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DIPLOMACY

## China and Poland eye major deals

Key projects agreed as part of the Belt and Road Initiative

By AN BAIJIE in Warsaw and WANG XU in Beijing

China and Poland agreed on Monday to launch major projects as soon as possible as part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative to boost interconnectivity.

Agreements on the joint action were signed during President Xi Jinping's state visit to Poland.

Witnessed by Xi and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda, the two countries signed 13 documents to boost cooperation in areas including logistics, industrial parks, customs and aviation.

Xi said after the signing ceremony that China welcomes Poland's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, which is aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road trading routes.

According to the agreements, the two countries will work together to map out their development plans, jointly establish an online Silk Road, boost information links,



President Xi Jinping and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda review an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace in Warsaw on Monday. JANEK SKARZYNSKI / AFP

facilitate customs procedures and improve cooperation on infrastructure investment in logistics.

Xi said Poland, situated at the

heart of Europe, has a unique geographical advantage.

Stating that the country is a founding member of the Asia Infrastructure Investment

Bank, Xi encouraged Poland to use the bank to finance infrastructure construction.

He suggested that both countries should encourage their

companies to cooperate, especially on large projects that could benefit their people.

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SPACE

## City cashing in on construction of new launch center

By LIU XIAOLI in Haikou liuxiaoli@chinadaily.com.cn

China's fourth and most southerly space launch center is preparing for its maiden launch at the end of this month, boosting local tourism.

Construction of the Wenchang Satellite Launch Center in Hainan province has resulted in the coastal city improving facilities to welcome more space enthusiasts and visitors.

Xue Yinggang, who owns the Hangtiancheng Hotel in Longlou township, Wenchang, said he is excited about the business opportunities brought by the center — his new neighbor.

Xue, who used to farm in Longlou's Xidiyuan village, said his farmland was used to build the center in 2010, which led to him moving to Longlou.

Looking to the business opportunities the center will bring, he borrowed 8 million yuan (\$1.21 million) from a bank to build and open the hotel that year.

"All rooms from this Thursday to Monday next week have been booked," Xue said, referring to the anticipated period for the maiden launch of China's new-generation Long March 7 carrier rocket.

The city has set up eight free viewing areas for the launch. They cover 0.45 square kilometers and can accommodate nearly 26,000 people.

It has also started to improve its transportation network, has erected new traffic signs, and built more toilets and parking lots to benefit from an increase in visitors.

Tens of thousands are expected to go to Wenchang for the launch. By Sunday, all the city's 19,900 hotel beds had been fully booked.

The Wenchang Hilton, the only international hotel chain in Longlou, is fully booked for Friday and Saturday, manager Robert Tong said.

**26,000 people**

can be accommodated at the eight free viewing areas that have been set up in Wenchang.

Chen Hongbo, a photographer from Haikou, the provincial capital, said he is happy to be going to Wenchang to watch the launch.

"I am so excited that I will be witnessing history being made. In addition, the sea and mountains at Wenchang are beautiful, so my family will enjoy this trip."

Xue Xiangwen, head of the Wenchang Tourism Bureau, said local authorities suggest that tourists consider visiting the city after the upcoming launch, as there will be many more launches at the center.

KOREAN PENINSULA

## Beijing forum spurs hopes for Six-Party Talks resumption

By ZHANG YUNBI zhangyunbi@chinadaily.com.cn

Diplomats from countries involved in the stalled Six-Party Talks on the Korean nuclear issue are expected to convene at a gathering in Beijing this week.

Experts said that although it is not clear if the six nations will have in-depth contacts or consultations during the meeting, the gathering gives hope for a resumption of the talks.

The diplomats will meet at a forum on Northeast Asian security.

The Six-Party Talks between China, the United States, Japan, Russia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and

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Zhang Liangui, expert on Korean studies at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

the Republic of Korea stalled in 2008.

Beijing hosted two international seminars on the talks in 2013 and last year, but not all the six countries sent key officials to attend.

Choe Son-hui, deputy director-general of the DPRK Foreign Ministry's US Affairs

Bureau, arrived in Beijing on Monday, the Seoul-based Yonhap News Agency reported.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying confirmed that key diplomats from all six countries, including Choe and China's special representative for Korean Peninsula affairs Wu Dawei, will

attend the 26th Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue on Wednesday and Thursday.

