dollars from United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently. The SBP's held reserves are currently

standing at US\$8.84 billion while reserves of commercial banks are \$6.9 billion. The UAE had so far deposited \$2 billion in SBP's account since January 2019. The UAE had committed to deposit \$3 billion in Pakistan's central bank account on the request of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The official said that Pakistan would receive remaining one billion dollar from UAE next month (April). However, the United Arab Emirates had recently refused to grant over \$3 billion oil on deferred payment to Pakistan. Finance Minister Asad Umar last week had admitted that Pakistan would not receive oil on deferred payment from UAE. The UAE does not give defer oil payment facility to any country, he explained.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan was facing a financing gap of \$12 billion after taking into account all projections of dollar inflows during the current fiscal year 2018-19. The incumbent government after coming into power had approached Saudi Arabia, UAE and China for bailout packages.

Saudi Arabia had announced \$6 billion package for Pakistan, which included placing \$3 billion cash deposits in the account of State Bank of Pakistan. In addition, KSA would also provide a one-year deferred payment facility for the import of oil, worth up to \$3 billion. The loan had been made available at 3.18 percent return. Pakistan had already received three billion dollars from Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, the deferred oil payment facility is also in the pipeline, which would reduce the pressure on the imports of the country.

The successful dealing with Saudi Arabia and UAE reduced pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Therefore, the government had refused to accept tough conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for new loan programme. IMF had asked Pakistan to increase power and gas tariffs, further devaluing the currency, enhancing taxes and interest rates before going into fresh borrowing programme.

Both the sides are holding negotiations through video link regularly to narrow the differences on programmes conditions.

The IMF programme is important for Pakistan for restoring policy lending from World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The multilateral sources like World Bank, Asian Development Bank and others will release the loan once Pakistan enters into IMF programme. The IMF has recently appointed its new mission chief for Pakistan Ernesto Ramirez Rigo, who will be visiting Pakistan on March 26 to meet the Pakistani authorities. Meanwhile, the entire mission team of the Fund would visit Pakistan next month wherein both sides could finalize the loan programme.

The Nation, 22-03-19

BEIJING - China and the United States will hold their eighth round of high-level economic and trade consultations in Beijing from March 28 to 29, the Ministry of Commerce (MOF) said Thursday.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were invited to visit China for the talks, MOF spokesperson Gao Fang told a news conference.

Chinese vice Premier Liu He, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue, was invited to visit Washington D.C. for the ninth round of talks in early April, Gao said.

Recently, both sides have held several rounds of talks by phone on economic and trade issues and agreed on holding the eighth and ninth rounds of high-level consultations, he said.

The Nation, 22-03-19

ISLAMABAD - As many as 20 exquisite paintings by internationally acclaimed artist Ubaid Syed were put on display here Thursday for art lovers to get a taste of unique imagery blending art and nature.

‘The Midnight Sun’ painting exhibition was opened at Tanzara Art Gallery presenting the works of internationally acclaimed artist Ubaid Syed who is currently based in Sweden. Ubaid is well known for his impressions of the local environs colored by the austere beauty of the landscape. In the current exhibition, His paintings take their direct inspiration from The “Lapland” – the land of the midnight sun, eight seasons, and where heaven touches earth. For the artist, this terrain is extraordinary in its variety of form, light and color hence providing him with vistas that he translates onto his canvases with amazing skill and dexterity. Ubaid’s paintings are well balanced and the energy floating around captivates the eye. The rich color palette and bold compositions help create brilliant effects making the painting aesthetically pleasing. He held numerous national and international exhibitions, said NoshiQadir, curator of the show. About the exhibition, Ubaid said “Lapland at the far north of Sweden and Narvik inside to Arctic Circle are the lands of eight seasons and midnight sun. Midsummer night at Lapland and Narvik with their beauty and diversity have infinite subject matter for an artist they offer a symphony accenting contrasts and bring a variety of forms and colors from an almost divinely inspired palette of light and shade.

5G will play a vital part in triggering explosive growth in virtual reality

Colored light and space at Lapland and Narvik present a romantic disorder. There visual certainties are only a kind of optical illusion there is always a visual barrier as to deny the eye

any access to depth one can only metaphorically come over these barriers and experience the grate multiplicity of line, contour color and light that seem to live with the mysteries of space and distance it is like touching the untouchable, he said.

The midnight sun is a phenomenon common to the Nordic landscape occurring during the summer - when the sun can be seen at midnight. This surreal phenomenon creates an intriguing play of light and shadow which the artist captures on his canvases. Through his works he demonstrates, how light can transform a landscape at different times of day or season where visual certainties are only an optical illusion, as they are constantly changing and moving. He breaks visual barriers by presenting various possibilities in which the same landscape transforms completely in different light or season

The Nation, 23-03-19

SHANGHAI - The Communist Party of China has an almost equal number of men and women members among millions, a senior Chinese official said Friday.

Professor Zhao Gangyin who heads the Shanghai Administration Institute, a key training centre of the CPC, said there were almost 50 per cent women members among millions of the registered activists

“I don’t understand why we should have lesser women as members. The CPC has an equal representation,” he said advocating gender equality at a meeting with a multi-parties delegation from Pakistan led by Senator Sherry Rehman and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

The Pakistan People’s Party and the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) delegations were briefed about the training system and working of the CPC.

Professor Zhao Gangyin said his institute provided training to the CPC members to serve in a better way.

He said the CPC had more than 400 million branches across China. “A Party branch starts working when there are three or more members. The membership of the CPC is achieved through a process. If a member is disqualified, he has to go through the process again,” the professor added,

There are approximately 90 million CPC members in China larger than the population of the UK, France or Germany. The proportion of CPC members in the country’s population is enough proof that it is broadly representational, said Zhao Gangyin.

He ascribed it to the political tradition harkening back to the day the party was born. The CPC's activities have since revolved around the "mass line," which calls for the party to stay connected to the people.

A distinct feature of the CPC's system is that the party's units are well represented in almost every echelon of the government, overseeing most aspects of the country's political affairs, said the professor.

Professor Gangyin believed that the vision of leaders like President Xi Jinping was for China to become a strong nation capable of global leadership.

He said that the general focus on the greater good lied at the heart of China's party politics. This reform project is placed under the constant supervision of a party bent on properly utilizing social resources and optimizing the communal benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, PPP leader Sherry Rehman said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the last world leader to meet Chairman Mao Zedong.

"The PPP has close ties with the CPC and will continue to enhance the relationship," she said.

The Senator said China had achieved progress through a corruption-free system and "Pakistan wants to learn from China."

She said Pakistan and China's ties had a long history in which the PPP played a key role.

PML-N leader Mushahid Hussain recalled the visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan when Nawaz Sharif was PM. He said the two states had signed dozens of MoUs during that visit leading to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The Nation, 23-03-19

There is no doubt that China has good, friendly relations with Pakistan, and Pakistan-China friendship has been tested a number of times. Whenever it was needed, China had supported Pakistan unconditionally. Apart from the friendship, which should remain intact, a lot of Chinese have entered into Pakistan and some are still coming. The concerning factor is that the Chinese are being allowed to buy as much property as they want here in Pakistan. We need to learn a lesson from other countries where our overseas Pakistanis are settled, where they need to spend a specific amount of time to get permanent residence after fulfilling their terms and conditions for settlement. Meanwhile, majority of Islamic countries do not give permanent residence. Such time-taking policies adopted by these countries discourage other Pakistanis not to move towards such countries. We should also keep in mind that how Israelites entered into Palestine, and what is their current status at the moment. In fact, Israelites are now claiming Palestine as their

country, and Palestinians are seen as helpless and being victimized by Israelites. Pakistan is not that cheap a country that we allow Chinese or any foreigners to buy our land so easily.

Pakistan should develop a long-term strategy regarding selling land to Chinese or any foreigners, for instance, a Chinese can buy only one property at a time after spending considerable time in Pakistan, and policies should be made harder and harder. A policy should be adopted; first, not to allow any Chinese or other foreigner to buy our land, and if it is allowed, then policies should be made stricter. One foreigner should be allowed to buy only one property after spending significant time here in Pakistan. Moreover, a particular area should also not be spared for foreigners, as Chinese are settled in Ibraheem Hydri, Korangi, Karachi, where general people cannot enter, and which has already become a No-Go area for Pakistanis.

The Nation, 23-03-19

ISLAMABAD - Auditor General of Pakistan officials on Friday informed the Punjab Accounts Committee (PAC) that they want to establish a separate directorate general for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The officials asked for the formation of separate directorate general for CPEC in sub-committee of PAC. The parliamentary accountability body was chaired by Shahida Akhtar Ali.

The officials said that Auditor General of Pakistan wanted the formation of a separate directorate for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). They said the audit department can even serve better, if the authorities concerned properly work for improvement.

Proposing amendments in business rules, they said they should be placed in schedule-2 instead of keeping them in schedule-2. They said that their department has Rs4 billion budget and out of it over 70 percent spent on salaries of employees

The Nation, 23-03-19

BEIJING - Chinese authorities have launched a year-long campaign to clamp down on scams and fraud in the healthcare sector.

The campaign, which starts in March, focuses on illegal activities including practicing irregularities, Medicare fraud, over-treatment, and misleading commercials and promotions of healthcare products and services, according to an action plan jointly released by eight central authorities Friday.

Medical practitioners leasing their certificates, healthcare providers or pharmacies renting and trading such certificates, and those manufacturing and selling counterfeit drugs will face harsh punishment, the action plan said.

For those enticing and forcing patients to receive unnecessary treatment, the national credit system for medical practitioners and facilities will record wrongdoings and illegal activities, and release the information to the public.

The campaign's participating agencies include the National Health Commission, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Public Security and the State Administration for Market Regulation.

The Nation, 23-03-19

BEIJING-China will implement a smart medical service grading system for the development of "smart hospitals," according to the country's National Health Commission Thursday.

A typical "smart hospital" features information-based service systems including a database of patients' medical records, a registration system, a hospital navigation system and a logistics management system, said Jiao Yahui, deputy director of the Medical Administration Bureau under the commission.

The grading system, as detailed in a document released by the commission on Monday, set the grading standards for various items including the ability to provide telemedicine service and the effectiveness of hospital management, among others.

By introducing the grading system, hospitals will have a better idea about their advantages and shortcomings, giving them the ability to better allocate their resources in building themselves into "smart hospitals," said Jiao.

The Nation, 24-03-19

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Day was celebrated in many countries of the world with traditional zeal and fervor on Saturday.

In Saudi Arabia, the Consulate General of Pakistan and the Pakistani community based in Jeddah celebrated the 79th National Day of Pakistan with the resolve to make Pakistan a strong, vibrant, progressive and democratic welfare state. Consul General Shehr Yar Akbar Khan hoisted the national flag of Pakistan in the presence of a smartly-turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Navy, said a message received here on Saturday.

In his address, the consul general congratulated the Pakistani community. He paid tribute to Pakistan's defense forces for proving their mettle.

Khan said the new government in Pakistan had a focus on the overseas Pakistanis. He said the Pakistan Citizen Portal, a newly-introduced rapid grievance alleviation mechanism, was meant to

solve people's problems in a timely manner. He also discussed the initiative of "Pakistan Banao" Certificate for the overseas Pakistanis and added that these certificates would allow the overseas Pakistanis to directly participate in the development of the country.

He said the brotherly relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan could also be gauged from the fact that Saudi Arabia was the highest investor in Pakistan after the CPEC project. "Today, a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan is an important destination for foreign tourists and investors," he said.

Later, Deputy Consul General Shaiq Bhutto read out the message of the president and Consul General Fouzia Fayyaz read out the message of the prime minister to the audience.

Schoolchildren played national songs commemorating Pakistan Day.

In Turkey, the national day of Pakistan was celebrated at an impressive ceremony at the Pakistan House in Ankara. Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi raised the Pakistan flag to the tunes of the national anthem, says a message received here on Saturday.

