



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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May 16, 2019

Business Recorder

Punjab CM, Chinese ambassador discuss expansion of bilateral cooperation

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing called on Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office, here on Thursday and discussed various matters of mutual interest including promotion of Pakistan-China relations, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects and expansion of bilateral cooperation in different sectors.

Both sides agreed to expand partnership for investment in special economic zones, agriculture, technical and vocational training, tourism, social sector and public-private partnership.

The Chinese ambassador announced opening of a branch in Lahore for issuance of Chinese visa and said that Pakistani citizens would be facilitated at Lahore branch, which would become functional from the next month.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that China is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan and added that Chinese cooperation is appreciable for making a new Pakistan.

Pakistan-China economic relations are touching new heights. He said that CPEC-related projects are very important in the journey to durable development in the country.

He said that the Punjab government is setting up new economic zones where Chinese investors will be given facilities and incentives.

He said that Pakistan-China economic relations will be boosted through public-private partnership as the Punjab government is going to set up the Public-Private Partnership Authority. The durable development of the social sector is an important priority of the incumbent government and Chinese cooperation is appreciable in this regard.

He said that the government is interested in utilizing the latest Chinese technology in agriculture, tourism and technical and vocational training sectors. The Punjab government is establishing technical universities in DG Khan and Mandi Bahauddin, he added.

He said that a separate park is being set up in southern Punjab for promotion of agro-based industries.

The Chinese investors should take benefit of investment opportunities in special economic zones. He said that Chinese development is a role model for Pakistan and Chinese experiences will be fully benefitted from by the government to make a new Pakistan.

Usman Buzdar said that the PTI government is committed to elimination of corruption and far-reaching steps were being taken to bring back the looted money of people.

The Chinese ambassador said that Punjab is moving towards the journey of development under the leadership of the incumbent chief minister and added that investment opportunities in special economic zones will be benefited.

The public-private partnership will benefit both the countries as we want to further enhance cooperation with the Punjab government for development of the social sector. He said that China is standing with Pakistan in the journey of development and the historic China-Pakistan friendship will be further strengthened.

Punjab has an important place in the economy of the country and China will extend every possible cooperation for expanding collaboration in different sectors, he added. Chinese Consul General Long Dingbin, Chinese officials, Chairman PBIT, Chairman P&D, ACS (Home), Secretary Industries and others were also present on the occasion.

Daily Times

Are the Chinese safe in Pakistan?

In the wake of the terror attack on the PC Hotel in Gwadar, the Chinese media and commercial circles seem concerned regarding the state of security in Balochistan which is witnessing the fifth wave of Baloch insurgency. Though the Chinese government and the state media showed restraint in terms of adherence to bilateral cordiality and consolidation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), certain social and corporate community did raise eyebrows over this second attack within short period near the Gwadar Port- which has, over the years, attracted huge Chinese investment, and workforce and policy attention. The other day, a report on the said incident by South China Morning Post- in which this author was quoted- reflected the growing strategic and commercial concerns of the Chinese companies. Indeed, the underlying assertion pertained to the idea of the involvement of Chinese military in terms of security and governance of the CPEC (projects). This author, since the formal launch of CPEC in 2015, has conceptually and empirically argued against the informal invitation and/or intervention of any foreign military or related organizations in the affairs of the state of Pakistan. Such a move will not only compromise state sovereignty in unimaginable terms but would also destabilize Pakistan ethnically, culturally and economically. However, the Chinese companies and strategic elite's concerns about security in Pakistan need a proper empirical care. The following, thus, tends to address the commonly posed questions in the media, corporate and (semi) official circles: Are the Chinese companies and workforce working on CPEC really threatened in Pakistan which is termed friendly by their government? How is the general security situation in Pakistan and in what ways can it impact CPEC and the BRI in particular and the China-Pakistan relations, in general?

To begin with, China-Pakistan relations have, over the decades, achieved 'a factor of durability' what this means in strategic and military term is that both the countries amicably resolved potential areas of conflict generation i.e. broader management, and, importantly, consolidated bilateral relations since the mid-1960s. Consequently, since 2015, China-Pakistan relations have

taken a new turn where geo-economics is predicated on geopolitics in terms of formalization of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that has by now attracted more than 60 billion dollars economic engagement. With unprecedented advancement in bilateral economic relations, the two countries have started witnessing enhancement in people-to-people contact, industrial and institutional exchanges. For instance, more than 28,000 Pakistani students are enrolled at Chinese colleges and universities and the number is increasing exponentially. Moreover, inter-universities liaison is getting prioritized. In addition, quite a number of Pakistani universities and research institutes have signed the Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with their Chinese counterparts. Similarly, the number of Pakistani merchants and traders, who visit China frequently, is going up. In the same way, the number of Chinese nationals, majority of who works on CPEC related projects, witnessed unprecedented growth. A considerable section of the Chinese workforce is engaged in Gwadar where major projects in infrastructure and energy are underway. The Pakistani authorities, being aware of restive security situation particularly in Balochistan and generally in rest of the country, establish a security regime to safeguard the Chinese manpower from mostly internal threats.

Though two Chinese nationals were killed by their kidnapers in Balochistan in 2017, one got killed in Karachi in 2018 and one in Islamabad this year? Which the Pakistani government is probing as per law? The overall safety of the working Chinese have been duly ensured by the government of Pakistan. Importantly, the abovementioned cases, reportedly, were not related to CPEC but social and economic dealings.

Moreover, lately there have been reports of some Chinese nationals having been involved in financial theft, i.e. ATM skimming fraud in Karachi and Islamabad-whose cases are being investigated by the country's law enforcement; some are also held up by the FIA on account of their reported involvement in 'human trafficking'. The Chinese and Pakistani authorities seem to be on the same page on the social issue of the so called 'Chinese marriages' with Pakistani women who mostly hail from socioeconomically marginalized communities, both Muslims and non-Muslims.

Nevertheless, the Chinese, residing and/or working in Pakistan, have, overall, demonstrated goodwill and good conduct. At the moment, majority of Pakistani perceive them friendly from a friendly country. Nevertheless, given the state of security situation in parts of Pakistan post 9/11, public safety remains a big challenge for the state of Pakistan which loses its police and military men to terrorism on almost a regular basis though with reduction in number of terror attacks.

In order to improve the collective security within its territory, Pakistani authorities would have to tackle this monster of terrorism on multiple levels. Strategically, the country needs to engage with its neighbors meaningfully. Here, China can play a role by encouraging regional cooperation and peace. Indeed, the trilateral Afghan peace process is a step in the right direction. Moreover, China-Iran-Pakistan trilateral engagement carries the potential to devise a collective response to anti-peace elements in the South Asian region. Importantly, China may also convince India in a manner that reduces strategic uncertainty.

Politically, Pakistani government should strive to negotiate with the locally active extremist and insurgent groups. Ideologically, there is a growing need to conceive and implement a pluralist narrative to ideationally counter the hate mongers in our society. Above all, China and Pakistan would have to play a central role by reinforcing the importance of peace and stability locally, nationally and (Trans) regionally. The former must understand the precarious security situation Pakistan is facing where it lost more than 30,000 thousand civilians and security personnel in the past seventeen years. The latter must revisit its policies that might have provided an enabling environment to anti-humanity forces. The latter though have been militarily neutralized by the law enforcement institutions of Pakistan, certain militant and separatist organizations such as Jamat-ul-Ahrar (JA) and the BRA still poses a challenge. The JA may activate its sleeping cells in major urban areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Karachi and Quetta. The JA and similar organizations are always in search of soft targets to pressure Pakistani state and the society.

Lastly, the civil and military law enforcing institutions are staying vigilant to protect the Chinese workforce and logistics in the country. The Chinese (CPEC) workers and non-CPEC citizens in general should also refrain from unnecessary commuting and interfering in social life of the natives. Importantly, the CPEC labor and executives need to cooperate with the Pakistani authorities with respect to security related rules and regulations- which are formulated for their safety. Lastly, given the scale of China-Pakistan relations and the level of engagement vis-à-vis CPEC, the sides ought to be able to deal with any irritant wisely and meaningfully for economic growth and development in Pakistan is the key to realize regional peace and prosperity.

Pakistan Observer

PARC delegation visits China to explore agriculture collaboration

A delegation comprising of members from Farmer Associates of Pakistan (FAP) and Pakistan Agriculture Research council (PARC) recently visited China on the invitation of Embassy of China. The delegation was headed by Afaq Tiwana, a prominent farmer and head of FAP. Other members of the delegation including Dr. M. Kamal Sheikh, Dr. Fayyaz Hussain and Dr. Amanullah from PARC, and Mr. Syed Afzal Haider, Mr. Ibadullah and Mr. Sirbuland Hoti from FAP.

The objective of the visit was to meet Policy Makers, Research Institutions, Teaching Institutes, Farmers' Organizations and Business Entities of China and learn from their experience in ground breaking work in Agriculture. As it was observed the productivity of Pakistani farmer is at 50% that of farmers in China. Delegation participated in the workshop arranged by Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences under the ambit of CATAS-CIAT-Biodiversity collaboration. Later the delegation met in Hanan Province with Officials of Ministry of Science and Technology and exchanged views with Mr. Zhao Qinghui (Depty Director General) and both sides agreed for mutual cooperation in S&T. The Delegation later travelled to city of Sanya where they had a discussion session with Sanya Nanfan Institute of Science and Technology. A complete overview on Tropical Agriculture in China was presented with a willingness by the

Chinese side to work with farmers and scientists in Pakistan on tropical fruits and vegetables and exchange of germplasm. Next stop was University of Science and Technology in the city of Changsha.

Several private sector companies were also presented and gave briefing on their successful projects and ideas as well as products and services they were working on. Later Delegation met with Vice president, Mr. Fangming Xie of Yuan Longping.

The News

‘Four SEZs to be completed in 6 months’

ISLAMABAD: Board of Investment (BoI) Chairman Haroon Sharif on Wednesday said that the board was fully concentrating to complete four special economic zones (SEZs) related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) within six months. These CPEC-related SEZs had been established in all the four provinces, including Rashakai Economic Zone (Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa), Dhabeji (Sindh), Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad (Punjab) and Bostan Industrial Zone (Balochistan), he said, while talking to APP.

Regarding Rashakai Economic Zone, he said, recently a delegation of China Road and Bridge Cooperation (CRBC), led by its Director Shi Xiaobo had visited BoI to discuss the timelines to make it operational. Rashakai had a strategic significance, as it was closer to Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics.

May 17, 2019

Business Recorder

Chinese visas to be issued from Lahore: envoy

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing has announced to open a branch in Lahore for the issuance of Chinese visa and he said that this will facilitate the Pakistani citizens and it will be functional from next month. He expressed these views during his meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar here on Thursday. Chinese Consul General Long Dingbin, Chinese officials, Chairman PBIT, Chairman P&D, ACS (Home), Secretary Industries and others were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, they discussed various matters of mutual interest, including the promotion of Pakistan-China relations, CPEC related projects and expansion of bilateral cooperation in different sectors. Both agreed to expand partnership for investment in special economic zones, agriculture, technical and vocational training, tourism, social sector and public-private partnership.

Talking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that China is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan and added that Chinese cooperation is appreciable for making a new Pakistan. “Pakistan-China

economic relations are touching new heights. CPEC related projects are very important in the journey of durable development in the country,” he added.

He said that the Punjab government is setting up new economic zones where Chinese investors will be given facilities and incentives. He said that Pakistan-China economic relations will be boosted through public-private partnership, as his government is going to set up the Public-Private Partnership Authority.

“The durable development of the social sector is an important priority of the incumbent government and Chinese cooperation is appreciable in this regard. The government is interested in utilizing the latest Chinese technology in agriculture, tourism and technical and vocational training sectors. We are establishing technical universities in DG Khan and Mandi Bahauddin,” he added. He said that a separate park is being set up in southern Punjab for the promotion of agro-based industries.

“The Chinese investors should take benefit of investment opportunities in special economic zones. Chinese development is a role model for Pakistan and Chinese experiences will be fully benefitted by the government to make a new Pakistan. The PTI government is committed for the elimination of corruption and far-reaching steps are being taken to bring back the looted money of the people,” he added.

The Chinese ambassador said that Punjab is moving towards the journey of development under the leadership of Chief Minister and added that investment opportunities in special economic zones will be benefited.

The Nation

Chinese ambassador meets Punjab industries minister

LAHORE - Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing called on Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal at Punjab Investment Trade Board Office on Thursday. Secretary industry and trade, chief executive officer Punjab Investment Board and other concerned officials were also present. Both the sides discussed enhancing cooperation in agriculture, industries, vocational education, livestock and tourism sectors. Chinese ambassador said Chinese investors would definitely increase their volume of investment in the province. He hoped Punjab would be hub of investment in future. He said that mutual cooperation was necessary for the success of CPEC as well as other economic projects. He said that special unit has been setup at the Punjab University for the cooperation in social sector. He said that cooperation would also be extended for the development of human resource. He said that shifting manufacturing sector to Pakistan would be an important step. He said China would import meat from Pakistan.

Jang News

پاکستان اور چین کا جعلی بیورو کیخلاف آپریشن کا آغاز

اسلام آباد (خبر ایجنسی) پاکستانی لڑکیوں سے چینی باشندوں کی جعلی شادیوں کے معاملے پر پاکستان اور چین نے جعلی بیورو کیخلاف آپریشن کا آغاز کر دیا، کریمینل گینگز و ایجنٹس سے متاثرہ افراد چینی سفارتخانے یا پاکستانی آفس سے رابطہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ ترجمان پاکستانی دفتر خارجہ ڈاکٹر فیصل نے بتایا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چینی حکام کے مابین جعلی بیورو پر ملوث افراد کی معلومات کا تبادلہ ہوا ہے جس کے بعد پاکستان اور چین نے غیر قانونی اور جعلی بیورو کیخلاف اپنی اپنی حدود میں آپریشن شروع کر دیا، ڈاکٹر فیصل کا کہنا تھا کہ کریمینل گینگز اور ایجنٹس سے شہریوں کو بچانے کیلئے حکومت پاکستان نے ایکشن لیا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt

ویزے کیلئے لاہور میں برانچ کھولیں گے : چینی سفیر، سپیشل اکنامک زون میں سرمایہ کاروں کو مراعات دینگے: عثمان بزدار

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار سے چین کے سفیر یاو جنگ نے ملاقات کی، جس میں پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ، سی پیک کے منصوبوں اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ اور چین کے سفیر نے پبلک پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ، سپیشل اکنامک زونز میں سرمایہ کاری، زراعت، ٹیکنیکل ووکیشنل ٹریننگ، سیاحت اور سماجی شعبوں میں شراکت داری بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے چین کے ویزے کیلئے لاہور میں برانچ کھولنے کا اعلان کیا اور کہا کہ لاہور میں برانچ کھولنے سے پاکستانی شہریوں کو چینی ویزے کے حصول میں سہولت ملے گی اور چینی ویزے کے لئے برانچ لاہور میں ماگلے ماہ آپریشنل ہو جائے گی۔ عثمان بزدار نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا انتہائی با اعتماد دوست ملک ہے۔ نئے پاکستان کی تعمیر و ترقی میں چین کے تعاون کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ پنجاب حکومت نئے سپیشل اکنامک زونز قائم کر رہی ہے۔ سپیشل اکنامک زونز میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو مراعات اور سہولتیں دیں گے۔ پاک چین معاشی تعلقات کو پبلک پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ سے عروج ملے گا۔ چین کی ترقی پاکستان کیلئے رول ماڈل ہے۔ نئے پاکستان کی تعمیر کیلئے چین کے تجربات سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھایا جائیگا۔ عثمان بزدار کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں محکمہ ایکسائز و ٹیکسیشن کی کارکردگی اور نمبر پلیٹس کے اجراء کے امور میں تاخیر کی وجوہات کا جائزہ لیا گیا وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ گاڑیوں اور موٹر سائیکلوں کی نمبر پلیٹس کی کمی کے باعث لوگوں کو مشکلات کا سامنا ہے اور مجھے اپنے لوگوں کی مشکلات کا اندازہ ہے وزیر اعلیٰ نے ہدایت کی کہ جب تک نمبر پلیٹس کے اجراء کا عمل شروع نہیں ہوتا اس وقت تک بغیر نمبر پلیٹس گاڑیوں اور موٹر سائیکل سواروں کو بلاوجہ تنگ نہ کیا جائے اور جس شخص کے پاس محکمہ ایکسائز کی رسید موجود ہو اس سے نمبر پلیٹس کے بارے میں باز پرس نہ کی جائے۔ اس ضمن میں پولیس کو بھی ضروری ہدایات جاری کر دی گئی ہیں نمبر پلیٹس کے اجراء کے نظام میں آسانیاں پیدا کی جائیں۔ پنجاب حکومت نے صوبے کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں سمیت ڈیرہ غازی خان ڈویلپمنٹ پیکیج کی سخت مانٹرننگ کا فیصلہ کیا ہے اور اس ضمن میں وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار نے صوبے کے ترقیاتی منصوبوں سمیت ڈیرہ غازی خان ڈویلپمنٹ پیکیج کی مانٹرننگ کیلئے وزیر اعلیٰ انسپکشن ٹیم کو ٹاسک دے دیا ہے۔

May 18, 2019

Business Recorder

ABL, Bank of China-Pakistan sign MoU

KARACHI: Allied Bank Limited (ABL) and Bank of China-Pakistan (BOCP) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Beijing. The MoU was signed by ABL's CEO, Tahir Hassan Qureshi and Country Head & CEO of BOCP Liu Xiaofei, in a ceremony held on April 28, 2019 at Bank of China Headquarters in Beijing.

The ceremony was also attended by Owais Shahid (Chief, Corporate & Investment Banking-ABL) and BOC's Executive Vice President, Sun Yu; and other senior officials from both banks. The MoU sets out a conceptual framework for cooperation through which both institutions can develop business synergies, and it formalizes a strategic partnership that aims to promote trade and investments relating to China's One Belt One Road Initiative.

ABL's CEO, Tahir Hassan Qureshi congratulated the management of BOC and extended ABL's cooperation on various fronts. Under this MoU, both banks have agreed to collaborate with each other on RMB Business, trade finance, treasury and corporate banking transactions. The agreement also encourages joint syndication and project financing of various projects in Pakistan. Bank of China is one of the world's largest bank with total assets of more than \$3.0 trillion and has opened its branch in Karachi during November 2017. ABL is amongst the top financial institution in Pakistan with 1,350 branches across the country and having international presence in UAE, Bahrain and China. Both sides believe that further cooperation between the two banks will instill long term mutual growth and also assist in bonding the two nations.—PR

Business Recorder

CPEC has rich potential for country's economic growth: Asad

BEIJING: Former Finance Minister Asad Umar told the Chinese media that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has a rich potential of Pakistan's economic growth and it meets the common aspirations of the people. CPEC has delivered benefits to both China and Pakistan, a Pakistani official said, questioning the double standards of certain countries on investment and rebutting the "debt trap" allegations. The unfounded charges hurled at China's investment in foreign countries are designed to create ill feelings among people by attempting to cast aspersions on motives of Chinese investment, said Asad Umar, who is currently chairman of Pakistan's National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance. "It is blatant hypocrisy, designed simply to malign China," he said. "China's investment in other countries is a two-way thing. It is good for China and it is good for other countries." The former finance minister defended the CPEC, a major project within the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in his interview with Xinhua.

Umar said that early projects of the CPEC have been completed but there are still projects under construction such as port infrastructure, power plants and road networks. The CPEC with more potential to be tapped will help boost economic development in Pakistan in the future, he said.

When the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team visited Pakistan, the Pakistani government shared the required details of the Chinese loan and the IMF team found the Chinese loan “so simple and clear,” Umar said. Umar also cited statistics and facts to refute the much-hyped “debt trap” allegations on the CPEC and BRI, saying that only 10 percent of Pakistan’s total public debt is from China, while the remaining are all from other countries and organizations, but no one raises doubt about the remaining 90 percent of the loans or calls it a “debt trap.”—INP

Pakistan Observer

Debt trap theory linking with BRI rejected

Almost six years after Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the grand vision for promoting common development through better connectivity has been morphing into a solution for speeding up global cooperation for greater prosperity, experts said here on Friday. But as global enthusiasm for and confidence in the BRI grow, some noises ensue, often with ill intentions to discourage its wide adoption and send misleading messages to nations who seek to benefit from BRI participation. One such message claims that the BRI pushes some countries. According to experts, the situation on the ground, however, has shown that such noises are ill-founded. Researchers, economists, and policymakers in Africa, a region that has been warned to be wary of a so-called “debt trap” for participating in the BRI, regard such claims as mere negative speculations that seek to undermine the initiative, saying these claims should not be taken seriously.

Firstly, developing countries apparently aspire to improve their dilapidated infrastructure and the BRI meets such needs well. Taking transport as a key example, Prof. Damian Gabagambi, managing director of Tanzania’s National Development Corporation, said the BRI is highly strategic because transport networks in a country are like blood vessels in a human body. “If the blood vessels are blocked, the whole body would paralyze. Likewise, without an efficient transport network, the economy paralyzes,” he said into a “debt trap.”

“Development of transport networks contributes to lower cost of distribution of goods and services among regions and increase in productivity through the availability of access to a diversified set of resources,” he said.

In Kenya, the Chinese-built and funded Nairobi-Mombasa Railway has ferried more than 2.5 million passengers and nearly 3.9 million tons of cargo since its launch in May 2017. In his State of the Nation Address on April 4, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta praised the grand project, saying it has been listed among the top 13 most magnificent railway tours for 2019. Developing countries need these, and if China is willing to provide support, it should be a welcomed move, Gabagambi said. “Accusation by some Western countries of China letting some

countries fall into a debt trap due to their cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative is a matter of perception,” he added.

Secondly, the so-called debt trap diplomacy language is highly questionable. In fact, taking Africa for instance, its debts owed to China only make up a small share of the total, and such language was highly likely coined by some Western countries that seek to rein in China’s growing global role.

Zitto Kabwe, an economics analyst in Tanzania, said between 2000 and 2016, Africa owed China US \$115 billion which were only 2 percent of loans that Africa owed other foreign countries.

The Nation

Scholars sent to China left in the lurch

ISLAMABAD-Around 155 scholars sent to China on Chinese Language Scholarship Programme are facing severe financial miseries as the Punjab government has stopped the project funding and left the scholars in the lurch, The Nation has learnt on Friday.

The scholars were selected for the Chief Minister’s Chinese Language Scholarship Programme initiated by ex-CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif to train the graduates to learn Chinese language at China and utilise their expertise in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPEC) projects.

This was the fourth batch of the programme in which 155 students were selected to learn Chinese language for two years (2017-19) and obtain HSK-5 language certification from Chinese universities.

But the number of students at China told The Nation that University of Education (UoE) Township Campus Lahore, managing the project, has seized the funding since April 2019.

Students also told that they are deprived of their monthly stipend of 2800 Yuan and facing difficulties to run their day to day affairs.

The project launched in 2015 had trained 345 students successfully but has abandoned the Phase-IV students and not replying to their queries also.

Officials also informed The Nation that the government had taken surety bond of Rs4.5million from each student as a guarantee that they will return back to Pakistan.

Other than Rs4.5 million, the government had fixed 2800 Yuan per month for each student to carry their daily expenses there.

The officials said that the overall cost for 155 students, including tuition fee and monthly stipend was around 100 million, while the funding has been stopped now when students are still enrolled in the program.

Officials also said that the students were sent to learn Chinese language in the universities of Shanghai, Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Wuhan and Hebei.

“Students living there in miserable conditions even don’t have the fee to appear in Chinese language exam HSK-5 for which they were sent there,” officials said.

They also informed that the funding of the project was stopped before November 2018 by the Higher Education Department (HED) –Punjab, and UoE, was managing funds since November from its own resources. “However, now the university itself has stopped sending the stipend as it cannot bear the expenses anymore,” said the official.

Muhammad Gohar Raza, a student in Shanghai University told The Nation: “I have nothing left to eat, nothing left to buy anything to eat, and nothing left to pay my phone and other bills. For the past three days I just had eaten the breakfast because I don’t want to waste the money”.

He also said: “in China we are not allowed to do any part time job because it’s legally not allowed for overseas language students. We are helpless here at this situation”.

Another student Umair Safdar said that this is the second time the scholars here have faced stoppage of funding as earlier it happened when the government was changed. Student MohmmadSamsam-ulHaq said that only three months for the conclusion of their scholarship are left and government is disgracing them in their host country by not releasing their funds. “Students are borrowing money from home and Chinese citizens, it is a humiliating situation,” he said.

Project focal person from UoESaqib Anwar informed The Nation that funding was not released by the government since November and university was managing the project with its own resources.

“But now our accountant has given up,” he said. He said that four universities hosting the students under the programme have also not been paid tuition fee due to non-availability of funds.

He said: “we are in contact with the government and release the funds as soon as we receive”.

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary HED-Punjab Dr Hammad talking to The Nation said that HED has asked finance department to release the funds for this project.

He said that HED sought release of Rs200 from Punjab government for the project and it is likely the amount would be in three weeks.

The Nation

China hold special place in heart of Pakistani’s: Jhagra

PESHAWAR: KP Minister Finance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance Taimur Saleem Jhagra has said that the state and people of China hold a very special place in the heart of every Pakistani, and the bonds of our friendship are deep and irreversible.

The KP Finance Minister said this in his key address at the 2019 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Region Meeting in southwest China’s Chongqing City.

TaimurJhagra was leading Pakistani delegation in the Heads of Region meeting of SCO including Baluchistan Revenue Minister Saleem Ahmad, MamoonTarar and Faisal Cheema, MPAs from Punjab.

Pakistani delegates and more than 130 overseas delegates from member states of Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India, and observer states of Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia participated in the meeting.

Theme of the meeting was” “upholding openness and inclusiveness for new opportunities of the SCO Regional Cooperation”

In his speech KP Minister for Finance Taimur Saleem Jhagra said this friendship is cemented in the Belt and Road Initiative, of which the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a key part. Our Prime Minister was here only last month, and we look forward to many bilateral and multilateral exchanges where we can deepen our cooperation.

Highlighting the opportunities in Pakistan the minister said our country is on a path of change today and it invites SCO to explore opportunities available across the country.

The province of Sindh contains the economic heart of the country, the bustling metropolis of Karachi. The vast province of Balochistan holds significant natural resources whose exploration its government is willing to facilitate, and the under-development Gwadar Port, which can serve as a gateway for SCO countries to the waters of the Arabian Sea. Punjab, if it were a country, with 110 million people would be the 12th largest country in the world. It is a massive consumer market, Pakistan’s bread basket, and its hub of industry. Lahore is Pakistan’s cultural heart, and one of the most beautiful and historic cities of the world, he added.

He said the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the landlocked north-western corner of Pakistan, is aspiring to champion change faster than any other part of the country. We have the most stable government; we have ever had in the last seventy years. Our government is trying to transform governance, institutions and most importantly our economy. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, like the rest of Pakistan, is open for business.

Highlighting the sectors with significant scope the minister said hydropower, where we have the potential to generate over 30,000 megawatts of electricity. Mines and minerals, where, with significant resources, our province is now keen to attract major international investment, Tourism, where with its natural beauty, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa could be a magnet for tourists from the region, and where our government is in the process of developing and upgrading up to 20 tourist destinations over the next five years, with significant opportunities for investment, he concluded.

