

Alibaba's Jack Ma Is Member of Chinese Communist Party, Report Says

BEIJING - China's best-known capitalist and the head of e-commerce giant Alibaba has been revealed to be a member of the Communist Party, the official Party newspaper said on Monday.

Jack Ma's membership was revealed among the list of 100 other prominent people in China that helped achieve the country's goal of "reform and opening up," Reuters reported. It remains unclear what prompted the party to reveal Ma's political affiliation, but it appears as part of the communist government effort to align the values of the party with the private enterprises.

The head of Alibaba, a company that captured China's online retail market and is valued at \$390 billion, is the richest man in China, whose personal wealth is worth around \$35.8 billion, according to Forbes. He announced last September that he will step down as the company's chairman next year.

Many thought Ma wasn't affiliated with any party, with a Chinese search engine showing results that mostly say he's not a member of the Communist Party, according to Reuters. But Ma has been a prominent backer of President Xi Jinping and his policies, suggesting in 2016 that the gov-

ernment should use big data to prevent crime. The suggestion in effect endorsed China's unprecedented expansion of the surveillance state, Bloomberg reported.

He also followed the lead of Xi's campaign to reduce inequality in the country, with Ma saying entrepreneurs must help others to catch up. Alibaba told the Reuters that the political affiliations don't influence the company's decisions. "Political affiliation of any executive does not influence the company's business decision-making process," the company spokesperson said in a statement. (Fox News)

Hundreds in NYC Protest Against Amazon's HQ2

NEW YORK - Hundreds of New Yorkers braved heavy rains and gathered in a Long Island City neighborhood on Monday evening to protest e-commerce giant Amazon's recent announcement of locating a second headquarters (HQ2) here.

In raincoats or holding umbrellas, the protesters took over Court Square Park, a block away from Amazon's proposed site, and chanted slogans like "We say no!" for about an hour, before marching toward other parts of the area at around 6 p.m. (2300 GMT). The Seattle-based Amazon announced ear-

lier this month a plan to split its second headquarters in the New York City borough of Queens on Long Island and Crystal City area of Arlington, Virginia. It has promised to host around 25,000 jobs in the New York offices, with an average salary of 150,000 U.S. dollars a year.

Both New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio welcomed the deal, offering a total of 2.8 billion dollars of incentives, including tax credits and grants from the state, and another two big tax breaks from the city if the company meets the 25,000 jobs target. (Xinhua)

(1) Agricultural Development...

But they remain on paper," said Ghani.

The president said that government has also created the legal structure for mining and natural resources so that they become a source of stability and prosperity.

"In order for them to become manifest and to become a source of stability, we have created the legal structure. The mining law and the hydrocarbon law are among the very best and we have a structure of checks and balances where all the contracts are carefully reviewed by an international firm within the structure of the government," added Ghani.

Ghani said that agriculture is key to stability and global security.

"Agriculture is key to stability and to global security and agriculture is key to overcoming the challenge of narcotics," he said. Ghani said that private sector and market building must move "The state, civil society and the market are not in opposition, they require a unity. This comes under the agenda of market building," he said.

The Afghan government and the United Nations are co-hosting the conference on Afghanistan in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday and the world is expected to renew its commitment and solidarity with the Afghan people and the Afghan government in their bid for peace and security.

The conference provides a platform for the Afghan government and international community to demonstrate progress and commitment, and maintain the momentum for presidential elections and opportunities for peace and security.

The conference also aims to emphasize the importance and the implementation of mutual commitments made by the Afghan government and the international community towards reform and development and in measuring results against the \$15.2 billion committed by the international community for Afghanistan in 2016. (Tolo news)

(2) Bomb Kills...

was "likely accidentally shot" by an Afghan partner.

There are no indications he was shot intentionally," the mission said in a statement. It added the U.S. casualty occurred during an operation to eliminate al-Qaida militants in the southwestern Afghan province of Nimroz, next to the border with Iran.