Messages of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. Students of the Pakistan Embassy School in Ankara presented national songs. Flanked by Pakistani children, Ambassador Syrus Qazi and his spouse Shaza Syrus cut a cake to mark Pakistan Day.

On March 23, 1940, Ambassador Syrus Qazi said in his welcome address, Muslims of the sub-continent, through their collective will and indomitable spirit, expressed their unshakable resolve to carve out a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could fashion their lives in accordance with their own traditions, values and culture. He said, "Through our collective efforts marked by patriotism, sincerity, commitment and honesty, people of Pakistan will steer the country to greater prosperity and glory." He thanked people and leadership of Turkey for standing by Pakistan in challenging times. Earlier in the day, aerial acrobatics team "Solo Türk" participated in the fly-past ceremony during Pakistan Day parade in Islamabad. In Turkey, 15 July Martyrs Bridge in Istanbul on the Bosphorus linking Asia with Europe would be illuminated in Pakistan flag colors.

Moreover, Atakule, one of Ankara's landmarks and its tallest towers, was showing messages of Pakistan-Turkey solidarity during the nights on 21, 22 and 23 March. Atakule is situated on Jinnah Road that also has Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's monument right opposite it.

Ambassador Syrus Qazi and Pakistan's Honorary Consul General in Bursa Murat Tarman jointly inaugurated a photography exhibition "Colors of Pakistan" at Atakule Shopping Centre, Ankara. The three-day exhibition depicts Pakistan's culture, landscapes and people. A large number of Turkish dignitaries, members of Pakistani community, Pakistani students studying in Turkish

universities and embassy officials and their families attended the ceremony. In Sri Lanka, High Commissioner Maj Gen (r) Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat unfurled the national flag to the tunes of national anthem at a ceremony at the High Commission in Colombo, according to a message received here.

The messages of the president and the prime minister, in which they highlighted the importance of the day and paid tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other leaders of the Pakistan Movement, were read out on the occasion. At the end of ceremony, a cake was cut by the high commissioner along with children. In the United Kingdom, Pakistan Day was marked with zeal by hoisting a flag at a simple but impressive ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission in London on Saturday.

A large number of people including mayors, councilors, community leaders, and members of Pakistani Diaspora, British friends of Pakistan and representatives of media attended the ceremony. High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria hoisted the national flag. Messages of President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan were read out on the occasion.

Also, a Pakistan Day special service was held at Westminster Abbey London and Pakistani flag was hoisted on the occasion. High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria represented Pakistan at the Special Service. He was received by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, dean of Westminster. The Reverend Mark Birch led the Evensong.

In Belgium, a flag-hoisting ceremony took place at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels. Deputy Head of Mission and Acting Ambassador Asif Hussain Memon raised the national flag, says a message received here. Messages of the president and prime minister of Pakistan were read out by Economic Minister Omar Hameed and Deputy Head of Mission Asif Hussain Memon, respectively. Prayers were also offered for the martyrs of terrorist attacks in New Zealand and Kashmiri people who lost their lives in the struggle against Indian forces of occupation.

This year an art competition on the icons of Pakistan was also organized for children. Certificates and prizes were distributed to the participants by the DHM and Pakistan's Honorary Consul General in Ghent Karin Zoeter.

In China, Pakistan Day was celebrated with national spirit and fervor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

The ceremony commenced with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Ambassador of Pakistan Masood Khalid raised the national flag and hoisted it to the mast's summit, with the invigorating tune of the national anthem. He read out messages of the president and prime minister of Pakistan. He urged the Pakistani community to unite in order to achieve the national milestones.

Similar flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at Pakistani consulates in Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Shanghai. In Abu Dhabi, the 79th National Day of Pakistan was celebrated with traditional zeal on the premises of the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai.

The ceremony, at the Pakistan Embassy Abu Dhabi, was inaugurated with flag hoisting by Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan. National Day messages of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan were read out.

The Nation, 24-03-19

ISLAMABAD - The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destination 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 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 2.82pc.

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 whereas 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.

The Nation, 24-03-19

Yancheng - Rescuers in China have found a survivor two days after a massive blast at a chemical plant - one of the deadliest industrial accidents in recent years. The man, said to be in his forties, was pulled from rubble on Saturday morning.

But the death toll has risen again to 64, with more than two dozen others still missing.

The explosion was so powerful it registered as an earthquake, causing a huge fire that reduced buildings in the area to blackened shells.

Thursday's blast happened at a plant in Yancheng, eastern China, run by Tianjiayi Chemical.

One survivor told the South China Morning Post she saw shards of glass "falling like rain" and had returned home to find a family member crushed to death in their home. Firefighters had to be brought in from across the region and it took hours for the resulting blaze to be brought under control.

Chinese state media put the latest death toll at 64, with another 94 people suffering severe injuries.

A further 28 remain unaccounted for.

The exact cause of the explosion is still under investigation. Tianjiayi Chemical, founded in 2007, has received six government penalties in the past for waste management breaches and air pollution, according to the South China Morning Post.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered local authorities to step up actions to stop similar incidents happening in the future.

Industrial accidents ranging from factory fires to mining disasters are common in China, often due to poorly enforced safety standards.

The biggest accident in recent years was the August 2015 Tianjin explosion, which killed more than 160 people and injured nearly 1,000.

The Nation, 24-03-19

BEIJING - An impressive flag hoisting ceremony to mark the Pakistan Day with national zeal and fervor was held here at Pakistan Embassy on Saturday.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the verses from the Holy Quran. As Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid hoisted the green and white flag, the national anthem was played. Ambassador Khalid read out the messages of President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan on the occasion.

While congratulating the countrymen on the auspicious occasion, he briefed the gathering regarding the latest escalations between India and Pakistan, particularly the airspace violations by the former and a befitting response by the Pakistan armed forces.

He said the entire nation was united and along with the armed forces fully prepared to thwart any misadventure in future as well.

Ambassador Khalid said the world community had overwhelmingly acknowledged Pakistan's patience, peace initiative and dialogue offer to India for peace and stability in South Asia.

The present government was focusing its attention for the well-being of its people and the development of the region and for the purpose, peace was essential, he added.

About the Kashmir issue, he said the issue was lingering for the last 70 years and the people of Kashmir were propelling an indigenous movement for their right to self-determination under the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council

He pointed out that the people of held valley had intensified their movement owing to Indian repression for the last five years.

He called upon the Indian leadership to resolve the longstanding issue through peaceful means and give the Kashmir their right to self-determination.

Pakistan, he said, had a consistent policy to provide political, diplomatic and moral support to their Kashmiri brethren and vowed to raise the Kashmir question at all the international for including the UN and Organization of Islamic Cooperation through active diplomacy.

The Kashmiri diaspora all over the world was also putting pressure on India to settle the issue, he added.

He said Pakistan was also making efforts and facilitating talks between the Taliban and the United States for peace and security in Afghanistan.

The students of Pakistan Embassy College Beijing attired in colorful Pakistani dresses presented national songs with enthusiasm and national spirit. The ambassador also distributed sweets among the children.

All officers and staff of the mission along with their families, students and a large number of Pakistanis living in the Chinese capital attended the ceremony.

The Nation, 24-03-19

GUANGZHOU- For the first time, the Guangzhou-based Western restaurant Get Holiday joined "Good France," a campaign initiated by the French government to promote French cooking and present the charm of French cuisine.

Each March over 5,000 chefs from different restaurants across the globe join together at the global cuisine event, which has been held for five years, to share their exclusive tips for making French cuisine.

Chen Xiao Shan, the owner of Get Holiday, has been running Western restaurants for nine years. In 2010, he opened his first restaurant Cafe 107. Over the past nine years, he has been dedicated to integrating Mediterranean cuisine with Cantonese dietary culture. During this period, his business has achieved year-on-year expansion.

What brings him even more joy, is that all kinds of exotic ingredients can be served at the table more conveniently. According to Chen, in his restaurant, about 480 fresh French oysters are served each month.

“The French government adopts strict detection mechanisms on oyster farming, and thanks to the opening of an air route and a highly-efficient customs clearance system in China, we are able to serve the freshest imported ingredients,” he said.

The plane fully loaded with fresh oysters leaves France for China every Tuesday and Friday, landing in Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport at 6 a.m. the next morning.

About six hours later, the oysters are delivered to Chen’s restaurant by local wholesalers, ready to be served for dinner.

In recent years, to further reduce the time and cost it takes to import and export goods, Chinese customs has implemented new measures such as optimizing the customs clearance process, simplifying the procedures for filing documents and reducing port charges. Statistics show that in 2018, the overall customs clearance time for China’s imports was 56.36 percent lower than the average time for 2017. “As the customs clearance process for imported ingredients has become further simplified, the transportation costs have been reduced accordingly,” Chen said.

Chen’s restaurant has not only attracted locals but also quite a few French customers. Christian Saint Gilles, a frequent customer at Chen’s restaurant, became close friends with the owner.

Gilles works as a fashion designer, but he is also a skilled French chef. In 2018, Chen opened his second Western restaurant, Get Holiday, and invited Gilles to be his culinary counselor.

“As the counselor, I developed a range of Mediterranean-style dishes and designed an open terrace and kitchen to make the restaurant a more open and diverse place,” said Gilles. This year, inspired by Gilles, Chen and his restaurant participated in the global food event Good France, which opened on Thursday and will last for four days. According to the rules, all participating restaurants will follow the spirit of protecting the environment and promoting healthy cooking

styles. Five percent of the sales revenue will be donated to a local NGO engaged in health care and environmental protection.

The Nation, 25-03-19

China is hailed as the second largest economy in the world, and the country has, since the free-market reforms of Deng Xiaoping, on average, doubled its GDP every eight years. The sustained expansion and economic growth has contributed to a decline in poverty unmatched in speed and scale, with over 800 million people in China being lifted out of the miserable phenomenon.

After the foundation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, political leaders of the country adopted a 'leap-forward' approach that introduced a strategy that was heavily industry oriented. However, this approach failed owing to a scarcity of capital, low allocate efficiency, and a state controlled structure that curbed autonomy and provided poor incentives to the people. An ineffective planned economy and continued political movements between the 1950s and mid 1970s meant that the country's economy was characterized by inefficiency, stagnancy and a relative isolation from the global economy. The year 1978, under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping who succeeded the communist leader Mao Zedong, proved to be a turning point in China's history when mass economic reforms began and the country's economy shifted from being closed, rural and a centrally planned one to an open, market-based, urbanized economy.

Agricultural reforms were the first to take place. Farmers were offered incentives pertaining to ownership and prices which allowed them to sell a portion of their crops on the open market. Open trade combined with a successful growth in agriculture resulted in other state owned enterprises being privatized. In 1980, China commenced its partnership with two prominent institutions, namely, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the same year, the country established four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Xiamen, Shenzen, Zhuhai, and Shantou, to attract foreign direct investment, import high tech products and boost exports. A variety of companies set up factories in China to take benefit of the cheap labor available. Economic growth increased by leaps and bounds in the next decade, and real gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated to have achieved an annual growth rate of ten percent (10%). The Deng era encouraged industries that were consumer-oriented and began the process of a reduction in import barriers. The government encouraged citizens to become entrepreneurs by setting up their own businesses. Permission was given to businesses to pursue their own interests after having met the quotas set by the State. China's economy has, thus, grown substantially since the introduction of the 1978 reforms

In addition to the above, China has successfully weathered various financial crises by implementing policies such as the 2008-9 economic stimulus package of US\$586 billion (RMB¥4 trillion) which aimed to finance infrastructure and loosen monetary policies to encourage bank lending when millions of Chinese migrant workers returned to their homeland

after having lost their jobs. According to analyses by the World Bank, China started off as a recipient of assistance in the 1980s from the International Development Association (IDA), a branch of the World Bank that supports the world's poorest countries, and became a contributor in the year 2007. Economists have concluded that a high rate of domestic savings along with great foreign investment has been a key contributor to the rapid growth of the economy in China. Moreover, the Chinese success in terms of economic performance and growth is a result of the right choice of developmental strategies in place of a stubborn adherence to an industry oriented approach that was deemed to correct by the political leaders of that time. The government identified policies that resulted in positive economic outcomes, and sought to implement them throughout the country while getting rid of the ones that failed. The World Bank encourages nations to learn from China's experience, and Pakistan would do well by doing the same. Our country must embark on a path to steady economic reforms by adopting Deng Xiaoping's process of "crossing the river by touching the stones".