Nawaiwaqt

چین کے 15 رکنی وفد کا دورہ سول سیکرٹریٹ، سرمایہ کاری مواقع، امن و امان پر بریفنگ

لاہور (سپیشل رپورٹر) چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ کی سربراہی میں چین کے 15 رکنی اعلیٰ سطحی وفد نے جمعہ کے روز پنجاب سول سیکرٹریٹ کا دورہ کیا چیف سیکرٹری پنجاب یوسف نسیم کھوکھر نے وفد کا استقبال کیا غیر ملکی سفارتکاروں کو صوبے میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سی پیک منصوبوں مختلف شعبوں میں اصلاحات اور امن و امان پر بریفنگ دی گئی وفد نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے چیف سیکرٹری پنجاب یوسف نسیم کھوکھر نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سی پیک سے پاکستان میں ترقی و خوشحالی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا انہوں نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع موجود ہیں حکومت کاروباری آسانی پیدا کر کے سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے سازگار ماحول فراہم کر رہی ہے چیف سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان سے زراعت سیاحت اور سماجی شعبے میں شراکت داری بڑھانے کا خواہاں ہے پاکستان کی ترقی کیلئے ہر قسم کا تعاون فراہم کرنے کو تیار ہیں۔

Express News

سی پیک منصوبے: چینی کمپنیوں کو ٹیکسوں اور زر مبادلہ کی مشکلات

اسلام آباد: پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں کو سی پیک کے تحت منصوبوں کے حوالے سے اسٹیٹ بینک سے ٹیکسوں اور زر مبادلہ کے حصول میں مشکلات سمیت دیگر مسائل کا انکشاف ہوا ہے۔ چینی کمپنیوں کے سربراہان کی جانب سے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے حالیہ دورہ چین کے دوران یہ معاملہ اٹھانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے جس کے بعد اب پاکستان میں قائم چینی سفارتخانے نے مسائل کے حل کیلئے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ سے رجوع کر لیا ہے۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان میں موجودہ چینی کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں کی وزیر اعظم کے حالیہ دورہ چین سے پہلے پاکستان میں ہی ملاقات کرائی گئی تھی۔ اس ملاقات میں چائنیز کمپنیوں نے یہ معاملہ اٹھایا تھا اور بعد میں چائنیز سفارتخانے نے لیٹر لکھا تھا جس پر ایکشن لیتے ہوئے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ میں 12 افراد پر مشتمل خصوصی پراجیکٹ مینجمنٹ ٹیم قائم کر دیا گیا ہے

May 19, 2019

Dunya News

Pakistan imports from China reduce by 9.46pc in 8 months

China remained the top exporter to Pakistan during the first eight months of the current fiscal year, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore.

The total imports from China during July-Feb (2018-19) were recorded at \$6,633.191 million against \$7326.706 million during July-Feb (2017-18), showing a decrease of 9.46 percent during the period.

The UAE exported goods worth \$6,266.141 million as compared to \$5793.779 million last year, showing a positive growth of 8.15 percent.

Singapore, at third place, exported products worth \$2,396.914 million in comparison with \$3,043.270 million in FY2017-18, showing a negative growth of 21.23 percent.

Among other countries, Pakistani imports from Saudi Arabia stood at \$1,977.522 million in FY2018-19 against \$1,994.299 million in FY2017-18, showing a decline of 0.84 percent.

Imports from Qatar were recorded at \$1,441.123 million against \$876.047 million last year, indicating an increase of 64.50 percent.

The Express Tribune

Yao Jing calls Punjab epicenter of CPEC phase-II

LAHORE: Punjab, being the largest province of Pakistan, will be the epicenter in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), announced Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing.

In a meeting with the Punjab industries minister, industries secretary and Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) CEO on Saturday, the ambassador stressed that Punjab mattered immensely in executing CPEC projects because it enjoyed advantage in every sector.

“Every time I visit Lahore, I connect with industries, agriculture and tourism ministers because this province has its own potential in agriculture and agri-business where it can perform better,” he said. “The next phase of CPEC needs to be successful and success comes Yao Jing calls Punjab epicenter of CPEC phase-II)

From Punjab, so let’s start it from Punjab.”Punjab is considered the leading province of Pakistan primarily due to its huge size and population base which, according to the 2017 census, crossed 110 million out of over 208 million population of the country. When CPEC was initiated, Punjab was criticized by other provinces because then premier Nawaz Sharif hailed from Punjab and he was blamed for routing maximum investments to the province in a bid to further secure his party’s vote bank for 2018 general elections.

The ambassador continued that Punjab already enjoyed a good reputation in China and invited business delegations from Pakistan to cities other than Shanghai and Beijing to explore lesser known provinces which, though small, had advanced Special Economic Zones.

“Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood sends a delegation of traders and businessmen to China every month following Imran Khan’s recent visit to the country,” the ambassador highlighted.

He appreciated that Punjab had already worked a lot on the ease of doing business and had offered new incentives under different policies.

“Provincial ministers should focus on allied provinces and take business delegations there to collaborate with them just like Singapore is doing; I will facilitate the delegations,” the ambassador added.

Yao said a lot of opportunities were emerging in the textile sector under the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

“I come from a small town in southern China where the biggest producer of socks is now looking to relocate its manufacturing facility due to the trade war and increased tariffs,” the ambassador said.

“They can relocate to Pakistan and the country can produce socks as well as get access to the European region.”

He offered complete support to Pakistan in conducting road shows in China, which could be fruitful to Punjab in general and Pakistan in particular in terms of joint ventures.

The ambassador turned down the request of forming joint ventures with Chinese mobile phone manufacturers in Punjab.

“Prime Minister Imran Khan also tried to convince Huawei to establish a mobile phone factory in Pakistan but profit margins are very limited in this business and such things need sharp calculation of policy and space of benefits,” he argued.

Govt not redirecting CPEC funds, Senate told

He pointed out that the company had already established a new factory in India a couple of years ago to cater to the entire region.

Nevertheless, Yao took great interest when the PBIT CEO asked him to collaborate in the tourism industry of Punjab by inviting Chinese hospitality giants to facilitate Chinese tourism in Pakistan.

“This is an area where we can offer assistance as we have several big groups in China’s hospitality sector, which currently have surplus supply,” he added.

Simultaneously, he advised the provincial managers to focus on the agricultural base, its allied processing industries and the livestock sector and expressed China’s desire to import meat from Pakistan under the second phase of FTA.

May 20, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan to deploy another division for CPEC security

RAWALPINDI: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a living example of deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China, and they are fully determined to ensure security of the project, said DG Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Asif Ghafoor. He was talking to the Chinese media here on Saturday, Xinhua reported.

Talking about the security measures taken by the army to protect the CPEC, he said the Pakistan military had raised a whole division-size force to protect the project and they were planning to deploy another division for this purpose. Ghafoor said his country faced a very challenging war against terrorism during the last two decades, and now the security situation was under control.

Talking about the CPEC role in the country, he said the economic prosperity brought about by the CPEC will fail the motives of terrorists, as with the success of project more employment and business opportunities will be unveiled and with more economic opportunities coming in, people's lifestyle will improve and inimical elements will fail gradually.

He said the security situation in Balochistan had improved since the launch of CPEC and now there was a better infrastructure, as many Chinese projects were underway there, and with every coming day security, development and investment situation will get better.

“Today's Gwadar is not what it used to be two years ago and in future it will be on a par with the ports of developed countries,” he added. Talking about the investment opportunities in Pakistan, Gen Ghafoor said Pakistan was doing its best to create an environment where investors could come and do their business as the security situation had greatly improved.

“Though there are a few sporadic terrorist incidents, investors should not be discouraged by them and keep their trust intact in peace,” he noted.

Dunya News

Chinese ambassador calls on CJCSC Gen Zubair

RAWALPINDI (Dunya News) - Chinese ambassador Yao Jing called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Zubair Mahmood Hayat at the Joint Staff Headquarters on Monday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release, matters of bilateral interests including emerging security environment with particular reference to regional peace were discussed during the meeting.

Dunya News

China to open visa centre in Lahore

LAHORE (Dunya News) – Chinese ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing has announced to open visa centre in provincial capital. The Lahore branch will be operational from next month. As per details, ambassador Yao Jing met governor and CM Punjab separately and discussed matters pertaining to Pak-China relations, CPEC and increasing cooperation in different fields.

The meetings also discussed how to increase cooperation in public private partnership, investment in special economic zones, agriculture, technical and vocational training, tourism and social fields.

The Chinese ambassador said the visa centre in Lahore will facilitate people-to-people exchanges between China and Pakistan and provide applicants with more comfortable environment and more efficient services. The CM Punjab Usman Buzdar said China is a trusted friend of Pakistan and they respect Chinese cooperation in emergence of new Pakistan.

The Nation

Rashakai SEZs have huge strategic significance: BOI

ISLAMABAD - Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Haroon Sharif Sunday said that Rashakai, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) had a strategic significance as it was closer to Afghanistan and resources rich Central Asian Republics (CARs). Rashakai SEZs was a joint venture between the Chinese company of China Road and Bridge Cooperation (CRBC) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government aiming to provide the facility of ease of doing business in the area, Haroon said.

Replying to a question regarding Rashakai Economic Zone, he said recently, a delegation of CRBC, led by Director Shi Xiaobo, had visited BOI to discuss the time lines to make the economic zone operational.

He said during the meeting, the CRBC delegation discussed the incentive packages for Rashakai Economic Zone including the provision of modern and hi-tech facilities to the investors. Discussing the importance of Rashakai, Sharif said that the Chinese had termed it as a role model project for other SEZs.

“The BOI is strengthening its capacity by establishing specific desks and teams to deal with investors from different countries, as well as to work on important assignments, including all SEZs,” Sharif added.

Haroon said the BOI was committed to completing four special economic zones (SEZs) related to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) within six months.

These CPEC-related SEZs had been established in all four provinces, including Rashakai Economic Zone (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Dhabeji (Sindh), Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad (Punjab) and Bostan Industrial Zone (Balochistan), he informed.

Replying to another question, he said all seven proposed SEZs would be completed in the next two years.

The completion would promote ease of doing business in the country and would facilitate the local and foreign investors, he added.

“We will need to acquire 5,000 acres of industrial land to complete all SEZs in the country in order to generate equal business opportunities for all,” he maintained.

Replying to another question, he said SEZ in Hattar was also a priority of BOI, adding that electricity issue had halted the completion of economic zones but the matter had been resolved in March this year.

To a query regarding SEZ in Islamabad, he said the development of engineering or information technology zones was in process in line with the board’s plan to establish a hi-tech zone in the federal capital.

He said work on the SEZ in Islamabad would be finalized in the coming two weeks and the project would be completed on time.

Jang News

سی پیک مستقبل میں پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی کو تیز کرنے میں مدد دیگا، اسد عمر

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) میں پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی کے بے پناہ مواقع موجود ہیں اور یہ پاکستانی عوام کی ضروریات پوری کر سکتا ہے، سی پیک سے چین اور پاکستان کو فائدہ پہنچا ہے، بعض ممالک چینی سرمایہ کاری کے بارے میں دوہرا معیار رکھتے ہیں اور اس پر قرضوں کے جال کے الزامات عائد کرتے ہیں، قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی خزانہ کے چیئر مین اسد عمر نے چینی ذرائع ابلاغ سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا یہ کھلی منافقت ہے جو چین کو بدنام کرنے کیلئے جاری ہے، چینی سرمایہ کاری دو طرفہ ہے، یہ چین کیلئے بھی اچھی ہے اور دیگر ممالک کیلئے بھی فائدہ مند ہے، سابق پاکستانی وزیر خزانہ نے سی پیک کا دفاع کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کے تجویز کردہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے فریم ورک میں یہ ایک بڑا منصوبہ ہے، سی پیک کے تحت کئی منصوبے پہلے ہی مکمل ہو چکے ہیں تاہم بندرگاہ کے بنیادی ڈھانچے، توانائی کے منصوبے اور شاہراہوں کے نیٹ ورک کے منصوبے زیر تعمیر ہیں، سی پیک مستقبل میں پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی کو تیز کرنے میں زبردست مدد دیگا، چین پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر میں مدد کر رہا ہے، بنیادی ڈھانچے، صنعتی ترقی اور نجی شعبے میں کاروبار سے اگلے مرحلے میں مکمل فائدہ اٹھانے کی ضرورت ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ جب عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ (ایم ایف) کی ٹیم نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا تو حکومت پاکستان نے چین سے حاصل کئے گئے قرضوں کی تفصیلات سے اسے آگاہ کیا، آئی ایم ایف کی ٹیم نے چینی قرضوں کو سادہ اور شفاف قرار دیا، اسد عمر نے سی پیک اور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے میں حاصل کئے گئے قرضوں کو جال قرار دینے کو حقائق کے برعکس قرار دیتے ہوئے مسترد کر دیا، انہوں نے اعداد و شمار پر بھی تنقید کی اور کہا کہ پاکستانی قرضوں میں صرف دس فیصد چین کا حصہ ہے جبکہ باقی قرضے دیگر ممالک اور تنظیموں سے حاصل کئے گئے ہیں لیکن باقی 90 فیصد قرضوں کے بارے میں کوئی شکوک پیدا کرتا ہے اور نہ ہی انہیں قرضوں کا جال قرار دیتا ہے، یہ کیسے ہو سکتا ہے کہ دیگر ممالک سے حاصل ہونے والی سرمایہ کاری اچھی ہو اور چین سے حاصل ہونے والی سرمایہ کاری برائی بن جائے

Nawaiwaqt

اکثر شادیاں کامیاب ہوتی ہیں، چینی سفارتکار نے خوشگوار زندگی گزارنے والی پاکستانی دلہن کا ویڈیو ٹوئٹر پر شیئر کر دیا

بیجنگ (صباح نیوز) چینی سفارت کار لیجیان زہاؤ نے چین میں خوشگوار ازدواجی زندگی گزارنے والی پاکستانی خاتون حنا پطرس کی ویڈیو شیئر کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستانی خواتین اور چینی لڑکوں کے درمیان اکثر شادیاں کامیاب ہوتی ہیں۔ چین کے سفارت کار لیجیان زہاؤ نے سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹویٹر پر بیگورہ کی رہائشی پاکستانی خاتون حنا پطرس کی اپنے چینی شوہر کے ہمراہ ویڈیو بیان جاری کیا ہے جس میں خاتون کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ چین میں بہت خوش ہیں اور سسرالیوں سمیت ہر جگہ انہیں عزت و تکریم سے نوازا جاتا ہے۔ چینی سفارت کار نے مزید لکھا کہ غیر قانونی شادی کے دھندے میں ملوث ہر شخص کو سخت سے سخت سزا دی جائے گی

May 21, 2019

Pakistan Observer

SECOND BELT AND ROAD FORUM

On the eve of 25th April 2019, China inaugurated the Second Belt and Road Forum. With all its grandeur and exciting reception, it was an invitation to the world to come and observe the progress that has been made since the inception of One Belt One Road Project and its flagship program CPEC that directly engages countries of South East Asia and the Middle East. The event was attended by representatives of over 150 countries while 37 Heads of State were present to be part of the regime. President Xi Jinping has truly made a mark for himself. The Chinese Government has made solid progress in promoting the idea of Global Co-operation in reviving the Silk Route in terms of trade and economic exchange. Different parts of the world are responding differently to BRI (Belt Road Initiative). Canada, USA and UK gave the least attention while Europe seemed to be warming up; most of the countries of South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East have now become the most ardent supporters of BRI owing to the aggressive campaigning of the Chinese Government. Overall, it's a story of positives and negatives. Pakistan, in particular, continues to enjoy a unique position in the expansion of BRI. The second forum on BRI gave out a strong message that there is no lack of commitment among the major players of the world in the success of One Belt One Road Project.

In an attempt to gauge the magnitude of milestones achieved by BRI, one can easily look at the volume of trade agreements that have crossed 80 Billion \$ as of today. The theme of the Second Forum was "Global Cooperation". State Heads of 10 ASEAN countries were available to promote BRI and their willingness to invest and reap the benefits. Another success on the event was the presence of leaders from Central Asian countries like Kazakhstan. The forum was also fully recognized by the United Nations with the presence of its Secretary General. Apparently, the slogan of BRI to promote global cooperation instead of parochial nationalism is in line with the aims of the United Nations. The Deputy Head of National Development of China commented, "a more open and efficient international cooperation platform; a closer, stronger partnership network; and to push for a more just, reasonable and balanced international governance system." 37 Heads of States and representatives from over 150 countries actively engaged in the details of progress that has been made in BRI and the prospects for the next 5 years. The Forum was a comprehensive event to strengthen the trust of partner countries and attracting affluent investors.

One of the most notable features of the Second BRI Forum was the presence of European diplomats. Initially, during the first forum that was held in 2017, European countries like France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Norway had shared their reservations regarding the expansionist policies of the Chinese Government. With the slow-down in the European economies, BRI now seems like a more plausible alternative. 12 out of 37 Heads of State were from Europe in the Second Forum. China has successfully sparked the interest of European countries and their

greatest triumph is the signing of cooperation agreements worth billions with Italy and Portugal. China's One Belt One Road project has crossed over to Europe and its branches are looking healthier than ever.

Global and Regional Cooperation among countries and maximization of trade and services was the epitome of the second BRI Forum. Donald Trump has blatantly attacked International Trade and the charters of the World Trade Organization which promotes free Trade of Goods and Services. Increased tariff lines and banning imports from specific countries to safeguard national interest is the hallmark of Western powers in the current era. The UK has opted out of the European Union and continues to explore the possibility of finding economic prosperity in the controversies and frustrations sparked by Brexit. India, after the event of Pulwama, raised the Customs tariff on imports from Pakistan by 200%. Similar scenarios are visible in Africa, Middle East and South America. With such grave nationalist agendas, BRI is a breath of fresh air. The Second BRI Forum was a display of commitment of major powers of the world to give globalization another chance. Certainly, globalization goes hand in hand with regional cooperation and expansion of trade and commerce. BRI was looked at, at least in the start, as the tool of neo-colonial expansion of a rising superpower i.e. China. But, the argument seems to be turning into something much more wholesome and progressive. The Chinese philosophy behind BRI is that it is not only a project to promote global and regional trade, but also, exchange of cultural, economic, technological and strategic ties. This is more than just trade, it a strategic partnership for tremendous mutual gains.

Pakistan is still at the helm of affairs. There has been considerable progress but there is a long way to go. The Government of Imran Khan has sought review of the terms and conditions associated with CPEC. As the economists and financial experts of ace organizations, criticized CPEC as a debt trap for countries like Pakistan, hence, the current regime has made it a priority to make the conditions of CPEC beneficial for both the nations. The tax breaks given to Chinese companies and the loan structures, which seemed skewed towards big Chinese firms, have now been put to the table for fair play. The Second BRI forum formally addressed these concerns. The Chinese Premier openly explained that the Chinese Government is committed to transparency, integrity and mutually beneficial prospects of BRI. Prime Minister Imran Khan is giving a new face to the collaboration between the two countries. During the event, Imran Khan applauded the efforts and vision of President Xi Jinping and shared his views and progress on CPEC since 2013.

The Chinese Government has signaled to the world that BRI is an all-inclusive project. For decades, Chinese manufactured goods and their services were considered sub-standard as compared to their Western counterparts. Clearly, the tables have now turned. China and BRI now represent a brand that is attractive to all businessmen across the globe. During the forum, Xi Jinping announced the addition of 100 Billion Yuan just to attract more investors and stakeholders into BRI. Moreover, the Second BRI Forum was a challenge to the state-centric politics and trade profiteering of the United States. If all goes according to plan, especially

within the context of previous forum to the present one, China is set to become the real champion of Globalization of the modern world. (The Writer is Chairman of Jinnah Rafi Foundation)

Chinese Technological Advancement & BRI

Multibillion dollars worth China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a long-term multidimensional project. This gigantic project has opened new avenues of industrial and agricultural development based on scientific and technological advancement. Chinese recent development is based on its dependence and shift to science and latest technology. China remained underdeveloped during the time of usage of conventional ways and means of development in different sectors but by the time it shifted conventional ways to the modern it started glorifying. After becoming nuclear power China marched ahead like a great power of the world in its real sense. Actually China doesn't believe in fantasy or imagination; it believes in Science only. This belief is a key to its glory. In the fields of Science and Technology we are far behind China. Recently, Premier IK shuffled federal cabinet. The former Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting is given ministry of Science and Technology as punishment keeping in mind that this ministry is far less lucrative and important.

This approach determines our priorities. Undoubtedly ministry of science and Technology has never been first ranking ministry in Pakistan. This is why successive Pakistani governments could never transform itself from conservative level to the modern and scientific level. Pakistan even in the 21st Century is unable to resolve matter of sighting of Moon for the month of Ramadan and Eid but China now will offer customized data services for disaster prevention through its Fengyun meteorological satellites for more countries along the Belt and Road. The services will be provided based on the results of a survey of 81 countries. By the end of April, 22 countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Libya and Sudan had responded to the survey. All of the respondents want to install the application software platforms of the Fengyun satellites for weather forecasting as well as climate and environment monitoring. They also want a range of services, especially in monitoring rainfall, droughts, dust storms, heavy fog and lightning, in addition to training courses on Fengyun meteorological satellite data analysis, remote sensing applications and data collection. Such advance technology will enable Pakistan to combat weather and flood calamities. Many countries along the Belt and Road have high mountains, deserts, oceans and a lack of accurate meteorological information. The number of meteorological disasters in the regions is more than double the global average. Real time disaster monitoring by meteorological satellites could provide these countries with a scientific basis for disaster prevention and reduction. Weather-related disasters such as typhoons pose a threat to life and property. Tracking their path could help local authorities decide how to proceed with evacuations.

In addition to real time monitoring, the China Meteorological Administration set up the Emergency Support Mechanism for international users of Fengyun satellites last April, which covers disaster prevention and mitigation. So far, fifteen countries including Iran and Mongolia

have registered as users of the mechanism. The mechanism can switch the on-duty satellite to a quick scan mode focusing on areas required by users when they are hit by disasters. During disasters, Fengyun satellites can scan as often as every five or six minutes. The China Meteorological Administration could send users cloud images and products via satellites and public clouds. For instance two months back China provided a remote sensing monitor report on flooding in Iran via Fengyun. The analysis estimated the coverage and terrain characteristics of the flooded area, which greatly assisted the country's evacuation efforts. China has launched seventeen Fengyun series meteorological satellites of which seven are currently operational. The World Meteorological Organisation has included China's Fengyun series of meteorological satellites as a major element of its global Earth observation system. Pakistan will have to leave conventional ways and means to attain compatible glory.

China has decided to reshape its development depending upon latest technological advancement no matter it is defence matter or civilian development. Pakistan will have to empower its SPARCO. Unfortunately all the successive governments have been ignoring importance of SPARCO and Meteorological Department for the better future of the country. Scientific research has never been our priority number one that is why we could not achieve momentum of technologically advanced nations. Research-based education has never been encouraged in Pakistan. Very few students qualify for their higher scientific education abroad. When they complete their academic qualification they don't come back to Pakistan because here they don't find opportunities to serve their homeland. While in countries like China research-based education is encouraged in all the academic institutions. Around five hundred top research based varsities are providing most modern research-based education to the Chinese students. China has prepared its youth for its future. We need to learn lesson from the developed nations.

The Nation

Pakistan emerges as major partner of BRI: Survey

BEIJING: Pakistan has emerged as a leading partner of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) introduced by President Xi Jinping six years back, according to a survey released at a media and think tank exchange event held in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, China. Fast and smooth functioning of CPEC makes Pakistan's role most prominent in the community of the nations. The CPEC is cited as practical demonstration of BRI's concept of shared destiny.

According to the survey, BRI has been gaining more recognition globally and will help support economic development across Asia and beyond. The 2019 "The Belt and Road" Media and Think Tank Exchange Event attracted mainstream media representatives and think tank experts from 17 countries, including Pakistan and India. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee represented Pakistan at the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, he said that the media and think tanks have an important function in the international community communicating and avoiding conflicts. "People are the best bridge to

different cultures communicating,” he said. “An initiative is needed for cultures to learn from each other, and we need to promote the development of such an initiative. In the survey this year in 11 Asian countries including Israel, Saudi Arabia and India 56 percent of respondents thought the BRI provides a new solution for global governance and a new mode for equal and win-win cooperation among countries.

The international community recognizes the BRI’s positive impacts on the development of their own countries, the report said. Last year, in a survey in 21 countries, 53 percent of respondents recognized the BRI’s positive impact on regional and global economic development, and 74.7 percent of respondents from 11 Asian countries believed the BRI could bring more opportunities for their countries development.

Nawaiwaqt

پاک چین دوستیاں اور چین کی دوستی ایک مضبوط دیوار کی مانند ہے۔ اس بات میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ پاکستان کے ہر مشکل وقت میں چین نے پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے۔ پھر چاہے بات پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کی ہو یا پھر دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کی دونوں ممالک نے ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے لئے اہم ترین کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان باقاعدہ تعلقات کا آغاز 1950ء میں ہوا۔ پاکستان اسلامی دنیا کا پہلا اور غیر کمیونسٹ ممالک میں تیسرا ملک تھا۔ جس نے 1950ء کے تائیوان چین تنازعے کے فوراً بعد چین کو آزاد ریاست کے طور پر تسلیم کیا۔ تاہم دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات 31 مئی 1951ء میں قائم ہوئے۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات میں نمایاں گرم جوشی 1962ء کی چین بھارت سرحدی جنگ کے بعد پیدا ہوئی۔ بھارت کو اپنا روایتی دشمن سمجھنے والی پاکستانی قیادت نے چین سے تعلقات بڑھاتے ہوئے اسے خطے میں ایک متبادل طاقت کے طور پر ابھرنے میں مدد فراہم کی تاکہ بھارتی اثر و رسوخ کا راستہ روکا جاسکے۔ 1965ء کی پاک بھارت جنگ کے دوران بھی چین نے پاکستان کو خاصی مدد فراہم کی جس کے بعد دونوں ممالک کے درمیان فوجی اور اقتصادی رابطوں میں مزید شدت آئی۔ 1966ء میں فوجی تعاون کا آغاز ہوا۔ چین پاکستان کو دفاعی پیداوار میں اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا کر رہا ہے۔ چین سے ملنے والا اسلحہ سستا ہوتا ہے جو مغرب سے نہیں ملتا۔ اگر کوئی چیز نہیں ملتی تو دونوں (پاکستان اور چین) مشترکہ طور پر تیار کرتے ہیں۔ جس میں کچھ مغربی اور کچھ چین کی ٹیکنالوجی شامل ہوتی ہے۔ اس کے مقابلے میں دونوں جنگوں میں چین نے بڑے بھائی کا قابل ستائش کردار ادا کیا۔ پاکستان نے بھی ہمیشہ چین کی خیر سگالی کا ثبوت جو اب دیا۔ پاکستان نے چین اور امریکہ کے مابین سفارتی تعلقات قائم کرنے اور اقوام متحدہ میں اس کی رکنیت بحالی کرنے کے لیے بھرپور سفارت کاری کی۔ 1970ء میں پاکستان کی انتھک کوششوں سے امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہنری کسنجر کے خفیہ دورہ بیجنگ کے انتظامات ممکن ہوئے۔ اس طرح چین اور مغربی دنیا کے درمیان براہ راست رابطے ممکن ہو سکے اور پاکستان ہی کی بدولت 1972ء میں امریکی صدر رچرڈ نکسن نے چین کا سرکاری دورہ کیا۔ 1978ء میں چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان واحد زمینی راستے قراقرم ہائی وے کا باقاعدہ افتتاح ہوا۔ 1984ء میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جوہری توانائی کے میدان میں تعاون کے سمجھوتے پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ دونوں ممالک کی افواج کئی مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں بھی کر چکی ہیں۔ جس کا مقصد انسداد دہشت گردی کے لیے باہمی تعاون کا فروغ قرار دیا گیا تھا۔ 2005ء اور 2010ء میں دکھ کی گھڑی میں چین نے پاکستان میں آئے ہوئے سیلاب اور زلزلے کی تباہ کاریوں کے مداوے کے لیے 247 ملین ڈالر کی امداد کی تھی۔ پاکستان اور چین ایک دوسرے کے بڑے اتحادی ہیں۔ یہ اتحاد دفاعی پہلوؤں سمیت اقتصادی پہلوؤں کا احاطہ کرتا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سیاسی بندھن ٹوٹ ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان کاروباری تعلقات ہمیشہ نمود پذیر رہے ہیں۔

May 22, 2019

Business Recorder

China delivers first overhauled JF-17 fighter jet to Pakistan

BEIJING: China has recently delivered first overhauled JF-17 Thunder fighter jet to Pakistan under a project that experts said would benefit Pakistan's aviation industry. Changsha 5712 Aircraft Industry Co Ltd under the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) reassembled the overhauled JF-17 and delivered it to its Pakistani client in March, Global Time reported while quoting China Aviation News here on Wednesday.

This is also the first time AVIC has overhauled a made-for-export third-generation fighter, or fourth generation according to another widely used standard, the report said. "The first overhaul marks an important milestone in the JF-17 project," Fu Qianshao, a Chinese air defense expert told the Global Times.

The first overhaul represents the trial-and-error phase of the project and provided experience in establishing standards for other JF-17 overhauls in the future, according to Fu. Jointly developed and manufactured by China and Pakistan, the single-engine multi-role light fighter jet JF-17 made its maiden flight in 2003.