Other diplomats attending the forum include the US State Department's Special Representative for DPRK Policy, Sung Kim; and Kim Gunn, the Republic of Korea's deputy chief nuclear envoy.

Zhang Liangui, an expert on Korean studies at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, said, "The most important contacts of officials on the sidelines and at the venue — if there are any — will be those between the DPRK and the US."

Liu Qing, a researcher at the China Institute of International

Studies, said that with the Six-Party Talks stalled, "there is no other multilateral mechanism to replace the talks in Northeast Asia", and some parties involved are looking to tweak policies.

Liu Jianguo, deputy dean of the Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University, said the stalled talks have reduced the chances of detente and given rise to military means to resolve the issue.

The Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue is co-hosted by the China Institute of International Studies and the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California.

WEATHER

## Thousands flee their homes amid fatal downpours

By ZHANG YI in Beijing and ZHU LIXIN in Hefei

Torrential rain across nine provinces and Chongqing municipality in central and southern areas of China has left more than 20 people dead and forced tens of thousands from their homes.

Fifteen people have been reported missing since the heavy downpours started on Saturday, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said on Monday.

It said nearly 268,000 people have been relocated and 324,000 hectares of crops have been damaged, leading to direct economic losses of 6 billion yuan (\$912 million).

In Chongqing, five people died, 1,197 were forced to leave their homes and 66 houses had been destroyed since Saturday, the city's flood control and drought relief office said.



A bus makes its way through floodwaters in Jiujiang, Jiangxi province, on Sunday. HU GUOLIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

In neighboring Sichuan province, four people died on Sunday after heavy rainfall and landslides caused their homes to collapse, according to the provincial flood and drought disaster relief authority.

Three people died in Anhui province, 26,000 were relocated and nearly 1,100 homes were destroyed, the provincial civil affairs department said.

In the southwestern province of Guizhou, nine people died

last week in disasters caused by heavy rain.

Rescuers are working to free eight workers from a coal mine shaft, which was flooded after torrential rain fell on Sunday, the provincial civil affairs department said.

Flooding and hail killed two people and displaced 13,000 in the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region after the area was affected by bad weather from Thursday to Sunday. One person is still missing, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on Monday.

The National Meteorological Center issued a yellow alert on Monday for heavy rainfall in southern areas. From 2 pm on Monday, storms were expected across a vast area along the Yangtze River, including Anhui, Jiangsu and Hunan provinces.

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In the news



LIFE

Artistic start

An interactive show dedicated to the Netherlands' most-celebrated postimpressionist painter — Vincent Van Gogh — makes its world debut in Beijing. It will tour about 30 cities in China. > p18

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TECHNOLOGY

## Chinese supercomputer tops list of world's fastest

By XINHUA in Washington



China's homebred Sunway TaihuLight. XINHUA

A new Chinese supercomputer has dethroned the country's Tianhe-2 from the top of a list of the 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.

For the first time, the country has taken top spot without using US technology.

The newcomer, called Sunway TaihuLight, is twice as fast and three times as efficient as Tianhe-2.

The new system was developed by the Chinese National Research Center of Parallel Computer Engineering & Technology and installed at the National Supercomputing Center in Wuxi, Jiangsu province.

A statement from the half-yearly list compiled by experts from the United States and Europe said, "China maintained its No 1 ranking on the 47th edition of the TOP 500 list of the world's top supercomputers, but with a new system built entirely using processors designed and made in China."

Tianhe-2, an Intel-based supercomputer, had claimed the top spot on the past six TOP 500 lists.

It is also the first time since the list was initially drawn up in 1993 that the US is no longer home to the largest number of supercomputer systems.

"With a surge in industrial

and research installations registered over the past few years, China leads with 167 systems and the US is second with 165," the statement said.

China also leads the performance category, it said.

Jack Dongarra, a professor of computer science at the University of Tennessee and editor of the list, told Xinhua News Agency: "It's a trend with China. They had no systems in 2001, and today they surpass the United States. No other nation has seen such rapid growth."

Dongarra said supercomputers are more important than ever, as they provide the capability to match a broad range of industries, including energy, pharmaceuticals, aircraft, automobile and entertainment.

"More powerful computing capability will allow these diverse industries to engineer superior new products more quickly, which could improve a nation's competitiveness," he said.