

Expert Says More Rational Public Voices Needed to Improve U.S.-China Ties

NEW YORK - The Chinese and U.S. business communities should have more direct contact to stave off trade tensions, and more rational voices on bilateral ties should be heard by the public, a business insider has said.

"It's essential to hold more direct exchanges between the countries' business groups, chambers of commerce and other professional organizations to remove some adverse impacts of (U.S.-China) trade frictions," Steven Gu, board treasurer of TN-China Network, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

TN-China Network is a Tennessee-based business organization that connects



people across Tennessee and China to strengthen their business ties and enhance bilateral trade and investment.

"Such communications would promote mutual

understanding and trust. Businesses of the two countries can also find some solutions through consultation," said Gu, who is also an experienced attorney and a certified public accountant.

He pointed out that the collateral damage from the U.S.-initiated trade disputes with China have gradually shown up on various fronts so far, especially among trade-sensitive companies and ranches in the United States.

Gu said some ranch owners with whom he had spoken have shifted their stance on Washington's trade policy toward China, recognizing their losses could not be compensated by the short-term U.S. government subsidies if the United States and China fail to reach an agreement on trade issues.

That's because agricultural contracts are normally based on long-term cooperation. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Neighbor News

Iran, Oman FMs Hold Talks on Bilateral, Regional Issues

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has held talks with his Omani counterpart, Yusuf bin Alawi, on bilateral relations and regional developments. Zarif sat down with bin Alawi in Tehran on Saturday, the second such meeting in recent months. The top Omani diplomat has paid an official visit to Tehran in May.

Last week, Oman's Foreign Ministry announced that bin Alawi's trip is within the framework of Tehran-Muscat ties as well as their consultations on bilateral issues and recent developments in the region.

In May, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for

Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi met with bin Alawi in Muscat, rejecting claims about the beginning of negotiations between the Islamic Republic and the United States with the goal of reducing tensions between the two sides.

Tensions have been running high between Tehran and Washington since last year, when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from the 2015 multilateral nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and unleashed the "toughest ever" sanctions against the Islamic Republic. (Press TV)

Time for World to Facilitate Regional Peace: Pakistan Army Chief

RAWALPINDI - Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Saturday said the time has come for the world to facilitate regional peace in South Asia and join Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. Gen Bajwa said this in a statement after 10 Pakistani soldiers were martyred in two separate terrorist attacks in Balochistan province and in North Waziristan tribal district from across the Pak-Afghan border.

The army chief saluted the martyrs who laid down their lives and condoled with the bereaved families.

"Salute to martyrs & families. We shall ensure defence & security of motherland at the cost of our sweat & blood," the army chief said in a statement.

"These are dying efforts of frustrated inimical forces while Pakistan moves from stability to enduring peace. It's time for the world to facilitate regional peace," he added.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also saluted the armed forces personnel who, he said, "continue to lay down their lives fighting terrorists to keep the nation safe".

"I salute our armed forces personnel who continue to lay down their lives fighting terrorists to keep the nation safe. My condolences & prayers go to the families of the 10 brave soldiers, including an officer, martyred fighting terrorists in North Waziristan & Balochistan today," he said. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan, Russia to Hold Business Negotiations at Regional Level

ASHGABAT - A meeting of the Turkmenistan-Astrakhan Council on Entrepreneurship is scheduled for August 11 in Turkmenbashi city, Trend reports referring to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

This structure was created upon the decision of the Turkmen-Russian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation. The delegation of the Astrakhan region will be headed by acting governor of the region Igor Babushkin. The corresponding documents are planned to be signed with the Turkmen side.

Earlier it was reported that Astrakhan is interested in Turkmenistan's transit possibilities for the transportation of Russian goods, in particular, to Central Asia and Afghanistan.

In its turn, the Astrakhan region offers energy equipment for the Turkmen developing energy system, ships and equipment for fishing. Turkmenistan is ready to increase export of building materials, in particular cement, products of the oil refining and petrochemical industry, agriculture and light industry to Astrakhan. (Trend)

Swiss Company Official: Barriers Impeding Uzbek Business Being Removed

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan has embarked on a path of comprehensive social and economic reforms, Group Secretary and General Counsel of the Swiss company Rieter, Thomas Anwander told Trend in an interview.