The first JF-17s were delivered to Pakistani clients in 2007, and a number of them were later commissioned by the Pakistan Air Force. After a decade of use, it was time for the first JF-17s to undergo overhauls, military analysts said.

A contract was signed in 2016, and the first overhaul started in November 2017. The overhauled aircraft made its first test flight in October 2018. An overhaul includes major maintenance featuring repairs and replacement of old components including the airframe and engine said Fu.

While standard, regular maintenance could be done by the military, an overhaul usually needs to be conducted by a designated and more capable supplier due to higher complexity, he said. Such an overhaul could ensure flight safety after years of use, Fu said. It might also equip the aircraft with newer technologies that enhance its capability, or prolong the aircraft's lifespan, he said.

The experienced overhaul team at AVIC used a reliability-oriented maintenance model, keeping the maintenance cycle short and costs low. Pakistan sent dozens of trainees to China, who had close communication and built deep friendships with Chinese engineers during the overhaul process.

Fu said since procedures and standards for the overhaul have been established, future overhauls on other JF-17s could be done by Pakistani personnel. "Under the framework of China-Pakistan cooperation, Pakistan's aviation industry will continue to develop," Fu noted. A Block 3 variant of the JF-17 is under development, which is expected to be much more powerful than the previous two blocks thanks to a new China-developed active electronically scanned array radar, reports said.

Dunya News

Bishkek: FM Qureshi meets Chinese counterpart, discusses matters of mutual interest

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Wednesday has said friendship with China is cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He was talking to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on the sidelines of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi said China is our close friend and a strong partner. He commended Chinese support to Pakistan on important matters and its role in regional peace and stability.

The foreign minister also congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the successful conduct of second Belt and Road Forum.

The Express Tribune

Senate panel seeks briefing on Sino-Pak fake marriages scandal

ISLAMABAD: The Senate's Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis has asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to brief it on the scandal surrounding marriages between Chinese men and Pakistani women.

A meeting of the standing committee, chaired by Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman on Tuesday took up the matter of alleged fake marriages on demand of Senator Sabir Shah.

Shah said reports are doing the rounds that the Chinese men, marrying Pakistani women, are not treating them well after taking them to their country. The chairman said Pakistan has friendly relations with China and there is an impression that it is an attempt to ruin these relations. "However, to improve these relations, oppression of girls cannot be justified," he said. The committee later asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to brief it on this matter.

The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) secretary also briefed the panel on case of Abdur Rehman, a Pakistani man incarcerated in Malaysia. He said a report from the Malaysian Embassy said Rehman was involved in murder of his wife.

A Malaysian high court convicted him and the verdict was upheld during appeal. There are only two ways to get a relief – a royal pardon or a relief from Malaysian federal court, the secretary said. "In this regard we are waiting for response from AbdurRehman's family regarding the relief option that they want to adopt for," he added. Rehman's father requested the panel to get relief for his son.

He said for two years they did not know why their son was imprisoned. The chairman assured him of all possible support but said: "If you want royal pardon then the foreign ministry is prepared but if you file a review petition then option for pardon will be eliminated. You have to take a decision."

The OPF DG told the committee that the ministry has started one window operation for overseas Pakistanis. The Pakistanis residing abroad will receive all facilities under one roof. The overseas Pakistanis will be provided facility of passport issuance in the OPF office. The PM has given approval for the preparation of machine-readable passport in the OPF office, he said.

Express News

21 مئی، پاک چین لازوال دوستی کو 68 برس بیت گئے

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین نے اپنے دوستی کے سفر کا آغاز 21 مئی 1951 سے کیا، یہ رشتہ وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ مضبوط ہوتا رہا اور آج 68 برس گزرنے کے بعد دونوں ممالک کے درمیان یہ رشتہ مثالی دوستی میں تبدیل ہو چکا ہے۔ 1947 میں پاکستان جبکہ 1949 میں چین کی آزادی کے ساتھ ہی دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات بہتری کی طرف گامزن ہونا شروع ہو گئے۔ پاکستان نے چین کی آزادی کو سب سے پہلے تسلیم کیا یہاں سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان رشتے استوار ہوئے۔ اب 68 برس بعد پاکستان اور چین ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ معاشی، اقتصادی اور توانائی سمیت دیگر منصوبوں پر تعاون کر رہے ہیں۔ چین کے اشتراک سے پاکستان میں اقتصادی راہداری کا سب سے بڑا منصوبہ سی پیک جاری ہے جو پاکستان کی تقدیر کو بدل دے گا۔

May 23, 2019

Dawn News

Patrol vessel built with Chinese help launched

KARACHI: The Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KS&EW) on Wednesday launched a 1,500-tonne state-of-the-art Maritime Patrol Vessel (MPV) built for the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA).

The MPV is a multi-mission vessel with a steel hull and aluminium super structure of 95 metres length and 12.2 metres breadth and can achieve maximum speed up to 26 knots. The ship has been built in technical collaboration with the China Shipbuilding & Trading Company (CSTC) and Huang Pu Shipyard, China. It is fully equipped to enforce maritime security, search and rescue missions in the maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Kaleem Shaukat graced the occasion as the chief guest.

He congratulated the KS&EW, CSTC and the Huang Pu Shipyard on achieving this important milestone ahead of the scheduled time frame and said that it was yet another landmark project that spoke volumes for the evergreen friendship between China and Pakistan.

He said responsibilities of Pakistan Navy and PMSA had increased manifold after the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and extension in the EEZ.

In his address of welcome, KS&EW Managing Director Rear Admiral Ather Saleem said that the MPV would act as a force multiplier for the PMSA in safeguarding the maritime frontiers of the country together with the Pakistan Navy. He also spoke about ongoing mega projects at the KS&EW, including construction of 02 x MILGEM Class Corvettes and 04 x HANGOR Class submarines for Pakistan Navy, and said that preparations were in full swing to start the projects as per the scheduled timeline.

Dunya News

China, Pakistan agree to enhance high-level exchanges in view of current global situation: Spokesperson

BEIJING (APP) – China and Pakistan have agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and strengthen pragmatic cooperation for more progress in the bilateral relations in wake of the changing international situation, a spokesperson of Chinese foreign ministry Thursday said.

“The two sides also agreed to jointly implement the consensus reached by our two leaders during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s attendance in the second Belt and Road Forum for the International Cooperation,” Lu Knag said while responding to a question asked by APP regarding a meeting between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Bishkek.

He informed that the State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi who is a good friend on the sidelines of their SCO foreign ministers meeting held the other day. “Both sides believe that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership is deepened in our Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation” he added.

Lu Kang said both the sides agreed to jointly implement the consensus reached by the two leaders during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s attendance in the second Belt and Road Forum held during the last month.

He said faced with the current international situation, the two countries agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and deepen our practical cooperation for more progress in their bilateral relations.

The spokesperson said the two foreign ministers also discussed some international cooperation on some important issues for example the counter-terrorism. “Both sides agreed to deepen our cooperation on bilateral and multilateral occasions,” he added. He said both sides also discussed some other issues including the Afghan situation, the solution to this issue and reached many important consensuses in other areas.

Meanwhile, according to a Chinese foreign ministry's statement issued here, Wang Yi during the meeting told his Pakistani counterpart that China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership had been deepened and promoted in the process of building the "Belt and Road".

The two sides should jointly implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China for participation in the second Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit, strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and promote China-Pakistan relations.

Wang Yi said the Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's long-term efforts to combat terrorism. "It hopes and believes in that the Pakistani side will strengthen security work for Chinese personnel and institutions in Pakistan and safeguard the security of China-Pakistan cooperation."

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan was willing to work with China to prepare for the next stage of high-level exchanges between the two countries, implement the results of the second "Belt and Road" international cooperation summit forum, strengthen the cooperation between the two countries and promote new achievements in bilateral relations.

The Pakistani side was fully consistent with the Chinese goal in combating terrorism and extremism. Both sides shared the same feelings and the same fate. The concern of the Chinese side was the concern of the Pakistani side.

The Pakistani side would do its utmost to protect the security of Chinese citizens and institutions in Pakistan, and continue to strengthen bilateral anti-terrorism cooperation under the dual multilateral framework and safeguard the common interests of the two countries and regional peace and stability.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Afghan issue and agreed to strengthen communication and coordination, jointly promote the early political settlement of the Afghan issue, and maintain regional peace and stability

Pakistan Observer

Chinese envoy, WB laud steps taken by FBR

The Ambassador of China in Pakistan Yao Jing on Wednesday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Syed Muhammad Shabbar Zaidi at FBR Headquarter. The Chinese Ambassador appreciated the steps taken by FBR to facilitate the taxpayers particularly the steps to redress the grievances of taxpayers. The Ambassador also welcomed the appointment of Syed Shabbar Zaidi as Chairman FBR and hoped that under his command the FBR would be able to devise a strategy to achieve its targets in the long run.

The Ambassador of China further said that State Taxation Administration of the People's Republic of China which is a revenue collecting authority in China would be willing to cooperate with FBR which would enable both the departments to learn each other's best practices for mutual benefit.

Meanwhile, the Country Director World Bank Pakistan Mr. Patchamuthu Illangovan (Illango) called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Syed Muhammad Shabbar Zaidi. The World Bank Country Director appreciated the steps taken by FBR to facilitate the taxpayers particularly the steps to redress the grievances of taxpayers.

The World Bank Country Director welcomed the appointment of Syed Shabbar Zaidi as Chairman FBR and hoped that under his command the FBR would be able to devise a strategy to achieve its targets in the long run. The World Bank is already assisting FBR to bring business friendly steps and reforms in the taxation system.

The Express Tribune

Pakistan discloses borrowing from China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, for the first time, fully disclosed the debt taken from China which stood at \$6.5 billion for the current fiscal year alone, equal to three-fourths of the \$8.6 billion worth of total loans that Islamabad received in the past 10 months, show official documents.

Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan has disclosed every type of loan that Islamabad has received from its strategic ally, China.

Foreign loan disbursements in Jul-Apr of the current financial year showed loans for the Karachi Nuclear Power Plants, known as K2 and K3, and China SAFE deposits as part of federal debt obligations.

Earlier, the \$2 billion worth of China SAFE deposits, which Islamabad had received in July 2018, were shown on the books of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). SAFE is an acronym for the State Administration of Foreign Exchange managed by the Chinese central bank.

Pakistan also received \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia and \$2 billion from the United Arab Emirates but these loans were not disclosed along with Chinese SAFE deposits.

Pakistan has long been using Chinese money to shore up its official foreign currency reserves but it is for the first time that these Chinese deposits with the central bank have been made part of the Ministry of Finance's debt statistics.

Finance ministry spokesman Dr KhaqanNajeeb did not comment on the development. But a senior official of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs told The Express Tribune that the decision to disclose Chinese SAFE deposits was taken at the level of Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Dr Abdul HafeezShaikh.

The full disclosure of Chinese loans was one of the sticking points between the government and the IMF during staff-level negotiations for a \$6-billion bailout package. It now seems Prime Minister Imran Khan has accepted the IMF's terms on Chinese loans.

The United States wants to ring-fence IMF money in order to stop Pakistan from using such funds for repaying Chinese loans.

Owing to the fresh disclosure, the Chinese foreign loans from July through April FY19 surged to \$6.56 billion, according to the finance ministry's documents. These were equal to 75% of the total foreign loans of \$8.6 billion that Pakistan received during the period.

There was over \$2-billion jump in foreign loan disbursements within a month due to the disclosure of Chinese loans.

Out of the \$6.5 billion, China gave \$2 billion in SAFE deposits and \$2.53 billion in foreign commercial loans, also for cushioning the declining foreign exchange reserves.

In March, the Chinese government provided the loans through two commercial banks. China Development Bank gave \$2.24 billion in a short-term loan while Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) disbursed \$300 million.

China gave \$628.4 million for the construction of two ongoing nuclear power plants in the past 10 months, according to the finance ministry statistics.

China also gave \$1.4 billion in project financing in the past 10 months, largely for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. Project loans have largely been disbursed for the Sukkur-Multan motorway, Havelian-Thakot project of CPEC and Lahore Orange Line project.

Every successive government has been heavily relying on foreign loans to stay afloat. The reliance on China increased in recent years after the traditional multilateral lenders stopped budgetary support due to deterioration in macroeconomic conditions.

Pakistan hopes that the blocked budgetary support will soon be restored after approval of the \$6-billion bailout package by the IMF Executive Board. It also expects to return to the international capital market from the next fiscal year to raise funds for building official foreign currency reserves.

On the back of Chinese loans, the commercial financing surged to \$3.2 billion as of the end of April, which was equal to 37.2% of the total foreign loans. Ajman Bank PJSC disbursed another tranche of \$76 million in April, taking its total loans to \$150 million.

A consortium of Credit Suisse AG, UBL and ABL has already given \$295 million and \$184 million was released by Dubai Bank in previous months. The lending by multilateral agencies amounted to \$1.3 billion or 14% of the total disbursements. The country received \$380 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by April, far lower than estimates. The World Bank disbursed only \$250 million.

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) disbursed an additional \$35 million last month, which took its total loans for Pakistan to \$578 million in 10 months. The IDB gave these commercial loans for oil purchase from Saudi Arabia. The disbursements by other lenders remained low.

The Express Tribune

Yes, Chinese men are sham-marrying Pakistani girls, but CPEC is not to be blamed for it

After she finished her initial studies, her parents could no longer afford to send her to college to continue her education. What her father earned was not even enough to make ends meet. The family was living in a rented house in a slum-like dwelling. Sensing she should not be a burden on the gradually weakening shoulders of her father, she started seeking a job but was not successful at all. She was willing to do anything to ease life for her parents so they could focus on her younger siblings instead.

Hira, the 19-year-old daughter of a Christian watchman from SaraiAlamgir, a small town in Punjab, became the latest victim of the growing illegal bride trade in Pakistan. Nearly three months ago, she got married to a 42-year-old Chinese businessman, Xiang Xung, in a church in Jhelum.

Talking to a local senior journalist, Syed Amjad Shah, she revealed that after marriage Xiang took her to Islamabad, where they stayed in a hotel for two months. Her eyes filled with tears as she explained her ordeal. Sitting next to her mother, she hesitantly revealed that her family was given a little more than \$2,000 for this marriage.

With the advent of the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) crackdown on the gangs of matchmakers/human traffickers, Xiang, sensing danger, left for China almost a month ago and hasn't contacted Hira since.

Most recently, with the eruption of scores of cases of sham marriages, the Pakistan-China friendship is facing a menacing crisis. A source within the FIA revealed that they are currently working on a little more than 1,500 cases reported throughout Pakistan. Worryingly, he further stated that a majority of the cases are not getting reported due to several personal reasons of the affected families, and they are thus probing cases themselves through a thorough investigation of the matchmaking/human trafficking groups.

Initially, the scammers targeted the Christian community, which is considered a financially and socially weak community within Pakistan and is hence vulnerable to such kind of scams. As Punjab has a significant Christian population settled in rural areas as well as smaller cities, the so-called matchmakers got local religious leaders and priests of the churches involved for money. Suddenly it became an attractive and lucrative business. Chinese criminals started pouring in Pakistan to take advantage of our poor, vulnerable, virgin girls.

The majority of the reported cases have affected young Pakistani girls from Christian communities of different cities. This has been going for at least the past five years, and scores of girls have already been trafficked to China. The Christian daughters of my country have fraudulently been abused in China – physically and emotionally. The few that luckily contacted

the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing escaped to Pakistan safely, with a torn soul. Several of such “CPEC” brides returned home pregnant.

It is absolutely outrageous that our media has only started reporting on such cases when the Muslim majority started being affected. I too shamefully hold myself responsible for ignoring many of such cases that previously chiefly involved the Christian minority. I admit that I have had documented details of several cases but I did not write on them. I believe had we started creating awareness in time, we could have saved many of our country’s daughters from being preyed upon.

Chinese Deputy Chief of Mission in Pakistan Lijian Zhao, in an interview with senior journalist Waseem Abbasi, protected his government’s stance but rightly pointed out that Pakistan needs to tighten its visa policy for Chinese nationals coming to Pakistan on business visas. He showed serious concerns over the reports and admitted that the Chinese authorities are probing into the cases and justice would be brought forth.

There is a lie that Pakistani girls were sent to China for forced prostitution or sale of organs. It is totally fabricated & for sensational purposes. We probed all those Pakistan wives in China. There is no evidence for it. @UrduNews.Com @Wabbasi007

Meanwhile, the process of probing and catching these criminals by the FIA has picked up significantly after the rise in reported cases of many Muslim girls from poor families becoming victims. Chinese men would marry the girls after paying money to both, the matchmakers and the families. A source within the FIA watchdog reported that every case involved payment ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000. The amount fluctuated with the age and looks of the girls. Younger and attractive girls would often be traded at around \$40,000. The amount would be paid to illegal matchmakers and human traffickers that included both Chinese and Pakistani nationals, whereas the family was paid around \$2,000 to \$3,000.

It is important to mention here that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not the cause behind this; it is indeed a game-changer owing to the relentless work being accomplished by Chinese workers. I have from time to time visited their work sites and found Chinese workers to be giving their all to their work. One such company I visited was the China Gezhouba Group working at the Sukhi-Kinari Hydro Power Project, and it was a unique experience where I saw Chinese and Pakistani workers working together under strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood.

It would be highly irresponsible to blame this human trafficking on the advent of CPEC. After all, the culprits involved from both sides have nothing to do with the economic corridor. Every society has good and evil elements, and the same applies here. A few habitual criminals, sensing illegal opportunities in Pakistan, have activated their rings to make the most out of it. There are always rich beasts who use the services of criminals to prey upon the vulnerable. Sadly, Pakistan has a large vulnerable population and China has a significant number of buyers in the shape of successful small businessmen.

The need of the hour for both Pakistan and China is to reassess their visa policy. While scrolling through the visa requirements to come to Pakistan from China, I was shocked to find out how weak the policy is. Currently, the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing does not require authentic criminal checks of the visa applicants, nor is it interested in digging deep into why someone wants to come here.

Moreover, the visa application does not caution any Chinese citizen travelling to Pakistan (on any type of visa) regarding the do's and don'ts of their stay in Pakistan. Frankly speaking, our own institutions are making us more vulnerable. We need to understand that as criminals exist in Pakistan, the same is the case with China. It is the duty of our Foreign Office to ensure that a strict policy is implemented towards Chinese visa applicants to avoid criminals entering and trafficking women in Pakistan without being discovered.

Equally important is the fact that there is no existence of a mechanism when it comes to marrying a foreigner in Pakistan. In the western world, citizens are to approach their government before they can legally marry a foreigner. The process takes a minimum of four weeks of scrutiny of the individual to assess their character history and whether it is a true relationship. The process not only confirms the authenticity of the alien in the country, but also decides whether the national should be allowed to marry that certain individual or not.

The government of Pakistan must hence act fast to design a policy that regulates marriages between Pakistani nationals and foreigners. A coordinated departmental effort by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Interior Ministry could efficiently save vulnerable Pakistani nationals from getting preyed upon. As the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has a presence throughout Pakistan, its offices could be used for the said task, while marrying a foreigner without following the due process should be considered a crime punishable by law

The News

Fizza Ali Meerza says cultural exchange bridges gaps between countries

In China for Asian Film and TV Week, director-producer duo Nabeel Qureshi and Fizza Ali Meera are making waves with their latest cinematic outing, Load Wedding. The film opened the event on May 17, followed by a screening in Beijing the next day alongside others films like Aamir Khan's Dangal and TaareZameen Par, and Children of Heaven.

Producer of the film, Fizza Ali Meerza attended the opening of Asian Civilization Dialogue on May 15 while she also sat for an interview with China Radio International in which she spoke about cultural exchange between countries.

“The Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in China will bring people closer,” she said, adding that such exchange brings various cultures together. “The friendship between Pakistan and China is exemplary and the ties can be strengthened by promoting such cultural exchanges between the two countries. There are ample opportunities for collaboration as far as cinema is

concerned; cinema has the power to introduce people of Pakistan and China to each other's cultures. In today's time, films play a key role in promoting cultural exchanges.”

Fizza hopes that their visit to China will help promote future collaborations and will open new horizons. She also mentioned that all of their films (Na MaloomAfraad, Na MaloomAfraad 2, Actor in Law and Load Wedding) have been received really well and they are working on some more films.

Jang News

ایم ایل ون اپ گریڈیشن، ایکنک منظوری بعد کام شروع کر دیا جائیگا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی ریلوے کی ذیلی کمیٹی کو آگاہ کیا گیا ہے کہ ایم ایل ون کی اپ گریڈیشن کا 380 ارب روپے کا پلن سی ون ابھی منظور نہیں ہوا، گزشتہ روز ذیلی کمیٹی کا اجلاس کنوینٹنر بریگیڈیئر (ر) جان کنتھ ولیمز کی زیر صدارت ہوا، ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری ریلوے اور پراجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر ریلوے نے سی بیک پریزنٹنگ دیتے ہوئے بتایا کہ سی بیک میں پاکستان ریلوے کے 7 منصوبہ جات ہیں جن میں سے 5 منظور شدہ اور دو ابھی منظور نہیں ہوئے، ایم ایل ون منصوبے کی فیڑی سیٹی سٹڈی مکمل ہو چکی ہے، یہ منصوبہ 38 کروڑ 90 لاکھ روپے کا تھا اس پر 36 کروڑ 30 لاکھ روپے خرچ ہو چکے ہیں، ایم ایل ون کے ابتدائی ڈیزائن کا منصوبہ 10.6 ارب کا تھا، مالی سال 2018-19 میں 2 ارب روپے مختص کئے گئے جس میں سے اب تک 16 کروڑ 20 لاکھ روپے خرچ ہو چکے ہیں، مالی سال 2019-20 کیلئے 5 ارب 30 کروڑ روپے کی سفارش ہے اور اب تک اس منصوبے پر 13 ارب 33 کروڑ 40 لاکھ روپے خرچ ہو چکے ہیں، بتایا گیا کہ سی بیک سپورٹ پراجیکٹ 25 کروڑ 20 لاکھ روپے کا تھا جس پر 11 کروڑ 80 لاکھ روپے خرچ ہو چکے ہیں

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان کیساتھ تعلقات میں بہتری کی رفتار برقرار رکھی جائیگی: چین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات کے مومینٹم کو برقرار رکھا جائے گا، پاک چین گہرے تعلقات کا سفر 68 سال پر محیط ہے۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لو کھاگ نے گزشتہ روز اپنی پریس بریفنگ میں پاک چین تعلقات پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک چین باہمی تعلقات ہمیشہ سے ہی اہم رہے ہیں، پاک چین روابط کو مزید گہر کرنے میں کامیاب ہوئے ہیں، پاک چین دوستی 68 سالوں پر محیط ہے۔ پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے میں پاک چین دوستی کی 68 ویں سالگرہ منائی گئی جس میں پاکستان کی طرف سے سیکرٹری خارجہ سہیل محمود اور چین کے سفیر یاو جنگ نے شرکت کی۔ دونوں نے پاک چین تعلقات کی گہرائی اور مضبوطی بارے گفتگو کی۔ دونوں ممالک کے سفارتکاروں کا کہنا تھا کہ چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے سے مکمل مطمئن اور ہم آہنگ ہیں اور دونوں اطراف اس دوستی کو مزید گہرا اور مضبوط کرنے کی خواہش رکھتے ہیں۔ پاک چین مختلف شعبہ جات میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ ہر طرح کا تعاون نہ صرف کر رہے ہیں بلکہ مزید بڑھانے کے خواہشمند ہیں۔ لو کھاگ نے کہا کہ چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای ایشیائی ممالک کے وزراء خارجہ کے ساتھ شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے بشک میں ہونے والے سٹ کے سلسلہ میں ملاقاتیں کر کے ایجنڈا طے کر رہے ہیں۔ چین کے ون ہیلتھ ون روڈ منصوبہ بارے انہوں نے کہا یہ تعمیری، شراکتی اور کھلے پن کی پالیسی کی واضح مثال ہے۔ چین دوسرے ممالک کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کا خواہشمند ہے، چین نے ہمیشہ دوسرے ممالک کی مدد کی ہے کہ آئندہ بھی کرنے کی کوشش کرتا رہے گا تاکہ باہمی تعلقات کے خاطر خواہ نتائج حاصل کئے جاسکیں۔

May 24, 2019

The Express Tribune

China, Pakistan agree to enhance high-level exchanges

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and strengthen pragmatic cooperation for more progress in the bilateral relations in view of changing international situation, said Lu Knag, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday.

“The two sides also agreed to jointly implement the consensus reached by our two leaders during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s attendance in the second Belt and Road Forum for the International Cooperation,” Lu Knag said.

He was responding to a question regarding a meeting between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Bishkek on Wednesday.

He said the State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi ‘who is a good friend’ on the sidelines of their SCO foreign ministers meeting.

“Both sides believe that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership is deepened in our Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation” he added.

He said: “Faced with the current international situation, the two countries agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and deepen our practical cooperation for more progress in their bilateral relations.”

The spokesperson said the two foreign ministers also discussed international cooperation on some important issues for example the counter-terrorism. “Both sides agreed to deepen our cooperation on bilateral and multilateral occasions,” he added.

He said both sides also discussed some other issues including the Afghan situation, the solution to this issue and reached many important consensuses in other areas.

According to a Chinese foreign ministry’s statement, Wang Yi during the meeting told his Pakistani counterpart that China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership had been deepened and promoted in the process of building the ‘Belt and Road’.

The two sides should jointly implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and promote China-Pakistan relations.

Wang Yi said the Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's long-term efforts to combat terrorism. "It hopes and believes in that the Pakistani side will strengthen security work for Chinese personnel and institutions in Pakistan and safeguard the security of China-Pakistan cooperation.

He said Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan was willing to work with China to prepare for the next stage of high-level exchanges between the two countries, implement the results of the second 'Belt and Road' international cooperation summit forum, strengthen the cooperation between the two countries and promote new achievements in bilateral relations.

"The Pakistani side was fully consistent with the Chinese goal in combating terrorism and extremism. Both sides shared the same feelings and the same fate. The concern of the Chinese side was the concern of the Pakistani side.

"The Pakistani side would do its utmost to protect the security of Chinese citizens and institutions in Pakistan, and continue to strengthen bilateral anti-terrorism cooperation under the dual multilateral framework and safeguard the common interests of the two countries and regional peace and stability."

The two sides also exchanged views on the Afghan issue and agreed to strengthen communication and coordination, jointly promote the early political settlement of the Afghan issue, and maintain regional peace and stability.

