

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“China and Pakistan are not only iron brothers as President Xi Jinping has said, but also steel sisters.”



TEHMINA JANJUA, Pakistan's foreign secretary, speaking in Beijing on Aug 22, describing the close relationship between the two countries. She said her country wants to work with China to ensure the earliest implementation of the Gwadar Port project on Pakistan's southwestern coast.

ESTEEMING VIRTUES

Confucius said: 'There are three kinds of friendship which are beneficial and three kinds of friendship which are harmful. Being friends with people who are fair-minded, sincere, and knowledgeable, is beneficial. Being friends with people who are deceptive, unprincipled and smooth talking, is harmful.'

Scroll 9: Lun Yu

Editor's note: This is an extract from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*, based on 360 passages excerpted from the original compilation of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. *Qunshu Zhiyao* or *The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, commissioned by Emperor Tang Taizong of the Tang Dynasty in the seventh century, contains advice, methods and historical notes on the successes and failures of the imperial governments of China. Today it continues to be relevant as a source of inspiration for self-improvement, family management and interpersonal relations.

Beijing Book Fair opens with Iran as guest

The five-day 24th Beijing International Book Fair in Beijing opened on Aug 23 featuring guest of honor Iran and its theme The Colorful Dream of the Silk Road.

Mohammad Rasoul Almasieh, cultural counselor of the Iranian embassy in Beijing, said: "It's our honor to have this chance at the fair, which is a grand cultural event." Iran brought more than 100 publishers, writers, illustrators and artists to the fair.

Majid Jafari Aghdam, director of the Iranian Pol Literary & Translation Agency, said he has been doing business with Chinese publishers and agencies for two years.

"I want to introduce Iranian titles to the Chinese market, and hope to get more familiar with the Chinese one, and that I can introduce more Chinese authors to Iranian readers," he said.

US sanctions seen as 'wrong behavior'

New sanctions imposed by the United States go against mutual trust and bilateral cooperation, China said on Aug 23, asking the US to stop its "wrong behavior" immediately.

The US Treasury Department announced on Aug 22 the sanctions on 16 entities and individuals, mostly in China and Russia, for alleged ties with the nuclear and ballistic missile programs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The sanctions came less than two months after sanctions on June 29 by the US Treasury Department on a bank, a shipping company and two individuals from China.

"What the US has done does not help the solution of the issue, and does not help mutual trust between China and the US and their cooperation on relevant issues," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a daily news conference in Beijing. "We request the US to immediately stop the wrong behavior."

BAIC sets up national car rental network

Beijing Automotive Industry Corp (BAIC) announced it will open a nationwide car rental network in late August.



The 24th Beijing International Book Fair ran from Aug 23-27 and presented more than 300,000 books from 89 countries. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Named Qingxiang, meaning easily shared, the network aims to enter the nation's emerging car rental sector, which is likely to hit 1 million vehicles by 2020, according to Zhang Yong, head of BAIC New Energy Group's marketing unit.

The Qingxiang network will offer diversified deposit services, as well as recognition of auto ID cards and driving licenses. It will support car accident photography and tracing, and payment services.

To date, three BAIC subsidiaries have offered car rental services, covering public, commercial and tourism services in eight cities, including Beijing and the eastern city of Xiamen.

Nation willing to train foreign astronauts

China is willing to help other nations select and train astronauts and will gladly cooperate with them in its space station program, a senior official of the China Manned Space Agency said on Aug 22.

Yang Liwei, deputy head of the agency and the first Chinese person in space, said more than 10 countries, mostly developing, have asked for China's assistance in selecting and training astronauts.

The agency hopes to prepare

astronauts for prospective joint missions to China's future space station, he said.

"It normally takes about four years to train a Chinese astronaut. The time needed to train a qualified foreign astronaut will vary based on each candidate's individual situation," Yang said. "Considering that we will have our own space station in about four years, now is the time to begin such training for nations interested in joining our space station program."

Bullet trains ready to lay on the speed

Bullet train trips between Beijing and Shanghai will get faster from Sept 21 when Fuxing bullet trains run at 350 kilometers per hour, bringing passengers in China the world's fastest commercial trains, China Railway Corp said on Aug 20.

Fourteen Fuxing bullet trains will serve passengers on the 1,318-km Beijing-Shanghai line starting on Sept 21, reducing the travel time to about four and a half hours, State-owned China Railway Corp, the train's operator, said.

Currently, the trip between the two metropolises, on one of China's busiest rail lines, takes from four

hours and 49 minutes to six hours, the difference arising because of varied numbers of stops being made.

China reduced its bullet trains' maximum speed to about 300 km/h in August 2011 for safety reasons.

Tencent issues apology for sex slave emojis

Technology giant Tencent has apologized after users of its QQ instant-messaging service were found sharing emojis made with pictures of wartime sex slaves.

The emojis — using images taken from *Twenty Two*, a newly released documentary about "comfort women" during World War II who were forced into sex slavery by the Japanese army — are overlaid with phrases in Chinese such as "I am lost" and "I am wronged".

Outraged netizens complained to the company, which responded on Aug 22 by saying all of the offending emojis had been removed from the platform.

"The incident has exposed shortcomings ... in terms of content examination and supervision," the company, which also operates WeChat, said in a statement. "We will carry out a review immediately," it added.



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