

## U.S. Should Innovate Together with China, Says Expert

SAN FRANCISCO - The United States should collaborate with China on innovation rather than "control" Chinese technologies, which could set back growth in technology growth, Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC), said on Monday.

Allen, president of the Washington-based non-profit organization representing over 200 American companies doing business with China, made the remarks at a seminar held by Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center of Stanford University in northern California.

Allen stressed the importance of cooperation on both sides so that innovation can thrive amid the trade tensions between the United States and China.

"American companies and Chi-



nese companies have worked together in innovation space, in a very beautiful manner," said Allen, who previously served as deputy assistant secretary for China at the U.S. Department

of Commerce. "You can't imagine a company like Apple without China, and you can't imagine China without a company like Apple. I mean they produced tremendous value for everyone," he said.

He also said U.S. innovation involving Chinese students and professors and joint venture activities have been remarkably productive over the last four decades.

Allen warned that the U.S. government's move to restrict a category of "emerging technologies" out of "national security" concerns would negatively impact the global innovation community. "How many thousands of collaborative research ventures are going to be impacted by that?" he said, urging Washington to define the category carefully. "We are entering this technology battle at a wrong time," Allen told the audience, including students and faculty members of Stanford as well as the public. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Chinese Leaders Attend Panel Deliberations at NPC's Annual Session

BEIJING - Senior leaders on Tuesday joined lawmakers in different panel deliberations at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC).

The leaders - Li Zhan-shu, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng - are members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

Joining the deliberation by deputies from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Li, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, stressed the adherence to the Party's centralized and unified leadership over advancing law-based governance in all fields, and called for sound legislation, strict law enforcement, impartial administration of justice and the observation of law by everyone.

Wang Huning, a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, joined the deliberation of the delegation of Shanxi

Province. He called for the implementation of a new vision for development, as well as further efforts to push forward reform and opening-up from the new starting point, and to take new steps in promoting high-quality development.

Joining the delegation of Liaoning Province, Zhao Leji, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, urged the implementation of various tasks including transforming the growth model, optimizing economic structure and shifting growth drivers to nurture emerging industries, new business models and fresh growth momentum.

Vice Premier Han Zheng called for vigorous implementation of the strategy of innovation-driven development, concentration on major scientific and technological problems, and new breakthroughs in areas of strength, when joining the deliberation of the Anhui delegation. (Xinhua)

### PM Lauds Generosity of People for Raising Rs 10 Bln for Dam Fund

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday lauded general public for contributing Rs 10 billion for Diaram-Bhasha Dam Fund.

"I will like to pay tribute to the generosity of the people of Pakistan for raising Rs10 billion for the dam's fund," the Prime Minister wrote

in a tweet. The Prime Minister also posted a graph showing upward trajectory of the fund in the bank account of Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Prime Minister's Diaram-Bhasha and Mohmand Dams Fund, with exact figure amounting at Rs 10,007,099,978. (Monitoring Desk)

### 'Lucky' Iraq Renders US Campaign against Iran Futile

TEHRAN - As economic interdependence is growing between Iran and Iraq, private companies are being given the pivotal role to nurture increasingly powerful and mutually beneficial relations between the two important neighbors.

A delegation of 32 business people is tagging along as President Hassan Rouhani is currently visiting Iraq to shore up ebullient trade partnership against US subterfuge.

The private sector provides the wiggle room for both countries to navigate the complex maze of US sanctions imposed on Iran after President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic in May.

For their run-of-the-mill maintenance, Iraqis depend on Iranian companies for everything from food to machinery, electricity, natural gas, fruits

and vegetables. Iraq's infrastructure has been destroyed in 30 years of wars, mostly after the US invasion which saw the bulk of the highly-skilled human force leave the country. Iran offers an invaluable pool of human capital, services and resources which are literally within a walking distance from the Iraqi border.

Hence, choking such a vital source is as much damaging - if not worse - to Iraq as it is to Iran, explaining President Barham Salih's declaration that Iraq's interests lie in maintaining very good relations with Iran.