Jang News

خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کو بجلی کی فراہمی شروع کرنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) وفاقی حکومت نے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں بجلی کی فراہمی شروع کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، آئندہ مالی سال میں 50 کروڑ مختص، بن قاسم انڈسٹریل پارکس کو فوری بجلی فراہم کی جائیگی، فوری طور پر آئندہ مالی سال کے بجٹ کے بعد کراچی میں بن قاسم انڈسٹریل پارکس کے خصوصی صنعتی زونز کو بجلی فراہم کی جائیگی، اس حوالے سے مشیر امور تجارت و سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد اور وزیر بجلی عمر ایوب کی مشترکہ زیر صدارت میں اجلاس ہوا، جس میں 9 خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کو بجلی اور گیس کی فراہمی کا فیصلہ لیا گیا اس حوالے سے کراچی میں بن قاسم انڈسٹریل پارک اور کورنگی کریک انڈسٹریل پارک کو بجلی کی فراہمی کی جائیگی، وزیر بجلی نے کے الیکٹریک کو ہدایت کی کہ بن قاسم انڈسٹریل پارک کو فوری بجلی کی فراہمی کے انتظامات کیے جائیں۔

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان، چین کا انسداد دہشت گردی افغان امن کیلئے تعاون بڑھانے کا فیصلہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین اور پاکستان نے فیصلہ کیا ہے کہ وہ انسداد دہشت گردی اور افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے دو طرفہ تعاون کو مزید فروغ دیں گے، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ کی تعمیر و ترقی کیلئے بھی پاک چین تعلقات میں اضافہ کیا جائے گا، دونوں ممالک اہم معاملات پر باہمی مشورہ کے ذریعے اپنے تحفظات کا اظہار کریں گے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ لو کھانگ نے گزشتہ روز اپنی کی معمول کی پریس بریفنگ میں میڈیا کو بتایا کہ بدھ کے روز بشک میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے وزراء خارجہ کے اجلاس میں سائبر لائن ملاقات میں چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی اور پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے اعادہ کیا ہے کہ پاک چین انسداد دہشت گردی اور افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے ایک دوسرے سے مزید تعاون کریں گے، عالمی سطح کے اہم معاملے

میں دونوں ممالک مشترکہ لائحہ عمل ترتیب دیں گے۔ جنوبی بحیرہ چین کے بارے میں امریکی رویوں کے بیان پر رد عمل دیتے ہوئے چینی ترجمان نے کہا کہ یہ چین کی سلامتی اور خود مختاری کا معاملہ ہے امریکہ آئندہ ہمارے داخلی معاملات میں ٹانگ نہ اڑائی۔

K2 News 24-05-19

چین اور پاکستان کا انسداد دہشتگردی کیلئے تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینے کا فیصلہ
 دونوں ممالک افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے بھی مل کر کردار ادا کریں گے۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ
 ہیلت اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ کی تعمیر و ترقی کیلئے پاک چین تعلقات میں اضافہ کیا جائے گا
 بیجنگ۔ آئی این بی ایف۔ پاکستان نے فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ دہلی۔ ترجمان کو مزید فروغ دینے کے ساتھ ہیلت اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ
 کو انسداد دہشت گردی اور افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے تعمیر و ترقی کیلئے بھی پاکستان

تعلقات میں اضافہ کیا جائے گا، دونوں ممالک اہم
 معاملات پر باہمی مشورہ کے ذریعے اپنے تعلقات کا
 اظہار کریں گے۔ تعلقات کے مطابق ترجمان چینی
 وزارت خارجہ کو ملک نے گزشتہ روز چینی کی
 کی پریس بریفنگ میں مشیخہ کو بتایا کہ وہ کے روز
 ہفتک میں چینی تعاون تنظیم کے وزراء خارجہ کے
 اہل اس میں سابقہ اہل علاقہ میں چینی وزیر خارجہ
 واک ڈی اور پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے
 اعادہ کیا ہے کہ پاک چین انسداد دہشت گردی اور
 افغانستان میں قیام امن کیلئے ایک دوسرے سے مزید
 تعاون کریں گے، مابقی کے اہم معاملے میں دونوں
 ممالک مشترکہ لائحہ عمل ترتیب دیں گے، ہیلت اینڈ روڈ
 منصوبے کو دونوں ممالک کے سربراہان کے درمیان کے
 مطابق چینی سے تعمیر کر کے ہونے کیلئے مراحل میں
 داخل کیا جائے گا، دہلی۔ ترجمان نے چینی کی
 چین مطابق ترتیب دیا جائے گا۔ ترجمان نے چینی کی
 جانب سے سرگرمی بخیز رہنے کے چنانچہ بارے سوال کا
 جواب دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس پر چین کا واضح اور بھرپور
 موقف ہے، جنوبی بحیرہ چین بارے کہا کہ یہ چین کی خود
 قدرتی اور سلامتی کا مسئلہ ہے اس پر چین اپنے موقف
 سے ایک قدم پیچھے نہیں ہٹے گا۔ واضح رہے کہ چنانچہ
 امریکی سٹیز نے قائل کیا تھا جو بین الاقوامی قوانین کی
 سراسر خلاف ورزی ہیں، چین اس کو سختی سے مسترد کرتا
 ہے اور امریکہ سے مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ آئندہ داخلی
 معاملات میں ٹانگ نہ اڑائے۔

May 25, 2019

Daily Times

‘Third party’ will be invited in next phase of CPEC development: China

Chinese ambassador says community of shared future in new era is based on shared interests and political consensus reached between two countries.

China and Pakistan will join hands in building a closer community of shared future in the new era against the backdrop of changing international landscapes, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing has said.

“The closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era is a concrete measure taken by leaders of the two countries as per the concept of building a new type of international relations and a community of a shared future for all mankind,” Yao told Xinhua in an interview. A China-Pakistan joint statement in this regard was released in November last year when Prime Minister Imran Khan made his first visit to China.

“The closer community of shared future in the new era is based on mutual trust, friendship and amity, as well as shared interests and political consensus reached between the two countries and two peoples on the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),” the ambassador said.

CPEC, a major pilot project of the China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is connecting Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in west China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. CPEC has brought about drastic changes to Pakistan’s socio-economic development over the past five years. During Prime Minister Khan’s another visit to China in April, the two countries signed a deal on the first industrial park and future industrial cooperation.

“Under a memorandum of understanding inked between China and Pakistan to improve people’s livelihood, the two neighbouring countries signed 27 projects on agriculture, education, healthcare, water resources, vocational training and poverty alleviation,” Yao said. “By meeting Pakistani people’s needs, the China-Pakistan cooperation will bring more tangible benefits to Pakistanis,” he added.

As part of the international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, the CPEC should be instrumental to regional cooperation, interconnectivity and common development, the Chinese envoy pointed out. A third party will be invited to participate in the next phase development of CPEC, he added.

The first meeting of the CPEC International Cooperation Coordination Working Group was held in Beijing in April to build CPEC as a platform for regional cooperation, development and prosperity.

Fostering people-to-people’s bonds always remain a priority of the Belt and Road cooperation between China and Pakistan, according to Yao. “Chinese-donated Faqeer Primary School in Gwadar has become one of the best local schools, where students have increased to nearly 500 from 150 over the past five years,” he said. “China also helped build a medical centre in Gwadar which has provided health services for the local people,” he added, noting that vocational training institutes have been set up in Quetta and Lahore to help address youth employment in Pakistan.

In recent years, civic groups, training schools and local institutions across the country have been seeking exchanges and cooperation with China in education, culture and sports, Yao said. “The Belt and Road Initiative has yielded such appealing results that the Pakistani people have been

getting increasingly enthusiastic about participating in the Chinese projects and agreeing with the Chinese concepts,” he added.

With regard to China-Pakistan relations, Yao said a new era has been ushered in and a new prospect is just around the corner. “There will be plenty of opportunities for both countries.”

The Nation

Govt decides to start electrifying SEZs

ISLAMABAD - The federal government has decided to start electrifying the special economic zones (SEZs). The first SEZ that would get the immediate relief after the budget would be the Bin Qasim Industrial Parks at Karachi. The Adviser to PM on Commerce and Textiles, Industries and Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood co-chaired a meeting on provision of electricity and gas to SEZs with Federal Minister for Power Mr. Omar Ayub.

It was decided that electricity will be provided to 9 SEZs on priority including Bin Qasim Industrial Park, Karachi and Korangi Creek Industrial Park, Karachi under section 27 (i) of the SEZ Act, 2012 - “the Federal and Provincial Governments to ensure the provision of gas, electricity and other utilities at the designated zero point of each SEZ.” Cost of provision of utilities to SEZs will be met through PSDP.

The minister for power issued direction to the K Electric to make arrangements to cater the electricity needs of the Bin Qasim Industrial Park. The advisor directed Board of Investment to prepare a comprehensive plan, in consultation with Planning Commission, Ministry of Power, NTDC, distribution companies, provincial governments for provision of electricity to the zones. In the first quarter of financial year 2019-2020, PKR 500 million will be allocated to provide electricity transmission to Bin Qasim on priority.

The meeting was attended by Secretaries from Ministry of Industries and Production and Board of Investment and senior officials from BOI, Power Division, Planning Commission, National Industrial Parks Company (NIP) and Ministry of Petroleum.

The advisor stated that the current regime is addressing the issues of the SEZ on priority so that industrial relocation from China is facilitated in SEZs.

The Nation

AIOU, Chinese varsities to work for strengthening ODL system

ISLAMABAD - Allama Iqbal Open University will further strengthen its collaborative partnership with the Chinese universities so as to expand and promote quality education through open distance learning (ODL) system.

This was stated by the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Zia-Ul-Qayyum here Friday in his congratulatory message to the President of Yunnan Open University (YOU), China Du Junjun on the occasion of their 40th Anniversary.

The VC said he was glad that the two universities had been close partner in the recent years, sharing their experience and expertise in providing efficient academic services to their students.

That's our pride that Pakistan, China are enjoying outstanding cooperative partnership in all spheres of national life including the education.

It is a matter of great pleasure that AIOU and YOU are engaged in working out areas of mutual collaboration.

It is heartening to note that former Vice Chancellor, AIOU visited YOU in 2014, 2016 and 2018 and similarly Vice President YOU and his team visited AIOU in 2016 to launch their academic partnership. AIOU is thankful to YOU for helping in establishing Chinese Language Centre at its Regional Office, Lahore. And there is also a bilateral agreement to jointly introduce Printing Technology Diploma and holding of AIOU's staff training at YOU. "We do acknowledge the academic achievements and the efforts made by the YOU since its inception for the promotion of quality education and research in Yunnan region. The programs developed by the YOU are of high quality and of market- need". The AIOU will be happy to be part of any project, including launching of dual degree, Faculty and students exchange programs and establishing Chinese Language Centers at AIOU regional offices, he added.

The News

Govt shifts China's \$2b SAFE deposit to loan category

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to satisfy the IMF just ahead of the \$6 billion bailout package, the government has made a major shift in loan classification and inserted \$2 billion China's SAFE deposit into loan category managed by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Earlier, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had showed SAFE Deposits in its books. With this new classification, the official data confirms that Pakistan's foreign inflows are largely dependent upon Chinese assistance. Out of total \$8.4 billion dollar inflows, China provided \$6.3 billion or 75 percent of total inflows during the current fiscal year in shape of commercial loans from Chinese banks, bilateral assistance and finally in shape of SAFE deposits.

The SAFE deposit from China only was put on domain of the EAD, however, such other deposits obtained from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and UAE were not made part of this new classification.

With this shift in classification of loans/grants, the total disbursement of dollar inflows from multilateral and bilateral creditors have gone up to \$8.470 billion during first three quarters (July-March) period of the current fiscal year. Total disbursement of loans and grants in first three quarters of the last fiscal year stood at \$7.9 billion in 2017-18 but it was without any SAFE deposits.

When contacted, a top government official told The News on Friday that the Ministry of Finance through official communication directed the EAD to make China's SAFE deposit of \$2 billion

part of disbursements of loans and grants details. “We have not been asked to make other deposits as part of this changed classification of loan category,” said the official. Another official told this correspondent that the last IMF mission had plainly told Pakistani authorities that Islamabad would have to fully disclose details of IMF loan repayments as well as total outflows on account of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and at one point of time the talks had reached “deadlock” situation. But finally both sides successfully struck consensus by evolving agreement that more disclosure and details would be shared with the IMF for achieving transparency.

According to official data of the EAD, total disbursements of loans and grants stood at \$6.4 billion and after insertion of Chinese SAFE deposit it went up to \$8.4 billion in July-March period of 2018-19.

Pakistan obtained \$3.107 billion in shape of commercial loans so far out of which China Development Bank provided a major chunk to the tune of \$2.234 billion. The other commercial banks also provided commercial loans including Ajman Bank provided \$74 million, Dubai Bank \$184.44 million, ICBC-China \$300 million, Noor Bank \$20 million and consortium of banks such as SUSSIE AB, ABL, UBL \$295 million. The government has obtained \$1.192 billion from multilateral donors in first nine months of the current fiscal year including \$390.89 million from ADB, \$165 million from World Bank’s IDA lending, \$42.39 million from WB’s IBRD, \$506 million from IDB and \$15 million from AIIB.

In the category of loans obtained from bilateral donors, China again clinched the position of largest bilateral donor by providing \$1.884 billion in July-March period of 2018-19 out of total bilateral inflows of \$2.170 billion. UK provided \$80 million and US \$59.03 million. Saudi Arabia provided \$19.4 million.

In new category, the official data shows that China SAFE deposit provided \$2 billion so far in the current fiscal year.

Jang News

چین کے رکھوائے گئے 2 ارب ڈالرز قرضوں کی فہرست میں شامل

اسلام آباد (مہتاب حیدر) حکومت کا اہم اقدام، چین کے رکھوائے گئے 2 ارب ڈالرز، قرضوں کی فہرست میں شامل کر لیے گئے ہیں۔ جب کہ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے حاصل کیے گئے محفوظ ڈپوزٹ کو نئی درجہ بندی کا حصہ نہیں بنایا گیا ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق، 6 ارب ڈالرز کے بیل آؤٹ پیکیج ملنے سے قبل آئی ایم ایف کو مطمئن کرنے کے لیے حکومت نے اہم اقدام کرتے ہوئے قرضوں کی درجہ بندی میں اہم تبدیلی کی ہے اور چین کے 2 ارب ڈالرز کے محفوظ ڈپوزٹ کو قرض کیٹیگری میں شامل کر لیا ہے۔ جس کی دیکھا بھالی اکنامک انیٹرز ڈویژن (ای اے ڈی) کر رہا ہے۔ اس سے قبل اسٹیٹ بینک نے محفوظ ڈپوزٹ کو اپنی بکس میں ظاہر کیا تھا۔ اس نئی درجہ بندی سے سرکاری اعداد و شمار اس بات کی تصدیق کرتے ہیں کہ پاکستان کا غیر ملکی داخلی بہاؤ بڑی حد تک چین کی معاونت پر انحصار کرتا ہے۔ رواں مالی سال کے دوران 18 ارب ڈالرز کے مجموعی داخلی بہاؤ میں سے چین نے 6 ارب ڈالرز یعنی 75 فیصد مجموعی داخلی بہاؤ فراہم کیا، جو کہ چین کے بینکوں، دو طرفہ معاونت اور محفوظ ڈپوزٹ سے کمرشل قرضوں کی صورت میں تھا۔ حیرت انگیز طور پر صرف چین سے محفوظ ڈپوزٹ کو ای اے ڈی کے تحت کیا گیا ہے۔ تاہم، اس طرح کے دیگر ڈپوزٹ جو کہ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ

عرب امارات سے حاصل کیے گئے اسے اس نئی درجہ بندی کا حصہ نہیں بنایا گیا ہے۔ قرضوں / گرانٹس کی درجہ بندی کی منتقلی سے کثیر فریقی اور دو طرفہ قرض دہندگان کی جانب سے ڈالر کے داخلی بہاؤ کی مجموعی ادائیگی رواں مالی سال کی (جولائی تا مارچ) کی مدت میں بڑھ کر 18 اعشاریہ 470 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ چکی ہے۔ گزشتہ مالی سال 2017-18 کی پہلی تین سہ ماہی کے دوران قرضوں اور گرانٹس کی مجموعی ادائیگیاں 7 اعشاریہ 9 ارب ڈالر تھی، تاہم یہ بغیر کسی محفوظ ڈپازٹ کے ذریعے تھی۔ اس ضمن میں جب حکومت کے ایک اعلیٰ عہدیدار سے رابطہ کیا گیا تو اس کا کہنا تھا کہ ہم سے دیگر کسی ڈپازٹ کو قرض کیٹیگری کی اس تبدیل شدہ درجہ بندی کا حصہ بنانے کا نہیں کہا۔ ایک اور عہدیدار نے اس نمائندے کو بتایا ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف و فنڈ نے پاکستانی حکام کو واضح کر دیا تھا کہ اسلام آباد کو آئی ایم ایف قرضوں کی ادائیگی کے علاوہ سی پیک کی مد میں مجموعی ادائیگیوں کی مکمل تفصیلات بتانا ہوں گی۔ ایک موقع پر مذاکرات میں ڈیڈ لاک بھی آیا تھا۔ تاہم دونوں جانب سے اتفاق رائے کے ساتھ معاہدہ طے پا گیا۔ اکنامک اینفیز ڈویژن کے اعداد و شمار (ای اے ڈی) کے مطابق قرضوں اور گرانٹس کی مجموعی ادائیگی 16 اعشاریہ 4 ارب ڈالر تھی اور اس میں چین کے محفوظ ڈپازٹ کی شمولیت کے بعد یہ 19-2018 کے دوران جولائی تا مارچ کی مدت میں 18 اعشاریہ 4 ارب ڈالر پر پہنچ گئے۔ پاکستان نے اب تک کمرشل قرضوں کی صورت میں 13 اعشاریہ 107 ارب ڈالر حاصل کیے، جس میں سے چائنا ڈیولپمنٹ بینک نے 2 اعشاریہ 234 ارب ڈالر فراہم کیے۔ دیگر کمرشل بینکوں نے بھی کمرشل قرضے فراہم کیے اس میں عجمان بینک نے 74 ملین ڈالر، دبئی بینک نے 184 اعشاریہ 44 ملین ڈالر، آئی سی بی سی چائنا نے 300 ملین ڈالر، نور بینک 20 ارب ڈالر اور بینکوں کے کنسورٹیم جیسا کہ سیوسی اے بی، اے بی ایل، یو بی ایل نے 295 ملین ڈالر فراہم کیے۔ حکومت نے رواں مالی سال کے ابتدائی 9 ماہ کے دوران کثیر فریقی قرض دہندگان سے 1 اعشاریہ 192 ارب ڈالر قرض لیا۔ دو طرفہ قرض دہندگان کی کیٹیگری میں جو قرض لیے گئے اس میں چین سب سے آگے رہا، جس نے 1 اعشاریہ 884 ارب ڈالر جولائی سے مارچ کی مدت میں فراہم کیے۔ جب کہ دو طرفہ مجموعی داخلی بہاؤ 2 اعشاریہ 170 ارب ڈالر تھا۔ جس میں برطانیہ نے 80 ملین ڈالر اور امریکا نے 59 اعشاریہ 03 ملین ڈالر فراہم کیے۔ جب کہ سعودی عرب نے 19 اعشاریہ 4 ملین ڈالر فراہم کیے۔ سرکاری اعداد و شمار کے مطابق، نئی کیٹیگری میں چین نے محفوظ ڈپازٹ کے تحت اب تک رواں مالی سال کے دوران 2 ارب ڈالر فراہم کیے ہیں۔

K2 News



اسلام آباد کی ایک نئی خبر ہے کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان سمیت
 آری بی بی جیٹو، جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے بھی ملاقاتیں کریں
 گے۔ تصدیقات کے مطابق ان کے نائب صدر اور 13
 دیگر اہلکاروں کا گزشتہ روز سینیٹر قاریان آفیسر ڈیکمپن کے
 رکن ڈاکٹر عثمان اسپنہ تین روزہ سرکاری دورے پر
 آج (اتوار کو) اسلام آباد پہنچیں گے جہاں پر وزیر
 اعظم عمران خان اور آری بی بی جیٹو، جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ
 سے اہم ملاقاتیں کریں گے اور خطے کی صورت حال
 سمیت دیگر تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال ہوگا۔ وزیراعظم
 بلاس میں ان کے لئے خصوصی تقریب کا اہتمام کیا
 جائے گا اور اس کے دوران متعدد معاہدے اور ہائی
 ملٹی ٹیکنالوجی یادداشتوں پر دستخط بھی ہوں گے اس کے علاوہ
 مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کے حوالے سے بھی
 کئی منصوبوں کا اعلان ہوگا۔

May 26, 2019

Dunya News

President confers Nishan-e-Pakistan on Chinese Vice President

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-e-Pakistan award to visiting Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan in recognition of his services in promoting Pak China relations at an impressive ceremony held at President House on Sunday.

Nishan-e-Pakistan is the highest civil award that is granted for the highest degree of service to the country and nation of Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by Chairman Senate, services chiefs, cabinet members, MNAs and foreign dignitaries.

Wang Qishan is a great friend of Pakistan and ardent supporter of Pak-China Friendship. He played a pivotal role in spearheading the revolutionary agenda of President Xi Jinping.

Vice President of China Wang Qishan has arrived in Islamabad today (Sunday) on a three-day official visit to Pakistan, and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi received him at the airport. During the visit, the Chinese Vice President will call on President Arif Alvi and have a separate meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pakistan and China will sign MoUs and agreements and inaugurate projects to enhance bilateral cooperation in a broad range of areas. The visit of the Chinese Vice President underscores the vitality of the time-tested and all-weather relationship between Pakistan and China.

It will reinforce the strength of bilateral ties and impart further impetus to the growing, multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

The visit is in continuation of high-level exchanges between the two countries, which have acquired an increased momentum since the Prime Minister's visit to China in November last year and his participation in the 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in April this year.

Pakistan, China sign several MoUs in diverse sectors

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Pakistan and China has signed several Memorandums of Understanding for cooperation in different sectors. The signing ceremony was held in Islamabad on Sunday which was attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese vice Prime Minister Wang Qishan. These MOUs include cooperation in economic and technical affairs, Disaster Management and assistance in agriculture sector of Lasbella University.

Meanwhile, the two leaders launched and unveiled the plaques of the four mega development projects in the fields of energy, technology and education under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The two leaders also inaugurated the Confucius Institute at the University of Punjab. The institute mainly provides Chinese education, cultural promotion and cultural exchanges and other projects and activities.

The ceremony also marked the launching of Huawei Technical Support Center to be established in Pakistan as part of Chinese tech giant's commitment to make massive investment in Pakistan.

Both the countries signed a Framework Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation signed by Chinese vice Minister Zhang Taolin and Secretary Ministry of National Food Security Dr Muhammad Hashim Popalzai.

A memorandum was signed on the "Requirements of FMD free zone where vaccination is practiced between General Administration of the Customs of China and Animal Quarantine Department of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan." Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing and Dr Hashim Popalzai signed the document.

The two sides also signed China Pakistan Economic Cooperation Agreement signed by Chinese vice Minister Deng Boqing and Secretary Economic Affairs Division Noor Ahmed.

Chinese vice Minister Deng Boqing and Secretary EAD also signed a Letter of Exchange for Disaster Relief Goods between the two countries. The two friendly countries also inked agreement between CMEC and Government of Balochistan and Lasbela University in Modern Agriculture Comprehensive Development in Lasbela. The document was signed by Vice President of CMEC from China and Vice Chancellor Lasbela University Professor Dr Dost Muhammad Baloch and PS to Governor Balochistan.

President Dr Arif Alvi also held a meeting with Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan at the Presidency in Islamabad on Sunday.

They discussed bilateral relations and matters pertaining to mutual interests during the meeting. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Planning Minister and the other high officials were also present during the meeting.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi expressed the government's commitment to further strengthen strategic partnership between Pakistan and China.

He was addressing Friends of Silk Road Forum organized in honor of visiting Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan in Islamabad on Sunday.

The Foreign Minister said both countries are observing 2019 as year of mutual relations and it is expected that people to people contacts will reach a new level.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi said China Pakistan Economic Corridor has helped strengthening bilateral relations and taken economic and social development to new heights.

He said the CPEC has entered into its second phase which focuses on industrial, social and economic cooperation. He expressed the confidence that Special Economic Zones will pave way for the progress of Pakistan.

The Express Tribune

China, Pakistan should jointly explore growth avenues'

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan expressed hope on Sunday that China and Pakistan would jointly explore more opportunities for economic growth and continue cooperating with each other for peace and prosperity in the region.

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a mutually beneficial project and it is fully supported by the people back in China," he said at the 'Friends of Silk Road' seminar at the Pakistan-China Institute.

The Chinese vice president said both countries supported each other on all international issues. "We should work for humanity. China aims to evolve the human society. China is the second biggest economy in the world and we believe in supporting other countries to achieve economic stability," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi appreciated China's cooperation in the sectors of education, healthcare and industry. He added that people-to-people cooperation would further build through the 'Friends of Silk Road' forum. Pak-China Institute Chairman Mushahid Hussain Sayed noted that China's poverty alleviation programme was a success.

"China wants to extend the scope of economic development to different continents through the Belt and Road Initiative," he added.

"The first phase of the CPEC has completed successfully. All political parties firmly support the project." Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said China's new Silk Road would pave way for a new era of progress and prosperity. "The parliamentarians of both countries should also be in contact with each other," he added.

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to reinvent the ancient Silk Road to connect Asia to Europe and Africa through massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects. It offers to bring much-needed modern infrastructure to developing countries.

The BRI-induced Chinese outbound direct investment totals \$80 billion. More than 80 special economic zones and high-tech industrial parks have either been built or are under construction, creating jobs and billions in extra tax revenue for host governments. Trade between

China and BRI partners are flourishing at a time when global trade faces uncertainties. Between 2013 and 2016, the value of China's merchandise trade with BRI countries increased at a faster rate than China's overall foreign trade.

China and BRI countries have launched more than 1,200 new international air routes and signed 18 transport facilitation agreements to improve the efficiency of commercial border-crossing. New trade routes are also being created.

The Nation

Caring for orphans collective responsibility: Chinese envoy

Rawalpindi-Enabling the orphans to become useful and productive citizens is collective responsibility of all of us; they must be given a fair chance coupled with love; be valued and enabled to overcome their deprivations, Councilor of Chinese Embassy, Islamabad Lee Yuon Ling said at an Iftar Dinner arranged by Chinese Muslim Students' Association Pakistan in Anjuman-e-Faizul Islam Faizabad Markaz, Rawalpindi, a spokesman said on Saturday.

Headmaster of CPEC Ching Lu, officers of Chinese embassy Li XinXin, Zhong Lim, head of CMSAP Yahya, Chairman Bazm e Faizul Islam Prof NiazErfan, Col (R) Pervaiz Akhtar, other office bearers and a large number of inmates of 'APNA GHAR' of Anjuman-e-Faizul Islam were present on the occasion. CMSAP also distributed gifts among the orphans and made with them group photos.

Lee Yuon Ling said that bond of love between Pakistan and China and their people was beyond any question and through social contacts and cooperation, at governments level and people to people, it is on the way to more and more cemented.

He paid tributes to administration of Anjuman-e-Faizul Islam for caring orphans in such a way to enable them become productive and useful citizens.

Head of CMSAP said that they are studying in Pakistani universities and practicing Islamic teachings; every year coming over here to break their fasts with their orphan brothers. He mentioned that Pakistan was like their own country and they were trying to give back some of what they gain from their Islamic brothers.

Prof NiazErfan of AFI, in his welcome address, paid thanks to the Chinese delegation and said that friendship of both countries was entering in a new era and heights as people to people contacts and love for each other was strengthening through bilateral cooperation at all levels. ‘‘

To ensuring good life and pleasures for orphans of Anuman-e-Faizul Islam, efforts of the CMSAP are admirable and whole administration of AFI is thankful to CMSAP.

General Council Member of AFI Col (R) Pervaiz Akhtar also spoke on the occasion. The CMSAP members along with councilor distributed sewing machines, note books, bags, footballs, pencils and other gifts among the orphans of AFI.

Later, Muslim students of China broke their fast with orphan children and passed some time engaging them in bilateral dialogues.

The Nation

CPEC source substantial change in Pakistan's socio-economic development:

Yao Jing

China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought about substantial changes to Pakistan's socio-economic development over the past five years, said Chinese ambassador Yao Jing.

This is a part of China's standing policy help the country improving living conditions of its people, he said in an interview with Chinese major news network, Xinhua.

China and Pakistan have joined hands in building a closer community of shared future in the new era against the backdrop of changing international landscapes, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said.

"The Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era is a concrete measure taken by leaders of the two countries as per the concept of building a new type of international relations and a community of a shared future for all mankind," he added.

The closer community of shared future in the new era is based on mutual trust, friendship and amity, as well as shared interests and political consensus reached between the two countries and two peoples on the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador said.

CPEC, a major pilot project of the China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is connecting the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in west China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

During Prime Minister Khan's visit to China in April, the two countries signed a deal on the first industrial park and future industrial cooperation.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding inked between China and Pakistan to improve people's livelihood, the two neighbors signed 27 projects on agriculture, education, healthcare, water resources, vocational training and poverty alleviation, Yao said.

"By meeting Pakistani people's needs, the China-Pakistan cooperation will bring more tangible benefits to Pakistanis," he said.

As part of the international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC should be instrumental to regional cooperation, interconnectivity and common development, the Chinese envoy pointed out.

A third party will be invited to participate in the next phase development of CPEC, he added.

The first meeting of the CPEC International Cooperation Coordination Working Group was held in Beijing in April to build CPEC as a platform for regional cooperation, development and prosperity.

Fostering people-to-people's bonds always remained as a priority of the Belt and Road cooperation between China and Pakistan, according to Yao.

"The China-donated Faqeer Primary School in Gwadar has become one of the best local schools, where students have increased to nearly 500 from 150 over the past five years," he said.

"China also helped build a medical center in Gwadar which has provided health services for the local people," the ambassador added, noting that vocational training institutes were set up in Quetta and Lahore to help address youth employment in Pakistan.