The Nation, 25-03-19

ISLAMABAD-Islamabad High Court is likely to announce its reserved verdict during the current week over maintainability of a petition challenging the government's decision to divert Rs24 billion worth of funds from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects for discretionary spending on parliamentarians' schemes. A single bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice of IHC Justice Athar Minallah had conducted hearing of the petition filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Member of National Assembly Mohsin Ranjha and had reserved the judgment after hearing his arguments. During the hearing, Justice Athar had remarked that matters which could and should be resolved in the Parliament should not be brought before the court. He said to Ranjha that you are a member of the National Assembly so you should approach the Parliament.

He added that the court wanted to uphold the supremacy of the Parliament. You could have obtained these details through the parliament as well. At this, Ranjha said, "I sought details from the Ministry of Planning as an MNA; however, I did not receive a response even after days."

Then, Justice Athar said, "If MNAs use their authority then that is good for the Parliament. Do not bring parliamentary matters in court. This court does not even have the authority that MNAs have."

After hearing the petitioner's arguments, the court reserved its judgment over maintainability of the petition. The petitioner filed the petition seeking to freeze the transfer of funds, and to seek details from the Ministry of Planning and Development that how they would be utilized. In his petition, the PML-N MNA cited Federation of Pakistan through Ministry of Planning and Development and secretary planning as respondents.

Ranjha stated that he is aggrieved of the refusal of the Ministry of Planning to divulge key information of public importance on diversion of funds to the tune of Rs 24 billion from grant No 137 i.e CPEC to grant No 108 i.e discretionary spending on parliamentary schemes.

“Criticality of CPEC to the economic future of Pakistan and to global linkage in trade, commerce and investment as well as regional stability and peace is an admitted fact and every section of the government of Pakistan has owned up to its central importance for us,” said the petition.

Petitioner added that the present government, ever since it took office, has made efforts to undermine the CPEC program arbitrarily simply because of political differences with the previous government. He mentioned, “Rs 27 billion were allocated to CPEC out of which Rs24 billion have been diverted which can only be seen as an attempt to undo the hard work that has gone into CPEC and the same was done illegal and in violation of the mandate of Articles 78 -84 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.” The PML-N MNA said that in a letter to the ministry, he requested the provision of initial proposal for the diversion, cabinet approval and post approval directions to see whether the said diversion was done lawfully.

He added that the planning ministry has failed to provide the information despite being obligated to do so under Article 9 of the Constitution. Therefore, he prayed to the court to direct the respondents to immediately furnish information requested by the petitioner and also suspend the diversion of Rs.24 billion from CPEC allocation till the final adjudication of the present petition.

The Nation, 25-03-19

NEW YORK-Some 500 experts, scholars, policymakers and practitioners in the field of education gathered in New York on Saturday to discuss new trends in the industry and the importance of educational exchange between the United States and China. During her keynote speech at the opening of the third annual U.S.- China Education Forum of Columbia University, Julia Chang Bloch, president of the U.S.-China Education Trust, a U.S.-based non-profit organization, said she firmly believes that education is the foundation for building understanding and trust, and has been a “cornerstone” of the U.S.-China relationship. As the two countries are facing some difficulties in bilateral ties, it is “more important than ever to draw on the power of education exchange to build mutual trust, avoid conflict, and ensure peace and prosperity in the 21st century,” said 77-year-old Bloch, whose father F.Y. Chang was among the first Chinese students coming to study in the United States over 100 years ago. Bloch, former U.S. ambassador to Nepal and also the first Asian American to hold such a high diplomatic position in U.S. history, called on educators from both sides to play an essential role in promoting one of the most important bilateral ties in the world today.

DHAKA - On the outskirts of the Bangladesh capital, over 5,000 workers are busy on the production lines in a factory, while their children are reading aloud at a school nearby.

The scenes are no strange to Pauline Ngan, founder of the factory, Unimas Sportswear Limited, a Bangladesh plant of Mainland Headwear Holding Limited, one of the world's largest headwear producers.

The company started up in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, a pilot city for China's reform and opening-up policy. In 2000, it was listed in Hong Kong, where Nag was born. She established the factory in 2013 in light of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI, proposed by China in 2013, aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa on and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes. The initiative comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. Located in a little-known village named Bagbari, about a half hour's drive away from Dhaka, the factory currently produces about 120,000 hats every day for high street brands including NBA, shipping them to the markets around the world and immensely benefiting the Bangladesh people.

The Nation, 26-03-19

BEIJING : An industry report predicted that around 30 firms with total market value of about 178 billion yuan (26.5 billion US dollars) will become the first batch of enterprises be listed on China's new science and technology innovation board.

The daily turnover is expected to reach around 18 billion yuan, CITIC Securities said in a report.

Piloting a registration-based IPO system, the new sci-tech board focuses on companies in high-tech and strategically emerging sectors such as new generation information technology, advanced equipment, new materials and energy, environmental protection and biomedicine, according to the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

The launch of the new board has entered a "sprint" stage, and the technical system is expected to be ready by the end of May, according to the Shanghai Stock Exchange. According to the exchange, the board's issuance system is ready, adjustment of the listing system is underway and it plans to conduct a debut test at the end of March.

China designed the sci-tech innovation board in a bid to leverage financial reforms to boost the development of high-tech sectors and to advance economic transition.

The Nation, 27-03-19

RAWALPINDI - Chinese government wants to strengthen economic and commercial ties with Pakistan. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now been translated into a physical form. The more cooperation between private sectors of the two countries will lower the

manufacturing cost. This was stated by Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing while addressing Pak China business opportunity conference organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Tuesday at a local hotel.

The ambassador said that the time has come for joint ventures and cooperation between the private sectors of the countries. Both countries are enjoying great friendly relationships and we need to explore more opportunities. Chinese government is encouraging its private sector for more collaboration with Pakistanis companies. He appreciated RCCI efforts for promoting trade and business activities in the region. He expressed hope for more business to business meetings in near future.

Lyu Xinhua, chairman of the Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation (CPSSC) and former vice minister of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China, also addressed the conference. Chinese investors are keen to invest in energy, cement, electricity, environment protection, textile and chemical sectors, he said.

CPEC offers immense trade and business opportunities to the enterprises and business entities of both countries and through this mega project more incentives and initiatives will keep flowing for the good of the entire region, he added.

Earlier, President RCCI Malik Shahid Saleem in his address said that we recognize CPEC as a game changer and we strongly believed that joint ventures with Chinese Companies will usher new avenues of cooperation and improve our trade ties. The joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani companies will increase the ownership of the key stakeholders, he added. The more we have local ownership in the projects the more it will be successful.

He said Pakistan's economy offered great potential to Chinese investors for joint ventures and investments.

He said CPEC would be mutually beneficial for Pakistan and China and would ensure level playing field for the businessmen and investors of both countries.

B2B meetings were also organized on the occasion where business representatives from the private sectors got a chance to meet their counterparts in respective fields.

The Nation, 27-03-19

BEIJING- Chinese researchers have isolated an African swine fever virus, according to China Daily on Tuesday. The research progress could contribute to more knowledge of the organism, and may also lead to new methods for prevention and control, the paper said.

The virus, called Pig/HLJ/18, was isolated from a sample taken from an animal at a farm hit by an African swine fever outbreak last year in Jiamusi, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. Studies showed that the virus is virulent and transmissible among domestic pigs, the Harbin

Veterinary Research Institute said in a statement. During tests, pigs injected with the virus displayed symptoms such as fever within three or four days, and all died within six to 10 days. Pigs that were not directly injected but lived with the other pigs also got the disease and died, a leading author of the research Zhao Dongming told the newspaper. The virus does not affect humans, said the newspaper. The findings highlighted the necessity in the control and prevention of African swine fever in China, which has more than half the world's pig population, Zhao said.

The Nation, 28-03-19

Beijing - Two giant pandas that have been a star attraction at the San Diego Zoo for decades will soon be returned home to China, officials announced. Bai Yun, the 27-year-old female giant panda, and her son, six-year-old Xiao Liwu, will be repatriated to their ancestral homeland in late April. "Although we are sad to see these pandas go, we have great hopes for the future," Shawn Dixon, chief operating officer for San Diego Zoo Global, said in a statement issued Monday. "Working with our colleagues in China, San Diego Zoo Global is ready to make a commitment for the next stage of our panda program." The pandas had been on loan to the zoo as part of a long-term conservation agreement that is coming to an end. The animals had been a star attraction at the zoo, one of very few in the United States to have giant pandas. The species was threatened with extinction when the zoo teamed up with China 25 years ago as part of a conservation program. Today, pandas are listed as a vulnerable species. That means that while their survival is still threatened, conservation efforts have helped reduce their danger of extinction. "We understand that pandas are beloved around the world, including by our staff, volunteers and millions of annual guests," said San Diego Zoo director Dwight Scott.

The Nation, 29-03-19

BEIJING - Chinese cities Urumqi, Puyang and Xian were declared as sister cities to Karachi, Gwadar, and Multan respectively at a forum on cooperation between China and Pakistan friendship and cities held here on Thursday to further enhance the bond of friendship between China and Pakistan. The Pakistani and Chinese officials signed separate agreements in this regard in the presence of Federal Minister of Inter Provincial Coordination, Dr Fehmida Mirza, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid, Vice President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Lin Yi and Executive Vice Governor of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Speaking as the chief guest, Federal Minister of IPC, Dr Fehmida Mirza, who led Pakistani delegation, said that Pakistan highly valued its relationship and mutual cooperation with China.

She, on behalf of people of Pakistan, acknowledged and appreciated China's support to Pakistan in the recent situation and playing a role for de-escalating tension in South Asia.

The Minister also praised participation of the Chinese contingent at the Pakistan Day Parade and spectacular air show presented by Chinese pilots and added, it had not only enhanced the prestige of the occasion but also gave a loud message that the two nations stood shoulder to shoulder through thick and thin.

Dr Fehmida Mirza observed that the last visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China had given a new impetus to Pak-China friendship and opened up several new avenues of cooperation.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a basic pillar of Belt and Road Initiative under which most of the early harvest projects had been completed especially in the fields of infrastructure and energy, she said.

"This flagship project is poised to provide employment to our youth and enhance economic growth as well as social economic benefits for shared prosperity," she added. Pakistan, she said, wanted to learn lessons from China to alleviate poverty and added, "There is a wider scope of cooperation in agriculture health, education, safe drinking water and vocational training and in this respect, this forum can play a key role."

The Minister said that this forum represented ambitions of people of two countries to build a prosperous and sustainable partnership between our provinces and cities and also offered a viable mean for jointly promoting common values, interest, and opportunities. In his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khalid briefed the audience about the history of Pakistan-China relations and the ongoing progress of the implementation of CPEC.

He informed 2019 was a year of China-Pakistan friendship and commended the Ministry of IPC and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with foreign countries in translating the vision of the leadership of the two countries into tangible results in a very short time. He expressed the confidence that Local Government representatives from Pakistan and China would ensure that the torch of Pak-China friendship was passed on and benefit of the cooperation continued to accrue to successive generations.

Pakistan, he said, would promote the sound development of CPEC and remarked the completion of projects would provide a sound foundation for Pakistan's future economic growth by accelerating its industrialization.

“The development of export orientated industry will enhance our competitiveness and improve our economic situation,” he added. He said that socio-economic development in agriculture, education, medical treatment and healthcare, poverty alleviation, water supply and technical education training would accelerate trickle down positive effects of CPEC on local community. He said that the sister cities relationship would provide a key avenue for development at community and local levels. Vice President, CPAFFC, Lin Yi welcomed the distinguished guests and remarked that 25,000 Pakistani students studying in China would further enhance understanding between the people of the two countries.