"I deliberately repeat this sentence several times. We Iraqis have an interest in strengthening these relations with Iran, and we must see them as a main issue among all our regional relationships," he said Monday, with Rouhani on his side. (Press TV)

### Talks on Deal in Search & Rescue Operations in Caspian Sea Underway in Ashgabat

ASGHABAT - The Turkmen Foreign Ministry is hosting a meeting of authorized representatives of the Caspian states to agree on a draft inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in conducting search and rescue operations in the Caspian Sea, Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen TV channel Altyn Asyr. The organizers of the event, which will last until March 13, are the Turkmen Foreign Ministry and the State Enterprise for Caspian Sea Affairs under the President of Turkmenistan. Experts from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan,

Russia and Turkmenistan are submitting their proposals to the text of the document. Meetings on Caspian Sea issues are regularly held in Ashgabat. Recently, a meeting of authorized representatives of the protocol on cooperation in the field of safety of navigation in the Caspian Sea has been held. In particular, the issues of application of the provisions of international documents in the field of safety of navigation, including the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), were considered. (Trend)

### Aid Groups Appeal for Syria Funds as Donors Meet in Brussels

BRUSSELS - Aid organizations are appealing for funds to help Syria recover from an eight-year war that has driven more than 6 million people from the country and displaced many more inside Syria.

Donors from around 85 countries are gathering in Brussels for a pledging conference.

NGOs and think-tanks insist that the conflict, which has killed more than 400,000 people and sparked a refugee exodus that destabi-

lized Syria's neighbors and hit Europe, is far from over.

Oxfam Syria Director Moutaz Adham said Tuesday that funds are "needed for essential services like water, education and health-care," and that without it "Syrians will continue to suffer for many more years to come."

Around 80 percent of people inside Syria live in extreme poverty. Refugees are reluctant to return, fearing violence, conscription or prison. (Fox News)

### Boeing Pledges to Roll Out Software Upgrade for 737 MAX in 'Coming Weeks' after FAA Push

RENTON - Boeing, in full damage-control mode after the Ethiopian Airlines disaster, has vowed to upgrade, within weeks, the software on its 737 MAX 8. The aircraft has been at the center of safety concerns after two crashes in five months.

The US-based aerospace company has said that it had been developing "the flight control software enhancement" for several months since an identical Boeing model had plunged into the Java Sea off the coast of

Indonesia in October, killing 189 passengers and crew.

The upgrade aims, according to the company, "to make an already safe aircraft even safer" and would be installed across all the 737 MAX aircraft "in the coming weeks." The announcement comes as the company moves to save face following major reputational fallout from the Sunday crash of Flight 302 after it took off from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. All 157 people on board died, prompting



the Ethiopian aviation authority to ground its entire 737 MAX fleet. Its example was followed by Indonesia, China, Mongolia, Morocco and several airlines in Mexico, South Africa and the Cayman Islands. ... (More on P4)... (13)

### 'Islamophobia Expert,' Flight Attendant on PM's Jet Chose ISIS: How Do Westerners Get Radicalized?



BAGHOUZ - As Kurdish and Syrian Democratic Forces pound the last remaining ISIS stronghold, a stream of

foreign jihadists have poured out of the village of Baghouz, Syria. Who are the captured Westerners and what

happens to them next? US-backed Kurdish and SDF troops launched an all-out assault on the Syrian hamlet of Baghouz on Sunday evening, pummeling the village with airstrikes and killing "dozens" of militants overnight.

Nestled on the banks of the Euphrates near the Iraqi border, Baghouz is the last redoubt of the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS), whose 'caliphate' once spanned much of Iraq and Syria. SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali told Reuters that

4,000 IS militants in Baghouz have surrendered in the last month, and tens of thousands of their wives, children, and family members have evacuated the village. Only a dedicated few fighters remain inside, ready to defend the caliphate to the death.

Among the dregs emerging from Baghouz are a curious mix of Westerners who had become radicalized and made the journey to Syria to fight for IS. ... (More on P4)... (14)

### From Scaremongering to Direct Threats: US Intel May be Denied to Countries That Buy Chinese 5G

BERLIN - Germany can forget about getting as much intelligence from US spooks as it currently does if it allows Chinese telecoms to build 5G infrastructure, a letter from the American ambassador in Berlin has reportedly warned. Washington is continuing to twist the arms of its European allies to discourage economic cooperation with its biggest geopolitical rival, China. According to the Wall Street Journal, US Ambassador Richard A. Grenell

sent a letter to the German economy minister, which said that Berlin should discriminate against Chinese companies like Huawei when selecting providers of 5G equipment to upgrade its networks. Ignoring the warning may result in the US downgrading its intelligence-sharing cooperation with Germany, the letter dated last Friday said. American intelligence agencies like the NSA are an essential source of information for ... (More on P4)... (15)