In recent years, civic groups, training schools and local institutions across the country have been seeking exchanges and cooperation with China in education, culture and sports, Yao said.

"The Belt and Road Initiative has yielded such appealing results that the Pakistani people have been getting increasingly enthusiastic about participating in the Chinese projects and agreeing with the Chinese concepts," he added.

The News

‘China, Pakistan strive to build closer community’

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan will join hands in building a closer community of shared future in the new era against the backdrop of changing international landscapes, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said.

“The Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era is a concrete measure taken by leaders of the two countries as per the concept of building a new type of international relations and a community of a shared future for all mankind,” Yao told Xinhua in a recent interview. A China-Pakistan joint statement in this regard was released in November last year when Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan made his first visit to China.

The closer community of shared future in the new era is based on mutual trust, friendship and amity, as well as shared interests and political consensus reached between the two countries and two peoples on the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador said.

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CPEC has brought about drastic changes to Pakistan's socio-economic development over the past five years. During Prime Minister Khan's another visit to China in April, the two countries signed a deal on the first industrial park and future industrial cooperation. Under a Memorandum of Understanding inked between China and Pakistan to improve people's livelihood, the two neighbours signed 27 projects on agriculture, education, healthcare, water resources, vocational training and poverty alleviation, Yao said.

Express News

وزیر اعظم سے چینی نائب صدر کی ملاقات، مفاہمتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط

اسلام آباد: وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کشان نے ملاقات کی جس میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مختلف مفاہمتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے گئے جب کہ صدر مملکت نے مہمان کو نشان پاکستان بھی عطا کیا۔

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کشان وفد کے ہمراہ 3 روزہ دورے پر پاکستان پہنچ گئے، نور خان ہوائی اڈے پر وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی اور وزیر منصوبہ بندی خسرو بختیار نے ان کا خیر مقدم کیا بعد ازاں چینی نائب صدر نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی سے علیحدہ علیحدہ ملاقاتیں کیں۔

چینی نائب صدر نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے وفد کے ہمراہ ملاقات کی دونوں جانب سے مختلف امور پر مذاکرات کیے گئے بعد ازاں مختلف مفاہمتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ چینی نائب صدر وانگ کشان نے ایوان صدر میں صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی سے بھی ملاقات کی جس میں صدر مملکت نے چینی نائب صدر وانگ کشان کو نشان پاکستان عطا کیا

دریں اثناء فرینڈز آف سلک روڈ سیمینار سے خطاب میں چینی نائب صدر کا کہنا تھا کہ دونوں ممالک تمام بین الاقوامی معاملات پر ایک دوسرے کو سپورٹ کرتے ہیں

Jang News

چینی نائب صدر وانگ کشان آج پاکستان آئیں گے

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کشان جو چائینہ کے منسٹر پارٹی کے خارجہ امور کے کلیدی رکن بھی ہیں آج اتوار کو پاکستان کے دوروزہ دورے پر اسلام آباد پہنچ رہے ہیں۔ اپنی مصروفیات کے دوران وہ صدر عارف علوی اور وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے الگ الگ ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔ چین کے نائب صدر کا دورہ دونوں ملکوں کے

درمیان اعلیٰ سطح کے تبادلوں کا تسلسل ہے جن میں گزشتہ سال نومبر میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین اور اس سال اپریل میں بیجنگ میں دوسرے ایک خطہ ایک شاہراہ فورم میں ان کی شرکت کے بعد سے مزید تیزی آئی ہے۔

May 27, 2019

Business Recorder

PM, Chinese Vice President Launch four mega CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan Sunday launched four mega development projects in the fields of energy, technology and education under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both the dignitaries unveiled the plaques of the four projects at a ceremony held here during the visit of the Chinese vice president who is here on three-day visit.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiar, Finance Advisor Abdul Hafeez Sheikh and members of the Chinese delegation.

Under the first project, a transmission line of 660kv would be laid between Matiari and Lahore to transmit power from coal based plants located at Thar, Port Qasim and Hub. The project would have the capacity to supply 2000 MW with 10 percent overloaded capability for two hours.

The two leaders unveiled the plaque for Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) project to promote industrialization through optimally priced, world-class industrial infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The RSEZ is situated centrally in the CPEC at the junction of Karakoram Corridor and ML-1 development corridor. It is set to become, and will be designed, to be the Key Trade and Logistics Hub connecting Kashgar, Kabul and Gwadar on the Belt and Road, and be a high-end host of international commercial, technological and manufacturing hub.

The two leaders inaugurated the Confucius Institute at the University of Punjab. The institute mainly provides Chinese education, cultural promotion and cultural exchanges and other projects and activities. The ceremony also marked the launching of Huawei Technical Support Center to be established in Pakistan as part of Chinese tech giant's commitment to make massive investment in Pakistan.

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China ink five agreements on different CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China Sunday signed five documents of cooperation on different projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to further enhance bilateral engagement in multiple spheres. The signing ceremony was held here during the three-day visit

of Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan, who arrived earlier in the day along with a high level delegation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Chinese Vice President witnessed the signing ceremony also attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiar, Finance Advisor Abdul Hafeez Sheikh and members of the Chinese delegation.

Both the countries signed a Framework Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation signed by Chinese vice Minister Zhang Taolin and Secretary Ministry of National Food Security Dr Muhammad Hashim Popalzai.

A memorandum was signed on the “Requirements of FMD free zone where vaccination is practiced between General Administration of the Customs of China and Animal Quarantine Department of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan.” Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing and Dr Hashim Popalzai signed the document.

The two sides also signed China Pakistan Economic Cooperation Agreement signed by Chinese vice Minister Deng Boqing and Secretary Economic Affairs Division Noor Ahmed.

Chinese vice Minister Deng Boqing and Secretary EAD also signed a Letter of Exchange for Disaster Relief Goods between the two countries.

The two friendly countries also inked agreement between CMEC and Government of Balochistan and Lasbela University in Modern Agriculture Comprehensive Development in Lasbela. The document was signed by Vice President of CMEC from China and Vice Chancellor Lasbela University Professor Dr Dost Muhammad Baloch and PS to Governor Baluchistan.

Daily Times

China, Pakistan to protect each other’s ‘core interests’: Qishan

Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan Sunday said that irrespective of the developments taking place at the international landscape, China will always stand by Pakistan’s core interests, adding that both the countries have made the right choice of being strategic partners based on equality and mutual benefit.

“History is witness to Pakistan-China friendship which is deeply rooted in cultural, historical and friendly bonds between the peoples of the two countries. Pakistan is also the first country to acknowledge New China,” the Chinese dignitary said while addressing the Second Silk Road Forum organised by the ‘Friends of Silk Road Forum’. “China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and CPEC has come a long way in further cementing this bond. I am confident that the CPEC will add new impetus to development in Pakistan besides furthering the regional development. I am happy to know that supporting CPEC is a consensus among all political parties and ethnic groups across Pakistan,” he said.

Reiterating the China-Pakistan friendship bond, Wang said Pakistan and China stand by each other’s core interests and the spirit of the Silk Road binds the two countries together with a

common heritage and history. He said despite challenges, the way forward is globalization, free trade and people-to-people connectivity. He also appreciated the success of the CPEC and said the second phase of CPEC will bring even more benefits for both Pakistan and China.

Addressing the forum, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi expressed the government's commitment to further strengthen strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. He said both countries are observing 2019 as the year of mutual relations. He said CPEC has helped further strengthen the bilateral relations. "The CPEC has entered into its second phase which focuses on industrial, social and economic cooperation. I am confident that the special economic zones will pave way for the progress of Pakistan," he said.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan's successive visits to China have paved the way for a stronger collaboration with the government of China. He said the two countries are rendering joint efforts on poverty alleviation, anticorruption and development process. "Our government has special focus on poverty alleviation, industrial development, education, technology, scientific innovation and agricultural development. Both China and Pakistan countries have a common agenda of improving the living standard of their people," he said, and hoped that the development target will be achieved by mutually harnessing the capabilities of the two countries.

Qureshi also paid glowing tributes to Wang Qishan, saying the Chinese leader has played a key role in cementing China-Pakistan relations. "You're a historian, remarkable economist and a great leader. You have played a key role in cementing Pakistan-China friendship. Pakistan and China are most reliable, trusted friends. Pakistan and China stand united in promoting a prosperous global society with a shared future for the mankind," he added.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, SAFRON Minister Shehryar Afridi, Ambassador Yao Jing, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri, Deputy Chief of Chinese Mission Zhao Lijian were also present on the occasion. Earlier in the day, Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan was accorded a red carpet welcome as he arrived on a three-day visit from May 26-28.

On his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiar received the Chinese vice president. Clad in traditional dresses, two children presented bouquet to him. Vice President Wang Qishan is a member of 13th National People's Congress of China and Central Foreign Affairs Commission, a key foreign affairs body of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Pakistan and China will sign MoUs/agreements and inaugurate projects to enhance bilateral cooperation in a broad range of areas during the Chinese dignitary's visit.

Chinese vice president's visit to herald era of economic prosperity: FIEDMC chairman

Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC) Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Wang Qishan visit

to Pakistan will herald new vistas of economic cooperation and a milestone in further cementing bilateral relationship between both the friendly countries on sound footings.

Talking to media here today, Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was offering friendly environment for foreign investment. There was vast scope for Chinese private and public sector investment especially in the fields of energy, agriculture, livestock and IT, he added. He said that people of Pakistan always attached great importance to Chinese people as China was time tested friend of Pakistan.

He said that China should also help explore the rich natural resources of Pakistan which will better the national economy and provide ample job opportunities. He said all MOUs to be inked during visit must be implemented in true letter and spirit. He said that it was need of the hour that China being time tested friend of Pakistan should also transfer the modern technology for exploiting the indigenous resources. He said frequent exchange of visits of private sector delegation in either country will deepen mutual understanding and co-operation in all sectors.

Mian Kashif was optimistic that the visit would pave way for enhanced trade to meet the target of enhancing trade volume. He said that Pakistan was an agro-based country, however, agriculture productivity was not up to the mark due to use of traditional measures. Pakistan was looking forward to China to give technology assistance to modernize agriculture.

He opined that establishment of industrial facilities and up gradation of communication infrastructure, besides boosting trade between the two countries, would also enhance regional connectivity. He said the combined effect certainly would be Pakistan's economic revival, besides improved relations with China would contribute towards its security in the changing regional geo-political environment.

He said that there is vast scope of Chinese entrepreneurs for direct investment in FIEDMC and all foreign and local investors are being offered an excellent package of incentives under one umbrella for the establishment of industries. He said industrial estate is located in the close proximity of motorway connecting with whole of the country.. He said that both Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar have given clear cut mandate to him to attract potential investors in FIEDMC and he is endeavoring best to live up to their expectations and to achieve the set target.

CPEC not 'debt-trap' but development schema for Pakistan

China is investing 62 billion US dollars in Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of its Belt and Road initiative, which the Pakistani government and public believe as a game-changer for the country's destiny and senior government officials frequently speak highly of at local and international fora.

During the last five years since its advent in Pakistan, CPEC has enabled Pakistan to avert its energy crisis, besides building an elaborate network of roads and other infrastructure in its various parts.

With increasing energy and diminishing distances, not only the lifestyle of people has changed, but economic activity also got a phenomenal boost.

With rapid progress being made in Pakistan through CPEC, several inimical voices started terming the multi-billion dollar project as a “debt-trap” for Pakistan, which will prove a back-breaking burden on Pakistan’s economy.

Negating the misleading comments, Noor Ahmed, secretary of the Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan, told that Pakistan’s total foreign debt is about 106 billion US dollars and Chinese loan accounts for a mere 10 to 11 percent of the total foreign debt, whereas the 89-90 percent is from other sources IMF, Paris Club, and other western organizations.

“China has remained great support for Pakistan and always came to its rescue during the tough economic crisis.

Though CPEC, China is building infrastructure in Pakistan to save its economy and to build its infrastructure, some of the money coming in the country is purely an investment, some are an interest-free loan, and other is on very easy and simple terms.

If China lends money to Pakistan at one of the lowest interest rates in the world, how can it be a debt-trap?”

China has provided loans to Pakistan, and at the same time invested in Pakistan, and has planned to invest more in the next phase of CPEC, a win-win situation for both as with peace and economic stability in Pakistan, China will also benefit, he added.

Clapping back at CPEC critics, Pakistan’s ministry of planning development and reform said in a statement last year that China stepped forward to support Pakistan’s development at a time when foreign investment had dried up, and economic activities were being crippled by energy shortages and infrastructure gaps.

“CPEC-related government loans have an interest rate of only 2 percent and a repayment period of 20-25 years, and repayment of debt will begin in 2021. CPEC is not imposing any immediate burden with respect to loans repayment and energy sector outflows. All debt related outflows will be outweighed by the resultant benefits of the investments to the Pakistan economy,” the statement read. Referring to China’s developmental project, the statement added that the infrastructure sector is being developed through interest-free or government concessional loans. Pakistan’s Gwadar Port is a grant-based investment, which means the government of Pakistan does not have to pay back the investment amount for the development of the port.

In a talk with the news agency, Syed Hassan Javed, director of Chinese Studies Centre, School of Social Sciences and Humanities at National University of Science and Technology, said that China has helped Pakistan a lot during the last 10 months by lending it money to save it from debt distress by enabling it to stabilize its foreign exchange reserves.

“Pakistan is so badly entangled in western debt-trap that it has to get a new loan to repay previous loans to them. By investing in Pakistan, China is enabling the Pakistani economy to stand on its feet and get out of the debt trap of western organizations.”

Unlike Western loan with a high interest rate and with other painful conditions and even global power politics, Chinese loans are fairly concessional, devoid of any arm-twisting for the uplift of the Pakistani economy, he said.

Before CPEC, Pakistan was facing the worst energy crisis of its history. The project’s early harvest phase has enabled Pakistan to avert the energy crisis by electricity generation from the country’s very own resources including coal and solar energy.

According to the country’s ministry of planning development and reform, Pakistan’s existing energy mix is highly dependent on expensive fuels, like oil and gas, instead of coal and hydro generation. The country’s 41 percent energy generation is dependent on expensive imported fuels, exerting a strain on the balance of payments.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan also said in a recent statement that dependence on imported fuels will be brought down from 41 percent to 30 percent in five years and less than 20 percent in 10 years using hydel, Renewables and local fuels like coal from Tharparkar district in Sindh province, which is operating under the umbrella of CPEC. “Through CPEC, Pakistan is utilizing its own natural resources to generate electricity which will gradually reduce the country’s dependency on imported fuels.

Foreign elements are not happy with Pakistan’s increasing dependency on local resources through CPEC as it will result in the country’s decreasing import of expensive fuels, hence releasing its strain on the balance of payment, and helping it to get out of their debt trap. CPEC is an emerging reality, critics cannot undo it,” Javed said.

In a recent talk with the Chinese news agency, Muhammad Muzammil Zia, policy head of job growth and human resource development in CPEC Centre of Excellence, an Islamabad-based think-tank, also said that that CPEC has created 70,000 direct jobs in Pakistan and is likely to create 1.2 million more jobs under its presently agreed projects, which will help poverty eradication in Pakistan.

Not only local, but foreign rating and economic organizations also see CPEC is a great benefit for Pakistan, rather than a debt trap. World’s leading rating agency Moody’s said that ongoing implementation of CPEC projects is likely to contribute 9 to 10 percent of Pakistan’s GDP in the fiscal year 2018-2019. Another international audit, consulting, advisory, and tax services agency Deloitte said that CPEC would add up to 2.5 percentage points to the country’s growth rate.

Dawn News

CPEC expanding to new sectors, says Chinese VP

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan opened his three-day visit to Islamabad on Sunday by recalling the strength of the bilateral relationship and expressing the resolve that Pakistan and China would continue to safeguard each other's interests.

On the first day of the trip, VP Wang inaugurated a number of projects along with Prime Minister Imran Khan and the two leaders witnessed signing of several agreements.

Soon after his arrival at Chaklala airbase, VP Wang spoke at a meeting of "Friends of Silk Road" hosted by the Pakistan-China Institute.

"No matter how the international landscape changes, China and Pakistan will always stay iron brothers that trust and support each other," he told the political leaders, opinion makers and representatives of think tanks, who had come to attend the forum which, organizers say, links communities, academia, media and think tanks.

Recalling Pakistan's support for China at "critical moments", Mr Wang said Beijing too had always supported Pakistan on its "core interests".

He said the world was passing through a time of "major development, transformation, and adjustment". The situation, he emphasized, had been further complicated by traditional and non-traditional challenges and conflict between opposing schools of thought and culture.

Mr Wang said China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic partners which would cooperate with each other for development and that their joint undertaking China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a manifestation of those collaborative relations.

He noted the political and public support for the CPEC in both Pakistan and China. "CPEC is a consensus that transcends political parties, regions and communities across Pakistan. It also enjoys the most extensive and strongest support in China," he maintained.

Beijing had hosted the first meeting of the Political Parties Forum on the CPEC, which was participated by 10 major political parties from Pakistan. The meeting had concluded with the Beijing Declaration, in which all the participating parties reiterated their support for the CPEC, agreed to further enhance intra-party exchanges, discussions and cooperation and rejected negative propaganda against the project.

Sharing his assessment of the progress on the CPEC and the recently launched second phase, the Chinese leader observed: "CPEC has come a long way over the past five years... CPEC is rapidly extending to new priority areas including industrial parks and livelihoods.

"CPEC will produce new outcomes and lend new impetus to economic and social development of Pakistan and economic integration of the region," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani called for strengthening people-to-people relations alongside the linkages and infrastructure the two countries were developing.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan-China friendship was anchored in mutual interests, goals, values, desire for peace and prosperity and shared experiences. He hoped that the ties would become stronger with the passage of time.

Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Mushahid Hussain, who also heads the Pakistan-China Institute, said the presence of political leaders from all parties and provinces in this gathering was an affirmation of the consensus enjoyed by the CPEC across the board since it was a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan and its people.

Senator Hussain also congratulated Vice President Wang on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Recollecting Chinese achievements over the past seven decades, he said 750 million people were taken out of poverty, a model foreign policy of non-interference in internal affairs of other countries was pursued and cultural connectivity was promoted.

He said Pakistan rejected any notion of “clash of civilizations” or a return to a Cold War mentality.

VP Wang later called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. The two leaders after their talks witnessed the signing of a number of agreements.

The agreements signed by the two sides, according to the PM Office, included the framework agreement on agricultural cooperation, the memorandum on the requirements of foot and mouth disease-free zone; the letter of exchange of disaster relief goods, China-Pakistan economic agreement and the agreement between the China Machinery Engineering Corporation and the Balochistan government and Lasbela University on modern agriculture comprehensive development in Lasbela.

On the occasion, different projects were inaugurated, including 660KV transmission line project from Matiari to Lahore, Rashakai Special Economic Zone Project, Huawei Technical Support Centre and Confucius Institute at University of Punjab. Earlier in the talks, PM Khan reiterated Pakistan's “unwavering commitment” to the CPEC and stressed the importance of further deepening bilateral economic and commercial interaction, industrial collaboration and China's investment in Pakistan's special economic zones.

Vice President Wang expressed satisfaction at the increasing momentum of bilateral engagement between the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on the regional situation, including recent developments in South Asia.

Award conferred

President Dr Arif Alvi conferred Nishan-e-Pakistan, the highest civil award of the country, on Vice President Wang to recognise his services in promoting Pak-China ties, adds APP.

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the President House and attended by the Senate chairman, services chiefs, members of the federal cabinet, parliamentarians and diplomats.

Earlier on his arrival at Nur Khan Air Base, Vice President Wang was accorded red carpet welcome and received by Foreign Minister Qureshi and Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiar. Clad in traditional dresses, two children presented a bouquet to Mr Wang.

Dawn News

Towards CPEC 3.0

THE Belt and Road Initiative has attracted praise and critique since its inception in 2013. The response is not unnatural for the transnational endeavour could mobilise an investment of \$1.3 trillion by 2027 and will potentially change the geo-economics of partner countries and regions. It remains to be seen, however, if BRI's architects will follow in the footsteps of Western hegemons or seek mutually beneficial partnerships.

The West, led by the US, is becoming more wary of China's bolstering economic muscle with every passing day. The country has faced more intense scrutiny since 2015 when it announced 'Made in China 2025', a plan to spearhead high-tech industrial development. Beijing presents it as an effort to circumvent the middle-income trap, but Western countries accuse it of mercantilism and subsidizing Chinese firms heavily for a competitive edge over their Western rivals.

On the political front, Western strategists equate BRI with debt-trap diplomacy to sow the seeds of distrust. The accusation is ironically leveled by the architects and custodians of the Bretton Woods system. Besides, it emanates from a policy to limit China from playing an assertive role in the developing world, which may undermine the West's contemporary dominance. Pakistan — the host of BRI's crown jewel, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — has strategic ties with China, which both countries are striving to deepen further. Our analysts argue CPEC is a historic opportunity for Pakistan to leapfrog into the 21st century.

The success of CPEC is crucial for Beijing to place itself as a trusted partner for the Global South.

In this backdrop, it's barely noted that the corridor is now a test case for Beijing too to demonstrate its ability of becoming a trusted partner for the Global South. It is nonetheless incumbent on the Pakistani government to remain cognizant of channeling the benefits of CPEC towards our youth and poorer population. No matter how sincerely Beijing pursues CPEC, we cannot discount the fact that its own economic interests, not inherently exploitative though, would hold supreme, and we must realise that sooner rather than later.

As President Xi presses ahead with his flagship initiative and presents BRI as a common development goal, our decision-makers should aim to nurture a long-term partnership that yields

equitable dividends. This necessitates an understanding of the needs of our economy for today and for tomorrow and prioritising the areas that hold all-out benefits. Likewise, Beijing must pursue economic ties with Islamabad based on the principles of transparency and shared prosperity, regardless of our much weaker economic might.

Despite some politicking regarding CPEC's initial priorities, it was carefully crafted because the provision of energy and transport infrastructure is a prerequisite for economic advancement. The second phase prioritises agriculture, digital connectivity, industry, tourism etc. As this economic integration accelerates, future collaboration, CPEC 3.0, should be manoeuvred towards high-tech sectors — namely telecom, electric mobility and Renewables, where China is an emerging global leader — to optimise CPEC's benefits.

In the telecom industry, China's Huawei has become a leading equipment supplier and is among the world's most innovative companies with nearly 88,000 patents as of December 2018. Analysts believe it is set to lead the world in the rollout of the future's most promising, and critical, technology: fifth-generation (5G) mobile telecom infrastructure. As of April 2019, Huawei had signed more than 40 5G contracts globally, proving that the firm can commercialize its solutions faster than its Western and Asian rivals.

Many Chinese tech giants are already present in Pakistan. Since digital connectivity and infrastructure are essential for tomorrow's economies, future cooperation in this area should form a major pillar of CPEC. Regardless of the US government's fierce opposition, Chinese tech giants will be at the forefront of advancements in the telecom industry. Therefore, B2B partnerships could help Pakistan's budding ICT sector to develop capacities by engaging with Chinese partners. Meanwhile, Chinese firms can target the vast untapped potential of Pakistani market.

Concerned chiefly about its soaring dependence on imported fuels and worsening urban pollution — challenges we can relate with — the Chinese government implemented several corrective measures. Since taking the reins in 2013, President Xi has stressed the need for sustainability more than his predecessors. Resultantly, China is a leader in the Renewables industry and the largest market for electric vehicles (EVs). According to Wood Mackenzie, a consultancy, by December 2018 China had 181 gigawatts of wind and 175GW of solar PV capacity — a whopping one-third of installations worldwide.

Although Western original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) dominate the global wind turbine value chain, Chinese PV suppliers are rivaled by none, albeit facing anti-dumping duties by many countries. Chinese turbine OEMs have struggled to lure investors outside their domestic market, but thanks to CPEC, they hold a 30pc share in Pakistan's nascent wind energy market. Chinese turbine OEMs are willing to localize production for future installations, which can lay the foundation for tech transfer — yet another incentive that sets Renewables apart from thermal power.

China leads the world in emerging trends in e-mobility. It has over 200 million electric two-wheelers and recorded sales of 1m EVs in 2018 — more than the rest of the world combined. According to McKinsey, a consultancy, the success of Chinese OEMs is more pronounced in the e-bus segment — of the 97,000 urban buses sold in China in 2018, 87,000 were electric.

Beijing has a goal that one-fifth of vehicles sold in China by 2025 should be electric, which will catalyze exponential growth in EV sales and help Chinese manufacturers consolidate their strengths. Advancements in these sectors will create further synergies. For instance, 5G connectivity is necessary to commercialize autonomous EVs and robo-taxis, which will rely on artificial intelligence and fuelled (ideally) through Renewables.

This is not to suggest that China will help us become an important player in these futuristic technologies. That thought is far-fetched. Nevertheless, by aiding Islamabad in these areas to address the economic and environmental challenges it faces, Beijing will vindicate President Xi's stated vision of BRI and legitimize its leadership in the developing world. Or else we must tone down the enthusiasm that encircles CPEC and reassess the allocation of our scarce institutional resources for better outcomes.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC source of substantial change in Pakistan's socio-economic development

China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought about substantial changes to Pakistan's socio-economic development over the past five years, said Chinese ambassador Yao Jing. This is a part of China's standing policy help the country improving living conditions of its people., he said in an interview with Chinese major news network, Xinhua. China and Pakistan have joined hands in building a closer community of shared future in the new era against the backdrop of changing international landscapes, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said. "The Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era is a concrete measure taken by leaders of the two countries as per the concept of building a new type of international relations and a community of a shared future for all mankind," he added. The closer community of shared future in the new era is based on mutual trust, friendship and amity, as well as shared interests and political consensus reached between the two countries and two peoples on the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador said. CPEC, a major pilot project of the China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is connecting the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in west China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. During Prime Minister Khan's visit to China in April, the two countries signed a deal on the first industrial park and future industrial cooperation. Under a Memorandum of Understanding inked between China and Pakistan to improve people's livelihood, the two neighbors signed 27 projects on agriculture, education, healthcare, water resources, vocational training and poverty alleviation, Yao said.

“By meeting Pakistani people’s needs, the China-Pakistan cooperation will bring more tangible benefits to Pakistanis,” he said. As part of the international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC should be instrumental to regional cooperation, interconnectivity and common development, the Chinese envoy pointed out.

A third party will be invited to participate in the next phase development of CPEC, he added. The first meeting of the CPEC International Cooperation Coordination Working Group was held in Beijing in April to build CPEC as a platform for regional cooperation, development and prosperity. Fostering people-to-people’s bonds always remained as a priority of the Belt and Road cooperation between China and Pakistan, according to Yao.

“The China-donated Faeer Primary School in Gwadar has become one of the best local schools, where students have increased to nearly 500 from 150 over the past five years,” he said. “China also helped build a medical center in Gwadar which has provided health services for the local people,” the ambassador added, noting that vocational training institutes were set up in Quetta and Lahore to help address youth employment in Pakistan.

In recent years, civic groups, training schools and local institutions across the country have been seeking exchanges and cooperation with China in education, culture and sports, Yao said.

The Nation

China to solarise 10,000 households in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD - China has agreed to provide grant for the solarization of 10,000 households in Balochistan, establishment of five burn centres across the country, provide 20,000 scholarships to Pakistani students along with other two dozen projects under the CPEC socio-economic development cooperation.

China has agreed to provide of one billion dollars for CPEC socio economic development cooperation to Pakistan and in the first phase both the countries have shortlisted 27 projects to be funded with China aid.

The agreement related to CPEC socio economic development cooperation was signed in April last during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to China for participation in the Belt and Road Forum. Pakistan and China have shortlisted 27 projects to be funded with China aid under CPEC socio economic development cooperation. The 27 shortlisted projects will be executed under the first phase of CPEC socio economic development cooperation, said the source.

Under the MoU in agriculture sector Bacterial Grass (JunCao) technology training and promotional project will be initiated, the official source told The Nation here Sunday.

Under the project, China will establish Bacterial Grass technology training and promotional centres at different suitable locations in Pakistan.

China will provide experts to conduct a preliminary research with Pakistan, said the source.

Under the agreed MoU, China will provide Pakistan agriculture and scientific training on mouth and foot disease, animal husbandry, cotton, fruit and vegetables processing, the source maintained.

In the education sector, four projects have been agreed which include provision of advanced teaching equipment for primary and secondary schools projects.

