Alibaba’s Jack Ma is Member of Chinese Communist Party, Report Says

BEIJING - China’s best-known capitalist and the founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba has been revealed as a member of the Chinese Communist Party, a Reuters reporter said on Monday.

Jack Ma’s membership was revealed amid growing scrutiny by the Chinese government of private enterprises.

“Mr. Ma has been a prominent backer of the Chinese Communist Party,” said the reporter, quoting an anonymous source familiar with the party.

The head of Alibaba, a company that captured 80% of China’s online retail market and is valued at $900 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 top Ma wasn’t affiliated with the Communist Party, but that had been shown in the party’s internal discourse showing results that mostly say he’s not a member of the Communist Party, the source added.

But Ma has been a prominent backer of President Xi Jinping and his policies, suggesting in 2016 that the government should use big data to prevent violence against the state, and he has led an effort to expand China’s unprecedented expansion of the surveillance state.

He also followed the lead of Xi’s campaign to reduce inequality in the country by saying entrepreneurs must help others to catch up. Alibaba told the reporter that the party has given high-level guidance of the company’s decisions. “Political affiliation of any executive does not influence their positions or the decision-making process,” the company spokesperson said. (Source: News)

NYC’s De Blasio welcomes Amazon’s new HQ

NEW YORK - Hundreds of New York City residents were gathered in a Long Island City neighborhood on Monday evening for Mayor Bill de Blasio’s announcement of the Amazon’s recent announcement of locating a second headquarters (HQ2) here.

In raincoats and holding umbrellas, the protesters took over Court Square Park near the Amazon’s proposed site, and chanted slogans like “We say no!” for an hour while marching toward other parts of the area at around 6 p.m. (2300 GMT). The Seattle-based Amazon announced earlier this month a plan to split its second headquarters between New York City borough of Queens on Long Island and Crystal City area of Arlington, Virginia. It plans to invest around $25,000 jobs in the New York office, with an average salary above $100,000 a year.

Both New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio competed for the deal, offering a total of $28 billion of dollars of incentives, including tax rebates, grants and various other tax benefits. Both cities also offered to build a new HQ2.

Mr. de Blasio welcomed the city’s move to host Amazon’s second headquarters, saying it would create “a new chapter” for the city. The deal was closed with the city and Amazon on Friday afternoon.

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 the source of stability and prosperity.

“Order in order to become beneficial and to become a source of stability, we have created the legal structure for mining and the hydropower are among the best we have and we also have the regulations and the rules for mining that are under the agenda 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 agricultural growth is overcoming the challenge of narcotics,” he added.

Ghani said that private sector is not in the market.

“The state, civil society and the market are not in the place that they are under the agenda of market building,” he said.

The President of Afghanistan and the United Nations are co-hosting the conference on Afghanistan in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The UN conference also aims to emphasize the importance and the implementation of mutual commitments made by Afghan and international community to demonstrate progress and commitment, and maintain the momentum of progress, to ensure conditions and opportunities for peace and security.

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