She said the Chinese government has established vocational training school and hospital for the welfare of local people. She expressed a need to further promote people to people exchanges to deepen the all-weather friendship and strategic partnership between the two friendly countries.

In his themed speech, Vice Mayor of Xi'an City, Gao briefed about the development strategy of Chinese provinces and cities.

He observed that Xi'an could contribute to the development of Pakistan in the field of agriculture, tourism, transport, airline and so on.

The Vice Mayor also briefed about the development of Xi'an and his future plan to further bring prosperity to the City. He informed that at present around 1,677 Pakistani students were studying in educational institutions in Xi'an and hoped that this number would increase in coming years. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Kashgar Administrative Office, Cao Zhi shared the poverty alleviation strategy in Xinjiang and particularly in Kashgar.

He said that Kashgar was connected with Pakistan through Karakoram highway and expressed the confidence that the Khunjab pass which currently remained open for travelling for six months, would be made available for the whole year.

He informed that all the people in Kashgar who were facing unemployment and menace of poverty would completely be lifted out of poverty by the year 2020. He also threw light on the comprehensive plan and assistance from the center and difference provinces for the poverty alleviation.

The Deputy Commissioner said that import of seafood and fruits from Pakistan would be enhanced and promised to provide all possible facilities to Pakistani exporters.

The Nation, 29-03-19

Does our history only appear overheated, but is essentially calmly predetermined? Is it directional or conceivable, dialectic and eclectic or cyclical, and therefore cynical? Surely, our history warns. Does it also provide for a hope? Hence, what is in front of us: destiny or future?

One of the biggest (nearly schizophrenic) dilemmas of liberalism, ever since David Hume and Adam Smith, was an insight into reality; whether the world is essentially Hobbesian or Kantian. As postulated, the main task of any liberal state is to enable and maintain wealth of its nation, which of course rests upon wealthy individuals inhabiting the particular state. That imperative brought about another dilemma: if wealthy individual, the state will rob you, but in absence of it, the pauperized masses will mob you. The invisible hand of Smith's followers found the satisfactory answer – sovereign debt. That 'invention' meant: relatively strong central government of the state. Instead of popular control through the democratic checks-&-balances mechanism, such a state should be rather heavily indebted. Debt – firstly to local merchants, than to foreigners – is a far more powerful deterrent, as it resides outside the popular check domain. With such a mixed blessing, no empire can easily demonetize its legitimacy, and abandon its hierarchical but invisible and unconstitutional controls. This is how a debtor empire was born. A blessing or a totalitarian curse let us briefly examine it.

The Soviet Union – much as (the pre-Deng's) China itself – was far more of a classic continental military empire (overtly brutal; rigid, authoritative, anti-individual, apparent, secretive), while the US was more a financial-trading empire (covertly coercive; hierarchical, yet asocial, exploitive, pervasive, polarizing). On opposite sides of the globe and cognition, to each other they remained enigmatic, mysterious and incalculable: Bear of permafrost vs. Fish of the warm seas. Sparta vs Athens, Rome vs. Phoenicia... However, common for the both was a super-appetite for omnipresence along with the price to pay for it.

Consequently, the Soviets went bankrupt by mid 1980s – they cracked under its own weight, imperially overstretched. So did the Americans – the 'white man burden' fracture them already by the Vietnam war, with the Nixon shock only officials' it. However, the US imperium managed to survive and to outlive the Soviets. How? The United States with its financial capital (or an outfoxing illusion of it) evolved into a debtor empire through the Wall Street guaranties. Titanium-made Sputnik vs. gold mine of printed-paper... Nothing epitomizes this better than the words of the longest serving US Federal Reserve's boss, Alan Greenspan, who famously said to then French President Jacques Chirac: "True, the dollar is our currency, but your problem". hegemony vs hegemony.

Conventional economic theory teaches us that money is a universal equivalent to all goods. Historically, currencies were a space and time-related, to say locality-dependent. However, like no currency ever before, the US dollar became – past the WWII – the universal equivalent to all other moneys of the world. According to history of currencies, the core component of the non-precious metals money is a so-called promissory note – intangible belief that, by any given point of future, a particular shiny paper (self-styled as money) will be smoothly exchanged for real goods.

Thus, roughly speaking, money is nothing else but a civilizational construct about imagined/projected tomorrow – that the next day (which nobody has ever seen in the history of humankind, but everybody operates with) definitely comes (i), and that this tomorrow will certainly be a better day than our yesterday or even our today (ii).

This and similar types of social contracts (horizontal and vertical) over the collective constructs hold society together as much as its economy keeps it alive and evolving. Hence, it is money that powers economy, but our blind faith in (constructed) tomorrows and its alleged certainty is what empowers money.

Clearly, the universal equivalent of all equivalents – the US dollar – follows the same pattern: Strong and widely accepted promise. What does the US dollar promise when there is no gold cover attached to it ever since the time of Nixon shock of 1971?

Pentagon promises that the oceanic sea lines will remain opened (read: controlled by the US Navy), pathways unhindered, and that the most traded world's commodity – oil, will be delivered. So, it is not accrued or its delivery what is a cover to the US dollar – it is a promise that oil of tomorrow will be deliverable. That is a real might of the US dollar, which in return finances Pentagon's massive expenditures and shoulders its supremacy.

Admired and feared, Pentagon further fans our planetary belief in tomorrow's deliverability – if we only keep our faith in dollar (and hydrocarbons' energized economy), and so on and on in perpetuated circle of mutual reinforcements.

These two pillars of the US might from the East coast (the US Treasury/Wall Street and Pentagon) together with the two pillars of the West coast – both financed by the US dollar and spread through the open sea-lanes (Silicone Valley and Hollywood), are an essence of the US posture.

This very nature of power explains why the Americans have missed to take our mankind into completely other direction; towards the non-confrontational, decarbonized, de-monetized, de-financialized and de-psychologized. The self-realizing and green humankind In short, to turn history into a moral success story. They had such a chance when, past the Gorbachev's unconditional surrender of the Soviet bloc, and the Deng's Copernicus-shift of China, the US – unconstrained as a lonely superpower – solely dictated terms of reference; our common destiny and direction/s to our future/s.

Winner is rarely a game-changer

Sadly enough, that was not the first missed opportunity for the US to soften and delay its forthcoming, imminent multidimensional imperial retreat. The very epilogue of the WWII meant a full security guaranty for the US: Geo-economically – 54% of anything manufactured in the

world was carrying the Made in USA label, and geostrategic ally – the US had uninterruptedly enjoyed nearly a decade of the ‘nuclear monopoly’. Up to this very day, the US scores the biggest number of N-tests conducted, the largest stockpile of nuclear weaponry and it represents the only power ever deploying this ‘ultimate weapon’ on other nation. To complete the irony, Americans enjoy geographic advantage like no other empire before. Save the US, as Ikenberry notes: “...every major power in the world lives in a crowded geopolitical neighborhood where shifts in power routinely provoke counterbalancing”. Look the map, at Russia or China and their packed surroundings. The US is blessed with neighboring oceans – all that should harbor tranquility, peace and prosperity, foresightedness.

Why the lonely might, an empire by invitation did not evolve into empire of relaxation, a generator of harmony? Why does it hold (extra-judicially) captive more political prisoners on Cuban soil than the badmouthed Cuban regime has ever had? Why does it remain obsessed with armament for at home and abroad? What are we talking about here – the inadequate intensity of our confrontational push or about the false course of our civilizational direction?

Indeed, no successful and enduring empire does merely rely on coercion, be it abroad or at home. However, unable to escape its inner logics and deeply-rooted appeal of confrontational nostalgia, the prevailing archrival is only a winner, rarely a game-changer.

To sum up; After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Americans accelerated expansion while waiting for (real or imagined) adversaries to further decline, ‘liberalize’ and bandwagon behind the US. Expansion is the path to securitydictatum only exacerbated the problems afflicting the Pax Americana. That is how the capability of the US to maintain its order started to erode faster than the capacity of its opponents to challenge it. A classical imperial self-entrapment!! And the repeated failure to notice and recalibrate its imperial retreat brought the painful hangovers to Washington by the last presidential elections. Inability to manage the rising costs of sustaining the imperial order only increased the domestic popular revolt and political pressure to abandon its ‘mission’ altogether perfectly hitting the target to miss everything else.

When the Soviets lost their own indigenous ideological matrix and maverick confrontational stance, and when the US dominated west missed to triumph although winning the Cold War, how to expect from the imitator to score the lasting moral or even amomentary economic victory?

Neither more confrontation and more carbons nor more weaponized trade and traded weapons will save our day. It failed in past, it will fail again any given day.

Interestingly, China opposed the I World, left the II in rift, and ever since Bandung of 1955 it neither won nor joined the III Way. Today, many see it as a main contestant. But, where is a lasting success?

Greening international relations along with greening of economy (geopolitical and environmental understanding, de-acidification and relaxation) is the only way out. Historically, no global leader has ever emerged from a shaky and distrustful neighborhood, or by offering little bit more of the same in lieu of an innovative technological advancement. Ergo, it all starts from within, from at home. Without support from a home base, there is no game changer. China's home is Asia.

Hence, it is not only a new, non-imitative, turn of technology what is needed. Without truly and sincerely embracing mechanisms such as the NaM, ASEAN and SAARC (eventually even the OSCE) and the main champions of multilateralism in Asia, those being India Indonesia and Japan first of all, China has no future of what is planetary awaited – the third force, a game-changer, lasting and trusted global leader.

Why the lonely might, an empire by invitation did not evolve into empire of relaxation, a generator of harmony?

The writer is chairperson and professor in international law and global political studies, Vienna, Austria. He has authored six books (for American and European publishers) and numerous articles on, mainly, geopolitics energy and technology.

The Nation, 30-03-19

BEIJING- China has released 11.25 million spectra of celestial objects acquired by the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) to astronomers worldwide, according to the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Friday. As the world's largest spectral survey telescope, LAMOST marks the world's first spectral survey project to obtain more than 10 million spectra. Spectra are key for astronomers to read celestial bodies' chemical compositions, densities, atmospheres and magnetism. Among the released spectra, there are 9.37 million high-quality spectra, which is twice the total number of other astronomic surveys internationally. There are also 6.36 million stellar spectra, creating the largest stellar parameter catalog in the world. Finished in 2008, LAMOST began regular surveys in 2012. The telescope is located in NAOC's Xing long Observatory, in north China's Hebei Province. The telescope can observe about 4,000 celestial bodies at one time. It can also help calculate the age of more than a million stars, providing basic data to study the evolution of our galaxy.

The Nation, 31-03-19

BEIJING: The first meeting of the China-Pakistan Working Group has been held here to identify priority areas for cooperation and deepen pragmatic cooperation in forestry between the two countries.

China's National Forestry and Grassland Bureau and Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on forestry cooperation in November last to identify priority areas for cooperation and seek support from relevant departments.

The National Forestry and Grassland Bureau International Cooperation Department and the relevant person in charge of the Pakistan Climate Change Department jointly presided over the meeting.

The two sides introduced the forestry profiles and work priorities of the two countries, and exchanged views on issues such as wetland restoration and floodplain control, desertification control, saline-alkali land ecological restoration, shelterbelt construction and wildlife protection, and discussed the prospects for cooperation.

Professor Gangyin believed that the vision of leaders like President Xi Jinping was for China to become a strong nation capable of global leadership.

He said that the general focus on the greater good lied at the heart of China's party politics. This reform project is placed under the constant supervision of a party bent on properly utilizing social resources and optimizing the communal benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, PPP leader Sherry Rehman said that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was the last world leader to meet Chairman Mao Zedong.

"The PPP has close ties with the CPC and will continue to enhance the relationship," she said.

The Senator said China had achieved progress through a corruption-free system and "Pakistan wants to learn from China." She said Pakistan and China's ties had a long history in which the PPP played a key role.