"Early interviews indicate the tragic accident occurred when the partnered force became engaged in a close-quarter battle during an assault on one of multiple barricaded al Qaida shoot-

ers," the statement noted.

It quoted General Scott Miller, U.S. commander of the international military coalition, as saying that "the loss of Sgt. Jasso is felt by his family and loved ones, by all who served with him and by all on this mission to protect our country and our allies."

There are around 14,000 American soldiers fighting terrorist groups and advising and training Afghan forces battling the Taliban insurgency. (VoA)

(3) IEC Unveils...

Usmani has received 10,018 votes Abdul Zahir Salangi has received 9,360 votes

Zakia Sangeen has received 5,438 votes

Samiya Azizi Sadat has received 2,911 votes

According to Sayyad, these are initial results and a change is possible in the final results. The preliminary results of the remaining provinces would be announced soon as well, he added. Earlier, the IEC announced the Wolesi Jirga elections preliminary results of Laghman, Zabul, Panjsher, Kapisa, Nimroz, Dairkundi, Bamyan, Jawzjan, Farah and Uruzgan provinces. (Pajhwok)

(4) Global Partnership...

for Afghanistan, Myanmar and South Sudan totaling US\$209.4 million," the organization said in a statement.

The new grants bring the total funding approved by GPE in 2018 to over US\$430 million to improve children's education in more than 40 developing countries and regions, many struggling with conflict and crisis, the organization said.

"Afghanistan will receive US\$100 million over 5 years to increase equitable access to basic education, especially for girls in provinces that lag behind the rest of the country," the statement said, adding that the funding will be used to build new schools and get more children into school and improve their learning through better trained teachers and a new curriculum. (KP)

(5) 'Kangaroo Courts...

to the last year, we have 60 less cases this year, but it does not mean the violence has decreased; it means more areas have become insecure. Illegal activities and rights violations increase when insecurity increases."

Sami said women in the northern zone of the country still faced violence in forms of kangaroo courts, denial of rights, beatings, forced marriage, denial of inheritance right, murder and self-immolation.

He said most of the cases registered in the north were beatings. Without providing details, Sami said kangaroo courts posed

threats the lives of women in the north.

He said kangaroo courts were operational in areas where the Taliban and illegal armed groups were in control.

Religious scholar and head of the private schools in Balkh province, Syed Ibrahim Murtazavi, on the occasion said Islam preferred a human's good conduct and piety, either of a man or a woman.

He said women whose families gave preference to male members often endured violence but Islam had defined the rights of men and women.

The scholar said women in Afghanistan suffered because people of the country lacked enough knowledge about their rights in Islam.

Women's rights activist, Salima Rahimi, said education could help overcome violence against the gender and stressed the need for increased literacy. (Pajhwok)

(6) President of Latvia...

participating in NATO's training mission "Resolute Support" and providing financial support for the Afghan armed forces to help stabilise Afghanistan and improve the security situation in the country.

About 12,000 soldiers from the NATO Member States and their partner countries participate in the international training mission "Resolute Support", which is not a combat mission, but it focuses on training and supporting Afghanistan's army and police forces in the fight against Taliban rebels. Its support is mainly directed to the Afghan authorities, ministries and other institutions, as well as to the top level of the Afghan security forces.

Mission "Resolute Support" started on 1 January 2015. The Latvian troops consisting of about 40 soldiers have been stationed in the Camp Marmal in Mazar-i-Sharif in the northern part of the country, while a small part of the troops is also stationed in Kabul, where they hold the positions of Advisers and various levels of staff officers and instructors.

President of Latvia Raimonds Vējonis will pay a working visit to Afghanistan until November 29. During the visit, the President of Latvia will meet with the Latvian troops in Afghanistan, as well as the leadership of the NATO training mission "Resolute Support". (Monitoring Desk)

(7) UNHCR Launches...

increasingly desperate. Already we are seeing an increase in child deaths.