Under the project, China will provide teaching equipments and tools for 50 primary and secondary schools at district, Tehsil and village level. The equipment and tools includes smart boards, interactive white boards, multimedia, computers, tablet computers, furniture and printers.

Under another project of education sector, China has agreed to provide 50 to 100 smart classrooms to the universities in Pakistan. The project for the maintenance and renovation of around 50 schools in the merged FATA districts is also part of the MoU.

Under the education sector cooperation china has agreed for the provision of 20,000 scholarships to Pakistani students.

In the medical field, seven projects have been shortlisted which include provision of equipment to 30 hospitals in Pakistan, construction of a hospital at Gwadar, cold chain equipment and transportation equipment and establishment of medical emergency center in Balochistan.

Under the medical cooperation, China has agreed to construct 20-bed burn centres each in Sindh, Balochistan and KP, while 10-bed burn centers will be established each in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan. The China-Pakistan joint telemedicine network will be established in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

In poverty alleviation sector, four projects will be funded which include provision of solar lighting equipment to 10,000 households in Balochistan, poverty alleviation courses, provision of emergency relief supplies for enhancing NDMA and the China-Pakistan rural poverty reduction joint research project.

In water supply field, two projects will be funded which include the provision of drinking water equipments to 800 water supply sites in KP, provision of water purification equipments to AJK and construction of 5000 tons desalination plant at Gwadar Special Economic Zone.

In the vocational sector, five projects will be funded which include Pakistan vocational schools upgrading and renovation of 50 schools across Pakistan, vocational and technical education capacity build-up project, Gwadar vocational and technical school project, cooperative project with Pak-Austria Fachhochschule institute of Applied Science and Technology and Punjab-Tianjin University of Technology projects.

These projects were shortlisted during the visit of the Chinese experts group to Pakistan.

The Chinese delegation headed by Du Zhenli, comprising of 13 experts from socio economic development field had visited Pakistan in February last. China has agreed to extend a grant of one billion dollars for the socio economic development under CPEC and the projects in six

identified areas will be funded through the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

The provinces and regions had submitted around 100 projects to the Chinese experts to secure grant for the socioeconomic development under CPEC. The projects submitted by the provinces and AJK related to agriculture, fisheries, livestock, health, solarization of water supply schemes, telemedicine, smart schools.

The News

China will always stand by Pakistan's core interests: Wang

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan has said that Pakistan and China stand by each other's core interests and the spirit of the Silk Road binds the two countries together with a common heritage and history.

“No matter how the international landscape changes, China will always stand by Pakistan's core interests, and both Pakistan and China have made the right choice based on equality and mutual benefit,” said Wang Qishan at his first engagement upon his arrival in Pakistan at a well-attended function organised by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) under the banner of “Friends of Silk Road”, a people's platform linking communities, different segments of society, academia, media and think-tanks at a grass roots level.

The Chinese vice president said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and both hope and support each other in achieving greater development. He also referred to the international situation and said that despite challenges, the way forward is globalization, free trade and people-to-people connectivity.

He also appreciated the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said that the second phase of CPEC would even bring more benefits for both Pakistan and China. He said as a major pilot programme of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC has come a long way over the last five years and more. “With the BRI moving towards high quality development, CPEC is rapidly extending to new priority areas including industrial parks and people's livelihood,” he said.

The Chinese vice president said he was confident that with the two sides working together, CPEC will produce new outcomes and lend new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and economic integration of the region. He said for China it cannot achieve development by shutting out the world.

“Likewise, the world cannot shut out China, the second largest economy and market of 1.4 billion people guided by the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits,” he said.

Wang said China is committed to open green and clean cooperation that follows a high slandered, people-cantered and sustainable approach. “Such Belt and Road cooperation is in fact China’s proposal for addressing the common challenges of the human society,” he said.

Wang thanked Senator Mushahid Hussain, the Chairman of the PCI and Chairman of Senate Foreign Affairs Committee for hosting this event, which brought together a galaxy of political leaders, senators, MNAs from all political parties and provinces plus youth and women activists, civil society, think-tanks, scholars, intellectuals, artists and business leaders.

“I know that you come from different regions, parties and industries across Pakistan, but you have one thing in common, you are all friends of the Silk Road with a shared objective of advancing Belt and Road cooperation and CPEC,” he said.

He said that to uphold China-Pakistan leadership and support CPEC is a consensus that transcends political parties, regions and communities across Pakistan. “It also enjoys the extensive and strongest support in China,” he said.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi warmly welcomed the VP and referred to CPEC as a binding force between Pakistani and China, citing the recent visit of Prime Minister to China for the Belt and Road Forum, and he praised CPEC for contributing to the progress of Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan and China are most reliable and trusted partners and friends. “Friendship between our two countries firmly rooted in shared values, experiences, objectives and aspirants of peace, harmony and shared prosperity,” he said.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi said the Pakistan and China believe in promoting collective dialogue, deepening practical cooperation and working together towards a stronger and prosperous world with a shared future in the new era.

The minister said CPEC has added yet another dimension of economic and social development to stronger relations and CPEC has entered into new with a focus on industrial and socio-economic cooperation. “This phase will bring out prosperity and progress to local communities and pave the way of enhancing Pakistan’s development along priority areas,” he said.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said that China is Pakistan’s time-tested friend and an “iron-brother,” and “the people of Pakistan are proud of their friendship with China.”

He also welcomed and endorsed the initiative of President Xi Jinping for organizing the dialogue of Asian civilizations, and said that cooperation, not confrontation, is the way forward for Asia.

In his welcome address, Senator Mushahid Hussain said the presence of political leaders from all parties and provinces in this gathering is an affirmation of the consensus enjoyed by CPEC across the board since it is a guarantor of a better tomorrow for Pakistan and its people.

He also referred to the conference on CPEC convened in Beijing in March, where 50 representatives of 10 political parties took part and issued a “Beijing Declaration” affirming their support for CPEC.

Mushahid Hussain congratulated Wang on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in which China had achievements in economy, especially lifting 750 million people out of poverty, pursuing a model foreign policy of non-interference in internal affairs and respecting countries, irrespective of size or strength, and promoting cultural connectivity at a people to people level," he said.

Ambassador of China Yao Jing was also present on the podium and the audience included the Leader of the House in the Senate, Senator Shibli Faraz, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri as well as federal ministers Azam Swati, Shaharyar Afridi and a large number of senators and MNAs from the PML-N, PTI, PPP, ANP, BNP Mengal, Fata and the Balochistan Awami Party-

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک پاکستان اور چین کے لیے خوشحالی کا منصوبہ، گوادر بندرگاہ چینی کمپنیوں کے لیے لاگت کم کرے گی: عمران خان

بیجنگ: وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) پاکستان اور چین کے لیے خوشحالی کا منصوبہ ہے۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت ہائی ویز تعمیر کر رہے ہیں۔ ریلوے کو جدید بنا رہے ہیں۔ توانائی کے منصوبے، بندرگاہیں اور خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب میں عمران خان نے کہا کہ وہ چینی صدر اور ان کی حکومت کے شکرگزار ہیں۔ چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر چینی صدر اور عوام کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں۔ عمران خان نے کہا چین جدید دور میں کامیابی کی عظیم مثال ہے۔ چین نے پائیدار ترقی سے معاشرے کو تبدیل کر دیا ہے۔ یہ تبدیلی چینی قیادت کی بہترین حکمت عملی کا نتیجہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے رکاوٹیں دور ہوں گی خطے کے عوام ایک دوسرے کے قریب آئیں گے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے معیشت کو ترقی ملے گی۔ نئی بندرگاہ خطوط کو آپس میں جوڑے گی۔ وزیراعظم پاکستان نے کہا کہ گوادر بندرگاہ چینی کمپنیوں کے لیے لاگت کم کرے گی۔

وزیراعظم پاکستان عمران خان سے قبل چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے گول میز کانفرنس میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ہمیں اپنی سرحدوں کو تجارت کے لیے کھولنا ہو گا۔ انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ ہم مشترکہ جدوجہد سے ہی لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنا سکتے ہیں۔

چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بنیادی ڈھانچے میں بہتری اور صنعتی ترقی کے لیے مزید کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم فار انٹرنیشنل کو آپریشن کے تحت گول میز کانفرنس منعقد کی جا رہی ہے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان بھی دیگر عالمی رہنماؤں کے ساتھ راؤنڈ ٹیبل ڈائلاگ میں شریک ہیں۔ راؤنڈ ٹیبل میں چین، روس، مصر، ملائیشیا اور دیگر ملکوں کے سربراہان شریک ہیں۔

May 28, 2019

Dawn News

‘Chinese loan accounts for 11pc of foreign debt’

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s total foreign debt is about \$106 billion with Chinese loan accounting for a mere 10-11 per cent of the aggregate, while the remaining 89-90pc is from other sources such as the International Monetary Fund, Paris Club, and other western organisations, Economic Secretary Noor Ahmed said.

China has simultaneously loaned to Pakistan and invested in the country, with more planned in the next phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, he told Xinhua.

“Through CPEC, Pakistan is utilizing its own natural resources to generate electricity which will gradually reduce the country’s dependency on imported fuels,” said Syed Hassan Javed, Director of the Chinese Studies Centre, School of Social Sciences and Humanities at National University of Science and Technology.

In a recent talk with Xinhua, Muhammad Muzammil Zia, policy head of job growth and human resource development in CPEC Centre of Excellence, an Islamabad-based think-tank, also said that that CPEC has created 70,000 direct jobs in Pakistan and is likely to create 1.2 million more under its presently agreed projects, which will help poverty eradication in the country.

According to Moody’s, ongoing implementation of CPEC projects is likely to contribute 9-10pc of Pakistan’s GDP in the 2018-2019 while Deloitte said it would add up to 2.5 percentage points to the country’s growth rate.

Dunya News

Pak-China trade must touch new heights of enhanced mutual deeper economic cooperation

(APP) – Founder Chairman Pak US Business Council Iftikhar Ali Malik Monday hailed visit of Vice President of the People’s Republic of China Wang Qishan to Pakistan and urged for deeper economic cooperation with China saying that this collaboration would usher in a new era of progress, prosperity, development, economic growth and welfare of the people of the region.

Commenting on the visit of Chinese VP visit Iftikhar Malik said the business community of Pakistan was committed to further boost Pak-China trade relations, increase exports and minimize the trade deficit between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan China friendship was the finest example in the diplomatic history of the world adding the all weather friendship between both the nations was strengthening with every passing day in all fields of life, including economic and trade,” says a press release issued here.

He further said that Pakistan and China have successfully transformed their diplomatic relations into geo economic partnership.

He urged manufacturers and exporters of various products in Pakistan to work hard for increasing their exports, however stressed for sustainable efforts to minimize overall trade deficit of Pakistan. Like various other countries, the trade balance between China and Pakistan is largely in favor of China. "Pakistani exporters have lot of potential and abilities to increase exports", he added.

Iftikhar Malik said that Pakistani business community was fully aware of its responsibilities to boost the trade specially the exports and earn foreign exchange for their country.

He said that Pakistan had rich mineral resources. Precious stones, semi precious stones and handicrafts of Pakistan have world's recognition, he said.

The veteran trade leader urged Pakistani businessmen need to explore more potential of these sectors in China and various other countries. He said that joint ventures with Chinese for exploration of mineral resources and exporting them can also be good options for earning dollars. "China has huge consumers base in the world and it is first door neighbor of Pakistan and has friendly environment for Pakistanis. Therefore, we need to further increase our trade specially the exports".

He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had also opened new vistas of economic, trade and cultural, relations between both the countries. He said that Pakistan would be the biggest beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative, as 20 per cent of the total sum allocated for the project was being invested in Pakistan, which would significantly improve the standard of living of the people.

Iftikhar Malik who is also Chairman United Business Group and former President FPCCI and LCCI said that China was fast growing economy and Pakistan has cheap labor and low cost raw materials which make a perfect combination of creating win a win situation for both the sides.

Appreciating Prime Minister Imran Khan's role for strengthening Pak trade relation with China said that the Prime Minister had a vision and dynamic leadership quality and he could play constructive role to strengthen trade in South Asia by bringing China in the folder of SAARC countries which would be harbinger of prosperity and peace in the region.

Pakistan Observer

Uzbek companies can develop production lines in SEZs under CPEC:

Bakhtyar

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar has underlined that establishing transport and energy corridors would not only enhance regional connectivity but also boost trade and investment.

He stated that Uzbek companies can develop production lines in special economic zones under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework for mutual benefit of both countries. The Minister said this during a delegation level meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Elyor Majidovich Ganiyev, and here on Monday.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidikov, Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, members Planning Commission and senior official of the ministry were also present in the meeting. The minister highlighted that by 2050 electricity demand in Pakistan would reach 50,000 MW adding that Pakistan was committed to CASA-1000 energy project being financed by World Bank. Makhdum Khusro apprised that Pakistan was planning to upgrade its railway system from Peshawar to Karachi to further boost economic activities.

Visiting dignitary informed that Uzbekistan had constructed a railway line from Tashkent to Mazar-e-Sharif which can be extended to Peshawar thereby enhancing regional connectivity and trade.

The Minister stressed the need to strengthen regional connectivity through various road and railway infrastructure projects to the benefit of all member countries. The Minister noted that bilateral trade between the two countries had increased significantly in the last two years which could be enhanced to \$1 billion by exploiting potential in various areas. Makhdum Khusro appreciated that visiting business delegation would have an opportunity to meet Pakistani business community to explore more possibilities for future cooperation that will set in motion the launching of joint ventures in different fields.

The minister also called for regular exchange of business delegation between the two countries to further cement bilateral economic partnership.

Pakistan Observer

Build up in Gulf and CPEC

THE US has beefed up its military presence in the Gulf by sending thousands of more troops around Iran including an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber taskforce in response to threat from Iran with no detail or evidence. It is a move in strength whose exact contours remain open ended. Gilday and Katie Wheelbarger, Acting US Assistant Defence Secretary for International Affairs has said that mission is strictly defensive and is not designed to provoke Iran into carrying out additional attacks. The Pentagon will continue evaluating number of troops in the region in case more are needed later. It is not only composition and level of deployment which is shrouded in ambiguity but also the aim and intent.

The deployment was intended to send a clear and unmistakable message to Iranian regime that an attack on US interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force, announced US National Security Advisor, John R. Bolton. This is a broad and vague statement. He also said that the US is not seeking war with Iran but is fully prepared to respond to any attack whether by its proxies, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps or its regular forces. According to senior

officials, in a meeting with his aides, President Trump has said he did not want US pressure to turn into a conflict. With a little bit of grumbling, Iran has also stated quite clearly that Tehran did not want war with the US.

These statements of tough talk along with conciliatory tone lessen possibility of a war between the US and Iran to a large extent. Besides, there were no fresh, imminent or clearly defined escalatory threats by Iran or backed by them against US or its allies in the region. This leaves US action beyond Iran specific only. Precisely this may be the reason that US move is being termed against an unspecified threat by Iran. In this backdrop, one is tempted to view new build up in larger context of great game, taking grounds between US, China and Russia. At present, countering terrorism is not a Number One priority of the US rather, it is China and Russia that could emerge a counterweight to US influence in world economically, politically and militarily. The proponents of this view take latest build up by US in the Gulf, a pre-emptive move to check their outreach in the Gulf and beyond and its route is CPEC. There is nothing novel about it when vital importance of CPEC is seen on world canvas.

The CPEC is considered a game changer. It would accrue Pakistan tremendous economic benefits as well as new meaning to its geo-strategic position in the region. For China, it is a vital plank of their Belt and Road Initiative; a primary and cost effective gateway for trade between China and the Middle East, Eurasia and Africa. It would unhinge US Policy of Asia Pivot, aimed at containment of China and Russia because it gives access to China to the areas where, at present, US has the hegemony. To India, it is a shattering experience. It would upset their vaulting ambition of regional power beyond measure. To the UAE, it means a major cut in their virtual monopoly over trade in the Gulf. To Iran, it is a serious case of ambivalence and to Afghanistan, a bugbear because it is most likely place from where anti-CPEC schemes would be conceived and unleashed.

In realpolitik, an undertaking of such overbearing proportions seldom sees smooth sailing. It is bound to encounter threats and threat to it, may have emerged with instant build up at stone throw distance from its opening to sea; Gwadar seaport. This must have sounded alarm bells in quarters which hold the responsibility of high offices. Unfortunately, main office is held by a man who was more interested in the office of Chief Minister Punjab than assigned office of Foreign Affairs. Of late, he has been seen overly active in matters of new province, South Punjab and feels content while issuing statements on foreign affairs from his native place, Multan. He is also prone to self projection and tends to indulge himself in overoptimistic and loose cannon phenomena in exuberance. This is not an unfounded view. A number of instances could be cited on this score.

It is an established fact that internationally trade takes place by flag only. It implies that trade Caravans could move uninterrupted of those nations only which has the clout to deter intruders. This is an unexceptionable principle since time immemorial. China is a giant economically but lags behind in military muscle and political influence worldwide. The economic strength supplements military and political power of a country but it is not a deterrent power itself. The

political power is function of numerous sinews of national power and military power flows out of barrel of the gun. Presently China lacks in perfect match with US in military means.

In terms of political influence, situation is no less different rather, it has suffered serious blow when a large number of Chinese invested projects of BRI hit the snags in the recent past. China needs to take stock of the situation wholesale to balance the equation. Given conditions, CPEC presents Pakistan a challenge and opportunity. We could make it a boon provided we handle it astutely in right timeframe and space.

Pakistan Observer

Tumultuous Gulf & future of CPEC

Presence of American B-52 fighter jets in Middle Eastern countries and two aircraft carriers in the Gulf is America's greater design of containing China in a broader spectrum. American recent war design is multidimensional. It is encircling Iran, Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey very tactfully. Iran, Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia will be its first targets at a time while Turkey will be its next prey in the row. America wants to contain Pakistan and China immediately while Turkey before 2023 the year of end of 100 years long sanctions against it. For this greater design, America will remain in the Gulf for over two decades. China has connected itself with tens of the countries via CPEC, thanks to Gwadar, but America wants to disconnect China. On the mischievous provocation of Israel, America will definitely involve Saudi Arabia in this dispute. Regime change is always one of the major US cards. For this objective in a warlike situation America throws out unwanted rulers and plants the wanted ones, that's why it is bent upon regime change in Iran. Unrest and riots in Iran will jolt Pakistan as well.

Unfortunately Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan are unable to understand American design. Only China realizes the torrential situation occurring in the waters of Gwadar and the Gulf. America wants to spoil Chinese economic design of 2030. America directly can't attack China and Pakistan but by creating tension in the Gulf, close to Gwadar, it will detain CPEC. Presence of America in the tumultuous waters of Gwadar and Gulf will halt the cargo movement of Chinese goods, material and products for a long time. This way both Pakistan and China will not benefit the fruit of US\$ 64 billion investment of CPEC for a long long time. President Trump of America is going to wage death and destruction in the region once again while Chinese President Xi Jinping wishes to ensure peace and prosperity. This situation is test of strength of Xi Jinping's strong economic and peace oriented design. Recent back to back official visits of Iranian Foreign Minister Jawad Zarif to China and Pakistan are the indication of mounting tension in the region. Visit of Vice-President of China Wang Qishan to Pakistan is an attempt to diffuse this devastating situation close to Gwadar.

Important element in the modern world is connectivity, within a country and its neighbors. It enhances the flow of information and goods to people residing in different regions. Connectivity and progress are related to each other as visions of shared development. This is the perspective behind the development of the CPEC. The development of infrastructure such as better ports,

airports and highways, along power, water and human capital help define the economic prosperity of a nation. It is a universally admitted reality that countries cannot fully take their place in the league of developed nations unless they invest in all aspects of infrastructure.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has the potential of transforming the region and act as a catalyst for economic change by integrating Central Asia, South Asia, Western Asia and Afghanistan. Afghanistan, being a landlocked country, will become main beneficiary of the CPEC. Pakistan will construct 270 km long motorway between Peshawar and Kabul to get Afghanistan linked with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

This road linkage will connect Afghanistan with different regions and also allow the country to start conducting commercial activities through the Indian Ocean. Undoubtedly, the CPEC offers opportunities to landlocked Central Asian Republics to diversify their energy reserves to rest of the world. Gwadar, the apex of the CPEC, is strategically located in the Arabian Sea which observes very important position in the Middle East, South Asia and Central Asia. It lies close to the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway for the supply of about one fifth of the world's oil. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will definitely reduce the distance of current sea routes from the Middle East and Africa to East Asia, and the cost will remarkably be reduced. Currently, oil imported by China from Gulf countries reaches China after a journey of around 17,000 kilometers. After the completion of Gwadar Port, the distance is reduced to more or less 3100 kilometers, making it safer and more feasible. In the same way, goods from China to the Middle East will take less time to transport at a lesser cost.

President Xi Jinping's economic vision and CPEC are not only linchpins of regional connectivity but will enhance economic activity and be beneficial for the peoples' prosperity throughout the region. Pakistan and China are making efforts to develop their economies and increase trade volumes. The Vision 2030 project of President Xi Jinping is a package of social and economic policies designed to free China from its dependence on low tech to build a prosperous and sustainable economic future by focusing on its high tech strengths and policies. Pakistan is also following an ambitious development plan of China.

Xi Jinping's economic vision 2030 is designed to help the country to develop and make it the world's leading economy. An important aspect of the China Vision 2030 is diversification of the economy to increase technology based revenue by gradually shifting its economic base. This diversification plan needs new markets and trade routes. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor offers opportunities for trade with Central Asia, East Asia, East Africa and Europe. The CPEC routes will not only provide means for carrying of the goods but also for transfer of innovation. Nation to nation contact will get rise. Intercultural communication will result in increased technological cooperation. This interdependence will help foster tranquility, peace and prosperity in the region in particular and elsewhere in general.

The News

‘Pak-China relations reaching new heights’

LAHORE: Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad has said the landmark visit of Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan will promote new ties between Pakistan and China and Prime Minister Imran Khan is making remarkable efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries.

He was addressing a Chinese delegation from Jiangxi University of Science and Technology here on Monday. Jiangxi University of Science and Technology President Prof Dr Luo Sihai, Director Academic Administration Prof Dr Zhang Shuiping, PU Confucius Institute Director Prof Liu, Director External Linkages Prof Dr Kanwal Ameen and deans of all faculties were present on the occasion. Addressing the meeting, Prof Niaz Ahmad stressed the need to promote academic relations among the institutions of higher learning. He said that PU would extend full support to collaborate in various disciplines with Jiangxi University of Science and Technology and encourage faculty members and students exchange programme. Prof Dr Luo Sihai said that the visit of Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan would bring relations between the two countries to the new heights and both were time-tested friends. He said that there was a need to promote people to people contact and exchange programmes among the universities of both the countries. He said that Jiangxi University of Science and Technology would like to extend research and academic collaboration with Punjab University in various disciplines including engineering and in the projects which would contribute to success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Both the parties agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding for joint collaboration soon.

Nawaiwaqt

صنعت، زراعت ساحت اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھائیں گے: چینی نائب صدر، عثمان بزدار

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار سے وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے ملاقات کی، جس میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ، سی پیک کے منصوبوں پر پیشرفت اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ اور چینی نائب صدر کی ملاقات میں صنعت، زراعت، سیاحت اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون کو مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا گیا اور فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ پنجاب اور چین کے بڑے شہروں کے مابین اشتراک کار کو فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات دو ملکوں کے نہیں بلکہ دو بھائیوں کے درمیان لازوال دوستی کا شہدہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے 70 کروڑ لوگوں کو 20 برس میں غربت سے نکالا ہے اور وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ویژن کے مطابق غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے چین کے بے مثال ماڈل کو پنجاب میں نافذ کریں گے۔ چینی نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے کرپشن کے خاتمے کے لیے بے پناہ کام کیا ہے اور کرپشن کے خاتمے کے لیے چین ہمارے لئے رول ماڈل ہے۔ عظیم دوست ملک کے معزز مہمان کی مہمان نوازی کر کے دلی خوشی ہوئی ہے۔ علاقائی خود مختاری اور قومی سلامتی کے امور پر چین کا تعاون قابل قدر ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چین میں دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم میں شرکت کے مثبت اثرات سامنے آئے ہیں۔ چین کے صدر کاروڈ اینڈ بیلٹ منصوبہ علاقائی ہی نہیں بلکہ عالمی سطح پر گیم چینجر ہے اور سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں ایگریکلچر ڈویلپمنٹ، غربت کے خاتمے اور صنعتی تعاون پر توجہ مرکوز ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی تعمیر و ترقی کیلئے مختلف منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی ہمارے

بھائی ہیں۔ پاک چین لازوال دوستی کی نئی تاریخ رقم ہو رہی ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی آئندہ نسلوں کیلئے اثاثہ ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین ترقی کے نئے سفر پر گامزن ہیں اور پاک چین دوستی کا بندھن رہتی دنیا تک قائم رہے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں معاشی ترقی کا نیا دور شروع ہو چکا ہے۔ چین کی سرکاری و نجی کمپنیوں کی طرف سے سرمایہ کاری کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ چین کے نائب صدر کے دورے سے بے مثال تعلقات نئی جہت کی طرف گامزن ہوں گے۔ پنجاب میں چینی تعاون سے جاری منصوبوں کی تکمیل کیلئے ہر سطح پر تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے کہا کہ چین کے صدر کی ہدایت پر پاکستان آیا ہوں اور دنیا کو پیغام دینا چاہتا ہوں کہ پاک چین دوستی بہت مضبوط ہے۔ لاہور آکر بہت پیار اور محبت ملی ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی پہلے سے کئی زیادہ پائیدار بنیادوں پر استوار ہے۔ پاکستانی قیادت کے ساتھ ملاقاتیں بہت مثبت رہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان کی قیادت ایک دوسرے کے بہت قریب ہیں۔ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان تعلقات ہر آنے والے روز مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہو رہے ہیں۔ لاہور پاکستان کا تاریخی شہر اور دل ہے۔ یہ حقیقت ہے کہ جس نے لاہور نہیں دیکھا اس نے پاکستان نہیں دیکھا۔ پاکستان کی ترقی کے سفر میں چین کا تعاون جاری رہے گا۔ سی پیک پاک چین دوستی کی زندہ مثال ہے۔ پنجاب اور شین ڈو کے درمیان شراکت داری کو فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ چین کے صدر کے شہر ٹیان اور لاہور کے درمیان بھی مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے لئے تیار ہیں۔ پنجاب اور چین کے بڑے شہروں کے درمیان ثقافت، معیشت اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانا وقت کا تقاضا ہے۔ سی پیک خطے کے لئے گیم چینجر ثابت ہوا ہے۔ اقتصادی تعاون کو بڑھا کر صنعتی ترقی کا عمل تیز کرنا ضروری ہے۔ چین کے سفیر یاو جنگ، چینی قونصل جنرل لانگ ڈنگ بن، چینی وفد کے دیگر اراکین، وفاقی وزیر خسر و بختیار، صوبائی وزیر ائی راجہ بشارت، ہاشمجاں بھٹ، ڈاکٹر اختر ملک، مشیر ڈاکٹر سلمان شاہ، چیئر مین پنجاب سرمایہ کاری بورڈ تنویر الیاس، چیف سیکرٹری، چیئر مین منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات، چیئر مین پنجاب سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اور متعلقہ حکام بھی ملاقات میں موجود تھے۔ چینی نائب صدر کی قیادت میں وفد نے گورنر پنجاب چودھری سرور سے ملاقات کی اس موقع پر سیکرٹری پنجاب اسمبلی چودھری پرویز الہی بھی موجود تھے۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاو جنگ نے بھی شرکت کی ملاقات میں پاک چیک تعلقات سی پیک سمیت دیگر امور پر بات چیت کی گورنر پنجاب میں کہا کہ پاک چیک دوستی چٹان سے زیادہ مضبوط ہے چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تاریخی اور طویل تعلقات و طرفہ ہیں گورنر پنجاب چودھری سرور نے چینی مہمانوں کے اعزاز میں عشاء دیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار نیگور نہاؤس میں چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن کے اعزاز میں عشاء میں شرکت کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے عوام کے درمیان روابط کو مستحکم کرنے کیلئے ای ویزہ کی سہولت متعارف کرائی گئی ہے۔ چین کے تعاون سے پنجاب میں معاشی ترقی کے نئے امکانات تلاش کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ ثقافتی شعبہ میں تعاون دونوں ممالک کے شہریوں کو مزید قریب لائے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین ہر موسم کے ساتھی ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی پر زمانے کے سرد و گرم اثر انداز نہیں ہو سکتے۔ پائیدار ترقی کیلئے چین کے تجربات سے مستفید ہوں گے۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے کہا کہ خطے کے عوام کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کیلئے باہمی تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ سی پیک سمیت ترقی کے دیگر منصوبے عوام کیلئے خوشحالی کی نوید ہیں۔