PML-N leader Mushahid Hussain recalled the visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan when Nawaz Sharif was PM. He said the two states had signed dozens of MoUs during that visit leading to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Later, Deputy Consul General Shaiq Bhutto read out the message of the president and Consul General Fouzia Fayyaz read out the message of the prime minister to the audience. Schoolchildren played national songs commemorating Pakistan Day.

In Turkey, the national day of Pakistan was celebrated at an impressive ceremony at the Pakistan House in Ankara. Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi raised the Pakistan flag to the tunes of the national anthem, says a message received here on Saturday.

Messages of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. Students of the Pakistan Embassy School in Ankara presented national songs. Flanked by

Pakistani children, Ambassador Syrus Qazi and his spouse Shaza Syrus cut a cake to mark Pakistan Day.

On March 23, 1940, Ambassador Syrus Qazi said in his welcome address, Muslims of the sub-continent, through their collective will and indomitable spirit, expressed their unshakable resolve to carve out a separate homeland for themselves wherein they could fashion their lives in accordance with their own traditions, values and culture. He said, “Through our collective efforts marked by patriotism, sincerity, commitment and honesty, people of Pakistan will steer the country to greater prosperity and glory.” He thanked people and leadership of Turkey for standing by Pakistan in challenging times. Earlier in the day, aerial acrobatics team “Solo Türk” participated in the fly-past ceremony during Pakistan Day parade in Islamabad. In Turkey, 15 July Martyrs Bridge in Istanbul on the Bosphorus linking Asia with Europe would be illuminated in Pakistan flag colors.

Moreover, Atakule, one of Ankara’s landmarks and its tallest towers, was showing messages of Pakistan-Turkey solidarity during the nights on 21, 22 and 23 March. Atakule is situated on Jinnah Road that also has Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s monument right opposite it.

Ambassador Syrus Qazi and Pakistan’s Honorary Consul General in Bursa Murat Tarman jointly inaugurated a photography exhibition “Colors of Pakistan” at Atakule Shopping Centre, Ankara. The three-day exhibition depicts Pakistan’s culture, landscapes and people. A large number of Turkish dignitaries, members of Pakistani community, Pakistani students studying in Turkish universities and embassy officials and their families attended the ceremony. In Sri Lanka, High Commissioner Maj Gen (r) Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat unfurled the national flag to the tunes of national anthem at a ceremony at the High Commission in Colombo, according to a message received here.

The messages of the president and the prime minister, in which they highlighted the importance of the day and paid tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other leaders of the Pakistan Movement, were read out on the occasion. At the end of ceremony, a cake was cut by the high commissioner along with children. In the United Kingdom, Pakistan Day was marked with zeal by hoisting a flag at a simple but impressive ceremony at the Pakistan High Commission in London on Saturday.

A large number of people including mayors, councilors, community leaders, and members of Pakistani Diaspora, British friends of Pakistan and representatives of media attended the ceremony. High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria hoisted the national flag. Messages of President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan were read out on the occasion.

Also, a Pakistan Day special service was held at Westminster Abbey London and Pakistani flag was hoisted on the occasion. High Commissioner Mohammad Nafees Zakaria represented

Pakistan at the Special Service. He was received by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, dean of Westminster. The Reverend Mark Birch led the Evensong.

In Belgium, a flag-hoisting ceremony took place at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels. Deputy Head of Mission and Acting Ambassador Asif Hussain Memon raised the national flag, says a message received here. Messages of the president and prime minister of Pakistan were read out by Economic Minister Omar Hameed and Deputy Head of Mission Asif Hussain Memon, respectively. Prayers were also offered for the martyrs of terrorist attacks in New Zealand and Kashmiri people who lost their lives in the struggle against Indian forces of occupation.

This year an art competition on the icons of Pakistan was also organized for children. Certificates and prizes were distributed to the participants by the DHM and Pakistan's Honorary Consul General in Ghent Karin Zoeter.

In China, Pakistan Day was celebrated with national spirit and fervor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

The ceremony commenced with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Ambassador of Pakistan Masood Khalid raised the national flag and hoisted it to the mast's summit, with the invigorating tune of the national anthem. He read out messages of the president and prime minister of Pakistan. He urged the Pakistani community to unite in order to achieve the national milestones.

Similar flag hoisting ceremonies were also held at Pakistani consulates in Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Shanghai. In Abu Dhabi, the 79th National Day of Pakistan was celebrated with traditional zeal on the premises of the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai.

The ceremony, at the Pakistan Embassy Abu Dhabi, was inaugurated with flag hoisting by Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan. National Day messages of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan were read out.

The News, 16-03-19

Pakistan in talks with China for another \$2b deposits

ISLAMABAD: After the United Arab Emirates ‘polite refusal’ to grant over \$3 billion oil on deferred payment, Pakistan has geared up efforts to secure another \$2 billion deposits from China with the possibility of finalization arrangement this month.

Top official sources confirmed the News on Friday that details of financing arrangement with China were being worked out and reaching finalization of agreement within couple of weeks. It is hoped that \$2 billion facility will become a reality soon.

This reporter talked to several officials of different ministries and relevant departments to ascertain reasons for the UAE’s reluctance to grant over \$3 billion oil facility on deferred payment and know about the government’s strategy to cope with the situation.

Pakistan will have to make heavy repayments on foreign loans and bonds in remaining months of the current fiscal year so dollar inflows are must to jack up foreign currency reserves held by the SBP. “We will give you surprise,” said one top official of government when this reporter asked about possible rate of 6 to 7 percent on proposed China’s deposits.

Earlier, China had linked deposits of \$2 billion facility with Shanghai Interbank Offered Rates (SHIBOR). Beijing was intended to provide this facility in Yuan and then it would be converted into US dollar.

Senate special panel questions hiding of CPEC information

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Special Committee on project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Friday took notice of the ‘opaqueness’ surrounding CPEC-related projects and called for sharing all the related details.

The committee meeting chaired by Senator Sherry Rehman, directed the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms to give concrete information on CPEC projects with groundwork, progress and timelines from next meeting onwards instead of providing open source information. “Why is the committee not being apprised of the details of the projects? We come across more information in the newspapers compared to what’s imparted to us during the committee meetings. It is the ministry’s responsibility to address the queries of committee members, they have serious reservations that need to be heard and responded,” she emphasized, as the forum was briefed regarding CPEC projects.

Legislators, particularly from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan protested over the lack of groundwork in their respective provinces including Gwadar, which is supposed to be the centerpiece of the CPEC maritime Silk Road linkage. The committee was briefed on the 8th JCC held in Beijing in December 2018 and members sought details into the current situation of various projects under CPEC as well as about further negotiations with the Chinese government.

Senator Sherry Rehman expressed reservations as neither the timeline nor the terms and conditions of the CPEC projects were furnished by the government. Saying that nothing could be kept hidden from a parliamentary committee, she said, “we are leading delegations into China and China is asking questions. It is asking about the progress being made on the CPEC projects and here we are, kept in the dark by our government”.

The committee was told that during the 8th JCC, MoU on industrial cooperation was signed and Pakistan has succeeded in securing a separate 1 billion US dollar grant for socio-economic development which will come in three years and will be spent in less developed areas of the country. The committee was told that the project of M-1 will be implemented in phases and that finalization of preliminary design was in its final stage.

It was told that the desalination plants in Gwadar are now a part of the socio-economic development projects. Component of agricultural investment has also been added in CPEC projects which will include co-branding, value chain food processing, fisheries and livestock.

Senator Sherry expressed concern regarding gaps in communication. She said a general understanding among Pakistani people; especially regarding Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was that China would single-handedly make CPEC work.

The News, 16-03-19

China adopts new law to protect foreign investment

BEIJING: The 13th National People's Congress (NPC) at its concluding session on Friday adopted the country's first unified foreign investment law, which is to take effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

President Xi Jinping signed a presidential decree to promulgate the law. "The newly-adopted legislation is a fundamental law in lifting China toward a new stage of high-level opening up in the new era," said top legislator Li Zhanshu.

It aimed at promoting high-quality economic development. The legislators also passed resolutions on the reports of the national economic and social development plans as well as the central and local budgets

An overwhelming majority of the deputies voted in favor of it. With unified provisions for the entry, promotion, protection, and management of foreign investment, it is a new and fundamental law for foreign investment in China.

It also aims to improve the transparency of foreign investment policies and ensure that foreign-invested enterprises participate in market competition on an equal basis. The state shall manage foreign investment according to the system of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list, the law stipulates.

Foreign-invested enterprises will equally enjoy government policies supporting enterprise development, and be able to participate in standard-setting on an equal footing and in government procurement through fair competition, according to the law.

The state shall protect the intellectual property rights of foreign investors and foreign-invested enterprises, it reads. The law sends the signal of greater transparency, and will boost Chinese market's appeal to foreign capital, said Vivian Jiang, vice chair of Deloitte China.

With the new law, China will be able to better protect foreign investors' legitimate rights and interests, and create a law-based business environment that is internationalized and enabling.

The News, 17-03-19

‘China gets rid of religious extremism’

BEIJING: Vocational education centers in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region have proved effective in eliminating religious extremism, which is a common global problem, the chairman of the regional government said.

Religious extremism penetrating from abroad has led to a number of terrorist attacks in China's northwestern region in recent years. In May 2014, about a month after President Xi Jinping visited the region, the central government made maintaining the stability of the social situation the ultimate goal for the region.

As part of the measures adopted to prevent violent attacks and eliminate the breeding of religious extremism, Xinjiang has set up vocational education centers around the region in accordance with the local anti-extremism regulation, according to the regional government.

The centers give free classes on the country's common language, offer knowledge of the law and provide vocational skills for the trainees who have been influenced by terrorism and extremism and are suspected of minor criminal offenses, it added.

"The centers have proved effective in eliminating religious extremism," Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the regional government, said during a panel discussion on Tuesday at the annual session of the National People's Congress in Beijing.

"Religious extremism is often disguised as a part of religion, which lures people to fall for it. After learning at the centers, graduates can better tell its true intentions." The establishment of the centers has drawn worldwide attention, and misunderstandings have arisen.

"The vocational education centers in Xinjiang are not concentration or re-education camps as portrayed in some media reports," Shohrat said.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a panel discussion on Sunday of the Xinjiang delegation: "Issues regarding the centers are no longer only about Xinjiang anymore. Some take the opportunity to discredit the image of China and even stir up the good relationship between China and some Muslim countries,"

Shohrat said more than a dozen foreign delegations, including diplomatic officials, were invited to Xinjiang in the past two months so they could see the centers for themselves.

Claims that the trainees are abused and their freedom is restricted in the centers are inaccurate, and there is no way there are more than 1 million people in them, he said.

The centers are actually boarding schools, and the trainees are provided with vocational skills so they can find better jobs with higher pay after graduation, he added.

Shohrat said that as the region - which borders on eight countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kazakhstan - becomes more stable, there will be fewer trainees at the vocational centers. "One day, the centers won't even be there, when there is no need for them anymore," he said.

The News, 18-03-19

Landslide in northern China kills 10

BEIJING: A landslide in northern China has killed at least 10 people and left 10 missing, state media reported on Sunday, after several buildings were demolished in the disaster. Seven people were found dead at the scene and another three died in hospital, according to official news agency Xinhua. The landslide occurred Friday in northern Shanxi province, Xinhua said. The local government did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

The News, 19-03-19

China issues white-paper on fight against terrorism

BEIJING: The State Council Information Office on Monday issued a white paper on the fight against terrorism and extremism and human rights protection in Xinjiang.

The Chinese government stands firmly against all forms of terrorism and extremism and is relentless in striking hard, in accordance with the law, at any conduct advocating terrorism and extremism and any action that involves organizing, planning and carrying out terrorist activities, or infringing upon citizens' human rights, said the white paper, titled "The Fight Against Terrorism and Extremism and Human Rights Protection in Xinjiang."

For some time China's Xinjiang, under the combined influence of separatists, religious extremists and terrorists, has seen frequent incidents of terrorist attacks, which have been detrimental to the life and property of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang and have trampled on people's dignity, it said.