### NYT Faces Indian Backlash after Calling Terrorist Bombing 'Explosion' in Tweet

NEW YORK CITY - The US paper of record attracted a wave of outrage from India after calling a suicide bomb attack "an explosion," and misspelling the name of the country's prime minister. What could possibly go wrong when you try to explain the intricacies of the political situation in the world's largest democracy to your American readers? The New York Times managed to find a way to botch the job with one tone-deaf tweet on Monday. Linking to the analytical article, the tweet read: "After an explosion in Kashmir and weeks of brinkmanship with Pakistan, many Indians are ... (More on P4)... (16)

### 'Pressured' Chemical Watchdog Afraid to Contradict US on Douma Chemical Incident - Russian Envoy

MOSCOW - The OPCW could not come up with an unbiased report on the alleged 2018 chemical attack in Douma, as acknowledging that it was faked would've made the US strikes against Syria illegitimate, the Russian envoy to the OPCW told RT.

In early March, the final report by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) stated that there were "reasonable grounds" to believe that "molecular chlorine" was used as a chemical weapon in the Syrian city of Douma on April 7, 2018.

On Monday, Russian experts held a press-conference to respond to that paper. ... (More on P4)... (17)

### Ex-Catalan Leader: EU Ballot Opens Door to Return to Spain

MADRID - The former president of Spain's Catalonia region who fled the country after leading an attempt to secede in 2017 says he will return if he is elected to the European Parliament in May.

Spanish authorities consider Carles Puigdemont a fugitive, but he told Catalan radio RaC1 in an interview Tuesday that being a European lawmaker would entitle him to immunity from prosecution in the bloc. Spanish officials made no immediate comment. The 56-year-old politician fled to Brussels after the failed secession effort, which has landed



other Catalan officials in court.

He has successfully fought his extradition to Spain from both Germany and Belgium.

JxCat - or Together

for Catalonia, which includes the conservative separatist PDeCat party - says Puigdemont will be its main candidate in the May 26 ballot. (Fox News)

### Christians Condemn Acquittal of Suspected Jerusalem Vandals

JERUSALEM - Christian authorities in Jerusalem are denouncing the acquittal of two Jewish youths suspected of vandalizing a famous monastery.

Wadie Abunassar, an adviser to church leaders in the Holy Land, said on Tuesday that an Israeli court's decision to acquit those suspected of sprawling anti-Christian graffiti on the Dormition Abbey several years ago is "unacceptable." He says the outcome is that those who

carried out the attack weren't "brought to justice" and Israeli authorities must find and punish them to deter others.

The attack against the Dormition Abbey, where Christians believe the Virgin Mary died, came amid a spate of vandalism on Christian targets that were blamed on extremist Jewish activists. It was widely condemned.

The Benedictine monastery just outside Jerusalem's Old City is a popular site for pilgrims and tourists. (Fox News)

### Brexit Hangs in The Balance as Parliament to Vote on May's Tweaked Deal

LONDON - Britain's exit from the European Union hung in the balance on Tuesday after the government's lawyer said last-minute "legally binding" assurances won by Prime Minister Theresa May to her divorce deal left the risk over the Irish backstop "unchanged".

Scrambling to plot an orderly path out of the Brexit maze just days before the United Kingdom is due to leave, May rushed to Strasbourg on Monday to agree the assurances with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

But Attorney General Geoffrey Cox said in a written opinion the assurances were legally binding but the risk remained "unchanged" that the United Kingdom would have no lawful means of exiting the backstop, aimed at avoiding controls on the border between the British province of Northern Ireland and EU-member Ireland.

British lawmakers, who on Jan. 15 voted 432-202 against May's deal, were studying the assurances and Cox's legal advice before the vote later on Tuesday.

Cox's opinion is unlikely to win over the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which props up May's minority government, or many Brexit supporters in her party.

Sterling fell sharply on Cox's advice. It was trading at \$1.3022 at 1135 GMT. "The legal risk remains unchanged that... the United Kingdom would have, at ... (More on P4)... (18)