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن آج لاہور پہنچے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار نے ایئر پورٹ پر چین کے نائب صدر کا پر تپاک استقبال کیا۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے وزیر اعلیٰ سردار عثمان بزدار سے پرجوش مصافحہ کیا اور نیچوں نے چین کے نائب صدر کو گلہ دستے پیش کیے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے صوبائی وزراء نے چین کے نائب صدر سے تعارف کرایا۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے وزیر اعلیٰ ہاتھ ملایا۔ صوبائی وزراء نے چین کے نائب صدر کو لاہور پہنچنے پر خوش آمدید کہا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اپنے بھائی کو لاہور کی سرزمین پر خوش آمدید کہتے ہیں۔ آپ کی آمد پر ہم سر تاپا استقبال ہیں اور آپ کی آمد اہل پنجاب کیلئے اعزاز ہے۔ آپ کے دورے سے پاک چین تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوں گے اور آپ کا دورہ پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا نیا باب لکھے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن کی پاکستان آمد باعث فخر و انبساط ہے۔ چین کے نائب صدر کی آمد پر سمجھوتوں اور یادداشتوں پر دستخط معاشی خوشحالی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ثابت ہوں گے اور سی پیک کے پراجیکٹس کا افتتاح خوش آئند امر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے نائب صدر کو لاہور آمد پر دل اتھاہ گہرائیوں سے ”نی ہاؤ“ کہتے ہیں۔ وانگ چی شن اہل چین کی

طرف سے محبتوں کے سندیے لائے ہیں۔ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ پاکستان کے دل لاہور آکر دی خوشی ہوئی ہے۔ چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ، چینی قونصل جنرل لانگ ڈنگ بن اور چینی وفد کے دیگر ارکان بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ چینی نائب صدر کا صوبائی وزیر اتر اجمہ بشارت، میاں محمود الرشید، سمیع اللہ چوہدری، سید مصمص بخاری، محضر مجید نیازی، ڈاکٹر یاسمین راشد، آشفہ ریاض، اعجاز عالم، حافظ ممتاز احمد، کرنل (ر) ہاشم ڈوگر، تیمور خان بھٹی، نعمان لنگڑیال، چیف سیکرٹری، آئی جی پولیس، پرنسپل سیکرٹری وزیر اعلیٰ اور اعلیٰ کام نے بھی استقبال کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سردار عثمان بزدار اور چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے آج ہائروبا اکنامک زون کا دورہ کیا اور ہائروبا اکنامک زون کے مختلف شعبے دیکھے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ اور چینی نائب صدر کو ہائروبا اکنامک زون کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی گئی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ حکومت پنجاب نئی انڈسٹریل پالیسی کے تحت صوبے میں صنعتوں کے فروغ کے لئے کوشاں ہے اور پنجاب میں سرمایہ کاروں کے لئے بے پناہ سہولتیں فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی جانب سے صنعتی سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری خوش آئند ہے۔ چین کے سرمایہ کاروں کو پنجاب میں ہر طرح کی مراعات دیں گے۔ صوبائی وزیر ہاشم خواں جنت، میاں اسلم اقبال اور دیگر حکام بھی موجود تھے

Jang News

پنجاب اور چین کے بڑے شہروں میں اشتراک کار کو فروغ دیا جائے گا، چینی نائب صدر اور وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کے درمیان ملاقات میں فیصلہ

لاہور (نمائندہ جنگ) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار سے وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شن نے ملاقات کی، جس میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ، سی پیک کے منصوبوں پر پیشرفت اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ اور چینی نائب صدر کی ملاقات میں صنعت، زراعت، سیاحت اور دیگر شعبوں میں تعاون کو مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا گیا اور فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ پنجاب اور چین کے بڑے شہروں کے مابین اشتراک کار کو فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ وانگ چی شن کا لاہور انرپورٹ پریکٹک استقبال کیا گیا، ہائروبا اکنامک زون کا دورہ بھی کیا، گورنر پنجاب کی طرف سے چینی نائب صدر کے اعزاز میں عشاء کی تقریب بھی ہوئی، عثمان بزدار نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات دو ملکوں کے نہیں بلکہ دو جہانوں کے درمیان لازوال دوستی کا رشتہ ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ویشن کے مطابق غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے چین کے بے مثال ماڈل کو پنجاب میں نافذ کریں گے۔ کرپشن کے خاتمے کیلئے چین ہمارے لئے رول ماڈل ہے۔ پاک چین لازوال دوستی کی نئی تاریخ رقم ہو رہی ہے۔

Jang News

نئے پاک چین ترقیاتی منصوبے

چینی نائب صدر وانگ چی شان کے تین روزہ دورہ پاکستان کے پہلے دن وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں معزز مہمان اور وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے ہاتھوں تختیوں کی نقاب کشائی کے ذریعے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت توانائی، ٹیکنالوجی اور تعلیم کے شعبوں میں چار میگا پروجیکٹس کا افتتاح بلاشبہ پاک چین دوستی کی گہری مقصدیت اور پائیداری کا عکاس ہے۔ ان منصوبوں میں ٹیاری سے لاہور تک 660 کے وی ایچ وی ڈی سی ٹرانسمیشن لائن، ریشمی اکنامک زون، ہواوے ٹیکنیکل سپورٹ سنٹر اور کنفیو شس انسٹی ٹیوٹ یونیورسٹی آف پنجاب شامل ہیں۔ ان کے علاوہ مفاہمت کی جن یادداشتوں پر دستخط ہوئے ان میں پاک چین معاشی معاہدہ، زرعی فریم ورک میں تعاون، قدرتی آفات کے دوران ریلیف، سبیلہ میں یونیورسٹی کی ترقی کا معاہدہ نمایاں اہمیت کے حامل ہیں۔ چینی رہنما نے صدر پاکستان سے بھی ملاقات اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ اس کے بعد ان کے اور وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے مابین وفد کی سطح پر بات چیت ہوئی۔ حکومت پاکستان کے اعلامیے کے مطابق دونوں رہنماؤں نے دو طرفہ تعلقات، علاقائی

صورت حال نیز جنوبی ایشیا کے حالیہ واقعات پر تبادلہ خیال اور اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری سمیت تمام شعبوں میں دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید وسعت دینے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ اس موقع پوزیرا اعظم عمران خان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین اور پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے لئے پُر عزم ہیں جبکہ چینی نائب صدر نے ہمسایہ ملکوں سے تعاون اور امن کے لئے پاکستان کے کردار کی تعریف کی اور دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان کی کامیابی کو لائق تحسین قرار دیا۔ ایوان صدر میں ہونے والی تقریب میں صدر مملکت عارف علوی نے چینی نائب صدر کو پاکستان کا اعلیٰ ترین سول ایوارڈ نشان پاکستان بھی عطا کیا۔ سی پیک اور دیگر پاک چین مشترکہ منصوبے فی الحقیقت اجتماعی علاقائی ترقی و استحکام کے نقیب ہیں اور یہ امید بے جا نہیں کہ ان سے پورے خطے کی خوشحالی کے نئے باب کھلیں گے۔

May 29, 2019

Daily Times

Chinese VP wraps up visit on ‘highly successful’ note

China’s Vice President Wang Qishan on Tuesday concluded his three-day ‘highly successful’ visit to Pakistan, setting a tone for future trajectory of mutual engagement between the two countries.

“The vice president’s highly successful visit has imparted a strong impetus to further deepening the time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China,” the Foreign Office said in a statement, as the visiting dignitary wrapped up his visit to Islamabad and Lahore.

The visit of Vice President Wang Qishan encompassed meetings with the Pakistani leadership, launching of four mega projects, inking of five accords and reviewing progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). “The visit has added to the vitality of the Pakistan-China bilateral partnership, which remains unaffected by adverse regional and international developments, and continues to grow from strength to strength,” the statement said. “The visit acquired an increased momentum since Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to China in November 2018 and his participation in the second belt and road forum in Beijing in April 2019,” it added.

The two sides held in-depth discussions on second phase of CPEC, including industrial and agricultural cooperation and socio-economic development, and on deepening practical cooperation in tourism and people-to-people exchanges. Both countries underscored their firm commitment towards early completion of ongoing CPEC projects and further expanding of corridor. The two countries also agreed to enhance bilateral trade volume in a balanced way. In this respect, they resolved to implement the recently concluded second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement at the earliest.

They agreed that the early development of prioritized special economic zones (SEZs) will play an important role in further enhancing economic relations between the two countries. “China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has added a practical dimension to the relationship and further fortified it,” the statement added.

In Lahore, the Chinese vice president met Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and held a meeting with Governor Ch Sarwar who also hosted a banquet in his honour. In recognition of his services for strengthening bilateral relations with Pakistan, President Dr Arif Alvi conferred on Vice President Wang Qishan the country's highest civil award Nishan-e-Pakistan.

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China people to people contact

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Senator Faisal Javed Khan has said that Pakistan's alliance with China is decades old and promotion of culture between the two countries will further deepen relations at people-to-people level. Talking to media he said under the credible leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the PTI government is committed to channelize the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project for the betterment of the nation. He said Chinese vice president visit is welcoming, adding, Pakistan and China has once again reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen all weather multi-faced bilateral ties. The visit of Chinese president to Pakistan will further strengthen Pak-China ties, he added. He urged the media for playing a very special, constructive and positive role.

The Express Tribune

Make the most of CPEC, says Punjab CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar ordered all provincial departments to actively play their part in devising and finalizing an effective strategy to reap maximum benefits from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Presiding over a high-level meeting at his office on Tuesday, the chief minister said the CPEC Cell should be made more effective and expanded in the Planning and Development (P&D) Department. He added that Chinese collaboration would be used in different sectors including vocational training, agriculture, education and energy.

Various proposals related to the promotion of economic activities and the creation of new jobs were reviewed in the meeting. The future roadmap, in the backdrop of the Chinese vice president's visit, also came up for discussion.

Buzdar highlighted that China took unprecedented steps to overcome poverty and the Punjab government will use this Chinese model as an example. "CPEC is a golden opportunity for the sustainable development of Punjab and the rest of the country. We will take full benefit.

He underscored that Chinese investors will be given all sorts of Make the most of CPEC, says CM facilities in Punjab for investment. "The Punjab government is setting up special economic zones and Chinese investors are welcome. CPEC will promote economic activities which will generate new employment opportunities," he maintained.

He said there was a great demand for skilled labour and special attention was needed for technical and vocational training to fulfill this requirement. “Human development has been focused on in the new Pakistan,” he added.

The chief minister was given a briefing about the generation of new job opportunities. Punjab Minister for Finance HashimJawanBakhat, Economic Adviser Dr Salman Shah, the Punjab chief secretary, P&D Chairman and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Earlier, the Punjab CM saw off Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan and other visiting guests at the Lahore Airport. On the occasion, Buzdar said that he was happy to host the Chinese and it was a matter of honour for Pakistan.

“Your visit will further strengthen the Pakistan-China friendship. The immortal relation of Pakistan-China friendship will never end,” he underlined.

“Pakistan and China are moving side-by-side in the journey of development and brotherly relations are reaching new heights. A new chapter of love, affection, and cooperation has been written between the two countries,” he added.

The Chinese vice president thanked the chief minister for his warm hospitality in Lahore and added that he would never forget the love with which he was received. “China is already standing with Pakistan in the journey of development and prosperity and will do so in future as well. The immortal friendship will be further strengthened by working on new dimensions of mutual cooperation,” he added.

Buzdar also presented an album of pictures of the Lahore visit to the Chinese vice president. “Your team has worked very hard and this album is memorable for me,” he said, adding that he was going back with fond memories.

Provincial ministers Basharat Raja, Syed SumsamBukhari, Nauman Langrial, Dr Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Alam, TaimurBhatti, SamiullahChaudhryAshfaRaiz, AnsarMajeed Khan Niazi, Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmad, HashimDogar, the chief secretary, IG Police and others were present on the occasion.

The Nation

Chinese Vice President visits Haier Industrial Park

LAHORE (PR) The Vice President of China Wang Qishan was accorded a red-carpet welcome when he arrived at Haier Industrial Park in a landmark visit to the sprawling facility that is widely seen as a shining example of Pak-China economic cooperation. The Vice President was accompanied by the Chief Minister, Punjab Usman Buzdar, the Punjab Minister for Commerce, Industry & Investment, Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal and other senior government officials. The distinguished visitor was received by top ranking officials of Haier China who had earlier arrived in Pakistan to oversee arrangements for according the Vice President a most memorable welcome. Also, on hand to receive the distinguished visitor was Executive President and Vice

Chairman of the Board of Directors Haier Group, Liang Haishan, V.P. Global Appliances Haier Group, CEO of SEA & SA Song Yujun, General Manager Haier Pakistan Li Dapeng, CEO Haier & Ruba Manufacturing (HNR) Javed Afridi & Chairman JW SEZ Group Shah Faisal Afridi.

This is the fourth time for a high ranking and most distinguished visitor to tour Haier Industrial Park. Previously Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in 2005, President Hu Jintao in 2006 and Prime Minister Imran Khan in May 2019 have visited Haier Industrial Park which has since been hailed as the most successful model of industrial and economic cooperation between Chinese companies and Pakistani entrepreneurs. The Vice President was conducted on a tour of the factory by Haier's top brass.

The Nation

Chinese VP visits historical sites

LAHORE - Vice President of China Wang Qishan, along with his delegation on Tuesday visited Badshahi Mosque and Royal Fort (Shahi Qila) here. The Vice President lauded the architectural finesse of Mughal era buildings. The administration of Badshahi Mosque briefed the Vice President about the architectural features of these sites. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar, Punjab Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Syed Saeedul Hassan, members of Chinese delegation, and others were also present on the occasion.

The Nation

Revamping security mechanism for CPEC-BRI

Almost 200 days back, there was a lull in affairs. Security outlook was normal. From Gwadar, gateway to CPEC, flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to mega city of Karachi, commercial hub of Pakistan, overall situation had been flowing as usual.

All of sudden terror raged. Barrage of violence engulfed CPEC's key areas including Gwadar, Quetta and Karachi with suicide bombing, blast and gun showdowns. Even Lahore, capital of Punjab where hundreds of Chinese keeps pouring in for business opportunities and where China has recently established its consulate, suffered a terror attack at historical Shrine Data Gunj Buksh.

In these series of attacks, more than 50 people including personnel of security agencies died and many got injured since November 23, 2018. From that day till date nefarious waves are on rise triggering unrest in Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab where most of Chinese projects are underway.

Given the alarming situation, remodeling of security mechanism is dire need of hour to safeguard CPEC, central pillar of Belt and Road Initiative. The desired security mechanism may entail central command and control system with integration of all military and civilian law enforcement agencies under one roof in a bid to prevent coordination hitches and ensure prompt deliverance of performance. Innovative security projects may be hashed out to dispel future terrorist attacks.

Technically speaking, Pakistan has developed many forces to protect CPEC and its routes but security challenges, lack of coordination and funds have hampered their natural strength of services.

According to report of PIPS, in 2016 Special Security Division (SSD) and Task Force-88 for its maritime security were raised to protect Chinese engineers, project directors, experts and workers employed on various Chinese-funded projects across Pakistan. The SSD was initially planned, in the year 2015, to have a force of 15,500 troops comprising six infantry brigades with each brigade having three infantry.

Report said that the SSD, consisting of 9 composite infantry battalions and 6 civil armed forces wings was formed at the cost of over Rs23 billion. The government spent Rs5.8 billion to raise 6 SSD wings of civilian armed forces with the minimum strength of 4,502.

According to the plan, the anticipated total strength of the SSD was to be raised to around 32,000, at second stage, including over 13,000 troops raised by 2016, and the remaining to be raised from different other forces in different regions.

On the civilian side, Special Protection Unit (SPU) was developed in 2014. It got assisted by different police and security forces like Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Elite Police Force (EPF), Quick Response Force (QRF) and Special Protection Unit (SPU).

Recently a new division comprising two parts is being raised in Islamabad. One part will be assigned to protect Chinese officials working on CPEC and other foreigners.

After recent spate of terrorism, in an interview with Xinhua news agency, ISPR DG Major General AsifGhafoor announced for deploying another division to protect CPEC.

Chinese experts believe that new spate of terrorism seems to be outburst of utter frustration of agents of chaos after they failed to dent Pak-China relations and derail CPEC which has now entered into its most critical and second phase of industrialization and in the field of agro-technology, socio-economic and high-tech skill development.

Desperation is conspicuous with the fact that before and after Pakistan PM Imran Khan's two trips to China, terror monstrosity was let loose.

From November 2, 2018 PM Imran Khan made his first official visit as head of state to China. He called on Chinese President Xi Jinping and discussed all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. Same month after 18 days, Chinese consulate Karachi was stormed by armed-assailants. Attempt was foiled eventually.

Because on 25 April, 2019 Premier Imran Khan had to pay his second visit to China to attend 2nd Belt and Road Forum with his scheduled meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other high-ranked officials, Quetta city, a crucial locality for ongoing CPEC western alignment, was rocked when a bomb ripped through vegetable market, HazarGunji on April 12. Same day another bomb exploded in Chaman, important city of Balochistan causing tumultuous situation in the region.

Another brazen attack hit hard killing bus passengers on April 18 at Makran Coastal Highway, main artery of CPEC that links up Gwadar Port to Xinjiang, northwest region of China. It was aimed to sabotage commercial and passenger traffic on Makran Coastal Highway as it is sole affordable trade transit route to Afghanistan, China and Land-locked countries of Central Asia to the countries of Middle East and Persian Gulf. Two CPEC shipments had been passed through this route few months back to weigh up practical viability and safety of cargo traffic.

The timings of this bloody carnage and planned targets have deep connotations as all these terrible tragedies occurred few days before PM's visit to China.

Serious of terrorist activities surged as non-state actors knew that 2nd huddle between both head of states was of high value as it had to anchor future Pak-China relations, CPEC development trajectory and trade volume between both iron friends. The meeting made a way to found special economic zone in KPK and new Free Trade Agreement that promises opening up 90 per cent Chinese market for Pakistani commodities and in return Pakistan will open up 65 percent of Chinese exports.

As there is no let up to terror incidents, on May 10, 2019 Gwadar PC hotel, few yards away from Gwadar Port where a number of Chinese have been working in China Overseas Port Holding Company came under severe attack by intruders. Site got cleared after many hours full-scale operation in a similar style commando operation conducted in 2008 Mumbai attack in India.

Almost 40 days back, Gwadar was bustling with enthusiasm by holding 2nd Gwadar International Expo 2019 that led to attract national and international attentions especially BRI beneficiary countries. The Expo helped global observers to see CPEC going into top gear with foundation stone of Gwadar new international Airport and construction of East Bay Gwadar Express way, a main artery of Gwadar Port through which the entire traffic of port will flow to Makran Coastal Highway till Kashghar. Expo also created global ripples after Prime Minister Imran Khan said a cargo and passenger ferry service would also be launched soon from Gwadar to Karachi that would later be extended to Qatar. Both untoward incidents at Makran Coastal highway and Gwadar PC hotel put a big question mark on security blanket and relevant safety apparatus.

Former Minister for Planning and Interior Ahsan Iqbal raised voice for insufficient security coverage from Gwadar to Karachi during his address in assembly session held in current month.

With no respite in alarming situation, worst security condition intensified further after bomb exploded in mini market of satellite town, Quetta, capital of Balochistan on May 13.

The tense scenario and aggravation are being seen as a part of Western game plan to upset China impairing its dream to improve regional integration through BRI and rejuvenate modernity through mega development plans with level playing field to every player holding the banner of shared destiny. A venomous propaganda campaign is already running amok.

Anti-globalization lobbies are blaming China for running debt-trap diplomacy as loan shark. They are orchestrating concocted stories of concentration camps and atrocity on Muslims in Xinjiang to provoke Islamic world especially Pakistan against Beijing.

Pakistan foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi said that because western world are badly failing to prove their claims, as a last resort CPEC, heart of BRI is on the target.

The News

Buzdar orders depts. to finalize CPEC strategy

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to devise an effective strategy for the CPEC and Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar directed the line departments that CPEC related strategy should be given final shape as soon as possible adding that salient feature of this strategy should be devised early so as to take maximum benefit of the CPEC projects.

The chief minister presided over a meeting at his office on Tuesday in which various proposals regarding promotion of economic activities and generation of job opportunities were reviewed.

The future roadmap in the backdrop of meetings held on the occasion of the visit of the Chinese Vice-President also came under discussion. The chief minister said that CPEC Cell should be made more effective and expanded in the P&D department and added that Chinese collaboration would be further utilized in different sectors, including vocational training, agriculture education and energy.

China has made unprecedented steps for overcoming the poverty issue and the Punjab government will benefit from this Chinese model to decrease poverty. CPEC is a golden opportunity for durable development of Punjab and the rest of the country and it would be fully benefited. He said that the Chinese investors would be facilitated in Punjab.

Usman Buzdar said the Punjab government was setting up special economic zones and Chinese investment in these zones would be welcomed. He said that CPEC would promote economic activities which would generate new employment opportunities. There is a great demand for skilled labour and it is needed to give special attention to technical and vocational training to fulfill this demand.

security: Usman Buzdar has congratulated the cabinet committee on law & order for making the best security arrangements on the occasion of Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Ali (RA). He said the day passed peacefully due to good arrangements made by the police and the administration.

The chief minister appreciated Law Minister Raja Basharat and other ministers, police and the administrative officers over their efficiency. The line departments and the police diligently performed their duties and their performance was praiseworthy, he added. notice: Usman Buzdar has taken notice of molestation of a 13-year-old girl in Kasur. He sought a report from the DPO and ordered for providing justice to the affected girl and early arrest of the accused.

The News

Pakistan to adopt Chinese agri development model: Sumsam

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Syed Sumsam Ali Bukhari has said Pakistan is planning to adopt agriculture development model of China to enhance farm production and make the country prosperous.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, he said new chapter of Pak-China friendship is about to begin and cooperation between the two countries would bring improvement in all important sectors.

He said the agriculture sector would touch new heights of development with the cooperation of China. He said China is the only country which made its big population its strength and left the rest of the world far behind in the race for economic and agriculture development.

He said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects would be completed at every cost, which would provide vast opportunities of investment in the private sector. He said the country is moving towards stability under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The minister said the visit of Chinese vice president to Pakistan is praiseworthy and the Punjab administration deserves appreciation for making the best arrangements for the visit.

He said the confidence of international community in Pakistan leadership has been restored and Prime Minister Imran Khan is being appreciated in every country of the world.

The News

Sino-Pak ties to improve: minister

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Syed Samsam Ali Bukhari Tuesday said that the visit of Chinese vice-president would open new chapter in Pakistan-China friendship. The government was making efforts for improving image of Pakistan in the comity of nations and the world community was expressing its confidence in country's leadership, he said in a statement. He said that Pakistan-China cooperation would bring improvement in various sectors especially the agriculture sector. The minister said that Pakistan also wanted to adopt the agriculture development model of China to enhance its crops produce.

Jang News

حنان یونیورسٹی آف چائنیز میڈیسن نے تحقیقی ادارے کا نام ڈاکٹر عطا الرحمن سے موسوم کر دیا

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) چین کی ممتاز حنان یونیورسٹی آف چائنیز میڈیسن نے طے کیا ہے کہ اس کے نئے تحقیقی ادارے کا نام پاکستان کے معروف سائنسدان اور ماہر تعلیم پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عطا الرحمن کے نام سے موسوم کیا جائے گا۔ بین الاقوامی مرکز برائے کیمیائی و حیاتیاتی علوم (آئی سی بی ایس) جامعہ کراچی کے ایک سینئر آفیشل کے مطابق حنان یونیورسٹی آف چائنیز میڈیسن نے اپنے نئے ادارے کا نام 'اکیڈمیشن پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عطا الرحمن ون بیلٹ ون روڈ ٹی سی ایم ریسرچ سینٹر' طے کیا ہے جس کا باقاعدہ افتتاح 23 تا 25 اکتوبر کے دوران پانچویں سالانہ بائیو ٹی سی ایم انٹرنیشنل کانفرنس میں ہو گا۔ اس تقریب میں وفاقی وزیر برائے سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی فواد چوہدری بھی شرکت کریں

گے۔ ملائیشیا کے ایک معروف تعلیمی ادارے یونیورسٹی ٹیکنالوجی مارا بھی ایک تحقیقی ادارہ 'عطا الرحمن' ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ آف نیچرل پروڈکٹ ڈسکوری' کا قیام عمل میں لایا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ آج کل پروفیسر عطا الرحمن وزیر اعظم پاکستان کی قائم کردہ ٹاسک فورس برائے سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کے چیئرمین، سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی پر مبنی معیشت کے قیام کے لیے ٹاسک فورس کے وائس چیئرمین اور ٹاسک فورس برائے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے کوچ چیئرمین کے عہدوں پر فائز ہیں جبکہ ماضی میں چیئرمین اعلیٰ تعلیمی کمیشن پاکستان اور وفاقی وزیر برائے سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کے مناصب پر بھی خدمات انجام دے چکے ہیں۔ پروفیسر عطا الرحمن نے نیچرل پروڈکٹ کیمسٹری کے شعبے میں گراں قدر خدمات انجام دی ہیں اس ضمن میں انکی 1142 سے زیادہ بین الاقوامی اشاعتیں، نامیاتی وغیر نامیاتی کیما، این ایما، اسپیکٹر واسکوپ اور نیچرل پروڈکٹ کیمسٹری کے موضوعات پر امریکا، یورپ اور جاپان میں طباعت شدہ 254/کتب اور بین الاقوامی سائنسی جرائد میں 775/سے زیادہ تحقیقی اشاعتیں قابل ذکر ہیں، 43/پینٹس بھی ان کے نام ہیں۔ ان کی زیر نگرانی 82/طلباء نے پی ایچ ڈی کی سند حاصل کی ہے۔ پروفیسر عطا الرحمن 8/یورپی ریسرچ جرنل کے مدیر اعلیٰ ہیں جبکہ متعلقہ مضمون سے متعلق دنیا کی نمایاں انسائیکلو پیڈیا کے مدیر بھی ہیں۔ پروفیسر عطا الرحمن کو نہ صرف بین الاقوامی ایوارڈ حاصل ہوئے ہیں بلکہ حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے انھیں تمغہ امتیاز، ستارہ امتیاز، ہلال امتیاز اور نشان امتیاز بھی عطا کیا جا چکا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt

زرعی شعبہ چین کے تعاون سے ترقی کی نئی منزلوں کو چھوئے گا، مصمص بخاری

لاہور (نیوز پورٹر) صوبائی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات سید مصمص علی بخاری نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے نائب صدر کے دورہ پاکستان سے پاک چین دوستی کے نئے باب کا آغاز ہوا ہے۔ پی ٹی آئی کی حکومت نے پوری دنیا میں پاکستان کا امیج بہتر کرنے اور پاکستان کو ایک باوقار ملک کے طور پر پیش کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے اور اب اقوام عالم کو اعتماد ہے کہ پاکستانی قیادت ایماندار اور نیک نیت ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو ہر ملک میں پذیرائی مل رہی ہے۔ ایک بیان میں صوبائی وزیر نے کہا کہ پاک چین تعاون سے اہم ملکی شعبوں میں انقلاب آئیں گے۔ خصوصاً پاکستان کا زرعی شعبہ چین کے تعاون سے ترقی کی نئی منزلوں کو چھوئے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین دنیا کا واحد ملک ہے جس نے اپنی آبادی کو بوجھ بنانے کی بجائے اپنی طاقت بنالیا ہے اور اقتصادی وزری شعبوں میں ترقی اور خوشحالی کی دوڑ میں پوری دنیا کو پیچھے چھوڑ دیا ہے۔ صوبائی وزیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان بھی زرعی ترقی کے چین کے ماڈل کو اپنانے کیلئے منصوبہ بندی کر رہا ہے تاکہ زرعی پیداوار میں اضافہ کر کے ملک و قوم کو خوشحال بنایا جاسکے۔

Nawaiwaqt

پاک چین تعلقات کسی صورت متاثر نہیں ہوں گے: گورنر پنجاب

پنجاب کے گورنر محمد سرور نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات کسی بھی صورت میں متاثر نہیں ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات گورنر ہاؤس لاہور میں چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شان کے اعزاز میں دیئے گئے عشائیے سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ گورنر نے اس موقع پر اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کی بنیاد امن کی خواہش، باہمی اقدار مشترکہ تجربات اور ثقافتی روابط پر مبنی ہے چین کے نائب صدر وانگ چی شان نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے چوہدری محمد سرور کے وٹن کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان کا دورہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مثالی تعلقات اور شاندار تاریخی اور روایتی روابط کا مظہر ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے باہمی تعلقات دو جہتی ہیں اور چین نے مشکل کی ہر گھڑی میں ہمیشہ پاکستان کی مدد کی ہے۔ چوہدری محمد سرور نے چین کو مبارکباد دی جو دنیا میں تیز ترین اقتصادی ترقی کر رہا ہے اور ایک خطہ ایک شاہراہ منصوبے کا خالق ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری سے پاکستان کے لئے نئے مواقع پیدا ہو رہے ہیں۔

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان چین کا آزادانہ تجارت معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلہ کی جلد تکمیل پر اتفاق

بیجنگ، اسلام آباد (کے پی آئی، این این آئی) بھارتی وزیر اعظم مودی اور پاکستانی وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے درمیان ٹیلی فون پر رابطے تیسرے دن ہوئے چین نے کہا ہے کہ یہ قابل خیر مقدم اقدام ہے اور چین دونوں ممالک کے لیڈران کو آپسی تنازعات باہمی مذاکرات کے طور حل کرنے کا مشورہ دیتا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا اس بار مودی نئے سرے سے سرکار میں آ رہے ہیں اور اگر دونوں ممالک کے لیڈران نے مذاکرات کی بحالی پر اتفاق کر لیا تو یقینی طور پر یہ خطے کیلئے نیک شگون ہو سکتا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ چین دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستی کے حق میں ہے اور چاہتا ہے کہ خطے میں کشیدگی کے بجائے امن کو فروغ مل سکے اور اس سلسلے میں اگر دونوں ممالک چین سے بھی مدد طلب کریں گے تو چین مدد دینے کیلئے تیار ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں چینی نائب صدر کے دورہ پاکستان کے حوالے سے پاکستان کی وزارت خارجہ کے اعلامیہ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین نے آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے کی جلد تکمیل پر اتفاق کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین شراکت داری اور زیادہ مضبوط ہوگی اور یہ سلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔ ترجمان کے مطابق صدر مملکت سے ملاقات کے علاوہ چینی نائب صدر نے وزیر اعظم اور دیگر پاکستانی رہنماؤں سے تفصیلی مذاکرات کئے۔ ترجمان کے مطابق دونوں ممالک نے سی بی کے دوسرے مرحلے پر تفصیلی بات چیت کی۔ ترجمان کے مطابق دونوں ممالک کے اقتصادی تعلقات کے فروغ کے لئے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پر جلد پیشرفت پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ پاک چین شراکت داری، علاقائی و بین الاقوامی پیشرفت کے منفی اثرات سے محفوظ ہے۔

May 30, 2019

Business Recorder

Fixing Gwadar governance

Soon after three gunmen attacked Gwadar PC earlier this month, some sections of foreign press started raising question marks over continuity of Gwadar Port and the CPEC. That reading is wrong since Pakistan's army is demonstrably well trained to fight terrorism whereas a host of independent scholars point out that the Chinese are not deterred by such attacks. But whether one can have similar degree of confidence over the governance structure and urban design of Gwadar city itself is a question not frequently being asked among CPEC-related policy and academic circles.