A country under the rule of law, China respects and protects human rights in accordance with the principles of its Constitution, said the document. China's fight against terrorism and extremism is an important part of the same battle being waged by the international community, the white paper said, adding that it is in keeping with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to combat terrorism and safeguard basic human rights.

In today's world, faced with the severe challenges of terrorism and extremism, no country can shy away from them, it said.

The News, 20-03-19

Burn or not to burn: Indian traders split on Chinese products

NEW DELHI: As Indian traders burnt imported Chinese products at more than 1,500 places all over the country, many others have defied a national call by a traders' organization to boycott the products by saying their business would be hit badly if they stopped selling Chinese products.

Traders burnt Chinese goods on Tuesday to protest Beijing's decision to block an international bid in the UN Security Council to designate Pakistan-based group Jaish-e-Mohammed's chief Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist", Confederation of All India Traders said. CAIT also urged the government to put restrictions on trade with China.

Press Trust of India reported CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal as saying that Indian traders “put to fire Chinese goods at more than 1,500 places all over the country, including Delhi.” He said the body is launching a national campaign urging traders to boycott purchasing or selling Chinese goods.

The bilateral trade between India and China rise by 18.63 per cent year-on-year to \$84.44 billion in 2017. The trade deficit with China continued to remain high at \$ 51.75 billion during the year.

But Indian media reports say that despite the CAIT call local markets in New Delhi registered minimal participation as shopkeepers and hawkers continued to sell Chinese pichkaris (water guns) among other items ahead of Holi. Despite a demonstration by the union, locals refused to put on hold the sale of Chinese products.

“We are selling Chinese goods. They were stocked up earlier. If India is importing items from China, we have no choice but to sell them. We will continue to sell them as per demand,” says Vikas, a worker at a local shop.

Several other shopkeepers also disagreed with the idea of banning Chinese goods in India. On the condition of anonymity, one of them said Chinese toys and several items formed a major constituent of the market, especially during festivals. “Their removal will surely hamper our business,” he said.

“Ninety per cent of the market here runs on Chinese goods. How will it function if we call for a boycott?” says a local shopkeeper in New Delhi’s Sadar Bazar, popular for items manufactured in the neighboring country.

The News, 21-03-19

People demand market price for land acquired for dam

MANSEHRA: People on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration, demanding market price for the land acquired by the district administration for the 840-megawatt SukiKinari dam being built under the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**.

“The district administration signed an agreement with the families affected by the project that they would be paid the market price for their land but we are still without payments and our houses have been destroyed,” a resident, Sadaqat Ali Shah, told a rally in Kaghan valley on Wednesday.

The SukiKinari hydropower project, being built on the Kunhar River, is the first energy sector project being executed under **CPEC** in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The protesters, who were raising slogans in support of their demands, said that they would end their protest till they were paid appropriate price of their land. Another resident, Imran Shah, said that people were being expelled forcibly by the administration.

“Our houses are being razed and the land is already acquired but we have not received the payment,” he added.

The News, 21-03-19

China lauds Pak role for regional peace

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Member of Politburo and Director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office of the Communist Party of China Yang Jiechi here on Wednesday.

They had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and regional and global issues.

Yang Jiechi appreciated Pakistan’s role in combating terrorism and its efforts for regional peace, especially in South Asia. He also appreciated Pakistan’s support for reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan. The foreign minister expressed satisfaction over the deliberations in the first strategic dialogue between Pakistan and China, reflecting complete convergence of views on issues of mutual interest.

He lauded Chinese consistent support for Pakistan’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. He expressed Pakistan’s commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which was contributing to Pakistan’s economic development and prosperity. Yang Jiechi stated that Pakistan-China relationship was time-tested and an example in inter-state relations.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has injected a fresh impetus to bilateral economic cooperation. He assured the foreign minister of his full support in building closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the new era.

The News, 23-03-19

Pakistan to attend Boao Forum in China this month

BEIJING: Pakistan and a number other countries will participate in the Boao Forum for Asia, scheduled to take place in Hainan province from March 26 to 29.

The theme this year is "Shared Future, Concerted Action, Common Development," Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will attend the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum and deliver a keynote speech next Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson GengShuang announced Friday. Republic of Korea Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and Sao Tome and Principe Prime Minister Jorge Bom Jesus will also attend the conference.

According to BFA Secretary General Li Baodong, the theme and topics of this year's event cover a wide range of issues of common interest among stakeholders. The program was finalized after several rounds of discussion among BFA's initial countries, board members, advisers, partners and think tanks. Around this theme, the annual conference will feature approximately 50 official sessions, including the opening plenum, themed sessions, CEO dialogues and roundtable meetings. He stated that openness and innovation are natural choices to sustain economic progress and globalization.

The News, 24-03-19

China for addressing root causes of terrorism

BEIJING: China has underlined the need of addressing the symptoms and root-causes of terrorism, as a way out to ensure permanent peace and stability World over.

In the recent years, Chinese government has been actively engaged in international exchanges and cooperation on counter-terrorism and asserted for adopting a unbiased and fair approach in handling this menace,

China's State Council Information Office in a white-paper issued here said, throughout the world, terrorism and extremism gravely threaten peace and development, and endanger the life and property of individuals.

"Striking aggressively at terrorism and furthering the de-radicalization effort is the common responsibility of the international community and essential to the protection of human rights."

According to the paper, China opposes all forms of terrorism and extremism, and opposes double standards on fighting terrorism, said the white paper, adding that it opposes linking terrorism and extremism with specific countries, ethnic groups or religions.

It advocates comprehensive measures to address both the symptoms and the root causes, with the dual purposes of striking at terrorist activities and eliminating poverty, so that there will be no room for terrorism to breed.

China supports more pragmatic international cooperation in the fight against terrorism on the basis of mutual respect and consultation on an equal footing.

As a responsible member of the international community, China supports the United Nations in playing a leading and coordinating role in international cooperation against terrorism.

China has joined most of the international counterterrorism conventions, and under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China and countries involved have signed several documents in this field, it added.

The white paper noted that China has carried out a number of fruitful counter-terrorism exchanges and cooperation with relevant countries through such bilateral and multilateral mechanisms as joint anti-terrorism exercises, joint border defense operations, and suppression of illegal cyberspace activities by terrorist, separatist and extremist forces, as well as security cooperation, intelligence exchange, and judicial cooperation during major international events.

Noting that Xinjiang is a key battlefield in the fight against terrorism in China, the white paper said in recent years, under the care and support of the central government, the region has carried out pragmatic exchanges and cooperation with neighboring countries in areas including intelligence, joint border control and the investigation and capture of suspected terrorists.

Drawing experience from global efforts, Xinjiang has contributed to the international fight on terrorism through effective counter-terrorism and de-radicalization campaigns based on its regional realities, the paper added.

The News, 24-03-19

China factory blast death toll jumps to 64

BEIJING: The death toll in a chemical plant explosion in China rose to 64 Saturday but rescuers found a survivor among more than two dozen still missing in the debris of one of the country's worst industrial accidents in recent years.

Thursday's explosion in the eastern city of Yancheng injured hundreds and flattened an industrial park.

The local fire brigade pulled a man in his 40s from the rubble of the destroyed chemical plant around dawn on Saturday, according to a statement on the city government's official Weibo account.

He was taken to hospital for treatment, the statement said, without giving further detail of his status or injuries.

Rescuers are looking for 28 people who are still missing, Yancheng mayor Cao Lubao said in the statement.

"The identities of the dead and the missing are being confirmed through interviews with family members, home visits and DNA tests," Cao said.

More than 600 people have received medical treatment following the blast, according to the city government.

Among them, 21 are critically injured and 73 are seriously injured, the statement said.

The explosion toppled several buildings in the industrial park and caused a huge fire that raged through the night, while rescuers scrambled to find survivors in the plant's wreckage.

Hundreds of rescuers were dispatched to the scene, local authorities said, and some 4,000 people have been evacuated from the blast site.

The force of the explosion -- which was so powerful that it apparently triggered a small earthquake -- blew out windows and dented metal garage doors of buildings as far as four kilometers from the site.

Nearby residents -- many of them elderly -- were seen sweeping up glass, and in some cases appeared to have abandoned their homes entirely.

The city government said some 89 houses were damaged beyond repair and families were resettled after demolishing those structures.

The government said it was also repairing blown-in doors and windows in 10 school buildings near the site so that all schools in the area can resume classes Monday.

Local authorities investigating the cause of the accident said an unspecified number of people were taken into police custody on Friday.

The facility involved in the explosion belonged to Tianjiayi Chemical, a firm with 195 employees established in 2007 that mainly produces raw chemical materials including anisole, a highly flammable compound.

Tianjiayi Chemical has a history of violating environmental regulations, according to online records from Yancheng city's environment and ecology bureau. In 2015 and 2017, the firm was

fined for violating rules on solid and water waste management. Several residents told AFP they were concerned about pollution from the industrial accident.

"We don't have drinkable water here," one 60-year-old woman surnamed Xiang said. "Why hasn't the government sent us some water?" According to a report released Friday by Jiangsu province's ecology and environment department, several rivers near the blast site are contaminated with chemicals, including chloroform and dichloromethane.

But the city government said Saturday that "continuous environmental monitoring data show that pollution indicators are within the normal range, and the drinking water... is not affected."

The News, 25-03-19

‘Pakistan, China share common views on Afghan issue’

BEIJING: Afghanistan is another area where Pakistan and China hold common views and they are moving ahead jointly to promote Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process.

This was stated by the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in an interview with Chinese major media outlet, the Global Times. During his stay in Beijing last week, the Minister had a detailed interaction with the media, highlighting the importance, Pakistan attached with its friendship with China and for working together to promote peace and prosperity in the region.

He said, both Pakistan and China are committed to peace and development in Afghanistan and wished early settlement of the issue, as desired by its people. About the recent Strategic Dialogue, the two countries held here, he said this not only reinforced our close friendly ties but also allowed both sides to evaluate the regional situation and the steps which could be taken to improve it.

The Minister co-chaired with State Councilor Wang Yi the inaugural meeting of Dialogue following a decision of the political leadership of both countries in November 2018 to elevate the dialogue to Foreign Minister's level.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi said, he held in-depth discussions with State Councilor on the whole spectrum of our bilateral relations including high level exchanges, future development and direction of CPEC, cooperation in the fields of trade, defense and security, enhancing people-to-people exchanges and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

He hoped this platform will serve as an opportunity to further consolidate our time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and reiterate our commitment to building closer China-Pakistan community of Shared Future in the New Era.

Applauding China's support to Pakistan in regard to its sovereignty, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said, China is a voice of reason and wisdom in our region. "We value and appreciate China's support and for its call to exercise restraint and upholding sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. We welcome the Chinese efforts and its good offices to stabilize the situation in our region. "

The News, 26-03-19

China donates \$200,000 to PRCS for Balochistan flood victims

ISLAMABAD: China has provided emergency relief fund to Pakistan Red Crescent Society for relief operation in Balochistan, where heavy rainfalls caused serious damage and losses of lives.

On behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing the other day handed over the cheque \$200,000 to Governor Baluchistan Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai and PRCS Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed during a ceremony held at Balochistan House. PRCS Officers were also present at the occasion.

Governor Yasinzai said that some areas of the province were badly affected by the recent rains. He welcomed the Chinese government over the provision of financial aid for rehabilitation of rain affected persons in Balochistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed thanked Yao Jing for the generous support and conveyed the message of PRCS Chairman Dr. Saeed Elahi to Chinese Ambassador stating that the donation would help in alleviating the suffering of flood victims in

Baluchistan province. “The help reflects that the whole Chinese nation stands with the Pakistani brethren in this hour of need. This would further strengthen people-to-people relations,” he added. He said the PRCS relief operation is ongoing in flood affected areas of Baluchistan. The Society distributed NFIs among more than 100 families in Lasbela district; distribution of food items among the flood affected families is ongoing in Khuzdar, Chaghi, Ziarat and other districts where more than 4000 families shall benefit.