"Uzbek Government shows strong political will and commitment towards liberalizing the economy and taking Uzbekistan to a new level of development," Anwander said.

He added that Rieter has been closely following the reforms in Uzbekistan, and fully supports newly formulated tax and customs policies, currency liberalization

and other important measures.

"We can see that previous barriers that have been impeding business are now being removed," Anwander stated.

Group Secretary and General Counsel noted that Uzbekistan has a number of factors that make the country attractive for foreign investors, some of which include ample natural resources, stable infrastructure, abundant workforce and low utility costs.

"Due to ongoing reforms, we see constant changes in national legislation that happen exceptionally fast. (Trend)

Washington Greenlights Military Sales to Pakistan & India, Months after Air Skirmish

WASHINGTON - The US has approved \$125 million worth of support for Pakistan's F-16 warplanes as well as \$670 million of support for India's C-17 transport planes. The two regional rivals had their first direct air combat in decades this year. The sale to Pakistan will require the deployment of some 60 contractor representatives, who will "provide 24/7 end-use monitoring" for the country's US-made fleet of fighter jets, the Pentagon's Defense Security

Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said in a statement on Friday. The package will service the Lockheed Martin F-16s delivered to Pakistan as part of the "Peace Drive" program, which includes 12 F-16C jets and 6 F-16D jets.

Pakistan's fleet of F-16s came into the spotlight in February during a security crisis, in which Indian and Pakistani war-



planes engaged in direct combat for the first time in decades. New Delhi alleged that Pakistan had used the US-made jets during its retaliatory attack inside an Indian-controlled part of the disputed Kashmir ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Committee on Halting Agreements with Israel to Meet Soon: PLO Official

RAMALLAH - Member of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee Ahmad Majdalani on Saturday said that the committee tasked with implementation of the leadership's decision to pull out of all agreements signed with Israel will meet by Sunday. Majdalani said in an interview with the official Palestinian radio station Voice of Palestine that the committee is requested to put clear mechanisms under a specific timeline for the

implementation of the leadership's decision. He added that the committee is composed of high ranking officials of PLO's Executive Committee, Fatah's Central Committee and the government.

Last Thursday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared that the Palestinian leadership decided to stop abiding by the signed agreements between the PLO and Israel, in the wake of massive house demolition in East Jerusalem ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Brexit Is A 'Massive Economic Opportunity': PM Johnson



MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday said Brexit was a "massive economic oppor-

tunity" but had been treated under his predecessor Theresa May as "an impending adverse weather event". In a speech in Manches-

ter where he pledged new investment in Leave-voting areas, Johnson promised to step up negotiations on post-Brexit trade deals and set up free ports to boost the economy.

"When people voted to leave the European Union, they were not just voting against Brussels, they were voting against London too," he said. Johnson promised to give more powers to local communities, as well as boost broadband and transport infrastructure in a speech focused on

domestic issues. "Taking back control doesn't just apply to Westminster regaining sovereignty from the EU, it means our cities and counties and towns becoming more self governing," he said. "Leaving the EU is a massive economic opportunity to do things we've not been allowed to do for decades," he said.

Asked about the prospect of Brexit negotiations, Johnson said he was willing to engage ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Diplomacy Tricks: Israeli Envoy Performs HANDSTAND at Meeting with Macedonian President

SKOPJE - The ways of international diplomacy are surely tricky, but rarely to the extent shown off by the Israeli envoy to North Macedonia, who performed a handstand as he met the host country's president in an apparent bid to impress him.

President Stevo Pendarovski met Israeli Ambassador Dan Oryan on Friday at his Skopje residence. It being their very first meeting, the recently elected Pendarovski played things safe, talking economics and co-

operation; the resulting press releases weren't exactly a thrilling read.