A recently published study by the International Growth Centre attempts to fill that gap. Titled "The institutional and urban design of Gwadar City" the study investigates governance, economic development, and urban design of Gwadar port and the city. Some of the insights warrant serious attention.

For instance, while the port comes under the jurisdiction of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), part of the free zone at the port falls under the jurisdiction of the Balochistan Development Authority, which is a provincial authority. Outside the port, the city falls under the jurisdiction of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) provincial entity. Yet "two housing societies i.e. Singhar and New Town are still being dealt by the Deputy Commissioner."

In other words, “there is not a single agency that can steer the development of the city, oversee the provision of service delivery, and promote investments.” In Chinese and other international economic cities, mayors hold key administrative and economic powers that make decision making easier and efficient. However, Pakistani laws currently do not allow the same, which leads to issue of two speeds development.

“While the COPHCL is developing state of the art infrastructure to make the port operational as soon as possible, government authorities seem to be doing little to prepare Gwadar city for the up-coming economic activities in this region,” the study notes. The difference in these two speeds is creating challenges to the success of Gwadar and resultantly the CPEC.

The study’s authors (Naveed Iftikhar, an urban studies scholar, and others) recommend that the mandate and capacity of GDA is strengthened to make it a central agency to steer development, service delivery, and investment promotion. At the very least there is a need to find a way to reduce overlaps with the municipal corporation, office of the Deputy Commissioner, and other federal and provincial government organisations. However, the study argues, that before embarking on the strengthening of GDA, considerable attention should be given to transforming its “governance and accountability structure”.

They also propose to consider giving Gwadar city a share in federal government’s revenues from Gwadar Port so that the city has some own funds for infrastructure and services. That may not be doable solution. At the one end, a fiscally constrained centre might not like to part with its money, and at the other end, it might set a precedent for Karachi city to demand a share in revenues from Karachi’s two ports. That said, a city that is to be key driver of CPEC ought to have some sources of self-generated revenues.

Whether or not one agrees with some of the policy proposals offered by the study, the important thing is to start a discourse on Gwadar city’s governance and urban design. Granted as the report said, some aspects of Gwadar may be kept secret to safeguard national interests, but those pertaining to the life and governance of the city itself must be brought to light and well debated. While Gwadar is uniquely positioned for CPEC and BRI, there are other ports in the region that vie for business. A failure to create an efficient system of governance in Gwadar could “translate into a failure to attract sufficient business and create a self-sustaining economy” in the long run.

Pakistan Observer

China appoints ex-envoy to Pakistan Luo Zhaohui as deputy FM

The State Council, China’s cabinet, appointed Luo Zhaohui as vice minister of foreign affairs to replace Kong Xuanyou, reports China Economic Net on Wednesday. Prior to the appointment, Lou has served as ambassador to Pakistan, Canada and India. Kong has been appointed as the new ambassador to Japan.

As an ambassador to Pakistan, Luo Zhaohui had contributed significantly to further enhancing and deepening of the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. He had exhibited profound

commitment to consolidate the multi-faceted co-operative partnership between the two countries. He was considered a good friend of Pakistan. With his understanding of the South Asian affairs, he was instrumental in promoting Pakistan-China relations. For his services he was awarded Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam in 2007.”

Luo Zhaohui was born in Hubei Province of China in February, 1962. His first diplomatic post was in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in 1985. Between 2006 and 2010, he served as Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan.

China-Pakistan: Remarkable initiatives

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been progressively progressing. Both sides are cognizant to the economic and political significance of the development and operationalization of the Corridor. Therefore, despite various obstacles, they are determined to complete the corridor’s project ahead of time. Simultaneously, both States’ adversaries have been hatching conspiracies against the CPEC. Indeed, spoiling the CPEC projects is a direct strike on China’s one-belt, one-road initiative.

China’s one-belt, one-road initiative’s headway links with the development of CPEC, which is declared the flagship project of the initiative. Therefore, the Chinese ruling elite has been seriously monitoring Chinese investment in Pakistan and also is determined to assist it in improving its national economy. On 26 May, Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishan arrived in Islamabad to boost the bilateral relationship.

He expressed the resolve that Pakistan and China would continue to safeguard each other’s interests. He said, “CPEC is a consensus that transcends political parties, regions and communities across Pakistan. It also enjoys most extensive and strongest support in China.” Precisely, CPEC binds Pakistan with world’s second-largest economy, which is a good sign for foreign investment in country.

The primary objective of the visiting dignitary was to promote bilateral economic cooperation and also cement a strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. Prime Minister Khan and VP Wang inaugurated several projects, including 660KV transmission line project from Matiari to Lahore; Rashakai Special Economic Zone Project, Huawei Technical Support Centre and Confucius Institute at the University of Punjab. Besides, several agreements were signed to start new projects such as the agreement on agricultural cooperation; the memorandum on the requirements of foot and mouth disease-free zone; the letter of exchange of disaster relief goods; China-Pakistan economic agreement; and the agreement between the China Machinery Engineering Corporation and the Balochistan government and Lasbela University on modern agriculture comprehensive development in Lasbela.

The signing of new projects proves that China is satisfied with its investment in Pakistan and both states bilateral relationship will not be derailed with transformation in global politics, mainly due to China and United States tension.

During the three days visit, VP Wang visited Lahore and invited the Punjab government to enter into economic cooperation with big provinces of China. Establishing cooperation between/among the provinces is an optimistic initiative for advancing Punjab's industrial and agriculture sectors. For instance, the yield of the crops in Punjab is low by China's standard. Admittedly, this cooperation improves the agricultural production in the province and also advances the industrial sector technologically. Currently, Pakistan is confronting internal and external security challenges. Its armed forces heroically eliminated the transnational terrorist sanctuaries located on its territory. Despite the daring law enforcement agencies measures, recently, a few terrorist incidents took place in Balochistan. The terrorists were supported by the intelligence agencies of the neighbouring states to destabilize internal security of the country and obstruct the developmental work on the CPEC projects.

A few analysts observed that the resurgence of terrorist activities in Balochistan province could discourage Chinese investors, but the announcement of the new projects in the province falsify such claims. The regional rivals of Pakistan desire to spoil the Chinese investment in Pakistan to obstruct the country's economic development and also ruin China's OBI initiative. Chinese leadership understands the nefarious designs of these states. Therefore, without naming them, VP Wang categorically stated: "No matter how the international landscape changes, China and Pakistan will always stay iron brothers that trust and support each other." His statement overruled the negative propaganda, especially in social media, that Chinese are unhappy and thereby distancing from Khan Government's policies. The second-time elected Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi frequently expressed his earnest desire to isolate Pakistan diplomatically. India has openly lobbied in FATF against Pakistan. In the transforming complex global politics, China's support in the forum is very critical. To conclude, VP Wang visit will be having lasting constructive impact on China-Pakistan economic, diplomatic, and political relationship. — The writer is Professor, School of Politics and International Relations and author of India's Surgical Strike Stratagem: Brinkmanship and Response.

IMSciences to facilitate Chinese companies in CPEC projects

IMSciences in collaboration with Feiyun Culture Co., Ltd. held a Listing Ceremony of Feiyun Culture & IMSciences Industry Talent Training Base under the CPEC Industry-Government-Academia Consortium. Representatives from a range of universities and mega companies of China, including China Gezhouba Group Company Limited, China Road and Bridge Corporation Pakistan Co., Ltd., China Energy Engineering Group Guang Dong Electric Power Design Institute Co., Ltd., Beijing Jiaotong University and Chang'an University attended the ceremony.

CEOs Bahadur Shah and Saeed Ahmad of Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) respectively, also attended the ceremony. Abdul Karim Khan, Special Assistant to Chief Minister of KP for Industry and Commerce, was the Chief Guest.

Director IMSciences, Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan officially welcomed all the guests and thanked them for sparing time to be available for the ceremony. Dr. Usman Ghani, Joint Director

IMSciences, gave a brief introduction of IMSciences and gave a briefing on the background of the training base. The house was then opened for any suggestions and recommendations for improving the training programs that will be initiated in IMSciences for the CPEC related human resource. The purpose of the talent training base is to provide necessary trainings to the human resource that would be employed to work on CPEC related projects. Both, Mr. Bahadur Shah and Mr. Saeed Ahmad stressed on the need for greater cooperation between the two countries in order to synergize on the already progressive partnership. Mr. Saeed praised IMSciences for its important contribution in the overall CPEC project in terms of providing trainings.

Lv Xiufeng from China Gezhouba Company stated the desire for a continuous working relation with IMSciences and the government. Zhu Xiaoning from Beijing Jiatong University talked briefly about the university to familiarize the audience about its contributions in up-gradation of the Chinese railway and developing relations with international universities. After the ceremony, mementos in the form of shields were distributed among all the representatives of Chinese universities & companies, CEOs of PEDO and KPEZDMC and the Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Karim Khan.

The Express Tribune

Second unit of CPEC power plant connected to grid

KARACHI: The second unit of the 660-megawatt China Power Hub Generation Company (CPHGC) coal-fired power plant was synchronized with the national grid on May 28, 2019 as per schedule.

Described as an important milestone in commercial operations, the development comes exactly five months after the day when the first unit of the project was synchronized.

Both units of CPHGC are now providing electricity to the national grid on a pre-commissioning trial basis. The synchronization of unit 2 was achieved within the agreed technical parameters, laying the foundation for future commercial operations of the project, which is planned to start in August 2019.

Speaking on the occasion, CPHGC CEO Zhao Yonggang congratulated the team, saying, “CPHGC is a priority project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and is also the first overseas thermal power project developed by SPIC under the Belt and Road Initiative.”

Located in Hub, Balochistan, the CPHGC project is a joint venture between CPIH (the Chinese state-owned company) which owns 74% and Hubco which owns 26%. The project, despite a much higher cost, has adopted supercritical technology for environment protection.

This technology requires reduced coal consumption and has lower carbon emissions, thus improving its energy-conserving and environment-protecting features.

The \$2-billion project includes a power plant and a dedicated coal jetty. During commercial operations, the project will provide nine billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) to the national grid every year, which will meet electricity needs of four million households in Pakistan. The 660MW coal-fired power project officially had its ground-breaking on March 21, 2017 and it is on track to be commercially operational in August 2019.

The News

Pakistan all set to enter China's \$15bln meat market: food minister

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is all set to venture into the \$12 to 15 billion China's meat market under the two agreements recently signed with the neighboring country, the food minister said on Wednesday.

The two countries signed two agreements on agricultural cooperation and foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone during a three days visit (26 to 28 May) of Chinese president to Pakistan.

Minister for National Food Security and Research Mehboob Sultan said the country would move from stage two to stage three towards the control and eradication of FMD by developing FMD free zones in Pakistan.

"This would also open big markets of China and Indonesia for Pakistan meat," Sultan told media.

China's annual meat requirement is worth \$12 to 15 billion. Currently, meat from Pakistan is exported to Gulf countries, Vietnam and Malaysia.

"The government is focusing on expanding the Pakistan's meat market and this five years agreement with China will help us achieve the desired results not only in the meat market but in agriculture sector and will be mutually beneficial," the food minister added.

The purpose of China-Pakistan's agreement is the establishment of FMD free zone where vaccination would be practiced.

The FMD free zone will be constructed within the territory of Pakistan according to the agreed common requirements of the parties, and the Chinese side would provide technical assistance and support.

Currently, China is the 4th biggest export market of Pakistan. Agriculture is a vital industry in China, employing over 300 million farmers. Despite accounting for only 10 percent of arable land worldwide, it produces food for 20 percent of the world's population. Pakistani government is also expecting to get an opportunity to cooperate with China in the field of agriculture at the platform provided by Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

China is further likely to lift three years long ban on import of Pakistani rapeseed meal into China once a protocol proposed by the Chinese government would be signed.

The framework agreement on agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China would be executed and implemented through the ministry of national food security and research of Pakistan and ministry of agricultural and rural affairs of China.

The agreement holds an important position in the backdrop of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor framework and promotes cooperation in the areas of mutual interest in the field of agriculture.

The goals set in the agricultural framework agreement would be achieved in next five years and would cover extension services of agricultural technology and inputs, remote sensing and geographical information system and food processing and pre-and-post-harvest handling.

The agreement also covers storage of agricultural produce, genetic resources of crops, livestock and poultry, selection and breeding of new breeds of animals and new varieties of plants, feed fisheries and aquaculture, research and development of new high-yield varieties, precision agriculture and pest and disease control.

May 31, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Wang's visit testimony of Pak-China exceptional friendship: Zhao Lijian

Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan's visit to Pakistan sent a strong message to the Int'l community that Sino-Pak friendship is exceptional one and it is bound to grow further for their common benefit.

This was stated by the Deputy Chief of the Chinese Embassy Zhao Lijian at an iftar-party held here on Thursday. The occasion was largely attended by scholars, members of think-Tank and the representatives of the print and electronic media.

Zhao Lijian briefed the participants about the Wang's visit, terming it as highly successful that he said contributed significantly in development of their bilateral ties, particularly under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He also spoke about the China-US trade's friction, stating that the trade war was initiated by the American administration forcing China to accept heavy tariff on the Chinese goods. Stating that China will not come under any pressure to this effect, he said his country is prepared to face any eventuality for protecting their legitimate and lawful rights. We believe in consultation and negotiation in addressing the differences and conflicts. But he added, they are not afraid of the trade war. The leadership of the Community Party of China (CPC) has a strong determination to resist against the American's pressure in the trade conflict, he added.

About the Wang Qishan's visit, Zhao Lijian further said it showed that the relationship of the two countries' are too strong and it meets the common aspirations of their people.

His visit is highly significant in the background of China's growing support to Pakistan, improving its socio-economic conditions. Five agreements were signed during the visit that opened new areas of cooperation under the CPEC.

During the visit, China offered a grant of one billion RMB to Pakistan for the development of social sector. Besides this, forty million RMB was given for disaster relief fund.

China-Pakistan: Remarkable initiatives

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been progressively progressing. Both sides are cognizant to the economic and political significance of the development and operationalization of the Corridor. Therefore, despite various obstacles, they are determined to complete the corridor's project ahead of time. Simultaneously, both States' adversaries have been hatching conspiracies against the CPEC. Indeed, spoiling the CPEC projects is a direct strike on China's one-belt, one-road initiative. China's one-belt, one-road initiative's headway links with the development of CPEC, which is declared the flagship project of the initiative.

Therefore, the Chinese ruling elite has been seriously monitoring Chinese investment in Pakistan and also is determined to assist it in improving its national economy. On 26 May, Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishan arrived in Islamabad to boost the bilateral relationship. He expressed the resolve that Pakistan and China would continue to safeguard each other's interests. He said, "CPEC is a consensus that transcends political parties, regions and communities across Pakistan. It also enjoys most extensive and strongest support in China." Precisely, CPEC binds Pakistan with world's second-largest economy, which is a good sign for foreign investment in country.

The primary objective of the visiting dignitary was to promote bilateral economic cooperation and also cement a strategic partnership between China and Pakistan. Prime Minister Khan and VP Wang inaugurated several projects, including 660KV transmission line project from Matiari to Lahore; Rashakai Special Economic Zone Project, Huawei Technical Support Centre and Confucius Institute at the University of Punjab. Besides, several agreements were signed to start new projects such as the agreement on agricultural cooperation; the memorandum on the requirements of foot and mouth disease-free zone; the letter of exchange of disaster relief goods; China-Pakistan economic agreement; and the agreement between the China Machinery Engineering Corporation and the Balochistan government and Lasbela University on modern agriculture comprehensive development in Lasbela.

The signing of new projects proves that China is satisfied with its investment in Pakistan and both states bilateral relationship will not be derailed with transformation in global politics, mainly due to China and United States tension.

During the three days visit, VP Wang visited Lahore and invited the Punjab government to enter into economic cooperation with big provinces of China. Establishing cooperation between/among the provinces is an optimistic initiative for advancing Punjab's industrial and agriculture sectors. For instance, the yield of the crops in Punjab is low by China's standard. Admittedly, this cooperation improves the agricultural production in the province and also

advances the industrial sector technologically. Currently, Pakistan is confronting internal and external security challenges. Its armed forces heroically eliminated the transnational terrorist sanctuaries located on its territory. Despite the daring law enforcement agencies measures, recently, a few terrorist incidents took place in Balochistan.

The terrorists were supported by the intelligence agencies of the neighbouring states to destabilize internal security of the country and obstruct the developmental work on the CPEC projects. A few analysts observed that the resurgence of terrorist activities in Balochistan province could discourage Chinese investors, but the announcement of the new projects in the province falsify such claims

The regional rivals of Pakistan desire to spoil the Chinese investment in Pakistan to obstruct the country's economic development and also ruin China's OBI initiative. Chinese leadership understands the nefarious designs of these states. Therefore, without naming them, VP Wang categorically stated: "No matter how the international landscape changes, China and Pakistan will always stay iron brothers that trust and support each other." His statement overruled the negative propaganda, especially in social media, that Chinese are unhappy and thereby distancing from Khan Government's policies.

The second-time elected Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi frequently expressed his earnest desire to isolate Pakistan diplomatically. India has openly lobbied in FATF against Pakistan. In the transforming complex global politics, China's support in the forum is very critical. To conclude, VP Wang visit will be having lasting constructive impact on China-Pakistan economic, diplomatic, and political relationship.— The writer is Professor, School of Politics and International Relations and author of India's Surgical Strike Stratagem: Brinkmanship and Response.

The News

Wang's visit testimony of Pak-China friendship

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The most important agreement was the laying of transmission-line from Matiari to Lahore, It will cost 1.658 billion dollar, having total length 886 kilometer. It will have the capacity of 4,000 megawatt. This project, to be completed within 27 months will provide around 7000 jobs to the local people.

Besides this, there was framework agreement on agricultural cooperation, memorandum on the Requirements of FMD Free Zone, Letter of Exchange for Disaster Relief Goods, agreement between CMEC, Government of Balochistan and Lasbela University on Modern Agriculture Comprehensive Development in Lasbela.

In addition, Rashakai Special Economic Zone Project, Huawei Technical Support Centre and Confucius Institute at University of Punjab were inaugurated.

About the trade war, Zhao Lijian added, that the US resorted to it for domestic politics.

It was also an attempt to contain China's economic rise. He made it clear that China has not broken any promise relating to trade with USA, but it was from other side. China, he added, believes in mutually beneficial cooperative partnership in promoting its trade at the international level. We don't want trade war, but we are not afraid of it and prepared to fight it till end, he remarked.

The News

Chinese steelmaker shows interest in PSM's revival

ISLAMABAD: China's biggest steelmaker MCC International on Thursday expressed its interest in reviving cash-bleeding Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) that has been incurring losses for over a decade.

A delegation of the state-owned Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC), led by its Vice President Wang Zhou, called on Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Hafeez Shaikh.

The finance ministry said the Chinese delegation showed interest to invest in the steel industry with demand of nine million tons, which is increasing by 15 percent every year.

“It (the delegation) offered support for revival, operationalization and improving the capacity of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) on public-private partnership basis,” the ministry said in a statement.

The government is weighing an option to rejuvenate the state-owned PSM under the public-private partnership mode in phases that was estimated to cost around \$800 million. The plant would be revived to achieve its built-in capacity in the first phase within one and a half-year, while the production capacity would be jacked up to three million tons in the second phase.

The PSM shut down its furnaces in 2015 and it consumed almost Rs200 billions of state funds on various heads till last year from 2008 when it used to be a profitable organization. The government has to pump an estimated Rs400 million every year to pay salaries of the PSM’s employees.

The finance adviser briefed the delegation about the scope of investment opportunities in the country. He said the government has taken a number of steps to improve the ease of business in the country.

Meanwhile, Shaikh told businessmen that the government is focusing on improving the ease of doing business to facilitate the business community and attract foreign investment.

“The role of private sector is highly important in improving the economy of the country,” he said, talking to the presidents and representatives of Lahore, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Karachi and Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He urged the members of business community to play their role to increase the volume of exports.

The representatives briefed the finance adviser about various problems and challenges being confronted by the economy. They gave various suggestions aimed at improving the economy and industrial sector. The delegation proposed ways and means to enhance the exports. The delegation shared proposals for the budget 2019/20 with the finance adviser.

Shaikh assured the businessmen that the proposals of the chambers would be considered and a business-friendly budget would be presented.

The News

PM to open Allama Iqbal Industrial City in October

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan will inaugurate the state-of-the-art Allama Iqbal Industrial City during the first week of October to house foreign and local investors, besides giving impetus to economic activities in the country.

Appreciating the economic policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Thursday said that the incumbent government focused on the economic growth in the country.

“With trade and investment being an important pillar of the present government’s foreign policy, there is a positive sentiment among the international community towards the country’s economy, which needs to be tapped,” he added.

Industrial zones would be established through public-private partnership and joint ventures of company-to-company agreements, he said, adding that the government would prepare a policy framework to put the work on industrial zones on fast track. Ashfaq said that the policies were put in front of all the business leaders by the government and they showed their complete confidence in the policies. The policies included ways to reduce cost and to provide an easy platform to do business in the country.

Highlighting the development projects of FIEDMC, Ashfaq said that around \$12 million foreign investment has been pumped into various projects, which clearly indicates that foreign investors have reposed complete confidence in the present regime.

“Besides, local investors and industrialists have also invested billions of rupees in FIEDMC and this is all due to untiring efforts of FIEDMC administration, which is addressing issues of the business community on priority basis,” he added.

The FIEDMC chairman said that the importance of CPEC as a strategic alternative is immense, leveraging the economic opportunities that it can unleash its strategic significance and bring prosperity, peace, as well as stability in the whole region.

The Pakistan government looks forward to working with China in the new areas focusing on socioeconomic development, cooperation in agriculture modernization, value chains, and poverty alleviation, he added.

He also said FIEDMC was committed to improve Pakistan’s ease of doing business ranking to fewer than 100 within two years to attract international investors to the country.

The News

Seafood export to China increases

ISLAMABAD: The export of Pakistani seafood from Gwadar to Chinese cities through Urumqi, China’s Xinjiang autonomous region has increased manifold owing to robust demand, Chen Baoliang, chairman of the board of Xinjiang Yu-Fei International Fishing Company, said on Thursday.

Yu-Fei Marine Technology of China (Gwadar) Company is one of the largest fishing companies in the Gwadar Port of Pakistan, according to China.org.cn.

“Since the company was established in 2017, we have been exporting an increasing quantity of seafood back to China,” Chen said.

In the last two years, Yu-Fei imported 1,000 tonnes of seafood and sold them to cities in the Chinese mainland.

Now it takes 34 hours for lobsters and groupers from Pakistan to arrive in Xinjiang through air transport, instead of 25 days.

“When I visited Gwadar in 2016, I found that it had high quality seafood, but lacked proper facilities to process them,” Chen said. He invested 500 million yuan (around 73 million US dollars) to build fishing, processing, refrigerated warehouses and established one of the largest seafood processing centres in Gwadar.

Jang News

چینی کمپنی کی پاکستان اسٹیل ملز کی بحالی اور آپریشن بنانے کی پیشکش

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) چین کی کمپنی ایم سی سی انٹرنیشنل ان کارپوریشن لمیٹڈ نے پاکستان اسٹیل ملز کی بحالی، آپریشن بنانے اور سرکاری اور نجی شعبے کی شراکتداری کی بنیاد پر پاکستان اسٹیل ملز کی استعداد کار میں بہتری کی پیشکش کی ہے۔ یہ پیشکش چینی وفد نے جمعرات کو وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے خزانہ ڈاکٹر عبدالحفیظ شیخ سے ملاقات میں کی۔

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک سے 2.3 ملین نئی ملازمتیں پیدا کرنے میں مدد ملے گی

کراچی (کامرس رپورٹر) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ کے تحت 15 سال کے دوران 2.3 ملین نئی ملازمتیں پیدا کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ افرادی قوت کی تربیت، فنی و پیشہ وارانہ تعلیم کے لئے پاکستان کو چین سے مدد حاصل کرنے کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ نوجوان طبقہ کو ہنرمند بنا کر سی پیک کے تحت پیدا ہونے والی افرادی قوت کی طلب کو پورا کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ بے روزگاری کی شرح کو بھی کم کیا جاسکے گا۔ سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے تحت۔ اس غرض سے بنیادی ڈھانچے و توانائی کے شعبوں پر خصوصی اہمیت دی جا رہی ہے۔ ایک سڑک ایک خطہ منصوبے کے تحت سی پیک میں سڑکوں اور ریل کے نیٹ ورک کی ترقی اور بہتری کے اقدامات کے ساتھ ساتھ صنعتی شعبہ میں دو طرفہ تعاون بھی بنیادی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت 2030 تک روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے جس سے بے روزگاری کی شرح کو کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