Khalid Bin Majeed said that The Red Cross Society of China has always been in the forefront in provision of relief items and healthcare to PRCS during major disasters, be it the earthquake 2005 or the floods of 2010-2011, 2013 and 2014. During the handover ceremony, the Chinese ambassador said China attaches importance to friendly exchanges and cooperation with Balochistan and is willing to help Balochistan's development, hoping the assistance could support the province's disaster relief works.

At the end of ceremony, Secretary General Khalid Bin Majeed presented mementos to Governor Baluchistan Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Yao Jing.

The News, 26-03-19

Xi, Macron hold talks as France seeks EU unity on China

PARIS: Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Paris on Monday for talks with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, who is aiming to forge a united Europe at a time of growing nervousness over Beijing's massive investments on the continent.

Xi's trip is expected to include the signing of a series of deals on nuclear power, aerospace and clean energy.

It comes after the Chinese leader concluded a visit to Italy, in which the nation became the first G7 state to sign up to Xi's vast "New Silk Road" infrastructure project that has sparked unease in the US and the European Union.

Macron and Xi will on Tuesday be joined by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker to explore "points of convergence".

On Monday, the two leaders met at the Arc de Triomphe, where a regimental guard stood at attention while they placed a wreath before the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, honoring the 140,000 Chinese workers who contributed to the World War I efforts in France.

They later held talks at the Elysee Palace on issues including climate goals, cooperation agreements, and business deals, officials in the French presidency said. It was unclear; however, if they would sign off on a huge order for 184 Airbus A320 planes for 13 Chinese airlines, a deal announced during Macron's state visit to China in January 2018.

A press conference was scheduled for later Monday, before a state dinner with some 200 guests, including the French actor Alain Delon, who is widely known in China.

Tuesday's meetings with Merkel and Juncker come ahead of an EU-China summit in Brussels next month. In an interview with the Nice-Matin newspaper after hosting Xi at a dinner on the French Riviera, Macron said the joint talks "would allow us to establish a common definition for a new international order".

Xi arrived in France on Sunday from Italy, whose government's involvement in the New Silk Road project comes despite misgivings over the huge venture by other European nations wary of China's growing influence. Xi insisted the project, a massive undertaking to join Asia to Europe, will be a two-way street of investment and trade.

EU Budget Commissioner Gunther Oettinger in a newspaper interview Sunday expressed "concern that in Italy and other European countries, infrastructure of strategic importance like power networks, rapid rail lines or harbours are no longer in European but in Chinese hands." Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also voiced concern in an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper.

"In a world with giants like China, Russia or our partners in the United States, we can only survive if we are united as the EU," he said.

"And if some countries believe that they can do clever business with the Chinese, then they will be surprised when they wake up and find themselves dependent." Xi's visit poses a particular challenge for Macron, who wants to deepen EU ties with China while pushing back against Beijing's growing global clout. Europe's distrust of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which is poised to become the dominant player in next-generation 5G mobile technology worldwide, is emblematic of the increasingly rocky relationship.

The US is pressuring European allies not to use the Huawei technology, saying it creates a security risk by potentially letting Beijing snoop on sensitive communications. France has not ruled out using Huawei technology.

The News, 26-03-19

China welcomes Modi's message on Pakistan Day

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson GengShuan said here on Monday at regular news briefing that his country welcomes congratulatory message of Prime Minister Modi to his Pakistani counterpart on Pakistan Day.

When his attention was drawn towards Indian Prime Minister's congratulatory message received by Prime Minister Imran Khan of the Day, he said "The Chinese side has taken note of the relevant reports and welcomed the mutual goodwill of the leaders of India and Pakistan.

China supports the two sides to maintain contact and stabilize the situation, resolve differences and improve relations through dialogue. China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in this regard."

About China's role in defusing Indo-Pak tension, the spokesman said, "our position is consistent and clear. India and Pakistan are important countries in South Asia.

"We hope that India and Pakistan can maintain friendly relations and cooperation and properly resolve their problems through dialogue and consultation.

China is willing to maintain friendly relations with India and Pakistan at the same time. We are also willing to play a constructive role in promoting dialogue and cooperation between India and Pakistan,” he added. To question about Xinjiang, he said, ‘In order to enhance the international community’s understanding of Xinjiang’s economic and social development achievements, China has invited many diplomatic envoys in China and some foreign media to visit Xinjiang.

The visitors personally experienced the true situation of the peaceful and peaceful people of Xinjiang and the people of all ethnic groups living and working in peace and contentment, and actively evaluated the Chinese policy of governing Xinjiang.

There are also reports on the media. As for the criticism of the Chinese officials against the Chinese side, it is completely inconsistent with the facts and it is purely rumor.”

The spokesman reiterated that at present, Xinjiang is politically stable, economically developed, socially harmonious, and the people live and work in peace and contentment. We resolutely oppose the US intervention in China’s internal affairs through the issue of Xinjiang.

The News, 27-03-19

COAS highlights CPEC role in region’s economic development

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said Pakistan is determined and focused to achieve a stable, peaceful and normalized Pakistan.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited the National Defense University (NDU) and addressed the participants of the 4th Pakistan-UK Stabilization Conference, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

While interacting with participants, the COAS focused on internal and external security situation of the country and his vision of an enduring peace within Pakistan and the region. The army chief also highlighted prospects of geo-political environment, security challenges and CPEC towards economic development of the region.

“Pakistan is focused and determined to achieve a stable, peaceful and normalized Pakistan,” he said.

Later on, Lieutenant General Patrick Sanders, Commander UK Field Army, called on the COAS at the National Defense University.

During the meeting, regional security issues and matters of professional interest were discussed, the ISPR said.

Earlier on arrival, General Bajwa was received by Lieutenant General Aamer Riaz, President National Defense University.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing called on General Bajwa at the General Headquarters. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The News, 27-03-19

EU leaders demand win-win relationship with China

PARIS: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday attempted to dispel concern about his country's growing presence in Europe at a meeting with French, German and EU leaders who stressed their desire for a more balanced relationship.

French President Emmanuel Macron was joined by Germany's Angela Merkel and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker for talks in Paris with the visiting Chinese leader which took place against a backdrop of growing tensions caused by Donald Trump's America.

"Of course there are differences and competition, but it's positive competition," Xi told a joint press conference of EU-China relations. "We are advancing together. We shouldn't let suspicions lead us to be constantly looking backwards."

The EU and China have both been on the receiving end of Trump's "America first" nationalism, protectionist trade policies and attacks on international agreements covering global warming, trade and Iran's nuclear programme.

"Cooperation pays better than confrontation," Macron declared. In a joint statement at the end of Xi's three-day trip to France, the Chinese and French leaders both committed to working together to promote a rules-based international order.

Merkel sounded a note of caution about how much the EU and China could achieve on their own, however. "There can't be multilateralism without the United States," she said.

Though the leaders emphasized multiple areas where China, France and the EU would work together, there remain underlying tensions in the relationship -- the source of the "suspicions" that Xi referred to. Ahead of an EU-China summit on April 9, the European Commission this month labeled China a "systemic rival" and presented a 10-point plan proposing a more assertive relationship with Beijing, which Macron has welcomed as a belated awakening.

Among other risks, the commission warned about the distorting effects of Chinese subsidies to its industrial groups, and European firms being forced to transfer technology to their Chinese subsidiaries. Juncker felt compelled to start his public comments at the joint press conference in Paris by saying: "I am a friend of China".

But both he and Merkel raised the vexed issue of "reciprocity" in terms of trade and investments, meaning China should offer more opportunities to European firms in its domestic market and in Chinese-funded projects abroad. Europe wants pledges from China that its vast "Belt and Road" project -- huge investments in rail and road infrastructure in countries from Asia to Europe.

The News, 27-03-19

‘More Chinese companies keen to invest in Pakistan’

Islamabad: Chairman of the Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation (CPSSC), Lv Xinhua has said that more Chinese companies want to invest in Pakistan and they are now looking for opportunities and local partners.

CPSSC chairman is on a visit to Pakistan with the delegation of 28 Chinese entrepreneurs including government and private companies.

While talking to media Lv Xinhua has said that purpose of his visit to Pakistan to know about investment opportunities and local business environment in Pakistan.

He said legal framework in Pakistan is sound and comprehensive. Pakistan government had already played good role to provide business good environment and security to Chinese companies.

He said China and Pakistan are developing countries and there is always room for improvement in government department. “To attract more foreign investment Pakistan should focus on hardware and software facility.”Elaborating his point Mr. Lv said hardware facility means water, electricity and gas for the foreign companies and for software mean facilities of government departments. “There is always room for improvement,” he added.

He further said if Pakistani government will care for the need of Chinese companies working here and would solve their issues then not only Chinese companies but other foreign would also attract. Briefing about delegation of 28 Chinese companies Mr. Lv said most of companies visiting Pakistan for the first time.

He said these 28 companies has specialty in different sectors including energy, construction, security services, electronic devices, investment, infrastructure, environmental protections, building material such as cement, textile, chemicals industry, education and food processing.

Mr. Lv told that these companies had business to business meeting with local Pakistani companies. He said Pakistan government should make more attracting business plans and secure foreign investment to attract foreign companies. “Government should be very strong in term of securing foreign investment,” he added.

Talking about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said duration of CPEC is from 2017 to 2030. He said during this period many projects would be completed and after that more would be start under CPEC.

He said China and Pakistan is working to improve living standard of the people and improve regional development.

The News, 28-03-19

China expels ex-Interpol chief Meng from Communist Party

BEIJING: China has expelled former Interpol chief Meng Hongwei from the Communist Party and dismissed him from his official positions, the country's graft watchdog announced Wednesday.

Meng, who served as the vice minister of public security, vanished in September last year during a visit to China from France, and was later accused of accepting bribes. "Meng Hongwei has no party principles ... does not report personal matters in accordance with regulations ... and refuses to implement the decision of the Party Central Committee," the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said in a statement.

Meng had used state assets to support his family's lavish lifestyle while abusing his position to get his wife employment, the watchdog said, adding that he "illegally accepted huge amounts of property from others".

"Meng Hongwei seriously violated the party's political discipline and political rules ... seriously tarnished the party's image, seriously damaged national interest ... and should be seriously dealt with," the CCDI said. The case has been handed over to the state prosecutor's office, and his "illegal income" has been confiscated, it added.

Meng, the first Chinese head of Interpol, had risen through the ranks of the country's feared security apparatus. He had a 14-year career overseeing various top public security bureaux in China, including the country's armed police force.

As vice security minister, Meng has been entrusted with a number of sensitive portfolios, including the country's counter-terrorism division, and was in charge of the response to violence in China's fractious northwestern region of Xinjiang.

Upon his 2016 election to the Interpol presidency, there were concerns by rights groups that Beijing could use the organisation to round up Chinese dissidents overseas. But day-to-day operations are overseen by the Interpol secretary general, though Meng presided over the organisation's General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, where key discussions around Interpol's general policies and international cooperation take place.

Shortly after his disappearance last year, Beijing informed the international police organisation that Meng had resigned as president, and that he had been charged with accepting bribes.

News of Meng's sacking comes just a day after the country's former head of internet censorship, Lu Wei, was sentenced to 14 years in prison for bribery. Meng and Lu are part of a growing group of Communist Party cadres caught in President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign, which critics say has served as a way to remove the leader's political enemies.

In October, the country's public security bureau linked Meng's detention to a broader initiative to "completely remove the pernicious influence" of Zhou Yongkang, a former security tsar who was sentenced to life in prison in 2015 for bribery, abuse of power and leaking state secrets. Meng was appointed vice security minister by Zhou in 2004.

More than one million officials have been punished so far during Xi's six-year tenure. Meng's wife Grace last week urged French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss her husband's case with Xi during the Chinese president's official visit to Paris.