Except for one item: shared to the president's Facebook page was a bizarre picture of the Israeli envoy showing off his impressive athletic skills, right in the North Macedonian leader's hall, with Oryan standing on his left hand and his tie hanging before his face. In the background, a very attentive and serious Pendarovski watches in front of a backdrop of the NATO, EU and Macedonian flags. (RT)

'Total Lie': Mod Says No 'Russian Tanks for Serbia' Intercepted in Romania

BUCHAREST - The Russian Defense Ministry has dismissed reports claiming that a delivery of Russian arms to Serbia, including tanks and APCs, was seized by Romania on the Danube River. Moscow hasn't sent any arms to Serbia lately, it said.

All reports about the alleged Romanian detention of a Russian transport vessel carrying tanks and armored personnel carriers are a "total lie," the ministry said in a statement, adding that it has not recently sent a shipment of such military hardware along the Danube.

"All the shipments have been delivered in accordance with the contract within the agreed time frames," the ministry's statement ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Brazil Airport Heist: WATCH Armed Robbers in Police Disguise Steal 750kg of Gold in Broad Daylight

BRASILIA - It took a team of armed robbers disguised as cops less than 3 minutes to steal some \$40mn worth of gold and other precious metals from a Sao Paulo airport terminal in a sophisticated heist that was captured by CCTV cameras.

Without firing a single shot, the gang of eight pulled off what has become Brazil's third-largest robbery ever, worthy of the most sophisticated Hollywood scripts. The footage captured by a security camera shows the suspects arriving at the export depot of the cargo terminal of Brazil's busiest airport in a black truck, resembling a federal police vehicle. (RT)

Trump Says N. Korea Missile Tests No Threat to US

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump on Friday brushed off the bellicose language accompanying North Korea's latest short-range missile test, saying it referred to ally South Korea, not the United States.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called two missiles fired Thursday under his personal supervision a "solemn warning" to the South over planned military drills with the United States.

Trump, who has invested heavily in a relationship with Kim, widely seen as one of the world's most re-



pressive dictators, was unconcerned. "He didn't send a warning to the United States," the president told reporters.

"They have their disputes, the two of them have their disputes," he said of North and South Korea, which fought a

1950-1953 war in which US troops took a major part, ending up as the South's principal protector.

Trump noted that the missiles were short-range, calling them "very standard." Although they could not ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Nazi Salute in Dresden Shows Cracks with Merkel and Germany's Establishment

BERLIN - Angela Merkel was expecting a friendly chat with business women when she visited Dresden earlier this month. Instead, far-right protesters jeered the German Chancellor's arrival.

Hundreds of demonstrators from the Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West, a group known as Pegida, gathered in the historic city to voice their anger at Merkel and her decision to welcome over a million refugees since 2015. One

threw a bottle at a journalist, another gave a Nazi salute, while a third denied the Holocaust, a criminal offense in Germany. A poster bearing Merkel's image read: Terrorists Welcome. Despite nearly a decade of consistent economic growth, there's growing fatigue with Merkel and the ruling parties, particularly in the former communist East, which has undergone decades of social and economic change. The region that saw massive right-wing ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Hong Kong Police Fire Tear Gas at Protesters

HONG KONG - Hong Kong police fired tear gas Saturday at protesters after they defied officials' calls to stop a march in a neighborhood where a mob brutally attacked demonstrators six days ago in a train station.

Protesters wearing black streamed through Yuen Long even as police declined permission for the march, citing potential risks of clashes between local residents and protesters. The march comes after white-clad assailants attacked dozens of people last Sunday night, including some demonstrators who were heading home after the latest mass protest in the summer-long pro-democracy movement.

Authorities said the train station attackers were connected to triad gangs and others were villagers who live in the area.

But less than three hours after the start of the march on Saturday, police fired tear gas in a bid to disperse the crowd.

"Hong Kong police know the law and break the law," protesters chanted as they made their way through the streets.

The government released a statement warning the protesters that police would move in to break up the demonstration and accused the protesters of "holding iron poles, self-made shields and even removing fences from roads," and that some had vandalized a police vehicle with officers inside.

An earlier government statement also said ...*(More on P4)...(19)*