UNHCR's airlift will comprise 12 flights in total, bringing 15,100 family size tents - with the aim of easing the plight of almost half the displaced popula-

tion. The tents are being loaded in Pakistan's Lahore and being shipped in as close as possible to the affected populations via the airport at Herat. There, ground crews have been handing them over to our partners for delivery.

The tents are part of a larger aid delivery being organized by the Afghan Government and its partners to Herat and Badghis. With many displaced having settled on private land and facing risk of eviction, UNHCR is also supporting the Government's efforts to make land available. (Monitoring Desk)

(8) US Troops...

"The incident remains under investigation," NATO's Resolute Support mission in Kabul said Tuesday in an email to Stars and Stripes. "We will hold individuals accountable, as appropriate." A team from the Army's 7th Special Forces Group, which helped transfer Khan to the custody of Czech soldiers, has been removed from Afghanistan for the duration of the investigation, the Times reported. It's not clear if any U.S. troops were responsible for beating Khan. (Agencies)

(9) Achievements...

need to incorporate the issue of respect for human rights and the Afghanistan Constitution.

"The last 17 years achievements are the people's red line and I believe government and the people will not allow (these achievements) to be sacrificed," MP Daud Kalakani said.

Addressing the 4th Afghan-India security dialogue in Kabul on Sunday, former National Security Adviser Rangin Dadfar Spanta also warned that a Taliban-centric type of politics is creeping into the system.

Spanta said at the meeting that Afghans and Indians will be the main losers if a peace settlement in the country results in the interference in Afghanistan by countries that support insurgency.

"If peace comes at the price of re-influence of terrorism supporters in Afghanistan, the main losers will be the Afghan people, regional stability and the Indian government," said Spanta. (Tolo news)

(10) Hekmatyar Reiterates...

"We wanted to change the electoral system in order to prevent fraud and rigging and no Afghan would be deprived of the right to vote but our efforts did not get proper response and the strategy was not accepted by IEC," HIA leader added.

He stressed the need for timely conduct of presidential elections and a change in the electoral system; he added the political parties stood firm for their demands.

Hekmatyar also noted that the presidential elections must be

held in time and if the government did not accept their demands, it would face a serious reaction.

"The current government cannot manage the country and unable to provide security, the situation will continue if the current system not changed," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

(11) 8 Years on, Harirod...

and local residents had to face many problems while traveling on the road in spring when water rises in the Harirod River.

He said blamed the delay in the bridge's construction on incompetence of Wolesi Jirga or lower house members from Ghor province and the provincial council as well as rivalry among them.

Haidar Khairkhwah, a civil society activist in Lal wa Sarjantal district, also complained about government's apathy and said the government usually left major projects incomplete.

"Both the central and local governments leave fundamental projects incomplete in Ghor and they do not care about them, it is shameful when the government cannot complete a bridge in eight years, this bridge would open an economic gate to Ghor and solve many problems of people," he said.

Abdul Khaliq, a mini bus driver on Ghor-Kabul highway, said drivers usually faced great troubles on the route in spring season.

"I have been plying this route since five years, when water rises in the river, cars almost drown in the water," he said.

Farid Afghanyar, chief of the Lal was Sarjantal district, agreed with people's complaints about the bridge and said they had shared the issue several times with officials concerned but they did not care.

Meanwhile, Zekirya Serat, spokesman of Ghor rural rehabilitation and development department, said that the bridge's construction remained incomplete because the contracted company had escaped. He said construction work on the bridge was launched eight years ago after a survey by his department, but the contracted company fled and left the work incomplete. However, he said the issue had been shared with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) for finding a solution to it. (Pajhwok)

(12) 29 Militants...

the joint security forces launched operation in Miando area of the district late on Sunday night.

He said 29 militants had been killed, including two notorious commanders, named Mullah Janan and Abid.

On the other hand, Taliban insurgents claimed that at least 20 had been suffered casualties during the operation in the district. But the police chief rejected the militants' claim. (Pajhwok)