In her written appeal, Meng demanded that her husband be allowed to receive visits from his lawyers. Since her husband's arrest, she has remained in Lyon -- where Interpol's headquarters is based -- under French police protection. She has also applied for asylum in France and said she fears for her life and that of her twin sons.

The News, 28-03-19

China awaits early oil discovery in Pakistan

BEIJING: China hopes Pakistan will soon come out with good news of big oil discovery to attract more foreign investment in the country.

Quoting official sources, China's influential newspaper, the Global Times, stated Pakistan may soon hit the big oil discovery and that will be good news for not only the country itself but all of the South Asia as well as China and Gulf nations.

There is a strong possibility that the country may discover a very big oil reserve in its waters. If this prediction comes true, the discovery will help the South Asian country to tackle its economic problems, Global Times reported on Wednesday.

The US oil giant Exxon Mobil and Italy's ENI have been involved since January in drilling an ultra-deep oil well. Pakistan may have a more urgent need for foreign investment if massive oil reserves were indeed discovered.

There may be more international companies wanting to participate in related projects ranging from exploration to refining and logistics. The related investment will help Pakistan maintain its growth momentum. China has sound cooperation in energy with Pakistan. A big oil find would stimulate investment enthusiasm among Chinese companies. China is willing to support Pakistan's efforts to seize the development opportunity such a find might bring, and handle any challenges.

The News, 30-03-19

US, Chinese negotiators wrap up 'constructive' trade talks

BEIJING: US and Chinese negotiators wrapped up "constructive" trade talks in Beijing on Friday ahead of another round next week, a top American official said as the economic superpowers aim to settle a bruising tariffs battle.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin held negotiations with China's vice Premier Liu He at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse after a working dinner Thursday.

Mnuchin wrote on Twitter that he and Lighthizer "concluded constructive trade talks in Beijing" but he did not provide more details. "I look forward to welcoming China's vice Premier Liu He to continue these important discussions in Washington next week," he said. The two negotiating teams, including China's central bank chief Yi Gang, posed for pictures in front of Chinese and American flags, but they did not make statements to the media.

Officials are seeking to iron out major differences over US accusations that China has been using unfair trade practices for years by heavily subsidizing its companies while snatching the technological know-how of American firms.

US President Donald Trump has said the two sides were close to a deal, but officials have played down expectations of an imminent agreement. In Washington, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Thursday the talks were not "time-dependent" and could last weeks or even months if necessary.

The talks are "policy and enforcement dependent", Kudlow said. The Chinese commerce ministry said a "large amount of work" remains to be done and both sides confirmed before this round of talks that another face-to-face negotiation was scheduled for Washington next week.

The two sides have imposed tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade since last year but Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed to a truce in December. Trump suggested last week that some of those tariffs should stay in place after a deal is reached to ensure China keeps its end of any bargain. "We have to see what the track record is and we're not going to give up our leverage," said Kudlow. "It doesn't necessarily mean that all the tariffs will be kept in place, some of the tariffs will be kept there," he told Bloomberg TV.

US insistence on keeping the first tranche of 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports could be a sticking point for a deal, analysts say. It is hard to predict if China will accept a deal leaving some tariffs in place, said economist Cui Fan of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

It also includes language on protecting foreign companies' commercial secrets, and fleshes out criminal penalties for officials who leak confidential information they obtain from overseas businesses. Chinese state-owned companies have also stepped up purchases of American agricultural goods such as soybeans. Massive purchases of American goods are expected to be part of any deal, in order to lower the politically sensitive US trade deficit with China, which reached a record high of \$419.2 billion last year.

The News, 31-03-19

New Silk Road critics are 'prejudiced': China

BEIJING: China has never forced debt upon participants of its new Silk Road project as “prejudiced” critics have suggested, the country’s top diplomat said on Saturday in a strongly worded defense of a key policy platform of President Xi Jinping.

Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative, as it is formally called, envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with massive infrastructure spending.

But it has proved controversial in many Western capitals, particularly Washington, which views it as merely a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt through nontransparent projects.

The United States has been particularly critical of Italy’s decision to sign up to the plan this month, during Xi’s visit to Rome, the first for a G7 nation.

Speaking to the ruling Communist Party’s official People’s Daily, Yang Jiechi, who runs the party’s foreign affairs committee, said he had noted that some in the international community believed this was a geopolitical tool and would only bring debt traps for participating countries.

“This obviously shows a lack of objectivity and fair understanding of the Belt and Road initiative. It is a misunderstanding, misjudgment and is even prejudiced,” wrote Yang, a former foreign minister and ambassador to Washington.

China has stressed many times that the Belt and Road is to promote joint development, he added.

“The Belt and Road is open, inclusive and transparent. It does not play little geopolitical games. It does not engage in the exclusion of exclusive small circles.”

Yang noted that many countries, companies and ordinary people participating in the Belt and Road project had “publicly refuted rumours” about it being a debt trap.

Belt and Road projects, from their selection to their financing, go through careful risk assessments and the initiative’s principles stress sustainable development, he said.

“For cooperative partners who have debt difficulties, China’s principle is to appropriately resolve this through friendly consultations, and has never pushed or forced debt” on anyone, Yang added.

To date no participating country has faced a debt crisis - to the contrary many countries have been able to escape the “no development trap”, he wrote. China will hold its second Belt and Road summit in Beijing in late April. Yang said almost 40 foreign leaders would take part, but did not name them. Some of China’s closest allies have already confirmed they will come, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The News, 31-03-19

Tall hurdles as Europe looks to close ranks on China

Paris: Europe’s top leaders tried to project a united front when they met China’s Xi Jinping, but their desire to push back against Beijing could prove difficult to put into practice, analysts say.

Tuesday’s joint meeting in Paris between Xi and Emmanuel Macron, Angela Merkel and EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker was an innovation of sorts. Xi usually prefers bilateral talks, but host Macron, a fervent pro-European, was intent on sending a message: that EU leaders were stronger together.

With Xi sat next to him at a press conference, the 41-year-old French leader pointedly reminded his Chinese visitor that "we expect our major partners to respect the unity of the European Union."

Steven Blockmans, a foreign policy expert at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, told AFP that the meeting should be seen as part of EU efforts to be more assertive.

"There is a feeling that member states need to come together in unison to be able to stand up to China," he said.

The change has been sparked in large part by concerns about China's "Belt and Road" infrastructure venture, also known as the "New Silk Road", which has seen Beijing disperse billions of dollars on investments abroad.

The idea is to improve infrastructure to link Chinese manufacturers in the east to European consumers in the west along a route of around 60 countries.

But China's push deep into Europe, where it has snapped up strategic assets such as ports and promised lucrative contracts for some of the bloc's cash-strapped economies, has sounded alarm bells.

Days before Xi's visit, the European Commission released a sharply worded plan for balancing ties with China, warning that Beijing was a "systemic rival" as well as the bloc's biggest trading partner.

The list of European grievances is long.

The Commission raised the long-standing problem of forced technology transfers, in which European companies must transfer technology to China to win contracts.

It also outlined issues such as Chinese subsidies for its industrial companies, which distort global competition, as well as the closed public procurement market in China.

European officials have long chafed at the bloc's huge trade deficit with Beijing -- it imported 375 billion euros of goods in 2017 while exporting just 198 billion euros.

There is also mounting anxiety about cyber security, particularly over new 5G mobile phone technology from China's Huawei that the US has warned could be used for spying.

"In my opinion, this is the beginning of a long-term adjustment of EU-China relations," said Alice Ekman, head of China studies at the French Institute of International Relations.

Both Macron and Merkel insisted Tuesday on the need for "reciprocity" in relations with China and a level playing field regarding trade and business ventures.

Last month, EU lawmakers voted in new methods for screening foreign investments in Europe which will limit China's ability to buy firms in the strategic technology and infrastructure sectors.

And last week, European leaders devoted time during a meeting in Brussels to discuss their policies towards China -- a rare step that many observers saw as a belated awakening to the risks.

"I really think that Europe is getting its act together," said Philippe Le Corre, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

This will be put to the test next month when Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang touches down in Brussels for another summit with EU leaders.

But the problem for leaders such as Macron who want to see a more coordinated EU strategy is individual member's states pursuing narrower national interests.

"Overall there is a much fractured, fragmented approach by EU member states vis-a-vis China, at a bilateral and regional level," Blockmans said. He says members states have "old habits of trying to strike the best deal they can with this rising superpower."

One flagrant example was Italy's decision to sign up to Beijing's "New Silk Road" infrastructure initiative last week -- despite scowls of disapproval from its EU partners. And while Xi praised multilateralism and EU cooperation during his five-day visit to Italy, Monaco and France, few expect China to change course in how it deals with the EU.

"They like talking to countries individually -- it's not so different from (US President) Donald Trump -- and they've been shaping EU-China relations in that way," said Le Corre.

Just days after the EU-China summit on April 9, Croatia will hold this year's meeting of the so-called "16+1" forum of Central and European countries, which was formed by China. Many European officials believe it is designed to split the EU. Of the 16 countries, which have partnered with Beijing in the forum, 11 are EU members.

The News, 31-03-19

Huawei vows to 'shake off' pressure as network business takes a hit

Shenzhen, China: Chinese telecom giant Huawei vowed on Friday to "shake off outside distraction" as it announced that its telecom infrastructure business contracted slightly in 2018 amid a global US campaign to blacklist the company over espionage fears.

Huawei said net profit rose to 59.3 billion yuan (\$8.8 billion) last year, up 25 percent. But its carrier business, which supplies telecom infrastructure to much of the world, posted a rare decline, suggesting that the US pressure could be having an impact. The company's carrier business was down 1.3 percent on the year, compared to growth of 2.5 percent in 2017 and annual increases typically in excess of 20 percent in years past.

Huawei is the leading manufacturer of equipment for next-generation 5G mobile networks that will bring near-instantaneous connectivity for smart phones, but faces pushback in some Western markets over fears Beijing could gain access to critical infrastructure.

"Security concerns are having an impact on Huawei, as more and more countries place restrictions on the firm's network gear," said Brock Silvers, managing director of Kaiyuan Capital. "Moreover, the US-led global movement has only just begun and is unlikely to quickly recede even in the event of a trade war agreement."

Huawei's annual report, released at corporate headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen, did not detail what caused the carrier business decline or make clear reference to the global pressure. But the company vowed to press ahead.

"Moving forward, we will do everything we can to shake off outside distractions, improve management and make progress towards our strategic goals," rotating Chairman Guo Ping said.

Huawei also is grappling with the December arrest by Canada of chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, daughter of company founder Ren Zhengfei, on US charges that she and Huawei circumvented sanctions against Iran.

Two affiliates also were charged this year with stealing trade secrets from telecom group T-Mobile in a separate case. Guo reiterated Huawei's insistence that it poses no security risk and sought to play up the company's trustworthiness.

"No government or any third party holds shares in our company or intervenes in our operations and decision-making," he said. He also hinted that Huawei's market dominance made it a crucial player in the global 5G rollout that could not be sidelined.

"We are confident that the companies that choose to work with Huawei will be the most competitive in the 5G era," he said. "Countries that choose to work with Huawei will gain an advantage for the next wave of growth in the digital economy." He said Huawei signed more than 30 commercial contracts for 5G in 2018 and shipped more than 40,000 5G base stations to markets around the world.

Overall revenue grew 19.5 percent while sales in Huawei's consumer business, consisting largely of smart phones, surged 45 percent. Huawei hit back at Washington earlier this month by suing the United States over a law barring US government agencies from engaging with Huawei or with third parties that use the company's products, which has crippled Huawei in that lucrative market. Washington has long considered Huawei a potential threat due to the background of founder Ren, a former Chinese army engineer.

Those concerns have escalated as Huawei has risen to become the world leader in telecom networking equipment and one of the top smart phone manufacturers alongside Samsung and Apple. Huawei has vowed to never allow security "backdoors" in its products which could be used for espionage or sabotage, and insists Washington has never produced evidence substantiating claims of security risks. Huawei's annual report mentioned the US legal troubles only in vague terms under the heading "Contingent Liabilities".

